At some point this past year, you have probably asked yourself, “How on earth is it possible that my child is headed to college?” Surely, you’ve heard it at least a million times from those who punched the parent time clock before you: “It goes by so fast!” And yet, here you are now, wishing you could turn back the hands of time and asking yourself, “Where did the time go?”

Once your son or daughter is immersed in Samford life, they will become accustomed to organizing their day by the clock tower and the carillon bells that chime every 15 minutes. Before you know it, they will be asking the same question: “Where did the time go?” We only have them here at Samford a short time, but even the layout of our campus reminds students of a greater plan that God has for them.

Samford’s bell tower symbol has been used in the school’s primary logo in several forms over the last three decades. It is a symbol of time-honored tradition and scholarly excellence. The symbol is a simplified representation of the bell tower atop the library. The hands on the clock inside the logo are set at 6 and 5 to reflect the verse engraved on the front gates of our beautiful campus taken from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Mark 12:30-31: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind: and thy neighbor as thyself.”

Time may be a thief, but it can never steal the love you have for your children. Now you are entrusting your sons and daughters to Samford University to teach and guide them over the next four years. Everyone in the Samford community commits to do all within our ability to help them reach their full potential and eternal calling. It is our privilege to partner with you in raising the next generation of Samford women and men.

Alongside...

**JULIE BOYD, DIRECTOR**  
PARENT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS  
JBOYD10@SAMFORD.EDU | 205-726-2375

**TANYA HINDMAN, COORDINATOR**  
PARENT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS  
THINDMA@SAMFORD.EDU | 205-726-4559

PARENTS@SAMFORD.EDU  |  SAMFORD.EDU/PARENTS  |  SAMFORD.CAMPUSESP.COM  
facebook: SAMFORD PARENTS  |  @SAMFORDPARENTS
THINGS TO DO

- Attend a Welcome Party near you. If there isn’t one, consider hosting a “Send Off Party” for Samford students and parents in your area.
- Enjoy Samford Talks Conversation Cards around the family dinner table.
- Remind your student to watch for fall housing assignments, sent via email in mid-July.
- Secure hotel reservations for Family Weekend.
- Order a Back to School care package through Parent and Family Programs.

PARENT COMMUNICATION PORTAL

You are invited to join Samford’s Parent Communication Portal and activate your account at samford.campusesp.com. We hope this format of communication between you and Samford University’s Parent and Family Programs will provide the information you want, strengthen your connection with the university and other Samford families, and equip you with the resources you most need to support your student. After all, you are the most important mentor your student can have through these years!

- **A Personalized News Feed** — Campus news and events information, geared specifically to your interests.
- **Articles to Save or Share** — Articles to save for later or share with friends on your social media accounts.
- **Regular Newsletters** — Regular emails personalized to your interests delivered on the schedule you choose.

We are excited to connect with you in this way!

PRAYER

Divine Father, I pray for my student who will soon be stepping into a new season on Samford’s campus. I pray you will guide him/her in all the logistics of class enrollment, meeting professors, setting up resources and moving into housing. Surround him/her with friends who will be supportive during this transition. Help us to trust that you go before us, will be with us and never leave or forsake us. Keep us from fear and discouragement. (Deuteronomy 31:8)
THINGS TO DO

- Make sure your student has added you as an authorized user at samford.edu/go/financialportal.
- Student information is restricted by FERPA. Ask your student to consider adding you to his or her release, so university officials may speak with you about their record.
- Help your student prepare, health wise:
  - Make a plan in case of a medical emergency.
  - Make a first-aid kit to keep in their car and/or dorm.
  - Make copies of health insurance cards.
  - Make sure your student has set up and completed their Med+Proctor account.
  - If your student requires medication, plan to send a month’s supply and begin the transfer process to a local Birmingham pharmacy.

- Remind your student of sorority and fraternity recruitment deadlines. (samford.edu/greeklife)
- Watch for emails to register for Family Weekend (September 22-24) at samford.edu/parents.

MOVE-IN AND CONNECTIONS:

This year, two days have been set aside for new student move-in—Thursday, August 17, and Friday, August 18. For students attending Bulldog Days in August, move-in will be Wednesday, August 16. Students will select a day and time to move in. Upperclassmen will choose from move-in appointments on August 13, 14, 15, 19, or 20.

