

September 2011

Samford University

# Seasons

J D PITTMAN HALL  
WOMEN'S RESIDENCE

WELCOME  
TO

**Homecoming Oct. 28–29**

**Pages 15–17**

**Arts and Sciences Newsletter**

**Pages 21–28**

RESERVED  
PARKING  
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# September

## 5 Swamp Doctor Repays Samford

Forrest Hinton '48 was known as the Swamp Doctor of the Everglades. He was the only doctor in Immokalee, Fla., for almost 30 years, treating people for every imaginable ill. Because they felt Samford prepared him to be a successful physician, he and his wife, Helen, established a scholarship to help Samford students. Their estate left more than \$1.4 million for scholarships and housing.

## 6 Sharing Their Favorite Story

Serious genealogists from across the nation scramble to enroll in Samford's annual Institute for Genealogy and Historical Research. This year, nine of the 10 courses filled the first day—six months in advance of the June event. Most genealogists have a favorite research story to tell. Several of this year's enrollees shared theirs with *Seasons*.

## 21 Arts and Sciences Newsletter

Students are hungry for information on how to succeed academically. Award-winning Samford psychology professor Stephen Chew found they had "ingrained misconceptions" on how to achieve success, so he developed a five-part video on what to do. Learn more about Chew's project, and numerous other Howard College of Arts and Sciences stories, in the college's 2011 newsletter.


## 30 'A Participant in Nature'

Jennifer Pharr Davis '04 set the record this summer for the fastest hike of the Appalachian Trail, covering the Maine-to-Georgia route in 46 days, 11 hours and 20 minutes. It was her third time to complete the trek. "The trail is always harder than you remember it," she said. But she found time to enjoy its beauties. "I felt like a participant in nature."

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**Cover:** Samford freshman Sydney Cromwell, left, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., moves into Pittman Hall with the help of her mother, Michelle.





Samford students enjoy a semester-opening concert by Dierks Bentley on the campus quadrangle.

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## An Amazing Accomplishment, 50 Years Ago

The institution that we know today as Samford University was founded in 1841 at Marion, Ala., as Howard College. The college was moved to the East Lake community of Birmingham in 1887, and then in 1957 to Homewood. Today, our academic program is built around Howard College of Arts and Sciences and seven distinguished schools. The addition of the schools has come over an extended time, altering Samford in ways that have made it a university with a strong national and international reputation.

Fifty years ago, on a spring day in 1961, President Leslie S. Wright and then-Chancellor (and former President) Harwell G. Davis were confronted with an interesting proposition: the purchase of Cumberland School of Law, then affiliated with Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tenn. The law school was created in 1847, and its graduates were already in positions of leadership throughout the country. (Continuing to this day, Cumberland School of Law graduates serve as state and federal judges, legislators, congressmen and senators, and five have been governors of Florida.) But the historic school had fallen on hard times and needed a new infusion of life; President Wright, Chancellor Davis and the board of trustees wanted a law school. So, after only days of negotiation, the school was purchased on June 27. The first class was registered in Birmingham on September 11, 1961. It is amazing to consider what they accomplished in only one summer. The Cumberland School of Law story is expertly chronicled in the book, *From Maverick to Mainstream: Cumberland School of Law, 1847-1997*, by law professors David Langum and Howard Walthall.

This year, we celebrate 50 years of association between Samford University and Cumberland School of Law, *where good people become great lawyers and the world is better for it.*

As always, please keep Samford in your prayers.

Andrew Westmoreland  
President

## Brewer Gets a Surprise: Samford Medallion

Former Alabama Governor Albert Brewer joined Samford in 1987 as a professor and head of the soon-to-be established Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama [PARCA]. His career in politics, and especially his term as governor during 1968–71, had taught him how badly the state needed such an independent public policy research organization.

“As governor, I would talk to all the interested parties involved in an issue,” he told *Seasons* magazine in 2004. “Afterward, I would just assume the facts were somewhere in the middle.” A legislative reference service would prepare language for a bill, “but it did no research into issues.”

When Samford President Thomas Corts asked Brewer if he would head what would become PARCA, Brewer said yes—if he could also teach. Thus began a relationship between the school and the former governor that continues today.

Brewer was executive director of PARCA, and distinguished professor of

law and government until his retirement as a full-time faculty member in 2004. He continues to teach a course in professional responsibility to Cumberland School of Law students today.

Samford recognized Brewer and his contributions to society during the semester-opening convocation Aug. 30. It presented the man historians describe as Alabama’s only New South governor of the 20th century the Samford Medallion, just the third such presentation since the school’s board of trustees created the honor in 2006. The medallion recognizes people whose good works have made a difference in society, in community affairs, in the life of the church and in the quality of life for individuals.

Clark Watson, chairman of the Samford board, presented Brewer with the surprise honor, calling him a “tremendous example to lawyers, educators, government leaders and the population of this state at large.”

As an Alabama legislator, speaker of

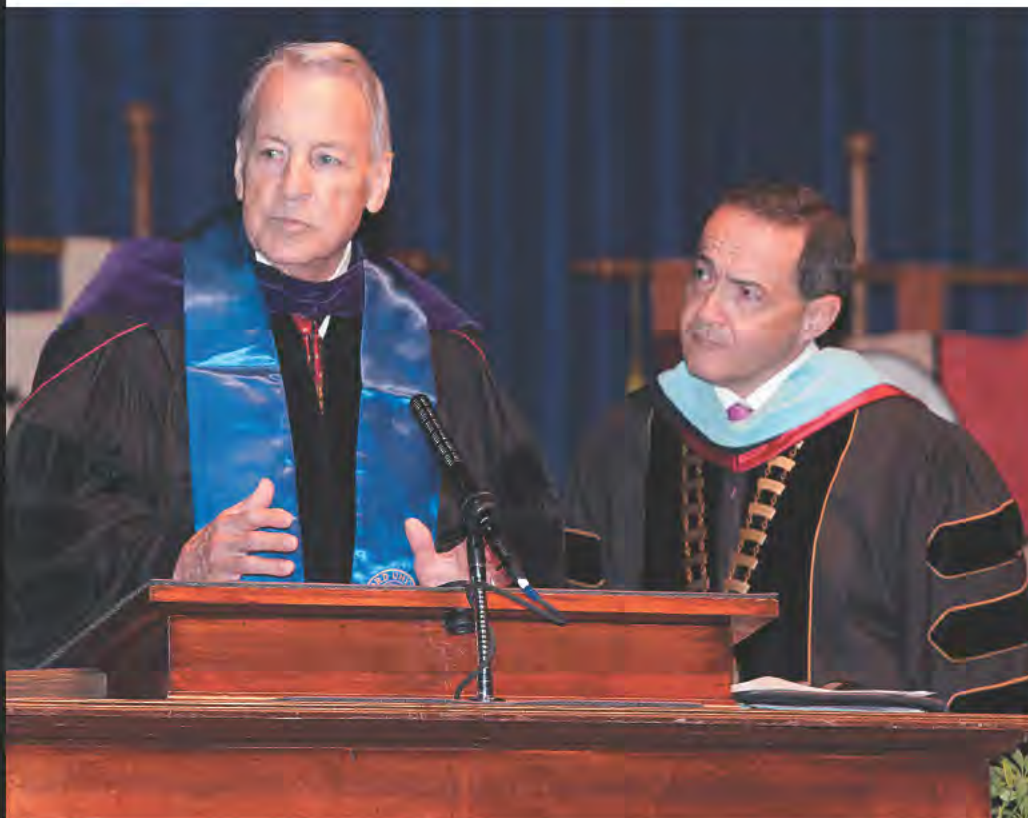
the house, lieutenant governor and governor, in his roles at Samford and as a faithful churchman, Brewer has dedicated his personal life to the public good “through inspiring leadership, warmhearted compassion and a genuine dedication to truth,” Watson said.

Following the presentation, Samford President Andrew Westmoreland asked Brewer to share thoughts on several areas in which he is much admired, such as his abilities to bring harmony among people and offer hope during adversity.

Brewer said he learned to get along with people and bring them together by treating them with respect and kindness. “We must recognize the validity of each person and their ability to contribute to the discussion,” he said, adding that in the law profession, differences must be reconciled. “That works in life and in the academy, too,” he said.

Admitting that he has always been an optimist, the Decatur, Ala., native said he believes that all people are on earth for a purpose, and even when faced with adversity, must fulfill that purpose. He noted that the young people at Samford are so vibrant, enthusiastic and optimistic, “you help us retain that optimism.”

Brewer concluded by saying his relationship with Samford and the classroom “is the most exciting, fulfilling thing I’ve ever done in my life.” ■



Albert Brewer, left, shares thoughts at the semester-opening convocation Aug. 30 as Samford President Andrew Westmoreland looks on.

# Giving Totals \$35.3 Million for Fiscal 2011

by Philip Poole

Samford University's annual giving reached record levels for the fiscal year that ended June 30, with gifts totaling more than \$35.3 million for the 12-month period. This is second only to 1990, when the university's annual giving was \$67.5 million and included more than \$53 million from the estate of Ralph W. Beeson. Giving for the 2010 fiscal year had totaled about \$21.6 million.

The fiscal 2011 total included a multimillion-dollar gift from a charitable trust established by the late Frank Samford Jr., which the university announced in May.

"The generosity of the Samford community is overwhelming, especially given the uncertain global economic climate," said W. Randy Pittman, Samford's vice president for advancement. "Even without the Samford family gift, it was a significant fund-raising year for the university."

Annual gifts are critical to Samford's annual budget process, Pittman noted. Tuition and fees provide approximately 70 percent of the university's annual revenue, so gifts and endowment earnings are crucial to cover the other 30 percent.

The significance of planned gifts also was evident in the near-record total, Pittman said. In addition to the Samford gift, the university received two other estate gifts of more than \$1 million each. All had been established many years, and in some instances, decades ago.

"We often talk about sitting under the shade of trees we did not plant," Pittman said, "to illustrate the importance of leaving a legacy. We're building today on the legacy that was left years ago by so many others, including Frank Samford and Virginia Samford Donovan. Their astute planning and love for Samford University will ensure a

strong financial foundation for the university's future legacy."

Several groups significantly increased their giving last year, according to Pittman. Alumni giving almost doubled—from \$3.8 million in 2009–10 to about \$7.1 million in 2010–11. Employee and student giving increased 250 percent, to about \$656,000 this past year from \$187,500 in 2009–10. This is important, because many organizations use alumni giving as one factor in peer rankings, and employee giving also can be important in corporate and foundation funding.

The near-record year pushed the total of "The Campaign for Samford" to more than \$125.3 million, Pittman said. The multimillion-dollar, multiyear campaign is raising funds for scholarships, academic programs, faculty enhancement, facilities and other needs. ■



# Million-Plus Estate Gift Swamp Doctor Hinton, Wife Realize Goal of Helping Students

by William Nunnelley

CAMPAIGN

**D**r. Forrest Hinton '48 was known as the Swamp Doctor of the Everglades. The Samford graduate from Meridian, Miss., opened the first medical clinic in Immokalee, Fla., a rural area near the Everglades, in 1954.

As a history of the Collier County Medical Society reported, "he treated every resident for every ailment, delivered every baby at any hour, and remained on call to the growing community for almost 30 years."

His patients included "ranchers, vagabonds, teachers, cowboys, farmers, prison inmates, oil-well workers and seasonal migrant workers," according to the medical society history. He charged for services based on what a patient could afford.

As the only doctor in the community, Hinton was always on call. "He was a wonderful diagnostician," recalled Mary Brister, a family friend and Immokalee resident. But that didn't prevent him occasionally from taking a few extra minutes at lunch to wet a line in a nearby canal. "He loved to fish," said Brister.

During the early 1970s, Hinton treated more people for insecticide poisoning than any other doctor in the United States, according to the medical society history. He discovered that an insecticide used on plants had contaminated migrant worker camps, causing serious illness. He taught his patients to thoroughly wash all clothing and bedding to reduce the contaminants and lessen the incidence of insecticide poisoning.

Hinton began pointing toward a medical career after service in the U.S. Army in World War II. He and his wife, the former Helen Allsbrooks of Meridian, were married in 1946, and he enrolled at Samford as a premedical student, majoring in biology.

Helen worked to support the couple while Forrest completed his undergraduate and medical degrees. After Forrest finished his residency at Jackson Hospital in Miami, Fla., in the early 1950s, the Hinton family moved to Immokalee. There, they served the community as a medical "team" for the next three decades. Helen had no formal training as a nurse, but she assisted her husband over the years in his practice until his retirement in 1981.

The Hinton family had no children. Both had come from families of limited means, and they worked hard to carve out a life where they lived comfortably but frugally. Along the way, they decided to establish a scholarship at Samford.

"They both felt that the excellent education Dr. Hinton received at Samford prepared him for medical school and a successful career as a physician," said Stan Davis, Samford's director of gift and estate design.

"Since they had no children, it was their wish for future students of Samford University to benefit from what they had been able to accumulate. It was their hope that the scholarship would be used to benefit students with financial needs, rather than award funds based on merit."

Through a generous gift, they established the Dr. Forrest and Helen I. Hinton Endowed Scholarship.

Forrest died in 1987, and Helen continued to reside in and be a part of the southwest Florida community they loved until her death March 14, 2011, at the age of 86. "She was described as a down-to-earth, simple person, and a Christian whose faith was pivotal in how she lived her life and treated others," said Davis.

Over the years, the Hinton scholarship fund had grown. As they had wished, the money produced by the fund—more than \$1.4 million—has come to Samford to assist worthy students in need of financial assistance.

Approximately half the proceeds will go to provide scholarships, and the other half to assist in the construction or renovation of residence hall facilities for students.

"Through the combination of scholarships to meet financial needs and residence halls to meet physical needs, the appreciation expressed by Dr. and Mrs. Hinton will be realized by Samford students for generations to come," said Davis. ■



Forrest and Helen Hinton in the mid-1940s.

# Genealogy Boot

‘They Like to Talk About Their Research!’

by William Nunnolley

Genealogists say there’s no substitute for hard work when running down a long-lost great-uncle, but they admit luck can be a factor too.

Jim Giffin of Birmingham was doing genealogical research in Knoxville, Tenn., poking around in several cemeteries. In the office of one, he was given some folders to help him locate various graves. On one of the folders was a name he had heard his mother mention, with a phone number.

He called the number and a woman told him the man he was trying to reach was dead. He apologized, but the woman, the man’s widow, said, “I’m so glad you called. I have three boxes of stuff I don’t know what to do with, and no one in my family wants it.”

Delighted, Giffin and his wife jumped in their car and drove to the woman’s house. She met them at the door.

“You might also be interested in this,” she said, handing him a framed document. It was the discharge paper of his paternal great-grandfather from the Union Army after the Civil War.

“He, as did many others from east Tennessee, walked to Kentucky to enlist in the Union Army,” explained Giffin, who was born in Knoxville.

Genealogists usually have a favorite story regarding their research, and as Della Darby of the Samford University Library says, “They like to talk about their research!”

Darby has directed Samford’s Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research [IGHR], which annually draws several hundred serious genealogists to campus for a week of intensive study led by prominent genealogy educators. Giffin has attended the past two institutes.

Genealogists scramble to sign up for the Samford institute. When registration opened last Jan. 18, six months in advance of the June event, nine of the 10



Instructor John Humphrey and students Sharon Clouse, center, and Christina Humphreys discuss resources for Samford’s new German genealogy class.

courses filled that day. A new course in German Genealogical Research filled in nine minutes. A total of 276 students from 39 states and Canada attended.

That’s about as many as the IGHR’s 30-member faculty can accommodate, said Darby. “We try to keep our student-teacher ratio small so that students have the opportunity to interact with the faculty,” she said.

The popularity of genealogy got a big boost in 1976 with the publication of Alex Haley’s landmark novel, *Roots*, and America’s bicentennial, said Tom Jones of Fairfax, Va., who teaches Writing and Publishing for Genealogists at Samford’s IGHR. “The field’s popularity has steadily increased since,” he said.

But Samford’s involvement in genealogy education predated those events by more than a decade, and the IGHR’s reputation has grown over the years to become one of the best-known programs in the nation. Cosponsored by the Board for Certification of Genealogists in Washington, D.C., it

draws top-tier faculty who are widely known in the field.

Many students return to IGHR year after year. This is possible because, while four basic and intermediate courses are offered every year, the IGHR varies the other six courses offered each summer.





# Camp

Al Nettles of Monroeville, Ala., took his 12th course this summer as part of his ongoing effort to trace his ancestors back to the American Revolution and earlier. This year, he took a course entitled *Land Records: Using Maps to learn more about presenting his information with maps and timelines.*

"I have a proven ancestor who was killed in the French and Indian War, and I hope to use old maps to explain how he participated in this early conflict," said Nettles. He thinks this might add a personal touch to his family history. His great, great, great, great, great-grandfather, Matthew Farnum of York, Maine, was killed at age 38 on Nov. 11, 1757, in a failed British expedition against Louisburg on Cape Breton Island, Canada.

Margo Fariss Brewer of Chapel Hill, N.C., took her first course in 1997, and was back for her 11th course this summer. She took the German course that provided such tips as how to recognize and read the Gothic alphabet, and was surprised to learn that many Germans come to the United States to research their ancestors because German privacy laws restrict them in their country. (The records were acquired on microfilm after World War II and are available in the National Archives.)

Even though she is a regular, Brewer well remembers a serendipitous moment at her first IGHR in 1997. She had been looking for an ancestor from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and had been unable to find the surname as she was spelling it. On a whim, with 15 minutes before her next class session, she took a quick look at a passenger list index using a phonetic spelling that a German-speaking person might

have used.

"I picked up a volume on Czechoslovakian immigrants and found the whole family, the ship they came in on and the day they arrived. Wow!"

Gay Carter of Houston, Texas, also took the German course, her 14th at Samford, because she is researching the genealogy of a man whose mother was born in Germany. The main difference in approaching German genealogical research, she said, "is the challenge of the language and handwriting." Instructor John Humphrey showed how to do this without taking a full German language course, she said.

