

'Southern

A Publication for Alumni and Friends

Spring 2007 Volume 33, Number 1

The Globalization of BSC



BSC Birmingham-Southern College

Editor's Note

"... they truly do love the college"

Recently I was in a meeting on campus of trustees, alumni, and staff. It was the sort of meeting I've become accustomed to lately. It was about the future of Birmingham-Southern. It was an afternoon of smiles and camaraderie—a time of insight and purpose. There have been many of these over the past couple of years as the college sets its direction for the next decade. Enrollment growth and a strong fundraising program are the cornerstones of that direction, but there are many other factors and initiatives that will drive our success. One of these is a broadening of the college's study-abroad efforts—the focus of this issue of *'Southern*.

At this particular meeting, a writer from a local marketing firm introduced an idea that the college could use over the next few years for one of its growth initiatives. This writer had spent the last year and a half learning all he could about Birmingham-Southern College. He attended campus events; he read the college's history; he memorized the facts and figures. He walked the campus to watch and listen. More importantly, he talked to dozens of students, and even more alumni, either in person or on the phone. He immersed himself in everything that comprises Birmingham-Southern.

"In the past 18 months, I've spoken to a number of alumni—recent graduates and not so recent graduates," he explained. "There is a common sense among the people I've spoken with, a strong bond they feel with the college. In fact, I've noticed that the longer the person has been away from school, the stronger the feelings they have—to the point that they mythologize their experiences here. I've heard from more than a few that our marketing efforts have reminded them that they truly do love the college."

His comments about the love that alumni have for this institution went on for several more minutes, and it was refreshing to hear, just as it has been the two or three other times I've heard the same presentation since that day. It wasn't anything we didn't already know. But to hear it from someone with no connection to the institution made it more meaningful, more important. By immersing himself in Birmingham-Southern, he, too, had come to a realization of what this institution is, and that its alumni would do just about anything to support it.

The past year has been one of the most challenging in the 151-year history of Birmingham-Southern. There have been church fires and athletics program changes. There has been preparation for growth. There has been change. Change brings uncertainty and anxiety. But change is inevitable. The world changes daily and BSC must adapt or be left behind. Change will make us stronger.

Facing much greater competition today in the recruitment of top-notch students, Birmingham-Southern is changing not only to meet that challenge, but to grow into a more fiscally healthy and nationally recognized liberal arts college for the future. Change will be good.

Yet, through all the adversity and change, and through all the change that is yet to come, one thing has and will remain constant and that is the great love the alumni have for this institution. We see it every day.

And apparently, so do others.



Bill Wagnon
Vice President for Communications

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On the Cover

A group of 32 Birmingham-Southern students, alumni, and staff, guided by BSC Bishop-in-Residence Bob Morgan, explored the Biblical and archeological journeys associated with the Apostle Paul in Greece, Turkey, and Italy during the January 2007 Interim. Here, students are pictured in Athens, Greece, at the site of the Parthenon.

Feature

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College advancing international education in the liberal arts



BSC to create a student 'village' with the purchase of adjacent apartment complex



The Hilltop Village is located just north of the Striplin Baseball Complex.

Birmingham-Southern greatly enhanced its on-campus student living alternatives with the purchase in December of the Hilltop Terrace Apartments adjacent to campus and is in the process of converting the complex into a residential "village."

In fact, the students recently voted to rename the complex as The Hilltop Village.

Located on Hilltop Parkway just north of the Striplin Baseball Complex, The Hilltop Village contains 16 buildings and will provide living space for about 350 students once the conversion is complete.

The property also has recently been renovated.

"Our students have appropriately named the apartments, because we want the complex to have the feeling of a village, a community within itself where our students can live, study, socialize, and grow from the experience," says Birmingham-Southern President Dr. David Pollick.

"This will be a valuable addition to our campus and a great benefit for our current and future students. Expanded apartment offerings satisfy a need of our students while at the same time reinforcing our residential campus focus which is so important to the BSC educational experience."

The Hilltop Village will fully become a part of the college's student residential community after all current leases of non-BSC students expire.

Several BSC students resided there prior to the purchase, and BSC's Office of Residence Life is allowing other students to move into apartments as units become vacant.

In addition to upperclassmen and honors

students, a portion of the complex will be open to students participating in theme housing—where students live and study around a particular subject or interest.

The complex includes a club house, tennis courts, and a pool. Birmingham-Southern Campus Police began patrolling the area 24 hours a day as soon as the purchase was formalized.

A road that runs directly from campus near the Striplin Baseball Complex into the apartment complex was completed in March.

A sidewalk to campus also will be constructed. After all non-BSC student leases have expired, the apartment complex will be enclosed within the greater BSC fence.

Future plans also include a renovation of the club house and the addition of a convenience store inside the complex, much like a store currently located on the residential hall quad.

Pollick adds that the complex will



Artist's rendering

allow the college to close Goodwin Hall next year, as well as provide housing as the college continues the initiatives in place to increase enrollment.

The 198-bed Goodwin Hall, built in 1972, is in need of major renovation, making it more cost effective to replace it in the future than repair it, Pollick explains.

Speakers named for spring ceremonies at BSC

Birmingham-Southern Professor of History Dr. Bill Nicholas will address the class of 2007 during the college's 148th Commencement ceremonies May 26 at Boutwell Auditorium in Birmingham.

Nicholas was named the Birmingham-Southern Outstanding Educator of the Year during 2006 graduation ceremonies in recognition of excellence in all aspects of teaching. The award includes a cash stipend and an invitation to speak at the following year's Commencement.

A member of the BSC faculty since 1984, his areas of academic interest are United States and Latin American history. Nicholas earned his bachelor's degree magna cum laude and his master's degree from Trinity University, and his doctorate from Tulane University.

Rev. Libba Stinson, a member of the BSC Board of Trustees since 1999, will deliver the annual Baccalaureate address that same day at 10:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in downtown Birmingham. Stinson is the pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Auburn and previously served as director of Connectional Ministries for the Alabama-West Florida



Nicholas



Stinson



Coon

Conference of the United Methodist Church. A native of Ozark, she served 19 years as a co-pastor at Grace UMC with her husband, Judd Stinson. Their oldest daughter, Rachel, is a junior English major at BSC.

The speaker for Honors Day April 26 will be Jill Balch Coon, a 1992 BSC graduate and director of education and programs for the nonprofit organization ENACT Inc., which uses creative drama and drama therapy techniques to teach social and emotional skills to New York City public school students and their families.

In addition to her work with ENACT, Coon works as an actress and serves as a dialect coach for theatre, television, and film actors.

A native of Huntsville, she graduated from BSC with a double major in English and theatre. She also holds a master of fine arts degree in acting from the University of Florida.

BSC selected 'Best of the Best for Working Families' for fourth straight year

Birmingham-Southern was selected for the fourth consecutive year as the "Best of the Best" winner in the education category in "Birmingham's Best Companies for Working Families" by *Birmingham Parent* magazine.

The publication's annual survey seeks out, encourages, and offers public recognition to organizations in the Birmingham area that have adopted family-friendly policies and practices—both the standard, long-accepted policies and the new, innovative ones. The winners of *Birmingham Parent's* "Best of the Best" 2006 survey were honored at a special awards luncheon in November.

"Experience, along with research, has shown that family-friendly policies lead to better balance, more creative and dedicated employees—workers who usually remain loyal to their employer and are more committed to their jobs," states a *Birmingham Parent* article announcing the winners.

Birmingham-Southern was cited for its family atmosphere, partnership with community organizations, state-of-the-art fitness center and wellness programs, full tuition reimbursement, child-friendly programs, health and safety, campus police, full range of financial benefits and options, campus events, and flextime options, among other features.



Birmingham-Southern names new members to Norton Board

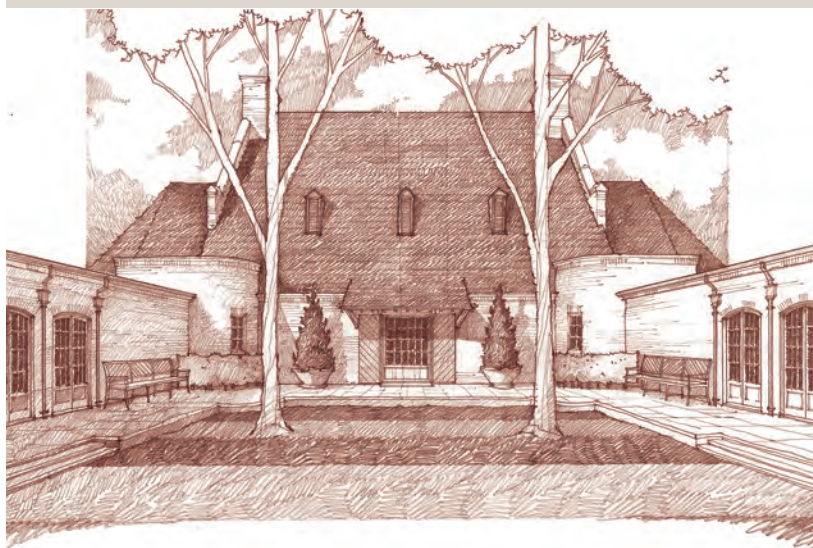
Birmingham-Southern has announced five new members of its Edward Lee Norton Board of Advisors.

New members are Jeffrey Cross of Homewood, president of 2B Solutions; Carol Herrmann-Steckel of Mountain Brook, commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency; Robert Pless of Mountain Brook, senior vice president of Regions Bank; Marsha Smith of North Shelby County, vice president of human resources for Colonial Properties Trust; and John Thompson of Vestavia Hills, vice president and director of human resources and training for EBSCO Industries Inc.

Established in 1974 to honor the memory of the late businessman and Birmingham-Southern alumnus, the Edward Lee Norton Board provides "a perpetual forum for mixing the academic and theoretical wisdom of the college with the practical advice of the Birmingham business and professional community."



BSC growth—Birmingham-Southern students returned to campus this spring term amidst a flurry of construction activity for several new projects scheduled to open in the 2007-08 academic year. Top photo: The college's new Urban Environmental Park is under construction on the west end of campus adjacent to the residence hall quad. The donor-funded park will be completed in phases and serve as both a place of recreation and leisure for students, as well as an academic laboratory for the study of environmental issues. Future phases will include a pavilion, amphitheatre, boat house, and terraced seating. Bottom, left photo: A new donor-funded Admission Welcome Center is being built next to the Striplin Fitness and Recreation Center. This stately manor will serve as the welcome center to campus and host prospective future students and their parents as they visit BSC during the college decision process. Bottom, right photo: Construction crews also are clearing the land located on the northwest side of the campus to make way for the new athletics complex. The complex will be completed in phases and will feature a stadium with state-of-the-art artificial turf and with an eight-lane regulation track surrounding the field. An athletics building will be constructed that will include a training room, a weight-training room, and locker rooms for football.



Birmingham-Southern College Calendar of Events

- April 26** **Honors Day** recognizes Birmingham-Southern's outstanding students and their academic accomplishments, 10 a.m., Munger Hall Auditorium, 205/226-4650.
- April 26-29** ***Ah, Wilderness! Theatrical Production***, Eugene O'Neill's classic comedy about small town values, April 26-28 at 7:30 p.m. and April 29 at 2:30 p.m., College Theatre, Mainstage, 205/226-4780.
- April 26-
May 18** **Annual BSC Juried Student Competition**, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., M-F, Durbin Gallery, Kennedy Art Center/Azar Art Studios, with reception at noon on opening day, 205/226-4928.
- April 27-28** **BSC Alumni Reunion Weekend 2007**. For events, locations, dates, and times, refer to the BSC Office of Alumni Affairs Web site at www.bsc.edu/alumni or see pages 36-43 in this issue.
- April 28** ***Planet Patrol Planetarium Show*** (produced by the Sudekum Planetarium), 2 p.m., Robert R. Meyer Planetarium, 205/226-4771.
- May 7** **Southern Chorale Spring Concert**, 7:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.
- May 8** **Hilltop Singers Season Finale**, 7:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.
- May 25** **Senior Capping Ceremony**, 6 p.m., Bruno Great Hall, Norton Campus Center, 205/226-4908.
- May 26** **Baccalaureate Service**, 10:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church in Downtown Birmingham, 205/226-4650.
- May 26** ***Galaxies Planetarium Show*** (a production of the Hansen Planetarium), 2 p.m., Robert R. Meyer Planetarium, 205/226-4771.
- May 26** **Commencement**, 3:30 p.m., Boutwell Auditorium, downtown Birmingham, 205/226-4650.

Pollick elected to Boy Scouts executive board

Birmingham-Southern President Dr. David Pollick recently was elected to the executive board of the Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

The announcement of new board members, including Pollick, was made at the council's business meeting in December.

He began his service for a one-year term Jan. 1, 2007.



A Grand Master of journalism—

Acclaimed journalist and author Gay Talese (second from right) was Grand Master of the 2007 Writing Today conference held March 9-10 at Birmingham-Southern. Pictured with Talese are (from left) BSC President Dr. David Pollick; Nabella Shunnarah, this year's writer's conference chair; and Don Noble of the Alabama Public Television show *Bookmark*, who interviewed Talese in a live taping at the closing session of the conference. Writing Today annually brings together writers, editors, publishers, playwrights, poets, journalists, and other literary professionals for two days of panel discussions and lectures on the literary arts, as well as practical information necessary to the craft of writing. BSC alumna Rebecca Gilman, a highly acclaimed playwright, was a major speaker at the conference.



Asking questions LOUDLY

! The interrobang. It's a rarely used, non-standard punctuation mark—an exclamation point and a question mark superimposed over each other or used side by side to indicate a question being asked with excitement, or asking a question LOUDLY.

Much like an interrobang, students at Birmingham-Southern College have been asking questions LOUDLY with excitement for more than 150 years, seeking knowledge, truth, and non-standard answers while leaving their non-standard marks on the world. It's a LOUD excitement that continues today, not only with our students, but with our entire college community.

Please visit our newly redesigned Web site at www.bsc.edu often, and while you're there, click on the interrobang symbols to learn more of what makes Birmingham-Southern LOUD with excitement.

BSC

Birmingham-Southern College



Environmental leader—Jerome Ringo (second from left), current chair of the National Wildlife Federation Board of Directors and the first African-American to head a major conservation organization, lectured on “A Changing Environment, A Sense of Urgency” at Birmingham-Southern March 15. Shown with Ringo prior to the lecture are (from left) Pat Byington, senior associate with the Wilderness Society; Jeanne Jackson, director of leadership and environmental studies at BSC; and Roald Hazelhoff, director of BSC’s Southern Environmental Center. The lecture was sponsored by the college’s Hess Center for Leadership and Service.

BSC offers a variety of summer day camps for youth

Birmingham-Southern will provide fun experiences for girls and boys to enjoy this summer while being introduced to college life or learning valuable sports, acting, and music tips from a collegiate team of coaches and teachers.

Youth ranging in age from 7 to 18 can attend sports camps during the months of June and July at BSC. Information on baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball, and track and field camps can be found by clicking on the camps link at www.bscsports.net.

The 14th annual Student Leaders in Service program, sponsored by the college’s Hess Center for Leadership and Service, will be held June 17-22. This residential program will expose current high school juniors to leadership theories and provide opportunities to practice leadership through community service projects. For more information, contact BSC Admission Counselor Ashley Frohock at 205/226-4690 or afrohock@bsc.edu. Information on the program also is available at www.bsc.edu/academics/hess/leadership/slis.htm.

For information on the BSC Intensive Summer Dance Workshop for ages 12-18, which is scheduled in June, call 205/323-5390.

Birmingham-Southern also hosts camps each summer for youth interested in music and theatre. For more information on these camps, contact the BSC Conservatory at 205/226-4960 or visit www.bsc.edu/academics/music/conservatory-summer.htm.

Application deadlines vary for all of BSC’s summer youth opportunities. Printable registration forms are available online for all of the programs.



Dragonfly lands at BSC

The PBS national program *DragonflyTV*, where kids explore the wonders of science, held an open casting call on the Birmingham-Southern campus this past fall for area youth between the ages of 11 and 14. About 30 to 40 youth were video-taped, while only two were selected to appear in the taped program, which took place at the BSC Southern Environmental Center in December. The segment was scheduled to air in April. Shown here is *DragonflyTV* host and actor Eric Artell (left) and SEC Director Roald Hazelhoff.

Professor Edward LaMonte: Teaching BSC students to be politically responsible, globally minded

BY PAT COLE



LaMonte

Though Dr. Edward LaMonte considers his role as Howell Heflin Professor of Political Science at Birmingham-Southern to be the most rewarding, his interests and influence reach far beyond his lectures about the theory and practice of politics. And he has taken on many roles over the years to prove it.

This gifted teacher, administrator, scholar, advocate, and mentor also directs the college's Office of International Programs (OIP) and maintains active partnerships with several community-based organizations. But perhaps the most stellar characteristic of LaMonte that is

often pointed out is the sincerity he exhibits toward the needs of people and his desire to make a difference.

"One of the gifts I have definitely tried to develop over the years is to take other people very seriously, especially my students, and to convey a sense of real interest in and respect for them," says LaMonte. "I try to make my teaching as much a personal experience for my students as an academic one. I really enjoy talking to people and learning more about them."

Along with balancing his part-time work with the OIP and teaching undergraduate students about the world of public affairs, LaMonte is

an instructor in the college's Master of Arts in Public and Private Management Program. He also serves as the coordinator of BSC's international studies major.

"Very important to my work as OIP director is the presence of Anne Ledvina [associate OIP director], who is a passionate and dedicated international educator," says LaMonte. "My primary role is to work with Anne and the college administration to develop policies for study abroad that are appropriate for Birmingham-Southern and for the world in which we send our students to study."

Since starting his work with OIP in 2000, LaMonte has been constant in his push to move Birmingham-Southern forward in keeping with its international focus. His contributions include helping to develop grants for international study, conducting site visits to universities overseas to establish partnerships, and serving as an advocate for the Study-Abroad program to faculty colleagues. "I think it is important to prepare young people not only to live and function economically in the world, but also to prepare them to become citizens of the world in a way that I certainly wasn't at that age and that most people of my generation were less inclined to be," he remarks.

LaMonte grew up in Columbus, Ohio, in what he calls "a very non-political family," and says his parents placed a high priority instead on educating him and his

two older brothers. He studied history at Harvard and earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago.

"My first introduction to Birmingham and the civil rights movement occurred through a service-learning project at Harvard in 1964," he explains. "That summer, Harvard teamed up with an organization at Miles College, and we lived and worked together on their campus. I became acutely aware of how limited my own background and experiences were and how important it is for people as they grow to be around others who are different from themselves in significant ways."

Between getting his graduate degrees and joining BSC, LaMonte directed UAB's Center for Urban Studies through its first decade, and later served eight years as a senior staff member for Birmingham's first African-American mayor, Dr. Richard Arrington Jr. "The opportunity to work with Mayor Arrington during two of his terms at the same time that Birmingham was undergoing profound economic, social, and political change was a remarkable personal and professional experience for me," he expresses. "It was during that time that I began my international travel as a representative for the city."

These types of cross-cultural experiences are what guided LaMonte to many of his off-campus pursuits in urban development and his efforts to bring people together from diverse backgrounds. His leadership over the years in local business, social, educational, and civic organizations is impressive and too numerous to list completely, but includes the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Operation New Birmingham, Alabama Symphonic Association, Partners in Neighbor-

hood Growth, and A+ Education Foundation.

Last year, LaMonte joined the Alabama Council for Excellence in Education, to which he brings a personal perspective from his experience in 1996 as interim superintendent of schools for the Birmingham Board of Education. "I realized that the city of Birmingham is basically an all-black school system and that there are others in its surrounding areas who are overwhelmingly white," he notes. "While we are much further down the road than we were decades ago in terms of diversity, still so many of us live separate lives from people who are fundamentally different from us. We need to explore common ground, rather than division."

