



# Editor's Note

## *Rebuilding and restoring*

### A story of amazing people doing amazing things

BY BILL WAGNON

The third anniversary came and went much like the first two, with little or no fanfare. It has been over three years now since the foolish actions of three young men impacted the lives of so many others, and permanently scarred their own.

On two separate days in February 2006, nine rural Alabama churches were purposely set on fire. The damage ranged from minor to destroyed. A month later, on March 8, two Birmingham-Southern students and one UAB student were arrested for conspiracy and arson.

As I drove to work at 2 a.m. that March 8 morning, I could think of no good that could come from such a situation, still reeling from the shock of the phone call from a colleague to alert me to the impending arrests. It was a tragic situation—for the churches and their congregations; for the three young men, and especially their unknowing families; for the college.

But out of something oh so very bad, came something oh so very good, if not amazing.

Before that long day was over, media outlets from around the country converged on the Birmingham-Southern campus to see from where this evil had come. The college's response was swift, and simple. It was not contrived, but from the institution's heart and soul. At a late afternoon press conference carried live by several national TV outlets, President Pollick told the world that "Birmingham-Southern will rebuild those churches." This was exactly what the college was all about, and now the world was seeing that firsthand—Birmingham-Southern is a special place that does amazing things with amazing people.

Over the next three months, gifts of money and supplies and offers to volunteer came in from all over the country—from alumni, from friends, from people who previously had never heard of Birmingham-Southern. By July 2006, the Alabama Churches Rebuilding and Restoration Fund had topped \$370,000, and faculty, staff, and alumni began hand-delivering checks to the nine churches spread over four rural counties.

In January earlier this year, almost three years after it was literally burned to the ground, construction began on a *new* Ashby Baptist Church in Brierfield in Bibb County, Alabama. It will be the final church to either be rebuilt or restored. The eight other congregations are now worshipping in either new or rebuilt churches.

It is a truly amazing story.

So, too, is the story of the forward momentum of Birmingham-Southern that began with the college's Plan for Growth in 2006 and continues today with another near record first-year student enrollment expected this fall, an Urban Environmental Park scheduled to open in early August, a record-setting Alumni Reunion/Homecoming celebration last November, the establishment of 23 new alumni chapters since December for a total of 33 nationwide, Phase I of a comprehensive campaign that may very well have surpassed its \$50 million goal by the time you read this (and well ahead of schedule) while we experience the worst economy of our times, and more.

We continue to bring you news of this momentum in the pages of *'Southern* magazine, and we hope you enjoy our feature in this issue on the research efforts—often collaborative—of students and faculty, and of alumni researchers who are changing our world for the better.

These are, after all, amazing people doing amazing things, and we enjoy bringing you their stories.



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# Inside'Southern

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# BSC

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# research

### On the Cover

This collage illustrates the many different ways that Birmingham-Southern students and faculty are actively engaged in research and creative scholarship. We invite you to turn the pages and step into this exciting realm at BSC. Not only are students and faculty making significant contributions through their pursuit of knowledge, but alumni have continued this quest for knowledge and its application in a variety of interesting ways. See main story on page 32.



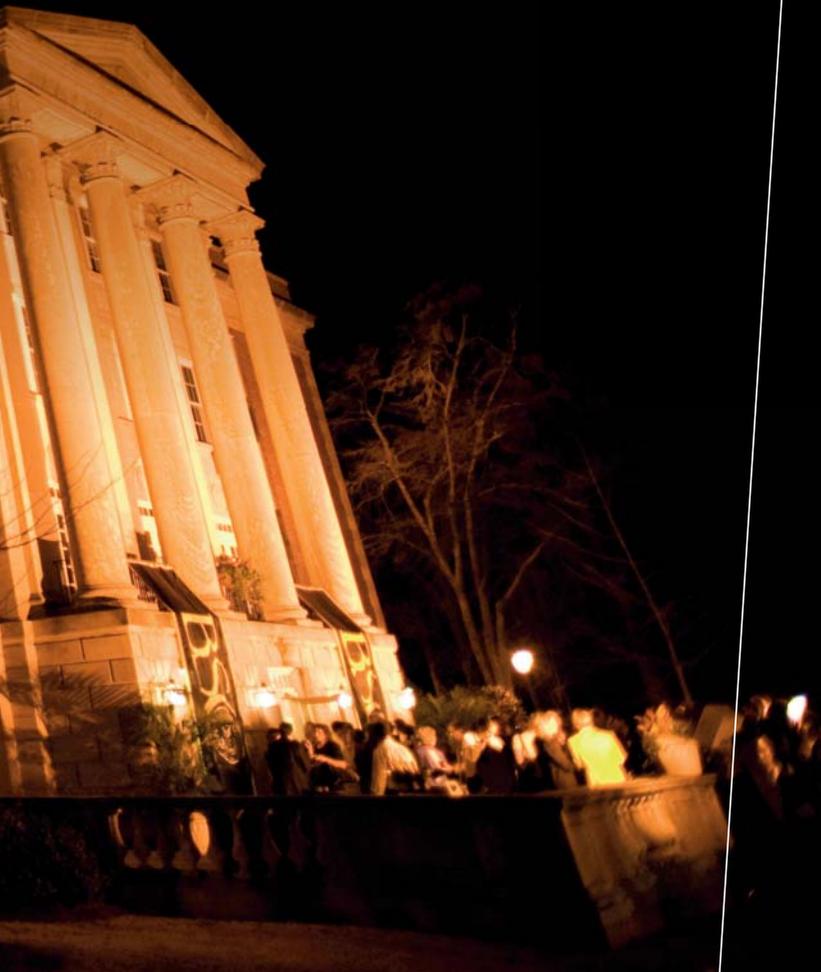
# *delivering* OUR *destiny* in transforming ways



Destiny: Delivered *campaign launch.*

Just 15 months ago, Birmingham-Southern raised the curtain on the most important fundraising effort in the institution's 153-year history. *Destiny: Delivered*, The Campaign for Birmingham-Southern seeks to raise well in excess of \$100 million, in two phases, over the next several years.

With a goal of \$50 million, Phase I is focused on growing Birmingham-Southern in size and national stature, while securing its financial stability. In the worst economic climate in decades, Birmingham-Southern alumni and friends are giving back to their college in transforming ways:



*Dr. Peter Bunting '66 and his wife, Derry Brice Bunting '69*



*Dr. Donald Harrison '54*

- 120 students—19 of whom are first-generation college students—attended Birmingham-Southern this academic year thanks to contributions to Phase I for scholarships, seedling grants, and other need- and merit-based support.
- Several new named programs and chairs have been established through endowed funds, including the McDorman Chair in Poetry and Poetry Studies (highlighted on page 5 of this issue), the Bunting Center for Engaged Study and Community Action, the Donald C. Harrison Honors Program, and the Ellie and Herb Sklenar Center for International Programs, among others.
- An anonymous donation has provided BSC with one of the only endowed chaplaincies on a United Methodist Church-related college or university campus in the nation.



*Admission Welcome Center*

- The college's international studies initiative is stronger thanks to a major endowed gift to provide scholarships for students who wish to go on semester-long, year-long, or Interim term foreign study experiences.
- The new donor-funded Admission Welcome Center opened in fall 2007 and has been the focal point for the three largest classes of first-year students in college history.
- One of the nation's only Urban Environmental Studies programs is now teaming with majors thanks to campaign contributions, and a new Urban Environmental Park will open in August as an outdoor classroom, as well as a place of leisure.
- More BSC students are active partners with faculty in collaborative research thanks to Phase I gifts (see *Features* on page 32 of this issue).
- Unrestricted and current-use gifts, which includes support of the Annual Fund, have topped the \$12 million mark since the campaign began, allowing BSC to focus these resources on its greatest areas of need to ensure that it continues to deliver the Birmingham-Southern experience.

Each of these campaign accomplishments is directly related to priorities established at the beginning of Phase I that, combined with Phase II, will ensure that Birmingham-Southern secures its rightful place among the top liberal arts colleges in the country.

The curtain has been raised, but the show is far from over. Stay tuned for a finale you will not want to miss.

## MAJOR DONORS:

An updated list of commitments of \$10,000 or more to Phase I of the *Destiny: Delivered* comprehensive fundraising campaign can be found on the campaign Web site at [www.bsc.edu/destinydelivered](http://www.bsc.edu/destinydelivered).



*The Campaign for Birmingham-Southern*

## The McDormans' love of poetry to live on at BSC through major campaign bequest



Kathryne S. McDorman



Barbara Adkins

Dr. Kathryn S. McDorman fondly remembers the times growing up when the family would sit at her father's feet listening intently as he read poetry, often quoting from memory the words of his favorite poets such as Robert Browning. "When he wanted to make us laugh, or roll our eyes, he would quote Robert Service," she recalls today.

Clarence L. McDorman Sr. '27 was a great lover of poetry, a passion he would pass on to his wife, Kathryn Slate McDorman, and later to his daughter of the same name.

Over the years, the elder McDormans would use the lines of great poets to illustrate points in the many public talks they gave, including as teachers in the well-known McDorman Sunday School Class (now the McDorman-Allen Class) at First United Methodist Church in downtown Birmingham.

"Daddy never wrote poetry, but he was a lover of poetry, which is a great testament to his liberal arts education at Birmingham-Southern," Dr. McDorman recalls. "Over the years, he and mother used poetry to impact the lives of so many others."

The McDormans' love of poetry will now live on at Birmingham-Southern thanks to a \$1.5 million bequest from their daughter and her friend, Barbara Adkins, both of Fort Worth, Texas, to the college's *Destiny: Delivered* comprehensive campaign.

The planned gift, in the form of a charitable remainder trust,

will establish the Kathryn and Clarence McDorman Chair in Poetry and Poetry Studies at Birmingham-Southern. The corpus of the gift will come to the college at the death of both women.

Dr. McDorman, who attended BSC for two years, is an associate professor of history at Texas Christian University. She grew up in Birmingham and attended the Brooke Hill School (which later merged with Birmingham University School to become The Altamont School), before enrolling at BSC. She later received her bachelor's degree in British history from the University of Kentucky, her master's in British history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her doctorate in history from Vanderbilt.

She joined the TCU faculty in 1977 to teach British history, and for many years directed the university's Honors Program. She received the Dean's Teaching Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1997.

Adkins, who holds an MBA from the University of Dallas, retired in 2002 as president of North American Risk Company. Prior to that she was an executive with Pier I Imports, at one time leading its expansion into Europe. Adkins' time abroad was a "life-changing experience that deepened my appreciation of the arts."

Dr. McDorman and Adkins initially established the charitable trust in 2002. They recently designated BSC as the beneficiary

for the future establishment of the McDorman Chair.

"Barbara and I believe the liberal arts both teach us and heal us," Dr. McDorman says. "It's important to teach all of these things that BSC does so well, and what and how they teach each of us about humanity.

"Our hope is that the economy will improve enough over time so that we can give a portion of the gift while we are living. It would give us both great satisfaction in seeing this chair in poetry on its way while we are alive."

Dr. McDorman explains that the chair is designed to allow the college to attract either a poet in residence or a poetry scholar.

Clarence McDorman, a 1927 Birmingham-Southern graduate, was founder, president, and chief executive officer of Southern Cafeteria (now Southern Foodservice Management) and served on the board of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Birmingham. A distinguished business and civic leader, he was at one time the president of the National Exchange Club. In 1978, BSC presented him with its prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award. He passed away in 1980.

Kathryne Slate McDorman, known by many as "Mrs. Mc," was educated at Bowling Green Business University (later part of Western Kentucky University) and was an active volunteer in the Birmingham community for more than seven decades, including Birmingham-Southern's Fine Arts Society and GALA celebration. She passed away in July 2008.

The McDormans were married in 1929 and for more than 50 years taught Sunday School at First United Methodist Church. The McDorman Class was one of the first co-educational classes at FUMC, and today the McDorman-Allen Class is taught by their son, Clarence McDorman Jr.

"Daddy was a Birmingham-Southern graduate; mother was a BSC person of heart," notes Dr. Kathryn S. McDorman. "Mother didn't attend BSC, but she felt a far greater identification with 'Southern than her own college. They loved BSC, and Barbara and I wanted to recognize that love for BSC and their love of poetry.

In addition to the future McDorman Chair, there also is the Clarence L. McDorman Scholarship at the college that is awarded to students preparing for the ministry, preferably in the United Methodist Church. The scholarship was initiated by members of the McDorman Sunday School Class and has been supported over the years by contributions from the class and from family members.

"I see a connection between the chair and the scholarship," says Dr. McDorman. "Good preaching in essence is like good poetry. Both go after the same thing and that is to transform people to be and do their best. Poetry is inspiring, and so should ministry be inspiring, and I think daddy would be proud of that connection."

Dr. McDorman also is donating to the college an engraved silver service presented to her mother in 1960 recognizing Clarence McDorman's term as president of the National Exchange Club.

"She was very proud of that silver set," Dr. McDorman explains. "She wanted that silver to go to 'Southern."

Once the silver is received by the college, it will be used by the College Events Office for special occasions.

**Editor's Note:** Additional information on making a bequest to Birmingham-Southern and its benefits to both the donor and the college can be found on page 52 of this issue.



## Malone Family Foundation fuels Greater Birmingham Mathematics Partnership with gift to *Destiny: Delivered*

A firm believer in the power of partnerships to advance a community and a college, the Malone Family Foundation recently donated \$235,860 to Birmingham-Southern's *Destiny: Delivered* comprehensive campaign to expand the efforts of the Greater Birmingham Mathematics Partnership (GBMP) to include elementary school teachers.

"We are delighted that the Malone Family Foundation has so generously supported the GBMP," said Dr. Bernadette Mullins, associate professor of mathematics at BSC. "Over 100 elementary school teachers who would not otherwise have been able to participate will take an intensive two-week mathematics course this summer. Past participants in this professional development described the experience as 'life-changing' and commented 'This course was such an enlightening and beneficial experience. I look at math in a new light. It makes so much more sense now.'"

The GBMP is a collaboration involving UAB, BSC, nine school systems in the Birmingham metropolitan area, and the Mathematics Education Collaborative, a nonprofit based in Washington State that provides support services to communities to improve mathematics education. The GBMP was initiated by Birmingham-Southern in 2004 with a \$10 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

The predominant goal of the GBMP has been to significantly improve the mathematics achievement of approximately 22,000 local students in grades 6-8, while narrowing the mathematics achievement gaps among varied populations of students.

"The GBMP program has had a significant impact on area teacher performance and area students' SAT-10 scores," said Dr. David Pollick, BSC president. "Student performance, based on these scores, clearly demonstrates the power of effective teaching."

The mission of the Malone Family Foundation of Birmingham—established in 2006—is to support initiatives that improve the quality of education and to promote positive changes in the lives of people, who in turn can build and enhance the communities in which they live.

# BSC renames Office of International Programs in honor of Sklenars

For Herb Sklenar, a Birmingham-Southern trustee, and his wife, Ellie, making a significant gift to the college's Office of International Programs to support students studying abroad was a natural next step in a lifetime of philanthropy and involvement in the local and national communities.

As Mr. Sklenar says, "In our lifetimes, Ellie and I have observed and personally experienced the accelerating interconnectedness of life on our planet. The increasing speed and scope of travel, communications, and international trade has been awesome. And the need to think in global terms with respect to environmental stewardship is becoming increasingly appropriate. For all these reasons and others, education at the college level should have strong international dimensions, including study and travel abroad for students."

In honor of their \$1 million gift to Birmingham-Southern's *Destiny: Delivered* comprehensive campaign, the college has renamed the office as the Ellie and Herb Sklenar Center for International Programs. The Sklenars previously established an endowed fund at the college in honor of Dr. Ed LaMonte, Howell Heflin Professor of Political Science, that supports faculty and staff travel.

"Herb and Ellie Sklenar have unselfishly supported Birmingham-Southern College in many ways over the years," says BSC President David Pollick. "Their love for this place grows out of their love for the liberal arts education, and most specifically the opportunities our students have to study abroad and the tremendous influence that an international experience has on both

these students' college experiences and their life journeys. We are both proud and humbled to name our Office of International Programs after the Sklenar family."

The largest private gift from individuals in the history of BSC's international programs has not only resulted in a name change, but also transformed the college's study abroad opportunities for students. The gift provides financial support in the form of scholarships for BSC students who wish to go on a semester-long or year-long foreign study experience or who want to study overseas during the January Interim term.

"The study abroad experiences of our daughters certainly influenced our decision to direct our gift to the international studies program," Mr. Sklenar remarks. "Our oldest daughter, Susan, spent a full semester abroad during her junior year at Colorado College, and she regards that experience as a major highlight of her undergraduate education.

"The concept of equality of opportunity (in contrast to equality of result) has long been a prominent part of the American ethos. It is essential that we strive to make excellent educational opportunities available to all, from pre-K through college. Birmingham-Southern is exemplary in its contributions to the realization of that ideal."

Mr. Sklenar has been a member of the college's Board of Trustees since 1990, serving three terms as its chair from 1994-97. 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 couple has been noted for their philanthropy and for their involvement in the local and national communities, including his chairing of the initial capital campaign for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Mr. Sklenar is a past president 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.

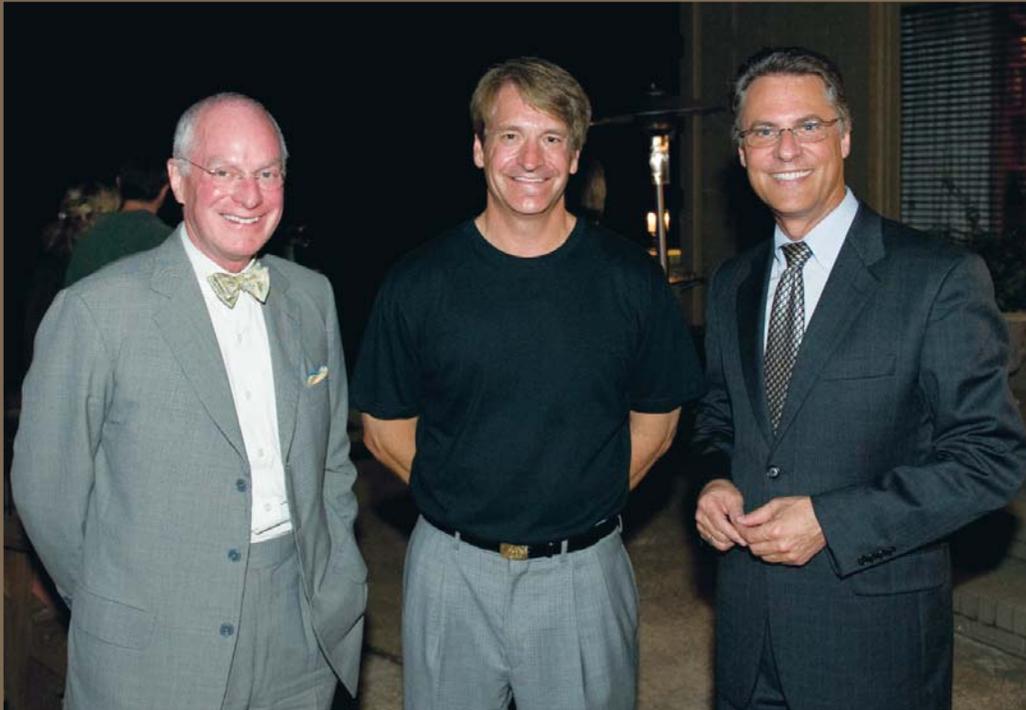
Mr. Sklenar's connection with Birmingham-Southern began when he became employed with Vulcan Materials. He says initially he reported to Barney Monaghan, one of BSC's most distinguished graduates, and later to Houston Blount, both of whom were trustees of the college.

"BSC is a place of distinction where an excellent college education can be obtained by qualified and motivated young people, and it is a great asset to this community and state," he says. "Ellie and I are honored and pleased to have our names associated with the college's Office of International Programs. But our greatest pleasure comes from the thought that our gift will enable more BSC students to experience the benefits of study and travel in other countries."



*The Sklenars standing on the Charles Bridge in Prague*

## Momentum high among regional campaign committees



*Destiny: Delivered campaign co-chair Mike Atchison '65 (left) and BSC President Dr. David Pollick (right) with North Alabama Regional Campaign Committee member Dr. Mark Pullen '86 at a recent campaign event in his home.*

At the launch of the *Destiny: Delivered* comprehensive campaign, regional campaign committees were formed in Alabama and in major cities around the country. This national network of volunteers is energizing alumni and friends in support of *Destiny: Delivered*, as well as building active and sustained alumni chapters. More than 30 campaign events have been hosted around the country since the March 1, 2008, campaign launch, including recent meetings in Birmingham, Atlanta, North Alabama, Mobile/Baldwin County, Washington, D.C., and New York City. Following are photos from recent events in Atlanta, Mobile/Baldwin County, and North Alabama.



Enjoying the Atlanta event (from left) are Mimi Harmon Brunson '97, Tommy Brunson '98, and Paige Perkins '85.



Atlanta Regional Campaign Committee Co-Chair Preston Barnett '68 with Dr. Aurelia "Dink" Glosser Barnett '67.



BSC's Director of Gift Planning Martha Boshers (center) enjoying Atlanta with Dr. Caroline Postelle Clotfelter '40 (left) and Frances Norwood '54.



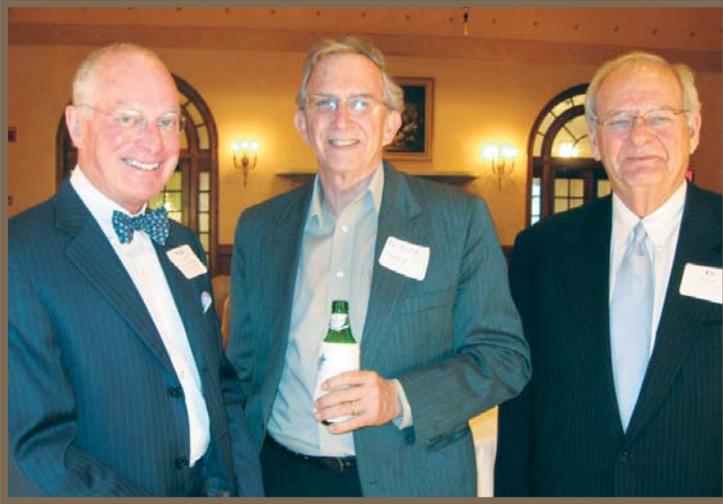
National Campaign Co-Chair Ed Hardin '62 (center) with Dr. Bennett Hooks III '98 and Elizabeth Hooks at the Mobile gathering.



Mobile/Baldwin County Regional Campaign Committee Co-Chair Joe Basenberg '67 and Lowrey Rhodes '00.



At the Fairhope gathering, (from left) are Mobile/Baldwin County Regional Campaign Committee Co-Chair Emily Bell '90, Marilyn Bullington, and Rev. Joe Bullington '65.



Destiny: Delivered campaign co-chairs Mike Atchison '65 (left) and Ed Hardin '62 (right) in Atlanta with Patrick Tracy.



Enjoying the Pullen home in Huntsville are (from left) Gary Tucker, Richard Gregory '88, and Dr. Scott McCary '86.



(from left) Donna Joffrion '83, Dr. Ellen Moran '84, and BSC Vice President for Institutional Advancement Adelia Thompson '86 reminisce at the North Alabama Regional Campaign Committee event.



Among the nearly 50 alumni and friends in Huntsville were (from left) Danielle Ridgeway '06, Dr. Rich Randall '88, Shari Burnum '89, and Elizabeth Gebhart '04.



Dr. Mark Pullen '86 (left), Mark Flatt '85 (center), and Greg Burgess '91 gather for a photo at the North Alabama reception.



All smiles in Huntsville are (from left) Julie Groark, Elizabeth Tubbs, Sherry Ann Pullen '90, and Lisa McCrary.

## Schantz is new provost at Birmingham-Southern

Dr. Mark S. Schantz, associate provost for engaged learning, director of the Odyssey Program, and professor of history at Hendrix College, is the new provost at Birmingham-Southern. He will assume his new position July 1.

BSC President Dr. David Pollick announced the appointment of Schantz this past December following a national search.



Schantz

The BSC provost reports directly to the college president and is the chief academic officer with broad responsibilities for the full range of the college's academic programs and support services.

"After a national search that brought to us outstanding candidates from some of the nation's best institutions of higher learning, Dr. Mark Schantz was the overwhelming choice to lead our academic program," said Pollick. "These are exciting times at Birmingham-Southern as we continue to grow in size and stature, and we look forward to the experience, enthusiasm, and leadership that Mark will bring to these efforts as chief academic officer."

Schantz has directed the Odyssey Program at Hendrix since its inception in 2005. A component of

the curriculum at Hendrix, Odyssey is a pioneering effort that focuses on engaged learning by encouraging students to embark on educational adventures that are personalized to their own interests and abilities.

He joined the Hendrix faculty in 1991 as an assistant professor and also has served as chair of both the Department of History and the Social Science Area.

The Washington, D.C., native received his bachelor's degree Phi Beta Kappa from George Washington University, his master's from Yale University, and his doctorate from Emory University. He completed the Management Development Program in the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University in summer 2007.

Schantz has published and lectured extensively

on American history and is the author of two books: *Piety in Providence: Class Dimensions of Religious Experience in Antebellum Rhode Island* and *Awaiting the Heavenly Country: The Civil War and America's Culture of Death*, which was published this year and reviewed by *The New Yorker* and the *New York Review of Books*.

He replaces Dr. Kathleen Murray, who accepted a similar position at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., prior to the current academic year. Dr. Wayne Shew, associate provost and Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor of Biology, is serving as interim provost at Birmingham-Southern.

Much like Birmingham-Southern, Hendrix College, located in Conway, Ark., is a selective residential, private liberal arts college affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Birmingham-Southern and Hendrix are members of the 16-institution Associated Colleges of the South.

## Follow Birmingham-Southern on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube

You can now keep up with happenings on the Hilltop via the Birmingham-Southern Facebook page, YouTube video channel, and Twitter feed! Facebook users can enjoy regularly updated photo galleries, discussions, and calendar listings from the BSC community, while our Twitter followers get up-to-the-minute info from campus as well as little snippets of campus life. The Birmingham-Southern YouTube video channel is part of the *BSC Films* effort.

- To access the BSC Facebook page, log in to your Facebook account and search "Birmingham-Southern College." To get regularly updated information and news, make sure to become a fan of the BSC page while you're there! If you do not have a Facebook account, you can set one up at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).
- To subscribe to the Birmingham-Southern Twitter feed, log on to [www.twitter.com/FromTheHilltop](http://www.twitter.com/FromTheHilltop). Click on the "Follow" button below the BSC icon and you're connected! If you do not have a Twitter account, you can set one up at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com).
- The BSC Films YouTube page is accessible via the Birmingham-Southern Web site at [www.bsc.edu/bscfilms](http://www.bsc.edu/bscfilms), or by logging on to the BSC YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/birminghamssouthern](http://www.youtube.com/birminghamssouthern).



## Birmingham-Southern given high marks in latest National Student Engagement Survey

Results from the 2008 National Survey of Student Engagement show that seniors and first-year students at Birmingham-Southern rate their college above average in a variety of areas ranging from academic challenges to interaction with other students and professors.

The survey reveals how well students are engaged in their college and community based on the amount of time and energy invested in meaningful educational practices. The 2008 NSSE report is based on information from nearly 380,000 randomly selected first-year and senior students at 722 four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. The survey was administered via e-mail to 306 BSC students last spring. Students were asked about the time spent on extracurricular activities, what they believe they have gained from classes, and their interaction with faculty and other students, for example.

"The results provide strong evidence that our students tend to participate in out-of-class learning experiences, and that not only is an important component of a BSC education, it is essential to student learning," said Dr. David Pollick,

BSC president. "We pay special attention to providing inspiring programs and opportunities for students to develop socially, professionally, and personally."

BSC students were asked to rate their undergraduate experience on each of five benchmark categories:

- Level of academic challenge
- Active and collaborative learning
- Student-faculty interaction
- Enriching educational experiences
- Supportive campus environment

As compared to the average of the colleges surveyed by NSSE this past year, Birmingham-Southern seniors reported significantly higher rankings for the college in these three areas: 1) level of academic challenge, 2) supportive campus environment, and 3) active and collaborative learning. The NSSE also cited BSC for active engagement aimed at the welfare of the community and above-average use of computers and technology.

In addition, the NSSE said that BSC first-year students—more than the majority of colleges nationwide—complete foreign language coursework and discuss career plans with a faculty member or advisor.

"Our students have a good rapport with faculty on activities other than their normal coursework," remarked Pollick. "Whether it's for a research assignment, individualized career planning, or a community garden project, our student-faculty advisor relationships create significant nurturing and mentoring that can contribute greatly to a student's preparedness for graduate coursework and independent study."

Like their senior counterparts, BSC first-year students also spend a relatively high amount of time weekly on co-curricular activities.

"Students at BSC traditionally have been involved in activities beyond the classroom," Pollick pointed out. "More than 80 clubs, organizations, and honors groups are offered to students including music, theatre, jazz band, Leadership Studies, and the Poetry Circle."

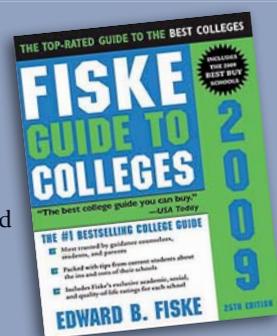
Now in its 10th year, the National Survey of Student Engagement was launched in 1999 by Dr. George Kuh at Indiana University (with the support of the Pew Charitable Trusts and sponsorship by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching).

## BSC once again named one of America's 'Best Buys'

Birmingham-Southern is again one of 26 private institutions in the nation named as a Best Buy in the 2009 edition of the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*. In addition to the 26 private institutions, The Best Buys List of 2009 includes 23 public universities from the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain.

Of the 49 total colleges and universities selected, BSC is the only school in the state, private or public, to make the list. According to the recently released guidebook, the college's selection is based on the quality of academic offerings in relation to the cost of attendance.

The annual guide is compiled by Edward B. Fiske, an internationally known education writer and editor and formerly the education editor for *The New York Times*.



## BSC Garden Club's growing project takes root on campus

A new community garden started by the BSC Garden Club is inviting any group on campus who has a green thumb to dig in.

Located next to the college's Hilltop Village Apartments, the garden is promoting sustainable organic farming methods for vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The main initiative, say club members, is to delegate a raised garden bed to different community groups at BSC (a fraternity, sorority, sports team, student organization, faculty and staff team, or café workers) for the cultivation of fresh, organic produce.



experiences involving environmental awareness and sustainability; a resource for feeding the city's homeless; and a beautiful and peaceful outdoor environment with grass couches, recycled tire benches, fruit trees, and a tree house.

The Garden Club, led by sophomore Ben Tracy, was organized and launched last October in conjunction with the new urban environmental studies major at BSC that began at the start of the fall term. Tracy, who is an urban environmental studies major, completed a summer 2008 internship with the Atlanta Urban Gardening Program where he gained skills and experience in organic growing.

The club consists mainly of English and theatre majors and athletes, some with years of gardening experience and others who still need to develop a green thumb. But Tracy stresses that all majors, faculty, or staff who are interested in conservation and sustainable agriculture are welcome to join. Several faculty and staff members already have lent their time and garden expertise to the group, he noted.

