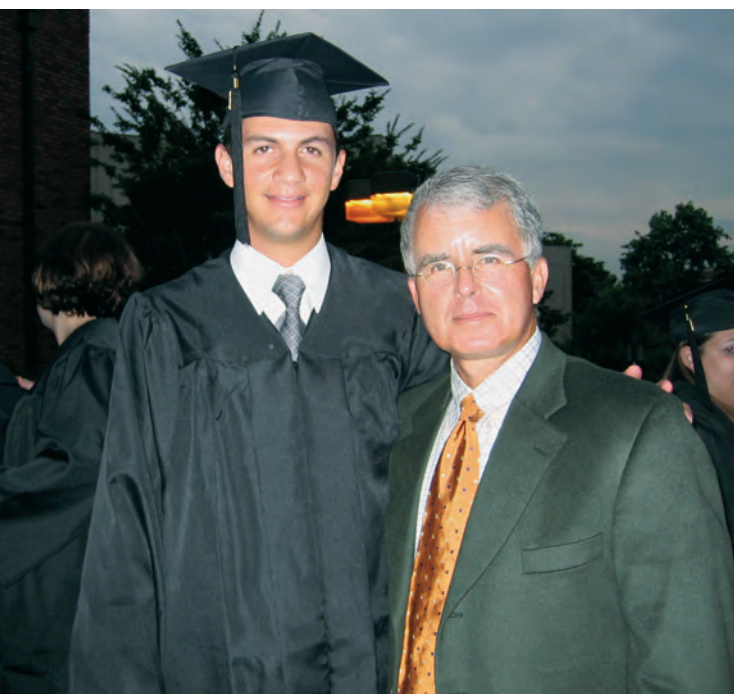


## First member of BSC golf team finds success all over U.S.

BY BARRETT HATHCOCK



*Orozco with Billy McDonald.*

For Juan Orozco, coming to Birmingham-Southern was a lot like fate. Originally from Cali, Colombia, Orozco came to Birmingham to attend college after a fortuitous friendship with a Birmingham family with BSC ties.

Orozco had been playing golf in his native country since he was eight years old. In 2000, the Colombian Open was held in his hometown, which included four U.S. players from the Future Masters Junior Tournament. As fate would have it, the tournament was being played at the country club where Orozco was a member, and the club asked if he would host a player from the United States. That player was Will McDonald, a high school student from Mountain Brook, Ala.

At that same time, Orozco was

looking toward college, specifically in the United States where he wanted to study engineering. Meanwhile, McDonald was so taken with Orozco that, after returning home, he told his father, Billy McDonald, about him and that Juan was looking for schools to attend in the United States. The two decided they must do all they could to help.

Coincidentally, the McDonalds had a long history with and affinity for Birmingham-Southern. Will's father had attended BSC before going into the military, while his grandmother, Peggy Spain McDonald, also went to Birmingham-Southern. His sister, Maggie McDonald, works at BSC as the director of annual giving.

"I guess he told his dad I was a pretty good player and that I was [looking] for opportunities, so I came up to Birmingham to visit," Orozco says.

"At that point in time, for me the most important thing was to get a good education, and Birmingham-Southern [was] in my opinion probably the best school in the state of Alabama, one of the best liberal arts colleges in the nation."

When he arrived in the fall of 2000, Orozco became the golf team, literally—that first year, it was only Coach Tom Miller and Orozco. But the hours of solitary practice and tournament play weren't new to Orozco. In Colombia, there are no teams and all tournament play is open and based on the handicap," he explains.

"You're playing people that have the same level of skills that you have. If you get to the point where you're

a scratch golfer ... you actually get the chance to play with other professionals."

Orozco's solitude didn't last for long, however. By the next fall, there was a full golf team at the college, which played five to six tournaments each semester. His fellow players became his best friends at the school, Orozco says.

At BSC, he majored in mathematics and took all the prerequisites he could for his pre-engineering degree. Along the way, he was inducted into multiple honor societies, such as ODK, Phi Eta Sigma, and the Big South Academic All Conference team. He was even asked to join Phi Beta Kappa—the only male inducted that year.

"I have immense respect for what Juan was able to accomplish at BSC," says BSC men's golf coach Tom Miller. "I'm very proud of everything that Juan has accomplished and thankful that I had the opportunity to play a small part in helping him to achieve his goals."

After Orozco graduated, he attended Columbia University in New York where he completed his degree in industrial engineering in just two years. He's now halfway finished with his master's in engineering management systems.

"Industrial engineering is really a field that allows you to work a wide variety of jobs, anywhere from being in a manufacturing environment to an operations research type of person for an airline," he says. "It gives you a wide range of possibilities, which I really liked."