While serving as superintendent, LaMonte took a half-year leave of absence from his administrative duties at BSC, but maintained his teaching load. "That still proved to be a real problem," he recalls. "One cannot be an adequate school superintendent and have a competing claim like that. I learned that lesson from hard and painful experiences."

Following those tough months, he returned to teaching full-time and became dean of the former Adult Studies Program at BSC, a position in which LaMonte says he was delighted to serve. "I was very attracted to the quality and impact of that program," he says. "I think it made a tremendous difference for many adults in the Birmingham metropolitan area."

Both in the city and the state, LaMonte has received many academic and civic honors during his career for his contributions, published articles for newspapers and journals, and has worked as a consultant to several local groups. He is a past recipient of the college's ODK Excellence in Teaching Award and garnered the 2004 Brotherhood

and Sisterhood Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice.

A great support to LaMonte's professional career is his wife, Ruth, an Episcopal priest and chair of Birmingham's Sister City Commission. "My wife has a strong international background and experience from both her former and current work," he says. "I travel with her as often as I can to assist in her work of developing relationships with cities around the world."

Since he has traveled somewhat extensively overseas and worked in the world of politics and public affairs, LaMonte believes he brings a unique strength to his students. "Traveling and working in city government has added sensitivity to my teaching, and I try to draw on it in appropriate ways and incorporate that regularly into the classroom."

LaMonte readily admits that his desire to teach at a small liberal arts college has always been stronger than any of his thoughts toward becoming a career civil servant. "It is a real privilege to be a part of the educational community at Birmingham-Southern where the lives and well-being of its undergraduates are the primary focus, yet where there is a deep respect for the responsibilities and opportunities connected with the community—both in the immediate neighborhood and the world at large."



Longtime religion professor Wells to retire after 40 years



Wells

When Dr. Roy Wells, Birmingham-Southern professor of religion, retires at the end of May, he also will be celebrating his 50th anniversary as a graduate of the college.

Wells grew up in Birmingham and knew that after graduation from high school he wanted to study ministry at Birmingham-Southern. But, he had no idea where the school was located. A short bus ride later, he found himself in Munger Hall and knew he'd come to the right place. In the hallway, he met the legendary English Professor Richebourg Gaillard McWilliams. Wells said to himself, "Now that's a college professor!"

He graduated Phi Beta Kappa in

1957 with a major in classical Greek. He continued his education at the Vanderbilt University Divinity School, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Biblical studies in 1960 and a Ph.D. on completion of a dissertation in Old Testament in 1969. At Vanderbilt, Wells was recipient of the Founder's Medal, the Divinity School's highest academic recognition, and the Owen Prize in Biblical Studies.

Wells has a formidable reputation for scholarship, with his primary research area being the prophetic literature of the Old Testament. He has presented papers and written articles and reviews and has traveled in Israel and Jordan on research grants. As a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, he has been invited to participate in a consultation on the formation of the Book of Jeremiah and is on the steering committee for a research seminar on the formation of the book of Isaiah.

Wells was a minister in the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church for many years and conducted services and offered seminars and workshops for clergy and lay people. In 1996, he was confirmed in the Episcopal Church and was ordained a priest in 2000. He serves as priest associate at St. Andrew's Parish in Birmingham and as a Diocesan supply priest for area Episcopal churches.

But his first ministry, Wells says, has been teaching. In his more than four decades of engaging students in divinity studies, he says that his

favorite part has been "the discovery of watching people realize how good they really are"—how capable as scholars, how filled with promise. "I enjoy watching students become colleagues," he says. A number of his students have gone on to fill distinguished roles in academia.

His teaching positions have included fellowships at Vanderbilt Divinity School and Vanderbilt University and instructor positions at St. Luke's Seminary at Sewanee and Austin College in Sherman, Texas. He joined the BSC religion faculty in 1967.

Wells is quick to acknowledge the importance throughout his career of his wife, Laura Stephenson Wells '59. High-school sweethearts, the two recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Together they have raised three children and now enjoy a grandchild.

Wells also cites the importance of fellow faculty during his long career at BSC, a faculty, he says, that is distinguished by its ongoing quality and substance. "My colleagues have kept me alive," he says, "stimulated, energized." Close colleagues return the compliment. Dr. Earl F. Gossett Jr. '54, BSC Canterbury Professor Emeritus of Religion and Philosophy, says "Roy is a brilliant Biblical scholar ... his students have benefited from his challenging and careful scholarship and teaching. My own theological understanding has been enhanced by dialogue with him."



Gibbs

Gibbs to retire after 37 years at Birmingham-Southern

When Professor of Music Dr. Thomas Gibbs retires from Birmingham-Southern at the end of May, he will leave behind a durable and tangible legacy of influence in the lives of thousands of students and colleagues.

A 1964 BSC graduate in religion and philosophy, Gibbs holds a master's degree and Ph.D. in musicology from the University of Texas. He joined the BSC faculty in 1970 and for 37 years has taught a wide variety of courses in music history and theory.

Gibbs' teaching at BSC has included conducting, choral literature, opera literature, hymnology, and theology and music. From 1980 to 1988, he served as chair of the college's former Division of Fine and Performing Arts.

As teacher, conductor, vocal coach, pianist, and organist, Gibbs' musical leadership skills have extended outside of BSC to the local community and beyond. He spent 10 years as conductor of the Birmingham Concert Chorale, an organization that serves as the Alabama Symphony Chorus. Gibbs has conducted opera and musical

theatre productions with professional organizations such as Birmingham Summerfest. He conducts the Red Mountain Chamber Orchestra each year and has served as president of the Birmingham Music Club. He also has served as organist and choir-master for several local churches.

"Principally, however, I'm a teacher," he notes. "And everything that I've done over the years has grown out of my teaching. The climate at BSC encourages and supports professional activity and community involvement."

When asked what he is most proud of, Gibbs talks about the achievements of his students, particularly those who have active careers as conductors and teachers. He also notes that it is especially satisfying when former students stay in touch, continuing the dialogue that began in class.

As far as offering general advice for current students, Gibbs says that he encourages his students to think for themselves: "to value your own engagement with the music, your own observations, and your own responses, which are just as important as what you read in books."

A native of Birmingham, Gibbs grew up in the city's musical scene. "My mother was a wonderful composer and organist, and most of our family's friends were musicians," he recalls. "My parents wanted me to go to medical school after college, but I could never disengage myself from music."

Even so, Gibbs is eager to cite some of his experiences that do not directly relate to music. He has been a faculty advisor to three BSC Interim service-learning projects—

opportunities that he says are invaluable and life-changing. Through other Interim projects, he has become a practitioner and student of Buddhist and Taoist contemplative practices, especially as presented in the curriculum for westerners called the New Forest Way.

At the end of May, Gibbs will move to Marietta, Ga., where his partner, Steven Schneider, is employed. He will work on music-editing projects, as well as complete a number of articles for professional journals.

"I've been reminding my professional colleagues in the Atlanta area that I will be available for teaching and conducting," says Gibbs. "I don't feel old enough to retire."

Sprayberry recognized as exemplary teacher by United Methodist Church

Dr. Sandra Sprayberry, the Robert E. Luckie Professor of English at Birmingham-Southern, has been presented with an Exemplary Teaching Award by the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry of the United Methodist Church.



Sprayberry

The award is presented annually to a BSC professor who is "characterized by excellence in teaching; civility and concern for students and colleagues; commitment to value-centered education; and service to students, the institution, the community, or the church."

Having joined the BSC faculty in 1988, Sprayberry holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master of fine arts from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D. in 20th-century poetry from Florida State University.

Dibya Thapa:

Nepalese student follows a 'mountain trail' to arrive at BSC

BY PAT COLE

Coincidence can probably best describe Dibya Thapa's journey from Nepal to Birmingham-Southern College.

Were it not for her father being invited to help with BSC's freshman orientation at the start of the fall 2000 semester, Thapa is certain her dream of graduating from a U.S. college or university would have been fulfilled elsewhere or not at all.

Her father, Puran Thapa, was among a panel of guests who led the freshman required-reading discussion on campus that year about *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the 1996 Mount Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer. He talked about his special connection to veteran mountaineer Scott Fischer, who along with 12 other climbers, came up missing.

"My dad lost his best friend, Scott Fischer, during that expedition," says Thapa. "He shared experiences too of his involvement in the travel/trekking business in Nepal, where Mount Everest is located."

When her father returned to Nepal, Thapa says he was eager to talk to her about the possibility of his daughter attending Birmingham-Southern. "My dad was very impressed with the college," says

Thapa. "He told me the people on campus were friendly, and that he liked the size and the small student-to-faculty ratio. He thought that BSC would be a good fit for me because of the smaller schools and classrooms that I am used to."



Thapa

A few months later, during her junior year of high school, Thapa received a BSC admission packet from then-president Dr. Neal Berte. "That's when I really began to prepare myself for study abroad in

the United States," she says. "My parents had always wanted me to work to become independent, to strive be a leader, and to explore opportunities in my life."

Following a lengthy wait, Thapa received the phone call she wanted from Pat Kidd in the BSC Admission Office. So before the start of the 2004 spring term, she took a 22-hour flight from Nepal—located in southern Asia, between China and India—to attend BSC as a freshman.

Thapa is fluent in English, Hindi, and Sanskrit in addition to her native language of Nepalese. "I started learning English when I was in preschool," she says. "But when I first came here, I did have a difficult time understanding the Southern accent."

A senior business administration major, she is a member of the college's Multicultural Awareness Organization and does work-study for the Office of International Programs. "My experience at BSC has been very positive," remarks Thapa, who also is a Nepalese folk dancer. "The students and faculty are very helpful. The teaching style is different though. In Nepal, students sit in the classroom and listen to the teacher and take notes.

But here, there is a lot of dialogue and classroom discussion."

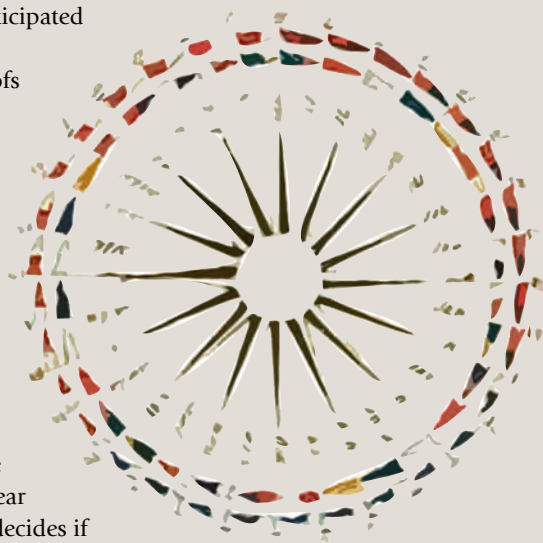
As often as she can, Thapa ventures outside of the college's gate with friends to visit the city's attractions and taste a variety of Southern foods. Her outings have included the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Botanical Gardens, and area shopping centers. "I like both the city and the food," she says. "In Nepal, we eat a lot of rice and curry and we don't put ice in our beverages. And there are no fast-food restaurants in Nepal. We mostly cook and eat fresh foods every day."

Thapa even traveled to Puerto Rico during one January Interim term as part of a business internship, and, during another Interim, participated in a local service-learning project. "I helped repair roofs on homes in the Woodlawn community of Birmingham and tutored at a nearby school," she explains. "Working in Woodlawn was an 'eye-opening' experience for me. It helped me to realize that even people living in the United States struggle with poverty and need help."

She intends to work in the United States for at least a year after graduating before she decides if she will return to Nepal. "I want to travel to different places in the United States and the world," she says. "And I would love to learn other Asian languages, such as Korean and Japanese."

Thapa has returned to Nepal only once during the four years she's been at BSC. "International students don't always go home for the holidays, and it can get really lonely here on campus sometimes," she expresses. "For me, it's not so much the solitude, but the fact that I don't have a car or a driver's license."

As a soon-to-be graduate of Birmingham-Southern, Thapa believes that getting a liberal arts education is a necessity. "Along with the education I'm receiving, just coming to BSC from a completely different place, from a country so far away, and having to learn new things every day, has been a valuable experience in my life."



Thapa with Anne Ledvina, associate director of the Office of International Programs.



A classic comedy—An ensemble of theatre students produced William Shakespeare's romantic comedy *As You Like It* from start to finish during Interim 2007.

Interim 2007: travel, uncommon courses, experiential learning

For undergraduate students at Birmingham-Southern, the Interim term is something to get excited about. One of the most distinctive parts of the college's educational experience, this "mini-semester" between the fall and spring terms gives students an opportunity to identify and pursue their passions.

During the four-week period each January, students explore one topic or interest through on- and off-campus creative projects, cutting-edge courses, independent study or research, foreign study experiences, and challenging

and unusual internships—all for academic credit.

More than 200 BSC students spent Interim 2007 involved in faculty or staff-guided service-learning and study projects locally, nationally, and internationally. Interim projects this year ranged from doing environmental research in the Pacific Northwest to exploring human rights issues in South Africa to studying the language and culture of Argentina. Locally, a group of students engaged in service in west Birmingham and the Black Belt region to gain a better understanding of

poverty in rural and urban Alabama.

Nearly 100 other students spent Interim term in individually contracted study experiences across the state, nation, and world, while others participated in more than 50 creative course offerings on the BSC campus, including "The Science and Art of Fermentation." Some 120 students completed internships.

Although space limitations prevent featuring all of the students' innovative experiences, the following varied snapshots will provide a glimpse of Interim 2007.



Interim at sea—BSC student Chris Luketic was among a group who spent three weeks in the Caribbean learning to sail aboard a classic two-masted schooner. Led by BSC Associate Physics Professor Dr. Duane Pontius, this travel opportunity has been a popular Interim activity for years.



Service learning in Birmingham—BSC student Claire Davis plays with a child at Urban Ministry in Birmingham, where a group of students lived and worked for a week to restore and renovate houses in a nearby community.



Murals of hope—Several BSC students and staff members helped paint murals on the walls of a school nursery during an Interim service-learning trip to Ecuador.



A Biblical journey—Observing this breathtaking view from the Acropolis at Pergamum in Turkey are (from left) Birmingham-Southern student Maria Presley; Emily Mathis, a 2005 BSC graduate; and BSC Bishop-in-Residence Bob Morgan. They were part of a group of BSC students, staff, alumni, and guests—guided by Morgan—who spent the majority of the January Interim term exploring the journeys of the Apostle Paul in Greece, Turkey, and Italy.



Conversations in Spanish—Students in the class “Y Ahora A Hablar” (And now, let’s talk) on campus absorbed a unique Interim educational experience by getting a total immersion of the Spanish language through readings, music, and movies. The course was taught by BSC Spanish Instructor Kim Lewis (far right).



Medical mission—BSC students Caitlin Gordon (pictured, foreground) and Amanda Woods interned for Cooper Green Mercy Hospital in Birmingham and traveled with a medical team to Nicaragua for a one-week mission project.

Human rights examination—“After Apartheid: South Africa” was the focus of an Interim project in which 15 BSC students and two faculty members traveled to South Africa to study human rights issues. This was BSC’s first group travel Interim to this country. Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former archbishop of Cape Town, is pictured with the students.

Two BSC students selected as 2007-08 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars



LaCour and Sornsin

Two Birmingham-Southern seniors have been chosen by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International to receive its prestigious scholarships for international cultural study.

Eddie LaCour, a political science major from Dothan, and Kris Sornsin, an international studies major from Alexander City, each were awarded a one-year Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.

LaCour plans to pursue a master's degree in international peace studies at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. Sornsin intends to travel to Budapest, Hungary, to work toward a master's degree in nationalism studies at Central European University.

The Rotary Scholarships, which can reach up to \$25,000, are intended to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. The scholarships are sponsored by local Rotary clubs.

The Rotary Foundation offers three types of scholarships: Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships for one year of post-graduate and cultural study, Rotary Cultural Scholarships for three months of overseas study, and Multi-Year Rotary Scholarships for two or more years of international study and exchange.

Since 1990, 34 BSC students or alumni have been awarded Rotary International scholarships.

BSC student honored by Points of Light Foundation

Jessica Headley, a senior political science major from Hoover, has been selected for a national Daily Points of Light Award for her volunteer work in educating young people about the importance of character.

The Daily Points of Light Award honors individuals and volunteer groups that have made a commitment to volunteer service to help meet critical needs in their communities and in the nation. It focuses on the goals for children and youth set by the President's Summit for America's Future. Each weekday, one volunteer or volunteer effort in the country receives a Daily Point of Light Award.

Headley, who was showcased on The Points of Light Foundation's Web site March 21, was selected for the prestigious award based upon the nonprofit corporation she founded in 2005 called P.R.A.I.S.E. Inc. (Promoting Responsibility, Awareness, Integrity, Service, and Education).

She mentors students weekly in both large and small groups about the six pillars of character, works with schools on awarding certificates for students who demonstrate positive character, and raises funding for scholarships from businesses and civic groups to help train teachers in inculcating character into their curriculums. She also created a DVD on the merits of character that was distributed to Alabama legislators.

Headley used the topic "P.R.A.I.S.E." as a community-service platform when she competed in the 2004 Miss BSC Pageant, and she will use it again when she vies for the Miss Alabama title in June as the reigning Miss Point Mallard.

For more information about the Points of Light Foundation, visit www.pointsoflight.org.



Headley



Wang

Wang a finalist in Miss Chinese International 2007

Birmingham-Southern senior Sirena Wang of Madison was a top-five finalist in the Miss Chinese International 2007 Pageant held in January near Hong Kong. She also won the Audience Favorite award for talent and the Webmaster's Choice award during the pageant.

"The pageant competition was the experience of a lifetime," said Wang. "I met 20 young women from around the world. Not only did I learn more about my own culture, but I learned about the cultures of at least 15 other countries."

Wang earned the right to compete at the international pageant after she took the national crown of Miss New York Chinese in August.

A double major in international business and music, she is an accomplished pianist and a member of the BSC air rifle team.

Two BSC students internning to help the environment

An interest in environmental activities and discovering the importance of green issues were at the heart of two Birmingham-Southern students' decisions to take part in the Associated Colleges of the South (ACS) paid internship program for 2006-07.

Jon Bernreuter, a junior music major from Vestavia Hills, helps organize and maintain BSC's recycling station. Bernreuter has spent the past semester tackling the mountain of recyclables that have accumulated on the Hilltop and making sure the recycling bins are in suitable spots to be picked up by city recycling crews. He also helped secure funding for new recycling bins at BSC by working with the Student Government Association.

Brooke Wright, a junior Latin American studies major from Huntsville, assists at the Southern Environmental Center (SEC). In addition to helping youth with EcoArt activities, Wright reports to the ACS about environmental happenings at Birmingham-Southern.

She served as the coordinator for this year's EcoFest fundraising event, which benefits the SEC's community garden program, and she represented BSC at a green conference at Rollins College (Fla.) this past fall. She also is serving as a student liaison for environmental initiatives within the ACS consortium.

ACS is composed of 16 liberal arts colleges and universities in 12 Southern states that work cooperatively to strengthen academic programs of the member institutions and to promote to others the nature of a liberal arts education and the vital role it plays in society.



Wright (above) and Bernreuter.



BSC's Ultimate Frisbee team ranked among tops in nation

The Birmingham-Southern men's Ultimate Frisbee Club team finished the fall season with a 16-1 record and was ranked as high as No. 3 in the nation in the November ranking, according to the Players Association RRI ranking's index.

The team received the ranking following a tournament in Atlanta on the Emory University campus. In that competition, the Panthers finished second, falling in the finals to Georgia Tech after having beaten the Jackets earlier in the tournament.

Birmingham-Southern beat Auburn University, Berry College, Clemson University, and Emory prior to the loss to Georgia Tech in the tournament. The team also had victories over Purdue, Southern Mississippi, Tennessee, and Tulane in the fall.

