FALL 2017

Happenings

Fall Luncheon Speaker Has Sage Words for All Ages

by Anna Kathryn Hardin

How can someone so young already be so wise? As the mother of four daughters and a dog named Lola, Kari Kampakis has learned in the trenches. A few years back, she decided to start sharing her life lessons—first through columns and blogs, and then through books and speaking engagements. At our 2017 Fall Luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 12, Kari will encourage Legacy League members and guests with humor, godly wisdom and practical advice about friendships and identity anchored in faith.



Kari Kampakis

"Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child." That motto is one of Kari's favorite bits of advice to parents. "It's hard to admit this, but part of a parent's job is to help our kids not need us," she wrote in a recent blog. "We have 18 years to pack their suitcase, 18 years to slowly equip them to handle life as self-sufficient adults." As their girls grow into teens and young adults, Kari and her husband, Harry, have tried to "pack their suitcases with care," leaving room for resiliency and character as well as faith and love.

Three years ago, Kari got the chance to publish a book entitled *10 Ultimate Truths Girls Should Know*. "Everything I want my girls to know is summed up in this book," she said. "It's my love letter to them." The book, published by Thomas Nelson, is popular with tween and teen girls and their parents and has led to numerous speaking engagements.

A second book followed last year, *Liked:* Whose Approval Are You Living For? In the introduction, Kari points out that wanting to be liked is normal and certainly does not end with middle school. "God wired you to live in community with others. He created you to need friends. He wants you to cultivate strong relationships that bring you joy and draw you closer to Him." The problem arises when we take our eyes off God, when we "make choices based on what's popular rather than what's right."

A resident of the Birmingham area, Kari has been featured on the *TODAY* show as a top parenting blogger. Her writing has

appeared in the *Huffington Post*, Yahoo!News, Ann Voskamp's blog and other national and local outlets. Because of family responsibilities, she accepts a limited number of speaking engagements. So Samford's Legacy League is very grateful to welcome her to our event.

Reservations for the luncheon, to be held at the Vestavia Country Club, are required. The cost is \$25. Plan now to attend and invite a guest. This event is a great opportunity to share a meal with a friend while hearing an inspiring speaker and learning more about the Legacy League. Visit samford.edu/legacyleague to learn more or make reservations.

SAVE THE DATES

Aug. 29: Open House, 1:30–3:30 p.m. or 4-6 p.m.

Oct. 12: Fall Luncheon featuring Kari Kampakis 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 26: Junior member fundraiser "Sweets and Strokes," 6 p.m.

Nov. 9: Membership Meeting and Program featuring Daniel Cason 10 a.m. refreshments, 10:30 a.m. program

Nov. 9: Junior Member Meeting, 6 p.m.

Nov. 11: Homecoming Tailgate on the Quad

Dec. 7: Christmas Home Tour and Holiday Gift Market, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. and 4–8 p.m.

Feb. 15: Scholarship Luncheon featuring Angie Smith, 11:30 a.m.

March 8: Membership Meeting and Program featuring Bobby Horton 10 a.m. refreshments, 10:30 a.m. program

March 8: Junior Member Meeting, 6 p.m.

April 12: Membership Meeting and Program featuring Julie Boyd 10 a.m. refreshments, 10:30 a.m. program

Music and Laughter Fill 2017–18 Programs by Frances King

An array of talent awaits Legacy League members and visitors attending three membership meetings slated for 2017–18. Featured guests will include concert pianist and ordained minister Daniel Cason on Nov. 9, instrumentalist

and music historian Bobby Horton on March 8, and storyteller/ventriloquist Julie Boyd on April 12.

