One of the most visible links to Samford University’s past is an oak tree. Sherman Oak was the main gathering spot and center of campus life for decades of students on Samford’s East Lake campus. When Samford relocated to the current campus, healthy seedlings from Sherman Oak were chosen, gathered, cared for and then planted on the new campus.

It’s not unusual an oak tree has played such a prominent role in Samford’s history. Oak trees have long held places of honor and been symbols of place and might and strength. How fitting Samford would treasure a tree with heritage reaching back to the days of the Old Testament. The prophet Isaiah referred to the Israelites as Oaks of Righteousness. Joshua made a covenant for God’s people and erected stones under an oak tree as a place of witness and remembrance.

After years of care, today one of the seedlings from the original Sherman Oak stands tall and mighty in front of Samford Hall as a symbol of remembrance. Your sons and daughters are very much like this generation of Sherman Oak. You’ve cared for them and provided rich soil so their roots could grow deep, giving the stability needed to stand strong in life’s weathers. You’ve provided everything needed to allow them to stretch high with their lives and minds.

Now you are planting your sons and daughters in this place and entrusting them to Samford University to teach and guide them as they grow. Those of us at Samford don’t take this responsibility lightly and commit to do all within our ability to help them reach their full potential and calling. It is our privilege to partner with you in raising this next generation of oaks.

Office of Parent and Family Programs
parents@samford.edu
One of the most visible links to Samford University’s past is an oak tree. Sherman Oak was the main gathering spot and center of campus life for decades of students on Samford’s East Lake campus. After years of care, today one of the seedlings from the original Sherman Oak stands tall and mighty in front of Samford Hall as a symbol of remembrance. Your sons and daughters are very much like this oak tree. They are strong in life’s weathers. You’ve provided everything needed to allow them to stretch high with their lives and minds.

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Office of Parent and Family Programs
parents@samford.edu

FAMILY WEEKEND 2021
September 24-26

General registration opens September 1 at Samford.edu/parents. Other information will be emailed through the Parent Portal.

Friday, September 24
1-3:30 p.m. Parent Academy (Classes taught by Samford faculty members for parents. These require pre-registration.)
2:30-3:30 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. President’s Welcome Receptions
5:30 p.m. Vespers
TBD p.m. Samford Women’s Soccer vs. VMI

Saturday, September 25
8:30-10 a.m. Parents Association Breakfast
10 a.m.-noon Campus Open Houses
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tailgate on the Quad (includes state parent chapter tailgates)
2 p.m. Samford Football vs. East Tennessee State University

Sunday, September 26
2 p.m. Hymn Sing

Samford exclusively reserves the right to relocate, modify, alter the conditions of attendance, reschedule or cancel any event up to the time of that event.
This year, two days have been set aside for new student move in—Thursday, August 26, and Friday, August 27. Upperclassmen will choose from move-in appointments on August 22-24, 28 and 29.

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. There will be plenty of time to do all you need to do. If there are finishing touches not completed by the time you leave, it will be OK! Your student and your student’s roommate will want to make the space their own. Remember, the room is theirs and doesn’t have to meet your standards by the time you leave!

**Move-in**

Did you know excitement, anxiety, loneliness and homesickness are all part of the first-year college student emotional roller coaster? They are normal and generally temporary.

**HAPPENING THIS MONTH**

- Make sure you have activated your Samford Parent Communication Portal account.
- Freshman Forum applications are available in the student portal in Bulldog Central under Forms.
- Make sure your student has added you as an authorized user at samford.edu/go/financialportal.
- Student information, including billing, 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.

**Move-in**

This year, two days have been set aside for new student move in—Thursday, August 26, and Friday, August 27. Upperclassmen will choose from move-in appointments on August 22-24, 28 and 29.

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. There will be plenty of time to do all you need to do. If there are finishing touches not completed by the time you leave, it will be OK! Your student and your student’s roommate will want to make the space their own. Remember, the room is theirs and doesn’t have to meet your standards by the time you leave!