The main season for Ultimate Frisbee is the spring. BSC is competing in five major tournaments this spring in Nashville; Atlanta; Memphis; Starkville, Miss.; and Talladega.

Ultimate Frisbee is played by two seven-player squads with a high-tech plastic disk on a field similar to football. The object of the game is to score by catching a pass in the opponent's end zone.

For more information, go to www.bsports.net, or visit www.upa.org.



Theatre excellence—The Birmingham-Southern production of *Urinetown* was selected to participate in the Region IV Festival of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival held in February at Georgia Southwestern University. It was one of eight productions selected for the festival out of over 55 in the eight Southeastern states that make up Region IV, each vying for an invitation to the national festival in April at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. While the production was not selected for the national festival, it was one of only 17 nationwide, and the only one from Region IV, that received consideration. Birmingham-Southern theatre productions have a long-standing history of receiving invitations to the Kennedy Center regional competitions. Since 1986, the college has been extended seven invitations to compete against much larger institutions, including those with graduate programs in theater.

Homecoming queen crowned

Sarah Glidewell was crowned Birmingham-Southern's 2007 Homecoming Queen Feb. 24 during halftime ceremonies at BSC's women's basketball game vs. Radford. Glidewell, a senior religion major from Marietta, Ga., was escorted by her father, Sam Glidewell, a 1972 BSC graduate. Homecoming queen joins Glidewell's list of other accomplishments, which include membership in Kappa Delta sorority, co-president of Students Offering Support, and vice president of Mortar Board.



Whittington Competition winners perform with orchestra

Three student winners of the seventh annual Whittington Competition at Birmingham-Southern performed Feb. 18 on campus with the Red Mountain Chamber Orchestra.

The orchestra, led by BSC Music Professor Dr. Thomas Gibbs, accompanied the 2007 Whittington Competition winners, who were Shelby Bowling, a sophomore vocal performance major from Mobile; Bonnie McClure, a junior music major and pianist from Fortson, Ga.; and John-Mark McGaha, a senior vocal performance major from Pratt City.

The Whittington Competition is named for Frances and Dorsey Whittington, who were leaders of The Birmingham Conservatory of Music which later became the Music Department at Birmingham-Southern.



Whittington Competition winners (from left) Shelby Bowling, John-Mark McGaha, and Bonnie McClure, with BSC Music Professor Dr. Thomas Gibbs.

THE Globalization OF BSC

BY PAT COLE

COLLEGE ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IN THE LIBERAL ARTS



The practice of providing an international education in the context of the contemporary liberal arts curriculum requires that students develop their “narrative imagination” and the ability to take on the perspectives of another culture as described by noted philosopher Dr. Martha Nussbaum in her book *Cultivating Humanity*.

This concept challenges educators in this era of increasing globalization and raises issues that faculty and staff at Birmingham-Southern are bringing to the attention of their students as they look upon the world and search for their place in it. Whether students travel internationally or engage in intercultural learning, BSC is setting a high priority on international education as part of every student’s academic experience.



(Opposite page, left) Alumna Marta McLellan '02 conducts a class session in China. (Right) Students pause to take in the beauty of Italy during the 2007 Interim "Classical and Renaissance Italy: The Major Cities and the Places in Between."

Photo by Herndon Rouse.

(This page) BSC students spent three weeks sail training in the Caribbean aboard a classic two-masted schooner during the 2007 "Interim at Sea." Photo by Courtney Bascom.

According to the Institute of International Education (IIE) in its annual survey *Open Doors*, there has been an 8 percent increase in the number of American students studying abroad. And Birmingham-Southern is well on top of this national trend as it relates to international study.

BSC President Dr. David Pollick has shared much of the college's international vision and has given greater visibility to the globalization of the campus. He believes students cannot truly experience the value of a liberal arts education without immersing themselves in a different culture.



"Creating the expectation that every student will have an international or multicultural experience while in college guarantees the preparation of a more thoughtful global citizen, rather than a cultural isolationist," says Pollick. "Though one may say 'I'm an American or a Lithuanian,' international exposure provides the student with a broader sense of place and global responsibility."

Pollick began addressing the need for enhanced international learning when he became the college's 12th president in 2004. "Birmingham-Southern College will continue in its commitment to international education wherever appropriate throughout its curriculum, including the addition of new programming," he stated in his inauguration address. "Furthermore, we will

expand the study-abroad opportunities for our students, making the full, rich, and secure experience of an educational semester abroad a greater likelihood during the course of each of our students' undergraduate careers."

Birmingham-Southern's efforts to prepare students to join the global community are coming from all areas of the campus. The Office of Admission, in collaboration with the Office of International Programs (OIP) and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, is working to recruit international students who diversify the campus. The Provost's Office, the college's academic departments, and



the OIP are identifying opportunities and funding sources to invite international scholars to campus and to add

international or human rights content to the curriculum. In addition, offering international study-travel through the Office of Interim and Contract Learning and the OIP gives students a chance to explore the world as part of their four-year degree.

"There are many other things Birmingham-Southern is doing well to promote internationalization," adds Dr. Edward LaMonte, Howell Heflin Professor of Political Science and director of the college's Office of International Programs. "Cultural awareness is being spread by having organizations such as the United Nations Student Alliance represented on campus, as well as

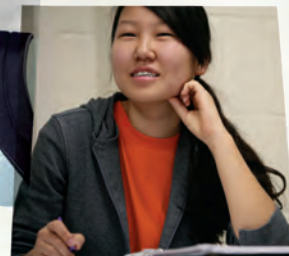
through offices like Multicultural Affairs and International Programs. Having these groups on campus is important for creating cross-cultural perspectives."

And current students are not the only ones benefiting from the college's cross-cultural efforts. Many BSC alumni have put their degrees to work internationally.

Mitch Robinson, a 2001 BSC graduate and former Student Government Association president and Rotary Scholar, is just one example. Robinson studied abroad in college and says his BSC experiences led him to pursue other

international opportunities.

"Since graduating from BSC in history, I've studied international relations at the University of



Edinburgh in Scotland and human rights law at the University of Wales in England," he says. "Currently, I am teaching Western Civilization and American Society and Culture at Tsinghua University in Beijing. This has been an incredible journey for a kid from Meridian, Miss., who didn't even know which way to turn on the BSC campus the first time he saw it."

For Birmingham-Southern students who wrestle with the "travel itch" during college, both the Office of International Programs and the Office of Interim and Contract Learning hold the keys to the popular study-abroad programs that introduce students to new cultures each year.

The OIP—connecting BSC and the world

The Office of International Programs, established on campus in the late '90s by a grant from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation, is the “command post” for international education at Birmingham-Southern. Located on the second floor of the Norton Campus Center, the office is directed by LaMonte, who serves as the faculty director, and Anne Ledvina, associate director, who is the full-time administrator for the OIP.

The mission of the OIP is to develop study-abroad opportunities that add an international dimension to the academic program at the college and that support students and faculty in their international interests. The office also focuses on developing international university partnerships that allow for student exchange and faculty collaboration.

The OIP currently has 20 foreign university partners and select North American study-abroad providers who offer Birmingham-Southern students new perspectives on their majors and who expand the course offerings at the college. Study abroad helps students to complete the Asian studies major and offers international courses in areas like economics, psychology, and religion, among many others.

“We’ve been working closely the past two years with the provost and the Office of Interim and Contract Learning to develop a uniform set of requirements for every student who goes abroad under any program and for any purpose,” says LaMonte. “These requirements are valuable as students prepare to answer questions about their nation’s foreign policy and to deal with health or safety issues.”

The OIP has a number of new exchange affiliations that allow BSC students to participate in international exchange and that support

a curriculum in all academic disciplines, including business, pre-health, history, economics, computer science, fine arts, and Asian and Latin American studies. And the office is working on developing even more bilateral exchanges with foreign universities, which allow students to participate in a student exchange for a semester or a year of study toward their degree at BSC.

“In the OIP, we focus on building study-abroad programs that help students grow academically, socially, and personally,” explains Ledvina. “All of our university partners and study-abroad providers have been carefully reviewed, and site visits have been conducted by members of the OIP staff or the BSC faculty.”

The passion Ledvina displays for her work at BSC is easily discernable and derives mostly from her extensive career in international education. She studied at Marlboro College in Vermont as an undergraduate, and earned master’s degrees in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from the University of Alabama and in cross-cultural training and simulation design from the University of Michigan. She also has 15 years of teaching experience and has taught and lectured in 11 countries, including France, Russia, the Czech Republic, Japan, and the Netherlands. She is married to a native of the Czech Republic.

Because of her experiences, Ledvina says she considers herself more of an educator than an administrator. “I enjoy advising students before they go abroad to learn about their hopes and expectations and to find out what they want from their experiences abroad,” she remarks. “I try to get students to focus less on what to pack in their suitcases and more on how to think

about entering a new culture and the effect this experience will have on their world view.”

Ledvina also is the voice for a confidential, 24-hour BSC hotline, every day of the year, to address any problem with a student or a faculty-led group abroad or any issue with an international student on campus.

“We prepare our students to encounter new cultures, and we also want to make certain that they are safe and that they feel connected to BSC throughout their experience abroad,” she says. “This is important not only for their well-being, but this kind of support also helps them prepare for their re-entry to BSC.”

Returning home and to life on campus is often the most challenging part of a student’s international experience. OIP hosts an annual “Welcome Back Retreat” and monthly re-entry dinners for students who’ve returned from their study-abroad experiences. “These dinners have been helpful in responding to the students and the extraordinary transformations that have occurred due to their



Ledvina



BSC study-abroad students gather off campus for an annual, full-day re-entry retreat this past August.

experiences abroad," expresses Ledvina. "When a student returns and I am able to spend time with them, I sit in the presence of a changed life," says LaMonte. "Knowing we've had the opportunity to change someone's life in any way brings me an extraordinary sense of accomplishment and gives a great sense of reward in our work."

Students at Birmingham-Southern who study abroad in such non-traditional locations as Japan, South Africa, Argentina, and Turkey, are

investing their own financial resources to make it happen. BSC is committed to helping students have international experiences, but even with the need-based scholarships available, some students feel that financial issues are a barrier to international study.

Thanks to the Sklenar Scholarship Fund (see sidebar on this page), BSC now can ensure many more students the opportunity to engage in the world through academic study and intercultural experience.

"We wish to remove as many of the financial barriers to studying abroad as possible," says Pollick, who himself traveled to France last year to meet with dignitaries, educators, and BSC alumni concerned with developing democracy and human dignity around the world. "The Sklenar Scholarship Fund will provide wonderful assistance. Additionally, we hope that we will one day be able to create a means for every student's financial aid to travel abroad with them."

Couple donates \$1 million to BSC to support international studies



The Sklenars standing on the Charles Bridge in Prague.

When Birmingham-Southern Trustee Herb Sklenar sat and listened to BSC President Dr. David Pollick unfold his vision for international study at a board meeting last year, the words struck a responsive chord in him.

"BSC must get to the point where all of its students, regardless of their financial capability, are offered an international study experience," Pollick stated at the meeting.

After Sklenar talked to his wife, Ellie, they together decided to make a \$1 million commitment in December to BSC to support international study/travel programs.

Their gift, which is the largest ever made to the college's international programs, will provide financial support in the form of scholarships for Birmingham-Southern students who wish to go on a semester-long or year-long study-abroad experience or who want to study overseas during the January Interim.

The awards will be distributed annually to full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students who are in good academic standing. Students can apply for them through the college's Office of International Programs or Office of Interim and Contract Learning.

"Our decision to establish the Herb and Ellie Sklenar International Scholarship Fund was motivated by several factors," Herb Sklenar says. "One was the benefits of a semester abroad by our daughter, Susan, when she was a student at Colorado College; another was the realities of the globalized world we now live in; and a third was our agreement with Dr. Pollick that Birmingham-Southern must remain competitive with its peer group colleges."

Mr. Sklenar has been a member of the college's Board of Trustees since 1990. A native of Omaha, Neb., he was born to parents of Czech heritage. After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and an MBA from Harvard, he held executive positions in several corporations before joining Birmingham's Vulcan Materials Co. in 1972 as chief financial officer. He retired from Vulcan in 1997 as chair

and chief executive officer.

The Sklenars have been noted for their philanthropy and for their involvement in the local and national community, including his chairing of the initial capital campaign for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Mr. Sklenar currently is president-elect of the Rotary Club of Birmingham and on the national advisory board of the National Czech and Slovak Museum in Iowa, and both travel internationally. He also is active with the Birmingham Committee on Foreign Relations and is a member of the Board of Distinguished Advisors of the American Committees on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C.

The following responses from around the campus reveal the excitement and gratefulness the Sklenar's gift already has generated:

Karoline Briggs, freshman art major from Raleigh, N.C.: "This is a great opportunity for students to study overseas. I know I would have had to work many jobs to go abroad without this support. I think study abroad is a great experience and I plan to jump at this chance."

Dr. Ed LaMonte, Howell Heflin Professor of Political Science and director of OIP: "This gift to further the internationalization of BSC is magnificent. To me, this will put international education 'on the map' at BSC in a way that is a most welcomed addition to the recognition that already has been given to the college."

Sheri Salmon, dean of enrollment management: "Now we will be able to market to prospective students about the opportunity to do study/travel with our international programs when they come to BSC, and without being impaired by financial restrictions they might normally have had. This will be a great marketing tool for BSC both now and in the future."

Dr. David Pollick, president of Birmingham-Southern: "The donation by the Sklenars is at once both very generous and inspiring. Their sense of the world and its needs merge in this powerful commitment to preparing the right kinds of leaders for the next generation. In responding to the college's vision of what it means to provide a true liberal arts education, their generous leadership will light the way for others on our board and in the community."

Study abroad—an adventure in culture

Study abroad allows students to “eat, sleep, and breathe” another culture.

Since the 1960s, Birmingham-Southern has offered a variety of study-abroad opportunities during its Interim term. In 1998, BSC received a grant to develop an Office of International Programs with the hope that more BSC students would engage in international exchange for the semester or the year through study with university partners abroad. The OIP now sends BSC students to all regions of the world.

The unique focus of international programs has always been to make study abroad an integral part of a student's academic experience at the college. Thus, BSC students are able to attend foreign universities while earning credit toward their BSC degrees.



BSC students participated in the “Black London” study-abroad project in 2005, where they studied African and Caribbean culture in England.

Students of any major can apply to study abroad for a semester, a summer, or a year. The OIP works with students on applying for the variety of funding sources available, including the college's Dr. Evelyn V. Wiley Travel Fund, Jenkins Family Travel Fund, and the national Freeman-Asia Award for Study Abroad in Asia.

The OIP also has been a leader in developing international education initiatives within Alabama, such as the Alabama Study Abroad Fair Week that now brings 15 to 20 study-abroad representatives to BSC and to three other universities in the state.

On average, about 200 BSC students participate in Interim study-travel or study-abroad exchange each year. But with the support of gifts like the Sklenar International Scholarship Fund, this number could dramatically increase within the next couple of years.

Obtaining knowledge and experience of other countries through study abroad enriches students' worldviews, helps them learn more about themselves, and can often lead to professional

opportunities both in the U.S. and beyond. In addition, it gives students a greater opportunity to learn proficiency in a foreign language. OIP encourages students to go abroad independently and immerse themselves in a foreign culture to help advance their knowledge of an academic subject or a foreign language, as well as to grow through the life-changing experience they have while abroad.

“Students return from study abroad with a clear sense of how important it is to be knowledgeable global citizens,” notes Ledvina.

“They develop confidence from having been successful academically and having grown as knowledgeable and resourceful individuals.”

In addition to independent study, the OIP is embarking on a new set of study-abroad programs that offer interested students the chance to study abroad in a group with a BSC faculty leader. Unlike Interim programs, the courses these students take apply toward their major or minor and are taught by foreign faculty from BSC's university partner institutions. This summer, two such



For the past six years, Alexis Kendrick '01 has been pursuing a career in acting and theatre in Paris. She originally traveled to Paris to study French at the Sorbonne through a study-abroad program with The American Institute of Foreign Study.



Drew Clayton (right), a senior religion major from Springville, and Scott Grantland, a junior religion major from Panama City, Fla., stand in front of ancient ruins in Turkey during an Interim trip funded by the Dr. Evelyn V. Wiley Travel Fund.

programs will take place in Russia and Peru.

In Russia, a group of BSC students will study with Russian faculty from Herzen Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg. This group program will be led by Dr. Randall Law, assistant professor of history, who has personal experience living and studying in Russia. The Peru Summer Language Program will be guided by Dr. Jessica Ramos de Harthun, assistant professor of Spanish, who is a native of Peru. Ramos also will provide cultural

mentoring to a group of BSC students who will complete Spanish language credits while studying at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in the capital city of Lima.

Another popular summer program for students is British Studies at Oxford, sponsored by the Associated Colleges of the South of which BSC is a member. "It is a delight to see students experience Britain for the first time," says Dr. Mark Lester, W. Michael Atchison Professor of History and Law, who is on the faculty for the British Studies in

Oxford program. "They soon realize that it is not the 51st state, but rather a very different culture. Foreign study gives students perspective. It allows them to see that not everyone sees the world as Americans do, and that fact is not such a bad thing."

The major focus of the college's study-abroad program though is to provide international opportunities that meet the needs and interests of individual students as well as expand the internationalization of the academic programs at BSC. All majors and minors are enhanced through course offerings at the college's university partners.

Computer science students now can study at Hogeschool von Amsterdam with Dutch students and work together on collaborative information technology projects within the European Union. Students interested in human rights have the chance to study in Costa Rica at Universidad Latina de Costa Rica or at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Asian studies majors can meet students from all over the world while studying at Kansai Gaidai University in Japan.

BSC student Johnny Croft, a junior chemistry major from Andalusia, completed a semester abroad at the University of Cape Town during his fall 2006 semester. He took classes in religion and African literature and language while also teaching with an HIV/AIDS education program, and afterward, spent a month traveling to Kenya. "My whole experience challenged me to re-think who I am and how I fit into a global society," says Croft. "I've found that it is so important to learn from other cultures, and as Americans, we all need to be prepared to understand the world from others' perspectives, not just those perspectives portrayed in American media."

Interim at 37

A big component of the international activities at BSC and one of the college's most distinctive educational experiences is the Interim term, which began on the Hilltop in 1970.

During the four-week period each January, students are given the opportunity to explore one topic or interest through on- and off-campus creative projects, cutting-edge



BSC Professor of English Dr. Sandra Sprayberry traveled to South Africa in January as part of a group study-travel Interim where she met Nobel Laureate and former archbishop Desmond Tutu.

courses, independent study or research, foreign study experiences, and challenging and unusual internships—all for academic credit (see *Interim feature in Student News*).

Whether students are exploring poverty in the Black Belt region of Alabama, creating plays, researching the jazz history of Birmingham, tutoring schoolchildren in Harlem, observing dolphin behavior in Honduras, or taking a class in pop culture, all of these experiences, whether local or international, give students a new lens through which to view the world.

"For those students who might

hesitate to study abroad for an entire term or school year or who do not have the time or funds to do so, Interim offers an opportunity to experience travel in the context of learning—enhancing students' exposure to other ways of life with the faculty's intellectual guidance," says Elizabeth Blum, director of the Office of Interim and Contract Learning, located in Munger Hall. "And many students who participate in an Interim travel-study course go on to spend a summer, semester, or longer abroad, or to create their own independent travel projects for subsequent Interim terms."

For the most part, Interim travel-study and other off-campus projects are graded as "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory," while on-campus Interim projects may use the latter schema or letter grades. Students must complete one Interim for each year of attendance at BSC. For students who require financial assistance, the Office of Interim and Contract Learning, along with the Student Government Association, disburses several thousand dollars worth of travel scholarships each year.