Dr. Ed Brands, assistant professor of geography and coordinator of urban environmental studies at BSC, serves as the club's faculty advisor. The college's Urban Environmental Studies program hopes to use the community garden as an outdoor classroom for lessons on sustainable agriculture, and the student environmental group EnAct plans to partner with the garden club to promote more environmentally-conscious eating on campus, as well as provide volunteers for garden renovation projects.

Tracy believes excitement for the new community garden is germinating more and more on the campus. Six 4x16 raised beds have been ploughed and filled, and the ones containing radishes, oregano, and lettuce seeds already are showing bits of green sticking out. The planting of warm season crops (beans, squash, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers) began in mid-March.

"In this growing green movement, we are constantly shown images and information about energy conservation, green products, recycling methods, and the extinction of species, with little understanding about the practical and physical affect it may have on our lives," says Tracy. "As the BSC community begins to come together and cultivate this garden, we will hopefully understand the deep connection we can all have, not only with the food we eat and the plants we grow, but with our use of the land and its precious resources."

A composting station was built next to the community garden in January by five students in the Interim class "From Garden to Table: Examining Local Food Systems," taught by Assistant Biology/Chemistry Professor Dr. Gretchen Repasky and Assistant Sociology Professor Dr. Alicia Weaver. This summer, club members plan to collaborate with Jones Valley Urban Farm, a local nonprofit that promotes sustainable agriculture and healthy eating, and use the garden for instructional and educational purposes.



## Pollick serving on national independent colleges committee

Birmingham-Southern President Dr. David Pollick recently was appointed to serve on the Committee on Policy Analysis and Public Relations of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He is serving a three-year term to run from 2009-11.

This committee identifies current and future issues affecting independent higher education. It also suggests priorities and strategies for research and public relations activities to enhance public understanding of and support for independent higher education.

The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, with nearly 1,000 member institutions nationwide, serves as the unified national voice of independent higher education. Since 1976, the association has represented private colleges and universities on policy issues with the federal government such as those affecting student aid, taxation, and government regulation.

## Honors Day, Commencement speakers for 2009

Dr. Natalie Davis, professor of political science and pre-law advisor at Birmingham-Southern, addressed the class of 2009 during the college's 150th Commencement ceremonies May 17 at Boutwell Auditorium in downtown Birmingham.

Davis was named the BSC Outstanding Educator of the Year during the 2009 graduation ceremonies in recognition of excellence in all aspects of teaching, including classroom performance and student advising. The award included a cash stipend and an invitation to speak at the following year's commencement.

A member of the BSC faculty since 1972, Davis holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and undergraduate and honorary doctorate degrees from Stetson University.

Rev. Robin Crews Wilson delivered remarks at the annual Baccalaureate service that same day at 10 a.m. at Bill Battle Coliseum on campus. A native of Prattville, Wilson is pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Montgomery. She currently is completing her doctor in ministry in Christian spirituality from Columbia Theological Seminary.

An ordained Elder in the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, Wilson serves as vice-chair of the conference Board of Ministry and the General Board of Discipleship. She also serves as a BSC trustee and on the board of directors for the Samaritan Counseling Center and the YMCA.

The speaker for Honors Day on April 23 was Susan Shelton '93, corporate counsel of Hearst-Argyle Television Inc. in New York City, where she advises on a variety of corporate matters, including federal securities laws, employment, contract and corporate governance matters, and private equity investments.

A native of Birmingham, Shelton is a summa cum laude international business graduate of BSC. She is the daughter of BSC Professor Emeritus of Art Bob Shelton, who now teaches as an adjunct professor.



Davis



Wilson



Shelton



*Boys and girls packed out BSC Head Soccer Coach Preston Goldfarb's "Excellence Through Fundamentals" soccer camp last summer.*

## BSC to host variety of camps for youth this summer

From learning the craft of acting to running soccer drills under the summer heat, elementary through high school students of all ages, abilities, and interests can choose from a fun mixture of camps at Birmingham-Southern.

Youth ranging in age from 6 to 18 can attend sports camps in baseball, basketball, football, lacrosse, soccer, and volleyball during the months of June and July at BSC. Information on all of these programs, plus who to contact, can be found on the camps link at [www.bscsports.net](http://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 14-19. 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 Rebecca Yeager at [ryeager@bsc.edu](mailto:ryeager@bsc.edu) or 205/226-4684. Details on the program also are available at [www.bsc.edu/academics/hess/leadership/slis.htm](http://www.bsc.edu/academics/hess/leadership/slis.htm).

For information on the two-week-long 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 theatre and instrumental and vocal music. For more information on these camps, contact the BSC Conservatory at 205/226-4960 or visit [www.bsc.edu/academics/music/conservatory-summer.htm](http://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 most of the programs.

For more than 35 years, the Fine Arts Society has provided support to Birmingham-Southern College's fine and performing arts programs. Fine Arts Society members are ticket subscribers, creating an audience for theatre, dance, music, and arts productions and exhibitions. They are volunteers, assisting with hospitality for patrons, students, and visiting performers. They are donors, funding visits by guest artists and fulfilling department needs. They are messengers to the greater Birmingham community, promoting the thriving fine and performing arts program at BSC.

Just in the past year, the Fine Arts Society has helped the students and faculty in tangible ways, such as:

- Hosting receptions for gallery openings, student and faculty recitals, and dance performances
- Providing sheet music for students competing in the Whittington Competition
- Funding the purchase of music stands for the Theatre Department
- Supporting a visiting art critic who provided individual student critiques

With your support, the Fine Arts Society can do even more to encourage liberal arts students to truly pursue "the arts" in their BSC education.



Make the leap!

Find the light!

Strike a chord!

Take the stage!

# take your cue

Be part of the arts at Birmingham-Southern College

**—join the Fine Arts Society.**

To learn more, visit our Web site, [www.bsc.edu/academics/fas](http://www.bsc.edu/academics/fas), or contact the Office of College Events at 205/226-4921 or [fineartssociety@bsc.edu](mailto:fineartssociety@bsc.edu).

## Dr. Victoria Ott:

### Exploring the history and identity of young women in the old South

BY PAT COLE



Ott

We're all familiar with the innumerable caricatures of the Scarlet O'Haras and the elite and quintessential young Southern belle of the pre- and post-Civil War South. But Birmingham-Southern historian Dr. Victoria Ott has quite a different view, especially in terms of the role these young women played in shaping Southern culture.

Ott's research on this topic, a continuation of her doctoral thesis, culminated in her first book being published last year by Southern Illinois University Press entitled *Confederate Daughters: Coming of Age During the Civil War*. In the book, she delves into gender, age, and the creation of Confederate nationalism by examining the lives of several teenage daughters of Southern slaveholding, secessionist families.

"I argue in my book that their willingness to support the Confederacy was born out of a conservative movement to support and maintain the status quo, to

make sure they stayed elite girls and that they would eventually marry elite men and have elite families," says Ott, who is an assistant professor of history. "Yet, ironically, I found too that these young girls were at times challenging convention. They became political and civic activists throughout the war; entered areas of paid work, primarily as teachers; initiated a liberalization of courtship behavior; and took on new roles in the home like childcare. They were very willing to step out of traditions and expectations if it meant preserving the traditional path for elite, slaveholding women.

"These young women lived in a patriarchal society that held them captive to a way of life. Although bent on sustaining their families, their political engagement—rooted in the female youth culture—was expressed through their clothing as well as through social activities, relationships with peers, and interactions with Union soldiers."

Ott also explores the issue of war and memory in regards to this age group. She contends that they created in their published and unpublished memoirs a unique female identity from that of older Southern women, which she terms the "Confederate belle" image.

"This image helps augment our understanding of women's roles in supporting the Lost Cause narrative that attempted to venerate the Confederacy, as well as to support a return to racial and gender hierarchy

in the postwar era," she describes.

For the book's genealogical and historical research, Ott drew from several personal and published recollections of the war, slavery, and the Old South. She spent dozens of hours browsing historical U.S. census records online and mining state archival sources and libraries for slave-holding families that had daughters between the ages of 12 and 18 when the war began. She spent an entire summer traveling and visiting research centers such as the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the Virginia Historical Society.

"In my searches for girls coming of age in the Civil War South, I was able to come up with a sample group of 85 young women," says Ott. "I dove into the diaries and letters of these young girls, most of whom were born between 1843 and 1849. I found one girl who started a diary when she was 13 and wrote until she was 28."

In fact, the majority of the diary entries she found from the Civil War-era were written by teenage girls. Twenty eight of the young women in her study were from Virginia.

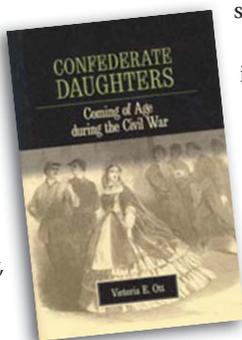
"It was much harder to find diary writings from other age groups during that period," she notes. "These young girls were daughters of the Southern gentry and likely had more time to write."

Ott could very easily identify with some of the girls' writings, but wanted to stay objective as an author.

"As a married woman myself, my hearts breaks a little when I read the diary of a young woman whose beau was on the battlefield," she says.

Her book falls right in line with her main field of research which centers on the U.S. South and women's history with regard to the pre-Civil War and post-Civil War periods.

She says she has learned through her studies how history often has viewed teenagers as apolitical or





Dr. Victoria Ott (center) received this year's Bob Whetstone Faculty Development Award from BSC Interim Provost and Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor of Biology Dr. Wayne Shew (left) and Dr. Bob Whetstone.

apathetic, yet these girls found their own meaning out of a war, which in turn shaped their identity. While they supported the fight against the northern enemy for the freedom to own slaves, these young women also expanded their own personal rights and liberties.

"It made me realize that when young people come of age during a time of crisis—be it war, economic depression, or a major environmental catastrophe—the experience becomes a crystallizing moment in their lives," says Ott. "Then, as they get older, it sets their world view, and they look at life through the lens of that experience, whether knowingly or unknowingly."

Ott holds bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of Central Florida and a doctorate in American history from the University of Tennessee.

As the daughter of a University of North Alabama history professor, she grew up in Florence, with the college campus "literally in my backyard," Ott notes. She started college at UNA as a theatre major, but got turned on to history instead after eventually transferring to Central Florida.

"What really got me excited about the study of the South and women was a Southern history course I took during my undergraduate years at Central Florida," she says. "The way the professor wove the story of Southern women into her lectures left me wanting to learn more. I'm inspired by the women from the past. It's their strength, courage, tenacity, even their mistakes, that I enjoy reading about."

is among a bold new generation of critics providing a radical shake-up to those Southern images.

"Southerners back then weren't the kind of homogenous group that people like to think they were," remarks Ott. "I think Southerners and their history is very complex, and often over-simplified in our popular culture. I chose to study those complex issues that stem from race, gender, and ethnic differences."

Ott joined the BSC faculty in 2004 after leaving a teaching stint at the University of Tennessee. She teaches core courses in Civil War and Reconstruction, Old South, New South, and U.S. Women. She also teaches a first-year student seminar each spring called Reforming America.

"What has been pleasantly surprising about the students here is how much they 'raise the bar,'" she says. "They ask questions and bring up perspectives about history that I don't even think about, and they make me want to be a better professor."

Ott is a member of the college's Faculty Advisory Committee, serves as an advisor to three student organizations, and is invited to lecture from time to time at special events on- and off-campus. She has written numerous encyclopedia articles and contributed to a book of essays published by the University of Alabama Press in 2008 entitled *The Great War in the Heart of Dixie: Alabama during World War I*. Her essay deals with African Americans working on the Muscle Shoals project in northwest Alabama and how their new economic roles became a stepping stone in the path

Through her readings, she's also discovered that specific details of Southern women's contributions to America's history and traditions remain largely stereotypical. She

to gaining civil rights.

Although nothing could quell her love for researching history, Ott does say she would much rather be known for her teaching and scholarship. One of her main goals has been to avoid simply spoon-feeding information to her students and to teach them to think in the tradition of a true liberal arts education.

"I encourage them to critically examine information rather than memorize facts and dates," she remarks. "I want to give them the tools of history, but I also want them to make their own informed position; to come up with their own interpretation about the past from the evidence they're given."

Ott's teaching has made an impact and drawn attention. This past fall, she was recognized with the 2008 Bob Whetstone Faculty Development Award. The cash award, named for the 1955 BSC graduate, professor emeritus, and former chair of the Division of Education at BSC, is presented annually to a non-tenured faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching during the previous year. She plans to use her monetary award for expenses associated with her new research project.

"I am working on a new project that I hope will culminate in a second book," she says. "It is dealing with poor and yeomen white families in Alabama before and during the Civil War, with particular emphasis on how this group used gender ideals and imagery as a source of social and legal empowerment. Currently, I am mining the court records of this socio-economic group."

Ott's non-academic pursuits include hiking, live music, and documentary films. She also is deeply concerned about animal welfare.

"All the animals I have taken in over the years have been either neglected or abandoned animals," says Ott, who has a dog and three cats. "I try to advocate for those animals in some way or another."

## Four longtime BSC faculty members retire with a combined 114 years of service

Birmingham-Southern will lose an incredible knowledge resource when four longtime professors, whose years of service total more than 100 years, retire at the end of the spring semester. Here are a few details of their accomplishments and careers, along with their comments:



Allen

### Mildred Allen Professor of Music

For Mildred Allen, a gifted operatic soprano once noted by *The Birmingham News* for her "impeccable musicianship," music has always been and continues to be foremost in her life.

During her 23 years at BSC, she has been an integral part of the vocal faculty and has directed many opera productions in the College Theatre. Highlights of her professional singing career include 10 years with the Metropolitan Opera as a principal artist and a solo engagement with the New York Philharmonic.

"Many of my former students have

become finalists at Metropolitan Opera auditions in New York, and I am very proud," says Allen, who joined BSC in 1986. "I've always tried to teach them plain stick-to-it-tive-ness; to not be deflected by defeat in auditions; to improve and stay with it."

Since she was a youngster growing up in parts of Tennessee and Mississippi, Allen has had a passion for classical music and opera. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Mississippi with a bachelor's degree in vocal performance, and earned a master's summa cum laude from the New England Conservatory of Music.

"I really love teaching and especially working with young singers," Allen expresses. "I've also enjoyed instructing classes in the Harrison Honors Program at BSC and being around those dedicated students, as well as formulating the multidisciplinary honors course "Impressionism in Painting, Music, and Literature."

For a long time, she has been a champion of new music, particularly the work of her BSC colleague Dr. Charles Norman Mason [professor of music], who composed the song, *Caged Skylark*, for her. She sang the title role in his opera *Daphne at Sea* in 1999.

In terms of post-BSC plans, Allen says she will remain active in local art and cultural organizations, especially Birmingham Opera, and continue teaching voice lessons through the BSC Conservatory and from her home. She also plans to travel with her husband, Dr. Edward Taub, in his work as a neuroscientist at UAB.

### Dr. James "Jim" Cook '68 Professor of Music

"Some of the most memorable parts of life are the things that happen for the first time," says Birmingham-Southern organist Dr. Jim Cook. "I remember the first time I had a student win first place in an organ competition beyond Alabama. That was the most exciting news I had ever heard!



Cook

"The student was a junior and she had competed against organists from graduate school as well as from all over the Southeast. That's when I thought that maybe I was doing something right."

Although Cook will remain at BSC as a part-time organ teacher, he'll be retiring after the spring term as he finishes his 35th year at BSC.

Cook graduated from Birmingham-Southern in organ performance and earned a master's and Ph.D. from the University of Texas. A native of Birmingham, he began teaching at BSC in 1974, developing a specialty in organ performance and music history classes.

"After working with students over a long period of time, from two to four years, and remembering what they could do when they started, and then finding out what they can do now ... it's wonderful," expresses Cook.

In addition to his teaching on the "king of instruments," Cook directs the Chancel Choir at Birmingham's First United Methodist Church, where he has served on the music



LaMonte

staff since 1974. He continues to perform throughout the Southeast and has been an organ consultant to many churches in Alabama.

Cook also is a national officer with the Organ Historical Society and maintains their database that documents pipe organs all over the country. His online *Introduction to the History of the Pipe Organ* is used as a textbook in several colleges and universities throughout the country.

### Dr. Edward LaMonte

*Howell Heflin Professor of Political Science*

Dr. Edward LaMonte doesn't just teach his students, he "engages them," while sharing knowledge of his active participation for many years in local government and community life.

A professor of political science at Birmingham-Southern since 1987, LaMonte has taught his students such varied topics as U.S. public policy, civil/human rights, leadership, and ethics and politics. He grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and is the recipient of an undergraduate degree in history from Harvard and a master's degree and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago.

He says unequivocally that "the best part of teaching has been associating with students both inside and outside the classroom—over an extended period of time—and watching with delight as old assumptions were challenged and sometimes cast aside, new insights were gained into intellectual interests and community and world conditions, unexpected opportunities developed, and career decisions were made."

During his 22 years on campus, LaMonte has served as chair of the Behavioral Sciences Division, dean of the former Adult Studies Program,

and instructor in the college's Master of Arts in Public and Private Management program. He branched out in 2000 to become director of the college's International Programs Office (now known as the Sklenar Center) to help develop policies for students who study abroad and also serves as coordinator of BSC's international studies major.

For his encore, LaMonte plans to travel with his wife, Ruth (they have trips planned to Northern Ireland and Scotland this July and the Middle East in the fall), and teach overseas as a Fulbright Senior Specialist. He recently completed the first draft of an essay on the career of former Birmingham Mayor David Vann as an elected official.

"After this essay, I would like to write on the significance of the election of Richard Arrington Jr., viewed not purely academically, but also more personally," says LaMonte, who was Arrington's senior staff member from 1979-87. "I also want to maintain some involvement with BSC's international efforts and hopefully teach a course on campus from time-to-time after the 2009-10 academic year."

### Dr. Eileen Moore

*Professor of Education*

For the past 34 years, Dr. Eileen Moore has trained many student teachers and has served as a visionary with big ideas when it comes to integrating technology into the classroom.

Moore joined the Birmingham-Southern faculty in 1975. Originally from Florence, she has a bachelor's degree in art from Florence State College and a master's and doctorate in education from Auburn University.

While she says her work in the Education Department has been particularly rewarding, she will miss her current level of interaction with



Moore

both students and faculty.

During her 44-year career, Moore has taught on the graduate level and in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Alabama, as well as been actively involved in national and state educators' associations. She also has traveled to many countries overseas to attend teaching seminars and has taught at foreign universities.

Moore teaches seven courses each year at BSC, with recent courses being Creative Arts in Teaching, Teaching High School Subjects, Reading in the Content Area, Teaching Mathematics, Human

Growth and Development, and Seminar in Teaching Technology.

"I will continue to be supportive of the Education Department and new faculty on this campus," she remarks. "This is an exciting time to be a teacher. The National Council for Teachers of Mathematics has made a 180-degree change in their philosophy and pedagogy. The change from worksheet-driven courses of study to a focus on student inquiry has been amazing."

In post-retirement, Moore says she will continue teaching, but her venue will change. Unbeknownst to many, she is a tremendously talented quilter.

"I currently teach quilting at three different places in the Birmingham area," she says. "As teaching always does, quilting fills me up and always leaves me wanting more."

## Remembering Professors Holliman and Bailey: two greats of BSC biology

*Two well-respected former biology professors at Birmingham-Southern died in February 2009. Each, because of the length of his service to the college and because of his impact—both in the classroom and beyond—will long remain in the memories of BSC faculty, staff, and the many students whose lives and careers they influenced.*

**Dr. Dan Clark Holliman**, professor emeritus of biology, died Feb. 19. He was 76. A native of Jefferson County, Ala., who held bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Alabama, Holliman retired in 2000 as the Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor of Biology at BSC. His teaching and research careers at BSC, UAB, the University of Alabama, and Dauphin Island Sea Lab on Dauphin Island, Ala., spanned 44 years, including 38 at Birmingham-Southern. He also conducted research in the Galapagos Islands and the Amazon River Valley at the first international rain forest symposium in Peru. He was among those involved in the creation of the first rain forest canopy walkway in the New World.

In the tradition of the liberal arts, this skilled research scientist taught honors courses on Henry David Thoreau and studied under Thoreau scholars at Concord, Mass. He worked with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Science Foundation, Coastal Area Board of Alabama, and NASA. He was on the staff of the Alabama Museum

of Natural History as curator of mammalogy and had been contributing editor for the quarterly series *Nature South*. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Audubon Mountain Workshop at Mentone, which for more than

30 years has been a highly-regarded annual spring program for adults and children on the natural history and ecology of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Holliman authored 35 scientific papers and was a member of Phi



Holliman



From left, Professor Holliman, Chemistry Professor William Mountcastle Jr., and Professor Bailey

Beta Kappa. His research interests included rare and endangered species and avian and mammalian ecology, with emphasis on the taxonomy of aquatic macro invertebrates. The subjects of his research ranged from purple gallinules, clapper rails, and beach mice, to wetlands and land use studies in the Southeastern U.S. His work led to the protection of specific endangered species, including the Perdido beach mouse, and aided in



the establishment of the Bankhead Wilderness.

His many formal honors include the Gardner Award from the Alabama Academy of Science for notable achievements in the field of science in Alabama, ODK Excellence in Teaching Award at BSC, Legacy Award for the creation of the Greystone Educational Wetland, Alabama Governor's Award by the Alabama Wildlife Federation for the Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, and Exemplary Teaching Award by the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry of the United Methodist Church. Informally, he was honored by the high regard of his colleagues in the scientific and environmental communities of his home state, one of whom described him, at a March 14, 2009, memorial service in Yeilding Chapel, as one of the greatest all-around naturalists Alabama has ever produced.

Dr. Scot Duncan, a member of the current biology faculty at BSC, in the same service, called Holliman "an inspiration," and said he should be remembered for his scholarship, his impact on the environment, and his impact on hundreds, perhaps thousands of students.

*At the request of family, donations, designated "Dan Holliman Memorial Gift," may be made to Birmingham-Southern through the Office of Institutional Advancement, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.*

**Dr. Paul Clinton Bailey Sr.**, a former chair of the Department of Biology and the Division of Math and Sciences at Birmingham-Southern, died Feb. 27 at the age of 87. With master's and doctoral degrees from Vanderbilt University, he joined the faculty of Alabama College (now University of Montevallo), serving as professor and chair of the Biology Department from 1947-63. He then came to BSC, where, in addition to his work in the Division of Math and Sciences, he served as acting president and academic dean at the college until his retirement in 1985. He was awarded an honorary doctorate of literature degree from Birmingham-Southern in 1993.

Bailey, a noted research geneticist, dedicated more than 20 years of his career to cancer research identifying numerous causes and treatments of lymphoma. He worked to publish several college textbooks for freshman biology, and his academic pre-med program at BSC produced many doctors and dentists in practice today.

Honors accorded him include Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, Pi Tau Chi Honor Society, Society of Sigma Xi, and Beta Beta Beta Honorary Biological Fraternity. He was recognized as Marquis's Who's Who in the World and Outstanding Educator of America. He also was honored with the Alabama Academy of Science Distinguished Service Award and listed in the *Library of Alabama Lives*.

*At the request of family, donations designated "Dr. Paul C. Bailey Scholarship Fund" may be made to Birmingham-Southern through the Office of Institutional Advancement.*



Bailey

## Flowers receives Exemplary Teacher of the Year Award from United Methodist Church



Flowers

Michael Flowers, professor of theatre and chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at Birmingham-Southern, has been presented with the 2008-09 Exemplary Teaching Award funded by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church.

The award is presented annually to a BSC professor who is characterized by excellence in teaching; civility and concern for students and colleagues alike; commitment to value-centered education; and service to students, the institution, the community, or the church. Nominations are solicited from the college community and are reviewed by a faculty committee.

"Michael is a role model for his students, demonstrating high ethical standards, a passion for learning, an outstanding work ethic, and the discipline that one needs to succeed—whether in the classroom or in a profession," said Dr. Wayne Shew, interim provost at BSC and Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor of Biology. "He is a dedicated teacher and is willing to put in the time and energy to ensure that he does the best job possible."

Flowers has taught theatre courses at Birmingham-Southern since 1984. He earned his bachelor's degree from Arkansas State University and his master's from the University of Mississippi.

## Bruess to publish eighth book



Bruess

Dr. Clint Bruess, professor of education at Birmingham-Southern, is writing his eighth book, entitled *Promoting Health Behavior*, scheduled for release by the Benjamin Cummings Publishing Co. of California in 2012.

Intended as a high-level college text for use in personal health courses around the country, the book will provide a comprehensive and rigorous introduction to the theory and practice of health promotion. Bruess plans to use concept modules throughout the book to help students recognize and focus on the main ideas of each chapter.

"The heading of each module is a carefully designed statement of an important health concept," Bruess explained. "Each concept heading is a focal point for a module, and all the module's text and illustrations will come together around that concept."

Bruess' already published books he co-wrote, three of which are active college texts, are *Selected Readings in Health* (Macmillan Co., 1970), *Implementing Comprehensive School Health* (Macmillan Co., 1978), *Sexuality Education: Theory and Practice* (Wadsworth, 1981—revised in 1988, 1994, 2004, and 2009), *Decisions for Health* (Wadsworth, 1985—revised in 1989, 1992, and 1995), *Healthy Decisions* (Brown & Benchmark, 1994), *Sexuality: Insights and Issues* (William C. Brown Co., 1986—revised in 1989 and 1992), and *Exploring the Dimensions of Human Sexuality* (Jones & Bartlett, 2000—revised in 2002, 2004, 2007, and 2010).

Two of the books, *Exploring the Dimensions of Human Sexuality* and *Sexuality Education: Theory and Practice* are used in classes at BSC as well as at a number of colleges in the United States, Canada, England, and Australia.

Bruess came to Birmingham-Southern in 2001 after serving as dean of the School of Education at UAB for 12 years. He received his bachelor's degree from Macalester College, his master's from the University of Maryland, and his Ed.D. in health education from Temple University.



SGA executive officers for 2009-10 are (from left) Amy Sessions, treasurer; Lee Hopf, second vice president; Will Breland, president; Mary Catherine McAnnally, first vice president; and Ben Odendahl, secretary.

## BSC students elect new SGA officers

Will Breland, a sophomore history major from Decatur, recently was elected president of the Birmingham-Southern Student Government Association for the 2009-10 academic year.

Breland formerly served as secretary of the SGA. He is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, BSC College Democrats, and serves as a resident advisor.

"Our goals for this academic year are to increase the student entertainment budget, purchase a new Web site for the SGA, and increase philanthropic and environmental initiatives," said Breland. "We are also planning to make the SGA more open and accessible for students."

Also elected to executive office for 2009-10 were: Mary Catherine McAnnally, a sophomore English major from Mountain Brook, who will serve as first vice president. She is a member of Chi Omega sorority, 'Southern Ambassadors, President's Service Team, and Reformed University Fellowship.

Lee Hopf, a sophomore English major from Warner Robins, Ga., will serve as second vice president. He is former SGA treasurer, a resident advisor, and public relations coordinator for Quest II. He also is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Ben Odendahl, a sophomore political science major from Hampton Cove, will serve as secretary. He is first vice chair of the College Republicans and a member of the Executive Committee of the Residence Hall Association. He also is a resident advisor.

Amy Sessions, a freshman biology major and Harrison Honors Scholar from Grand Bay, will serve as treasurer. She is a former SGA representative on the Communications Committee. She also is a member of Chi Omega sorority and a cheerleader.

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



## Long live the king and queen

—Music major Meagan Langford of Hueytown and biology major William

Moore of Clanton, both seniors, were crowned the 2008 Birmingham-Southern Homecoming Queen and King Nov. 8 during halftime ceremonies of the Homecoming football game against conference foe Sewanee. Langford is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, Concert Choir, and Jazz Band as well as a resident advisor. Moore is active in Theta Chi fraternity, Honor Council, Reformed University Fellowship, and is president of the Interfraternity Council. The students were nominated and selected by their peers.



## Real-life hero of *Hotel Rwanda*—Paul

Rusesabagina (center), whose heroism inspired the riveting film *Hotel Rwanda*, delivered the Alex P. Stirling Lecture to a packed Bruno Great Hall on the Birmingham-Southern campus. Rusesabagina risked his life and the lives of his family when he used his influence as manager of a luxury hotel in Rwanda to save more than 1,000 Tutsis from death at the hands of Hutu militia during the 100-day genocide in 1994. The Stirling Lecture is sponsored by the college's Student Government Association in memory of a BSC student who died of cancer in 1995. Then-SGA executive officers pictured with Rusesabagina after his speech are (from left) Charisma Shah, second vice president; Trey Cotney, president; Brad Robinson, first vice president; and Will Breland, secretary.

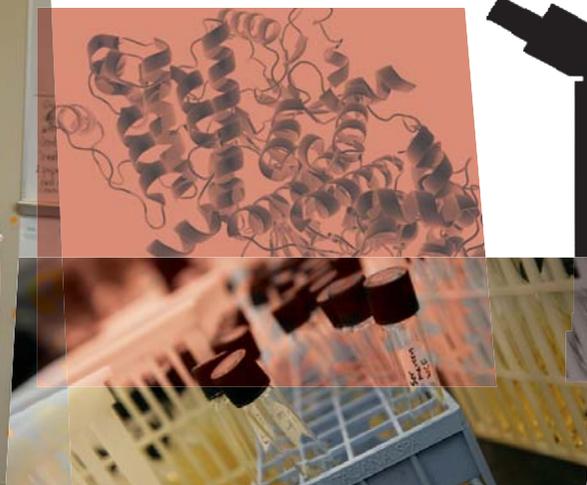
## Puzzling over proteins

BSC student Joanna Maya takes a hands-on approach to research

BY PAT COLE



Maya



Like so many Birmingham-Southern students, Joanna Maya is eager to learn and make a positive impact on the world after graduation. She believes her coursework and research at BSC will help her to do just that.

"I've wanted to pursue a career as a physician since high school," says Maya, a junior from Inverness studying toward a degree in biology with a minor in French and chemistry. "Ever since I started working in the labs on campus, however, I've decided I want research to become a part of my career as well."

Maya, who has spent the last nine months working in the Stephens Science Center laboratory of BSC Assistant Professor Dr. Gretchen Repasky, recently earned the prestigious 2009 Thomas J. Bardos Science Education Award from the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) for her research. The two-year award provides a research stipend and financial

support for undergraduate juniors to attend two annual meetings of the AACR. Only 10 U.S. students are chosen each year for the award. The annual meetings of the AACR are attended by more than 17,000 scientists from around the globe.

She attended this year's meeting April 18-22 in Denver and presented a poster on her research. Maya has been studying the anti-cancerous effects of a protein called pigment epithelium-derived factor or PEDF, which inhibits pancreatic cancer in mice.

"A mutation in a protein called K-Ras has been documented in a great number of pancreatic cancers, and it is suspected that this mutation causes a change in the levels of PEDF produced in humans," explains Maya, whose work is part of a rapidly moving science in analysis of the proteins that control cellular communication. "My research is focused on defining the relationship between these two proteins in human pancreatic cells. If we can

find enough evidence showing that K-Ras decreases the effectiveness of PEDF as a tumor-suppressor, then that would indicate that PEDF has the potential to be developed into an effective drug therapy to halt the growth of cancer in the future."

Proteins perform most of the body's basic chemical work, from influencing food intake and energy expenditures to fighting off viruses and bacteria before they can evade. Specific steps in Maya's first lab phase of protein analysis involve growing a model of human pancreatic epithelial cell line and performing experiments on the expression levels of PEDF in that cell line.