A concert pianist with two music degrees, Daniel Cason has been a featured musician and clinician at workshops and conventions both nationally and internationally. He is the staff pianist for Briarwood Presbyterian Church (PCA), Birmingham, and an associate professor at Lawson State Community College. As founder/director of the K.I.D.S. Christian Music Center and Community School of

the Arts, Daniel teaches underprivileged children music skills as well as mental and life skills. The K.I.D.S. summer camp earned the Southeast Region Hope Award and a cover feature in WORLD magazine for "poverty-fighting programs that change lives...." The K.I.D.S. ministry also sponsors Saturday programs in vocal technique, choir, hand bells, piano and child-centered music education. Through their "I Cared Enough" program, Daniel, his wife, Gwen, and volunteers provide thousands of Thanksgiving meals and bags of groceries, along with gospel music and

Bobby Horton may be best known for 35 years of performing with the musicalcomedy group Three on a String, but he

music historian. This Samford grad is recognized as an authority on Civil War period music. Bobby's passion for music and history resulted in 14 volumes of authentic Civil War tunes, recorded in his home studio. He played all the period instruments and sang all the parts himself. The series led to film scoring and live presentations of the songs and their stories. Horton has produced and performed music scores for 10 PBS films, including The Civil War and Baseball, two A&E network films and 16 films for the National Park Service. He resides in Birmingham with his wife of 30-plus years, Julie Boyd has been encouraging and

also has an impressive career as a multi-

instrumentalist, composer, producer and

inspiring audiences since about age 10. She loves people and loves to talk, especially about Jesus. Julie uses her ventriloquist talent and humor in features such as "BC Homes" and "Miss Mildred," favorites at women's conventions. In 1996 she joined the staff of Florida Baptist Children's Homes, where she served 20 years. Julie continues to engage the body of Christ in caring for "the least of these" through foster care, adoption and international missions engagement. She recently joined Samford's staff as the advancement officer for the School of the Arts. Julie and her husband of 34 years, Charles, live in Birmingham, where they enjoy serving in their church and being empty nesters, as well as their latest passion as "Shug and Poppy" to their grandchildren. (







Be Inspired by Scholarship Luncheon Speaker

by Melinda Mitchell

Angie Smith is the wife of a well-known Christian musician, the mother to four home-schooled daughters, a best-selling author, a successful blogger and a sought-after Christian speaker. Through her ministry, Angie seeks to make the Bible feel accessible and relevant in times of great happiness as well as in seasons filled with sorrow. Next February, join Legacy League members and friends for lunch at Vestavia Country Club to learn how Angie's life connects with each of our own.

With warmth, wit and wisdom, Angie will share her personal story of loss, sadness and eventual joyous healing through faith in God and a daily walk with Jesus. In her book, Letting Go of Perfect: Women, Expectations, and Authenticity, Angie writes, "I can either focus on what I have lost, or what I have gained, and I choose the latter." Combining her two great passions, writing and helping to heal people's hearts, Angie uses her life experiences to encourage others along their faith journeys. Her recent books include Seamless (2015), Chasing God (2014) and I Will Carry You: The Sacred Dance of Grief and Joy (2010).

She holds a master's degree in developmental psychology from Vanderbilt University, and has written inspirational books and Bible studies for adults and children. Her husband, Todd, is a member of Selah, a Dove Award-winning vocal trio. To learn more now about Angie's message of faith, you can find her blog, Bring the Rain, at angiesmithonline.com. You are sure to be blessed and inspired by Angie's time with us. The luncheon is on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, at 11:30 a.m. Reservation information will be available later this fall. (

Get to Know Our **Executive Committee**

by Kathryn Woodruff

This year, all aspects of the Legacy League are in good hands, specifically those of the elected officers and fundraising event chairs. Together with the executive director, director of development and immediate past president, these ladies comprise our Executive Committee. While they will be listed on page 3 of the yearbook, here is an early chance to learn

Our new president is Harriet Williams, who previously served as vice president for programs and chair of the Scholarship Luncheon. Harriet and her husband, Jim, both have Samford connections. They celebrated when their daughter, Mary Beth, graduated from Samford's nurse anesthesia program in May.

Melinda Mitchell was elected vice president for communication/recording **secretary** last spring. A relatively new member of the Legacy League, Melinda previously served as co-chair of the Scholarship Celebration. Two of her children and her daughter-in-law are Samford graduates. Be sure to ask Melinda about her first grandbaby, Noah!

