

BSC is highest ranked liberal arts college in *Reader's Digest* safety survey

According to a recently released survey by *Reader's Digest* magazine, Birmingham-Southern is the only institution of higher education in Alabama to receive an "A" for safety preparedness, and is ranked No. 9 in the nation in terms of safety readiness, making it the highest ranked national liberal arts college in America.

Birmingham-Southern was included in a survey of U.S. colleges and universities conducted by *Reader's Digest* for a special report on safety preparedness at colleges called "Safe at School?" The story appeared, in conjunction with the survey results, in the magazine's March issue.

According to *Reader's Digest*, the

survey takes into consideration the many variables between campuses, including size and location. Each of the schools evaluated were given a grade of A, B or C, based on its readiness to handle on-campus threats to safety and security. The results reveal that many urban schools, like Birmingham-Southern, are deemed safer than colleges in smaller communities.



BSC garners spot on presidential honor roll for service



Birmingham-Southern's commitment to building a culture of service and civic engagement among its faculty and students has earned the college a spot on the 2007 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with distinction.

BSC and 126 other colleges and universities were recognized for distinguished service among the 528 U.S. schools that were honored. Schools that received a distinguished service recognition provided exceptional community service over the past year, contributing their time, resources, energy, skills, and intellect to serve America.

The program, launched by The Corporation for National and Community Service in 2006 in response to President George W. Bush's call to service initiative, is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. It is co-sponsored by the U.S. departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development, USA Freedom Corps, and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.



Brantley



Brown



Duley



Steiner



Stowe



Townsend

Six new members fill college advisory board

Birmingham-Southern recently appointed six new leaders to its Edward Lee Norton Board of Advisors, four of whom are BSC alumni.

New members are Dr. Hutton Brantley '01 of Bluff Park, chief medicine resident at Baptist Medical Centers; Richard Brown '90 of Mountain Brook, pediatric nurse practitioner and instructor at the UAB School of Nursing and attorney; Doreen Duley of Southside, director of pastoral care at Children's Hospital;

William Steiner '80 of Hoover, director of business solutions for Vulcan Materials Co.; Dr. William Stowe '96 of Mountain Brook, veterinarian at the Montclair Animal Clinic; and Gregory Townsend of Irondale, health service administrator for the Jefferson County Department of Health.

Established in 1974 to honor the memory of the late businessman and Birmingham-Southern alumnus, the Edward Lee Norton Board provides "a perpetual forum for mixing the academic and theoretical wisdom of the college with the practical advice of the Birmingham business and professional community."

Regions Bank donation boosts cycling at BSC

Birmingham-Southern received a special pre-Christmas delivery in December in the form of 100 "lifegreen" bicycles donated by Regions Bank to support the college's sustainable transportation initiative to reduce air pollution and traffic around the campus.

The lifegreen bikes are the same ones used in the bank's TV and print advertisements for its current marketing campaign.

The occasion was marked by a bike parade and ceremony in front of the college's Admission Welcome Center. Birmingham-Southern

faculty, staff, and students, along with Regions employees who are alumni of the college, rode the bikes to the site of the presentation ceremony.

The college had approached Regions early last year about donating bikes to give faculty, staff, and students an environmentally friendly and convenient means of traveling between buildings. Regions accepted the proposal and delivered the bikes to campus.

"We are very grateful to Regions Bank, and also to its president Dowd Ritter, for their support of Birmingham-Southern's efforts to reduce the campus' carbon footprint and to make our entire community more sensitive to the environmental issues we all face," said BSC President David Pollick. "Long a practice throughout Europe, shared community transportation becomes just another educational moment."

Ritter is a 1969 BSC graduate and a member of the college's Board of Trustees.

The bikes were placed in new bike racks located around campus to be used as BSC community property.



Leading the bicycle procession that day were (from left) Peter Starr, BSC Student Government Association president; Dowd Ritter, Regions Financial Corp. chairman, president, and CEO; and BSC President Dr. David Pollick.

