

Schantz is new provost at Birmingham-Southern

Dr. Mark S. Schantz, associate provost for engaged learning, director of the Odyssey Program, and professor of history at Hendrix College, is the new provost at Birmingham-Southern. He will assume his new position July 1.

BSC President Dr. David Pollick announced the appointment of Schantz this past December following a national search.



Schantz

The BSC provost reports directly to the college president and is the chief academic officer with broad responsibilities for the full range of the college's academic programs and support services.

"After a national search that brought to us outstanding candidates from some of the nation's best institutions of higher learning, Dr. Mark Schantz was the overwhelming choice to lead our academic program," said Pollick. "These are exciting times at Birmingham-Southern as we continue to grow in size and stature, and we look forward to the experience, enthusiasm, and leadership that Mark will bring to these efforts as chief academic officer."

Schantz has directed the Odyssey Program at Hendrix since its inception in 2005. A component of

the curriculum at Hendrix, Odyssey is a pioneering effort that focuses on engaged learning by encouraging students to embark on educational adventures that are personalized to their own interests and abilities.

He joined the Hendrix faculty in 1991 as an assistant professor and also has served as chair of both the Department of History and the Social Science Area.

The Washington, D.C., native received his bachelor's degree Phi Beta Kappa from George Washington University, his master's from Yale University, and his doctorate from Emory University. He completed the Management Development Program in the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University in summer 2007.

Schantz has published and lectured extensively

on American history and is the author of two books: *Piety in Providence: Class Dimensions of Religious Experience in Antebellum Rhode Island* and *Awaiting the Heavenly Country: The Civil War and America's Culture of Death*, which was published this year and reviewed by *The New Yorker* and the *New York Review of Books*.

He replaces Dr. Kathleen Murray, who accepted a similar position at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., prior to the current academic year. Dr. Wayne Shew, associate provost and Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor of Biology, is serving as interim provost at Birmingham-Southern.

Much like Birmingham-Southern, Hendrix College, located in Conway, Ark., is a selective residential, private liberal arts college affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Birmingham-Southern and Hendrix are members of the 16-institution Associated Colleges of the South.

Follow Birmingham-Southern on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube

You can now keep up with happenings on the Hilltop via the Birmingham-Southern Facebook page, YouTube video channel, and Twitter feed! Facebook users can enjoy regularly updated photo galleries, discussions, and calendar listings from the BSC community, while our Twitter followers get up-to-the-minute info from campus as well as little snippets of campus life. The Birmingham-Southern YouTube video channel is part of the *BSC Films* effort.

- To access the BSC Facebook page, log in to your Facebook account and search "Birmingham-Southern College." To get regularly updated information and news, make sure to become a fan of the BSC page while you're there! If you do not have a Facebook account, you can set one up at www.facebook.com.
- To subscribe to the Birmingham-Southern Twitter feed, log on to www.twitter.com/FromTheHilltop. Click on the "Follow" button below the BSC icon and you're connected! If you do not have a Twitter account, you can set one up at www.twitter.com.
- The BSC Films YouTube page is accessible via the Birmingham-Southern Web site at www.bsc.edu/bscfilms, or by logging on to the BSC YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/birminghamssouthern.



Birmingham-Southern given high marks in latest National Student Engagement Survey

Results from the 2008 National Survey of Student Engagement show that seniors and first-year students at Birmingham-Southern rate their college above average in a variety of areas ranging from academic challenges to interaction with other students and professors.

The survey reveals how well students are engaged in their college and community based on the amount of time and energy invested in meaningful educational practices. The 2008 NSSE report is based on information from nearly 380,000 randomly selected first-year and senior students at 722 four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. The survey was administered via e-mail to 306 BSC students last spring. Students were asked about the time spent on extracurricular activities, what they believe they have gained from classes, and their interaction with faculty and other students, for example.

"The results provide strong evidence that our students tend to participate in out-of-class learning experiences, and that not only is an important component of a BSC education, it is essential to student learning," said Dr. David Pollick,

BSC president. "We pay special attention to providing inspiring programs and opportunities for students to develop socially, professionally, and personally."

BSC students were asked to rate their undergraduate experience on each of five benchmark categories:

- Level of academic challenge
- Active and collaborative learning
- Student-faculty interaction
- Enriching educational experiences
- Supportive campus environment

As compared to the average of the colleges surveyed by NSSE this past year, Birmingham-Southern seniors reported significantly higher rankings for the college in these three areas: 1) level of academic challenge, 2) supportive campus environment, and 3) active and collaborative learning. The NSSE also cited BSC for active engagement aimed at the welfare of the community and above-average use of computers and technology.

In addition, the NSSE said that BSC first-year students—more than the majority of colleges nationwide—complete foreign language coursework and discuss career plans with a faculty member or advisor.