Since July 2006, in addition to

## Alum urges BSC students to work abroad

BY BARRETT HATHCOCK

finishing his studies, Orozco has been working for International Paper as a process engineer in Indianapolis. Having lived in three different regions of the United States—the South, the Northeast, and now the Midwest—Orozco has managed to transition between several different cultures within just a few years.

“I’ve experienced all the extremes,” he says. “It’s not to the point where you feel like it’s a different country or anything like that, but it seems like people are just so different that it’s kind of hard to believe you’re in the same country.”

But Orozco is grateful for his chance at education and now a career in the United States, and he hopes that he can take what he’s learned back to his home country.

“Birmingham-Southern was a great experience for me. It has given me a lot of what I have,” he says.

“I would stay as long as I need to feel that I have done what I can for that company and for myself. But eventually I do want to move back and take back some of the good things I’ve learned over here and mix them with some of the good basics I learned when I grew up back there, and help the country overall.

“When you leave the country, it opens your eyes to a lot of things that you really don’t know, and I think that’s the case in every country.”

In the meantime, Orozco continues to work at International Paper and is helping his sister find a college in the United States.

“She’s extremely smart,” he says, “a lot smarter than I am.”

For one Birmingham-Southern student, traveling abroad while he was a student wasn’t enough—he wanted to make the jump completely.

“I think I’ve always known that I wanted to live and work overseas while I was young,” says Aron Mujumdar ’01.

Mujumdar currently lives in Ethiopia where he works as a law professor at Unity University College in Addis Ababa. After receiving his law degree from the University of Alabama in December 2004, he joined the law faculty at Unity in June 2005, and except for a few trips home, he’s been living and working in Ethiopia ever since.

“When this opportunity presented itself in March 2005, I realized that this was what I had always wanted to do, except in a different form than what I had always imagined,” Mujumdar says.

Born and raised in north Shelby County, Mujumdar attended Briarwood Christian School and followed his older brother Anil ’97 to Birmingham-Southern, where he majored in English.

He got the chance to go to Ethiopia through Dr. Norman Singer, a law professor and anthropologist at the University of Alabama, who was one of the earliest professors at Addis Ababa University, the location of

Ethiopia’s first law school.

While attending BSC, Mujumdar traveled to Cuba during his senior year with Spanish Professor Dr. Janie Spencer and Associate Spanish Professor Dr. Barbara Domcekova as part of an Interim trip.

“BSC provided me with an opportunity that I would not have otherwise had to travel to a country where few Americans go,” he says. “This simply confirmed my longstanding desire to live and work in a foreign country.”

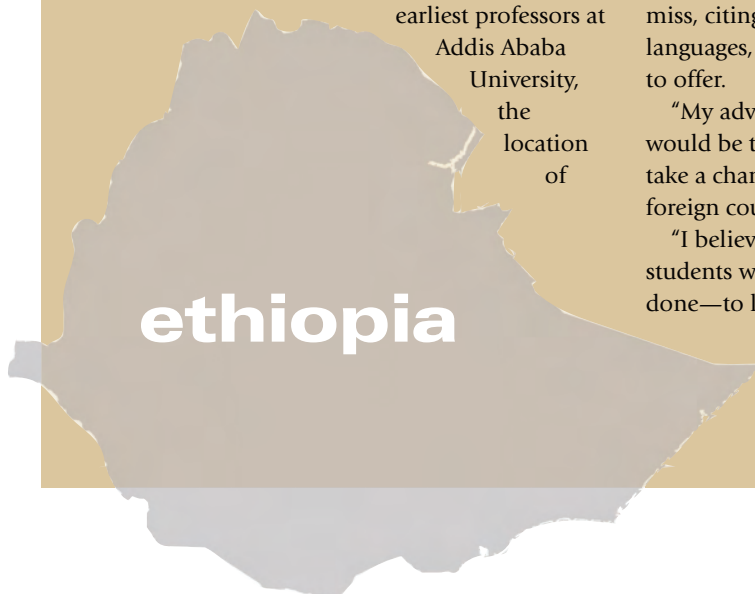
Mujumdar has so enjoyed his time abroad—both professionally and personally—that he thinks everyone should spend at least a few months in a foreign country.

“BSC students should take advantage of the many opportunities that the college provides for overseas travel,” he says. “They will understand the outside world with a depth of understanding that can only come when you have set foot in another country. Additionally, they will develop an appreciation for the American way of life and for our continuing commitment to democratic institutions.”

While abroad, Mujumdar says that he’s noticed that far fewer Americans travel or work abroad when compared with Europeans. He thinks this is an opportunity too good to miss, citing the vibrant culture, multiple languages, and natural beauty that Africa has to offer.

“My advice to BSC students and graduates would be that they should not be afraid to take a chance on living and working in a foreign country after college,” he says.

“I believe that the vast majority of BSC students who choose to do what I have done—to live and work in a foreign country—will not regret the decision.”