Suzanne Hopkins is serving her second year as vice president for membership, having previously chaired the Scholarship Celebration. Suzanne was instrumental in adding new Legacy League recruitment events and our first ever New Member Orientation. Suzanne's husband, Joe, is dean of the School of the Arts.

Our new vice president for programs is Karen Carlisle, who previously chaired the Scholarship Recipient Care Committee. Karen, her husband, Todd, and their daughter Mary Beth are Samford graduates. Their daughter Caroline is a Samford senior, and son, Will, is a Samford freshman.

Serving as vice president for student scholarship and support is Paula Gossett. Her husband, Kerry, is a Samford graduate. Clearly, Paula loves our scholarship students and enjoys helping our members get to know them better through activities such as fellowship suppers and exam study breaks.

year as treasurer. Both Julie and her husband, Drew, are Samford graduates, and

they have two children. Julie has chaired the International Student Care Committee and has served as a hostess for the Christmas Home Tour.

Lisbeth Cease has chaired or cochaired the Christmas Home Tour since it began in 2011 and has occasionally involved husband, Larry, as a shuttle driver. While serving as a vice president, she was also instrumental in launching the Sunset 5K, a fundraiser that was held from 2012-14. Lisbeth's daughter-in-law is a Samford graduate.

Terre Currey is serving as co-chair of the Christmas Home Tour and has been involved with it from the beginning. Terre helped create the Holiday Gift Market that is now part of the tour. Terre and her husband, Jeff, retired earlier this year and look forward to new opportunities.

Our Scholarship Luncheon chair is Vickie Griffith. Vickie previously served as vice president for communication/recording secretary and before that as recruitment chair. Her daughter, Allison, is a Samford grad, and her husband, Rick, has attended his share of Legacy League events!

Jan Cobb will repeat as co-chair of the Scholarship Celebration, having cochaired decorations for that event the year before. Jan and her husband, Mike, met and married at Samford, and Ian has been a Legacy League member for a number of years. One of their three daughters is also a Samford grad.

Kathy Clay will serve as co-chair of the Scholarship Celebration, after chairing the Scholarship Luncheon last year. She is part of an "all-Samford" family that includes her husband, Michael, and their daughter and son. Kathy previously served as vice president for membership.

Repeating as chair of the Junior Board Committee is Kayla (Frank) Vigneulle. She was a Legacy League scholarship recipient who joined after graduating in 2014. Kayla, who married TJ in June, was instrumental in launching the Junior Board Committee, which focuses on expanding membership and opportunities for those aged 35 and under. (













Lisbeth Cease Christmas Home Tour



Terre Currey Christmas Home Toui

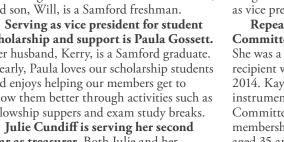


Vickie Griffith Scholarship Luncheon



Jan Cobb Scholarship Celebration





Christmas Home Tour 2017 Has Something for Everyone

by Anna Kathryn Hardin

Traditions are a wonderful part of League has one of its own. It involves beautifully decorated homes opened to guests, wonderful holiday refreshments, special music and even a little Christmas shopping. It's our annual Christmas Home Tour, this year on Thursday,

Presented by ARC Realty, the seventh annual tour showcases a wide variety of styles. One home is 90 years old, and two others are brand new construction. Another sits on a nearly four-acre estate with an idyllic rustic environment. And the tour always includes a stop at the lovely Samford President's Home for refreshments, relaxing music and a beautiful view.

The five remarkable homes featured this year are gorgeous at any time of year. The Freeman home is an iconic Spanish Colonial Revival home in the historic Hollywood neighborhood. A large wing, featuring a new master suite, was added a few years ago. A 19-foot walnut island in the kitchen and an adjoining china room have made it a perfect spot for parties, gatherings and even a

The Powell and Spitzer homes, both newly constructed, are next-door neighbors on Caldwell Mill Road. A French Country



Shop for unique gifts, holiday items and more at the Holiday Gift Market.

style with lovely moldings throughout, the Powell home combines simplicity of living and efficient design. Look for a stone wall feature in the family room and guest suite, as well as a beautiful butler's walk. The Spitzer home features an iron staircase, two outdoor fireplaces, a media room and as many as seven Christmas trees. One tree is covered in faith-inspired ornaments and another is just for children.

