

# 'Southern

*A Publication for Alumni and Friends*

*Fall 2008 Volume 34, Number 2*

## BSC's newest Truman Scholar

*Dedicated to a life  
of public service*



BSC

Birmingham-Southern College

# Editor's Note

## 'Southern Cares

BY BILL WAGNON

I am quite certain that if I asked 100 people I would get two dozen different opinions on what sets Birmingham-Southern apart from other colleges and universities. To some it would be the distinguished faculty. To others, the Hilltop campus. Still to others it would be the history of service or the academic excellence. There is no right or wrong answer. Birmingham-Southern does so many things so very well. What truly sets us apart from all the others? It's a question that several at the college have pondered of late. Below is a brief excerpt from President David Pollick's annual State of the College address to faculty and staff on Aug. 22.

"Several months ago, I raised the topic of institutional distinctiveness with the college's General Officers [vice president team]. I said I had finally firmly come to the conclusion, after so many conversations with alumni, students, and friends, that the care that the faculty, staff, and alumni of this college have shown for its students over many generations is extraordinary and powerful. It does set this community apart from 99 percent of college campuses in America, in my opinion. ... We live in an era when personal care is at a premium because it is increasingly so absent. Getting problems solved by persons who genuinely care has become rarer and rarer. In our world, it means safe and secure environments with people you can truly trust to turn to. It means talking with a person versus talking with an answering machine. It means living in a neighborhood with real neighbors who care about your problems and want to help you solve them. We use all kinds of words to describe this, for example, 'home,' and 'family,' but whatever the words, they mean something powerful and fill deep human needs and desires. You, and those who came before you, have provided a place where such words have real meaning and value. You care for students in both the great and the small. And you are loved and revered for it. This is Birmingham-Southern—yesterday and today. ... There is a thing here called 'Southern Care, and I want every student who considers coming here to know about it, and I want every student who does come here to experience it."

Prior to Pollick's address, the college did something it had never done before. It put down on paper, all in one place, those things that Birmingham-Southern offers to its students as a service. Not for a cost, but simply because it has been our nature to do so. A 'Southern Care' guide for students. Pollick continued.

"... as students are returning this year—all students—they will find a personal gift in their rooms ... welcoming them 'home.' There will be a booklet listing the many college services that are available to each of them, much as when you check into a hotel room. We are working on setting up a morning Kiosk in the Bell Tower that provides free coffee and juice before the first class periods on Monday and Friday mornings. The expense is minimal; the gesture is large. We are looking at placing a person in Norton who can answer almost anything, or help a student get to the right people, whether it's where to go to solve a problem on campus or where to take that special friend for that special dinner when you only have three dollars in your pocket. Over the years, the kind of warm care that has been shown students through the hands of Miss Martha [maker of the cafeteria's famous yeast rolls], perhaps symbolically captures the essence of our message. There are times when we would all love to be able to turn to a 'Miss Martha' for some personal care as comforting as a warm roll—both symbolically and actually."

As we move forward, Birmingham-Southern will continue to seek out and recognize the strengths of the 'Southern culture of care and to intentionally tell that story far and wide.

Pollick concluded: "This is all about putting a spotlight on the kind of care that is so deeply rooted in this community. The investment is small, the care is authentic, and the retention of each of our good students is valuable to the entire community."

As you peruse this issue of 'Southern' magazine, you will find many examples of 'Southern people who care—those devoting their lives in public service to their country, those making life-changing gifts because they want to give back to their alma mater, those making the traditional Move-In Day for new students an unforgettable experience.

You will hear more about the 'Southern Care' program in issues to come, but for now enjoy reading about the care of 'Southern people on the pages that follow.

Bill

Bill Wagon  
Vice President for Communications

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Dr. G. David Pollick, President  
C. Dowd Ritter, Chair, Board of Trustees

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# Inside'Southern

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A Publication for Alumni and Friends

# BSC

## Features

### 34 Democracy in Action

*How BSC inspires its students and alumni to become engaged in activity for the public good*

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**On the Cover**—Senior political science major Art Richey, the newest Truman Scholar at Birmingham-Southern—and the only one from Alabama this year—just may have a prescription for what ails rural America. In his written proposal that helped earn him the prestigious scholarship, he came up with the idea to accelerate research in the development of cellulosic ethanol, an energy alternative, which he believes will bring jobs back to rural Alabama and reduce foreign oil dependence. The Russellville, Ala., native has racked up scores of opportunities and experiences toward his goal of becoming a future policy maker. BSC has a long and honorable history of students and alumni, particularly, engaged in public service and politics. Read about some of the current ones we highlighted in our features section, beginning on page 34.

PHOTO BY BRANDON GRESHAM

# A word about the economy

## DEAR BSC ALUMNI AND FRIENDS:

“Wow—BSC picked one heck-of-a time to launch a campaign!” We have heard this comment in recent weeks as the media and political campaigns highlight concerns about the economy. All four of us work in the investment world, but we are also former presidents of the Birmingham-Southern College Alumni Association, as well as volunteer leaders in the new BSC campaign. We have wrestled with good responses to the economy/campaign comment, and decided to offer some observations and suggestions in hopes that you might find them helpful in talking with fellow alumni and friends of the college about the campaign. With the understanding that fear and ignorance can do more damage than any economic downturn, and that the great work of our college will long outlast our current economic concerns, we offer these thoughts from our perspective:

- I. **WHEN THE ECONOMY IS TOUGH, it is more important than ever for donors to see real impact through their giving—institutions delivering what they promise, and achieving what donors intend. The institutions who are the best stewards, and prove it, will win. BSC is a good steward of our gifts. Here’s proof for BSC:**
  - a. In the campaign Case Statement (printed in its entirety in the last issue of *Southern* magazine), the promise is made that increased scholarship support will immediately help the college’s enrollment growth initiative. Thus far, scholarship support provided in this campaign alone has resulted in the college *enrolling more than 100 students who otherwise could not have attended*. This has contributed to record-breaking numbers of new students coming to BSC for two consecutive years.
  - b. Support that elevates the best of the liberal arts curriculum at BSC will help not only in the enrollment growth efforts, but also in increasing the national recognition of the college among peer and aspirant institutions. The campaign thus far has produced leadership gifts resulting in the *naming of three of the five major programmatic priorities* for the campaign. See this issue of *Southern* magazine for more information.
  - c. BSC manages its endowment in healthy and transparent ways. Philip Jackson, longtime respected financial leader in Birmingham and two-time member of the Federal Reserve Board, currently serves as chair of the Finance and Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees. He will be providing an opportunity this fall for an open conference call with him and several other members of the committee for the sole purpose of making sure that BSC leaders have the chance to hear firsthand about the status and management of the college’s endowment. College trustees will be invited to participate in the call, but Mr. Jackson also plans to include the National Campaign Steering Committee and the Executive Board of the Alumni Association members of the National Campaign Steering Committee to be sure that a wider scope of current volunteer leaders has the chance to participate.
- II. **PEOPLE’S DESIRE TO GIVE DURING VOLATILE ECONOMIC TIMES DOES NOT CHANGE, but they often need creative approaches to help them give the best gift they can. Ideas to consider for yourself and to share with others include:**

- a. Multi-year commitments—Remember you get campaign credit for the full amount in the year the commitment is made, even if the pledge will not be completed for five years.
- b. Planned Gifts—Estate pledges (simple commitments made within a person’s will) and deferred gifts like annuities and trusts can be significant components of a person’s campaign commitment. The beauty of these vehicles is they often do not require the liquidation of stocks during a time of market decline. So planned gifts can often allow individuals to receive significant campaign credit without depleting critical cash flow from their stock portfolio.
- c. If you have sold an investment at a loss, the loss is deductible from other investment earnings. Why not give the amount of the tax deductible savings?

I. **GIVE THE BEST GIFT YOU CAN.**

- a. You may not be able to give your dream gift, but give the best gift you can. And as we said earlier, multi-year pledges enable you to receive campaign credit for the full commitment at the time the commitment is made. For example, you may be intending to give \$5,000 a year to the college, but a five-year commitment gives you \$25,000 campaign credit in the year you make the commitment. (Don’t confuse this with IRS credit—seek a professional for your tax advice.)
- b. If what you ultimately want to do is endow a position, program, or scholarship, but cash flow is too tight at this time, make a commitment to give the money for current use with a pledge to endow the fund when the economy turns.
- c. Support the Annual Fund. If the best gift you can make is elevating your giving to a ‘Southern Society level during this campaign, that gift makes a difference. If there is not another campaign priority that makes your heart sing, then support the priority most helpful to the college: the Annual Fund.
- d. Don’t assume that you cannot achieve your best gift. Talk with the Institutional Advancement staff members. You’ll be surprised at what you can achieve for the college you love through some creative thought.

We understand that during times of plenty people often give out of their excess, but during more lean times people give out of a sacrificial desire to make a difference and create a better future. That is what the *Destiny: Delivered* campaign is all about. If ever there was a time to invest in the college, now is that time. Everything is working from the “inside out” at BSC—the enrollment is climbing, the campaign is proving successful even in tough times, and more alumni than ever from across the country are connected to the college.

Like all of you, we believe in this college and this campaign, and we’ve signed on. It is in this spirit we offer these thoughts and hope you will find them helpful.

Timothy A.R. Callahan ’70  
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Birmingham-Southern College

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*Destiny: Delivered*

This list represents commitments of \$10,000 or more to Phase I of Birmingham-Southern's *Destiny: Delivered* comprehensive fundraising campaign as of Sept. 30, 2008.

This list will be updated monthly online and can be found at [www.bsc.edu/destinydelivered](http://www.bsc.edu/destinydelivered).

A complete list of donors to the campaign can be found in the comprehensive *Donor Report* published each fiscal year.

For changes, inquiries, or updates to this list, please contact Maggie McDonald, donor relations manager and campaign administrator, at 205/226-7737 or [mmcdonal@bsc.edu](mailto:mmcdonal@bsc.edu).

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## Anonymous donor funds \$1 million endowment for college's chaplaincy

A \$1 million contribution to Birmingham-Southern College has endowed the United Methodist-related institution's chaplaincy program.

The donation to the college's *Destiny: Delivered* comprehensive fundraising effort, made by an individual who wishes to remain anonymous, gives Birmingham-Southern one of the only endowed chaplaincy programs on a United Methodist Church-related college or university campus in the United States.

The endowed gift not only is a testament to the importance of Birmingham-Southern's relationship to the United Methodist Church, it also allows the institution to attract and retain a top-notch chaplain to campus.

The Rev. John Richardson, a 2000 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Birmingham-Southern, is the first BSC chaplain to hold the endowed position.

"The endowment of the chaplaincy makes a statement about our priorities at Birmingham-Southern," Richardson said. "It says to the church and to the college that we value religious life and that we value an ongoing conversation between the life of the mind and the life of the spirit."

Richardson is an ordained elder in the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church and last served the First United Methodist Church in New Albany, Miss.

The donor is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern and a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church. This generous individual also established the Center for Ministry at the college to provide training and experience for students called to Christian education and church vocations other than pastoral ministry.

"This generous gift raises the profile of the chaplaincy, both on campus and beyond, and it frees up resources for creative, hope-filled programming in religious life," Richardson said.



DONALD C. HARRISON  
**Honors Program**  
BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE

## \$1 million endowment creates Donald C. Harrison Honors Program

When a high school career opportunity exam said he would make a good doctor or lawyer someday, Don Harrison decided to give medicine a shot.

Over 50 years and a storied medical career later, Birmingham-Southern alumnus Dr. Donald Harrison '54 is still making a notable impact on the world of medicine.

His career résumé includes titles such as chief of cardiology at Stanford University Medical Center, president of the American Heart Association, and senior vice president and provost for health affairs at the University of Cincinnati. During his time at Stanford, Harrison was the medical leader on the team that performed the university's first heart transplant. He has authored seven books, been published in numerous medical journals and professional magazines, and written nearly 600 papers on various topics in the medical profession. He has also founded or co-founded five medically-based companies and has six full patents pending, with another six awaiting approval.

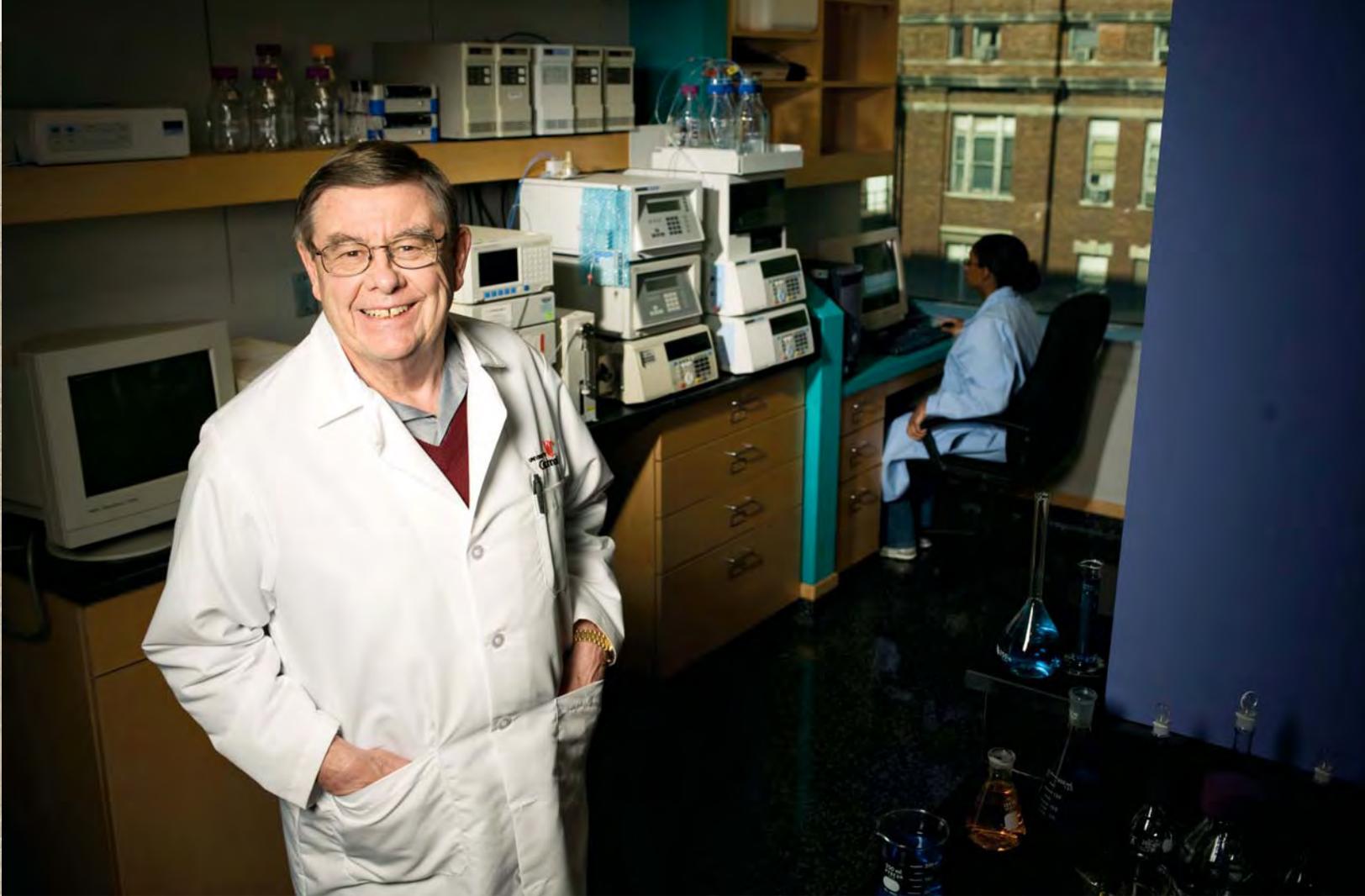
As a young man who grew up in rural Blount County, Ala., Harrison credits Birmingham-Southern for jumpstarting his career.

"I had always done extremely well in school," he says. "But coming from a rural part of Alabama, I had a lot of catching up to do at BSC. My professors helped and encouraged me along the way."

Harrison and his wife, Laura, decided recently to give back in a big way to BSC, committing \$1 million to the BSC Honors Program. He said the decision to make the gift was easy after meeting with some of BSC's honors students during a recent visit.

"I had a chance to meet some students and see their work," he says. "I really wanted to give something back to the college, and donating to the Honors Program really meshed with the goal I had in mind."

To recognize the Harrisons' generous contribution, the Honors Program has been renamed the Donald C. Harrison Honors Program, with its participating students now owning the title of Harrison Scholars.



*Dr. Donald C. Harrison*

"I'm certainly honored to be able to do this for the college," Harrison says, "and pay back for a little of the influence that Birmingham-Southern has had in my life."

Harrison Scholars receive a number of benefits as members of the program, including a \$3,000 research and travel stipend, funding for national and regional conferences, and leadership training through the Honors Program student advisory council.

BSC welcomed 36 first-year Harrison Scholars this fall, with an average GPA of 4.0 and an average ACT score of 31.

"The program takes the brightest students and gives them the support they need for college and beyond," Harrison says. "I'm pleased to be a part of that support."

He currently serves as the senior vice president and provost for health affairs emeritus at the University of Cincinnati Academic Health Center, and is also managing partner of Charter Life Sciences, a venture capital investment firm focused on small startup medical research companies.

Harrison has earned a number of honors and accolades

during his career. He has been named a distinguished alumnus at both Birmingham-Southern (1984) and the University of Alabama School of Medicine (1979). He has received the Gold Heart Award and the Samuel Kaplan, M.D. Visionary Award from the American Heart Association, as well as an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from Birmingham-Southern. Harrison is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Beta Kappa, and Alpha Omega Alpha. He has also been recognized for his philanthropy by the University of Cincinnati, which recently announced that its state-of-the-art health science library will be named the Donald C. Harrison Health Sciences Library.

When he's not working with his investment firm or fulfilling his duties at the University of Cincinnati, Harrison is busy writing two new books. One book, which is scheduled to be published this fall, discusses the changes, advancements, and challenges that he has faced in 50 years as a medical professional, while the other examines the struggles that today's health system is facing, discussing 10 of the reasons why the current U.S. health system needs to change and Harrison's own "10 commandments" for getting the system back on track.

Paying it forward *and* back:

## Graduates of the '80s step up in support of *Destiny: Delivered*

Personal computers. The Challenger disaster. Sandra Day O'Connor. Tiananmen Square. Cable TV, MTV, CDs. Berlin Wall. Live Aid. Olympic boycotts. Chernobyl. Exxon Valdez. John Lennon. Jarvik 7. Rubik's Cube. *Tootsie*, *The Big Chill*, *The Breakfast Club*. *ET*, phone home.

Such were the '80s—a period of growth and a time of change. Both in the world, and at Birmingham-Southern College. The 1980s on the Hilltop saw the largest graduating class at the time and the largest total enrollment ever. The decade brought well-deserved national recognitions and rankings, service-learning, campus growth, and new facilities.

Now, some two decades removed, the "80s" are making their mark again on Birmingham-Southern. This time in the form of philanthropic support. BSC graduates from the decade of the '80s have emerged as the single largest group of new major gift donors ("major" defined as gifts and pledges of \$25,000 or more paid over a maximum five-year period) to the comprehensive *Destiny: Delivered* campaign.

"The graduates from the 1980s are, for the most part, in their 40s in terms of age," says BSC President Dr. David Pollick. "Their children's ages range from very young to current college students to recent college graduates. They are paying for school tuition, day care, piano lessons, youth group mission trips, soccer uniforms and gear, computers, braces, gasoline and insurance on children's cars—and the list goes on.

"Professionally, they are in the middle of their careers, working long hours, investing lots of their own resources into growing businesses, practices, and agencies. So it is very interesting that the largest group of new major donors to the college is emerging from this decade. It speaks volumes about the kind of experience they had while they were here, what they believe their BSC education has done for their lives, and how important they believe it is that this college continue doing for others what it did for them."

*Southern* magazine recently spoke with a few of the "graduates of the '80s" who are supporting *Destiny: Delivered*. These alumni consistently stated that as they reached their 40s they began midlife examinations, asking, "What does a well-lived life look like?" "If I am where I wanted to be, how did I get here?" "How can I pay Birmingham-Southern back for the role it had in where I am today?"

Below we highlight some of the '80s graduates who have made major gift commitments to *Destiny: Delivered* ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000.

### Karen McElroy Carroll '87

**Gift: Major five-year commitment to establish a merit/need-based scholarship**

Karen Carroll grew up in a home where education was paramount. "There was never a question we would go to college and go to the best college," says the political science graduate and vice president and editor-in-chief of *Southern Accents* magazine. "I did not come from a wealthy family, but my parents sacrificed so we could go to private schools."

When it came time to support BSC's comprehensive *Destiny: Delivered* campaign, Carroll and her husband, William, established the Derwyn and Clara McElroy Scholarship to honor her parents' commitment to education and to help others achieve their dreams.

"My experiences at BSC—both academically and socially—were really important to what I have become, and it was time for me to give back to the college," explains Carroll. "I had a wonderful experience that shaped who I am today. With time and distance, you realize someone sacrificed for you, so I wanted to help someone else achieve their dream who otherwise might not be able to do so, much like I was able to achieve my dream."

Carroll, who serves on the National Campaign Steering Committee, said that alumni should consider contributions to the college that, at the same time, make them feel comfortable and that are most beneficial to Birmingham-Southern.

"As I worked with the campaign, and hearing the college's plan for the future and Dr. Pollick's vision, how could I not be enthusiastic and want to do what I can to be a part of this?" she notes. "I wanted to do something that was both meaningful to the college, but to me as well.

"Most '80s graduates hopefully are established by now or at least well on their way if not there already. I encourage them to look back on what helped them get to where they are today and to give back in a way they feel will have the most impact on the college. And, feel comfortable with the decision you make no matter the money level, because every gift helps."

### Denson N. Franklin III '85 and Cecile Howard Franklin '87

**Gift: Major five-year Annual Fund commitment**

"I did it because they asked," says D. Franklin about his commitment to the *Destiny: Delivered* campaign. "It's as simple as that. It didn't take me much time to come to a decision either.

"And it's not money that I just have lying around. I am where I am today in large part because of the four years I spent at this place and the relationships I have maintained and the new ones I've developed as I've continued to stay involved in the college."

Franklin is a partner with Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP in Birmingham and secretary of BSC's Board of Trustees. After receiving

his bachelor's degree from BSC in political science and history, he graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School. Close relationships with professors and friendships made and kept are the two things he cherishes most about his time at 'Southern.

"Having that personal attention from my professors was exactly what I needed at that time," he remembers. "And I made many great friends who 23 years later are still people I talk with every week and some of my best friends."

Franklin, who met his wife, Cecile, a BSC history graduate, while at BSC, believes that while most Birmingham-Southern graduates his age are still in their earning years and don't think they have the capacity to give like someone further out of school, it's important that they remember their BSC experiences.

"Most graduates my age are still trying to put finances together, to acquire money," he says. "But we must remember where we were and what we got out of a four-year experience at Birmingham-Southern, and then see where we are now and how we got here because of that BSC experience. Where we are now and how we got here is because of BSC."

## Kendall Holman '80

**Gift: Major five-year commitment designated for unrestricted use**

Kendall Holman believes in Birmingham-Southern. Just a few years out of college he was working on Wall Street. Literally—100 Wall Street in the investment banking division of Chemical Bank. Any apprehension he may have had about how his BSC education would measure up amongst his colleagues soon disappeared.

"I was apprehensive at how I would stack up with all the people from the fancy schools," explains Holman, who today is executive vice president of investment banking for Protective Securities in Birmingham. "It didn't take long to realize that I was just as smart as they were and in many cases better prepared. Because of Birmingham-Southern, I was better prepared than most of those around me to work through problems I had never encountered before.

"The classes at BSC were small and you could not escape the attention of the professors. You had to come to class prepared, and be ready to stand and speak. You had to answer questions. You just didn't stand up and read out of a text. You had to think and reason your way through the material and come up with an answer. The ability to reason and stand and speak has been important to everything I've done since."

Holman, who earned his bachelor's degree from BSC in foreign service and his master's in business administration from Columbia University, serves on the Birmingham Regional Campaign Committee. He made his campaign pledge because he was "asked to step up" for his alma mater.

"Birmingham-Southern is very important to me," he says. "BSC helped make me what I am today. I believe in what the school stands for and represents, and I want to support it. The ability it gave me to develop intellectually is pretty important to everything I've done since.

"There's no handbook that tells you what to do when the market drops 700 points and the credit market is completely shut off. You have to figure it out on your own. 'Southern gave me the tools to do that."

## Dr. Greg James '85

**Gift: Major five-year monthly pledge to the Annual Fund**

When it came time to support the *Destiny: Delivered* campaign, Dr. Greg James greatly increased his annual support to Birmingham-Southern to the major gift level. He could not have received his

bachelor's degree in biology from BSC if not for the generosity of alumni and friends. Now he's making sure others receive the same support.

"My four years at Birmingham-Southern are among my most cherished," recalls James, a neurologist with Newton & James Neurology Associates at St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham. "The liberal arts education and total college experience gave me the best possible cultivation for growth as a person and as a physician.

"I could not have attended BSC without the generous support of its alumni and friends. For this, I am very grateful. The realization of this precious gift makes me want to give back. It is my hope that in the same spirit I can now share the magic of Birmingham-Southern with other young minds who, like me, just need the opportunity."

James, who received his medical degree from UAB, serves on the Birmingham Regional Campaign Committee. As a Birmingham-Southern student, he was involved in many activities, including Concert Choir, Triangle Club, and President's Student Service Organization, so when it came time to make his campaign contribution, he chose to help the "entire" college.

"I was involved in so many different areas while in college that I just felt that the most appropriate area to support at this time was unrestricted use," says James. "The current administration is doing a great job, and I'm happy with the direction of the college. I trust them to be a good steward of my money."

## Barr Linton '86

**Gift: Major multi-year commitment to establish "seedling grants" for needy students**

Barr Linton wants to help needy students. The vice president of Sycamore Management Company in Birmingham and his wife, Kathryn, have seen up close the financial struggles of students in the local Birmingham school system. Realizing this need extended to students and families across the state, they made a major commitment to *Destiny: Delivered*, establishing "seedling grants" to assist the neediest of students from Alabama while they are attending Birmingham-Southern.

"The first purpose is to help retain students at BSC who have financial hardships," says Linton, who received his bachelor's degree in economics from BSC and his law degree from Yale University. "The college periodically loses students who have financial aid but not the extra money for unexpected bills that arise during the year, and we wanted to provide a source of money for these students.

"The second purpose of the grant is to give those neediest students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities not normally covered by financial aid. This could be anything from a monthly stipend to use to have fun with other students or to pay for an Interim trip while in college or maybe summer study abroad."

To receive a seedling grant, students needing assistance must be recommended by a faculty or staff member. Students cannot apply for a grant nor can they request a recommendation.

"My parents were generous in paying for my college education," notes Linton. "Kathryn and I thought about the obstacles that needy students face on a daily basis and about the isolation they must feel. We believe that these students having the extra money to feel like they belong or to go out with friends or to participate in an Interim travel experience was important to college life and would help alleviate that isolation and help them continue their BSC educations.

"This is something I wanted to do because I think my education at BSC and Yale were shaping factors in my life and I give both a lot of credit for my financial success," he adds. "One of the major reasons BSC is so important is because we are *who we are, where we are.*"

## Craft O'Neal '84

**Gift: Major corporate in-kind gift to support campus construction projects; personal contribution designated for unrestricted use**

Craft O'Neal and his family business have a long history of supporting Birmingham-Southern. O'Neal Steel in Birmingham was started by Craft O'Neal's grandfather, Kirkman O'Neal, in 1921. His father, the late Emmet O'Neal, a Birmingham-Southern trustee, later led the company before Craft became chairman in 2004.

"Our company and my father have a history of supporting Birmingham-Southern," says the business and economics graduate and current BSC trustee. "It's good for the college and good for the community. I want to see the college continue to thrive and compete with the top universities and colleges for the best students and the best faculty.

"The school is on a roll with the enrollment growth and campus improvements, and we want to support all of that growth and success.

"We also have several O'Neal Steel employees who are Birmingham-Southern graduates, and it also feels good to give to the college because of them. And we hope to have even more BSC graduates with O'Neal in the future."

A corporate gift from O'Neal Steel provided materials for the new BSC football stadium and weight room. A personal gift from Craft O'Neal is for unrestricted use by the college.

"I feel like the college can make the decision about what is best for the money to support," O'Neal says of his unrestricted contribution.

## Dr. Mark Pullen '86 and Sherry Ann Green Pullen '90

**Gift: Major 10-year pledge to fund International Service Travel and Student/Faculty Research endowments, with an added Annual Fund commitment**

Mark and Sherry Pullen wanted to "pay it forward" to their alma mater. With two children nearing college age, they wanted their family to see firsthand their commitment to Birmingham-Southern and the impact a BSC education had on their lives.

According to Mark Pullen, who owns Pullen Comprehensive Dentistry in Huntsville, the reason for the campaign commitment was two-fold.

"I am simply financially able at this time to do so," he explains. "I knew I wanted to be a dentist since first grade. I wasn't the smartest student and probably would have gotten lost in the shuffle at a bigger school and not had the career and life I am fortunate to have now. But BSC gave me the opportunity to be where I am today and to be able to give back.

"I also have two children who are nearing college age and I want them to see and experience my college up close. I want to get back in touch with my alma mater, and I want them to see my interest and excitement in BSC so that they get excited and explore the many possibilities that Southern has to offer them as well.

"There are opportunities at Birmingham-Southern that don't come around at a larger college or university. I could take a walk across campus and see professors who knew me by name. They were my good friends. I could play racquetball with them after class or eat dinner with them. It's the kind of relationships that you don't get at bigger schools. I want my children and others to be there to continue that legacy."

Mark Pullen received his bachelor's degree from BSC in biology and his doctor of dentistry from the University of Alabama. Sherry received

her bachelor's degree from BSC in educational services. Missionary work overseas and in the U.S. led them to designate a portion of their campaign gift to establish an endowed fund to support international service opportunities for BSC students.

"If a BSC student has an opportunity to go somewhere to help treat children either in another country or here in the U.S.—whether it be dental work or to fit them for eyeglasses—then that is a great opportunity for them to get involved," says Mark Pullen. "I gained the satisfaction of doing that myself and want to pay it forward for others to do as well."

## Bruce Rogers '80

**Gift: Major five-year pledge designated for unrestricted use**

Bruce Rogers has been giving back to his alma mater for as long as he can remember. An attorney and partner with Bainbridge, Mims, Rogers & Smith LLP in Birmingham, he is a past president of the BSC Alumni Association and a current member of the college's Board of Trustees, chairing the Institutional Advancement Committee.

He was the first BSC trustee to make a financial commitment to *Destiny: Delivered*, before the campaign was even announced to the public.

"My wife Kim and I chose to give to the general needs of the college," says Rogers, who received his bachelor's degree from BSC in history and his law degree from Vanderbilt University. "There is nothing better than an unrestricted gift. I trust the leadership of the college to allocate the money where it is most needed.

"I have always tried to make it a habit to support the college. I have increased my annual giving of late as I have been closely involved with the college and seen the positive work going on."

Rogers believes that there are many ways to facilitate giving for those alumni who aren't sure if they can financially support Birmingham-Southern at this time.

"I believe in the college and where it has gotten me, and I know this is true across the board for BSC graduates," he says. "It's remarkable to watch the turnaround on campus in recent years, and I hope all those who also believe in Birmingham-Southern will step up at this very important time."

## Dr. J. Kevin Tucker '86

**Gift: Major five-year pledge to initiate the McWane Promise Award**

For more than 25 years, the McWane Corporation and McWane family of Birmingham funded the college's most prestigious scholarship award. Dr. Kevin Tucker was the third McWane Scholar at Birmingham-Southern in 1982. More importantly to him was that he was the first "rural" McWane Scholar. He also was the first African-American to receive the honor. The original financial commitment for the scholarship was for a specific period of time which ended after the awarding of the 2007 McWane Scholarship. That is when Tucker and fellow alum and McWane Scholar John Kerper '85 decided to help keep the McWane name alive at the college.

Tucker, a BSC math graduate, assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, and nephrologist at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, made a five-year commitment to *Destiny: Delivered* to initiate the McWane Promise Award. He made an additional "seed" gift so that the McWane Promise Award could be presented this academic year, while additional contributions were sought to endow the fund.

"Being the first McWane Scholar from a rural area, I'm sure there

were other candidates at the time with higher test scores and from better schools, but the committee saw promise in me, and for that I was very fortunate," says Tucker, who came to BSC from Monroe County High School in rural southwest Alabama. "The scholarship was based not only on academics, but also on promise. That's why it's important for the McWane name to continue with the McWane Promise Award."

Together, Tucker and Kerper organized an effort to bring all former McWane Scholars back to campus for a dinner and to solicit contributions for the McWane Promise Award. Because of their efforts, and Tucker's lead gift, there is now more than \$60,000 pledged to the corpus of the fund.

"One of the things that we heard over and over at the McWane dinner was that each of us was very appreciative of the McWane name," notes Tucker, who serves on the National Campaign Steering Committee. "Receiving the McWane Scholarship was a life-changing event for each of us and put us on a trajectory that we might otherwise not have achieved. We hope the McWane Promise Award will continue that legacy for many future BSC students."

## Thomas Waters '86 and Jennifer Waters '86, Leon Waters '58 and Kathryn Waters '58

Gift: Major five-year commitment, with matching gift,  
to support a master class series

Birmingham-Southern has been a family affair for the Waters family. Now so is their giving.

Thomas and Jennifer Waters and Leon and Kathryn Waters, along with support from State Farm Insurance Co., are funding the Hugh and Barbara Thomas Master Class Series, which will make possible master classes for students—and the public—in voice, composition, piano, and choir.

Thomas Waters received his bachelor's degree in business administration, and his wife, Jennifer, in interdisciplinary religion and psychology. Both were members of musical groups while at BSC. Thomas' parents, Leon and Kathryn Waters, are both music graduates. [In addition, Jennifer's father, the late Rev. Charles Howard, was a 1954 religion graduate, and Thomas' sister, Valerie Lynne Waters, is a 1990 international business graduate.]

It is only fitting their pledge to *Destiny: Delivered* is supporting music students.

"I thought about the impact that attending BSC had on my life, and what this college did for me personally," says Thomas Waters, who serves on the Birmingham Regional Campaign Committee. "I want to share what I have so that hopefully others can have the same life-changing experience. Music gave me a breadth of opportunity and knowledge that helped me with a huge balance in my life. If through this master class someone at the top of their game music wise or someone famous comes to campus and recognizes one of our students and gets them in the door somewhere, then it's worth it.

"The only things that last in life are things you give away," he adds. "That's one of the fundamental reasons I give. If we touch one life, that's a very powerful thing. What will touching that life do for the future? We don't know yet. But there is no limit to the possibilities."

Waters says teaming with his parents, and taking advantage of the State Farm matching gift program, allowed the family to fund the master class series. Leon Waters retired after 39 years with State Farm; Thomas Waters has been an agent for 17 years.

"The commitment was easy to do once we used the matching gift," Thomas Waters says. "The neatest thing, however, is just the possibility of being able to consider supporting your alma mater in this way. I can't explain the connection we all have with BSC and how important it is. It's just powerful. We are lucky to have been able to go here."

## DeLynn Moring Zell '86

Gift: Major five-year commitment designated  
for unrestricted use

DeLynn Zell wanted to set an example for other Birmingham-Southern alumni. When as a co-chair of the Birmingham Regional Campaign Committee she was asked to "step forward," she didn't hesitate to do so.

"I wanted to set an example, and will continue to try to do that over the next few years," says the shareholder and certified financial planner with First Financial Group of the South in Birmingham and BSC accounting and finance graduate. "I see a lot of graduates in my age group giving \$1,000 a year. I tried to step up and set an example by my giving. Maybe if I help raise the bar, then others will rise to the occasion also. Those graduates from my generation are hitting their stride career wise, just like me. Now is the time to be making good giving habits and establishing our giving priorities.

"The further I get away from my college years, the closer I feel. I would not be able to do what I do today, to be in the position I'm in to give back, without BSC."

Zell, who is a past president of the Alumni Association and a current BSC trustee, fondly recalls the opportunities that Birmingham-Southern offered her not only in the classroom, but also in the community where she was able to spend an Interim term with a Big 8 investment firm.

"To my knowledge, no one had ever interned with a large investment firm," notes Zell. "The college made some calls and opened doors to allow me to do that. Now I want to help someone just like I was helped."

While her current gift is for unrestricted use "because I knew that is where the greatest need is," Zell says she and husband Lee already are thinking about their next round of giving where they might direct their contribution to the Interim or the business program.

"We are very fortunate that we have many really generous major donors from across several decades, but it has been a pleasant surprise to see those graduates from the 1980s step up with major gifts at this point in their lives," notes Adelia Thompson, BSC's vice president for institutional advancement and 1986 graduate.

"The alumni who graduated in the '80s are right in the middle of their adult lives and are not the ones who traditionally have financial resources they are ready to part with at the major gift level. But you look for trends and groups of donors to emerge in any campaign such as this, and what we are seeing is a group of people who care very deeply about Birmingham-Southern and are responding in personal ways. They are seeing the level of support needed and finding creative ways to make contributions, and the life of the institution is better because of what they have done. It's wonderful to see their affection and gratitude for their institution 25 years later."