Dr. Fred Olive '78 of Birmingham took his first IGHR course in 1975 while an undergraduate at Samford. He has taken seven courses since and uses his expertise to work with prospective members of the Sons of the American Revolution to establish their eligibility for membership.

But his most interesting story as a researcher involved a client whose great-grandfather had been murdered. "She wanted to know why there was a plea of guilty and not guilty in the same trial," he said. Actually, there were two trials, Olive discovered, one for firearm possession (guilty) and the other for murder (not guilty).

Michael Brophy of Abington, Mass., taking his fifth course, comes south to the IGHR because "it is important to me as a New Englander to see how others in different parts of the country approach genealogy." A professional genealogist, he described Samford as "the best educational experience I have had in the growing and constantly changing field of genealogy and family history." In a column he writes, he called the IGHR "genealogy boot camp."

Victor Dunn of Ashburn, Va., who cotaught the IGHR course on Virginia: Her Records and Laws, found an ancestor in his earlier research, Daniel Ellis, who was born in Boston, Mass., but who moved to Virginia before the Civil

War. When the war started, he was accused of being a Yankee spy and imprisoned. Upon his release, he moved his family back to Massachusetts. Dunn said he discovered 10 ancestors who came over on the Mayflower through Ellis' lineage.

Tim Pinnick of North Aurora, Ill., who teaches a course in African-American genealogy every other year in IGHR, was enrolled in Intermediate Genealogy. But he will remember the 2011 institute for a special reason, an impromptu fund-raising drive he put together for victims of tornadoes that hit Alabama April 27.

Students and faculty gave more than \$1,000 in less than a week. The money was converted to small-denomination gift cards for the Tuscaloosa, Ala., Fire and Rescue Service.

Pinnick called the action "a true testament to the IGHR family of attendees."

Linda Wood '62 of Birmingham learned about the devastating effects of King William's War (1675-77) in New England during her sixth IGHR course this summer, Military Records Research II. But her most interesting genealogy story relates to an error she discovered, enabling Daughters of the American Revolution membership for some relatives in the 1920s and '30s. The records of a William McKenzie of Tennessee were submitted, but her family's William McKenzie lived in Georgia.

"The ladies attained their membership using the wrong man's records," said Wood. "I hope to resolve this problem by submitting further records that prove our own ancestors' service in the Revolution."

Wood was office manager of the Samford biology department before retiring in 2006. She calls the IGHR "a wonderful example of Samford's encouragement of lifetime learning." ■





# Hong Kong Soj

## Fulbright Scholar Fisk Helps Hong Kong Schools Advance to Four-Year Curricula

As a Fulbright Scholar in Hong Kong during the spring, Dr. Rosemary M. Fisk was part of a team of seven charged with helping the city's seven public universities move from a three-year to a four-year curriculum. The reform is designed to bring Hong Kong universities in line with their international counterparts so that their students can compete in liberal arts as they already do in science and technical fields. The program began in 2008 and will conclude in 2012.

"The project is right on schedule, though many expected issues related to resistance to change will have to resolve themselves as faculty members begin teaching new classes," said Dr. Fisk, associate dean of arts and sciences and professor of English at Samford.

The greatest immediate challenge, she said, is for the system to hire about 1,000 new faculty members to teach the extra year of courses. Administrators have been traveling in the United States and Europe during recent months to conduct interviews, she said.

Fisk served with a third-year team of Fulbright Scholars in the four-year timetable to have the new system in place by next year. They found that the universities had new general education

designs on paper and approved.

"Five of the seven universities were moving to a split model comprised of a true core curriculum with additional general education courses, much like Samford's model," she said. In that plan, all students take core courses and then select general education courses that enhance their major fields of study.

"We saw that each university had added courses in Chinese culture and philosophy, interdisciplinary science, and ethics," she said. "The topic of globalization infused everything. They had strengthened efforts to make every Hong Kong university graduate bilingual (Cantonese and English) and trilliterate (with reading knowledge of classical Chinese)."

Most of the new courses were "creative and broadening," she said, such as proposals on The Peking Opera and The Politics of Asia. Courses such as these were approved. Occasionally, the team encountered a proposal that was simply an old course with a new name. "As outsiders, we could encourage the university committee to reject the course and then suggest improvements without rupturing long-term relationships," she said.

Fisk said that, despite the new emphasis on flexibility and freedom of

the liberal arts, the Hong Kong higher education system remains rigidly hierarchical and dependent on standardized test scores. "Students will still find it challenging to change a major," she predicted.

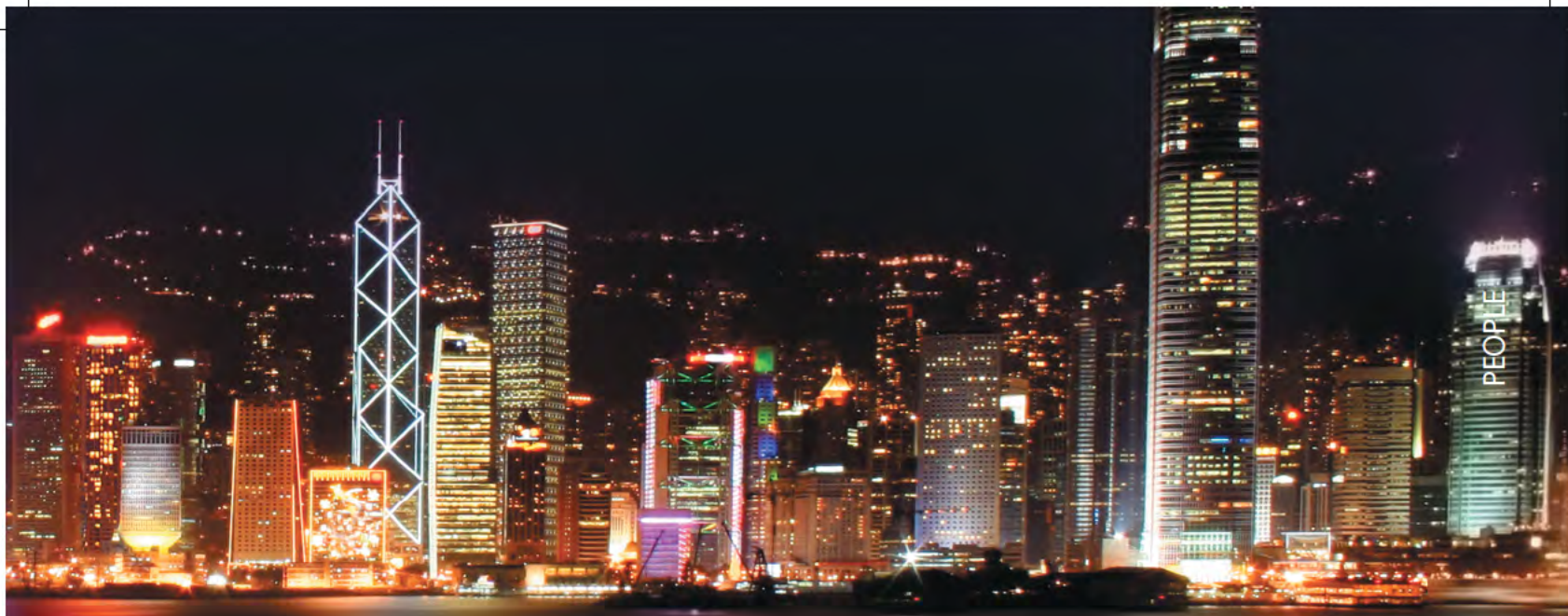
Asian culture in many ways supports the new emphasis on teamwork, said Fisk, but works against the emphasis on active learning and peer criticism. Fisk encountered the concern over peer criticism when she asked a colleague why an Olympic-sized pool on a campus was practically empty. Students were "too modest," said the colleague.

"To be seen in their swimsuits?" Fisk asked.

"No. They don't want anyone to criticize their swim strokes," said the colleague.

She suspects that "active-learning pedagogies that leave the individual student vulnerable to public failure will face a serious challenge in Hong Kong." This fear "underscores the need for new strategies if the graduates are to become self-directed and creative" in Hong Kong's new service economy, she said.

Apart from her work with the Fulbright team, Fisk was able to conduct her own research and had two book



# jour

by William Nunnolley

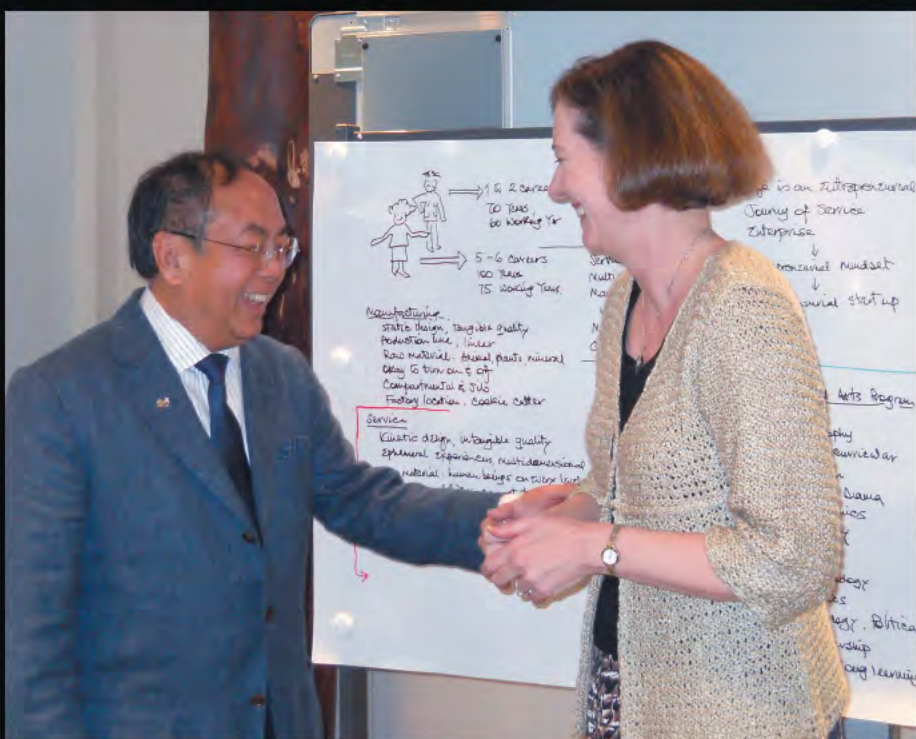
chapters accepted for publication in addition to future publications related to the Hong Kong project. She was based at Hong Kong's Lingnan University.

"My experience in Hong Kong will help me advise the General Education Committee at Samford as we look at our required courses across programs," she said.

Apart from academic pursuits, Fisk said she enjoyed hiking in Hong Kong. "Hong Kong has some of the best hiking trails in the world, with country parks overlooking the South China Sea and containing occasional shrines to someone's ancestor," she said.

She will return to Hong Kong next June for a conference related to the future of Asian universities, "a gathering that celebrates and reflects on the work that is bringing this cultural and structural change to Hong Kong higher education," she said.

She will travel by way of Florence, Italy, where she will attend a joint conference of the Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Edgar Allan Poe societies. There, she will be inducted as president of the Hawthorne Society, "bringing my academic interests back home to American literary studies," she said. ■



Samford professor Rosemary Fisk chats with Po Chung, cofounder of DHL International delivery service. He is a participant in the effort to convert Hong Kong universities from three- to four-year curricula.

# Cooking by William Nunnelley for a Crowd

## Vizzina's Approach is Fresh and Local

Chef Chris Vizzina believes in cooking fresh and local foods from scratch, whether he's preparing meals for five people or 1,500. As the head of Samford's Campus Dining operation, he finds himself cooking for groups of either size almost every day.

"I want everything to be as natural and fresh and local as possible," Vizzina said. "We try to use everything that's in the peak of its season."

That includes working on and testing new menu items all over the campus, he said.

Vizzina has worked in five-star restaurants, and he tries to translate techniques he learned there into the "higher volume atmosphere" of a university dining program.

"Colors, textures, flavors all play a part" in what students choose to eat, he said.

Vizzina's beliefs about food preparation underlie his entire Samford operation. He uses fresh meat and poultry produced in Birmingham and Alabama, fresh produce from the Finley Avenue Farmers Market, and fresh bread, milk and dairy products from local producers.

"The Alabama Farmers Market provides a huge selection of fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers," he said. "Not only is it fresher and available in Birmingham's backyard, but you support our local economy every time you purchase products from the market."

"When food is fresh and grown in your own backyard, it's not only better for you, it's tastier."

Vizzina notes there are other local seasonal sources such as Pepper Place, the Jones Valley Urban Farms, and smaller local farmers markets in Homewood and other nearby locations.

This fall, as part of the effort to provide new items, Campus Dining

opened Vizzina's Italian Eatery in the Samford Food Court. It serves pizzas, panini, insalata and gelato. The dining service also opened a smoothie concept outlet in Pete Hanna Center.

Vizzina, in his 11th year at Samford, is an active member of the Birmingham food scene. He serves on the board of Birmingham Originals, and coordinated its Breaking Bread event at Birmingham's new Railroad Park. As a member of the American Culinary Federation, he adopted Homewood City Schools as part of Michelle Obama's Chefs Move to School initiative.

He is also active in the Birmingham Slow Foods movement. This formal organization works "to educate the public on the benefits of locally grown food," he said. The movement is an answer to the fast-food industry that focuses on uniform, mass-produced food products that aren't as tasty or as healthy as homegrown products. It originated in Italy in 1986 following the opening of that nation's first fast-food hamburger outlet and came to Birmingham in 2007.

Not only does Vizzina work to provide good food at Samford, he helps teach his community healthier ways to cook. In addition to his Homewood schools involvement, he recently led a program for Jefferson County School District cafeteria workers seeking to gain a better understanding of how to cook fresh products for large groups. He also prepared meals for Birmingham's Cooking for a Cause dinner, which benefits the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities project. This project was begun by the Jefferson County Health Action Partnership to fight childhood obesity by changing policies and creating healthier choices.

The benefit dinner, sponsored by the United Way Young Leaders Society, was a perfect example of Vizzina's

approach to a healthy, tasty meal: tomato salad, roasted snapper or chicken, grilled summer vegetables, baked grits, and peaches and blueberries—all from local sources.

"The idea was to use everything in the peak of its season," said Vizzina.

As participant Melinda Matthews said, "The food was outstanding . . . and the message was clear: Healthy food cooked in a healthy way can be absolutely delicious!"

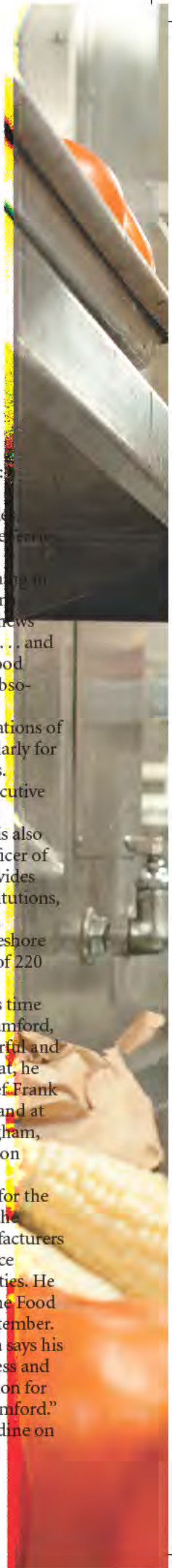
Vizzina performs demonstrations of healthy cooking techniques regularly for local television and other forums.

In addition to serving as executive chef and general manager of the Samford food program, Vizzina is also president and chief operating officer of Campus Dining, Inc., which provides food service to several other institutions, including Indian Springs School, Mississippi College and The Lakeshore Foundation. He oversees a total of 220 employees.

But the majority of Vizzina's time and effort remains centered at Samford, where he has enjoyed "10 wonderful and exciting years," he said. Before that, he was chef de cuisine for noted chef Frank Stitt at Highlands Bar and Grill, and at Arman's at Park Lane in Birmingham, and rounds chef at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in St. Louis, Mo.

He was recently nominated for the Silver Plate award, presented by the International Foodservice Manufacturers Association to the top food service operator in colleges and universities. He was invited to a casting call for the Food Network in Austin, Texas, in September.

With all this activity, Vizzina says his goal is simple: "I will stay relentless and focused in my pursuit of perfection for food service programs here at Samford." That's good news for those who dine on campus. ■



Samford Chef Chris Vizzina



## Alumnus of the Year

# McDade Recalls 'Show Stopper' at Step Sing of '61

by Mary Wimberley

Joe McDade is proof that one can go home again. He did it when he returned to his home state of Alabama in 1997 after a ministerial career in several states. And, happily for his alma mater, that relocation to be near family in Montgomery meant a reconnection to Samford.

After attending homecoming reunions and events for several years, the 1961 graduate plunged into an active role with the Alumni Association's Alumni Council and development board. In late 2008, he took a lead in planning the Class of 1961 golden anniversary reunion at 2011 Homecoming on Oct. 28–29.

Fittingly that weekend, McDade will be honored as Alumnus of the Year in recognition of his dedication to alumni activities, outreach and financial support for the university. His involvement, the honoree explains, came about because he wanted to do more to "pay back" the school's investment in him.

"Howard College/Samford invested much in me and helped shape who I am," said the religion major, to whom the school was more than a place of learning. "It was what I call my Howard Experience . . . the sum of the place, the people, administration, faculty and classmates, and the education."

After earning a master of divinity degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., McDade was a youth minister in Columbia, S.C., and later a single adult and senior adult minister in South Carolina and Virginia. Some of the most meaningful years were as chaplain and administrator of a Baptist retirement home in South Carolina, said McDade, who also was at times a teacher, funeral director and an elected school board member of a small Missouri community.

"Whatever the form of employment, I always saw it as a form of ministry," said McDade, who knew as a college freshman that he was called to Christian ministry. "I didn't know what form that ministry career would take, but my experience at Howard helped to shape my ministry direction."

He studied under religion professors Vernon Davison, Sigurd Bryan,

Mabry Lunceford and Arthur Walker, all of whom he said had a unique influence on him. Others, too, were helpful and challenging, he recalls, such as English professor Austin Dobbins, and history professors George Irons and Hugh Bailey.