> not far from the city grind of Highway 280. However, it has the feel of a peaceful oasis, with views of the lovely pool or the surrounding fields and woods from almost every room. A beautiful round dining table custom-made in England is another special feature.

As a fundraiser for our scholarship

2 p.m. and again from 4–8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. More than 200 volunteers are needed to help with publicity, food, hosting in homes and more. Members can buy tickets and sign up to volunteer at the November meeting. Ticket purchases and volunteer sign-up will also be

Our 2017 Tour Featured Homes

LISA & RANDY FREEMAN

11 Bonita Drive, Homewood

RHONDA & TOM POWELL

4441 Caldwell Mill Road, Mountain Brook

CHERYL & TERRY SPITZER

4429 Caldwell Mill Road, Mountain Brook

JEANNA & ANDY WESTMORELAND

Samford President's Home, 1994 Shades Crest Road, Vestavia Hills

LISA & HARRIS WILSON

4408 Old Brook Run. Mountain Brook

Samford's 175th Year:

A Record-setting One for the Legacy League

by Charon Smith

\$175.000 for Samford's 175th year. That was the proposed goal. It seemed appropriate and exciting, but frankly, it felt like quite a stretch when the Legacy League board approved it last summer.

\$217,579.60 was your response—meeting and far surpassing the ambitious goal we set for the year. Thank you for your overwhelming generosity. Thank you for giving sacrificially of your time and money to make a Samford University education a reality for students who have faced monumental challenges. Thank you for being the Lord's hands and feet with your thousands of hours of dedicated service.

As we celebrated Samford's first 175 years, we learned how the Lord moved in the hearts of His people, who sacrificed to sustain the institution through fires, war, economic depression and a host of other challenges. And in Samford's 175th year, we watched His people sacrifice to make this unique university accessible to young people with significant financial need.

In 2016–17 over 400 individuals and businesses supported the Legacy League financially. That's more than double the number of donors just five years ago. Numerous companies came on board as new sponsors of our major events. Hundreds gathered for inspiration at our various fundraisers, made possible by the amazing work of our volunteers who gave over 5,500 hours last year.

Nearly 100 new members have joined the Legacy League since last July. Many joined because our fabulous new Junior Board Committee launched activities geared for 21–35 year olds, bringing new people, new energy and new fundraisers to support our mission. Many others joined because you kindly invited them to attend our Open House, a special event, an on-campus informational lunch or a regular meeting.

In May three special students joined the ranks of Samford alumni, their degrees made possible in part because of Legacy League scholarships. One grew up in the violence of Birmingham's inner city. One spent some of her childhood in foster care following years of instability in her family. And one came from the jungles of Costa Rica, where her parents served as missionaries. The lives of Micah, Sadie and Eden have forever been changed because they experienced the unique benefits of a Samford education and the faithfulness of the Lord through the Legacy League. Now they have gone forth to be instruments of change in the lives of others.

In Joshua 4, the Lord directed His people to erect stones by the Jordan River to "be to the people of Israel a memorial forever." Our

Members and scholarship recipients spend time together

at a fellowship supper in February.

new Samford's 175th Anniversary Legacy League Scholarship, like those stones, will stand as a reminder of God's faithfulness in the past. And, for the future students who receive this scholarship, it will be evidence that His faithfulness continues. (

2016-17 Highlights

- 3 Legacy League scholarship recipients graduated from Samford
- 14 students from a variety of challenging circumstances received Legacy League scholarships
- 415 individuals and businesses contributed to the Legacy League
- Nearly 300 people gave over 5.500 hours in volunteer service to support our mission
- 92 new members joined the Legacy League
- Over 300 people were entertained by the Birmingham Boys Choir at the Fall Luncheon
- More than 600 guests participated in the Christmas Home Tour
- Almost 300 women gathered to hear Melanie Shankle's inspiring message at the Scholarship Luncheon
- 200 people attended the Scholarship Celebration featuring the amazing Annie Moses Band
- Over \$215,000 was raised for need-based scholarships



The annual Christmas Home Tour, a much-loved tradition, attracted over 600 guests last year.