When you arrive on the day of your student’s chosen move-in, signage will direct you and volunteers will greet you to help you know where you may offload your student’s belongings and then park. As soon as your student’s room is set up, you will want to say goodbye so your student can jump into an amazing college experience. Parent and Family Programs will have stations set up at Centennial Walk behind the Mr. Beeson statue to allow you to walk through a special goodbye time with your student. We will also provide Parent Drive-Home bags for you to pick up at a tent located at the Parent Programs Office, west entrance of the University Center/Westmoreland Hall. After you depart, new students will enjoy Connections, a weekend of activities planned and led by students to help them get acquainted with their classmates, the campus and their new city.

PRAYER

Faithful Lord, I pray that my student will have clear discernment to choose right over wrong. I pray that he/she will shape opinions and choices about life based on Your Word and what is right in Your sight. Lead my student to trust in You with all his/her heart and not lean on human understanding. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Pre-Family Weekend event with Acrobats of Cirque-tacular in the Wright Center

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Open Houses
Party with the President, including family pictures with a professional photographer, shaved ice, and music
Vespers, featuring Acapella Choir and University Chorale
Dinner and Live Music, featuring student bands, in the newly renovated Caf
Volleyball Game, celebrating Samford’s Southern Conference Athletic Championship Teams

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Parents Association Annual Meeting and Breakfast
Tailgate on the Quad (including state parent chapter tailgates and family games)
Bulldog Walk
Samford Football

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
Worship with your student at a local church.
Hymn Sing in Reid Chapel

September 22-24
General registration opens in late August at samford.edu/parents. Other information will be emailed through the Parent Portal.

THINGS TO DO
- Encourage your student to get involved in campus ministry groups.
- Watch for opportunities to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 - October 15.
- October brings the new pressures of midterms. Encourage your student to get ahead and make appointments with professors to talk about expectations and assignments.
- Recommend your student has a conversation with their roommate to work out any problem areas before issues arise. Encourage your student to generate his/her own solutions to problems. If help is needed, your student should reach out to his or her Resident Assistant.

VISIT SAMFORD.EDU/PARENTS/EVENTS FOR UPDATES.

PRAYER
Victorious Father, please give my student a spirit of THANKFULNESS and COMPASSION. Thank you for instructing us whatever we do, whether in word or deed, to do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father, and as God’s chosen people, holy, and dearly loved, to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:17, 12)
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**THINGS TO DO**

- Encourage your student to meet with an academic advisor prior to registration for spring semester.
- Make sure student accounts are up to date to be ready for spring semester registration.
- Plan ahead! Make hotel reservations for Step Sing weekend.
- Talk to your student about studying abroad next year. Study Abroad applications open this month for May Term, Summer, and Fall 2024, at abroad.samford.edu.

**PRAYER**

God of Peace, please give my student a spirit of CONFIDENCE and CALMNESS. Thank you that we can do all things through Him who gives us strength. Help us not to be anxious about anything, but in everything with prayer, petition and thanksgiving, present our requests to you, and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard our hearts and our minds through Christ Jesus.

*(Philippians 4:13,6)*
## NOVEMBER 2023

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**THINGS TO DO**

- Remind your student that November 2 is the last day to withdraw from a Fall course or to completely withdraw from all Fall courses.
- Put together an exam care package to encourage your student before exams and/or purchase from Parents Association “A Taste of Homewood Before You Head Homeward”, a set of gift cards to four area restaurants.
- Calendar conversations to have with your student during the Thanksgiving holiday:
  - Study Abroad options during his/her collegiate career
  - Spring Break plans
  - Summer 2024 internships, mission trips, employment, and service opportunities
  - Don’t forget to use your Samford Talks Conversation Cards.
- Encourage your student to stay active. Campus Rec provides recreational programs and outdoor adventure activities. (samford.edu/campus-recreation)

**PRAYER**

God of Wisdom, please give my student a spirit of TEACHABILITY and DILIGENCE. Thank you that your Word says if a wise man is instructed, he will be wiser still, and if a righteous man is taught, it will be added to his learning. Whatever we do, help us to do it all as working unto you and not unto man.

*(Proverbs 9:9, Colossians 3:23)*
THINGS TO DO

☐ Talk with your now-independent student about expectations you will have for each other during the holidays.