"To measure the levels of PEDF protein in human pancreatic cells, I first have to grow the cells on culture plates and maintain them until they are dense enough to be used in an experiment," she describes. "Once I have enough cells, I collect them and, by using a detergent, I break open the cell membranes and harvest the total amount of protein inside of them. Then, I conduct a western blot, which is a technique



to separate the proteins, and use antibodies that bind to the specific protein we are looking for.

"I also perform many transfections in the lab, where I take DNA that has the gene of interest (in my case, usually the PEDF gene) incorporated into it and insert it into cells by chemical means. This causes the cells to produce "extra" amounts of the protein encoded by the gene that allow me to study the effects of the over-expression of PEDF on factors such as cell growth and changes in cell shape.

"Although most of my research is spent troubleshooting, all the effort I put into a project is helping us get one step closer to the answers we're looking for," she points out. "The sense of accomplishment and satisfaction you get from doing research is very rewarding."

What began as a paid summer research project for Maya has now turned into her senior research project for academic credit, which she officially began this spring. She spends 5-6 hours per week now trying to help uncover the mechanics of the PEDF protein for new cancer drug therapies, which would have a major impact on global health.

"I was so impressed with Joanna's work in my class that I offered her a summer 2008 research position, paid by a grant from the Research Corporation for Science Advancement," says Repasky, who

has been conducting PEDF protein research since 2005. "She did very well in the lab, and we discussed her doing her senior research project with me. To get started, we contracted a research project last fall so that she could continue working in the lab regularly.

In addition to encouraging Maya to explore and ask questions, Repasky has provided her with plenty of scientific challenges.

"What impressed me the most about Joanna is that right from the start she was meticulous and careful, critiquing each step and designing new experiments to answer questions that developed from her results," she comments. Her work has given some surprising and interesting findings and led us to consider alternative mechanisms for regulation of this protein."

Maya believes working in the lab has opened doors on her future.

"I really enjoyed attending the AACR meeting in Denver this spring," she says. "It was quite an experience to be able to share my research and findings with people who have the same interests as me, and in turn, be given the opportunity to explore all different kinds of research and career opportunities."

Aside from coursework and lab work, Maya does everything she can to make her BSC experience a great one. She is active in the

college's Multicultural Awareness Organization, and this past January, participated in a group Interim trip to Mexico and Guatemala, led by Dr. Peter Van Zandt, BSC visiting assistant professor of biology. Maya says her international perspective has changed as a result of the travel.

"I was so excited about getting to study the Mayan ruins there," she says, "but I didn't realize at the time what an eye-opening experience it would actually turn out to be. The cultural immersion was the best part. Americans take so many things for granted and this experience has taught me to be more thankful for what I have. The trip also inspired me to explore career opportunities that could lead me abroad and where I can lend my services to people who are otherwise deprived of adequate medical care."

Experiences like that are what make Maya appreciate her time at Birmingham-Southern.

"I am very happy being here," she says. "I have greatly enjoyed and benefited from the small class sizes at BSC and the availability of the professors outside of class."

Following her graduation, Maya is considering a career in oncology and cancer research, a profession close to the life she grew up around. Her mother, a former family medical practitioner, now works in clinical research, and her father is a nephrologist (kidney disease specialist) at UAB. Both of her parents are natives of Colombia, South America.

Maya cites the continued presence of mentors like Repasky—a hallmark of Birmingham-Southern's research training—as laying a strong foundation for her future career. She hopes other BSC students will take advantage of the many research opportunities the college offers.

"I love conducting research," she emphasizes. "There is only so much information I can learn out of textbook, but when I apply what I learned in a lab, it really means something to me."

# Birmingham-Southern students take in *a world of experiences* during the 2009 Interim term

Whether it was tax preparation volunteering in Birmingham, taking a campus course on photojournalism, navigating a maze of Southeastern barbecue restaurants, or jetting to such breathtaking locations as Italy, Africa, and Southeast Asia, Birmingham-Southern students took the opportunity to engage in new subjects and life-enriching experiences during the January Interim term.

Here are just a few highlights:



The photojournalism class visited The Birmingham News during the term.

## A crash course on photojournalism

The campus Interim course "Show Me a Story: a Peek into Photojournalism" gave 18 students a glimpse into the booming and exciting world of photographing current events, focusing upon the creation and portrayal of truth in photography. Taught by Pamela Venz, chair of the BSC Department of Art and Art History, professor, and photographer, the course exposed students to a career they might like to have someday.

"Professor Venz's courses always push and stretch my artistic abilities, making me think in a new and different way," described Anna Nichols (shown in red boots), a senior English major. "Her class not only helped to make me a better photographer as a hobbyist and world traveler, but also aided me in my position as features editor of *The Hilltop News*."

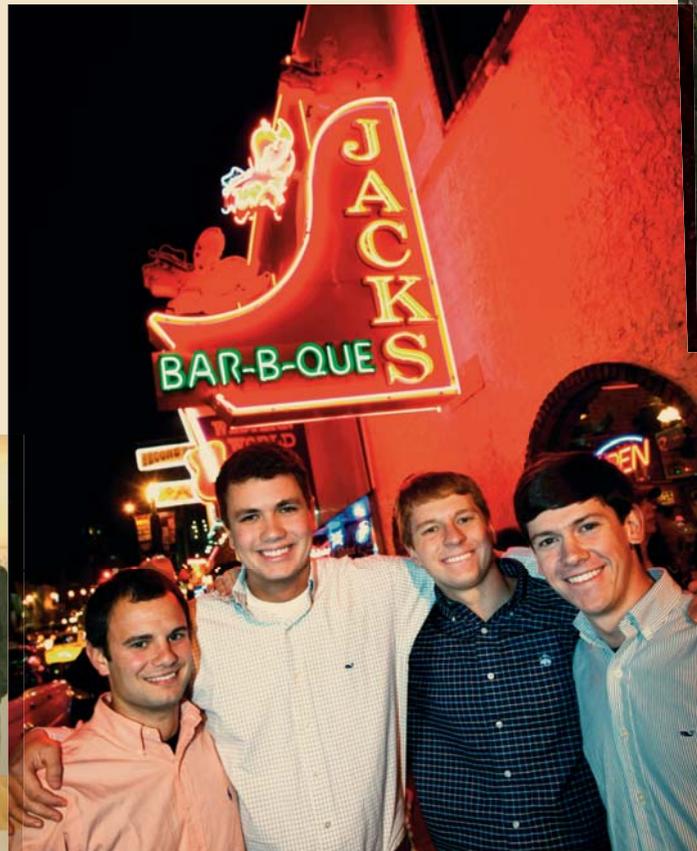


Photo by Larry McCormack of *The Tennessean*

## A Southern BBQ journey

Four Birmingham-Southern students traveled throughout the Southeast sampling top-notch pork barbecue for academic credit. Seen here in downtown Nashville, the students (left to right) are Matt Lee, Will Foster, Jeff Vaughan, and Art Richey. Their unique Interim project—approved by BSC—involved a 17-day tour of about 20 Southeastern barbecue establishments.

The "Southern BBQ Boys," as they called themselves, honed their food and travel writing skills as they explored the cultural origins, differences in style, and significance of Southern pork barbecue; they wrote about their experiences daily in an interactive group blog at [www.southernbbqboys.com](http://www.southernbbqboys.com).

BSC English Instructor Robin Lee Mozer, whose area of specialization is creative nonfiction writing, viewed the project as not only a fun way to explore nonfiction, but also as a chance to explore how accessible forms of new media like blogging and YouTube can be used to extend the classroom.

Since their travel began, the "Southern BBQ Boys" have garnered lots of publicity, including a March 7 appearance on the FOX News "FOX & Friends" weekend morning TV show in New York City.



(From left to right) Pictured on top of ruins in ancient Maya of Mexico are students Brian Perrin, Anna Bianchi, William Skinner, John Morris, and Joanna Maya.

## Mayan archaeoastronomy

One group of 10 BSC students under the leadership of Dr. Peter Van Zandt, BSC visiting assistant professor of biology, trekked through the ruins and dense jungle trails of Mexico and Guatemala for two weeks to investigate the observational methods of the ancient Maya civilizations' highly skilled astronomers. At some sites, the group conducted measurement experiments on recently excavated temples to see if they aligned with important stations of the sun or with visible planets such as Venus.

"The Mayan Archeoastronomy trip was not just a school-organized vacation that took us deep into Mexico's beautiful southeastern backcountry," said William Skinner, a sophomore computer science major. "The way of life inherited by the people we met, coupled with teachings of the Mayans' deep understandings of the cosmos, was truly eye opening. It was a sharp conviction that we must learn to accept all cultures, religions, and the people who practice them."

*"This year, 197 students participated in the 12 faculty-led Interim study-travel projects (165 of these students traveled outside the U.S.), while 91 pursued independent contracts for study, study-travel, or internships," said Jennifer Roth-Burnette, director of interim and contract learning at BSC. "1,016 students took part in over 70 on-campus projects led by BSC faculty."*



## Exposure to Southeast Asia

"Southeast Asia: History, Culture, Politics, and Development" was the focus of an Interim project in which 11 students traveled to Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia for an overview of the history, culture, politics, and economic development in the area which the French called Indochina during the colonial period.

"It was a wonderful group of students who were never late and participated enthusiastically in all phases of the project," said Dr. Bob Slagter, BSC professor of political science who led the travel. "I think they were most interested to find that Southeast Asian cultures are so different from that with which they are familiar."

## A lesson in service

One class of Birmingham-Southern students found themselves on the "giving" end as they responded to the vision problems of low-income children around the state and offered free tax preparation services to low-income adults. Stephen Black, director of Impact Alabama, and Dr. Kathleen Rossmann, BSC professor of economics, taught an Interim course called "Poverty in America: An Examination of Policies and Attitudes toward Low-Income Families in America." In addition to reading, discussing, and writing about issues related to poverty, students participated in two service-learning projects.

"Students were trained to use vision-screening equipment and then screened children in low-income daycare centers all over the state, including Dothan, Greensboro, and Selma," said Rossmann. "Students were also trained and tested to become volunteer tax preparers. They prepared taxes for people who qualified for the Earned Income Tax Credit in west Birmingham, Bessemer, Decatur, and Gadsden."

## Student relies on BSC's Individualized Major Program to define goals

BY PAT COLE



Lunceford



Having a college major structured with the study of digital technology and journalism became a sought-after goal for Birmingham-Southern junior Jon Lunceford of Homewood.

Lunceford has designed his own media-journalism degree, working with faculty on classes which emphasize the practical skills of research, writing, and thinking, along with a solid grounding on the convergence of print, radio, television, and the Internet. The major allows him to bring together the courses he has already taken in political theory and computer science with classes on creative writing and communications.

"Creating my own major is a process that I'm glad I discovered," says Lunceford, "and has opened my eyes to a whole new way of learning. Journalists these days are probably the single most important people when it comes to how the public views different subjects, and I think this major will really help me learn the skills I need in order to make sure I am successful in this field."

The individualized major is one of many ways in which BSC students

can customize their programs of study. During his sophomore year, Lunceford decided to prioritize the crafting of his own major, engaging in an involved, but rewarding process with a faculty committee and the Office of Interim and Contract Learning. Lunceford spent his first year of college as a computer science major at the University of Alabama before transferring to BSC.

"I was very attracted to the Panther football program and knew I wanted to be on the team," explains Lunceford, who played on the offensive line his sophomore year. "But I wasn't so sure about my decision to major in computer science."

Lunceford spent a good deal of time observing music and education classes at BSC and exploring other fields as possible majors. Finally, a part-time job he landed at WJOX 94.5 FM in Birmingham last spring got him thinking outside the box.

"That's when my focus changed," Lunceford remarks. "As a reporter there, I found out I enjoyed writing, especially having the freedom to write about what I wanted to."

Lunceford turned to the Individualized Major Program at BSC to make the most of his newfound passion for reporting and online journalism.

"Through my job at WJOX, I've learned that media is a big source in society for either good or bad, and I want to use that medium as a study to help my writing grow," expresses Lunceford. "Writing and covering different events is hard work, but it's fun and something I really enjoy, and that's why I am pursuing it."

After gaining the faculty guidance and support of Dr. Peter Donahue, professor of English, and Dr. Natalie Davis, professor of political science, Lunceford made a list of all the classes BSC offered that would fit into his new major.

"I wrote down all the different subjects like writing, political science, communications, broadcasting, public speaking, theatre classes—anything that would really help develop my writing," he explains. "After Dr. Donahue approved my general outline for a new major, he forwarded my request to the Provost's Office."



Since Birmingham-Southern offers only a journalism minor, Lunceford will complete his credits for the 400-level journalism and communication classes required for the major at a nearby college.

The Individualized Major Program, which was established at BSC in the '70s, continues to attract interest from students seeking to combine what Birmingham-Southern offers with their own particular interests and goals. Students have designed their majors around such varied topics as media-advertising, human rights in the Americas, and animal-assisted therapy.

"Jon has shown great initiative and commitment in designing his individualized major," says Donahue. "What makes Jon the ideal candidate for this program is his enthusiasm for his chosen field of study: journalism. Jon's interest in the field extends across print, broadcast, and the Internet. He also knows how to take advantage of the opportunities available to him here at BSC as part of his program of study, including securing internships and writing for *The Hilltop News*, all of which will help set Jon up for his professional life in journalism."

So far, Lunceford has taken courses in religion, political science, and

economics, as well as a journalism workshop—Intro to Print—taught by Donahue. This spring, he took media and politics, creative writing, a religion course on Methodism, and economics.

Lunceford said there was another advantage to shaping his own education: "I had really great relationships with the different professors who helped me work on this major. They helped me see new opportunities that I didn't know existed at BSC and the potentials of this major."

Since working as a young reporter at WJOX, Lunceford has found that the Internet is the key medium for spreading news content now as well as a hot new tool for journalists to expand their audiences and dialogue with the public. And, in this new age of digital technology, which creates speedy exchanges of information between people and machines all over the globe, you just never know who may be reading what you wrote.

That's what Lunceford discovered when his blog entry on the firing of Tony Franklin, offensive coordinator of the Auburn University football team, during football's mid-season ended up on the front of *USA Today's* online sports page Oct. 8.

"I learned about Coach Franklin's firing one afternoon while working

at the radio station," says Lunceford. "I had just covered my first Auburn football game for WJOX the weekend before the big news hit, and I felt it [Coach Franklin's firing] was bound to happen eventually. Being close to the field that day, I couldn't help but notice how bad the team was struggling and that Franklin seemed to 'not be into' his job in the post-game interviews I witnessed."

Just three days after he wrote and posted a quick 1,000 word article on [www.bleacherreport.com](http://www.bleacherreport.com) about Franklin's firing, one of Lunceford's friends called and told him his blog was front and center on the *USA Today* sports online site.

"A lot of media watch that particular Web site to get breaking news, so I guess they grabbed mine as something interesting for that day," Lunceford remarks. "I also had plenty of quoted material in my blog that I got from the Auburn players and from Tony Franklin."

Lunceford plans to add the *USA Today* credit to his résumé when he graduates with a degree in media-journalism in May 2010. But he is even prouder to have designed a self-personalized major, which displays to his future employers his willingness to create something new and different.

## BSC theatre productions put gangland violence, capital punishment at center stage



BSC senior theatre major Elisabeth Tutwiler and junior theatre major Mac Smith performed the leading roles for *Dead Man Walking*.

Students in Birmingham-Southern's Theatre and Dance Department have produced some dynamic performances from the very first semester of the 2008-09 season, bringing to light some heavy topics such as hate, violence, and capital punishment.

This past November, a cast and crew of 50 BSC students performed a four-day run of one of the greatest musicals of all time, *West Side Story*, the tragic tale of star-crossed lovers on the west side of New York City, caught between two warring street gangs, the American Jets and the Puerto Rican Sharks. As they struggle to survive in a world filled with fear, hate, and violence, Tony and Maria—portrayed by musical theatre majors Michael Seward and Christina Johnson—come to know the power of true love in the midst of ultimate tragedy. Using a 24-piece orchestra, the production featured a score, lyrics, and script from three of America's most renowned theatre artists, including

Stephen Sondheim, and was directed by BSC Professor of Theatre Michael Flowers.

The performance received kudos from Alec Harvey, features editor for *The Birmingham News*, who attended the final performance of *West Side Story* and rated it one of the top 10 productions of 2008 in Birmingham. "What a treat director Michael Flowers put together with his talented kids (and a few grown-ups, too) from Birmingham-Southern," said Harvey.

"The singing was beautiful, and the choreography was even better."

Next, the issue of capital punishment was examined on stage when BSC premiered *Dead Man Walking* during the January Interim term. This was the first time the production had been performed in Alabama.

The play is titled from the best-selling novel by Sister Helen Prejean, a Catholic nun who opposes the death penalty, and was written in 2002 by Academy Award-winning actor and director Tim Robbins—taken from the screenplay of his 1995 film *Dead Man Walking*. The drama traces Prejean's relationship

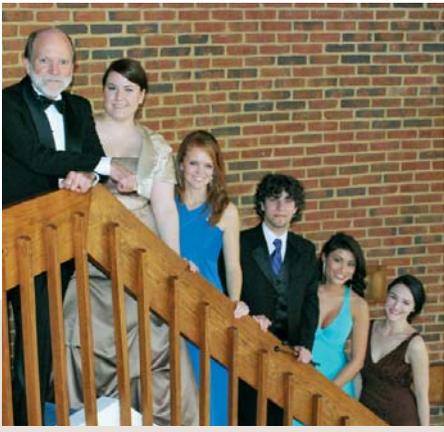
with Matt Poncelet, a death row inmate, as he comes to grips with the horrendous crime he has committed and the fate that awaits him. BSC theatre majors Mac Smith and Elisabeth Tutwiler performed the leading roles for the play, which featured a 39-student cast and ensemble.

Flowers, who directed the play, expressed that "this was an exciting opportunity for our students, the campus, and the community to look at the issue of the death penalty and all the questions surrounding it. It was also the perfect production for a liberal arts environment like ours where we are always asking questions and looking at issues that confront us daily."

Robert L. Baldwin M.D., a 2003 graduate of the college's Master of Arts in Public and Private Management program and president and chair of the Alabama Ear Institute in Birmingham, gave a lecture and book signing before the play entitled "Certain Truths about Life and Death?" Baldwin is the author of *Life and Death Matters: Seeking the Truth about Capital Punishment*, which was released in December 2008.



BSC senior musical theatre major Michael Seward and junior musical theatre major Christina Johnson starred in *West Side Story*.



The Whittington winners, pictured with guest orchestra conductor Les Fillmer, are (beginning second from left) Hannah Ellington, Anna Underwood, Josh Crowe, Christina McCauley, and Tyner Rushing.

## 2008-09 Whittington award winners showcase talent with local orchestra

A Feb. 15 concert at Birmingham-Southern featured the winners of the ninth annual Dorsey and Frances Whittington Competition, which the Music Department hosts in late fall to showcase talented BSC students and provide them with the opportunity to perform with the Red Mountain Chamber Orchestra.

The five student winners this year were: Josh Crowe, a sophomore composition major from Long Beach, Miss.; Hannah Ellington, a junior voice performance major from Pelham; Christina McCauley, a junior voice performance major from Marietta, Ga.; Tyner Rushing, a senior music major from Mobile; and Anna Underwood, a senior music major from Homewood.

Crowe, who studies percussion with Adjunct Professor Jay Burnham, presented the finale of the *Concertino for Xylophone and Orchestra* by Toshior Mayuzumi.

Ellington sang *Song to the Moon* from Antonín Dvořák's opera *Rusalka* and *Come scoglio* from Mozart's opera *Così fan tutte*, McCauley sang *Steal me Sweet Thief* from Gian Carlo Menotti's opera *The Old Maid and the Thief*, and Rushing sang *Del mio core* from the opera *L'anima del filosofo ossia Orfeo ed Euridice*, composed by Franz Joseph Haydn. All three students study under the direction of Music Professor Dr. Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw.

Underwood, who studies with Artist-in-Residence William DeVan, performed the first movement of Mozart's *Piano Concerto in D Minor*.

Les Fillmer, chairman emeritus of the Alabama School of Fine Arts Department of Music, guest-conducted the orchestra.

The highly competitive competition is named after Frances and Dorsey Whittington, who were leaders of the Birmingham Conservatory of Music, which later became the Music Department of Birmingham-Southern. Students performed a five-to seven-minute preview to an outside panel of judges.

## Student and alum's sports article featured in *Alabama Heritage* magazine

The award-winning quarterly history magazine *Alabama Heritage* recently featured a sports article by a Birmingham-Southern student and 2008 alumnus.

Senior Peter Starr and Ben Lewellyn's article *The BSC-Howard Rivalry: Birmingham's Battle of the Marne*, appears in the Winter 2009 issue. It focuses on the fierce, but fun football rivalry between BSC and Howard College (now Samford University) which took place in the period between 1906 and 1939.

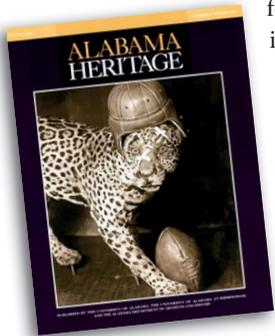
Lewellyn and Starr published a book together in 2007 entitled *Panthers on the Gridiron: Football at Birmingham-Southern*, under the direction of Dr. Guy Hubbs, BSC associate professor of library science and archivist, and Dr. Mark Lester, BSC professor of history. The 28-page book chronicles the history of the football program at BSC—from its inception at the college's parent institutions (Southern University in Greensboro and Birmingham College)—to its last season on the Hilltop, which was in 1939.

Shortly after the book was published, Hubbs urged the two writers to submit an article to *Alabama Heritage* for publication.

"Although we wrote a separate article for the magazine, we drew heavily on the research we did for the book," said Starr, a history major from Atlanta. "*Alabama Heritage* was primarily interested in the BSC-Howard rivalry, so we centered our writing on the significance that annual game held for the two colleges, for Birmingham, and for the state of Alabama."

Lewellyn and Starr express their gratitude to the two professors who they say taught them how to look deeper and harder into the study of history and how to navigate their writing projects.

"Drs. Hubbs and Lester suggested the projects, encouraged our work, and then offered innumerable corrections to both the book and the magazine article," said Lewellyn, a BSC history graduate, now pursuing his master's at Texas A&M. "Both of our projects are perfect examples of what studying history at BSC is all about: the pleasure and satisfaction of doing primary source research the right way, the freedom to explore topics suited to your interests and circumstances, and the support of incomparable faculty to guide you through the tough spots and see you through to the finish line."



# Undergraduate research at BSC

The *big* picture  
BY PAT COLE



The Elton B. Stephens Science Center houses the departments of biology, chemistry, and physics and includes the latest instruments and state-of-the-art design.

The definition of research is broad and its lessons can be timeless. Amanda Kramer decided for her senior Harrison Honors Program independent project to reach into the past and journey to 18th, 19th, and early 20th-century America to study the important role of hymns in military and social history.

A theatre major from Alabaster who did research under the supervision of Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music Dr. Lester Seigel, Kramer narrowed her song search to the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and World War II periods, and then visited music libraries, online catalogs, and rare book rooms for scores and information.



Senior theatre major  
Amanda Kramer

She discovered through her research that “Chester” during the Revolutionary War, “Battle Hymn of the Republic” during the Civil War, and “God Bless America” during the World War years all served as strong tools for churches to send out subtle messages for political purposes.

Kramer reported on her findings during the college’s Honors Day April 23, along with assistance from eight members of the BSC Concert Choir, conducted by senior music major Meagan Langford. This is just one example of the outstanding research and significant teaching that takes place on the Birmingham-Southern campus. The extensive involvement of students and faculty in research, scholarship, and creative

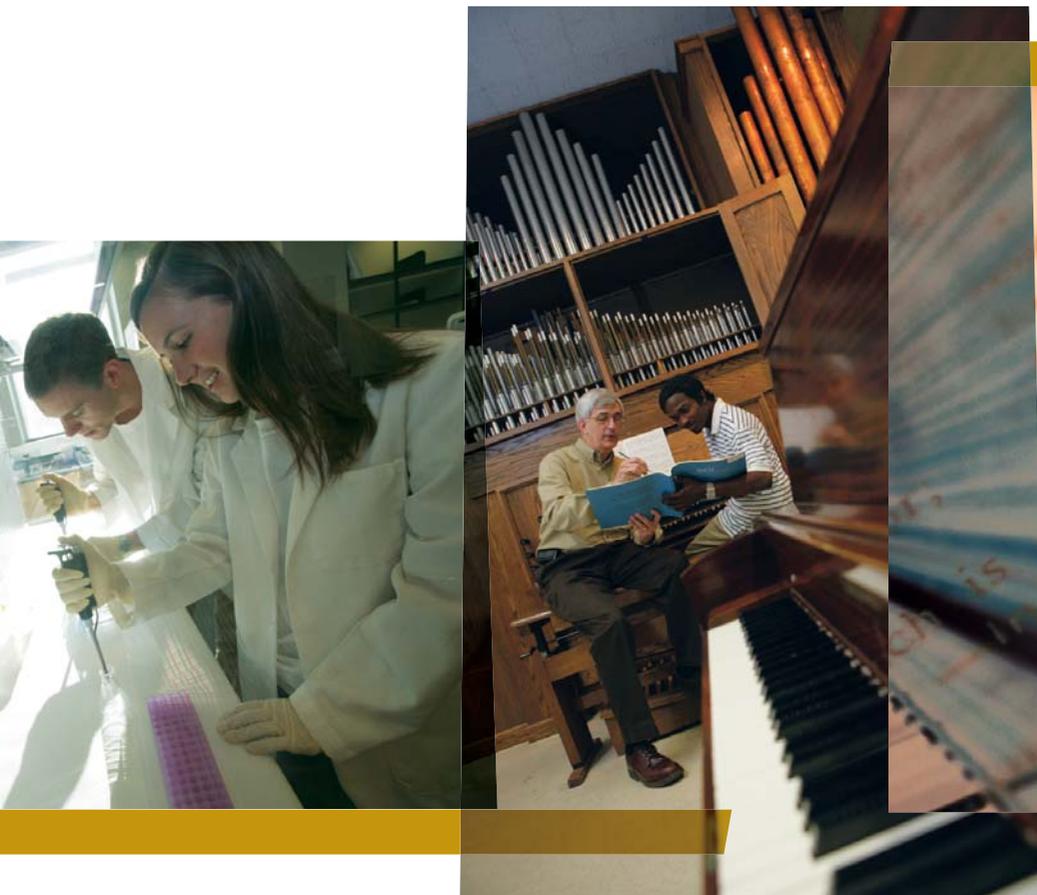
endeavors, both individually and collaboratively, and in all disciplines—education, the humanities, business, the visual and performing arts, and the natural and social sciences—are a key component of a BSC liberal arts education.

Through research projects like Kramer’s and so many others, Birmingham-Southern students find themselves better prepared for careers and graduate study, and faculty get to promote their projects and interests and gain a better understanding of the concepts they teach to students. Many BSC alumni have gone on to highly successful career paths in research, often crediting their hands-on undergraduate experiences on the Hilltop. And many have felt that they are just as prepared and sometimes even better prepared than their colleagues from larger research institutions. BSC alumni serve as evidence of the enormous benefit of doing research that transcend the boundaries of campus and can truly affect the quality of people’s lives.

“At Birmingham-Southern, our faculty is intimately engaged in our students’ intellectual development,” says Dr. Wayne Shew, interim provost and Ada Rittenhouse Snaveley Professor of Biology at BSC. “This begins with excellent teaching in the classroom, but it also involves working with



Dr. Wayne Shew,  
interim provost and Ada  
Rittenhouse Snaveley  
Professor of Biology



*“A real bonus of the college’s small size is the opportunity our students have to work with scholars on an individual basis.”*

them on their independent and collaborative research projects.

“It is through this close relationship with faculty in a research environment that our students truly learn how to question and investigate and organize their findings in a well-written paper or to produce a piece of creative art or music. A real bonus of the college’s small size is the opportunity our students have to work with scholars on an individual basis; a chance to learn by mentoring and personal guidance.”

So how is the “research” in undergraduate research defined? Dr. Sharon Prado, former director of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program at Boston University, gave an expansive definition of research as “any scientific, scholarly, or artistic activity that leads to the production of new knowledge, increased problem-solving capabilities including design and analysis, original critical or historical theory and interpretation.”

When it comes to scholarship, investigation, discovery, writing, application, inquiry, creativity, and intrigue, there is simply no shortage on the Hilltop. Both original and serious scientific and scholarly study is regularly undertaken by BSC faculty and students. Students are encouraged to participate in research and research-related opportunities throughout their academic life.

### **Miniature to mammoth student and faculty research**

All academic areas at Birmingham-Southern open their doors to research. Some of the diverse approaches for doing undergraduate research include teaching fellows, independent faculty or student study, faculty supervised research, regular and special course offerings and labs, summer student research projects with faculty, and faculty/student collaborative projects in research and teaching. Approximately 101 BSC students were involved in independent Interim contract research experiences during the January 2009 term alone.

Some students do research that is independent of a class they are taking and others have independently-structured research as part of a course. And there are lots of research presentation opportunities, including the British Studies Symposium that was hosted by BSC last year, where students annually present papers on British history and literature; the gender studies conferences sponsored by the Birmingham Area Consortium of Higher Education and Associated Colleges of the South, where students can explore sexuality and issues critical to the study of gender in contemporary society; and the annual Southern



Regional Honors Council conference where students, professors, and college directors and staff gather regionally to share their commitment to honors research. Students present papers at all sorts of professional conferences across the U.S.

Additionally, students find opportunity in the Latin American Studies Symposium, which is coordinated by BSC Associate Professor of Spanish Dr. Barbara Domcekova. The interdisciplinary two-day conference, held annually on the Birmingham-Southern campus since 1994, showcases original research by undergraduate students from colleges and universities nationwide. The symposium's sessions cover such issues as Latin American culture, politics, literature, art history, ecology, and health care and development.

Junior English major and Harrison Scholar Kimmie Farris of Morris won the Association of the Southeastern Biologists poster competition at its annual meeting in Birmingham earlier this spring. Her poster presentation entitled, "An Egg Number vs. Size Trade-off in the Red-Eyed Tree Frog, *Agalychnis Callidryas*," won first prize out of 80 entries from undergraduate and graduate students across the Southeast.

Sophomore urban environmental studies major and Harrison Scholar Katie Gregory from Marietta, Ga., has been awarded a summer position at the Academy for Environment and Great Basin Institute Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the University of Nevada at Reno, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The 10-week program will take place June 8 through Aug. 14 in the Eastern Sierra region of Nevada within the Lake Tahoe-Truckee River-Pyramid Lake watershed. Gregory and the other participants will be exposed to diverse scientific inquiries and technologies to gain insight into how science informs land and water use policy, management, and conservation initiatives.

Junior biology major Jordan Scott of Lillian won first place in the undergraduate poster presentation at the 4th Annual

UAB Scholar Symposium in March. His poster was entitled "Establishment of Mesenchymal Cell Lines with Regulated Expression of Runx2." "Runx2 is a gene which regulates bone formation," he explains. "By controlling the expression of Runx2, it could one day be possible to reverse the effects of osteoporosis (a disease affecting 1 in 3 women worldwide and 28 million Americans)."