New members and the Executive Committee participate in our first-ever New Member Orientation in October 2016.

The Wilson home on Old Brook Road is

program, this event benefits Samford students with exceptional financial needs. Consider giving tickets as early Christmas gifts to family and friends. Or shop the Holiday Gift Market in the president's home.

Tour hours on Dec. 7 are from 10 a.m.available online.

Wright Award Surprises Carolyn Robinson

by Cynthia Walker Watts

Carolyn Robinson is an ideal recipient of the Lolla Wurtele Wright Award. She has served in many capacities in the Legacy League, including the board of directors, the Nominating Committee and as editor of the newsletter. Her smiling face and gentle spirit are present at every Scholarship Celebration, Scholarship Luncheon and Christmas Home Tour, whether she is attending or volunteering. If she misses a meeting, she is out of town.

Carolyn met her husband, Col. Michael Robinson (USAF retired), at Howard College (now Samford University) in the late 1950s. Their support of the university, the Legacy League and Samford sports has become part of their identity as a couple. Like First Lady Lolla Wright, Carolyn enjoys traveling to see the teams play. She and Mike were recognized last fall for their support of the football team.

When asked how she felt when Jeanna Westmoreland called her name as the recipient of the award, Carolyn responded, "I could not believe it! Never in a million years would I have thought I would receive this award. My sneaky family managed to keep it a complete secret."



Carolyn and Mike Robinson (on right) celebrate the Lolla Wright Award with family members Al, Sarah and Nanette Yeager.

Carolyn explained why receiving the award is meaningful to her: "The award is very precious to me for several reasons. One, because the Legacy League means so much to me, and also because Mrs. Wright was one of the smartest and sweetest women I have ever known. To win this award in her name is extra special."

Jeanna Westmoreland summed it up in her presentation by saying, "Carolyn is at so many events that I don't worry if Andy is not there, because I know Carolyn will be." •

Junior Board Committee Looks Forward to Second Year

by Jenna Sims

Last fall the Junior Board Committee launched an exciting new program to encourage Legacy League membership in the 35 and under age group. The committee is overjoyed to share that junior membership grew from 24 to approximately 60 in the first year! The year concluded with the spring fundraising event, an evening with style consultant Alison Bruhn. Guests enjoyed a time of fellowship and fun at the Samford President's Home while learning how to build a versatile wardrobe on a budget.

The Junior Board's second year promises to be even better. The committee kicked off the 2017–18 year with a planning meeting on July 11 and hosted an extremely successful restaurant fundraiser at Panera Bread in Vestavia Hills on July 13. Their fall fundraising event is planned for Oct. 26. At "Sweets and Strokes," guests will enjoy sweet treats as they are led in a painting class taught by committee member and Samford alum Merrell (McQueen) Hubbard, an art teacher at Briarwood Christian School.

The popular Legacy League T-shirts will be available to purchase from Junior Board members again this year. They will be available in both long-sleeved and short-sleeved versions.



Junior members and guests enjoy learning how to build a versatile wardrobe on a budget from style consultant Alison Bruhn.

The 2017–18 Junior Board Committee members are: Chair Kayla (Frank) Vigneulle, Mandy Jayne (Stanley) Antwine, Christina Glenn, Hilliary Hallman, Caitlin (Miller) Hammond, Ginny Holcomb, Merrell (McQueen) Hubbard, Rachel Miley, Casey Ramey, Jenna Sims, Laurie (Smith) Negre, Jenee Spencer, Allison (Hubbard) Strickland, Kasey Strickland and Sarah Waller. •



Junior Board Committee members hold an event planning meeting during the Panera Bread restaurant fundraiser on July 13.

