

Winter 2008

Samford University

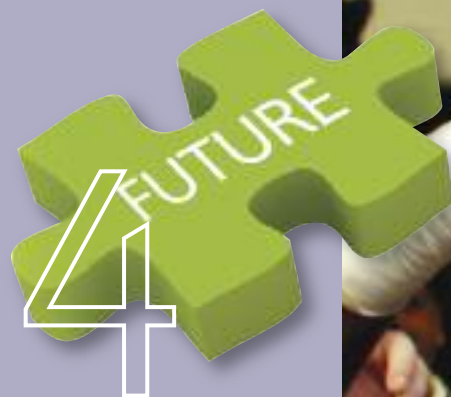
Seasons



winter 08

features

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Samford is aggressively shaping its future based on a comprehensive strategic plan that was two years in the making. The broad-based process sought input from alumni, students, employees, parents, trustees, community leaders and others. Learn more about the plan in this Special Report.
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Thousands of Samford alumni returned to campus for a fun-filled homecoming schedule on a picture-perfect October weekend. Activities ranged from reunions—formal and informal—to fireworks, musical events, a parade, football and a program on Southern culture.
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Alumnus Gary Cooney '74 made the lead gift to name the new \$7.5 million Cooney Family Field House in honor of his parents and other family members. The new football structure is being built entirely with private donations at the south end of Seibert Stadium.
- 21 **Education School Celebrates**
Samford's Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its Children's Learning Center. Catch up on the latest at the CLC, which enrolls 100 students ages six weeks to four years, and other school programs in this eight-page section.
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Bulldog mascot Spike rides in style during the Homecoming parade in Steve Crosthwait's vintage 1947 Pontiac convertible.



The Samford Bulldogs celebrate in the locker room after their 28-10 Homecoming win over The Citadel.

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The mission of Samford University is to nurture persons in their development of intellect, creativity, faith and personhood. As a Christian university, the community fosters academic, career and ethical competency while encouraging social and civic responsibility, and service to others.

The words above, our statement of mission, are printed on dozens of documents at Samford, posted on the website and included in various reports that we file. We take the mission seriously. Bringing that mission to life requires the personal commitment and action of each member of the Samford family.

At the beginning of each week, I send a brief message to all our employees, restating our mission, vision and core values. Those words are the same from week to week. In addition, in these messages with the subject line of “Monday Mission,” I feature a story of how Samford people are living out the mission and touching the world. This fall, I’ve written about the following:

Sophomore Parker Rosenberger, who works with his family to provide artificial limbs to amputees in countries where such services are difficult to receive.

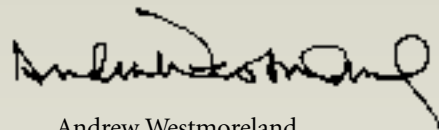
A satisfied parent who was overwhelmed by the careful attention of our students and staff as the family brought their freshman to campus in August.

A recent graduate who is working this year with “Teach for America,” teaching 110 seventh graders in an inner-city school. She writes, “God shows me how I’ve failed every day, and he gently reminds me that tomorrow is a new day and a new chance to change.”

And dozens of other great stories . . .

This issue of *Seasons* includes a report on Samford’s newly approved strategic plan. The plan commits the university to bold action, providing an enriched and more vibrant education for our students. Our mission is at the heart of the plan. Our people are at the heart of the mission.

As always, please keep Samford in your prayers.



Andrew Westmoreland
President

If you would like to receive “Monday Mission” messages on a regular basis, please e-mail president@samford.edu and request that your name be added to the distribution list.

Core Values Can Help Lawyers Make a Difference: ABA Head Thomas Wells, Jr.

Observing common core values can help lawyers make a difference, American Bar Association President H. Thomas Wells, Jr., told students at Samford's Cumberland School of Law this fall.

The basic values of access to justice, an independent bar and judiciary, and attention to diversity all undergird a treasured fourth value: the rule of law.

The values espoused by the ABA are the same for all arms of the legal profession, Wells said, whether a lawyer practices on Wall Street or Main Street, or in corporate or criminal law.

"These values unite us, inspire us and enable us to make a difference," said Wells during a talk sponsored by the law school's Cordell Hull Speakers Series. "As lawyers, we are at our best when we make a difference. Our profession is more than just a job or trade."

Wells, a partner and founding member of Maynard, Cooper & Gale, P.C., in Birmingham, began his one-year term as president of the national lawyers' group in August. He challenged the audience to always be mindful of certain core values as they study, teach and practice law.

Access to justice is not always a given, and many needs of Alabama's poor go unmet, he said, citing examples of homeless children who are denied schooling, and military men and women who must fight to regain jobs after serving their country.

The ABA fosters pro bono work, sets standards and makes resources available to assist such victims, he said, helping "to give a voice to those who don't otherwise have a strong voice."

To preserve an independent bar and judiciary, all parties must adhere to professional standards, he said.

"It boils down to individual choices of how we conduct ourselves. Be faithful to your integrity as a person, and to the ethics of your profession," he said.



Thomas Wells, Jr.

Ethics codes have helped the profession remain self-regulating thus far, but that status is not necessarily guaranteed. After the Enron scandal, for instance, accounting became a federally regulated trade. "That could happen to the legal profession if we are not attentive," he cautioned.

The profession's 100-year-old national ethics code is modeled after the first state code, which was Alabama's, he noted. Lawyers must help uphold the independence of the judiciary, he said. "Politics has no place in the courtroom."

Recognition of diversity is important to the profession, which doesn't benefit when individuals face systemic barriers to schooling or career. "We must be vigilant that courts are accessible to everyone," he said.

Wells is the third ABA president from Alabama. Henry Upson Sims, the late Birmingham lawyer for whom the Cumberland School of Law moot court board is named, led the ABA in 1929-30. N. Lee Cooper, a founding member of Wells' law firm, was president in 1996-97. ■

Oxford, Cambridge Presses Publish Two Books by Beeson Faculty

Two faculty members of Samford's Beeson Divinity School have published major monographs with Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press.

Dr. Carl L. Beckwith had his monograph, *Hilary of Poitiers on the Trinity: From "De Fide" to "De Trinitate,"* published by Oxford as part of its Early Christian Studies series. The book traces the evolution of the bishop and theologian, Hilary, and his work, *De Trinitate*, which was important in understanding the continuing debates over Trinitarian matters in the mid- to late fourth century.

At Beeson Divinity School since 2007, Beckwith teaches church history and historical theology.

Dr. Osvaldo Padilla had his work, *The Speeches of Outsiders in Acts: Poetics, Theology and Historiography,* published by Cambridge as part of its Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series. The book takes an original approach to Luke and his work by concentrating on the speeches of outsiders, unlike previous studies that dealt primarily with insiders, or members of the early Christian church.

Padilla, who joined the divinity faculty this fall, teaches New Testament. ■

Eubanks Celebrates Birthday, Wins Alabama Player of Year

Samford Head Golf Coach Woodie Eubanks celebrated his birthday in a big way Sept. 28. He won the Alabama State Mid-Amateur Tournament held at The Ledges Country Club in Huntsville, Ala., and claimed the Alabama State Player of the Year award.

Eubanks needed to finish second or better to win the Player of the Year award. He shot 77 in the first round, which put him in 12th place. In round two, he shot 69. He finished the final round with a 65 to win by two strokes and claim the Player of the Year award outright.

"It was a great 33rd birthday," he said. "It was exciting to come back and win, shooting a 65 on my birthday." ■

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

by Philip Poole



Samford University is aggressively shaping its future, based on a broad strategic plan that has been two years in the making. The plan was affirmed by the university's board of trustees in September, and implementation began immediately.

The plan includes more than 60 objectives under six major goals, according to Sarah C. Latham, Samford's vice president for operations and planning. Dr. Latham coordinated the strategic planning process for the president's office.

The goals are addressed in three strategic priorities:

1. Provide an enriched and more vibrant university experience.
2. Engage the global community in faith and service.
3. Inspire imagination.

The final plan was developed by a 25-member University Council that included administrators, deans, two representatives from the Faculty Senate and the chair of the Staff Advisory Council. The University Council was formed in fall 2006, soon after Andrew Westmoreland became Samford's president. However, the process involved broad-based input from university constituencies, Latham emphasized. Input was sought throughout the process from alumni, students, employees, parents, trustees, community leaders and other Samford groups.

"We took information from Samford's larger constituencies and fed it back-and-forth through the planning process," Latham said. "Although the positions on the University Council remained the same, some of the faces changed during the process, so there was new input as we progressed."

The process was intense but intentionally inclusive, Latham said, to ensure that the plan fit the university's needs. After developing the initial university-wide goals, schools and divisions developed more specific strategies to support the university strategic plan.

The plan is multifaceted and includes ongoing capital projects, scholarships, faculty needs and program needs. The strategic plan added academic program planning and strategic



Sarah Latham, Vice President for Operations and Planning



W. Randall Pittman, Vice President for University Relations

enrollment management as new priorities. Some of the objectives may be achieved through the university's annual budget process, while others may require philanthropy.

Strategic enrollment management is an extension of the strategic plan that focuses on student recruitment and retention. The plan will trace student progress from the first contact with the university through graduation and alumni involvement. The goal, Latham said, is a strong, lifelong relationship with Samford.

An updated campus master plan also is part of the strategic planning process, Latham added. "After the goals and objectives of the plan were in place, we reviewed every idea that had been discussed for a long-range campus master plan," she said. "We looked at capacity—class scheduling, space utilization and infrastructure—and analyzed what could be done through the regular budget and what would require philanthropic support."

Adding a third floor to the original plans for the new Cooney Family Field House (*see page 19*) was one step in an expanded campus master plan. The third floor will be used as transition space for academic and administrative offices as other facilities are built or renovated. An expanded university center is another project in the campus master plan, although funding is not yet in place for that project.

"All the dominoes must fit together when you begin campus expansion," Latham explained.



Goal 1

Create and sustain an environment for learning and professional development

Goal 2

Advance excellence in teaching

Goal 3

Cultivate a climate of scholarship and creative activity

Goal 4

Nurture a vibrant community of Christian faith and service

Goal 5

Promote intercultural and international understanding

Goal 6

Practice stewardship to ensure resources are strong for present and future generations

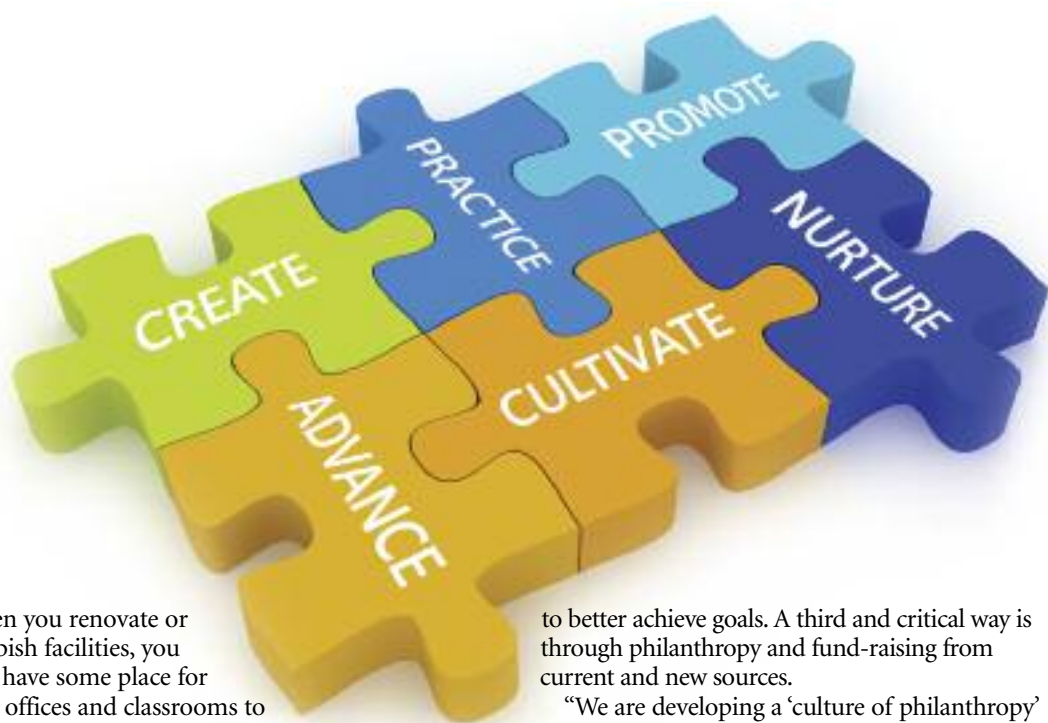
<http://ops.samford.edu/strategicplan/>

STRATEGY REACTIONS

"The University Council was created to make the strategic planning process a complete effort spanning all functions of the university. Dr. Westmoreland has been successful in creating a team of people representing all aspects of Samford life. Each staff member had a part in creating this extraordinarily important plan. The strategic plan went through many drafts based on feedback from employees. Each suggestion, comment and concern expressed by staff members was discussed and taken into consideration. Samford University staff should take pride and ownership in the plan that they had a large role in creating."

Ken England
Chair, Staff Advisory Council





“When you renovate or refurbish facilities, you must have some place for those offices and classrooms to relocate for the short-term. In some instances, that may mean construction of new facilities in order to renovate existing facilities for other needs.”

Building new residence facilities requires more than just those structures, she added. Infrastructure, such as parking, adequate HVAC systems and staffing, also must be included in plans for new residences.

From the beginning, the focus was on five significant elements—learning, teaching, scholarship, diversity and faith—which are addressed in the university’s vision statement that was adopted in 2004. Stewardship—ensuring adequate resources—was added as a sixth element early in the process.

W. Randall Pittman, Samford’s vice president for university relations, is leading the planning process for a fund-raising campaign to secure new resources (*see page 7*). That planning includes pricing what facilities and programs may cost, and then determining funding sources.

There are three primary ways to fund strategic plans and achieve university goals, Pittman and Latham said. An important part of the process is to ensure that the budget process links assessment and goals to budget requests. Being better stewards of existing resources also is part of the process, and that might include reallocation of existing resources

to better achieve goals. A third and critical way is through philanthropy and fund-raising from current and new sources.

“We are developing a ‘culture of philanthropy’ among all Samford constituents,” Latham said, “to ensure adequate financial resources for present and future. This means engaging our alumni, parents, students, employees and friends in the concept that Samford has philanthropic needs that must have broad community support for the university to achieve its goals.”

The plan’s objectives will be implemented over several years, Latham said. Assessing progress is a part of the plan.

Dr. Westmoreland promised trustees and other constituency groups an “annual report card” on the plan’s progress. “This is a living document, and we promise to show you how we are doing,” he said at the September board meeting. “A good plan helps you look forward but also helps you to adjust to needs that may arise.”

Each objective has a set of measurements that fit into a larger assessment process, Latham said.

“With this plan, we intentionally have not put a time limit on it,” she said. “It becomes a part of what we as a university do on an ongoing basis. We will assess our progress every year, and tie that assessment to our budget and fund-raising process. Some of our priorities may change as part of that process, but it will forever be a part of what we do.” ■

STRATEGY REACTIONS

“This strategic plan is an exciting framework for growth and a commitment to excellence. Living lives of critical inquiry, academics tend to be cynics, and yet I have been impressed by the optimism from faculty surrounding this strategic plan. This is an exciting time to be part of the Samford University mission. I was afforded the opportunity to sit at the table and be an equal partner in the creation of the strategic plan. The inclusion of the faculty was, for me, a clear sign that Samford is moving into an exciting new era. A representative of the faculty voice is critical if the university intends to shape a bold academic future.”

Don T. Sandley
Chair, Faculty Senate, 2006–08



“One of my favorite Yogi Berra expressions is ‘when you come to a fork in the road, take it.’ While that advice may work in some personal lives, it does not work in the life of a university. A university has to know where it is going and how to get there. Samford has just finished a process that has given it that direction. The [strategic] plan is the result of the collaboration of all of the Samford communities. It provides us with a vision for the future and a path to that vision we can all embrace. I look forward to watching Samford grow and prosper as it uses the long-range plan as its guidepost to greatness.”

John L. Carroll
Dean, Cumberland School of Law



STRATEGY FINANCE



Samford University is taking appropriate steps to fulfill a major objective of the university’s new strategic plan: Ensure resources are strong for present and future generations.

In June, the university completed one of its best giving years in history, and annual giving, especially from alumni and parents, was slightly ahead of last year’s pace through October of this year, according to W. Randall Pittman, Samford’s vice president for university relations.

The volatile U.S. and world economy during the fall has affected Samford as it has other organizations, but the university is moving ahead—“cautiously”—with implementing the objectives of the new plan, Pittman said. Because predictions about the timeframe for economic recovery range from months to years, it is difficult to make any aggressive plans for financial growth.

Implementation of some objectives in the strategic plan may be delayed slightly until appropriate financial resources are available, but projects will move forward as funding can be obtained, Pittman emphasized. In the short term, the university is adjusting its spending where feasible in an effort to maintain a balanced budget.

The university also is doing other things to ensure financial stability, Pittman said, including an intense focus on enrollment growth, increased alumni participation, and prudent financial management of current and anticipated resources.

“We know that the economic situation impacts our current and prospective students and their families, our alumni, and our broad network

of friends,” Pittman said. “Students need to have the opportunity for a high quality Christian education, and Samford needs financial support now more than ever in order to provide those opportunities.”

Because tuition income only covers about 70% of the university’s annual instructional costs, the university must rely on alumni and donor giving, and other income sources, for its annual operations and for larger projects such as building construction and renovation, program expansion and scholarships. Several objectives in the new strategic plan address these opportunities, Pittman said.

“Samford University is fortunate to be in a relatively strong financial position with an endowment and a very manageable debt level. We will weather this economic storm and be even stronger in the future,” Pittman said, “because we have a generous community that loves and values this institution and is committed to fulfilling its mission.” ■



Samford University
HOME COMING 2008

Alumni by the Thousands
Enjoy Weekend of Reunions

by Mary Wimberley

About the only way to take in everything at Samford's Homecoming 2008 was to look down from the hot-air balloon that gave hundreds of alumni and their families a bird's eye view of the busy campus.

The balloon appealed to alumni of all ages on a beautiful autumn day Saturday, Oct. 25. "I tried to ride it last year, but didn't make it," said **Bob Barnes '52** of Birmingham as he waited patiently in line for his turn.

From the balloon's basket, riders could see a campus bustling with activity as dozens of affinity groups gathered to relive college days, and show off kids, grandkids and even a few sparkly new engagement rings.