## Birmingham-Southern welcomes another *record freshman class*, largest traditional undergraduate enrollment since 1989

Birmingham-Southern once again welcomed the largest freshman class in school history, surpassing the record set last year.

The college enrolled 456 freshmen and 49 transfer students from 22 states and seven foreign countries when the 2008-09 academic year commenced and the fall term officially began Aug. 27.

The 505 total new students brought fall undergraduate enrollment to about 1,401 students attending classes with a 12-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio, representing the largest total traditional undergraduate enrollment at the college in almost 20 years.

The academic profile of the freshman class remains tops in the state, with a 3.3 average high school grade-point average and a 26 average ACT score. This year's class has 12 National Merit Scholars, and participation in the Honors Program is up by 36 students. The class also is 17 percent minority.

Curriculum offered this year will include the addition of a new interdisciplinary major in Urban Environmental Studies. Birmingham and the diverse natural landscapes of its region provide a living laboratory for students to study social and environmental problems through research, class projects, and internships. Students declaring this major will choose from three concentrations for specialization: natural sciences, society and policy, and environmental education.

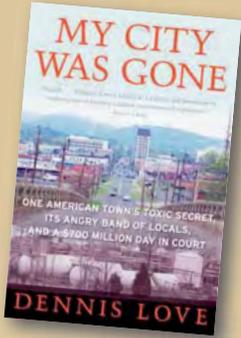
New students were welcomed to campus on Aug. 23 for the traditional "Move-in Day." The students spent the morning moving into their residence halls with the help of their families and returning BSC students. They then joined their parents for convocation that afternoon in Bill Battle Coliseum. Returning students moved on campus the following day.

The annual four-day Orientation

for new students included an introduction to campus and student life, academic preparation sessions, entertainment, and other group activities.

An orientation program called "CONNECT" took place Aug. 26. In its second year, the initiative is designed to clearly articulate the goals of a BSC education. The project helps first-year students recognize connections between and across disciplines using the language and goals of the BSC Foundations curriculum. A block of time was reserved to explore these connections. Faculty advisors, assisted by student peer advisors and staff advisors, developed a variety of activities to address the question, "What's the point of a liberal arts education at BSC?" New students spent the afternoon engaging in a variety of activities across campus and throughout the city of Birmingham exploring the concept.

## Freshman required reading culminates in discussion



The first week of college can be an intimidating experience for incoming freshmen as they try to bridge the gap between expectations in high school and college. To help ease their transition into higher education, Birmingham-Southern each year asks incoming students to participate in an academic experience as part of their orientation to college life.

The class of 2012 at BSC was asked to complete their first homework assignment over the summer with the book *My City is Gone* by Dennis Love. The author, an Anniston native and award-winning reporter, recounts the human drama behind his hometown's struggle with its toxic legacy.

Students had the opportunity to discuss the book in small groups at the Provost's Convocation, which was held Aug. 25. Prior to the book discussion, they heard from convocation speaker Donald Stewart, an Anniston attorney and former Alabama legislator and senator. Stewart was the lead attorney in the litigation against the Monsanto chemical plant in Anniston. He also is the founder of

Empower Alabama, a grassroots organization which seeks to engage more people to build a progressive movement in Alabama.

Nearly 500 students participated in the summer reading.

"The provost, in consultation with a faculty committee, selects the book and speaker for incoming freshmen each fall," says Dr. Wayne Shew, Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor of Biology and acting provost at BSC. "The topics discussed generally parallel current issues that students see in the news and mainstream culture."

## College adds new credit courses for fall

Environmental issues ranging from air quality and waste management to toxic chemicals and endangered species are regularly making America's news and headlines. Now, as BSC launches its unique Urban Environmental Studies major this fall, two new classes that approach environmental policies in the U.S. and environmental mapping have found their way onto Birmingham-Southern course syllabi.

Beginning this fall, BSC students—regardless of major—interested in exploring the challenges of federal environmental legislation and learning environmental mapping techniques can indulge their interests in PS/UES 210, "Environmental Problems and Policy," and the first-year Foundations course ES 180-1Y, "Babylonia to Redlands: Maps and our Environment," both taught by Urban Environmental Studies Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Geography Dr. Ed Brands.

The innovative Environmental Problems and Policy course provides a history and an overview of major concepts and approaches to environmental policy in the U.S through discussions, readings, videos, guest lectures, and mapping exercises. The course explores the challenges of designing and implementing federal environmental legislation through geographical, social, economic, legal, and natural science perspectives. Students also will learn to apply geographical information systems to environmental problems.

"Billions of U.S. dollars are expended annually on complying with U.S. environmental laws, but how effective are our major federal environmental laws?" Brands emphasizes. "Is the quality of our air and water improving? This course will seek to address such issues."

The second course Babylonia to Redlands: Maps and our Environment introduces students to mapping in general and provides hands-on experience with electronic mapping software which will allow them to explore and critically examine the history, uses of, and changing significance of mapping—particularly related to the environment.

"Maps are one of the oldest recorded forms of human communication, and historically, they have largely been utilized for navigation, exploration, surveying, and dividing land and resources among occupants or ruling/governing forces," says Brands. "With the advent of the Internet, relatively cheap computers, and open source software, the number and different types of individuals able (and expected) to make or use maps has exploded. Academics, nonprofits, government agencies, corporations, and private individuals increasingly utilize electronic maps."

Fall classes began Aug. 27 at BSC. To see the college's fall '08 course schedule in its entirety, visit [www.bsc.edu/academics/catalog](http://www.bsc.edu/academics/catalog).



Ritter

## Regions CEO Dowd Ritter takes helm of BSC Board of Trustees

C. Dowd Ritter, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Regions Financial Corporation, has been elected as the new chair of Birmingham-Southern's Board of Trustees.

The 1969 Birmingham-Southern economics graduate assumed his new duties July 1. He replaced former chair Carl Bailey, retired president of BellSouth Telecommunications and a life member of the BSC Board of Trustees.

Ritter has been a member of the BSC Board of Trustees since 1995. In 2003, he and his wife, Susan, also a 1969 BSC graduate, established the C. Dowd Ritter Professorship in Economics at the college. The Birmingham native also is a graduate of the School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University.

"We are always proud when our alumni continue to support and care for their alma mater throughout their lives," said BSC President Dr.

David Pollick. "As graduates, Dowd and Susan have always held Birmingham-Southern in a special place within their hearts. Dowd's willingness to assume this critical leadership role during an era of such extraordinary growth and excitement in the college's history is further testimony to the contributions the institution has made to both of their lives. We are very grateful."

Pollick also expressed gratitude to outgoing chair Bailey, who has served on the board since 1985.

"Carl Bailey has served and supported this institution in so many ways for over three decades," Pollick noted. "He never hesitated when he was called upon to serve as chair of the Board of Trustees, and his leadership and contributions were immeasurable."

In addition to Ritter's election as chair, three others were elected as officers of the Board of Trustees and four as new members.

Elected as officers were:

- Dr. Wayne W. Killion Jr., president and chief executive officer of Shook and Fletcher Insulation Co. in Birmingham, was elected as vice chair of the board for the coming year. Killion received his bachelor's degree in biology in 1972 and his master of arts in public and private management in 1996, both from Birmingham-Southern. He joined the board in 2000. Killion and his wife, Sandra, established the Wayne W. Killion Jr. Scholarship at BSC to support pre-med students. Killion, who received his doctor of medicine degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1975, was vice president of medical affairs at St. Vincent's Hospital from 1995-99, before entering private business.
- James T. Stephens, chairman of EBSCO Industries Inc. and a

past chair of the BSC Board of Trustees, was re-elected as chair of the board's Executive Committee. Stephens received his bachelor's degree in history from Yale University in 1961 and his MBA from Harvard University in 1964. He is a life member of the board.

- Denson N. Franklin III, a partner with Bradley Arant Rose and White LLP, was re-elected secretary of the board. Franklin is a 1985 BSC political science and history graduate and received his juris doctor from Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1988. He joined the BSC Board of Trustees in 2006.

New members of the board include:

- Margaret "Peggy" Monaghan of Birmingham, who previously served on the BSC Board of Trustees from 1994-04. She is a longtime supporter of the visual and performing arts, Southern Environmental Center, and library at the college.
- Charles D. Perry Jr., principal and co-founder of Highland Associates Inc. in Birmingham. He received his bachelor's degree in economics from Washington and Lee University and completed advanced level executive study in investments at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.
- Rev. Robin Crews Wilson, co-pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Montgomery. She received her bachelor's degree in communication studies from Vanderbilt University, her master's of divinity from Duke University, and is currently completing her doctor of ministry in Christian spirituality from Columbia Theological Seminary.
- DeLynn Moring Zell, shareholder and Certified Financial Planner with First Financial Group of the South Inc. in Birmingham. She received her bachelor's degree in accounting from Birmingham-Southern in 1986.

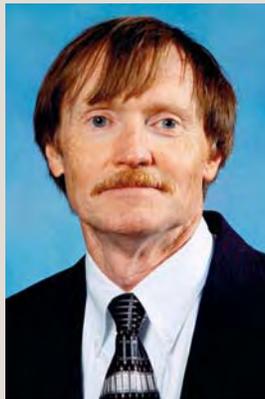
James C. Pennington, attorney and shareholder with Ogletree Deakins in Birmingham, served as an ex-officio member of the Board from Oct. 1, 2007, to Sept. 30, 2008, as president of the BSC Alumni Association. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from Birmingham-Southern in 1987 and his doctor of laws from Vanderbilt.

In October, new BSC Alumni Association President Richard B. Yeilding, senior vice president of retail development for Colonial Properties Trust in Birmingham, became an ex-officio member of the board. He received his bachelor's degree in business from BSC in 1973.

## Wayne Shew is acting provost at Birmingham-Southern

Dr. Wayne Shew, associate provost and Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor of Biology at Birmingham-Southern, was selected to serve as acting provost of the college for the 2008-09 academic year.

Shew replaced Dr. Kathleen Murray, BSC provost since June 2005 who accepted a similar position at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. He assumed his new duties July 1.



Shew

BSC Associate Professor of Economics Dr. Kathleen Rossmann replaced Shew as associate provost on an acting basis.

"We were very fortunate to have a respected member of our faculty with a wealth of administrative experience already in the position as associate provost who could step in as acting provost," said BSC President Dr. David Pollick. "It was only natural that I ask Dr. Shew to assume the role of acting provost as we begin our national provost search. I feel confident that with the leadership of Wayne Shew and Kathleen Rossmann the college will continue on the grand course we have collectively as an institution charted."

Pollick added that Murray's leadership as provost the last three years has "helped us rise to another level in anticipation of an even stronger future, and we wish her much success in her new endeavors."

Shew joined the Birmingham-Southern faculty in 1978 and has served as chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics and is a past recipient of the Exemplary Teacher Award from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Rossmann joined the BSC faculty in 1998. She received her bachelor's degree from Furman University and her master's and Ph.D. from the University of Colorado.

## Pollick elected chair of board of state independent colleges

Birmingham-Southern President Dr. David Pollick recently was elected chair of the board of the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities at its annual meeting in Montgomery. He will serve a three-year term to run from 2008-2011.

First founded in 1956 to benefit both students and member institutions, the AAICU promotes and protects the interests of independent higher education in Alabama and oversees scholarship fundraising efforts for students attending each of its 14 member schools.

## BSC ranks 24th among all liberal arts colleges in new results-oriented rankings

Birmingham-Southern is ranked No. 24 among all liberal arts colleges and universities in the nation according to a new higher education ranking compiled by the Center for College Affordability and Productivity.

Designed as an alternative to *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings, the CCAP rankings take into account student satisfaction while in college and success after graduating.

According to Richard Vedder, director of the nonprofit center based in Washington, D.C., the results-based rankings measure student satisfaction with courses and professors, four-year graduation rates, and the percentage of students receiving competitive awards such as Rhodes Scholarships and Fulbright travel grants. Success after college is measured through listings in *Who's Who in America*.

The rankings were published in the May 19 issue of *Forbes* magazine and also appear on the publication's Web site at [www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com).

The *U.S. News* rankings are based on such factors as faculty-student ratio, admission selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and peer assessment of academic reputation.

"Colleges and universities have long argued that the only sound basis for assessing the quality of higher education must be sought in measures such as the quality of faculty and coursework, four-year graduation rates, and the success and achievements of their graduates—not the quantity of ingredients and the opinions of college administrators," said BSC President Dr. David Pollick. "It is good to see a serious effort being made to cut to the real heart of higher education's indicators of quality."

The Center for College Affordability and Productivity is an independent research organization that helps facilitate a broader dialogue on the issues and problems facing institutions of higher education.



**Ready for action**—Construction workers were putting the finishing touches on the grandstand and press box portions of the BSC Athletics Complex in late September in preparation for the first home football game on the Birmingham-Southern campus in 69 years. The complex will host its first game when the Birmingham-Southern Panthers play the Sewanee Tigers on Nov. 8, which also will be an historic Alumni Reunion/Homecoming 2008 Weekend. This will be the first time in college history that Alumni Reunion and Homecoming have been held together on the same weekend, and myriad events and activities are planned. For more, visit: [www.bsc.edu/alumni/reunion2008](http://www.bsc.edu/alumni/reunion2008).



**Honoring scholarship**—The 2008 Honors Day, held April 24 at Birmingham-Southern, began with a Convocation address from Craig Langford (center), a 2000 BSC alumnus and senior project manager at the American Association of Retired Persons Social Impact Group in Washington, D.C. Langford, an international business and finance grad, spoke on the topic "An Unexpected Career" about his experiences at BSC and the path that led him to his current job. Shown with Langford just prior to his keynote address are BSC President Dr. David Pollick and former Provost Dr. Kathleen Murray. BSC also honored two faculty members during the Honors Day ceremony. Dr. Bill Nicholas, James A. Wood Professor of History, received the Omicron Delta Kappa Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Duane Pontius, Jr., T. Morris Hackney Professor of Physics, was awarded the Richebourg Gaillard McWilliams Faculty Scholarship Award.

## Birmingham-Southern College Calendar of Events

- Oct. 26** *Explorers Planetarium Show* (produced by the Sudekum Planetarium). Join explorers Christopher Columbus, Marco Polo, and Captain James Cook and learn how celestial navigation helped them find their way, 2 p.m., Robert R. Meyer Planetarium, 205/226-4771.
- Oct. 26** *Mildred Allen Faculty Recital*, featuring the BSC music professor and soprano performing the works of composers Max Reger and Maurice Ravel. She will be accompanied by BSC Conservatory Professor and pianist Dr. Virginia Dismukes, 2:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.
- Oct. 31** *Organ Spooktacular/James Cook Faculty Recital*, annual Halloween performance by the BSC music professor and organist, 9 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.
- Nov. 6-9** *West Side Story Theatrical Production*. A landmark musical, *West Side Story* tells the tragic tale of star-crossed lovers on the west side of New York City, caught between two warring street gangs. Showing Nov. 6-8 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 9 at 2 p.m., BSC College Theatre/Mainstage, 205/226-4780.
- Nov. 6-Dec. 2** *James Alexander Sculpture Installation*, featuring work by the professor of sculpture at UAB, on view M-F, 8:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Durbin Gallery, Doris Wainwright Kennedy Art Center/Azar Art Studios, reception on opening day at 6 p.m., 205/226-4928.
- Nov. 7-9** *Alumni Reunion/Football Homecoming*, campus, 205/226-4908.
- Nov. 10** *Black & Gold Preview Day* for high school seniors, campus, 205/226-4696.
- Nov. 16** *Destination: Pluto Planetarium Show* (produced by the Paulucci Space Center). Travel to Pluto at 1 AU per minute (93 million miles). This show includes the latest 1 AU decision on Pluto and also covers the Sun, planets, moons, comets, and asteroids, 2 p.m., Robert R. Meyer Planetarium, 205/226-4771.
- Nov. 16** *Faculty/Alumni Recital*. BSC's voice faculty will perform with alumnus Kevin Chance, pianist and music faculty member of the Alabama School of Fine Arts, in a collaborative performance of classical solos and ensembles, 2:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.
- Nov. 22** *Winter Dance: A Taste of the Season*. BSC student dancers present their biennial winter concert of Christmas favorites, 7:30 p.m., College Theatre/Mainstage, 205/226-4780 (no reservations; tickets will be available at the door only on a first-come basis).
- Nov. 23** *Bach: Magnificat*, featuring the BSC Concert Choir, the Canterbury Church choir, and members of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, 5:30 p.m., Canterbury United Methodist Church, 350 Overbrook Road in Mountain Brook, free admission, 205/226-4950.
- Dec. 5 & 7** *Birmingham-Southern Carol Service*, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 7 at 4:30 p.m., Canterbury United Methodist Church, 350 Overbrook Road in Mountain Brook, 205/226-4950.
- Dec. 6 & 20** *Star of Wonder Planetarium Show*. See the famous star that led the Magi to the Christ child. Biblical reading included, 2 p.m., Robert R. Meyer Planetarium, 205/226-4771.
- Dec. 9** *Dorsey and Frances Whittington Concerto/Aria Competition*, an annual competition where students vie for an opportunity to perform concertos and arias with the Red Mountain Chamber Orchestra in February 2009, 4:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.
- Jan. 5-19** *Sudan: The Cost of Silence Exhibit*, featuring work by photojournalist Ryan Spencer Reed, on view M-F, 8:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Durbin Gallery, Doris Wainwright Kennedy Art Center/Azar Art Studios, reception on opening day at 6 p.m., 205/226-4928.
- Jan. 27-30** *Dead Man Walking Theatrical Production*. A gritty and powerful stage adaptation of the book and 1995 film, *Dead Man Walking* is the real-life journey of Sister Helen Prejean into the often dark and mysterious world of our country's death penalty and its controversial inclusion in our criminal justice system. Showing Jan. 27-30 at 7:30 p.m., BSC College Theatre/Mainstage, 205/226-4780.

All college events can be found at [www.bsc.edu](http://www.bsc.edu). Admission to most events is free.

## BSC graduates bask in the afterglow of a 300-degree day



*BSC's 2006-07 Outstanding Educator of the Year Dr. Barry Spieler, professor of mathematics, addressed the 2008 graduating class during this year's Commencement.*

At a packed ceremony May 18, Birmingham-Southern granted degrees to 300 members of the college's 149th graduating class. The keynote speaker during the class of 2008 Commencement ceremony was Dr. Barry Spieler, professor of mathematics at BSC.

Spieler was named the college's Outstanding Educator of the Year for the 2006-07 academic year for exemplifying excellence in all aspects of teaching. The award includes a cash stipend and an invitation to speak at the next year's Commencement.

Following his keynote address at the Boutwell Auditorium in downtown Birmingham, 284 bachelor's and 16 master's degrees were presented to graduates.

In his speech "To Err is Crucial," Spieler urged graduates to "make use of your experience of mistakes or

failures and turn them into productive material for a better self.

"Reminding ourselves of what we've been through is a great way to keep balanced when things are going well and to find confidence when one faces adversity anew," he said, while next reciting an old Yiddish saying: "It is good to tell of troubles overcome."

Spieler also used several anecdotes from his experience with mathematics to get his point across.

"Mathematical problems are often like moral problems," he related. "You face them all the time. A fairly small set of basic principles usually apply, more or less, but the problems look different every time, because they stem from the complex reality of human life. The underlying principles drive our behavior, not the other way around."

He told the students that just as in

the world of mathematical problem solving, they should use their mistakes to gain a richer understanding. Perfection should not be their main goal; they should always strive for learning.

"You came to BSC to learn to be a lifelong learner," he said. "The worst thing that could happen is that you leave here and do everything exactly right every time for the rest of your life. In 60 years, you'd end up knowing no more than you do right now."

Birmingham-Southern's Commencement Day began with the Baccalaureate Service that morning at Bill Battle Coliseum on campus. Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, dean of chapel and religious life at Emory University, delivered the Baccalaureate address.

With her topic, "Re-membering," she referenced a reading in



*Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe (center), dean of the chapel and religious life at Emory University, delivered the address during the Baccalaureate. Henry-Crowe is pictured with (from left) BSC Bishop-in-Residence Bob Morgan, BSC President Dr. David Pollick, former Provost Dr. Kathleen Murray, and Chaplain John Richardson prior to the service.*

Chronicles that captures the great joy and celebrating when the Ark of the Covenant was returned to Jerusalem, to relate to graduates that they too can experience such joy by using their education to “make the world a more civil, just, humane, free, peaceful, and green place.

“Remember how excited you were when you came to BSC in 2004 ... you made your way and captured the story of your academic and soul journey for yourselves ...,” she told them. “Now you must remember what it is that you will take into the world and how you can bring honor to this community of scholars.”

Using several small stories about Methodist revivalists John and Charles Wesley, the Six-Day Arab-Israeli Conflict, and her experiences in the South, she stressed to graduates the importance of defining their citizenship by broadening their understanding of the world through continuous education.

“Your education is a visa for the new world,” she commented. “It is about passion for the life of the mind and the life of the heart—for ideas, for learning, for people, for community, and for love.”

Birmingham-Southern also honored Dr. Natalie Davis, professor of political science and pre-law advisor, during its graduation ceremony with the annual Outstanding Educator Award. Davis will speak at the college’s 2009 Commencement.



**Tradition of capping**—Graduating seniors stand before they are called to the front of the assembly in small groups, each with a family member, faculty member, or friend (or two or three!) who will place a cap upon his or her head to the applause of the audience. Birmingham-Southern’s annual Capping Ceremony, which precedes Commencement, is a mark both of significant academic achievement and of a lifelong commitment to the love of learning. More than 1,000 graduates, cappers, and guests filled Bill Battle Coliseum on campus for the event, which was sponsored by the BSC Alumni Association under the direction of the Office of Alumni Affairs.

## BSC pollen monitor first of its kind in Birmingham

BY BRANDON GRESHAM



*Dr. Wayne Shew takes a reading from the pollen monitor mounted atop the Berte Humanities Center.*

For years, the city of Birmingham has relied on pollen readings from nearby cities such as Atlanta and Huntsville. But thanks to a joint effort between Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor of Biology and Acting Provost Dr. Wayne Shew, the Alabama Allergy and Asthma Center, The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, and the Riser Family Fund, the college and the city of Birmingham now have a way of monitoring local pollen counts.

The instruments for measuring pollen counts were installed atop the Neal and Anne Berte Humanities Center last year, and Shew credits the efforts of BSC alumnus Dr. Weily Soong of the Alabama Allergy and Asthma Center for helping bring the technology to BSC's campus.

"Weily contacted me to talk about the fact that Birmingham had no pollen monitor," Shew says. "He was interested in having one in Birmingham for a number of reasons."

Shew said the pollen monitor serves purposes for both local doctors and students at BSC alike.

"It helps to be able to monitor pollen counts in the area both environmentally and clinically," he says. "Doctors and allergists can use that information in working with patients who are suffering from allergies or other pollen-related health issues. Meanwhile, we have a number of students here on campus who are involved in research projects that could utilize the monitor."

The total cost of the pollen counting equipment was approximately \$10,000, and actually consists of two separate machines that count pollen and mold spores in different ways. The first machine, known as a Burkard monitor, pivots with the wind and collects air samples through a small opening. The air samples pass over a slide that collects the floating mold and pollen spores. The other machine, called a Rotorod Sampler, has plastic rods coated in silicone that spin in the wind, collecting samples as they move through the air.

For the past year, Shew has been solely responsible for getting counts from the machine and submitting them to the National Weather Service. He recently had to cut back drastically on the days that he took pollen counts, however, after stepping back into the role of BSC's acting provost. Shew noted that submitting pollen and mold spore counts to the Weather Service requires earning a certification and passing a test.

"You really need a couple of people to get effective pollen counts on a regular basis," he says. "The collection is relatively easy to do, but the actual counting of pollen and mold spores requires lots of time and practice."

Shew said he hopes to eventually have enough people to do readings three to five times a week in order to provide more accurate samples.



Pennington

## Birmingham-Southern library director retires after 21 years

BY PAT COLE

When Associate Professor of Library Science Billy Pennington joined the Birmingham-Southern faculty in December 1986 as head of the Charles Andrew Rush Learning Center/N.E. Miles Library, the technology taken for granted today was not there.

But Pennington had a vision, and by 1990, he was helping to spur dynamic changes in the college's library services and practices.

Pennington retired from his career at the college this past July leaving the tech-savvy librarian and his forward-looking vision to be missed. He was honored at a retirement reception in May.

Before Pennington came to BSC, he was employed as access services director for Sterne Library at UAB. He grew up in Jasper, Fla., and attended Florida State University where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees.

"I remember in my first month at BSC as a library administrator, I brought in a 60-day trial CD-ROM-based educational resource called InfoTrac, which the students loved," notes Pennington. "They didn't want to see it go and persuaded the SGA to fund the resource for an additional six months until the next budget cycle for the library. That was the first database we had. The next year, we purchased several more."

A short time later, more computers were brought into the library and connected to the Internet for the first time. The library also began automated acquisition, cataloging, and circulation, and replaced the card catalog with an online catalog. In succeeding years, the library added 120 databases which provided access to some 31,000 e-books and over 18,000 e-journals.

An electronic classroom was

created on the ground floor to allow for computer-based auditorium-style presentations. Upgrades and newer technology have been added to the library system over the years in support of a quality BSC learning experience, and the library's collections—including music recordings—have grown significantly.

Pennington also oversaw during his tenure physical changes to the library building such as a remodeling that included a finished ground floor, new furnishings, and new group and individual study areas.

Working alongside a staff that eventually grew to 14, including professional librarians and support staff, Pennington says what he loved most about his job was deciding what books to add to the library and which databases to acquire. "As much as I appreciate technology, I love books!"

His colleague, Dr. Guy Hubbs, BSC associate professor and reference librarian/archivist, provides a critique of Pennington's legacy: "Yes, during his 22 years as library director he more than doubled the number of books, now approaching a quarter million. Yes, during his 22 years he increased the number of recordings by eight times. And yes, during his 22 years he brought this library into the electronic age. But Billy himself believes, and I agree, that his most important contribution came in hiring people who, like himself, are dedicated to serving Birmingham-Southern."

Dr. Charlotte Ford, a former BSC associate professor of library science, has replaced Pennington as the new director.

## Ott receives faculty development award



Dr. Victoria Ott (center) received this year's Bob Whetstone Faculty Development Award from BSC Acting Provost and Biology Professor Dr. Wayne Shew (far left) and Dr. Bob Whetstone.

Dr. Victoria Ott, assistant professor of history, has received the 2008 Bob Whetstone Faculty Development Award.

Named for the professor emeritus and former chair of the Education Division at BSC, the award is presented annually to a non-tenured faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching during the previous year. The cash award is set aside for the faculty development and travel budget of the recipient.

Ott, who joined the BSC faculty in 2004, earned her doctorate in American history from the University of Tennessee.

## BSC professor and political analyst receives outstanding educator award



Davis

Dr. Natalie Davis, professor of political science and pre-law advisor at Birmingham-Southern, was presented with the annual Outstanding Educator Award during the college's 2008 graduation ceremony on May 18.

The award is given to an outstanding member of the BSC faculty based upon recommendations by his or her colleagues. It recognizes a faculty member who is characterized by excellence in all aspects of teaching, including classroom performance and student advising. The award includes a cash stipend and an invitation to speak at next year's Commencement.

A native of New York and Florida, Davis has taught comparative politics—specializing in Europe, Southern politics, and research methodology—to Birmingham-Southern students for more than 35 years, since 1972. She also serves as chair of the college's Department of Political Science, Economics, and Sociology.

Davis was a candidate for U.S. Senate in 1996. In 2002, she was honored as Alabama Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

A public opinion expert who conducts political polls in Alabama and throughout the South, Davis is quoted regularly in national publications such as *The New York Times* and *Washington Post* and over the years has appeared on all of the national networks. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and undergraduate and honorary doctorate degrees from Stetson University.

## Religion professor pens theological reflections on the Psalms

Dr. Amy Cottrill, assistant professor of religion at Birmingham-Southern, has published her first book entitled *Language, Power, and Identity in the Lament Psalms of the Individual*. The book explores how the Psalms expresses the pain and anguish of an individual person as opposed to a community or group of worshippers.

Since these "laments of the individual" are prayers to be sung to God, Cottrill was interested in exploring the precise way the psalmist addresses God, the deep pain he experiences, and what he assumes God should do on his behalf to end the situation of suffering.

As she describes, "Basically, it is a literary study of the laments. I wanted to know how the ancient psalmists perceived God. What did they think was God's role in the

experience of human suffering? These are questions of major theological interest to me."

One central issue the book confronts is the psalmist's perception of the enemy, the figure the psalmist often considers to be the cause of his suffering.

"The enemy is a very important figure in the laments and the psalmist is not shy about asking that God do something about the enemy," says Cottrill. "Often, the psalmist asks that God destroy the enemy, and this language, I believe, affects the way people think about what God should do about human pain today, especially for people who pray these prayers as their own words to God."

For Cottrill, these psalms are important to study and discuss because they help us

in the modern world to ask crucial questions about our own experiences of anguish and despair and examine our assumptions about suffering, enemies, and divine responsibility.

Having joined the BSC faculty in the fall of 2007, Cottrill teaches classes on the Hebrew Bible, Christian scriptures, and world religions. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from Earlham College, a master of divinity from The Methodist Theological School in Ohio, and a doctorate in Hebrew Bible from Emory University. Her book was published in April 2008 by T&T Clark International.



Cottrill

## New faculty bring a wealth of expertise to campus

Birmingham-Southern has added nine new faculty members since the spring term, including two college alumni, who will contribute to BSC's classrooms. In addition, six members of the existing faculty have received promotions.

New faculty are:

- **Dr. Edwin Brands**, associate professor of geography. Brands holds a bachelor's degree in both biology and German from Grinnell College, and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Iowa.
- **Dr. Stephen Curry**, lecturer in mathematics. Curry earned bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from the University of Alabama and an M.Ed. from the University of Montevallo. He earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from Auburn University.
- **Dr. Lucerne DeSa**, assistant professor of piano. DeSa earned a bachelor's degree in music-piano from the University of California Irvine, a master's of music from the University of Southern California, and a DMA in piano performance from the Stony Brook University.
- **Dr. Charlotte Ford**, associate professor and director of the BSC Rush Learning Center/N.E. Miles Library. Ford earned a bachelor's in international studies from Earlham College, and master's and doctoral degrees in library and information science from Indiana University.
- **Dr. Louanne Jacobs**, associate professor of education. Jacobs earned a bachelor's degree in education from UAB, a master's degree in education from Alabama A&M University, and the Ed.D. in educational leadership from the University of Alabama and UAB.
- **Robin Lee Mozer '01**, instructor of English. Mozer completed a double major in English and music (voice) from BSC and an MFA in creative nonfiction writing from Pennsylvania State University.
- **Dr. Kelly Russell**, assistant professor of education. Russell has bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in early childhood education from UAB. She taught at BSC last year as an adjunct professor.
- **Dr. Amelia Spencer '85**, assistant professor of education. Spencer received an interdisciplinary degree in biology/psychology from BSC, two master's degrees



The college's new faculty members for 2008-09 (from left) are Dr. Louanne Jacobs, associate professor of education; Robin Lee Mozer '01, instructor of English; Dr. Edwin Brands, assistant professor of geography; Dr. Amelia Spencer '85, assistant professor of education; Dr. Lucerne DeSa, assistant professor of piano; and standing with them, Dr. Wayne Shew, acting provost and professor of biology. (Not pictured: Dr. Steven Curry, lecturer in mathematics; Dr. Charlotte Ford, associate professor and director of the BSC Rush Learning Center/N.E. Miles Library; Dr. Kelly Russell, assistant professor of education; and Dr. Kent Zirlott, visiting assistant professor of economics.)

- from the University of Alabama in early childhood special education and rehabilitation counseling, and a Ph.D. in early childhood education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- **Dr. Kent Zirlott**, visiting assistant professor of economics. Zirlott holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Spring Hill College, and a master's and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Alabama. He will serve a one-year appointment.

The Provost's Office has announced the following awards for promotion and tenure this fall for existing faculty:

Promoted to the highest rank of full professor were **Dr. Dominique Linchet**, French, and **David Schedler**, chemistry. Promoted from assistant professor to associate professor were **Dr. Scot Duncan**, biology; **Dr. Dorothy Hindman**, music; **Dr. Randall Law**, history; and **Jim Neel**, art.



# Art Richey

## a future so bright for Alabama's only Harry S. Truman Scholar

BY PAT COLE

**I**t was a one-of-a-kind opportunity and Art Richey nailed it; he won the highly sought after Harry S. Truman Scholarship for graduate study in public service.

"I was sitting at my computer in the Provost's Office where I am a work-study and Dr. Pollick [BSC president] walks in and says, 'You got it!'" relates Richey, a senior political science major. "I knew exactly what he meant. Getting news like that in the middle of the day is exciting. I called my parents immediately and then went and told my professors the good news."

Winning the exalted scholarship is considered a fabulous accomplishment for any undergraduate student. What's more, Richey was one of only 65 Truman scholars chosen from around the nation out of 635 candidates, and the sole winner from Alabama for this year's competition.

The \$30,000 Truman Scholarship is awarded to junior students at four-year colleges and universities based

on academic performance, exceptional leadership, and dedication to public service. The annual grant is funded by the Harry S. Truman Foundation, established some three decades ago by Congress as the official memorial to the nation's 33rd president, who wanted to promote young leaders and encourage students to engage in educated citizenship and political responsibility.

With his family in tow, Richey flew to Independence, Mo., in May to receive the award, presented at the Harry S. Truman Library. In addition to the money provided for graduate study, scholars also receive priority admission and additional financial aid at some of the nation's most premier graduate institutions. Plus, they are eligible for special internship opportunities within the federal government based on their commitment to public service.

Richey worked throughout the fall 2007 semester on his application, which consisted of nine short essay

questions, four letters of recommendation, and a policy proposal. He spent even more time preparing for the rigorous Truman interview, which took place in Nashville.

"It was pretty tough, but I was privileged to have had even tougher interviews at BSC with professors Natalie Davis and Mark Lester," Richey notes. "I was at ease and confident, and was able to respond quickly to the questions. I threw a little wit and humor in there also."

For his one-page written proposal, Richey crafted a defensible research idea bent on improving rural economic conditions and long-standing rural lifestyles. His idea is to gather support for increased funding for research on the development of cellulosic ethanol, an energy alternative, which he believes will bring jobs back to rural Alabama and reduce foreign oil dependence.

*(continued next page)*

"This fuel would be derived from the stalks and stems of non-edible plants with higher yields such as switchgrass and pine trees, rather than only from corn-based ethanol," explains Richey. "It has the potential to provide an economic spark for rural communities in Alabama. Our state government needs to work with agencies and people in Washington to develop this potential."

#### BSC'S HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARS

<b>Wes Edwards</b>	1991
<b>Christopher Thomaskutty</b>	1999
<b>Marta McLellan</b>	2001
<b>Webb Lyons</b>	2005
<b>Art Richey</b>	2008

Having lived in Alabama all his life, Richey possesses a rare maturity on this issue from observing rural life in his hometown of Russellville. He believes he understands mainstream American people and how they view the world.

"For one thing, people tend to enjoy the slow lifestyle of rural Alabama, and they don't want to move to suburbia, although so many manufacturers have closed their doors in these communities due to increasing globalization," says Richey. "Over time I began to think: 'What can I do to make the biggest impact on a grassroots level for these rural communities?' That's when the idea of alternative energy sources hit me, and since then, I've become really passionate about helping a struggling rural Alabama to envision its future in this area."

In addition to the classes he took this past summer, Richey began studying for the LSAT. He intends to

go to law school and work in Alabama state politics after he graduates from Birmingham-Southern.

Friends and mentors of Richey say they have always known that he was going places. Bradley Davidson, one of the founders and executive director of Empower Alabama, a local advocacy organization, says he is looking forward to working with Richey in the years to come.

"After watching Art for more than two years now, I believe that he really will impact our state a great deal in the years ahead," says Davidson. "His understanding of our systemic challenges grows more sophisticated all the time."

Even as a student at Russellville High School where he was an Eagle Scout, Richey already had entered the public arena to encourage fairness in the treatment of rural Alabamians.

"What really pushed me into politics is realizing that everyone has stories to tell from their experiences, and that if enough people participate in the political process with a combination of strong leadership, people will have an improved quality of life instead of more heartache and struggle."

During his time so far at BSC, Richey has worked hard to keep strong grades and get as much experience as he can in public policy. With a 3.8 grade-point average, he is active in Leadership Studies and College Democrats and serves as a 'Southern Ambassador. He was selected as a 2007 Hess Fellow and worked last summer as an intern with the advocacy group Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform. Last fall, he volunteered with Black Warrior Riverkeeper, a group dedicated to the protection of

the Black Warrior River, and he currently is working for Empower Alabama to engage more people in progressive change for Alabama.

Richey also is active at state, regional, and national leadership levels. He served previously as the 2005-06 political director for Alabama College Democrats, the 2006 state chair of Young Alabamians for Lucy Baxley for Governor Campaign, a 2006 and 2007 delegate at the College Democrats of America National Convention, and the 2006-07 membership director for Alabama College Democrats. He also interned for U.S. Rep. Artur Davis of Alabama for a January 2006 BSC Interim term project, and currently serves as the 2007-08 president of Alabama College Democrats.