A scholarship endowment is a meaningful and permanent way to honor someone, living or deceased, while helping students with significant financial need to attend Samford University. With a minimum of \$25,000, given one time or incrementally over five years, a new scholarship may be established by an individual or group.

Please contact Sharon Smith, director of development, at 205-726-2247 for more information.



Zack Garner shares his Samford story with an appreciative audience after dinner.



Jeanna Westmoreland (left) and Sharon Smith (far right) recognize outgoing officers Kathryn Woodruff, Vickie Griffith and Harriet Williams at the Scholarship Celebration dinner.



Sponsors Jane Lewis and Melinda Mitchell, event co-chair, and their guests enjoy fellowship and a delicious dinner.



Members of the Annie Moses Band share their musical talents with the Scholarship Celebration audience.

Scholarship Celebration Marks Record-Breaking Year of Fundraising

by Lynn Parrish

An inspiring story, an exciting announcement and incredible music by the Annie Moses Band made the ninth annual Legacy League Scholarship Celebration an event to remember. Members and guests gathered at Mountain Brook Community Church on April 27 for the league's culminating event of the year.

Event sponsors and guests with deluxe reservations enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres and mingled with members of the Annie Moses Band during a special reception. Dinner was served at tables decorated with wooden angels nestled in an assortment of green foliage and pearl trees atop satin in shades of aqua, coral and yellow. The evening's meal included a signature salad, beef tenderloin bourguignon, garlic mashed potatoes, roasted asparagus and xangos (a tortilla pastry filled with cheesecake and drizzled with chocolate sauce). Samford Dining, the presenting sponsor for the reception and dinner, provided the event's savory fare.

Scholarship recipient Zack Garner shared the touching story of his father's serious illness and how it affected his family and his plans for college. After visiting campus, Zack believed that God had a reason for him to be at Samford. He said he prayed, "God, if you want me to be here, you will have to make it happen." Zack thanked the Legacy League for the scholarship that helped make it possible for him to attend Samford.

Jeanna Westmoreland recognized outgoing officers President Kathryn Woodruff, Vice President for Communication/Recording Secretary Vickie Griffith and Vice President for Programs Harriet Williams. A beautiful orchid and a book by Angie Smith, the speaker for our 2018 Scholarship Luncheon, were their appreciation gifts.

With joy and gratitude, Jeanna announced that the year's fundraising efforts had raised nearly \$200,000 to date. The newly established Samford's 175th Anniversary Legacy League Scholarship commemorates the anniversary. It is a part of the league's \$3 million-dollar endowment, which provides assistance to students with significant financial need.

A delightful evening of music performed by the Annie Moses Band awaited Legacy League members and guests after dinner. The Julliard-trained musicians opened the concert with a lively instrumental arrangement of "Rhapsody in Bluegrass" from their musical release entitled *American Rhapsody*. The beautiful sounds of violins, viola, harp, piano and guitars as well as the voices of the six brothers and sisters charmed the audience with a variety of numbers including "Summertime," "Blush," "Nature Boy" and "Let's Stay Together."

This year's celebration was a wonderful way to conclude a special year, knowing that students' lives will be forever changed by Legacy League scholarships. •

SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor of the Reception and Dinner Samford Dining

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Volunteers in Action



Legacy League members work together to create beautiful

centerpieces for the Scholarship Luncheon

Melinda Mitchell, Sheree Hall and Lynn Parrish

arrange nametags for the Scholarship Celebration.



Laura Promer, Carolyn Robinson, Jeanna Westmoreland, Harriet Williams, Frances King, Anna Kathryn Hardin and Kathryn Woodruff begin work on the fall 2017 newsletter.



Jeanna Westmoreland and Jan Cobb put finishing touches on the Scholarship Celebration podium decorations



Lynn Parrish, Courtney McCrory, Julie Warren and Julie Cundiff assist Jeanna Westmoreland and Terri King with Melanie Shankle's books at the Scholarship Luncheon.