SPECIAL SECTION

reunion'07  
the best of times  
Alumni Reunion Weekend

**April 27 & 28, 2007**

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

As our graduates spread out across the world, they each share a common home in Birmingham-Southern, where the campus might have a few new buildings, but the BSC bond is still strong. It's the place where you found your calling, the place where you made lifelong friends—the place where you've had some of the best times of your life.

Come back and visit. Those good times are still here.





# schedule

On Friday and Saturday, there are many activities going on and you may choose what you would like to do. We've tried to make sure there's something for everyone. Choose the activities that are most appealing to you and your family. To register for events, visit [www.bsc.edu/alumnet](http://www.bsc.edu/alumnet).

## Friday, April 27

### Morning

8:00 a.m. **BSC Alumni Golf Tournament**  
Scramble with shotgun start, featuring lunch and prizes.  
Location: Highland Park Golf Course  
3300 Highland Avenue South

### Evening

5:00 p.m.-  
7:30 p.m. **Reunion Registration Desk Open**  
Location: Lobby, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Norton Campus Center

5:30 p.m.-  
7:00 p.m. **President's Reception for Reunion Honor Classes,  
'Southern Society, Endowment Builders Society,  
and Special Guests**  
The Pollocks open their home to members of the Reunion Honor classes and special guests.  
Location: President's Home, campus

5:00 p.m.-  
7:00 p.m. **Popcorn and a Movie for Youngsters**  
(Babysitters provided)  
Location: Norton Theatre  
Second Floor, Norton Campus Center

7:00 p.m. **Class of 1957 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner/Reception**  
Classes of 1956, 1957, and 1958 invited.  
Location: The Summit Club  
1901 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Suite 3100  
Elegant seated meal.

7:00 p.m. **Class of 1962 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner/Reception**  
Classes of 1961, 1962, and 1963 invited.  
Location: Veranda on Highland  
2220 Highland Avenue South  
Elegant cocktail buffet and cash bar.

7:00 p.m. **Class of 1967 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner/Reception**  
Classes of 1966, 1967, and 1968 invited.  
Location: Home of George Ann ('67) and Alton Parker  
918 Essex Road  
Cocktail supper.

7:00 p.m. **Class of 1972 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner/Reception**  
Classes of 1971, 1972, and 1973 invited.  
Location: Home of Wayne ('72) and Sandy Killion  
3321 Dell Road, Mountain Brook  
Cocktail supper.



7:00 p.m. **Class of 1977 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner/Reception**  
Classes of 1976, 1977, and 1978 invited.  
Location: Home of Alan ('77) and Susan Rogers  
86 Fairway Drive, Mountain Brook  
Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

7:00 p.m. **Class of 1982 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner/Reception**  
Classes of 1981, 1982, and 1983 invited.  
Location: Home of Gayle Livingston Mills ('82) and Ted Mills  
2048 Magnolia Ridge  
Featuring a Mexican buffet and margaritas.



7:00 p.m. **Class of 1987 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner/Reception**  
Classes of 1986, 1987, and 1988 invited.  
Location: Home of Julie Carwie Bryant ('87) and Scott Bryant ('86)  
1830 29th Avenue South  
SoHo Flats South, Suite 440, Homewood  
Featuring a cocktail dinner.

7:00 p.m. **Class of 1992 15<sup>th</sup> Reunion Party**  
Classes of 1991, 1992, and 1993 invited.  
Location: Billy's, 2012 Cahaba Road, English Village  
Featuring hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

7:30 p.m. **Ah, Wilderness! Theatre Production**  
Eugene O'Neill's classic comedy about small-town values, young love, and the pains and joys of growing up is the quintessential family theatre experience.  
Location: BSC Theatre/Mainstage



8:00 p.m. **Class of 1997 hosts Young Alumni Party**  
Classes 1997 and younger invited.  
Location: Metro Bistro, 2125 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North  
Casual drinks and music.

## Saturday, April 28

### Morning

8:00 a.m. **Registration Desk Open**  
Location: Lobby, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Norton Campus Center  
Continental breakfast provided.

8:30 a.m.-  
4:00 p.m. **Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition**  
Location: Durbin Gallery, Kennedy Art Center/Azar Art Studios

8:30 a.m.-  
4:00 p.m. **The Artwork of 1953 BSC Alumna Sally Wood Johnson**  
Location: Stephens Science Center Atrium

9:00 a.m.-  
11:00 a.m. **Children's Art Camp**  
Special art activities for children and youth.  
Location: Art Annex (Old Science Annex), Room 227

9:00 a.m.-  
10:30 a.m. **Pass, Punt, and Kick Contest/Workshop**  
Tips from BSC's football coaches.  
Location: Academic Quad





9:00 a.m.-  
10:45 a.m. **Mini-College Presentations**  
Revisit classroom days and sit in on lectures and presentations by BSC alumni, faculty, and staff.