More recently, he and BSC student Gary Crosby were named co-state directors for Alabama Students for Barack Obama, and Richey was appointed chair of college outreach by the Josh Segall for Congress campaign for Alabama's Third District.

During his many years of advocacy rounds, Richey has seen and met some famous people.

"I met Sen. Barack Obama during my travels in South Carolina, D.C., and Huntsville, and I talked to Michelle Obama recently at a political fundraiser in Birmingham," says Richey. "I've also had close-ups with former president Bill Clinton, and have met Sen. John Edwards on numerous occasions."

Richey describes his political involvement as a passion that won't go away.

"I want to maximize my time and do the most good for the most people," he says. "And if someone has to lead, I will."

## The newest Fulbright among us



Golson

Missy Golson got some great news in early May when she opened a letter while in the Birmingham-Southern post office. The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board had named her one of its 2008 Fulbright Scholars.

"I was speechless at first," recalls Golson, who graduated from BSC May 18 with a degree in political science. "Without saying a word, I handed the letter to my best friend who was with me, and within

seconds, we both began screaming and jumping up and down."

The coveted Fulbright national scholarships recognize academic merit and leadership potential and are awarded for a variety of educational opportunities abroad, including advanced research, graduate study, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools. The award grant covers travel and living costs for one academic year and necessary tuition at overseas universities.

Having received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Golson began teaching conversational English for 20 hours a week at a secondary school in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia (located in Southeast Asia) in August. In addition, she is researching how women in a traditional culture adapt to a modern society.

"Indonesian women are gaining more access to education and are increasingly moving into the workforce," highlights Golson, who is from Montgomery. "I am very interested in seeing how this trend affects these women and how other modern developments interrelate with the country's Islamic religion and the traditional roles of women. Following my study of women in Indonesia, I will compare this research to how women are affected by tradition and modernization in Alabama."

As an undergraduate, Golson took part in a number of student-leadership initiatives on campus, including her stint as project coordinator for the college's Bunting Center for Engaged Study and Community Action, her

membership in the 'Southern Political Activism and Civic Engagement group, and her completion of the Distinction in Leadership Studies program.

She says she pursued the Fulbright out of an ever-increasing desire to understand people and societies that are different from her own.

"Not only does the scholarship give me the opportunity to immerse myself in another's lifestyle, traditions, customs, and ideas," she says, "but I can share my own culture while acting as a representative for the United States."

This past summer, Golson prepared for her year abroad by purchasing books on Baha Indonesian, the country's official language.

"I prepared as much as I could to minimize culture shock, even e-mailing past Fulbrighters to ask about their experiences."

The Fulbright Scholarship Program, funded by Congress and honoring the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, sends 800 U.S. students, scholars, and professionals abroad each year.

## Tennessee native selected as Rushton Scholar at Birmingham-Southern



Burgin

The Rushton Scholarship honors Col. William James Rushton, a Birmingham life insurance executive, and his wife, Elizabeth Perry Rushton. It is the preeminent scholarship awarded by the college to the most outstanding freshman for each entering class, and it is one of the most prestigious undergraduate scholarships available at any college or university in the United States.

The selection committee chose Burgin out of 150 candidates who competed in the college's essay writing and interview process.

Rushton Scholars receive full tuition and room and board each year, plus a \$2,000 annual stipend to be used for summer travel, internships, study-abroad programs, and special projects.

High school seniors are selected for the scholarship based upon demonstrated merit, leadership, and activism in the community.

Burgin is pursuing a major in physics/pre-med at BSC and plays intramural sports. In high school, his honors included membership in the National Honor Society, his selection as an Erskine Fellow, and graduating with a 4.4 grade-point average in the advanced curriculum.

He excelled outside of the classroom as well with his involvement in theatre, debate, and the Academy Singers. He also served as team captain of the Brentwood Academy wrestling program and as a middle school counselor in the YMCA Blue Ridge High School Christian Values Conference.

Burgin and his family have moved frequently with his father's work as the senior national sales executive for the Coca-Cola Co. The family lived for two years near Brussels, Belgium.

"Relocating to different cities and countries has taught me to build friendships across cultural and language barriers," he says. "These skills have better enabled me to serve others in my work at the Nashville Rescue Mission, as the Bible-study leader for sixth and seventh-graders, and as a counselor at the Brentwood Baptist Church Vacation Bible School program."

Burgin joined the BSC community in August as one of more than 500 new students.

Daniel Burgin of Brentwood, Tenn., was selected as the Rushton Scholar for the incoming freshman class at Birmingham-Southern College.



SGA executive officers for 2008-09 are (from left) Will Breland of Decatur, sophomore and secretary; Wes Akin of Killen, junior and treasurer; Charisma Shah of Brentwood, Tenn., senior and second vice president; Trey Cotney, senior and president; and Brad Robinson of Pinson, junior and first vice president.

tailgate traditions to begin for various athletic programs, and increased funding for student conferences and study abroad opportunities," says Cotney, who served as first vice president of the SGA his junior year. "We plan to work hard to ensure that campus life at 'Southern is enjoyable for all students."

For more information about the SGA, visit their Web site at <http://orgs.bsc.edu/sga>.

## Cotney elected SGA president for 2008-09

Following months of campaigning and a spring campus general election, senior Trey Cotney came out a winner and has taken the reins as president of the Birmingham-Southern Student Government Association for the 2008-09 academic year.

Cotney, a business administration major from Helena, was sworn in March 6.

The BSC student body also voted to fill four other new executive officer seats and 18 student representative seats for the SGA. Freshmen were elected and added this fall. The college's Student Government Association is made up of 28 main positions, 27 of those being voting positions. There are also 20 or so students active on committees, subcommittees, and councils.

"Our goals for this academic year include further improvements and additions to the pool house at the college's Hilltop Terrace Apartments,



Permenter

## Southern Diversity Delegate winner to promote diversity on campus

Building a community can't always be done with bricks and mortar. That's why Birmingham-Southern opened the way some time ago for a head student spokesperson to address the ongoing issues of multiculturalism and diversity on campus.

Buddy Permenter, a junior from Gautier, Miss., was selected by a panel of judges this past April to serve as the 2008-09 Southern Diversity Delegate for the college's Office of Multicultural Affairs. He was selected based on academic achievement, community involvement, and participation in campus and multicultural events.

As Permenter continues in his math and computer science double major this fall, he has developed a multicultural platform

focused on Africa and African studies and is hoping to facilitate more intercultural events to bring together BSC students from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds. In addition, he serves as chair of the Multicultural Advisory Committee that consists of representatives from seven multicultural organizations across the campus, coordinates the "Free Food for Thought" monthly discussion series, and will assist with Diversity Week activities next spring.

Permenter's list of campus involvement includes Quest II Attic coordinator, resident advisor, Black Student Union, secretary of the One-A-Chord Gospel Choir, wind ensemble, and vice president of Allies.

## BSC Hess Fellows Program includes first international internship

Eleven students from the 2008 class of Birmingham-Southern Hess Fellows spent eight weeks this summer working with local and state organizations on various advocacy issues, including constitutional reform, empowering women, the environment, and federal hunger legislation.

But for the first time, one student in the program traveled internationally as an intern. Ben Miller, a senior political science major and Harrison Honors Program Scholar from Hoover, worked for three months in the Donor Relations Division of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Rome.

Miller gained experience finalizing official WFP briefings and correspondence, researching donor backgrounds and trends in preparation for international/regional meetings, and participating in the organization's strategic planning discussions.

"During my first two weeks in Italy, I attended the annual meeting of the programme's executive

board, observed a Myanmar task force session, and wrote a brief for strategic fundraising in Australia," Miller noted. "It is a uniquely challenging year at WFP, not only because of rising fuel and commodity prices, but also due to at least five humanitarian emergencies worldwide caused by disasters both natural and manmade—in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, and Zimbabwe."

All 12 fellows participated in pre-internship seminars and will give presentations to the BSC community this fall. The college now hopes to send at least one Hess Fellow abroad each year.

The Hess Center for Leadership and Service Fellows Program annually pairs 10-12 students with nonprofit agencies that are working for systemic change both locally and globally. The fellowships are funded by Donald and Ronne Hess, the Dixon Foundation, the Joseph S. Bruno Charitable Foundation, the Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation, and several private donors.



Miller in front of the Aqua Traiana Fountain on the Janiculum Hill in Rome.



**Meeting Michelle Obama**—Representatives of the Birmingham-Southern Democratic campaign student groups College Democrats and Students for Barack Obama were among the invitees at a private fundraising event featuring Michelle Obama (shown on front row, second from right). The event was held this past summer at the Mountain Brook home of Giles Perkins and his wife, Hillery Head, to support the campaign of then presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama. BSC students who attended the fundraiser were (front row, from left) Jeanie Sleadd, Emily Wallace, and Art Richey; (back row, from left) Gary Crosby and Will Weaver (Samford student).

**Musical emissaries**—The BSC Concert Choir completed its annual spring tour to Gadsden, Chattanooga, and Huntsville (shown here performing in Chattanooga) with an April 13 Homecoming Concert in Birmingham at Canterbury United Methodist Church. Performances of major works included *The Sun is Setting* by Jan Vičar with Alabama Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Daniel Szasz as guest soloist, Haydn's *Te Deum in C*, *Madrigali* by Morten Lauridsen, and various shorter works. The choir is directed by Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music Dr. Lester Seigel '79.  
*Photo by Tracy Knauss.*





Elizabeth Wilson receives her diploma from BSC President Dr. David Pollick during Commencement.



Rebecca F. Lipscomb is shown with Dr. Stephen Craft, Elton B. Stephens Professor of Marketing and dean of business programs, at Commencement.

## Top students receive awards at annual Honors Convocation

Birmingham-Southern hosted its 2008 Honors Day Convocation in the spring to recognize a number of the college's outstanding students and their academic accomplishments.

Elizabeth Wilson, a senior English major from Jasper, received the Robert Hewlin Jackson Meritorious Scholarship Award. Given in memory of the 1862 graduate of Southern University (a parent institution of BSC), the award recognizes the graduating senior who has achieved the highest grade-point average during his or her four-year college career.

Rebecca Fitzgerald Lipscomb of the Crestwood North area of Birmingham is the recipient of the Dyson-Wagnon Award for 2008. The award, named after former BSC staff members David Dyson and Connie Wagnon, recognizes a student in the college's Master of Arts in Public and Private Management program who has achieved the highest grade-point average. Lipscomb, who graduated from the MPPM program in May, is employed by Southern Progress Corporation as director of promotion for *Southern Living At HOME*.

## Spring projects in BSC theatre

Students, faculty, and staff at Birmingham-Southern produced and performed a musical and double-bill of operas on campus this past April with a cast of nearly 30.

*Merrily We Roll Along*, directed by Professor of Theatre Michael Flowers, examined the lives of three friends as they navigated their way through careers, relationships, triumphs, and tragedies—all told in reverse time.

In the 1950 Pulitzer Prize-winning opera *The Consul*, BSC senior Timothy Beenken sang the role of citizen John Sorel, who flees an unnamed country, leaving his family behind. His wife, Magda, portrayed by BSC music graduate student Karen Young, is left to suffer under the harsh government.

*The Telephone*, a one-act opera, told the story of two lovers and their inability to connect because of the phone. BSC senior Shelby Bowling sang the lead role of Lucy.

The operas were directed by Professor of Music Mildred Allen with scenic and lighting design provided by Professor of Theatre Matthew Mielke. J. Lynn Thompson, husband of BSC Vice President for Institutional Advancement Adelia Patrick Thompson '86, appeared as the guest orchestra conductor for *The Consul*.

In addition to acting in the three performances, students also assisted with stage management, costume construction, lighting, and set construction.

## BSC Music Department singing the praises of its students; voice program nationally recognized

Over the years, Birmingham-Southern students have been frequent participants and prize-winners in major local, regional, and national music festivals and competitions. These young performers work hard toward their musical dreams, and this past spring, returned home with several awards and experiences. The students, who are outstanding undergraduate organists and opera singers, study in the organ studio of Professor of Music James Cook '68 and the voice studios of music professors Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw and David Smith.

Timothy Beenken, a senior music performance major from Vestavia Hills, was awarded entrance into the highly competitive 2008 Wolf Trap Summer Opera Studio Artist Program in Vienna, Va. Beenken was one of 16 singers selected from some 793 applicants nationwide. Beenken and Shelby Bowling, a senior music major from Daphne, placed third and second, respectively, in the 2008 National Career Award Competition in Voice, the regional competition by the National Society of Arts and Letters.

Richard Byrd, a May church music graduate from Mountain Brook, and Patrick Scott, a May music performance graduate from Picayune, Miss., were jointly awarded the Myrtle Jones Steele Scholarship from the Birmingham Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (Birmingham AGO). Scott also tied for first place in the Clarence Dickinson Festival at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Hannah Ellington, a sophomore voice performance major from Indian Springs, won first place in the Birmingham District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She went on to place sixth at the regional competition which followed. Hannah also spent three weeks in Atlanta at the prestigious Harrower Summer Opera Workshop, where she took lead roles in two performances.

Kenny Lewis, a junior music major from Mount Olive, received for the second year in a row the Minnie McNeil Carr Scholarship from the Birmingham AGO.

David Talley IV, a senior music performance major from Pleasant Grove, won the southeast regional competition for young organists sponsored by the National Association of Negro Musicians. Talley also received the only scholarship award to an organ student by the Birmingham Music Club this year, which makes this the third consecutive year he's been recognized by the organization.

The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Foundation recognized the voice program of the Birmingham-Southern Department of Music this past spring with a 2008 Vocal Excellence Award.

The award provides voice scholarships from the NATS and is offered only to qualified four-year colleges, universities or conservatories with outstanding vocal programs. BSC was the only program in the U.S. to earn the award in 2008.

Founded in 1944, the NATS promotes vocal education through workshops, intern programs, master classes, conferences, and artist awards.



*In Merrily We Roll Along, Frank Shepherd, played by BSC sophomore Gannon Love (center), attends a party with his admirers who toast him on the opening of his latest film. BSC students Timothy Beenken and Karen Young perform in The Consul.*



*Veteran political science professor  
Dr. Natalie Davis during a class session.*



# Democracy in Action

How BSC inspires its students  
and alumni to become engaged  
in activity for the public good

BY PAT COLE



Being hailed as a training ground for future public servants and politicians is certainly not a goal of Birmingham-Southern. Yet the college is producing a vibrant conglomerate of opportunities for students to move out of their comfort zone and to become aware of the political activities available on the campus and in the community.

"It's difficult to separate the intellectual, cultural, social, and engaged learning aspect of a student's education," says Dr. David Pollick, BSC president. "If you don't have an informed citizen, you can't have an effective citizen."

"Though the college doesn't set out as its primary goal to create an activist and someone who is politically engaged, I think our first intention is to make students as thoughtful as possible while helping them to develop all the skills they can at this age within an academic community. So the ultimate end is for them to be involved in the world as effectively as they can be."

The full liberal arts experience at Birmingham-Southern has long involved so much more than the traditional classroom education, which by itself seeks to develop thoughtful U.S. citizens by the time students become alumni.

The Latin origin of the term "liberal arts" is "artes liberales," which can be translated from English-Latin dictionaries as the skills, knowledge, or practice of freedom. So it would follow that the liberal arts at its deepest level teaches students the skills they need to become not only better thinkers, but better citizens, which in turn strengthens a democracy.

Through the service and leadership programs, interdisciplinary curriculum, organizational memberships, and travel that Birmingham-Southern offers, students can step into leadership roles, voice their opinions, and get involved in numerous issues of civic importance to their city and nation. All of these opportunities encourage BSC students to develop an appreciation for their communities, to become politically engaged during college, and to remain so after graduation.



BSC Political Science Professor Dr. Natalie Davis (center, beige suit) invited Rep. Artur Davis, D-Ala., (left of center), and Republican Luther Strange (right of center), who ran for Alabama lieutenant governor in 2006, to the campus for a mock presidential debate as part of an intensive two-week course she taught in August on the 2008 presidential election—designed for first-year students at BSC.

and text-messaging—has made 2008 the year of the young voter. Using cyberspace and other high-tech means, candidates in this election have been reaching out to Millennial-age students in a way that's never been done before.

"Plus, issues including the war in Iraq, job creation and

availability, energy costs, and affordable college tuition have motivated and mobilized students," says senior political science major Gary Crosby, president of the BSC College Democrats, who attended the Democratic National Convention in August.

BSC College Republicans chairman Alex Masterson, a sophomore history major, is hopeful the extra interest in politics and the electoral process this year will continue past the 2008 elections.

"For there to be continued involvement in the political process after the elections, student organizations like the BSC College Republicans and College Democrats need to facilitate speakers, programs, and activities that will encourage students to remain active in the political scene," Masterson expresses. "I believe that it is imperative for the students of my generation to be engaged in the process of becoming

## Student engagement in the 21st century

What do the words "civic engagement" really mean? According to a study by Thomas Ehrlich in *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education*, civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities through political and non-political processes and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. Engagement also entails developing an understanding of one's part in a larger social fabric and building a shared sense of community.

The trend toward increased civic engagement and advocacy among college students in this historic 2008 presidential election year harkens back to the activist days of the '60s when young people were heavily involved in politics because of an

unpopular war and the civil rights movement. The uniqueness of the 2008 elections has created a chain of excitement across the nation and helped to fuel candidate momentum and increase interest among voters.

Americans, in general, are deepening their commitment to service and civic engagement as they witness the first African-American presidential candidate, Democratic Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, and the first presidential nominee who is above the age of 70, Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona. Then there is New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, the first woman who came close to being her party's nominee, and McCain's running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who might become the first woman vice president.

In addition, "new media"—in the form of the Internet, YouTube, blogs,



## Survey says

### *BSC students examine political views of Alabama voters for group research project*

the educated and responsible citizens of tomorrow. If today we do not regard our liberty with a responsible attitude, we might very well lack that same liberty tomorrow."

Many Birmingham-Southern students worked in campaigns—both Democratic and Republican and in-state as well as out-of-state—during the 2008 January Interim term, and plenty are volunteering right now.

According to the 14th Biannual Youth Survey on Politics and Public Service by the Harvard Institute of Politics conducted this year, voters aged 18-29 will comprise nearly a quarter of the eligible electorate in 2008.

"18 to 24 year olds are preparing to vote in November in significant, if not, record numbers, further extending the trend of increased participation that began in 2004 and extended to the 2006 mid-term elections," the report cites. "Every measure of political engagement [among this age group] has increased since our last survey."

So often, the evolution spurring these changes in students can be traced to their perception of what is important for them when they go to college.

"Students don't enter college thinking about all the dramatic social issues of the world," Pollick notes. They arrive on campus thinking of getting an education, establishing a career, and having a family. It's only when things start to get in the way of those traditional expectations that students will change their behavior and get involved in a particular set of issues. For example, if students can't afford to put gas in their cars, and if they are being asked to fight in wars that make absolutely no sense to them, then you are going to see a much more active population.

A class of Birmingham-Southern students delved a little deeper into the 2008 U.S. elections with a statewide survey which drew out the belief systems of Alabamians and the way they pick presidential candidates.

The 15 students, who were a part of the PS 304 Research Methodology course this past spring, spent several weeks designing and then conducting "The Birmingham-Southern College Annual Survey of Alabama Voters."

When it was over, students had received some interesting pieces of the public's sentiment. According to survey results, Sen. John McCain slightly edged Sen. Barack Obama with a 56 percent approval rating among Alabamians, while Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton went almost toe-to-toe with 46 and 45 percent of approvals. In another portion of the survey, respondents were asked "If the election were held today, who would you vote for?" Between Obama and McCain, 33 percent said they would vote for Obama, 60 percent stated they would vote for McCain, and less than eight percent of respondents said they didn't know.

Generally-speaking, the majority of individuals surveyed were between ages 51-64, and 60 percent of respondents were female. Regarding the ethnic breakdown, 75 percent were white and 25 percent were African-American.

The Research Methodology course is a required interdisciplinary class for political science, sociology, and economic majors of BSC. This year, the course was taught by political science professors Dr. Alicia Weaver and Dr. Natalie Davis.

"Students take a statistics course in the social sciences in the fall term, and then in the spring, they apply what they have learned about statistics to a large-scale survey project," explains Davis. "Although we've been doing the survey for about 30 years, there have been many changes with its content."

The survey of 479 Alabama voters was conducted March 16-20. Not only did the students in the course learn the tools for gathering and analyzing political data, but they also got to be firsthand witnesses to the survey going high-tech. For the first time in the course, more than half of the survey was sent through cyberspace using a random sample of Alabama adults who were the youngest registered voters in their household. The remaining portion of the survey was completed by the students who interviewed by telephone.

For Gary Crosby, a senior political science major from Jasper and leader of the BSC College Democrats, it was more than just a typical survey; it was beneficial to his goal to run for public office.

"It was amazing to me how many people don't even recognize a name like Artur Davis [U.S. Representative from Alabama] or have any idea who their elected officials are," says Crosby. "It taught me the importance of pushing for name recognition in the public domain."

"Overall, I was pleased to discover from the survey that 64 percent of Alabamians are either very active or somewhat active in their communities; thus, the majority of Alabama residents are civically engaged."

Some other interesting portions of the survey revealed that people in Alabama, in general, are not happy about illegal immigrants, and that the percentage of women who are uncomfortable with female leadership is nearly equal that of men. In addition, the survey asked respondents "Do you think that America is not ready for an African-American president?" Fifty-three percent either disagreed or strongly disagreed in their responses, whereas 42 percent stated they agreed or strongly agreed.

The student survey also received some praiseworthy comments from anonymous respondents online who referred to the questions as "intelligent" and "interesting."

"The survey was time consuming, and it required a lot of patience," describes Danielle Harbor, a senior sociology major from Colton, Calif. "But it was interesting to me how the opinions varied depending upon the voters' ages, race, and sex. Taken as a whole, I learned that Alabama is still a very conservative state."

## A running start to public service

*BSC senior Nico Arciniegas talks candidly about his bids for student body office*

Just ask 20-year-old BSC student Nico Arciniegas and he'll tell you there's a lot more to running for campus public office than hanging banners and hammering a poster in the ground with your name on it. Developing campaign tactics and strategies, planning speeches, and delivering creative messages are all part of the adventures in campaigning.

"The most important strategy a candidate can employ though is to have a personal approach to his or her constituents, listen to their concerns, and adapt his or her overall campaign to reflect those concerns," says Arciniegas, a senior double major in political science and international studies.

A resident of Mountain Brook, Arciniegas has served for three years as the Student Government Association representative for commuters at BSC and has campaigned for vice president and president of the SGA.

"What really made me run for office initially was simply the desire to institute change at Birmingham-Southern," he says. "Soon I'm going to graduate, and when I do, I want to be able to look back and know that the decisions I helped make in the SGA had a direct influence on BSC's student body."

In Arciniegas' first campaign for commuter representative, he relied heavily on posters provided by the college Elections Board.

"During election week, I would also lay flyers on the cafeteria tables that contained a catchy message or image and place a student bulletin (provided by the SGA) beside it, along with some candy," he explains. "Additionally, I gave short speeches to the student body."

In his bid for commuter representative each year, Arciniegas was uncontested in two of the four elections he was involved in. But he says running for an officer position is a different story altogether.

"Officer elections are far more demanding since success means higher visibility among the student body and a greater ability for conveying your message clearly and convincingly," he notes. "To get people to believe in your message, you have to believe in yourself. You must be completely convinced that the goals you want to accomplish are wise ones, that you're the best person to accomplish those goals, and most importantly, that you're going to prevail over the opposition."

Since Arciniegas' first semester on campus, he has been greatly involved in leadership and advocacy. He has served as president/vice president and now historian of the Multicultural Awareness Organization, president for two consecutive years of the United Nations Association Student Alliance, one of the founders and president of the Commuter Student Union, member of the President's Service Team and the student environmental group EnAct, and currently is on the Multicultural Advisory Committee. He studied British politics for 11 weeks at the London School of Economics this past summer as a Hansard Research Scholar.

"My immediate intention is to pursue a civil service career in the field of diplomacy," he says. "With the right circumstances, I would absolutely consider running for a position where I can earn the faith of the public, and more importantly, have a more direct role in policymaking. It is my aspiration to better the world in which we all live, and although an arduous task, I believe running for public office one day may help me in this endeavor."



Arciniegas

## Getting their politics on

Birmingham-Southern has a 25-year-plus history of providing community-based education experiences, which support the college's commitment to social responsibility.

Students in the college's Leadership Studies and Service-Learning programs merge the academic study of leadership, politics, and social issues in the classroom with intensive community involvement and reflection. This integration of the academic study of leadership with experience in community programs cultivates civic involvement in BSC students.

"The college has a significant investment in engaged learning on campus right now with the development of the Bunting Center, a product of our Service-Learning program," remarks Pollick.

The BSC Bunting Center for Engaged Study and Community Action was established in 2007 to provide student service opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally. The Bunting Center works in tandem with the Leadership Studies program to provide faculty and students with opportunities to integrate civic literacy and participation into coursework and campus life.

Students who've graduated with a Distinction in Leadership Studies from BSC's Hess Center for Leadership and Service have advanced to graduate and professional programs such as the Kennedy School of Government, Candler School of Theology, and Yale Law School, and to activities including interning for the Carter Center in Atlanta, heading a U.S. congressional office, and working as a public administrator for the city of





*Jeanne Jackson, director of the Hess Center for Leadership and Service and the Leadership Studies program, with BSC's 2008 Truman Scholar Art Richey.*

Baltimore.  
“The  
Leadership  
Studies  
program helps  
prepare  
students from  
diverse

backgrounds for significant leadership roles in public service,” says Jeanne Jackson, director of the Hess Center for Leadership and Service and the Leadership Studies program at BSC. “The program gives students the opportunity to blend classroom experience with community needs and problems, so issues of politics and social change and government are intentionally being brought up in the designated leadership studies classes.

“Students also gain practical leadership experience on community projects in housing, health care, education, community revitalization, and homelessness. That kind of exposure encourages students to get involved in the political process.”

Also noteworthy is that all Harry S. Truman Scholarship recipients at Birmingham-Southern have been Leadership Studies students. A large percentage of leadership students went on to be named Rotary Scholars, and two have been awarded Fulbright Scholarships to study internationally.

BSC's Hess Fellows program is another great opportunity for students to get involved in advocacy and the political process.

“Through paid summer internships with national and international advocacy agencies, students can begin to see that economic, social, and political development is intertwined,”

explains Jackson. “You can't isolate yourself from the world of political action if you are interested in any kind of community or social change.”

The Donald C. Harrison Honors Program at BSC allows highly motivated students to work with professors on independent-study projects and to engage in cultural activities outside the classroom. Honors students also are offered a set of more specialized courses such as “Civil Rights and Justice” and “Plural America.”

In addition, students can join campus groups that promote advocacy and awareness of issues like SPACE (‘Southern Political Action and Civic Engagement group), the College Democrats and College Republicans, the Student Government Association, and WILD (Women in Leadership Development). Several organizations are sponsoring voter registration drives on campus this fall and informing students how to move their voter registration to Jefferson County or learn about absentee ballots.

And, for the first time this year, students of any major can apply to become an environmental intern thanks to BSC funding this past summer by the 3M Corporation and a generous private donor.

“The environmental intern program will help students gain a greater appreciation for

understanding how political systems and the political process impact environmental decisions,” Jackson describes. “Students can gain an understanding of how the city and county work together through interning with the Cahaba River Society, Alabama Rivers Alliance, and other organizations.”

Carson Land, a senior English major from Decatur and a Leadership Studies student, was accepted to the highly competitive University of California Public Policy and International Affairs Summer Institute this year, where she studied policy skills at the Goldman School of Public Policy on the Berkeley campus. The seven-week institute allowed her to participate in rigorous coursework designed to improve analytical and quantitative skills vital to success at top-level graduate programs in public policy and international affairs.

Jessica Headley, a political science major from Hoover who graduated in May, was selected for a 2007 national Daily Points of Light Award for her volunteer work in educating young people about the importance of character.

Also in 2007, Birmingham-Southern's commitment to building a culture of service and civic engagement among its faculty and students earned the college a spot on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with distinction. The program, launched by The Corporation for National and Community Service in 2006 in response to President George W. Bush's call to service initiative, is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.  
*(continued next page)*



## Faculty helping nurture good citizens of tomorrow

One important focus of Birmingham-Southern has been to provide an interdisciplinary curriculum that intertwines service experiences, leadership studies, and reflection into academic courses.

The college's Foundations general



Gawronski

education curriculum requires first-year students to take several 1Y courses which "encourage intellectual and community engagement." 1Y course content is devoted to a variety of topics, including socio-economic, political, cultural, and ethical issues. Student interest in advocacy can emerge, somewhat indirectly, as a result of BSC's curriculum.

Associate Political Science Professor Dr. Vince Gawronski is teaching a political science 1Y course this fall to incoming first-year students at BSC entitled "Humor and the Cynical Mind" (PS 111). Over a period of 12 weeks, the course enables students to analyze political humor centered on the

current presidential campaign and additionally discuss the impact of humor on the political process and political knowledge in the United States (*see article on page 41*).

Dr. Natalie Davis, professor of political science and chair of the

Department of Political Science, Economics, and Sociology, who ran for U.S. Senate in 1996, invited two of Alabama's political leaders to the campus in August for a mock presidential debate. The hour-long debate was part of a two-week intensive course Davis was teaching to first-year students on the presidential election. Lobbyist Luther Strange, who ran for Alabama

lieutenant governor in 2006, represented Sen. John McCain, and U.S. Congressman Artur Davis, representing the 7th District of Alabama, portrayed Sen. Barack Obama.

The political science program at Birmingham-Southern places emphasis on understanding political behavior—in American, European, Latin American, and Asian contexts. It also focuses on the public policy process. In addition, the department balances the theoretical exploration of politics with students gaining practical experiences in the real-world.

"BSC students have an opportunity to use the community and country as their classrooms,"

remarks Davis. "Many of our students enroll in internships in Washington, in Montgomery, and in the Birmingham community."

In addition, because political science faculty at BSC have plenty of previous and current real-life political experience and are well-connected to contemporary political leaders and events, students get a chance to see BSC faculty in action.

"Dr. Ed LaMonte [Howell Heflin Professor of Political Science], for example, has been very involved over the years in city politics, including his work with Operation New Birmingham and the Birmingham Mayor's Office," says Davis. "This encourages a lot of students, many of whom intern in these same offices."

"Moreover, students who take political science courses graduate with specific skills in data analysis. Because our department emphasizes research methods and quantitative analysis, our students graduate with marketable skills, which have aided them in job searches ranging from banks and accounting firms to economic development and governmental agencies."

Birmingham-Southern faculty are considering new academic programs which are likely to result in meaningful student participation in advocacy. The college already has established a major in urban environmental studies. Under consideration are programs in media studies and human rights. Current courses in human and civil rights allow for more attention to be drawn to women, minorities, and other marginalized groups, Davis says.

## First-year student course tackles politics, crude humor

Political humor gets to people. That's why one of the college's fall term courses may actually serve as a way to stimulate a student's interest in political participation.

Incoming first-year students to Birmingham-Southern this year were able to sign-on for the political science course "Humor and the Cynical Mind" (PS 111), as they made out their autumn schedules. This is the third time Associate Political Science Professor Dr. Vince Gawronski has taught the first-year Foundations (1Y) course.

"I try to teach the class every three or so years," says Gawronski, who's embarking upon his eighth year as a BSC professor. "I would one day like to classify it as an upper-division course, but for now it's being offered as a 1Y due to our growing numbers of incoming students."

Over a period of 12 weeks, the course enables students to analyze political humor/satire/parody centered on the current presidential campaign and additionally discuss the impact of humor on the political process and political knowledge in the United States. Learning activities involve editorial cartoons, comic strips, late-night television, situation comedies, radio talk shows, movies, and books.

"This class is unique as a political science course since humor studies is a genre within the humanities," he said. "I designed the course to increase student political engagement as well as spur knowledge and interest in the upcoming November elections."

While Gawronski is excited about teaching *Humor and the Cynical Mind*, he admits that it's not an easy course to teach.

"One of the biggest challenges is always being on a 'slippery slope' and having to be very sensitive to everyone's sensibilities and maturity levels," he notes. "Most political humor can be very offensive to at least someone, especially when issues of race, belief, identity, and gender are the topics."

At least two interesting aspects incorporated into the course are Jokes of the Day, where each student is required to stand in front of the class at least twice during the semester and deliver a political joke, and Stand Up Performance Reviews, where each student must attend one stand-up comedy show at a live venue and write a critique of the political message that was delivered.

"Unfortunately, few undergraduate college students regularly watch quality news programs or read newspapers," Gawronski points out in his course overview. "Most get their information about the world in sound bytes or in banner format or from one of the often biased media conglomerates."

Research also has supported this view. Shortly before the 2004 presidential election, the Pew Research Center for People & the Press reported that the majority of young people between the ages of 18 and 30 obtain most of their political information from late-night entertainment outlets. But according to a Pew Center survey conducted this past December, 27 percent of people under the age of 30 get their political information from social networking Web sites such as Facebook and MySpace, and 41 percent under 30 go online to watch videos for campaign news.

"Comedy can make politics and the news more attractive to students, especially first-year students," says Gawronski. "In this course, they are learning to critically analyze what they see and hear on a daily basis, eventually distinguishing political news and facts from mere entertainment."

"Personally, I especially enjoy analyzing current events through editorial cartoons," he remarks. "What I love most about this course is politically engaging first-year students through humor. They often walk into my class thinking they are merely going to be entertained, but they quickly realize we are dealing with some pretty important issues."

## Roll the credits

It's no secret that Birmingham-Southern students go on to do special things after leaving the college. As alumni, they are taking to heart what they've learned through BSC's classrooms and applying it to their careers.

One of BSC's most notable graduates in politics and government was the late Sen. Howell Heflin '42, who passed away in 2005 after a distinguished career in public service.

A conservative Democrat and consistent supporter of civil rights and farmers, Heflin served three terms in the U.S. Senate until his retirement in 1997. Prior to that, he was chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court for six years. His most enduring legacy perhaps was leading a state initiative to bring Alabama's inefficient court system into the 20th century during his time as chief justice.

During his career, he championed the Legal Services Corporation and sponsored the creation of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, State Justice Institute, Civil Justice Reform Act, National Commission on Judicial Discipline, Justice Assistance Act and Permanent Federal Court Study of 1988, and the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994, among his numerous accomplishments.

In 1987, BSC announced the endowment of the Howell T. Heflin Professorship of American Government and Politics. In 2000, the Howell T. Heflin Seminar Room was dedicated in the college's Charles Andrew Rush Learning Center/N.E. Miles Library and is home to some of Heflin's favorite photographs and other memorabilia.

In the following pages, we pass on just a few stories of BSC students and alumni who are involved in the political process. There are so many more stories we could have told had space allowed.

*From Capitol Hill to the campaign trail to communications, Birmingham-Southern alumni and students are experiencing firsthand how the U.S. democratic political process works*

\*Brandon Gresham and Carol Cook Hagood '70 contributed to the writing of these profiles.



## Guthrie Smith '35: former small-town mayor leaves lasting legacies

Guthrie Smith's enthusiasm and Southern charm shine when he reflects upon his nearly four-decade run as mayor of Fayette, Ala.

At age 96, he's as sharp mentally as he ever was and still active. Just about every day, he rises early to tend to the gardens around his home and he makes frequent visits to the town library.

Smith will always be regarded as a key figure in the cultural and economic growth of Fayette. Through his remarkable life of service to his hometown, he has worn many hats—those of business owner, councilman, mayor, and visionary.

"I never thought I'd stay in office as long as I did," says Smith. "The challenges took control of my life and I sought to provide a better life for my fellow citizens."

In addition to the administrative duties of managing a city for 37 years, he was instrumental in spearheading a rigorous campaign to turn a derelict elementary school into the award-winning Fayette Civic Center and Art Museum—now housing 3,700 art pieces—and for the construction of 100-acre Guthrie Smith Park, a 350-acre industrial park, a municipal airport, a new city police and fire station, and a million dollar state-of-the-art sewer facility.

Even after retiring, he continued to serve his community in many civic endeavors, including helping to organize a \$650,000 fundraising campaign for the Fayette County

Memorial Library. In addition, he was invited to speak at meetings, conferences, and banquets throughout Alabama and the South. In 1992, then Alabama Senator and BSC alumnus Howell Heflin entered a tribute for Smith in the Congressional Record for his speech "We Must Move with the Tides of Change," delivered at the Alabama League of Municipalities' annual convention.

He was honored by Birmingham-Southern in 2000 with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Smith enrolled at BSC as an economics major in 1931, determined, he says, to follow in the footsteps of his brother, Curruth ("C.R."), who graduated from the college in 1925.

"He was my idol who inspired me to get an education at Birmingham-Southern and become president of the student body as he did," says Smith, who was raised on a farm. "Having no family financial support to attend college, BSC challenged me to reach for the stars. My experiences on the campus gave me self confidence."

