

# Happenings

## Scholarship Celebration to Feature the Annie Moses Band

by Vickie Griffith

When Co-chair Jan Cobb first shared details of the 2017 Scholarship Celebration, gasps and squeals were heard throughout the room. Did she really say we were featuring the Annie Moses Band?!? Yes, indeed! Thursday, April 27 is an evening you will not want to miss! Join us for an incredible night featuring this family of Julliard-trained musicians performing a captivating blend of folk and classical music. Mountain Brook Community Church will be the setting for a reception with band members, followed by a seated dinner and 90-minute concert.

The Annie Moses Band is a talented ensemble of songwriters, singers, musicians and siblings who have been inspiring and entertaining audiences for over a decade, bringing their distinctive style of music across the U.S. and around the world. The band combines the best of beloved genres in a style that unifies crowds young and old, classical connoisseurs and roots enthusiasts, jazz



Scholarship Celebration Committee

aficionados and bluegrass buffs. These Warner Classics artists combine outstanding technical skill with exhilarating showmanship.

The band's innovative sound has delighted audiences in a record-breaking number of airings on PBS and on stages as diverse as Carnegie Hall and the Grand Ole Opry. Award-winning composer Bill Wolaver weaves musical styles together into cinematic arrangements, while the highly-skilled siblings bring their trained vocals to Nashville-style music-making. September 2015 brought the international release of their album, *American Rhapsody*, and, in November of that same year, the Annie Moses Band made their European debut. In spring 2016 the band released their new PBS special, *The Art of the Love Song*, filmed in Nashville's historic Grand Ole Opry House.

Legacy League is indeed excited and honored to feature the Annie Moses Band for this year's Scholarship Celebration. Standard reservations are \$100 per person (\$50 tax-deductible) and include the seated dinner and concert. Deluxe reservations are \$135 per person (\$70 tax-deductible) and include a



From Carnegie Hall to the Grand Ole Opry to Birmingham, Annie Moses Band delights audiences with their diverse repertoire, exhilarating showmanship and innovative sound.



The Scholarship Celebration, featuring fabulous food and entertainment, culminates the Legacy League's fundraising year.

reception with band members, the seated dinner, preferred concert seating and an event photo. Proceeds from this event will provide life-changing scholarships for students with significant financial need and challenging circumstances.

Scholarship Celebration Committee members are: Co-chairs Jan Cobb and Melinda Mitchell, Lisbeth Cease, Julie Davis, Janie Dollar, Caroline Dove, Kathy Finch, Sheree Hall, Tricia Naro, Amy Owen, Lynn Parrish, Sharon Smith, Allison Strickland, Jeanna Westmoreland, Harriet Williams and Kathryn Woodruff. Additional volunteers will be needed to help with the set up and decorations. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this exciting event! 🐾

### Scholarship Celebration Thursday, April 27

5:30 p.m. Reception with band members

6:30 p.m. Seated dinner

8 p.m. 90-minute concert

**\$100-\$135 per person**

(\$50-\$70 tax-deductible)

**\$800-\$1350 per table**

(\$400-\$700 tax-deductible)

For reservations and more information,  
go to [samford.edu/legacyleague](http://samford.edu/legacyleague)



# Christmas Home Tour Magic

by Cynthia Walker Watts

**Magic. Absolute magic.** Breathtaking views of Birmingham. Twinkling Christmas lights. Christmas carols in the background. Crackling fires in the fireplaces. Unique master bathrooms, one with a mirror dividing the room. Napkins monogrammed and numbered. Solving the annual question of where Jeanna Westmoreland's nativity and nutcracker collections would be found. Personal touches by Christmas Home Tour hosts Denise and Ronnie Alvarez, Joy and Price Kloess, Allison Morgan, Carolyn and John Tate, and Jeanna and Andy Westmoreland. Magic happened in the Magic City during the Samford Legacy League's sixth annual Christmas Home Tour on Dec. 8, 2016.

A record number of more than 600 guests toured the homes. Everyone had the opportunity to do Christmas shopping at the popular holiday gift market, a feature added in 2015.