Harrison Hansard, Cass Waddell, Sadie Knox, Karen Carlisle, Kathryn Woodruff, Cynthia Watts, Cara Sadler and Eden Long enjoy an Italian meal provided by Legacy League volunteers.



members and guests at the April meeting.

The "many hands" of Caroline Dove, Melinda Mitchell, Jan Cobb, Julie Davis, Kathy Finch and Lisbeth Cease "make light work" of preparing to decorate for the Scholarship Celebration.

Where Are They Now? Kaleb Loomis Gives Back

by Laura Promer

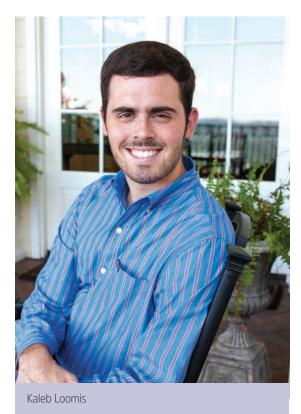
It has always been important for Legacy League scholarship recipient Kaleb Loomis to give back. It was at Samford that he became passionate about working with students in peer mentoring through the Office of Spiritual Life.

Following graduation in May 2014, Kaleb moved to Waco, Texas, and entered Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary. Right away he began looking for opportunities to serve.

As a resident chaplain to 350 students, Kaleb provides pastoral leadership within an on-campus residential community at Baylor. He hopes this role has helped prepare him for a future position in higher education working with students in spiritual life counseling or academic advising. He expects to graduate from seminary in May 2018 with a Master of Divinity.

Kaleb spent the summer of 2017 in London, studying the role of faith in young adults in different faith communities. This experience gave him the opportunity to engage in interfaith dialogue with religious leaders and young adults in north London.

Kaleb appreciates the Legacy League's mission to give back by providing life-changing scholarships to students like him. A Legacy League scholarship helped make his Samford experience possible. His father, Keith Loomis, who shared his inspirational story at a Legacy League luncheon, battled brain cancer while Kaleb was a Samford student. •



Volunteer Spotlight: LYNN PARRISH

by Carolyn Robinson



Lynn Parrish

Each "Volunteer Spotlight" recognizes one of the many hardworking Legacy League members who help to make the organization run smoothly. This time the spotlight falls on Lynn Parrish.

Lynn has been a member of the Legacy League for five years. She has been a regular contributor to the newsletter and has served on the Nominating Committee. She was yearbook chair for one year, and for the past two years worked tirelessly as chair of the Public Relations Committee, which takes care of publicizing the league's many activities. Lynn's persistence and research have helped the organization gain exposure in numerous new outlets.

Lynn is a native of Montgomery. She graduated from Auburn University with a degree in elementary education and retired after teaching for over 33 years.

Q. How did you first get involved with the Legacy League?

A. After I retired from teaching about five years ago, Kathryn Woodruff invited my mother and me to the Legacy League Open House, and I signed up.

Q. In what areas have you volunteered?

A. In addition to serving as yearbook chair and chair of the Public Relations
Committee, I have been a hostess for the
Christmas Home Tour, worked as a timer for the Sunset 5K, and helped with food preparation for the Legacy League scholarship recipient dinners.

Q. How have you been impacted by volunteering with the Legacy League?

A. I have had the chance to meet some very special people. I am glad to be a part of providing scholarships for deserving students. **C**



Legacy League Annual Giving Societies

The names of Legacy League's four giving societies are drawn from elements of the organization's crest and represent its core purposes.

LEGACY defines the purpose of the organization—to plant the financial seeds that will provide scholarships for Samford students today and for years to come.

The **OAK** recalls the tradition of the Sherman Oak, named in honor of the college's first president, and it represents the unbroken chain of teaching and learning that began in 1841.

The **BANNER** proclaims Deuteronomy 6:10–12, which reminds us that we are building on a strong foundation built by

The **LAMP** represents the lighting of the lamp of knowledge through education.