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**RETURNING STUDENT MOVE IN**

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**NEW STUDENT MOVE IN**

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

Register for Family Weekend (Sept. 24-26) at samford.edu/parents and secure hotel reservations.

**FAITHFUL LORD,**

Please give my student a spirit of **ASSURANCE** and **TRUST**. Thank you for telling us you know the plans you have for us; plans to prosper us and not to harm us; plans to give us a hope and a future. You say in your Word to trust you with all of our hearts and to lean not on our own understanding. Help us to acknowledge you in all our ways so you will make straight paths. (Jeremiah 29:11, Proverbs 3:5-6)
Faithful Lord,
Please give my student a spirit of ASSURANCE and TRUST.

Thank you for telling us you know the plans you have for us; plans to prosper us and not to harm us; plans to give us a hope and a future. You say in your Word to trust you with all of our hearts and to lean not on our own understanding. Help us to acknowledge you in all our ways so you will make straight paths.

(Jeremiah 29:11, Proverbs 3:5-6)

SUN MON TUE WED THURS FRI SAT

1 Student Involvement Fair
2 Samford Football vs. Tennessee Tech at Home
3 Last Day to Add or Drop a Fall Course(s) or Submit a Course Repeat Form
4

WELCOME BACK WEEK

5 Labor Day Holiday
University Closed
No Classes Meet
6 Full Payment for Fall Term Due
Unless Student Enrolled in Payment Plan
Four-installment Payment Plan Enrollment Closes
7

FRESHMAN RETREAT

8 Enrollment Cancellation for Nonpayment of Fall Charges
9 Statement Emailed to Students and Authorized Users
10 Samford Football at University of Tennessee at Martin
11

DELTA XI PHI RECRUITMENT
PANHELLENIC SORORITY RECRUITMENT

12 Freshman Class Officer and Senator Elections
13 Panhellenic Bid Day
14 IFC Bid Day
15 NPHE Greek Speak
16 Online Family Weekend Registration Closes
17 Samford Football at Western North Carolina
18

FRESHMAN RETREAT

19 IFC FRATERNITY RECRUITMENT

20
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23
24 Samford Football vs. East Tennessee State University at Home
25

FAMILY WEEKEND

26 Encourage your homesick student to join an organization.
27
28
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30

2021

HAPPENING THIS MONTH

▸ Four-installment payment plan enrollment closes September 7.
▸ Greek recruitment (specific schedules available at samford.edu/greeklife)
▸ Small group sign ups
▸ Campus ministry groups begin meeting
▸ Freshman Class Officer and Senator Elections

Family Weekend Advice

The first weeks of college are crucial for students to make connections and establish good habits. A premature visit can disrupt the process, but a well-timed visit to campus a few weeks into the semester can help parents and students reconnect. Family Weekend is timed for just such a visit. This weekend is for things that lighten the mood and lift the spirit. A bit of preparation and forethought can help it be so.

Manage expectations by talking beforehand with your student to determine what time you’ll spend together. Don’t expect to spend every waking hour with your student. Your son or daughter now has a life full of activities that affirm how well he or she has adjusted.

Plan to express confidence in your student.

Looking Ahead

October brings the new pressures of midterms. Encourage your student to get ahead and make appointments with professors to talk about expectations and assignments.

Did you know studies show first-year students who use the library often have higher GPAs than those who don’t?
Looking Ahead

**Are you interested in hosting** a Samford international student for Thanksgiving? If so, contact the Office of Global Engagement at geo@samford.edu.

**Encourage your student to meet** with an academic adviser prior to registration for spring semester.

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**The Midterm Panic**

Don’t be surprised when you get a phone call this month fraught with panic about midterm grades, stress, relationships, emotional well-being and more. Your student is likely to feel everyone else has adjusted well and figured it all out. Not true. Anxiety runs high this month for many first-year students and, consequently, you. Remind your student of these academic resources:

- The Academic Success Center (101 Dwight Beeson Hall) helps students who are struggling with the transition to the college academic load and offers free tutoring in select courses and provides a list of private tutors for others. They also help students set and meet academic goals through individual academic consultations.
- The Communication Resource Center (222 Brooks Hall) offers free help with writing, speaking, critical reading, Cultural Perspectives (CP) and Communication Arts (CA).