Magic? Yes. But more important than the magic were the blessings. The 2016 Christmas Home Tour brought in over \$35,000 for life-changing scholarships to assist deserving students with significant financial need. Other blessings were the more than 200 volunteers that helped make the home tour happen. They prepared, provided and served food. They hosted guests in homes, hung posters all over town, invited friends, purchased tickets, drove

shuttles and completed more tasks behind the scenes.

A significant blessing was the leadership provided by the Christmas Home Tour Committee. Led by Co-chairs Lisbeth Cease and Terre Currey, the committee included Paige Acker, Dianne Booth, Ginger Brown, Kathleen Busbee, Phyllis Crocker, Vicki Everett, Mary Ann Hollingshead, Pam Matthews, Suzanne Page, Lynn Parrish, Sharon Smith, Allison Strickland, Jeanna Westmoreland and Kathryn Woodruff.

As our president, Kathryn Woodruff, has said, "When we serve others, we are really ministering to them. We become God's hands and feet to those we serve. We can serve our scholarship recipients, our fellow Legacy League members and the Samford community as a whole."

"Serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13. That is the magic. That is the blessing. That is Legacy League. Thanks to everyone who made the home tour magical. 📌



Christmas Home Tour guests enjoy shopping for a variety of unique gifts, home décor items and artwork at the holiday gift market.



The Christmas Home Tour evening kitchen crew included Paula Gossett, Tricia Naro, Lauren Taylor, Phyllis Crocker, Brenda Weaver, Julie Davis, Lisa Hubbard and Diane Payne.



Ginger Brown, Deb Pounds and Alisa Hyde serve as Christmas Home Tour hostesses.

Please thank our sponsors and support their businesses.

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Tricia's Treasures  
Urban Home Market  
Zoe's Kitchen

# "Big Mama" Melanie Shankle Encourages Friendship at Annual Scholarship Luncheon

by Lynn Parrish

Laughter, words of inspiration and a slice of delicious chocolate roulage were on the menu at the annual Legacy League Scholarship Luncheon on Thursday, February 23. President Kathryn Woodruff welcomed nearly 300 members and guests to Vestavia Country Club. The attendees enjoyed a fabulous meal and time of fellowship amid beautiful arrangements of begonias and ivy that graced the ballroom tables.

Jeanna Westmoreland, executive director, thanked everyone for their support and recognized the generous sponsors for the integral part they played in making the event a success. She also acknowledged the planning committee and the nearly 45 event volunteers who graciously shared their time and talents.

Vice President for Student Scholarship and Support Paula Gossett introduced Cameron Thomas, a 2014 Samford graduate and current Beeson Divinity School student. Cam currently serves as an admission counselor and loves to share his Samford experience with prospective students and their families. He called Samford "a place of unlimited possibility" and expressed his gratefulness to the league. "Your presence here today is making someone's dream come true."

Scholarship Luncheon Chair Kathy Clay introduced Melanie Shankle, *New York Times* bestselling author and daily



The Scholarship Luncheon Committee included Kathryn Woodruff, Cynthia Watts, Kathy Clay (chair), Jane Lewis, Lisbeth Cease, Brenda Weaver, Sharon Smith, Jeanna Westmoreland and Lynn Parrish. Not pictured: Lindsay Kessler and Allison Strickland.



Melanie's books were so popular that she sold every copy she brought.

blogger at the bigmamablog.com. Writing about relationships with family and friends, she is the author of three books including *Sparkly Green Earrings*, *The Antelope in The Living Room* and *Nobody's Cuter than You*.

With a touch of humor and an abundance of passion,



Melanie shares a humorous and poignant message about the importance of friendship with an audience of nearly 300 women.

Melanie shared an inspirational message on the importance of friendship. Citing a speech given by the head of psychiatry at Stanford University, she said, "One of the best things a woman can do for her health is to nurture her relationships with her girlfriends." Hearing that spending time with a friend is just as important to general health as exercise delighted the guests as they enjoyed the last few bites of dessert.

Referring to her own stories and to Jonathan and David's relationship as described in 1 Samuel 18, Melanie shared five thoughts about authentic friendship:

1. Finding our people happens because God puts people in our path and knits our hearts together.
2. Freely offer what you have to give.
3. Never underestimate the importance of loyalty.
4. There is no room for comparison and jealousy.
5. True friends help us strengthen our grip on God.

