

Alumni Reunion 2006

Hundreds “Come on Home” for Sesquicentennial Reunion

More than 1,000 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and children joined together to celebrate the college’s 150th anniversary May 5-7 during Alumni Reunion Weekend 2006. It was a weekend filled with family activities, alumni receptions, mini-college presentations, class gatherings, and more, and all topped off with a fantastic fireworks display plus dinner and a band party on the academic quad.

Friday kicked off with an alumni and friends golf tournament and included a Golden Decades Luncheon for the classes of 1924-1956. A President’s Reception followed that afternoon at the home of BSC President David Pollick and his wife, Karen Bentley Pollick. That evening the classes of 1956 and 1986 celebrated with class reunion parties, and the Hilltop Singers gave a reunion performance.

Saturday was filled with family fun, from a children’s art camp and youth sports clinics to a “Let’s Get Rowdy” festival featuring moon jumps, face painting, games, and a dunking booth. Mini-College presentations featured faculty and staff Saturday morning. There was an art exhibit and book signing by Don Stewart ’81 in the Stephens Science Center. There also were receptions for sororities and fraternities, the Black Student Union, MPPM graduates, Adult Studies alumni, former SGA presidents, the *Hilltop News* staff, and the ‘Southern Stars.

The grand finale of the weekend was dinner on the grounds followed by a Sesquicentennial fireworks display and a concert by the band “Party Nation.”



Slam-dunk—BSC President David Pollick took his turn in the dunking booth during Saturday’s festival.



Student/teacher memories—BSC Professor Emeritus of Philosophy Dr. O.C. Weaver ’35 enjoyed seeing former students, among them Nena Berry Biddle ’51.



An honorary meal—Dinner on the grounds topped off a weekend of reunion activities for honor classes ending in 1’s and 6’s as well as all those in between.



Smiling faces—Among those who helped with reunion were (from left) Bobby Whetstone '55; Betty Dowda '63; Bob Dowda '63; Patti Stanford '62; Buddy Stanford '63; Martha Ross '62, vice president of reunion on the alumni board; Bob Ross, and Pam Bakane '86.



A family affair—Adults and children alike came home to the Hilltop for the Sesquicentennial celebration.



Presidential greeting

—President Pollick addressed a group of almost 500 at a dinner on the academic quad, announcing a \$50,000 Annual Fund challenge by BSC Trustee Dr. Pete Bunting '66 and kicking off the fireworks to celebrate the grand finale of the college's Sesquicentennial year celebration.



Nurturing friendships—Friends Willa Forrest '01 and Emily Hand '90 enjoy seeing each other again.



Mentoring in art—BSC alumna Jamie Hyche Kolb '01 led a children and youth art camp on Saturday during reunion.



Might as well jump—The moon jump and other inflatables were among the favorite attractions at the festival on Saturday.

Q&A

An interview with BSC's new national Alumni Association president



Lockwood

Editor's Note: 'Southern magazine recently spoke with Julie Van Valkenburgh Lockwood '92 of Huntsville about her new role as national Alumni Association president, the value of a BSC education, and the Alumni Association's goals. Lockwood began serving her term June 1. She is married to Robert C. Lockwood '92 and they are the parents of two boys.

What created your interest in leading the BSC Alumni Association?

I served on the BSC Alumni Board as a class president for many years and had always asked the most questions. Before I knew it, I had been tapped to serve as its next president.

What was your involvement on the BSC campus as a student?

I joined Alpha Omicron Pi sorority and served in many leadership positions, including administrative vice president. I also served as an SGA representative, Triangle Club member, and staff writer for *The Hilltop News*. In addition, I was a work-study for the Business Department. My major was private and public management. Since that major was not designated by the college, I had to have it approved by the faculty.

Once you graduated, what made you want to stay involved as an alum?

I have always felt that I received a great education at Birmingham-Southern. Once I settled back into my community, I began to see high school students making their college choices. Many students, who I believed would make great additions to the BSC campus, were not heading to 'Southern, and I felt that I needed to accept a role to change that.

What's on your agenda for your first year and down the road?