**Did you know** the Samford Davis Library provides research assistance at the “Ask Us” desk, via online chat or by scheduling a consultation with a research librarian at reference@samford.edu?

**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)*

**Making new friends takes time. Encourage your student to look for opportunities to connect with others.**

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**MIDTERM GRADES DUE FOR UNDERGRADUATES**

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**FALL BREAK**

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<td>Mr. Beeson’s Birthday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make hotel reservations for Step Sing weekend.</td>
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HAPPENING THIS MONTH

- Student Activity Council Committee Applications Open
- November 11 is the last day to withdraw from a Fall course or completely withdraw from all Fall courses without academic penalty and the deadline to submit a pass/fail form for a course being taken this semester.

Looking Ahead

This is a great time to put together an exam care package to encourage your student after the Thanksgiving holiday.

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)*

Academic Advising

Academic advising gives your student an opportunity to develop and evaluate the academic plan that will enable him or her to reach academic goals. Advisers guide your student and ensure timely progression toward graduation. However, students have responsibilities related to advising each year. Remind your student to:

- Schedule an advising appointment as soon as available each semester. Advising appointments fill quickly once course registration nears.
- Use resources such as the undergraduate catalog, academic major guides and DegreeWorks to prepare for the advising appointment.
- Communicate with his/her adviser on issues related to academic progress, a change in program, registration for study abroad, internships, courses to be taken at another institution or withdrawal from courses.

*Did you know* the Samford Parent Scholarship Fund is a way Samford parents help each other? This fund provides for students who are nearing graduation, whose families face sudden financial difficulties, and who might not finish without financial help. Make a gift at samford.edu/parents.
HAPPENING THIS MONTH

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

Where to Invest

Your student has met many people and had a multitude of new opportunities. If he or she is still struggling to decide where to invest on campus, suggest a meeting with an Office of Student Leadership and Involvement staff member. If he or she is struggling to feel at home at Samford, suggest an appointment to visit with one of the Office of Spiritual Life staff members. They are great resources for students who are still deciding about friends, involvement and finding their place.

Encourage your student by explaining it’s not unusual to be still working through these decisions. Their friendships and areas of involvement in high school took years to develop. These don’t always neatly fall into place in one semester. These staff members are happy to talk with your student about concerns and explore ways to help him or her get plugged in and involved.

Looking Ahead

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

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)*

Did you know

Samford students can participate in more than 110 official organizations focused on areas such as academics, culture, faith, politics, service and sports? **It’s not too late to join.**
## Looking Ahead

**The Career Development Center (CDC)** will prepare students by offering opportunities and workshops leading up to the job and internship fair next month.

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<td>Classes Begin</td>
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<td>Step Sing Tickets Go on Sale to Participants</td>
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<td>Step Sing Banner Drop</td>
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<td>Last Day to Add or Drop a Spring Course(s) or Submit a Course Repeat Form</td>
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<td>Step Sing Tickets Go on Sale to the Public</td>
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<td>Payment Due for Spring 2022</td>
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<td>Enrollment Cancellation for Nonpayment of Spring Charges</td>
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### Happening This Month

- Make plans to attend Step Sing this month or livestream a performance and host a watch party.
- Spring Financial Aid Disbursement to Student Accounts happens on January 3.

### Staying Healthy

January is a difficult month physically for a majority of Samford students. Students burn the candle at both ends to meet the demands of classes and Step Sing rehearsals. If ever there was a month when time and health management are crucial, this is it. Many students sacrifice sleep and healthy eating practices for the sake of classes and Step Sing rehearsals. Encourage your student to balance these wisely. Should they get sick, University Health Services, staffed by medical professionals, is glad to see them and help them get back on the road to recovery.

**The Career Development Center** helps students draft and polish resumes. Encourage your student to drop by and ask for help. **Discuss summer options** with your student: internships, employment, classes, etc. The Career Development Center can help.