Birmingham-Southern professors also engage in research and scholarly activity in a variety of interesting ways and have a strong track record in receiving federal competitive awards—more than half-a-million dollars have been granted within the past five years. Funds from NASA, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation are used to pay for faculty-student research activities, as well as equipment, travel, and for presentations at national and international conferences. Faculty also have their research recognized through publications in well-known journals and in books, magazines, and newspapers.

The ability to engage in research and make research presentations is a product of general education and disciplinary study at Birmingham-Southern. Under the college's Foundations general education curriculum, students must take two 1Y courses their first year that "encourage intellectual and community engagement," and culminate their BSC undergraduate achievement with a senior conference.

"All Birmingham-Southern students are required by the Foundations program to complete a scholarly piece of work," Shew notes. "As stated in the BSC catalog, 'It is important that undergraduate students learn, through both independent and collaborative projects, the importance of scholarship to life-long learning.'"

"The most effective way for students to gain a true appreciation of what scholarship entails is by conducting research in their chosen field of interest. This research can take



Kinney

## Brainstorming

### Facing complex challenges involved with geriatric neuropathological disorders

Like many medical doctors, **F. Cleveland Kinney '67** developed a passion for anatomical characteristics of the human body in early childhood. His other passion for art and drawing also was nourished when he was a young boy.

"My great aunt was an accomplished artist and gave me art lessons from elementary through high school," says Kinney, who is a Birmingham native. "I believe my undergraduate degree in art and biology and doctorate in anatomy together have provided the perfect combination of skills for my work in geriatric psychiatry."

Kinney is professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurobiology, cell biology, and medicine at the UAB School of Medicine. For the past decade, he has directed the school's Division of Geriatric Psychiatry. His clinical responsibilities include diagnosing and managing geriatric psychiatric patients who suffer from dementing illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease and related infirmities, major depression, bipolar affective disorder, and schizophrenia. He also instructs medical students as they rotate on the inpatient psychiatric wards during their third-year-required psychiatric clerkships.

Additionally, Kinney is involved in two major research projects: 1) working with colleague and principal investigator Dr. Dan Marson to evaluate medical competency in patients who have sustained closed head trauma, and 2) serving as principal investigator for an industrial drug which, perhaps, will alter the neuropathology of Alzheimer's disease and potentially restore some of the cognitive deficits of Alzheimer's.

"The latter study is being sponsored by Elan and Wyeth drug corporations utilizing an experimental treatment that involves the infusion of an antibody against amyloid, a starchy substance which is abnormally deposited in the brains of patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease," Kinney describes. "This is a large international study involving about 4,500 patients throughout the world. It is possible that this new form of treatment will dissolve the abnormally deposited amyloid in these patients and potentially will alter, in part, one of the underlying causes of Alzheimer's disease."

Kinney earned his Ph.D. in anatomy from UAB in 1976 and his M.D. from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1985. He graduated from Birmingham-Southern with a double degree in biology and art, continuing his family's legacy. His mother, Rufie Dixon Holloway, was a 1938 BSC alumna, and his father, Richard Warren Kinney Sr., graduated from BSC in 1933.

"Because of the small class sizes at Birmingham-Southern, I received a lot of personal attention in the classroom," says Kinney, who later served four years in the U.S. Navy. "The professors made me aware of abilities I didn't know I had, and they helped me to develop the confidence for my future medical and teaching career."

To add to his many awards, UAB recently honored Kinney with the establishment of the F. Cleveland Kinney, Ph.D., M.D. Endowed Support Fund in Geriatric Psychiatry, made possible by an anonymous donor.

many forms: experiments and laboratory investigations in the sciences, performance or creation of an original art project or piece of music, investigation of original sources of information and writing a paper in the humanities, or development of strategies to solve hypothetical problems in business to learn how best to deal with real-world problems."

Students are then given the opportunity to publicly share their scholarship, research, and creativity with the BSC campus community at a senior conference. Usually, students and faculty have worked together for up to two semesters on a research project before it is presented.

An independent project outside the major is the capstone experience of the college's Donald C. Harrison Honors Program, which currently has 115 freshman to senior student members. The honors program invites highly motivated students who seek a stimulating and challenging academic experience. It addresses its mission through small, interdisciplinary seminars developed specifically for honors students and through upper-level courses with an interdisciplinary focus.

Students in the program must complete five multi-disciplinary honors courses (1 unit of credit per course) before graduation. The sixth unit they must earn is for the senior capstone project, which is divided into .5 unit halves per semester, and where students are encouraged to engage in a research study outside their major.

"Students begin the second semester of their junior year framing the project they want to do and getting it approved by the college's Honors Committee," explains Dr. Susan Hagen, Mary Collett Munger Professor of English and director of the Harrison Honors Program at BSC. "The first half of the senior year is usually when they execute the project."

Senior independent projects in the honors program this year ranged from "Urban Fairy Tales" and "Trash and the Art of Recycling" to "The Role of Hymns in the Baptist Church" and



Shaw

## Flu fight

### Protecting the public's health through global surveillance and research

**Dr. Michael Shaw '74**, a virologist with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, has devoted years to protecting the public's health by studying and monitoring the changeable nature of the influenza virus and other agents causing epidemics of acute respiratory disease.

As associate director for laboratory science in the CDC's Influenza Division since 2006, Shaw oversees all scientific and administrative aspects of his unit's research and clinical laboratory work. This lab work includes everything from studying samples of common types of flu to developing influenza countermeasures such as vaccines to genetically engineering flu viruses for vaccine production and pathogenesis studies.

"Our division, in collaboration with other members of the WHO Global Influenza Program, is responsible each year for recommending the influenza virus strains to be used in the vaccine based on changes we've observed for the coming flu season," explains Shaw, who joined the CDC in 1993. "We have to know what's circulating out there and get our product to vaccine manufacturers as quickly as possible. Influenza has a remarkable ability to change unexpectedly just when we thought we knew what it was going to do."

Currently, Shaw is heading up the CDC's lab efforts for its emergency incident response to the swine flu outbreak, which has been going full blast for over a month now.

"It is only beginning to ease up somewhat in the Northern Hemisphere, and we have no idea what the Southern Hemisphere season will bring when it starts very soon—much less what to expect here next fall and winter," says Shaw. "This is far from over, and we will be watching it very closely."

Scientists in the CDC's labs also have focused their attention more lately on a persistent and deadly flu strain—Bird Flu (Avian Influenza H5N1), which has been causing fatal human infections since 2003. One of their research methods is to use throat swab specimens and track changes of the glycoprotein hemagglutinin that coats the surface of many influenza viruses.

"The Avian influenza has caused quite a few deaths in Asia with a mortality rate of more than 60 percent, and is causing problems in Egypt and sub-Saharan Africa, and has appeared in birds in Europe," says Shaw. "When a flu strain like this spreads, we get worried about it causing a pandemic."

Shaw supervises a staff of more than 200 and travels overseas frequently with the goal in mind to keep public health on an international, rather than just a national level.

"Diseases typically don't just stay in one country," Shaw points out, "so it is to our advantage to know what's going on elsewhere in the world."

Shaw's impetus for research began budding during his biology studies at BSC. He completed his doctorate in molecular and cellular biology at UAB and did postdoc research on virology at Rockefeller University in New York City.

"I really think getting a liberal arts education at BSC was the best choice I ever made," says Shaw, who originally is from Gadsden. "The wide variety of courses that are offered there is just the sort of education I needed for the work I do now."



*Dr. Andy Gannon, associate professor of biology, often works side by side with students in his lab.*

"Consumption and Social Group Examination." Hagen says while the majority of honors program final projects typically end up being a research paper, this is not always the case.

"Sometimes it's a traditional academic paper and sometimes it's a creative performance or other unique delivery," Hagen remarks. "For example, one of the honors students is a biology major who is interested in ballet. She researched five works of art by Edgar Degas, and incorporated his art philosophy into her dance renditions."

Another honors student once did a research project on ecological sculptures. She was very concerned about ecology and the number of plastic bottles on campus. For her research topic "Recycling and Ecology," she constructed the BSC bell tower out of Styrofoam, a fountain out of plastic bottles, and the campus ginko tree out of recycled *The Hilltop News* papers.

"We want our honors students to have the chance to study something they really are interested in studying under the guidance of a faculty member who would know something about it," Hagen says. "We also want them to realize they don't have to be single dimensional people. They can be doctors who love music or lawyers who write poetry."

## Creative collaborations

Much of the research by Birmingham-Southern faculty members is conducted with active participation of students, a process that allows students to apply classroom theories in the field or laboratory. This does not occur at every college. For faculty, it can be a remarkable process to see the advancement of learning by a student involved in research and creative activity. And for students, the opportunity to conduct research with faculty is often what they are looking for as part of their college experience.



Bishop-in-Residence Bob Morgan (far right) and two of his students observe this majestic view from the Acropolis at Pergamum in Turkey during a January Interim trip.



Pictured at a lowland tropical rainforest swamp in the Sarapiquí region of Costa Rica during a summer 2008 research project are (from left) Thiago Queiroz (biology), Ron MacBeth (biology), Rebekah Pine (urban environmental studies), Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Megan Gibbons, Kimmie Farris (English), and Scott Shashy (biology). Photo by Dr. Peter Van Zandt, visiting assistant professor of biology



Senior theatre arts major Elisabeth Tutwiler working on stage

“Our undergraduate research experiences help build meaningful academic relationships between faculty and students,” comments Shew. “It plays an important role in preparing our students for graduate study, making them much more competitive than applicants without research experience. In addition, it often gives the students an opportunity to present their research findings at conferences, and in many cases have papers accepted for joint publication with their faculty mentor.”

- BSC Bishop-in-Residence **Dr. Bob Morgan** has found that the mentor-mentee relationship is vastly different from that of student-teacher. He has done many collaborative projects with students over the years, including a popular Interim term study-travel experience to Greece, Italy, and Turkey.

“I think doing research with students is critical in two main ways,” relates Morgan. “First, it makes the students aware that you are a teacher *and* a learner and that you don’t claim to know everything there is to know. And secondly, you can together discover something in your research. It produces some special moments with students. I think one-on-one is the best way to teach.”

- Another of the college’s collaborative projects emphasized the value of stage lighting. **Elisabeth Tutwiler**, a theatre arts major from Mountain Brook, worked on a unique senior project in lighting and design with Theatre Professor Matthew Mielke for the April 23-26 BSC stage production *You Can’t Take It With You*.

“This study gave me a wonderful opportunity in the final semester of my senior year,” Tutwiler acknowledges. “Most people would probably ask: ‘Don’t you just turn on the lights, and that’s it?’ My job in the most basic sense is to make sure the audience can see the actors, but in reality it is so much more than that. My goal throughout the process is to use light

to reinforce the world and meaning of the play. It includes drafting the light plot, deciding which instruments are needed, researching the story, choosing colors, deciding where the lights are focused, writing cues, writing a design statement, and much more. It is a great deal of work, but I enjoy the challenge, and I have a great mentor in Professor Mielke.”

- For the past two summers, **Dr. Megan Gibbons**, associate professor of biology, and **Dr. Peter Van Zandt**, visiting assistant professor of biology, have taken students to Costa Rica to conduct tropical ecology research. The professors study tree frog and caterpillar adaptations to the rainforest environment, with the help of BSC students.

“The students have really helped us with our research and have even conducted their own experiments,” says Van Zandt. “We took two students in 2007, five in 2008, and this year we expect to have eight students come along. Three of the students are doing their senior capstone research projects at La Selva Biological Research Station in Costa Rica, while the rest will be participating in a Tropical Ecology Research course that we’re teaching. The results of several of these projects will be sent to national journals for publication or presented at national or regional meetings, as have projects from previous years.”

“This is a great experience for us and the students,” adds Gibbons. “We further our scholarship, and the students get to travel to Central America, study biology at a premier field station, and collaborate on the preparation of scientific presentations and papers.”

- **George Voltz**, an accounting major from Tuscaloosa, discovered while doing research for his senior thesis this year that it is difficult to ascribe recent oil company profits to price gouging. Using data from gross profit percentages of

## BSC faculty/student research grants

These major grants awarded to Birmingham-Southern professors over the past five years have supported the ongoing research and educational exchange between students and faculty:

**Dr. Marietta Cameron**, associate professor of computer science, recently completed a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant program "REU Sites Panel: Undergraduate Research Experience in Computer Science," total amount: \$232,000.

**Dr. Pamela Hanson**, associate professor of biology, NSF, "Enhancing Multidisciplinarity through Molecular Modeling," total amount: \$75,686.

**Dr. Leo Pezzementi**, professor of biology, National Institutes of Health, "Acetylcholinesterase: A Comparative Biochemical Approach," total amount: \$201,000.

**Dr. Duane Pontius**, T. Morris Hackney Professor of Physics, NASA, "Mass Injection and Plasma Dynamics in Saturn's Magnetosphere," total amount: \$103,952.

oil companies and eight other industries for the period 2003-07, Voltz was able to analyze the extent to which large oil companies may be driving up the costs to the public.

His paper entitled "Do Oil Companies Routinely Price Gouge the Public?" is a supervised research project that he started last fall with BSC Associate Professor of Accounting Dr. Ron Stunda.

The two won a Distinguished Research Paper award at the Allied Academies Conference, held recently in New Orleans. Voltz presented their research on campus during Honors Day.

"One thing that I learned from this research was that to gain a greater understanding of a topic, one must be willing to look at other contributing factors," notes Voltz. "In relation to our project, at first glance, the sharp rise in net profits would make

one assume companies were merely gouging the consuming public. But after taking into account the rising levels of



BSC Associate Professor of Accounting Dr. Ron Stunda and senior accounting major George Voltz recently won a Distinguished Research Paper award at the Allied Academies Conference in New Orleans.



Dr. Marietta Cameron, associate professor of computer science, assists students during a class.

production costs, we noticed this was not the case. Having the ability to look at the cause and effect of a certain situation enabled me to be able to make a more informed decision, as opposed to merely relying on the sharp increase in profits to influence my thoughts."

- With a grant she received from the National Science Foundation, Associate Professor of Computer Science **Dr. Marietta Cameron** established an REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) site program last year designed to promote student and faculty research. Titled "BACHE Scholars in Computer Science," the program paired nine computer science and mathematics majors from Birmingham-Southern with faculty mentors from the participating Birmingham Area Consortium of Higher Education institutions: BSC, Miles College, Samford University, and UAB.

"Each student spent approximately 10 hours per week during the last academic year and 30 hours per week during the summer working on a research project in areas including encryption, artificial intelligence, human computer interface, computer graphics, computer vision, and software engineering," describes Cameron. "During the summer, scholars participated in weekly workshops and seminars that featured research topics and student presentations of individual project milestones."

Cameron served as the program's director and as a mentor in the program. Other mentors included Dr. Doug Riley, associate professor of mathematics at BSC.

- **Tia Barclay**, a junior biology major from Talladega, focused on the protein acetylcholinesterase for her summer 2008 research project in the lab of Professor of Biology Dr. Leo Pezzementi. The protein is essential for communication

A group of scholars and mentors from the 2008-09 "BACHE Scholars in Computer Science" program: (from left to right) Dr. Marietta Cameron (BSC), Brandon Hernandez (BSC), Greg Brazda (Samford), William Skinner (BSC), Clark Weber (BSC), Brandon Young (Miles College), Reed Milewicz (BSC), Michael Johnston (BSC), and Efrem Sharp (Miles). The photo was taken in Argonne, Ill., this past November, where the scholars participated in Argonne National Laboratory's Undergraduate Research Symposium.



Senior philosophy major Marc Parker's film project includes three power-generating windmills near the coastal cliffs on an uninhabited side of Inis Meáin, an island off the west coast of Ireland. Photo by Dean Elmore

Junior biology major Tia Barclay and Professor of Biology Dr. Leo Pezzementi

between nerve cells in the brain, and she investigated the structural mechanism of its attachment and localization to the post-synaptic membrane of neurons.

"My summer research was an amazing learning experience that made me realize the most intriguing thing about science: the discovery of things," she remarks. "Of course, discovering new things comes with a lot of effort. A majority of my research time was spent just refining and perfecting protocols; but subsequently, it was very rewarding. Research is a great way of learning how to troubleshoot, think on your feet, and adapt to changing circumstances—things that really help you in life."

With the support of Pezzementi, Barclay was picked to participate in a summer 2009 research project through UAB's Neurobiology Department.

"I'll be studying gliomas, which are a type of brain cancer, and learning more about the ion channels that are found on the surface of these cancer cells," says Barclay. "I know that my research time with Dr. Pezzementi was a stepping stone for me getting this new opportunity at UAB."

## Research: solo

If you would like to know what chemical proteins, Saturn's moons, and American philosopher John Dewey have in common, all are the focus of individual research projects being conducted by Birmingham-Southern faculty members.

Nearly all BSC faculty take time out to engage in research based on their discipline or avocation. Many are granted sabbatical leaves, which allow them to travel, study, and do research, thereby increasing their knowledge and helping them to develop contacts with other members of the scholarly community.

Students at BSC also are encouraged to stretch themselves a bit in the area of research. Although all students work under the supervision of a faculty member, many engage in very independent research projects—pursuing data collection, background study, analysis, and written output on their own, and consulting with their faculty sponsors regularly for guidance and discussion.

The independent research projects at Birmingham-Southern reveal both faculty and students' motivation to recognize and solve problems as well as their ability to contribute interesting ideas.

- **Dr. Sara Robicheaux**, associate professor of finance, has three main areas of research she's been working on for the past decade. Her most significant contribution to finance literature though is in the area of corporate governance.

"I've had two papers published in the *Quarterly Journal of Business and Economics and Financial Review*," says Robicheaux. Both study how executive compensation relates to the debt structure of firms.

"Another area of research where I've had articles published is related to community banks. One study looks at the use of derivatives (financial contracts) by community banks, and the other looks at minority ownership of community banks. The third area I've started working on is writing case studies to be used in teaching finance topics. One case has already been published and is now useable by other finance professors to use in their classes."

- **Marc Parker**, a Harrison Scholar and philosophy major from Thorsby, filmed a documentary on Inis Meáin, an island located off the west coast of Ireland that he visited during the 2008 Interim term. The documentary was filmed this past July and completed in December. The music for the film is from



Meredith

## Notable Beethoven

### Helping celebrate the life and works of a legendary composer

A love for one particular composer has led to a career filled with discovery for **Dr. William Meredith '76**, director of the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies and also a professor of music and dance at San Jose State University in California.

"When the assignment became available, I was completing my Ph.D. dissertation on Beethoven's compositional process at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where I was also working in the Chapel Hill Music Library," says Meredith, a native of New Jersey. "The director job at SJSU seemed like a perfect fit for my research experience, passion for Beethoven and his music, and my positions in the library."

One of Meredith's current research projects at the center is preparing the critical edition of some of Beethoven's most important piano trios. Much of the data collection was undertaken in European music libraries and the collating of data is being done in San Jose, he says.

Collaborating with research labs in the U.S. and Germany, the center also is involved in the scientific testing of some of Beethoven's remains (strands from locks of his hair and skull fragments) from Vienna's Central Cemetery. Their most famous finding that arose out of this research became international news when it was released a few years back.

"The scientists we work with discovered that Beethoven suffered from severe lead poisoning . . . that he did not take opiate pain killers on his deathbed and that he did not show any signs of mercury intake," he asserts. "This rules out the possibility that he had syphilis, which is an old myth that refuses to die."

The center employs both a paid and volunteer professional staff and was founded in 1983 by the late Ira F. Brilliant, a real estate developer with a passion for the deaf German composer. Since then, classical music enthusiasts and scholars worldwide have visited the center, home to the largest collection of the composer's material outside of Europe.

In addition to the manuscript letters, first editions of Beethoven's music, rare books, historical keyboards, art installations, and exhibits—including a lock of Beethoven's hair and a newer exhibit of vintage Beethoven cartoons—the center also offers guided tours.

Meredith's affinity for Beethoven began early in his life and heightened during his graduate studies at Chapel Hill, where he studied with Dr. William Newman, one of the most respected Beethoven scholars in the country.

"In a Brahms class one day, Dr. Newman asked us what kinds of augmented sixth chords existed, and I rattled them off from what I learned in my music theory classes at 'Southern,'" says Meredith. "He replied, 'You certainly have had excellent preparation.'"

Two years after his family relocated to Birmingham, Meredith enrolled at Birmingham-Southern as a music education major with a specialization in choral conducting. "I had excellent training in voice with Andrew Gainey and William Baxter and on piano with Daphne Grimsley and Dolores Howard," notes Meredith. "And singing under Hugh Thomas in the Concert Choir was one of the greatest experiences of my life."



the CD *Amberwood*, composed by Ivan Sokolov and featuring violinist Karen Bentley Pollick.

"My project was mainly about interpretation and the subjectivity of the way we experience places," expresses Parker. "Inis Meáin is considered to be a cultural jewel for Ireland, a place where typical Ireland has been preserved. I tried to make a film that captured the bare beauty I found there without any agenda about Irishness or nostalgia."

"I took all of the footage myself and edited it with Christian Strevy, a BSC student who is contracting a film major. The film was part of my senior Harrison Honors Program independent project that included a research paper supervised by Dr. [Sandra] Sprayberry [Robert E. Luckie Professor of English]."

Parker was the only undergraduate to present his paper at the Southern Regional American Conference for Irish Studies hosted in March by the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga.

- Associate Professor of English **Dr. Peter Donahue** currently is working on a novel about juvenile delinquency in the 1970s in the Pacific Northwest. His second collection of short stories, *Somewhere South and Other Destinations: Nine Stories and a Novella* will be published by Wordcraft of Oregon in 2010.

"I also continue to write my Retrospective Review column for each issue of *Columbia: The Magazine of Northwest History*," he shares. "The column reassesses vintage works of Northwest literature, all of which have contributed to the region's literary legacy, while also profiling the authors of these works, all of whom participated in the early literary life of the Northwest."

"After nine years at BSC, I'm still impressed by the level of support and encouragement the college gives to faculty for their research and support," says Donahue. "It's no wonder that BSC faculty have such an impressive track record in this regard."

- **Laura Johnston** of Fairhope, an education services major with a concentration in sociology, recently completed her senior independent research project that determined which Complementary and Alternative Medical (CAM) therapy or



*James Pandelis inside the Elebash Electroacoustic Music Studio*

## A research program across disciplines

For the past 16 years, the Charles B. Vail College Fellows Program at Birmingham-Southern has continued to blossom, allowing students to collaborate with their professors in mutually-productive ways on either teaching or research projects.

Eleven BSC students of widely varying majors were chosen for the 2008-09 Fellows Program. They have spent the past year broadening their knowledge about diverse teaching and research methodologies and exploring their interests with faculty at a deeper level than they ever could in a classroom.

Vail Teaching Fellows work closely with professors in certain areas of preparing for and conducting classes, whereas Vail Research Fellows collaborate with professors on research projects. Both receive academic credit. There are also Vail Distinguished Teaching and Research Fellows who are involved in longer, more extensive projects and receive \$1,000 tuition stipends.

Faculty can select either a sophomore, junior, or senior student partner, who have earned at least a 3.0 GPA. Many of the projects lead to scholarly presentations and joint publications.

Fifth-year music composition student and Vail Distinguished Teaching Fellow **William "James" Pandelis** explored interactive computer technology with faculty mentor Dr. Charles Mason in the Elebash Electroacoustic Music Studio in the Hill Music Building on campus. Mason, professor of music and chair of the Music Department, teaches an electroacoustic music class each year. In a joint project "Bringing the Birmingham-Southern Elebash Electroacoustic Music Studio On-Line," they installed new state-of-the-art studio equipment—including a sound system and controllers—and learned more about the studio's software to help further develop Mason's course lessons.

"In preparation for Dr. Mason's electroacoustic music class, I had the opportunity to research, experiment with, and design tutorials for the studio's software—Nuendo and Kyma," says Pandelis. "Since receiving the Vail Fellowship in August, I have gained some wonderful experience working with Dr. Mason and also Dr. [Rick] Nance [BSC adjunct professor]."

"Through my collaborative efforts with these faculty members, I've learned much about the latest electronic software and equipment. It has been a great privilege to be able to work in a studio that is unparalleled in the Southeast region."

There have been 172 Vail Fellows at Birmingham-Southern since the program started. Over the years, Dr. Charles Vail has given generously to the program which bears his name. A Bessemer native and longtime college educator, Vail is former president of Winthrop College (now Winthrop University). He graduated from BSC in 1945 with a degree in chemistry, and he was awarded a BSC Medal of Service in 2000.

Now a resident of Springfield, Va., Vail said that while he doesn't describe himself as wealthy, he does have a desire to do something for BSC, and decided many years ago to launch and endow a program that would yield some good results in his lifetime.

"One student and one professor working together on a project of their design appeals to me as a great way to enhance the college experience," he says. "I conferred with Dr. Neal Berte [BSC president emeritus] and he offered several options, including the one which is now in place and that is designed and implemented by the people at 'Southern."

"I simply wanted to be sure the program would continue into the future and I pledged my financial support for as long as I lived. Even those of modest means can help enrich the lives of BSC students."

therapies are considered the most effective by parents and teachers of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

During her research process, supervised by Professor of Education Dr. Clint Bruess, Johnston analyzed the reasoning behind the use of a CAM therapy, how the parents heard of the CAM therapy, if the parents and teachers believed the CAM therapies were helping their children/students perform with less autistic tendencies in an educational setting, and other CAM's that parents and/or teachers would like to utilize in the future.

"I interviewed teachers and parents of children who attended local Council Elementary; Mitchell's Place, a comprehensive treatment center for children and young adults with autism; and Glenwood Inc., an autism and behavioral health center," she says. "I also reviewed scholarly literature related to complementary and alternative medical therapies to learn some background information about the topic.

"This experience gave me the opportunity to communicate with the parents and teachers of children with autism on a level that I otherwise never would have," expresses Johnston. "The parents and teachers were extremely encouraging, and they seemed to find it refreshing to be able to speak with someone they didn't personally know who was truly interested in learning about their child. This project has been a great learning experience and I hope that I can continue to work in close contact with children with disabilities in the future."

- Research at BSC is not only beyond the classroom at times, but out of this world. In addition to his work with students exploring the moons of Jupiter and Saturn, **Dr. Duane Pontius**, T. Morris Hackney Professor of Physics, studies fundamental questions about the magnetic fields surrounding planets.

"These regions trap immense populations of highly energetic particles, such as the Van Allen radiation belts surrounding the Earth," he explains. "Along with producing aurora—the northern and southern lights—these particles can exhibit intense electromagnetic storms that occasionally damage or destroy satellites. Understanding this environment is increasingly important as we place more and more satellites into orbit."



Spencer Photo courtesy of UAB

## Precision radiation

**Providing advanced therapy in a compassionate way to cancer patients**

**Dr. Sharon Spencer '79** knows that when it comes to maladies and diagnoses that individuals fear most, cancer tops the list.

But thanks to a newer clinical cancer therapy being used by Spencer and the multidisciplinary team of doctors and researchers at the UAB School of Medicine, those patients are receiving a combination of new chemotherapeutic drugs with radiation that are likely to improve their chances of survival.

Spencer is professor and clinical director in the Department of Radiation Oncology, a branch of oncology she was drawn to which prescribes therapeutic radiation to treat cancer. Her specialty is treating head, neck, and lung cancers.

"There are several other chemotherapeutic drugs in the pipeline that researchers are studying and hoping to move into the phase of clinical testing," says Spencer, whose patients come from all over the U.S. "We are also developing a method called body radio surgery, which delivers high doses of very energetic X-rays to small tumors in the lung, brain, and liver in patients who are not surgical candidates."

According to Spencer, high definition images taken during the procedure are used to assure precision delivery of the X-ray beams. Typically, the cancers can be treated with 3-5 sessions versus traditional regimens of 10-42 sessions.

"In most circumstances, patients with cancer are managed in a multi-disciplined setting," she points out, "which means they are under the care of a radiation oncologist, a surgical oncologist, and a medical oncologist."

After graduating magna cum laude from Birmingham-Southern with a double major in chemistry and secondary education, Spencer attended the UAB School of Medicine. She returned to the classroom in 2002 and earned a master's degree in health care administration.

"I always had a strong interest in biology and knew early in my life that I wanted to do something in the medical profession," Spencer notes. "But my path in medicine actually started at BSC. The college provided a strong curriculum for the sciences. Dr. [Dean] Calloway, my advisor in the Department of Chemistry, advised me to submit an application to medical school my senior year."

She says she attended BSC to follow in the footsteps of her sisters Peggy Spencer Jamison '73 and Verneeda Spencer Hager '75. Her youngest sister, Yvette Spencer '85, is health services director at BSC.

With more than 26 years of experience in patient care, Spencer has been dedicated to a radiation oncology program of treating the body while lifting her patient's spirits. She received a Life Inspiration Award by the American Cancer Society in 2005 for her extraordinary service to patients and families dealing with cancer. In August 2008, she was appointed to the Ruby F. Meredith Outstanding Clinician Radiation Oncology Endowed Chair at UAB.

## Research, technology, and the library in the *wired age*

For today's college students, who practically live inside a digital house called "Google," the once prime research methods of browsing library shelves for books and copying journal articles off a Xerox machine are fading astonishingly quickly.

Are student visitors to the Birmingham-Southern campus library starting to diminish in the face of increasing online periodicals and publications? "Not so," asserts Stacey Thornberry, BSC assistant professor of library science in the college's Rush Learning Center/N.E. Miles Library.

Thornberry has plenty of contact with students as the reference and periodicals librarian during some of the library's busiest hours, from 5-10 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 2-10 p.m. on Sundays.

"Over the past few years, we've seen students use a multitude of electronic devices, even simultaneously, while working on projects at the library—from ipods, to cell phones, and often two computers at once," says Thornberry. "This trend is what has moved the library forward in our efforts to adapt to technological change and reach students through applications such as instant messaging, podcasting, and Facebook."

Since starting her work at BSC's library in 2001, Thornberry does believe that the role of librarians as information coaches over the past decade has radically changed.

"I think the major issue facing our students with all the information contained on the Internet is an issue of credibility," she remarks.

"Academic research is different than what they have done in high school, and they have to be taught to critically evaluate sources and information.

"Some students, especially in their first couple of semesters of college, are given a false sense that everything is immediately available via the Internet. By the end of their undergraduate work, however, most seem to have become very adept at the intricate pathways of finding and retrieving information on the Web.

"The library is in the process of implementing a chat reference service that will allow us to provide in-house computer help to students from afar."

Despite the apparent ease and convenience of using the Internet and the overflow of information that is online, a new research finding reveals a paradox. According to what students said in a Feb. 4, 2009, research report with preliminary findings by the Project Information Literacy Progress (PIL) team at the University of Washington's Information School: "Research seems to be far more difficult to conduct in the digital age than it did in previous times." Quality remains a goal for students, but the underlying process for turning out high-quality research has changed.

The 18-page report presented findings from undergraduate student discussion groups this past fall on seven U.S. college and university campuses and from 86 students at community colleges. In particular, the team found out:

- There was a strong consensus among three-quarters of the students that they go to Wikipedia [a collaborative, community-based online encyclopedia] first for course-related research—many times to get background about a topic for an assignment.
- Students reported the most difficult part of the research process was traversing and interfacing with an increasingly complex information landscape (e.g., libraries, the Internet, and course materials) in order to find resources they know exist and need to find.
- More than 80 percent of the students interviewed procrastinated more than 80 percent of the time on their research paper assignments.