9:00 a.m.-  
9:45 a.m. **"Predictions for the '08 Election"**  
BSC Political Science Professor, pollster, and consultant Dr. Natalie Davis gives her witty and insightful comments about the upcoming presidential elections.  
Location: Norton Theatre

9:00 a.m.-  
9:45 a.m. **"Charles Wesley: Sacred or Secular Poet?"**  
1958 BSC alumnus, professional singer, author, scholar, United Methodist churchman, and publisher of global songs Dr. ST Kimbrough Jr. shares history and poetry of this great Methodist writer.  
Location: Art Building Auditorium

9:00 a.m.-  
9:45 a.m. **"A Brief History of the Middle East Conflict"**  
BSC History Professor Mark Lester explains why the turmoil in the Middle East was predicted by history and will most likely continue into the future.  
Location: Harbert Auditorium

9:00 a.m.-  
9:45 a.m. **"NCAA Division III Athletics at 'Southern: Meet the Coaches"**  
An introduction to our Division III program and coaches.  
Location: SGA Room

10:00 a.m.-  
10:45 a.m. **"David Pollick: Unplugged II"**  
In a sequel to last year's popular "Unplugged" session, BSC President Dr. David Pollick reveals more about his interesting life and his hopes and dreams for the college's future.  
Location: Bruno Great Hall C&D, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Norton Campus Center

10:00 a.m.-  
10:45 a.m. **"Defining Southern Style"**  
1987 BSC alumna and editor of *Southern Accents* magazine Karen Carroll shares images and information on the best in Southern architecture and design.  
Location: Harbert Auditorium

10:00 a.m.-  
10:45 a.m. **"Pool, Anyone?"**  
1957 alumna and professional pool therapist "Ruby Alabama" demonstrates with her cue. She says, "Come visit and learn how *not* to play pool."  
Location: Striplin Fitness Center

11:00 a.m.-  
11:45 a.m. **"Me, Build a BSC Alumni Chapter?"**  
Special training session for alumni chapter leaders and those who wish to build a chapter in their city/area.  
Location: SGA Room, Norton Campus Center

11:00 a.m.-  
11:45 a.m. **Memorial Service**  
Service of remembrance for BSC alumni, faculty, and staff we have lost in the past year.  
Location: Yeilding Chapel



11:00 a.m.-  
2:00 p.m. **"Let's Get Rowdy" Festival**  
Fun for all ages! Musical acts on the Amphitheatre Stage including the BSC Jazz Band and the BSC One-A-Chord Gospel Choir, Inflatable Wacky World, Magic Castle of Oz, face painting, pie-in-the-face, putt-putt golf, whack-a-car, sports games, and more.  
Location: Academic Quad and across campus. Featuring a BBQ picnic and Rowdy the Panther hosting the activities.

12:00 p.m.-  
1:30 p.m. **Alumni Awards Luncheon**  
Special luncheon featuring recognition of Distinguished Alumni and Outstanding Young Alumni Award honorees and retiring faculty members Dr. Thomas Gibbs '64 and Dr. Roy Wells '57. Update on the college by BSC President Dr. David Pollick.  
Entertainment provided by the Hilltop Singers.  
Location: Bruno Great Hall A&B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Norton Campus Center

1:00 p.m. **BSC vs. Troy Softball Double Header**  
Location: BSC Softball Park

1:30 p.m.-  
3:00 p.m. **Golden Decades Café**  
A great place to gather with old friends, enjoy coffee, and reminisce.  
Location: Cafeteria, Norton Campus Center

1:30 p.m.-  
3:30 p.m. **Southern Environmental Center/EcoScape Open House**

1:45 p.m.-  
3:45 p.m. **Film Screening of *Company K***  
Based on the story of Alabama-born author William March and his experience as a U.S. Marine. Screenplay written and produced by BSC alumnus Bob Clem '67.  
Location: Norton Theatre, Norton Campus Center

2:00 p.m.-  
3:00 p.m. **Star Gazing: "Planet Patrol"**  
Location: Robert R. Meyer Planetarium

## Evening

4:00 p.m.-  
**Service-Learning Reunion: A Reunion Rhapsody**  
Celebrating the participants in the Chapel and Service Learning programs 1979-2007 and honoring the retirement of BSC Dean of Chapel Dr. Stewart A. Jackson. Featuring the music of "The Dill Pickers."  
Location: Yeilding Chapel

5:00 p.m.-  
6:00 p.m. **Special Group Receptions and Open Houses**  
(If you don't see your group and would like to hold a reception, contact the Alumni Office at 205/226-4912.)