McDade also was *Crimson* sports editor, student government treasurer, a charter member of the Circle K club and active in many aspects of the Baptist Student Union. His many campus roles earned him membership in Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society and Who's Who.

"The school gave so much to me I could never repay for what I feel it has given to me," said McDade. "I would

**"The school gave so much to me I could never repay for what I feel it has given to me."**

Joe McDade

not have been able to attend Howard had I not had financial assistance."

To help pay back, he has established his own scholarship and led his church, Pintlala Baptist near Montgomery, to establish a scholarship honoring its pastor, Gary Burton '69.

McDade looks forward to homecoming reunions with classmates, some of whom may not have been back on campus since graduation, when the campus only had about 10 buildings.

McDade entered in January of 1957 on the East Lake campus. But when everything moved to the new campus that fall, it was like everyone was a freshman again, he said. "It was new to everyone, and in a way, it put everyone on the same level. It was a unique and special time. Everyone was blazing new trails."

That extended even to Step Sing, which he said his class changed forever during their sophomore year. Prior to that time, groups typically sang a few songs and were judged on sound. His



Joe McDade

class "changed the game completely" with its production parody on the musical Oklahoma.

"It was a showstopper," said McDade. After that, all groups began performing choreographed numbers.

"Because we were a unique class at a special time, we wanted to do something special and unique for our golden reunion," said McDade, who led his classmates to establish the Howard College Class of 1961 Legacy Scholarship.

It will, he hopes, "help ensure that future generations can have the experience we did."

Anyone who would like to assist with that effort may donate online at [www.samford.edu/giving](http://www.samford.edu/giving) or mail contributions to the Office of University Advancement, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229. ■

## Alumnus of the Year

# Financial Manager Davidson Invests in Samford

by Mary Wimberley

**M**ark Davidson's investment in Samford homecoming has come full circle.

Nine years ago, when helping plan his 10-year class reunion barbecue, the 1992 math graduate saw potential in groups wanting to reunite for homecoming fun and fellowship, regardless of their class year. His enthusiasm led to more work with the Alumni Association, which he has served in several capacities.

As president from 2006 to 2008, he led efforts to increase homecoming participation and helped grow ideas that have made the event an increasing "must do" on graduates' fall calendars. In addition to reunion opportunities for graduates of certain decades, affinity groups who share interests in organizations, academic areas or extracurricular activities convene and reminisce under a tent or shade tree.

At the 2011 Homecoming Oct. 28–29, Davidson will be saluted as an Alumnus of the Year for his

participation and leadership.

The Mobile, Ala., investment manager is happy to invest his personal time and efforts with Samford, he says, because of its mission and purpose.

"We are not like other institutions, and what our alumni accomplish after completing their degrees is impressive. Many of us share a common background and worldview that unites us in ways that are different than simply pulling for a football team or viewing business school rankings," said Davidson, who delights in helping people unite and reconnect with one another and Samford, especially at homecoming.

He and his wife, Lynn, have hosted Samford alumni and parent groups in their Mobile home, as they also did in Savannah, Ga., where they met, married and lived prior to relocating to Alabama's port city. He looks forward to helping host another Samford alumni event when the Alabama Baptist State Convention meets in Mobile in November.

**"We are not like other institutions, and what our alumni accomplish after completing their degrees is impressive."**

Mark Davidson

Davidson likes mixing and mingling with fellow Samfordites, and believes that many chose the school for the same reason he did: they were seeking a Christian school with a good academic reputation. "Often, those are mutually exclusive," says Davidson.

He took his undergraduate training to graduate school at Krannart School of Management at Purdue University, where he quickly saw that his Samford preparation put him on even keel or a

Mark Davidson

notch ahead of many classmates who held Ivy League academic pedigrees.

He cites Dr. Jim Brown (history), Dr. Sigurd Bryan (religion), Dr. David Foreman (math) and others who made their subject matter both fascinating and understandable.

"Dr. Foreman has an ability to explain incredibly difficult concepts in a way that almost anyone can understand," said Davidson, who considered a career as an actuary before gravitating to the investment management industry while in grad school.

"What draws me to the profession is the blend of art and science—there is never a precise answer—as well as the opportunity to constantly learn," said Davidson, who earned a master of science in management at Purdue in 1994 and his Chartered Financial Analyst designation in 1999.

In 2003, he cofounded Cornerstone Investment Management and Consulting, which he serves as director of investments. His responsibilities include equity analysis, portfolio management, securities trading, performance review and assessment, macroeconomic analysis, and firm strategy and management.

A 2006 graduate of Leadership Mobile, he is active in Mobile United, which seeks to alter the conversation among the city's leaders and find solutions to common goals that may be beyond the scope of political leaders. He is a member of Dauphin Way United Methodist Church and Rotary Club of Downtown Mobile, and has taught finance at the University of South Alabama.

At Samford, he was a varsity soccer player and a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, which he served as vice president.

His professional, civic and Samford alumni commitments keep him too busy to play his beloved soccer now, but he enjoys other outdoor activities, especially kayaking and hiking. He is often joined by Lynn and their children, Pape, 5, who starts kindergarten this fall, Cam, 3, and Claire, almost 2. ■



## Young Alumnus of the Year

# History Class Taught Brown to Think on Her Feet

by Mary Wimberley

**K**itty Rogers Brown remembers well the exhausting college search process she undertook as a high school senior. It revealed one sure thing: Samford stood out as the clear choice for her college experience.

"No other institution offered Samford's rigorous academic instruction in a nurturing, Christian environment at an outstanding value," recalled the 2001 graduate. "Only after I arrived on campus did I discover Samford's true treasure: her people."

From the professors who helped her hone the skills she would take to the courtroom to Chi Omega sorority sisters with whom she twice shared Step Sing sweepstakes wins, "The relationships that I formed at Samford have only deepened with the passage of distance and time," she said.

The successful Birmingham attorney looks forward to renewing many friendships during homecoming weekend Oct. 28–29, when she will be saluted as the 2011 Outstanding Young Alumnus. The honor recognizes a graduate under age 40 who earned a Samford degree within the last 15 years.

Helping applaud her achievements will be her husband, Tucker, their toddler twins, Richmond and Stephen, and her parents, Samford alumni Jama Davis Rogers, M.A. '76, and Rob Rogers J.D. '76, of Russellville, Ala.

After graduating cum laude with a bachelor's in history, Brown earned a juris doctor degree from the University of Alabama School of Law. In 2006, she joined the Birmingham law firm of White Arnold & Down, P.C., where she practices primarily in civil and complex litigation, and also represents defendants in environmental tort actions and class actions.

She has served various roles with the Birmingham Bar Association, including Scholarship Committee cochair, and is active in other social and community causes. As a member of the Mountain Brook City School Early Warning Panel, she helps troubled students understand the legal, medical and real-world implications of poor choices they may make. Her work with the Junior League of Birmingham and

Junior Board of the YWCA of Central Alabama helps improve lives of women and children.

"They provide me with the opportunity to give back to the community that has given me so much, and hopefully leave it a little better than when I came into it," Brown said of her work with the service groups.

It is her Samford commitment, however, that will take center stage during her homecoming accolades. She has served the Alumni Association as a member of the executive board and the activities board, and as an affinity representative. She helped establish a scholarship for members of Chi Omega

**"Only after I arrived on campus did I discover Samford's true treasure: her people."**

Kitty Brown

sorority, which she has served as chapter adviser. She has been a leader in planning the Class of 2001's 10-year homecoming reunion.

Loyalty comes easy when there are so many rich memories of people and experiences. She notes that it is difficult to envision her Samford career without the influences of history professors Jim Brown and Jonathan Bass.

"As my adviser, Dr. Brown truly helped shape my Samford experience, and his reputation as a Samford legend is well-deserved. Dr. Bass challenged me to think on my feet through his oral examination process. No doubt, that practice has served me well in my legal career already," said the honoree, whose mother was in one of the first classes Brown taught at Samford.

In the 1990s, Brown and other student government leaders helped inaugurate the Lighting of the Way tradition that helps to usher in the Christmas season on campus.

And then there's Step Sing, which, to Brown, "Samford wouldn't be



Kitty Brown

Samford without.

"We loved every minute of it," Brown said of the hard work and thrills shared with sorority sisters. Each year since graduation, she and other Chi O alumnae gather for a reunion weekend that culminates in the Saturday night Step Sing show.

She recalls advice shared by another Samford alumna, Janie Ledlow Shores '68, who was the first female member of the Alabama Supreme Court. Shores, Brown said, told a group of female law students at the University of Alabama that "we could have it all, just not at the same time."

"Those words have stuck with me, and I think my Chi O's have heard them more than a few times." ■



# FOREVER RED & BLUE SAMFORD HOMECOMING 2011

OCTOBER 28-29



HOMECOMING



There should be something for everyone when Samford celebrates Homecoming 2011 Friday and Saturday, Oct. 28-29. "Forever Red and Blue" will be the theme as alumni, parents and friends join students, faculty and staff for a full weekend of activity on campus. Reunions, meals, a parade and other events are planned.

A highlight will be the annual Homecoming Banquet Friday, Oct. 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the University Dining Hall. Alumni of the Year Joe McDade '61 of Montgomery, Ala., and Mark Davidson '92 of Mobile, Ala., will be honored, as will Outstanding Young

Alumna of the Year Kitty Rogers Brown '01 of Birmingham.

The Golden Bulldog Brunch for graduates of 50 years ago or earlier will kick off events Friday, Oct. 28, at 11:30 a.m. The group will meet in the Wright Center parking lot for shuttles to the president's home overlooking the campus from Shades Mountain. Drs. Andrew and Jeanna Westmoreland, Samford's president and first lady, will host. The brunch is free, but reservations are required.

The Class of 1961 will hold a Golden Reunion Luncheon Saturday, Oct. 29, at 11:30 a.m. in Wright Center prior to the homecoming football game

against Western Carolina University at 2 p.m. in Seibert Stadium. Other groups holding reunions include the classes of 1986 and 2001, Alpha Phi Omega, Omicron Delta Kappa and the Cornerstone program.

Live at the Library Saturday, Oct. 29, at 9:30 a.m. will feature the eminent historian and author, Dr. Wayne Flynt, a member of the golden anniversary Class of '61.

Go to the next page for the complete homecoming schedule with registration information. You can register online by going to [www.samford.edu/alumni](http://www.samford.edu/alumni). ■

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28**

**11:30 a.m.**  
**Golden Bulldog Brunch** Reservations are required. Meet in the Wright Center parking lot for a shuttle ride to the president's home, and then return to campus for a shuttle tour highlighting new facilities.

**3-6 p.m.**  
**Registration and Check-in** Ralph W. Beeson University Center. Be sure to register so that classmates can find you during homecoming. An updated list of events and locations will be available at registration.

**5:30 p.m.**  
**Vespers** Reid Chapel. A service of worship, scripture and song features the Samford University Chorale and the A Cappella Choir.

**Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies Reunion Reception** Harry's Coffee House. A reception for alumni of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 2001. R.S.V.P. to Ruth Holt, rholt@samford.edu, 205-726-2745.

**6:30 p.m.**  
**Samford Homecoming Banquet** Reservations are required by Oct. 18 ([www.samford.edu/alumni](http://www.samford.edu/alumni)). University Dining Hall. The banquet celebrates the 142-year-old tradition of the Candlelight Dinner, and honors the 2011 Alumni of the Year and the Outstanding Young Alumnus honorees, as well as recognizes reunion classes and groups and celebrates class support of Samford. \$25 per person.

**7:30 p.m.**  
**Homecoming Bash/Pep Rally/Bonfire** Next to Seibert Hall. Enjoy refreshments, live music, a bonfire and pep rally featuring the Samford Marching Band, Bulldog Dancers, Samford Cheerleaders, Spike, and presentation of the 2011 Homecoming Court. Cosponsored by the SGA Student Activities Council and the Samford Alumni Association

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29**

**8 a.m.**  
**McWhorter School of Pharmacy Continuing Education Seminar** Ingalls Hall. Subject TBA.

**Samford Band Alumni Gathering** Brock Recital Hall. Lunch is \$6 per person. R.S.V.P. to [band@samford.edu](mailto:band@samford.edu).

**9 a.m.**  
**S-Club Meeting** Pete Hanna Center Seminar Room, bottom floor. Meet with athletics department staff and former athletes to learn about special ways to be involved to support current Samford student-athletes.

**9-11:30 a.m.**  
**Hot-Air Balloon** Quadrangle near Reid Chapel. Times approximate, weather permitting.

**9:30 a.m.**  
**Live @ the Library featuring Samford alumnus Dr. Wayne Flynt '61** Davis Library.

**9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Registration and Check-in** Ralph W. Beeson University Center.

**10 a.m.**  
**The Artsy and Not So Artsy Sale** 233 Orlean Bullard Beeson Hall. A sale of unique items benefits the Dean's Excellence Fund for the education school. Contact Della Fancher, [dfancher@samford.edu](mailto:dfancher@samford.edu), 205-726-4462

**10-11:15 a.m.**  
**Women's basketball scrimmage** Pete Hanna Center. The Samford women's basketball team will host a preview for the 2011-12 season.

**10:30 a.m. Women's Basketball Red and Blue Scrimmage** Pete Hanna Center.

**11:15 a.m. Women's Basketball Alumni Game**, Pete Hanna Center.

**11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Reunion** above Seibert Stadium.

**10:30 a.m.**  
**The Thomas E. and Marla Cortis Homecoming Parade** Around campus on Montague Drive. This year's homecoming parade will be a special treat with floats, the Samford Marching Band, cheerleaders and dignitaries winding through campus.

**11 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**McWhorter School of Pharmacy Reunion** Quadrangle near Centennial Walk. Featured reunions include the Classes of 1981, 1986, 1991, 2001 and 2006. \$10 per adult, \$5 per child under age 6. R.S.V.P. to Diane Vakakes at [dpvakake@samford.edu](mailto:dpvakake@samford.edu).

**11:15 a.m.**  
**Journalism and Mass Communication Department Wall of Fame Ceremony** Bolding Studio. JMC's Wall of Fame honors those whose contributions to the department have made a meaningful and significant difference in the lives of its students through the years.

**11:30 a.m.**  
**Class of 1961 Golden Reunion Luncheon** Reservations are required by Oct. 18. Wright Center Stage. Lunch and program honoring the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1961. \$20 per person. R.S.V.P. to [sualumni@samford.edu](mailto:sualumni@samford.edu), 205-726-4315

**12-2 p.m.**  
**Homecoming Festival** Quadrangle (See *Reunion Groups section*).

**12 p.m.**  
**Journalism and Mass Communication Alumni Reception** JMC Academic Suite, University Center Annex.

**Men's Basketball Blue and White Scrimmage** Pete Hanna Center.

**12-1 p.m.**  
**All Alumni Reunion Luncheon** University Dining Hall, University Center. Enjoy lunch and reminisce with friends, former classmates and the entire Samford family. \$7 per person, adult or child.





**12-1:30 p.m.**

**Cage the Catamounts tailgate party**  
Quadrangle. Brock School of Business alumni are invited to enjoy great tailgate food and soft drinks. R.S.V.P. to Kara Kennedy, 205-726-4070, [kkennedy@samford.edu](mailto:kkennedy@samford.edu)

**Classics Department Barbecue**

Quadrangle. Classics alumni and alumni of the travel abroad programs to Greece, Rome, Italy, Jordan and London are invited. R.S.V.P. to Dr. Randy Todd, [rtodd@samford.edu](mailto:rtodd@samford.edu), 205-726-2609.

**Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing**

**Homecoming Alumni Barbecue** Reservations are requested by Oct. 24. Plaza Level of the Healing Arts Center. If individual classes of nursing alumni would like to meet prior to the barbecue, contact Katie Stripling to reserve a room in the Healing Arts Center. \$5 per person. R.S.V.P. to Katie Stripling, [kstripling@samford.edu](mailto:kstripling@samford.edu), 205-726-2265.

**Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies**

**Alumni and Friends Barbecue** Education Building and Plaza. R.S.V.P. to Ruth Holt, [rholt@samford.edu](mailto:rholt@samford.edu), 205-726-2745.

**Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society Circle Alumni**

**Reunion** Quadrangle. Hosted by Dr. Betsy Holloway, Dr. Rod Davis and current Circle members. R.S.V.P. to Ginger Robertson, [grburton@samford.edu](mailto:grburton@samford.edu), 205-726-2393.

**2 p.m.**

**Samford Football vs. Western Carolina**  
Seibert Stadium. Order tickets at [www.samfordsports.com](http://www.samfordsports.com).

**5:30 p.m.**

**A Cappella Choir Alumni Reception**  
Wright Center Lobby. As the A Cappella Choir prepares to order new robes, alumni and friends of the choir are invited to place bids for the historic robes to help fund the new purchases. R.S.V.P. to Kim Settle, [ksettle@samford.edu](mailto:ksettle@samford.edu), 205-726-2851.

**6 p.m.**

**Singing and Story Telling** Jane H. Brock Hall. All are invited to attend an evening of singing and remembrances with a performance by the A Cappella Choir. All choir alumni are invited to participate, as well as alumni, parents and friends.

**Samford Volleyball vs. Wofford** Hanna Center.

**REUNION GROUPS**

We expect many student organizations to participate on the quad. Alumni are invited to reconnect with their friends there.

- APO
- Class of 1961
- Class of 1986
- Class of 2001
- Cornerstone Program
- Omicron Delta Kappa

**ALUMNI OF THE YEAR**

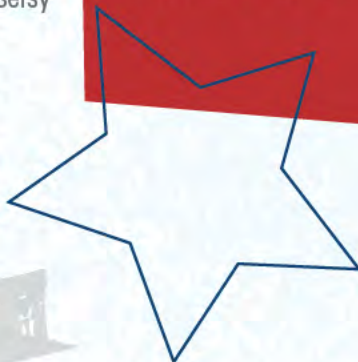
**2011 Alumni of the Year**

- Mr. Joe McDade '61
- Mr. Mark Davidson '92

**2011 Outstanding Young Alumna**

- Mrs. Kitty Rogers Brown '01

**TO REGISTER FOR EVENTS AND VIEW THE MOST RECENT SCHEDULE, GO TO [WWW.SAMFORD.EDU/ALUMNI](http://WWW.SAMFORD.EDU/ALUMNI)**





# More Students

## Samford Opens the 'New' Pittman, Begins S

The "new" Pittman Hall is open this fall. With renovations throughout and a new east wing, the redesigned residence hall is now home to 155 female students, 56 more than it previously housed. And more campus residence additions are on the way.