She closed by referring to 2 Samuel 1:26 where David tells Jonathan, "Your love was a miracle beyond anything I'd ever known." "That's ultimately what God gives us in friendship," added Melanie, "a real life, everyday miracle in the form of another person."

Melanie's humorous and poignant message resonated with the audience, evidenced by the laughter and teary eyes displayed by her listeners. The luncheon, while clearly touching the hearts of attendees, will also impact numerous young people. Netting over \$10,000 for Samford's 175th Anniversary Legacy League Scholarship, the 2017 Scholarship Luncheon will, as Cam said, help make dreams come true. 📌

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# Volunteers in Action



Ginnie Holcomb, Mandy Jayne Antwine and Kayla Frank, members of the Junior Board Committee, encourage 22-35 year olds to join them in the Legacy League.



Jeanna Westmoreland, Harriet Williams and Allison Strickland discuss volunteer opportunities with several new members at New Member Orientation.



Leigh Simmons and Janet Quick serve as Christmas Home Tour hostesses at the Tate home.



Lisbeth Cease, Linda Presley, Jan Cobb, Melinda Mitchell and others explain volunteer opportunities to guests at the Open House.



Harriet Williams, Suzanne Hopkins, Jan Cobb, Cynthia Watts and Mary Berryman prepare centerpieces for the Fall Luncheon.



Karen Bergquist hosts a table of family and friends at the Fall Luncheon.



Suzanne Hopkins and Kathryn Woodruff assist while Karen Bergquist speaks to the Open House crowd.



Katherine Weakley and Julie Cundiff welcome a guest to the Samford President's Home.



Karen Bergquist, Nancy Tribble, Libby Hamby, Kathryn Woodruff and Karen Carlisle spend time with students Cass Waddell, Cara Sadler and Zack Garner at a fellowship supper.



Cynthia Watts, Nanette Yeager, Sarah Yeager, Ann Layne, Susan Hutchens and Jan Service assemble goody bags for the International Welcome Dinner.



Executive Committee members meet in August to make plans for the year.



Newsletter Committee members Lynn Parrish, Frances King, Carolyn Robinson, Anna Kathryn Hardin and Vickie Griffith proofread the fall issue.



Vickie Griffith and Suzanne Hopkins get to know new members Ginny Scott, Robbie Woolsteen and Evie Morris at New Member Orientation.



Lindsay Kessler and Harriet Williams place centerpieces for the Fall Luncheon.



Vicki Everett, Patricia Hawk, Shellyn Poole, Kimeran Stevens, Sybil Johnson, Jean Fain, Mary Edith Jones, Mary Ann Hollingshead and Kathy Finch keep the kitchen running during the Christmas Home Tour.



# New Junior Board Committee Hits the Ground Running

by Jenna Sims



Hilliary Hallman teaches basic techniques to nearly 100 participants at the Legacy League Junior Board Committee's modern calligraphy workshop.



Caitlin Miller, Kasey Strickland, Allison Strickland and Kayla Frank model Legacy League T-shirts, designed and promoted by the Junior Board Committee. The committee offered both long- and short-sleeved T-shirts, all of which sold out, and plans to sell new colors in the fall.

Legacy League officially launched efforts to expand junior membership, for ages 35 and under, on Sept. 1, 2016 at our annual Open House. Since then the number of junior members has almost doubled, growing from 24 to 46! The committee is excited to use the momentum gained during our inaugural fall season to host some wonderful events this spring.

The Junior Board Committee hosted its first event, a restaurant fundraiser, at Real + Rosemary in Homewood on Sept. 27. Not only did we generate \$134.61 for the 175th Anniversary Legacy League Scholarship, but it also gave members and their families a great time of fellowship.

The second event was a modern calligraphy class for junior members and their friends which was led by junior member Hilliary Hallman. This event was hosted on Samford's campus in the Regions Community Resource Room in Cooney Hall. Light refreshments were served, and attendees were led through the calligraphy class. Everyone was provided with a handout and all materials needed and was able to take home a custom print made during the class. The event drew 97 registrants

and raised nearly \$600! A new member also joined after attending the event.