5:00 p.m.-  
6:00 p.m. **All-Alumni Open House**  
All BSC alumni are encouraged to stop by before dinner and visit with your friends.  
Location: Stockham Building Parlor

5:00 p.m.-  
6:00 p.m. **Adult Studies Reunion Reception**  
Location: Stephens Science Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Atrium





6:00 p.m.      **Deep South Fish Fry**  
Catered by **The Fish Market**  
Location: Academic Quad  
Rain Location: Bill Battle Coliseum

Dusk            **Alumni Reunion Fireworks Spectacular!**  
Sponsored by: **Ridout's Elmwood Chapel,**  
**Larry Barr '72 (manager)**  
Location: North End of Academic Quad

8:00 p.m.-  
11:00 p.m.      **Band Party:**  
**The Connection Band**  
Sponsored by: **BSC Student Government Association**  
**and Birmingham Beverage Co. Inc.**  
Featuring R&B Motown sounds and classic dance hits.



*The Connection Band*

## reunion registration information

### Hotels

Three hotels in Birmingham are holding blocks of rooms for reunion registrants, including:

**The Redmont Hotel**  
2101 Fifth Avenue North  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
205/324-2101  
Confirmation # 11992  
Rate is \$99 per night

**Hampton Inn Birmingham I-65/Lakeshore Drive**  
30 State Farm Parkway  
Birmingham, AL 35209  
205/313-2060  
1-800-HAMPTON (426-7866)  
Confirmation # 85831405  
Rate is \$149 (April 26)  
\$229 (April 27-29)

**Hampton Inn Birmingham – Colonnade**  
3400 Colonnade Parkway at US 280  
Birmingham, AL 35243  
205/967-0002  
1-800-HAMPTON (426-7866)  
Confirmation # 85831405  
Rate is \$144 (April 26)  
\$175 (April 27-29)

Reservations are under  
Birmingham-Southern College.

### Dietary Needs

For special dietary needs, contact Karen Ellis at 205/226-4909 or [kellis@bsc.edu](mailto:kellis@bsc.edu).

### Registering

Registration deadline: Friday, April 20, 2007. Please make check payable to Birmingham-Southern College. Register online at: [www.bsc.edu/alumnet](http://www.bsc.edu/alumnet) and go to the events calendar. For questions, call 205/226-4909 or 1-800-523-5793, ext. 4909, or e-mail [alumni@bsc.edu](mailto:alumni@bsc.edu).

Babysitter list available upon request.



# joining us for the best of times so far ...

*(register now and add your name to the list)*

Penny Prewitt  
Cunningham '36  
Lamar Osment '45  
John M. Akin, Jr. '49  
Joe Hughes '49  
Betty Rae Price Hughes '50  
Willene Paxton '50  
Bob Sims '50  
Betty Hightower Pewitt '52  
Jane Pepperd  
Thomaston '52  
Earl Gossett '54  
Mary Berry Gragg '55  
Bob Whetstone '55  
Bob Morgan '56  
Margaret Hines Patrick '56  
Mary Hurt '57  
Don Patrick '57  
Ann Yates Rowell '57  
Al Ray '57  
Fran Wamp Brindley '57  
Stanley P. Clark '58  
Ernest Leon Waters '58  
Kathryn Voigt Waters '58  
Kay Lowe Ray '60  
Randy Gray '61  
Pat Nix '62  
Martin Kite '62  
Martha Chafin Ross '62  
Ed Hardin '62  
Tony Gunter '64  
W. Michael Atchison '65  
Betty Farrington Cook '65  
Key Clarke '67  
Kyle DeLoach '67  
Richard deShazo '67  
Harriett Gaither Gram '67  
Linda Wood Loeffler '67  
George Ann Gibson  
Parker '67  
William W. (Bill)  
Payne '67  
Tom Rosdick '67  
Richard A. Storm III '67  
Dale Kyle Head '68  
Sandra Hendrickson  
Storm '68  
Susan Ellis Bethea '70  
Larry Barr '72  
Barbara N. Croft '72

Ralph Crowe '72  
Mary Kathryn Foxhall '72  
Wayne Killion '72  
Ellise Pruitt Mayer '72  
Ellen McFerrin Mayer '72  
Richard B. Yeilding '73  
Susan Lee Benton '77  
Marleen Klip Bodden '77  
Marjorie Moore Jones '77  
Alan Rogers '77  
Ken Waites '77  
R. Dana J. Barnes '78  
Karen Mitchell Algie '81  
Scott W. LeCroy '82  
Gail Livingston Mills '82  
Jennifer Lambert  
Tilghman '82

Anna Swindle  
Roberson '87  
Stephen Craft '88  
Vicki Van Valkenburgh '88  
Judy Collins Allen '89  
Terry Gragg '89  
Amy Rudd Niesen '89  
Bentley Patrick '89  
Bert Allen '90  
Abboud Thomas '90  
Paul Burson '91  
Judith Hayes Hand '91  
John Hoar '91  
Melonie Major Sturm '91  
Michelle Renee  
Andrews '92  
Lori Reed Blanton '92