"Pittman was completely gutted and totally renovated inside," said David Whitt, Samford's director of capital planning and improvement. "New

floors, ceilings, lights, doors, windows and roofs were added. There are new heating and cooling systems, fire sprinklers and alarms, and new ceramic tile bathrooms and plumbing."

As part of the change, Samford's University Health Services was relocated to new and expanded quarters in Seibert Hall (see page 39).

Robins & Morton Group handled the Pittman renovation and addition, which required 10 months to complete.

Originally built in 1962, the structure was expanded from 27,000 square feet to 33,500.

With the increased capacity of Pittman, Samford now houses 2,015 students on campus, according to Lauren Taylor, director of residence life and university services. But plans are underway to provide additional capacity on the southwest corner of the campus, between Joe Lee Griffin Field and Lakeshore Drive.





# Projects on Campus

## Southwest Residential Community

The university is replacing 50-year-old apartment buildings in the area with contemporary apartment-style quarters for independent upperclassmen. Four buildings are planned, each housing 100 students in 25 apartment suites.

Each suite will contain four private bedrooms, two baths, a living room, kitchenette and self-contained temperature control. Each building will have a public lobby, small sitting rooms, multipurpose meeting rooms, and

laundry and vending areas.

Three of the structures will be completed during the 2012–2013 academic year. They will be the first new Samford residence halls to be constructed in more than 20 years.

When the fourth building is completed, Odum Lane will be closed as a public street with no access to Lakeshore Drive except in an emergency. Samford owns several houses that front on Lakeshore Drive west of its west

entrance, and these will be removed so that parking can be added for the new southwest campus residence halls.

Brasfield & Gorrie has been selected as the general contractor on the southwest campus project.

Completion of these projects will bring campus housing capacity to more than 2,400. ■

Students move in to the newly renovated Pittman Hall on freshman move-in day Aug. 26. At right, an architectural rendering of four apartment-style residential buildings to be built on the southwest corner of the campus, between Joe Lee Griffin Field and Lakeshore Drive.



# Samford Gets \$805,595 Grant to Ease Nursing Educator Shortage

by Philip Poole

Samford University's Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing has received an \$805,595 federal grant designed to help ease the national shortage of nursing educators. Samford was one of only two nursing programs in Alabama to receive the funds, the other being the University of South Alabama.

The grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, will provide loans for graduate and doctoral students pursuing an advanced degree with the intent to serve as faculty in a school of nursing.

The Nurse Faculty Loan Program [NFLP] addresses a critical need in health care, according to Associate Dean Jane S. Martin. Students who receive the loans for master's or doctoral degree programs can have up to 85 percent of the loan forgiven in exchange for service as full-time nursing faculty members at an accredited school of nursing.

The 2011 grant will fund up to 25 new students, Martin said. Currently, 47 Samford nursing graduate students receive funds from the loan program, and students can continue to

receive loans as long as they maintain good academic standing. Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing hopes to extend NFLP funds to every qualified nurse educator student in the 2011-12 year, Martin explained.

The NFLP was approved by Congress in 2002, and Samford was one of the first 55 nursing schools in the nation to receive funds. For academic year 2011-12, 110 NFLP grants were awarded to institutions across the United States, and Samford received the sixth largest award. To date, Samford has received more than \$2 million in NFLP grants.

"There is a national shortage of both nurses and nurse educators, and the NFLP provides a great incentive to pursue a career in education," said Martin. "Without highly trained educators, we cannot adequately prepare future generations of nurses."

The nursing educator shortage impacts a school's ability to admit qualified applicants, Martin explained. According to a study by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN], nursing schools turned away more than 67,500 qualified applicants in 2010. More than two-thirds

of the schools participating in the survey cited faculty shortages as a primary reason for not accepting all qualified applicants, she noted.

"To date, 103 Samford students have benefited from NFLP grants and are serving as nursing educators across the country," said Martin. "Our unique online curriculum allows us to extend our efforts to address the nursing faculty shortage far beyond Alabama."

In a September 2010 study by the AACN, 880 faculty vacancies were identified in a survey of 556 nursing schools with baccalaureate and/or graduate programs across the country, according to Martin. In addition to the vacancies, schools cited the need to create an additional 257 faculty positions to accommodate student demand.

"These federal dollars assist in the recruitment of high-quality students for our programs and in the training of excellent nurse educators who will prepare the nurses of the future," said Martin.

Individuals interested in pursuing an advanced degree in nurse education should go to <http://nursing.samford.edu> to apply or call 205-726-2047 for more information. ■



Nursing professor Margaret Findlay, second from left, chats with doctor of nursing practice students Kimberly Rawson, left, Sharon Jones and Elizabeth Fuller, right, at the start of the fall semester.



THE LURE OF THE  
ARENA

ARTS AND SCIENCES NEWSLETTER

# The Howard Legacy



Dean Chapman

The winter of 1789 found John Howard, for whom Howard College of Arts and Sciences is named, on the steppes of Russia. At the age of 63, he

should have been at his family home in Bedfordshire, England, enjoying the leisurely pursuits of the landed gentry. Instead, he was inspecting the dungeons of Russia in his long quest to bring more humane treatment to prisoners throughout Europe. He had been drawn to the Crimea because Russian forces had engaged a last-gasp attempt of the Ottoman Empire to reclaim their former territory in this region.

In addition to examining prisons, Howard had also taken an interest in military hospitals where thousands were dying of infections and fevers. One of

his last acts was to plead with Russian officials to give patients clean bedding and proper care.

While staying in Cherson, Howard was asked to visit a young woman who was sick with a terrible fever. Although he was not a physician, Howard had picked up a few rudiments of medical care in his many years of visitation to the sick and dying. No carriage being available, Howard set off on horseback, riding several miles through a freezing rain. The girl died the next day from her illness, and Howard, weakened from his long ride, soon came down with similar symptoms. On Jan. 20, 1790, he succumbed to his illness and was buried in a small village nearby.

Although Howard's life was over, his work was taken up by many others. In many former British Commonwealth countries, the Howard League actively promotes humane conditions for prisoners. Fifty years after his death, a group of Alabama Baptists decided to name their new college in honor of this great humanitarian who had given his life in simple obedience to God's command to take care of "the least of

these"—the sick, the poor and the imprisoned. For most of its long history, Samford University was Howard College.

We take the legacy of John Howard as both a singular honor and a sacred responsibility in Howard College of Arts and Sciences as we educate a new generation of leaders for America. Like Howard, our students are not limited by national borders, but have sought to better the conditions of suffering people on distant continents. And like Howard, they have often given up the comforts of home and family to serve in some of the poorest regions of the world. A few of them, like Howard, have made the ultimate sacrifice for their commitment to serve. It is my sincere hope that this legacy will live on from generation to generation, and that the life and mission of John Howard will not be forgotten.



David Chapman  
Dean

## Arts and Sciences Welcomes New Faculty, Family



Grace Anderson



Craig Caldwell



R. Andrew Hataway



Allison Hepola



Serena Simoni

degli Studi di Roma, La Sapienza, an M.A. degree in political science from California State University—Long Beach and a Ph.D. degree in international relations from the

Howard College of Arts and Sciences welcomes five new full-time faculty this fall.

**Grace L. Anderson** comes to Samford as assistant professor of communication studies. She holds B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. (2011) degrees in communication from the University of California—Santa Barbara.

**Craig H. Caldwell** joins the faculty as visiting assistant professor of history. He holds a B.A. degree in history from Furman University, and M.A. and Ph.D. (2007) degrees in history from Princeton University.

Samford alumnus **R. Andrew Hataway '04** serves as assistant professor of biological and environmental sciences. He holds B.S. and B.A. degrees in biology and history from Samford, and a Ph.D. degree in biology from the University of Mississippi (2010).

**Allison Hepola** serves as assistant professor of philosophy. She holds a B.A. degree in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame and a Ph.D. degree in philosophy from Rutgers University (2011).

**Serena Simoni** joins Samford's faculty as assistant professor of political science. She holds a B.A. degree in political science from the Universita

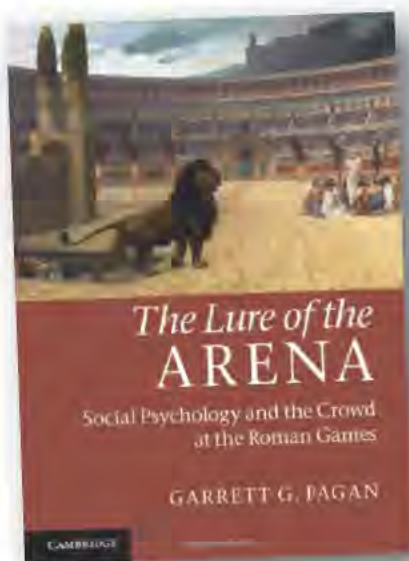
University of Southern California (2008).

The college added a few other new faces to its family in the past year. Roslyn and Andrew Lampkins (assistant professor, Department of Chemistry) welcomed twin sons **Luke** and **Clark** Aug. 17, 2010.

Becky and Ryan Galloway (associate professor and director of debate, Department of Communications Studies) welcomed daughter **Caroline Joy** Oct. 12, 2010.

Russell Davis and Theresa Davidson (associate professor, Department of Sociology) welcomed daughter **Julia Ray** Nov. 11, 2010. ■





## The Lure of the Arena: Gladiators To Take Center Stage for Davis Lecture Oct. 13

Since the movie *Gladiator* triumphed at the box office more than a decade ago, scarcely a year has passed without entertainment projects to amuse and/or embarrass those with an interest in ancient cultures. Samford's 2011 Roderick J. Davis Lecture will explore the violent games of those cultures and explain why they continue to fascinate us.

On Oct. 13, noted classics professor and author Garrett G. Fagan will present *Watching the Fighters: Exploring the Roman Fascination with Gladiatorial Combat*. The free public lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Samford's Wright Center Concert Hall.

Fagan is associate professor of classics and ancient Mediterranean studies and history at Pennsylvania State University. His main research interests lie in the field of Roman history and archaeology, on which he has published

two books—*Bathing in Public in the Roman World* (1999) and *The Lure of the Arena* (2011)—and edited or co-authored three other books, numerous scholarly articles and chapters in larger volumes. His many professional honors include the Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of British Columbia and the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship at the University of Cologne.

### Deep Roots

Samford history professor Jason Wallace invited Fagan to speak and expects the lecture to be especially relevant in the Southeastern United States. "I asked Dr. Fagan to speak on this subject because the topic dramatizes the degree to which western society's fascination with sports has deep roots," Wallace said. "While Fagan's talk will examine why Romans loved the games, the theme resonates with our own culture's love of football." Wallace noted that "coliseums, superstars, money, corruption and deep emotion" are prominent elements in both gladiatorial combat and modern college football.

Samford classics professor and Roman archaeologist Shannon Flynt welcomes Fagan's new perspective on the Romans. "Some popular television programs make them out to be crazy,

amoral, unprincipled, debauched people addicted to orgies and violence, which is not true," she said. "They had, in some ways, a different moral system—certainly, it was not a Christian moral system—but they had a strict code of ethics that most people were expected to follow."

Like Wallace, Flynt clearly sees the ancient/modern connection in football. "I most strongly identify with what would have brought out Romans in the thousands, at any time of year, to watch violent activity when I go to a football game in [Auburn University's] Jordan-Hare Stadium," she said. "Suddenly, I have the most important thing in common with people I might never associate with on a regular basis and might never want to associate with. I am completely united with them. They are my best friends, whom I'm hugging after a spectacular touchdown and with whom I'm screaming insults at decent people who are wearing the wrong colors.

"That's what the Romans may have felt," Flynt said. "When they went into the arena, they were united in feeling that the pain and suffering they were about to witness was justified, that justice was being done. Unfortunately, it may just be part of being human." ■

## 29 Enter Fifth-Year Alternative Master's in Secondary Education Program

The first cohort of Samford's new fifth-year nontraditional [FYNT] master's degree in secondary education program began class this fall. Of the 29 students in the cohort, "a large percentage have scored well on the Praxis II content-specific test and have gained the ETS Recognition of Excellence for exceedingly high scores," said fifth-year program coordinator Ashley Cacioppo.

The FYNT program, created in 2010, is a collaboration between Samford's Howard College of Arts and Sciences and

Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies. It is designed for graduates of an accredited university who already have a B.A. or B.S. degree, and want to earn a Class A teaching certificate in biology, English/language arts, general science, history, math, social studies or Spanish for grades 6–12.

The program accommodates those working part- or full-time, including those currently teaching with provisional certificates, and to this end, courses are

offered in the late afternoon, evening or Saturdays.

Of the program's 36 required credit hours, 24 hours are in professional courses, including an internship, and 12 are in the student's chosen content area or teaching field.

Cacioppo said that candidates who pace themselves to advance with their cohort group can complete the program in 16–18 months.

To learn more, go to [www.samford.edu/fynt](http://www.samford.edu/fynt). ■

# Unique Video Series Will Help Students Learn to Study

by Sean Flynt



Professor Stephen Chew confers with student Callie Gibson.

The transition from secondary to higher education is difficult for many students, especially if they find that their study skills don't match the challenge of college-level work. Stephen Chew, chair of Samford's psychology department and resident expert on this problem, has created a unique online video series to help students learn to study. They couldn't be in better hands.

Chew earned Samford's John H. Buchanan Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching award in 1999. In 2001, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named him Alabama Professor of the Year. The American Psychological Association honored Chew with its 2005 Robert S. Daniel Teaching Excellence Award, recognizing him as the nation's best psychology teacher at a four-year college.

"These students are hungry for information on how to succeed academically, and Dr. Chew has a way of boiling down the content into useful, practical advice," said Dana Basinger, assistant dean for Howard College of Arts and Sciences and former director of Freshman Life.

## Ingrained Misconceptions

Beginning in 2006, at Basinger's request, Chew began addressing freshmen in an annual convocation program dedicated to effective studying. "What I've tried to do in the convos is say that it's not just about desire to learn or how many times you read over something—it's more about how you think about it as you read over it. If you do it wrong, you can do it over and over again, and you're not going to learn anything," Chew said.

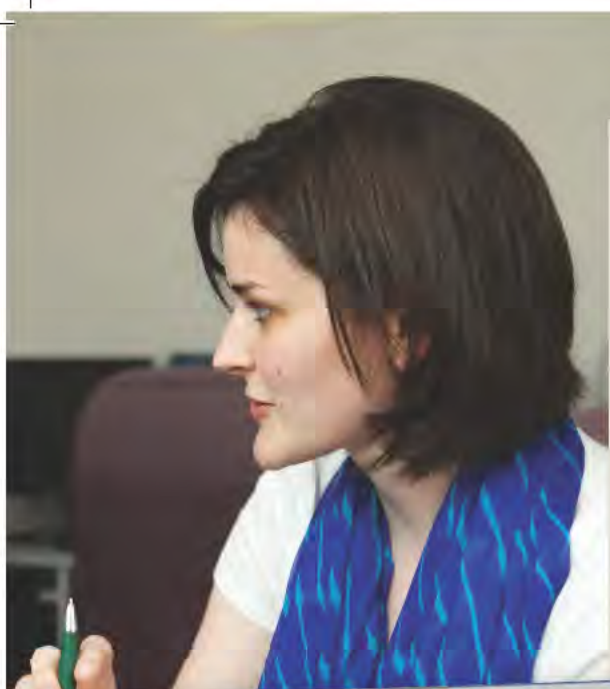
The convocations proved to be popular with students, and by 2008, Chew had added a follow-up session to reinforce the initial lesson. Chew's evaluation of the session revealed an overwhelmingly positive response but a tendency for students to forget best practices for studying. "Under stress and over time, students often reverted to their old, ineffective study strategies because they were familiar and well practiced," Chew said.

"Based on my research and my teaching experience I knew that students, just like most teachers, possessed ingrained misconceptions about learning that undermined their academic performance, and that these misconceptions are also exceedingly

difficult to change, especially in only one presentation," Chew said. He realized that a video series, hosted online, would serve as a readily available refresher for those who had taken part in the sessions and provide a unique, stand-alone resource for those who had not.

The logistics of creating a professional, multipart video series proved too formidable at the time, but by 2011, Samford had a professional videographer on staff in the university's Office of Marketing and Communication. This summer, Samford producer/editor Nathan Troost worked with Chew to finally bring the project to life as a five-part series, including the following:

- *Beliefs That Make You Fail . . . Or Succeed*
- *What Students Should Understand About How People Learn*
- *Cognitive Principles for Optimizing Learning*
- *Putting the Principles for Optimizing Learning into Practice*
- *I Blew the Exam, Now What?*



## Thoughts on *The College Fear Factor*

Stephen Chew's research on learning isn't only for students. He regularly leads workshops and reading groups for Samford faculty. "Teachers need a more complex view of learning because they're missing factors they don't even know they're missing," Chew said. "Their model of how people learn is incomplete."

Last fall, Chew led a faculty discussion of Rebecca Cox's *The College Fear Factor: How Students and Professors Misunderstand One Another*. He provided *Collegium* a few highlights of the discussion.

- Cox focuses on student fear, which clearly factors into student behavior. Students feel more anxiety about the evaluation of their work and are closer to panic than most faculty think. Fear of academic work and judgment is something faculty have a hard time understanding, because we either don't remember it or we never really experienced it. That is why we are academics. The vast majority of our students neither aspire to that role nor understand why someone would.
- Our discussions generated some simple things faculty can do to allay fear, such as making clear the learning goals of activities, recognizing that students do not make the same kinds of assumptions we do,

and providing sufficient structure for students to understand what is expected of them.