More than 12,000 people attended the three-day homecoming schedule, the majority on Saturday, according to **David Goodwin '03**, director of alumni and parent programs.

The picture-perfect day brought out cameras galore. **Patrice Donnelly '96** took advantage of a football helmet-wearing Ralph Beeson to have her photo made with the statue of the university's most generous benefactor on Centennial Walk.

Donnelly was sentimental, she said, because the scene symbolized her love for Samford and her chosen career field. She uses her degree in athletic training as an assistant athletic trainer and instructor at her alma mater.

At a Saturday morning brunch, graduates of 50 years ago or better gathered for their traditional "Golden Bulldog" reunion. **James Wood '47** of Baton Rouge, La., won the David Lockmiller award given to the male who represents the earliest class and who has not received the award previously.

Three members of the Class of 1948 tied for the Lockmiller award given to the female: **Doris Teague Atchison** of Birmingham, and sisters **Dorothy Perkinson Edgar** of Dallas, Texas, and **Margie Perkinson Wallace** of Birmingham. The

gift, a clock, went to Edgar, whose birth date precedes the others.

Two groups enjoyed special reunions: A Cappella Choir alumni, who honored retired music dean and choir director **L. Gene Black '59**, and members of the 1971 national championship football team.

Hundreds of former choir alumni spent hours in rehearsal with "DB," as he is known, to present special music at a Saturday evening performance. Most attended a special Friday evening event in his honor (*see page 12*).

Gini Hallquist Young '01, who came from Greenville, S.C., enjoyed the time spent with her former director. "The memories just came flooding back," she said of the rehearsal. "He has a way of mixing humor with intense practice so that it doesn't feel like work."

Former singer **John Hunt '89** of Marietta, Ga., recalled how Black's influence spanned generations. While growing up in Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., he said, he was strongly influenced by his minister of music, Joe Estes, who also had been in the choir under Black.

"Everything he was, he got from DB," said Hunt. "He had it right: love for God, the kids and music. It just spreads."

Under shade trees near Seibert Stadium, former Bulldog **Mickey Tumlin '73** of Birmingham and his teammates relived memories from the national title football game played against Ohio Wesleyan in Phenix City, Ala.

The closeness that helped them bring home the glory remains today.

"We were like a fraternity and have remained close through the years," said Tumlin, recalling that what won the national title wasn't just the

The homecoming parade features the winning float, Phi Mu's "Sandwich The Citadel" entry, and band flag bearers.





Homecoming scenes include, from left, Samford's Chris Evans (24) gaining ground against The Citadel; youthful visitors checking Ralph Beeson statue's football helmet; 1971 championship football team members Larry Cox (85), Mickey Tumlin (88) and Jimmy Nipper (11) sporting their Samford red; and a Seibert Stadium crowd of 8,000-plus cheering Samford's victory.



way plays were executed, but the unity and bond that were displayed on the field.

"We were playing for each other," he said. "We were a true team."

For **Jimmy Nipper '73** of Pelham, Ala., a highlight of homecoming was "seeing these guys and having everybody back together."

Nipper noted, however, that two teammates, the late **Dick Taylor** and **Steve Parker**, were missing. The two were named honorary team captains and recognized posthumously during pregame activity.

The 1971 team was joined by their former head coach, Wayne Grubb, as well as teammate **Gary Cooney '74** of Birmingham, who flipped the coin to start the homecoming game against The Citadel. Earlier, it was announced that the new football building under construction will be named the Cooney Family Field House following a lead gift made by Cooney in honor of his parents and other relatives (*see page 19*).

Coach **Pat Sullivan's** Bulldog football team contributed to a successful homecoming with a 28-10 victory over The Citadel before 8,453 fans in Seibert Stadium. Sophomore running back **Chris Evans** gained 174 yards in 28 carries and scored two touchdowns to lead the win.

Halftime activities included the crowning of the 2008 Homecoming queen, **Emily Gettys**, a senior nursing major from Alexander City, Ala. **Billy Gunter**, a senior music major from Pelham,

Ala., was named honor escort. The two were chosen by student body vote.

Earlier in the day, they and other homecoming court members joined a procession of floats, the Samford marching band and colorfully draped cars carrying notables in the parade.

Miss Alabama **Amanda Tapley**, who was Miss Samford before winning the state title, was grand marshal. Parade dignitaries included Samford's president and his wife, **Drs. Andrew and Jeanna Westmoreland**, and Alumni of the Year **Bennie Bumpers '63**, **Paula Smith Hovater '69** and **Rod Hovater '67**.

Phi Mu sorority won the prize for best float with its "Sandwich The Citadel" entry.

It was, however, Student Ministries' marching kazoo band that won the vote of alumnus **Joe Wingard '66, M.A. '72**, of Andalusia, Ala. "It was hilarious," he said of the unit's unique rendition of the fight song. "I loved it."

Wingard was among many who caught the parade between stops at the Live at the Library event featuring folk singer/songwriter **Kate Campbell '83** and historian **Wayne Flynt '61** (*see page 14*), and the health fair sponsored by McWhorter School of Pharmacy and CVS.

Scores of alumni took advantage of health screenings, and sought advice on drug-related Medicare questions and other topics at tables staffed by pharmacy students and faculty. More than 30 lined up for flu shots. All were enter-



tained by a hot dog eating contest that pitted three professors against three students.

Held at the heartburn information table, the contest ended with a score of students 17, faculty 15. The individual prize went to professor and alumnus **Michael Hogue, Pharm.D. '96**, who downed seven hot dogs in five minutes.

On Sunday, Samford religion professor and former minister to the university **Jim Barnette '83** led the worship service, urging people to avoid narrow criteria to judge and label people, but to offer unquestioning, "uncomplicated grace" and dignity to a sinner who comes home.

The service highlighted the 60th anniversary of Samford Sunday, a program that connects the university, its ministerial students and Alabama Baptist churches. Dr. Barnette is the current faculty adviser for the student-led program.

Service leaders also included **Sigurd Bryan '46**, former Samford Sunday director who still assists on a volunteer basis.

Singer Campbell closed out the full weekend with a special Sunday evening concert of music from her latest recording, *Save the Day*, in Brock Recital Hall. ■

Celebrants include Miss Homecoming Emily Gettys and Honor Escort Billy Gunter, parade participants in a 1938 Ford antique fire engine and Bulldog mascot Spike with young friends.

To view photos of the weekend, go to <http://www.samford.edu/slideshows/homecoming2008/>.

Celebrating Gene Black's Tenure

A Cappella Choir Alumni Pay Homecoming Tribute by Mary Wimberley

A Cappella Choir alumni traveled from 23 states and several foreign nations to honor their beloved "DB," the affectionate nickname for retired music dean and choir director L. Gene Black '59, during homecoming weekend.

About 400 choir alumni and several hundred additional well-wishers attended one or both of two events held in his honor Oct. 24–25.

"It was a wonderful weekend," said Dr. Black, appreciative of the hard work the organizers put into its planning. "It was great to see so many alumni. A lot of them have changed," he said. Black admitted that if he didn't recognize someone, his wife, Faye Black, M.S. '67, known as "Mama B" by several generations of singers, did.

Black retired in 2000 after a 35-year career at Samford. As choir director, he led the singers on 30 international concert tours to Asia, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia and Europe. They performed on stages in European cathedrals, the White House and hundreds of churches in the United States and abroad.

The homecoming event on Friday evening included remarks and video tributes recognizing his life as a musician, educator and Christian.

A surprise performance by the 48-member Korean Children's Choir preceded keynote speaker Billy Kim, former Baptist World Alliance president and longtime friend of Black and his wife. Dr. Kim's daughter, Mary Kay Kim Park '86, is a former choir member.

The formation of the winsome children's choir that travels worldwide is

said to have been inspired by an A Cappella Choir performance tour in Korea in the 1980s.

On Saturday, current and former A Cappella members filled Wright Center Concert Hall stage as part of an "Evening to Remember," which also featured performances by other Samford instrumental and vocal groups.

"It is so wonderful to hear this great music sung by all these great people. It is just awesome," said Black, before leading the 500 voices of the combined choirs, and his daughter, Gina Black Standard, as soloist, in the choir's traditional closing piece, "Beautiful Savior."

Black joined the Samford faculty in 1965 as assistant to then-A Cappella Choir director George Koski. He became director in 1966, a post he continued after being named dean of the music school in 1980.

Before being the conductor and dean, Black was once a choir member himself. "I came to Samford to sing in the choir," said Black, who first heard an A Cappella Choir performance at his childhood church, Central Baptist, in Decatur, Ala.

"If I hadn't made the choir, I would not have enrolled. I would have just gone back home," said Black, who later earned master's and Ph.D. degrees in higher education from the University of Alabama. He has also studied choral music and conducting at Florida State University and Columbia University.

He was teaching music at Fairfield High School when Samford offered him a job. About that time, the choir made its first international tour, performing in nine European countries.



Gene Black conducts choir alumni, below, and greets Golda Koski, wife of former director George Koski, above.

Through the years, tours followed to Norway, England, South Korea and Germany. The choir sang in significant venues, such as the Berliner Dom, where in 1994 it opened the Dom's first concert season since World War II, and in major cathedrals, including Notre Dame in Paris. The choir performed at Baptist World Alliance meetings in Japan (1970) and Sweden (1975).

Stateside, the choir made friends for Samford through its appearances at civic events and concerts at Baptist churches throughout the Southeast during its annual spring concert tours.

In 1992, Black helped form the first A Cappella Alumni Choir, which has since made repeated trips to Germany and England, the latest in November 2008. ■



Powell's Alumni Goal: A New Level of National Recognition

by Jack Brymer

Greg Powell, a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., enrolled at Samford University in the fall of 1977 because of its business school and Christian commitment. By the time he graduated in 1981 with the B.S. degree in business and a major in finance, he had served as president of his freshman and senior classes, vice president of his sophomore class, president of the Student Government Association, and had received the John R. Mott Award for the highest type of student public service.

Twenty-seven years later with a family and "using my degree in finance" as president and CEO of his own company, Powell's involvement in the life of his alma mater equals that of his college years. He is chair of the Brock School of Business Advisory Board, a member of the Athletics Foundation and the new president of the Samford National Alumni Association with a goal of taking the university to "a new level of national recognition."

Powell assumed the alumni leadership role at homecoming in October. Serving with him on the alumni council executive committee are **Martha Ann Cox '60**, vice president for activities; **Michael Kopecky '96**, vice president for development; and **Kitty Brown '01**, **Rick Moon '77**, **Katie Murnane '07** and **Jack Brymer '67**.

Classifying his educational experience at Samford as "outstanding, not only in terms of academics but in relationships with longtime friends, even clients," Powell said he has made a commitment of his time and finances to give back to Samford what Samford gave to him as a student.

"I view time the way I do money," Powell said. "How we spend our time is an investment as well, and Samford is undervalued in relation to what's really there," he said of his involvement.

"Also," he continued, "I'm a frustrated educator. As a business owner, I believe that you should always practice continuing education as well as set an example for students that knowledge is a way to open doors and inspire entrepreneurialism."

After 14 years as an employee of a national financial organization, Powell did just that. He established his own

business, FI-Plan Partners, in Birmingham in 2005.

He also is the creator of Your Financial House, a management tool designed to bring all aspects of financial planning under one roof. According to Powell, the program is built on a foundation of helping clients reduce their anxieties, enhancing their strengths and giving them the knowledge to do both.

Powell shared two specific goals he has for the alumni association.

"One of my goals is to expand the Samford universe to all alumni, even to those who may not be graduates, and to get them involved as we strive to take Samford to a whole new level of recognition nationally," he said. "You're only as big as the world you create."

Another goal is to bring alumni together to interact and participate with each other. "We're going into an age at Samford where there's a strong commitment to unify the alumni," Powell said. "I am seeing on a day-to-day basis Samford alumni referring Samford to other associates."

Technology will help in this, he said, by allowing Samford to keep alumni better informed.

"I want to encourage all alumni to visit the website to discover ways to get involved," he said. "Plus, my phone line is open and my e-mail is available to alumni to get more involved. I want

them to know that if they want to get involved, they can participate in many ways, including getting reacquainted with Samford and their classmates."

Finally, "I believe you're only as successful as the people you surround yourself with, and for this to be a successful year for me as president, I need the brilliance, attitudes and ideas of as many alumni as I can get," he said. "Their input will enable us to redefine the Samford experience."

Dr. Beck Taylor, dean of Samford's Brock School of Business, said Powell already has made quite an impact on Samford.

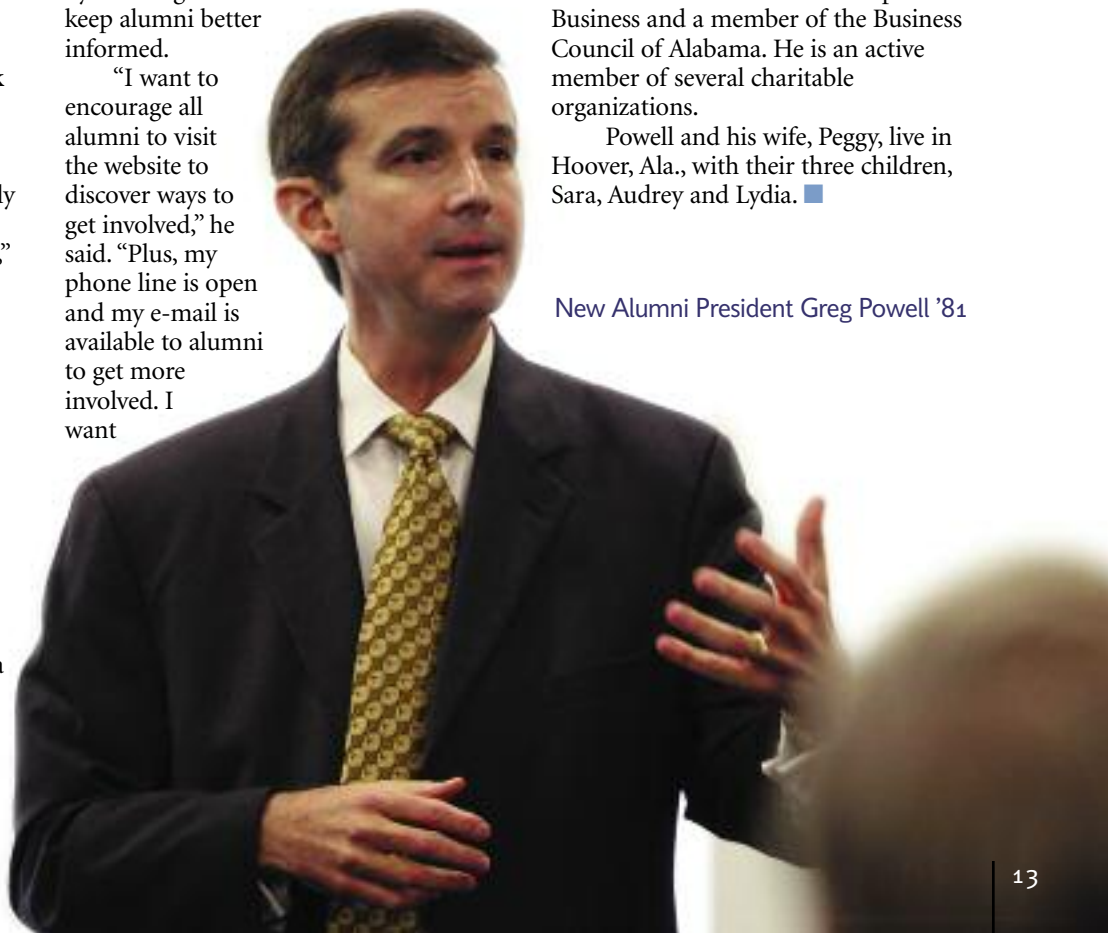
"He has been a superb chair of the Brock Advisory Board and has provided a lot of leadership," said Taylor.

Randy Pittman, vice president for university relations, echoed that assessment. "Greg has long demonstrated his support for Samford, not only in Brock School of Business and athletics, but encouraging students in general," Pittman said.

In addition to his involvement with Samford, Powell is a board member of the National Federation of Independent Business and a member of the Business Council of Alabama. He is an active member of several charitable organizations.

Powell and his wife, Peggy, live in Hoover, Ala., with their three children, Sara, Audrey and Lydia. ■

New Alumni President Greg Powell '81



Historian, Lyricist Blend Talents To Capture Southern Culture

by Jack Brymer and
William Nunnolley



Kate Campbell '83

“People moved slowly then. They ambled across the square, shuffled in and out of the stores around it, took their time about everything. A day was twenty-four hours long but seemed longer. There was no hurry, for there was nowhere to go, nothing to buy and no money to buy it with, nothing to see outside the boundaries of Maycomb County. But it was a time of vague optimism for some of the people; Maycomb County had recently been told it had nothing to fear but fear itself.”

With this quote from Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and a few additional paragraphs, historian **Wayne Flynt '61** created an image of time and place in the Depression South. At the close of his reading, folk singer/songwriter **Kate Campbell '83** performed “Sorrowfree,” a song she wrote inspired by the classic novel.

The two performed at homecoming, blending facts and lyrical expression to create an inspiring perspective on Southern culture. The Live at the Library program was an abbreviated version of a Samford After Sundown course from the spring of 2007. They have presented the short version “five or six times” since then, alternating Flynt readings and Campbell songs in each program.

“I love working with Kate because she has such a keen sense of the way the past intrudes

into the present,” Dr. Flynt said of his former graduate student at Auburn University. “Kate makes her *Mockingbird* song as relevant as the capacity of one person to misunderstand another. I have never heard songs that move me more than ‘Jesus is the Way Home’ (religion) and ‘Bury Me in Bluegrass’ (family and place).”

On the Samford program, Flynt described the impression of Artis, a 17-year-old African American, on his first visit to “the fastest growing city in the South,” Birmingham, in 1934 from Fannie Flagg’s novel, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*. In the passage, Artis first sees the city, “with its towering skyscrapers and steel mills that lit up the sky with red and purple hues, and its busy streets buzzing with hundreds of automobiles and the streetcars on wires, whisking back and forth, day and night.”

Campbell then performed “Deep Tang,” a song inspired by her childhood visits to Birmingham. The words of her song reveal some of her memories: “Rust hills, red clay, steel mills, deep tang.”

Campbell has “a historian’s mind and a poet’s soul,” Flynt said. He believes the addition of music and lyrics enhances the knowledge of history.