"For many students, conducting [online] research may feel a lot like being an inexperienced sailor heading directly into an oncoming wind, sails wildly flapping, not being able to maneuver and get to a desired destination," the PIL report states, referring to students' inability to find the appropriate contexts for their inquiries, a requisite part of every research process. Since the report was released, PIL's findings have received widespread attention and may have a major impact on information literacy discussions now and into the future. The PIL team planned to continue their research and administer a student survey this spring to a sample of 900 undergraduates on U.S. campuses.

An earlier PIL Industry Report to the study's sponsor, ProQuest, this past December additionally reported that eight out of 10 college students interviewed openly saw books (as an interface) as "antiquated interfaces" compared to other materials—usually culled from online sources—that were much shorter in length, right at their fingertips, and available 24 hours a day.

James Randolph, a junior history major, says he spends time in the BSC library just about every day. Although he doesn't believe that research is *far* harder in the digital age, he does think that the tremendous volume of information that is available through technology brings its own frustrations and limitations.

"I can imagine that it was quite time-consuming the 'old-fashioned way' to use the *Readers' Guide* to find articles, dig through the library's bound collection of periodicals, and then Xerox articles page by page," comments Randolph. "Technology today offers a tremendous array of information that is readily accessible, but Google searches often give you an overwhelming number of sources. Many of the sources, though, turn out to be irrelevant, so it can take time to track down useful nuggets.

"Even when you find a great source, sometimes the full-text article is unavailable. You also have

to doubt the credibility of many of the electronic sources that you find—anyone can be an editor on Wikipedia. Another major problem: the Internet can crash in the middle of your research."

Kathleen Smith, a senior interdisciplinary political science/philosophy major, writes an average of two research papers a semester, using both print and electronic sources. She feels that doing research via cyberspace is easier, but that it does require a considerable degree of practice to effectively navigate the complexity of the Internet.

"When you first sit down at the computer and get online, the overwhelming wealth of information at your fingertips seems daunting," says Smith. "But, you learn pretty quickly how to experiment with search phrases and keywords until you find that perfect one that finally reveals all those articles you have been searching for.

"Then, with 500 links and 'related' articles in front of you, you still have to navigate through the mess of resources that are unrelated or that may not be credible to find the ones that really matter. This takes some time and a little patience, but after you have discovered a few, the search seems a little easier. While the whole exploration process may seem tedious, you just have to remember that with the Internet, it really only takes seconds to search the indexes and databases, download articles, or place an interlibrary loan request."

Thornberry maintains that the BSC library is keeping up with the digital technology curve by giving students access to key research databases and software necessary to do intensive scholarly research, as well as the practical resources to use and analyze information.

"The library online catalog has many built-in features (much like Amazon) that allow the user to look for similar items and virtually browse," she says. "It is not enough to have access to emerging technologies, but it is important to utilize them in ways that will make our students more productive, efficient, and marketable."

## Read alert

### Guiding tutors in their quest to improve student learning in literacy



As a former kindergarten teacher in a high-need Huntsville school district, **Caroline Hopenwasser**

**Burns Hopenwasser '95** observed the range of reading abilities among her five- and six-year-old students. At one end of the spectrum was the bright-eyed, energetic LaKeisha, who doesn't miss a word. At the other end was Ameil, who doesn't catch a word and is frustrated by his attempts.

After six years, Hopenwasser's concern for these struggling students prompted her to seek some advanced knowledge. She left and enrolled at Alabama A&M University, where she earned a master's in elementary education and a doctorate in reading and literacy in May 2008, teaching as an adjunct the last year.

Hopenwasser landed an appointment as assistant professor in the Literacy Specialist graduate program at the State University of New York at New Paltz just three months later. Enabled to continue her research interests, she has joined the fight against illiteracy. Her focus now though is on the improvement of volunteer reading tutors for students.

"My interest in this particular research came from my volunteer work with a Huntsville group called Therapy Partners, whose program pairs struggling readers in local elementary schools with a pup or cat," says Hopenwasser. "I observed how the group's tutors had limited strategies and inappropriate reading materials for helping students read unfamiliar words. This led me to design a program of tutor training in the language cueing systems, which hopefully can be useful for individual schools and learning agencies.

She points out that the standard language cueing systems are graphophonic (sound-letter relationships), syntactic (grammar), and semantic (meaning).

"Struggling readers often over-rely on one cueing system, which decreases their ability to make sense of text," she explains, "so I trained the tutor in my research study on all three cueing systems, and provided a structured format for her to use all three."

After weeks of videotaping and observing the tutor with three struggling second-grade students—all the while employing data analysis—Hopenwasser discovered that even a small amount of tutor training in the cueing systems has a big impact on student readers. She and BSC Associate Professor of Education Dr. Louanne Jacobs are working on several professional articles that will combine their research on this topic. Hopenwasser presented her portion of the research at the National Literacy Coaching Summit at Texas A&M University in April.

Having grown up in Tuscaloosa, Hopenwasser says she visited the Birmingham-Southern campus a lot when her older brother, Will Davis '90, was a student, and fell in love with its small size.

"BSC's educational program taught me how to be a constructivist teacher," says Hopenwasser, who received her degree in early childhood education. "The goal of a constructivist teacher is to build autonomous learners who not only know subject matter, but know how to be responsible for their own learning. This way, students develop into lifelong learners who will continue to learn even after leaving school. As a professor, I teach this to my students."

## LIVIN' FOR THE WEEKEND

## Alumni Reunion 2008: Livin' for the Weekend

The Birmingham-Southern Alumni Reunion is always a homecoming of sorts, it's true—but this year, for the first time, Alumni Reunion, Nov. 7-8, 2008, combined Reunion fun with all the excitement of a BSC Homecoming weekend, complete with Panther football in our new on-campus stadium. Additional Homecoming/Reunion Weekend celebration photos can be found online at: [www.bsc.edu/alumni/reunion2008/homecoming\\_2008/index.html](http://www.bsc.edu/alumni/reunion2008/homecoming_2008/index.html).



*BSC cheerleaders celebrate Panther spirit at the Homecoming bonfire and pep rally on Friday night.*



*One of the smallest Panthers enjoys "Mommy and Me," a popular reunion crafts program for young families (including dads!).*



*The award-winning band Whiskey Falls, featuring BSC alumnus Buck Johnson '88, entertains at the Cajun shrimp boil and party that followed the Homecoming victory.*



*Some of the first arrivals for Reunion 2008 were (from left) Dr. Mary Ann Bagley McCollum '53, Dr. John M. Akin Jr. '49 and his wife, Dolores Akin, and Betty Ray Price Hughes '50 and her husband, Dr. Joseph Hughes '49.*



*It's easy to spot the Class of 1958 in the game crowd—they proudly sport their BSC beanies.*



President David Pollick shares a conversation with Martha Hagen Hood '29, a treasured longtime alumna of Birmingham-Southern, at the President's Reception in Hulsey Hall of the Admission Welcome Center. More than 250 people enjoyed the reception.

## Class Party Pictures

For more photos of Class Party fun at Alumni Reunion, visit [www.zapfoto.com/proofs.htm](http://www.zapfoto.com/proofs.htm) and key in the password bscalum.



As game time drew near, these students get ready to paint the town—and themselves—with BSC school colors.



Members of the Birmingham-Southern Class of 1958 gather for this photo during their Saturday pregame 50th anniversary brunch in Stockham Parlor.



At Friday's awards luncheon, President David Pollick (far right) is photographed with Outstanding Young Alumni and Distinguished Alumni (from left) Charles "Carl" Lynn '93, Freeda Fawal-Farah '89, Kirby Sevier Sr. '68, Christopher Thomaskutty '99, Sally Wood Johnson '53, and John O. Northrop Jr. '72.



The afternoon's matchup—the first Homecoming game in the new Panther Stadium—offers exciting football action, leading to a winning score of BSC Panthers 49 and Sewanee Tigers 0.



Little cheerleaders share in the day's excitement.



**Mark your calendar and make plans to attend Homecoming/Reunion 2009 on The Hilltop! November 6-7, 2009**

Weekend events include:

- Alumni Awards Luncheon
- Honor Class Parties for Classes Ending in '4s and '9s
- Band Party
- Tailgating Festivities
- Picnic Zone and Panther Playground
- Homecoming Game vs. Huntingdon College

Plus much more!

Complete details coming soon. Confirm your listing in BSC AlumNet at [www.bsc.edu/alumnet](http://www.bsc.edu/alumnet). To contact Alumni Affairs, call 205/226-4909.

## BSC alumni art exhibit celebrates the 'art' in a liberal arts education

For the first time in recent memory, Birmingham-Southern is hosting an Alumni Art Exhibit, sponsored by the BSC Fine Arts Society.

The inaugural BSC Visual Arts Open, featuring alumni who are artists by vocation and by avocation, will celebrate the "art" in a liberal arts education. Any Hilltop alum who crafts, paints, shutters, carves, welds, weaves, or throws art from the heart is invited to participate.

"Not all of us who make art were art majors, but that's sort of the point of a liberal arts education, isn't it?" noted Don Stewart '81, owner of DS Art in Homewood and chair of the BSC Fine Arts Society's Visual Arts Committee. "Regardless of what we studied on the Hilltop, we all learned the value of creative expression. This exhibit gives us an opportunity to celebrate creativity, no matter what it says on your degree."

Stewart himself is a study in how exposure to art can dramatically change a student's career path. While at BSC, Stewart initially enrolled in art classes as a respite from the rigors of pre-med studies (he was a biology major). He soon discovered the process of composite imagery, exploring techniques in ballpoint drawing, and he continued to pursue art as a hobby during medical training at UAB and as an intern in surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

But the lifestyle of a surgical resident proved to be at odds with his creative side. After accepting awards for both short fiction and poetry and publishing his first two composite drawings, he opted to discontinue his medical studies. He has since worked as a graphic artist, writer, and creative consultant through his company, DS Art.

"The enthusiasm that Don has for 'Southern and his support of the visual arts program here has been infectious," said Angela Comfort '79, chair of the BSC Fine Arts Society. "Once the idea of an alumni art exhibit was suggested, we knew this was something to pursue. It gives us a chance to celebrate the inner artist in each of us, and is another great reason to get together back on the Hilltop."

The BSC Visual Arts Open, from June 12 to July 3, 2009, will be housed in the Durbin Gallery, located within the Kennedy Art Center/Azar Art Studios. The show will kick off with a public reception in the gallery on June 12 and then will be open during regular gallery hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. Selected pieces will be available for sale with a portion of the proceeds going to support BSC's Department of Art and Art History.

Alumni interested in submitting artwork can contact Chris Byrum '86 in the College Events office at 205/226-4922 or [cbyrum@bsc.edu](mailto:cbyrum@bsc.edu) for a submission form. Look for details about the opening night reception later this spring.

## 2008-09 Alumni Executive Board recognized for service to BSC Alumni Association

Each member of the current Alumni Executive Board of the BSC Alumni Association has set goals for the year and they are working now to accomplish them. The college acknowledges the board members for their continued support of BSC. The current members of the Alumni Executive Board are:



President—  
**Richard Yeilding '73,**  
Birmingham



President Elect—  
**Karen McElroy Carroll '87,**  
Birmingham



Past President—  
**James Pennington '87,**  
Birmingham



Vice President-  
Advancement—  
**William Nicrosi II '90,**  
Birmingham



Vice President-Athletics—  
**Jack Naramore '78,**  
Birmingham



Vice President-Chapter  
& Affinity Group  
Programs—**Ellen  
Woodward Potts '88,**  
Tuscaloosa



Vice President-  
Enrollment—**Scarlett  
Singleton '01,**  
Birmingham



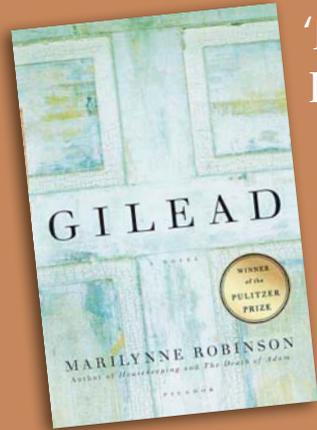
Vice President-Marketing  
& Communications—  
**Chad Jones '88,** Atlanta



Vice President-Reunion  
& Class Activities—**Amy  
Turnage Allen '84,**  
Birmingham



Vice President-Service &  
Outreach—**Kacy O'Brien  
Donlon '89,** Tampa, Fla.



## 'No Strings Attached' BSC Alumni Online Book Club

If you love learning about the world through the pages of a book, you have to look no further than the new "No Strings Attached" BSC Alumni Online Book Club. It has no strings attached because there are no deadlines, no meetings, no assignments—just the pleasures of reading good books as suggested by your favorite BSC professors.

Here's how it works: Each month, on the password-protected BSC AlumNet site of the college's Web site, you will go to a "discussion group" just for the book club. Every month, a favorite professor will select and provide an introduction to one of his or her recommended favorite books. During the designated month, alumni will be able to post their own reactions and insights about the book to share with fellow alumni in the book

discussion group. Participants can make comments or just read—no strings attached. Every month, an e-mail will be sent indicating the new book for that month, but alumni can always go back and comment on older discussions or previous books.

To find out about the current book selection and the professor's reason for recommending it, go to: [www.bsc.edu/alumnet](http://www.bsc.edu/alumnet) and sign in with your login and password. Then go to the link on the right side of the page for the book club, and then click on the discussion group for the book you're reading. If you are not already a member of AlumNet, you may easily join by going to [www.bsc.edu/alumnet](http://www.bsc.edu/alumnet) and clicking on "register now" under "first time visitors" in the center of your screen.

The first book selection is being provided by Dr. Bill Nicholas, James A. Wood Professor of History at BSC. His recommendation is *Gilead: a Novel* by Marilynne Robinson, published in 2006 by Picador.

## U.S. Armed Forces Discussion Group launched on BSC AlumNet

If you are in the U.S. Armed Forces, active or retired, we've got a group for you! This online discussion group can be used for a variety of different purposes, including:

- connecting with BSC alumni in all departments of the U.S. Armed Forces,
- sharing stories,
- finding a pen pal for alumni stationed overseas,
- making requests for support,
- posting U.S. Armed Forces-related events, and more!

If you are already a member of BSC's AlumNet, you may join the group by going to [www.bsc.edu/alumnet](http://www.bsc.edu/alumnet). Once you have signed in, click on the "discussion group" link on the right side of your screen. After being directed to the next screen, click on "U.S. Armed Forces Group" and begin to take full advantage of the group. If you are not already a member of AlumNet, you may easily join by going to [www.bsc.edu/alumnet](http://www.bsc.edu/alumnet) and clicking on "register now" under "first time visitors" in the center of your screen.

## BSC Career Counseling Center offers services to alumni

Looking for a new job? Make a trip to the BSC Career Counseling Center and get your career plans moving. The center provides:

- résumé assistance;
- individualized career planning and guidance;
- standardized assessments for identifying possible career tracks;
- career library;
- seminars and workshops on job searches, interviewing skills, and grad school;
- graduate and professional schools and career fairs, and much more!

The center can even help in finding specific jobs available to you. Visit College Central Network at [www.collegecentral.com/bsc](http://www.collegecentral.com/bsc)—BSC's free online job/internship posting system—and create an account. Through the network, alumni can view local and national job postings and even post jobs. Other job search links and helpful resources can be accessed through the BSC Career Counseling home page at [www.bsc.edu/campus/counseling/career.htm](http://www.bsc.edu/campus/counseling/career.htm).

## Alumni invited to share service opportunities



*BSC is proud to see alumni giving back to their communities. Here, Carol Ann Mathews '71 and Susan Duggar Stafford '95 volunteer at ABC Television's "Extreme Home Makeover" home building project in Tallahassee, Fla.*

Birmingham-Southern students have long been known for their contributions to the community through outstanding service projects. Now we'd like to know more about how alumni are getting involved in service opportunities. If you are participating in a service project in your area and would like for alumni and students to get involved with you, contact Lisa Harrison '85 MPPM at 205/226-4912 or lharriso@bsc.edu.

## New city and regional alumni chapters started

BSC is coming to you! Listed below are alumni who have accepted the position of chapter leader in their area since December 2008. If you are interested in starting a chapter in your area or getting more involved with an existing chapter (\*), contact Mallie Searcy '07 at 205/226-4908 or msearcy@bsc.edu.

**Alexander City/Dadeville:** Betsy Hodo '03

**Anniston:** Brenda Smith Stedham '76

**Arizona (All):** Chris Herrington '05

**Arkansas (All):** Mike Cope '83

**Athens, Ga.:** Anna Burns Dyer '70 and Bill Eiland '70

**Austin, Texas:** Anne Stump Sockwell '74 and Sam Sockwell '75

**Boston, Mass.:** Dan Milner '95

**Charleston, S.C.:** John Paul Huguley '91

**Charlotte, N.C.:** Sean Hair '99

**Dallas, Texas:** Clint Peinhardt '93 and Anne Dutia '92

**Dothan/Enterprise:** Hamp Baxley '93

**Greensboro/Winston-Salem, N.C.:** Leslie Gunter MacPherson '86

**Greenville, S.C.:** Lauren Hawkins Batson '94

**Houston, Texas:** Andrea Boohaker Dean '05

**Jacksonville, Fla.:** Lyndon Box '96

**Knoxville, Tenn.:** Reeves Johnson '78

**New Orleans, La.:** Janet Goforth '89

**Panama City, Fla.:** Robin Smith Freeman '84

**Pensacola, Fla.:** JeriLynn Brooks-MacBeth '81

**Raleigh/Chapel Hill/Durham, N.C.:** Amanda Warren '04

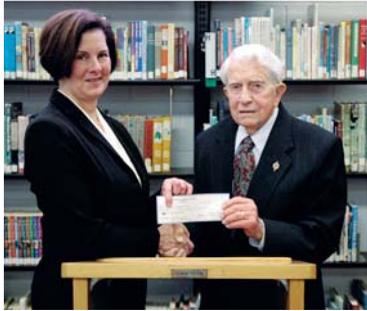
**Richmond, N.C.:** Martha Barnes Slone '78 and Daniel Slone '80

**San Antonio, Texas:** Haley Wilson Buchman '91

**Tallahassee, Fla.:** Meg Hoagland Guyton '76 and Charlie Guyton '74

\*There are existing chapters in Auburn/Opelika; Huntsville; Mobile; Montgomery; Quad Cities; Tuscaloosa; Tampa, Fla.; and Chattanooga, Memphis, and Nashville, Tenn.

## \$1 million donated to Guthrie Smith Scholarship Fund at BSC



*Shown making the check presentation are Guthrie Smith and Martha Boshers, director of gift planning at BSC.*

A ceremony was held at the Fayette County Memorial Library this past November to present Birmingham-Southern with a \$1 million check for the college's Guthrie J. Smith Scholarship Fund from the estate of Earl McDonald.

McDonald's gift will be used to benefit BSC students with financial need with preference given, but not limited to, members of the First United Methodist Church of Fayette and to residents of Fayette County.

During the presentation, Smith, a 1935 graduate of Birmingham-Southern, spoke of his longtime

friendship with McDonald and his appreciation for such a gift. The Smith Scholarship Fund was established at his alma mater in 1955 by the First United Methodist Church of Fayette in honor of Smith, who was the city's longtime mayor. Smith said McDonald had informed him about his intentions before his death late last year.

Smith served as president of the student body at BSC and graduated with a degree in economics. He received the college's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2000.

## Alumnus and wife honored with 2008 Volunteer in Philanthropy award

Birmingham-Southern alumnus Barr Linton '86 and his wife, Kathryn McDonald, of Birmingham have been honored by the Alabama Chapter of the Association of Fund Raising Professionals (AFP) and Birmingham-Southern as notable Volunteers in Philanthropy for 2008.

The award was presented to the couple as part of the AFP's 27th annual National Philanthropy Day Awards ceremony in November. It recognizes professionals who strive to make volunteerism and philanthropy a major part of both their working and personal lives.

The vice president of Sycamore Management Co. in Birmingham, Linton graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in economics from BSC and received his law degree from Yale University. He serves on the International Programs Committee of the college's Edward Lee Norton Board of Advisors for Management and Professional Education.

Linton and his wife recently made a major multi-year commitment to Birmingham-Southern's *Destiny: Delivered* campaign to establish "seedling grants" for needy students. To receive a seedling grant, students needing assistance must be recommended by a faculty or staff member.

"Kathryn and I thought about the obstacles that needy students face on a daily basis and about the isolation they must feel," said Linton. "We believe that these students having the extra money to feel like they belong or to go out with friends or to participate in an Interim travel experience is important to college life."

A Sewanee alumna, McDonald helps promote diversity in Sewanee's student body through its Posse Program and is on the leadership team of Yes We Can! Birmingham, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the city's public schools. Prior to her current work in investment management, she was employed by the American Red Cross in San Diego.



*Barr Linton and Kathryn McDonald*

## Birmingham-Southern parents invest in students' futures



More than 600 Birmingham-Southern parents have made extra special gifts toward their son or daughter's education by participating in the Parents Fund this year.

The Parents Fund is an annual drive for unrestricted gifts from parents of current students. It assists students each and every day by helping to provide the very best educational opportunities and learning experiences to every BSC student.

According to Erica Crump Sellers '05, BSC's assistant director of annual giving, parents have pledged or contributed more than \$84,600

so far. "The Parents Fund has broken fundraising records for the past three years, and the goal for this year's drive is to break last year's record of \$88,000."

Teresa Wright is chair of the Parents Fund Committee for the second year in a row, which also is comprised of Frank Vitello, Meg Guyton '76, and Ken and Kay Seale, both graduates of BSC ('81 and '82).

Wright is from Atlanta and is the mother of senior history major Wright Wiggins. Vitello serves on the Mobile/Baldwin County Regional Campaign Committee and is the father of freshman Hunter Vitello. Guyton chairs the Tallahassee (Fla.) Alumni Chapter and is the mother of freshman Julia Guyton and senior Margaret Guyton. The Seales are from Moulton and the parents of freshman Virginia Seale.

"In this uncertain, even scary, economic climate, it

is especially impressive that Birmingham-Southern parents are still stretching to give just a bit more," says Wright. "While we appreciate every gift of every size, some BSC parents have dug deep and been extremely generous. Such an attitude is why Birmingham-Southern continues to provide a first-rate liberal arts education in all sorts of financial times. As a BSC parent, I am proud; all BSC parents should be, too."

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

Gifts to the Parents Fund over the years have supported a wide range of programs and facilities, including the campus installation of blue light assistance phones, the

Speech Center, construction of an area within the Elton B. Stephens Science Center, the Foreign Languages Lab, library technology, and the Writing Center. The campaign takes place annually from October through spring.

"We are very close to another record-breaking year," Sellers said. "I hope that parents realize that their best gift, even if it's \$25, can add up to make this the most successful year ever for the fourth year in a row."

For more information about the Parents Fund, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 205/226-4919 or toll-free at 800-523-5793, extension 4919. Some employers have matching gift programs which could at least double contributions to Birmingham-Southern and the Parents Fund.

## What Will Your Legacy Be?

Bequests have helped shape and sustain Birmingham-Southern College for more than 150 years. Many of the scholarships and endowed professorships that are central to the intellectual life of the college were funded through bequests. So, too, was the Norton Campus Center, the hub of our campus community.

A bequest is one of the easiest and most rewarding ways to realize your BSC legacy. With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift be directed to the most urgent needs of the college or for a designated purpose.

A bequest can take on many forms including:

- a specific dollar amount,
- a percentage of the estate, or
- specific assets

In addition to investing in the future of Birmingham-Southern, a bequest may decrease the estate tax penalties for your family.

Gift officers are always available to discuss your plans, and should you wish to restrict your gift, can provide sample language for your review.

If you have already designated BSC as a beneficiary of your estate, please let us know so that we can thank you and welcome you as a member of the Endowment Builders Society.

For more information, contact: Martha Hamrick Boshers, director of gift planning, Birmingham-Southern College, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254, 205/226-4978, mboshers@bsc.edu.

thank you  
for making a difference again...



## THE ANNUAL FUND

Thanks to the loyal and generous support of Birmingham-Southern alumni, parents, and friends, gifts to the college's Annual Fund exceeded last year's effort in one of the most difficult economic climates of our time.

**Birmingham-Southern is among a handful of colleges and universities in the nation that was able to claim an increase in Annual Fund giving this year.**

But more importantly, your Annual Fund donations are one of the main reasons for the great momentum that Birmingham-Southern currently is experiencing. Annual Fund gifts help to:

- provide scholarships that attract the best and brightest students;
- attract and retain the best faculty through competitive salaries;
- enhance current and develop new academic programs;
- ensure students and the Library have the latest technology;
- support the scholar-athletes in the NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletics program; and
- provide unrestricted support for use where the college need is greatest.

Annual Fund gifts are the easiest way to participate in the college's historic *Destiny: Delivered* comprehensive campaign. The Annual Fund is one of the most important priorities of *Destiny: Delivered* because it touches every aspect of life on campus.

**Thank you for again making a difference for Birmingham-Southern.**

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

1-800-523-5793, ext. 4977  
205/226-4977

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## Battle family honored at historic Homecoming game



BSC President Dr. David Pollick (left) presents Bill Battle III (center) and Jean LeMerle Battle with game balls in recognition of naming their late father, William Raines Battle Jr., honorary game captain.

Birmingham-Southern recognized family members of the late William Raines Battle Sr., a Methodist minister, during the Panthers' historic Homecoming football game Nov. 8 for their loyal support of the college and its athletics program for nearly eight decades.

Nearly 60 members of the Battle family were on hand at Panther Stadium for a ceremony prior to kickoff of the game, where William Raines Battle Jr. was posthumously named honorary game captain for the Panthers' first contest on the Hilltop in nearly 70 years.

Among the family members in

attendance were Martha Frances Davies of Birmingham and Blanche Inez Battle Reed of Newnan, Ga., who both attended BSC in 1941; Bill Battle III of Atlanta, a BSC trustee and chair and founder of The Collegiate Licensing Co., and his wife, Mary; Jean LeMerle Battle '58 of Huntsville; and Brooke Tanner Battle '96 of Birmingham, who serves as a member of BSC's Birmingham Regional Campaign Committee.

Other members of the Battle family with BSC ties include the late Dr. Jean Allen Battle, a 1936 BSC graduate and longtime educator and the first dean of the college of

education at the University of South Florida; the late Laurie C. Battle, a 1934 BSC graduate, BSC Sports Hall of Fame member, and four-term U.S. representative from Alabama; and Mary Virginia Battle Mudd of Lutherville, Md., who attended Birmingham-Southern in 1943-44.

A 1930 graduate of Birmingham-Southern, William Raines Battle Jr. was a letterwinner in football, basketball, and baseball, and is a member of the BSC Sports Hall of Fame. Battle also served BSC for many years as both director of athletics and professor of physical education. When constructed in 1981, the Bill Battle Coliseum on campus was named in his memory, and each spring the William Raines Battle Award is presented to a senior who has exemplified scholarship, citizenship, and concern for physical fitness throughout his or her time at BSC. Battle's wife, the late Kathleen Scruggs Battle, was also a 1930 BSC graduate.

"Birmingham-Southern College is grateful to the Battle family for its tremendous support in so many ways and over so many years," said Birmingham-Southern President Dr. David Pollick. "The Battles' contributions to our college's students and athletics program continue to have a tremendous impact on this institution. We are truly honored to have the Battle family as part of the Birmingham-Southern community."



Senior sharpshooter Nikita Dees

## Dees wins second straight Southeastern Air Rifle Conference title

Senior shooter Nikita Dees of Maplesville won her second Southeastern Air Rifle Conference individual title in March at the SEARC Championships hosted by The Citadel in Charleston, S.C.

Dees shot a 579 in the initial round, making it into the top 10, which held a 10-shot shoot-off to determine the champion. Dees had the highest average in the competition to win the title of SEARC Shooter of the Year. She also won the title at last year's championships in March 2008.

As a team, the Panthers placed third overall behind The Citadel and North Carolina State.

The Rifle Panthers, who are the only team at Birmingham-Southern still competing at the Division I level, placed second at two SEARC meets in the spring season, and won a dual meet with UAB in October, among other competitions.

Individually, Dees led the Panthers in every tournament, and won two meets in addition to the SEARC Championships.

## Baseball Panthers claim school's first SCAC division championship

The Birmingham-Southern baseball team, under the direction of Head Coach Jan Weisberg, captured the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference East Division Championship this season in only its second year of NCAA Division III play.

After posting a .500 record (20-20) last season, the Panthers really found their offense this season. BSC finished the 2009 campaign with a 28-11 record. Their 10-5 record in the SCAC-East was enough to place them atop the standings at the end of the regular season, giving them the division championship win despite not being eligible for the post-season tournament because of NCAA transition rules.

Two BSC players collected SCAC Player of the Week honors this season. Sophomore infielder Drew Leachman of Mobile was the Offensive Player of the Week in March, and sophomore pitcher Drew Crofton from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, was named a Pitcher of the Week.

Sophomore Darby Weppner of Deerfield Beach, Fla., led the team with a .425 batting average, followed by Leachman at .408. Sophomore Clay Malcolm of Marietta, Ga., started 11 games on the mound and finished with a 7-3 record and a 3.57 earned



*Drew Leachman received an SCAC Offensive Player of the Week honor this season.*

run average. Crofton started 10 games and finished with a 5-0 record and a 4.15 ERA.

The Panthers posted series wins over SCAC rivals Sewanee, Oglethorpe, DePauw, and Rhodes. In only its second year of Division III play, the Panther squad is comprised almost entirely of freshmen and sophomores.

## Softball ends most successful season ever with national ranking

A season-ending three-game sweep of conference foe Hendrix propelled the Birmingham-Southern softball team to a history-making season, going 32-5 overall to tie the record for most wins in a season and break the record for winning percentage.

Under the direction of first-year Head Coach Stephanie VanBrakle, with only 11 players on the roster, the Panthers closed the season on an 11-game winning streak. The squad also had nine- and 10-game winning streaks this spring. BSC was 18-1 in conference play, sweeping every Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference opponent except Austin College.

The Panthers also defeated No. 3 Louisiana College and No. 19 Methodist University, and were ranked as high as No. 17 in the nation at one point.

Birmingham-Southern ended the 2009 season having broken several program records, including single-season batting average (.364), runs (279), stolen bases (86) and stolen base percentage (.945), triples (17), RBI (236), fewest strikeouts (102), and fielding percentage

(.969). The pitching staff broke the single-season shutouts record (16), as well as the single-season records for lowest ERA (1.19) and lowest opponent batting average (.186). The team tied the single-season wins record (32), but now owns the best overall record (32-5) and winning percentage (.865) in program history.

Senior pitcher and utility player Melissa Muehlenfeld of Auburn broke several individual records, including single-season stolen bases (38) and stolen base percentage (.974), career stolen bases (81) and stolen base percentage (.890), and single-season runs (50) and career runs (128).

Senior outfielder Kayla Backlund of Aurora, Colo., broke the career (19) and single-season (10) record for triples; junior infielder Jena Franks of Muscle Shoals the single-season record for RBI (46); and junior pitcher and utility player Tori Harris of Columbus, Miss., the single-season low ERA (1.03) and opponent batting average (.158).

Freshman outfielder Ashley Bice of

Indian Springs led the team with a .455 batting average. Muehlenfeld led the pitching staff with 14 wins.