- As a result of the reading and discussion, I see the active role the student must play in both trusting and accurately understanding the goals and methods of my classroom instruction. I also see that faculty have widely differing assumptions and values when it comes to teaching, and these differences needlessly make it more difficult for students to succeed. If faculty have different implicit assumptions about teaching, and we either don't talk about them or talk past each other, then how can we expect students to understand our teaching practices?

- Reading Cox's book and discussing it with my colleagues has helped clarify my own mental framework for thinking about teaching. It made me think more about how students perceive, interpret and respond to teaching, which certainly influences its success or failure. It has given me a framework for understanding some of the behaviors of my students that seemed inexplicable to me before. That framework will help me anticipate and, I hope, prevent the kind of irrational panic behavior all faculty see as students struggle to cope with college academic expectations.

Chew's video project differs from those others in significant ways. For a start, his are thoroughly grounded in research on how people learn and draw from Chew's personal experience of more than a quarter-century of undergraduate teaching. Chew's videos also offer a more comprehensive and systematic explanation of how people learn, ranging from student beliefs and misconceptions to cognitively based strategies for studying. Rather than focus on tips or a specific method, Chew's videos explain the general principles of effective study and allow students to develop their own effective study strategies according to those principles. "A single study strategy will not be effective for all students in all classes,"

Chew said, "but all effective study strategies follow certain basic principles of learning."

The videos are distinctively Samford but also have the potential to influence students far beyond Samford's gates. "As far as I can tell," Chew said, "there is no other student resource like it on how to study effectively."

By September 1—after the series was posted on YouTube—it was already in use at five colleges, at least, and had been Tweeted, linked and posted to many university and academic society blogs. ■

Go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/SamfordCommunication#p/u/14/RH95h36NChI>

### No Other Resource Like It

As he began to transform his lectures and research into a video series, Chew investigated similar resources nationally. He didn't find many, and those he found were lacking in important ways. "Some offered information that was at odds with cognitive research," Chew said. Those that relied on such research were "tip" oriented, suggesting that students practice recalling information, for example. None of the guides he found offered a comprehensive approach to studying.

# The Year in Arts and Sciences Achievement



Student debaters Dan Bagwell and Logan Gramzinski

## Groups

Student debaters **Dan Bagwell** and **Logan Gramzinski** carried Samford to the final 16 of the National Debate Tournament for the first time in 25 years. Bagwell simultaneously directed the documentary film, *Nukespeak*, about the team's journey and was invited to screen it at Birmingham's annual Sidewalk Moving Pictures film festival in August.

A Samford Model United Nations team led by head delegate **Kathleen Artman**, and including delegates **Devon Arnold**, **Gabriella Cappo**, **Jayne Cloninger**, **Thomas Espy**, **Surf Kirubel**, **Andrew Mays**, **Sam McFarland**, **Caroline Noland**, **Mary Evelyn Todd** and **Amy Vu** was honored as the Distinguished Delegation for its

representation of the Republic of Burundi during the 2011 National Model United Nations conference in New York City.

Samford adjunct professor **Melanie Jeffcoat** (associate producer), and alumni **Gannon Weaver** (producer), **Patrick Sheehan** (director) and **Jared Shull** (editor) created the documentary film, *Man in the Glass: The Dale Brown Story*, and screened it at Birmingham's annual Sidewalk Moving Pictures Festival in August. The film won the Audience Choice Award for Best Alabama Film and the Audience Choice Award for Best Feature-Length Documentary.

Biology and environmental sciences professors **David Johnson** and **Jennifer Layton** earned a grant of more than \$19,000 from BP to study the impact of

Howard College of Arts and Sciences faculty, students and alumni enjoyed significant honors and achievements in the 2010–11 academic year, ranging from academic scholarships and publications to grants and a stunning world record. Here's just a sample.

the Deepwater Horizon incident and its associated response on the environment and public health in the Gulf of Mexico.

Mathematics and computer science students **Jesse Kawell's** and **Chris Walling's** research project on machine consciousness earned second-place honors at the Association for Computing Machinery Mid-Southeast Conference. Their success led to joint authorship of a research paper with mathematics and computer science professor **Steve Donaldson** and publication in the conference's proceedings.

## Individuals

World languages and cultures professor **Millicent Bolden** earned the Outstanding Educator Award of the Greater Birmingham chapter of the United Nations Association in recognition for her role in creating Project Africa Now, which aims to spread awareness about current conditions in Sudan, Rwanda and Darfur, and to create more involvement nationally and internationally in Africa.

Classics alumnus **Adam Borneman '05** published the book *The Social and Political Dimensions of John Williamson Nevin's Theology of Incarnation*.



Nancy Lipham '76 was history department 2011 Alumna of the Year.

Journalism and mass communication student **Maribeth Browning** earned first prize in the undergraduate category of the American Journalism Historians Association's Southeast Symposium for her paper on Civil Rights-era photo-journalist Charles Moore.

Classics professor **Doug Clapp** earned the Howard College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Teaching.

Core curriculum professor **Carol Ann Vaughn Cross** received a grant from the David Stowe Foundation in support of her research on the history of the missionary movement and world Christianity.

Classics alumna **Jennifer Pharr Davis '04** set a new world record of 46 days, 11 hours and 20 minutes for an assisted thru-hike of the complete Appalachian trail. Davis also published *Becoming Odyssea: Epic Adventures on the Appalachian Trail*, the chronicle of her first hike of the trail, which she undertook three months after her Samford graduation (see page 30).

Biology professor **Larry Davenport** earned the Howard College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Research. Davenport also published *Nature Journal*, a new collection of his popular nature essays.

Associate dean of Howard College of Arts and Sciences and English professor **Rosemary M. Fisk** served as a Fulbright Scholar in Hong Kong for the spring semester (see page 8).

Mathematics and computer science professor **David Foreman** earned

Samford's 2010 Buchanan Teaching Award.

Biology and environmental sciences chair **Ron Hunsinger** was elected Alabama Academy of Sciences vice president.

Samford communication studies alumna and Campbell University Divinity School student **Caitlin Jones '10** earned an award of \$10,000 as one of 20 North American students recognized by the Fund for Theological Education as a young leader who demonstrates exceptional gifts for ministry.

Chemistry and biochemistry professor **Andrew J. Lampkins** was named the first to hold a new professorship created by **Dr. Hugh Linder '28** and honoring former chemistry department chair John R. Sampey, Jr.

Mathematics and computer science student **Jesse Kawell** received honorable mention for the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, the premier undergraduate award of its type in the field of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.

**Nancy Lipham '76**, senior vice president—investments with Wells Fargo Advisors in Anniston, Ala., was honored as the history department's 2011 Alumna of the Year in recognition of her preservation of antebellum architecture, her service on the Howard College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board, and her support for international study scholarships.

Religion professor **Penny Marler** received a \$47,000 grant from the Lilly



Foreman



Whitt

Endowment, Inc., for her studies on peer learning in spiritual settings.

History professor **John Mayfield** published the book *Counterfeit Gentlemen: Manhood and Humor in the Old South*.

History department and Cumberland School of Law alumna **Shannon Cornman O'Guin '08, J.D. '11**, took second place in the National Top Gun Mock Trial competition.

History professor **LeeAnn Reynolds** received a Racial/Ethnic History Research Grant of \$1,715 from the United Methodist Church's General Commission on Archives and History.

Religion professor **James Strange** published the book *The Moral World of James*.

Classics alumnus **Michael Taunton '10** and Alan T. Halbrooks published *The Caffeinated Gospel: Traditional Christianity with a Bold, Modern Flavor*.

History professor **Jason Wallace** earned the Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award. Also, Wallace's essay on civility was one of six honored as part of the Alabama Humanities Foundation's 2011 Whetstone-Seaman Faculty Development Award program. Wallace also published the book *Catholics, Slaveholders and the Dilemma of American Evangelicalism, 1835-1860*.

English professor **Nancy Whitt** earned Samford's 2011 Jennings B. Marshall Service Award.

Psychology professor **Sandra Willis** was selected to participate in the University of Alabama at Birmingham Geriatric Education Center's Faculty Scholars Program. ■

## Howard College of Arts and Sciences Leads Cultural Passport Initiative

The Birmingham Consortium for Higher Education [BACHE] in August launched a “Cultural Passport” program designed to introduce local college freshmen to 12 of the region’s great cultural resources. Starting this fall, students in the entering classes of Samford, Miles College, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham-Southern College and the University of Montevallo will receive a blue-and-gold passport-sized booklet that describes those resources and offers free admission.

BACHE, a partnership among the four-year colleges and universities in the greater Birmingham area, has been led this year by David Chapman, dean of Samford’s Howard College of Arts and Sciences. Chapman, who proposed and led the passport project, said BACHE “is seeking to enhance educational opportunities for students by encouraging an appreciation for the arts while connecting them to the Birmingham community and surrounding areas.” He added, “Our common goal is that these students will become lifelong patrons of the arts.”

Howard College instructor Victoria Knierim oversaw creation of the passports themselves and planned the Aug. 18 launch event at Vulcan Park and Museum, which brought together faculty, students, public officials and representatives from the participating cultural venues. Speaking at the event, Birmingham Mayor William Bell noted that cultural organizations are not the financial drain that some suppose them to be, but actually help sustain local economies. Bell also celebrated the uniqueness of human creativity. “We want our children and generations to come to understand that culture is innate in us, and we have to find ways to exhibit it wherever possible and to keep it alive,” he said. “The human being is always striving to create beauty.”

Gail C. Andrews, the R. Hugh Daniel director of the Birmingham

Museum of Art, echoed Bell’s comments and expressed cultural organizations’ solidarity with colleges and universities. “One of the most important things for us to remember as we go forward is that we are also educational institutions,” Andrews said, “and the more we can be part of the curriculum, the more we can extend learning outside the classroom, the more we can extend lifelong learning.”

The 2011–12 BACHE Cultural Passport project’s



Samford students, from left, Mary Ellen Davis, and Howard College Ambassadors Steven Lyles, Walter Turner, Mary Evelyn Todd, William Fine, Nate Sherrer and Annie Lockwood visit with “V,” the Vulcan Park and Museum mascot, at the Aug. 18 Cultural Passport launch reception.

cultural partners include Alabama Ballet, Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and Museum, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, American Village, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute,

Birmingham Museum of Art, Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington, Opera Birmingham, Sloss Furnaces, Tuscaloosa Museum of Art, Home of the Westervelt Collection and Vulcan Park and Museum. ■

A photograph of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light-colored shirt, and a striped tie. He is sitting on a stone ledge outdoors, smiling at the camera. The background shows a paved path and trees.

# Samford Then

“Being part of that first freshman class to start on the Lakeshore Drive campus brought a strong bonding with the school. I did not want to leave campus after graduation but knew I had to move in the direction God was leading, which took me out of Alabama. When circumstances caused me to move back to Montgomery in 1997, I reconnected with my alma mater. This helped to awaken in me an indebtedness to Samford for what it had given to me, not just as a student, but throughout my life. I wanted to pay Samford back by paying forward, and scholarship funds development has become very important to me. **I would not have had the opportunity of a Howard/Samford experience if someone had not made financial resources available to me.** I want to ensure future generations will have their Samford experience also.”—Joe McDade

A photograph of a young woman with dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a floral-patterned top with ruffles and a necklace. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery.

# Samford Now

“Even though academics are what brought me to Samford, there are so many more things that keep me here, like the sense of community on campus, the amazing faculty and staff, and my fellow students. As a Phonathon caller, I converse with alumni and hear their stories of their times at Samford. I witness firsthand the generosity of alumni. They give to Samford simply so other students, like myself, can benefit. **It is this spirit of selfless giving that I want to pass on to other students** so that they will give back to Samford for future students to have just as wonderful of an experience here, or an even better one.”—Maria Dwyer

## Samford Forever

If you would like to give the Samford experience to future generations of Samford students, go to [www.samford.edu/giving](http://www.samford.edu/giving) to make a gift online.



'A Participant in Nature'

# Davis Sets Record for Fastest Appalachian Trail Hike

by William Nunnolley

Jennifer Pharr Davis of Asheville, N.C., has hiked the Appalachian Trail three times since graduating from Samford in 2004. This summer, she set the record for the fastest hike of the 2,180-mile route. Did anything surprise her on her third time through?

"The trail is always harder than you remember it," she said in August, three weeks after completing the route in 46 days, 11 hours and 20 minutes. "I always feel surprised at how challenging it is.

"The tread and terrain make it difficult. There are constant roots and rocks. You're stubbing your toes constantly. There is a lot of elevation loss and gain. Other trails are more graded. The Appalachian in many places is up-down, up-down with never a view."

But the trail is "gorgeous" all the same, said Davis.

"One day while hiking through the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, I saw 14 black bears. Seeing that many was pretty phenomenal. The flowers and the greenery of the trail are beautiful."

Hiking the trail is a solitary experience, "but only in a good way," she said. "I consider it being unplugged. No phone calls for a month and a half, and none of all the other things that prevent us from enjoying nature."

Davis said she saw more wildlife on her third hike because, in her attempt to set the record, "I was up earlier and later at night, and I was quieter with no backpack. I could move fluidly and never change pace. I felt like a participant in nature." She saw bears, moose, a

wild boar, porcupines and other creatures.

She had no backpack because her husband, Brew, was assisting her effort by meeting her at prearranged campsites with food, water and a tent every night.

The hike had many high points, Davis said, but the greatest view came when she climbed Clingman's Dome in North Carolina at the end of a day.

"The dome is the highest point in the trail, and I got to the top just after sunset. I couldn't see the sun, but there was a beautiful afterglow as I looked down in the valley. I could see the lights of the little towns."

Davis faced an obstacle she had not dealt with before soon after beginning the hike at the trail's northern starting point, Mount Katahdin in Maine.

"On the fourth day, I had intense pain and swelling between my ankles and knees," she said. "I was worried about a stress fracture. My leg actually gave out a couple of times as I hiked."

She talked to her former Samford roommates and varsity tennis teammates, Emily Nunnally Stewart of Jackson, Miss., a physical therapist, and Katie Crawford Buys of Birmingham, a nurse, by cell phone. Between them, they diagnosed the problem as shin splints.

"I worked through them, but it took more than 1,000 miles," said Davis.

The first two weeks on the trail were the hardest, she said, and that is typical for a hiker starting the north end. "The trails in Maine and New Hampshire are rocky surfaces, and I had trained in the

south on dirt trails. Plus, there were sleet and high winds, and I became physically ill.

"It was a low point for me, and I told my husband I didn't know if I could do it. He encouraged me to carry on, and I did. When I finished a 38-mile day to get out of the White Mountains, one of my most difficult days, it gave me confidence to continue."

As Davis neared the southern end of the trail, she began to get support from friends who could meet her and visit for a short walk. Her former classics professor and adviser at Samford, Dr. Douglas Clapp, was in Roanoke, Va., and met and hiked with her for three miles. Her brother and sister-in-law, James and Lindsay Pharr, and their 9-month-old daughter, Hazel, from Asheville met her in Grayson Highlands State Park, a refuge for wild ponies in southern Virginia.

"That was great—ponies and a baby," she said.

But the biggest highlight may have been when she reached Springer Mountain in north Georgia, the trail's end. "To see 45 of my closest friends, including some from Samford, was wonderful. My two college roommates were there with their families, and my friend and fellow classics major, Mark Catlin, came with his wife, Kimberly Landreth Catlin, and their 2-year-old son, Sam. We all laughed and cried with joy."

Davis said one of the most common questions she gets is one of the hardest







to answer: Why does she do it?

“God gave me the heart and ability to do this, and I want to use my talents to the fullest potential,” she said. “One of the best ways to protect creation is to encourage people to get outdoors.”

With the hike behind her, Davis has had time to relax and get back to her business, Blue Ridge Hiking Co., which provides hiking and backpacking training and other opportunities. She also speaks widely (including an upcoming Oct. 20 date at Samford) and writes. Her book, *Becoming Odysa*, details her first Appalachian Trail hike, which she undertook three months after graduation. She plans another volume on the recently completed hike.

Records are nice, said Davis, but the important thing about the hike “is what you take from the experience, and if you use the time for personal growth.” These are among the things she tries to remember as she strides with a purpose through nature’s beauty. ■



Above: Jennifer Pharr Davis hikes the Appalachian Trail at a record pace. At left: Forty-five of Davis’ closest friends greet her at Springer Mountain, Ga., at the completion of the hike.

# CLASSnotes

Let us hear from you!  
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This issue includes Class Notes received through Aug. 10, 2011.

'51 **Nell Jones Vaughan** and her husband, Edward, celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary in June. They live in Livingston, Ala.

'52 **Harold Langston** of Hoover, Ala., participated in a July 2010 Honor Flight to Washington D.C., where he and other veterans visited the World War II Memorial and other monuments.

'53 **Hoyt Harwell** of Hoover, Ala., writes a monthly column for *Senior Living* magazine. He retired after 42 years with the Associated Press, the last 26 as its north Alabama correspondent.

**James Kenneth Sparkman** of Boston, Ky., retired in July as pastor of Lick Creek Baptist Church in Linden, Tenn. He retired in 1999 as associational director of missions in Trenton, Tenn.

'56 **Wilson C. Wilhite, Jr.**, of Daphne, Ala., will present the Joseph C. Gabel Memorial Lecture at the University of Texas this fall and is the subject of a video in the Wood Library Museum living history series. His lecture will

cover six decades of advances in medicine. He is retired professor of anesthesiology at the UT School of Medicine, retired professor emeritus at University of California at Los Angeles and a former president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

'60 **Joe P. Duncan** retired from the City of Trussville, Ala., as director of engineering/inspection services. He and his wife, Madelyne, live in Trussville.

'63 **Michael R. Bradley** is author of *Myths and Mysteries of the Civil War* (Globe Pequot Press) and *Forrest's Fighting Preacher: David C. Kelley* (The History Press). He taught U.S. history at Motlow College in Lynchburg, Tenn., for 36 years and was named professor emeritus in 2006.

**John O. Braswell, Jr.**, was inducted into the Morgan County, Ala., Sports Hall of Fame in June. He played football and basketball at Decatur High School in the 1940s, and later played football at Florence State Teachers College. He was a pharmaceutical representative for Eli

Lilly Company and is a longtime member of the McWhorter School of Pharmacy advisory board. He and his wife, Jean, live in Decatur, Ala.

