An enchanted evening—Bruno Great Hall in Norton Campus Center was transformed into an “Enchanted Forest” for the Oct. 22 coronation of Kristian Collins as Miss Southern Diversity 2003-04, shown here with BSC Chancellor and President Dr. Neal R. Berte. She was crowned by Miss Southern Diversity 2002-03 Sonya Thomas. The coronation ceremony involved Birmingham-Southern students as well as students from area high schools and Holy Family Elementary School. As Miss Southern Diversity, Collins will serve as the primary student spokesperson for the Office of Multicultural Affairs and will assist in sponsoring cultural programs, promoting community building, and facilitating cross-cultural understanding within the Birmingham-Southern College community. She is a junior political science major from Montgomery.

BSC student wins American Idol audition, earns trip to Hawaii

Birmingham-Southern women’s basketball standout Candace Byrd won a spot earlier this fall to audition for the next season of the hit TV show American Idol. Byrd won the opportunity to audition by winning the Alabama Idol preliminary competition conducted by the FOX television affiliate in Huntsville. Her rendition of Whitney Houston’s Saving All My Love clinched the top prize for Alabama’s hopefuls in preliminary auditions conducted by WZDX Fox 54 in Huntsville.

The Alabama Idol contest featured five regional competitions whose top five winners were chosen to compete in the finals in Huntsville. Each Fox affiliate across the nation was given the opportunity to conduct a contest to send a contestant to the final round of preliminary competition. As the Alabama winner, Byrd was guaranteed an audition with producers of the hit show American Idol in Honolulu.

She advanced through one round of the Hawaii auditions, but was eliminated from the last round of cuts when she sang for the program’s celebrity judges—singer/dancer Paula Abdul, record executive Simon Cowell, and producer Randy Jackson.

Celebrating Rush—Members of Kappa Delta and Chi Omega sororities celebrate as their newest sisters are announced during Bid Day 2003 in September. The college’s seven national sororities welcomed their new members during the traditional ceremony. After receiving their bids, the 135 new sorority women rushed up the hill from the Simpson Building to the Sorority Townhouse amphitheater area to join in celebration with their new sorority sisters. The annual event capped off a week of Sorority Rush activities on campus. The annual Fraternity Rush was held the next week and the college’s six national fraternities pledged 80 men.