BSC student selected as Rhodes Scholar finalist

Nick Gaskill of Jackson, Tenn., a senior English major at Birmingham-Southern, was one of two college students who represented the state of Alabama in December as finalists for Rhodes Scholarships.

He was among 12 college students from the Southeast region—and one of only two from Alabama—invited to Atlanta Dec. 6-7 to participate in final interviews for the prestigious awards. Thirty-two Americans, including four from the Southeast region, were announced Dec. 7 as 2003 Rhodes Scholars. The scholarships provide two or three years of study at the University of Oxford in England.

Gaskill, who is pursuing a minor in philosophy, is scheduled to graduate from Birmingham-Southern in May 2003. At BSC, he is a member of the Honors Program, editor of the college’s literary journal, a tutor for the Writing Center, a Peer Advisor, and a volunteer tutor for students at local Woodrow Wilson Elementary School. He has been on the Dean’s List every term.

He also is a Charles B. Vail Fellow at the college, a joint faculty-student research program, and has made at least five presentations on his research interests at various conferences.

Homecoming Queen 2003—Anna Donaldson, a senior English major from Jasper, was crowned BSC’s 2003 Homecoming Queen during halftime ceremonies of the Feb. 15 men’s Homecoming basketball game against Elon University in Bill Battle Coliseum. Donaldson, who also was first runner-up in the 2003 Miss BSC pageant, was elected in a campus-wide vote of the student body. With Donaldson are BSC President Neal Berte and First Lady Anne Berte and crown bearer Mallory Ricketts of Birmingham, the niece of 2000 graduate Callie Fletcher.

BSC dance team goes to national competition

BSC’s dance team, the ‘Southern Stars, participated in the Universal Dance Association’s National Competition in Orlando, Fla., in January.

The competition was televised nationally on ESPN and ESPN2 and was the first national dance competition of any kind for the group.

The dancers, coached by Kristen Wear, earned blue ribbons during the summer for their first-place finish at the small-school division competition for colleges with less than 10,000 students in enrollment. The team was extended an at-large bid to the national competition after the group submitted a videotape to the UDA for consideration.

The ‘Southern Stars dance team is made up of 10 students who entertain at home basketball games and special events to enhance and promote school spirit.

Thomas crowned Miss Southern Diversity

Birmingham-Southern junior Sonya Thomas of Pelham will represent student opinions on issues of multiculturalism after recently accepting the crown for Miss Southern Diversity at an inaugural coronation ceremony on campus.

Thomas, a business administration major and Spanish minor, was selected by three judges and popular vote by members of the college’s multicultural organizations following eveningwear and interview competitions.

She also will participate in outreach programs to neighboring secondary schools to teach students the importance of community and respecting the differences in people, as well as assist BSC’s Office of Multicultural Affairs. Last month, she served on a planning committee for Birmingham’s annual Diversity Symposium.

Thomas’ student activities include Resident Advisor, vice president of the Black Student Union, and Honor Council.