LEGACY \$5000+ OAK \$1000-\$4999 **BANNER** \$500-\$999 **LAMP** \$250-499

Recognition in 2016-17 annual giving societies includes all taxdeductible contributions to Legacy League funds made July 1, 2016-*June 30, 2017.*

Legacy Society Anonymous*

ARC Realty, LLC Dr. William A. and Mrs. Audrey E. Cowley Mr. & Mrs. John M. Floyd Ms. Billye W. House Mr. & Mrs. Steve C. Mitchell Samford Dining Vulcan Materials Company Foundation

Oak Society

Allsouth Appliance Group, Inc. Anchor Insurance Agency, Inc. Anonymous Mr. & Mrs. N. Carlton Baker, Jr. Mrs. Sue Belcher Drs. Nancy & Joseph Biggio The Honorable Karon O. Bowdre & Mr. J. Birch Bowdre, Jr. Brasfield & Gorrie LLC Mr. & Mrs. Harry B. Brock III Brookdale University Park Dr. & Mrs. Sigurd F. Bryan Mr. & Mrs. Bennie W. Bumpers Mr. & Mrs. W. Todd Carlisle

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Jeanna's Back Story

by Jeanna Westmoreland

am so proud of you, perfect stranger!" The woman holding the sign bearing these words stood at the twelve-mile marker. It was at this point that the blisters on my feet were beginning to ache unbearably, and I just wanted to quit. When I saw the sign and the message it contained, I became almost giddy. She had crafted the sign, not for a friend or member of her family running the race, but for all those among the 16,000 runners she didn't know. She had made the sign for me! These words provided the encouragement I needed to make it to the finish line.

I completed my first half marathon in April. It began as an innocent statement I made during the Olympics last summer. We were watching a program on television about people in their 90s who run distance races, and it featured a woman who had run a marathon in every state. She had not even started running until she was 60. A few years short of 60 myself, I voiced my thoughts, "I think I want to run a half marathon." The next thing I knew, my daughter, Riley, had registered the two of us for a race the following April. I was committed.

In the beginning, 13.1 miles seemed like an impossible distance. I have never been a runner, but armed with a training plan and a new pair of shoes, I started running in January. Every week, regardless of the weather, regardless of my schedule, I ran. Increasing my distance every other week, by the time of the race I had already completed a 14-mile run. On race day, I knew I could complete the 13.1-mile course. But I also knew there would be moments of doubt, moments when I would want to quit.

During training I made it through those moments of doubt by repeating in my mind the encouraging words of friends, by praying, by singing. On race day, I used all of these strategies, but I also had people lining the last couple of miles of the route, cheering and waving signs, encouraging me to finish. My words do not fully express how my spirit soared as I took in the sight.

As in life, not everything about this portion of the race was positive. With the finish line just yards away, I saw a woman waving a sign. This one said, "Hurry up! I am waiting to get into the park!" (The race was held at Disney World and portions of the parks were closed until the runners cleared the parks.) While the sign was not exactly negative, its tone was discouraging. I couldn't help but wonder why one would take the time to make a sign expressing that particular sentiment. Were the words intended to rob me of joy? The words briefly dampened my enthusiasm, but fortunately, the finish line was literally in sight, and my goal was accomplished.

I have thought about this experience many times in the weeks since the race. The experience has challenged me to think about how I use my words. Am I encouraging, even to perfect strangers? Or do my words dampen enthusiasm? As I have pondered these questions, I couldn't help but think about the Legacy League. As a group we are like the woman with the first sign. We are cheering on our scholarship recipients, sending them birthday and Christmas cards, providing meals and expressing words of encouragement when they attend our events.

Our support is also extended to our fellow members. Volunteers are providing cheer by sending birthday cards and consolation by writing notes to those who are sick. In addition to these formal methods, I know there are thousands of encouraging interactions—phone calls and words of affirmation—that take place informally among our members.

Thank you for the many ways you encourage our students, each other and me!

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