"Our students have a good rapport with faculty on activities other than their normal coursework," remarked Pollick. "Whether it's for a research assignment, individualized career planning, or a community garden project, our student-faculty advisor relationships create significant nurturing and mentoring that can contribute greatly to a student's preparedness for graduate coursework and independent study."

Like their senior counterparts, BSC first-year students also spend a relatively high amount of time weekly on co-curricular activities.

"Students at BSC traditionally have been involved in activities beyond the classroom," Pollick pointed out. "More than 80 clubs, organizations, and honors groups are offered to students including music, theatre, jazz band, Leadership Studies, and the Poetry Circle."

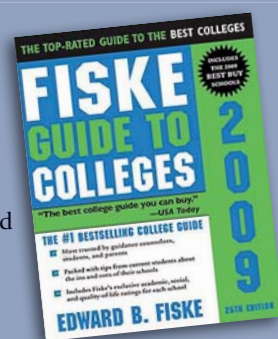
Now in its 10th year, the National Survey of Student Engagement was launched in 1999 by Dr. George Kuh at Indiana University (with the support of the Pew Charitable Trusts and sponsorship by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching).

BSC once again named one of America's 'Best Buys'

Birmingham-Southern is again one of 26 private institutions in the nation named as a Best Buy in the 2009 edition of the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*. In addition to the 26 private institutions, The Best Buys List of 2009 includes 23 public universities from the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain.

Of the 49 total colleges and universities selected, BSC is the only school in the state, private or public, to make the list. According to the recently released guidebook, the college's selection is based on the quality of academic offerings in relation to the cost of attendance.

The annual guide is compiled by Edward B. Fiske, an internationally known education writer and editor and formerly the education editor for *The New York Times*.



BSC Garden Club's growing project takes root on campus

A new community garden started by the BSC Garden Club is inviting any group on campus who has a green thumb to dig in.

Located next to the college's Hilltop Village Apartments, the garden is promoting sustainable organic farming methods for vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The main initiative, say club members, is to delegate a raised garden bed to different community groups at BSC (a fraternity, sorority, sports team, student organization, faculty and staff team, or café workers) for the cultivation of fresh, organic produce.



In addition to growing plants, what members of the Garden Club expressed was the desire for an educational socio-environmental center; a meeting place for discussions, classes, and experiences involving environmental awareness and sustainability; a resource for feeding the city's homeless; and a beautiful and peaceful outdoor environment with grass couches, recycled tire benches, fruit trees, and a tree house.

The Garden Club, led by sophomore Ben Tracy, was organized and launched last October in conjunction with the new urban environmental studies major at BSC that began at the start of the fall term. Tracy, who is an urban environmental studies major, completed a summer 2008 internship with the Atlanta Urban Gardening Program where he gained skills and experience in organic growing.

The club consists mainly of English and theatre majors and athletes, some with years of gardening experience and others who still need to develop a green thumb. But Tracy stresses that all majors, faculty, or staff who are interested in conservation and sustainable agriculture are welcome to join. Several faculty and staff members already have lent their time and garden expertise to the group, he noted.

Dr. Ed Brands, assistant professor of geography and coordinator of urban environmental studies at BSC, serves as the club's faculty advisor. The college's Urban Environmental Studies program hopes to use the community garden as an outdoor classroom for lessons on sustainable agriculture, and the student environmental group EnAct plans to partner with the garden club to promote more environmentally-conscious eating on campus, as well as provide volunteers for garden renovation projects.

Tracy believes excitement for the new community garden is germinating more and more on the campus. Six 4x16 raised beds have been ploughed and filled, and the ones containing radishes, oregano, and lettuce seeds already are showing bits of green sticking out. The planting of warm season crops (beans, squash, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers) began in mid-March.

"In this growing green movement, we are constantly shown images and information about energy conservation, green products, recycling methods, and the extinction of species, with little understanding about the practical and physical affect it may have on our lives," says Tracy. "As the BSC community begins to come together and cultivate this garden, we will hopefully understand the deep connection we can all have, not only with the food we eat and the plants we grow, but with our use of the land and its precious resources."

A composting station was built next to the community garden in January by five students in the Interim class "From Garden to Table: Examining Local Food Systems," taught by Assistant Biology/Chemistry Professor Dr. Gretchen Repasky and Assistant Sociology Professor Dr. Alicia Weaver. This summer, club members plan to collaborate with Jones Valley Urban Farm, a local nonprofit that promotes sustainable agriculture and healthy eating, and use the garden for instructional and educational purposes.



Pollick serving on national independent colleges committee

Birmingham-Southern President Dr. David Pollick recently was appointed to serve on the Committee on Policy Analysis and Public Relations of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He is serving a three-year term to run from 2009-11.