**T. Bob Davis** established an Academy of Dentistry International [ADI] Student Servant Leadership Award to recognize senior dental school students for volunteerism and leadership. A dentist in Dallas, Texas, he is ADI national section board secretary and south central regent. He has led many international dental mission trips.

**Cordell Harrison** is interim minister of music at First Baptist Church of DeFuniak Springs, Fla. He and his wife, Alma, live in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.



Phillip McManus

'64 **Phillip McManus** recently received the Excellence in Innovation Award from the Tennessee Pharmacists Association. Owner of Mac's Medicine Mart in Kingsport, Tenn.,

he has developed and compounded nasal sprays that specifically target mold and fungus.

'66 **Harris Edward McFerrin** retired in December 2010 after 18 years as presiding circuit judge of the 2nd Judicial Circuit of Alabama and a year as president of the Alabama Circuit Judges Association. He practices law and does mediation in Greenville, Ala.

'67 **Diane Phares Proffitt** of Brandon, Miss., is a registered sales assistant with Stephens, Inc., a banking group in Ridgeland, Miss., after teaching school for 32 years. She and her husband, Bill, have two grown children, Jennifer and Scott.

**Dianne Crews Teer** of Maylene, Ala., retired after 39 years as a math teacher. She and her husband, Philip, enjoy their six grandchildren and time spent in Orange Beach, Ala.

'69 **Allen R. Dorough** of Bessemer, Ala., is author of *The Architectural Legacy of Wallace A. Rayfield: Pioneer Black Architect of Birmingham, Alabama* (University of Alabama Press). The

## Glimpses Tells Donaldson Story

**F**rank Donaldson '47 learned to fly a Piper Cub light airplane in a government-sponsored pilot training program at Howard College in 1940. "We weren't in a war then, but they were getting us ready for one," Donaldson recalled.

After earning his pilot's license, he took his friend, the late Wendell Givens '44, for a flight around Birmingham one day. When they returned, they walked to First Avenue North and hitchhiked downtown.

A man gave them a ride, but stopped and double-parked at a store on the way. "If a policeman comes up, one of you boys drive this car around the block," he said. **Frank Donaldson '47** When the man left, Givens told Donaldson, "It will have to be you. I don't drive."

"I don't drive either," said Donaldson.

Givens always "got a big laugh out of that," Donaldson said recently. "Imagine learning to fly before you can drive a car."

Donaldson shares that moment and numerous others in his new book, *Glimpses of an Abundant Life*. The book is a collection of stories chronicling his 90 years. They include tales of growing up during the Great Depression, World War II service as a fighter pilot, his days as an FBI agent and U. S. Attorney, his 43-year teaching career at Cumberland School of Law and others.

The 314-page volume is available at the Samford Bookstore, Little Professor Bookstore in Homewood and online at [wwwcreatespace.com/3561124](http://wwwcreatespace.com/3561124). Donaldson will have a book signing at the Samford bookstore during homecoming Oct. 29. ■



book chronicles the life and work of Alabama's first, and the United States' second, formally trained and practicing black architect. A Baptist minister, Durough is a retired insurance executive.

**'71 David Key** retired after 40 years as a Mountain Brook, Ala., teacher and coach, and baseball, basketball and football official. Since 1992, he served as assistant principal at Crestline Elementary, which has named a new character award in his honor.



**Marshall C. Deason, Jr., J.D.**

**'72 Marshall C. Deason, Jr., J.D.**, received the American Lung Association's highest national volunteer award, the 2011 Will Ross Medal, for his contributions to the prevention and control of lung disease. The

Tampa, Fla., attorney was cited for helping pass the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act, one of the first statewide smoke-free laws in the nation. He and his wife, **Juanita Carter Deason, M.A. '73**, live in Clearwater, Fla.

**'74 Steven H. Lind**, a certified public accountant and certified financial planner, is owner of Lind Professional Corporation in Birmingham. He and his wife, Linda, have a daughter and an infant grandson.

**'76 Sarah Lansden Baydala** retired in 2010 from the Social Security Administration after 33 years of civil service. She and her husband, Thomas, live in Birmingham.

**Mary Nell Preston McNeese** is an associate professor at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.



**Ann Thornton Field**

**'77 Ann Thornton Field** received the Lynette Norton Award given by the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession to recognize female attorneys who excel in litigation

skill and who are devoted to mentoring female lawyers. She is chair of the Philadelphia, Penn., Cozen O'Connor law firm's general litigation department, and a member of its management committee and board of directors. She was a 2010 Samford Alumna of the Year.

## Underwood, Pearl Harbor Survivor, Leads Wisconsin July 4 Parade



**Jim Underwood '51** looks at Pearl Harbor map.

**J**im Underwood '51 was in the mess hall when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began. From a porthole, he observed the USS Utah capsizing and bombs hitting the USS Raleigh. He raced to his battle station, where he saw the USS Arizona, located about 125 yards away, get hit and sink, killing more than 1,100 sailors.

Underwood was a Navy corpsman aboard the hospital ship USS Solace the morning of Dec. 7,

1941. He and others helped evacuate 464 from nearby waters, of which 418 survived. Taking care of casualties after the attack, he recalled, "We didn't get to bed for three days."

Underwood attended Samford pharmacy school after being discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1948. Later, he moved to Whitewater, Wis., and became a pharmacist at Krahnke Drugstore, which he took over in 1965 and ran until retiring 21 years later.

Now 90, Underwood recently was invited to serve as the marshal of the Whitewater July 4 parade by members of the sponsoring Whitewater Lions Club. As a veteran of World War II, he quickly identifies with such celebrations.

"July 4? That's what our country is all about. It's quite an honor to be grand marshal," said the Alabama native. ■

**'78 Delane Tew**, director of Samford's Christian Women's Leadership Center, was elected president of the Baptist History and Heritage Society in May. The society, with members worldwide, includes historians and others who communicate the story of Baptists.

**'79 Jane Bishop** is founder/owner of Take the Next Step, LLC, in Sugar Hill, Ga. After 26 years with the North American Mission Board, she founded the company to help others through life coaching, consulting, training and speaking services. Her website is [www.takethenextstepct.com](http://www.takethenextstepct.com).

**Velma Susan Bradford** is a pediatrician in Meridian, Idaho, near Boise.

**'83 Tom Jeter** of Dallas, Ga., was elected chairman of the Academy of Clinical Pharmacists of the Georgia Pharmacy Association, and will serve on the association's board of directors. He is a pharmacist with ElderCare Pharmacy in Acworth, Ga., and has four children.

**'86 Lauri Strimkovsky** is senior vice president for financial affairs and chief of staff at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, Penn.

**'87 Denise Bates Stimpson** of Alexander City, Ala., is an application consultant for Altivon, LP, telecommunications consultants.

**Sharon Donaldson Stuart, J.D. '90**, was named to the Top 25 Women Lawyers in Alabama in 2011 by Alabama Super Lawyers. She is a partner in the Birmingham law firm of Christian & Small, where she specializes in civil trial work and arbitration.

**'92 Kent E. Altom, J.D. '02**, is managing partner of McCalla Raymer law firm's Georgia and Alabama litigation and trial practice group. The firm specializes in bankruptcy, foreclosure, REO and eviction services. He is also an equity partner. He and his wife, **Charla Nichols Altom '93, M.S.E. '95**, live in Johns Creek, Ga., with their daughter, Caryl, 5.

**Shijuana Hudson-Coleman, J.D. '96**, is an attorney in Bessemer, Ala. She and her husband, Thaddeus, have three children, sons Harrison and Mason, and a daughter, Emerson-Grace.

**DeAnn Marie Mullins** of Lynn Haven, Fla., was appointed by Florida Governor Rick Scott to the Florida Board of Pharmacy. She is an independent community pharmacist and a certified diabetes educator who owns and operates WeCare Mullins Pharmacy, Inc., and WeCare Wellness. She established Pharmacy Care Solutions in 2005 to advance pharmacist care services for people with diabetes, and is on the Executive Committee of the

National Community Pharmacists Association. She and her husband, Ken, have two daughters.

'93 **David Alan Parks, M.Div. '97**, is Asia ministry training coordinator for Youth Ministry International. He and his wife, Jennifer, have four children: Corrie, 9, Anna, 5, and twins Auston and Julie, 2.

'94 **Melissa Lynn Hughes Albert** is a clinical psychologist with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Seagoville, Texas. She and her husband, Gene, and children, Tyler and Kyle, live in Forney, Texas.

**James R. "Randy" Driggers** is vice president for institutional advancement at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Laura Lee Leazenby McCain** is a guidance counselor with the Daviess County Board of Education in Owensboro, Ky.

**Kelly Lynn Crowder Seay** is a teacher liaison with the Florida Department of Education in Tallahassee, Fla. She and her husband, Glen, have three children, Luke Alan, Lawson Daniel and Lillian Katherine.

'95 **Russell Lee Bedsole** is a physician and partner at Internal Medicine Associates in Dothan, Ala.

**Robin Lynn Schlosser Poulos** was elected Teacher of the Year at Pitner Elementary in Acworth, Ga., where she is a K-5 technology teacher. She and her husband, Constantine, have two children, Elisabeth and Theodore.



**Jason Wallis**

**Jason Wallis** was a winner in *Communication Arts'* annual photography competition. His photo of the Birmingham band, The Gum Creek Killers, was one of 166 winners selected

from 5,520 entries in the international competition. He owns Jason Wallis Photography in Birmingham.

'96 **Samuel Roach, J.D.**, earned a Ph.D. in urban planning and public policy at the University of Texas at Arlington. He and his wife, **Alysia Ludwig Roach, Pharm.D. '96**, live in Tampa, Fla., with their two daughters.

'98 **Christopher Dodd** is in his final year of residency in pediatrics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He and his wife, **Angela Dalton Dodd '98**, have two children, Kate, 4, and Elijah, 3. They live in Mt. Olive, Ala.

**Lisa Hoffman** of Louisville, Ky., is assistant professor of graduate studies in education at Indiana University Southeast. She earned a Ph.D. in sociocultural and international development education from Florida State University.

**Carolyn Jean Nelson** was ordained an elder in full connection with the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church in June. She is associate pastor at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Pensacola, Fla.

**Mark D. Roberts** is founder and owner of a Birmingham investment firm, ROIQ, LLC, which focuses on alternative investments. He specializes in futures and commodities markets.

**Justin E. Rooks** is a financial adviser with Edward Jones Investments in Homosassa, Fla. He and his wife, Natalie, live in Brooksville, Fla.

**Ericka Lee Bounds Fischer Vander Sys** graduated with a master of science in nursing from Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in June, and passed her national boards in July. She is a certified nurse midwife at New Beginnings OB/GYN in San Antonio, Texas. She and her husband, Christopher, have two children, Sophia Grace, 2, and Maximilian Alexander, born in January.

'99 **Allison Collier** married Martin Kaufman in June. She is a kindergarten teacher at Franklin Road Academy in Nashville, Tenn.

**Jon, M.M. '03, M.Div. '04**, and **Tanya Lepper Parks** were commissioned to serve as Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel in Slovakia. They will work alongside English teachers at an all-Roma private school, where they will lead conversational English classes and handle other duties.

**Ashley Mims Patterson, J.D. '05**, is a deputy district attorney in Jefferson County, Ala.

'00 **David Andrew Dixon** is vice president at Brannen Goddard, a commercial real estate firm, where he specializes in office tenant representation. He also recently started a refrigeration truck rental company servicing caterers and other businesses. He and his wife, Lauren, live in Atlanta, Ga.

**Jonathan Michael Hooks, J.D. '03**, is an attorney with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP, in Birmingham. He and his wife, Holly, have three children, Jonathan Michael, Jr., 4, Spencer Murray, 3, and Mary Claire, born in May.

'01 **Gregory Bernstein, M.B.A.**, is a strategic projects director for Lafarge North America and a member of the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Anna, have two children, Paul, 16, and Sophie Anna, born in June.

**Christie Godwin Hennings, J.D.**, is an attorney with McCurdy & Candler, LLC, in Atlanta, Ga. She and her husband, Todd, have two sons, Evan, 3, and Lucas, born in April.

## Renewing Vows in Reid Chapel

Alumni **Mike '61** and **Carolyn Yeager Robinson '60** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 28 with a renewal of vows ceremony in Samford's Reid Chapel. The couple, who met in a history class during the school's first year on the Homewood campus, married in the bride's hometown of Mobile, Ala., in 1961. The renewal event included their daughter and son-in-law, Michelle and Alan Adkins, and granddaughters, Holly and Rachael. A reception followed in Samford's Rotunda Club. The Robinsons, who live in Alabaster, Ala., were Samford Alumni of the Year in 2009. Mike, a native of Dora, Ala., is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel. ■



**Mike '61 and Carolyn Robinson '60**

**Emily Adams Perry** and her husband, **Blake Perry '06**, live in Winston-Salem, N.C. She is assistant director of marketing and communications for the schools of business at Wake Forest University, and he is a family practice resident at Wake Forest Baptist Health.

**Brian Smothers** is a member of the core faculty at Wisconsin School of Professional Psychology in Milwaukee, Wis. He earned a doctor of psychology degree in clinical psychology at the school in 2010.

**Chris Tortorice** is a chaplain at Jimmie Hale Mission in Birmingham. He and his wife, Elaine, have two daughters, Katie and Susan.

**M. O. "Buzz" Williams** of Hoover, Ala., is the author of *Disciple Maker: Crisis of Disobedience in the Evangelical Church*. He is an ordained minister in the Independent Reformed Presbyterian Church and chaplain for a Boy Scout troop in Helena, Ala.

'02 **Kimberly Crowe** married Brock Beiersdoerfer in April. She is an alumni and event officer at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry.

'03 **Elizabeth Ann Bragg Paxson, M.S.E. '04**, teaches second grade in Williamson County Schools in Tennessee. She and her husband, Jesse, live in Spring Hill, Tenn.

**Chris and Ashley Loomis Simpson '05** teach at Seoul Foreign School, an international school with students of 50 nationalities in Seoul, Korea. She teaches high school Spanish, and he teaches U.S. history and is basketball coach. They have twin daughters, Lily Cynthia and Lucy Victoria, born in February.

**Andy Wilbanks** is minister to children at Hunter Street Baptist Church in Hoover, Ala. He and his wife, Lindsey, have two children, Cade and Ruth Ann.

'04 **Leslie M. Cooper** is marketing and operations coordinator for Bynum Capital Management in Birmingham.

**Stasha Duck** married Matthew Soderlund in March 2010 on the Samford campus. They live in Merritt Island, Fla.

**Grant Lyons** is Pike County extension coordinator for the Auburn University/Alabama Cooperative Extension System. He and his wife, **Vaughan Boyd Lyons '04**, have two children, Maggie Grace, 2, and John Curry, born in May. They live in New Brockton, Ala.

**Ross Nelson** is a financial adviser and vice president in Morgan Keegan's Atlanta, Ga., branch, practicing with the SP Financial Group.

**R. David Nelson, M.Div.**, received a Ph.D. in systematic theology at King's College, University of Aberdeen, in Scotland. He is an adjunct professor in the Samford religion department. He and his wife, Dacia, are parents of twins, Reace Elaine and Liam Isaac, born in June.

**Taylor Ashley Brooks Spratt** is a senior account executive with Groupon, Inc. She and her husband, Adam, live in Austin, Texas.

'06 **Elizabeth Marie Gilbow, Pharm.D.**, is a pharmacist with Winn Dixie Pharmacy. She lives in Hoover, Ala.

**Maree Atchison Jones** is public relations and social media coordinator for KC Projects, a public relations and branding firm in Birmingham. She and her husband, Russell, have a son, Dalton, 3.

'07 **David Bailey** graduated magna cum laude from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in May. He and his wife, **Kimberly Parish Bailey '07**, live in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is beginning a residency in internal medicine/pediatrics.

**Casey Tidwell Barron, J.D.**, is a senior specialized prosecuting attorney for the Department of Children and Families in the 14th Judicial Circuit of Florida. She and her husband, Michael, live in Dothan, Ala.

**Laura Houston** married Todd Johnson in June. They live in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Nathaniel Patterson Lisenbee** graduated from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in May. He is a first-year resident in emergency medicine at the University of Florida Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Fla.

**Debbie M. Owen** is a personnel generalist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

'08 **Amber Wade** married Perry Butler in April. She received a master's in social work at the University of Alabama in 2010, and is a preschool coordinator and therapist at Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center. They live in Fayette, Ala.

**C. G. Covey, M.B.A. '11**, and **Caitlin Cowin** married in April and live in Birmingham. He is project analyst at Alagasco.

## Law School Grad Malone Named Alabama Chief Justice

ALUMNI



**Charles Malone J.D. '81**

**C**harles R. "Chuck" Malone of Tuscaloosa, Ala., a 1981 graduate of Samford's Cumberland School of Law, has been named chief justice of the Alabama

Supreme Court. He is the first Cumberland School of Law graduate to serve as the state's chief justice, according to Dean John Carroll.

The former Tuscaloosa County presiding circuit judge, a Republican, was appointed Aug. 1 by Alabama Governor Robert Bentley to succeed Sue Bell Cobb, a Democrat who resigned from the bench, effective July 31. Malone was serving as Governor Bentley's chief of staff. He faces running next year for a full term as chief justice that begins in 2013.

Malone, 57, was a lawyer in private practice in Tuscaloosa for 20 years, serving as president of the Tuscaloosa County Bar Association. He was elected a Tuscaloosa County circuit judge in 2000 and re-elected in 2006.

The new chief justice has served as an adjunct lecturer at Cumberland School of Law and at the University of Alabama, where he earned his undergraduate degree. ■

Maeci Elisabeth Martin is public affairs manager with Christie Strategy Group in Montgomery, Ala.

Christy Leigh McIntosh is a staff member with Campus Outreach at Berry College in Rome, Ga.

Melanie Theresa Morgan is a registered nurse with Grayson & Associates in Birmingham. She lives in Chelsea, Ala.



Brad Parker

Brad Parker is a business assurance senior associate with Moore Colson accounting firm in Atlanta, Ga. He first worked with the firm as an intern.