After a successful fall semester, the Junior Board Committee hit the ground running with another restaurant fundraiser at MOOYAH on Feb. 16. The members also gathered on March 23 for their spring meeting featuring Lacey Amos, a junior member herself and a Birmingham area Christian counselor. Plans are in the works for a larger fundraising event expected to take place in late spring. The committee will also be hosting a summer recruitment event to intentionally engage with potential new junior members.

The Junior Board Committee, while sponsoring events for its age group, also encourages junior members to participate in the traditional Legacy League. Junior members enjoy volunteering at Legacy League events, including the always-successful Christmas Home Tour, fellowship suppers for scholarship recipients and welcome dinners for new international students. All Legacy League members were given the opportunity throughout the year to purchase T-shirts designed and promoted by our Junior Board Committee. ☛

# Volunteer Spotlight: SARAH YEAGER

by Frances King

Sarah Yeager has been a member of Legacy League's International Student Care Committee since 2013 and has chaired the committee since 2014. The committee greets new Samford international students each semester with a welcome dinner. This semester there are nine new international students at Samford. "The dinners provide a



Sarah Yeager

great opportunity to welcome these students and show them Christian love," Yeager says.

Originally from Mobile, Alabama, Sarah graduated from Queens University of Charlotte (North Carolina) in 2005 with a B.A. in music. She completed her M.B.A. at Samford in 2012. For the past seven years, she has been employed by Brookwood Baptist Health where she is currently a supervisor in the physicians' billing office. In addition to volunteering with Legacy League, she works with Phi Mu sorority's chapter at Samford.

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

**A.** My aunt, Carolyn Robinson, invited me to join while I was working on my M.B.A. at Samford. I have become more involved over the past few years as my schedule has allowed.

**Q. In what areas have you volunteered?**

**A.** I have served as the chair of the International Student Care Committee since 2014. I previously served as a hostess for the Christmas Home Tour and helped with the registration and setup for the Sunset 5K.

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

**A.** I have enjoyed meeting new people and seeing how Samford University has impacted their lives. Having attended Queens University through donor scholarships, I am grateful to be part of an organization that helps young men and women continue their education at Samford. ☛

# Where Are They Now?

## T.J. Moore: Adventures for God

by Carolyn Robinson

T.J. (Tiffany Jordan) Moore has two siblings but calls many girls "sister." Her parents are house parents at Big Oak Girls' Ranch, founded by John Croyle, in Springville, Alabama. Since fifth grade, that has been her home. When asked how many are in her family, she says there are too many to count.

Being awarded the Legacy League Big Oak Ranch Scholarship enabled T.J. to attend Samford. She graduated in 2013 with a bachelor's in English and a minor in communication studies. After graduation she worked for three years at YMCA Camp Cosby, serving as activities director.

Now T.J.'s adventures for God have led her to Lindsay Lane Baptist Church School

in Athens, Alabama. Here she has served as the fifth grade Bible and history teacher and as the elementary computer teacher. This year is her first as the media specialist for the school. She manages the school's three libraries. Her work involves keeping tabs on all the books, adding books that are relevant and removing materials that have become obsolete. When the elementary students visit the media center, T.J. provides lessons about the library and different types of literature.

T.J. is thankful for the scholarship which gave her the Samford experience and prepared her for her present job. She says, "I am thrilled to begin this adventure that God has set me on, and I know that He is in control of all." ☛



T.J. Moore



Kathy Clay and Jan Cobb get to know new members Janie Howell, Florence Morris, Julie Davis and Amy Owen at New Member Orientation.



Enthusiastic junior members enjoy the Open House.

# New Members Find Friends and Focus at Orientation

by Kathryn Woodruff

**In what way is Legacy League like a great football coach? Is it in our ability to recruit new members and get them involved as soon as possible?**

Last October, we held our first-ever New Member Orientation, a session created due to recent significant growth in membership. So where are we getting all these new members? Our current Legacy League members are doing a great job of inviting their friends to meetings and events. Also, several focused recruiting efforts, led by Vice President for Membership Suzanne Hopkins, are making a difference. A table at parent/student orientation, the open house at the Samford President's Home and a faculty/staff open house on campus have all garnered new members. Additionally, the new Junior Board Committee's efforts have greatly increased the number of members ages 35 and under.