David Rains '93  
Pete Walker '93  
Brooke Tanner Battle '96  
Christy Laycock  
Parsons '96  
Karl Allen Swelling '96  
Brian Cash '97  
Brian Chapuran '97  
Ashley Jean Duke '97  
Alice Ottewill Jackson '97  
Kim Malchow Lewis '97  
Nathan Lewis '97  
Meredith Jackson  
Matthews '97  
Scott Matthews '97  
Brent Yarborough '97  
Tacqua DeAnne Gully '97  
Rev. Russell S. Hestley '97  
Anil Mujumdar '97  
Ginny Michelle  
Phillips '97  
Joy Lashane Ryder '97  
James A. Yonfa '97  
Patrice Michelle  
Harlson '00  
Stephanie Stephens  
Miller '00  
Melinda Toles Nation '00  
Rolanda Copeland '01  
Feeneishia Pleasant  
Green '01  
Ronald Orange '01  
Laura Brooks Bright '02  
Sonya Edwards Eubank '02  
Valerie Michelle  
Lemmons '02  
Joshua South '02  
Keith Randall '03  
Sunday Vanderver '04  
Amanda Marie Warren '04  
Katy Beth Lewey '05  
Lauren Michelle  
Mallory '05  
Kate Elizabeth  
Chandler '06  
Julie Lynn Coffman '06  
Elizabeth Amelia Croft '06  
Elizabeth Bradford  
Frye '06  
Jennifer Nicole Osland '06

## reunion '07

### the best of times

Keith Thompson '83  
Jefferson Vaughan Sr. '83  
Paula Grace Andrews '84  
John Burton '85  
Denson Franklin III '85  
Lisa Sims Harrison '85  
Rena Williams Ramsey '85  
Sheri Scholl Salmon '85  
Don Barnett '86  
Scott Bryant '86  
Adelia Patrick  
Thompson '86  
John Watts '86  
DeLynn Moring Zell '86  
Max Blalock '87  
Julie Carwie Bryant '87  
James C. Camel '87  
Karen McElroy Carroll '87  
Harold Jones '87  
Beth Golson  
McGlaughn '87  
Melissa Self Patrick '87  
James C. Pennington '87  
Kathryn Marie Ray '87

Staunton Davis '92  
Nancy Cobb Daws '92  
Patrice Hobbs Glass '92  
Kristin Allyson Harper '92  
Robin Horner '92  
Rajendra Kanuru '92  
Julie Van Valkenburgh  
Lockwood '92  
Robert Lockwood '92  
Kristy Hager  
Lundstrom '92  
Tisa Moore '92  
Margaret Nicrosi  
Mullen '92  
Laura Anne Ottaviani-  
Chacon '92  
Brad Parrish '92  
Jill Warren Robinson '92  
Grover Robinson IV '92  
Amy Simmons Scofield '92  
Ben Shelton '92  
Jennifer Sloan '92  
Teresa Scruggs Thomas '92  
Nelda Phelps Waller '92



## Five to receive Birmingham-Southern's top alumni awards

Five Birmingham-Southern alumni will receive the college's Distinguished Alumni Award or Outstanding Young Alumni Award at the annual Alumni Reunion Weekend festivities Saturday, April 28.

Receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award are:

### Jean Pierce '52

If you've seen any children's theater in Birmingham over the past three decades, there's a good chance you've seen a show written by Jean Pierce. Pierce has been acting, directing, and writing for the Magic City's theater scene for more than 30 years.

After attending Ramsay High School in Birmingham, Pierce got her associate of arts degree with honors in 1950 at Gulf Park College in Long Beach, Miss., and came to BSC to complete her undergraduate degree. She majored in drama with a minor in English, graduated magna cum laude, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and Mortar Board. Afterward, she did graduate work in theater at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Beginning in 1959, Pierce began

acting in community theater productions around town. Her first show was the title character in *Anne of the Thousand Days*. She continued acting in *Town and Gown*, *Summerfest*, *Terrific New Theatre*, and later, Birmingham Children's Theatre productions practically every year.

Along the way, she added directing and writing to her résumé, beginning with *Backstage Baby!*, which she co-wrote with Betty H. Pewitt '52. The musical comedy was featured at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. She has since written more than 25 musicals and musical adaptations (many with Pewitt) for the Birmingham Children's Theatre—from *Santa in Space* to *Ali Baba's Gold* to *Bloomers*, *Bubblegum*, and *Brown Paper Bags*.