“As a historian, I believe this consciousness is critical,” he said. “If all Americans had known the history of Shiia/Sunni Islam, the way the Iraqi



Wayne Flynt '61

secular government hated fundamentalist Muslims, or the historic tension between Iraq and Iran, or the way Iraq balanced Iranian expansionism in the Middle East, we would never have become enmeshed in the web of Iraq.”

Likewise, Flynt cited Campbell’s song “In My Mother’s House” as one of her most powerful, as it tells the story of the estrangement among Baptists of the past two decades. “It brings me to tears every time I hear it because it captures the pain of this family blood bath. How sad. How unnecessary it all was,” Flynt said.

Asked if the song was a statement on the SBC controversy, Campbell replied: “Not really. I haven’t ever sat down to write a song with an agenda in mind, rather as a way to dialogue about things that are difficult to talk about; however, my Baptist upbringing and what has happened has some place in the writing. [The song] definitely has some very deep spiritual dimensions but not so much about Baptists but your own faith.”

While Campbell entered Samford as a music major in theory and composition, she graduated a history major and earned the M.A. degree in history from Auburn, where Flynt was her major professor. Citing people as the primary source of inspiration for the songs, Campbell said that is why history has always fascinated her. “It’s real stories about real people and how we live our everyday life,” she said.

Campbell sees her craft as storytelling more so than entertainment, sermons or historical narratives. “It’s all of those things—spiritual, historical, musical, all mixed together all the time,” she said. “Music and songwriting have been a way for me personally to have a dialogue,” she added. “It’s another form of storytelling, and not just music, but also art. It’s dialogue that you can’t get from the preacher or politician. The arts enable us to do that.”

Most of the songs and historical vignettes on the Samford program related to Alabama. Among the topics was civil rights, which Campbell captured in the lyrics of her song, “Crazy in Alabama.” Flynt quoted from the novel of the same name by Mark Childress. During the 1960s, an African American boy, Taylor Jackson, is killed for swimming in a white-only pool. His preacher, Nehemiah Thomas, speaks at his funeral.

“But that’s not the end of the story,” Flynt quoted Thomas. “People, I don’t know how to swim, never been swimming in my life. But what I’m going to do right now, I am marching back down to that pool. I’m taking Taylor down there. That swimming pool is the river of freedom, my friends. I am going to swim in that river.”

He then leads the crowd of African Americans to the white pool, where he sheds his coat, vest, shoes and socks, and jumps in to the cheers of his fellow protesters.

After the passage, Campbell sang “Crazy in Alabama,” which includes the lyrics, “The train of change is coming fast to my hometown, we had to climb on or get run down.”

The singer also previewed her latest CD, *Save the Day*, which features “Sorrowfree.” Among her other most requested songs is “Jesus is the Way Home,” which she explained is not a sermon with three points and a poem, but a story about signs by the side of the road near Montgomery. “It’s interesting to me what compels people to put up signs by the side of the road, on barns and churches,” she said. “What are we saying? The way home! Very simple but very profound.”

While writing songs and telling stories is now her vocation, her craft really began when she was a child of six or seven years, Campbell said. “My father was a storytelling preacher, and I hung out with him a lot,” she said. “I didn’t realize that until it came together after graduate school.”

The widely acclaimed folk artist’s music has been featured on National Public Radio’s *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Car Talk* and *Mount Stage*. Flynt is a Pulitzer Prize–nominated historian and author of 11 books; his most recent, *Alabama in the Twentieth Century*, was awarded the Anne B. and James B. McMillan Prize by the University of Alabama Press. ■



SAMFORD THANKS DONORS, HONORS ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

by Mary Wimberley



Left: Alumni of the Year Bennie Bumpers, left, and Paula and Rod Hovater enjoy their moment. Below, the Homecoming Gala crowd gathers in Hanna Center. Right: Samford President Andrew Westmoreland announces Gary Cooney gift (see page 19). Far right: Music faculty member Bill Strickland greets Susan Howerton, left, and Kay Barnes.



Samford University recognized its top donors, announced a major gift that will put a name on its new football field house and honored three alumni of the year during a 2008 Homecoming Gala banquet in Hanna Center Oct. 24.

Guests of honor included individual donors and representatives of foundations and corporations that have provided significant financial support to the university during the last year.

Samford President Andrew Westmoreland announced that the Cooney Family Field House was made possible with a lead gift from Birmingham business executive and Samford graduate **Gary Cooney** (see page 19).

"It is especially fitting that we can make this announcement on homecoming weekend when we celebrate alumni and when we are recognizing the 1971 national championship football team on which Gary played," said Dr. Westmoreland.

In addition, the president also announced that Cooney has offered an additional \$1 million challenge gift designed to inspire others to give \$2 million for scholarships that will underscore the school's mission of developing mind and character. Another alumnus already has given \$25,000 to fund the first challenge-match scholarship, Westmoreland said.

A 1974 graduate from Birmingham, Cooney is vice chairman of McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc., one of the nation's leading insurance brokerage firms. He is a member of Samford's board of overseers and the Brock School of Business advisory board.

At Cooney's request, the building honors his entire family, including his parents, the late **John**

and **Patricia Cooney**. Cooney's brother, **John**, graduated from Samford in 1971, and his nephew, **Riley Barnacastle**, currently plays for the Bulldogs.

Under construction in the south end zone area of Seibert Stadium, the building is scheduled for completion and use next season. "This new facility will enhance our already outstanding athletics facilities and provide state-of-the-art space for our football program," said Westmoreland.

The dinner also featured the presentation of alumni of the year honors to **Bennie Bumpers** of Birmingham, and **Paula Smith Hovater** and **Rod Hovater** of Roswell, Ga. Samford Alumni Association President **Mark Davidson** noted that all three honorees are former presidents of the alumni association, all are active with the Brock School of Business advisory board, and all are active recruiters for the university and gracious donors.

"Most importantly, all represent their alma mater in everything that they do—fulfilling the Samford mission," said Davidson.

Bumpers, a 1963 graduate, retired in 2007 as vice president of risk management for Vulcan Materials Company.

Paula Hovater, a 1969 graduate, owns the successful Atlanta consulting firm Public Affairs, which specializes in event planning and promotion.

Rod Hovater, a 1967 graduate, is client manager for Compuware, a Fortune 1000 main-frame and distribution software company.

Donors were recognized in Samford's highest giving categories: the Harwell G. Davis, A. P. Montague, Lovelace-Wilkerson and Samuel Sterling Sherman societies.



Above: Daina Pittman, left, chats with Parents Leadership Association members Vicki and Ed Simmons. Above right: Advancement officer Stan Davis, right, visits with Trustee Joe Godfrey and his wife, Joy.

“Philanthropy is one of the cornerstones of Samford University,” noted vice president for university relations **Randy Pittman**.

“This year, about 30 percent of Samford’s operations will be funded by private financial support and endowment earnings. At the heart of that philanthropy are those who give regularly . . . those whose support is annual,” said Pittman, thanking the annual supporters as well as those who have qualified for membership in one of the four lifetime giving societies.

The Sherman Society is named for the college’s first president, who dedicated himself to the institution when it had no funds, no students and only one building. It is the highest level of recognition for lifetime donors to Samford.

New members of the Sherman Society are **Stanley M. (Skip) Brock, Pat M. Courington, Sr., and Dr. Marvin L. Mann**.

Two new members were named to the Lovelace-Wilkerson Society: **Mountain Brook Baptist Church**, which was represented by senior minister **Jim Moebes** and his wife, **Gail**; and **Vulcan Materials Company**, represented by **Wayne Houston** and others.

The society is named for two trustees who saved the university from bankruptcy in the 1880s, J. B. Lovelace and W. W. Wilkerson.

A. P. Montague was president of the school from 1902 to 1912. New members of the Montague Society are **Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. (Buck) Brock III, the Coca-Cola Company, James B. Price, and Mr. and Mrs. James C. Stivender, Jr.**

The Harwell G. Davis Society is named for the president who led the college during one of

the most critical periods in its history—the aftermath of the Great Depression, World War II and the relocation from East Lake to Shades Valley in the 1950s.

New Davis Society members are **Alabama Gas Corporation, Mr. and Mrs. S. Truett Cathy, Dr. Chella Courington, Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Dunn, Mrs. Xanthi H. and Peter M. Grammas, Lexmark International, Robins & Morton, the Shelby County Commission, and Mrs. Magdalene W. Thomas**.

Westmoreland acknowledged to the audience that the current economic climate is causing “a few headwinds” for everyone, but that Samford has faced such challenges before and continues to thrive.

“I don’t know the future, but I know who holds the future,” said Westmoreland. “Let us be found faithful, and the world will be better for it.”

Guests enjoyed lively banquet-ending music by the Samford Marching Band. Each guest received a box of note cards that had been designed by young artists who attend Samford’s Children’s Learning Center, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary (see page 24). ■

To see the Alumni of the Year acceptance speeches, go to http://www.samford.edu/videos/AotY08_Bennie_Bumpers.mov, http://www.samford.edu/videos/AotY08_Paula_Hovater.mov, http://www.samford.edu/videos/AotY08_Rod_Hovater.mov.

New Football Facility To Be Named for Cooney Family

by Philip Poole



Samford University's new football field house will be named for a prominent Birmingham family, university officials announced during homecoming weekend.

The Cooney Family Field House was made possible with a lead gift from Birmingham business executive and Samford graduate **Gary Cooney '74**, vice chairman of McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc., one of the nation's leading insurance brokerage firms. Cooney said he wanted to honor his parents, the late John and Patricia Cooney, and other family members with the naming.

"Our family has a long history with Samford, and my hope is that these gifts will encourage others to support this great university," Cooney said. "We have great confidence in the leadership of Dr. Westmoreland and our good friend, Coach **Pat Sullivan**, and we want to help have a positive influence on young student-athletes."

The two long-time friends—Cooney and Sullivan—obviously have high regard for each other.

"Samford is fortunate to have someone like Pat Sullivan as a part of the university, and I believe that Pat sees Samford as an important part of his life," Cooney added.

"Gary has been a friend since childhood," Sullivan noted. "I'm always stressing the importance of relationships

that last a lifetime, and he is a special person. He is a successful businessman for whom athletics was a tremendous influence on his life. With this gift, he is assuring that others have the same opportunity for athletics to influence their lives."

The annual homecoming celebration included recognition of Samford's 1971 national championship football team, of which Cooney was a member.

"Gary Cooney's commitment to his alma mater and our athletics program is very evident with his leadership gift for this project," said Samford President **Andrew Westmoreland**. "It especially is fitting that we can make this announcement on homecoming weekend when we celebrate alumni and when we are recognizing the championship team on which Gary played."

Cooney, who graduated with a business degree, serves on Samford's board of overseers and the advisory board of its Brock School of Business. He was named the business school's Alumnus of the Year in 2002. His brother, John, graduated in 1971. Their father, John Burke Cooney, also contributed to the building of the field house. The elder Cooney died in May 2008. A nephew, Riley Barnacastle, currently plays football at Samford.

The 39,000-square-foot building is under construction at the south end of F. Page Seibert Stadium and is scheduled for completion for the 2009 football season. The building includes two levels of offices, locker rooms, meeting space, equipment storage and training facilities for football. A hospitality suite and observation deck will overlook Seibert Stadium. An unfinished third level will be used for future university expansion needs.

"Friends and alumni like Gary Cooney and his family are creating positive impact for Samford and our athletics program," said Athletics Director **Bob Roller**. "This facility would not be possible without their generosity."

The \$7.5 million project is being funded with private financial support, Roller noted.

"Samford is one of Birmingham's crown jewels, and it is important to me that the community recognizes the quality of what this school can offer young athletes and all students," Cooney said. "What Samford is doing with the business school and other academic and athletics programs is outstanding." ■

Donor Gary Cooney, in the red jersey, greets Samford Bulldogs at the homecoming game.





Humility Is the Key to Constructive Mix of Religion, Politics: Clanton

by Sean Flynt

Should the religious citizens of a democracy argue religious reasons when deliberating political matters? It's done every day in the United States, of course, and leaves citizens alternately inspired and outraged because mixing these elements is like randomly mixing items from the household pantry. One might create a chocolate cake or a toxic cloud, depending on the ingredients and the way they're combined. How do we make sure we get the cake? Samford's University Fellows Program, Department of Political Science and Department of Philosophy cosponsored a lecture on the subject Oct. 23.

"The Ethics of Citizenship: Liberal Democracy and Religious Convictions," a homecoming week event, was a homecoming of sorts for the featured speaker, J. Caleb Clanton, who attended Samford as a freshman. Now a philosophy professor at Pepperdine University, Clanton emphasized the importance of public deliberation in a democracy, described two dominant approaches to the mixing of religion and politics, and then offered his own alternative.

Clanton said one approach to the religion-in-politics conundrum—"separatist strategy"—is to simply leave religion outside the public square. The obvious problem with this approach, he said, is that it arbitrarily and hypocritically requires some citizens to debate without the benefit of what they consider to be their best arguments.

"If citizens are told they must avoid discussing contentious moral, ethical and political issues with others across cultural and multicultural religious lines, they are likely to resort to some form of enclave deliberation," Clanton said. "That is, they're likely to end up talking only with folks of like mind, thereby limiting the argument pool they have access to and the range of views to which they're exposed." Clanton noted that group polarization, which poses many threats to democracy, logically follows such narrowing of perspective.

Clanton said another approach—"reconstructivist strategy"—would allow religion in the public square but require that it be effectively neutered by the reinterpretation of its claims as merely symbolic. Participants in the deliberation are free to reinterpret the Christian's devout beliefs as mere symbols and metaphors, translating them into something more acceptable and persuasive to them. But this approach is patronizing, Clanton said, and ultimately "collapses back into the separatist view" by dismissing the believer's own, unapologetically religious interpretation.

Clanton proposed a third approach, which he described as "deliberative democracy without gag rules, a conditional integrationism." In his strategy, citizens who would participate in deliberative democracy must be willing to entertain other arguments and admit deliberative defeat (losing the debate).

For religious citizens, this means that "either their religious reasons will show to be good reasons, or they will be defeated, in which case, the political entailments of their religious faith will need to be reinterpreted or reapplied, and then we go from there," said Clanton.

Many Christians would find this a bitter pill to swallow because this approach seems to suggest that intransigent faith is incompatible with good citizenship. Clanton didn't dodge that

inflammatory issue.

"If a religious citizen isn't able or willing to meet this fallibility requirement with respect to her religious belief concerning some political matter," Clanton said, "then it seems to me that she does violate the duties of democratic citizenship upon voicing her religious beliefs in public discourse or upon voting on the basis of those religious reasons."

Clanton acknowledged that his view sometimes unnerves some of his Christian friends. "They wonder if I'm not unduly emphasizing openness to the outcomes of public deliberation at the expense of a faith that should hold firm no matter the challenge in public debate." But, he said, "I have faith in a Lord whose divine will, at the end of all possible inquiry and deliberation in this world, will in fact be the clear and definitive winner—when, as is said, all knees bow and every tongue confesses. I can say that truth is the end of all possible inquiry, and, consequently, it is with confidence that I can invite Christians to advance their religious reasoning in the course of public deliberation."

Clanton also noted that his approach wouldn't ask Christians to do anything they don't already know how to do. "Ultimately, my view asks religious citizens to practice in the political domain what many, if not most, of them preach from the pulpit, and that's humility with respect to their own political positions," he said. "In my view, humility is common to both Christian religious belief and to good, democratic deliberation and citizenship." ■



Orlean Bullard Beeson School of

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

Helping Children Become Enthusiastic Learners



As Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Children's Learning Center, I reflect on the past decade and ask myself how we can best provide for children and their families during the next 10 years. As I think back on the importance of the early childhood years and all that the Children's Learning Center has done to nurture young children, I am convinced that a very positive impact has been made in the lives of both its children and their families.

Whether our contact with preschoolers is with our own children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or neighbors, it brings joy into our lives. Positive interactions provide invaluable skills to help them to grow and develop in our ever-changing society. The skills that young children learn at these very early ages provide a foundation for continued learning. Learning is strengthened even more if it is offered within a loving, homelike, Christian environment. A primary goal at the Children's Learning Center is to develop and broaden children's learning experiences, so that they leave the program as confident, eager and enthusiastic learners.

In my opinion, socialization is the most important benefit that children learn in the early years. At the Children's Learning Center, children have built-in opportunities to engage in playing, learning and sharing with children of all ages, as well as adults. Interacting with

others in relationships is the basis of learning. Children need to be included within a secure environment. The role of parents working with teachers is critical in bridging home experiences to those at school.

Not only does the Children's Learning Center provide opportunities for growth and development of young children, it is also a place where future teachers can engage in best practices in early childhood education. Part of the preservice teachers' clinical experience is to spend more than four full weeks in the mornings at the center. The university setting allows for students in family studies, exercise science and sports medicine, nursing, music and world languages to work with the children. Chapel is offered once a week for children to worship with music and scripture. These experiences encourage children to grow in all aspects of development, including cognitive, social, emotional, physical and spiritual areas.

Early childhood educators have a clear future. Public policies are now focused on the need for developmentally appropriate prekindergarten programs. Our philosophy at the center emphasizes that all children, regardless of their abilities and backgrounds, can learn. Preparing future teachers to be leaders in the classroom and providing professional development throughout the year for them is essential.

The next 10 years are looking just as bright, and we welcome the challenge!

Jeanie A. Box, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor
Orlean Bullard Beeson School of
Education and Professional Studies

Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies is the second-largest school on campus with more than 30 degree programs. For more information, contact the dean's office at 205-726-2745.

Former Homewood Superintendent, Dr. Jodi Newton, Joins Samford



Dr. Jodi Newton has joined Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies as an assistant professor in teacher education. The former superintendent of Homewood City Schools teaches Instructional Leadership in the graduate program.

Newton served the previous 10 years as Homewood's superintendent and was named Alabama Superintendent of the Year in 2003. "After my years in education and administration, training others seems appropriate," she said.

Under her leadership, the Homewood system was recognized for such accomplishments as the Silver Level LEED Certified School, National School of Character Award, 100 Best Communities for Music Education and What Parents Want Award.

Newton holds the B.S. degree from Samford, M.Ed. degrees from West Georgia College and the University of Montevallo, and the Ed.D. degree from the University of Alabama.

Her husband, Bob, is Homewood High School's athletics director and former head football coach. They have two sons: Ross, an assistant football coach at Samford, and Bert, an assistant football coach and head wrestling coach at Mountain Brook High School. ■

Cover (page 21): Harrison Hensarling, left, Veronica Patrick and Lauren Aday get down to some serious play at the Samford Children's Learning Center.