**MIGHTY COUNSELOR,**

Please give my student a spirit of **DIRECTION** and **AVAILABILITY**. Thank you that whether we turn to the right or the left, our ears will hear a voice behind us saying, “This is the way, walk in it.” When we hear your voice saying, “Whom shall I send?” help us to respond with, “Me!” *(Isaiah 30:21, 6:8)*

**Did you know** Step Sing is one of Samford’s oldest traditions, dating back to 1951? More than 1,200 Samford students were involved in the last show.
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<td>President’s Day</td>
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<td>SGA Executive Board, Senator and Class Officers Election Applications Open</td>
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**Did you know** many Samford leadership positions require extensive interviews? Encourage your student to seek these out, viewing them as professional training opportunities. The more they do, the better they will get!

**Looking Ahead**

*Students should talk with their advisors* and department chairs about eligibility for department and program scholarships.

**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)
## Making Career and Major Decisions

The Career Development Center (CDC) provides students with a variety of free services, including interest inventories; personality assessments; individual career counseling; a career research library; resume assistance; mock interview opportunities; part-time, internship and full-time job postings and assistance; employer information sessions; career and major expos; and career workshops. The freshman year is the best time for your student to begin connecting with the CDC. The CDC staff welcomes the opportunity to equip freshmen with tools for making major and vocational decisions, setting goals and pursuing personal development. Each class year, your student will enjoy guidance uniquely tailored to their major and year. When graduation comes, your student will be ready for employment!

### 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)*

### Happening This Month

- **Connections Leader** applications open
- **May term and spring 2023 Study Abroad** applications open
- **Registration begins for summer terms and fall semester**
- **Summer term housing sign up**

### Did you know

You can help welcome the next class of freshmen and their parents by joining the Office of Parent and Family Programs to host Welcome Parties this summer? If you are interested in helping, email parents@samford.edu.
HAPPENING THIS MONTH

- April 7 is the last day to withdraw from a Spring course or completely withdraw from all Spring courses without academic penalty and the deadline to submit a pass/fail form for a course being taken this semester.

Managing Stress

How much stress is too much for your student? All parents face this question. When should you become concerned, and what should you watch for in your student?

- **Sleep disturbances**—getting too little sleep or sleeping too much
- **Avoiding social activities**—pushing against becoming more active or connected
- **Excessive procrastination**—missing classes, unnecessarily needing extensions for classwork
- **Looming sadness**—the inability to shake sadness, complaints like, “I don’t feel like myself”

Listen to your student and try to understand his or her viewpoint. Encourage your student to seek advice or help from a faculty or staff member in developing a plan of action.

If you don’t see improvement and your concern grows, encourage your student to contact Samford’s Counseling Center at 205-726-4083 or the campus pastor at 205-726-4538.

Did you know Samford students participate in service learning throughout the year?

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)*
### May 2022

#### Happening This Month
- Summer term bills sent
- May 16 is the last day to withdraw from a May Term course or completely withdraw from all courses without academic penalty and the deadline to submit a pass/fail form for a course being taken this semester.

#### Managing Newfound Independence
Many students returning home for the summer after freshman year and their parents discover new challenges. Your student has been responsible for setting his or her own schedule, deciding how late to stay out, who to hang out with, when to eat and for regularly making similar decisions. You both may find it stressful to determine how he or she will best fit back into home life and relate to you on a daily basis. Keep in mind your student’s newfound freedoms are a good thing! The goal all along has been to raise a responsible adult. You’ve done it! Instead of asking your student to return to his or her high school life, consider shifting new family responsibilities, along with freedoms, to him or her for the summer. Talk about these ahead of time and avoid possible conflicts. Enjoy your maturing student and make it your best summer yet!

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**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)*

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### Looking Ahead

**Students receive** fall housing assignments via email in mid-July.

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**Did you know** 97% of undergraduate Samford alumni are working or in further study within six months of graduation?
Campus Directory  All numbers are 205 area code.