☐ Attend the Samford School of the Arts Christmas events.

☐ During the holiday break, help your student reflect on his/her first semester and assess it honestly.

☐ Make a year-end tax-deductible gift to the Samford Parents Scholarship Fund.

PRAYER

Victorious Father, please give my student a spirit of PURPOSE and SECURITY. Thank you that you help our eyes to look straight ahead and fix our gaze directly on you. Lord, you alone are our portion and our cup; you make our lot secure.

(Proverbs 4:25, Psalm 16:5)

DECEMBER 2023
**THINGS TO DO**

- Purchase tickets to Step Sing this month or livestream a performance and host a watch party.
- Encourage your student to visit the Career Development Center. The CDC will prepare students by offering opportunities and workshops leading up to the job and internship fair next month.
- Remind your student to keep up with Convo credits.
- Ask your student about spring Greek recruitment options.
- Arrive early to Step Sing to get a good parking place, then enjoy a coffee from the University Center, and hang out in Parent Commons.

**PRAYER**

Mighty Counselor, please give my student a spirit of DIRECTION and AVAILABILITY. Thank you that whether we turn to the right or the left, You show us the way we should walk. When we hear your voice saying, “Whom shall I send?” help us to respond with, “Me!”

*(Isaiah 30:21, 6:8)*
THINGS TO DO

- Consider ways to encourage racial unity by reading the book, Madison Park: A Place of Hope, by Samford alumnus, Eric Motley.
- Encourage your students to talk with his/her advisor and department chairs about eligibility for department and program scholarships.
- Ask your student to check his/her email inbox for fall housing information and have a conversation about their plans.
- Advise your student to attend the Job and Internship Fairs hosted by Career Development Center.

PRAYER

Merciful Savior, please give my student a spirit of STRENGTH and REST. Thank you for giving strength to the weary and increasing the power of the weak. Help us to find true rest in you alone, for our hope comes from you.

(Isaiah 40:29, Psalm 62:5)
## MARCH 2024

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### THINGS TO DO

- Remind your student of summer term housing sign-up deadline.
- Drop an encouraging note in the mail to your student.
- If your student is trying to decide on a major, encourage him or her to make an appointment with the CDC to meet with a career counselor and take advantage of their resources, including assessments.
- If you are a Samford parent who has authored a book, please send a signed copy for the Parent Commons’ library.
- Put together an exam care package to encourage your student before exams and/or purchase a special spring care package from Parents Association.

### PRAYER

Supreme God, please give my student a spirit of GIFTEDNESS and WISDOM. Thank you for instructing us that we should use whatever gift you have given us to serve others as faithful stewards of your grace in various forms. Help wisdom to enter our hearts and knowledge to be pleasant to our souls.

*(1 Peter 4:10, Proverbs 2:10)*
THINGS TO DO

- Volunteer to help the families from your state tailgate together during fall 2024 Family Weekend. Email your interest to parents@samford.edu.

- Encourage your student to add culture to their college experience by attending a year-end Samford Arts event in Harrison Theatre, the Art Gallery and/or Brock Recital Hall. (samford.edu/arts/events)

PRAYER

Mighty Rock, please give my student a spirit of EMPOWERMENT and PEACE. Thank you that the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective and he has peace whose mind is stayed on you. Help us to have peace in all things as we pray without ceasing.

(James 5:16, Isaiah 26:3)
Looking ahead: Students receive fall housing assignments via email in mid-July.
Don’t make major changes at home without informing your student. Keep them in the loop on family decisions.
Watch for opportunities to celebrate Asian American/ Pacific Islander Heritage Month, observed by Samford during the month of May.

Holy Father, please give my student a spirit of RESPECTFULNESS and HUMILITY. Thank you that we will show one another proper respect, love the brotherhood of believers, and fear and honor You, our King. Help us to be completely humble, gentle, patient and bearing with one another in love.

(1 Peter 2:17, Ephesians 4:2)
We invite you to join Samford families around the world in praying for the university through the month. We are blessed by your prayers as we strive to exemplify and promote the Christian mission.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

We are so excited to serve as co-chairs of The Samford Parents Association, an organization that exists to support and encourage the university, our students, and Samford families in every intentional ways. As parents and family members who are dedicated to seeing our sons and daughters thrive at Samford University, our Association is one of the strongest, most vital partnerships at Samford.