Exercise Science Offers Community Program

by Matt Roberts

Student B. T. Hartloge, in mask, undergoes a VO_2 max test measuring cardiorespiratory fitness as student Meredith Davis reads the results.

Fitness comes easy to Ben Moore, a fitness and health promotion major. Spending at least eight hours a week working out in Hanna Center, Moore believes staying healthy and maintaining one's weight is vital for all lifestyles.

This is also the mantra of the Department of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine [ESSM]. The department is promoting a new Community Testing Program that will be available to Samford students, employees, alumni and others in the Birmingham community.

This past summer, Moore earned personal trainer certification from the National Strength and Conditioning Association. He says that community testing is an excellent opportunity for those who want to improve their health and fitness.

"People who are really into fitness should utilize this testing," Moore said. "It's a privilege to have this in the area. People who are just starting to get into shape can know what area of fitness needs more work. It provides some concrete markers."

Spearheaded by Dr. Alan Jung, department chair and assistant professor, and Dr. John Petrella, director of the Human Performance Lab, the multifaceted program is aimed at helping those trying to lose weight, improve health and fitness, train for athletic competitions, or maintain a healthy lifestyle understand the information necessary for them to reach their goals.

State-of-the-art equipment helps the lab provide a variety of fitness

assessments, including aerobic fitness, anaerobic capacity, body composition and metabolic rate. A Bod Pod® measures body fat, and a metabolic cart measures oxygen usage. Testing includes an endurance performance package—primarily for competitive runners, cyclists or triathletes—a weight management package, a general health package and individual assessments.

"For the athlete who wants to run a faster 10k, we would suggest the endurance performance package, which includes a comprehensive fitness assessment and training program," Jung said. "This package will help athletes reach their performance goals by creating a more scientific training program."

The weight management package includes tests of metabolic rate, body fat and amount of fat burned during exercise. It also includes dietary analysis and a detailed exercise prescription.

"The recent addition of nutrition and dietetics into the department further strengthens the Community Testing Program," said Jung. "The knowledge and expertise these faculty members bring to the program will be essential for athletes, individuals wanting to lose or maintain weight, or for those who simply want to improve their health."

The Community Testing Program soon will create an additional wellness package specifically geared toward older adults.

Sports medicine major Tim Ansley, left, and instructor Chris Gillespie check out an ankle injury.

"We want to provide older adults with the tools and support to help them maintain functional independence," Jung said. "We think there's going to be a big response because this sort of testing is not easily accessible in Birmingham."

The Community Testing Program provides an outreach opportunity to the Birmingham community, promotes physical activity and healthy living, and offers a new opportunity for competitive athletes. "It provides a tremendous learning opportunity for our students who will assist in running the program," Jung added.

Moore, who dreams of earning a Ph.D. in exercise science and becoming an authority in the field, says fitness should be a top priority for those hoping to live a longer, more productive life. ■



10 Candles on the Cake:

Samford's Children's Learning Center Celebrates a Big Birthday

by Jean M. McLean

Emma Ruth Cooper is almost a whole year old. Soon, she'll celebrate with her friends at her home-away-from-home, Samford's Children's Learning Center.

Although Emma Ruth doesn't yet know much about birthdays, she has done a lot of celebrating. Every CLC day is a celebration of childhood. This year, the center has even more to celebrate as it marks its first decade of service.

"The teachers and staff at the CLC are so warm and loving, and it's been obvious from the very beginning that Emma Ruth loves being there," says Emma Ruth's mom, Amy Mixon Cooper '95. "The CLC has been such a blessing to our family. We know Emma Ruth is safe and happy in a nurturing environment."

That's good news for Dr. Ruth C. Ash, former dean of Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies. Ash was a driving force behind starting the program 10 years ago. She is also Emma Ruth's grandmother.

Long before Emma Ruth was born, a group of Samford employees recognized the need for high quality, Christian-based care for faculty and staff children. The steering committee, including Ash and the current dean, Dr. Jeanie Box, imagined a state-of-the-art facility with all-day parent connections through video feeds and visits.

The facility would include 100 children of any ability, from ages 6 weeks

through 4 years. It has always been much more than a child care center. Samford students, ranging from education to nursing majors, provide age-appropriate enrichment opportunities from dancing to vision screening. It is a true learning center for children.

Like most births, there were some surprises. The Memphis-based Paul Piper philanthropy, Christ Is Our Salvation Foundation, loaned start-up monies. Lakeshore Drive neighbor Southern Progress Corporation offered to support the center so that their staff would have a nearby option for quality childcare.

"This has been the perfect arrangement for our staff," says Lane Schmitt, vice president, administration, at Southern Progress. Employees watch their children via the facility webcam and often visit during lunch. "They're great neighbors," says Schmitt of the CLC staff.

Although facilities and funding fell into place, there were other surprises, even for the steering committee's child development experts.

"None of us were aware of the complexity of managing daily activities for the faculty, staff, children and facility," said Ash. The committee was relieved to know that the person in charge knew all about those matters.

"From the beginning, we knew it

Emma Ruth Cooper celebrates another happy day at Samford's CLC.

was crucial to have a very high-quality director," said Ash. "We made a long search before we found David Finn. He had the breadth and depth of experience, and has always been extremely caring for the children and staff. He shared our vision."

Dr. Finn, chief executive officer of the CLC, had run two centers for children with disabilities and welcomed the opportunity to serve 100 all-abilities children feeding into 14 school systems. To assure a varied ratio, the long waiting list was divided by percentage shares between Samford, Southern Progress and community families.

Although the facility and curriculum were painstakingly planned, Finn and the others knew the staff would make all the difference. Teachers Mickey Naro,



The Lucky Owl



CLC director Alayna Tippen and wide-eyed children watched an owl's rescue.

It started as an ordinary day at the center, with babies rocking, 3-year-olds crafting and playground participants negotiating. But when an injured owl landed on the grounds, everything came to a halt.

Wide eyes observed the beleaguered bird from a safe distance. The owl soon achieved celebrity status. By the time the wildlife rescue service arrived, abundant questions had been answered through owl books and online searches. And 48 preschoolers were new experts on birds of prey.

Alayna Tippen and her 23 teachers relish these days. Although they prepare careful lesson plans, each is adaptable. Children explore interests, ask questions and figure things out. This learning atmosphere spawns creativity and curiosity, preparing children for “big school” in an ideal way.

“All children develop differently,” said Tippen of the CLC’s thematic teaching techniques. “But kids these days don’t have a chance to be kids. I hope we’ll see a resurgence of childhood. Here, we try to provide opportunities and resources for that.”

The opportunity/resource that day came as a misplaced owl. It was a lucky day—for both children and bird. ■

Jean M. McLean is a freelance writer in Montevallo, Ala.

Kelly Stedeford and Beryl Flurry were among those who joined the staff in the beginning. They have remained for these 10 years as proven examples of “the power of good teaching,” Finn said.

“We have the most dedicated teachers and staff at the Children’s Learning Center,” said Box. “They are loving and caring to the children, and are great examples of the Christian mission of our school.”

Alayna Tippen became CLC director four years ago. Her education degree focused on first graders. But like many Samford students rotating through the

center, she later found preschool education irresistible. She says she’s found her niche, delighting in the opportunity to instill a love of learning in young minds.

Whether they’re trying a new food from campus dining, learning a Spanish song from a world languages major or experimenting with art students, CLC preschoolers are learning to learn. And when they just need a lap to sit in or room to run, there’s a place for that, too.

That’s why Emma Ruth, her 99 friends and all those CLC-related grown-ups have so much to celebrate. ■



CLC leader David Finn has learned what works, what doesn't, with young children.

Powerful Lessons for a Veteran CEO

As babies learn to crawl, toddlers learn to run, and 4-year-olds master scissors and markers, CLC adults learn, too. Although David Finn has taught child development for 33 years, he continues to learn what works, what doesn’t, and how faith forms it all.

Finn has learned about environmental hazards, modifying the playground three times to eliminate tornado-stricken trees, resulting UV light and worrisome surfaces. He’s learned about technology, incorporating parent-informative websites. He’s learned better ways of managing difficult behavior.

He also has learned what doesn’t work, including some “expert” suggestions. And he steadfastly holds the line when parents push highly structured, play-limiting curriculum.

Most of all, he’s learned about loving kids of all abilities. This special education expert watches instructors without specialized training exhibit extraordinary patience. He watched one teacher using her lunchtime to tutor a

constantly moving, helmeted child. Another worked with a child who couldn’t move at all. Finn remembers the day when that child pointed to herself, then Finn, and said, “Thank you.”

Finn is quick to give credit to the thousands of partners, including donors, faculty, parents, staff and others who have been so important to the CLC’s success. “We are indebted to persons like Advisory Committee Chair Ann Layne, parents Drs. Sonya and Jim Stanley, and parents Steve and Gisele Crow,” Finn said. “There are so many others that I can’t begin to name. Without them, we couldn’t have begun to fulfill this God-given mission.”

Although the center is unapologetically Christian, incorporating chaplaincy and child-friendly Bible lessons, Finn says Godly love is its most powerful faith tool. “You witness to children by your actions.”

In the end, that may be the most important thing a CEO needs to know. ■

Beeson Embraces a New Era in Learning as Education Goes Three-Dimensional

by Jack Landham

In 1999, Director Ed Landers of the Media Center in the Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies received news that a new science building would be built over the site of the Stockham Building, where he was running his media operations.

Unknown at the time, the interconnection of relocation to the other side of campus, a video game and a former Samford student would act as a catalyst for a new technology and innovative learning that started in the fall of 2008.

Landers was told to “dream” in preparation for the transition from Stockham to the fourth floor of Orlean Bullard Beeson Hall. His thoughts turned to a video game in which people interacted via holographic technology. He shared this idea with former student Brian Lanehart, who had been introduced to Carroll Lastinger, founder of 3DH Communications in Atlanta, Ga. The idea grew and helped shape today’s Media Center into the first platform for advanced 3D learning in a university setting.

Landers arranged a holographic demonstration from 3DH Communications in 2002, which led to a technology partnership in 2008 with

funds allocated from the Dean’s Executive Council. The Media Center’s classroom has been transformed for 3D teaching and is a site for demonstrations to representatives throughout the world.

“Ed has brought many innovative ideas to our school, and we are certainly excited about incorporating this cutting-edge technology into the classroom,” said Dr. Jeanie Box, dean of the school of education and professional studies.

In the fall of 2008, assistant professors Chris Gillespie and Robb Hensarling began using the technology in their exercise science and sports medicine classes.

“The three-dimensional software has allowed the exercise science and sports medicine department to teach human anatomy to our students in new ways,” said Hensarling. “HoloPlayer allows us to build and play virtual anatomy models that we design and control the content. The program allows us to move from two-dimensional pictures in books or on PowerPoint presentations to a lifelike model that is projected in three dimensions.”

The Department of Interior Design incorporated this new technology into

the curriculum this fall. Department chair Jeannie Krumdieck said, “It enhances the students’ perception of the construction process via first-person experience through three-dimensional holographic imagery. We expect the students to more confidently express and develop design solutions within the building envelope.”

The Department of Teacher Education participated in a demonstration about the solar system. Led by teacher education alumni, Linda Brown and Haley Massey, fourth-grade students from Green Valley Elementary in Hoover, Ala., were immersed in a 3D solar system. Department Chair Carol Dean said, “3D technology is engaging to children. As the technology advances, it holds the promise of helping to move students to higher levels of thinking. We are partnering with 3DH Communications to explore these possibilities.”

Today’s students expect their educational experience to be cutting edge, and using 3D technology meets and exceeds student expectations. ■

SSITE Continues to Help Teachers Upgrade Skills

Ralph and Orlean Beeson were dedicated supporters of education. In addition to being the philanthropic benefactors for naming the school of education and professional studies, they dedicated an endowment, the Samford Summer Institute for Teaching Excellence [SSITE], to continually improve the quality of education in the Southeast.

Associate professor of education David Little has worked with this program for 20 years, 18 as the program’s director. When the program began in 1986, there were 25 participants. It has since reached a conference attendance high of 300.

Orlean Beeson was a kindergarten teacher whose goal was to establish a



David Little

program that would enhance the skills of Alabama’s best teachers. Each summer,

public and private schools send their teachers to Birmingham for training by national and international experts in the field. The teachers return to their schools and share the learning.

With the 2009 program, Dr. Little will work with fellow education professors Amy Hoagland and Karen Birkenfeld to transfer the direction of the program.

As the new codirectors, Dr. Hoagland and Birkenfeld will build upon the foundation laid by Little. They may join with some Black-Belt counties and other universities to expand the program to other parts of the state. ■

For more information, go to www.ssite.edu.

Graduate Programs

Increase Excellence in Higher Learning

In today's challenging educational environment, educators are returning to the classroom to broaden their knowledge and develop their leadership skills. Graduate programs have been invaluable in meeting professional and personal goals of educators who desire excellence in their own work and in leading others.

Dr. Maurice Persall leads the graduate programs at Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies, which are increasing in enrollment and innovative programs. When Persall began at Samford in 1993, enrollment in the educational degree program was 35 students. Today, more than 190 students are enrolled in a variety of graduate programs, including the doctoral program, which was added under Persall's oversight in 1999.

The growth of these programs is guided by three core values:

1. Dedication to success
2. Continuous improvement
3. Productive partnerships with school systems

"Any success we have in our graduate programs is a reflection of our committed success to all of our students—both in



First-year educational graduate program professor Pattie Neill, second from left, and director of graduate programs Maurice Persall, third from left, congratulate graduate students who have been promoted recently within the Mountain Brook City School System. The students are Missy Brooks, assistant principal for curriculum and instruction, left; Dicky Barlow, assistant to the superintendent of Mountain Brook City Schools, second from right; and Vic Wilson, principal of Mountain Brook High School.

the program and on their jobs," said Persall.

Persall has worked recently with Dr. Mandy Hilsmier and Dr. Patti Wood to offer two new programs: the master of science in secondary collaborative education and the master of science in education with gifted certification. The secondary collaborative program, which focuses on strategies to meet the learning needs of all students in the classroom, and the gifted program, which provides strategies to move all students to higher levels of thinking, were modeled after top programs in the country.

Persall said that these programs were developed to fill particular niches where Samford has "an opportunity to

provide expertise that is not being served by every other university."

"Of all my educational experience, the Samford doctoral program is the most useful and practical learning that I have encountered," said Richard "Dicky" Barlow, who is enrolled in the doctoral program and works as assistant to the superintendent at Mountain Brook (Ala.) City Schools.

Persall has held top leadership positions within Vestavia Hills (Ala.) City Schools, Arab (Ala.) City Schools and the Alabama State Department of Education. In September 2008, he was named the Orlean Bullard Beeson Endowed Chair by Samford's board of trustees. ■

CWLC Offers Christianity, Women and Leadership Studies Program

Building on the foundation laid by founding director Carol Ann Vaughn, Dr. Robin Duncan and Dr. Kristie Chandler are the new codirectors of the Christian Women's Leadership Center. Along with a task force that includes Andrea Mullins and Suzanne Reece from Woman's Missionary Union [WMU], Duncan and Chandler are developing a strategic plan to further the center's work.

The center will continue the Christianity, Women and Leadership Studies minor offered at Samford, and plans are being laid for a community-wide event with a speaker for 2009. The center's website recently was redesigned.

The center hosts monthly leadership luncheons in Samford's Rotunda Club. Speakers this semester have included Sarah Latham, Samford's vice president of operations and planning, and Allison Black-Cornelius, founder of BlackBOARD, which specializes in training government, community-based and faith-based organizations.

The center was created through a partnership between WMU and Samford, and was funded initially by the Eleanor F. Terry Endowment.

The program also has been supported by funds from WMU and the WMU Foundation. Since the program's inception, additional support has been

secured through a variety of generous donations, including endowments that support the Marie NeSmith Fowler Lectureship, named for the 1948 graduate; the June Whitlow Scholarship Fund; and from women who participate in the center's monthly leadership luncheons.

For information on how you can participate with this organization, join in the monthly luncheons or obtain information about the Christianity, Women and Leadership Studies minor, please call 205-726-2087 or 205-726-4456, or visit www.samford.edu/cwl. ■

Nutrition Plans New Foods Lab

The nutrition and dietetics program within the Department of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine continues to work on funding a new foods lab. It will be equipped to provide the latest technology in food preparation and food science for students learning how food and nutrition are associated with maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

“This facility will be a tremendous asset to our current and future programs, both to students and in providing additional outreach opportunities in the community,” said Dr. Pat Terry, Director of Nutrition and Dietetics.

The new lab will be located on the first level of Orlean Bullard Beeson Hall and will replace existing facilities. Included in the renovations plans, which were created by the school’s Department of Interior Design, are rooms that allow for small lectures and meetings adjacent to the lab. ■

For information regarding tax-deductible donations for this project, please call the dean’s office at 205-726-2745.



The new foods lab in this architectural rendering will replace existing facilities, at left.

Men in the Pool: A Faithful Dedication

by Jack Landham

Twenty-two-year-old Samford student and lifeguard Chris Alfaro-Soto rises early several days a week to be on watch at the university’s pool in Seibert Hall for 6:30 a.m. swim sessions frequented by several faculty and staff members. Two of the men have been doing the early morning swims since the year Alfaro-Soto was born.

Dr. Sigurd Bryan has been swimming a lot longer than that. In 1956, as a newly hired Samford religion professor, he decided at age 32 that he wanted to learn to swim, a skill he never had acquired. Coach Walter Barnes invited him to join a summer swimming class. Soon, the young professor was learning the elementary backstroke, the modified breaststroke, the side stroke and other water skills.

Who would have known he would still be swimming 52 years later, at age 84?

Bryan joined Dr. Jim Angel, chair of the exercise science and sports medicine department, in regular swimming ses-

sions in 1986. Now 65, Angel has asthma, and the moisture in the water makes swimming one of the best exercises for him. Thus began a 22-year tradition of swimming every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 a.m.

Two years later, Bob Palmer, now 72, joined the group. Palmer, who does pro bono Christian counseling for Samford students, was teaching Angel’s Sunday school class when he was invited to join. Together, they have logged more than 4,000 miles in the pool.

Three years ago, Dr. Jennings Marshall, a professor in Samford’s Brock School of Business, joined the group. A longtime exercise devotee who enjoyed playing basketball at lunch, he was forced to modify his routine following knee surgery. Marshall is the youngest member at 62.

What motivates these men? The same answer resonates among all four. They cite the Christian perspective of the body being a temple of the Holy Spirit;

they believe one way to honor God is by keeping fit.