*Senior outfielder Kayla Backlund broke the single-season and career record for triples this year.*

## Golf teams close out successful seasons

The Birmingham-Southern women's golf team closed out a highly successful season in April with its fifth tournament title in the Stonebridge Invitational in Rome, Ga., hosted by Berry College.

The BSC women, coached by Casey Smith, also claimed top prizes at the Alabama State Invitational, BSC Tri-Match, Rhodes College Invitational, and University of West Georgia Invitational.

The Panthers claimed five individual wins as well. Junior Kelly Burgess of Birmingham took first place at the ASU Invitational; freshman Gaukhar Amandossova of Pelham won the Rhodes Invitational; and senior Jordan Hardy of Sylacauga took top honors at the ASU Invitational (tied with Burgess), BSC Tri-Match, and the West Georgia Invitational.

The men's team, coached by Jason Buha in his first season, collected a tournament win at the Alabama State Fall Classic, placing first in a field of nine. Junior Nick Blakely of Chattanooga took first in the individuals at the classic as well as sharing in the team win.



*Senior Jordan Hardy took top honors in three competitions this year.*

## Tennis teams finish seasons nationally, regionally ranked

The 2009 Birmingham-Southern men's and women's tennis teams may not be eligible for postseason competition this year, but they were still able to make waves in both the regional and national rankings as compiled by the International Tennis Association.

The Panther women, coached by Ann Dielen, ended the season ranked No. 27 in the nation and tied for seventh in the Atlantic South Region by the ITA after going 12-2 in 2009.



*Kate Lambert*



*Michael Locandro*

Senior Kathryn Carroll of Madison, Miss., tied for 11th in the region in singles play, while she and fellow senior Lauren Russell of Foley tied for 12th in the doubles rankings. Carroll was 7-3 this past season, and she and Russell went 9-4 at the top doubles spot. Senior Kate Lambert of Huntsville and junior Janie Asseff of Shreveport were also impressive in doubles, going 14-1, and sophomore Brittany Cooper of Gulfport, Miss., was 10-3 in singles.

On the men's side, the Panthers, coached by Paul Rosner, finished the season with a 12-4 record and a No. 13 ITA ranking in the Atlantic South Region.

Junior Michael Locandro of Kennesaw, Ga., was also ranked 12th in the regional singles rankings after going 12-3 this season. Although they were not ranked, other notable performances in 2009 were from freshman John Zukley of Mobile, who put together an impressive 11-3 record, and Locandro and junior John Crawford Freeman of Montgomery, who went 10-4 in doubles play.

## Men's lacrosse team finishes first season strong

The first season of men's lacrosse on the Hilltop is in the books, and with promising signs for the future.

The team finished the 2009 season with an overall record of 6-9, a good start for any new program. The feat is all the more impressive when you look at the level of competition that coach Andy Bonasera laid out for his freshman-laden team.

The Panthers traveled to perennial Division III powerhouse Roanoke College for their first game ever. They collected wins over Guilford College, Carthage College, Randolph College, Fontbonne University, and College of Mount St. Joseph, as well as Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference rival Hendrix College.

Birmingham-Southern showed marked improvement as the season progressed, winning three of its last four games, with two of those three coming outside the friendly confines of Panther Stadium.

The continued growth of lacrosse in the South is allowing men's lacrosse to become a conference-sanctioned sport in the SCAC next season. Since all the programs in the conference are new programs, the Panthers will be eligible to compete for conference championships immediately, making them the first BSC program with a chance at a trophy.



*Cameron Overton* Photo courtesy of Mark Burnham



*Ashley Johnson had a team-leading 12 assists.*

## Inaugural women's lacrosse team wins first-ever match

Led by Head Coach Emily Thomas, Birmingham-Southern's first women's lacrosse team got the new program off to a winning start.

Playing with only 12 players, all of them freshmen and sophomores, the Panthers opened the season at home with a win in the program's first-ever match, an 11-6 victory over Methodist University. They closed out the season with wins over North Central College and the University of Dallas to finish 6-6. They also posted victories against Oberlin College, Trine University, and Tennessee Wesleyan.

Freshman Lyndsay Griffin of Marietta, Ga., led the team with 40 goals. Freshman Chelsea Van Voorhis of Dallas, Ga., followed with 25 goals and added seven assists, sophomore Ashley Johnson of Chattanooga followed with 22 goals and a team-leading 12 assists, sophomore Brit La Palm of Peachtree City, Ga., had 19 goals and six assists, and freshman Alexis Sweda of Germantown, Tenn., had 18 goals and four assists. Freshman goalkeeper Katie Bates of Hoover was solid for the Panthers, with 79 saves through 12 games.

## Track and field teams continue to improve in second year

The Birmingham-Southern track and field program showed continued improvement and success during the 2009 season under the direction of Head Coach Lars Porter.

The program made history March 14 by hosting the 'Southern Invitational, the first track meet on the Hilltop. Held at Panther Stadium, the meet featured nearly 20 teams from all NCAA divisions.

Junior Aly Goldfarb of Mountain Brook was one of the top competitors for the women's team, and won the pole vault titles at the DePauw Classic, Sewanee Invitational, 'Southern Invitational, Jacksonville State's Gem of the Hill Invitational, and Troy University's Coach O Invitational. She also won the 800-meter run at the Georgia Bulldog Limited and the 600-meter run at the DePauw Classic.

Other top performers on the women's side included sophomore Mary Elaine Williamson of Decatur, who won the mile run at the DePauw Classic and Sewanee Invitational, and freshman Sarah Sharman of Helena, who won the 400-meter dash at DePauw and the high jump at the 'Southern Invitational. Freshman Maggie Zernick of Sugar Land, Texas, won the 1,000-meter run at the DePauw Classic. The BSC women won the 4x400-meter relay at DePauw.

On the men's side, junior Conrad Blunck of Mobile won the pole vault at the Ole Miss Invitational, senior Justin Leach of Powder Springs, Ga., won the 5,000-meter run, and senior Blake McDaniel of Trussville won the 800-meter run at the DePauw Classic. The BSC men won the 4x400-meter relay at the Sewanee Invitational, and sophomore David Langston of Holt, Fla., won the high jump at the 'Southern Invitational. At the JSU Gem of the Hill Invitational, sophomore Mark Messenger of Sarasota, Fla., won the discus throw, and at the Coach O Invitational, senior Forrest Boughner of Flagstaff, Ariz., won the 3,000-meter steeplechase.



Aly Goldfarb was one of this season's top competitors on the women's track and field team.

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sept. 5	LaGrange College	LaGrange, Ga.	Noon
Sept. 12	CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY	BSC Panther Stadium	Noon
Sept. 26	* RHODES COLLEGE	BSC Panther Stadium	Noon
Oct. 3	* Trinity University	San Antonio, Texas	1:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	* CENTRE COLLEGE	BSC Panther Stadium	1 p.m.
Oct. 17	* Austin College	Sherman, Texas	1 p.m.
Oct. 24	* Sewanee	Sewanee, Tenn.	1 p.m.
Oct. 31	* DEPAUW UNIVERSITY	BSC Panther Stadium	Noon
Nov. 7	~ HUNTINGDON COLLEGE (HC)	BSC Panther Stadium	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 14	* Millsaps College	Jackson, Tenn.	1 p.m.

\*Denotes SCAC contest

~ (HC) Homecoming

All times Central and subject to change

## 2009 BSC FOOTBALL SCHEDULE





*Bob Strain Distinguished Service Award winner Irene Whiddon (far left) is pictured with the 2008 BSC Sports Hall of Fame honorees: (beginning second from left) Honey Trowbridge, John Ed "Hot" O'Brien's niece who accepted the plaque on his behalf; Marvin Smith; Brian Shoop; Duane Reboul; Dr. Ashley Duke; and Jason Thompson.*

## Birmingham-Southern inducts six into Sports Hall of Fame

The Birmingham-Southern Sports Hall of Fame gained six more members this past November when four former student-athletes and two former coaches were inducted at the annual Hall of Fame Induction Dinner held on campus.

The six inductees are Dr. Ashley Duke (women's tennis, 1997), the late John Ed "Hot" O'Brien (football/men's basketball/baseball, 1940), Coach Duane Reboul (men's basketball), Coach Brian Shoop (baseball), Marvin Smith (men's basketball, 1979), and Jason Thompson (men's tennis, 1997).

Duke played women's tennis at BSC from 1994-97 under Head Coach Ann Dielen. She was the No. 1 singles player all four years, and helped the Panthers to four straight NAIA National Tournament appearances. Duke was nationally ranked in both singles and doubles, and earned All-America and Academic All-America honors during her tenure on the Hilltop.

O'Brien was a three-sport letterwinner on the Hilltop, graduating in 1940. He spent most of his career at Tallassee High School, where he coached baseball, men's basketball, and, most notably, football. In 18 seasons at Tallassee, O'Brien coached his football teams to five unbeaten seasons and a 57-game unbeaten streak, which was a national record at the time. During his tenure, he coached his teams to an impressive record of 120 wins, 28 losses, and seven ties.

Reboul was BSC's men's basketball coach for 17 seasons, from 1989-2006, and is the winningest coach in program history. In his first year at Birmingham-Southern, he led the Panthers to the 1990 NAIA National Championship, and then repeated the national title in 1995, when his team went 35-2 for the best record in program history, a record that still stands to this day. In 2004, BSC's first year of post-season eligibility in Division I and the Big South Conference, Reboul led the Panthers to the Co-Regular Season Conference Championship. In 2006, his last year as head coach, his team advanced to the semifinals of the Big South Tournament. Reboul also earned four NAIA Conference Coach of the Year honors, two Alabama Coach of the Year honors, one NAIA All-Independent Coach of the Year award, and two Big South Coach of the Year accolades. He took his teams to nine NAIA National Tournament appearances, five of those at-large bids, and was 402-124 in his career.

Shoop is BSC's winningest baseball coach, having coached the Panthers for 17 seasons, from 1989-2006. His coaching record on the Hilltop was 692-307-1, and he led BSC to its first-ever NAIA National Championship in baseball in 2001. In 2004, BSC's first year of post-season eligibility in the Big South Conference, Shoop's Panthers won the Big South Regular Season title and made it to the NCAA Regional in Athens, Ga., as an at-large selection. There they defeated Middle Tennessee State for BSC's only NCAA Division I tournament win in any sport. In 2006, Shoop's last season on the Hilltop, the Panthers won the Big South Regular Season title once more. In all, Shoop took BSC to four NAIA College World Series appearances and earned eight Conference Coach of the Year accolades. In 2001, the year his team won the national title, he was named NAIA Coach of the Year. Two years later in 2003, Shoop was named NCAA Division I Independent Coach of the Year. He then earned Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the Year honors in 2004.

Smith was a men's basketball standout on the Hilltop for two seasons from 1977-79, leading BSC to its first-ever back-to-back NAIA National Tournament appearances. In his junior year, he helped lead the Panthers to a 29-5 record. Then, as a senior in 1978-79, Smith helped lead BSC to a 29-4 record, which was a program-best record at the time. In both his seasons, he helped the Panthers win conference and district titles. As a senior, Smith led BSC in rebounding (7.5/game) and was second on the time with 13.5 points a game. He also shot over 52 percent from the field that season. Smith earned All-Conference and All-District accolades in both of his seasons on the Hilltop, and was on the Dean's List as a senior.

Thompson was a men's tennis standout from 1994-97 and a graduate assistant in 1998, helping lead BSC to five straight NAIA National Tournament appearances. He earned NAIA All-America honors in both doubles and singles play while at BSC. As a senior in 1997, Thompson served as team captain alongside his future wife Cissy McClung, who was captain of the women's team that year.

An additional award was presented during the Hall of Fame dinner to Irene Whiddon, athletics/physical fitness and recreation assistant at Birmingham-Southern. Whiddon received the 2008 Bob Strain Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding contribution to BSC athletics during her 20-year career on the Hilltop.

## Goldfarbs to make World Maccabiah Games a family affair

The 18th World Maccabiah Games in Israel, scheduled for July 12-23, 2009, are sure to be a memorable occasion for the Goldfarb family.

Aly Goldfarb, a junior on the Birmingham-Southern track and field team, has been chosen to compete for Team USA in the 400- and 800-meter races, as well as the pole vault.

Aly's father, Preston Goldfarb, who is longtime head men's soccer coach at BSC, has been appointed the head coach for Maccabi USA's Junior Boys' Soccer Team. Preston's son, Sean Goldfarb, a graduating senior at BSC and midfielder on the men's soccer team, has been appointed as the assistant coach for the USA Juniors Boys' Soccer Team.

Since being selected back in October, Aly has competed in several Division I meets in preparation for this summer's games. Recently, she won the 800-meter outdoor run at the Coach O Track and Field Invitational, hosted by Troy University, clocking a time of 2:16:13, and also won the pole vault with a mark of 3.55 meters.

"I am extremely excited and honored to have been selected to compete in the Maccabiah Games this summer," said Aly Goldfarb. "It is such a great experience and I am thankful to have been given the opportunity to be a part of it. I am also honored to be able to represent my country and heritage on the track, and I truly cannot wait to compete in Israel this summer wearing red, white, and blue."

Preston and Sean Goldfarb both share the same goals for their team: to be competitive, work hard, and to bring home the gold medal.

"This is our first time coaching together," said Preston. "The greatest thing in life was to coach my son in college, but to be able to coach alongside him is the ultimate!"

According to Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel, which sponsors the U.S. team to the Maccabiah Games, the volunteer organization seeks to enrich the lives of Jewish youth in the United States, Israel, and the Diaspora through athletic, cultural, and educational programs.

The Maccabiah Games feature over 7,000 athletes from more than 50 countries around the world, making it the third largest sports event in the world. The games are held every four years and attract the most outstanding Jewish athletes from around the world.

For more information on Maccabi USA and the 2009 World Maccabiah Games, visit [www.maccabiusa.com](http://www.maccabiusa.com).

## BSC names six new coaches to sports programs

Birmingham-Southern has announced the hiring of **Jason Buha** as the head coach for men's golf, **Mandy Burford** as softball assistant coach, **Kenneth Cox** as assistant coach for cross country and track and field, **April Fricke** as the head coach for volleyball, **Bo Ingalsbe** as men's lacrosse assistant coach, and **Ryan Sheppard** as the strength and conditioning coach.

Buha played professionally for eight years, two of those on the PGA Tour. In 2002, he won the Nationwide Tour Dayton Open, and in 1999 was the NGA Hooters Tour Champion. More recently, he is founder and director of instruction of the Buha Golf Academy at Ross Bridge Resort in Birmingham. A 1997 graduate of Duke University, Buha was a four-year letterwinner for the Blue Devils and a 1997 NCAA All-America selection.

Burford, who hit .325 in 2007 as a senior for the University of Alabama, is a native of Anniston. Most recently, she served as the radio color analyst for Alabama softball. Burford graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in marketing from the University of Alabama. As a player, she was team captain in 2007 and helped the Crimson Tide to the Women's College World Series in both 2005 and 2006, as well as Regional and Super Regional appearances in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Cox formerly served as athletics director, coach, and authorized representative of Sprint Athletics Inc. in Atlanta, where he coached track and field at both the youth and elite levels, was a trainer for sport-specific speed and conditioning, participated in mentoring and community outreach, and coached and represented six athletes for the 2008 Olympic trials. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned a bachelor's degree in communication studies in 1999. Cox was a member of the men's track and field team, competing in the 60 meters (indoor) and 100 meters (outdoor).

Fricke comes to BSC from fellow Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference member Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where she served as assistant volleyball coach for four seasons. At Trinity, she helped the program to four consecutive SCAC titles, four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, and the 2006 NCAA quarterfinals. Fricke earned her bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science from St. Mary's University in San Antonio in 1995, while playing varsity volleyball and basketball.

Ingalsbe comes to BSC from the Washington, D.C., area where he was the assistant boy's lacrosse coach at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Va. He was also the head junior varsity coach for Washington-Lee High School in 2008. A 2004 graduate from Division III Centenary College in Hackettstown, N.J., Ingalsbe earned Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Goalie of the Week honors in 2002.

Sheppard graduated from the University of West Alabama in Livingston where he received his bachelor's degree in education with an emphasis on exercise science in 2005. He went on to earn his master's in education from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, with an emphasis on exercise physiology and strength and conditioning. Sheppard has served as a personal trainer for the YMCA of Tuscaloosa County since 2007.

## BSC golfer tees off against cancer

BY PAT COLE



Hardy



**BSC**  
**GOLF**

Whenever Birmingham-Southern senior Jordan Hardy would blast a shot off the tee during her team's golf competitions, it wasn't for the sole purpose of winning.

Hardy found a way to use her golf game to help raise money for cancer research. In an effort Hardy spearheaded called "Holes for Hope: The Pam Looney Memorial Fund," people were able to make contributions for each hole of golf she played for BSC during the 2008-09 season.

"Individuals or groups offered pledges for every hole that I played during the college's tournaments," says Hardy, a business administration major from Sylacauga. "I played in five tournaments each semester, with 36 holes per tournament, resulting in 180 competitive holes."

Hardy had played 360 holes by the end of the spring golf season. The Lady Panthers played in four tournaments this past fall: winning one of which Hardy shot a final round 75 to finish with a 147, finishing third in two, and posting a fourth-place finish in the last one.

The young golfer also had designed a flyer to help people know just what their pledges could amount to.

"As little as 10 cents per hole resulted in an \$18 pledge towards cancer research," explains Hardy. "People also got creative and donated money for every birdie or par I made during a tournament."

Hardy decided to start this fundraising project after Pam Looney, a friend from her hometown, died last June, on Father's Day, after a 10-year battle with the disease.

"Mrs. Looney initially was diagnosed with breast cancer, went through chemotherapy, and then experienced several years of remission. Later, the cancer returned and spread throughout her body."

Hardy says she wanted to find a way to honor Pam Looney, who had a big impact on her life, and help raise money for cancer research.

"She was such an inspiration to everyone who knew her. Before, I had never understood the severity of cancer, or that it could spread and transform into different forms like Mrs. Looney's did."

Persons wanting more information about the fundraiser or wishing to donate to the American Cancer Society can visit Hardy's Web site at [www.holesforhope.blogspot.com](http://www.holesforhope.blogspot.com).

# ClassNotes

BY CAROL HAGOOD

## AlumNews '39

**Mildred Sims McCorstin '39**, pictured here with President David Pollick at a 2008 BSC Service of Lessons and Carols, has attended all 72 Birmingham-Southern carol services. She says that she doesn't feel the Christmas season really begins until the carol service takes place. She attended this past year's event with her son, Jim, and other family, many of whom are also BSC alumni.



'29

The late **E.D. Lott**, a former coach at Demopolis High School, recently was inducted into the 2009 class of the Marengo County Sports Hall of Fame. Lott also coached at Valley Head and at Anniston, where the football stadium is named in his honor.

'35

**Eleanor Kidd** of Birmingham was named the Alabama Association of Fundraising Professionals' Outstanding Philanthropist for 2008. A generous supporter of her alma mater, Kidd also has been a benefactor of the Birmingham Museum of Art, Children's Hospital, and UAB, where she has endowed a professorship in primary care medicine. A longtime member of the St. Vincent's Hospital board of directors, her recent gifts to that landmark Southside health care provider have provided support for the Emergency Department and the new south tower which bears her name.

'42

Last October, **Rev. Woodfin Grove**, pastor emeritus at Anniston's First United Methodist Church, was honored by hundreds

of church friends at a surprise 90th birthday celebration.

'46

In her almost lifelong career as a writer, **Emily Blake Vail** of Morrow, Ga., has produced works in many genres—poetry, short story, nonfiction, juvenile fiction, and adult novels. They include the published novels *The Ghost Shrimp* (1999), *The Burlap Bag: Murder Indeed* (2000), and *Dark Night on Mimosa Trail* (2003), all Wright Books publications. Two short stories were included in a 2002 volume published by Pen and Pica Writers. Recent works for young people, *The Grey Ghost of the Pharaoh* (a teen mystery), *Carla and the Con Men*, *Sue and Charley* (her first picture book), and *Mist in the Heart* (a teen romance), were published by Xlibris, as was her first poetry collection, *POEMS ... this fragile earth*.

'50

**William Lee "Bill" Legg** of Birmingham, who served as executive director for the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame for 23 years, retired Feb. 1, 2009. After a storied athletic career at BSC, Legg served as a teacher and coach

at Shades Valley High and was athletic director for the Jefferson County Schools for 20 years prior to assuming his role at the Hall of Fame. There, he presided over a period of outstanding growth and development for the facility and its programs.

'51

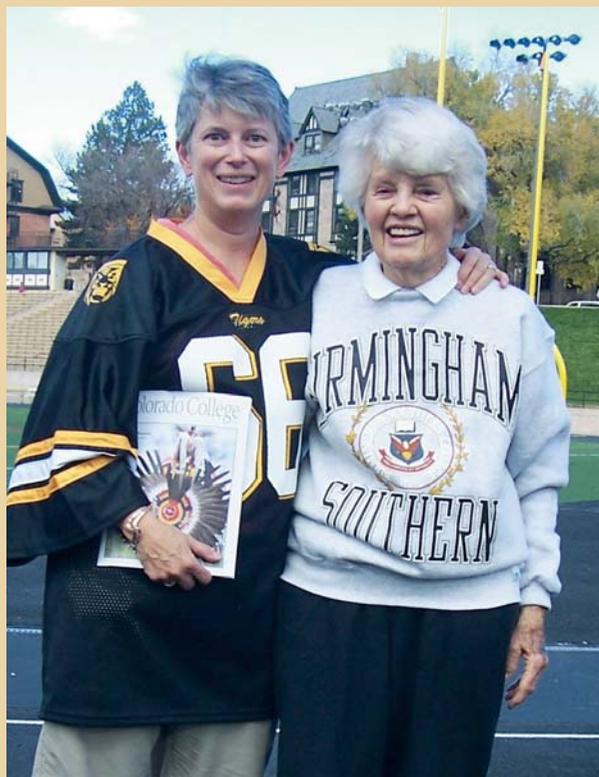
**David R. Baker** of Birmingham, attorney with Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker LLC and a life trustee at Birmingham-Southern, has been reappointed chair of the History and Archives Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association for 2009.

'55

**Dr. Bob Whetstone** of Birmingham was elected chair of the Alabama Humanities Foundation board of directors for 2009 and recently attended the annual meeting of the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C. Whetstone is author of books including the January 2009 publication *Goober Joe*, the story of a young man of mixed race growing up during the Civil War.



## AlumNews '45



**Betty Freudenburg '45** of Colorado Springs, Colo., (student body president of her BSC graduating class) is pictured here at last November's BSC/Colorado College football matchup in Colorado Springs with her daughter, Patti Freudenburg—a '77 Colorado graduate. Patti is a good sport, and she had to admit that "'Southern trounced the local team!" (The final score was Panthers 31-Tigers 17.)



Photo courtesy of University of Cincinnati Academic Health Center

## AlumNews '54

The grand opening celebration of the Donald C. Harrison Health Sciences Library at the University of Cincinnati took place Oct. 17, 2008, with a gala afternoon reception.

**Dr. Donald C. Harrison '54** is a cardiologist who served as the senior vice president and provost for health affairs and a professor of medicine at UC from 1986-2002. He was instrumental in bringing to fruition the library that now bears his name. The Harrison Honors Program at BSC is also named in his honor.

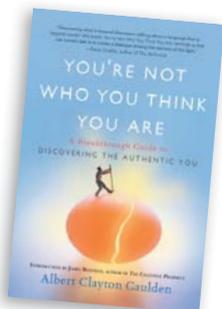
'57

**Alice Chambliss McDow** of Athens reports her joy at becoming a great grandmother with the birth of Griffin Andrew Downs on Sept. 18, 2008.

'62

**Ron Countryman** of Birmingham was the featured artist for January 2009 at the Leeds Arts Council show. After retiring from a career at the Birmingham Public Library, the former BSC art major was inspired by trips to Santa Fe to begin painting again; the show featured his Western landscapes.

**Albert Clayton Gaulden** is a transpersonal psychologist, author, lecturer, and founding director of the Sedona Intensive, an alternative therapy program based in Sedona, Ariz. He recently published



his third book, a Simon & Schuster December 2008 release entitled *You're Not Who You Think You Are: A Breakthrough Guide to Discovering the Authentic You*, which is described as a step-by-step guide to authentic living. In this "full-circle journey of loving, recovering, and revering the self," *Publisher's Weekly* finds Gaulden "a witty and appealing guide." More information on the book is available at [www.sedonaintensive.com](http://www.sedonaintensive.com).

'64

**Dr. William C. Adams** of Albertville, a dentist who specializes in a wide range of cosmetic and restorative dental procedures, as well as orthodontics and the treatment of TMJ/TMD syndrome, is now engaged in the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea.

'66

**Gordon F. Bailey Jr.**, who practices law in Anniston, received the 2008 Gewin Award from

the Alabama Bar Institute for Continuing Legal Education for his ongoing commitment to continuing legal education. Bailey has been widely honored for his long career in family law. In 2002, the Alabama Child Support Association established the Gordon F. Bailey Jr. Attorney of the Year Award honoring him for his 26 years of service. In 2006, he was named Lawyer of the Year by the Family Law Section of the Alabama State Bar.

In June 2008, **Dr. Sidney R. Hill Jr.** of Starkville, Miss., retired from the faculty of Mississippi State University and was named professor emeritus in the Department of Communications.

Sterne Agee as branch manager. He formerly served with Morgan Keegan in their Atlanta office.

'69

**Dowd Ritter** of Birmingham, chair and CEO at Regions Financial Corp., was named one of Alabama's 12 most influential people by a panel of editors at *New York Times* regional newspapers in Florence, Gadsden, and Tuscaloosa. In addition to his leadership of the state's largest bank, he serves on boards of directors of Alabama Power, Protective Life, UAB Health Services Foundation, Business Council of Alabama, Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, and McWane Inc. Ritter is chair of the board of trustees at BSC.

'68

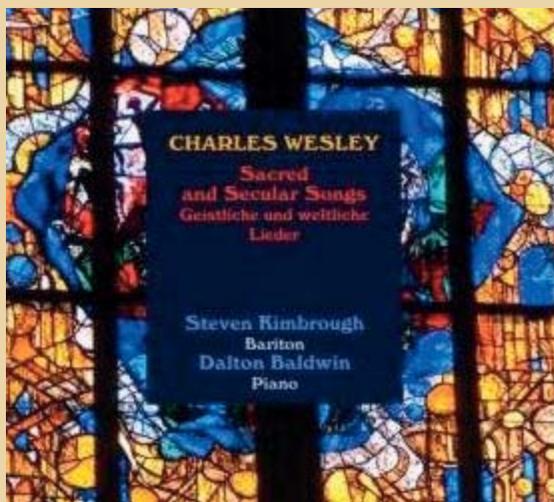
This past December, **Tip Tipton** joined the Alpharetta, Ga., office of



## AlumNews '57

Three first cousins, all BSC alumna for 50 or more years, gathered at downtown Birmingham's Summit Club to celebrate during the 2008 BSC Alumni Reunion/Homecoming weekend. Pictured (from left) are **Kathryn Voigt Waters '58** of Birmingham and **Fran Wamp Brindley '57** and **Jean Wamp Holt '57** of Cullman.

# AlumNews '58

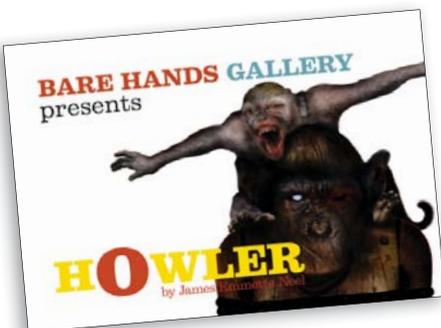


**Dr. ST Kimbrough Jr. '58** of Durham, N.C., known professionally as a singer as "Steven Kimbrough," had two new CD releases in the past year by VMS Recordings: *Korngold Hollywood Songbook* and *Charles Wesley: Sacred and Secular Songs*. Arabesque Records also released his solo album *Christmas on Broadway*. Kimbrough, who holds a Ph.D. from Princeton, is author or editor of more than 40 books, the latest the February 2008 two-volume *Manuscript Journal of Charles Wesley* from Abingdon Press. In this first critical edition of Wesley's journal, shorthand passages are deciphered, Latin quotations identified and translated, and English poetry selections, place names, and biblical references noted. He is now preparing the volume *A Pictorial History of Early Russian Methodism* for the 100th anniversary, in 2009, of the registration of Methodism in St. Petersburg.

## '71

"Howler," a February 2009 exhibition at Bare Hands Gallery in Birmingham, featured 16 large prints along with a floor and space installation by Associate Professor of Art and Art History **James Emmette Neel**. *Birmingham News* critic James R.

Nelson describes the show as "a polemic about the painful idiocy of man's inhumanity to man, with symbolic references to the history of war and killing."



## '72

**Dr. Marilyn Brown**, whose article "'Miss La La's' Teeth: Reflections on Degas and 'Race,'" *The Art Bulletin*, LXXIX, no. 4 (Dec. 2007), 738-65, which previously won the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Prize for Best Interdisciplinary Article, has now won the Nineteenth Century Studies Association

2008 Article Prize. This award was presented at the group's annual conference, which took place this year in Milwaukee, March 26-28. Brown is a professor of art history at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

After 33 years in medicine, **Dr. Douglas George Burnette Jr.** has transitioned to a career in financial planning. He now is affiliated with Cheree Ray Clark Financial Services in Lake Charles, La., a firm involved in financial planning for the past 25 years.

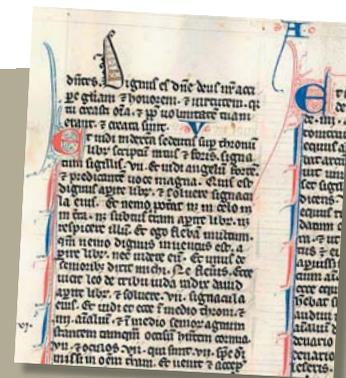
The Jan. 23, 2009, *Birmingham Business Journal* reports that the Hoover-based American Family Care,

which operates 20 primary care clinics in Alabama, plans to open five new clinics in 2009. **Dr. Bruce Irwin** is CEO of the group, which has 400 employees and expects to treat 300,000 patients in 2009.

**Wayne Morse** has been named to the Samford University Cumberland School of Law Dean's Cabinet. Morse is an attorney at the Birmingham firm Waldrep Stewart & Kendrick LLC, where he represents a wide variety of clients, including financial institutions, law firms, local government employees, and businesses.

# AlumNews '58

In honor of her aunt, **Mercedes Cagle Lambert '33**, and in honor of her own class of 1958, which recently celebrated its 50th alumni anniversary, **Frances Osborn Robb '58** of Huntsville has presented the BSC Library with a hand-lettered leaf from a 13th-century Bible. This particularly fine example of a passage from Revelations was produced by the Johannes Grusch workshop in Paris about 1247—nearly two centuries before Johannes Gutenberg created the first Bible with a printing press.



Detail, 13th century leaf, BSC Archives

The script that the Grusch workshop used, *Gothic textura*, was developed for significant works, such as this Bible, where legibility and clarity were all important. In this example, letters which begin chapters have been elaborated with exceedingly fine calligraphic pen work decorations and enhanced with colored paint to make them appear more significant. Since Bibles of this period were not paged, the prominent chapter-heading initials help the reader find the right place in the book. The red and blue calligraphy, with extensions along the page margins, is characteristic of the embellishment used in Bibles made in Paris; nevertheless, it is the text that dominates, not illustrations or ornament.