This committee identifies current and future issues affecting independent higher education. It also suggests priorities and strategies for research and public relations activities to enhance public understanding of and support for independent higher education.

The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, with nearly 1,000 member institutions nationwide, serves as the unified national voice of independent higher education. Since 1976, the association has represented private colleges and universities on policy issues with the federal government such as those affecting student aid, taxation, and government regulation.

Honors Day, Commencement speakers for 2009

Dr. Natalie Davis, professor of political science and pre-law advisor at Birmingham-Southern, addressed the class of 2009 during the college's 150th Commencement ceremonies May 17 at Boutwell Auditorium in downtown Birmingham.

Davis was named the BSC Outstanding Educator of the Year during the 2009 graduation ceremonies in recognition of excellence in all aspects of teaching, including classroom performance and student advising. The award included a cash stipend and an invitation to speak at the following year's commencement.

A member of the BSC faculty since 1972, Davis holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and undergraduate and honorary doctorate degrees from Stetson University.

Rev. Robin Crews Wilson delivered remarks at the annual Baccalaureate service that same day at 10 a.m. at Bill Battle Coliseum on campus. A native of Prattville, Wilson is pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Montgomery. She currently is completing her doctor in ministry in Christian spirituality from Columbia Theological Seminary.

An ordained Elder in the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, Wilson serves as vice-chair of the conference Board of Ministry and the General Board of Discipleship. She also serves as a BSC trustee and on the board of directors for the Samaritan Counseling Center and the YMCA.

The speaker for Honors Day on April 23 was Susan Shelton '93, corporate counsel of Hearst-Argyle Television Inc. in New York City, where she advises on a variety of corporate matters, including federal securities laws, employment, contract and corporate governance matters, and private equity investments.

A native of Birmingham, Shelton is a summa cum laude international business graduate of BSC. She is the daughter of BSC Professor Emeritus of Art Bob Shelton, who now teaches as an adjunct professor.



Davis



Wilson



Shelton



Boys and girls packed out BSC Head Soccer Coach Preston Goldfarb's "Excellence Through Fundamentals" soccer camp last summer.

BSC to host variety of camps for youth this summer

From learning the craft of acting to running soccer drills under the summer heat, elementary through high school students of all ages, abilities, and interests can choose from a fun mixture of camps at Birmingham-Southern.

Youth ranging in age from 6 to 18 can attend sports camps in baseball, basketball, football, lacrosse, soccer, and volleyball during the months of June and July at BSC. Information on all of these programs, plus who to contact, can be found on the camps link at www.bscsports.net.

The 14th annual Student Leaders in Service program, sponsored by the college's Hess Center for Leadership and Service, will be held June 14-19. This residential program will expose current high-school juniors to leadership theories and provide opportunities to practice leadership through community service projects. For more information, contact BSC Admission Counselor Rebecca Yeager at ryeager@bsc.edu or 205/226-4684. Details on the program also are available at www.bsc.edu/academics/hess/leadership/slis.htm.

For information on the two-week-long Intensive Summer Dance Workshop for ages 12-18, which is scheduled in June, call 205/323-5390.

Birmingham-Southern also hosts camps each summer for youth interested in theatre and instrumental and vocal music. For more information on these camps, contact the BSC Conservatory at 205/226-4960 or visit www.bsc.edu/academics/music/conservatory-summer.htm.

Application deadlines vary for all of BSC's summer youth opportunities. Printable registration forms are available online for most of the programs.

For more than 35 years, the Fine Arts Society has provided support to Birmingham-Southern College's fine and performing arts programs. Fine Arts Society members are ticket subscribers, creating an audience for theatre, dance, music, and arts productions and exhibitions. They are volunteers, assisting with hospitality for patrons, students, and visiting performers. They are donors, funding visits by guest artists and fulfilling department needs. They are messengers to the greater Birmingham community, promoting the thriving fine and performing arts program at BSC.

Just in the past year, the Fine Arts Society has helped the students and faculty in tangible ways, such as:

- Hosting receptions for gallery openings, student and faculty recitals, and dance performances
- Providing sheet music for students competing in the Whittington Competition
- Funding the purchase of music stands for the Theatre Department
- Supporting a visiting art critic who provided individual student critiques

With your support, the Fine Arts Society can do even more to encourage liberal arts students to truly pursue "the arts" in their BSC education.



Make the leap!
Find the light!
Strike a chord!
Take the stage!

take your cue

Be part of the arts at Birmingham-Southern College

—join the Fine Arts Society.

To learn more, visit our Web site, www.bsc.edu/academics/fas, or contact the Office of College Events at 205/226-4921 or fineartssociety@bsc.edu.