Angel, who drives 40 minutes to arrive in time for the swims, maintains that regular aerobic exercise enhances the quality and longevity of life, as evidenced by Marshall’s resting pulse of 50 and his own of 58.

Marshall cites a further motivation. “Group accountability and being part of the group is what motivates me—what keeps me going—as without it, I probably wouldn’t get up,” he said. Great Christian friendship is an obvious benefit for the statistics professor, based on the evident camaraderie the group enjoys.

Maybe one day, lifeguard Alfaro-Soto will join with others to begin a regular swim routine offering long-lasting health benefits and Christian friendships like those experienced by the four men he watches in the pool. But if he starts at the same stage in life as Bryan, he still has a decade to wait. ■



Thank you
for your generous support!

As we celebrate this holiday season, we are truly thankful for our donors. Gifts have provided 54.2% of Samford's students with scholarships. Continued support makes it possible for this institution to continue nurturing persons . . . for God, for learning, forever.

CAMPUS update

Most Muslims Reject Terrorism, Says Leading Islam Scholar

by Sean Flynt

John Esposito, a top American scholar of Islam, discussed the topic, “Is Terrorism Ever Permitted in Islam?” at Samford this fall. He addressed a key point of concern in both Muslim and non-Muslim cultures, and ranged over a host of complex issues from U.S. foreign policy to the nature of faith and causes of violent radicalism.

Esposito, an acclaimed and prolific author and adviser to the U.S. Department of State, is University Professor, Professor of Religion and International Affairs, and Professor of Islamic Studies at the Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. His lecture was sponsored by Samford’s departments of religion and philosophy.

The scholar made clear that there is no simple answer to the question he posed—a question that could be asked of most religions, including Christianity. “Historically,” he said, “religious traditions have their dark side . . . engaging in violence in the name of God.” Frequently drawing parallels between Muslim and Christian extremists, Esposito made clear the common tendency for humans to fall short of

their highest standards. Muslims, like other believers, struggle with the meaning of their scripture and faith traditions, he said.

“The Quran does not advocate or condone illegitimate violence or terrorism,” Esposito said, noting that even the violence Islam deems justified is bound by law.

“According to Islamic law,” Esposito said, “for a war to be morally justified, it must be fought in defense of the faith. It cannot be waged primarily for material gain or possession; it must respect the rights of noncombatants—their lives, freedom and property—it must not harm women, children, old people and invalids, or torture prisoners of war or demolish places of worship or kill religious leaders.”

So, how do Jihadist terrorists justify their acts of violence? Esposito said radicalized, violent Muslim sects, clergy and individuals couch their acts in the language of approved exceptions and notions of a greater good. As a violent Christian might justify the bombing of an abortion clinic, a Jihadist might justify the bombing of some perceived threat to the designs of God. “Defensive warfare, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder,” Esposito noted.

But when Jihadists warp their faith to permit acts of violence against innocents, shouldn’t mainstream Muslims condemn them? They have, Esposito said in answer to a question often heard in recent years. Although largely ignored by U.S. media, he said, the *Amman Message* of 2004 and *A Common Word* of 2007 are strong and widely supported Muslim condemnations of terrorism.

While acknowledging that violence exists in the Muslim world, Esposito said it is not necessarily integral to Islamic teaching. Most Muslims, he said, do not subscribe to the Jihadists’ justification of violence. ■



John Esposito speaks at Samford.



Nursing Dean Nena Sanders presents a hood to Alison Herren.

Fourth Class of Nurse Anesthetists Completes Samford Program

Samford’s Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing presented master of science in nursing hoods to 22 nurse anesthesia graduate students in a ceremony marking the completion of their anesthesia education program in October.

Completion of the program makes the graduates eligible to sit for the national Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist [CRNA] exam.

The Hodges Chapel ceremony marked Samford’s fourth graduating class of nurse anesthetists since the start of the program in 2002. The 28-month course of study was developed to help meet a critical national need for CRNAs.

The program is open to holders of the bachelor of science in nursing degree from an accredited program with a minimum of a year’s experience in acute nursing care who qualify. Dr. Mary C. Karlet is chair of the nurse anesthesia department in the nursing school.

In the hooding ceremony, Mary E. Boyer received the Agatha Hodgins Award as the outstanding student scholar in the class. Cynthia S. Bass received the Resa Culpepper Award given for student professionalism. ■

University Fellow's Father a 'Moral Exemplar'

by Sean Flynt

Allow us to reintroduce the Old Testament prophet Jonah, or David Rodriguez as he is now known. You will recognize him by his beard, glasses and traditional Cuban *guayabera* shirt. His mission is in Miami rather than Ninevah, and he was disgorged into his new life by an overcrowded, leaky ship rather than a great fish.

In early November, Rodriguez visited Samford's campus to reunite with his daughter, Deborah, and serve as Exhibit A for student consideration of modern "moral exemplars."

His story, with its themes of exodus, calling and the crucible of suffering is as compelling as any of the others his daughter and her peers are currently studying in Samford's new University Fellows program.

In a presentation to the other students in the program, Deborah Rodriguez read her account of her father's escape from Cuba, and then translated his Spanish as he finished the story and answered questions.

Abandoned

Like Jonah, David Rodriguez embraced his calling reluctantly, in flight and by losing everything. He arrived in this country in 1980 as part of the mass exodus of Cubans commonly known as the Mariel Boatlift in reference to the harbor from which thousands of decrepit vessels departed for freedom.

His daughter's essay—*Y Dios Me Salvo* (And God Saved Me), winner of a National Scholastic Art and Writing Award—describes in grim detail the ordeal of this one of 125,000 refugees: the violent government oppression, the siege conditions at the Peruvian embassy where he sought asylum and his escape from Cuba aboard the sinking ship *Veronica Express*.

This son and grandson of Christian pastors arrived in the

United States with little more than his life. Alienated from his country, separated from loved ones, "completely abandoned" and with only a car for a home, Rodriguez fled from his faith for a decade.

Rodriguez acknowledges that he was no moral exemplar in that time, but he gradually reclaimed his life and the faith of his fathers. When an acquaintance told him he believed God was calling him to the ministry, Rodriguez felt compelled to apply for admission to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

A seminary official advised him that he was not a good candidate due to his years in the moral wilderness, and offered little hope that his application would be approved by the admission committee. Rodriguez was secretly relieved by the news but admitted to the official that he wouldn't be able to close this door if God had indeed opened it. Two weeks later, Rodriguez learned that he had been accepted to the seminary by unanimous approval.

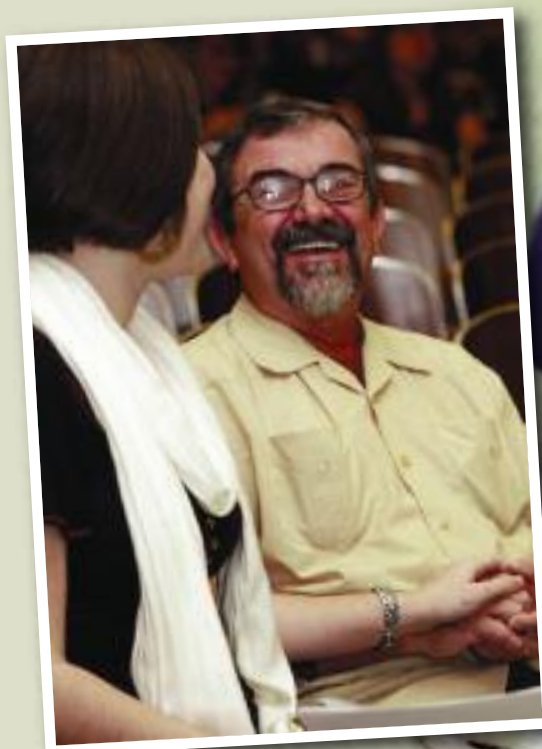
Abundance

Since then, Rodriguez has served as a pastor in Kentucky and Ocala, Fla., and raised a family with his wife, Fanny, whom he met in church after reclaiming his faith. Their lives have not been easy, but Rodriguez believes that is how people learn to rely on faith. He said that

when the Cuban government froze his father's and other pastors' bank accounts in 1965, his family survived on the generosity of their church community, finding greatest abundance in greatest hardship.

Today, Rodriguez is rich only in dedication to his work as pastor of the Coral Hispana church in Miami, and in pride in his "spiritually mature" daughters and pastor sons. And, as any good prophet would, he sees a divine plan in the achievements of his Samford daughter, who holds several merit-based scholarships, including the Presidential Scholarship, University Fellows Scholarship, Minister's Dependent Scholarship and National Hispanic Scholarship. Referring to her essay about his experiences, he said, "Yes, Deborah wrote it, but the author is God."

To learn more about the University Fellows program, go to www.samford.edu/fellows. ■



Deborah Rodriguez and her father, David, share happy moments at Samford.



New Richardson Hymn Study Finds Unexpected Samford Tie

by William Nunnelley

Samford music professor Paul A. Richardson has immersed himself for the past several years in research for a voluminous study of Baptist congregational singing in North America. The comprehensive volume, *I Will Sing the Wondrous Story: A History of Baptist Hymnody in North America*, was released last summer by Mercer University Press, with Baylor University professor David W. Music as coauthor.

The 634-page book surveys the history of Baptist hymnody from denominational beginnings in the New World to the present. The last comparable volume was *Baptist Hymn Writers and Their Hymns*, by Henry S. Burrage, published in 1888, according to Dr. Richardson.

In the course of researching several centuries of Baptist congregational singing in Britain and North America, Richardson came up with an unexpected and surprising tie to Samford and its history.

"In doing online research about Henry Burrage and his 1888 work, I came across an entry for his book at Samford," said Richardson. "The description in the online catalog didn't match my copy of the book."

Further research indicated the Samford item listed is not a copy of the book itself, but of a promotional version made for use by door-to-door salesmen to get subscriptions for the book.

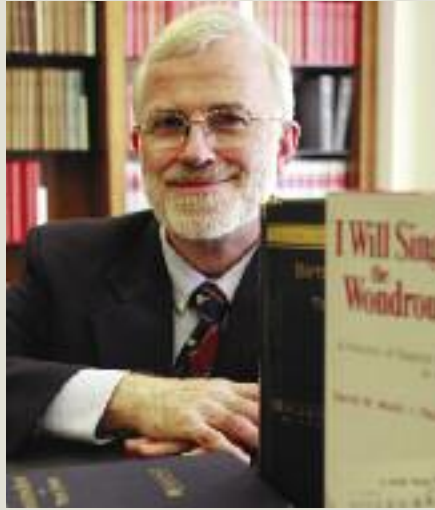
"I have no idea how many of these there were at the time," said Richardson, "but as far as I have been able to determine, we have the only surviving copy."

The anonymous Birmingham bookseller obtained six subscribers, said Richardson, all of whom Samford Special Collection librarian Elizabeth C. Wells has identified. And that's where the tie to Samford appears.

One of the subscribers was A. W. McGaha, who came to Ruhama Baptist Church as pastor about the time the Burrage book came out. Five years later, he became president of then-Howard College.

"The book came to Samford as part of the William H. Brantley, Jr., Collection in the 1960s," said Wells. "It's an extensive collection of primarily rare Alabama books, maps, manuscripts and other historical materials."

Richardson, who has written several



Paul Richardson exhibits new book, old resource.

other book-length hymnody studies, praised the value of the Special Collection in topics relating to Baptist history.

"It was ironic that this valuable research piece would crop up in Special Collection at Samford," he said. "And to realize that we have the only surviving copy is almost unbelievable."

Richardson has been doing research and writing in the area of hymnody since the mid-1980s, and has published numerous articles on individuals, hymnals and other aspects of the literature. In 1995, he collaborated with Harry Eskew and David Music on *Singing Baptists: Studies in Baptist Hymnody in America*, published by Church Street Press. Later, he completed an expanded edition of Erik Routley's *A Panorama of Christian Hymnody*, published by GIA Publications in 2005.

He is chairing the format and organization committee for *Celebrating Grace: Hymnal for Baptist Worship*, a collection intended to serve the breadth of the Baptist community in North America. It is scheduled for release in 2010. Retired former music dean Milburn Price is one of the book's editors.

Richardson is in the second year of a two-year appointment as research professor in the School of the Arts. Last year, he completed *Will You Come and Follow Me*, resources for worship and personal devotion, published by Samford. ■

Davis Composition for Carnegie Inspired by John Crowe Ransom

When Samford bass-baritone G. William Bugg and pianist Kathryn Fouse performed in Carnegie Hall in October, the program included a new work by Samford grad Joel Scott Davis '05.

Now a master/doctor of musical arts student in composition at Claremont Graduate University in California, Davis wrote "Songs About God" specifically for the Carnegie recital. The work was inspired by the poetry of John Crowe Ransom, a founding member of the Fugitives literary group at Vanderbilt University in the 1920s that included Robert Penn Warren.

While Bugg and Fouse each had sung previously in Carnegie Hall, it was the first time for Davis to have a work performed in the celebrated New York City venue.

"I am excited and honored," he said at being asked to contribute to the program.

When the musicians approached Davis about composing a piece with a Southern theme for their Big Apple recital, his search of literature led to a 1919 collection of poetry by Ransom called "Poems About God." He wrote the poems while serving in France during World War I.

The work by the Tennessee poet made an immediate impression on Davis.

"It showed his doubts and his struggle with his faith," said Davis, who was beginning to feel "a little homesick" for his own Southern roots. "I found it fascinating."

He shared the poems with Bugg and Fouse, who helped select the four that are part of the completed work. "Songs About God" is Davis' fifth commissioned composition.

Davis' compositions also include "Nocturne for Lauren Ansley," a piece that Fouse performed in recital at Samford in February. The work had been written as an engagement present for his then-fiancé, Lauren Ansley Heerssen, also a 2005 Samford graduate.

The couple, now married, attended the Carnegie Hall recital, as did family members and his childhood piano teacher from Marietta, Ga. ■

More Campus Update on page 49

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON.
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EXCITING
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Barkley Positioned at Gateway to Asia

by Sean Flynt

Geographically, Gary Barkley couldn't get much farther from Samford's campus without leaving the planet. He remains close to Samford in spirit, however, and soon may be able to import his alma mater to his current home in Fukuoka, Japan.

Barkley graduated from Samford in 1977, earned a doctorate and entered the Baptist mission field in Japan in the mid-1980s. In 1987, he joined the faculty of Seinan Gakuin University [SGU] in Fukuoka, a comprehensive, liberal arts university founded in 1916 by fellow missionary Charles Kelsey Dozier.

Barkley served SGU as professor of church history and dean of religious affairs before becoming president of the university in 2006. He maintained his Samford ties and even served in Samford's Department of Religion during a break from SGU early this decade. Now, a series of happy coincidences might transform that personal connection into a broader and more formal exchange between the universities.

Barkley and Samford President Andrew Westmoreland came to their current positions in the same year.

Westmoreland is already familiar with SGU thanks to an educational exchange program he tended at his last post, Ouachita Baptist University. He hopes to lead Samford toward Asian educational opportunities, too, just as Samford alumnus Barkley continues to internationalize his own institution (see *"Samford Prepares for the Asian Century,"* www.samford.edu/belltower/91208/asian_century.php).

The various pieces of the Samford/SGU exchange puzzle seemed to be falling into place when Westmoreland visited SGU and two current Asian exchange partners in July. However, Westmoreland noted that SGU already has many exchange commitments, so an agreement with Samford is not guaranteed.

SGU was the first university in Japan to have exchange programs with U.S. universities, starting with Baylor, and now has 26 partners in the United States, Europe and Asia. Still, Barkley has a special affinity for his alma mater. "Having been a student at Samford and also from having taught there from 2000 to 2002, I appreciate the Christian environment and commitment to educational excellence of Samford," he said.

Benefits

While it's clear that Samford students and faculty would benefit from experience in the culture some predict will dominate the global economy in coming decades, how would an exchange serve Barkley's SGU community? He said his students benefit in two key ways.

"First," Barkley said, "our students spend up to a year experiencing a foreign culture and strengthening their

language skills. Out of this experience, they have a broader understanding of the world and an expanding world view."

Barkley said Samford's Howard College of Arts and Sciences and Cumberland School of Law would be of particular benefit to the SGU community. He also observed that the growing Japanese presence in and around Birmingham might lead SGU students to someday work in the area.

"Second," Barkley continued, "the students on our campus benefit from interactions with the students from overseas who come to us." He noted that only about 5% of SGU's 8,000 students are able to study abroad themselves.

Barkley said SGU's faculty also benefit from exchange agreements, serving as visiting scholars during their sabbaticals. He said an increasing number of Seinan Gakuin faculty also have advanced degrees from non-Japanese universities. "This helps not only their professional development, but also enhances our commitment to becoming more internationalized as a university," he said.

As Samford, too, becomes more internationalized, SGU appears to offer not only a cultural stepping-stone into the entire region, but a geographical one as well. Barkley noted that, historically and culturally, SGU's home city is closer to its Asian neighbors than to other parts of Japan. "SGU provides something of a unique opportunity to experience not only Japan and Japanese culture, but the broader Asian culture as well," he said. "Fukuoka is a gateway city to Asia."

The geography that separated Gary Barkley and Samford might eventually reunite them. ■



Gary Barkley '77 has served as president of Seinan Gakuin University in Japan since 2006.

Sullivans Bring Broad Samford Perspective to Presidency of Parents Leadership Council

by Mary Wimberley

Don '79 and Lori Littlejohn Sullivan '79, M.S.E. '82, bring unique perspective and background to their new role as copresidents of the Samford University Parents Leadership Council [PLC].

The Birmingham couple, who met at Samford and are now the parents of one alumna and one current student, know of what they speak when they discuss the school's merits with other parents.

"We had a wonderful experience at Samford," Lori said of the years she and Don enjoyed as students, adding that the same is true for their daughters, Leigh, a 2008 education graduate, and Lauren, a sophomore math and education major. "We truly appreciate the school and want to give back."

As PLC leaders, they will assist with the group's mission to serve as a voice and ear for all Samford parents. They will preside at the PLC meeting during Step Sing weekend in February and next fall's Parents Association meeting during Family Weekend.

The PLC, comprised of 10 families, encourages parents to be helpful resources for each other, to assist with placing students in internships and careers, and to identify prospective

students who would enjoy the Samford experience. Since PLC members represent various geographic areas, they provide able assistance at freshman send-off parties and activities surrounding road games for various sports.

The Sullivans look forward to sharing their own experiences as former students and parents.

"We will be available to answer questions for prospective students and parents, as well as incoming students and their families," says Lori, who teaches fifth grade at Crestline Elementary School. Don is a customer service account manager at Nortel telecommunication company.