Brydee Warner

Brydee Warner is a business assurance senior associate with Moore Colson accounting firm in Atlanta, Ga. She first worked with the firm as an intern.

'09 Patrick Fraser Baggett is a commercial sales executive with Full Service Insurance, Inc., in Franklin, Tenn. He and his wife, Amy Clayton Baggett '08, live in Nashville, Tenn.

Sarah Elizabeth Brooks, Pharm.D., is a clinical pharmacy specialist at Florida Hospital in Orlando, Fla.

'10 Anna Claire Richie married David Jacobson in April. They live in Savannah, Ga., where she is enrollment management systems analyst at Savannah College of Art and Design.

Jessica Whalen Skelley, Pharm.D., is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice in Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy.

'11 Katie Gassaway and Cooper Pinson married in December. She works for Regions Bank, and he is junior high youth minister at Briarwood Presbyterian Church. They live in Birmingham. ■

# births



Sophia Katherine

'94 Rob and Debra Silverstein Brown of Columbia, Tenn., a daughter, Sophia Katherine, born Jan. 15, 2011.

Ben and Amy Cheek Fineburg, M.A. '00, of Trussville, Ala., a son, Simon James, born April 5, 2011.



Becket Bradley

Reginald Bradley Clay, Pharm.D. '00, and Bonnie Millican Clay '99 of Birmingham, a son, Becket Bradley, born Jan. 25, 2010.

'97 Travis and Missy Bland Drake of Louisville, Ky., a daughter, Mallory Kendall, born May 10, 2010.



Abigail Morgan

Dan and Ashley Gammill Moran, M.Ed., of Vestavia Hills, Ala., a daughter, Abigail Morgan, born May 13, 2011.

'98 Christopher and Ericka Lee Bounds Fischer Vander Sys of San Antonio, Texas, a son, Maximilian Alexander, born Jan. 11, 2011.

'99 Jay and Katherine Tomlinson Lown of Knoxville, Tenn., a son, Thomas Wayne, born Feb. 18, 2011.



Brynlee Noel

'00 Jason and Lauren Woodlief Beckner of Vestavia Hills, Ala., a daughter, Brynlee Noel, born Feb. 10, 2011.

Bryan and Kelly Glass Birdwell, Pharm.D., of Alpharetta, Ga., a son, Walker Wilson, born Nov. 19, 2010.

Holly and Jonathan Michael Hooks, J.D. '03, of Birmingham, a daughter, Mary Claire, born May 24, 2011.

Chris and Angie Hataway Trantham of Birmingham, twin daughters, Hattaway "Hattie" Grace and Mary Holland, born April 27, 2011.



Sophie Anna

'01 Anna Katalkina and Gregory Bernstein, M.B.A., of McLean, Va., a daughter, Sophie Anna, born June 2, 2011.

Joseph and Shannon Murphy Carrasco of Howey in the Hills, Fla., a son, Gannon Oliver, born Dec. 3, 2010.



Luther Martin

Karen and Josh Dear, M.Div., of Muskegon, Mich., a son, Luther Martin, born May 31, 2011.

Todd and Christie Godwin Hennings, J.D., of Atlanta, Ga., a son, Lucas, born April 11, 2011.

'02 Bryan and Ashley Gavin Johnson of Birmingham, the May 2011 adoption of a daughter from China, Finley Yue, 17 months old.

'03 Chris and Ashley Loomis Simpson '05 of Seoul, Korea, twin daughters, Lily Cynthia and Lucy Victoria, born Feb. 2, 2011.

'04 Grant and Vaughan Boyd Lyons of New Brockton, Ala., a son, John Curry, born May 20, 2011.

Leslie and James Moody '06 of Moody, Ala., a daughter, Lily Ann, born July 2, 2011.

Dacia and R. David Nelson, M.Div., of Birmingham, twins, Reace Elaine and Liam Isaac, born June 2, 2011.

'05 Matthew and Jenni Pratt Johnson of Roswell, Ga., a son, Baylor Pratt, born April 25, 2011.

Megan and Kyle Tomlinson of Brentwood, Tenn., a son, William Dean, born Aug. 2, 2010.

'06 Keith, M.M.E. '09, and Abigail Banks Brandenburg of Homewood, a son, Charles Edward, born Aug. 4, 2011.

Michael and Megan Green Brock of Hudsonville, Mich., a son, James Carmichael, born Aug. 27, 2010.



Grant Russell

Katie and Russell David Haskett, Pharm.D., of Tuscaloosa, Ala., a son, Grant Russell, born April 9, 2011.



Patterson William

Justin and Jean Montgomery Powers Norris of Lexington, Ky., a son, Patterson William, born May 13, 2011.



Payton Olivia

Chris and Lindsey Woodie, Pharm.D., of Odenville, Ala., a daughter, Payton Olivia, born May 23, 2011.



Mical Allyn

'08 Jonathan and Jane Loudermilk of Birmingham, a son, Mical Allyn, born March 24, 2011.

John and Raewyn Tamer Snodderly, Pharm.D., of LaFollette, Tenn., a daughter, Nora Elizabeth, born Jan. 5, 2011. ■

## Samford Car Tags Support Scholarships

ALABAMA 

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SAMFORD  
UNIVERSITY

Alabama residents can choose to support Samford by purchasing an Alabama license plate that carries the Samford name. From each Samford License Car Tag purchase of \$50, a total of \$48.50 goes to support scholarships for Samford students. Alabama law does not allow the state to tell Samford who purchases the Samford license plate. But nothing prevents individuals from doing so. Please let us know if you support Samford in this way. If you have a car that is licensed in Alabama, you can ask for the Samford license plate at your local DMV office.

Thank you for your support!

# in memoriam

## ALUMNI

'37 **Josephine Lenz Smith**, age 95, of Savannah, Ga., formerly of Birmingham, died June 4, 2011. She met her husband, the late Henry Skipper Smith, Jr., while at Samford, where she was a member of Phi Mu. She received her 75th year pin in 2009.

'44 **Donald Andrew McRae**, age 89, of Orlando, Fla., died June 23, 2011. He was pastor of churches in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Florida before retiring in 1990.

'47 **Mitchell Duncan Powell, Jr.**, age 87, of Jamestown, Tenn., died June 7, 2011. He worked in the men's clothing business for 25 years, and ran Powell Farms until he was 83. During World War II, he was stationed with the Marine Corps in Nagasaki during the Japanese occupation. He served with the Marine Corps Reserve during the Korean conflict. At Samford, he was president of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

'52 **John O. Tucker**, age 80, of Mobile, Ala., died June 5, 2011. He was former president and chief executive officer of Mobile Infirmary. After retirement, he was a consultant with ProAssurance insurance company. During the Korean conflict, he was a dive bomber pilot with the U.S. Marine Corps.

'54 **Henry F. Campbell, Jr.**, age 87, of Nashville, Tenn., died May 31, 2011. A minister of religious education at Baptist churches in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee, he retired from the Baptist Sunday School Board in 1988. He served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II before he attended Samford.

**William Benjamin Zarzaur, Jr.**, age 79, of Birmingham, died June 19, 2011. A registered pharmacist for 57 years, he was owner of Modern Drugs and Homewood Discount Pharmacy for 47 years. He served two years with the U.S. Army as a nurse in a medical battalion.

'55 **Donald Allen Phillips**, age 77, of Oxford, Ala., died June 13, 2011. He served in the ministry for 61 years, and was pastor of churches in North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. He was a teacher and guidance counselor at Wellborn High School in Anniston, Ala., for 18 years.

'56 **Albert Brantley Harwell**, age 76, of Otto, N.C., died July 22, 2011. He served 40-plus years in ministry at churches in Indiana, Kentucky and Georgia. He

served on the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1975 to 1983, including a term as vice president, and was a teacher and writer with various Baptist institutions and publications.

**Julia Hanlin Smith**, age 76, of Murphy, Texas, died July 9, 2011. She was a home economist for Oklahoma Natural Gas in Tulsa, Okla., before marrying and raising her family.

'60 **Mary Charles Wyatt Windham**, age 89, of Montgomery, Ala., died Aug. 5, 2011. She taught school in Birmingham and Charlotte, N.C.

'62 **William Russell "Jack" Haley**, age 74, of Atlanta, Ga., died June 29, 2011. Alternately a college teacher and entrepreneur, he retired from Southern Polytechnic State University as a speech professor in 2009. He enjoyed bridge and golf.

'63 **James A. Currier**, age 72, of Pinson, Ala., died July 16, 2011. He spent almost five decades teaching and coaching football, basketball and track at Alabama high schools.

**Joseph Clinton Hurlbert, Jr.**, age 70, of Montgomery, Ala., died June 20, 2011. He began his career at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., drafting the Saturn V Rocket. He retired from the U.S. Air Force after a 25-year career with tours of duty in Korea, Germany, Japan and the United States.

**Robert E. Zeannah**, age 71, of Alexander City, Ala., died July 27, 2011. He was a certified public accountant who enjoyed golfing and Lake Martin.

'67 **Myron David Stutzman, J.D.**, of Dallas, Texas, died June 29, 2011. He was a partner in his law firm until he retired in 1996. A JAG captain in the U.S. Army, he served in Vietnam in the late 1960s.

'68 **Chris Steve Christ, J.D.**, age 75, of Vestavia Hills, Ala., died June 29, 2011. He was a practicing attorney for 43 years and a part-time judge. He was active with the Mental Health Commission and Kid One Transport. At Cumberland School of Law, he was freshman class president, Law Day chairman and recipient of several Student Bar Association awards for student service.

'71 **John Howard "Jack" McEniry III, J.D.**, age 64, of Hoover, Ala., died July 5,

2011, of cancer. A longtime attorney in Bessemer, Ala., he was a 40-year member of the Bessemer Kiwanis Club, serving as club president and district lieutenant governor.

**Claude Rhett Wood, Sr.**, age 64, of Birmingham, died July 24, 2011. A third-generation pharmacist at Wood's Rexall Drugs in East Lake, he began a career in real estate after he retired from pharmacy.

'78 **Joe Hubbard, J.D.**, age 58, of Oxford, Ala., died July 4, 2011, of esophageal cancer. He joined the Calhoun-Cleburn counties' district attorney's office in 1978, and was district attorney from 1992 until his retirement in March. In the 1980s, he worked with federal prosecutors on the first case tried under the drug kingpin law after it was passed by the U.S. Congress. He wrote a novel, *Blood Secrets*.

'83 **Grace Elizabeth Philpot Nelson, M.A.**, age 92, of Anniston, Ala., died July 29, 2011. She and her husband, Dr. Dotson Nelson, served churches in Virginia, Missouri, South Carolina and Alabama, including Mountain Brook Baptist Church in Birmingham from 1961 to 1981. In her 60s, she received a master's in religion from Samford and was a chaplain at several hospitals. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

'86 **Jon M. Turner, Jr., J.D.**, age 50, of Birmingham died July 18, 2011. He was an attorney in Birmingham.

'91 **Gino Smaniotto**, age 56, of Pleasant Grove, Ala., died June 12, 2011, of cardiac arrest at the beginning of a vacation in North Carolina with his wife, Mary '93. He was an accountant for Rite Way Service, Inc. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, he was a safety and security officer at Samford.

'06 **Joan C. McCord Mills, Ed.D.**, age 64, of Atlanta, Ga., died June 5, 2011, from complications of kidney failure. A longtime educator at Atlanta area schools, she had been principal at Powers Ferry Elementary School for the past 10 years.

'08 **Daniel C. Johnson, Jr., D.Min.**, of Wilson, N.C. died Jan. 16, 2011. He served 26 years as minister and missionary to the deaf in Louisiana and North Carolina with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was director and adjunct professor at TriState Deaf School of Theology, and a contract editor for Lifeway Christian Resources. ■



## Samford, St. Vincent's Partner in On-Campus Health Care Clinic



Shane Bedsole checks Marian Carter's blood pressure at the Samford clinic.

This fall, Samford began partnering with St. Vincent's Health Systems to provide health-care services in an on-campus clinic for students and employees. Staffed by a physician three days a week and a full-time physician assistant, the clinic provides primary medical care services, including acute care for illness and injuries, health maintenance and management of stable, chronic conditions.

University Health Services and Counseling Services are housed in expanded new quarters in Seibert Hall, which includes three examination rooms, a treatment room, triage area and onsite Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments–certified lab. The clinic entrance is located on the east side of Seibert Hall.

Mark A. Ticola, M.D., serves as physician at Samford's University Health

Services. He previously served as clinical assistant professor/internal medicine staff physician at the University of Florida College of Medicine's Department of Community Health and Family Medicine, Old Town, Fla., from 2008 to 2011.

Dr. Ticola completed combined training in the University of Alabama's Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Residency Program in 2007. He holds the doctor of medicine degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine, and a bachelor of science in microbiology and cell science from the University of Florida. He is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Shauna N. Yelton, Samford's full-time physician assistant, continues to serve as director of health services.

University Health Services also offers wellness programs throughout the year in partnership with St. Vincent's.

"This partnership builds on the strong faith-based mission of both the university and the St. Vincent's system," said Dr. Phil Kimrey, Samford's vice president for student affairs and enrollment management.

University Health Services is open Monday through Friday. It accepts most health-care plans and is able to file claims for patients.

Contact University Health Services at [SUhealth@samford.edu](mailto:SUhealth@samford.edu) or 205-726-2835. ■

## Jung Receives Buchanan Award, Miller Gets President's Award



Jung



Miller

Exercise science and sports medicine professor Alan Jung and associate registrar Nancy Miller received top annual awards at Samford's semester-opening convocation Aug. 30.

Dr. Jung was presented the John H. Buchanan Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching. Miller received the President's Award as a staff member who exceeds all expectations and offers exemplary service to all segments of the Samford community.

Three employees received Meritorious Service Awards: Tracy Luke '91, program assistant, Cumberland School of Law; Sherry Baldone, director of enterprise applications group, technology services; and Jan Paine, director of undergraduate student services, Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing.

Jung and Miller received engraved mementoes emblematic of their awards. All of the awards carry cash prizes.

Finalists for the Buchanan Award are nominated by members of the graduating class. Jung was cited for his passion for his job and his students, and an attitude that encourages learning and makes his students excited about class. He is known for challenging students to think beyond what is required and encouraging undergraduate research, and for his desire that every student in his department be involved in a medical mission trip.

Miller, a staff member since 1995, was heralded for her many good deeds, vast breadth of service and a dedication that is a shining example for others to emulate. "She is patient, methodical, optimistic, consistent, dedicated and encouraging during good times and bad; all the while displaying a Christian example by living Samford's mission," said Samford President Andrew Westmoreland. ■

# Donated Robins & Morton Equipment Helps Students Survey Ancient Site

by Jack Brymer

For three weeks in May and June, Samford religion professor James Strange and five Samford students surveyed the ancient site of Shikhin in Israel. Using handheld GPS devices and a total station surveyor's instrument, the group located and mapped the ruins of ancient buildings, cisterns, caves, and olive and wine presses.

"The site had been surveyed in 1988, but the Samford students were able to spot many ruins and artifacts never before found," said Dr. Strange. "They helped prepare for the very first excavation of the site, which Samford students will also participate in during the summer of 2012."

The site is important for understanding the economy, industry and social institutions of villages in Galilee during the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods, said Strange, a veteran in numerous archaeological digs in the Middle East.

"These are the periods and this is the land that gave birth to both Christianity and Judaism as we know it today," he said.

The surveying equipment that



Samford student Erica Thornton uses the total station to survey a site in Israel.

helped make the project a success was donated to Samford last spring by the Robins & Morton Group, the company that recently renovated Pittman residence hall at Samford. And it was a visit by Strange to his neighbor, Robins & Morton division manager Todd Lankford, that initiated the gift.

According to Strange, he and three

other Samford faculty members—Jennifer Rahn in geography, Malia Fincher in biology and Charles Ford in interior design—had spent the better part of the 2011 academic year trying to find a company to donate a single surveying instrument they could share in research projects with students.

Strange needed the piece for students to use in Israel, Rahn for work on campus and in the Caribbean, Fincher for reforestation projects in Alabama and Costa Rica, and Ford for work on historic buildings in Birmingham.

Their proposal noted that such a gift would help to prepare students for a variety of careers: agriculture, architecture, archaeology, geography, oil and gas exploration, mapping, environmental management, historic preservation, construction and "any other career that requires analysis of data and critical thinking." The gift would support Samford's growing emphasis on student research projects.

After eight months of waiting for a response from various other companies, Strange walked two doors down to ask his neighbor, Lankford, if Robins & Morton might have interest in donating used equipment. To his surprise,



Geography professor Jennifer Rahn, right, surveys a beach on Dauphin Island, Ala., with students, from left, Meghan McCullum, Jacobi Rodriguez, Mark Zylstra and Wes Nichols.

Lankford quickly answered, "Yes."

When Strange followed up less than a week later, he had another surprise. Lankford said, "I've got you two."

Now, all Strange had to do was learn how to use the instrument. Jeff Posey of Leica Geosystems, Inc., helped him with that, and put him in touch with Allen Precision Equipment to see if it might donate a data collector, another piece Strange needed. Tracy Foran of Allen agreed to do that.

"It's an astounding story," said Strange.

The gift—valued at about \$10,000—made an immediate impact

on research and teaching at Samford. Within days of receiving the gift in May, Strange and his students—Rachel Gregory, Kathleen Hyland, Sam McFarland, Eddie Padrino and Erica Thornton—were on their way to Israel to see what they could discover.

"I learned so much on this trip about different cultures, history and religion," Thornton said later. "I loved learning about the history of a place so important to my faith," added Gregory. ■

## Dedication of 'Indiana James' Prompts Survey Instrument Gift

by Todd Lankford

During the past year, Dr. James Strange, or as I call him, "Indiana James," has shared many stories of his archaeological expeditions in Israel. The impact it has had on him, the students and volunteers seems to be immeasurable.

During one of these discussions, Strange revealed a limiting factor in his quest to discover the next historical treasure. On past trips, he had to rent survey equipment and spend valuable time obtaining training to use the equipment.