### Elvin Hilyer '60

After graduating from Birmingham-Southern with a degree in philosophy, Elvin Hilyer went on to earn a master's in psychology at the University of Mississippi before starting an illustrious 30-year career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

While at CDC, he essentially served as a chief of staff for the director of CDC, advising in all program areas and assisting program officials in resolving issues, in addition to directing Atlanta-based

legislative activities, such as preparing for hearings and coaching witnesses to appear before Congress.

Hilyer also served as a liaison between the inspector general and the General Accounting Office for all assessments, investigations, and inspections conducted for CDC programs. He chaired many task forces, including one to improve the status of women and minorities in scientific and high-level positions, and another to improve the grade levels and career ladders of secretarial/clerical coworkers. He also developed a strategic plan for international health after consultation with the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Rockefeller Institute, and others. He retired in 1994 from CDC as a member of the senior executive service and associate director of CDC for policy coordination.

After his long career with CDC, Hilyer worked for the next 10 years as a resident technical advisor for the Carter Center in Uganda, Sudan, and Ghana, advising on the development, implementation, and monitoring of national programs to eradicate Guinea worm and, in Sudan, to control onchocerciasis (river blindness) and trachoma.

Along the way, he worked with officials in the various host

From top, Jean Pierce, Elvin Hilyer, and Robert Clem.



countries—UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the UN Development Program.

Since 2005, he has worked at the MeKing Consulting Corp. as a consultant to CDC. The job involves an ongoing project in conjunction with the National Center for Infectious Diseases.

### Robert Clem '67

After graduating from BSC with a B.A. in history, Robert Clem attended Harvard Law School in 1970 and practiced law in Washington, D.C., from 1970-79. Primarily engaged in trial and appellate practice, Clem took part in a groundbreaking study of the capital's criminal justice system in 1976-77 and was appointed professor of criminal law at Antioch University Law School in Washington in 1977.

But in 1979, Clem changed careers and enrolled at New York University's graduate film school. A *Vintage Thunderbird*, his NYU thesis film, based on a short story by Ann Beattie, was subsequently acquired by the A&E Network for its *Shortstories* series. In 1987, working with BSC alumnus Norton Dill '68, he directed the award-winning short film *Ready to be a Wise Man*.

Clem later wrote and directed documentary films for the Discovery Channel and Learning Channel before launching his own company, Waterfront Pictures, and a nonprofit foundation, the Foundation for New Media, in the '90s.

Along the way, he also has had success as a playwright, theater director, and radio drama producer. Clem's first feature-length documentary film was *Big Jim Folsom: the Two Faces of Populism* (1996) about the Alabama governor who, in the '40s and '50s, was far ahead of his time on the race issue. Other documentaries include *War Birds: Diary of an Unknown Aviator* (2003) and two films based on the life and work of William March, the Mobile author

and World War I veteran, whose autobiographical novel *Company K* is considered a WWI classic. Clem's feature-length dramatization of *Company K* will be released this spring by Indican Pictures.

Currently, Clem is producing and directing three new documentary films, all with Alabama themes: the soon-to-be-released *John Patterson: In the Wake of the Assassins*, *The Gospel Highway*, and *Eugene Walter: The Last Bohemian*.

### Receiving the Outstanding Young Alumni Award are:

#### Robert Aderholt '87

Elected in 1996, Congressman Robert Aderholt currently is serving his fifth term representing Alabama's Fourth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. At age 31, he was the youngest Republican elected to the 105th Congress.

After graduating from Haleyville High School and attending BSC, where he received a bachelor's degree in political science, Aderholt graduated from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in 1990. After graduation, Aderholt practiced law and served as a municipal judge in his hometown. In 1995 and 1996, before running for Congress, he served as assistant legal adviser to the governor of Alabama.

Aderholt currently sits on the House Appropriations Committee, which oversees the budgets of all federal agencies and departments. He also serves on the subcommittees for homeland security, transportation, housing and urban development, as well as commerce, justice and science, and related agencies.

Aderholt is strongly committed to religious freedoms and human rights issues, and is a leader on those issues through his role on the Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe (better known as the Helsinki

Commission), as well as the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. Both commissions serve as independent federal organizations to monitor international threats to human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Fourth Congressional District is made up of 14 counties and spans across the northern part of Alabama from Mississippi to Georgia.

#### Grover Robinson '92

Grover Robinson IV came to Birmingham-Southern from Pensacola, Fla., where he attended Booker T. Washington High School.

While at BSC, he majored in economics, was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated summa cum laude. He now is the president of Grover Robinson & Associates Inc., a commercial real estate firm, which he began in 2000. He also serves as a broker and agent.

Earlier, he worked for five years as a commercial loan officer at AmSouth Bank. Since 2006, he has served on the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners, District 4. He also is an active volunteer in the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Escambia County, and the Cordova Park Elementary School Advisory Committee.

In 1999, he was awarded the Junior Achievement ImpACT Award, and, in 2001, he received the Award for Emerging Leader of the Year and the Pensacola Area Commitment to Excellence.

He also has served on the board for the Junior Achievement of Northwest Florida, the Pensacola Junior College Foundation, and the Baptist Health Care Foundation.



From top, Robert Aderholt and Grover Robinson.



## BSC offers travel opportunities in San Francisco, Honduras



The Birmingham-Southern Office of Service Learning is offering a new opportunity in San Francisco tailored specifically for alumni.

A service project has been planned at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, located in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. The project will be a miniature version of what the Service Learning Office has done five times before at Glide.

Participants will help serve meals at Glide, whose program serves over 1 million meals a year—three meals a day, seven days a week. Or, to put it in perspective, that's 800 lunches in two hours.

"We've been talking about doing this type of project for a long time," says Kristin Harper, coordinator of service learning at Birmingham-Southern. "It's a project that's just for alumni, but modeled after our Interim service-learning projects. This is a great opportunity for alumni to connect with each other and the college in a new way through service, which has always been an integral part of the fabric of BSC."

Housing will be provided at the Fort Mason Youth Hostel, which includes dormitory-style rooms with hall baths and a continental breakfast each morning. The location features beautiful views of San Francisco Bay. The dates of the project are from Saturday, July 21, to Sunday, July 29.

Transportation will be available via San Francisco's historic streetcars, as well as San Francisco Municipal Railway (Muni) buses and cable cars.

The cost is \$1,000 per person, which includes the price of the flight, lodging, ground transportation, and a portion of your meals.

To register or if you have questions, contact Harper at 205/226-4720 or [kharper@bsc.edu](mailto:kharper@bsc.edu). Come help meet the needs of a community while exploring one of America's greatest cities. Space is limited, so inquire early.

Or if you want to get out of the country for an alumni trip, BSC is offering a Coral Reef Ecology alumni trip to Roatan, Honduras, this summer.

Participants will spend a week with BSC Associate Professor of

Biology Dr. Andy Gannon visiting coral reefs and dolphins at the Institute for Marine Sciences on the island of Roatan, off the coast of Honduras in the Caribbean Sea. The trip will be a condensed version of one of the most popular of all BSC Interim trips—the month-long Coral Reef Ecology Interim project.

The idea for an alumni version of the Interim project arose after Dr. Sean Groark '85, a cardiologist who lives in Huntsville, accompanied the latest BSC trip to Roatan as a chaperone. The experience was much like Groark's Interim trip in the mid '80s when he traveled to the Galapagos Islands as a BSC student.

Such a meaningful experience was had by all that the college wanted to open the opportunity to all BSC alumni. Alumni will dive and snorkel on one of the most beautiful reefs in the world, and they will get to participate in lectures and lab exercises to understand what they are seeing down below, as well as in ongoing reef biodiversity and water-quality monitoring projects.

"We will also find time to swim with dolphins, kayak, explore a botanical garden, ride horses, and participate in a limbo contest," says Gannon.

SCUBA certification is encouraged but not required, and everyone must be able to swim.

Though the dates are not yet firm, the trip will be in early August, and the cost will be approximately \$2,000 per person. The college needs a minimum of 12 to form a group, but it can only take 24 people, so sign up soon. For more information, contact Gannon at 205/226-4899 or [agannon@bsc.edu](mailto:agannon@bsc.edu).

## Alumni events keep winter warm

Local Birmingham-Southern alumni participated in two informative events this past winter. In January, there was a Football Preview Luncheon with BSC Head Football Coach Joey Jones, who discussed the new football program at BSC. The event, which was held at the Harbert Center in downtown Birmingham, drew a crowd of all ages.

In February, there was a Downtown Alumni Business Luncheon, also at the Harbert Center, which offered alumni time to visit and network before a lunch program which featured C. Dowd Ritter '69, CEO and president of Regions Financial Corp.

Ritter gave a speech entitled "A 2007 National and Local Outlook for the Financial Services Industry" to a packed house, where he emphasized the importance of a liberal arts education. The concentration of financial services corporations in the Birmingham area continues to be a great benefit for BSC graduates, many of whom are employed within Regions/AmSouth.

Upcoming Chapter and Affinity Group events are posted on BSC AlumNet, as well as in the monthly *From the Hilltop* e-newsletter. See what's happening next by visiting [www.bsc.edu/alumnet](http://www.bsc.edu/alumnet).

Are you interested in hosting an alumni event in your area? If so, contact Amanda Warren at 205/226-4908 or [awarren@bsc.edu](mailto:awarren@bsc.edu).



you've made the friends.  
now keep them.

## AlumNet



- A searchable alumni directory
- A permanent BSC e-mail address
- Register for BSC events
- Make gifts

**BSC**

Birmingham-Southern College

[www.bsc.edu/alumnet](http://www.bsc.edu/alumnet)