Their senior year was especially eventful for the dating couple. Don, a history major, was elected Mr. Samford. Lori was voted homecoming queen. Both were named to *Who's Who* that year, as was Don's twin brother, Doug.

The 1979 *Entre Nous* yearbook chronicles Don's selection as Pi Guy and Alpha Delta Pi Sweetheart, his service as Alpha Phi Omega chaplain, and memberships in Campus Ministries, Phi Alpha Theta and Pi Gamma Mu.

Lori, whose younger sister, Lisa Littlejohn, is also a Samford graduate, stayed busy with Alpha Delta Pi and Campus Ministries, and membership in Hypatia honor society, several education honoraries, Pi Gamma Mu, Omicron Delta Kappa and the Racquettes. ■

Don and Lori Sullivan



Parents Leadership Council

Kathy and James Clay, Birmingham
 Debbie Cotton, Louisville, Ky.
 Barbara and Dick Denman, Jacksonville, Fla.
 Deborah and Mike Fenwick, Old Hickory, Tenn.
 Lori Jones, Suwanee, Ga.
 Joni and Bradley Ojard, Spanish Fort, Ala.
 Vicki and Ed Simmons, Memphis, Tenn.
 Julie and Eric Stroom, Gainesville, Ga.*
 Melinda and Michael Waters, Birmingham
 Dalal and Wayne Wiley, Kennesaw, Ga.
 Susan and Fred Wilson, Saraland, Ala.

*Immediate past copresidents

CLASSnotes

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This issue includes Class Notes received through November 5, 2008.

ALUMNI

'43 **Vivian J. Langley** ministers to pastors in the islands of Dominica, St. Vincent, Nevis and Guyana. She lives in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and Camp Hill, Ala.

'50 **Hazel A. Walter** of Gainesville, Fla., serves on the board of directors of North Florida Retirement Village.

'54 **Joseph W. House** of San Ramon, Calif., retired recently.

'56 **Sherry Prichard** teaches kindergarten at Briarwood Christian School, Birmingham.

'57 **Cecil O. Brown** of Gadsden, Ala., is director of Etowah Christian Institute, Etowah Baptist Association.

Walter Davis of Rowlett, Texas, retired as associate pastor of Mimosa Lane Baptist Church.

'63 **William Thomas Cole** retired as associate pastor/education at First Baptist Church, Sebring, Fla., completing 50 years in local church ministry. He will conduct conferences and be a consultant in Christian education, discipleship, church building, planning and student ministry.

Steve Lipscomb of Tallahassee, Fla., retired from Skaggs Albertson's, but soon returned to work. He is a pharmacist.

'64 **J. C. Tharp** of Nashville, Tenn., retired from LifeWay Christian Resources.

'66 **Ann Edwards** of Stow, Ohio, retired as music teacher at Woodridge Primary School.

'69 **Michael McKenzie** of Gainesville, Fla., presented a poster on an honors seminar course on Magic Bullets at the second World Conference on Magic Bullets in Nuremberg, Germany, in October. He is senior associate dean of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy.

Richard V. Swindle was named senior vice president for university advancement at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., in July. He is responsible for all of Mercer's fundraising activities, alumni service, development communications and university records. Dr. Swindle will continue to serve as senior vice president—Atlanta, with responsibility for operation of that campus and the regional academic centers. He and his wife, **Dorothy Granade Swindle '76**, live in Lilburn, Ga. They have two daughters, **Anna Swindle '07** and Susan Swindle.

'70 **James Hodges, M.B.A.**, is retired. He lives in Greenwood, Miss.

'71 **Frank Morrison** is president of Kasson and Associates Insurance Agency, LLC, Pickerington, Ohio. He lives in Blacklick, Ohio.

'72 **Rish Wood** is Southeast business development manager with the Catalyst Group, a government relations and business development firm in Washington, D.C.

'73 **Mickey Tumlin, B.S. Pharm. '76**, is regional support manager with CVS Pharmacy, Inc. He has served Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy as an advisory board member and adjunct professor.

'74 **Pamela Sherrill Walker** is instructional technology specialist with Vestavia Hills (Ala.) City Schools. She and her husband, Charles, have two children, Spencer and Jordan.

'76 **Clyde Walker** is associate director of student financial aid at Vanderbilt University. The former Samford director of financial aid (1989–97) recently completed a one-year term as president of the 661-member Tennessee Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. He and his wife, Joanie, live in Brentwood, Tenn. Their son, **Dow Walker**, is a 2006 Samford graduate.

'78 **Joseph A. Lane, J.D.**, was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2009* in the areas of commercial litigation and construction law. He is a member of the law firm of Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A., in Orlando, Fla.

Ellen Guice Sims is associate pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

'79 **Nick Foster** is executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County, Indiana. He and his wife, Candace Kuby, live in Bloomington, Ind.

Mary Anne Gibbons, J.D., is president of the Women's Committee of 100 for Birmingham, Inc. She retired after 20 years as senior clerk to a U.S. district judge, and now does independent legal research and writing.

Kenneth D. Hampton, J.D. '82, is an attorney in Huntsville, Ala.

Shelley Peterson is U.S. community relations manager, LexisNexis. She lives in Dayton, Ohio.

Cynthia Roberts Vines, a teacher at North Jefferson Middle School, was named 2008 Jefferson County Teacher of the Year. She lives in Morris, Ala.

'80 **Timothy G. Crawford** is dean of the College of Christian Studies, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, Texas.

Dale Whitmire Reynolds is associate chairman of the department of music at the University of Alabama at

Irons First Samford Grad To Win Top UA Medical Alumni Award



Irons

Dr. George V. Irons, Jr. '52, who was honored as a Samford University Alumnus of the Year in 2007, was named one of two 2008 Distinguished Alumni of the University of Alabama Medical

Alumni Association.

He is the first Samford graduate ever to receive the prestigious UA Medical Alumni award.

A well-known cardiologist, Irons is founder and president of Mid Carolina Cardiology in Charlotte, N.C. Still active,

he has practiced cardiology for more than half a century. He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and a member of other eminent organizations in his profession. He was a fellow in cardiology at Duke University.

Irons was a straight-A student at then-Howard College and went on to record the highest academic average in history at the medical college, a straight-A+ mark that still stands.

He is the son of Dr. George V. Irons, Sr., who taught history for more than 40 years at Samford. Irons' brother, William, is a 1966 graduate of Samford's Cumberland School of Law. ■

Birmingham. She is also organist at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church, accompanist for the Birmingham Concert Chorale and keyboardist for the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. She has a daughter, Jennifer.

Kenneth Smith is a technical representative with Medquist, Inc. He lives in Monroe, La.

'81 **Tena Diliberto** is senior manager of Culotta Scroggins Hendricks and Gillespie, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants, Vestavia Hills, Ala.

Joyce Marr Dorman of Evans, Ga., is a nurse practitioner at Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Ga.

'82 **Lynette Parker Cotton** is customer service representative with UCB pharmaceuticals.

Darlene McCall Higginbotham of Boiling Springs, S.C., is coordinator of elementary special education in Cherokee County School District I. She is pursuing a master's in administration.

'83 **James Graham** is assistant professor of Christian education at Dallas Baptist University, Texas.

Robert N. Poole is a builder with David Weekley Homes, Atlanta, Ga.

Clell E. Wright is director of choral activities at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas.

'84 **Anita Bice** is a project leader in the music department of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn. She lives in Spring Hill, Tenn.

Joyce Thompson Heames, M.B.A. '88, is an assistant professor in the College of Business and Economics at West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.Va.

Vaughn L. Yeager is president of Citicorp Trust, N.A. (Florida) in Palm Beach, Fla.

'85 **Joy Hartley Lynch** is a wound ostomy continent nurse at Baptist Medical Center Princeton, Birmingham.

'86 **Alan Medders** is vice president for advancement at the University of North Alabama, Florence.

Katessa Porter Robinson is a reading coach at W. J. Christian School, Birmingham.

Carolyn Millard Withrow of Cleveland, Tenn., is a retired tax accountant.

'87 **Charles Alexander Douglass** and his wife, Annette, live in Sumter, S.C. As director of force protection for U.S. Air Forces

Central, he advises on antiterror and force protection policies supporting 20,000 airmen, including those in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is an Air Force colonel.

Dawn Sellers Driggers of Clinton, S.C., is accompanist for Laurens County Chorale, Greenwood Festival Chorale and the music department at Presbyterian College.

Ginger Yvonne George of Birmingham owns Computer Chicks, Inc., tutoring service.

Heidi McKinley Moody is traveling throughout the United States and Canada with her daughter, Ivy, 12, who is cast in the role of Pepper in the Broadway National Tour of *Annie*. They live in Mason, Ohio.

'88 **Michael N. Adams** is chief, Port Operations School at the U.S. Coast Guard training center in Yorktown, Va. His staff provides training in pollution response, explosive load handling, facility safety and security, and initial indoctrination for senior staff and department heads. He is a lieutenant commander. He and his wife, Amanda, have three sons, Nathan, 10, Daniel, 6, and Joshua, 3.

Jonlyn Denise Nation is a registered nurse and national sales trainer with Mentor Corporation medical device manufacturer. She lives in Brentwood, Tenn.

'89 **Michael William Manning** is an assistant principal for curriculum and instruction with Jefferson County Board of Education. He lives in Empire, Ala.

Brian E. Talley is a security enforcement officer with Custom Protective Services, Birmingham. His daughter, Alyson Nicole, is 12.

'90 **Ernie Carroll, M.Div.**, wrote *A Season in Baghdad: Confessions of a Combat Chaplain*. The book chronicles his time in Iraq with the U.S. Army National Guard while his son, Nathan, competed on a state championship high school football team in Oneonta, Ala. He is director of missions, Friendship Baptist Association.

Bill Cleveland, Ed.D. '03, is superintendent of Homewood City Schools. He retired from the post to teach at Samford's Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies. Cleveland and his wife, Jennifer, have two children, Andrew and Mary Katherine.

Walter Hutchens is chair of the department of economics and business at Whitworth University, Spokane, Wash., where he teaches classes on China, international business and the legal environment of business. He and his wife, Maggie, have a daughter, Helen, 8.

Darrell Blanchard Smith is a graphic designer in Leon, Spain. He and his wife, Nuria, have a child, Valeria, 3.

'91 **John Cooksey Green** married Beverly Ann Dodd in June. They live in Douglasville, Ga., where he teaches French at Douglas County High School.

'92 **Vickie Lynn Sibley Crowell** is clinical pharmacist at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, Miss. She lives in Terry, Miss.

Lenora Peppers Greene of Austin, Texas, is managing director of Kick-Start Marketing. She and her husband, Ron, have a son, Grant, 1

Todd Payne is general manager of Bott Radio Network's 50,000-watt WCRV AM 640, serving Memphis, Tenn., and the Mid-South with Christian talk radio. He and his wife, Michelle, have two children, Mary Grace and Ethan.

William Brian Kennedy of Crowley, Texas, is executive vice president of marketing for C2P Group, LLC. He and his wife, Alexis, have three children, Liam, Declan and Keegan.

Barbara Phillips, M.S.E., is preschool/children's minister at Sardis Springs Baptist Church, Athens, Ala.

Jeff Styres is senior associate counsel in the legal department of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, Jackson, Miss. He also is an adjunct professor in the Mississippi College School of Business, where he teaches economics, business law and ethics. He and his wife, Belinda, have two daughters, Jessica, 7, and Julia, 3.

'93 **Savanna Lea Wills Carson** works in purchasing at Clark Memorials of Alabama, Inc., Birmingham.

Tara Springfield Miller is an independent marketing contractor in Birmingham.

Tiffani K. Russell teaches Spanish at Richmond Hill (Ga.) High School.

Jennifer Davis Williams is completing a residency in pediatrics at T. C. Thompson Children's Hospital, Chattanooga, Tenn. She is a former Samford SGA president.

'94 **Rebecca Barnes Dean** of Pace, Fla., is a student choir music coordinator and private voice instructor. She and her husband, Dennis, have a daughter, Bethany, 3.

C. Alan Hand is vice president/financial adviser, Wachovia Securities, Birmingham. He and his wife, **Lesley M. Hand '96**, have a daughter, Elizabeth Lynn, 1.

Tracy Jessup, M.Div., earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in May. His doctoral dissertation topic was “Presidential Leadership at a Historically Baptist College: A Frame Analysis.” He is assistant dean of students and minister to the university at Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, N.C.

Eric Peyton Walker is a physician assistant at the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Center for Palliative Care.

’95 Ashley Gammill married Daniel Patrick Moran in September. She owns Peas and Carrots by Ashley in Vestavia Hills, Ala.

Randal Larry Gilliam, J.D., is an assistant district attorney in McMinnville, Tenn. He and his wife, Christi, have two children, Garrett, 8, and Raleigh, 5.

Kimberly Bueto Howe lives in Gilroy, Calif. She and her husband, Tim, have three children, a daughter, 5, and twin son and daughter, 3.

Johna Scott Ledlow earned a master’s in theological studies at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala. She and her husband, Jim, live in Trussville, Ala.

Mona Lynn McWilliams Reed is registered nurse—medical management, outpatient review with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Richmond, Va. She and her husband, Mark, live in Glen Allen, Va.

’96 Christina Gargiulo Murata is deputy director and chief science officer for the

CBRNE directorate of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

Karen Marie Gilliam Sonnier is an underwriter with State Farm insurance in Birmingham.

Jessica Henn is a registered interior designer with Crusiet Corporation in Chicago, Ill. She was chosen to design three rooms for the 2008 Oak Park River Forest Showcase House.

Robyn Hess Zomorodian of Jacksonville, Fla., is an assistant vice president with Merrill Lynch. She and her husband, Cyrus, have two children, Ryan and Lindsey.

’97 Kathryn Ashley Baker, M.Acc. ’98, is a senior accountant with McKesson Corporation in Alpharetta, Ga.

Brandy Lynne Eckert Bollen of Jacksonville, Fla., is a chorus teacher at Camden County High School. She and her husband, Paul, have two daughters, Brenna Evelyn, 2, and Avelyn Cassandra, born in August.

Amanda Dee West of Arlington, Texas, is a teacher with the Fort Worth Independent School District.

’98 Stacey Duncan Bledsoe of Birmingham is a senior human resource manager with Cintas. She and her husband, David, have two children, Georgia Catherine, 3, and Carter Davidson, born in September.

Elizabeth Campbell Fortner lives in Milwaukee, Wis., with her husband, John Lee, and their children, twins Molly and Grace, 4, and Audrey, 2.

’99 Joseph R. “Trey” Burton III, Pharm.D., is assistant pharmacy manager for Publix in Hixson, Tenn. He and his wife, **Leslie Anne Butler Burton ’00**, live in Soddy Daisy, Tenn.

Jeffrey Scott Cowan married Morgan Holzapfel in September. He is an outside sales representative with ISCO Industries. They live in Glen Allen, Va.

Louis Martin is an optometrist in Spartanburg, S.C. He and his wife, Janell, have a son, Ligon Blaine, born in August.

Jay Murrill, J.D. ’02, and **Leah Hargett Murrill ’98** live in Birmingham. He is an attorney with The Perkins Group, LLC, practicing in governmental affairs and corporate litigation. She is an occupational therapist with University of Alabama at Birmingham/Civitan Sparks Clinic. They have a son, Peyton, 5.

’00 Destin Jay DuBose, M.Div. ’03, married Jennifer Cloud in December 2007. They live in Tallahassee, Fla., where he is accountant supervisor of penalty collections for the Florida Department of Transportation.

Betsy Jeanne Hitchcock Foster is a nurse at Saint Catherine Regional Hospital, Charlestown, Ind.

’01 Emily Anne Adams is marketing manager with Adventure Travel, Birmingham.

James and Heidi Lynn Sauers Drake live in Homewood, where she is a missionary and he is a campus director for Campus Crusade for Christ. They have a son, James Isaiah, born in November 2007.

Kristin Koch Gammons and Jason Gammons ’02, J.D. ’05, are stationed at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, where he is a captain in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps. They have a daughter, Martha Hope, 1.

Laura Hitt completed a postdoctoral fellowship in mathematics in Dublin, Ireland. She and her husband, Thomas O’Connor, live in Austin, Texas, where she is a lead scientist for 21st Century Technologies.

Ashley Davis Little lives in Tuscaloosa, Ala., with her husband, Justin, and daughter, Eleanor Ashley, born in December 2007.

Amy Marlane Brock Moran lives in Madison, Ala., with her husband, Daniel, and daughter, Sarah Lane, born in July.

Alumnae Sisters Win Music Educator Honors

Samford alumnae and sisters **Babs Blass Dilks ’75** and **Sally Blass Murray ’83** were honored recently for their work as music educators by their respective schools. Both were piano students of the late Samford professor Dr. Betty Sue Shepherd.

In December 2007, Murray was named Teacher of the Year for Paine Primary School in Trussville, Ala. Full-time music specialist there since 1999, she represented the school in the state teacher of the year program. She and her husband, former Samford student **Bill Murray**, are the parents of Samford sophomore **Nick Murray**.

In May, Dilks was named Teacher of the Year at Woolridge Elementary School in Richmond, Va. A music teacher at the school since 1999, she has been music specialist since 2002. She represented the school in the Chesterfield Country



Sally Blass Murray and Babs Blass Dilks

teacher of the year competition. She and her husband, **Bob Dilks ’75**, were missionaries to Japan during 1982–96. Their son, **Bryan Dilks ’06**, is a musician with the Mobile Symphony Orchestra.

Between them, the two sisters, originally from Monroeville, Ala., teach almost 2,000 elementary students a year. ■

Latanishia D. Watters, J.D./ M.B.A., was named one of “Birmingham’s Most Influential” in the recent edition of *Who’s Who in Black Birmingham*. An attorney with Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker, LLC, she is president of the Magic City Bar Association, and is active in other professional and civic groups.

’02 Brian Thomas Foster of Boonville, Mo., is a training coordinator with Walmart. He and his wife, Manda Sue, have two daughters, Deanna Suzette and Charlotte Lynette.

Lee Miller of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., is a pilot with Atlantic Southeast Airlines.

Melinda Barrett Rainer is training to be a community and home outreach missionary with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. She and her husband, David Christian, will serve in Shizuoka City, Japan, after Jan. 1. They have a son, William Luke, born in April.

Amy Griffith Wiggins is a teacher and athletic trainer at Callaway High School, Hogansville, Ga.

’03 Jamie D. Ailor teaches third grade at Seoul Foreign School, Korea.