Below are a few of the ways your involvement helps fund efforts to connect and support students and their families:

- Parent Communication Portal
- Special Events during Family Weekend
- Support for students in Samford CARES
- Snacks for all students during Exam Weeks
- The Good Measure Fund
- Support for the Parent Scholarship Fund
- Family Hospitality Ministry
- Parent Commons amenities

We hope you will register and find your place within the Samford Parents Association—identifying the type of partnership and involvement best suited for your family. Our sons and daughters, and the many students who will come long after them, benefit from our combined efforts. You can count on it.

Alongside,

ERIC AND SHARLA STAFFORD
SAMFORD PARENTS ASSOCIATION CO-CHAIRS

Your partnership provides the following:

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<tr>
<th>Complimentary Partner</th>
<th>Scholastic Partner-$200</th>
<th>Collegiate Partner-$500</th>
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<td>Parent and Family Calendar</td>
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<td>Sanford Shop Discount Coupon (25% off one regular-priced, non-sale item)</td>
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<td>Limited Edition Signature Gift at Kining (Samford University L.L. Bean Boat and Tote Bag)</td>
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<td>Sanford University Fleece Blanket</td>
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<td>Annual Invitation to Collegiate Partner Reception in the President’s Home, hosted by the President and First Lady, during Step Sing Weekend</td>
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* Partnership active while student is an enrolled undergraduate
SAMFORD PARENTS ASSOCIATION:
When you give as a Scholastic or Collegiate Partner, you help provide extra care to our students. Some examples of these are snack bars during exams, special events during FW, and access to the Parent Portal for all parents. Additionally, your gifts help fund a major project within Student Affairs that will benefit all of Samford students. Every year during Family Weekend, our partners vote on one of five proposals that will make a tremendous impact on our campus. Last year we designated $25,000 to support students with food insecurities and added benches for Ben Brown Plaza, a favorite hang-out spot for all Samford students. Cast your vote at the Parent Association annual meeting during Family Weekend and celebrate the announcement of the winning project during half time of the football game. Parents are encouraged to give via the website or the portal from July to September of each year.

SAMFORD GIVING DAY:
The first Tuesday of April is an annual campus-wide effort to encourage the entire Bulldog Family to support the university. The Samford Parents Association is sponsoring the 24-hour convenience store in our newly renovated Campus Rec, Wellness and Athletic Complex scheduled to open fall of 2024. The store’s availability will allow students to get essentials they need at any time. Food, over-the-counter medicine and personal items will be available, so students do not have to leave campus. This will be especially helpful for late night needs or for those without their own transportation. In 2023, parents raised over $28,000 towards our $100,000 goal. You don’t have to wait until Samford Giving Day to support this important initiative.

SAMFORD PARENTS SCHOLARSHIP:
This special fund provides a safety net to upperclassmen who encounter unforeseen circumstances that may cause a significant financial burden and interrupt a student’s Samford education. In 2022-23 this fund provided support for seven students in a time of crisis. Parents and friends of Samford are encouraged to give each year during the Parent Scholarship campaign between September and December.

There are numerous ways to support your student’s experience at Samford University including scholarships, academic programs, Legacy League, Student Emergency Assistance Fund, Athletics, and the Arts. For more information on each of these initiatives, visit samford.edu/giving/where-to-give.
Within the Parents Association, you will find state and regional parent chapters that provide ways to support students and connect parents locally. Chapters are led by current parents who oversee projects to encourage students throughout the semester; enlist other parents to participate in activities such as coffees, care package packing parties, prayer teams, and note-writing campaigns; and help plan Send Off parties and Family Weekend tailgates. When you join the Parents Association, you will begin receiving information about chapters closest to you. If you are interested in helping lead local events in your city or state, please contact parents@samford.edu.

### State and Regional Chapters

To contact the chair in your state or region, visit samford.edu/parents/leadership-council-contact.

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<th>State/Region</th>
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<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Beth and Ward Drennen, Beth and Kris Davis</td>
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<td>Payton and Keith Albritton, Anna Marie Champion</td>
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<td>California</td>
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<td>Florida</td>
<td>Lawrence Nunn, Beth Bearden and Katy McCrudden</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>Christy and Matthew Wall</td>
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