Honors Day, graduation speakers announced

Birmingham-Southern Professor of Mathematics Dr. Barry Spieler will address the class of 2008 during the college's 149th Commencement ceremonies May 18 at 2 p.m. at the Boutwell Auditorium in downtown Birmingham.

Spieler was named the BSC Outstanding Educator of the Year during 2007 graduation ceremonies in recognition of excellence in all aspects of teaching. The award includes a cash stipend and an invitation to speak at the following year's Commencement.

A member of the BSC faculty since 1994, Spieler received his bachelor's degree from Tufts University and his master's and doctoral degrees from The Ohio State University.

Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe will deliver remarks at the annual Baccalaureate service that same day at 10 a.m. at Bill Battle Coliseum on campus.

Henry-Crowe is dean of the chapel and religious life at Emory



Spieler



Henry-Crowe



Langford

University where she serves as associate professor of ministerial studies at the Candler School of Theology. She is ordained as an elder in the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

A native of South Carolina, she graduated from Winthrop College and received a master of divinity from Emory.

The speaker for Honors Day on April 24 is Craig Langford, a 2000 BSC graduate and senior project manager in the Office of Social Impact at the American Association of Retired Persons in Washington, D.C. The Honors Day Convocation will be held at 10 a.m. in Munger Hall Auditorium.



A message of hope and encouragement—Noted as a human rights activist, Holocaust survivor, and Nobel Peace Prize-winning writer, Elie Wiesel (third from left) delivered the November 2007 Alex P. Stirling Lecture on "The Eternal Question of Human Suffering." Wiesel became an acclaimed journalist following World War II after surviving the Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz as a teenager where his mother, younger sister, and father perished. His most renowned book *Night* is a memoir of his experiences in the concentration camp. The Stirling Lecture is sponsored annually by the Student Government Association in memory of the BSC student who died of cancer in 1995. Shown at a reception prior to the lecture are (from left) Elizabeth Molony, SGA secretary; David Miller, SGA treasurer; Wiesel; Peter Starr, SGA president; Trey Cotney, SGA first vice president; and Laura Buckner, SGA second vice president.

Birmingham-Southern College Calendar of Events

- April 4-18** **Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition II**, featuring works by BSC student BFA candidates, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., M-F, Durbin Gallery, Kennedy Art Center/Azar Art Studios, with reception from 5-8 p.m. on opening day, 205/226-4928.
- April 5** **Hugh and Barbara Thomas Master Class Series**, featuring baritone Steven Rainbolt and pianist Robert Muckenfuss, both acclaimed faculty members of the Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University, in a master class with BSC voice students, 10 a.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.
- April 13** **BSC Concert Choir Homecoming Concert**, directed by Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music Dr. Lester Seigel '79, the choir will perform works from its spring tour, 4 p.m., Canterbury United Methodist Church in Mountain Brook, 205/226-4950.
- April 18 & 20** ***The Consul* and *The Telephone* Theatrical Productions.** The 1950 Pulitzer Prize-winning opera, *The Consul*, remains timely with its expression of personal tragedy brought on by bureaucracy and callousness towards humanity. *The Telephone*, a one act, tells the story of two lovers and their inability to connect because of the phone. Both showing April 18 at 7:30 p.m. and April 20 at 2:30 p.m., College Theatre-Mainstage, 205/226-4780.
- April 20** **2008 Alys Robinson Stephens Piano Competition**, two winners will be chosen from this year's finals which will be judged by internationally known pianist Janice Weber, a distinguished faculty member of the Boston Conservatory, 2:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.
- April 21** **BSC Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band Spring Concert**, both groups will be conducted by BSC Professor of Music Dr. Ron Hooten, 7:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.
- April 24** **Honors Day** recognizes Birmingham-Southern's outstanding students and their academic accomplishments. Speaker is Craig Langford '00, senior project manager in the Office of Social Impact at the American Association of Retired Persons in Washington, D.C., 10 a.m., Munger Hall Auditorium, 205/226-4650.
- April 26** **Ring World Planetarium Show** (produced by NASA), join the Cassini-Huygens mission (from 2000 to 2008) to the planet Saturn and its moons, 2 p.m., Robert R. Meyer Planetarium, 205/226-4771.
- April 28** **Southern Chorale Spring Concert**, BSC Professor of Music Dr. David Smith will direct the student choir, 7:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.
- April 29-May 4** ***Merrily We Roll Along* Theatrical Production**, a musical tale examining the lives of three friends as they navigate their way through careers, relationships, triumphs, and tragedies—all told in reverse time, showing April 29-May 3 at 7:30 p.m. and May 4 at 2:30 p.m., College Theatre One, 205/226-4780.
- April 29-May 13** **Annual BSC Juried Student Competition**, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., M-F, Durbin Gallery, Kennedy Art Center/Azar Art Studios, awards reception at noon on opening day, 205/226-4928.
- May 5** **Hilltop Singers Season Finale**, the end-of-year show by BSC's vocal jazz group will include big band, ballads, and senior solos, 7:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.
- May 17** **Senior Capping Ceremony**, 2:30 p.m., Bill Battle Coliseum, reception following in Bruno Great Hall, 205/226-4908.
- May 18** **Baccalaureate Service**, speaker is Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, dean of the chapel and religious life at Emory University, 10 a.m., Bill Battle Coliseum, 205/226-4950.
- May 18** **Commencement**, BSC's 2007 Outstanding Educator of the Year and Professor of Mathematics Dr. Barry Spieler will address the class of 2008, 2 p.m., Boutwell Auditorium, 205/226-4650.