Along with the executive board, we hope to implement the restructured Alumni Association at BSC that was designed last year. We have developed an arm of the association to focus on servant leadership and a larger section to help with Alumni Reunion, which was a blast this year! We also are establishing improved communication between the college and the Alumni Association so that we can provide better mentorship for students. Down the road, we hope to open up alumni spots during the college's Interim and recruitment travels.

Where has your career taken you since graduation?

I have been selling residential real estate since the age of 20, which is the youngest age you can be licensed. I've worked as the relocation director for my family's real estate company, Van Valkenburgh & Wilkinson Realtors in Huntsville, since 1997. I am a licensed broker associate and a graduate of the Real Estate Institute. In addition, I've earned a Certified Residential Specialist designation.

What unique strengths or professional experience do you feel you bring to the association?

Being in the real estate field, I deal regularly with people from all walks of life. Plus, I've served on many nonprofit boards in Huntsville. I like to hear all the ideas and get people talking, as well as keep individuals on task with assignments. Great ideas often come out of conversations and debates.

What do you feel sets our association apart from alumni organizations of other colleges or universities?

I believe the college's urban location and our affiliation with the United Methodist Church make us both strong and humble. I also feel that we have superior alumni because of the education we received at BSC and the caring atmosphere that's fostered here. Students receive great instruction academically and are taught life lessons as well.

What opportunities or challenges face the Alumni Association—short-term or long-term?

This year has already proven to be quite a challenge. There is a lot of change going on that we all have to adjust to. We need to establish better communication between the college and its alumni. But the good thing is that the school is still here and it still provides a great education. We have to press on.



Get connected with BSC AlumNet

Would you like to find out what your college friends are doing today? Would you like to re-connect with old friends? Birmingham-Southern College alumni now are able to connect with each other through BSC's new online community and stay in touch over time. This special program provides among other services:

- an online alumni directory that allows alums of BSC to search for classmates and Hilltop friends,
- a permanent BSC e-mail address for alumni,
- the option to register and make credit card reservations online for college events, and
- a quick and easy way to make gifts online.

Use your personal password linking you to your alma mater and your college friends. We hope that BSC AlumNet will help to strengthen the ties that were established during your years at Birmingham-Southern. Visit BSC AlumNet at www.bsc.edu/alumnet.

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Recent alumna named assistant director of alumni affairs

Amanda Warren, a Florence native and 2004 Birmingham-Southern graduate, has been named assistant director of alumni affairs at the college.

She formerly served as community director at the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, where she was a fundraiser and event planner. Prior to that position, she was an assistant media buyer at Rindy Miller Media in Austin, Texas, where she managed television and radio advertising purchases during the 2004 political campaign season.

Her past experience also has included retail sales, grant writing, and serving as an intern for Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby in Washington, D.C. At BSC, she majored in political science and was a cum laude graduate.



Warren

BSC honors distinguished alumni at college's Honors Day

Birmingham-Southern honored its 2006 Distinguished Alumni at a Legacy Luncheon in conjunction with the college's annual Honors Day Thursday, April 27.

The 2006 Birmingham-Southern Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are Dr. Kenneth W. Bramlett of Mountain Brook, Martha Jane Patton of Birmingham, and Margaret Enslen Sherrill of Riverchase.

Bramlett, a 1977 BSC graduate, is an orthopaedic surgeon and partner with Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Clinic of Alabama. Patton, a 1968 BSC graduate, is an attorney and serves as executive director of Legal Aid Society of Birmingham. Sherrill, a 1951 BSC graduate, is a medical technologist with posts including Simon-Williamson Clinic and Baptist Princeton Hospital.

Honors Day is a celebration of the year's academic accomplishments at Birmingham-Southern. Distinguished alumni, both past and present, were recognized this year.

Since 1965, 108 Birmingham-Southern alumni have received the Distinguished Alumni Award for their professional and personal accomplishments.



The 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are (from left) Martha Jane Patton, Dr. Kenneth W. Bramlett, and Margaret Enslen Sherrill.

reunion

Alumni Reunion 2007 dates set!

Join classmates and friends for Alumni Reunion 2007 at Birmingham-Southern College.

Friday, April 27 – Sunday, April 29, 2007

Don't wait—Make your travel plans and hotel reservations today.

Alumni Reunion Weekend is for *all* BSC alumni. We look forward to seeing you.

Look for more information in upcoming issues of *'Southern*.