Having the opportunity to learn by helping others is a special characteristic of Birmingham-Southern's Interim program. During each Interim term, the Office of Service Learning sponsors at least two projects that provide students with the real-world experience of serving others. Service-learning projects usually are open to students, faculty, staff, and alumni and are performed locally, nationally, or internationally. Past Interim service-learning projects have ranged from repairing roofs on homes in west Birmingham to working in a homeless shelter in California to



Students had an opportunity to observe dolphin behavior during the "Coral Reef Ecology and Dolphin Behavior" Interim in Roatan, Honduras. Photo by Bence Carter.

helping build a school in Africa.

"Since I've been at BSC, I've heard about how incredible the service-learning international projects are," says Joey Krekelberg, a junior biology major from Birmingham who traveled to Ecuador in January. "I was definitely not disappointed. I learned more by going to Ecuador and participating firsthand than I could ever have learned in a classroom."

Since 1990, 48 Birmingham-Southern faculty have led students on an overseas travel experience during the Interim or summer term. Dr. Sam Pezzillo, professor of classics, has led several Interim trips throughout the years. Pezzillo has led student tours to England as well as student tours to Greece, Italy, and France with colleagues Dr. Natalie Davis, professor of political science, and Dr. Michael McInturff, professor of English. Each of these trips offered extensive immersion in these cultures.



Holger Thamm, a 2003 BSC graduate and former soccer star, stands in front of the Reichstag Building, the home of the German parliament in Berlin, where he's worked for the past three years. Thamm is a political assistant for environmental protection, nature conservancy, and nuclear safety.

Now, for their annual Interim trip to Italy, both Pezzillo and McInturff require their students to do an intensive "pre-trip study" before they travel. In addition to preparing students for their overseas experience, this work deepens their understanding of particular topics related to the places they will encounter.

Pezzillo taught an innovative Interim course on a few occasions called "Symposium," which brought a student cohort together with faculty in Pezzillo's home. For one week, in addition to class discussion, students were taught the basics of preparing food for a gathering.

"Some professors came to the cooking sessions to share cooking traditions from a culture they had experience with," Pezzillo explains. "The discussions focused on

readings submitted by guest professors."

The Interim travel-study course "After Apartheid: South Africa," guided by Dr. Sandra Sprayberry, Robert E. Luckie Professor of English, and Dr. David Smith, professor of music, was offered for the first time in 2007. The course enrolled 15 students in an intensive three-week tour of South Africa to explore the issue of human rights.

With the University of Cape Town as their base, students studied what Nelson Mandela called "the long walk to freedom" from apartheid, reconciliation efforts afterwards, and the current state of affairs. They also attended university lectures on South African history, politics, and culture, and visited local residents in their homes.

Students who go abroad during

Interim, many of whom had never traveled outside the United States before, report that it truly is a life-changing experience.

"The Interim trip to South Africa had a great effect on me," says Natalie Ausborn, a junior chemistry major from Gadsden. "It is always great to be able to spend time learning about a new subject, such as apartheid and truth and reconciliation, but nothing can compare to the depth of the amount you learn when you actually visit the particular place you are learning about. The people I met in South Africa—from former Archbishop Desmond Tutu to the other local citizens who shared their stories with me—made me realize that my memory of them would leave my life changed forever."

A cross-cultural curriculum

The appeal of having an international major or taking cross-cultural courses has gained momentum among students in recent years as the world becomes more global.

The curriculum at BSC offers a major in international studies; majors and minors in Asian studies (in collaboration with the Birmingham Area Consortium for Higher Education), French, German, and Spanish; and a minor in Latin American studies. Courses in these areas are designed to provide students with a deeper cultural understanding of a region's language, history, economy, and political system. Students may also study foreign languages not currently offered at BSC through collaboration with other Birmingham colleges and universities. And study abroad is encouraged for all of

these majors and minors.

International studies majors have graduated from BSC and attended professional schools, gone into banking, and pursued careers in education and international development. And these are just some of the varied opportunities the major can offer.

The international studies course "Pre-departure Topics for Study Abroad" prepares students specifically for the experience of adjusting to and studying in a foreign country. The course was designed by Ledvina to introduce students to concepts of intercultural communication and to review information on the structure and function of relevant departments within the U.S. government, the ethnic dimensions of U.S. culture and geography, and issues of U.S. foreign policy.

The course is collaboratively taught by BSC faculty and staff who discuss intercultural concepts through literature, the immigrant experience in the United States, economic issues, multinational organizations, and the media. As a major component of the course, each student is assigned an individual research project related to the history, culture, and politics of the country in which they will study.

Marcie Howington, a junior political science major from Covington, Ga., is studying abroad in Cyprus for the 2007 spring semester. She recently e-mailed Ledvina to express gratitude for the college's pre-departure course. "I have to tell you that I am the only student in this program who was required to take such a class. Thank you! I feel more in-tuned to my
(Continued on page 30.)

Alumnus Allen Collinsworth: Networking skills lead to development of business ventures overseas



Collinsworth

Allen Collinsworth '92, a Birmingham native, now lives and works in Turkey, after following what he describes as a totally unpredictable career path.

"I never dreamed I'd end up in Istanbul," says Collinsworth. "But even as I've lived these incredible experiences, I can look back and see how Birmingham-Southern prepared me for it all."

As a student at BSC, Collinsworth majored in business and was an athlete on the tennis team, a sport he's been involved with since he was four years old. His desire to converse with students from all over the world during college helped him to develop a strong network of friendships.

"I always had a tendency to befriend the foreign students on my team and on the teams we played against," remembers Collinsworth. "One of my BSC teammates from Sweden invited me to visit him there one summer."

That friendship and subsequent travel to Sweden led to networking opportunities for Collinsworth that enabled him to teach business and economics at an international boarding school in Switzerland, where he spent one year after completing his MBA at the University of Alabama. He left Switzerland and moved to England to earn a second master's at the London School of Economics.

After working in investment banking in London and then in New York City, his networking skills brought him to Turkey in

2001, where he started a banking consulting group with a Turkish partner. In addition, he became an advisor to the mayor of Istanbul, serving nearly three years.

"My contacts and ability to network are my biggest assets," Collinsworth points out. "Having people I can call upon to help me out and doing favors for others in return is the key to the experiences I've had."

His newest business venture in Turkey, begun about a year ago, is an independent project called DRUM—Dialogue, Respect, Understanding through Music. He is planning to host a DRUM kick-off party when the first concert is launched in May.

"The organization uses musical events, songs, videos, and artists to promote the concept of harmony between cultures and civilizations,"

he explains. "My purpose is to help individuals from around the world find a common identity through music and especially to enhance relations between Islamic and Western countries."

Collinsworth believes working for the New York-based international policy institute (the East-West Institute) was a big part of developing his network. "There, I engaged with leaders from government and the private sector who were from the United States, Western and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. It also qualified me for my advisory work with the mayor of Istanbul, as well as my current work with DRUM."

In addition to his time spent on developing creative business ventures in Turkey, Collinsworth has been working diligently to learn the country's native language. "Learning the Turkish language is a lot of work," he says, "and I have to constantly educate myself."

He also has to work at dealing with occasional bouts of loneliness. "Sometimes, when you go overseas, you can really miss your family and loved ones," he confesses. "Still, I think that traveling and living abroad is a great thing to do."

And he is grateful for Birmingham-Southern's part in his experiences. "BSC's intense liberal-arts program prepares students for whatever they may pursue," says Collinsworth. "It certainly gave me a broader view of the world, while helping me understand my place in it."



Benjamin Marsh of Birmingham participated in two service-learning Interim trips to Mozambique, Africa, and also studied abroad in London one summer. He graduated with a degree in psychology in December and won a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Hong Kong for one year.

surroundings and better prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. ..."

In addition, the pre-departure course includes discussions of reorientation and assists students in preparing for the often challenging return home. "Dealing with re-entry begins before a student ever departs for study abroad," remarks Ledvina. "In class, when we talk about re-entry, students write down what they think they will or won't miss about their host country and consider why coming home might be difficult. One student expressed wisely how challenging it would be to stay connected to her host country after she returns home."

Birmingham-Southern recognizes

the value in a cross-cultural education and has taken steps over the years to ensure that there is a bevy of quality academic opportunities in its courses, many with an international or cross-cultural focus.

The Foundations General Education Curriculum, required of all students at Birmingham-Southern, expands the liberal arts mission to address the talents and skills students will need to be successful in an increasingly complex society. It includes a requirement for one course or Interim where the primary focus of study is the experience of an ethnic minority American culture, cultures other than that of the United States,

or the analysis of multiple cultures.

"This is a very important component of our Foundations General Education Curriculum," says Dr. Kathleen Murray, BSC provost. "We must prepare our students to live and work in an increasingly diverse United States that is part of a dramatically more global world view."

The college's Department of Business and Accounting has internationalized its upper-level curriculum and re-worked all of the senior-level business courses in design and content. And it recently introduced a Business Disciplinary Honors Program in International Business available to outstanding business administration majors.

"Those accepted will complete the regular business major as well as a battery of special projects to include an approved international experience outside of the U.S.," says Dr. Stephen Craft, assistant professor of marketing and department chair. "The disciplinary honors distinction allows the business program faculty to recognize our best performing students and affords a higher level of additional and valuable preparation to take place on the world stage."

Birmingham-Southern's main approach to internationalizing the college's curriculum is to take advantage of the international expertise that many BSC faculty bring to their classes and to support and encourage faculty development for those faculty who are interested in expanding their international perspective.

OIP's collaboration with Birmingham-Southern faculty to develop a course in civil rights/human rights culminated with a grant this past fall from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation for the new BSC course "Introduction to Human Rights." The course is being taught for the first time this semester by Dr. Sandra Sprayberry, Robert E. Luckie Professor of English, and Dr. Vince Gawronski, associate professor of political science.

It provides a critical examination of human rights issues and their practical applications from the perspective of a variety of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. The course also ties in with BSC's larger vision of establishing a Center for Global Human Dignity with the mission of investigating what is required to advance human dignity in the world and helping BSC students to develop an appreciation of cultural differences in both domestic and international settings.

Once fully developed, the center will operate out of an existing office on campus and employ a full-time director who among other duties will seek creative ways to further incorporate into all areas of the college's curriculum the concept of advancing human dignity to all people across the state, nation, and world.

The OIP also has developed a strong tie with the Fulbright Scholar Program and Institute for International Education and has actively promoted the Fulbright to students. Benjamin Marsh, a recent psychology graduate, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Hong Kong for one year. And this year, BSC was awarded two grants to host Fulbright Scholars during the 2007-08 academic year.

Plus, the OIP has worked on programs that integrated study abroad into the curriculum for majors that were less common for study abroad such as pre-med, art, and computer science. "We are seeing a wonderful interjection of the international dimension into areas where it might not appear to be so self-evident," notes LaMonte. "BSC science faculty have looked at the academic program at the University of Limerick in Ireland and are now in a position to encourage pre-med students to build a semester abroad during their undergraduate experience. We have also recently established exchanges in the computer science and fine arts areas. There is now no area of the college in which internationalization of the curriculum doesn't apply."

Dr. Marietta Cameron, associate professor of computer science, believes that success in the computing fields requires the computer scientist and information technology specialist to be highly adaptable. "The computing professional will have numerous opportu-

nities to provide services with and to other professionals within the global community," she says. "Studying abroad is one way a student can develop the global personal and communication skills required by his or her profession."



This striking overhead view shows dye pots in Fez, Morocco, during a student's pre-health internship in Morocco. Photo by Rachel Holzapfel.

Global approach to higher education

Birmingham-Southern is serious about building international competence among its student body and has been working to expand international opportunities and significantly improve the number of international students who are enrolled.

But the latter goal hasn't always been that easy. International students have faced some hurdles due to tougher visa requirements that were put into place after 2001.

"The ability to bring international students to BSC has recently been as much a matter of U.S. foreign policy and security as it has been recruitment," says Pollick. "The events of recent years altered dramatically the processes for foreign nationals coming to the United States."

More recent news though suggests that foreign students are beginning to encounter fewer problems obtaining visas for study in the United States than they were a few years ago. The U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs shows a strong rise in the number of student visas issued in the year ending September 2006, indicating that foreign student numbers are increasing in the current academic year. And interestingly, the Institute of International Education reports that more international students come to the U.S. than U.S. students go abroad.

Xinyan Yan (first name pronounced shin-yan), a freshman accounting major, came to BSC from the Zhengzhou, Henan Province in China. "I became interested in Birmingham-Southern after ordering a copy of *U.S. News & World Report* from online," says Yan. "I was in search of a high-quality education in a new environment and country, even though I was aware of the challenges I would face. I felt that studying at an American college



BSC student Xinyan Yan (center), a freshman accounting major from China, is shown with friends in her hometown.

would be an important experience in my life."

BSC's current pool of international students represents several other countries including Germany, Korea, Nepal, Serbia, and the Netherlands. The Office of Multicultural Affairs assists the international student population at Birmingham-Southern through an annual cultural immersion orientation to address such topics as life at BSC, the American culture and its educational system, banking, and religious life. "Our goal is to help new students quickly gain as much knowledge as possible about their new home to help them adjust to their new environment," says Erica Brown, director of multicultural affairs.

Over the past decade, Birmingham-Southern has hosted unique international conferences on campus through its membership in a liberal arts initiative which strengthens the college's position in international education. The Global Partners Project, funded by a grant from the Mellon Foundation, brought 42 liberal arts colleges from three consortia together to share resources, expertise, and knowledge about internationalization in the liberal arts context.

In 2004, BSC hosted its first of two Global Partners Best Practices symposia on pre-departure and

reorientation programs for study abroad which resulted in the development of the pre-departure course for study abroad at BSC and the reshaping of programs offered through the OIP. In addition to the two symposia that brought faculty and staff together from 42 colleges, the OIP also was awarded two grants to bring visiting international scholars and artists from the Czech Republic, and received funding for professional development opportunities for a number of BSC faculty.

"The conferences we've held through the OIP have sought to define study abroad within the liberal arts context," says Ledvina. "It also became clear during these conferences that for a liberal arts college to focus on internationalization, there must be support from all areas of the campus."

In addition, since 1993, the college has hosted a Latin American Studies Symposium each year to increase awareness of Latin America and to foster undergraduate research in the area. The 2007 LAS Symposium, which was held in March, spotlighted the tango as a powerful cultural manifestation of Argentine identity.

Ledvina believes that all of these initiatives, when combined intentionally, put Birmingham-Southern in a unique position to provide a valuable international component to a liberal arts education. "The majority of U.S. students who go abroad do not come from the South," she says, referring to the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA) Association of International Educators report. "BSC is poised to be that exceptional institution in the South where internationalization and human dignity become a part of every student's academic experience."

Alumna Marta McLellan expanding international reach



McLellan teaching in China.

When Marta McLellan's eyes fell on the phrase "international relations" while skimming through a career assessment test in high school, she describes the feeling that came afterward as something inherent in her. "From that point on, I knew that was what I would do," says McLellan, a 2002 Birmingham-Southern magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate.

If there is power in forethought, it certainly has paved the way to a variety of international opportunities for McLellan. Since then, she has traveled to Japan for an undergraduate semester of study abroad, to East Timor to monitor elections as part of an internship, and to China to teach English.

"Along with winning a Truman Scholarship, support from the college's Office of International Programs has allowed me to put my international interests into practice," she says. "My career has always been focused on Asia, and I have now turned those interests into a specialty on Chinese political economy and foreign affairs."

Her attention to Asia, combined with plenty of smarts, is what landed McLellan on the team of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission located in Washington, D.C. Throughout the year, this bipartisan congressional commission holds hearings on Capitol Hill to gather testimony of how U.S. global interests are affected by

China's commercial, diplomatic, and military activities around the world.

McLellan has served as foreign affairs and energy analyst for the commission since May 2006. She facilitates the arrangement of hearings, invitations to witnesses, briefing of the commissioners, and the drafting of hearing reports to Congress. "As a policy analyst, it is my job to sift information and to find the most balanced and honest view on issues that, at times, may have many different perspectives," says McLellan, who holds a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

"I also work with commissioners to draft the Annual Report to Congress. And I often respond to requests from congressional staff seeking information or analysis on U.S.-China affairs, such as China's environmental problems or foreign investments in regions where the U.S. has strong strategic or economic interests."

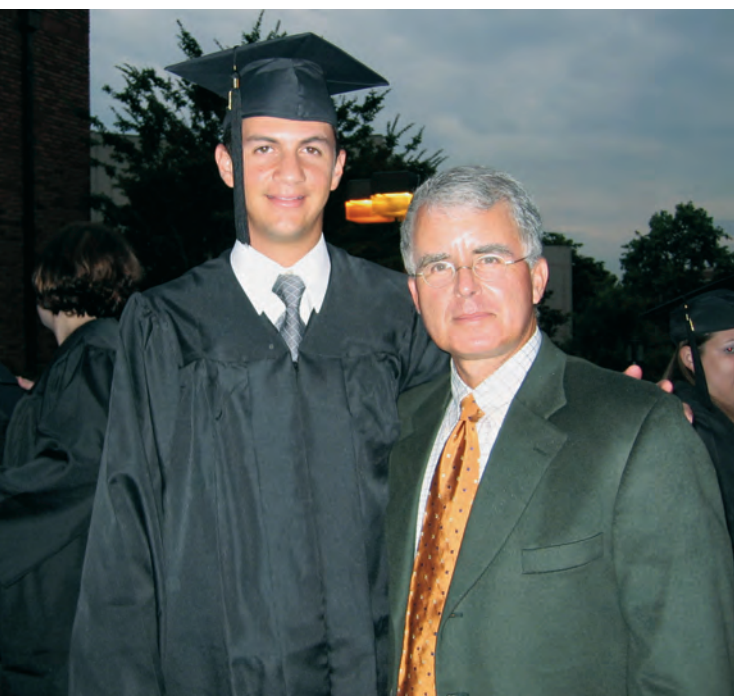
After earning a bachelor's degree with a double major in political science and Asian studies at BSC, McLellan lived and worked in China for two years as an oral English instructor for a language school, and later, for Anshan Normal University to train Chinese teachers in English. "When I was a senior at BSC, the Birmingham Mayor's Office contacted Anne Ledvina on campus about their idea of starting a new language school in the city of Anshan to promote a cross-cultural exchange between the two cities," she explains. "I jumped at the chance of being one of three teachers to have this experience of working abroad."

But it's not the first time McLellan has lived abroad. "My father was in the U.S. Air Force and moved our family to Japan for four years when I was a child," she notes. "Though traveling and living abroad is not always easy, I believe that it gives you a great opportunity to test your inner strength, your maturity, and your openness to new experiences."

Editor's Note: *The Truman Scholarship is a federal scholarship granted to U.S. college juniors for demonstrated leadership potential and a commitment to public service.*

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

BY BARRETT HATHCOCK



Orozco with Billy McDonald.

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

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

At that same time, Orozco was

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Since July 2006, in addition to

Alum urges BSC students to work abroad

BY BARRETT HATHCOCK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"She's extremely smart," he says, "a lot smarter than I am."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Addis Ababa University, the location of

Ethiopia's first law school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ethiopia





SPECIAL SECTION

reunion'07

the best of times
Alumni Reunion Weekend

April 27 & 28, 2007

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

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

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



schedule

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

Friday, April 27

Morning

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

Evening

- 5:00 p.m.-
7:30 p.m. **Reunion Registration Desk Open**
Location: Lobby, 2nd Floor, Norton Campus Center
- 5:30 p.m.-
7:00 p.m. **President's Reception for Reunion Honor Classes,
'Southern Society, Endowment Builders Society,
and Special Guests**
The Pollocks open their home to members of the Reunion
Honor classes and special guests.
Location: President's Home, campus
- 5:00 p.m.-
7:00 p.m. **Popcorn and a Movie for Youngsters**
(Babysitters provided)
Location: Norton Theatre
Second Floor, Norton Campus Center
- 7:00 p.m. **Class of 1957 50th Reunion Dinner/Reception**
Classes of 1956, 1957, and 1958 invited.
Location: The Summit Club
1901 6th Avenue North, Suite 3100
Elegant seated meal.
- 7:00 p.m. **Class of 1962 45th Reunion Dinner/Reception**
Classes of 1961, 1962, and 1963 invited.
Location: Veranda on Highland
2220 Highland Avenue South
Elegant cocktail buffet and cash bar.
- 7:00 p.m. **Class of 1967 40th Reunion Dinner/Reception**
Classes of 1966, 1967, and 1968 invited.
Location: Home of George Ann ('67) and Alton Parker
918 Essex Road
Cocktail supper.
- 7:00 p.m. **Class of 1972 35th Reunion Dinner/Reception**
Classes of 1971, 1972, and 1973 invited.
Location: Home of Wayne ('72) and Sandy Killion
3321 Dell Road, Mountain Brook
Cocktail supper.