Strange knew that I worked for Robins & Morton Group, which is ranked as one of the top general contractors in the nation every year and renovated Pittman Hall on the Samford University campus. He asked if the company might have some old survey equipment, specifically a total station, it might be able to donate.

I researched our inventory and found not one, but two total stations that were now obsolete to our type of construction, but were perfect for the work that Strange was attempting in Israel. I notified him that Robins & Morton had a total station it could donate.

As Robins & Morton compared the commitment of Samford to its students and professors, and with its own continuing commitment to its community, the company established a

long-term plan that would not only assist with the current need of survey equipment, but also the expansion of these opportunities.

Consequently, Robins & Morton donated two identical total stations: One is to be left on campus for continuous training of faculty, students and volunteers, and the other to be transported to Israel, used on the dig sites and stored locally. This would prevent potential damage to the sensitive instrument during transportation and potential delays in cumbersome packaging/customs inspections.

It was exciting to hear from Strange the reports about the huge discovery made with the help of the total station on his most recent expedition to Israel this past June. The best "thank you" of all was when he shared a slide-show narrative of this trip with a room full of friends and interested parties from around the metro area. Everyone was amazed at the discoveries and how it related to historical scripture in the Bible. We were all moved by the passion that Strange showed for his students, Samford and his profession.

We are all waiting with great anticipation to hear about the next adventure of the "Indiana James" of Samford University! ■

*Todd Lankford is division manager for the Robins & Morton Group.*

## Samford Ranked High by Forbes, Princeton Review

Samford was named to Forbes' 2011 ranking of America's Top Colleges and to The Princeton Review's list of America's Best 376 Colleges. The selections continue Samford's tradition of quality rankings in national publications.

The Forbes ranking includes the top 20 percent of the nation's undergraduate colleges—650 in all—prepared for Forbes by the Center for College Affordability and Productivity (CCAP) in Washington, D.C.

According to Forbes, the rankings are based on a school's quality of teaching, great career prospects for its graduates, graduation rates and low levels of debt accumulated by its graduates. Forbes said it also considers a school's freshman-to-sophomore retention rates, and competitive scholarships and fellowships earned by a school's graduates.

Samford ranked No. 255 on the Forbes list of the top 650 schools.

The Princeton Review ranking came in its 20th annual selection of the nation's top institutions for undergraduate education. The annual college guide includes only about 15 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges.

Selections to the Princeton list are based on "outstanding academics, which is the primary criteria for our selection of schools," institutional data, visits to schools over the years, feedback from students, and the opinions of its national college counselor advisory board, according to The Princeton Review.

The Princeton Review is an education services company widely known for its test prep programs and college and graduate school guides.

Samford also is included in the 100 best values among private universities by Kiplinger's and has been ranked in the top tier of its peer group by U.S. News & World Report in its annual college rankings for more than two decades.

# Soccer Second in SoCon Preseason Poll

With a wealth of experience and a winning tradition, Coach Todd Yelton's Samford soccer team heads into its Southern Conference schedule with high expectations. Seven starters and five other letterwinners return from last year's team, which went 13-6-3 overall, 8-2-1 in conference play, and lost the conference title game, 1-0, to 14th-ranked UNC-Greensboro. Samford is 110-47-26 during Yelton's nine seasons.

The Bulldogs were picked to finish second in this year's SoCon preseason poll.

Samford's soccer team is known for its defense. Last year, the Bulldogs ranked 19th in the nation in shutout percentage. They allowed only 18 goals in 22 matches, and ranked first in the SoCon in shutouts (12) and second in goals allowed (18).

For the fourth straight season, Samford goalkeeping is anchored by record-setting Alyssa Whitehead, a 6-3 second-team All-Conference performer who holds the school record in career shutouts with 26. As a junior last season, Whitehead finished with 12 shutouts and a miniscule goals-against average of 0.79.

Returning from last season's dominant defensive group are juniors Adrienne Mancino and Sabbath McKiernan Allen. Also back are three midfielders who broke into the starting lineup as true freshmen last fall—Michelle Moll, Shanika Thomas and Trine Taule. Moll was named to the 2011 preseason All-Conference team.

Sarah Wilkinson, a first-team All-Conference performer, leads Samford's front line. She entered the 2011 season campaign ranked second on the SoCon's Active Career Leaders list in game-winning goals (9). Letterwinners Kaley Blanton and Katie Proud also return. Freshman Amanda Abbott is a talented newcomer.

Samford played its usual strong preseason schedule leading up to its Sept. 23 SoCon opener at Elon. ■

*For schedules, results and other information on Samford athletics, go to [samfordsports.com](http://samfordsports.com).*

Sarah Wilkinson



Lauren Hutchinson

Samford beats Alabama.

## Volleyball Bouncing Back in North

After back-to-back Southern Conference North Division titles in 2008 and 2009, the Bulldogs went 14-17 overall and 8-8 in the conference last year, ending their season in the SoCon quarterfinals. Coach Derek Schroeder's team is working hard this fall to reach the top again. "Our chemistry is incredible right now," he said as the Bulldogs approached their late-August season opener.

The Bulldogs won their first eight matches, including their first win in history against Alabama.

Junior Casey Garvey provides veteran leadership at setter. She led the team in assists last season. Selina Schirmer is a tall, talented freshman at the position. "Teams can improve quickly by adding size at the setter position," says Schroeder.

Alexis Bauer is a two-year starter at libero/defensive specialist. Redshirt Taylor Chao and returnee Alicia Roth are also available.

Second-team All-Conference selection Elizabeth Neisler will anchor the outside hitters. She ranked third in the conference in kills (370) last year. Playing side positions will be Taylor Palmer, a freshman last year, transfer Erika Devaughn and freshman Michaela Reesor.

Katie Murphy returns at middle blocker after earning SoCon Freshman of the Year honors last season. Lauren Hutchinson, second on the team in kills a year ago, also returns.

The Bulldogs open SoCon play Sept. 24 at Appalachian State after a 14-match preconference slate. ■

## D'Alessio Leads Women's Cross-Country

**W**ith two consecutive Southern Conference championships to their credit, the Samford women's cross-country team has set a high standard. The team posted Samford's first SoCon championship in any sport two years ago, and then reprised the title last fall.

First-team All-Conference runner Lauren D'Alessio leads returnees. The talented junior led Samford in every race last season, and earned All-Region honors from the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Claire Grogan also ran well in 2010, earning SoCon All-Freshman team honors.

Coach Rod Tiffin has 10 other runners on the squad. His biggest job will be to replace two All-Conference performers, Hillary Neal (first team) and Ina Ables (second team), who completed eligibility. ■

## Tiffin Sees Solid Progress for Men's CC

**L**ayton Dorsett established himself as a leader of the men's cross country team a year ago, earning Southern Conference All-Freshman team honors. He was twice named SoCon Runner of the Week.

Dorsett was a member of a strong 2010 recruiting class that included James Graham, John Gayle and Henry Stevens-Carty. Coach Rod Tiffin expects solid improvement from the group this fall.

Junior Ramsey White, who ran in every meet last fall, returns as Samford's most experienced runner. Freshmen Nicholas Cork and Lucas Sieb round out the squad.

Samford finished ninth in last year's SoCon meet. ■

## Women's Basketball Returns 10

**T**he Samford women put together the best record in the 14-year history of the program last winter, going 25-8 and winning the Southern Conference tournament. The performance earned Samford its first trip to the NCAA tournament.

Three starters and seven other letter winners return from that team, but Emily London and Savannah Hill, the first- and third-place scorers in Samford history, graduated. Coach Mike Morris not only will have to replace their scoring but their leadership. However, the 10 returnees have been part of 20-game winners every year they have been at Samford, so they know what it takes to win.

Senior guards Paige Anderson and Ruth Ketcham and junior forward Hannah Dawson are returning starters. Anderson hit a three-point goal with 18 seconds left to put Samford ahead for good in the SoCon championship game against top-seeded Appalachian State last March. Guard Shelby Campbell, a freshman at the time, hit two free throws with three seconds remaining, and Samford won, 57-54.

Campbell returns, along with seniors Jazmine Powers and J'Quita Babineaux, juniors Jazmine Martin and Kylie Black, and sophomores Christy Robinson and Kendall Schwantz.

Morris, one of only two coaches in Bulldog women's basketball history, takes a 162-109 record into his 10th season. ■

## Men's Basketball More Athletic: Tillette

**T**he Samford men's basketball program has put together two strong recruiting classes in a row, and Coach Jimmy Tillette believes it will begin to pay dividends this winter. "Even though we're going to have some experience this year with some guys coming back, our program will definitely be in good shape in the future with these younger players," he said.

Three starters return from last year's team, leading scorer Jeffrey Merritt (10.3) and Will Cook at guard, and 6-9 Drew Windler at center. Six other lettermen are back, led by guards Greg Wooten and Kaylin Johnson, and forward John Peterson.

Newcomers with the best chance of playing time are 6-6 forward Tyler Hood, a redshirt freshman, and guard Devin McNeil, a true freshman. Other freshmen include guards Brandon Hayman, Connor Miller and Rajion Kelly.

"I see us being more athletic this season," said Tillette. "I also see us being a team that's going to come in hungry and determined to put our best foot forward and really enthusiastic about having a better year."

The Bulldogs were 12-19 last season. ■

Lauren D'Alessio

# with appreciation

Samford University expresses gratitude for these additional tribute gifts received May 1–July 31, 2011. For further information, contact the Samford University Gift Office at 205-726-2807.

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# highlights

- Oct. 2** Haley Trial Competition, hosted by Cumberland School of Law, 205-726-2804  
Samford Hymn Sing, 2 p.m., Reid Chapel
- Oct. 3–27** Exhibition, Andy Meadows: *Interactive Photography*, Samford Art Gallery, arts.samford.edu
- Oct. 4** Davis Architects Guest Artist Series presents the St. Lawrence Quartet, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall, 205-726-2853
- Oct. 5** Shores Moot Court Competition, hosted by Cumberland School of Law, 205-726-2804
- Oct. 6** Alabama Supreme Court appellate hearings, 9 a.m., Wright Center Concert Hall  
Jazz Ensemble concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Oct. 7** Elementary All-State Choir Festival, Wright Center Concert Hall
- Oct. 7–8** Advanced Placement Science Teachers Conference, Propst Hall, 205-726-2844
- Oct. 8** Pharmacy continuing education seminar: "Sterile Product Preparation: Regulations and Techniques," 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Ingalls Hall, 205-726-2722
- Oct. 9** Client Counseling Competition, hosted by Cumberland School of Law, 205-726-2804
- Oct. 10** Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries conference, hosted by Samford University Library, 205-726-2846
- Oct. 11** Pharmacy continuing education seminar: "Topical Therapies for Nasal, Sinus and Ear Diagnoses," 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Ingalls Hall, 205-726-2722
- Oct. 13** Cordell Hull Speakers Series: Gulf Oil Spill, hosted by Cumberland School of Law, 11 a.m., Memory Leake Robinson Hall, 205-726-2704  
J. Roderick Davis Lectures, Dr. Garrett G. Fagan, speaker, 7:30 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall
- Oct. 14** Alumni artist recital: Gran Wilson, tenor, honoring retired music faculty member Russell Hedger, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Oct. 15** Preview Day, hosted by the Office of Admission, admission.samford.edu  
Miss Samford pageant, 7:30 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall
- Oct. 18** Samford University Orchestra concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Oct. 20–23** Samford Theatre presents *The Piano Lesson*, tickets: arts.samford.edu  
21st annual Lilly Fellows Program national conference, hosted by Samford University, www.samford.edu/lilly
- Oct. 21** Wright Center Concert Series presents *The Midtown Men*, 7:30 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall, www.samford.edu/wrightcenter.
- Oct. 23** Guest organ recital: Paul Jacobs, 2:30 p.m., Reid Chapel
- Oct. 24–30** Homecoming Week
- Oct. 25** Faculty recital: Angela Flaniken, viola; Jeffrey Flaniken, violin; and Donald Sanders, piano, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Oct. 26** "Arts Ambush," School of the Arts students interactive experience with the campus, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., University Quadrangle
- Oct. 27** Wind Ensemble concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Oct. 28** Alabama Symphony SuperPops series presents "The Music of Abba," 8 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall, www.alabamasymphony.org
- Oct. 31** *Seussical*, presented by Classic Productions, 10 a.m., Wright Center Concert Hall, www.classicproductions.org/alabama.htm
- Nov. 1** Alabama Symphony Concertmaster and Friends presents "Liszt-Mahler Anniversary Concert," 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall, www.alabamasymphony.org
- Nov. 1–2** Reformation/Spirituality Conference, hosted by Beeson Divinity School, www.beesondivinity.com
- Nov. 1–30** Exhibition, Nevin Newton: *Art with Wood*, Samford Art Gallery, arts.samford.edu
- Nov. 3** Percussion Ensemble concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Nov. 4** Continuing Law Education seminar, 205-726-2704
- Nov. 5** Preview Day, hosted by the Office of Admission, admission.samford.edu
- Nov. 6** Opera Birmingham presents "Catch a Rising Star" recital, 2:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall, www.operabirmingham.org
- Nov. 7** Samford Writers Series presents Jane Hirshfield, 7 p.m., Divinity Hall, 205-726-2946
- Nov. 8** Pharmacy continuing education seminar: "Probiotics, Coenzyme Q10 and Other Supplements: Fact or Fiction," 5:30–9 p.m., Ingalls Hall, 205-726-2722  
Faculty recital: Brian Viliunas, clarinet, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

- Nov. 11–12** Samford Opera, 7:30 p.m., Bolding Studio, arts.samford.edu
- Nov. 13** Pharmacy continuing education seminar: Consultant Program, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., Brooks Hall, 205-726-2722
- Alabama Symphony SuperPops series presents Audra McDonald, 8 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall, www.alabamasymphony.org
- Nov. 15** Faculty recital: Sharon Lawson, soprano, and Randall Richardson, tenor; 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Nov. 16** Daraja African Children's Choir, 4 p.m., Reid Chapel
- Nov. 18** Wright Center Concert Series presents The Blind Boys of Alabama with Sara Watkins, 7:30 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall, www.samford.edu/wrightcenter
- Nov. 18–20** Southern Conference volleyball championships, hosted by Samford University, Hanna Center, www.samfordsports.com
- Nov. 20** Birmingham Chamber Music Society concert, 2:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Nov. 24–25** Thanksgiving holiday, no classes, offices closed
- Nov. 29** Bells of Buchanan concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Dec. 1** Continuing Law Education seminar, 205-726-2409
- Hanging of the Green service, 6 p.m., Reid Chapel
- Lighting of the Way ceremony, 7 p.m., Centennial Walk
- Dec. 1–3** Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, arts.samford.edu
- Dec. 6** Davis Architects Guest Artist Series presents the Boston Brass, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall, tickets: 205-726-2853
- Dec. 8** Christmas Band concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Dec. 9–18** Alabama Ballet presents George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*, Wright Center Concert Hall, www.alabamaballet.org
- Dec. 11** SuperJazz concert, 3 p.m., Brock Recital Hall, tickets: 205-254-2732, ext. 21
- Dec. 12–13, 15** Star of Bethlehem presentations, 7 p.m., Christenberry Planetarium
- Dec. 12–16** Final examinations
- Dec. 12–17** Exhibition: Graduating Seniors, Samford Art Gallery, arts.samford.edu
- Dec. 16, 18** Opera Birmingham presents "Home for the Holidays," Brock Recital Hall, www.operabirmingham.org
- Dec. 17** Commencement, 10 a.m., Wright Center Concert Hall
- Dec. 23–Jan. 2** Christmas/New Year's holiday, university closed
- Dec. 28** Continuing Law Education: 16th annual CLE by the hour, 205-726-2865

Information was compiled from the main university calendar as of Sept. 5, 2011. Dates, times and details are subject to change. Please go to [www.samford.edu](http://www.samford.edu) for a complete university calendar and for updated information. ■

For schedules and information on Samford athletics, go to [samfordsports.com](http://samfordsports.com).

For a complete academic calendar, go to [www.samford.edu/groups/sturec/acadcal\\_current.html](http://www.samford.edu/groups/sturec/acadcal_current.html)

For ticket information, performance details and schedule updates on all arts performances, go to [arts.samford.edu](http://arts.samford.edu).

For a list of Samford After Sundown classes, go to [samford.edu/sundown](http://samford.edu/sundown).

For a complete list of Lay Academy of Theology classes, go to [beesondivinity.com](http://beesondivinity.com).

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Now there are more ways than ever to keep up with Samford news between issues of *Seasons* magazine.

Daily—News and feature stories are posted almost daily at [www.samford.edu](http://www.samford.edu).

**You Tube** *The Samford Chronicle*—Samford's video newsmagazine is produced monthly and distributed at [www.samford.edu](http://www.samford.edu) and YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/SamfordCommunication](http://www.youtube.com/user/SamfordCommunication). *The Chronicle* is produced by Samford alumnus Nathan Troost '09 and hosted by Samford alumnus Brad Radice '99.

*The Belltower*—Samford's weekly electronic newsletter is distributed on Wednesdays and includes up-to-date campus news and alumni information. To subscribe, contact [bltwr@samford.edu](mailto:bltwr@samford.edu) or follow online at <http://www4.samford.edu/communication/belltower.html>. *The Belltower* is edited by Chandra Sparks Taylor.

*Spotlight Samford*—Weekly, student-produced news program on WVSU-FM 91.1, Samford's radio station. You can follow WVSU online at [www.samford.edu/wvsu](http://www.samford.edu/wvsu). Also enjoy sports, jazz and a weekly pharmacy feature, *Healthy Dose*, on WVSU.

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Samford also is on Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites. To stay connected with what is happening on campus and to find out more, go to [www.samford.edu](http://www.samford.edu) and follow the links.

Have photos you would like to share with your friends and classmates? Send high-resolution digital photographs to [samnews@samford.edu](mailto:samnews@samford.edu).



Samford student Lillian Roberts plays the Steinway piano that belonged to world famous pianist Vladimir Horowitz. The instrument was on loan to the School of the Arts in September, giving students and faculty an opportunity to perform on it.