Samford University Switchboard
726-2011
Samford University Information/The Hub
726-2407
Academic Success Center
726-2698
success@samford.edu
Admission
726-3673
samford.edu/admission
Athletics
726-2966
samfordsports.com
Athletics Tickets
726-DOGS (3647)
samfordsports.com
Bookstore
726-2834
bookstore.samford.edu
Campus Recreation
726-2194
njmadsen@samford.edu
Career Development Center
726-2980
career@samford.edu
Communication Resource Center
726-2137
crc@samford.edu
Counseling Services
726-4083
samford.edu/go/counseling
Dining Services
726-2385
samford.edu/go/dining
Disability Resources
726-4078
disability@samford.edu
Diversity
726-2614
diversity@samford.edu
Greek Life
726-2758
samford.edu/greeklife
greeklife@samford.edu
Health Services
726-2835
samford.edu/departments/health-services
Library
726-2748
library@samford.edu
One Stop
726-2905
onestop@samford.edu
Parent and Family Programs
726-2375
samford.edu/parents
parents@samford.edu
Post Office
726-2933
postoffice@samford.edu
Public Safety
726-2020
publicsafety@samford.edu
Registrar
726-2911
registrar@samford.edu
Residence Life
726-2956
reslife@samford.edu
Spiritual Life
726-2825
samford.edu/spiritual-life
Student Activities
726-2031
samford.edu/students/activities
Student Leadership and Involvement
726-2471
samford.edu/leadership
lead@samford.edu
Study Abroad
726-2741
samford.edu/global-engagement/study-abroad
Technology Services Help Desk
726-2662
support@samford.edu
Theatre Box Office
726-2853
tickets.samford.edu
Transportation (Parking) Services
726-4146
parking@samford.edu

Schools

School of the Arts
726-2778
samford.edu/arts
Howard College of Arts and Sciences
726-2771
samford.edu/arts-and-sciences
Brock School of Business
726-2364
samford.edu/business
Beeson Divinity School
726-2991
beesondivinity.com
Orlean Beeson School of Education
726-2745
samford.edu/education
School of Health Professions
726-4512
samford.edu/healthprofessions
Cumberland School of Law
726-2400
samford.edu/cumberlandlaw
Moffett and Sanders School of Nursing
726-2746
samford.edu/nursing
McWhorter School of Pharmacy
726-2008
samford.edu/pharmacy
School of Public Health
726-4674
samford.edu/publichealth
FATHER,

I come to you in Jesus’ name and give [name of child] to you. You alone know his/her struggles and what is best for him/her. I release him/her to your care and protection and commit myself to pray for everything concerning him/her that I can think of or that you put upon my heart. Help me not to impose my will when I’m praying for him/her, but rather, enable me to pray your will be done in his/her life.

Father, I ask this season at Samford University be a time of spiritual and personal growth for him/her. Thank you for using the university’s academic advisors, professors, ministerial staff, mental health counselors, and health clinic in guiding the education and personal growth of [child’s name]. Cause him/her to seek help from the appropriate individuals. Thank you for bringing godly friends and role models into his/her life.

I pray specifically for you to develop [name]’s mind, body and soul. Lord, give [name] a clear mind, a teachable spirit and an ability to learn. Instill in him/her a desire to attain knowledge and skill, and may he/she have joy in the process. Above all, I pray that he/she will be taught by you, for your Word says when our children are taught by you, they are guaranteed peace.

Father, I pray [name] will value the body you have given him/her and desire to care for it properly. I pray you give him/her the motivation to exercise regularly, eat well, drink plenty of water, and to control and manage stress in his/her life by living according to your Word. I especially pray you give him/her a heart that seeks purity. Whenever he/she struggles in any of these areas, may he/she turn to you and say, “Teach me your way, O, Lord” (Psalm 27:11).

Show me places where I continue to hang on to [name] and enable me to release him/her to your protection, guidance and counsel. Help me not to live in fear of possible dangers or failures but in the joy and peace of knowing you are in control.

IN JESUS’ NAME, AMEN.