Paris in 1247 was an exciting time and place. The city's commerce was flourishing, the population was growing, and the new university had made Paris the leading center of theology. The leaf reflects this rich context and the new standardization of the Bible text that the university professors and professional scribes were bringing about. Bible production during these years was increasingly moving from the monasteries to commercial workshops, which produced a greater volume of work with more efficiency.

Manuscript production was located in one part of a city, but the market was international. Bibles and other works were not made on speculation, as they are today, but were ordered by clients. Booksellers or stationers often coordinated book manufacturing and selling in the increasingly secular book trade.

So this example from the Grusch workshop is not merely a beautiful object, but an artifact representing an important point in the development of books and libraries. To schedule a viewing, contact Dr. Guy Hubbs, BSC archivist, reference librarian, and associate professor of library science, at ghubbs@bsc.edu or 205/226-4752.

## AlumNews '63

Recently, when **Pamela Payton-Wright '63** was asked to fill in a small box answering the question, "What have you been doing since graduating from BSC?," she no doubt found it a challenge. In her years on stage and screen, the noted New York actress has won a glittering array of awards—the Drama Desk Award, the Clarence Derwent Award, a *Variety* Critics' Poll citation, nominations for an Emmy and the Lucille Lortel Award, *twice* an Obie, a Fulbright, and a Fox Grant Fellowship for work in 17th- and 18th-century couple dancing. And she's garnered a list of performance credits, Broadway, off-Broadway, and off-off Broadway—with a Who's Who of fellow performers—that no small box could hope to hold.



Still, with a storyteller's instinct, she began at the beginning: "Upon graduation from Birmingham-Southern, I went straight to Sarasota [Fla.] for my second season of 17th- and 18th-century comedy at the Asolo Theater. Two months later, I boarded the QE1 for London and two years at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where I distinguished myself in Restoration work and received the Edmund Gray Prize for High Comedy and the Special Medal at graduation. I sailed home, wrote five letters

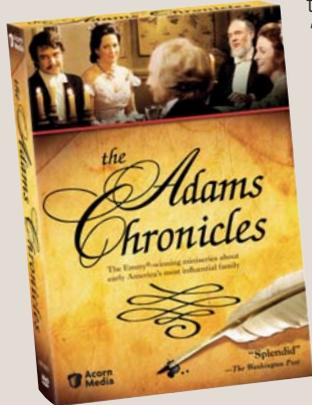
to repertory theaters, including a résumé of my work at 'Southern, Asolo, and RADA, as well as every award or citation I had ever received, and one that I did not: The Herbert Beerbohm Tree Prize for Standard English Speech. I had overlooked the parameters of this mandatory competition, but my name was included underneath the winner's name for 'Acting not easily classifiable in terms of these competitions.' That provocative phrase caught the attention of one of the letters' recipients and brought about my first job, at the Milwaukee Rep. I've been working ever since ... "

And indeed she has. Three years of resident rep culminated on Broadway with a season of classical plays and, over the years, Broadway credits for *The Show-Off* with Helen Hayes; *Exit the King* with Eva Le Gallienne; *The Cherry Orchard* with Uta Hagen; *Jimmy Shine* with Dustin Hoffman; *The Crucible*; *All Over Town*, directed by Hoffman; *Madame Butterfly*, and six productions at Circle in the Square: the 1972 inaugural production of *Mourning Becomes Electra* with Colleen Dewhurst (Drama Desk Award), *The Glass Menagerie* with Maureen Stapleton, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Night of the Iguana*, and *Something Unspoken*. Her Off-Broadway and extensive regional credits are equally impressive, as is her film and television work, which includes *The Prodigal*, *Brother to Dragons*, and *The Adams Chronicles* (Emmy nomination) for PBS; *Look Homeward*, *Angel* with Geraldine Page for Playhouse 90; recurring performances since 1991 as Addie Cramer on *One Live to Live*; and guest

appearances including *Law & Order* and *Homicide*.

In a very recent performance, she appeared with an exciting young Brooklyn-based theater company called The Debate Society, headed by her son, director Oliver Butler—whom *The New Yorker* has praised for "brilliant and rigorous direction"—and writer/performers Hannah Bos and Paul Thureen. In November/December 2008 the company produced a new play, *Cape Disappointment*, at Performance Space 122 (the space formerly occupied by Public School 122 in Manhattan's East Village, now home to a variety of cutting-edge theatre, dance, and music). In this "bizarre but deeply winning homage to the drive-in cinema of yore, in which the magic is more in the storytelling than in the stories themselves" (*The New Yorker*), "Payton-Wright [as the "kooky Aunt Gracie"] delivers a beautiful monologue that gives shape, sound and soul to a range of American myths" (*New York Press*).

What's next for this acclaimed actress? Watch these pages.



Produced in 1976 for America's bicentennial, the PBS series *The Adams Chronicles* won popular acclaim, critical raves, and scholarly recognition. Payton-Wright appears in this series as John Quincy Adams' wife, a role that won her an Emmy nomination. Recently the series was released as a DVD set by Acorn Media. For more information, see [www.acornonline.com](http://www.acornonline.com).

'73

**Joseph Fawal** of the Birmingham law firm Fawal & Spina has been named to the executive committee of the Birmingham Bar Association for 2009.

'75

**Dr. Devin Stephenson** has been named the sixth president of Three Rivers Community College in Poplar Bluff, Mo. Stephenson holds a doctorate in administration of higher education from the University of Alabama and has more than 30 years of experience in educational administration. Most recently he served as vice president of external affairs at Beville State Community College in Sumiton.

'77

This past year, **Catherine Slonceski Flemming** was named curriculum coordinator in the Wilmette Public Schools in Wilmette, Ill., after many years of teaching K-4 students. Her husband, **George Flemming**, who once served as BSC photographer, is a computer engineering contractor. Their daughter is a student at the University of Virginia.

'81

**H. Holden McCurry** is now a full-time ceramic artist in Asheville, N.C.

'82

**Randy Townsend** has joined Oversight Systems of Atlanta as vice president of professional services and support.

'83

**Drew Green** of Cullman received his master of theological studies degree from Spring Hill College in May 2007.

'84

**Gregory Patrick Logan** of Birmingham is the managing member of Arlington Associates, an affiliate of Arlington Partners.

'85

This past September, the Ronald McDonald House of Alabama honored its former board president, Birmingham attorney **Denson N. Franklin III**, for his civic, religious, and social contributions to Birmingham. Franklin serves his alma mater as a trustee.

## AlumNews '67



Have you heard of the young singers in this vintage photograph? Chances are you'd recognize them by their current name, The Blind Boys of Alabama. This legendary five-time Grammy-winning group is only one of many musical groups featured in an upcoming film by BSC alumnus **Bob Clem '67**. Clem is producing a new documentary featuring the historic role played by Birmingham and Jefferson County in launching a musical form—gospel quartet music—which would provide the foundation for doo wop, rhythm and blues, and early rock and roll.

As Clem notes, Birmingham's black culture thrived as workers arrived in the 1920s to work in the mines and mills. Local groups such as the Famous Blue Jay Singers and Kings of Harmony loosened up jubilee style quartet singing, leading to gospel quartet's golden age in the 1940s and 50s—sadly forgotten once the music's style and techniques were secularized and musicians like Sam Cooke and Lou Rawls crossed over.

Clem's film, *The Gospel Highway*, supported by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, Southern Humanities Media Fund, and Alabama Arts Council, will include footage of groups still performing in the traditional style today, among them: the Fairfield Four, Four Eagles, Birmingham Sunlights, Delta-Aires, and Mighty Clouds of Joy. Clem also plans to focus on legendary groups like the Temptations and Four Tops, whose style was heavily influenced by quartets like the Dixie Hummingbirds.

Glimpses of *The Gospel Highway* are already appearing online. For a quick look at the Birmingham Sunlights busy at their joyful work—as recorded by our talented filmmaker—go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmxxVCA50HA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmxxVCA50HA).

**Dr. Deborah Palmes** has been promoted to professor of theatre at North Central College in Naperville, Ill., where she has served on the faculty since 1994.

### '87

**Congressman Robert Aderholt** was re-elected in November 2008 to his seventh term in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing the Fourth Congressional District of Alabama. He serves on the House Appropriations Committee, Homeland Security Subcommittee, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Subcommittee, and Commerce, Justice, Science and

Related Agencies Subcommittee. He also serves on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (known as the Helsinki Commission), monitoring human rights in Europe and Central Asia.

**Beth McKinney** of Hollywood, Calif., appeared in the Tennessee Valley Art Association/Time Out Theater production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" this past December.

### '88

**Burleigh C. "Buck" Johnson's** country band Whiskey Falls, which performed at the 2008 BSC Alumni Reunion to rave reviews, has won

## AlumNews '72



**Branko Medenica '72** of Birmingham has installed a new work of art, *Wings of Triumph*, at the Women's Athletic building on the campus of Auburn University. Cast in bronze, the 15-foot statue rests on a granite base.



## AlumNews '87

**Tom Doggett '87** has been an energy correspondent for the Washington, D.C., bureau of Reuters News Agency for 11 years. Doggett is pictured here with Air Force One, shortly before a flight he made with former President George W. Bush this past summer to Cleveland, Ohio, where Bush was scheduled to deliver a speech on energy.



high praise in the music industry for such a young (three-years-old) collaboration. Now the Nashville-based group has yet another feather in

its cap—or Stetson. The band has been tapped for the theme song and additional music for a new reality show, “Toughest Cowboy,” from Mark Burnett, creator of “Survivor,” “The Apprentice,” and other popular television series. On this show, which airs on Spike TV, 12 contestants compete in rodeo events including bull-riding and bronco-riding for the final prize of a ranch in Wyoming. Whiskey Falls will travel to competitions filmed in

seven cities around the country to perform in footage that will be part of the show’s initial eight hour-long episodes.

**Dr. Daniel C. Potts** of Tuscaloosa was honored as the American Academy of Neurology’s 2008 Advocate of the Year for his work with Alzheimer’s patients and their caregivers.

### '89

**Kacy O'Brien Donlon** was named to the 2009 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* by Woodward/White Inc. in the area of commercial litigation. Lawyers were selected for inclusion in this new edition of *Best Lawyers* based on an exhaustive and rigorous peer-review survey developed and refined for more than 25 years. Donlon specializes in the area of securities litigation at Fowler White Boggs in Tampa, Fla.

**Donna Fay Lohman '89** of Birmingham was awarded the 2007-08 Teacher of the Year award for Hillview Elementary School and is one of five finalists for the Jefferson County Elementary Teacher of the Year.

**Bentley Hines Patrick** of Birmingham, attorney and staff counsel for The Cincinnati Insurance Co., recently was selected to the Alabama State Bar’s Leadership Forum Class for 2009. Leadership Forum participants are selected based on their demonstration of outstanding leadership qualities and service to their communities. Patrick’s wife is **Melissa Self Patrick '87**. His sister is BSC Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Adelia Patrick Thompson '86**, his father is **Dr. J. Donald Patrick '57**, and his mother is **Margaret Hines Patrick '56**.

**Dr. Teresa P. Reed** of Anniston, a professor at Jacksonville State University, presented a paper entitled “In Thrall to History: A Reading of *Troilus and Criseyde*” at the biennial meeting of the New Chaucer Society in Swansea, Wales, in July 2008. Following the

conference, she traveled for 10 more days in Wales and Scotland.

**Rev. John Verciglio** is now serving as the minister of the Haleyville First United Methodist Church. He formerly was minister at Cahaba Heights United Methodist Church.

### '91

**Ben Craig** of Philadelphia has been appointed president of the NASDAQ OMX Futures Exchange (NFX), based in Philadelphia. His wife, **Laura Boyd Craig '89**, is director of learning support at the Crefeld School.

### '92

**Stanley Edward Burroughs** of Pleasant Grove has served 24 years in the Alabama National Guard. He now is employed with the Birmingham Fire Department.



**Dr. L. Scott Ennis** has been named Best Plastic Surgeon on the Emerald Coast in a poll of readers of *Emerald Coast Magazine*. Ennis has practiced at Destin Plastic

## AlumNews '90

This past December, **Emily Bell '90**, of Fairhope, with **Jane McClure Blaum '73** of Montrose, performed a duet as part of the Eastern Shore Choral Society’s annual Christmas concert. The two sang a piece from Vivaldi’s *Requiem*. Bell notes, “Our college choral days live on!”



## AlumNews '96

Surgery in Destin, Fla., since 2003. He recently was named one of only 30 plastic surgeons nationwide chosen to participate in a new breast implant study.

### '93

After receiving her degree from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry, with certificates in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, **Aimee Sparks Skelton** has been practicing orthodontics in her hometown of Fort Payne since 2001.

### '94

**Maj. Jack D. Fulmer II** recently graduated from the National Defense Intelligence College in Washington, D.C., earning a master's degree in strategic intelligence. He has been assigned to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon.

### Stephanie "Missy" Norris

**Morman** of Birmingham resigned from the Office of the Alabama Attorney General in December 2007 and is serving as staff attorney to the Hon. William H. Pryor Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. She and husband **Mike Morman '93**, a CPA with Till, Hester, Eyer & Brown, now have three sons (see "Births").

**Dr. Jane Miller Thayer** received her doctoral degree in accounting from Emory University. She now is an assistant professor of accounting at the University of Georgia.

### '95

Attorney **Thomas J. Butler** has joined the Birmingham office of Whatley Drake & Kallas LLC. Butler, who has more than seven years of litigation experience, graduated from the University of

**Herb Williams '96**, who earned his Birmingham-Southern BFA in sculpture, has been creating artwork in Nashville, Tenn., for the past several years out of Crayola crayons—hundreds of thousands of whole crayons. He also has partnered with entrepreneur Jeff Rymer of Chicago to open the striking contemporary Rymer Gallery in Nashville. Williams, who was awarded the Next Star Artist of '08, plans his first NYC show in September at the RARE Gallery in Chelsea.

This past January, Williams' crayon portrait of Barack Obama, which took its starting point from a 2004 photo by Jack Avedon, was chosen for the *Manifest Hope: D.C.* inaugural exhibition. The work took four months and 50,000 crayons to complete. It recently sold to a Nashville collector for \$25,000.

Williams is married to **Amy Freeman Williams '97**.



Photography by Dave Johnson

Alabama School of Law and served as law clerk to U.S. District Judge Edwin L. Nelson.

**Caroline Burns Hopenwasser** has been named assistant professor of reading/literacy in the Education Department at SUNY New Paltz.

**Sam A. Scalici Jr.** is managing director and head of banking at Oakworth Capital Bank in Birmingham. With more than 17 years of experience in the banking industry, he was formerly an executive at Regions Financial Corp.

### '96

After graduating with a BFA from Birmingham-Southern, **Leslie Grimes Banta** studied at the Corcoran College of Art & Design in Washington, D.C., with instructors Bill Christenberry and

Mindy Weisel. She is now the owner and operator of Staunton (Va.) Art Supply and an artist whose recent shows include an exhibition of photographs and paintings at Eastern Mennonite University entitled "The Paradox of Enclosure."

**Brooke Tanner Battle** of Birmingham, managing director of the Foundation Fund Management Co., is one of "Fifteen Leaders for the Future" named by *The Birmingham News* in its Feb. 1, 2009, issue. Battle, a board member for the Women's Fund, Alabama School of Fine Arts Foundation, and Oasis Women's Counseling Center, and a founding member of Friends of the Railroad District Inc., was cited for her particular interest in transportation and education issues as they impact the future of the city.

**DuWain Brundage** of Gardendale spent a year in Kuwait working with the Army Supply Group. Welcomed home by his wife, Freda, he is now a consultant with Eagle Services International, a new venture in the federal business sector.

**Brian Kennedy** of Jasper, executive editor of the *Daily Mountain Eagle*, recently was named chair of the Walker County Chamber of Commerce.

**Annie-Laurie McCulloh** has joined Atlanta's Rainmaker Group, which provides software and services supporting the multifamily housing industry.

**Ben Ramey** of Tuscaloosa has been promoted to supervisor in tax and accounting at Jamison, Money, Farmer & Co. PC, certified public accountants.

## AlumNews '97



In March 2009, **Gin Phillips '97** of Birmingham won first place for fiction in the Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers 2008 Awards for her debut novel *The Well and the Mine*. Judges in the competition called her “truly a great new American writer” and her work “brilliant and memorable,” and presented her with a \$10,000 cash prize and a year of special marketing nationwide. Sales of the novel at the giant bookseller soared. *O, The Oprah Magazine* also has praised Phillips as “a dazzling new novelist,” and called the book “a quietly bold debut, full of heart.”

**Scott M. Speagle** has been named a shareholder at the Montgomery law firm Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black PC. Speagle, who joined the firm in 2003 as an associate, practices primarily in the areas of commercial and business litigation, insurance defense, and construction law.

'97

**Antoine Maurice Andrews** is director of the One-A-Chord Gospel Choir at BSC. This past Christmas, the choir held its second annual Christmas concert; on May 5, 2009, the group presented its eighth annual end-of-school concert.

**Anil Mujumdar** has been reelected to the Birmingham Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division executive committee. An



attorney at Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker LLC, he practices primarily in the area of

criminal defense. He also is active in public interest affairs and serves as the president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama and as chair of the Criminal Justice

Committee of the North American South Asian Bar Association.

Last year, physical therapist **Katherine Hudson Tan** received Orthopedic Clinical Specialist (OCS) certification from the American Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and was designated Certified Cervical and Temporomandibular Therapist (CCTT) by the American Academy of Orofacial Pain. She and her husband, Dr. Derek Shieh Tan, reside in New York City.

**P. Blake Walker** of Biloxi, Miss., recently was promoted to vice president at Hancock Bank. He serves as manager of the bank's Financial Intelligence Department.

**Susan Elaine Williams** of Cleveland, Ohio, graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Music with a doctorate of musical arts in vocal performance.

'98

**Attorney Jay Mitchell** has been elected shareholder in the Birmingham law firm of Maynard, Cooper & Gale, where he practices in the area of general litigation.

**Clayton M. Ryan** has been named a shareholder in the firm of Maynard, Cooper & Gale in Birmingham. He practices in the firm's financial institutions, governmental and regulatory affairs, and insurance and financial services litigation practices groups.

'99

**Dr. Thomas "Massey" Willingham Jr.** has opened a pediatric dental practice, Pediatric Dental Associates, in Pell City, with colleague and fellow alumnus **Dr. Baker Chambliss Jr. '98**, and also owns Trussville Pediatric Dentistry. He and wife **Carrie-Anne Chapman Willingham '98** now have three children (see "Births").



## AlumNews '06

On March 1, 2009, when Birmingham was temporarily blanketed with a 3-inch “blizzard” of fluffy snow, **Taylor Preston '05** and wife **Ashley Pope Preston '06** (with their dog Scout) celebrated the joys of winter—and their alma mater—with a spirited BSC snowman.

# BSC Green Ways



*Panther black and gold—and green. Birmingham-Southern alumni are finding many ways to relate to the environment and to environmental concerns. Here are a few of their stories.*



*Bear-watching in Alaska and saving the moment in photos*

## AlumNews '58

**Martha J. “Marte” Franklin '58** of Santa Barbara, Calif., an ardent outdoorswoman and supporter of the National Parks, was recently profiled as a donor in *National Parks Legacies*, a publication of the National Parks Conservation Association. Franklin first traveled to the National Parks when she was 13 and her family took a camping trip to the West, with stops at Rocky Mountain National Park, Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Zion, and Bryce Canyon. It was during this trip, she says, that she first “fell in love with the wonder and beauty of the parks.”

She has since, in her 71 years, visited over 60 national parks, and has found adventure in some of the most beautiful places in this country and Canada. Franklin has rafted the Colorado River through

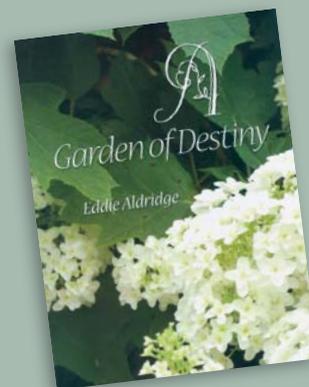
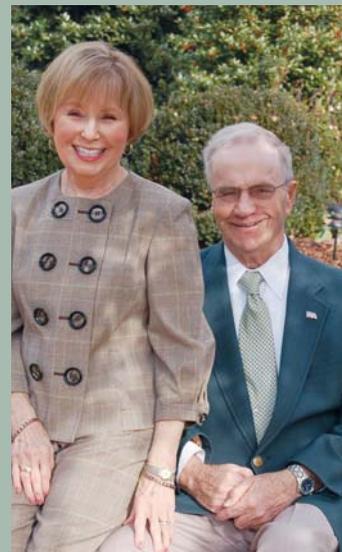
the Grand Canyon nine times, including once when she “swam” until rescued, after her raft flipped in Lava Rapid, rated “10” (most difficult, 1-10)—except when extra water released from the Glen Canyon Dam edges it towards “12.” She has hiked the Grand Canyon trails, crossing the canyon south to north and back again, eight times.

She has canoed 2,000 miles on the Yukon River in Alaska and northwest Canada. On her first trip, she kayaked from Whitehorse to Dawson City, Yukon Territory, and then on into Alaska. This 1977 trip was 15 days in length and about 500 miles long—her first into the wilderness country which she says captured her heart. Franklin returned to the area some years later to hike the Chilkoot Trail over the storied Chilkoot Pass and on to Whitehorse to begin the 450-mile canoe trip to Dawson City, Yukon Territory, Canada—the route of the famous Trail of '98, followed by tens of thousands in search of gold. She has since repeated this trip two

more times. She has also rafted portions of the Green River in Utah, the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho, and a number of California rivers.

Franklin has written magazine articles on her travels, and currently is working to publish a book on the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898—an historical fiction based on period letters from a young man experiencing that event. She is also an avid wildlife photographer, and shares here a photo taken at Hallo Bay Bear Viewing Camp near Katmai National Park on her 14th trip to Alaska in August 2008.

Now grandmother to eight and great-grandmother to a new baby boy, Franklin believes her gifts and bequest to the National Parks endowment will help make it possible for future generations to follow in her footsteps of outdoor adventure. “In some small way,” she says, “I want to preserve the national parks for my grandkids to enjoy, and their grandkids, too. What greater legacy to leave to the country and to my family than our national parks.”



*Recounting the history of a beautiful public garden*



Johnny Holloway biking on the Chief Ladiga Trail

## AlumNews '59

Since Aldridge Botanical Gardens in Hoover opened in 2002, the 30-acre former property of well-known horticulturist **Eddie Aldridge '59** and his wife, Kay, has become a treasure to be enjoyed by all in the greater Birmingham area and beyond. In addition to the gardens' magnificent signature Snowflake hydrangeas, discovered by Loren and Eddie Aldridge in 1969 and patented in 1971, visitors to the popular attraction can enjoy winding pathways through a lovely shade garden; an outdoor pavilion; the Aldridges' former home, now converted to educational and meeting spaces; a six-acre lake with a half-mile walking trail; a woodland forest; and a picnic area—along with a full program of classes and botanical and cultural events.

Now Aldridge has chronicled his career in the gardening business and his "dream to spread knowledge and appreciation of hydrangeas and plants, gardens and the environment"—culminating in his wonderful gift to the community—in a book entitled *A Garden of Destiny*.

This beautiful volume, the proceeds of which benefit the gardens, is packed with color photography on almost every page. It offers charming vignettes of the Aldridge family's life and times in their venerable gardening business, as well as Eddie and Kay's adventures in developing the Hoover property, first as their home and later as a place for public delight and participation, or as one chapter styles it, "The Garden That Blooms and Grows."

Sprinkled throughout the larger story, fellow alumni will enjoy the book's references to Birmingham-Southern influences on the gardens, from the impact of Aldridge's BSC liberal arts studies on his career to the role of the late Professor Emeritus Dan Holliman in installing bluebird houses throughout the property and composing a brochure for the gardens' visitors on resident bird and mammal life, with a suggested birding trail that now bears his name.

## AlumNews '69, '73

**Dr. John Holloway '69** and his wife, **Janet Wiginton Holloway '73**, avid cyclists, have become advocates for the development of more greenway trails. The two love to bicycle from their house in Homewood to the greenway near Lakeshore Drive for laps of its 2.5 mile route. They can take a 25-mile bike ride and never be more than three miles from home.

The couple began taking vacations on their bicycles in 1980 after reading about a trip through the orange groves from St. Augustine to Sarasota, Fla., sponsored by the *Sentinel Star* newspaper. They joined 75 others for a weeklong journey averaging 60-70 miles a day, camping along the way. Since that trip, they have cycled across Iowa, Wisconsin, Colorado, North Carolina, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Their children joined the fun when they were 8 and 10 for a lighthouse tour of Maine, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. This past December, son Johnny joined them during his college Christmas break for a ride on the Chief Ladiga Trail.

This past fall, in an article in *The Birmingham News*, the Holloways had discovered the Chief Ladiga Trail that begins in Weaver, just outside Anniston. The 33 mile-long paved bicycle path to the Georgia line follows the old Amtrak railroad passage through Calhoun and Cleburne counties. Across the Georgia state line, the trail becomes the

Silver Comet and continues 70 more miles to Atlanta. The Chief Ladiga Trail takes its riders through cotton fields, bogs, over creeks and waterfalls, and through the Talladega National Forest just before the Georgia line. There are rest stops along the way, including a historic home in Piedmont that is a welcome station for cyclists on the trail. Hoping to support the extension of the Chief Ladiga Trail to Birmingham, and to promote similar greenways, the Holloways have joined the PATH Foundation, which partners with local governments to build greenway trails. PATH provides staff to plan, design, build, and maintain trail projects, and in some cases, matching funds for development.

Janet Holloway says, "In our travels, we have seen so many cyclists enjoying paved bicycle paths and greenways through metro areas. It is wonderful to be able to take an alternative form of transportation safely through the city. Greenways are safe avenues for people with disabilities to use wheelchairs and for families to exercise together. Small children can ride training wheels, and anyone who enjoys rollerblading or walking can actually have a destination. I think that greenway trails bring us closer together as a community."





Photo courtesy of Beth Maynor Young



Amanda Hagood exploring Shenandoah National Park

## AlumNews '70

Through her daughter, Amanda, who is now engaged in the same Vanderbilt graduate English program she once enjoyed, **Carol Cook Hagood '70** of Birmingham is rediscovering an interest in literary studies, particularly current areas such as the study of literature and the environment. During the past several summers, the two have found rambling road-and-camping trips to conferences like that of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) a memorable way to explore new terrain both literally (the Shenandoah Valley, Outer Banks, coast of Maine) and through energetic interactions with conference programs, speakers, formal and informal discussions, and presentations.

This past June, at the Nature and Environmental Writers/College and University Educators (New-Cue) biennial in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, Carol Hagood presented a paper on the work of Alabama-based conservation photographer Beth Maynor Young, with 40 slides loaned by Young for the occasion, many from her (then) upcoming book *Headwaters: A Journey on Alabama Rivers* (released in March 2009 by the University of Alabama Press). Following the conference, Hagood's paper was accepted for inclusion in the New-Cue archives at the library of the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods, curated by Jeffrey S. Cramer, editor of Yale's annotated *Walden*.



Promoting the process of "going green"

## AlumNews '06

**Megan Roth '06** has published a 500-page book, *The Green Guide to Daily Living*, which covers every aspect of eco-friendly living, from home to office to summer vacation. The book was released in February 2009 by Cliff Road Books and is available at bookstores and on Amazon.com. According to the publisher, the *Green Guide* "makes living more lightly on the planet easy to accomplish through small adjustments in daily life, and is packed with facts and bottom-line information that simplify choices for harried consumers who are overwhelmed by too many options ... From grocery shopping and housecleaning to driving, traveling, and contribution to your community greening effort, [the guide] organizes facts in short, reader-friendly text with lots of bullet points, lists, and sidebars for quick digestion and incorporation into daily life."

In composing the book, Roth says she worked "to deliver a wealth of information that would translate to useful knowledge rather than an overwhelming body of facts and problems." Through writing the book, she says, "my own lifestyle began to change as I recognized areas of my own life which could become more 'eco-friendly.' I think that the concept of 'going green' is a lifelong process of adapting your lifestyle to your own priorities and concerns." In her collaboration with skilled editors and designers to produce the *Green Guide*, she says that all worked hard to meet the vision they had of a book "that would refresh the process of going green instead of adding to the 'green noise.'" For example, the book "takes the stance that 'the greenest products are the ones you already own,' and warns against the stockpiling of 'new and improved,' 'greener' products."

Roth, who has produced other works with Crane Hill Publishers, has writing interests which include playwriting, poetry, comics, fiction, and children's literature. She currently is pursuing an MFA in creative writing as a Michener Fellow at the University of Miami.

'00

**Braxton Bragg Comer Jr.** of Sylacauga graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in May 2008.

'01

**Dr. John Bivona Jr.**, and his wife, Dr. Katherine Trucks Bivona, both family medicine physicians, have joined the Jasper Family Practice Center. The two met as medical students at UAB. They have a daughter, Kayley, born last year.

**Christian Bradley Cherry** of Birmingham is an attorney employed with Walston, Wells & Birchall LLC.

**Jerry H. Cotney Jr.** of Roanoke is distribution manager for Soles4Souls, a group which accepts new and used shoes and sends them to people in need in this country and abroad.

**Christi Daniel Lunsford** is currently serving as associate general counsel at HealthSouth. She and her growing family (see "Births") reside in Birmingham.

**Davis Slate Mange** has been promoted to assistant vice president at ServisFirst Bank in Birmingham. He will oversee accounting and financial analysis.

**Brad Parsons** is now an assistant administrator at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle in Columbus, Miss. He formerly served as assistant vice president at Decatur General Hospital. In his new role, Parsons will supervise hospital functions including the imaging lab, rehabilitation services, behavioral health, oncology, material management, hospice, and ambulance services.

'02

**John S. Brush** of Virginia Beach, Va., has accepted a position as senior numismatist at David Lawrence Rare Coins.

**Lauren Cantrell** of Birmingham has been named director of theatre at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville. She holds a master's degree in acting and directing from Sarah Lawrence College and formerly taught drama at Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tenn.

**Brandon Haushalter** of Birmingham has been named an assistant chief executive officer at Trinity Medical Center. He formerly served the hospital as an assistant administrator.

**Lauren Faulkner Humphrey** of Helena graduated with an MBA from the University of North Alabama in July 2008.

**Katie Mirelle McDowell** of Birmingham is teaching French and dance at Gardendale High School.

In a Sept. 2, 2008, performance at Hill Recital Hall on campus, **Daniel Seigel**, baritone, and a member of the faculty of the BSC Conservatory, premiered "Is This Then a Touch," a work composed by Dr. Dorothy Hindman, associate professor of music. He also performed works by Gerald Finzi, Poulenc, Debussy, Mahler, Gounod, and others. His father, **Dr. Lester Seigel '79**, Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music at BSC, accompanied him on piano.

Baritone **Joshua South** returned to BSC from NYC on March 12, 2009, to perform Schubert's last and best-known song cycle "Winterreise." His alumni recital



was followed on March 13 by a master class for BSC voice students. With a voice described

as "unforgettable" by *The New York Times*, South has been the winner of numerous awards and competitions and has sung at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall.