He earned a Dupont Fellowship to the University of Virginia after his BSC graduation, where he received a master's degree in economics. His master's thesis, "Trends in the Tax System of Alabama," is considered a historical document and is included in the permanent collection of works housed at the Alabama Commission of Revenue and has been added to the Congressional Record.



Smith

Following his graduate degree, Smith worked in Washington, D.C., for six years before being drafted into the U.S. Army. He spent three years in World War II, where he received a battlefield appointment as a 2nd lieutenant prior to earning the rank of captain. As a member of the Army's 100th Infantry Division, Counter Intelligence Corps, Smith saw and documented the atrocities and liberation of the concentration camp in Dachau, Germany. His photographs are housed in D.C.'s Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Once Smith's military career ended, he was asked to return to his job in D.C. He declined though when finding living arrangements for his family became difficult.

"The first two apartments I visited in D.C. turned me away after I told them I had a two-year old daughter," he remarks. "That decided it for me. I left the city with disgust and returned to my birthplace."

Upon returning to Fayette and working in his wholesale grocery business, Smith decided he had something else worthwhile to offer his hometown and ran for city council. After seven years on the council, he was appointed to finish the deceased mayor's term.

Smith says leaving behind the "big city" of Washington, D.C., was an important turning point for his future career and achievements.

"I believe that was the greatest decision of my life."

PC





## Phil Noble '74: helping to launch a new era in Internet politics

The political bug bit Phil Noble early in his life. He got involved in his first presidential campaign at age nine doing literature drops for John F. Kennedy.

Since then, Noble has worked in over 350 political campaigns and public affairs projects in 30 countries, and is considered one of the leading experts on the Internet and the civic sector—politics, media, government, and nonprofits.

He is the founder of three companies: Phil Noble & Associates, a political consulting firm started in 1979; Politiconline, a political Internet service created in 1995; and CIVISONline, a civic sector tech company established in 2006.

"For me, politics is all about effecting positive change within society—on the local, national, or global level," says Noble, who also is a frequent lecturer.

As a pioneer in political cyberspace, Noble develops strategies and tools for improving the quality of campaigns using the Internet. Politiconline offers its users a wealth of information, including continual engagement in the 2008 presidential campaign, debate blogs, a global e-mail journal, election analyses, and more. The company has more than 900 customers and 40,000 subscribers in 60 countries.

When not on the road, Noble works out of the Phil Noble & Associates headquarters in Charleston, S.C., with a staff of six.

"Because of how the candidates are using the Internet and new technology, the 2008 presidential election will go down as the 'first campaign of the 21st century' and will forever change how politics is done," he remarks.

Not surprisingly, Noble is using his diverse political knowledge in the current presidential campaign.

"I signed on early as a volunteer for the Obama campaign and helped with the South Carolina primary," he says. "Also, I periodically offer some advice and a few ideas to the national campaign on an ongoing basis about using the Internet and new technology."

Noble grew up in Anniston and attended BSC his junior and senior years, where he graduated with a degree in history/political science. As a student who loved to travel, he participated in the Washington Semester program in D.C., and completed a monthlong independent study project in Mexico.

"I attended three other schools before BSC, including a year of independent study at Cambridge University in the UK," he notes. "BSC respected and accommodated my somewhat unusual academic and career interests—all within an environment of quality."

A former U.S. Senate policy analyst, Noble started two nonprofit groups in South Carolina. The Palmetto Project is an innovative community service nonprofit founded in 1984, and One Laptop Per Child/SC was begun in 2007. He also ran for lieutenant governor of South Carolina in 1994.

Though modest when it comes to his achievements, Noble is well known for his part in shaping the future of digital political communications.

"Throughout the world, the game of politics is wonderful, exciting, awful, and corrupt," says Noble, "but the goal is the social change, otherwise, it's all a waste."

PC



Noble



## Don Heflin '80: foreign service officer reaches deep into heart of Africa



*Heflin in front of wall hanging from Africa.*

For the past several years, Don Heflin, a career foreign service officer who serves as deputy director for the Office of West African Affairs at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., has borne witness to a compelling transformation.

"Almost all of the 16 countries I oversee U.S. diplomatic relations with are democracies now and are making good economic moves, although poverty, unemployment, and a widespread healthcare crisis are still critical," acknowledges Heflin, who became deputy director in 2006. "At the top of U.S. international policy in Africa right now is the promotion of democracy, human rights, and prosperity."

"Once the new president is elected into office this fall, there will be a new secretary of state as well as policy changes from the top down. I have to be flexible and adapt."

Heflin, who speaks Spanish fluently, has worked as a foreign service officer since 1987, appointed by Ronald Reagan. He has traveled to 42 countries and lived in five—first Peru and then India, Mexico, Zambia, and Great Britain. But he says one of the biggest highlights of his career is being able to witness history, whether good or bad.

"I was in South Africa the day Nelson Mandela was elected president, I've danced at Buckingham Palace, officially observed the first democratic elections in an Arabic country, and worked in Rwanda—one year after the genocide," he says.

Foreign service officers are assigned to U.S. consulates or embassies abroad and report to Washington about a country's political or economic issues (paying particular attention to national interests of the U.S.). Heflin also maintains contacts with political figures of the countries he oversees for democracy-building, addresses the problems of U.S. citizens residing abroad, and supports the activities of 15 of America's consulates or embassies overseas. He has input into hundreds of millions of dollars of U.S. foreign assistance.

"I also give speeches quite a bit," he adds, "as well as manage nine desk officers and three support staff from my D.C. office. We soak up as much information as we can and formulate policy in relation to the countries we deal with."

Heflin graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from BSC with a double degree in political science and religion, concluding his undergraduate term as secretary of the SGA and president of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

"I chose BSC because of its quality and felt too that the liberal arts environment fit me," notes Heflin. "Also, the school was close to Huntsville, where I'm from."

"BSC provides an excellent training ground for careers in international relations. Probably the best classroom preparation I received for my career was taking courses in 'Comparative Politics' under Dr. Natalie Davis."

He received his law degree from the University of Alabama a few years after leaving BSC and returned to his hometown for a short while to practice. However, his unceasing desire for an international outlet led him to take the difficult foreign service exam.

"In this profession, you must be willing to change jobs and locations every few years," says Heflin, the father of one college-aged daughter. "For me, it's the career of a lifetime."

Heflin said further if there are any students or alumni who are interested in the foreign service, to contact him at [heflindon@aim.com](mailto:heflindon@aim.com) or visit [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov).

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## Dr. Brian “Ari” Cole ‘86: a medical doctor with political vision

Without a doubt, the right connections can propel you forward a little faster toward your goals. Nowhere has this been better illustrated than with Dr. Ari Cole, who has built a name for himself in prominent political circles the past several years.

Amazingly, much of it happened while he was traveling back and forth from Kona Community Hospital on Hawaii’s Big Island and from Honolulu where he practices internal medicine to Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government to finish up a master’s degree in public administration.

“Right now, I’m taking care of health care needs for the people who visit this hospital,” says Cole, who graduated from the Boston University School of Medicine. “But eventually, I’d like to be someone who is influencing public policy decisions on health care delivery and trying to make the world a little bit better.”

Cole has been inching ever closer to politics since a series of run-ins with some high-flying political officials. These chance occurrences began nearly a decade ago while he was a ship doctor aboard the Radisson Seven Seas cruise line, and continued with his weekly rounds as a student on the Harvard campus and his volunteer work with John McCain’s presidential campaigns in South Carolina and New Hampshire.

A few of these political notables who could pick out Cole in a crowd include David Gergen, former White House advisor to Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Clinton; Seymour Maxwell Finger, former House advisor to George H.W. Bush; Vernon Walter, former CIA director;

and Sen. John McCain.

“These individuals have taught me so much and have helped groom me politically,” he remarks. “Not only that, but they are humble, kind, and gentle people to be around.”

In July, Cole received an urgent text message on his cell phone from the McCain campaign headquarters inviting him to Kennebunkport to participate in a political fundraiser with former President George H.W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush and Sen. McCain. Cole’s demanding schedule that week, however, prevented him from attending.

“I felt really comfortable around McCain the first time I met him,” says Cole, who deems himself to be an American independent. “I know it’s still a rarity for an African-American to support a Republican, but I believe in his judgment.”

Having grown up on U.S. Air Force bases in England, France, and Germany and in four states, his first introduction to politics came from his grandfather, who was active in the civil rights movement and served as president of an NAACP branch in Louisiana. Cole spent part of high school in Millbrook, Ala., near Maxwell Air Force Base, where he first learned of Birmingham-Southern. He applied to BSC as a second choice after Harvard and was accepted.

Cole graduated from BSC with a degree in math and “as an average student,” he points out. He names a few of the individuals on the Hilltop whom he credits for strongly influencing his future achievements.

“Dr. [Lola F.] Kiser, a math professor, was my faculty advisor who acted more like my adopted



*Cole (right) with former White House Advisor David Gergen.*

mom, and Dr. [Neal] Berte really encouraged me,” he says. “Robert Aderholt [now U.S. Congressman] was a good friend.”

Cole himself ran for U.S. Congress in 2003 representing the Democratic Party of Hawaii, the state’s core constituency. In 1997, he represented the Concord, Mass., delegation for the state Democratic convention.

Along with his political charisma, Cole is a risk taker and has considerable academic accomplishments. He is applying for a third master’s degree—this time in philosophy at the University of Oxford. And he already holds an M.D. and two master’s degrees from Harvard and Yale.

“I envision that America’s political leadership of the future will be required to have MPA’s and MPH’s to help them better understand the nuances of our multi-faceted levels of government,” says Cole, who already is eyeing his next goal of becoming a U.S. ambassador or surgeon general. “I want to be ahead of the curve, and I believe that with faith placed in the mix, anything is possible.”

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## Rep. Robert Aderholt '87: managing a tough job from the right

It's a fact that only a very few of Birmingham-Southern's graduates have risen to the highest ranks of Capitol Hill for public service on a national level. That's why Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-Ala.) says he is proud to serve as the sole member of a congressional delegation representing BSC.

"There's a strong network of Birmingham-Southern alumni here in Washington," says Aderholt, "and having that support is very helpful to my career."

Now in his sixth consecutive term representing Alabama's socially conservative Fourth Congressional District, Aderholt sits on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which oversees the budgets of all federal agencies and departments, and serves on two of its subcommittees. He has a House reputation for being committed to religious freedoms and human rights, 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).

Aderholt faces an even more daunting list of challenges on his job each day—from traveling back and forth from D.C. to Alabama to meet with constituents to meeting overseas with OSCE (the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) to working on energy issues with other U.S. lawmakers.

"I also traveled quite a bit the previous two years while serving on a military construction committee in

Iraq where we visited troop residences and determined what improvements could be made to make the soldiers as comfortable as possible," adds Aderholt, who resides in Arlington, Va., while Congress is in session. "More recently, I met with some of our troops serving in Afghanistan."

Having initially endorsed Mitt Romney in the race for U.S. president, Aderholt has since turned his support to Sen. John McCain. He attended the Republican National Convention in St. Paul in September and points out several changes that could follow if McCain wins the election.

"I think that McCain would be successful in working with Republicans and Democrats because of his many years of reaching across the aisle to compromise on legislation," he says. "He probably would also continue his crusade against a lot of pork in bills, and he would be passionate about not allowing too much lobbyist involvement in the governing process of the White House and Congress."

Aderholt calls the 2008 presidential race an election of firsts and believes it is an important one in terms of political and historical significance.

"This is a unique election where we have two sitting members of the U.S. Senate battling it out for president, and we had a woman [Sen. Hillary Clinton] who could have been the first president," notes Aderholt. "Both McCain and



Aderholt

Obama are influential senators in Congress. It's going to be interesting to watch and see how everything transpires this fall."

Aderholt studied political science at Birmingham-Southern and was active in Kappa Alpha fraternity. He graduated from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in 1990 and practiced law for several years, eventually receiving an appointment as municipal judge in his hometown of Haleyville. He worked his way forward to become a top aide to Alabama Gov. Fob James before running for Congress.

Not only did Aderholt graduate from BSC, but so did his wife, Carolyn McDonald Aderholt '90, an SGA president one year; his mother, Mary Frances Brown '58; and his father, the Hon. Bobby Ray Aderholt '57, longtime circuit judge from Haleyville.

"At BSC, I learned a lot about political issues of the day as well as about different countries and political parties around the world," Aderholt remembers. "Now, I get to meet members of those parties and those serving in the political systems I read about."

Despite the grueling demands of his job in the 110th Congress, Aderholt has no desire to change it.

"I really enjoy what I'm doing," he says. "And I am honored to serve Alabama."

Aderholt hopes to be re-elected into his seventh term in office this fall.

PC



Aderholt with U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

## Elizabeth Kennedy Lawlor '89: playing political hardball for Alabama businesses

Just one glance at Elizabeth Lawlor's résumé tells you that she's an experienced player when it comes to public policy issues and legislative involvement.

Wearing two hats in her current job, Lawlor is director of legislative affairs and manager of political affairs for the Business Council of Alabama. She started at the BCA in June 2005 with more than a dozen years of political, legislative, and lobbying experience, including serving as chief of staff for Alabama House Majority Leader Ken Guin.

"Legislatively, I work with our BCA governmental affairs team and membership to define our legislative priorities for the coming legislative session, draft bills, and lobby the legislature," she explains. "Politically, I work with the board and executive director of ProgressPAC, BCA's political action committee, on candidate endorsements."

Founded in 1985 with a membership now of 5,000, the BCA lobbies on issues that directly and indirectly impact the ability of companies to do business in Alabama such as taxes, employment, and education.

Among BCA's proudest accomplishments this year is the passage of a tax incentive that enables Alabama businesses that employ 25 or fewer workers to deduct 150 percent of the amount it pays for employee health insurance premiums from their state income taxes.

"The bonus is that the employees, who make \$50,000 or less, get the deduction on their personal income taxes, too," she notes.

Lawlor believes Alabama is a good draw for business because of the strength of its workforce, the availability of natural resources, and its transportation systems.

"In the past decade, Alabama has made good strides in implementing business-friendly laws and policies, such as workers' compensation reform. In addition, the state's workforce training program has been consolidated under the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, resulting in better programs and training courses."

Although the BCA doesn't get heavily involved in federal campaigns, Lawlor says there are several issues stirring in the 2008 presidential election year that will directly impact Alabama businesses.

"The Business Council is vigorously opposing a bill currently pending in Congress that will threaten the delicate balance among workers, their employers, and the unions as it relates to unionizing votes," Lawlor remarks. "And, we are supporting comprehensive immigration reform legislation that keeps the onus for immigration enforcement with the federal government and not shifted to Alabama businesses."

A native of Montgomery, Lawlor studied English at Birmingham-Southern and earned a master's of public administration from Auburn-Montgomery. Both before and during her years on the Hilltop, Lawlor was active in various local and national campaigns, mostly as a volunteer. She says BSC came to her attention when considering colleges because of her grandfather, Dr. Clyde Cantrell, who was assistant librarian on the campus in the '40s.

"He always had a high opinion of the school's academics," recalls Lawlor, now married with three boys. "During my time at BSC, I helped establish the 'Southern Stars dance team and served as the team's co-captain and captain."

Her post-graduate experience includes running an Atlanta city council re-election campaign, working on the Clinton-Gore '92 presidential campaign, serving as a field operative for the Alabama Democratic Party and vice president of the Young Democrats of America, and advising candidates in state and local races.

"As for my future, I think I would like to eventually lead my own government affairs team and position myself so I can help advocate for groups who are underrepresented in the legislative hallways—especially those fighting for education and children's health," she says. PC



Lawlor

## Jenny Bottegal DiJames '92: mastering the art of lobbying

After working as a legislative director for U.S. Congressman Bud Cramer (D-Ala.) on Capitol Hill for seven years, Jenny Bottegal DiJames' hard work, dedication, and contributions were noticed. Before long, she was wooed away by longtime Washington, D.C., law and lobbying firm Williams & Jensen, whose client roster included several whom Cramer had worked with.

"I am from Huntsville, which was Representative Cramer's district, so I really enjoyed working on legislative issues that affected my family and the people in my community," DiJames says. "I felt I had accomplished my goals in that position and thought that working for a firm whose practice focuses primarily on lobbying would be a good next step for me."

Since joining the firm as an associate in July 2005, DiJames recently was promoted to partner. She represents clients before Congress and the Executive Branch on a diverse range of legislative and regulatory issues.

"The firm has about 150 clients representing corporations, trade associates, state and local governments, educational institutions, and nonprofits, and I work in some way on about 60 of those clients," she describes. "Our clients pay us to assist with advocacy efforts such as initiating, monitoring, or stopping legislation from passing through Congress or getting their funding items into the House budget. We accomplish this by doing things like calling or visiting senators and congressmen, reviewing legislation, doing research on political issues, writing letters, and attending legislative sessions."

DiJames says she became interested in politics during her first semester at Birmingham-Southern while taking a class with Political Science Professor Dr. Natalie Davis. She worked on the 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign in Alabama, as well as other campaigns in the state (including Cramer's), and spent a couple of years doing political research and fundraising before earning her law degree from the University of Alabama.

"If I had not gone to BSC and taken the classes I did, I don't think I would have had those experiences," says DiJames, who graduated cum laude in political science. "The classes I took from Davis, Irvin Penfield, Bob Slagter, Ed LaMonte, and others really engaged students and taught us to think critically."

Though her lobbying career prevents her from doing any further campaign work or making campaign donations to Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama, she did attend the Democratic National Convention in Denver this past August. Her firm, located three miles from Capitol Hill, has strong ties to leaders of both parties.

"This has been one of the most fascinating political years I've experienced," she remarks. "I've enjoyed watching the debates and election coverage and have been paying close attention to the campaigns."

With a keen awareness of the complexities of her position, DiJames says she's noticed that the Obama campaign is being especially cautious about how it uses registered lobbyists. She also knows all too well that lobbying is perceived by some in America as a pernicious activity.

"I can certainly understand why the public sometimes has a negative perception of lobbyists with the Jack Abramoff scandal and others who have given us a bad name," she comments. "However, most of us are hardworking and honest people and provide a real service to clients. Because of the ethics rules, we are subjugated to rigorous reporting requirements that bring a level of transparency to the process, and, of course, we abide by ethics law that regulates the way we do our business."

DiJames' love of being in the epicenter of political activity in America and her devotion to helping her clients keeps her focused despite the negativity.

"Lobbying is an ongoing relationship building process," she says. "A good lobbyist never sees one particular thing as the ultimate failure or success. For example, if your client didn't get funding for a particular project, you try to help the client advance in another area, but you never put all your eggs in one basket. Your goal is to add value and advance your client's objectives on a variety of fronts."

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DiJames. Photo courtesy of Liz Lynch/National Journal.

## Libby Greer '98: top aide in a congressional role

Libby Greer can't remember exactly when the thought of entering politics came to her mind, but she knows she was always opinionated.

"Politics is all about how your opinions play out in the public arena," says Greer. "Once I realized that, I think I just grabbed hold of the process and got on board."

As chief of staff to U.S. Congressman Allen Boyd (D-Fla.)—a position she has held since 2001—Greer directs and oversees his legislative and political operations, including rallying 17 staff members in Washington, D.C., and Florida. She also complements Boyd's work as co-chair for administration of the conservative Blue Dog Democratic Coalition in the 110th Congress.

Greer travels quite a bit too whether she's accompanying Boyd on his trips back and forth from D.C. to Florida to meet with constituents or organizing his fact-finding missions either locally or overseas. She has visited Jordan, Israel, and Baghdad, and recently traveled to Colombia with Boyd and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture on a trade mission.

"We serve mostly as advisors and problem solvers to members of Congress," says Greer, referring to her position as the top executive in Boyd's office. "We have to give good advice and plenty of facts that will help a member vote on controversial legislation, and we run interference between the member and whatever challenge is coming our way."

Greer has discovered that talent, hard work, and passion are essential for success in any job, but especially so in holding down the title of chief of staff.

"This is too hard a job to do if you

don't like it," says Greer, who is from Birmingham. "It requires me to work with a variety of different people each day—from outside interest groups and advocates to staff and constituents—and I have to make sure I don't make costly mistakes."

As an English student at Birmingham-Southern, Greer never would have tabbed herself to become a Washington insider, although she did volunteer for the Bill Clinton campaign in Birmingham. She played for the soccer team on campus one year and was active in service-learning and the Leadership Studies program all four years.

"Leadership Studies is a fantastic program that really engages students and teaches them to do things that matter," Greer expresses. "The program really inspired me to make sure I was making my life count and to motivate others."

After graduating from BSC, Greer worked for the Alabama Democratic Party as a fundraiser and was promoted to fundraising director in 1998 when Don Siegelman was elected governor. The following year, she volunteered for the Gore campaign in Alabama. Her next fundraising stint was for a political consulting firm in D.C. where she met Boyd, who surprised her one day with an offer to serve as his chief of staff at the age of 26.

In the midst of a busy election year, Greer says she plans to take some personal time off this fall to travel with Boyd as he campaigns for some other candidates, mainly Blue Dogs, even while he's up for re-election himself.

"I'm hopeful that Boyd will win,"

she says. "But whatever the outcome, I believe I have a well-laid foundation for other things I want to do. I'd probably consider working for a nonprofit."

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*Greer aboard a C-130 going into Baghdad.*

## Valerie Abbott '99 MPPM: helping to grow a city from within

Valerie Abbott serves on the Birmingham City Council, representing District 3. She chairs the council's planning and zoning committee, and she is a member of the public safety and administration, finance, and budget committees.

Abbott is actively involved in her district, a familiar presence at neighborhood meetings and community events, where she continually seeks to learn more about citizens' concerns and their views on issues affecting the city and region.

A native of Birmingham, who grew up in the district she now represents, Abbott came to public life through involvement in her local neighborhood. She began attending meetings of the Glen Iris Neighborhood Association when there was an issue impacting her own property, and with that resolved, felt it worthwhile to remain active in the group. Elected secretary, then president of the association, she served a total of 19 years as a neighborhood officer. During that time, she noted the good work of the area's city council representative, David Herring, who she says was very attentive to residents' needs, and aspired to run for a position on the council when he retired.

Her initial run for the council in 1993 was unsuccessful, but Abbott says the experience made her think about her strengths and weaknesses, and she put together a plan for improvement. A BellSouth

employee for more than 20 years at that time (now a veteran employee of 33 years service with BellSouth/AT&T, most of it in the area of corporate real estate), she knew that she needed to broaden her educational experience to progress.

After investigating her options, she entered Birmingham-Southern's Master of Arts in Public and Private Management program—one of the best decisions, she says, that she ever made. She found that the knowledge she gained through the coursework enhanced both her position at BellSouth and her public service aspirations. Then-BSC President Neal Berte's emphasis on servant leadership further inspired her to seek public office again. She was elected to the Birmingham City Council in 2001 and re-elected in 2005 with 80 percent of the vote. Her current term extends to 2009.

Abbott's experience on the council has given her insight into the challenges facing the city, and a run for mayor last year helped her further define her positions on important issues.

"Almost anyone can tell you what the problems are, but articulating possible solutions takes significant time and thought," she says. "Birmingham's poor demographics contribute to all of our major



Abbott

challenges: education, crime, economic development, low voter turnout, and neighborhood decay."

Among positive steps to pursue, she says "Education and job training are the keys to improving job opportunities for our citizens. This will in turn improve household income, spurring economic development in our neighborhoods."

When asked her thoughts on the upcoming presidential election and its impact on local citizens, Abbott says "I am looking for the candidate who will do the most for the average guy—the taxpayer. We have seen our quality of life erode as gasoline prices, sewer fees, property taxes, sales taxes, utilities, and business license fees have skyrocketed. Federal funds for assistance to cities have steadily declined, further affecting quality of life. The majority of elected officials seem to look at new taxes as a solution, but I will support the candidate with more creative solutions than to simply raise taxes. My first responsibility is to the citizens of Birmingham." CCH



## Shaye Rabold '01: a rising young star in Kentucky politics



Rabold with Lexington Mayor Jim Newberry.

When Shaye Rabold began work as a campaign manager in 2005 for Lexington mayoral candidate Jim Newberry, she wasn't overwhelmed by TV cameras, event scheduling, fundraising, and honing messages for Kentucky voters. After all, she'd experienced it before when she was working as an intern for Al Gore's presidential run in 2000 and as a volunteer on Ben Chandler's Kentucky gubernatorial campaign in 2003.

Since helping Newberry beat an incumbent by a two-thirds margin in 2006, Rabold, at age 29, is no longer considered a rookie to the campaigners' arena. She was promoted to chief of staff in January 2007 in a role as senior policy advisor to Newberry and director of day-to-day operations of the Office of the Mayor. Currently, she supervises 12 staffers whose responsibilities range from media and public relations to special events, and works with the city's commissioners.

Rabold's interest in politics was influenced by family members in her hometown of Bowling Green, Ky. Her grandfather was an attorney, judge, and active member of the state Democratic Party. Her mother also was politically active, working for Congressman William Natcher in Washington, D.C.

"While my family had always been involved in politics and government, the hands-on experience of the 2000 presidential campaign is really where I caught the bug," Rabold acknowledges. "Plus, a book I read in Dr. [Ed] LaMonte's civil rights class at BSC called *Savage Inequalities* opened my eyes to how decisions made by elected officials truly impact people's lives."

During her time on the Hilltop as a political science major, Rabold was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority and the Triangle Club, and served as a dorm representative for the Student Government Association.

"My favorite classes were taught by Dr. [Natalie] Davis in which I learned about communications, media, and 'good ole' partisan politics in campaigns (and where I honed my strategic and debate skills), but I was most affected by two courses Dr. LaMonte taught, one of which was the civil rights class," she says.

LaMonte encouraged Rabold to work for at least a year after BSC, she says, before enrolling in graduate school. After spending that year in Bowling Green as a manager at a senior citizens center, she went to the University of Kentucky's Martin School of Public Policy and Administration.

Rabold's political career seemingly took off before the ink was hardly dry on her master's degree in public administration.

"Immediately following my graduation from UK in 2004, I accepted a job as Newberry's campaign finance director on a temporary basis because I was more interested in working on the national political scene," says Rabold, who was put in charge of a \$1 million flow of campaign spending. "However, Newberry and I developed a strong working relationship, and I fell in love with Lexington as I delved deeper into the campaign."

Fortunately, for Newberry, Rabold had an array of other talents hidden within and emerged quickly into a chief strategist for his campaign. It wasn't long before her witty campaign tactics had thrust her into the spotlight of Kentucky's political elites.

"I am honored and humbled to serve in the position I do at such a young age," Rabold conveys. "Lexington is a city on the verge of greatness, and I consider myself extremely lucky to serve in a role that allows me to directly shape the future of the community I call home."

Though the Mayor's Office in Lexington is non-partisan, Rabold is hopeful that the incoming U.S. president will recognize the importance of cities and mayors and send needed financial support their way.

"Environmental and infrastructure issues are especially important to Lexington's administration," she notes. "As a dynamic midsized city, how we grow in a way that still preserves our signature landscape is critically important and equally challenging."

PC

## Gary Crosby '09: a college Democrat on the move, headed to public office

The Birmingham-Southern campus has provided fertile ground for Gary Crosby's growing interest in politics.

The senior political science major from Jasper just entered his third semester as president of the BSC College Democrats, a student wing of about 238 members that expresses the party's beliefs and encourages youth political engagement. He also is state political director of the Alabama College Democrats. He served as Alabama student director for Barack Obama's presidential campaign during the primary election, and will serve as co-director, along with BSC student Art Richey, for the general election.

As Crosby recalls, his strong commitment to public service and his fascination with politics goes several years back.

"My sense of social responsibility emerged when I coordinated community service projects as president of my high school's Key Club," he says. "That's when I really observed how much civic affairs and politics affect people's daily lives."

Even in the midst of this heated competition between presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain, Crosby's ideology is humble as he strives to show students the relevance of politics to their everyday lives.

"Because of the countless news stories summarizing this present time's scary reality, I and so many other students are volunteering and campaigning to show their concern," he observes. "The environment, affordable college tuition, energy costs, record deficit, and war in Iraq are all major issues to students."

Crosby ran as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, which he attended this fall in Denver, and spent the January 2008 Interim term working with the Obama for America campaign in Las Vegas. Recently, he was appointed chair of the Credentials Committee for the College Democrats of America National Convention, which was held before the DNC.

"I've actually met Sen. Obama and have had the opportunity to talk to him several times," says Crosby. "He is a down-to-earth and calm person who has the ability to excite people because of his great oratory skills and life story. I see a new kind of visionary leadership in him."

Crosby also carries memories of meeting former President Bill Clinton; Sens. Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, and John Kerry; Rep. James Clyburn, House Majority Whip; Michelle Obama; Rep. Artur Davis of Alabama; and other political notables from his travels during the past three years.

"I have a vested interest in seeing Alabama move forward," remarks Crosby, who wants to attend law school after BSC. "I plan to return back home to Alabama after my legal education to effect change in the state by running for public office to serve not only as a politician, but a trustee to the people."

The remainder of Crosby's political affiliations and campus activities and his awards are long, but they include Theta Chi fraternity, College Council for Alabama Constitutional Reform, David J. Vann Award in Political Science, 'Southern Political Action and Civic Engagement group, Leadership Studies program, and a volunteer with Impact Alabama's SpeakFirst Initiative. He also serves as a 'Southern Ambassador, contributing writer for *The Hilltop News*, and is a Baker Donelson Intern at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

"I've always understood the lifelong importance that a valuable college education has on an individual's future," Crosby says. "Realizing this, I chose to attend BSC. The college has challenged me to think independently, allowed me to develop lasting friendships, and taught me life lessons, both socially and spiritually, which will impact my future."

PC



*Crosby and Masterson*

## Alex Masterson '11: leading a BSC Republican revival

Alex Masterson has been politicking since he was a young boy.

The Birmingham-Southern sophomore history major grew up watching his grandfather serve as an elected official in Lawrence County, Ala., and now Masterson would like nothing better than to follow in his footsteps.

"I've known for a long time that I had a love for politics," says Masterson. "I've always enjoyed the legislative process."

After working as a page in the Alabama Senate during high school, Masterson hit the ground running when he came to BSC. The Town Creek, Ala., native is a vocal influence in a number of organizations on campus, and has already earned a number of awards for his efforts in the political arena.

During his freshman year at BSC, Masterson participated in the Alabama Collegiate Legislature. He made an immediate impact at the event, and was presented the "Most Outstanding Bill" award for legislation he wrote on earmark reform in the Alabama state budget.

"I try to be involved as much as I can," says Masterson. "Given that this is an election year, there are a lot of opportunities out there for getting involved in politics."

He says he hopes this election will influence change not only on a national level, but on BSC's campus as well. He is a driving force behind the re-emergence of the BSC College Republicans. Part of spearheading the group's return to prominence on campus, Masterson says, is utilizing the publicity of the 2008 presidential election.

"During an election year, there is always going to be a lot of extra interest in politics and the electoral process. This will be a great opportunity for us to recruit members and have both sides represented on campus."

Masterson has been excited about the support he has received for helping bring back the BSC College Republicans. He admitted that he was surprised and encouraged to receive a great deal of support from members of the BSC College Democrats.

"The two-party dialogue is obviously a good thing for our school," he says. "And sadly, it has been missing at BSC over the past few years."

When he isn't busy working with the College Republicans or running for Student Government Association office, Masterson is involved with a number of other activities on campus. He currently serves as a resident advisor and a 'Southern Ambassador, in addition to being a member of the BSC Concert Choir, the Donald C. Harrison Honors Program, the President's Service Team, and Reformed University Fellowship.

His aspirations for after he leaves BSC are focused on pursuing a career in politics. He plans to attend law school and to work in either Montgomery or Washington, D.C.

BG

## Katie Glenn '11: increasing political interest among BSC's Generation Y

Today's college students—labeled Generation Y or Millennials—have become a dominant force in many political elections. Sophomore Katie Glenn is one of those who is keenly aware of this trend.

"Birmingham-Southern students as a whole are beginning to become not only more politically aware, but also more politically active," says Glenn, who steers campus voter registration drives through her volunteerism with BSC College Democrats and BSC Students for Barack Obama, coordinating the latter.

"I have definitely observed a sizeable core group of Birmingham-Southern students who are extremely politically active. I've seen this not only with the interest shown during voter registrations, but also by the numbers of BSC students campaigning locally, across the state, and nationally."

Since arriving on campus from Murfreesboro, Tenn., last fall, Glenn, a history major, has jumped headfirst into political activity on the Hilltop and in the community. She participates in the college's 'Southern Political Action and Civic Engagement group, IMPACT Alabama, and is deputy co-director for Alabama Students for Barack Obama.

"I can't recall ever not being interested in politics," she notes. "My parents always encouraged my siblings and me to be aware of what's going on in the world around us."

This past April, she attended a two-day convention at the Harvard Institute of Politics to learn more about voter education, registration, and mobilization, and was selected for the 2008 Leading Edge Institute for young women in Alabama, which held its weeklong leadership development conference at places throughout Central Alabama in May, kicking off nine months of activities. She also did volunteer service this year at the Barack Obama headquarters in Birmingham.

Glenn intends on using her education and experiences to further influence the wave of political involvement she's seeing among BSC students and to educate others in her generation about the importance of voting.

"There are so many areas in which people my age can become involved in the political process if only they knew that these opportunities existed," she expresses. "This fall, Simone Schicker [BSC student] and I hope to invite speakers to campus to talk about issues at stake in the upcoming presidential election, organize mock debates, and increase voter registration drives as part of our involvement with Leading Edge Institute."

In addition to her academic studies and efforts to invoke political interest among her peers, Glenn is a member of Chi Omega sorority, the Donald C. Harrison Honors Program, and several honoraries. She also is a work-study in the Office of Student Affairs and resident advisor for the Margaret Daniel residence hall.

"What mainly attracted me to Birmingham-Southern was the campus size," she explains, "and I love the sense of community. It's nice to walk around campus and see the faces of students and faculty who I know and who also know about me as a person."

While Glenn is anticipating voting in her first presidential election this fall, her father, Dr. Robert K. Glenn '75, recently received a presidential "appointment" as president of Athens (Ala.) State University.

Following her graduation in 2011, Glenn plans to pursue her longtime dream of studying constitutional law at Duke University and become further involved in the complex political process and public policy.

"I realize that as a college student, I have the chance to really make a difference in my world through political action and civic engagement, and that amazes me," she says. "The political process interests me because it gives citizens a chance to voice their opinions, and that's something that doesn't happen everywhere in the world."

PC



Glenn



Chattanooga alumni at the Lookouts game.

## BSC alumni enjoy wide variety of events during spring and summer 2008

From entertaining future BSC grads at a huge Easter Egg Hunt to hosting elegant wine dinners at a popular Birmingham hotspot—and from New York and Atlanta to Los Angeles and San Diego—from Chattanooga to Tampa to Tuscaloosa—the Birmingham-Southern Alumni Association has been reconnecting with alumni of all ages, professions, and interests.

Baseball was the theme when alumni in Chattanooga visited a minor league baseball game, and alums in Tampa attended a Dunedin Blue Jays game. Chattanooga chapter leaders Laurie Ziegler '87 and Brooke Maedel '01 arranged for alums to be entertained in a private area of the park. In Tampa, courtesy of Auburn/Opelika alumnus Chad Wachter '87 (vice president of enrollment for the Alumni Association) and Knology Inc., alums enjoyed a private skybox. The host in Tampa was Kacy O'Brien Donlon '89 (vice president of service and outreach for the Alumni Association).

Also this spring, alumni in Tuscaloosa, led by chapter leaders Ellen ('88) and Danny ('88) Potts, enjoyed a cocktail reception at the popular Cypress Inn.

The 19th Annual Alumni Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn of the President's Home brought some 350 children and parents to campus to hunt more than 3,000 Easter eggs, play games, win prizes, and enjoy

refreshments. The Easter Bunny was on hand to greet the children and lead the hunt.

The newly formed BSC Alumni Clergy Group sponsored a special dinner at Highlands United Methodist Church in Birmingham in March, followed by a lecture by renowned Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, which was made into an Academy Award-winning movie.

In May, alumni traveled to Provence, France, with BSC Classics Professor Dr. Sam Pezzillo. Trips to Venice and South Africa are being planned for spring break 2009.

The quarterly Downtown Birmingham Alumni Business Luncheon went "green" and featured representatives from local park and environmental projects, led by BSC Southern Environmental Center Director Roald Hazelhoff.

The annual "Mommy & Me" event was held in April at the beautiful Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Kids enjoyed refreshments and a scavenger hunt and had their photos made with their moms by a professional photographer.

A series of exceptional wine dinners were hosted this summer and early fall at Café Dupont, Birmingham hotspot and restaurant of Executive Chef/Owner Chris Dupont '85. The dinners featured presentations by BSC professors Sam Pezzillo, Michael McInturff, Bill

Nicholas, and Natalie Davis.

The BSC Alumni Healthcare Group in Birmingham held its second social at Children's Hospital in June and featured an update on pre-health education at the college by BSC Acting Provost and Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor of Biology Dr. Wayne Shew.

The first annual Young Alumni Summer Social was held in July at the popular Rojo Restaurant on Birmingham's Southside, and more than 100 young alumni enjoyed reconnecting with one another.

The BSC Lawyer's Club held two socials—one in the spring at Veranda Restaurant, owned by BSC Trustee Ed Hardin '62—and another in the summer at the Tutwiler Hotel, where BSC alums congratulated new 2008 BSC grads headed to law school.

In August, there were alumni chapter events in Austin, Fairhope, and Pensacola. Additionally, the *Destiny: Delivered* campaign regional committees hosted young alumni events in New York and Atlanta and welcomed alumni to events in Los Angeles and San Diego.

The BSC Alumni Office will be coming to a location near you soon. If you have suggestions for a great interest group or chapter event, contact Mallie Searcy '07 at 205/226-4908 or msearcy@bsc.edu. For more events photos, go to [www.bsc.edu/alumnet](http://www.bsc.edu/alumnet) and view the chapter pages.



Tampa alumni at the Dunedin Blue Jays game



Birmingham Lawyer's Club Spring Social



Mommy & Me Picnic at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens



Austin alumni event



Birmingham BSC Alumni Healthcare Group event



Birmingham Lawyer's Club Summer Social and Send-Off



BSC Clergy Group dinner with Sister Helen Prejean



Fairhope alumni gathering



Alumni travel in Provence, France



Tuscaloosa Alumni Chapter Social



Young Alumni Summer Social

## Yeilding outlines priorities as new alumni association president

BY PAT COLE



Yeilding

Richard Yeilding '73 is building on a family legacy of service to Birmingham-Southern as he steps into his new role this fall as president of his alma mater's national Alumni Association.

"Twenty-plus members of my extended family have attended BSC since 1920," he notes. "I carry a sense of respect and gratitude to honor my grandfather; father; brother, Tom; and cousin, Manly—all who were alumni and who were proud of the college and had a great sense of pride in its position in the community."

Yeilding's family ties and allegiance to BSC were strengthened further after his grandfather, Frank B. Yeilding, sent all six of his sons to Birmingham-Southern. Frank Yeilding was the founder of Yeilding's department store, once a popular retailer in Birmingham. After his death, Yeilding Chapel was built on campus by his six sons—including Richard's father, Milton—as a memorial.

"Having grown up in Birmingham and been around the college all my life, my interest continued after graduation," says Yeilding, who has served on BSC's alumni board the past two years. "I've been involved with the college's Norton Board of Advisors, Business Department mentoring program, Athletic Steering Committee, Black Tie Club, and Diamond Club, and have supported the ongoing preservation efforts of Yeilding Chapel."

Beginning in October, Yeilding will work with Birmingham-Southern's Office of Alumni Affairs

and its newly elected alumni board to coordinate events, programs, and activities that will enable the college's 14,500 alumni, as well as students, parents, and friends, to remain an integral part of the campus. He is excited about his and the board's plans for this coming year.

"The major focus we've outlined for the first year is to create a fall football homecoming/reunion tradition that generates excitement, fun, and a sense of pride for students and alumni, and one that is different from any event ever held on the campus," he describes. "Since the college now has regional campaign committees set up, one of the most important things that those members and all BSC alumni can do is to attend this year's reunion and bring at least one other person with them.

"We believe football homecoming/reunion this November will energize Birmingham-Southern alumni and help us reach our goal of increasing alumni event participation by 25 percent. We'd also like alumni involvement in BSC's student recruitment program to continue as the college moves closer to its goal of generating a total student population of 1,800 by 2012."

Yeilding also will be an ex-officio member of the college's Board of Trustees.

During his student years on campus, Yeilding continued his family's tradition in baseball, fraternity life, and intramural sports before graduating with a degree in

business. After college, he became president of his family's department store before landing in his current career in 1997 as senior vice president of retail development for Colonial Properties Trust. Since then, he has worked in acquisitions of retail centers throughout the Sunbelt, and currently is the lead on the development of Colonial Pinnacle Nord du Lac, a million square-foot shopping center north of New Orleans.

Yeilding acknowledges the value and importance of the Alumni Association in promoting and supporting the college's new comprehensive fundraising campaign *Destiny: Delivered* that seeks to raise in excess of \$50 million, for its first phase.

"The Alumni Association serves as the outstretched arms to all alumni," says Yeilding. "Our job is to find as many creative ways as possible to reconnect with our alumni in their lives, where they are now—with no strings attached. The more people we can engage with the college, and with one another, the more people will have a reason to give."



# LIVIN' FOR THE WEEKEND

Alumni Reunion/Homecoming Weekend

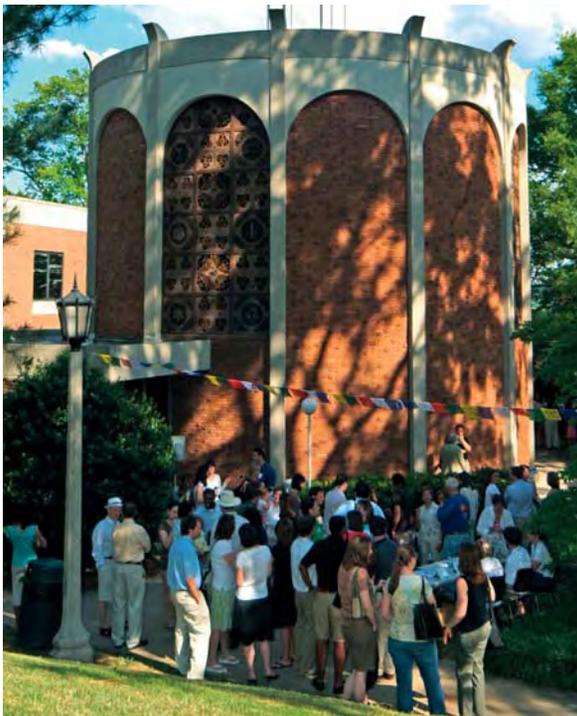
November 7 – 9, 2008

The first time at 'Southern:

- That Alumni Reunion and Homecoming are on the same weekend and will include more alumni and more activities than ever.
- That reunion class parties are held all over campus in unexpected locations and catered with delicious Tuscan fare.
- That there will be four performances of *West Side Story* to celebrate the anniversary of the College Theatre.
- That BSC has Homecoming tailgating festivities ... who'd have thought?
- That the BSC vs. Sewanee football game is played on our new home field.
- That there is a celebration service to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Yeilding Chapel.
- That we sponsor our very first all-alumni philanthropy project.

It's going to be a weekend-long party for students, alumni, parents, faculty, and staff, and you're gonna want to be there ...

... and bring a friend!

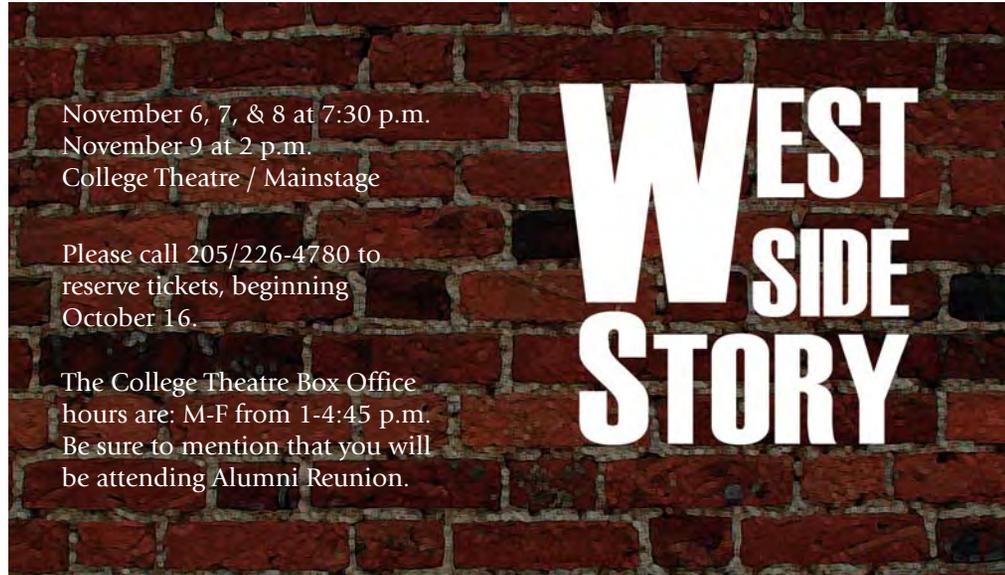


# weekend schedule

## Pre-weekend activities

### Thursday, November 6

One of the greatest musicals of all time, *West Side Story* tells the tragic tale of star-crossed lovers on the west side of New York City, caught between two warring street gangs, the “American” Jets and the Puerto Rican Sharks. As they struggle to survive in a world filled with fear, hate, and violence, Tony and Maria come to know the power of true love in the midst of ultimate tragedy. Featuring a score, lyrics and book from three of America’s most renowned theatre artists—Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, and Arthur Laurents—*West Side Story* is musical theatre story telling at its best!



### Friday, November 7

9 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Registration and Information Center**  
Hulsey Hall, Admission Welcome Center

9 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Golf Cart Transportation**  
Transportation via golf carts; drivers will be available to transport those who need assistance throughout campus. Golf carts will be making rounds to all stops all day.

9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

**Photo Display: “BSC Then and Now—Your Life In Pictures”**  
SGA Room, 2nd Floor, Norton Campus Center

11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

**“Enjoying Your Cherished Photos”**  
Frances Osborn Robb ‘58  
SGA Room, 2nd Floor, Norton Campus Center

Reunion is a special time to enjoy the beautiful new BSC campus—and to picture the past! Stir your memories by visiting “BSC, Then and Now,” a Reunion ‘08 display of campus photographs assembled by today’s students. Help Carol Cook Hagood, 1970 alumna and your *Southern Class Notes* editor, identify events and people in classic BSC photos. Tell current BSC students about *your* days on the Hilltop. Bring your best snapshots of college life, and we’ll scan them on the spot for the school’s growing archives. From parties to pastimes, sports, trips, vintage cars, and college pranks—we want to see them! Plan to meet your friends for a fun trip down Memory Lane at “Then and Now.”

Then, from 11-11:45 a.m., 1958 alumna Frances Osborn Robb, a noted photograph historian, will give a fascinating talk on appreciating, organizing, and caring for your family photographs, including those BSC treasures. After her talk, Robb will answer questions about dating and identifying your images and using them to tell your story. Bring favorite or puzzling family photos along for discussion and Q&A.



10 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

**Mini-College Lecture – “Singing the Blues”**

Dr. Lester Seigel '79, Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music  
Room 123, Hill Music Building  
Join celebrated music professor Dr. Lester Seigel as he shares the colorful history of the blues and even lets you help write your own blues lyrics.

10 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

**Mini-College Lecture – “CSI—Behind the Scenes—Actual vs. Imagined”**

Dr. Wayne Shew, Acting Provost and Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor of Biology  
Norton Theatre, Norton Campus Center  
Come and listen to the fascinating truth about the world of forensics—what you don’t see on the crime shows.

11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

**Mini-College Lecture – “Through the Eyes of Winston Churchill”**

Dr. Mark Lester, W. Michael Atchison Professor of History and Legal Education  
Norton Theatre, Norton Campus Center  
For many years, Dr. Mark Lester has made Winston Churchill come alive for his students; now you have the same opportunity to relive history.

11 a.m. -11:45 a.m.

**Mini-College Lecture – “Italy Visited ... again and again and again”**

Dr. Sam Pezzillo, Professor of Classics  
Harbert Auditorium, Harbert Building  
Hundreds of students and alumni have enjoyed traveling in Italy with Dr. Sam Pezzillo. This session will allow you to relive the great days you spent there with him. (And if you’ve never made the trip, this is your chance to enjoy the experience.)

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Mommy & Me Activities and Pizza Picnic**

Cafeteria, Norton Campus Center  
Games, crafts, scavenger hunt, and novelties for the future generation of BSC grads. Fun for children 10 and younger—Dads welcome, too!

12 p.m.

**Alumni Awards Luncheon**

A luncheon to honor Distinguished Alumni Award and Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipients. All alumni and their guests are encouraged to attend.  
Bruno Great Hall, Third Floor, Norton Campus Center

*Those to be honored include:*

**Distinguished Alumni**

Kirby Sevier '68  
Sally Wood Johnson '53  
John Northrop, Jr. '72

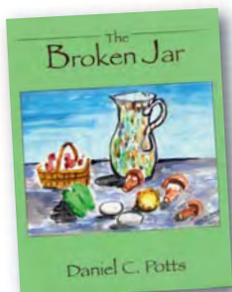
**Outstanding Young Alumni**

Freeda Fawal-Farah '89  
Christopher Thomaskutty '99  
Charles (Carl) Lynn '94

1:45 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

**Mini-College Lecture – “Art Appreciation: Answering the Call of Care Giving”**

Dr. Danny Potts, M.D., 1988 Alumnus  
Norton Theatre, Norton Campus Center  
Dr. Danny Potts is a practicing neurologist in Tuscaloosa and co-author of *Neurology for the Boards*, the best-selling neurology review book. He has also had his poetry featured in *Neurology*, *The Presbyterian Voice*, and the online journal *EmergingPoets.com*. Dr. Potts will present the uplifting story of the way that art comforted him and his family as they struggled with his father’s Alzheimer’s.



- 1:30-2:45 p.m. **Alumni Executive Board Meeting**  
Student Affairs Formal Conference Room, 2nd Floor,  
Norton Campus Center  
For the 2007-08 and 2008-09 board members
- 1:45-2:30 p.m. **Campus Tours**  
Starting at the Admission Welcome Center
- 3-4:15 p.m. **All-Alumni Annual Meeting**  
Norton Theatre, Norton Campus Center  
Report from the Alumni Association, open to all alumni
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. **Black Student Union Scholarship Kick-Off Reception**  
President's Dining Room  
Third Floor, Norton Campus Center



Admission Welcome Center

- 5:30-6:45 p.m. **President's Reception**  
Hosted by President G. David Pollick and Karen Bentley Pollick for all alumni, especially honor classes, Endowment Builders Society, 'Southern Society, Ginkgo Society, and special guests—including those planning to attend the Hall of Fame Banquet and Theatre Performance—in the college's beautiful new Admission House just inside the front gate to campus. Hulsey Hall, Admission Welcome Center

*Enjoy a taste of Tuscany!*  
The President's Reception and Class Parties will bring the flavors of Italy to the Hilltop with food provided by Brio Tuscan Grille.



The Pollicks

- 6 p.m. **Hall of Fame Inductees Reception**  
T.B. Pearson Hall of Fame Room  
Bill Battle Coliseum
- 7 p.m. **Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet (by invitation)**  
Bruno Great Hall, Third Floor, Norton Campus Center
- 6 p.m. **1958 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Party/Dinner**  
(Classes of 1957 and 1959 also invited.)  
Durbin Gallery, Kennedy Art Center/Azar Art Studios
- 7 p.m. **1963 45<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Party/Dinner**  
(Classes of 1962 and 1964 also invited.)  
Executive Dining Room, Third Floor, Norton Campus Center
- 7 p.m. **1968 40<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Party/Dinner**  
(Classes of 1967 and 1969 also invited.)  
Stephens Conference Center, Harbert Building
- 7 p.m. **1973 35<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Party/Dinner**  
(Classes of 1972 and 1974 also invited.)  
Terrace, Striplin Center
- 7 p.m. **1978 30<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Party/Dinner**  
(Classes of 1977 and 1979 also invited.)  
Ground Floor Lobby, Berte Humanities Center  
(Old Phillips Science)



- 7 p.m.                    **1983 25<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Party/Dinner**  
(Classes of 1982 and 1984 also invited.)  
Hulsey Hall, Admission Welcome Center
- 7 p.m.                    **1988 20<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Party/Dinner**  
(Classes of 1987 and 1989 also invited.)  
Atrium, Stephens Science Center
- 7 p.m.                    **1993 15<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Party/Dinner**  
(Classes of 1992 and 1994 also invited.)  
Atrium, Stephens Science Center
- 7 p.m.                    **YOUNG ALUMNI PARTY**  
for classes 1995-2008 and all those who feel "young!"  
Barking Kudu, 2929 7th Ave South, Birmingham, AL 35233

7:30 p.m.                ***West Side Story***  
College Theatre  
Please call 205/226-4780 to reserve tickets, beginning October 16.  
The Theatre Box Office hours are: M-F from 1-4:45 p.m. Be sure to mention that you will be attending Alumni Reunion.

**Saturday, November 8**

8 a.m.-6 p.m.            **Registration and Information Center**  
Hulsey Hall, Admission Welcome Center

9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.        **40th Anniversary Celebration of Yeilding Chapel**  
Yeilding Chapel and Chapel Garden

9:30 a.m.                Coffee in the Chapel Garden and Lobby

10 a.m.                 Service of Celebration and Rededication  
for the Next Forty Years

Featuring Chaplains:    Don Shockley (1964-1972)  
Mike Harper (1976-1979)  
Stewart Jackson (1979-2007)  
John Richardson (2007-present)

From the original service of dedication ...

*We dedicate this house for the worship of God  
in prayer and praise  
For the comfort of all who mourn  
For light to those who seek the way  
In the unity of the faith and in charity  
and good will to all.*



8 a.m.-9 p.m.            **Golf Cart Transportation provided**

8 a.m.-10:30 a.m.        **Continental Breakfast/Coffee** with retired faculty and staff  
Hulsey Hall, Admission Welcome Center

11-12:30 p.m.            **1958 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Brunch**  
(Classes of 1957 and 1959 also invited.)  
Stockham Parlor  
Entertainment provided by the BSC Hilltop Singers.

- Noon **Tailgating**  
Upper parking lot and in special parking adjacent to the Football Facility. Shuttle service running constantly from Upper Parking Lot to Field.
- Noon **Food and Drink Tent for Alumni**  
with special thanks to 'Southern Society, Ginkgo Society, and Endowment Builders Society members. Adjacent to the Football Facility
- 12:30 p.m. **"Panther Playground"**  
with children's games and inflatables  
Football Practice Field
- 12:30 p.m. **VIP and Gridiron Club Hospitality**  
Football Facility at the top of the stands to the north of the press box/concessions building
- 1:30 p.m. **BSC vs. Sewanee Homecoming Football Game**  
Football Facility

4:30 p.m. **Band Party after the Game**  
featuring "Whiskey Falls," band of alumnus Buck Johnson '88. Sponsored by the Student Government Association and the Alumni Association.  
Admission Welcome Center Lawn

5 p.m. **Shrimp Boil and More**  
catered by Crazy Cajun Boiling Pot  
Shrimp boil with potatoes and corn, red beans and rice, gumbo, and chicken fingers for children  
Admission Welcome Center Side Lawn (nearest to Striplin Fitness Center)



"Whiskey Falls" is the band Nashville's Music Row has proclaimed the "breakout band" for 2008—which recently scored two top-40 singles on Billboard's Hot Country Singles.

6 p.m. **Volleyball Alumni Match and Senior Night**  
Bill Battle Coliseum

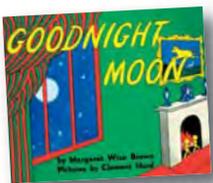
7:30 p.m. **West Side Story**  
College Theatre. Please call 205/226-4780 to reserve tickets, beginning October 16. The Theatre Box Office hours are: M-F from 1-4:45 p.m. Be sure to mention that you will be attending Alumni Reunion.



Something's coming and it is gonna be great! This year marks the 40th anniversary of the unique theatre building with its revolve-lift stage, designed by the late Arnold Powell, BSC theatre professor. Please plan to join us to celebrate the anniversary of the Theatre as well as the many years of great productions at Birmingham-Southern. This is a special reunion for performers, participants, and for anyone whose life was touched by the Theatre through the years.

### Sunday, November 9

- 2 p.m. **West Side Story**  
College Theatre  
Please call 205/226-4780 to reserve tickets, beginning October 16. The Theatre Box Office hours are: M-F from 1-4:45 p.m. Be sure to mention that you will be attending Alumni Reunion.
- 5:30 p.m. **40th Anniversary Theatre Reunion Reception**  
Hulsey Hall, Admission Welcome Center



**Special Note:** At Alumni Reunion/Homecoming this year, we will initiate our very first all-alumni philanthropy project—BSC Bring-a-Book Project—bring a children's book with you and we'll make sure a deserving child receives it. Bring your book to the registration area in the Admission Welcome Center or purchase a card to make a donation.

## Reunion Registration Information

### Hotel

The Hampton Inn and Suites in downtown Birmingham is holding a block of rooms for reunion registrants at a rate of \$119 per night. To reserve a room, call 205/439-9105 or 205/322-2100, and tell them you're with the Birmingham-Southern College Alumni Reunion. Rooms are also on hold at the Historic Redmont Hotel for a rate of \$99 per night. Call 1-877-536-2085 or 205/324-2101 for reservations.

### 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, October 24, 2008. 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.

Have questions? Need help reconnecting with your classmates? The Alumni Office will do our best to assist you. Call Karen Ellis at 205/226-4909 or 1-800-523-5793, ext. 4909.

Babysitter list available upon request.

## 2008 Class Reunion Committees

### Class of 1958

Geneva Blackburn  
Don Brown  
Sue Poe Jones  
Jerry Sisson

### Class of 1963

Eleanor Bergquist Becker  
Floyd Christian  
Charlene Reagan Corbett  
Norma Goodwin Dean  
Larry Dickinson  
Larry Durham  
David Franks  
Lila Manor Hardin  
Frank Horn  
Bonnie Cofield Kell  
Allen Oaks  
Lamar Odom  
Jerry Oglesby  
Lynne Fisher Snow  
S. Buddy Stanford  
Lee Herren Stimson

### Class of 1968

Jim Blackburn  
Martha Hayes Blackburn  
Bill Burch  
Norton Dill  
Anne Walker Drake  
Bill Halbrooks  
Barbara Harper  
Mike Harper

### Dale Kyle Head

Alan Hodges  
Bill Huggins  
Jim Humphreys  
Dalen Livingston  
James Lowery  
Alice Atkins Mercer  
Michael Newsom  
Martha Jane Patton  
Jack Sellers  
Marline McCargo Sellers  
Kirby Sevier  
Rick Sexton  
Carol Teague Thomas  
Richard Whitney  
Audrey Ann Prude Wilson  
David Wilson  
Mary Lynne Wilson

### Class of 1973

Joe Fawal  
Debra DeBoer Feagin  
Patti Vogel Freeman  
Phillip Freeman  
Sue Grogan  
Janet Holloway  
Tina Cummings Huggins  
Rik Kirkland  
David Kitchens  
Bill Orr  
Ralph Quinn  
P. Vaughan Russell  
Elizabeth Meriwether Strickland  
Richard Yeilding

### Class of 1978

Barbara Boydston  
Lev Bragg  
Chip Burton  
Bill Dowell  
Sandra Johnson Dowell  
Jack Naramore

### Class of 1983

Steve Austin  
Sarah Spencer Chappell  
Edie Dacovich Kitchings  
Nancy Rogers McDonald  
Mark Mullens  
Shannon Smith Spratt  
Keith Thompson  
Andy Thurmond  
Sam Williamson

### Class of 1988

Stephen Craft  
Susan Smith Ellard  
David Higginbotham  
Jaque Holder  
Chad Jones  
Rod Reisner  
Gerri Williams Robinson  
Fentress Seagroves  
Wendy Beason Tucker  
Vicki Van Valkenburgh

### Class of 1993

Susan Ware Bullock  
Brian Dudgeon  
John Earnhardt  
Jo Ann Beckman Garrett  
Brett Kennedy  
David Rains

### Young Alumni Committee

Rebecca Beers '04  
Gaines Brake '98  
Chris Forsythe '98  
Ashley Halfman '97  
Lindsey Horton '07  
Linda Lager '07  
Amanda Latifi '94  
Dana McArthur Porter '03  
Lars Porter '04  
Amber Rhodes '05  
Clay Ryan '98  
Mallie Searcy '07  
Josh Vasa '03  
Tyrenda Williams '01  
Brent Yarborough '97



# BSC Giving Societies

*What They Are ... And Who To Talk To*

AT BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE, we believe that heartfelt investment in the college deserves heartfelt recognition in return. That is why donors to the college have the opportunity to become part of one of BSC's three prestigious giving societies.

Each society recognizes its members for their generosity and dedication to the Birmingham-Southern cause.

## GINKGO SOCIETY

**THE GINKGO SOCIETY CELEBRATES** Birmingham-Southern's most consistent donors who have given five years consecutively. Ginkgo Society members will be listed as a Ginkgo member in the annual *BSC Donor Report*, and, for the first time, we are offering special Ginkgo Society giveaways at home football games and a 15 percent discount at the BSC Bookstore on select BSC merchandise.

For more information about the Ginkgo Society, contact **Erica Crump Sellers '05** in the Office of Institutional Advancement at 205/226-7738 or [esellers@bsc.edu](mailto:esellers@bsc.edu).

## 'SOUTHERN SOCIETY

**THE 'SOUTHERN SOCIETY ACKNOWLEDGES** the college's most generous annual donors of \$1,000 or more. Benefits include the donor's name being listed as a 'Southern Society member in the annual *BSC Donor Report*. 'Southern Society members are invited as honored guests to several events on campus and have access to reserved seats at lectures and other special events on campus. Friends and parents of the college can be members of 'Southern Society as well as alumni. Join today and receive your invitation to a variety of events on campus this fall semester.

For more information about the 'Southern Society, contact **Susan Smith Ellard '88** in the Office of Institutional Advancement at 205/226-4977 or [sellard@bsc.edu](mailto:sellard@bsc.edu).

## ENDOWMENT BUILDERS SOCIETY

**THE ENDOWMENT BUILDERS SOCIETY IS THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS OF OUR SOCIETIES AND HONORS** the many generous donors who have established an endowed scholarship or who have provided for the college in their estate plans. BSC's most prestigious giving society includes alumni, parents, or friends of the college who have demonstrated a commitment to the long-term financial security of the institution and the enduring mission of the college. Members of the Endowment Builders Society enjoy the following benefits:

- special informational mailings,
- invitations to campus lectures and seminars with special parking,
- an invitation to the spring Legacy Luncheon, and
- acknowledgment in the *BSC Donor Report*.

For more information about the Endowment Builders Society, contact **Martha Hamrick Boshers** in the Office of Institutional Advancement at 205/226-4978 or [mboshers@bsc.edu](mailto:mboshers@bsc.edu).

Birmingham-Southern's continued growth and the academic success of its students would not be possible without the legacy, investment, and commitment of the members of the BSC giving societies. Your dedication to the current needs and future goals of the college allow Birmingham-Southern to provide its students with one of the best liberal arts educations in the nation. For that commitment, the students, faculty, and staff of Birmingham-Southern are grateful to all of the college's supporters.

## Lane joins BSC as major gifts officer



Lane

Jessica Brooks Lane joined the Birmingham-Southern fundraising team of the Office of Institutional Advancement as a major gifts officer in April of this year. She works closely with the vice president for Institutional Advancement and the director of major gifts with the primary responsibility of developing external relations and major gift support.

"I am delighted to be working with a great group of talented and hard-working individuals," said Lane. "BSC is a shining jewel for the Birmingham community, and I am proud to be serving her."

Lane is a native of Birmingham and a graduate of Mountain Brook High School and the University of

Alabama, where she received her bachelor's degree in communication and information sciences in 2002. Prior to joining BSC, she was employed as the human resources recruiter for Balch & Bingham LLP.

Her fundraising and marketing experience includes work with local professional theatre groups, the United Way of Central Alabama, and *Southern Accents* magazine, as well as UA's Student Alumni Association, Student Government Association, and Speech and Hearing Center.

An avid musical theatre and dance performer, she is newly married to George Thomas Lane III '95.

Lane can be reached at 205/226-4923; toll-free at 800-523-5793, ext. 4923; or [jlane@bsc.edu](mailto:jlane@bsc.edu).



*The Campaign for Birmingham-Southern*

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

# THE BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN ANNUAL FUND



## *Essential Support for Everyday Needs*

Gifts to the Annual Fund provide for the essential needs of current Birmingham-Southern students, including new acquisitions in the library, uniforms for athletic teams, salaries to attract and keep the best faculty, and more. The Annual Fund touches the life of every student at BSC.

As we welcome the largest class of new undergraduate students in college history—for the second year in a row!—donors to BSC can take heart once again and know that our hopes and resources are well placed. Invest in their future by giving to the Annual Fund.

To make a gift to the Annual Fund, please return your contribution in the enclosed envelope or make your gift online by visiting [www.bsc.edu/egiving](http://www.bsc.edu/egiving).

For more information, please contact Erica Sellers '05, assistant director of annual giving, at 205/226-7738 or [esellers@bsc.edu](mailto:esellers@bsc.edu).

## Football Panthers return to the gridiron this season under new coaching team



Thigpen

Year two of Birmingham-Southern's return to the gridiron features a new-look coaching staff, 27 returning lettermen, and 47 newcomers in 2008. The Panthers posted a 3-7 overall record in 2007 after fielding a team for the first time since 1939.

This past February, Athletics Director Joe Dean Jr. promoted Defensive Coordinator Eddie Garfinkle to take the reins of the program. Garfinkle replaced Joey Jones, who was hired to start the football program at the University of South Alabama.

Two returning coaches and four newcomers make up Garfinkle's staff. Offensive Coordinator Joel Williams and Secondary Coach Dyer Carlisle return

for their second seasons. Dwayne Curry, who was an All-American Linebacker at Mississippi State, was hired to coach the defensive line, while Joe Judge, also from Mississippi State, was brought on board to coach the linebackers. Don Dover is the new offensive line coach, coming to BSC from

Tusculum College, and Deke Herrin comes to the Hilltop from Middle Tennessee State to coach the receivers. Gerald Gann, a longtime high school head coach in the Birmingham area, and Tim Sanders were added to the staff as volunteer assistant coaches.

The Panthers return 27 lettermen that include 12 starters from last year's squad. Five starters return to an offense that averaged 331.5 yards and 22.7 points per game, while five starters return on defense.

Sophomore quarterback Joe Thigpen, sophomore running back Walter Arrington, and sophomore offensive linemen Taylor Pearson, Lee Hopf, and Ryan Creel are the returning starters on offense. Thigpen and Arrington earned All-Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference laurels last season with Arrington being named the SCAC Newcomer of the Year. Pearson and Hopf started the last five games of the season on the offensive line, while Creel started the first two games of the year before a knee injury ended his season.

"Even though we are going to be a young team that will mostly be freshmen and second-year players, we feel good about the direction we are going," said Garfinkle. "Hopefully we can play teams close like we did last year, but find a way to win those games in the fourth quarter when in that position."

As this issue of *'Southern* went to press, the Panthers were 1-2 on the young season.



## Welcome to another exciting season of Birmingham-Southern football!

To make your gameday experience easier and more enjoyable, we have created a **GUIDE TO FOOTBALL GAMEDAY** containing information on tickets, the Gridiron Club, parking, traffic, tailgating, and more.

View the comprehensive football gameday guide at: [www.bsc.edu/gameday](http://www.bsc.edu/gameday).

The Panthers will play their first football game on campus in 69 years at the new state-of-the-art Athletics Complex when they host Sewanee Nov. 8, which also is Homecoming and Alumni Reunion weekend.

Bring your family and friends and your Panther black & gold spirit!

### BSC REMAINING 2008 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Oct. 18	Austin College	Hoover High School	Noon
Oct. 25	Centre College	Danville, Ky.	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 1	Colorado College	Colorado Springs, Colo.	2 p.m.
Nov. 8	Sewanee ( <i>*Homecoming</i> )	BSC Athletics Complex	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 15	Millsaps College	BSC Athletics Complex	Noon



For updated online schedules of Birmingham-Southern's 21 Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Division III sports teams throughout 2008-09—including the fall season of men's and women's soccer, volleyball, men's and women's cross country, and rifle—visit the athletics Web site at [www.bscsports.net](http://www.bscsports.net). The college also has released its composite schedule for the whole year. You may access it from the same Web site.

## BSC Athletics Department honors its student-athletes at year-end ceremony



Athletics Director Joe Dean Jr. (second from right) with Reba Ross (far right) and Sarah Harris after they were named the Co-Female Athletes of the Year, and Michael Locandro, who was tabbed the Male Athlete of the Year at the Athletic Honors Day.



Whitney Medlen (left) and Tricia Milton were honored with plaques presented by BSC Athletics Director Joe Dean Jr. as the 2008 winners of the Johnny Johnson Most Inspirational Senior Student-Athlete Award.

Birmingham-Southern women's basketball player Reba Ross and volleyball's Sarah Harris were named the BSC Co-Female Athletes of the Year, while Michael Locandro of men's tennis was tabbed the Male Athlete of the Year in April at the annual Athletic Honors Day on campus. Additionally, Tricia Milton and Whitney Medlen were honored during the event as the 2008 winners of the Johnny Johnson Most Inspirational Senior Student-Athlete Award.

Ross, a senior from Clayton, Ala., became the first women's basketball player in school history to average a double-double, scoring 28.2 points per game and pulling down 12.3 rebounds per contest before a knee injury cut her season short with seven games remaining. Ross set a BSC record with 21 rebounds against Colorado College and became just the second player in school history to join the 1,000-point club. BSC finished the 2007-08 season with an 18-7 record.

Harris, a sophomore from San Antonio, Texas, had 516 kills (4.49 per game) and had 40 blocks, eight solo blocks, and registered 354 digs in volleyball. She was named to the Emory National Invitational and the Comfort Inn Colonnade All-Tournament Team and was named MVP of the Comfort Inn Colonnade Tournament.

BSC defeated seven top-25 teams and won five tournament titles en route to a 32-3 school record.

Locandro, a sophomore from Kennesaw, Ga., helped the Panther tennis team to a 9-3 record this past season. He posted a 9-1 record at No. 1 singles and teamed with sophomore J.C. Freeman to go 10-1 at No. 1 doubles.

Milton, a senior from Flagstaff, Ariz., helped BSC track and field to a first place finish at the Sewanee Outdoor Invitational and won four individual events during the indoor and outdoor seasons. She claimed the one-mile, 1,500-meter, and 5,000-meter runs in indoor and outdoor meets at Sewanee and won the 3,000-meter run at Rhodes College.

Medlen, a senior from Madison, Ala., helped the women's soccer team to a 12-6 overall record in 2007. She played in 17 games with 11 starts and recorded one assist and had four shots from her defender spot.

The Johnny Johnson Most Inspirational Senior Student-Athlete Award is named for the late vice president for business and finance at Birmingham-Southern, who died suddenly from a heart ailment in 2001. Johnson was an avid supporter of BSC athletics.

## Women's soccer welcomes 16 newcomers for the 2008 season



Senior Patricia George in action against Trinity University.

The 2008 women's soccer team returned to the pitch with a bevy of both old and new faces, as the Panthers returned eight players from last season and welcomed 16 newcomers.

Led by Head Coach Benji Walton, Assistant Coach Crystal Royall, and Volunteer Assistant Christy Dettmer '06, the team's eight returnees include lone senior Patricia George and juniors Erin Carter, Ruth Hanks, Claire Hooten, Katherine Konker, Lindsay Miller, Serena Murphy, and Lydia Rice.

This season's squad lost six players to graduation, including leading scorers Caitlin Gordon and Mandy Woods, and starting goalkeeper Brittany Green. But the Panthers also return five starters from 2007, as well as goalkeeper Hanks, who saw plenty of action in the net last season.

Last year's Panther squad went 12-6 overall, including wins over Texas-Dallas, Mississippi College, North Alabama, and former NCAA Division I and Big South Conference rival UNC Asheville. Against Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference opponents, BSC went 7-3.

The 2008 schedule is once again filled with top-tier opponents. The Panthers opened the season with a home exhibition match against North Georgia, and other home highlights include Alabama State, Georgia State, and Auburn-Montgomery, as well as SCAC foes Centre College, DePauw University, Millsaps College, Sewanee, and Oglethorpe University. The squad also will play in the Rhodes College Tournament for the second season, facing Texas-Dallas and Texas Lutheran in Memphis, Tenn.



Junior Sarah Harris returns this season as a starter.

## Volleyball team looks to build off its successful 2007 season

Under the direction of Head Coach Pavlina Steffkova and Assistant Coach Kyndall Waters '05, the 2008 Birmingham-Southern volleyball team took the court with 11 returning players, including all six starters from last season, as well as three new faces.

The Panthers returned starters Morgan Anderson, Caitlin Dees, Casey Demos, Sarah Harris, Michelle Maciejewski, and Milica Stojanovic, as well as Krisanne Calvert, Christine Denning, Jennifer McKannan, Alex Norten, and Natasha Stark. The team's three newcomers are Haley Johnson from Leeds; Hope Harris from San Antonio, Texas; and Lex Gilmore from Mobile.

Last season, BSC put together a record-setting season, going 32-3 for the most wins in program history as well as the first-ever 30-win season for BSC volleyball. The Panthers also won every regular season tournament they participated in: the Wisconsin-Whitewater Tournament, Emory Invitational, Comfort Inn Colonnade Challenge, Loco's Invitational, and Emory National Invite. Additionally, BSC defeated seven top 25 teams, including No. 3 Wisconsin-Whitewater, No. 5 Emory, and No. 10 Ohio Northern, and 12 players earned All-Tournament honors throughout the season.

Against Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference opponents, the Panthers were an impressive 14-2.

This season's schedule once again features several top-tier opponents. BSC opened the season with a home tournament, the Comfort Inn Colonnade Challenge, featuring Emory—which ended the 2007 season ranked fifth in the nation—Berry, and Illinois Wesleyan. The Panthers also host the Loco's Invitational again, welcoming defending national champion Washington University, West Florida, and Georgetown College, ranked 14th in the NAIA last season, to the Hilltop.

Other opponents include No. 4 Juniata, No. 10 Ohio Northern, No. 11 St. Thomas, and No. 17 Central College. In the SCAC, the Panthers will face No. 6 Trinity University, No. 14 Austin College, and No. 25 Southwestern University.

## BSC Football Review Show returns for second season

The BSC Football Review Show debuted its second season on Saturdays this fall on CW-21 (WTT0) in Birmingham. The show will record 10 episodes running through Nov. 22.

Birmingham-Southern Head Football Coach Eddie Garfinkle is the featured guest of this 30-minute magazine-style format moderated by radio and television broadcasting veteran Kevin Henslee. The interactive weekly forum will examine the football season at BSC with an extensive tour of the college's new stadium, in-depth conversation with Garfinkle, insight from other coaches and players, and game replays.



# BSC FOOTBALL REVIEW SHOW



## Freshmen, sophomores lead the way for men's soccer this season

In his 26th season directing the Birmingham-Southern men's soccer program, Preston Goldfarb calls the 2008 team one of the youngest in the program's history. Eight freshmen, eight sophomores, one junior, and four seniors make up the 21-man roster.

After losing 27 of its 30 goals scored last season due to graduation, the Panthers' offense was dealt another blow just before preseason when senior striker Robert Geil was lost for the year due to an illness that will prohibit him from playing soccer for at least a year. Geil scored three goals with one assist, starting in 19 games in 2007.

With the striker job wide open, sophomore returnee Joe Burrage and junior returnee Andrew Burkhardt, along with newcomers Daniel Jackson, Tyler Evans, and Garner Shivers battled to become the starters in the preseason. Burrage and Burkhardt saw action in a combined seven games playing behind leading scorer Gino Cozzolino.

The 2008 schedule features four round-robin style tournaments to open the season. Birmingham-Southern recently hosted the BSC Labor Day Classic, BSC Invitational, and Armed Forces Classic tournaments.

Rounding out the 10 home games are SCAC foes Centre College, DePauw University, Millsaps College, Sewanee, and Oglethorpe University. The road portion of the 2008 slate has the Panthers traveling to Colorado College, Austin College, Maryville College, Trinity University, Southwestern University, Rhodes College, and Hendrix College.



Senior Hal Halbert replaces the graduated Joe Nasco in goal.



Bethney Reynoldson owns the BSC single-season and career strikeout records.

## Record-setting 2008 season in the books for softball Panthers

The 2008 softball team made history this past spring as the Panthers achieved their first 30-win season. Under the direction of Head Coach Craig Hyde and Assistant Coach Stephanie VanBrakle, who will serve as head coach starting in 2009, BSC went 32-28.

The Panthers, who were playing their final year at the NCAA Division I level as members of the Big South Conference, notched wins over Drake, George Mason, Mobile, Columbia, Jackson State, and Belmont, as well as in-state rivals Alabama State, Huntingdon, Jacksonville State, and West Alabama. In conference play, BSC defeated Coastal Carolina and Liberty, and swept Charleston Southern in three games, marking the first three-game conference sweep for the Panthers in program history.

In the Big South Tournament, BSC, playing as the fifth seed, upset No. 4 Liberty in the first round before falling to No. 1 Winthrop 3-2 and No. 3 Coastal Carolina 1-0 to end the season.

Four players earned All-Conference honors as seniors Lindsay Creighton, Bethney Reynoldson, and Grace Stokes and junior Melissa Muehlenfeld were named to the All-Big South Second Team. Creighton also received Academic All-Conference accolades, and she and Reynoldson also were named to the College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District College Division First Team.

Reynoldson put her name in the BSC record books during the season, shattering the career strikeout record in only two seasons and breaking the single-season strikeout record for the second time since coming to the Hilltop.

## Hill, Hulse earn SCAC baseball laurels

Catcher Sam Hill was named the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference's Freshman of the Year and freshman centerfielder J.D. Hulse received Honorable Mention All-SCAC honors this past May.

Hill played and started in 40 games for the Panthers, finishing second on the team with a .396 batting average. He led BSC with 40 RBI, 55 hits, five doubles, and five home runs, and had a .612 slugging percentage. The Mobile native was listed in several SCAC statistical categories, ranking sixth in slugging percentage, eighth in on-base percentage (.482), seventh in doubles, 10th in hits, 11th in RBI and total bases (85), and 12th in home runs. He had 14 multiple-hit

games and 11 multi-RBI games, and drove in runs in 27 of 40 games. Hill hit .357 with four doubles, one home run, and 10 RBI in SCAC play.

Hulse started in 38 games in centerfield, missing two starts due to an injury. He hit .315 with a team-leading 39 runs scored and was third on the team with 47 hits. The Roswell, Ga., native swiped 15 bases in 19 attempts and had three doubles, two triples, two home runs, and 20 RBI primarily from the leadoff spot. Hulse earned SCAC Player of the Week honors after going 6-for-11 with six runs scored, a triple, a home run, four RBI, and three steals from the leadoff spot in a weekend series against Centre College.

The Panthers finished the season with a 20-21 overall record and a 6-10 mark in the SCAC under first-year Head Coach Jan Weisberg. BSC hit .304 as a team, while sophomore Clay Malcolm went 6-4 with 40 strikeouts in 55.0 innings of work to lead the BSC pitching staff.



*Sam Hill received honors as SCAC Freshman of the Year in 2008.*

## Panther men's and women's golf teams close spring strong

After an up and down fall season, the Birmingham-Southern men's and women's golf teams turned in banner spring seasons.

The Panther men won two tournaments and had one runner-up finish and a third-place finish in six events. BSC claimed the Piedmont College Spring Invitational before winning the Hal Sutton Intercollegiate—the spring's final tournament. The Panthers finished second at the Buffalo Wild Wings Classic and third at the BSC Spring Invitational.

Sophomore Nick Blakely and junior Ryan Falgout captured individual wins to become the fourth and fifth players in BSC history to win medalist honors. Blakely won the Buffalo Wild Wings Classic, shooting a final round 67 to finish with a 139 for the tournament. Falgout won the Piedmont College Spring Invitational with a one-under 143, while Blakely was one stroke behind with a 144.

Senior Mark Bivens and Falgout tied for third with a 218, and Blakely finished fifth with a 219 to help BSC win the Hal Sutton Intercollegiate title.

The Panther women also won the Buffalo Wild Wings Classic that featured the first career tournament win for junior Jordan Hardy and the first win for first-year Head Coach Casey Smith. Hardy shot a final round 75 to finish with a 147, followed by sophomore teammate Kelley Burgess in second.

BSC posted a pair of third-place finishes at the annual BSC Ann Rhodes Invitational and the Bash at the Beach in Daytona, Fla. Burgess finished second with a 149 at the Ann Rhodes Invitational, followed by Hardy in third. Hardy was the top finisher at the Bash at the Beach with a fifth-place finish.

The Panthers closed out the spring with a fourth-place finish at the Southern Miss Lady Eagle Invitational in Hattiesburg, Miss. Burgess tied for fifth with a 151 tournament total, while Hardy finished eighth with a 153.



*Jordan Hardy experienced the first tournament win of her career.*

## VanBrakle named women's softball coach

Former University of Alabama standout Stephanie VanBrakle, who served as the Birmingham-Southern softball program's assistant coach this past season, has been hired as the program's new head coach.

VanBrakle was a pitcher for the Crimson Tide from 2002-06, helping Alabama to the Southeastern Conference title in 2006 and the SEC Tournament championship in 2002 and 2005, earning SEC Tournament MVP honors in 2005. She helped the Tide to Regional and Super Regional appearances during all four of her years with the squad, as well as to three NCAA College World Series appearances.

She was named SEC Pitcher of the Year and was a Top 10 Finalist for Collegiate Player of the Year as a senior in 2006. She was also named to the SEC Honor Roll and the Academic All-SEC Team all four of her years at Alabama. She earned All-Conference honors each of her four years at Alabama, and was named SEC Freshman of the Year in 2003.

VanBrakle earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama in May 2007.

Prior to coming to the Hilltop in 2007, she played professionally for the Philadelphia Force.



**Student-athletes against cancer**—Birmingham-Southern hosted its annual Relay for Life event in April to benefit the American Cancer Society. More than 60 BSC student-athletes participated in the weekend event that raised more than \$8,000. The Panthers' track and field teams could not participate due to an away meet, but instead held a Relay for Life 5K Run to contribute to the cause. Relay for Life is the signature activity of the ACS, bringing people together to celebrate the fight against the disease. The overnight event at BSC featured teams joining together to honor cancer survivors and remember those who have died from the disease.

## Men's and women's tennis wrap up seasons with spectrum of accomplishments

The 2008 men's and women's tennis teams both posted impressive spring seasons, with the men going 9-3 after starting off the year with six straight victories, and the women's squad going 9-4 with victories over Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference foes Austin College, Millsaps College (twice), Colorado College, Hendrix College, No. 17 Sewanee, Southwestern University, and Oglethorpe University, as well as in-state rival Huntingdon College.

The Panther men defeated Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference opponents Austin College, Millsaps College (twice), Colorado College, Hendrix College, Rhodes College, Southwestern University, and Oglethorpe University, as well as in-state rival Huntingdon College.

Individually, sophomore Michael Locandro and junior Matt Mabry notched eight wins apiece, with Locandro going 8-1 and Mabry going 8-3. Three of the Panthers' doubles teams also recorded 10 wins each as Locandro and junior J.C. Freeman went 10-1, Mabry and junior Martin Crockett went 10-2, and freshmen Will Boucek and Gary Fuller went 10-2 as well.

Doubles team Kathryn Carroll and Lauren Russell, both juniors, made history for the women's program as they went undefeated with a perfect 12-0 record, including two wins over ranked opponents (No. 11 Trinity University and No. 17 Sewanee).

Carroll led in individual play as well with a 10-2 record, followed by sophomore Janie Asseff with an 8-3 record and freshman Brittany Cooper, who went 7-4.



*Locandro*



*Carroll*

# ClassNotes

'41

Last December, **Katherine Meadow McTyeire** announced plans for closing Iron Art Inc., the home decor and furniture shop *The Birmingham News* has called "a Mountain Brook institution." McTyeire presided over the highly successful business for 58 years. During that time, she became the first woman director of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, the first woman named to Rotary in Birmingham, was tapped for the Kiwanis Birmingham Business Hall of Fame, and was asked by the governor to chair the state's 150th birthday celebration. McTyeire has served Birmingham-Southern as a member and officer of the Board of Trustees. She is a member of the Ginkgo Society and the Endowment Builders Society.

'42

In May 2008, former U.S. Sen. **Howell Heflin** of Alabama, who died in 2005, was named to the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame,

honoring his outstanding career in law and politics.

'49

This past May, **John Fievet** continued what the editor of *American History* magazine has called his "personal crusade" to see that the deaths of 1,015 American servicemen—his shipmates on the ill-fated British troopship HMT Rohna—are properly honored in the historical record of World War II. On Nov. 26, 1943, the Rohna was sunk in the Mediterranean by a German air-to-surface guided missile, and to keep reports of the new weapon secret, details of the catastrophe were classified by the U.S. government at the time of the tragedy and for decades after. Finally, in 1996, after great efforts to make the true history of the Rohna known nationwide, Fievet and other members of the Rohna Survivors Association, which he founded, dedicated a memorial to the lost servicemen of the Rohna at Fort Mitchell (Ala.) National

Cemetery. In May 2008, a rededication service was held for those family members and others unable to attend the original service.

**George B. "Hoss" Foss** lives with his wife, Luz Maria, in Cuernavaca, Mexico, 40 miles south of Mexico City. He writes that he is the only area attorney listed by the Martindale-Hubbell Legal Directory since 1990, and is the only bilingual attorney listed by the American Embassy. He works with Mexican attorneys for English-speaking clients, and also helps Mexicans with the U.S. law, countrywide.

'50

**Dr. Charles P. Hanby** of Chapala, Mexico, writes that he has traveled widely throughout the world since retiring almost 20 years ago. This summer, he sailed across Europe in a riverboat, traveling on three rivers from Paris to Prague.

'53

**Dr. Alan R. Dimick** of Birmingham was presented the University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award in ceremonies taking place this past February. The association notes, "Over the past 40 years he has helped found, risen to the top of, and continued to provide guidance to virtually every local, regional, and national organization concerned with emergency care in general and burn injury in particular."

'57

**Dr. Gene L. Davenport** of Jackson, Tenn., a professor of religion at Lambuth University, presented the baccalaureate message during the school's 2008 graduation ceremonies in May.

'58

The late **Martin Hames**, longtime headmaster of Birmingham's Altamont School, was honored this past spring by his friend, artist Catherine Cabaniss. A painter and printmaker, she dedicated a March 2008 exhibit of her prints in the school's Cabaniss Fine Arts Center to Hames, whom she called "a great friend to Birmingham artists."

'59

**Dr. James S. Donahoo** of Summit, N.J., received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association in February 2008, in ceremonies celebrating his outstanding career in cardiothoracic surgery, most recently as chief of cardiothoracic surgery at the VA Medical Center in East Orange, N.J. Donahoo has published more than 100 scholarly papers in his field, contributed chapters to surgical textbooks, and served as an editor for *Practical Reviews in Surgery*. His wife is **Carol Manasco Donahoo** '60.

**Bailey Leopard** of Franklin, Tenn., was named to the Limestone County (Ala.) Sports Hall of Fame in June. An award-winning newspaperman over many decades, he began as a sportswriter for the Athens High School newspaper and *Alabama Courier and Democrat* while still in high school. In 1955, employed at the *Birmingham Post-Herald*, he began studies at BSC, graduating in 1959. During the late '50s, he covered Birmingham sports for the *Post-Herald*, and in 1958 he began covering football at the University of Alabama. He returned to Athens in 1961 to serve as editor of the *Courier and Democrat* and in 1973 founded his own

Wedding bells ring at Yeilding Chapel—**Dr. Aurelia "Dink" Glosser Taylor '67** and **Preston Barnett '68** (former president of the BSC Alumni Association) were friends and classmates—both history students of **Dr. Henry Randall**—during their student years at Birmingham-Southern. They dated briefly after college while both were living in Tuscaloosa, he in law school and she pursuing graduate degrees at the University of Alabama. Then life took them in different directions, she to a home in Gadsden and a career, most recently as an assistant professor at UA, and he to a position as vice president and general tax counsel for Cox Enterprises Inc. in Atlanta. After a number of years, a June 2006 e-mail from Barnett renewed the friendship, which soon blossomed into romance. The couple married in Yeilding Chapel on Aug. 9, 2008, "a perfect place for our wedding," he says, "since we had met at BSC and the school means so much to both of us." Other BSC family members include her son, "**Mort**" **Taylor '95**, and daughter-in-law, **Rebekah Tatum Taylor '96**.

# A Special Easter on the Hilltop

*Looking back at a treasured tradition—and a once-in-a-lifetime holiday adventure for a BSC alumna:*



At the 19th annual BSC Easter Egg Hunt, 350 members of alumni families gathered on the lawn of the President's Home to enjoy a beautiful spring afternoon. Games, crafts, and refreshments were on the agenda, along with an exciting hunt for more than 3,000 colorful eggs. Tanner Battle, younger daughter of **Brooke Tanner Battle '96**, is shown here making friends with the BSC Easter Bunny.

In other holiday news, **Susan Samya Willard '01**, assistant director of records at BSC, celebrated this past Easter in a very special way. Willard is an egg artist, whose hand-painted designs have delighted collectors for years. This year, she was

chosen to create the 2008 Alabama Egg for the White House Easter display of decorated Easter eggs from artists in all 50 states. On March 10, she and her husband joined 37 other

state artists in Washington, D.C., for a tour of the White House and the Easter egg unveiling ceremony, presided over by First Lady Laura Bush. To see Willard's 2008 Alabama Egg, along with other designs from around the nation, visit [www.whitehouse.gov/easter/2008/eggstate](http://www.whitehouse.gov/easter/2008/eggstate).



newspaper, the *Williamson* (Tenn.) *Leader*, which he sold in 1998. His son is **Bailey Leopard Jr. '91** (wife, **Kathryn McLeod Leopard '90**), and his daughter is **Verna Louise Leopard '87**.

'62

Attorney **Ed Hardin**, after five years in Nashville as general counsel for Caremark Rx, has returned to Birmingham and joined the firm Burr & Forman. He will focus on complex litigation involving commercial cases, torts, and insurance matters. Hardin is a member of the board at BSC and is co-chair of the college's *Destiny: Delivered* campaign.

'64

**Howell Raines** of Henryville, Pa., former *New York Times* executive editor, has been named a contributing editor and media

columnist for *Condé Nast Portfolio*, a monthly business magazine. His first column in the magazine appeared in the March 2008 issue.

'65

**W. Michael "Mike" Atchison** of Birmingham has been named a fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation. He is a founding partner of the Birmingham law firm Starnes & Atchison LLP. He has served his alma mater as chair of the Board of Trustees. He currently is a member of the board and co-chair of the college's *Destiny: Delivered* campaign.

**Dr. Harvey H. "Hardy" Jackson III**

has been named Eminent Scholar in History at Jacksonville (Ala.) State University. In this new role, Jackson, formerly professor and head of the Department of History and Foreign Languages, will

conduct research, write, make speeches, and teach courses in history. The popular professor was the commencement speaker at the school's May 2008 graduation.

'67

**Kyle DeLoach** has been named treasurer of the board of the International Coach Federation, North and Central Alabama Chapter. He is employed with The Kyle Group in Birmingham.

'68

**Dr. James Cook**, BSC professor of music, has been appointed to the national council of the Organ Historical Society. In 2004-05, he established, and currently maintains, an online database of pipe organs in the U.S., which recently set a record of more than one million hits.

**Howard Cruse** of North Adams, Mass., cartoonist and graphic novelist, was among 24 artists whose work was included in the show "LitGraphic: The Art of the Graphic Novel" at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., last fall. For more on Cruse's career, see "Cartoon Politics: Howard Cruse brings his inner life to light in 'LitGraphic,'" by Michael Scott Leonard, in the Nov. 15, 2007, edition of the *Berkshire Eagle*.

**Dr. Charles Gattis**, senior minister at Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntsville, with his congregation, last year established the Trinity Academy of Biblical Learning, an annual exploration of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures through a weekend of scholarly presentations and discussions. The second annual academy, held April 19-20, 2008,



## Notes from a tour in Turkey

In response to his bishop's mandate for all clergy in the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church to take a month of renewal leave, **Dr. Michael O'Bannon '69** of Murfreesboro planned to participate in an archaeological dig in Laodicea, Turkey, during the month of July. As it turned out, government regulations prevented his actively participating in the dig. But in a lemons-to-lemonade scenario, he used the time in Turkey instead to tour extensively and to work on sermons about the seven letters to the seven churches—a study that may lead to future publishing projects.

Among memorable areas, he visited the Laodicea site three times, as well as the sites of Hierapolis and Aphrodisias. A highlight in Hierapolis was the Martyrion of St. Philip, the church built over the supposed burial site of the martyred apostle Philip. "Since I did not have a guide or group," he says, "I could take my time. I spent all day." He also enjoyed pleasant outings with new friends made among the fellow guests at his hotel—trips to Kaklik Cave and Colossae, and an afternoon at a mountain restaurant where "we sat, ottoman-style, and ate the best trout dish I ever had in my life"—all adventures that would not have been possible in his original schedule. There was even time to fly to Paris for a few days to meet his wife, Dee, and daughter, Amy, for a special celebration of his wife's birthday. By the end of July, O'Bannon says, he was "back in the pulpit, with a text and fresh perspective from Colossians."

featured speaker **Dr. Carol Newsom '71** of Candler Theological Seminary, a noted Old Testament scholar and one of the editors of the *New Oxford Annotated Bible*.

### '69

**Ann Boyd Caldwell** of Wedowee recently retired after 33 years as music director at Southern Union State Community College. During her tenure, students of the popular teacher and musical director were issued a standing invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall every other year. Some of her most successful students have worked on Broadway or in Europe. Caldwell credits Andrew Gainey, her voice coach at BSC, as an inspiration for her teaching career.

**C. Dowd Ritter** of Birmingham, who is chairman, president, and CEO of Regions Financial Corp., has been elected new chair of the Birmingham-Southern Board of Trustees. Ritter has been a member of the college's board since 1995. His wife is **Susan Burke Ritter '69**.

### '70

This past March, **Emilie Wood Mims** of Brewton was appointed Escambia County

probate judge by Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, to serve the unexpired term of retiring Probate Judge Rachel Agerton. Mims formerly served for 17 years as executive director of the Atmore Chamber of Commerce.

### '71

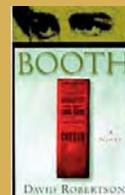
**Rev. Walker Epps** is a minister in the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church and formerly was district superintendent of the Marianna-Panama City District. He is now district superintendent of the Dothan District. For Epps, who graduated from Headland High School, and has now returned with his family to his old home place in Headland, it's a return to a very familiar setting.

**Dr. Carol Newsom** of Atlanta, a professor at Candler Theological Seminary at Emory University, was the speaker at this year's "Faith Seeking Understanding" lecture series at the University of Alabama, which focused on environmental stewardship.

### '72

**Dr. Marilyn R. Brown's** recent essay, "Miss La La's Teeth: Reflections on Degas and 'Race,'" *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. LXXXIX, no. 4 (December 2007), 738-65, has been awarded the 2007 Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Prize for Best Interdisciplinary Article.

After nearly 36 years in law enforcement (retiring in 1999 from the FBI, and then serving as deputy chief, acting chief, and chief of police in Utah and the state of Washington), **Gale Richard Evans** has retired. He, his wife Barbara, and their two golden retrievers are embarking on their



Historical novelist and biographer announces new work—Author **David Robertson '69** of Cincinnati, Ohio, recently sold film option

rights to his historical novel, *Booth*. Also, Knopf Publishing has announced plans for the future release of his third biography with the company, a study of W.C. Handy, who, Knopf says, "gave us such iconic songs as 'St. Louis Blues'... and who was responsible, more than any other musician, for bringing the blues into the American mainstream." Knopf also says, "Robertson weaves a rich tapestry of the worlds Handy inhabited: post-Reconstruction South; the minstrel shows in all their racial ambiguity; the Mississippi Delta; Memphis, with its jumping music scene; New York's Tin Pan Alley. At once a testament to the power of song and a chronicle of race and black music in modern America, W.C. Handy's life story is riveting."

"next excellent adventure, most likely in a much warmer and dryer climate than the Puget Sound." They plan to travel and spend time at the family summer home on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie. Evans also will continue from time to time consulting on aviation and maritime security issues.

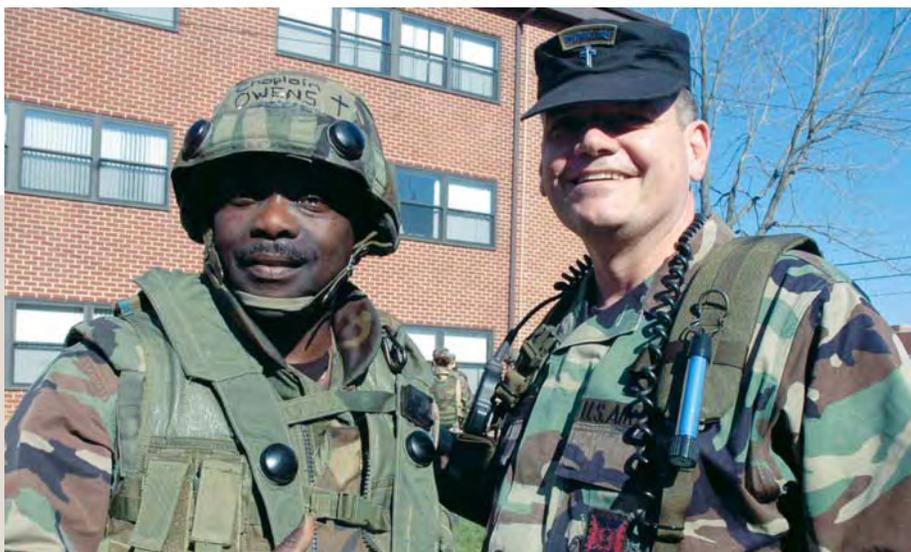
Friends of the late **Charles Laurence "Larry" Fievet** will be interested to learn that his mother, Catherine Ramsey Fievet, has completed a short unpublished biography of her son. Though blinded by cancer soon after birth, Fievet was a successful BSC graduate, talented in both languages and music. During his short life (he died of cancer of 1987), he was employed in several fields, married, and traveled internationally. For more

information on the biography, which is filled with colorful detail of an unusual and inspiring life, contact Carol Hagood at [chagood@bsc.edu](mailto:chagood@bsc.edu). Fievet's BSC family includes his father, **John Fievet '49**.

**Dr. Wayne W. Killion Jr.**, president and CEO of Shook and Fletcher Insulation Co. in Birmingham, was elected as vice chair of the BSC Board of Trustees for the coming year.

The firm of Birmingham attorney **Wayne Morse Jr.**, Morse & Dolan P.C., merged with Waldrep, Stewart & Kendrick LLC in June 2008.

**Mike Sparks** of Birmingham is stepping down from his position as director of the Wallace State Concert Choir after 31 years. During that time, he has toured



**New alumni group forming for active duty, veteran, and retired military**—After three deployments, the last to Iraq, following which he received the Bronze Star, U.S. Air Force **Chaplain (Maj.) Thomas B. Porter '79** (above right) is stationed at Fort Dix, N.J., where he trains chaplains and chaplain assistants scheduled for deployment to war zones. Porter also works with airmen to help prepare them to survive the stress of combat and return home to family and friends.

In a recent training session with chaplains, Porter discovered fellow BSC alumnus **Chaplain (Maj.) Harold B. Owens '84** (above left) and enjoyed reminiscing about life at Birmingham-Southern. Owens, who lives in Michigan and serves as a hospice chaplain, assistant pastor, and Air Force National Guard chaplain, was preparing for his third deployment to the Middle East and second deployment to Iraq.

Now Porter is working with the Alumni Office to create a BSC alumni group for active duty, veteran, and retired military. For more information, contact **Mallie Searcy '07** in the Alumni Office at [msearcy@bsc.edu](mailto:msearcy@bsc.edu).



**Alumna offers national leadership in Medicaid deliberations**—Alabama Medicaid Commissioner **Carol Herrmann Steckel '81** of Montgomery has been elected chair of the executive committee of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors. As chair, she will represent the association before the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service, in testimony before Congress, and in discussions

with other related organizations.

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, who appointed Steckel to her post in 2003, said, "It is outstanding for Alabama's Medicaid commissioner to be selected to represent all Medicaid commissioners in dealings with Congress and federal agencies. This is a critical time for state Medicaid programs across the country, and it says something very positive about our Medicaid program that Commissioner Steckel was chosen for this honor."

Steckel also will serve on the American Public Human Services Association's board of directors and as vice chair of the Health Care Committee of the APHSA National Council of State Human Service Administrators.

with his choirs across the country and to Europe three times. His choirs have performed in the Candlelight Concert series at Colonial Williamsburg and at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and won top awards at the Alabama Collegiate Choral Festival and in the Alabama Collegiate Music Showcase. Sparks remains chair of the Department of Humanities at Wallace State, a role which has made increasing demands on his time in recent years as the school has grown.

**'73**

**James Henderson Fullton Jr.** recently retired from 16 years with Lafarge North America, having served in various positions in Canada, the United States, and South Africa. He has assumed the position of corporate geologist for Essroc Italcementi Group, and

lives in Pennsylvania with his wife, **Sarah Evelyn Koehler Fullton**.

**'74**

After Patricia Fuhrmeister, wife of attorney **Jim Fuhrmeister**, passed away on Feb. 9, 2008, following a long battle with leukemia, Alabama Gov. Bob Riley appointed him to fill his wife's unexpired term as Shelby County Probate Judge. Jim and Patricia have two sons, Chris, 23, and Will, 17.

**'75**

**The Rev. William S. Blackerby Jr.**, Episcopal campus chaplain at UAB, BSC, and Samford University since 1993, recently was honored with the distinguished leadership award from the U.S. Episcopal Church Office for Young Adult and Campus Ministries. The award was presented at an annual meeting of Episcopal college

chaplains in New York City. Blackerby also was appointed coordinator for campus ministry in Province IV of the Episcopal Church.

'76

**Margaret Quillian Dunn** now lives in the North Georgia mountains and is a professional organizer.

'77

**Sam Burke**, formerly of Wilmington, N.C., the longtime morning announcer for public radio station WHQR, has left his post after nearly 20 years to return to Birmingham to help care for his parents. Burke also will be missed at St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, where he was organist and music director.

'79

**Dr. Sharon Ann Spencer** was named to the Ruby F. Meredith Outstanding Clinician in Radiation Oncology Endowed Chair at UAB.

'80

**Dr. Richard A. Hunter** has been invited to join the adjunct faculty at Asbury Theological Seminary. He is senior pastor of the Snellville United Methodist Church, a 4,500-member church east of Atlanta. He was a delegate to the General Conference of the UMC in Fort Worth, Texas, in May 2008.

'81

**James Henderson** of Gainesville, Fla., and teammates, sponsored by Roto Rooter of Cincinnati, competed in the U.S. Masters Basketball Championship this past May in Coral Springs, Fla., and

won the 45-49 age group national championship. They qualified for the Federation of International Masters Basketball Association World Championships, which take place in 2009 in Prague.

Washington lobbyist moves forward—**Jenny Bottegal DiJames '92**, who has been working in Washington, D.C., for the past 10 years, including seven years as legislative director to Congressman Bud Cramer (D-Ala.), is now a partner at the lobbying firm Williams & Jensen. In a May 3, 2008, *National Journal* profile of her career, DiJames mentions a BSC class with Dr. Natalie Davis as a starting point of her interest in politics and a political career.



Photo courtesy of Liz Lynch/National Journal.

**Rev. Ronald E. Schultz**, former pastor of Lakeview United Methodist Church in Pelham, has been appointed district superintendent of the Central District of the North Alabama Conference, with an office in the United Methodist Center on the BSC campus.

A drawing by **Dr. Donald Stewart** of Homewood of a "baker's dozen" wine bottles, with the negative space between them rendered as (very long-stemmed) wine glasses, has been chosen by California's Bugay Vineyards as a logo for their new product, Long Stem Rosé.

**Neal Zimmerman** of Timmonsville, S.C., has been executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs in the Pee Dee area of South Carolina for more than 13 years.

'84

**Andrew C. Allen** of Birmingham was named as a Super Lawyer of Alabama in the 2008 edition of *Super Lawyers* magazine. He practices in the employment and labor section of Whatley Drake &



**A Guntersville get-together**—This past March, a group of BSC alumnae enjoyed a mini-Kappa Delta reunion at one of the group's Lake Guntersville home. They were (back row): **Tamra Tondera Renfrow '83**, **Cathi Snow Demers '83**, **Leslie Tanner Ecklund '83**, **Glenda Wren Kennedy '82**, **Ainsley Edwards Bowen '83**, **Shannon Smith Pratt '83**, and **Laurie Reid Bragg '83**; and (front row) **Nancy Rogers MacDonald '83**, **Frances Foy Stickland '83**, and **Claire Rutland Mallette '82**.

Kallas. This good news was shared with us by his proud wife, **Amy Turnage Allen**.

**Dr. James "Jay" C. White** is now acting provost at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. For the past two years, he has served the college as vice provost and physics professor. He and wife Lisa have one child, 18-month-old Sebastian Artemis.

'85

**Paul P. Bolus** is now a partner at Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP in the insurance section.

**Denson N. Franklin III**, a partner with Bradley Arant Rose and White LLP in Birmingham, was re-elected secretary of the BSC Board of Trustees.

**Cynthia Lamar-Hart** of Birmingham was listed in the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

**Robin Harrell Raney** of Petersburg, Texas, is serving as chief executive officer of the South Plains Regional Chapter of the American Red Cross. Raney formerly was executive director of the Graham Chamber of Commerce.

'86

**Benny LaRussa Jr.** of Birmingham is president of the board of Oasis, a nonprofit mental health counseling organization providing resources to underserved women and children.

**Carl Dean Monroe III** of Washington, D.C., was listed in *Who's Who in America for 2008* and is celebrating 19 years as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Energy. He recently attended

the annual dinner of the Atlantic Council honoring Tony Blair, seated with friends Kolinka Kitanovic, Croatian ambassador to the U.S., and Rick Santorum, former senator from Pennsylvania.

**DeLynn Moring Zell**, shareholder and Certified Financial Planner with First Financial Group of the South Inc. in Birmingham, was elected to the BSC Board of Trustees.

'87

**Dr. Sally Allocca**, pastor of East Lake United Methodist Church in Birmingham, recently received the Louise Branscomb Award, presented annually to a person in the North Alabama Conference who has worked to break down barriers for women and minorities.

**Chris Barker** of Tampa, Fla., recently was appointed by Florida's governor to the 13th Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission. Barker, an attorney, is managing partner of Barker, Rodems & Cook P.A. of Tampa.

**Shannon Cason** has accepted a position as family physician at the Auburn University Medical Clinic. He formerly served for 18 months at the primary care clinic of Maxwell Air Force Base, and for 12 years in private practice in Opelika, where he lives with wife **Kathy Van Cleave Cason '88** and their four children. Cason also recently had his first composition for choir and piano, a setting of the Quaker hymn *How Can I Keep From Singing*, performed by the Chancel Choir of the First United Methodist Church of Opelika.

Playwright **Rebecca Gilman** of Chicago continues to receive many honors for her work. A native of Trussville, she was

## BSC reaching out



Photo courtesy of Steve Wood/UAB Creative and Marketing Department.

An article in the Feb. 14, 2008, edition of *The Birmingham Times* commends the work of **Dr. Felton Perry '70**, (below, far right) director of the Community Eye Care program at the UAB School of Optometry (UABSO). His work in free screenings to combat increased glaucoma among minorities is praised, but as the article notes, this is only one part of the important services the program makes available to underserved groups in our community.

While still a student at UABSO, Perry worked in the Student American Medical Association free clinic in Ensley, and with UABSO's Screening Rotation, which served the Jefferson County Head Start program. Since becoming director of the school's Community Eye Care program in 1996, he has helped extend its work from screening children and adults to providing a full range of eye care at sites in the Birmingham Metro area including the Jefferson County Department of Health Northern, Western, and Bessemer centers and the United Cerebral Palsy Adult Center at LincPoint.

Services to the homeless also have been made available through the Firehouse Shelter, the Jimmie Hale Mission, and other facilities. And recently, as part of the school's Rural Alabama Diabetes and Glaucoma Initiative, research teams are bringing eye care to areas in Alabama's Black Belt that have long been underserved.

Perry works with a team of other UABSO professionals, as well as a band of energetic interns, to deliver these community services, and the benefits are mutual to all, he says. The optometry students involved gain valuable experience in working with diverse patient groups, and underserved areas in our city and state receive much-needed care. To learn more about the work of UABSO's Community Eye Care program, see the Winter 2008 issue of *UAB Optometry* magazine.

*For former students of Birmingham-Southern, service-learning is a process that continues long after graduation. Throughout these class notes, you'll find news of many BSC alumni working for positive change in their communities and regions, across the nation, and around the world. Here are just a few of their stories:*

**Susan C. Crow '92** is president and CEO of Appalachia Service Project (ASP), headquartered in Johnson City, Tenn., a group that since its founding in 1969 has helped repair more than 13,000 homes in the poorest areas of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. The work is done largely by volunteers, mostly church groups. But as an article in *The New York Times* relates (April 15, 2008, edition), in recent times significant help for the program has come from another source.

When Bryan Cloyd, an accounting professor at Virginia Tech, and his wife, Renee, lost their daughter, Austin, in the Virginia Tech shootings last year, they suggested ASP as a recipient for memorial donations. Austin's four weeklong service trips with ASP had helped her decide to pursue an international studies major, with the goal of a career in social service. To the Cloyds' amazement, nearly \$70,000 in memorial gifts were sent to ASP in only a short time. The Cloyds began organizing trips for students to work in ASP building projects. By April 2008, more than 150 Virginia Tech students and faculty had participated in five weekend programs, and more were planned.

The *NYT* quotes Crow on the impact the Virginia Tech contact has made on ASP: "Over the years, we've drawn our volunteers predominantly from church groups ... What the Cloyds have helped us do is better tap into the college student demographic, which is important because these young people are at a key moment when they are shaping their career and other priorities, and that's when we want to push them to consider service."

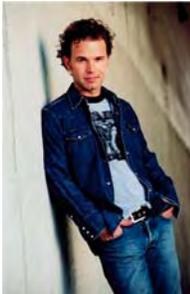
Following graduation from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, **Dr. Robert Bryant Jr. '59** of Trussville opened a practice at Pinson Medical Offices P.A. and has been caring for patients there ever since. He has been on staff at Medical Center East, now St. Vincent's East, longer than any other current physician. He has served as chief of staff and is past president of the Jefferson County Academy of Family Physicians.

Over past decades, Bryant has been on 23 medical mission trips to places including the Dominican Republic, St. Vincent's Island (10 visits), Haiti, Mexico, Guyana, Brazil, and Ecuador.

With wife **Judith Powell Bryant '65**, he has raised five children, all of them contributing in some way to the field of health care. Son **David (BSC '87)**, also a physician, is now in practice with his father. **Rob (BSC '87)** owns a pharmacy in Homewood. Daughter Beth is trained in education for the deaf, Becky is a registered nurse, and son Chris works for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. There are now 17 grandchildren, with another expected soon.

**Kristi Lyle Jones '00** and her husband, Guy, of Trussville are the parents of two beautiful young sons, Conrad, almost 2, and Teague, who is almost 1. Both boys were born prematurely—11 and 10 weeks early—and although today they are healthy, happy young children, the Joneses realize that without the support of advanced medical care—without the research supported by the March of Dimes—the outcome might have been very different. To honor Conrad and Teague's journey, and that of other families touched by premature births, the Joneses have organized a family team called "Walking for Conrad and Teague" for the annual Birmingham Walk for Babies (formerly Walk America), benefiting the March of Dimes. In 2007, their team was the top fundraising family team in the Birmingham area, with over \$3,300 in donations. For the April 2008 event, they set—and exceeded—an ambitious goal of \$5,000. To learn more about this dedicated team, who are working to aid the half million babies born prematurely each year, visit [www.marchforbabies.org/416883](http://www.marchforbabies.org/416883).





**Get ready for great music at Alumni Reunion/Homecoming in November**—Whiskey Falls—the band Nashville’s Music Row has proclaimed “the breakout band for 2008”—is coming to BSC (fresh from recent concerts in France, England, and Japan) to provide outstanding entertainment. Our own **Burleigh C. “Buck” Johnson ‘88** is a

member of the band, which recently scored two top-40 singles on Billboard’s Hot Country Singles, for “Falling into You” and “Last Train Running.” Its song “Load Up the Bases” was chosen as theme music for FoxSportsSouth and the Atlanta Braves for 2008. The band will do more than 250 shows in 2008, across the country and abroad. In October, Buck tells us, the band will be performing on a volcano in Kumamoto, Japan, at one of the largest country music festivals in the world—so their show soon after at BSC should be red hot!

Both Buck and his wife, **Kimberly Williams-Johnson ‘87**, a former Miss Alabama, will be returning to campus with the band on Reunion weekend. As students at BSC, the two were members of the Concert Choir under director Hugh Thomas, and, according to one fellow choir member, “Buck could sing Renaissance tenor like nobody’s business!”

While he’s on campus, Buck has agreed to talk with current music and business students about his career since leaving BSC, and the story should be an exciting one: his credits include co-writing the Carlos Santana hit “Just Feel Better” and playing keyboard for Disney’s *High School Musical I* and *Hannah Montana*.

To learn more about this exciting band and hear samples of the music you’ll soon be enjoying at Alumni Reunion, visit [www.whiskeyfallsmusic.com](http://www.whiskeyfallsmusic.com). Birmingham-Southern grads may especially enjoy glimpses of familiar territory in Johnson-penned tunes such as “Days of Birmingham” and “Highway 59.”

named recipient of the 2008 Harper Lee Award for Alabama’s Distinguished Writer of the Year. She also was among six finalists for this year’s Steinberg/American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award.

**Evan L. Hart** has been named senior vice president and chief financial officer of Mueller Water Products in Atlanta. He formerly was the company’s vice president and controller.

**‘88**  
**Richard Johnson** has been named the director of human resources

for Gateway Medical Center in Clarksville, Tenn.

**Melanie Luther Nichols** of Birmingham has been named treasurer of the board of Oasis, a nonprofit mental health organization providing resources to underserved women and children. Nichols is employed at Canterbury Trust Corp.

The May 2008 issue of *UAB Magazine* includes an article by Dale Short, “Painting in Twilight,” about the father of **Dr. Daniel C. Potts** and his experience with Alzheimer’s disease. An

accompanying video is available at [www.uab.edu/images/uabmagazine/video/alzheimers\\_ped.mov](http://www.uab.edu/images/uabmagazine/video/alzheimers_ped.mov). Potts also reports that **George Thaggard ‘76** is engaged in writing a play about his father’s story.

**‘89**  
**Aubrey Thomas Baugh III** of Eufaula is a member of the board of the Eufaula-Barbour County Chamber of Commerce. A certified public accountant, he currently is employed as transportation services manager for ABC Transportation Inc. Baugh has served as president of the Eufaula Lions Club and chair of the administrative board of the First United Methodist Church of Eufaula. He and wife **Margaret Estes Baugh ‘89** have three children. Other BSC family members include his father, **Dr. Aubrey Baugh Jr. ‘59**, and his sister, **Zelia Garth Baugh ‘88**.

**‘90**  
**David Benck** of Birmingham is now vice president and general counsel at Hibbett Sports.

This past April, **Rev. Paul Courtright Elliott** of Atlanta became rector of St. Andrew’s in the Pines Episcopal Church in Peachtree City. He had served as interim pastor since March 2007. Elliott holds a master of divinity degree from the General Theological Seminary in New York City, and is completing a doctorate in pastoral counseling at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology.

**‘91**  
**Cooper Lindsey** has been named vice president in the commercial banking group at Capitalsouth Bank in Birmingham.

**‘92**  
**Rev. Susan Crow ‘92**, of Johnson City, Tenn., Appalachia Service Project’s president and CEO,

recently graduated from a prestigious community development program at Harvard University. She was one of 47 national leaders to graduate from the third session on “Achieving Excellence in Community Development,” a selective 18-month training program offered by NeighborWorks® America through the Kennedy School of Government. The program is designed for seasoned executive directors and senior level staff in community organizations that focus on affordable housing, community revitalization, or economic development. Through this program, Crow discovered specific means for improving how ASP functions.



Arlington Properties Inc. has named **James Dixon III** of Birmingham executive vice president.

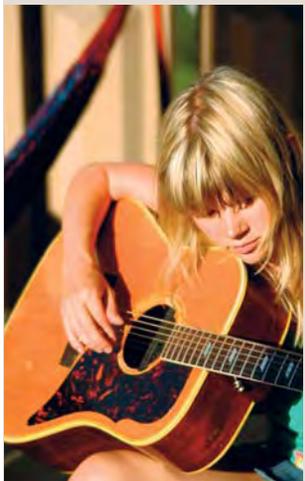
Montgomery attorney **Alyce Robertson** has been named a shareholder with Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles PC. She joined the firm in August 2006 and works in the Toxic Torts Division on environmental law issues.

**‘93**  
This past May, **Dr. Joseph B. Fanning** of Tuscaloosa received a doctoral degree from Vanderbilt University. He also is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary.

**Brett Kennedy** is director of admissions at Berry College. Previously, he served at Depauw University as senior associate director of admissions and director of technology and research. Kennedy, his wife **Darby McClendon Kennedy ‘91**, and their growing family (see “Births”) are enjoying their new home in Rome, Ga.

# 'Southern actors, appearing now on stage, screen, and Web

Where do we go from here?—if you're a theatre graduate from Birmingham-Southern, the answer might be "almost anywhere!" Some notes from coast to coast—and beyond:



McGaha

This past spring, actress, singer, and musician **Seana McGaha '02**, known professionally as **Seana Harris** (because, she says, agents can't pronounce "McGaha"), returned to campus to talk with current BSC theatre students about her work since leaving Birmingham-Southern. After graduation, Harris lived briefly in New York, where she won featured parts on the television shows *Ed* and *The Chapelle Show*.

In 2004, she moved to Los Angeles and has been cast there in several musicals. For more than a year, she starred in the hit L.A.-based *Rock of Ages*, with Kyle Gass of Tenacious D, Dan Finnerty of the Dan Band, and comedian Chris Hardwick. She also performed in the *Jesus Christ Superstar* revival

alongside original cast members of the movie, as well as Ben Vereen and Jack Black. In the film world, she recently finished production on a short film called *Darling Darling*, starring opposite Michael Cera of *Superbad*, *Arrested Development*, and *Juno*. She's also been featured in a popular webisode series called *Kim and Seana*, produced by Ford Motor Co. and MTV and promoting Sync technology.

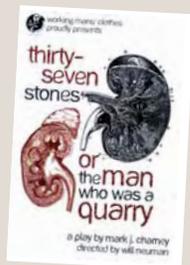
Looking ahead, Harris has just booked the starring role of a feature film to be called *Low Notes*, and she's working on a debut album that should be out early next year.

Swedish actress **Lisa Werlinder**, who studied at BSC as an exchange student in 1992-93, has film credits including the 2003 film *The Inheritance* and the 2005 *Munich*. She most recently appeared in the 2007 Swedish film *The Black Pimpernel*, a dramatization of the life of Harald Edelstam, Swedish ambassador to Chile, who saved many innocent lives during the September 1973 military coup.



Werlinder's classmate **Jill Balch Coon '92** and her husband, Murray, of Brooklyn, N.Y., attended a screening of the film this past May at the Scandinavia House in NYC and enjoyed a reception following the film with Werlinder and Ambassador Ulf Hjertsonsson, consul general of Sweden in New York.

This past April, **Dane Peterson '97** made his New York acting debut in the off-Broadway play *Thirty-Seven Stones, or the Man Who Was a Quarry* at the Looking Glass Theater. The wry comedy garnered positive reviews from BSC faculty **Dr. Terry Goodrick** and **Dr. Bernadette Mullins**, who were in New York and attended the premiere. Mullins found the play "cleverly written—witty and entertaining and yet painfully honest in revealing family relationships. I was drawn to the characters immediately," she said, "especially brothers Nathan



and Randy who were excellently portrayed by Steven Strobel and Dane Peterson."

Although she wants to try Los Angeles or New York City at some point in her acting career, **Casie Platt '02** writes that she has been amazed at the size and energy of the theater community in Washington, D.C., where she now works. Since finishing graduate school at The Catholic University of America in 2004, she has been working in theater almost continuously, and the variety of productions she's been engaged in is remarkable.



Platt

She began at a multi-million dollar children's theater in Bethesda called Imagination Stage. Following that, she had an understudy role of Julia in a production of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at the Folger Theatre in D.C. Then she found more work at the Kennedy Center's Page to the Stage Festival and the first annual Capital Fringe Festival. Platt has performed at Theatre Alliance, Signature Theatre, the Woolly Mammoth Theatre, and for a company called Didactic Theatre, with which she did a production of **Rebecca Gilman '87's** *The Glory of Living*.

She is currently involved in a production at the Rorschach Theatre of an "episodic epic" entitled *Dream Sailors*. Each week, the company performs a new "episode" in the play, until the fifth week, in which there is a marathon performance of all five episodes.

**Kevin Faraci '02** has been cast as the male vocalist for the new Cirque Du Soleil show "Zed," which opened to the public Oct. 1 at the newly completed Cirque theatre at the Disney Resort in Tokyo. This striking theatre, designed to resemble a huge circus tent, holds a massive set, which Faraci says "almost took my breath away when I walked into my first rehearsal."

He reports that rehearsals are going well, although the process is different from a typical stage production; technical matters are a part of the rehearsal process from the beginning, a necessary approach in an environment that is potentially dangerous. All the acts are "truly world class," he says, and he is "working very hard to keep my performance consistent with theirs."

Between rehearsals, there is the challenge of learning to live in a new culture: "I've got Japanese language books scattered all around my apartment, and dictionaries and maps are always in my backpack to help me out."

To learn more about this fascinating new show, "a living poem at the heart of the human adventure," visit the Cirque Du Soleil Web site and click on "Zed."



**Caryl Daugherty Sumrall** of

Jackson, Miss., a nurse practitioner at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, was awarded the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Award for Excellence for the state of Mississippi in 2008.

This designation is awarded annually to one nurse practitioner per state.

**Butch Thompson** was named assistant coach at Mississippi State University, where he will be coaching pitchers.

**'94**

**Maj. Jack D. Fulmer II** recently graduated from the National Defense Intelligence College in Washington, D.C., earning a master's degree in strategic intelligence. He has been assigned to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon.

**Todd Green** has received an appointment as visiting professor of religion at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, for the 2008-09 academic year.

**Rod Henderson** of Yazoo City, Miss., is employed by BankPlus as a credit analyst at the Highland Colony Parkway administration building. He previously was assistant manager at Eden Fisheries for six years. Henderson holds an MBA from Mississippi State University.



Presley (left) and Glidewell on an Interim trip.

**Morgan Murphy** of Birmingham, who formerly worked for *The New York Post*, *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, *Forbes*, and Time Warner (where he won a prestigious Society of American Travel Writers award), now has begun a venture all his own. After studying for the MBA at Oxford University, Murphy decided to develop a startup online site to be called Motorpool.com—an online community of car enthusiasts.

**Jessica Hogland Nelson** of Decatur has been named director of the Volunteer Center of Morgan County. Nelson previously served the agency as special events and fundraising coordinator.

**'95**

**Barbara McLeod Bushnell** was named a "Heavy Hitter in Commercial Real Estate" in the June 13, 2008, edition of the *Birmingham Business Journal*. The July 11, 2008, edition of *BBJ* reported the merger of Bushnell Realty, her two-year-old firm, with Birmingham's Corporate Realty Associates. Bushnell, who brings nearly 30 years of experience in the field, has been named executive vice president of corporate services and client development for the company.

BSC alumnae named Woodruff Fellows—Classmates and friends **Sarah Glidewell '07** and **Maria Presley '07**, who shared many special moments in their days at Birmingham-Southern, recently were companions in yet another outstanding event: both have been awarded prestigious Woodruff Fellowships at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. No more than six Woodruff Fellowships (each offering full tuition, with stipend, for the three-year program at Candler) are awarded each year, and **Bishop Robert C. Morgan '56**, BSC's bishop-in-residence, has said that is remarkable, and possibly unprecedented, for two recipients in a single year to be graduates of the same school. Morgan readily agrees, however, that "both are worthy."

Presley, who recently served at Bread for the World in Washington, D.C., and Glidewell, who lived and worked for a time with Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity in Calcutta, India, are beginning their graduate careers this fall at Emory, where they plan to be roommates.

Birmingham attorney **Charles T. Grimes** and three partners have founded the new law firm RichardsonClement PC, which opened for business in February 2008.

**George Thomas Lane III** is employed at Wood Fruitticher Grocery Co. as the director of marketing. His wife Jessica is a major gifts officer on staff at Birmingham-Southern.

Attorney **Angie Godwin McEwen**, a partner at Johnston Barton Proctor & Rose LLP, was named to the "Top 40 Under 40" in the May 2, 2008, edition of the *Birmingham Business Journal*.

**'96**

**Brooke Tanner Battle** has been elected to the board of Oasis, a nonprofit mental health counseling organization providing resources to underserved women and children.

**T. Scott Kelly**, an attorney in the Birmingham office of Ogletree Deakins, has been elected chair of the Labor and Employment



Committee for the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. Kelly, who previously held the position of co-chair on the committee, began his 2008-09 term in August.

**Allyson Fertitta Venugopal** is executive director of Tile Partners for Humanity, a nonprofit partnership between Habitat for Humanity and the ceramic tile industry. Her husband, Vineet, is a program manager for Microsoft. They live in Atlanta.

**'97**

**Franklin A. Danley**, a senior vice president at Regions Financial Corp., was named to the "Top 40

Under 40" in the May 2, 2008, edition of the *Birmingham Business Journal*.

Attorney **Jonathan Geisen** has been elected shareholder in the Birmingham office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz. A graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law, his practice is concentrated in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, business planning, and general business and corporate matters.

Attorney **J. Patrick Strubel** of Birmingham has been named a partner in the firm of Huie Fernambucq & Stewart LLP.

'98

**Rev. George Edward "Eddie" Bolen III** is now minister of the Clay United Methodist Church. He was formerly assistant minister at First United Methodist Church in Gadsden.

**Eric Housh** is now vice president of marketing at TicketBiscuit LLC. Housh, who holds a master's degree from Arizona State University, formerly was employed in marketing at Regions Bank.

**Rev. Mickey "Mikah" Conrad Hudson Jr.** is the minister of worship at Canterbury United Methodist Church in Mountain Brook. Wife **Melissa "Missie" Lynne Doggett '99** is the lead staff attorney at the YWCA Central Alabama, representing victims of domestic violence in civil actions. For news of their growing family, see "Births."

**Thomas Noon** of Birmingham has been chosen to travel to El Salvador in November for a week of building homes in the "Thrivent

Builds with Habitat for Humanity" program.

**Dr. Jeffrey Schneider** completed a doctoral degree in psychology from Louisiana State University in December 2007. He currently is a postdoctoral fellow in clinical neuropsychology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

'99

**Melissa "Missie" Lynne Doggett** of Birmingham is the lead staff attorney at the YWCA Central Alabama, representing victims of domestic violence in civil actions. Husband **Mikah Hudson Jr. '98** is the minister of worship at Canterbury United Methodist Church in Mountain Brook. For news of their growing family, see "Births."

**Erika Smiley Mahan** of Hendersonville, Tenn., is now employed by The Vanderbilt Clinic division of Vanderbilt Medical Center as a physician billing coordinator for Medical Specialties Clinic. She is responsible for streamlining the work flow process for 17 outpatient clinics, including admitting, charge entry, and billing, to ensure that physicians will be paid in a timely fashion. She previously was a software support representative for WebMD.

**Ben Moncrief** is now chief counsel to Sen. Mel Martinez (R-Fla.) in Washington, D.C.

The May 2008 edition of *Birmingham* magazine features two "Savvy Business Entrepreneurs," **Kenneth Richards** and **Adrian Pryor '01**, who have formed a successful moving company, Reddy2Move.

**John C. Rives**, controller at Robins & Morton in Birmingham, was named to the "Top 40 Under 40" in the May 2, 2008, issue of the *Birmingham Business Journal*.

**Dr. Jeremy Rogers**, assistant medical director of the Emergency Department at Trinity Medical Center in Birmingham, has been named a "hero of emergency medicine" by the American College of Emergency Physicians.

**Jennifer Warren Welch**

completed a residency in pediatric dentistry in July 2007 at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. She is now a pediatric dentist with West Tennessee Pediatric Dental Clinic in Jackson, Tenn., where she lives with her husband, Todd, and daughter, Olivia.

'00

**Dr. Sarita Bhat** has graduated from the Harrison School of Pharmacy at Auburn University and has begun a pharmacy practice residency at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville.

**Kristi Lyle Jones** of Trussville received her National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification in November 2007.

**Jessica Leigh Hall Kaufhold** of Birmingham is department chair of liberal arts at Jefferson State Community College—Jefferson campus, where she also is the choral director and instructor of music. She also serves as youth choir director at Canterbury United Methodist Church.

Attorney **Justin B. Lamb** of Birmingham is now employed at Carr Allison in its litigation practice.

**Tim Pitts** is working as a human resource manager at the adidas Group headquarters in Herzogenaurach, Germany.

'01

**Amanda Mills Carmichael** of Birmingham is now assistant director of domestic violence and children's services for the YWCA Central Alabama.

**Adam Isbell** is enrolled in the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

Actress and singer **Lexie Kendrick** remains busy with her successful career in Paris. Euro Disney Paris has signed her for their Halloween show. A musical showcase, *3 Americans in Paris*, in which she performed last spring, has been scheduled by a Parisian theatre for a run Nov. 26, 2008, to Jan. 4, 2009. And she also appears on a recently released jazz CD with the group, the Don LaRue Combo.

**Davis S. Mange** has been promoted to assistant vice president at ServisFirst Bank, where he will oversee accounting and financial analysis.

**Dana Richey Moore** of Pell City has started her own business teaching hoop dance and making custom fitness and dance hoops. She and husband Benjamin have three sons, ages 5, 2, and 8 months.

The May 2008 edition of *Birmingham* magazine features two "Savvy Business Entrepreneurs," **Adrian Pryor** and **Kenneth Richards '99**, who have formed a successful moving company, Reddy2Move.

# College presidents in the news

Three Birmingham-Southern graduates were recently honored as newly elected or retiring leaders of American colleges and universities.



Photo courtesy of DePauw University.

**Dr. Robert G. Bottoms '66** has stepped down from the presidency of DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., after leading the institution for 22 years. He is the longest-serving president in DePauw history. During his tenure, the university's endowment increased five-fold, student admissions scores increased by 10 percent, faculty members increased from 154 to 241, and the student-faculty ratio decreased from 15-to-1 to 10-to-1. Bottoms has been named president emeritus. In his new role, he will serve as director of the Jane Prindle Institute for Ethics at DePauw.

**Dr. Robert K. Glenn '75** has been elected president at Athens State University. He was formerly employed at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where he served for eight years as vice president for student affairs and, later, additionally as vice provost for enrollment management.

Glenn comes to Athens State in the footsteps of an ancestor. His great-grandfather, **Edgar M. Glenn**, a graduate



Photo courtesy of Athens State University.

of Southern University/Birmingham College, served from 1902-04 as Athens' president when the institution was known as Athens Female College. Edgar Glenn also was the second president of the North Alabama Conference College, later Birmingham College, a parent institution for BSC, and served on the Birmingham-Southern Board of Trustees for many years in the 1920s and '30s. **Claude M. Glenn '14**, Robert Glenn's grandfather, and **Rev. Kyle Glenn '49**, his father, continued the family tradition at BSC.

Dr. Glenn's wife is **Laura Whitehurst Glenn '78**. His family includes fifth-generation Panthers **Lisa Glenn '06** and **Katie Glenn '11**.

**Dr. Jay K. Simmons '85** has been elected president of Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. He formerly was vice president for academic affairs and dean at LaGrange College in LaGrange, Ga. His past positions include liberal arts dean at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio, and assistant dean at Birmingham-Southern. Simmons' wife is **Jenné Chastain Simmons '90**.



Photo courtesy of Iowa Wesleyan College.

## '02

**Angel Strong Chambers** is now vice president of Jeff Benton Ventures in Huntsville. She has been employed for the last 18 years in the banking industry, with a concentration in commercial and residential real estate.

**Ryan Duffie** of Jackson, Miss., recently graduated cum laude from Mississippi College School of Law. She was selected as the Entertainment and Sports Law Society's Most Valuable Person for the year 2007-08 and plans to focus her career in entertainment law. She currently serves as the technical assistant for Seasong Records' latest country project, titled *Never Forget—The Album*, a tribute to the recently built U.S. battleship the USS New York. The album, recorded in Nashville and

currently on sale, features country music greats including Charlie Daniels, Tracy Lawrence, George Jones, Pam Tillis, Tanya Tucker, and others. For more information, visit [www.ussnewyork.com](http://www.ussnewyork.com).

**Daniel Seigel**, baritone, won fourth prize in the Opera Birmingham 30th annual vocal competition.

**Katie Monroe White** now serves as president of the Kappa Delta Alumnae Association of Pensacola, Fla. She was installed at a March 15 luncheon at the Pensacola Country Club.

## '03

**Dr. John Benjamin Crew** graduated from the University of Alabama Medical School this past May. He was presented the

Scholastic Achievement Award for the highest academic performance in the clinical years and named to national medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha. He has begun a residency at McGaw Medical Center at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. He is married to **Allie Sumblin Crew '03**.

Attorney **Christopher S. Lydick** of Birmingham is now employed at Carr Allison in its litigation practice.

**Lucy King Stanley** of Arlington, Va., is now a political appointee at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of Congressional Liaison.

**Holger Thamm** is head of industrial relations, politics, and

environmental affairs at Stiebel Eltron GmbH & Co. KG, Holzminden, Germany.

## '04

**C. Elizabeth Mitchell** of Birmingham graduated from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University this past May.

At the end of June, former BSC pitcher **Connor Robertson** was promoted from Triple-A Tucson for several weeks of play in the major leagues with the Arizona Diamondbacks. Connor appeared in six games with the Diamondbacks before being re-optioned to Tucson. He says he is glad to have had the chance to play in the majors and hopes he will have another chance in the future.

**Robert Simpson**, who is an adjunct instructor of music at BSC, is interim director of the Chilton Civic Chorale and Pops, and led the group in a July production of "The Great American Vaudeville Revue" at Clanton First United Methodist Church. Simpson is a master's degree candidate at the University of Miami (Fla.), where he has served as a graduate teaching assistant. He also is a choral section leader in the choir at Highlands United Methodist Church in Birmingham.

This past March, **David Smitherman** of Birmingham, president of the Better Business Bureau of Central Alabama, spoke to the Blount County-Oneonta Chamber of Commerce about the growing problem of identity theft and gave tips on how to prevent becoming a victim.

#### '05

**Dr. Nicole Komara Carter** received a doctoral degree in physical therapy from the University of Florida this past May. She is employed as a pediatric physical therapist at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Fla., where she resides with her husband, Matthew.

**Christopher Friedman** recently completed a master's degree in theological studies from the Vanderbilt University Divinity School. He was awarded the Elliott F. Shepard Prize for the most satisfactory work in the field of church history. Friedman currently is program director for the Christian emphasis branch of the Montgomery YMCA and will soon pursue further graduate work in the field of 20th century American religious history.

**Nicole C. George** of Gardendale has worked with Glenwood Inc. in Birmingham since August 2006, serving as an intervention counselor with Glenwood's Community Resource Center. For the past two years, she has provided community-based services to children with autism and their families, linking them to formal and informal support. At the 2008 annual Glenwood Endowed Lecture Series on Mental Health sponsored by the UAB School of Public Health this past April, she presented a case study demonstrating the importance of family and community-based interventions and support services.

This past March, **Anna Sullivan Price** of Birmingham was promoted to administrative services manager at EMC Insurance Companies. She formerly served the company as assistant administrative services manager and as marketing assistant. In August 2007, she obtained her certified manager designation.

**Ingrid Sheaffer** has accepted a position as a staff reporter at *Us Weekly* magazine in Los Angeles.

**Jenni Stracener** of Murfreesboro, Tenn., has joined the Primary Care and Hope Clinic, a nonprofit organization providing health care for the uninsured in her community. Stracener holds a master's degree in nursing from Vanderbilt University and is a board certified pediatric nurse practitioner.

**Kenneth Stutts** graduated from law school at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., this past May.

**Kyndall Waters** of Homewood, BSC assistant athletics director for compliance, has been named an assistant volleyball coach at the college.

#### '06

**Tessa Margaret Allen** graduated from the UAB School of Public Health in May with an MPH in health behavior. She has accepted a fellowship position with the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

**Lisa Glenn** has joined the Teach for America program and will spend the next two years teaching elementary school in Phoenix, Ariz.

**Sarah Jones**, after two seasons as production assistant at the North Shore Musical Theater in Beverly, Mass., has been accepted into the prestigious Actors Studio MFA program at Pace University in New York City. Classmate **Trey Tatum** is already part of that program. Noted members of the studio have included Robert Duvall, Gene Wilder, Robert DeNiro, Paul Newman, Jane Fonda, Jack Nicholson, and many more.

**Megan Roth** will begin work on an MFA in creative writing at the University of Miami this fall.

**Rebecca Yeager** of Birmingham, a BSC admission counselor, won strong reviews for her performance as "Shelby" in the Magic City Actors Theatre production of *Steel Magnolias* this past February.

#### '07

**Elaine Duffee** is employed in health policy research at the Brookings Institute, and now

resides in Washington, D.C. This past March, **Katherine Elizabeth Lester** of Birmingham began working at Burr & Forman LLP as their recruiting assistant.

**Britni Ballard McMillan** of Birmingham was crowned Mrs. Alabama America 2008 in June at a competition taking place at the Wright Center Concert Hall on the campus of Samford University. She represented the state at the Mrs. America pageant in Tucson, Ariz., in September.

**Wilson Nash**, who recently graduated from BSC with a double major in religion and political science, was selected by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International to receive its 2008-09 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship for international study. Nash began work in July on a master's degree in public policy at the University of Sydney in Australia.

**Kristin Sornsin** recently completed a Rotary Club program which allowed her a year-long opportunity to study and write a thesis paper in Budapest, Hungary. Sornsin's thesis centered on the Kurdish people's fight for autonomy in Iraq and surrounding countries. She is now seeking a government post in Washington, D.C.

#### '08

This past summer **Sean Goldfarb** joined the coaching staff of the Maccabi USA Junior Boys' soccer team, competing in the 18th World Maccabiah Games in Israel, July 13-23, 2008. Goldfarb worked side-by-side with his father, **Preston Goldfarb**, longtime head soccer coach at BSC, who served as head coach of the team. The World Maccabiah Games take place every four years; currently

more than 9,000 Jewish athletes from more than 60 countries compete.

**Bucky McMillan** has been named head coach of boys' basketball at his high school alma mater, Mountain Brook. He currently is working on his master's degree in physical education at the University of Montevallo.

**Katie Scott** was one of a nine-member team of gymnasts from the Chattanooga Gym in Marietta, Ga., who competed at the Aesthetic Group Gymnastics World Championship in Toronto this past June. In group aesthetic gymnastics, all team members perform at once, in choreographed dances and moves.

## MPPM

'97

**Kris Dunn** of Shelby County, vice president of human resources at SourceMedical, a 250-employee provider of information services to ambulatory surgery centers and rehabilitation clinics, was profiled as an "HR Innovator" in the Feb. 1, 2008, edition of the *Birmingham Business Journal*.

## Friends

The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame has named **Bill Battle** of Atlanta, a BSC trustee, the winner of one of its major awards. The former football star at the University of Alabama, later a successful college coach and businessman, has been awarded the NFF's 2008 Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football.

**Dr. O. Lawrence Burnette Jr.** of Lillian, a former faculty member at BSC, has been named executive director of the Perdido Bay Foundation. From the group's new offices on the boundary between the Florida panhandle and lower Alabama, it will educate the public about the challenges facing Perdido Bay and raise funds to support solutions to problems facing the area.

**Vicki Addington Drummond** of Jasper, a former staff member at BSC, has been appointed by Alabama Gov. Bob Riley to the board of trustees at the University of North Alabama.

The bishops of the United Methodist Church have elected **Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster**, a friend and trustee of Birmingham-Southern and leader of the United Methodist Alabama-West Florida Conference, president-designate of their council. He will begin his tenure in 2010 at the conclusion of the presidency of Iowa Bishop Gregory Palmer.

**Dr. Donald E. Green**, a former faculty member at BSC, recently announced his retirement as mayor of Cullman. He and wife Dean Green plan to travel widely.

**James T. Stephens**, chair of EBSCO Industries Inc. and a past chair of the BSC Board of Trustees, was re-elected as chair of the board's Executive Committee. He is a life member of the board.

## Marriages

**Aurelia "Dink" Glosser Taylor '67** and **Preston Barnett '68**, Aug. 9, 2008.

**William Cory Barker '95** and Lauren Paige MacLanahan, April 19, 2008.

**George Thomas Lane III '95** and **Jessica Brooks**, BSC staff member, Aug. 23, 2008.

**Allyson Fertitta '96** and Vineet Venugopal, March 8, 2008.

**Susan Leanna Bankester '98** and **John Boyd (Jeb) Pittard '98**, April 26, 2008.

**Meredith Freeman '00** and Jeff Middlebrooks, Dec. 1, 2007.

**Jessica Leigh Hall '00** and Micah Lane Kaufhold, May 17, 2008.

**Laurel Lindsay Jackson '00** and John Robert Wood, May 17, 2008.

**Adam Dwight Isbell '01** and Stephanie Kelso, June 28, 2008.

**Virginia Elizabeth "Betsy" Yoe '01** and **David Lucas "Luke" Edridge '03**, March 15, 2008.

**Joseph David Cox '02** and Neetika Prabhakar, May 10, 2008.

**Richard Davis Lee '02** and Elizabeth Bragg Bowling, Sept. 8, 2007.

**Julia Celeste Lewis '02** and Victor Hugo Marx IV, Oct. 20, 2007.

**William H. Berkmeier III '03** and Ann Sandlin Coley, Oct. 6, 2007.

**Jamie Box '03** and Robert Dabal, April 28, 2007.

**Ashley Rae Clark '03** and Jack Rogers Smith, July 19, 2008.

**Mary Elizabeth Hendrix '03** and Clayton Matthews Burwell, April 19, 2008.

**Payne Baker Jr. '04** and **Rae Forrest '04**, April 5, 2008.

**Clifton Boswell Daniel '04** and **Meredith Lynn Kirkpatrick '05**, July 12, 2008.

**Katharine Alexander Drennen '04** and Thomas Blake Segars, April 12, 2008.

**Brett Harrison Hollett '04** and Lydia Marie Arnoult, June 7, 2008.

**Petra Kositzke '04** and Nicholas Price, Jan. 26, 2008.

**Sara Elizabeth McCarty '04** and Brent Trammell Wilson, July 5, 2008.

**Elizabeth Marie "Betsy" McLeod '04** and **Jose David Vega '04**, July 12, 2008.

**David Franklin Whitten '04** and Kanthi Paturu Reddi, May 31, 2008.

**Mikel Wijayasuriya '04** and Matthew Finley, April 5, 2008.

**Robert Hoyt Yoe IV '04** and Calee Raschel Hopper, May 25, 2008.

**Andrea Maria Boohaker '05** and **Michael Edward Dean '05**, July 26, 2008.

**Anne Catherine Greaves '05** and Justin Bruce Yelverton, May 24, 2008.

**Chadwick Gregory Long '05** and **Elizabeth Fleming Holt '06**, May 31, 2008.

**Emily Allison Mathis '05** and Stuart William Rein, May 24, 2008.

**Robin Joyce Parks '05** and John J. Ennis, May 31, 2008.

**Kenneth Stutts '05** and **Margaret Spain '06**, May 24, 2008.

**Margaret (Meg) Bailey '06** and Chad Fortenberry, June 16, 2007.

**Emily Ann Duggan '06** and **Adam Kent Israel '06**, Aug. 2, 2008.

**Ryan Marie Omenski '06** and **Alexander Volentine Green '07**, April 26, 2008.

**Britni Ballard '07** and **Henry Ward "Bucky" McMillan '08**, May 24, 2008.

**Stefan Marc Bourgoin '07** and **Kadie Ann Duren '08**, Aug. 2, 2008.

**Lindsey Elizabeth Calton '07** and Chad LeCroy Nichols, May 31, 2008.

**Kirby Sevier Jr. '07** and Sally Cameron Kizzire, June 21, 2008.

**Mary Caroline Bolden '08** and Patrick Ryan McCormic, June 14, 2008.

**Thomas Grooms Hammock '08** and Katie Lynn Esser, July 19, 2008.

**Courtland Wallace Wood '08** and 2nd Lt. Donald Francis "Trey" Colantonio III, June 21, 2008.

## Births

A son, Thomas Walsh, June 4, 2007, to **Elizabeth Kennedy Lawlor '89** and husband, Jim (big brothers, Collin and William).

A son, George "Garrett," March 23, 2007, to **Darby McClendon Kennedy '91** and **Brett Everett Kennedy '93** (big brother, Mason). Great-uncle is **Jerry Wayne Kennedy '70**, and great-grandmother is the late **Nelle Stewart Lytle '37**.

A daughter, Brigid Kelley, Feb. 27, 2008, to **David McKee '91** and wife, Judith.

A daughter, Ellery Grace, Dec. 17, 2007, to **Dr. Clay Rowell '92** and partner, Lisa (sister, Emerson or "Emmy"). Proud grandparents are **Dr. Andy H. Rowell Jr. '61** and **Marilyn Smith Rowell '60**.

A daughter, Olive, Feb. 24, 2008, to **Dr. Shawn Clemmer Peters '93** and husband, Jason (big sister, Skye).

A son, Reese Samuel, Feb. 10, 2008, to **Greg Hand '94** and wife, Tobie (foster brothers, Trevor and Skyler). Proud grandmother is former BSC staff member **Judith Hayes Hand '91**, and aunt is **Emily Hand '90**.

A daughter, Ava Rose, Dec. 1, 2007, to **Bronwyn McInturff '94** and husband, Fred Chiesa (sister, Emma Katherine). Proud grandfather is **Dr. Michael McInturff**, BSC professor of English.

A daughter, Eleanor Lyons, Feb. 14, 2008, to **Christopher Patrick Couch '95** and **Melanie Martin Couch '97**.

A son, Thomas Glosser, Feb. 12, 2008, to **Hubert Glosser (Mort) Taylor '95** and **Rebekah Leigh Tatum Taylor '96** (big brother, Hubert). Grandmothers are **Rhett Eugenia Pate Tatum '63** and **Dr. Aurelia (Dink) Glosser Barnett '67**. Great-aunt is **Catherine Anna (Cathy) Glosser Gleaves '63** and great-uncle is **Vernon Virgil Pate Jr. '68**.

Great-grandfather **Rev. Vernon Virgil Pate Sr.** began the BSC family tradition in the '30s. A son, Sheldon Knox, Aug. 30, 2007, to **Corinne Griffin Chapman '96** and husband, Bain (big brother, Miller McCafferty). Proud uncles are **Dr. William H. Chapman '94** and **George Sheldon Griffin '93**, Sheldon's namesake. Proud grandfather is **Dr. Lewis Peyton Chapman '63**.

A son, Seamus Anderson, Aug. 10, 2007, to **Jane Larkin Coyne '96** and husband, Patrick. Proud grandmother is **Jane Anderson Larkin '64**. Proud uncle is **Ben Larkin '95**.

A son, William Anderson, Oct. 25, 2007, to **Ivey Hanks Little '96** and husband, Dan (big brother, Joey, and big sister, Sally Frances).

A son, Samuel Thomas, March 1, 2008, to **Lauren Smith Goodpaster '97** and **David Goodpaster '98**.

A daughter, Graceyn Elizabeth, April 29, 2008, to **Dr. Shaun Kern '97** and wife, Holly (big brother, Madden Christopher). Proud aunt is **Ashley Kern Lee '00**.

A daughter, Abigail Marie, March 18, 2008, to **Jennifer Marie Allen Kuhn '97** and husband, Timothy.

A son, Caney Fair, May 20, 2008, to **Allison Fair Chambliss '98** and **Dr. Baker Chambliss '98** (big brothers, Bake and William). Proud uncle is **Andrew Caney Fair '03**.

A daughter, Saskia Auguste, Aug. 6, 2007, to **Jennifer Riggan Christopher '98** and husband, Joe (big sisters, Eva and Lorelei). A son, Jackson Hugh, March 11, 2008, to **Melissa Cotney Dooley '98** and husband, Adam. Proud uncle is **Jerry Hugh Cotney Jr. '01**.

A daughter, Emmalynne Cumi, Oct. 6, 2007, to **Mickey (Mikah) Hudson Jr. '98** and wife, **Melissa (Missie) Lynne Doggett '99**. Proud aunts are **Katherine Doggett '97** and **Charity Shumate Jones '04**.

A son, Charles William, May 10, 2007, to **Alison Wilbourne Lagarde '98** and **Ross Forrest Lagarde '98** (big sister, Grace, and big brother, Forrest).

A twin son and daughter, Alexander Lonnie and Madelyn Barbara, March 5, 2008, to **Dr. Allison Harris Phillips '98** and husband, Shawn.

A daughter, Erin Claire, Jan. 16, 2008, to **Laura Pruett Rueckel '98** and husband, Ryan.

A daughter, Helen Haupt, March 8, 2008, to **Kerri Hinman Culver '99** and husband, Brian.

A daughter, Helen Jane, Dec. 1, 2007, to **Sarah Eastman Cusick '99** and husband, Daniel.

A son, Noah Christopher, March 13, 2008, to **Claudine Post Feig '00** and **Daniel Feig '00**. Proud uncle is **Chad Julian Post '98**.

A daughter, Lillian Lee, June 17, 2008, to **Robyn Moore Garrett '00** and husband, Clint (big sister, Ella).

A daughter, Mollie Reese, May 19, 2008, to **Susan Wallace Hanson '00** and husband, Stephen. Proud grandfather is **Rev. David S. Wallace '68** and proud aunt is **Amy Wallace Tew '96**.

A son, Jackson Kern, Sept. 12, 2007, to **Ashley Kern Lee '00** and husband, Bronson. Proud uncle is **Dr. Shaun Kern '97**.

A daughter, Abigail Hope, April 9, 2008, to **Brandy Lynn Williams Dahlen '01** and husband, Michael Christopher (big brothers and sister, Nathan, Anna Faith, and Ethan Samuel). A daughter, Lilly Grace, March 23, 2008, to **Jake Livingston '01** and **Lark Patterson Livingston '01**.

A son, Gifford Bennett IV, Feb. 19, 2008, to **Gifford Bennett Haynes III '02** and wife, Ashley (big sister, Emma Michelle). Proud grandmother is **Penny Haynes '00**, and grandfather is the late **Gifford Bennett Haynes Jr. '65**. Proud aunt is **Christina Haynes '05**.

A son, Graham Patrick, Feb. 28, 2008, to **Lauren Murphy Ward '02** and husband, Scott.

A daughter, Mabrie Frances, April 10, 2008, to **Mylesa Myers Weatherford '03** and husband, Lucas.

A daughter, Madelyn Marjorie, March 3, 2008, to **Jenilee Crew Hunt '04** and husband, Jon David. Proud uncle and aunt are **John Benjamin Crew '03** and **Allie Sumblin Crew '03**.

Twin daughters, Abigail Lee and Lillian Marie, June 25, 2007, to **Melissa Rowland Harwell '07** and husband, Collins.

## In Memoriam

**Willie Dees Eagar '31** of Birmingham died March 28, 2008. After graduation from BSC, she taught at Alverson Business College and was active in church and community groups.

**Annie Sue Herndon James '31** of Tuscaloosa died June 8, 2008. She taught mathematics at Shelton State Community College

for 21 years and also was active in church and civic affairs. Her husband was the late **Harold I. "Jimmy" James '33**. Other BSC connections include her late brother, **Dr. Harry Virgil Herndon '32**.

**John Joseph Smith Sr. '31** of Homewood died June 16, 2008. Following postgraduate work in economics, he graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1937. After serving in a variety of positions, including stints at the University of Virginia and in the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., he entered private practice in the Birmingham area, and served for 56 years. Active in community and church affairs, he was presented the key to the city of Homewood in 1982. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society.

**Lucile Reese Hamrick '33** of Birmingham died April 2, 2008. She was active in church affairs and was known for her research into the history of the United Methodist Church. She was a member of the Ginkgo Society. Her husband was the late James Newton Hamrick Jr. BSC family members include brothers **Dr. Howard Lanier Reese '45** and the late **J. Terrell Reese '42 (Ruthe Griffith Reese '42.)**  
*Donations may be made in her memory to the North Alabama Archives Fund, Attn: Guy*

*Hubbs, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549020, Birmingham, AL 35254.*

**Floy Corrine Martin Hunt '33** of Vestavia Hills died May 8, 2008. With B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology from BSC, and additional graduate work at the University of Alabama, she taught biology and AP biology in the Birmingham City and Jefferson County high schools for many years. She also taught anatomy and physiology to nursing students at St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing, and was for a time employed at the Spies Clinic in the old Hillman Hospital. Her husband was the late **John Robert Hunt '32**.

**Mary C. Hanchey '34** of Birmingham died June 14, 2008. After attending Birmingham-Southern, she graduated from Florence State Teachers College and taught at Crumly Chapel Elementary School. She later was employed in real estate.

**Dr. William Wyatt Austin Jr. '35** of Swansboro, N.C., died Oct. 8, 2004. He was professor emeritus and a former department head at North Carolina State University. With a doctorate in chemistry-metallurgy from Vanderbilt University, he founded the Department of Mineral Industries at NCSU in 1954, and served as its head for more than 33 years. Now known as the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, the program has graduated more than 1,500 students. Survivors include wife **Lucia Patton Austin '39**.

**Dr. Wood Knight Whetstone '36** of Jackson, Tenn., died March 16, 2008. With postgraduate studies at Duke University School of Religion, Boston University (where he earned a master's degree in theology), Harvard University, the Garrett Biblical Institute, and the Menninger Psychiatric Foundation, Whetstone conducted a long life

of continuous service, as a minister and educational missionary for the United Methodist Church and as a college teacher and administrator. In 1940, he and his wife became missionaries to India, where he served as principal of a high school, president of a theological seminary, professor of religion, and finally as administrator of a psychiatric hospital. Intermittently, and following his final post in India, he served in this country for more than 30 years as a dean at Lambuth University. In 1979, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Lambuth. His wife of almost 68 years and partner in much of his ministry was the late **Dr. Grace Robins Whetstone '37**. News of his death was shared with *'Southern* by **Frances Hayes Smith '40**.

**Sanford Perry Enslin Jr. '37** of Vestavia Hills died April 10, 2008. He was a metallurgical engineer,

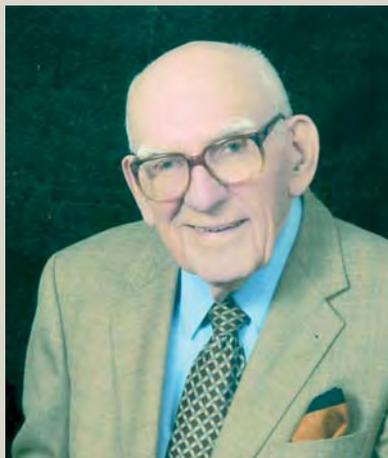
## In Memoriam '25



**Mildred Mims Bainbridge '25** of Birmingham died Feb. 24, 2008. Born into a family who had lived in Jefferson County since before the Civil War, she was deeply interested in local history, particularly historic Arlington, an antebellum home located not far from the site of the original Mims' family home. She founded the Arlington Historical Association, served the group in various offices, and was named a lifetime member of its board. In 1996 ceremonies, an oak tree was planted at Arlington in her honor.

Mims also was active in the Linly Heflin Unit, serving as president of the group in 1963, and, through her work to establish its endowment fund, aided in providing college education scholarships for hundreds of young Alabama women. She also took part in church and civic affairs. This centenarian alumna was a member of the Ginkgo Society and the Endowment Builders Society at Birmingham-Southern.

## In Memoriam '28



**Robert P. McGregor '28** of Hoover died May 18, 2008. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving on the USS Long Island and stationed in the Pacific Theater for most of the war. Later he was a sales manager for Tennessee Coal and Iron Co. and for U.S. Steel. Known in later years as the "mayor of Galleria Woods," the retirement community which was his final home, this active alumnus swam every day well into his 90s. In service to the alma mater he always cherished, he was a member of the BSC Alumni Leadership Board, the Ginkgo Society, and the Endowment Builders Society.

retired from U.S. Steel, and was active in church affairs. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society. His wife was the late **Loudel Garrett Enslin '37**. Other BSC family include son **Sanford W. Enslin '63**.

**Howard Doss Lacey Jr. '37** of Mobile died June 23, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army. He was retired from BellSouth after 44 years of service.

**Martha Franklin Matthews '37** of Birmingham died May 16, 2008. She held a master's degree in library science from the University of Alabama. During World War II, she served for two years in Germany as a recreational director in American Red Cross Service Clubs and also as an aircraft dispatcher with the U.S. Air Force at Maxwell Field. She was a librarian with the Birmingham Public Library and later served as chief librarian at the V.A. Medical Center in Birmingham. She was a

member of the Endowment Builders Society and the Ginkgo Society.

**Eleanor Edmonds Rennie '38** of Birmingham died Feb. 11, 1999.

**Charles W. Barnes '39** of Houston died July 11, 2007. Following graduation at Birmingham-Southern, where he met his future wife, **Marguerite Johnston '38**, he pursued graduate studies in geology at the University of Virginia until World War II intervened. He joined the U.S. Naval Reserve and served during the war in the Mediterranean and Pacific theaters, retiring in 1964 with the rank of commander. After marrying in Washington, D.C., in 1946, he and Marguerite moved to Houston, where he worked for Stanolin. He later founded the Houston office of W.A. Tayloe Co. Active in community affairs and charitable efforts, he supported a wide range of social justice, environmental, and cultural organizations. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society.

**Wilburta Kerr Brinson '39** of Charlotte, N.C., formerly of Birmingham, died April 6, 2008.

**Benjamin Royal '39** of Cincinnati, Ohio, died April 20, 2008. Survivors include wife Elaine Friedman Royal. BSC connections include his brother, the late **Dr. Arnold Royal '39**.

**Dr. Bruce King Johnson '40** of Birmingham died Feb. 10, 2008. After receiving a degree from the University of Tennessee Medical School, he practiced internal medicine until 1987, when he retired from active patient care to join the administration of Baptist Medical Center Princeton until his retirement in 1999. During his long career, he received numerous professional appointments in the Birmingham medical community and held staff appointments at Baptist Medical Center, South Highlands Infirmary, University of Alabama Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, and Brookwood Hospital.

He also was clinical assistant professor of internal medicine at the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Among other professional honors, he received the Physician's Recognition Award from both the American Medical Association and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society. Survivors include wife Patricia Ashcraft Johnson.

**Dr. Clarence Rainwater '41** died Feb. 16, 2008, in Queensland, Australia, where he has lived for the past two decades. With a doctoral degree in physics from Johns Hopkins, he had taught the subject at Florida Southern, the University of Miami, and San Francisco State College. Survivors include his wife, Sandy Walker Rainwater, and his former wife, **Dr. Janette Rainwater '43**, who kindly shared this news with us.

**William D. Scogin Jr. '42** of Dora and Birmingham died March 3, 2008. After attending BSC, he graduated from Auburn University. He was a veteran of World War II, and later was employed by U.S. Steel as a metallurgical engineer.

**Rosemary Marshall "Dolly" Farrell '43** of Birmingham died March 5, 2008. She was active in church and community groups.

**Rev. Delbert H. Miles '43** of Gardendale died March 12, 2008. Following graduation at BSC, he attended the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. For 44 years, he served as an ordained minister in the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. Although he retired in 1980 at his final parish,

Hazel Green United Methodist Church, he continued preaching and serving until his death. Survivors include sons **Dr. D. Howard Miles '65**, **The Rev. Father Felix Miles '66**, and daughter **Sarah Jane Miles Smith '73**. Other BSC connections include his daughter, the late **Martha Miles Elliott '62**. *At the request of family, memorial contributions to BSC may be made through the Office of Institutional Advancement, Birmingham-Southern College, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.*

**Margery Burland White '43** of Birmingham died July 19, 2007.

**Dr. Robert W. Mowry '44** of Germantown, Tenn., formerly of Birmingham, died July 16, 2008. After receiving his medical degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, he served at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., and at Washington University in St. Louis, before accepting a faculty appointment in the Department of Pathology at the University of Alabama Medical Center in 1953, where he remained until his retirement in 1989. He then was named professor of pathology emeritus, maintaining active contact with the Pathology Department and the UAB Medical Center community. In 2008, he was recipient of an endowed professorship in pathology, honoring his 50 years of service in educating others in the field.

**Raymon J. Baker '45** of Decatur died March 2, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, serving as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force. After attending BSC, he attended the University of Alabama. In

1958, he founded Baker Industries and was an active philanthropist.

**John A. Duddy Jr. '45** of Versailles, Ky., died April 28, 2008. He was retired from IBM after 32 years in sales management. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society. Survivors include wife Mary Ann Duddy.

**Jean Hight '47** of Birmingham died July 23, 2008. She was a retired schoolteacher, with service in the Fairfield City Schools, and was active in many cultural and professional societies. Survivors include cousin **Betty Hight Likis '65**.

We have learned recently that **Alfred Vance McCauley '47** of Winter Haven, Fla., died Dec. 11, 2003.

**Robert Wilson Turner '47** of North Charleston, S.C., died May 28, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Air Force. A successful businessman

and civic leader, serving in the life insurance, constructions, and real estate fields, he was president of the Charleston Real Estate Board in 1957 and president of the North Charleston Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1958. The following year, he won a seat in the South Carolina House of Representatives, which he held until 1971.

**Mary Nell Lasater Immler '48** of Birmingham died May 7, 2008. She was a devoted U.S. Air Force wife to her husband, the late **Col. Thomas A. Immler '50**. Following his retirement from the military in 1972, the couple moved to Auburn, where they opened The Village Frame Shop and Gallery. In 1983, they returned to Birmingham, where she was active in church and cultural affairs and served as president of The Republican Women's Club of the South, Starlake Garden Club, and The Armed Forces Officers' Wives Club. She was a member of the Ginkgo Society.

**Rev. Peter Aitken Blair '49** of Birmingham died April 17, 2008. A native of Scotland, he grew up in the Wylam area of Birmingham. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater. During the Aleutian Island campaign off Alaska, he was blown overboard in a torpedo attack on the USS Jupiter and was awarded a Purple Heart. Following graduation from BSC, he received a master's degree in divinity at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., and was ordained in 1952 in the Presbyterian Church. He then served as a pastor at a number of churches (with 20 years of service at Ensley Highlands Presbyterian Church) until his retirement in 2005. Survivors include wife Jean Thomas Blair.

**Zollie C. Reed Jr. '49** of Tuscaloosa died Dec. 6, 2007. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society.

## In Memoriam '33



**Martha Woodruff "Sue" Clisby '33** of Homewood died May 30, 2008. She was a member of church and community groups, including the Edgewood Garden Club and the Birmingham Fern Society. It was Clisby who planted the Lenten roses at the BSC President's Home. She was a member of the Gala Committee and the Ginkgo Society at BSC. She and her husband, the late **Vivian G. Clisby '31**, were members of the Endowment Builders Society at Birmingham-Southern and established a college scholarship honoring their daughter, Suzanne Clisby. Other BSC connections include her brother and sister-in-law, the late **Chivers Richard Woodruff '32** and **Cherry Scogin Woodruff '39**.

**William Clifford Sears Jr. '49** of Birmingham died May 20, 2008. A veteran of World War II, he served in the U.S. Army, 83rd Infantry, and was awarded a Bronze Star for service at the Battle of the Bulge. He retired as a property manager of Engel Realty and was active in church affairs. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society. His first wife was the late **Laura Acton Sears '48**. Survivors include wife Peggy Lowry Sears.

**Dr. Fred O. Sherrill Jr. '49** of Hartselle died May 7, 2008. A veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps, he was one of the first American servicemen to be trained in radar technology and was a radar operator on B-25 bombers in the Pacific Theater. Following the war, he graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine and began a practice in Hartselle. Following service as a medical missionary in Costa Rica and a period of practice in Falkville, he returned his practice to Hartselle, where he was a beloved physician and was active in business and in church and community affairs. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society.

**Howard Louis Floyd '50** of Moody died March 13, 2008. He was a World War II veteran. He was a retired professor from Bessemer State Technical College and was active in community groups. Survivors include wife Sena "Betty" Rumford Floyd.

**Willard F. Peters '50** of Hueytown died July 7, 2008. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater. He was employed in accounting at U.S. Steel for 31 years. He was active in church and community affairs and was an enthusiastic gardener. Survivors include wife Doris E. Peters.

**Joseph Edward Sandner Jr. '50** of Birmingham died March 16, 2008. A veteran of World War II, he served with the Allied Occupational Forces in Germany. Later he attended Auburn University and BSC. After an early career in life insurance, he was employed in real estate brokerage and development for 40 years and was one of the Southeast's larger developers of apartments, hotels, and office buildings. Survivors include wife **Carol Ann Smith Sander '50**.

**Mary Agnes Brooks Holliman '51** of Birmingham died July 14, 2008. In the 1950s and '60s, she worked for the federal government and in 1954 lived in Washington D.C., and was an assistant to Congressman Laurie C. Battle of the U.S. House of Representatives. A lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church USA, she was active in her community, a supporter of education, and a caring friend to the natural environment. She was the wife of **Professor Emeritus Dan C. Holliman** and the mother of **Dr. Diane Carol Holliman '87**.

**Benjamin Franklin Stokes III '51** of Mobile died July 11, 2008. He was an attorney and a former Alabama legislator. Joining the U.S. Army in 1955, he served as a Judge Advocate General, or legal, officer until 1958, when he left the service and opened a law practice in Mobile, which he continued until June of this year. In 1970, he was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives as a Democrat and served one term. Survivors include wife Alice B. Stokes and grandson **Barnett Chenoweth III '05**.

**Art Blair '53** of Rochester Hills, Mich., died May 24, 2008. Employed for 28 years with the U.S. Postal Service in Detroit, he was devoted to classical music, reading, and gardening. Survivors include wife Betty Blair.

**Dr. Richard L. Rowan '53** of Wallingford, Pa., died March 1, 2008. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he did graduate work at Auburn University and received a doctorate from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. For 36 years, he was professor of industry and labor relations at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he also was co-director and then director of the Industrial Research Unit and, later, the Center for Human Resources. In this capacity, he consulted with local, national, and multinational corporations on employment policies, with far-reaching social and economic implications. He received honors at Wharton for his outstanding teaching and contribution to the well-being of his students. In 2000, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award at BSC. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society. Survivors include wife Marilyn Walker Rowan.

**Robert Marvin Green '54** of Dacula, Ga., died Aug. 20, 2006.

**Rev. Dr. Henry Franklin Flowers '55** of Thomasville, N.C., died Feb. 22, 2008.

**Ralph Bray Britton '56** of Carillon Beach, Fla., died March 8, 2008. A veteran of World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy aboard the submarine USS Tusk. He was a member of the Alabama Society of CPAs, AICPA, and the Financial Executives Institute, and was

## In Memoriam '39

**Hubert Theron "Pete" Montgomery '39** of Montgomery died Jan. 30, 2008. After 42 years in the steel business in Birmingham, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh, he retired in 1975 as president and chairman of Connors Steel Co. in Birmingham. He was very active in church and community affairs. As a BSC alumnus, he was a member of the Ginkgo Society and the Endowment Builders Society, and he endowed the Edna M. Montgomery Scholarship in honor of his first wife. Survivors include his son, **Dr. Hubert Theron Montgomery Jr. '57**. His late sons, **Dr. Donald R. Montgomery '53** and **Neil Eugene Montgomery '55**, also were BSC graduates.

retired as CFO of Altec Industries Inc. Survivors include wife Rosezella Rowell Britton and daughter **Rhonda Britton Gallaspy '70**.

**Walter E. Duffey '56** of Huntsville died March 4, 2008. He was a veteran, serving in Korea. With a degree from the Birmingham School of Law, he began a practice in Huntsville in 1963. A lover of opera, he helped incorporate and was the first president of the Huntsville Opera Association. He also was an avid private pilot and was well known in the Huntsville aviation community. Survivors include wife Leslie Joe Duffey and twin brother **Donald B. Duffey '57**. Other BSC family include his daughter, the late **Dianne Duffey Nevola '87**.

**Harold Rayburn Lambert '56** of Hoover died July 10, 2008. He served four years in the U.S. Army. He was retired from State Farm Insurance Co. with 38 years of service. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society. Survivors include wife Chris Lambert.

**Joseph Paul Tombrello '56** of Birmingham died Jan. 18, 2008. He was employed by Atlantic-Richfield as comptroller, and later was self-employed as a public accountant. He was active in church affairs. Survivors include wife Frances Tombrello.

**Dr. David E. Bowers '57** of Athens died June 12, 2008. With a degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, he practiced pediatric medicine for more than 40 years. He served the communities of Athens, Decatur, and, for the past 10 years, Fort Myers, Fla. He and his family participated in medical mission

trips to England and Antigua, experiences he considered among the most rewarding of his career. Survivors include wife Betty Smith Bowers.

**Annie Jo Narkates '59** of Birmingham died June 20, 2008. With bachelor's and master's degrees from BSC, she was employed in research at UAB until her retirement. Her mother was the late **Josephine Tamblyn Narkates '33**.

**Dr. Barbara Strain '59** of San Antonio, Texas, died May 3, 2008. With a doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin, she was an award-winning educator, who had taught speech courses at San Antonio College since 1969, including courses for non-native speakers. With the software program Video Voice, she helped non-native speakers master spoken English. She also was an actress, with stage credits in numerous theatres in Texas and Birmingham, co-author of a speech communication textbook, an on-air broadcaster for OWL Radio for the blind and partially-sighted, and a licensed speech pathologist. She also worked for the Department of Television for Edgewood public schools in San Antonio.

## In Memoriam '42



**L. Paul Kassouf '42** of Cullman and Birmingham died June 23, 2008. A veteran of World War II, he served in the U.S. Army in Europe. He was a magna cum laude graduate of Birmingham-Southern, with membership in Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Beta Gamma Sigma. He received an MBA from the University of Chicago and was awarded an honorary Doctor of

Laws degree by BSC in 1989.

Kassouf was a pioneer in the accounting industry and, at the time of his death, was chair of the board emeritus of the Birmingham accounting firm he founded, L. Paul Kassouf & Co. PC. He was an active member of state and national professional associations, serving as president of the Alabama Society of CPAs in 1974 and on the Alabama State Board of Public Accounting from 1976 to 1985. He was a recipient of the Alabama Society of CPAs Public Service Award.

A lifelong member of St. Elias Maronite Catholic Church in Birmingham and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cullman, he was honored by Pope John Paul II as a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory and received both silver and gold Massabki Medals from the National Apostolate of Maronites USA. He also was a lifelong member of the Order of Saint Sharbel.

He was a generous benefactor of education and assisted with the establishment of endowed scholarships at Birmingham-Southern, UAB, the University of Alabama, Troy University, and the National Apostolate of Maronites. He was a member of the Alumni Leadership Board, the Fine Arts Society, the Church Rebuilding Fund Group, the Ginkgo Society, and the Endowment Builders Society at Birmingham-Southern, and served the college as a life member of the board of trustees. He established the Paul and Naomi Kassouf Scholarship in Accounting.

Survivors include wife Naomi Hawie Kassouf. Other BSC family include daughter and son-in-law, **Beverly Kassouf Kimes '70** and **Gerald L. Kimes '68**; grandson, the late **Gerald L. Kimes Jr. '92**; granddaughter-in-law, **Laura Renno Kimes '92**; and granddaughter, **Michelle K. Campbell '99**.

## In Memoriam '44

**Edith Plosser Hamilton '44** of Birmingham died June 7, 2008. After earning both bachelor of arts and bachelor of music degrees at BSC, she served on the BSC Music Department faculty and taught piano at home for more than 20 years. She was a church choir director and organist, and she also was active in other local music groups. From 1967-73, she served as an administrator at the UAB Medical School. Her first husband was the late **Hugh Oliver Hunter '49**. She was later married to David Hamilton, now deceased. She was a member of the Alumni Leadership Board, the Fine Arts Council, the Ginkgo Society, and the Endowment Builders Society at Birmingham-Southern.

**Dr. Thomas Earle Bowen, Jr. '61** of Edinburg, Texas, died April 14, 2007. With a doctoral degree in physiology and biophysics from the University of Alabama, he had a long and successful career as a teacher and university administrator. Early in his career, he served in the expansion and improvement of the adult coronary catheterization lab at the UAB Medical Center, as well as training the coronary ICU team. He was a faculty member at the UA School of Medicine from 1967-72, and participated in the revision of the medical curriculum and in developing a plan to support basic science programs. He also oversaw construction of a new facility for this teaching model. From 1972-86, he served at the University of Tennessee-Memphis in roles including vice chancellor for administration and acting dean of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences. From 1986-98, he served as vice chancellor for academic affairs and as a faculty member at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. Survivors include wife Judith Bowen.

**Claud Andrew Robinson '66** of Clovis, Calif., died Feb. 29, 2008. He was employed in the insurance

business. Survivors include his wife, Rev. Linda Gail Robinson; son, **Wyn Hornbuckle '94**; and daughter, **Shannon Robinson Marks '02**.

**Wilson Wyatt Tarleton III '69** of Anniston died Feb. 25, 2008. He was a senior subcontract administrator with URS-Westinghouse. Survivors include wife Margaret Ann (Peggy) Kawecki Tarleton.

**Stephen Corry Mauldin '71** of Birmingham died June 5, 2008. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he later had a career in catastrophic claims adjustment.

**John Isaac Farrington Sr. '80** of Birmingham died April 28, 2008. He had served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and was retired from ACIPCO. Survivors include wife Vivian Farrington.

**Mary Esther Meadows Bry '87** of Birmingham died Jan. 19, 2008. She attended the Adult Studies program at Birmingham-Southern and Birmingham Baptist Bible College.

**Louise Crooks Thompson '89** of Bessemer, formerly of Hueytown, died May 24, 2008. She was retired from the Jefferson County Tax Assessors Office in Bessemer. Survivors include husband James W. Thompson Sr.

**Dr. Greg Allen Green '98** of Crestview, Fla., died March 24, 2008. With a degree in veterinary medicine from Auburn University, he was co-owner of Friendship Veterinary Hospital in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Survivors include his wife, Dr. Ashley Wallace Green. BSC family members include mother **Deanne Joyce Green**, a former member of the BSC staff; sister **Rhonda Lea Dunn '87**; and brother **Jeffery Carson Green '93**.

## In Memoriam Friend

**Kenneth Latimer Rule Daniel, Friend**, of Birmingham died July 1, 2008. He was the son of **Dr. Cullen Coleman Daniel**, the first president of Birmingham-Southern.

With degrees from the University of Alabama in mechanical engineering, Daniel joined the American Cast Iron Pipe Co. (ACIPCO) in 1936, where, except for military service, he would remain until he retired as president in 1978. He contributed not only strong leadership to the firm, but important inventions in the field resulting in seven U.S. patents issued in his name. He is a member of the Alabama State Engineering Hall of Fame and the Alabama State Academy of Honor.

During World War II, Daniel served directly under Gen. George Patton as a lieutenant colonel and ordnance officer. He designed a hedgerow tank plow which enabled troops to breakout from the Normandy Beachhead and an outside trigger for the M1 rifle that allowed it to be fired by troops wearing mittens in the freezing cold of the Battle of the Bulge. He received many decorations for his service, including the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit.

Daniel's professional honors and awards, and those for his contributions to community life and charitable organizations, are numerous. He was a generous friend of Birmingham-Southern. Survivors include son **Cullen Coleman Daniel II '98**. *At the request of family, donations in his memory may be made to the Cullen Coleman Daniel Scholarship at Birmingham-Southern, through the Office of Institutional Advancement, Birmingham-Southern College, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.*

## In Memoriam Friend



Photography by Mary Ann Fittipaldi

**Kathryn S. McDorman, Friend**, of Birmingham died July 8, 2008. A graduate of Bowling Green Business University, later part of Western Kentucky University, she taught at high schools in Georgia and Alabama before her marriage in 1929 to the late **Clarence L. McDorman '27** of Birmingham (later 1978 BSC Distinguished Alumnus). Her subsequent service to the Birmingham community included membership on the board of Homewood Library and activities as secretary to the Coordinating

Council of Jefferson County—the forerunner of the United Way. She participated in the Fine Arts Society at Birmingham-Southern and greatly enjoyed the college's GALA celebrations of notable women.

Active in church affairs, she and her husband taught Sunday School classes at First United Methodist Church which, following World War II, combined to form the dynamic McDorman-Allen class, a proud legacy that continues at FUMC today under the leadership of their son, Clarence McDorman Jr. A scholarship fund established in honor of the McDormans' service at FUMC has made a generous contribution to the work of Birmingham-Southern.

BSC family members include her daughter, **Dr. Kathryn S. McDorman '67**.

*At the request of family, donations in her memory may be made to the McDorman Scholarship Fund at Birmingham-Southern, through the Office of Institutional Advancement, Birmingham-Southern College, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.*

**Jerry Killough Jernigan Jr. '02** of Oneonta died Feb. 27, 2008. He was a veteran, retiring in 1998 from the U.S. Air Force as master sergeant and division chief in tactical reconnaissance. Four years later, he graduated magna cum laude from Birmingham-Southern. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society. Survivors include wife Nora Franklin Jernigan.

**Roger Stephen Morrow Jr. '10** of Montgomery died April 6, 2008. A history major and computer science minor at Birmingham-Southern, he was an honor student and an active member and pledge marshal of Sigma Nu fraternity. During his freshman year, he was honored with the Bernard A. Monaghan Award. He is survived by his parents, **Roger Morrow '76** and Susan Morrow of

Montgomery, and **Dr. Angela Camp Morrow Baker '77** and George Baker of Boulder, Colo. Other BSC family members include his brother, **Charles Camp Morrow '02**.

## Friends

**Dr. Jonathan Blackney Ford** of Vestavia Hills died June 5, 2008. He was a professor of organic chemistry and biochemistry and was a former member of the

faculty at BSC. Survivors include wife Miriam Bridgham Ford.

**Juanita Fordham Phillips** of Brentwood, Tenn., died Nov. 8, 2007. She was a former financial aid director at Birmingham-Southern and, earlier, at Florida Southern and Scarritt College in Nashville. She also served as First Lady at Union College in Kentucky, where her husband, **Dr. Jack C. Phillips '60**, served as president. Other BSC family include her daughter, **Annette Phillips Mathis '84**.

## In Memoriam Friend

**Lee McGriff Jr., Friend**, of Birmingham died Feb. 16, 2008. A U.S. Navy veteran of the Pacific Theater in World War II, he flew night missions from the aircraft carrier Bonhomme Richard and remained an avid pilot throughout life. He was a Phi Beta Kappa mathematics graduate of the University of the South at Sewanee and, following the war, joined his father's insurance firm, which he served as chair and CEO from 1946-86. The firm, presently known as McGriff, Seibels, and William, Inc., became one of the largest and most successful insurance brokerage firms in the U.S. Among other professional honors, he was a member of the Birmingham Business Hall of Fame.

Active in community, charitable, and public affairs, McGriff served as mayor of Mountain Brook from 1972-93 and was a member of the Governor's Tort Reform and Insurance Advisory Committees and the Alabama State Ethics Commission, which he chaired in 1992-93.

He was a member of the Endowment Builders Society at Birmingham-Southern, and he established the Alice Nabers Jones McGriff Scholarship in honor of his wife. Survivors include his wife, **Alice Nabers Jones McGriff '40**, and grandson **Lee McGriff IV '03**.

# A parent's perspective on taking a daughter to college

BY LUCY KE

**Editor's Note:** *On Aug. 23, Lucy Ke brought her daughter Sam, a freshman sociology major from Avondale Estate, Ga., to Birmingham-Southern for Move-In Day for new first-year students. She was so moved by her day on the Hilltop that upon returning home she sent an e-mail about the experience to an acquaintance who is a BSC alumna. That BSC alumna forwarded it to another BSC alum and that BSC alum forwarded it to another BSC alum and so on until it ended up in the e-mail box of the 'Southern magazine editor. The majority of that e-mail is reprinted below. As Lucy Ke says, "I've been telling everyone how wonderful BSC is!"*

I apologize deeply for this long e-mail, but when giving praise it's nice to be lavish. I can only describe the Birmingham-Southern moving-in experience as a *loving* one, which would sound pretty weird to some, given the controlled chaos of the day, but it reinforced how much BSC cares about its students, and how well they get it. True to the cover letter that arrived days before, "cold drinks and warm smiles" were available to us throughout the day. On the way in, we were greeted not only by a *pleasant* security guard, but students standing in the rain, wearing crazy hats and trash bags for raincoats, all waving and smiling, some saying, "Good morning! Welcome to BSC!"

If you had questions, the students gladly answered them. I did not pass a single person who failed to smile and bid us good morning. Upon seeing Sam's little brother Harry, Tyler Peterson, our first-rate admissions guy, said, "Hey, we need to get you a disposable camera!" This was invaluable to a 10-year-old who felt he was saying good-bye to his sister for a long time.

When we parked outside the dorm, several students were waiting to help unload our car and carry everything up to the room. While unpacking and figuring out how to rearrange colossal dorm furniture, RAs [resident advisors] would step in to welcome, advise, and chat. One helped us move furniture around. A handsome pre-med upperclassman (whom Sam had met at a previous summer camp) came around with cold water bottles and said, "Oh, I guess you decided to come here! Great!"

Then came a late lunch for Sam and me in the cafeteria, which was fresher and more delicious than I'd imagined. The check-out lady said, "Oh, this must be your lucky day! Your change comes to \$7.77." She did not know that everything in my life had been that way all week—my odometer was in the sevens, like the check numbers in my checkbook! So I joked, "I think it's a sign that my daughter is in the right school" and the lady held both my hands when she returned my change, saying, "Oh, she is, dear, and don't you worry, we'll take good care of her."

Convocation was unbelievable. The choir sang an arrangement of Mother Teresa's recollection of her 1946 Darjeeling train ride—"It was in that train that I heard God telling me to go work with the poor in the slums"—first through a student/soloist with a soaring soprano, then a second time with the entire concert choir. Brief, but very beautiful.

Sheri Salmon [dean of enrollment management] talked about the new incoming class, their diverse points of origin, and their high school accomplishments, even down to the number of Johns, Dans and Davids, Sarahs, Marys, and Lisas. It was a funny demographic profiling of 505

new student faces (49 of them transfers).

President Pollick talked about "the silent ride" that would carry the parents home, and the delighted "screams of first freedom" that would be heard from the freshman dorms, but also that students would start thinking, "Oh my God, what am I doing here?" and homesickness would set in. "This usually happens around 3 a.m." His point was that this was the season of life that "required" homesickness of the students, and pain of parting from the parents. It was natural and necessary. He said that if students wanted or needed to, they could come talk to him.

A distinguished professor [William Nicholas, history] talked about the cultural influences of their generation, and how, as a freshman, he had come in as a superstar high school student expecting to beat the pants off his college, only to be dismayed by an "F" on his first term paper. His point: College is the place to make honest mistakes and learn. But, he added, don't make the mistake of compromising yourself (plagiarism) or never coming to class. And by the way, before coming to class, detach yourself from your iPod, your cell phone, your Blackberry, your portable DVD player, and "anything else that might be invented from now until the time you graduate."

I started tearing up not because I was leaving my child (that came later), but because this was a good place for my child to have landed. It was her first major decision and she had chosen well, probably because it's a place where they don't tell you what to think, but how to think. A great deal will be expected of her, but she'll be supported by a fun and loving community that takes its academics seriously, yet doesn't take itself too seriously.

I can totally understand why the BSC alums we've met speak so lovingly and enthusiastically about their time at the college. At their core, they are clearly doing something right.



**Pols and Panthers—**  
From mock elections to surveys to student voter registration drives to visits by sitting presidents, the political process on the Hilltop has unfolded over past decades in a variety of interesting ways. Here, Birmingham-Southern students in a campus classroom engage in an active learning exercise associated with the U.S. presidential election of 1984. A slew of candidates entered the race, which ended up being a contest between incumbent President Ronald Reagan of California, the Republican candidate, and former Vice President Walter Mondale of Minnesota, the Democratic nominee.

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