By the October orientation, we had gained 80 new members this year, and 19 of those were able to attend. The orientation, hosted by the Executive Committee (EC), featured a group activity where new members and EC members sat together around tables and learned about each other's interests and strengths. Then new members participated in a rotating table-to-table activity in which each vice president and fundraising event chair shared what happens in her area and explained opportunities for member involvement. This activity was even more fun because it included a Jeopardy-style trivia game followed by a chance for each new member to indicate how she would like to become involved.

Feedback on the orientation was very positive, and a good number of our newest members have already begun serving on event committees and in other areas. If we continue to gain new members at this rate, we hope to make orientation an annual event. ☛



# Samford University Celebrates 175 Years at a Weekend to Remember

by Sarah Waller

Months have passed, and people are still talking about Samford University's 175th anniversary homecoming weekend. The weather was perfect, thousands attended and a confetti cannon capped off the birthday celebration.

Along with the traditional homecoming activities, like reunions and football, the weekend included events unique to the university's 175th year. On Veteran's Day, Friday, Nov. 11, the Samford community gathered on the Quad for the Festival Procession. Together everyone walked down Centennial Walkway to the Wright Center for the 175th Anniversary Convocation and Service of Thanksgiving. The service reflected upon the men and women who, throughout the university's first 175 years, shaped the institution into what we know and love today.

That evening Samford threw a birthday party. The Anniversary Ball took place in a transformed Pete Hanna Center. Some

estimates put the count at almost 2,000 students, alumni, employees and friends. A big band provided music throughout the evening, and the dance floor was packed until the very last song.

As the band took a break, Samford honored its seven Alumni of the Year recipients. Next the crowd witnessed with joy as senior Micah Green-Holloway, a Legacy League scholarship recipient, was crowned homecoming king alongside senior Margaret Hehir, who was crowned queen. Then, as Dr. Andrew Westmoreland led the crowd in shouting, "Happy Birthday, Samford," cannons released the confetti, and it filled the room.

All of this happened on Friday. The crowds returned to campus on Saturday, Nov. 12 for a tailgating scene that spanned from Hodges Chapel to Reid Chapel. The Legacy League tent was located in the heart of "alumni village" which was sponsored by the Samford Alumni Association.



Resplendent decorations made the 175th Anniversary Ball an event to remember.



The Westmorelands celebrate with Margaret Hehir, homecoming queen, and Homecoming King Micah Green-Holloway, a Legacy League scholarship recipient.

Over in Seibert Stadium, Samford revealed its new bulldog logo with a banner that covered the width of the Cooney-Sullivan Family Field House. As the sun set on the day, the Samford Bulldogs claimed a resounding victory over the Mercer Bears. 🐾

# Share a Memory A Big Impact in the Big Apple

by Anna Kathryn Hardin

Ask most alumni about a special memory of Samford, and they will mention something that happened in the cafeteria, the library, the gym or somewhere else on campus. Not Karon Owen Bowdre. Her special memory of Samford happened 1,000 miles away in New York City.

Her memory occurred during 1975, a dark time in the history of New York. The city was riddled with crime and drugs, and many churches struggled to stay open. Into that world, Bowdre's group of 19 students from Samford arrived to complete the last week of their Jan Term class on inner city ministry. The class, led by Esther Burroughs and Dr. W.T. Edwards, was tasked with renovating a storefront to be used as an outreach and ministry point.

It was cold, snowy and just "an eye-opening experience for a Southern Baptist girl from Montgomery, Alabama." But the students managed to have fun ripping out ceilings and walls, putting up new Sheetrock and painting it inside and out. Much of the neighborhood was covered in graffiti. So their little storefront really stood out when they finished painting the outside wall. One of the guys got the idea to write "Graffiti" in "funky lettering" at the top of the freshly painted wall. So the ministry, and the church that sprang from it, became known as Graffiti Church.

In 2005 most of the class members, still calling themselves the "Graffiti Gang," met in New York for a 30th reunion and went to Graffiti Church. They found the area around the church, just like much of New York, had been cleaned up and "gentrified." However,



In 1975, the Lord used Karon Owen Bowdre and 18 other Samford students, a group known as the "Graffiti Gang," to start a New York City ministry which is still going strong.

the church and ministry point were still going strong and had spread to include ministry centers in every borough.