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

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



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

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

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

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



Saturday, April 28

Morning

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

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

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

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

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



9:00 a.m.-
10:45 a.m.

Mini-College Presentations

Revisit classroom days and sit in on lectures and presentations by BSC alumni, faculty, and staff.

9:00 a.m.-
9:45 a.m.

"Predictions for the '08 Election"

BSC Political Science Professor, pollster, and consultant Dr. Natalie Davis gives her witty and insightful comments about the upcoming presidential elections.

Location: Norton Theatre

9:00 a.m.-
9:45 a.m.

"Charles Wesley: Sacred or Secular Poet?"

1958 BSC alumnus, professional singer, author, scholar, United Methodist churchman, and publisher of global songs Dr. ST Kimbrough Jr. shares history and poetry of this great Methodist writer.

Location: Art Building Auditorium

9:00 a.m.-
9:45 a.m.

"A Brief History of the Middle East Conflict"

BSC History Professor Mark Lester explains why the turmoil in the Middle East was predicted by history and will most likely continue into the future.

Location: Harbert Auditorium

9:00 a.m.-
9:45 a.m.

"NCAA Division III Athletics at 'Southern: Meet the Coaches"

An introduction to our Division III program and coaches.

Location: SGA Room

10:00 a.m.-
10:45 a.m.

"David Pollick: Unplugged II"

In a sequel to last year's popular "Unplugged" session, BSC President Dr. David Pollick reveals more about his interesting life and his hopes and dreams for the college's future.

Location: Bruno Great Hall C&D, 3rd Floor, Norton Campus Center

10:00 a.m.-
10:45 a.m.

"Defining Southern Style"

1987 BSC alumna and editor of *Southern Accents* magazine Karen Carroll shares images and information on the best in Southern architecture and design.

Location: Harbert Auditorium

10:00 a.m.-
10:45 a.m.

"Pool, Anyone?"

1957 alumna and professional pool therapist "Ruby Alabama" demonstrates with her cue. She says, "Come visit and learn how *not* to play pool."

Location: Striplin Fitness Center

11:00 a.m.-
11:45 a.m.

"Me, Build a BSC Alumni Chapter?"

Special training session for alumni chapter leaders and those who wish to build a chapter in their city/area.

Location: SGA Room, Norton Campus Center

11:00 a.m.-
11:45 a.m.

Memorial Service

Service of remembrance for BSC alumni, faculty, and staff we have lost in the past year.

Location: Yeilding Chapel



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Evening

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



The Connection Band

reunion registration information

Hotels

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

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

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

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

Reservations are under
 Birmingham-Southern College.

Dietary Needs

For special dietary needs, contact Karen Ellis at 205/226-4909 or kellis@bsc.edu.

Registering

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

Babysitter list available upon request.



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

(register now and add your name to the list)

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

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

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

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

reunion'07

the best of times

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

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

Five to receive Birmingham-Southern's top alumni awards

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

Receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award are:

Jean Pierce '52

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

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

Beginning in 1959, Pierce began

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

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

Elvin Hilyer '60

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Robert Clem '67

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

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

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

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

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

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

Receiving the Outstanding Young Alumni Award are:

Robert Aderholt '87

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

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

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

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

Commission), as well as the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. Both commissions serve as independent federal organizations to monitor international threats to human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Fourth Congressional District is

made up of 14 counties and spans across the northern part of Alabama from Mississippi to Georgia.

Grover Robinson '92

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

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

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

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

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



From top, Robert Aderholt and Grover Robinson.

BSC offers travel opportunities in San Francisco, Honduras



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Participants will spend a week with BSC Associate Professor of

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alumni events keep winter warm

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

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

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

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

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



you've made the friends.
now keep them.

AlumNet



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

BSC
Birmingham-Southern College
www.bsc.edu/alumnet



Wiley pictured third from right, bottom row, on an Interim trip to Paris.

Students see world through the Wiley Travel Fund

BY BARRETT HATHCOCK

"Take 12 callow, unsophisticated college students. Remove them from the safety of a small college campus in Birmingham and set them down in the rarefied, heady atmosphere of Paris. Watch them reenact history, have them match action with fact, and then see their lives change forever. Evelyn Wiley did just that."

This "recipe for greatness" comes from Bill Eiland, director of the Georgia Museum of Art and 1970 Birmingham-Southern graduate, who delivered the 2005 eulogy for Dr. Evelyn Wiley. Wiley, a 1938 BSC graduate and longtime history professor, helped begin the study-abroad education that has grown into today's popular Interim term—regularly cited as one of the best experiences during students' time at BSC.

Wiley was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board, and other honor societies. She received a master's degree from Vanderbilt in 1939 and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1959. She joined the BSC faculty in 1944 and served as chair of the History Department from 1960 to 1968, retiring in 1972. She passed away at the age of 88 in 2005.

During her time on the Hilltop, Wiley was an avid traveler. Among her journeys, she took a trip to China to explore its nationalist islands, studied Indian civilization at the University of Mysore in India, and traveled extensively throughout Africa. Her interest in travel dovetailed with her involvement with BSC's Washington Semester in the late '40s, a precursor to Interim. During the first year of Interim, Wiley took a group of students to Paris to study the French Revolution at the very site where historical events occurred.

"Until I finally discovered that I would never win at this game, I used to interrogate her along the lines of: 'Have you ever been to ...'" says Eiland, "and then I would name the most remote, most exotic countries and cities in the world. The only two places I remember she had not visited were Cuba and Yemen."

The Dr. Evelyn V. Wiley Travel Fund was established in memory of the former mentor and world traveler in 2001 by former students, colleagues, and friends with the purpose of enabling BSC students to benefit from domestic and international travel opportunities. Earnings from the

endowment provide a perpetual source of income to be used for future student travel.

According to Eiland, Wiley believed that the art of teaching was the art of assisting discovery and that travel abroad was a necessary step toward that discovery.

Referring to a \$200,000 bequest from Wiley's estate to the fund established in her own honor, Eiland said, "This gift to Birmingham-Southern College means that many more students will have the scales fall from their eyes; will benefit from direct experience, unadulterated, undiluted through the words of others; and will have life-altering sensations of other cultures, in short, the chance to develop a personal sensibilité that is a prerequisite for real education."

The Wiley Travel Fund not only honors a wonderful member of the BSC family, but also honors current students on the Hilltop, ensuring that they see the world so that they can then go on someday to change it.

For more information on how to establish a study/travel fund, contact Martha Hamrick Boshers, director of major gifts and planned giving, at 205/226-4978 or mboshers@bsc.edu.

BSC launches planned giving Web site



Rising property values, investment growth, different types of life insurance, changing tax laws—good planning requires good information.

Find the info you need and the right plan for you—all at Birmingham-Southern's new planned giving Web site.

Weekly articles

Read weekly articles on estate-planning alternatives, including wills and trusts. Learn the benefits of giving a gift and receiving full income tax savings.

Savvy senior column

Learn the latest information you need to make informed decisions about Medicare, prescription drugs, Social Security, and retirement accounts.

Gift-planning stories

Read stories about actual donors who received tax benefits by making charitable gifts. Learn how a gift to Birmingham-Southern can lead to greater income for yourself and your family, a tax deduction, and a lasting legacy.

Personal Web presentations

View a personalized Web presentation that shows the income and tax benefits of setting up a gift plan using your assets and property values. Compare the benefits of setting up a unitrust, annuity trust, or gift and sale.

Washington hotline

Find out about changes in Washington that could affect your financial future. Read about the latest tax changes, ways to save on taxes, and important political news.

Financial update

Learn how the market affects your finances. Get the latest news on stocks, bonds, and interest rates. View current market quotes for the DOW, NASDAQ, and the S&P 500.



Birmingham-Southern College

Go to: www.bsc.edu/advancement/planned.htm

Parents Fund progress report

The Parents Fund at Birmingham-Southern was established more than 25 years ago to give parents of current students an opportunity to assist with needs of the college and to directly support their children's educational experience.

Some 258 families participated in last year's fund drive, which was started with a goal of raising \$25,000—or roughly 150 families at \$150 each in honor of Birmingham-Southern's 150th anniversary. The drive ended with more than \$48,000 raised.

This year, BSC's goal is \$65,000, and so far the college has raised \$57,000. But don't worry—there's still time to participate in this year's fund. You have until May 31 to contribute to this year's goal.

"I realize there are many students within our state who have probably decided what college they will attend before they even start kindergarten," say Jim and Rasie Miller, parents of BSC student Ellen Miller '08. "After our daughter decided she did not wish to go out of state, there was only one school on her 'college list.' Needless to say, it was Birmingham-Southern. We choose to go the 'extra mile' and contribute to the Parents Fund annually because we consider it a privilege to say that 'our daughter attends BSC.'"

Gifts to the Parents Fund go to support the overall Annual Giving Program, and thus have an immediate impact on current students through scholarship assistance, technology upgrades, faculty research, and other programs. And as always, all students benefit from the Parents Fund.

For more information about the Parents Fund, contact Maggie McDonald in the Office of Annual Giving at 205/226-7737 or toll-free at 800-523-5793, extension 7737, or mmcdonald@bsc.edu, or just use the envelope in this issue of *'Southern*. Some employers have matching gift programs which could double contributions to Birmingham-Southern and the Parents Fund.

Will your 'will' be known?

It may have started the first time we took a deep breath and blew out the candles, or perhaps it was when we gazed upon a lone star in a dark sky. We would quietly make a wish and take care to tell no one, in hopes that the wish would come true.

Wherever it began, the practice of keeping our most personal hopes and dreams to ourselves is a practice that many of us tend to use when it comes to a final communication with family and friends. This final communication is the Last Will and Testament—one last opportunity to give expression to personal values and wishes.

The charitable bequest affords a way for virtually anyone to express specific philanthropic wishes. In fact, the bequest is the most frequently used method to support charity in America. A bequest may take on a number of forms, including naming a specific dollar amount, a percentage of the estate, or specific assets.

The philanthropic spirit is given a voice when wishes are expressed in the will. While many may think philanthropy is reserved for a select few, the truth is that every bequest to Birmingham-Southern makes a mark that will last in perpetuity. Many of the college's scholarships were established with bequests made by alumni and friends of BSC.

If you would like more information on wills, including sample language for making a charitable bequest, we invite you to contact:

Martha Hamrick Boshers

Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving
900 Arkadelphia Road
Box 549003
Birmingham, AL 35252
205/226-4978
mboshers@bsc.edu

192 acres
48 buildings
1,300 students
50 programs of study
33 states
16 foreign countries
1 life



one gift

The Power of One

Birmingham-Southern Annual Fund

Maggie McDonald, director of annual giving
205/226-7737
mmcdonal@bsc.edu

Alumni Affairs
900 Arkadelphia Road
Box 549003
Birmingham, AL 35254
www.bsc.edu/egiving

BSC

Birmingham-Southern College

www.bsc.edu/alumnet

BSC athletics adds indoor/outdoor track and field



Porter



Everett

Birmingham-Southern Athletics Director Joe Dean Jr. announced during the fall semester the addition of men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field. The addition of track and field brings BSC's total number of sports offered to 20. Head Cross Country Coach Lars Porter will add track and field to his current responsibilities at BSC.

"Adding men's and women's track and field to our athletics program is a natural move for us and one which will complement our excellent cross country program," said Dean. "I am excited that Lars Porter has accepted the challenge of building a quality track and field program for Birmingham-Southern. His leadership continues to be very impressive."

Porter tabbed three-time Olympian Mark Everett as the new assistant coach for the cross country and track and field program.

Everett's track accomplishments include the 1988, 1992, and 2000 Summer Olympic Games; the 1991, 1993, and 1997 World Championships; and the 1994 and 1998 World Cup Championships. He set the 600-yard Indoor World Record with a time of 1:07.53 and posted an American Record 1:45.67 in the 2000 Olympic Trials.

"We are fortunate to have a coach of this caliber," said Porter. "His athletic résumé speaks for itself with national titles and three Olympic appearances. What is most exciting is that he is as quality a coach as he was an athlete."

The Pensacola, Fla., native attended the University of Florida where he was a 10-time All-American, a three-time NCAA champion, and a 15-time SEC champion.

A 2001 inductee into the University of Florida Hall of Fame, Everett graduated in 1990 with a degree in sports administration. He was inducted into the Millrose Games Hall of Fame in 1999 and was voted one of Florida's top 50 athletes.

The Panthers first full season will be during 2007-08, and they will compete in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. BSC's first four years are under the mandatory NCAA compliance period before becoming eligible for post-season competition in 2011-12.



Junior forward Reba Ross led the Big South Conference and was ranked 27th in the nation in field-goal percentage this season.

Women's basketball future looks bright despite roller-coaster season

In their last season as a Division I basketball program, Head Coach Brad Hodge and the Panthers experienced what could only be described as a roller-coaster season.

The Panthers kicked off the year with a huge win at home over Southern Miss, but then went on the road and dropped three straight against Jacksonville State, Alabama A&M, and Samford. The squad was up-and-down after that and stood at 5-9 heading into Big South Conference play, in which the Panthers started off 0-2 before getting their first league win against Charleston Southern on the road.

After that, BSC lost five straight, including an out-of-conference home overtime loss to Savannah State, but rebounded with another win over Charleston Southern before losing two close ones to Coastal Carolina and High Point. The Panthers got their third and final conference win over Winthrop and closed out the regular season with three straight losses before heading into the 2007 Big South Conference Tournament as the sixth seed to face third-seeded Liberty. It was the third time that the teams had met in the postseason and the first time they had met on a neutral court. Although it was a close and hard-fought game, the Lady Flames prevailed, 70-58, to end BSC's season.

Despite an 8-22 record, several Panther players received honors this season. Freshman point guard Marisah Henderson of Kansas City, Kan., was named Big South Conference Freshman of the Week four times and earned a spot on the conference All-Freshman Team, while junior guard Mallory Moring of Huntsville earned a Player of the Week honor as well. Junior forward Reba Ross of Clayton was named to the Sheraton Roundball Classic All-Tournament Team and earned First-Team All-Big South Conference honors, and freshman center Hali Moore of Fairfield was named to the All-Tournament Team of the Georgia State Invitational.

Additionally, Ross led the Big South Conference and ranked 27th in the nation in field-goal percentage. Henderson also ranked first in the league and 46th in the country in assists per game, and, as a team, the Panthers led the Big South and ranked 24th in the NCAA in steals per game.



Jones completes football coaching staff

Birmingham-Southern Head Football Coach Joey Jones recently announced the hiring of Joel Williams, Brad McAbee, and Kelvis White to the football staff, bringing the staff to six coaches.

Williams comes to the Hilltop following two seasons as offensive coordinator at Foley High School in Foley, Ala., and three seasons as offensive coordinator at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss. He will serve in the same capacity at BSC, while coaching the quarterbacks. McAbee also spent the last two seasons at Foley High and will have the responsibility of coaching the offensive line. White, who played on the defensive line at the University of Alabama from 1996 to 2000, was the defensive coordinator and defensive line coach at Russellville High School in Russellville, Ala., last season. He coached five seasons at Homewood High School before moving on to Russellville. White will coach the Panthers' defensive line.

Eddie Garfinkle and Hindley Brigham joined the staff when Jones was introduced as BSC's new head football coach this past June. Garfinkle, who will be the defensive coordinator and linebackers coach, comes to Birmingham-Southern following five seasons at Spain Park High School in Hoover. He coached 16 seasons in the college ranks at Jacksonville State and Georgia Southern before moving to Spain Park. Brigham was a standout running back at Furman University the last three years and will coach running backs.

Dyer Carlisle also will be on the staff as a volunteer defensive assistant. Carlisle is the former principal at Homewood High and has previous coaching experience at Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State.

Complete bios on the Panthers' football staff can be found on the football Web site at www.bscsports.net.

Women's golf on par with new coach



Smith

Casey Smith has been named the new head women's golf coach at Birmingham-Southern and will assume his new duties in June.

Smith comes to the Hilltop from Pelham High School, where he served as the head golf coach since 2004 and the head varsity girls basketball coach since 2005. He previously served as assistant boys basketball coach from 2003-05 and assistant golf coach from 2003-04.

Besides his high school coaching experience, Smith became a Callaway Golf Clubs technology representative in 2006 and has been a part-time golf shop assistant for the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail since 2003. He was an assistant golf professional at the Anniston Country Club from 2001-02, as well as an assistant golf professional at Silver Lakes on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

The Glencoe, Ala., native played collegiate golf at Gadsden State Community College from 1998-00 before spending two years as a golf instructor. He graduated from Jacksonville State University in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in physical education.

Smith's dad, Moe Smith, who is current principal at Glencoe High School, and his late grandfather, C.K. Gant, are both Hall of Fame basketball coaches.

ClassNotes



Marker commemorates early history of BSC

In December 2006, an historic marker was unveiled at Talladega First United Methodist Church honoring the earliest history of both Auburn University and Birmingham-Southern, which were both initiated in Talladega in the December 1854 meeting of the Alabama Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. At an assembly on the church lawn, the marker was unveiled by BSC Trustee George Smith Jr. of Anniston, representing BSC, and James W. Heacock Sr. of Talladega, representing Auburn.

In a service following in the sanctuary, participants included Smith; Dr. Stewart Jackson, BSC dean of chapel; **Dr. O.C. Weaver Jr. '35**, BSC professor emeritus and author of a history of the college; and **Dr. William Crawford "Bill" Davis '47**, former pastor of Talladega First United Methodist Church and a champion of the commemorative effort. Davis, shown here with the new marker, has long ties with Birmingham-Southern. His family proudly numbers graduates of both Southern University and Birmingham-Southern, and his grandchildren include present and future BSC students.

'41

Elaire Cooper Fletcher and her husband, **Gordon Donald Fletcher**, have moved from Birmingham to a retirement community in Sun City, Fla.

'50

After working at Southwestern Indiana Mental Health Center for more than 32 years, **Dr. F. Beth Stone** of Evansville, Ind., has

resigned. She now is employed part time at the Lampion Center (a family and children's services agency), doing what she likes to do—psychological testing—at age 75.

'52

BSC Board of Trustees member **Larry D. Striplin Jr.** of Birmingham was inducted into the 2007 class of the Alabama High School

Sports Hall of Fame at a March banquet in Montgomery. Striplin's generous support of the Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Program and Foundation, as well as his involvement in the creation of the Super 6 football championship and the State Finals basketball tournament, were cited in the announcement of his selection.

'57

After 40 years as a professor of religion at BSC, **Dr. Roy D. Wells** will retire in May (see page 10). Though he will continue his roles as scholar and Episcopalian priest, he and wife **Laura Stephenson Wells '59** also look forward to more time with family. Daughter **Megan Wells Agopian '87**, a pianist, now lives, teaches, and performs in Calgary, Alberta. Her husband, Edmond, is a concert violinist, distinguished professor of music at the University of Calgary, and director of the Calgary Youth Orchestra. The two are parents of the Wells' grandson, Emil. Daughter Julianna is working and writing in Birmingham. Son **Kendrick Wells**, who studied music and composition at BSC, worked and performed in Birmingham until his death in 2005.



'58

Frances Osborn Robb of Huntsville, an independent scholar and member

of the Alabama Humanities Foundation speakers' bureau, has begun presenting two new programs in her latest series of talks to community groups around the state. "Pairing Off: Courting

Couples, Dates, and Steadies" includes a series of slides illustrating shifting ideas of courtship through the first half of the 20th century. Robb's second new program is based on "Encounters," an exhibition of the photography of her longtime friend Kathryn Tucker Windham, which Robb curated for the Huntsville Museum of Art in 1995. That exhibition subsequently has toured widely and has resulted in a book of the same title.

'59

Aldridge Botanical Gardens in Hoover, originally founded by **Eddie Aldridge** and his family, has announced a \$6 million capital campaign to support the construction of new projects, including an environmental center, an amphitheater, an expansive children's garden, and a 300-foot waterfall supplied by treated wastewater, which will serve as a dramatic showcase for the concept of water recycling.

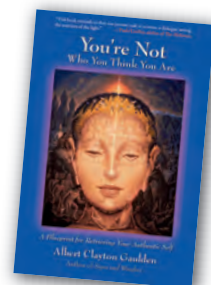
'60

Dr. Charles Lambert has retired after 43 years of serving the Athens community as a dentist.

'62

Albert Clayton Gauden of Sedona, Ariz., founder and director of The Sedona Intensive, has published a new book, *You're Not Who You*

Think You Are: A Blueprint for Retrieving Your Authentic Self, available online, in which he outlines eight life lessons for personal growth. Gauden also is author of *Clearing for the*



Millennium and Signs and Wonders—Understanding the Language of God.

The **Rev. Margaret Shepard** now is serving as priest in charge at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Robertsedale.

'64

A new play from **Hubert Grissom** of Tampa, Fla., premiered in January at the Gorilla Theatre. *BapBomb* (the FBI code name for the 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham) is set in 1988 and deals with hate crimes and the personal and political machinations that surround them.

David J. Messer of Maywood, N.J., former director of the Bergen Museum of Art and Science in Paramus, and now director of matching gifts for KPMG LLP, an audit, tax, and advisory firm recently named one of *FORTUNE* magazine's 2007 "Ten Best Companies to Work For," is looking forward to retirement in a year. He has begun formal studies in music composition at the Julliard School of Music in Manhattan and has created a Web site featuring his recent compositions. He praises his music teachers at BSC: "I never forget that my musical studies with Everette Pittman, Hugh Thomas, Sam B. Owens, and Minnie McNeil Carr at the BSC Conservatory of Music have been a springboard for achievement and fulfillment for a lifetime!"

In January, former *New York Times* editor **Howell Raines** of Henryville, Pa., was the keynote speaker at the 21st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast in Birmingham.

'67

Filmmaker **Bob Clem** of New Paltz, N.Y., recently named one of BSC's Distinguished Alumni for 2007 (see page 45), currently is producing three new documentaries in Alabama. The Southern Humanities Media Fund, a consortium of humanities councils from seven Southern states, recently awarded a major grant for Clem's documentary *The Gospel Highway*, about the golden age of African-American gospel quartets. The film will include the world famous Blind Boys of Alabama as well as groups such as the Dixie Hummingbirds and the Mighty Clouds of Joy.

'68

Howard Cruse of North Adams, Mass., was cover artist for the fall 2006 issue of *The Handle*, the magazine of the UAB School of Public Health. He was honored at a January reception in Birmingham.

Wayne Lord of Atlanta has been appointed vice president of governmental affairs for Pilgrim's Pride Corp., the largest chicken producer in the United States and Puerto Rico and the second-largest producer and seller of chicken in Mexico.

Dr. Jack Sellers is professor and chair of the Department of Social Work and Criminal Justice at the University of North Alabama. He recently received the 2006 Significant Lifetime Achievement in Baccalaureate Social Work Education Award from the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors at its annual conference, held in Los Angeles. Sellers, founding chair of his department in 1974, will retire at the end of July after 36 years of service.

'69

Dr. George M. Adams of Tampa, Fla., has retired after 30 years as a family physician. He is pursuing a second major in Italian at the University of South Florida and hopes to teach English at a university in Italy during the summers.

Robert E. "Bob" Keller of Jonesboro, Ga., former Clayton County district attorney, has been named to the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. His term will expire Dec. 31, 2013.

Jayne McCain Prude of Florence, an assistant professor of mathematics at the University of North Alabama, has been named to the Elizabeth Gaines Mann Professorship.

'72

Hon. Laura Jo Wilbourn Hamilton of Huntsville recently won re-election for the Place 5

seat on the Madison County Circuit Court. She now is serving her 17th year on the bench and her ninth as a circuit judge.

'76

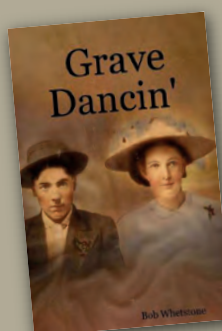
Terry Cooper has been named to the 2007 class of the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame and was inducted at a March banquet in Montgomery. Cooper has served for 31 years in the Mountain Brook school system, as a coach for basketball, baseball, golf, and swimming, and as athletics director.

'77

Paintings of **Camilla Armstrong** of Montgomery were displayed last fall at that city's Stonehenge Gallery in an exhibition entitled "Everyday Sacred."

'80

After 26 years in retail, **Crystal Underwood Sims** has joined the Collegiate Licensing Co. in Atlanta.



Dr. Bob Whetstone, professor emeritus, publishes first novel—*Grave Dancin'*

Grave Dancin' is the first of several historical novels planned by **Dr. Bob Whetstone '55**, professor emeritus of education at BSC. Recently published by Lulu Enterprises, *Grave Dancin'* is set against the background of the early

20th-century migration from cotton fields to cotton mills in the Deep South. It tells the story of one young man's dream to leave a crowded, run-down shack to seek what he believes to be a better life as a mill hand.

Whetstone, a native of Alexander City, has roots deeply embedded in cotton mill villages. He spent his childhood within the shadow of a mill, and, in addition, many of his close relatives worked as mill hands, thus surrounding him with colorful and sometimes tragic stories of life in and around mill villages.

The book is available online, and more information may be found at Whetstone's Web site.

She is manager of non-apparel merchandise in the Marketing Department. CLC was founded in 1981 by Bill Battle Jr., a member of the BSC Board of Trustees and the son of former BSC athletics director William Raines Battle.

'81

Dr. Jonathan M. Goodin practiced general pediatrics in Gadsden for 15 years. He has relocated to Tifton, Ga., where he has practiced in the Department of Pediatrics of Affinity Health Group since November 2006. Goodin has resumed his musical activities by playing clarinet with the community concert bands of the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton and Darton College in Albany.

After spending 16 years with Reynolds Aluminum as an engineering director in Europe, **Calvin Wiggins**, along with three other aluminum industry entrepreneurs, founded Service Center Metals in Richmond, Va. After three years in business, this aluminum extrusion company of 115 people was named by *Entrepreneur* magazine as the 10th fastest growing company in America. Wiggins balances his busy work life with family time with his wife and three sons, and with his sport of sky diving, which he began while attending BSC.



'83

Charles E. Ball, formerly director of planning for the city of Gadsden, has been

named executive director of the

Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham. He began his work with the commission in December 2006.

Dr. Glenn Feldman has been named director of the UAB Center for Labor Education and Research. Feldman joined CLEAR in 1996 as an assistant professor. A recognized authority in his field, he has published more than 25 academic articles; authored and edited seven books; appeared on National Public Radio, local TV, and radio programs; and has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* and other publications.

'85

Brigitte Celeste Johnston Knoll of Carrollton, Va., obtained a master's degree in library science from the Catholic University of America in 2006 and is an elementary school media specialist for the Isle of Wight County Schools in Virginia. Husband **William Sedgley Knoll** retired from active duty Navy (CDR) in 2006 and became a member of the Federal government's senior executive service for the National Nuclear Security Administration. The Knolls have three children.



Maj. John Pendergast

sends regrets that he will be unable to attend the BSC

Alumni Reunion this year. He says that he will be serving in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Western alumnae extend warm welcome to Interim group—

In January, when 13 BSC students traveled to Washington State with Dr. Peter Donahue, BSC associate professor of English, and BSC staff member **Carol Cook Hagood '70** for the 2007 Interim course "Discovering the Northwest," BSC area alumnae offered a warm welcome.

Above, Martin and **Helen Braswell Payne '61** of Langley (front row left, center) visit at the Chinook Learning Center with Hagood (front row, right) and current BSC students. Days later, at their beautiful Whidbey Island home, the Paynes treated the visiting BSC group to a luncheon also hosted by **Callie Betancourt Daniell '62** of Port Ludlow, **Barbara Gibbs Read '60** of Langley, and Read's mother, Gertrude Gibbs, who worked in the BSC cafeteria in the '50s and '60s and who, at age 102, has happy memories of her time at the college.

In an afternoon that was one of the highlights of the Interim, the visitors enjoyed a feast including the alumnae's homemade soups, breads, preserves, and desserts; a reading of Read's recent poetry; lively conversation; and stories giving the students glimpses of the Hilltop years ago.

'86

The PBS *Dragonfly TV*'s "garbology" episode, which was filmed at the BSC Southern Environmental Center and now is airing nationwide, is no doubt a favorite of **Sharon Robinson Holmes**. Her son, Joshua Lee Holmes, and Altamont School friend, Sean Tuteja, are the "stars" of the show.

'87

Lawson Taitte, theater critic of *The Dallas Morning News*, says that with a recent production of *The Glory of Living* by **Rebecca Gilman**, the Second Thought Theatre of Dallas, "a comer on the local scene for a couple of years ... has definitely arrived." Gilman is a resident of Chicago.

Joey Lesesne of Washington, D.C., has been named vice president of government affairs at the media company and automotive services provider Cox Enterprises Inc. He will develop



Courtesy, Bob Farley/F8Photo.org

BSC graduate named Birmingham's 2006 top business figure—

Dowd Ritter '69 was named *Birmingham Business Journal's* Business Person of the Year in the cover story of its December 2006 edition. Ritter is president and CEO of Regions Financial Corp., a top 10 U.S. bankholding company headquartered in Birmingham. According to the *BBJ*, he is "the state's highest-profile banker."

Ritter served as president and chief executive officer at AmSouth Bancorporation prior to its merger with Regions in 2006. During his 37-year career at AmSouth (and its predecessor, the First National Bank of Birmingham), Ritter worked his way through the ranks of management in positions that included branch manager, group supervisor, and chief operating officer. He began his career with the Birmingham bank immediately after graduation from BSC. The *BBJ* article quotes the former economics major as saying, "I graduated from college one Saturday, I got married the next Saturday [to the former **Susan Burke '69**], and I started at the bank the next Monday." He later graduated from Louisiana State University's School of Banking of the South, where he has served as an instructor.

Ritter was featured speaker at the Feb. 6, 2007, BSC Downtown Birmingham Alumni Business Luncheon, where guests included his fellow BSC trustees **David Smith '79**, **Bruce Rogers '80**, and **Denson N. "Dee" Franklin III '85**. His speech was entitled "2007 National and Local Outlook for the Financial Services Industry."

and implement public policy strategies for Cox businesses and represent the company before Congress and federal government agencies.

'88

Last summer, the New York Concert Chorale, **James Bagwell's** professional chorus, appeared on PBS's *Live from Lincoln Center* during the Mostly Mozart Festival. In October, the Desoff Choirs, for which he is conductor, appeared with the NHK (Japan) Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. In December, Bagwell appeared as guest conductor with the Jerusalem Symphony in Israel in an all-Beethoven concert. He guest conducted two concerts there, one in Tel Aviv and one in Jerusalem. In March 2007, Bagwell guest conducted the Tulsa Symphony in a program of film scores.



Brenda Veal Digges has served as director of administrative services for the city

of Venice, Fla., since June 2004. A feature article in the Nov. 5, 2006, *Venice Gondolier Sun* says that she is noted around town for her Southern charm and hospitality—and for her white 1959 MGA convertible, which she has nicknamed "Percival."

In December 2006, Director of National Intelligence John D. Negroponte presented the second annual DNI Fellows Awards to 10 outstanding members of the intelligence community, including

Dr. Kirsten Whitley of the National Security Agency. Whitley is a senior researcher in the Office of Defensive Computing Research in Nashville, Tenn., working on cognitive analysis and visualization.

'89

Michael and Gianna Bargetzi Gimenez of Madison, former composition and voice majors at BSC, have opened the Ovation Performing Arts Center to serve the Madison area. The center houses the Oasis Theater, the Helen Bargetzi Opera Hall (named for Gianna Gimenez's mother, an ardent supporter of opera in Huntsville and Madsion), and several rehearsal rooms and studios for teaching voice, piano, and other instruments. The Madison Community Chorus will rehearse and perform in the center. It also will offer instructional space to local teachers of music. This past January, the center began its own program of classes in music, theater, musical theater, and musical theater dance.

'91

Rev. Patrick Friday of Birmingham has been named the new director of special



mission initiatives at the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. He formerly served as the North Alabama Conference director of mission and advocacy. He has been a GBGM missionary to Belarus and Latvia. His dedication

to global ministries also has led to his involvement with several initiatives, including the Children of Chernobyl program and Camp Wesley, a United Methodist facility in Latvia.

John David Goodwin has been a much sought-after pianist, chamber musician, and accompanist in the Chicago area for the past 15 years. His recent projects include a performance of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" with the Chicagoland Pops Orchestra; serving as assistant music director/keyboard for "Sita Ram," a world-premiere world

music opera with Lookingglass Theatre in Chicago; concerts in Boston (televised) and Prague with the Chicago Children's Choir; a live television concert in Carnegie Hall with the Chicago Children's Choir; a performance of Liszt's "Totentanz" with the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra; and solo recitals featuring the music of Nikolai Kapustin.

Emery Kyle Kyser Jr. recently completed a term as president of the Montgomery Lions Club, one of the largest in the country. He is a third generation Lion's president. Kyser is a general contractor and

lives in Montgomery with his wife and two children.



W. Brantley "Brant" Phillips Jr. of Nashville has been named legal counsel

for the Tennessee Democratic Party. He has served as a volunteer for the party for several years and began this new role with the party Feb. 1. Phillips, now noted as a "mover and shaker" by *The Nashville Tennessean*, is a member of the litigation and government relations practice areas at Bass, Berry & Sims. After graduating magna cum laude at BSC, he received his law degree from Washington & Lee and a master's in public policy from Duke University. His wife is **Joelle James Phillips '89**.

In August 2006, **Dr. Darin Wade White** of Jackson, Tenn., became director of academic research for the McAfee School of Business Administration at Union University. In this position, he will develop and implement the school's program for scholarly output and assist individual faculty members with research to support academic program reviews and grant projects. White recently has published articles in leading business journals, including the *Journal of Business Ethics*, the *European Journal of Marketing*, and the *Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives*.

'93

David Cordes, a teacher at McElwain School in Birmingham,

was one of 19 Birmingham school-teachers who recently earned national board certification.

A new baby (see "Births and Adoptions") is not the only exciting news at the home of **Becky Smith Moreno**. Her husband, Jorge, and **Jeff Cross '91** are working together to build their company 2B Solutions, which focuses on the technical and business needs of small to large companies with mobile scanning solutions, customer relationship management, retail, and mobile application development. 2B Solutions is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner and was a finalist for the 2006 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award in mobility solutions.

Weily and Lauri Soong have returned to Birmingham after six years in Hamden, Conn. In June 2006, Weily completed an Allergy and Immunology Fellowship at Yale University, and Lauri completed six years of teaching first grade in Marlborough, Conn. Weily now is in private practice with Alabama Allergy and Asthma Center in Birmingham. In other happy news, the Soong household now includes a daughter (see "Births and Adoptions").

'94

Scott Berte of Birmingham recently was named a member of the firm at Dixon Hughes PLLC, one of the nation's top 20 CPA firms and the largest headquartered in the Southeast.

Attorney **S. Roderick Kanter** has been named a partner at Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP. He is employed in the Birmingham office's public finance and corporate and securities practice groups.



New vocal group includes BSC musical talent—Sursum Corda, pictured above, is a new vocal group formed in 2006 and directed by **Dr. Lester Seigel '79**, Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music at BSC. The group's name comes from the opening of the traditional Great Thanksgiving, "Lift up your hearts." The ensemble's mission is to present outstanding choral works of both the Christian and the Jewish liturgical traditions. While it is an independent choral ensemble operating under the aegis of Canterbury United Methodist Church, there are a number of BSC musicians, both students and alumni, on the current roster. BSC students included in the group are Elizabeth Ward, Paul Ward, and Tim Beenken. Alumni include **Ted Clark '78**, **Virginia Lane Goodall '79**, **Jane Sisson Seigel '80**, **David Higginbotham '88**, and **Joy Lashane Ryder '97**.

'95

David T. Royse recently was appointed by the governor of Kentucky to serve as a special justice on the Kentucky Supreme Court in two civil actions. Royse is a partner in the law firm of Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC in Lexington, where he concentrates his practice in civil litigation.

'97

Sandra Page, a teacher at Tuggle School in Birmingham, was one of 19 Birmingham schoolteachers who recently earned national board certification.

Dane Peterson recently directed a production of *Fiddler on the Roof* at Birmingham's Virginia Samford Theatre.

'99

Dr. Cathy Harkins Logan graduated from the UAB School of Medicine in June 2006. She will complete her residency training in internal medicine at UAB Hospital in Birmingham.

Erika Smiley Mahan and her husband, Reginald, now make their home in Nashville, Tenn. Formerly employed by WebMD, she now is with Emdeon Business Services, as a hospital software representative supporting products for medical billing. Her husband is employed by Publix Inc.

'00

Joseph Aaron Cash recently was promoted to the rank of captain in the U.S. Marine Corps. He currently serves with the Marine Special Operations Command in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

'01

After completing a dental residency at Denver Medical

Center in Colorado, **John Allen Baggett** and his wife, Loren Leigh, have returned to Alabama, where he now practices dentistry at Mahan Creek Dental in Brierfield. For more exciting news from the Baggett family, see "Births and Adoptions."

Gerrit Jan "Jerry" Hinnen now is employed as a sports writer for *The Saline Reporter* in Saline, Mich.

'02

A feature article in the Jan. 29, 2007, *Montgomery Advertiser* commends the work of BSC graduate **Byron Berry**. Berry, who pastors a church in Montgomery, also has involved himself in urban revitalization, by working to convert two century-old buildings near the federal courthouse in downtown Montgomery into residential lofts and retail space. Word of Berry's efforts was shared with us by his sister, **Kelly Barry Parker '93**.

Following their December 2005 marriage, **Lauren Bradley Humber** and **William Still Humber** are making their home in Tuscaloosa. In May 2006, Lauren completed a master's degree in social work at the University of Alabama, graduating with honors. She recently accepted a position as a social worker at the Rise School in Tuscaloosa, a preschool program serving children with special needs and their typical peers. Will works for the Bank of Tuscaloosa and recently was promoted to assistant vice president.

Natalie Hummel of Birmingham has been named project coordinator for the Alabama Moving Image Association. Her main responsibility will be to help produce the Sidewalk Film Festival, but she



Two alumni ordained in recent ceremony

In December 2006, **Rev. Evan Douglas Garner '02** and **Rev. Allison Sandlin Liles '02** were ordained as priests in the Episcopal Church, in a ceremony which took place at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. Garner currently serves as a priest at St. John's Episcopal Church in Montgomery. Liles serves as a priest at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and Day School in Washington, D.C. The two are shown here with **Rev. William S. "Bill" Blackerby Jr. '75** (center), who was their Episcopal campus minister at BSC.

also will be lending support throughout the years on its many related events, such as the Sidewalk Scrambles, Sidewalk Salons, and Sidewalk Cinematheque.

As a member of the Choir of Washington National Cathedral, a professional ensemble in which he sings four services weekly, plus major works and feast days, **Daniel Seigel** recently sang at former President Gerald Ford's funeral. Seigel makes his home in Baltimore.

'03

When he graduated from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University with a master's degree in divinity last May, **David Saliba** received the First Career in Ministry Award. In June, he was commissioned as a minister and probationary elder in the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the

United Methodist Church and presently serves as an associate minister at First United Methodist Church in Montgomery.

John Tyler Thomas is attending medical school at the University of Alabama. He and his bride (see "Marriages") make their home in Tuscaloosa.

'05

Michael Dean completed a master's degree in sports management at West Virginia University in December 2006. He was named the compliance coordinator for the Rice University Department of Athletics in October 2006.

'06

Kate Chandler, who graduated from BSC with a degree in business and a concentration in Chinese, has taken a position with

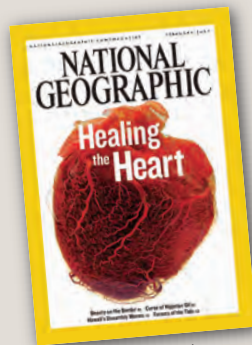
(Continued on page 62.)

BSC alumni in the news

Those who read 'Southern magazine each season know that at any given moment, our fellow Birmingham-Southern alumni, thousands strong, are busy making this a better, more interesting, more just, more beautiful, and more vibrant world. If you doubt it, pick up a newspaper or thumb through a magazine. We did, and here are some stories and reviews we found in the local, regional, and national press.

Donna Branch '93 of McCalla was featured in a February 2007 *Birmingham* magazine article about local artists whose work was being filmed for the HGTV program *That's Clever*. Material filmed in Branch's art glass studio will air in late 2007. Branch, whose colorful vases and other pieces have been shown at Magic City Art Connection and other shows across the country, is represented in the Birmingham area at Artists Incorporated and Gallerie Alegria.

2007, details planned expansion at Café Dupont and quotes Birmingham business leaders who praise Dupont's energizing effect on downtown development.



Courtesy, National Geographic

Dr. Luke J. Dollar '93, assistant professor of biology at Pfeiffer University, a private, liberal arts, Methodist university located near Charlotte, N.C., has been named one of eight 2007 Emerging Explorers in the February 2007 issue of *National Geographic* magazine. Each year this program "selects rising talents who push the boundaries of discovery, adventure, and global problem-solving ... amazing individuals who are visionaries in their respective fields."

Dollar's work as a conservation scientist is praised in both the society's magazine and its Web site, as he "fights to save animals endangered by predators, preserve threatened habitats and create new opportunities for the people of Madagascar."

His father, Jerry Dollar, an associate dean at Beville State Community College, who has taught organic chemistry at BSC, brought this exciting news to our attention.



Dollar. Courtesy, Luke Dollar



Allie Christian Butler '44 of Decatur and her husband, John, reminisce about their World War II experiences in a recent feature article in *The Decatur Daily*. While "John Butler flew 30 missions over Germany with the 8th Air Force as chief engineer aboard a B-24 bomber named 'Shoo Shoo Baby,'" Allie Butler, a music major at BSC, found herself teaching riveting, flight physics, airplane mechanics, and more at Keesler Field in Biloxi, Miss. You can read all about it in the Nov. 11, 2006, edition of the paper.

The Butlers.
Courtesy, Gary Lloyd/
The Decatur Daily



BSC classmates, roommates, and fraternity brothers **Gray Byrum '87** and **Chris Dupont '85** are key players in Birmingham's nationally recognized culinary scene. Their achievements at their respective restaurants, The Restaurant at Culinard and Café Dupont, were featured in a Nov. 15, 2006, article in *The Birmingham News* entitled "A Tale of Two Chefs." A follow-up article in *The News* on Feb. 13,

Attorney **Ann Huckstep '75** of Birmingham, earlier named one of *Birmingham Business Journal's* "Top Birmingham Women for 2005," whose work has been recognized many times in "Best Lawyers of America," has been elected chair of the executive committee of the law firm Adams and Reese LLP. It was noted in the press that she is the first woman to hold this post. Her response in the Jan. 21, 2007, *Birmingham News* Point of View column "What spells success for 'first woman'?" is an interesting exploration of various meanings and measures of success.



Artwork by Raeford Liles. Courtesy, Birmingham magazine

Friends and admirers of artist **Raeford Liles '49** and his wife, the revered BSC art historian and teacher Dr. Virginia Rembert Liles, will be interested to learn that the couple have returned to Birmingham and are living in the new SoHo Flats in

Homewood. The December 2006 issue of *Birmingham* magazine features an article on Raeford Liles' work and career.



Courtesy, Birmingham magazine

A Dec. 26, 2006, article in *The Birmingham News* praises the work of **Skye Stewart '06** of Tuscaloosa and others in the FocusFirst organization, which trains college volunteers to perform eye screenings for children in Head Start programs. The work is "part of an effort coordinated by Gov. Bob Riley's Black Belt Action Commission to detect, treat, and monitor the visual health of children and adults in Alabama's Black Belt ... where poverty rates are high and medical services scarce."

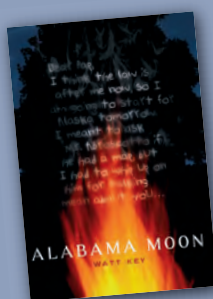


Neill. Courtesy, Ben Twingley/Pensacola News Journal

Dr. Terry Neill '93 was featured in a Jan. 25, 2007, *Pensacola News Journal* article demonstrating Web technology that allows specialists at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola to consult with doctors in other health care settings and to aid in cases in which time is a crucial factor, as in strokes. This news was shared with us by former BSC Trustee Dr. Henry Roberts, who now serves as president of the Sacred Heart Foundation.

In its Nov. 12, 2006, edition, *The Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader* gives high marks to **Shaye Rabold '01** for her skill in managing Jim Newberry's recent successful campaign for mayor of Lexington. According to the article, "Newberry's victory has thrust Rabold into the spotlight, catapulting her from a little-known, first-time campaign manager to a rising name on Kentucky's political scene." Political consultant Mark Riddle is quoted as saying, "She went toe-to-toe against an incumbent mayor and an incumbent mayor's staff and proved herself a top political player dealing with the press, dealing with budgets, dealing with a staff with a lot of experience."

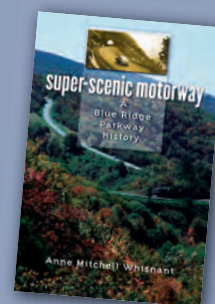
Great reviews for:



- *Alabama Moon*, the recently published novel by **Watt Key '92** of Mobile, written for young adults but of interest to all who enjoy a good read. A Feb. 11, 2007, review in *The New York Times* praises the book's vivid portrayal of its forest settings, its rich cast of characters, and the lessons learned by the main character in this coming-of-age tale.

Don Noble, professor emeritus of English at the University of Alabama and well-known book critic for Alabama Public Radio and Television, outlines the story of *Alabama Moon* in a radio review reprinted in the Dec. 3, 2007, *Tuscaloosa News*, and says that he "read [the book] with pleasure."

- *Super-scenic Motorway: A Blue Ridge Parkway History* by **Dr. Anne Mitchell Whisnant '89** of Chapel Hill, N.C., an incisive account of the political and economic history behind one of America's favorite scenic roads. This book has received notices not only in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and other newspapers throughout the South, but in points as far-flung as Anchorage, Pittsburgh, and Montreal. The wide interest in the book is no surprise to Dr. Bill Nicholas, BSC professor of history, who remembers Whisnant as one of his most able students.



Opportunities International, a non-profit with bases around the world. Chandler will work in Hefei, China, as a training manager overseeing interns in a microfinance operation, which loans small amounts of money to help people start businesses or produce and sell products.

MPPM

'90

Jim Gordon of Birmingham now is corporate director of human resources at Meadowcraft Inc., a manufacturer of wrought iron furniture that employs approximately 2,000 associates in Alabama. Gordon has worked in the human resources area for more than 30 years in a variety of industries.



'94

Carl J. Harper

has been named acting chief of the Birmingham Fire and

Rescue Services Department, which now employs 700 men and women. Harper joined the department in 1977. He most recently served as assistant fire chief.

'95

Barry Morrison now serves as chief executive officer at Tri-Lakes Medical Center in Batesville, Miss. He has served for more than 22 years in hospital and health systems, in the areas of leadership, strategy, operations, finance, physician relations, and marketing.

'05

Bridgette Long Turner recently was promoted to the rank of captain in the U.S. Army Reserves. She serves as company commander for headquarters for the 427th Medical Logistics Battalion in Atlanta. Turner resides in Birmingham and is employed at UAB Hospital as a human resources advisor. She received her bachelor's degree from Alabama A&M University.

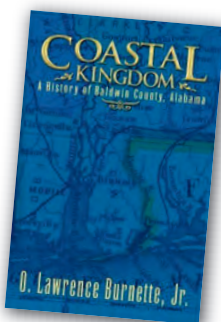
Friends

Dr. O. Lawrence Burnette Jr.

of Lillian, a former professor of history at BSC, recently published

Coastal Kingdom: A History of Baldwin County, Alabama. In a recent review, *The Baldwin Times* praises the book, which is available on Amazon.com, for the width and depth of its scope: "Burnette covers over 500 years of history with the precision of an historian's eye, uncovering a substantial amount of information, some unknown, which illuminates an engaging history."

Recently, the Alabama Academy of Science presented the 2007 Wright A. Gardner Award—the highest honor bestowed by the academy—to **Dr. Dan C. Holliman**, Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor Emeritus of Biology at BSC. This recognition honors not only his exemplary career as a teacher and scholar, but his many signal contributions to environmental science in Alabama,



Young alums gather in D.C.—A group of BSC alumni gathered at a wine-tasting event this past December in Washington, D.C., for conversation and conviviality. Pictured (from left) are **C.T. Stevens II '06**, **William Holby '06**, **Kate Drummond '06**, **John Paul Wilson '06**, **Webb Lyons '06**, **Jenny Hughes '05**, **Tyler Davis '06**, and **Franklin Slaton '04**.

for which he has received numerous awards, including the 1996 State of Alabama Governor's Award by the Alabama Wildlife Federation for Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, the 1995 Legacy Award for the creation of the Greystone Educational Wetland, and BSC's 2006 Recognition for Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Education.

Marriages

Laura Greer Wikle '89 and Wesley Robert Jones, May 20, 2006.

Edith Louise Monroe '92 and James Hunter Flack III, July 29, 2006.

Erica Denise Mason '93 and Jason Richard Steckler, July 8, 2006.

Dana Loerch Pender '94 and Jake Waldon Brady, May 27, 2006.

Veeral Majmudar '99 and Anuja Athani, Aug. 19, 2006.

Erika Smiley '99 and Reginald Mahan, Aug. 19, 2006.

Lauren Elizabeth Bradley '02 and **William Still Humber '02**, Dec. 17, 2005.

John Tyler Thomas '03 and Stacia Marie Costello, June 17, 2006.

Jonathan Drewry '05 and Lyana Jose Barahona, Jan. 6, 2007.

Sarah Catherine Hibbard '05 and Josh Leachman, March 25, 2006.

Births and Adoptions

A son, Charles Wallace, Jan. 30, 2006, to **Craig Borden '93** and wife **Ruth Houston Borden '94** (sisters Sara and Hannah).

A son, Jorge "Robie," Oct. 24, 2006, to **Becky Smith Moreno '93** and husband Jorge (brother Taylor Bret). Robie's great uncle is Dr. David Smith, BSC music professor.

A daughter, Kathryn Ann, born Aug. 1, 2005, in Shang Rao, Jiangxi Province, China, and welcomed in May 2006 into the family of **Lauri George Soong '93** and husband **Dr. Weily Soong '95**.

A son, Wesley Wenters, March 16, 2006, to **Mary Burgett Ashley '95** and husband Stephen (sister Mary Morgan).

A daughter, Elizabeth "Libby," Oct. 13, 2005, to **William T. Johnson III '96** and wife Clare (brother John Parker).

A son, Ethan Graham, July 2, 2006, to **Karen Adolfsen Novak '96** and husband Steve (brother Ryan). After a brief stay in the NICU with "Aunt" **Leanne Vardaman Meyers '96** looking after him, he now is doing well.

A son, "Grant" Michael, July 24, 2006, to **Scott Speagle '96** and wife **Gina Maise Speagle '98** (sister "Sydney" Charlotte).

A daughter, Magdalene "Maggie" Patricia, July 13, 2006, to **Herb Williams '96** and wife **Amy Freeman Williams '97** (brother Clay). Proud grandparents are **Dr. Phil** and **Patti Vogel Freeman** (both '73); aunt is **Meredith Freeman '00**.

A daughter, Susan Hastings, Dec. 16, 2005, to **Sara Cherie Plant Williams '96** and husband Chris.

A daughter, Alaina Leigh, Sept. 7, 2006, to **Alan Simpson '98** and wife Staci (sister Kayleigh Grace).

A son, Joseph "Brake," Sept. 18, 2006, to **Brock Lowell '99** and wife Elizabeth.

A daughter, Eleanor Elizabeth,

In Memoriam '38 and '47



Margaret Demmon Sims. He was a patron of the Frank Smith Memorial Garden at the Atlanta History Center.

He also was a supporter of Birmingham-Southern. His generous gift established the **John Erwin (Don) Sims '36** Endowed Scholarship at BSC in memory of the Sims' late brother.

Survivors include wife Rebeca Lucero Avendano Sims.

Catherine Anville Sims of Homewood died Nov. 13, 2006. Retired from UAB, where she was employed in dental research, she was a dedicated gardener, who enjoyed sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm for the art of gardening, along with countless cuttings, seeds, and starter plants. She was widely known as "The Plant Lady" of Homewood. In 2002, she was named "Homewood Citizen of the Year" for her many charitable and horticultural contributions to the community.

Extending her gifts of beautiful plants and garden expertise to BSC, she was an active member of the Landscaping and Beautification Committee, donating trees and shrubbery from her own collection to beautify the campus. She was a supporter of the EcoScape and a member of the Endowment Builders Society. Her generous gift established the Catherine Anville Sims Endowed Scholarship. At the direction of the Sims' siblings, thousands of family books—at least 55 boxes of them—were transferred to the library at Birmingham-Southern.

Dec. 4, 2006, to **Robyn Moore Garrett '00** and husband Clint.

A son, Conrad Guy Lowe III, Oct. 7, 2006, to **Kristi Lyle Jones '00** and husband Guy. Born 11 weeks premature, Conrad spent

50 days in the NICU, but now is home and doing well.

A daughter, Lydia Claire, Sept. 22, 2006, to **Dr. John Allen Baggett '01** and wife Loren Leigh.

In Memoriam

Birmingham-Southern lost two good friends last fall when **Ben Sims '47** died in September, followed shortly by the death of his sister, **Catherine Sims '38**.

Benjamin Wilson "Mr. Ben" Sims of Punta Gorda, Fla., formerly of Atlanta, died Sept. 16, 2006. A gardener and a lover and collector of art, classical music albums, and good literature, he was an avid supporter of his community. In 1978, he commissioned Italian-born Atlanta artist Athos Menaboni to paint a collection of pairs of birds native to Georgia. This collection of 20 paintings was given to the Atlanta History Center as a memorial to his first wife, the late

Marianne Lyles Wilder '26 of Birmingham died Nov. 16, 2006. She was a student of piano at the Birmingham Conservatory of Music and studied at Birmingham-Southern before graduating from

the University of Alabama. She was retired from the Birmingham public school system.

Helen Harris Walker '30 of Birmingham died Nov. 5, 2006. She received both bachelor's and master's degrees from Birmingham-Southern and taught for many years at Sullins College in Bristol, Va.

June Haralson Robertson '32 of Corpus Christi, Texas, died Sept. 24, 2006.

Henry Franklin Cantey '33 of Birmingham died Dec. 20, 2006. After graduating from Birmingham-Southern, he received a master's degree from Vanderbilt University. During World War II, he served as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. Following the war, he became headmaster at Birmingham University School. After Indian Springs School opened in 1952, he spent 33 years there as instructor and administrator. His wife was the late **Mildred Ryan Cantey '36**.

Lurline D. Youngblood '33 of Birmingham, formerly of Vestavia Hills, died Dec. 28, 2006.

Robert Stokes Ferguson '35 of Huntsville died Nov. 15, 2006. He held a master's degree from the University of Alabama and was employed as a civil servant with the U.S. Army until his retirement in 1975. He then owned and operated the Humidor Pipe Shop for 30 years.

Elmer Albert Hollis '35 of Cahaba Heights died Jan. 22, 2007. He held a doctorate in education from the University of Alabama. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy, retiring with the rank of

lieutenant commander. One of his wartime duties was supervising the loading of the first atomic bomb, bound for Hiroshima, onto the USS Indianapolis. Following the war, he served as a coach, teacher, and principal in schools in Cahaba Heights. Hollis later served as assistant superintendent

for Jefferson County Schools.

William Garrett '37 of Raleigh, N.C., died in April 2006.

Anderson Clayton Mercer '37 of Panama City, Fla., died Dec. 9, 2006. He was a pilot, a member of the Civil Air Patrol, and one of

106 pilots who flew from Key West to Cuba before Castro took power. He was a member of the board of directors of Quality Courts.

J.B. DeLapp '38 of Milton, Ga., formerly of Birmingham, died Dec. 26, 2006. During World

In Memoriam '41



Courtesy, Beth Maynor Young

Mary Burks of Birmingham died Feb. 16, 2007. A former reporter in an era when few newspapers employed women, she became a champion of wilderness preservation and an inspiration and mentor to environmentalists in Alabama and beyond. Survivors include her husband, Bob Burks, partner in many of her efforts.

At her death, Mary Burks was honored by U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions from Alabama, who took the U.S. Senate floor on Feb. 27, 2007, to read his

memorial tribute, excerpted here, into the Congressional Record:

"Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to Mary Burks, founder of the Alabama Conservancy, mother of the wilderness movement, and champion of the Sipsey Wilderness in the Bankhead National Forest. Last week, Mary Burks passed away in Birmingham at the age of 86. Her passing is a loss, not just for Alabama or the conservation movement, but for every person who has ever explored and enjoyed Alabama's vast wilderness. She helped protect those natural areas, and, without her, our children might not be as able to enjoy them as they do today. Her lifelong struggle to protect and conserve sensitive lands provides a record of accomplishment that deserves both recognition and celebration. ...

"Mary Burks did not simply sit and dream. She led a six-year campaign in the early '70s to designate the Sipsey Wilderness area in the Bankhead National Forest as wilderness. In doing so, she won the support of the entire Alabama Congressional delegation. ...

"After the campaign, not only was the Sipsey Wilderness created, but the Eastern Wilderness Area System was established when former President Gerald Ford signed the Eastern Wilderness Act. It is fair to assume that this success would not have been achieved without Mary Burks' tireless efforts. ... Describing the importance of Mary's efforts and the organization that she founded, the Alabama Conservancy, Floyd Haskell, former U.S. Senator from Colorado, stated, 'If not for the Alabama Conservancy, there would be no concept of Eastern Wilderness.'

"Mr. President, there is a difference between thinking that things ought to be a certain way, and actually making them so. Too often we are quick to do the former, and slow to do the latter. But the protected resources in my home state and others are larger in size, great in quantity, and more secure in their protection because Mary Burks fought for them all her life. She left a lasting legacy in Alabama that will forever be felt by all who care about wilderness and natural places.

"Mr. President, it is in her memory that I yield the floor."