**Katie Monroe White** has been named a Rising Star in the Pensacola, Fla., community.

An associate attorney with McDonald Fleming Moorhead LLP, she is active in legal and realty groups in the area and is a trustee for Community Maritime Park Associates Inc.

'03

**Kimberly Elizabeth Reid** is pursuing a degree in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University.

'04

**Rebecca A. Beers**, an attorney with Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker LLC, has been named to the Board of Directors of Catalyst for Birmingham for 2009 and will serve as the group's secretary. Catalyst for Birmingham

is an organization of progressive young professionals dedicated to



## Yearbook Giveaway

Are you missing a copy of your senior annual? The Office of Communications at Birmingham-Southern has a few extra copies of *Southern Accent* from various years that we are making available to alumni for a shipping (book rate) and handling charge of \$5. To check availability of a particular year, e-mail Carol Hagood at [chagood@bsc.edu](mailto:chagood@bsc.edu) or send a note to: Carol Hagood, Office of Communications, Birmingham-Southern College, Box 549004, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

making Birmingham a better place to live, work, and play.

**Dr. Megan Seibert Cherry** graduated magna cum laude from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in May 2008. She now is a resident in dermatology at UAB.

**Caroline Martin Hale** of Mobile graduated from the University of South Alabama with a master's degree in community counseling in December 2008. She now is employed with Altapointe Health Systems in the adult outpatient program.

**Katherine Marie Long** has been accepted into the surgical physician's assistant program at UAB.

In December 2008, pitcher **Connor Robertson** was traded to the New York Mets by the Arizona Diamondbacks for veteran left-handed relief pitcher Scott Schoeneweis. Robertson's brother David pitches for the New York Yankees.

**Sunday Vanderver**, who graduated from the University of Alabama Law School in May 2008, has moved to Washington, D.C., to spend a year pursuing an LLM in tax.

'06

**Philip Alan Gibson** is pursuing a master's degree in public administration at UAB.

**Adam Kent Israel** has accepted a one-year clerkship, beginning in August 2009, with **Hon. William M. Acker Jr. '49**, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama. Following the clerkship, Israel will join the litigation practice group at Balch and Bingham LLP in Birmingham.

'07

**Kelly J. Brooks**, who has completed her first year of law school at the University of Tennessee, was featured in the UT law school application for 2008. The piece describes Brooks, identified as a graduate of Birmingham-Southern, as "a student of the world" who "studied democratization in Russia and the Italian Renaissance in Italy. Her travels took her to England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and France."

**Webb Lyons** has been hired by the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham as community investment manager.

**Kirby Sevier Jr.** is attending law school at the University of Alabama.

'08

**Andrew Genova** joined Manekin LLC in Columbia, Md., as a sales and leasing associate. He is the first graduate of the firm's training program.

**Anne Winston McIntyre** of Hattiesburg, Miss., is pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology with a concentration in adult clinical psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi.

At 25, **Henry Ward "Bucky" McMillan III** of Birmingham, who played basketball at BSC, is head basketball coach for the Mountain Brook Spartans, his high school team. He is married to former Panther basketball player **Britni Ballard McMillan '07**, the reigning Mrs. Alabama and second runner-up in the 2008 Mrs. America pageant. His charmed life was the subject of a column by sportswriter Jeff Sentell, "McMillan, 25, is right where he wants to be," in the Jan. 21, 2009, edition of *The Birmingham News*.

**Maggie Joy Parker** of Birmingham is an environmental engineer with Gallet & Associates Inc. and has been accepted into a doctoral program in the UAB School of Engineering.

**Lauren Crane Paul** is teaching high school in Maluga, Spain, until June 2009. The following month, she will begin dental school at UAB.

**Tyler Powell** of Birmingham has joined the firm of Way, Ray, Shelton & Co. as a staff accountant.

**Clifford Truitt Ray** is an engineer planner associate with Lockheed Martin space systems corporation in Huntsville. He stays connected to BSC through a younger brother of whom he is very proud: Thomas Ray, a BSC freshman, plays on the golf team and has pledged Sigma Chi.

**Amy Rebecca Yearwood** is serving for a year as an urban missionary in London. She is working with inner-city children, organizing after-school clubs and discipleship groups.

MPPM

'93

For the Serenbe Project, an award-winning, green, sustainable community located in Palmetto, Ga., glass artist **Donna Branch** of McCalla helped create a 12-foot iron white oak tree bearing 175 cast glass leaves. Birmingham's National Public Radio station WBHM aired a "Tapestry" interview with Branch on the project in October 2008.

'96

**Steven H. Frost** of Hoover recently was named executive director of labor relations at AT&T.

**Deborah Glascoe Huff** of



Birmingham is a longtime volunteer for Better Basics, a United Way agency which promotes literacy by providing

reading intervention and

enrichment in high-need schools. Recently she was tapped by the group to plan, organize, staff, and direct a newly created after-school program, the Better Basics HOPE Center at Fairfield, a 21st Century Community Learning Center, funded through the No Child Left Behind Act. The center opened January 20, 2009, at the Fairfield Recreation Center and currently has 37 students enrolled.

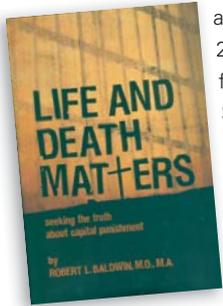
Huff says, "We offer more than just a safe place for students to go at the end of the school day. We ... offer time for homework, computers, academic instruction, and enrichment/recreation 3 to 6 p.m. on school days. We are building a library and plan to regularly give free books to the children. In addition, we offer a gardening/landscaping program for the children that will provide healthy foods and fundraising activities while creating community building opportunities."

'98

**Arlene Fredrickson Johnson '98** of Leeds is employed at AT&T as an area manager—rates and tariffs. She also helped her husband, David, whom she married in 2002, start his own business, Clarity Alarms LLC, and serves as his office staff and accountant in the evenings and on weekends. She also is an active volunteer with the St. Clair County Animal Shelter, serving in leadership and fundraising roles. She also has served as treasurer of the Alabama Humane Federation, and she is president of the Mid-Alabama Corvette Club.

'03

**Dr. Robert L. Baldwin** of Birmingham is the author of *Life and Death Matters: Seeking the Truth About Capital Punishment*,



a December 2008 release from New South Books. The book, an outgrowth of Baldwin's master's thesis,

describes his spiritual journey from supporter to opponent of the death penalty. According to Dr. Ed LaMonte, Howell Heflin Professor of Political Science at BSC, "He not only provides the reader with a fact-based, faith-guided critique of capital punishment, but does so in a personal and engaging manner which enhances the argument he passionately advocates. Every reader, regardless of faith perspective or present policy position, will gain from reading this important contribution to our national debate."

As an alumnus of the college deeply involved in issues surrounding the death penalty, Baldwin served as speaker at the pre-opening performance dinner of the BSC College Theatre's January 2009 production of *Dead Man Walking*.

**David Hempfling** of Cullman currently is operations manager for Southern Synergy Inc., with offices in Decatur and Memphis, Tenn., a full-service engineering, design, and project management firm serving chemical, petro-chemical, and refining industries throughout the Southeast. In 2005, when he joined the firm, it employed five technical employees; now it employs more than 50. Hempfling also plans to pursue a doctoral degree at the University of Alabama.

**Garland Stansell** of Birmingham, chief communications officer for Children's Health Systems, has been named chair of the 2009 national board of directors for the Health Academy of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). With approximately 800 members, the group is PRSA's largest professional interest section and the largest network of health care public relations and communications professionals in the world.

## Friends

This past December, the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame honored BSC Trustee **Bill Battle** of Atlanta with its 2008 Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football Award. The honor was bestowed at the group's annual awards dinner, which took place at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City.

The Alabama Business Hall of Fame tapped BSC Trustee **James T. Stephens** of Birmingham as one of five 2008 inductees, in an event taking place this past October at the University of Alabama. Stephens is chair of EBSCO Industries Inc., which now operates 31 offices in nine U.S. cities and 21 countries.

## Weddings

**Gregory Patrick Logan '84** and Kelly Elizabeth Straughn, Nov. 15, 2008.

**Ralph Laurence "Randy" Dill IV '89** and **Jennifer Anne Sloan '92**, July 19, 2008.

**Daniel Edward West '91** and Mariah Brundage, Aug. 23, 2008.

**Laurie Suzanne Young '93** and Leon Roger Storie, March 28, 2009.

**Elizabeth Shannon Mancin '94** and Raymond Arthur Stewart Jr., Sept. 6, 2008.

**Linda Carol Golson '96** and John Hugh Bradley, May 17, 2008.

**Braxton Bragg Comer Jr. '00** and Wimberly Anne Robbins, Oct. 11, 2008.

**Christian Bradley Cherry '01** and **Megan Danielle Seibert '04**, Dec. 20, 2008.

**Hallman Blair Eady '01** and Virginia Louise Bugg, Nov. 22, 2008.

**William Phelps Young III '01** and Catherine Leigh Ferguson, Feb. 28, 2009.

**John S. Brush '02** and Ruth Roxanne Walters, Sept. 8, 2007.

**Maibeth Helen Deas '02** and Kevin Patrick Keith, Jan. 31, 2009.

**Roger Ball Jr. '03** and **Nancy Williams '04**, April 19, 2008.

**Vanessa Brunn '03** and David Lande, Oct. 21, 2007.

**Alice Holbrook "Brooke" Emfinger '03** and Phelps Hoyt Reid, April 18, 2009.

**Megan Jane Patterson '03** and Douglas Bradley Moore, Nov. 1, 2008.

**Angela Rachel Segars '04** and Matthew John Anderegg, Oct. 11, 2008.

**Nick Barcelona '05** and **Lee Geddie '08**, Aug. 9, 2008.

**Andrea Maria Boohaker '05** and **Michael Edward Dean '05**, July 26, 2008.

**Chadwick Gregory Long '05** and **Elizabeth Fleming Holt '06**, May 31, 2008.

**Mary Kathryn Searcy '05** and Heath Garrett McAlister, Oct. 18, 2008.

**Emily Ann Duggan '06** and **Adam Kent Israel '06**, Aug. 2, 2008.

**Amanda Gail Thompson '06** and David Matthew Debnam, Oct. 4, 2008.

**Sara Anne Midyette '07** and **Paul Dean Litten Jr. '08**, March 21, 2009.

**Anna Kathryn Reach '07** and Peter Glaser, Jan. 12, 2008.

**Mark Andrew Scogin Jr. '08** and Anna Katherine Chambers, Aug. 9, 2008.

**Stephen Leonard Strickland '08** and Ashley Magen Bennett, Dec. 27, 2008.

## Births

A son, Jackson "Jack," born Jan. 20, 2009, and adopted by **Mark Seifert '84** and partner, Jeff Dygert.

A daughter, Melissa Erin, July 23, 2007, to **Mark Hunter Young '88** and wife, Rebecca (big brothers, Kyle Hunter and Ethan Daniel).

A daughter, Mary-Katelin Marie, April 14, 2008, to **Paul Schabacker '89** and wife, Mary (big sisters, Mary Elizabeth and Diana Grace).

A daughter, Sara Lane, Sept. 12, 2008, to **Bradley J. Smith '90** and wife, Dr. Helen B. Smith (big brother, Hoke Jackson).

A son, Reid Thomas, June 6, 2008, to **Mike Morman '93** and wife, **Stephanie "Missy" Norris Morman '94** (big brothers, Bailey and Dylan). Proud uncle is **Todd Anthony Morman '96**.

A daughter, Inde Raine, Oct. 16, 2008, to **Kurt Bradley Bothwell '94** and wife, **Kathryn Patrick Bothwell '96** (big brothers and sister, Alex, Emma, and Owen).

A son, Samuel "Parker," April 14, 2008, to **Thomas Paul Barnett '96** and wife, **Melissa Bryant Barnett '98** (big brother, Evan).

A daughter, Kathryn Ann, Oct. 2, 2008, to **Jeffrey Garrett Miller '96** and wife, Dana (big brother, Bo, and big sister, Maggie).

A son, Jonathan Hall, Aug. 24, 2008, to **Alison Pinkston Stovall '96** and husband, Earl (big brother, Caleb). Proud uncle is **Jon Pinkston '94**.

A son, Edward Warner III "Tripp," Nov. 10, 2008, to **Dr. Ted Veillon '97** and wife, **Dana Harris Veillon '97** (big sisters, Gracie, Ellie, and Millie).

A daughter, Lily Virginia, Nov. 10, 2008, to **Matt Brown '98** and wife, **Sarah Raney Brown '98** (big sister, Hannah).

A daughter, Emma Katherine, Aug. 7, 2008, to **James Lester Coln '98** and wife, **Dr. Evelyn R. Frazier Coln '99** (big brother, James David).

A daughter, Frances Claire, Aug. 22, 2008, to **James L. "Jay" Mitchell '98** and wife, Elizabeth (big sister, Tully, and big brother, Jack).

A daughter, Mary Marshall, Dec. 17, 2007, to **Richard Marshall Thayer '98** and wife, Carrie. Proud aunt is **Jane Miller Thayer '94**.

A son, Watson Wells, Aug. 13, 2008, to **Katherine Wells Turnage '98** and husband, Zach (big sister, Natalie).

A daughter, Sarah Frances, Sept. 20, 2008, to **Kelly Michele Rhodes Warren '98** and husband, Eugene.

A daughter, Alice Ogden, Nov. 2, 2008, to **Lisa Newman Wheeler '98** and husband, **Dr. Thomas Wheeler '99** (big brother, Thomas).

A daughter, Elizabeth Anne, Sept. 15, 2008, to **Carrie-Anne Chapman Willingham '98** and husband, **Dr. Thomas "Massey" Willingham Jr. '99** (big brother, Barrett, and big sister, Meredith).

A daughter, Mary Hudson, April 27, 2008, to **Dr. Martha Slay Wingate '98** and husband, Bill.

A daughter, Margaret Culver, Oct. 2, 2008, to **Cary Sawyer Cherry '99** and husband, **David Michael Cherry '00** (big sister, Caroline).

A son, Hobart Reid Jr., Feb. 2, 2009, to **Hobart Reid Key '99** and wife, Kristin (big sister, Madelyn, and big brother, Fisher). Proud uncle is **Albert Watkins Key Jr. '92**, and proud aunt is **Dr. Elizabeth Key Anderton '95**.

A daughter, Sophia Marie, Jan. 15, 2009, to **Katharine Coffey Pilleteri '99** and husband, Joseph.

A son, Graham Thomas, Feb. 16, 2009, to **Christi Daniel Lunsford '00** and husband, Ben.

A daughter, Abigail Roberts, Dec. 9, 2008, to **Lowrey Rhodes Jr. '00** and wife, Shannon (big sister, Savannah).

A daughter, Adelyn Dene, Sept. 30, 2008, to **Kevin Rogers '00** and wife, Megan.

Twin daughters, Reese Catherine and Morgan Louise, Dec. 10, 2008, to **Carroll Redd Stephens '00** and husband, Jeremy. Their proud uncle is **Alex O'Briant '94**, and their proud aunt is **Catherine Redd '95**.

A daughter, Olivia Kathryn, Sept. 6, 2008, to **Joshua White '00** and wife, **Ashley Grier White '02**. **Casey Grier '97** is proud aunt.

A daughter, Ellenie, Jan. 7, 2008, to **Brad Parsons '01** and wife, Carroll Lane (big sister, Lillianna).

A daughter, Katherine Alley, Aug. 26, 2008, to **Caroline Mobley Walker '01** and husband, Jerrod. Proud grandmother is **Dr. Pamela Alley Mobley '70**.

A daughter, Rory Meredith, Dec. 12, 2008, to **Lauren Faulkner Humphrey '02** and husband, Kevin.

A son, Hill Martin, Feb. 16, 2009, to **Allison Sandlin Liles '02** and husband, Eric.

A son, John Allen Jr., "Jack," July 31, 2008, to **Christine Lester Harpole '03** and husband, **John Allen Harpole '03**.

A son, Andrew Robert, Aug. 26, 2008, to **Christina Rumore Hare '04** and husband, Joel (big sister, Maria).

A son, Braegan Patrick, Oct. 31, 2008, to **Christopher Brennan '06** and wife, Brandi. Proud grandparents are **Cynthia Gray Brennan '79** and husband, **Tim Brennan '80**.

## In Memoriam

**Mary Cranford Holcombe '32** of Birmingham died Aug. 26, 2008. After graduation from BSC, she completed a master's degree in marketing at New York University. She later taught in Anniston, Baton Rouge, La., and New Orleans. She also served as personnel director at Maison Blanche in New Orleans, where she resided until her return to Birmingham following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Survivors include sister-in-law **Marian Vineyard Cranford '45**.

**Adele Levin Goldstein '35** of Birmingham died Sept. 6, 2008. Born in Birmingham's historic Lakeview District, she was a lifelong member of Temple Emanu-El and of Hadassah. During her long life, she actively pursued many interests. Her husband was the late Malvin Goldstein.

**Dr. Pauline King Long '35** of Birmingham died Feb. 23, 2009. After graduating summa cum laude

in biology from BSC, she received a master's degree in biology from the University of Chicago and a doctoral degree in zoology and physiology from the University of Wyoming. A teacher for 60 years (and named Alabama's Teacher of the Year by *The Birmingham News* in the '60s), she taught science and mathematics at Woodlawn High School for many years, later joining the staff of Jefferson State Junior College at its opening in 1965, and retiring there in 1978. Her final teaching post was at Purdue University School of Medicine. Survivors include daughter **Eleanor Pauline Long '64**. Other BSC family members include her late sister and brother, **Myrtle King Crowson '39** and **Herman Wallace King '54**.

**Claud C. Wilson '35** of Birmingham died July 22, 2008. Survivors include wife **Mary Olive Smith Wilson '37**.

**Charles William Bellows Jr. '37** of Athens, Tenn., died Oct. 15, 2008. A veteran of World War II, he was employed for 32 years by Athens Plow Co. and retired as comptroller. Active in community affairs, he was a former president of the Athens Kiwanis, received the Distinguished Service Award and Kiwanis International Tablet of Honor, and was chair of Tennessee Wesleyan College's Advisory Board. Survivors include wife Betty C. Bellows.

**Alvin John Binzel Jr. '37** of Birmingham died Sept. 24, 2008. He was the owner and president of Binzel Products Inc. He was preceded in death by spouses **Edith Manly Binzel '38** and Jutilda Kimbro Salter Binzel.

**Mark Norton '37** of Birmingham died Nov. 8, 2008. He was the

## In Memoriam '33



**John Cowan Evins** of Birmingham died Feb. 14, 2009. He was a veteran of World War II, serving as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy from 1942-46. A prominent member of the Birmingham business community, he retired as president and chair of the board of Hart-Greer Inc. He was a member of the board of directors during the early years of Compass

Bank. He served as director of the Better Business Bureau, president of the Downtown Improvement Committee (which later became Operation New Birmingham), and on the board of directors of South Highland Hospital. He was the director of Golden Enterprises Inc. and the president and director of Evins & Associates. He was for many years associated with Brownell Travel.

A stalwart and generous supporter of his alma mater, Evins was a Life Emeritus member of the Board of Trustees; he joined the board in 1964 and had served the group as chair of the board, chair of the executive committee, and chair of the finance and investment committee. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Birmingham-Southern. A member of Canterbury United Methodist Church, he had served as chair of its administrative board and as a trustee. He also had been a Birmingham District Lay Leader and a member of the district board of trustees for the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. In 1995, he was selected by the United Methodist Church as recipient of the Francis Asbury Award, given each year to one person in the nation deemed to have made the most outstanding contribution to higher education within the church. He was a member of the Endowment Builders Society and Ginkgo Society at BSC.

His wife was the late Elizabeth Henry Evins. Survivors include daughters **Ann Evins Adams '65**, a trustee of the college, and **Kathy Evins Kyzer '68**, and granddaughter **Emily Kyzer Browne '00**. By request of the family, memorials may be sent to the Elizabeth Henry Evins Scholarship or the Center for Ministry at Birmingham-Southern through the *Office of Institutional Advancement, Birmingham-Southern College, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254*.

son of the late Methodist minister **E.B. Norton '23**, president emeritus of the (now) University of North Alabama, who taught religion at Birmingham-Southern. Mark Norton and his twin sister, the late **Florence Norton Dill '37**, were the youngest of E.B.'s six children. All but one of Mark's siblings attended BSC. During the Depression, he and his twin were both enrolled at the college, and during those difficult times, he left to seek employment before graduating. He remained, however, a lifelong advocate of the school. His wife,

**Ann S. Norton**, was a graduate of the college, as are numerous members of the Norton and Dill families, who have long supported BSC with their attendance and financial support. **Lars Porter '04**, who shared this information about his great uncle Mark Norton, is a member of the latest generation in this long and proud tradition. He and wife **Dana McArthur Porter '04**, both BSC staff members, live in Fultondale.

**Ruth Taylor Smith '37** of Hueytown died Oct. 3, 2008. She

was a teacher in the Jefferson County School System, with more than 30 years of service. Survivors include daughter Anne Curry, BSC director of facilities and events, and grandson Mitch Huffman (**Analee Popee Huffman '01**), BSC maintenance technician.

**Margaret Elizabeth Jones '38** of Vestavia Hills died Dec. 5, 2008. She was employed by the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C., from 1941-97. Survivors include her cousin, **Dr. LeRoy L. Holt '45**.

**Alice Wenz Morrow '38** of Indian Springs died Feb. 6, 2009. She held a master's degree in library science and served as a librarian at Jones Valley High School in Birmingham until her retirement in the late 1970s. She was married to the late **William E. Morrow '43**. Survivors include daughter **Marcia Morrow Murrah '65**.

**Betty Margaret Hasty Acton '40** of Birmingham died Jan. 10, 2009. Active in civic, social, and church life, her great love was teaching. She founded the kindergarten program at Mountain Brook Baptist Church, where she was a longtime member, and served as its director for 25 years. Her husband was the late **George Herbert Acton '36**.

**Charles Rendell Calkins '40** of Troy died Sept. 6, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. A music major at BSC, he also held a master's degree from Columbia University. He taught music at several schools before joining the faculty of Troy State University in 1960, where he retired in 1982.

**Daniel Jackson "Jack" Duffee '40** of Mountain Brook died July 31, 2008. A veteran of World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy "Seabees," rising to the rank of lieutenant commander. Following the war, he received an MBA from Harvard University and served as assistant to the president of Williams Brothers in their New York offices from 1950-53. In 1960, he became president of Birmingham Electric Battery Co. He also served at vice president of Southern Fly Ash Co. and executive director of the Alabama Home Builders Association. Survivors include wife Frances Marie Henley Duffee and sons **Daniel Jackson Duffee III '76** and **Lewis Duvergne Duffee '89**.

## In Memoriam '40



**James C. Lee Jr.** of Birmingham died Feb. 28, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Air Force on a troop carrier. An outstanding member of the Birmingham business community, he became chief executive of his family's business, Buffalo Rock Bottling Co., adding the Pepsi franchise and other brands including Dr. Pepper and Seven Up. During his tenure, the company achieved annual sales of more than \$500 million, with plants in three states, including a state-of-the-art bottling plant in Birmingham, and 2,500 workers, 800 of them in Birmingham.

He was also widely known as an energetic and effective community leader, with active roles in groups ranging from the Metropolitan Development Board and the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce to the University of Alabama Health Sciences Foundation, and received numerous awards and recognitions from community groups. He was a Life Emeritus member of the Birmingham-Southern Board of Trustees. He also was a member of the Endowment Builders Society and the Ginkgo Society at BSC.

Survivors include wife Rose Marie Lee.

**Grace Emily Fealy Reid '41** of Birmingham died Sept. 1, 2008. After a successful career in business, she earned a master's degree in library science, and was the longtime director of the Vestavia Hills Public Library, retiring in 2002. She was a member of the Ginkgo Society. Her husband was the late George Denson Reid.

**Richard Marvin Brown '42** of Havana, Fla., died Sept. 10, 2008. He studied engineering at BSC before enlisting in the Army for service in World War II. As a member of the 75th Infantry, he served in the Ardennes, Central Europe, and Rhineland. Following the war, he graduated from Auburn in electrical engineering and began a career of 38 years, first at South Alabama Electric Cooperative in Troy and later for the Talquin Electric Cooperative. Survivors include wife Margaret Louise

Brown and brother **G.B. Brown '44**.

**Marvin Louis Prude '42** of Birmingham died Nov. 22, 2008. He was an Army veteran of World War II. Following the war, he began a 33-year career with margarine manufacturer Sunnyland Refining Co., retiring as president, and was chair of the National Association of Margarine Manufacturers. He later was employed for over 20 years in commercial real estate with Johnson, Rast, and Hays, and was a member of the Million Dollar Club. Active in church and civic affairs, he served on the Jefferson County Planning Commission, the Judson College Board of Visitors, and he was chair of the Baptist Health System Board of Trustees during a period of great expansion from 1973-86. Survivors include wife Kathleen Vaughan Prude.

**Roy Higginbotham '44** of Hoover died Dec. 18, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Merchant Marines. With a bachelor's and master's degree from BSC and an additional degree from the University of Alabama, he taught school at Minor Elementary for 33 years. He also founded an investment firm. Survivors include wife Doris Higginbotham.

**W. Forrest Little '44** of Maryville, Tenn., formerly of Mobile and Spanish Fort, died Dec. 28, 2008. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater. He was employed for 34 years with Southern Bell and South Central Bell (later BellSouth),

retiring in 1976. Active in civic affairs, he was a founding member of Mobile United and served as board chair of both the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and the Better Business Bureau. He was campaign chair and chair of the board of the United Fund of Mobile County and also served on the boards of the Boy Scouts of America and Junior Achievement. He also chaired the board of governors of the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Survivors include wife Lois Anne Smith Little and daughter **Anne Little Lazenby '63 (Robert Lazenby '63)**.

## In Memoriam '41



**Frank Dominick Jr.** of Homewood died Nov. 14, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army. With a law degree from the University of Alabama, he had practiced in the firm of Dominick, Fletcher, Yeilding, Wood & Lloyd since 1948. A lifelong member of First United Methodist Church, he was chancellor of the North Alabama

Conference. He was a member of the board of directors of Alabama Goodwill Industries and a former member of the advisory board of St. Vincent's Hospital. He was past president of Birmingham Kiwanis Club, Metropolitan YMCA, and Community Service Council. He was a Life Emeritus member of the Birmingham-Southern Board of Trustees and was past chair of the board. He also was a member of the Endowment Builders Society and the Ginkgo Society at BSC.

Survivors include wife **Sue McNamee Dominick '48**, sister **Sara Dominick Clark '38**, daughters **Susan Dominick Doughton '74** and **Betsy Dominick Pautler '86**, son **Frank McNamee Dominick '91**, and granddaughter **Sara Doughton '04**, who serves as assistant director of Service Learning at BSC. By request of the family, memorial gifts may be made in his name to Birmingham-Southern through the *Office of Institutional Advancement, Birmingham-Southern College, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254*.

## In Memoriam '43



**Joseph Mitchell Prude** of Birmingham died Aug. 30, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, serving as a bomb disposal officer on the carrier Manila Bay in the Pacific Theater. He was retired from the staffs of Birmingham-Southern and Carraway Methodist Medical Center. Active in the community, he was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, Better Basics, and the Fire House Shelter, and he traveled to Santo Domingo for service work trips.

Prude was a 50-year member of McCoy United Methodist Church, and, following the closing of McCoy, he and his wife joined First United Methodist Church, where he served on the administrative board and was a member of the Wesley Sunday School class.

While on staff at BSC, Prude served in several capacities, as business manager, bookstore

manager, and postmaster, a role which led him into close daily contact with students. A *Hilltop News* of the time notes, "If we had a 'Mr. Congeniality' award to give, it would certainly go to our friendly postmaster ... No matter what your mood, your day will take on a merrier hue if you drop by the post office. Father-confessor, pipe carver, and seller of dachshund puppies, 'Prude' is a favorite of students and faculty alike."

He was a member of BSC's Ginkgo Society.

Survivors include wife **Mary Beth Powell Prude '44**, daughter **Audrey Ann Prude Wilson '68 (Jim Wilson '66)**, son **Joel Prude '70 (Jayne McCain Prude '69)**, and granddaughter **Haley Wilson Buchman '91**.



**Dr. William C. "Bill" Morgan '44** of Birmingham died Feb. 12, 2009. With a dental surgery degree from Emory University, he worked for a time at Lloyd Noland Hospital, before he joined the U.S. Army Dental Corps. Following his military service, he established a dental practice in Ensley, later relocating to Five Points West, and completed more than 56 years of practice. He served as president of the Alabama Society of Dentistry for Children, president of the Oak Hills Civitan Club, and a member of the Birmingham Board of Education. He was married to the late Mary Alice Godwin Morgan. Survivors include brother **Dr. Richard Morgan '51** and

children including Becky Johnson (**Rodney Johnson '80**).

**Mary Ann Adams Bibby '45** of Dallas died Oct. 6, 2008. After attending BSC, she received a degree in education from Auburn University and taught school in Birmingham and Mobile before moving to Texas with her husband. The couple also lived in Switzerland for a number of years and traveled widely in Europe, Africa, and the Far East. Survivors include husband Walter B. Bibby.

**Col. Paul M. Gowan (Ret.) '45** of West Columbia, S.C., died Jan. 11, 2009. With a dental degree from Emory University, he served more

than 30 years in the U.S. Army, with many overseas as well as stateside assignments. His wife was the late Ellen Shiff Gowan.

**Lt. Col. Troy Thompson Jr. '47** of Pensacola, Fla., died July 8, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, volunteering for the U.S. Army/Air Force after Pearl Harbor. He later served in Korea. Following a career as an Air Force officer, he retired from the military to a second career in the U.S. Civil Service. He was a member of the BSC Ginkgo Society. He was preceded in death by wives Estelle Thompson and **Lynelle Armstrong Whan Thompson '49**. Other BSC family members include nephew **Seth Thompson '89**.

**Susan Adams Pittman '48** of Greenville, N.C., died Aug. 28, 2008. A talented pianist with bachelor's and master's degrees in music from BSC, she shared her musical skills as director of the Young People's Choir at Canterbury United Methodist Church and, following her family's move to North Carolina, at Memorial Baptist Church in Greenville. Her husband was the late **Dr. Everett Pittman '51**. Survivors include sister **Eva Adams McDonald '44**.

**Jo Anne Culp Sims '48** of Birmingham died Nov. 25, 2008. After training at Carraway Hospital, she was employed as a laboratory technician. She was also a dedicated volunteer with the Birmingham Area Easter Seals Society, serving for more than 50 years on its board of directors and holding many offices at the state and local levels. She received the organization's Devoted Service Award in 2000 and, with her husband, its Angel of Change award in 2007. She was a member of the Ginkgo Society. Survivors include her husband, **M. Owens Sims '47**.

**William Littleton Thornton Jr. '49** of Birmingham died Jan. 19, 2009. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Army Air Corps. Later he and his father founded Thornton Construction Co., which has become one of the area's largest home builders. He was married to the late **Patricia James Thornton '49**.

**Dr. Mark Hanna '50** of Athens, Ga., died Dec. 28, 2008. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and later served in Korea. With a doctoral degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he taught at Auburn University and then at the University of Georgia Terry College of Business from 1963 until he was granted emeritus status in 1990. Survivors include wife **Ellen Argo Hanna '51** and

## In Memoriam '44



**Gabriella "Gay" