

CLASS NOTES

Compiled by the Office of Alumni Programs and Annual Giving.

1950s

'51 **Dr. David Griffin** will celebrate his 66th wedding anniversary with his wife, Annette, in December. Their three children have given them six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. It has been 72 years since he was a freshman on the East Lake campus, but he has only fond memories of his time there. He credits his Ph.D. and his long teaching career to his favorite professor, Miss Mary Emily McGriff.



1970s

'70 **Anita Dutton** started and directs a single adult ministry called Relate Well Singles Ministry that meets weekly in Hoover, Alabama. She is also heavily involved in Cadence Call Ministries that ministers to trauma issues and life issues in veterans, first responders, medical personnel, prison inmates and people transitioning from prison or homelessness. She is an agent/broker with ARC Realty.

'74 **Timothy Paul Banks** is the 2019 recipient of the Thomas R. Smith Award for Choral Excellence from the Alabama Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Recipients "distinguish themselves in the field of choral music in Alabama and demonstrate high musical standards . . . [have provided] leadership in the choral arts and earned the respect of colleagues and/or students." Banks retired from Samford in 2010 after 34 years on the School of the Arts faculty. He was also the conductor of the Samford A Cappella Choir for many years.

'75 **Chuck Ables** is serving his second term as mayor of Geraldine in northeast Alabama after a 34-year career with Hibbett Sports. He retired from Hibbett in 2009 and was elected mayor in 2012. Ables and his wife, **Katherine**

'76, have two daughters and seven grandchildren. Katherine retired from teaching at Fort Payne High School in 2013. Ables served as manager of the Samford football

team in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and was a member of the 1971 team that was inducted into the Samford Athletics Hall of Fame this year.

1980s

'81 **William Clay Smith** recently celebrated 25 years as pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter, South Carolina. During his tenure, the church has grown in average attendance from 280 to 1,500. He is also the author of two books, *Pipes: God's Spiritual Gifts Flowing through You* and *Next Step Life*. **1**

'82 **J. Fred Kingren** has been selected as Lawyer of the Year in corporate law for 2019 by Best Lawyers®. Kingren is an attorney and partner at Hand Arendall Harrison Sale, LLC, where he concentrates his legal practice in general business, finance, securities law, mergers and acquisitions and taxation areas. **2**

'87 **David Hall** has joined national law firm, Wilson Elser, as the regional managing partner for Birmingham, Alabama. Hall represents private and for-hire motor carriers as national and regional counsel and represents insurance companies and utility contractors on matters involving pipeline, trucking and construction accidents. He has also joined Wilson Elser's national 24-hour Emergency Response Team and serves as the primary contact for Birmingham.



1990s

'91 & '95 **CH (LTC) Scott Bush** was recently appointed command chaplain for Army Reserve Element Pacific Command—U.S. Forces Korea. His wife, the former **Rebecca Cobb '90**, works for The Title Group, Inc. in Birmingham, Alabama. **3**

'91 & '93 **Kathyjo Spivey Gordon** was awarded the Executive Director of the Year Award at Georgia Health Care Association's Summer Convention held in Amelia Island. This was awarded by the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators. Gordon was also elected by her peers to serve as the chair of the Board for Georgia Center for Assisted Living. She is the executive director at Stone Brooke Suites Senior Living in Gray, Georgia. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Gray with their three sons Kameron, Kevin and Kyle. Gordon also leads worship at Greenwood Baptist Church in Gray. **4**

'91 **Beth Roper Stewart's** first children's book, *One Thing Missing*, was recently published by Covenant Books. It is a story about adoption.

'92 **Jeff Roberts** was recognized in the March 2019 issue of *Barron's Magazine* among the Top 1,200 Financial Advisors in the United States. He was also recognized in 2019 among the *Financial Times* Top 400 Financial Advisors and

Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors. Roberts is the founder and president of MavenCross Wealth Advisors® in Birmingham, Alabama.

'93 **Lee Frazier** was named the 2019 president of the Alabama Association of Municipal Clerks and Administrators (AAMCA). AAMCA serves as the professional organization for municipal clerks in the state of Alabama. Frazier also served as president of the Jefferson County Association of Municipal Clerks. Lee has served in municipal government for over 21 years and during that time he has managed to receive a Juris Doctor as well as master municipal clerk and elections records administrator certifications. He was a public administration major and played strong safety for the 1991 National Championship semifinalist Samford Bulldog football team.

2000s

'00 & '03 **Adrienne Bonner Wiggins** was recently initiated into Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in education.

'01 **Joy Enzfelder Pine** opened the doors to her store, Iddy & Oscars, in Lebanon, Tennessee. The name is in honor of two children she met in Kenya during her many mission trips. Ten percent of her proceeds goes toward orphan care that sends many Kenyans to secondary school.

'04 **Dr. Mark Catlin** graduated with a Ph.D. in Old Testament from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He recently began a position as assistant professor in biblical studies at Union University in Memphis, Tennessee. His wife, **Kimberly Landreth Catlin '04**, and their four kids relocated to Memphis from Princeton, New Jersey, where they had been doing ministry for the past seven years. **5**

'04 **Dr. Kendell Jno-Finn** opened M3 Endeavors, LLC, a physical therapy practice in Trussville, Alabama.

'06 **Andrew Burrow** recently completed his doctoral program in biblical studies from St Mary's University Twickenham. Prior to his Ph.D., he attended Yale University and

completed studies in Israel at Tel Aviv University. Currently, he teaches one class in Samford's Department of Biblical and Religious Studies and also teaches full time in the Mountain Brook school system. He publishes regularly in the field, works as an editor, and serves on various committees both at Mountain Brook and at other universities. **6**

'07 **Dr. Henry Coker** and his wife, **Jagoda Wartak Coker '07**, currently live in Mobile, Alabama, where he is a physician in the internal medicine/pediatric residency program at the University of South Alabama hospitals.

'09 **Heather Willis Dameron** was awarded the Meeting Planner of the Year Award for Meeting Professionals International—Tennessee chapter for 2018-19. She received the award at the organization's Circle of Excellence Gala in Nashville. This was her second time receiving this award. **7**

2010s

'10 **Dr. Chelsea Rushing Porter** graduated from residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine—Wichita family medicine residency program at Ascension Via Christi hospitals.

'11 **Melissa Carlisle** graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in May 2019 with a Ph.D. in counselor education and

supervision. She was licensed as a professional counselor in 2015 and is looking forward to pursuing her calling of counseling and teaching in higher education in the coming days.

'11 **Dr. Ralph Ruskin** is a member of the inaugural Gulf Shores School Board.

'13 **Trae Norrell** has been appointed branch manager of the new Cullman office for Byars|Wright, a metro Birmingham independent insurance agency where he currently serves as a producer. Norrell also serves as a pastor at Grace Chapel and is heavily involved with The Link of Cullman, where he serves as chairman of the board.

'18 **Taylor McPherson** has completed her first year of work with PlaySafe Alabama at Hewitt-Trussville High School and was awarded Athletic Trainer of the Quarter. **8**



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