"It was so amazing and humbling to see what God has done with this little ministry we helped start," said Bowdre. God was also working in the lives of those students, many of whom went on to careers in ministry and public service. Their number includes several social workers, nurses, ministers and even a judge—the Honorable Karon O. Bowdre, whose heart for service is evident in her life and her commitment to the Legacy League's mission.

In February she and several of the "Graffiti Gang" members dedicated a tree on campus in honor of Esther Burroughs, the campus minister who led their group to New York. Now Karon and the others have a place on Samford's campus where they can relive their memories. 🐾

# Providing Water and Shade for the Future – FOREVER SAMFORD

by Sharon Smith

Andy Westmoreland often says, "We drink from cisterns we did not dig and sit in the shade of trees we did not plant." While celebrating Samford's first 175 years during homecoming, the university announced Forever Samford, an opportunity "to be water and shade for current and future students, alumni, employees, and the local and global communities we serve."

Forever Samford is a six-year, \$300 million capital campaign, the largest in Samford's history. Legacy League member Kimeran Stevens and her husband, Bill, are co-chairs of the Campaign Steering Committee. A goal of \$90 million in new scholarship opportunities is one of four major giving areas as determined by a broad survey of the Samford community. All contributions to support Legacy League scholarships will count toward this ambitious goal, helping make Samford accessible for students who could otherwise not afford to attend.

Legacy League scholarships are currently helping provide the Samford experience to 14



FOREVER SAMFORD

students. Seven of these students come from families who have been impacted by major medical issues. Others have endured obstacles including foster care, homelessness, inner city violence, single parent families and the sacrifices of full-time ministry. Each of them has a unique story, but all share the need for significant financial assistance to attend Samford. They and their families are grateful for the generosity of Legacy League donors who have provided scholarship funds for them.

"We are blessed, humbled and a little overwhelmed by what you do for (our son) and all those you help with scholarships. Your service to your community does not go unnoticed." —parent of current student

Many more young people, each facing challenges, desire to be part of the Samford faith and learning community. Your support of Forever Samford through contributions to Legacy League scholarships will provide transformational experiences and change the future for more students. Thank you! 🐾

## »» DID YOU KNOW...

Samford has occupied three campuses (Marion, East Lake and Homewood) and has had two names (Howard College and Samford University).

The state of Alabama issued the charter for Howard College in December 1841, and the first term began in January 1842 with only nine students.

Homecoming was first held in January 1866 to celebrate the return to Howard College of her first president, Samuel Sterling Sherman.

Howard College enrolled 83 students in the fall term of 1887 when the East Lake campus in Birmingham opened.

Ninety-six percent of Samford University May 2016 undergraduate alumni were employed, in internships or pursuing continuing education within six months of graduation.

In August 2016 the College of Health Sciences moved into the east campus, Samford's newest property, formerly the Southern Progress headquarters.

The first class of the Epsilon Xi chapter of Delta Delta Delta was initiated in the fall of 2016. Tri Delta is the first new sorority at Samford in about 20 years. A new sorority house is currently under construction and will be ready for its residents this fall.

Samford University enrolled 5,471 students in the fall of 2016, the eighth consecutive year of record enrollment.



## MEMBER UPDATE

July 1, 2016 through Jan. 31, 2017

### New Challenge

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Mrs. Cindy D. Kinnebrew

### Challenge upgrade

Ms. Pam Matthews  
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July 1, 2016 through Jan. 31, 2017

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# Christian Singer Laura Story Touches the Hearts of Concert Goers

by Lynn Parrish

An evening of inspirational music and testimony with Christian singer Laura Story blessed a delighted audience on March 9 at Shades Mountain Baptist Church. Laura fulfilled expectations with crowd favorites including "What a Savior," "God of Every Story" and "Open Hands," her newest single which was released just a few days before the concert. VIP ticket holders enjoyed meeting Laura at a reception before the concert.

Laura opened the 90-minute concert by inviting the audience to join her in singing "Indescribable." She continued with "You Came Running" and "Give You Faith," songs from her newest album. Throughout the evening, Laura shared the life stories and experiences that have inspired her songs. Laying down her guitar and moving to the piano, she asked for requests from the crowd, which enthusiastically shouted, "Blessings." Before singing the beloved number, Laura openly talked about her husband's illness and their ongoing journey of faith. Musicians Ryan Van Kirk and Michael Hansen accompa-

nied her on piano, percussion and vocals.