All college events can be found at www.bsc.edu.



2007-08 Whittington winners featured in orchestra concert

Three Birmingham-Southern student musicians were selected as winners of the college's eighth annual Whittington Music Competition and appeared as soloists in a Feb. 17 campus concert with the Red Mountain Chamber Orchestra.

The orchestra, directed by 1988 BSC alumnus Mark Ridings, accompanied Shelby Bowling, a junior vocal performance major from Mobile; Anna Underwood, a junior music major and pianist from Homewood; and Sirena Wang, a senior double major in music and international business and pianist from Huntsville.

Bowling, a student of BSC Associate Professor of Music Dr. Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw, sang *Lucy's Aria* from the opera *The Telephone* by Gian-Carlo Menotti, and *Prendi* from the opera *L'Elisir d'Amore* by Gaetano Donizetti.

Underwood performed the opening movement of the *Piano Concerto in G Minor* by Felix Mendelssohn, and Wang played the opening movement of the *Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major, Op 15* by Ludwig van Beethoven. Both study under the tutelage of BSC Artist-in-Residence William DeVan.

The highly competitive Whittington Music Competition is named for Frances and Dorsey Whittington, who were leaders of the Birmingham Conservatory of Music which later became the Music Department at Birmingham-Southern.

Shown at a rehearsal for the eighth annual Whittington Music Competition are (from left) Anna Underwood, Sirena Wang, and Shelby Bowling.



BSC student picked for prestigious Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship

Birmingham-Southern senior Eileen Dyer, a religion major and economics minor from Gainesville, Ga., was selected by The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International to receive its 2008-09 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship for international study.

The Rotary Scholarships, which reach up to \$23,000, are intended to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different cultures.

The scholarships are sponsored by local Rotary clubs.

Dyer intends to study either economics or public health at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

The Rotary Foundation offers three types of scholarships: Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholarships for one academic year of study in a foreign country, Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarships for three or six months of intensive language and culture study in a foreign country, and Multi-Year Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships for two years of international study in a degree program in a foreign country.

Dyer

Update on BSC legacies

Each year, *Southern* magazine lists in its fall issue the children and grandchildren of alumni who have been found among the new students enrolled on the Hilltop. Since the fall 2007 issue, two additional legacies have been submitted:

Robin Barnett of Tuscaloosa, daughter of Dr. Jim Barnett '83 and Paula Birch Barnett '84, and **Samuel Mosley Rankin** of Faunsdale, adopted grandson of Larry D. Mosley '58 (Samuel was born in Seoul, South Korea).

Also, the fall 2007 legacy listing contained one oversight. **Whitney Brown** of Nashville, Tenn., is the son of Michael M. Brown '91. We apologize for the error.