In Memoriam '84



Dr. John Marvin Akin III of Mountain Brook died Dec. 29, 2006. A Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board graduate of BSC, he also was a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Medicine, completing his internship at Baptist Medical Center Montclair in Birmingham and his residency at the Univer-

sity of Virginia in Charlottesville. He practiced as an anesthesiologist at Brookwood Medical Center with Anesthesia Services of Birmingham.

He was a lifelong member of Canterbury United Methodist Church.

Survivors include wife **Sarah Reed Akin '86** and his parents, **Dr. and Mrs. John M. Akin Jr. '49**. His grandfather was the late **Dr. John M. Akin Sr. '22**.

Memorials may be made to Birmingham-Southern College, through the Office of Institutional Advancement, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.

War II, he served in the Army Quartermasters Corps. Following the war, for more than 50 years, he managed country clubs in the Birmingham area, including Mountain Brook, Vestavia, Birmingham, Altadena, and the Birmingham Athletic Club. Survivors include wife Jewell T. Mercer.

Genevieve Wood Harris '39 of Decatur died Jan. 15, 2007. She was active in civic groups in Decatur, including the Women's Chamber of Commerce, and was past president of the Decatur Junior Service League. Survivors include daughter **Elizabeth Wood Conner '69**.

Virginia Mink Kindred '41 of Maggie Valley, N.C., died Dec. 17, 2006.

Dr. Carroll V. Truss '41 of Miami

died Jan. 15, 2007. A veteran of World War II and Korea, he retired from the Naval Reserve as a lieutenant commander and taught at the Naval Reserve in Miami. With a master's degree from the University of Miami and a doctoral degree in experimental psychology from Johns Hopkins, he taught at the University of Miami from 1955 to 1987, serving also as assistant and associate dean of the graduate school. Survivors include his wife Dorothy Crim Truss, brother **Dr. C. Orian Truss '43**, and cousin **Anne Gardner Travis '49**, who shared the news of his death with us.

William C. Wilburn Jr. '41 of Baltimore died May 3, 2006. He was a retired career naval officer, engineer, and World War II combat pilot, flying missions at Truk Lagoon and Kwajalein Atoll.

Following the war, he remained in the U.S. Navy and earned a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. He then held engineering positions at naval air stations in San Diego and at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. From 1963 until his retirement with the rank of commander in 1966, he served in Paris. Following retirement from the military, Wilburn was employed for a decade in the Engineering Department of General Dynamics in Fort Worth, Texas. Survivors include wife Elizabeth Pfeiffer Wilburn.

Miles Edwin Denham Sr. '42 of Aiken, S.C., died Nov. 24, 2006. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific as a communications officer in the U.S.

Navy. He later was employed as a sports writer and editor for the *Birmingham Post-Herald* and public relations manager for Chemstrand Co., Burlington Industries, and the International Executive Service Corps. Survivors include wife Eleanor Longcrier Denham.

James Reese Farley '43 of Hoover died Nov. 11, 2006. He was retired from the Southern Railroad and the Easter Seal Society. Survivors include wife **Mary Glee Sharpe Farley '42**.

Dr. Howard Clyde Elliott Jr. '48 of Birmingham died Nov. 21, 2006. With his master's and doctoral degrees in chemistry and biochemistry from the University of Alabama, he taught chemistry at UAB for 15 years and was the biochemist for the Baptist Hospital for 27 years. He was author and co-author of a number of scientific papers and was the recipient of the Kimble National Medical Technology Award. Survivors include wife Mary Claire Elliott.

Elizabeth Lamar Eatman Haynes '49 of Tuscaloosa and Mantua died Jan. 7, 2007. She served as U.S. postmaster in Mantua for 33 years and was active in community affairs in Eutaw and Tuscaloosa. Survivors include husband Charles Austin Haynes.

Joe L. Johnson Jr. '49 of Panama City, Fla., died Nov. 17, 2006. A veteran of World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He held a master's degree in education administration from Florida State University. He was Panama City Parks and Recreation director from 1954-67. He was a charter member of the Gulf Coast Football Officials Association,

In Memoriam Friend

John Henry Brewer of Mountain Brook died Jan. 31, 2007. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in Africa, Belgium, Italy, and Germany. A graduate of the law school at the University of Alabama, he served as a law clerk in the Alabama Supreme Court. He was employed by First National Bank as a branch manager and was promoted to the Trust Department in 1956.

Brewer opened a law practice at Office Park in Mountain Brook, dealing primarily with real estate and trusts, and continued in the practice of law until his retirement 10 years ago.

Survivors include wife Edna Earle Brewer.

Generous friends of Birmingham-Southern, Brewer and his wife established the Clifford Blake Hollis Scholarship, which assists deserving students with financial need, as a lasting tribute to their late grandson. Gifts in memory of Brewer may be made to the scholarship through the Office of Institutional Advancement, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.

officiating local high school football for more than 20 years. He became a teacher at Jinks Jr. High School in 1968, later serving as the school's athletics director and assistant principal, then as assistant principal at Bay High School from 1979-91. He was a member of the Bay County Sports Hall of Fame. Survivors include wife Anne J. Johnson.

Herbert Madden Trotman Jr. '49 of Vestavia Hills died Jan. 18, 2007. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He had a long career at U.S. Steel in Birmingham and in Pittsburgh, Pa. Survivors include wife Martha Grace Young Trotman. His brother was the late **Robert W. Trotman '51**.

Jack Joseph "James" Griffis '50 of Bessemer died Nov. 26, 2006. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy. After attending BSC, he graduated from the University of Alabama. He was employed by Drennen Motor

Co. and Tom Gloor Chevrolet, as well as owning an automobile dealership in Atlanta. He sold commercial real estate for Molton, Allen, and Williams and, for 40 years, was owner of Griffis Real Estate. He served as president of the Business Real Estate Board. Survivors include wife Linnie Mae Griffis.

Thomas Brantley Head '51 of Bay Minette, formerly of Birmingham, died Dec. 13, 2006. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Navy as an aviation machinist's mate for planes headed to combat in Germany. He held numerous management positions in the defense industry, with firms including Hayes International Corp. and Ingalls Shipbuilding. Survivors include wife Carol Ann Head.

Richard G. Howell '51 of Huntsville, formerly of Birmingham, died Dec. 12, 2006. He was the proprietor of Richard's of Mountain Brook for many years. Survivors include wife Eileen

Howell.

Rev. Barrie F. Bodden '52 of Boardman, Ohio, died Nov. 7, 2006. He held a master's degree in divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and was ordained by the Presbyterian Church (USA). He served churches in Mississippi and Florida before accepting an appointment as campus minister at the University of Akron. Along with his work on campus, he served as an interim pastor to churches in northeastern Ohio. In 1978, he became pastor to Foster Memorial Presbyterian Church in Youngstown, Ohio, where he served for 17 years. He also taught for many years in the philosophy and religion departments at both the University of Akron and Youngstown State University. Survivors include wife Rebecca Battles Bodden and brother **Dr. W. Rupert Bodden Jr. '50**.

Jerry Frank Sherrill Sr. '52 of Birm-

ingham died Jan. 2, 2007.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and did graduate studies at BSC. He was a developer, entrepreneur, and later, a building contractor. For 25 years, he served as chief building inspector for the city of Homewood. Survivors include wife Mary Jo Sherrill.

Ruth Harwell Meadows '54 of McCalla died Sept. 28, 2006.

She was employed by AT&T and, following retirement, served as a volunteer at the Birmingham Museum of Art.

Dr. Barbara Ann Hanners '56 of Columbus, Miss., died Jan. 20, 2007. With a master's degree in audiology from the University of Tennessee and a doctoral degree in hearing and speech science from Vanderbilt University, she served in the Birmingham public schools and later at the Mississippi University for Women as a professor and director of the Speech and Hearing Center in the Division of Education and Human Service.

E. Wayne McCain '58 of Pelham died Dec. 18, 2006. In his more than 50-year career, he was president of McCain Boiler and Engineering Co., and later served as a mechanical engineering consultant. Survivors include wife Lynne Palmer McCain.

Mitzi V. Sparks '58 of Midfield died Sept. 25, 2006. An organist at Gardendale/Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church for more than 40 years, she also taught music from her home.

Frank Lafayette Wade '58 of Goldsboro, N.C., died Jan. 6, 2007. With a lifelong interest in aviation,

he served as a flight instructor with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, a pilot for Eastern Airlines, and manager of the Panama City-Bay County Airport in Panama City, Fla.

Alfred A. Hurst Jr. '59 of Vestavia Hills died Nov. 25, 2006. After attending BSC, Hurst graduated from Samford University. He was co-owner of Harbin Pharmacy. Survivors include wife Lillie M. Ryder Hurst.

Bobbie McClendon Snow Parnell '61 of Sipsey died Nov. 14, 2006. She was an elementary school teacher for 31 years in the Fairfield City and Jefferson County school systems. She taught for 20 years at Adamsville Elementary. Survivors include husband Nathan Parnell.

Gordon Tatum Jr. '62 of Mobile died Dec. 2, 2006. A leader in promotion of the arts and in historical preservation in Mobile, Tatum served many roles throughout a long career in that city. He worked for the *Mobile Press-Register* for 34 years with the Fine Arts and Sunday edition. In 1983, he received the Governor's Award for fine arts in the state of Alabama. He worked at Oakleigh, served in the Historic Mobile Preservation Society, and was past president of the Oakleigh Garden District. He also worked for the Mobile Convention and Visitor's Center and served as the first curator of the Mobile Carnival Museum. Survivors include wife Katherine Tatum. News of Tatum's death was shared with us by classmate **Callie Betancourt Daniell '62**.

Joanna Hahamis Carlock '63 of Vestavia Hills died Dec. 4, 2006. A graduate of the University of

Alabama, she received a master's degree at BSC. She taught at Jones Valley High School, Howard College (now Samford University), and Rice University in Houston. She later taught and coached girls volleyball in the San Antonio Independent School District, where her teams won a number of district championships.

Rex Allen Brown '64 of Cordova died Nov. 26, 2006. He served in the Merchant Marines and also served twice in the U.S. Army, completing his second term of service in Korea. Later, he owned and operated Rex A. Brown Appliance Co. in Cordova. He held a master's degree from the University of Alabama. He taught choral music and English at Walker County High School in Jasper from 1967 until his retirement in 1986.

Sharon S. Hobbs '67 of Bessemer

died Nov. 28, 2006. She was retired from Alabama Power after 26 years of service.

Charles Edward Porter Jr. '71 of Mountain Brook died Feb. 9, 2007. He was an independent contractor in areas relating to quality assurance. Survivors include wife Renee Porter. His father was the late **Dr. Charles E. Porter Sr. '40**.

Annie McCarty Bracknell Nobles '84 of Birmingham died Dec. 18, 2006. She was a member of the Birmingham Board of Realtors.

James Edward "Jim" Tyndal '84 of Birmingham died Dec. 19, 2006. A cycling enthusiast and former owner of Crestline Cycle bike shop, he was one of the first local retailers to introduce mountain biking to Birmingham and was an enthusiastic supporter of the

sport. Survivors include wife Cumbee Wilson Tyndal.

Renita Ford Austin '85 of Pleasant Grove died Jan. 26, 2007. She was employed at Children's Hospital and Brookwood Medical Center as a registered nurse.

Joyce Denise Cox '90 of Bessemer died Jan. 14, 2007. She was an accounting specialist with BellSouth for many years.

Willie Earl Ryans '99 of Greensboro died Jan. 5, 2007. He was employed by the Alabama Department of Corrections for 21 years as a supervisor. Survivors include wife Vickie King Ryans.

Lou Ann Wogamon '99 of Tallahassee, Fla., died Nov. 21, 2006. She held a master's degree in English from the University of

In Memoriam Friend



Frances Marion Brannan "Bunny" Hamrick of Mountain Brook died Dec. 4, 2006. Active in many areas of community life, she was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church and longtime parishioner of Canterbury United Methodist Church, where she provided leadership in many areas of church life, such as education, missions, and United Methodist Women. She was the first woman elected to serve as chair of the church's administrative board.

She also served on the board of trustees at Lake Junaluska, a United Methodist conference and retreat center in North Carolina.

At home, she was an avid gardener, passionate cook, and mother of five children. Survivors include her husband, **Dr. Leon Hamrick Sr.**, who holds an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from BSC;

children, including Martha Hamrick Boshers, BSC director of major gifts and planned giving, **Mary Hamrick Bostock '80**, **Catherine Hamrick '80**, and **Peggy Hamrick-Steele '83**; and 10 grandchildren, including **Sarah Frances Boshers '02**, **Emily Anne Laborde '06**, current BSC student Madeline Laborde, and former BSC students Leon Hamrick III and Miller Hamrick.

Memorials may be made in her name to the Center for Ministry at Birmingham-Southern College, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549050, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Alabama and was in pursuit of a Ph.D. in English at Florida State University at the time of her death. She was an English instructor at Jefferson State Community College, Tallahassee Community College, and Florida State University. Survivors include husband Ted Wogamon.

Friends

Charlotte Esther Clasen of Homewood died Nov. 13, 2006. She was a member of the Friends of Birmingham-Southern College Library.

Samuel N. Cole of Mountain Brook

died Dec. 18, 2006. A successful entrepreneur and active civic supporter, he was a member of the BSC Norton Board of Advisors. Survivors include wife Frances Moses Cole.

Dr. John Alban Greaves Sr. of Oxford, formerly of Mountain Brook, died Nov. 12, 2006. A retired educator, he formerly served as dean of students at Birmingham-Southern. Survivors include wife Martha Sandifer Greaves.

Lena Mae Hamner of Birmingham

died Jan. 5, 2007. She was an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Homewood where she served many roles, including for many years as director of senior ministries. Her husband was the late **Rev. Herschel T. Hamner '33**. Survivors include her son, the **Hon. Herschel Hamner Jr. '71**. At the family's request, memorials may be made in her memory to the Herschel T. Hamner Memorial Scholarship at Birmingham-Southern College, through the Office of Institutional Advancement, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Oliver W. Roosevelt of Birming-

ham died Jan. 9, 2007. Born in New York City, Roosevelt came to Birmingham in 1950 as manager of the Birmingham Civic Orchestra. In 1954, he became editor of the *Shades Valley Sun*. In 1960, he joined *The Birmingham News*, where he served as reporter, fine arts editor, and music critic until his retirement in 1992. For several years, he taught music appreciation at Birmingham-Southern.

In Memoriam Friend



Dr. Ernest Ikenberry of Montgomery, formerly of Union Springs, died Jan. 14, 2007. A graduate of Ottawa University, he held a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Kansas and a doctoral degree from Louisiana State University, where he majored in theoretical physics.

As a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he served as aerological instructor and meteorologist. Following the war, he taught at LSU and did postgraduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Chicago. In 1950, he joined the faculty of Auburn University.

During his teaching career, he published extensively in professional periodicals and participated in professional meetings throughout the country. His major work, published in 1962 by Oxford University Press, was *Quantum Mechanics for Mathematicians and Physicists*. A graduate text, written primarily for professors and doctoral students, it circulated widely, both nationally and internationally. In 1975, he took early retirement from Auburn University as professor emeritus, and, for a time, served as visiting principal research scientist in the Department of Mechanics and Material Science at Johns Hopkins

University, before retiring to the Florida Gulf Coast and, later, to his wife's antebellum family home in Union Springs.

Survivors include his wife, Janice Turnipseed Ikenberry, whom he married soon after beginning his career at Auburn, where she was an assistant professor of foreign languages.

The Ikenberrys have been dedicated and deeply generous supporters of Birmingham-Southern, with distinguished historical ties to the school. Janice's maternal great-grandfather, John Walton, was a founder of Southern University at Greenboro, and her grandfather, D.C. Turnipseed, was a longtime trustee. Her parents, **Orah Walton Turnipseed** and **William Owen Turnipseed**, were both graduates in the Class of 1906, and their five siblings also were alumni. Her mother also received a master's degree from Southern University before doing further graduate work at the University of Grenoble in France, and her father obtained a law degree from the University of Alabama.

In tribute to her ancestors, the Ikenberrys established the Turnipseed-Ikenberry Endowed Scholarship Fund at BSC. This generous gift is used to provide full-tuition, inclusive scholarships for juniors and/or seniors demonstrating high academic achievement and majoring in physics, mathematics, history, French, or German.

Crossing borders to study human rights

BY CHAD GRAVES

As an international studies major here at the Hilltop, I studied abroad in Costa Rica during the spring 2005 semester. Before my trip, I visited the Office of International Programs at Birmingham-Southern and several study-abroad fairs on campus trying to figure out exactly where I wanted to go.

The program I selected is in San José, Costa Rica, the capital of an eco-tourist's paradise. The country is best known for its large protected rainforests and coffee plantations. My program was run by the CIDH or "International Center for Human Development," which operates in conjunction with the Universidad Latina. It is a research organization that works with the Costa Rican government and several international aid agencies.

My interest in the region came from the Latin American Studies courses I have taken at BSC, and from working with the Birmingham City Schools ESL program and the city's Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama. I also had a strong desire to become fluent in the Spanish language.

I was instantly attracted to the CIDH program when I saw it dealt with themes of human rights, poverty, and economic development—very relevant topics in the lives of our own country's immigrants. The program consists of justice, gender, and political studies.

Another important theme students examined was sustainable development for developing nations:

solutions to poverty, corporate social responsibility, access to education, etc. The CIDH curriculum afforded us visits to government offices, including the Ombudsman, the Inter-American Human Rights Court, and other similarly influential offices in the field of advocacy.

I arrived in Costa Rica amid a volatile political landscape, at the center of which was the U.S.-sponsored Central American Free Trade Agreement. All of a sudden, everyone was interested in my political opinions, wanted to know which president I supported, and asked me to accompany them to their street demonstrations.

As human rights students at CIDH, we were given the chance to experience humble rural life, city life, and life amidst urban poverty, as well as to develop comprehensive solutions to the social problems. Some people might easily misconstrue our trip as "poverty tourism," but what our group was doing was far from it.

For me, our studies of urban and rural poverty were the most interesting because they are two completely different kinds of poverty. We spent a week on rural farms in the humid tropics, working with the EARTH University sustainable campus.

As part of an exercise on creating responsible social policy, we visited public health clinics accompanied by local aid workers, within the capital city's most deprived "barrios." By doing this, we were able to see how volunteer doctors are combating the problem of

limited healthcare access for Costa Rica's large undocumented immigrant population. Their main goal is the prevention of curable illnesses through education.

In hindsight, my trip helped me to realize how expansive and rampant the problem of poverty is just beyond our nation's southern border. The only word to describe it is unbelievable—to see the wealth disparities in the way one group of society lives and another subsists.

With the guidance of Dr. Jessica Ramos-Harthun, BSC assistant professor of Spanish, and her published "Transnational Classroom" model, two classes of BSC Spanish students were also able to benefit from the CIDH study-abroad trip. Four separate videoconferences were conducted from the college's Foreign Languages Lab, via the Internet. My Costa Rican friends and I were able to receive updates on life at BSC, share our accounts of life in Costa Rica, and discuss quirky cultural differences between the two places.

While I was studying in Costa Rica, I had to assimilate into their culture, but I have returned home with a renewed sense of everything that is so unique about my own culture. The opportunity to live abroad literally allowed me to see my own home country from the "other side of the fence." I feel grateful that I was able to study abroad.

Editor's Note: Graves is a junior international studies major from Franklin, Tenn. Hallie Dyer, a junior studio art major from McMinnville, Tenn., currently is attending the 2007 spring semester program at CIDH.



Graves in Costa Rica.



Fill it up—The college's billboard adjacent to campus on Interstate I-20/59 recently underwent a much-needed overhaul. A new design was installed in April which features two Birmingham-Southern students and encourages travelers to exit and add "fuel to their minds." Shown on the billboard are Noopur Vakharia (above), a junior interdisciplinary biology-psychology major from Hartselle, and Wilson Nash, a senior interdisciplinary political science-religion major from Mountain Brook.

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