Jennifer Stark Coffelt and her husband, Brian, live in Greenbriar, Tenn.

James Douglas and his wife, Georganne, live in Birmingham.

Lindsey Tiner Miller and her husband, Jason, live in Danville, Ky.

Heather Morris of Owens Cross Roads, Ala., earned a master’s degree in molecular microbiology from University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas. She is a research scientist with Jacobs ESTS Group. She and her husband, Chris, have a son, Luke Christopher, born in June.

Suzette Pittman married LaDerrick Anderson in March. They live in Jackson, Miss., where she is student support coordinator for Mississippi Children’s Home Services.

Christina Bridge Sweeting and her husband, Chad, live in Atlanta, Ga.

’04 Cassidy Taylor Cook earned a doctor of dental medicine degree at the University of Florida in May. A resident in the UF advanced education in general dentistry program in Seminole, Fla., he lives in Clearwater, Fla.

Paul C. Deichmann, Pharm.D., of Birmingham owns Harpersville Pharmacy.

Marianne Nichols Korsower is a political analyst for the federal government in Washington, D.C. She earned a master’s degree in international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007. She and her husband, Brent David, live in McLean, Va.

John Braxton Watkins is a senior tax accountant with Deltacom, Inc., in Huntsville, Ala.

’05 Raney Lynn Bullock and Keith Patrick Cronin married in September. A 2008 graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, she is a clerk for Chancellor Robert Corlew of the 16th Judicial District in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Keith is a financial analyst for FTI Healthcare Consulting. They live in Franklin, Tenn.

Emily Lauren Nunnally completed a doctorate in physical therapy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and is an outpatient physical therapist at Baptist Princeton Hospital, Birmingham.

Kyle Wayne Tomlinson is an accountant with KraftCPAs, PLLC, in Nashville, Tenn.

’06 Michael and Megan Green Brock live in Columbus, Ohio. He is enrolled at Capital University School of Law, and she works for State Farm Insurance.

Adam Dauro and Lauren Obermann ’07 married in August. They live in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Sarah Elizabeth Haymond is a personnel and residence life officer at Black Forest Academy, Kandern, Germany.

Courtney D. Kirby, M.B.A./M.Acc., a certified public accountant, is a tax accountant with Alabama Power Company. She married Ryan Dodd in August.

Marlene Mann married Jonathan Cox in August. They live in Birmingham.

Catherine Suzanne Martin is event coordinator with the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s office of development.

Leonel Muralles is Wellness Rewards program coordinator and disease management coordinator for East Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie, La. He is pursuing a master’s in exercise science and health promotion at Southeastern Louisiana University.

Kara Elizabeth Nail of Douglasville, Ga., is a licensed financial services representative with SunTrust Bank.

’07 David Bailey and Kimberly Parish married in June. They live in Louisville, Ky.

Misti Houck Bailey, Pharm.D., is a staff pharmacist with Indian Health Service, Whiteriver, Ariz.

Patrick Barker earned the highest score of all candidates who took the Certified Public Accountants exam in Alabama during the most recent testing period. He qualified for the honor by completing the four-part exam within a three-month period and passing all parts on the first attempt. He is an accountant with the Birmingham C.P.A. firm of Dent Baker and Company, where he worked as a student intern.

Lainee Marie Buchanan is a teacher with Mountain Brook, Ala., schools.

David Keith Davis is an accountant at Dent, Baker & Company, LLP, Birmingham.

Kathryn Lauren Underwood Harbin and her husband, Seth, live in Oak Harbor, Wash. She is dietitian at Island Hospital and Whidbey General Hospital.

Ashleigh Nicole Hicks is an audit associate with Sellers, Richardson, Holman & West, LLP, Birmingham.

Amanda Janise Medina is on the architectural staff at Architects Van Lom Group, Portland, Ore.

Mary Leah Singletary Miller, J.D., is an attorney with Alvis & Willingham, LLP, Birmingham.

Jeremiah Lewe West is a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan.

Julie Ann Yonts married Kevin Woosley in May. They live in Tuscaloosa, Ala. She is a leasing professional with Sealy Realty.

’08 Megan Leigh Fischer Brown, Pharm.D., of Lexington, Ky., is a pharmacist with Rite Aid.

Whitney G. O’Steen works at ESPN. She lives in Hartford, Conn.

Brittany Register is a neuroscience pharmaceutical representative with Eli Lilly & Company. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Lauren Elizabeth Steele is a sales assistant with Morgan Keegan, Nashville, Tenn.

Jennifer Lauren Thomas married Grant David Hanna in July. They live in Slidell, La., where she is director of marketing and public relations at ACT MGM Co., Inc. ■

births

- '85 Lola and **Preston Blackwelder** of McDonough, Ga., a daughter, Aubrie, born Nov. 7, 2007.
- '89 John and **Mary Thomas Matthews** of Morris, Ala., a daughter, Margaret Anne, born March 15, 2008.
- '90 Sylvia and **David Corts** of Atlanta, Ga., a son, Charles Edward, born April 17, 2008.
- '91 Mark and **Lisa B. Downing** of Mount Olive, Ala., the adoption of a son, Jonah Mark, from China in July 2007.
- '92 Julie and **Scott Austin** of Alabaster, Ala., a daughter, Lydia Grace, born July 13, 2008.
- Alexis and **William Brian Kennedy** of Crowley, Texas, a son, Keegan Pierce, born Sept. 29, 2008.
- Paula and **Ande Underwood** of Alabaster, Ala., the adoption of a son, Christopher Andrew, age 12, from Kiev, Ukraine, in January 2008.
- '93 John and **Laura Wright Lewis** of Hoover, Ala., a son, Joseph Henry Trumpower, born Dec. 13, 2007.
- '94 **C. Alan** and **Lesley M. Hand** '96 of Birmingham, a daughter, Elizabeth Lynn, born March 6, 2007.
- '95 **Jason** and **Kelly Snow Preston** '96 of Newnan, Ga., a son, Andrew Mason, born Oct. 6, 2008.
- '96 Ana and **David Mintz** of Acworth, Ga., twins, Mathew and Nicholas, born Sept. 6, 2007.
- Beunka Evans Newton** and **Mark Newton, Pharm.D.** '97, of McCalla, Ala., a son, Reed Franklin, born July 13, 2008.
- '97 Paul and **Brandy Lynne Eckert Bollen** of Jacksonville, Fla., a daughter, Avelyn Cassandra, born Aug. 19, 2008.
- Mandy and **David Anderson Hartley** of Hoover, Ala., a son, Tate Anderson, born Sept. 10, 2008.
- Eric and **Angie Thamer Hinkle** of Tyrone, Ga., a daughter, Ella Grace, born Dec. 20, 2007.
- Brian and **Adrienne Dawn Allen Irons** of Harvest, Ala., a son, Brennan Allen, born April 24, 2008.
- Christy and **Judson Keen** of Vero Beach, Fla., a daughter, Olivia Grace, born Feb. 11, 2008.
- Merle** and **Christa Prater Wade** of Gadsden, Ala., a daughter, Mary Ainsley, born May 16, 2008.
- Jason and **Lydia Hostetter Watkins** of Lansing, Mich., a daughter, Alyvia Grayce, born Sept. 22, 2008.
- '98 David and **Stacey Duncan Bledsoe** of Birmingham, a son, Carter Davidson, born Sept. 18, 2008.
- Scott** and **Courtney Howell McCrory** of Homewood, a son, Tyler Robert, born July 23, 2008.
- '99 James and **Corrie Brooks Carr** of Charlotte, N.C., a daughter, Kaylee Marie, born June 2, 2008.
- Steven and **Ruth Ann Barr Craven** of Franklin, Tenn., the adoption of a daughter, Anna Marie, from Bogota, Columbia, on March 31, 2008.
- Holly Hughey Goff** and **Josh Goff** '00 of Birmingham, a son, Maxwell Andrew, born July 9, 2008.
- Janell and **Louis Martin** of Spartanburg, S.C., a son, Ligon Blaine, born in August, 2008.
- Scott and **Susie Gibala Mckerley** of Alabaster, Ala., a daughter, Madelyn Elizabeth, born Aug. 25, 2008.
- Justin and **Meredith Williams Salmon** of Spring Hill, Tenn., a daughter, Emerson Caroline, born July 8, 2008.
- '00 Karen and **Adam S. Blair** of Birmingham, a son, Charles Adams, born May 26, 2008.
- Amy Cross Duffey** and **Sam Duffey** '01 of Birmingham, a daughter, Olivia, born March 23, 2007.
- Jennifer Smith Hunsberger** and **Christopher Hunsberger** '01 of Vestavia Hills, Ala., a daughter, Olivia Grace, born July 9, 2008.
- Aron and **Aimee Hutchinson Smith** of Pelham, Ala., a son, Micah James, born Nov. 28, 2007.
- '01 **James** and **Heidi Lynn Sauers Drake** of Homewood, a son, James Isaiah, born Nov. 30, 2007.
- Justin and **Ashley Davis Little** of Tuscaloosa, Ala., a daughter, Eleanor Ashley, born Dec. 30, 2007.
- Daniel and **Amy Marlane Brock Moran** of Madison, Ala., a daughter, Sarah Lane, born July 2, 2008.
- '02 Jared and **Ashley Faust Bussey** of Homewood, a son, Hudson Paul, born May 14, 2008.
- Jason and **Kelly Novay McCrea** of Alpharetta, Ga., a daughter, Emily Ann, born April 30, 2008.
- David Christian and **Melinda Barrett Rainier** of Opelika, Ala., a son, William Luke, born April 23, 2008.
- Debbie and **Jonathan Vieira** of Franklin, Tenn., a daughter, Peyton Grace, born Sept. 13, 2008.
- '03 Kevin Langdon and **Mary Ellen Chesney Bell** of New Bern, N.C., a daughter, Hadley Marie, born Aug. 30, 2007.
- Josh and **Tiffany Sandel Bledsoe** of Nashville, Tenn., a son, Wesley, born March 25, 2008.
- Doty and **Jon Hoffman** of Smyrna, Ga., a daughter, Lydia, born Jan. 11, 2008.
- Jason** and **Lauren Keel Shinn** of Sugar Hill, Ga., a daughter, Abigail Kaylee, born May 23, 2008.
- Kelly and **Elizabeth Hill Wilder** of Loxley, Ala., a son, Sam, born Sept. 25, 2008.
- '04 **John** and **Margaret Martin Lancaster** of Gadsden, Ala., a son, Charles Thomas, born Sept. 18, 2008.
- Jennifer and **Scott Larimore** of Atlanta, Ga., a daughter, Anna Katherine, born March 6, 2008.
- '07 Justin and **Trish Little, Pharm.D.**, of Helena, Ala., a daughter, Emily Kaylen, born Sept. 3, 2008. ■

Share photos of your little Bulldog on the alumni photo gallery. E-mail your electronic files to bltwr@samford.edu.

inmemoriam

'34 **Mary Elizabeth Anderson Glover** of Leroy, Ala., died Sept. 18, 2008. A retired teacher, she also taught Sunday school for 53 years.

'37 **Daniel Otis McClusky**, age 92, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., died Oct. 12, 2008. Administrator of Druid City Hospital for three decades, he was president of the Alabama Hospital Association, and a recipient of top state and national professional honors. He was a member of the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living graduate of Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy. He served on the pharmacy advisory board and received the school's distinguished alumnus award in 1997. Memorials may be made to McWhorter School of Pharmacy, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229.

'43 **Stanley Hand**, age 86, of Athens, Ala., died Oct. 4, 2008. Before his retirement in 1990, he delivered some 4,000 babies during 45 years of medical practice. He was a president of the Alabama Medical Association.

'49 **Charles Edward Graham**, age 85, of Fairhope, Ala., died Aug. 30, 2008. A Baptist minister, he was professor of Old Testament at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary from 1977 until retirement in 1989. A U.S. Navy veteran, he served on the USS Wisconsin during World War II.

'50 **George Stephens**, age 82, of Vestavia Hills, Ala., died Oct. 13, 2008. A pharmacist, he owned Steve's Pharmacy in Fairfield, Ala.

William Henry Vann, age 87, of Birmingham, died Oct. 13, 2008. He owned and operated Vann Drug Company in Gadsden, Ala., for 25 years, and he served four terms as president of the Etowah County Drug Association. He was a Past Master of his Masonic Lodge. He was a U.S. Navy medic with the Marines in the South Pacific during World War II.

'56 **James Russell Brown**, age 90, of Birmingham, died Sept. 24, 2008. He was a retired accountant who was in the Knights of Columbus for more than 40 years. He served in Patton's Third Army during World War II.

James E. Hawkins, of Tuscumbia, Ala., died February 11, 2008. He practiced pharmacy in Florence and Tuscumbia for more than 50 years, and was recently retired from White's Drugs.

Sara E. Hutchinson of Enterprise, Ala., died Sept. 8, 2008. She was a retired home economist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

'58 **Philip Lyle Bentley**, age 81, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., died Sept. 22, 2008. He was a member of Hendon Engineering Associates, Inc., in Birmingham for 50 years. A pioneer and leader in the natural gas distribution industry, he designed gas systems and advised municipal gas districts.

'59 **Hancell G. Bankester**, age 75, of Vicksburg, Miss., died Oct. 13, 2008. He was a minister in Kentucky, Alabama and Mississippi, most recently serving First Christian Church of Vicksburg.

'60 **Richard Carlton Brackin**, age 74, of Rockledge, Fla., died Oct. 9, 2008. He was a Baptist minister who started missions and led revivals in South America, Korea and India. He served King Street Baptist Church, Cocoa, Fla., during 1980–89.

'62 **Eugen Heckl**, age 74, of Lexington, Ky., died Sept. 2, 2008. He retired as chief financial officer of Oglethorpe Power Corporation. A native of Germany, he became a U.S. citizen in 1961.

'63 **Margaret Palmer Vann**, age 88, of Decatur, Ala., died Oct. 15, 2008. She taught exceptional children and the physically handicapped, and was director of special education for Huntsville, Decatur and Morgan County schools. The Alabama Council for Exceptional Children's coordinator award, which she received in 1982, was later named in her honor.

'65 **Edwin C. Graves**, age 64, of Alexandria, Va., died Oct. 9, 2008, of pneumonia and lymphoma. He was a former Capitol Hill aide and retired government affairs adviser who owned and operated his own lobbying firm. He was a press secretary to Alabama Senator John Sparkman and Kentucky Senator Walter Huddleston. He served in the Alabama Air National Guard during the Vietnam War.

'66 **Mae Ellis Moore Flynt**, age 88, of Pinson, Ala., died Sept. 28, 2008. She taught Alabama history to fourth-grade students in Oxford, Opelika, Center Point and Pinson elementary schools, and Bible stories to Baptist children in all of the towns where she lived. Memorials may be made to the Mae Moore Flynt Scholarship in Classics, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229.

John Guessna Harrell, J.D., age 66, of Birmingham, died Aug. 27, 2008. He was an associate professor at Cumberland School of Law and corporate attorney for South Central Bell. He practiced with the firm of Bradley, Arant, Rose & White for 35 years, specializing in public finance, economic and energy transactions.

'71 **Gwendolyn H. Smock**, age 59, of Huntsville, Ala., died Aug. 25, 2008. She taught English and later became a hearing aid technician. She played flute in her church orchestra.

'72 **Charles Steven Parker**, age 59, of Elgin, Ill., died Sept. 22, 2008, after a heart attack. He founded several businesses, including Parker Products, now known as Amerisafe, Inc., and later was board-certified by the National Board of Naprapathic Examiners. As a member of Samford's 1971 football team, he caught a key touchdown pass for the team in the national championship bowl game.

'75 **C. Perry Relfe, J.D.**, age 64, of Homewood, died Aug. 27, 2008. A former vice president for university relations at Samford, he was most recently president and treasurer of Birmingham Urban Revitalization Partnership. He was a long-time SouthTrust Bank executive, serving as chief financial officer—finance and administration. He was on boards of the American Heart Association and Alabama Council Boy Scouts of America.

'80 **Dennis McGee**, of Odenville, Ala., died Sept. 24, 2008, of liver disease. He was a pharmacist.

'85 **John Nathanael Bryan, Sr., J.D.**, of Vestavia Hills, Ala., died Aug. 25, 2008. He practiced law for 23 years, and was a partner at the law firm of Marsh, Rickard & Bryan, P.C.

'86 **Donna Faye Ford**, age 48, of Moody, Ala., formerly of Bessemer, Ala., died Sept. 16, 2008. She was an auditor.

'90 **Cathryn Lynn Caldwell**, age 56, of Birmingham, died Oct. 20, 2008, in a traffic accident in North Carolina. She worked 25 years as a labor and delivery nurse.

'94 **Jeff Carr, J.D.**, age 39, of Guntersville, Ala., died Sept. 22, 2008. An attorney in Guntersville, he previously practiced in Albertville and Gulf Shores, Ala.

'99 **Jeffrey Eugene Stanley**, age 31, of Vestavia Hills, Ala., died Sept. 25, 2008. He worked at Compass Bank. He had been an officer in the U.S. Air Force, where he was twice Junior Officer of the Year. ■

Adams Leads Volleyball to Season of Superlatives



Ashley Adams

Senior outside hitter Ashley Adams brought an impressive résumé with her when she enrolled at Samford last summer. The freshman Cumberland School of Law student had been a highly successful volleyball player at Middle Tennessee State University for three years, leading the Blue Raiders to a Sweet 16 appearance in last year's NCAA tournament. She was Offensive Player of the Year in the Sun Belt Conference and the league's Most Valuable Player.

But that was all behind her as she prepared to begin that tough first year of law school. In a way, college volleyball had become almost a chore. "It was fun to win, but it wasn't fun to play volleyball," she said.

Even so, she had a year of playing eligibility left. When she arrived at Samford, she researched the volleyball program and decided to talk with new coach Dex Schroeder about playing her final year as a Bulldog.

Schroeder and his team welcomed Adams with open arms, and agreed to work around her law school study responsibilities.

"When I decided to play, I really wasn't sure what was going to happen," she said. "But we've had a great season, and we are actually still having fun."

In their first Southern Conference season, the Bulldogs put together by far the best record in school history (28-5), the most wins in a season, the longest home win streak (10) and earlier this season, the longest win streak in school history (12). Adams led the team in kills (425) and attempts (932) and ranked second on the single-season list for hitting percentage with .349.

Also this season, she was named Southern Conference Player of the Week three times and SoCon Player of the Year. She ranked among the nation's best in kills per set and hitting percentage, and led the conference in kills throughout the season.