Laura's career as a solo artist began in 2008 with *Great God Who Saves*, which received four Dove nominations and the award for "Inspirational Album of the Year." Three years later, inspired by her own real life challenges, she released *Blessings*, her second album. The title song was awarded a Grammy, Billboard and three Dove Awards and led to the publication of Laura's first book, *What if Your Blessings Come Through Raindrops*. Of her fifth and most recent release, Laura said, "Open Hands is something I've been learning on so many levels. The crazier life gets, the more this idea of 'open hands' became the theme that God was teaching me. Worship in its very core begins with surrender. That's how we really show God that He's worth it all."

Not only were hearts touched by the beautiful music of Laura Story, lives of deserving students with significant financial need will be changed by the scholarships funded with proceeds from this special night. ❧



Laura Story encourages concert goers by sharing her inspirational music, real life stories and authentic faith.



Bill and Kimeran Stevens enjoy a visit with Laura Story at the VIP reception.

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Thank you to our Legacy League donors, current and past, who are making it possible for students with significant financial need and challenging circumstances to benefit from all that Samford offers. Pictured here are 12 of our 14 current scholarship recipients.



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## Jeanna's Back Story

by Jeanna Westmoreland

“I only wish I had more to give,” responded Julia Tarrant Barron to her pastor, William H. McIntosh. “How do you feel about all the money you have given away?” The question from Rev. McIntosh was posed to an elderly Julia, living in poverty, having lost her family’s fortune. As you will learn, her answer truly reflected her belief that she was merely the steward of all that she possessed—a belief that she exemplified throughout her life.

While you may have never heard of Julia Tarrant Barron until now, her life has touched yours. Julia and her husband, William, were early settlers in the Alabama territory, with each of them having come from South Carolina with their families. When they married in 1828, they settled in the flourishing town of Marion. William died in 1832, leaving Julia a widow with a young son. She continued investing in various business interests in Marion. More importantly, she shared her extensive wealth in ways that improved both her town and her state. So great were her contributions that a newspaper reported at the time of her death in 1890 that “Hers was a useful life, and her noble deeds will continue to live in the memory of thousands of Christian people.” Although she died more than 125 years ago, her influence is still seen in significant ways.

Why was Julia Tarrant Barron held in such high regard? In a flurry of philanthropic activity between 1838 and 1843, she co-founded Judson College (1838), Howard College, now Samford University (1841),

and the newspaper, *The Alabama Baptist* (1843). In addition to serving as a founding mother of each, she continued to make substantial financial investments in the institutions. For Judson, she provided lodging for the newly appointed president and his wife and provided funds for the construction of the first brick building on campus.

To Howard (Samford), she made an initial financial gift of \$4000, and it is believed that she and her son gave land for the campus. When the college campus burned in 1854, she and her son gave money for rebuilding. Her only child, John Thomas Barron, was the first graduate of the collegiate division of Howard College.

While she enjoyed wealth for a time, tragedy struck. She and her son were forced to sell their properties to satisfy creditors. John Thomas died in 1870 and his wife died in 1875, leaving Julia to raise her two granddaughters in poverty. One of those granddaughters, Olive Barron Becker, was commissioned to paint portraits of Julia. Judson College and Samford University each have one of the portraits.

Near the end of her life, Julia Tarrant Barron was described as one “who blessed the schools with her prayers, tears, time and ample means.”

Prayers, tears, time and means—these are the very ways that you support Samford University and the Legacy League. The prayers offered for our students, faculty and staff encourage and uplift our campus. Your tears, cried when our community hurts, give expression to your empathy and remind us

that we are not alone during difficult times. Your thousands of volunteer hours served make our events and programs successful. Your means, given freely and generously, have raised our scholarship endowment to \$2.5 million dollars.

As Samford celebrates her 175th anniversary, I want to thank you for taking up the philanthropic mantle of Julia Tarrant Barron! Thank you for the many forms of support you offer our students through our scholarship program. Thank you for the example of philanthropy you are providing for future generations. 🐾

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Anna Kathryn Hardin, Editor

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