With all the success, Adams has juggled a load of first-year law classes. She says she has enjoyed every minute of it. Her teammates have been a large part of her success, enjoyment and appreciation for the year.

"Not only do I enjoy playing volleyball here, I enjoy playing with these girls," Adams said. "The team is really important. I feel like I don't want to let my teammates down."

Adams is no stranger to being the new kid in town; she has moved around a lot. She was born in Valencia, Calif. When she was 10, her family moved to Columbus, Ohio, and lived there for six years. When she was in high school, she moved to St. Louis, Mo., and finished her final two years of high school before moving to Murfreesboro, Tenn., for college.

Adams started playing volleyball in a recreational league when she was in fourth grade. She played basketball and softball as well, but soon gave up both after realizing she had a natural volleyball talent. It's a talent she fulfilled in high school, at Middle Tennessee State, and for one great season, at Samford University. ■

Soccer Team Goes to Semifinals in First SoCon Tournament

Samford enjoyed a successful first soccer season in the Southern Conference, earning a third-place finish in league standings with an 8-1-2 record and advancing to the semifinal round of the SoCon post-season tournament.

Coach Todd Yelton's Bulldogs beat the College of Charleston, 4-1, in the SoCon tournament opening round in a match decided by penalty kicks after the teams battled to a 0-0 tie. The team then lost to Western Carolina, 1-0, in the semifinal round to finish with a 9-9-3 season record.

Samford got off to a slow start this fall due in part to a tough preconference schedule (three opponents in the top 30 in the nation), and several key injuries. They won just one of their first eight games and dropped consecutive 1-0 losses to Arkansas, Alabama and UAB.

"No one wants to find themselves 1 and 7," said Coach Yelton. "You can either give up or just work harder. I was very impressed with our players in that they continued to work hard and expected that it would eventually pay off. They would not quit. I am extremely proud of this group."

The challenging preconference schedule helped prepare Samford for a demanding conference race, even with key injuries to last year's leading scorer, Lauren Cook, and Lindsay Matern. Once into the SoCon schedule, Yelton's team turned things around quickly.

After going 1-1-1 in their first three matches, the Bulldogs won seven and tied one the rest of the way. They were 5-0-1 in home conference games, outscoring foes 15-2.

Junior Amber Cress and freshman Sarah Wilkinson led Samford scoring with five goals each. Cress scored 12 points and Wilkinson 11 in all. Freshman goalkeeper Alyssa Whitehead, who finished the season as the starter after injuries to senior Cayley Winters, had a 5-3-2 record with four shutouts and led in saves with 49.

Next year, Samford will return all 11 starters from this year's squad and 11 additional letterwinners.

"The future is very bright for us," said Yelton. "We have a tremendously young squad, and we have great team chemistry. Our players are great individuals, and I think they are a talented lot." ■

Amber Cress



Bulldogs Introduce Themselves to the Southern Conference

by William Nunnolley

SPORTS



Dustin Taliaferro

Coach Pat Sullivan's Samford football team earned a measure of respect in its first Southern Conference season this fall. Picked to finish last in the SoCon pre-season poll, the Bulldogs posted a 6-5 record and finished fourth in the nine-team league with a 4-4 conference mark.

"This is as enjoyable a team as I have ever been around," said Sullivan. "The enthusiasm of the players and coaches pulling together has just been outstanding. There's a lot of respect and good feeling and unselfishness on this team."

Sullivan said he knew about the strong reputation of the Southern Conference but didn't know what to expect during Samford's first season. "We found out anybody can beat anybody on any given day," he said.

His Bulldogs were further along as a team than he thought they would be, Sullivan said.

"The coaches have worked so hard and blended well together, but it starts with recruiting," he said. "The underlying thing there is Samford, which has so much to offer. And the enthusiasm of the students and faculty for the football program has been great."

One question mark coming into the 2008 season was quarterback. Senior Dante Williams, the only signal caller with game experience, went down to a season-ending knee injury on the first day of practice.

Freshman Dustin Taliaferro was thrust into the starting position and performed very well. He finished second in the conference in passing efficiency (a 146.9 rating), throwing for 1,745 yards and 13 touchdowns while completing 67 percent of his passes. He was named SoCon freshman of the year.

"Dustin had outstanding talent, but you never know what a freshman's football maturity is," said Sullivan. "Dustin is a great young man, a smart young man with a lot of maturity. Coach [Steve] Brickey, our offensive coordinator, did an outstanding job of bringing him along."

With sophomore running back Chris Evans posting his second consecutive 1,000-yard season, Samford finished third in the SoCon in rushing offense (172.1 yards a game). Evans gained 1,284 yards to lead the conference and establish a Samford season record. He scored 14 touchdowns.

Sullivan also praised Samford's defense, led by defensive coordinator Bill D'Ottavio. The Bulldogs allowed fewer points per game (18.8) than any other SoCon team, and also finished first in rushing defense (103.6 yards an outing), total defense (318.3 yards a game) and turnover margin (plus 14).

Linebacker Bryce Smith was a defensive stalwart, finishing fifth in the league in tackles and second in interceptions.

Sullivan praised his 11 seniors for providing team leadership, one being Williams, who didn't play a down. "Dante got hurt very early, but he was at every practice all season, helping the young quarterbacks and other players with things. To me, he epitomized our whole team."

The coach said it was exciting to see the progress the team had made during his two seasons. "It's like night and day to see how far it has come," said Sullivan. "As for this season, you always want to go back and replay the games you lost, but even though you can't do that, it's been a good year." ■



GMVING

Hemerocallis 'Hazel Boren' Will Grace New Courtyard and Gardens Bearing Its Name

by William Nunnelley

Hazel Boren's favorite color is red. That's all Samford daylily enthusiasts Paul and Judi Aucoin needed to know.

The Aucoins have been active members of the American Hemerocallis Society [AHS] for more than two decades, growing and developing their own varieties of the colorful flowers that bloom each June. Paul is dean of academic services and Judi is director of donor relations.

As Samford prepared to dedicate its new Hazel P. Boren Courtyard and Gardens during the fall, advancement officer Jim Hamil talked with the Aucoins about providing an appropriate daylily that might be named for Mrs. Boren.

"When Jim told me that red was her favorite color, we decided to name one of my best reds in her honor," said Paul. "Its registered name is *Hemerocallis* 'Hazel Boren.'"

The flower was planted in the centerpiece of the striking new courtyard and garden Oct. 9, when Samford formally dedicated the area between Brock Recital Hall, Wright Center and Buchanan Hall music building. The daylily will bloom again next spring.

While *Hemerocallis* 'Hazel Boren' now has a name, it actually originated in 2001, when Aucoin placed the pollen from one daylily on the pistil of another in hope of getting seeds to create the new variety. The process is called hybridizing.

"The cross resulted in two seeds," said Aucoin. "They bloomed two years later, and this one was selected as good enough to continue evaluating."

He noted that its parents were daylilies named *H. Broadway Valentine* and *H. Awesome Bob*. The Valentine

name turned out to be especially appropriate. When donor Russell Boren of Birmingham made a contribution to Samford to provide the garden two years ago, he did so as a Valentine's Day gift to his wife, Hazel.

The Aucoins have developed about 30 daylily varieties they thought good enough to name over the past two decades. Their home garden in Vestavia Hills has been designated an AHS Display Garden for Alabama and Mississippi. They are also members of the AHS Display Garden Committee.

The Boren Gardens dedication came on a sunlit afternoon with fall plantings abloom and student musicians performing. "We all desire to spend time in a garden, and this is a special place in which to do so," said Samford President Andrew Westmoreland. It provides outdoor space for concerts and programs, and also serves as a gathering place for students between three School of the Arts facilities.

Dr. Westmoreland noted that the Boren family had "benefited generations of Samford students" through scholarships and that the gardens were only the latest example of their generosity.

Mrs. Boren is a longtime member of the Samford University Auxiliary and its scholarship committee. The dedication followed the first auxiliary meeting of the 2008-09 calendar, and many members of the organization were present.

The garden features Japanese maple, crape myrtle, American boxwood, camellia, hydrangea, Indian Hawthorne, willow oak, begonia, mums and Asiatic jasmine as well as Mondo and Zoysia grasses.

The Samford Steel band welcomed guests gathering for the dedication and

played at the close of the program. Senior Rachel Emery, a violinist, performed "Amazing Grace," one of Hazel Boren's favorites, during the program.

Russell Boren owns Boren Explosives, Dixie Drilling Company and Apache Construction Company of Birmingham. His businesses work with coal mining, rock quarry and construction companies. He and his wife are natives of Blount County.

Even though he graduated from Auburn University, Boren told of numerous family ties to Samford in addition to Hazel's long auxiliary involvement. He is a lifelong Baptist whose grade-school teacher and whose various pastors all were Samford graduates.

"What we see with this school is just great," he said.

At the close of the program, Westmoreland thanked the Borens for being friends of Samford.

"You are further extending the reach of this institution," he said. ■

Hemerocallis Hazel Boren



with appreciation

Samford University expresses gratitude for these additional tribute gifts received Sept. 1–Oct. 31, 2008. For further information, contact the Samford University Gift Office at 205-726-2807.

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Mr. Glenn E. Slye, Birmingham
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Avalee Willoughby Scholarship Fund
in memory of Dr. Avalee Willoughby
Mrs. Mary A. Glazner, Birmingham ■

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events

For details or the complete Samford University calendar, go to www.samford.edu/calendars/html.

- Dec. 22–26** University offices closed for Christmas holidays
- Jan. 1–2** University offices closed for New Year's holiday
- Jan. 3** Law and Civic School Violence Prevention Workshop, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Robinson Hall, 205-726-2433
- Jan. 4** Alabama Youth Symphony weekly music opportunity, 2:30–5 p.m. (continues each Sunday afternoon through the spring semester), Brock Hall, 205-726-2778
- Jan. 5** Jan Term classes begin
- Cumberland School of Law spring semester classes begin
- Jan. 10** Metropolitan Opera district auditions, 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Harrison Theatre, 205-726-2504
- Jan. 11** Fashion Fair, sponsored by *Ebony* magazine, 5 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall
Tickets: 205-425-5850
- Jan. 16–17** Instrumental Ministries Workshop, sponsored by Alabama Baptist Convention, Brock Hall, 1-800-264-1225, ext. 217
- Jan. 19** Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, no classes; university offices closed
- Jan. 20** ASO Concertmaster and Friends concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall, www.alabamasymphony.org
- Jan. 22** Jan Term classes end
- Jan. 24** High school basketball classic, sponsored by the Birmingham Tip-Off Club, 5:30 p.m., Hanna Center
- Jan. 26** Spring semester classes begin
- Samford Auxiliary Night at the basketball games, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., Hanna Center, 205-726-3152
- Jan. 27** Swingle Singers and Birmingham Boys Choir concert, 7:30 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall, www.samfordartstickets.com
- Jan. 31** Preministerial Scholars Day, 205-726-2925
- Feb. 3** Faculty Duo Piano Recital: Barbara and Ron Shinn, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Feb. 4** Faculty Women's Club meeting, 10 a.m., Hospitality Room, Hanna Center, 205-726-2229
- Feb. 4–March 13** Artist Showcase: Blown Glass by Sam Cornman, Samford Art Gallery, Swearingen Hall, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Monday–Friday
- Feb. 5–8** Musical Theatre Performance: *A . . . My Name Will be Alice*, Bolding Studio, www.samfordartstickets.com for performance times and tickets
- Feb. 6–7** School of the Arts scholarship weekend, 205-726-2778
- Carmina Burina* performed by Samford A Cappella Choir with Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Alys Stephens Center, www.alabamasymphony.org for performance times and tickets
- Feb. 6–8** Kaleo Conference, vocational exploration conference sponsored by University Ministries, 206-726-2825
- Feb. 7** ACT testing, 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Books Hall, 205-726-2561
- LSAT testing, 7 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Orlean Bullard Beeson, 205-726-2561
- Feb. 7** School Violence Prevention Workshop, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Flag Colonnade, Beeson University Center, 205-726-2433
- Feb. 10** Beeson School of Divinity Preview Day, 205-726-2244
- Feb. 12** Samford Auxiliary meeting: "Honey, It's all in the Shoes! Footprints of a Woman," featuring Phyllis Hoffman, CEO, Hoffman Media, 10 a.m., Harrison Theatre, 205-726-3152
- Feb. 12–14** Step Sing, 7 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall, www.samfordtickets.com
- Feb. 13** Davis Architects Guest Artists Series: Jon Nakamatsu, piano, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall, www.samfordartstickets.com
- Feb. 13–14** School of the Arts Scholarship Weekend, 205-726-2778
- Feb. 16** Admission Scholars Day, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m., 205-726-3673
- Feb. 19** Dean's Leadership Series, sponsored by Brock School of Business, 1 p.m., Brock Forum, Dwight Beeson Hall, 205-726-2051
- Feb. 20–22** Alabama Ballet presents *Cinderella*, www.alabamaballet.com
- Feb. 22** SuperJazz concert, 3 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Feb. 23–24** Alabama Baptist State Evangelism Conference, hosted by Samford University, www.alsbom.org
- Feb. 24–26** Conger Lectures on Biblical Preaching, hosted by Beeson Divinity School, 11 a.m., Hodges Chapel, www.beesondivinity.com
- Feb. 25–28** All-State Choral Festival, hosted by Samford University, 205-726-2486
- Feb. 26–March 1** Samford Theatre presents *The Glass Menagerie*, www.samfordartstickets.com for performance times and ticket prices
- March 3** Faculty Recital: Kathryn Fouse, piano, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- March 5** Davis Architects Guest Artist Series: Libby Larsen, composer, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall, www.samfordartstickets.com

- March 6–8** **Model United Nations Conference**, hosted by Samford University and the Altamont School, 205-726-4630
- March 10** **Harlem Globetrotters**, 7 p.m., Hanna Center
- Concerto/Aria Concert**, 7:30 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall
- March 12** **Samford Auxiliary meeting:** “Celebrate Spring,” featuring Dorothy McDaniel, owner, Dorothy McDaniel’s Flower Market, 10 a.m., Harrison Theatre, 205-726-3152
- Samford Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band concert**, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- March 12–19** **A Cappella Choir spring tour**, www.samford.edu/arts
- March 13–15** **Bravo! National Dance and Talent competition**, Wright Center Concert Hall
- March 16–20** **Spring break**
- March 20** **The Vernal Equinox Explained:** Celebrate the first day of spring, 7 p.m., Christenberry Planetarium
- March 26–29** **Samford Theatre presents dance concert**, Harrison Theatre, www.samfordartsickets.com for performance information and times
- March 28** **Alabama statewide math contest**, 8 a.m.–12 p.m., 205-726-2848
- A Cappella Choir concert**, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- March 31** **April Fool’s Day Eve Cabaret**, 7:30 p.m., Bolding Studio, 205-726-2505

For schedules and information on Samford athletics, go to www.samfordsports.com.

For a complete list of Lay Academy of Theology classes, go to www.beesondivinity.com.

For a list of Samford After Sundown classes, go to www.samford.edu/sundown.

For a complete academic calendar, go to www.samford.edu/calendars.html.

Information was compiled from the university calendar as of Nov. 15, 2008. Dates, times and details are subject to change. Please go to www.samford.edu for updated information. ■

Despite Downturn, German Diplomat Sees Good Business with Alabama Continuing

The consul general of Germany told a Samford audience this fall he expects business partnerships between his nation and Alabama to remain solid, despite recent rocky economic conditions.

“Alabama is the state where German companies have made their biggest investments in recent years,” said Lutz Hermann Gorgens. He is hopeful that the connection “will not be derailed” by the current economy.

He said he believes that the 10-year Alabama-German business partnership “will lead to more trade, jobs and prosperity, even in this time of economic crisis,” noting that most economists agree that the recession may last a while.

Gorgens, deputy consul general in the German Consulate in Atlanta, Ga., spoke Oct. 16 on the Brock School of Business International Speakers Series.

Several companies with a presence in Alabama have expanded operations into other states in the region, said Gorgens. He commended the Mercedes-Benz operation in Vance, Ala., for its recent high score for working conditions. The plant was rated highest in

the United States by the German metal workers union.

Gorgens noted that Germany’s ThyssenKrupp, a huge employer in his native country, expects to put about 10,000 to work at its new plant near Mobile, Ala. The \$3.7 billion hot strip mill under construction will process steel slabs manufactured in ThyssenKrupp’s steel mill in Brazil.

On an academic level, transatlantic business is a good incentive for international studies, said Gorgens, who holds a Ph.D. in German literature and history from the University of Tübingen.

He told students that to succeed in the global marketplace, they need practical skills and other components of global citizenship, such as being multilingual. A mastery of at least one language beyond the native tongue is helpful, he said.

He commended Alabama’s Senate and Congressional leadership for its support of international ventures, as well as Alabama Governor Bob Riley’s team, which have been leaders for the rest of the country, he said. ■

Hong Kong Values Free Economy, Trade Commissioner Says at Samford

Hong Kong’s highest-ranking official in the United States told a Samford audience that her homeland would welcome more trade between the two nations.

“Think of us as a good trade partner who shares your values,” Hong Kong Commissioner for Economic and Trade Affairs Margaret Fong said during a talk this fall sponsored by Samford’s Brock School of Business.

Fong cited Hong Kong’s “vibrant and resilient” economy that has shown steady growth in the years since 1997, when the territory became a part of the People’s Republic of China. Its economy recovered following the Asian financial crisis of 1998, the .com bust in 2000 and the SARS health incident in 2003.

Hong Kong is small but is ranked sixth in the world in Gross Domestic Product. The United States ranks fourth, said Fong, who directs Hong Kong’s efforts in promoting U.S.-Hong Kong economic trade relationship as well as

constituency-building in the United States.

Hong Kong, officially the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, was a dependent territory of the United Kingdom from 1842 until the transfer of its sovereignty to the People’s Republic of China in 1997.

As an international financial center, Hong Kong is home to 68 of the world’s top 100 banks and is considered the business hub of Asia. It is the second-largest recipient of foreign direct investment in Asia, second only to mainland China, said Fong. Almost 4,000 businesses have regional headquarters in Hong Kong.

Fong said Hong Kong values nature conservation, energy efficiency and the reduction of emission of greenhouse gasses.

“Hong Kong has pledged to reduce energy intensity by 25 percent by 2030 and is hopeful of exceeding that goal,” she said. ■



Samford students, from left, Michelle McCorkle, Lizi Kelly, Emile Dewaal, Catherine Skewes and Jordan Burt enjoy a lovely fall afternoon on campus.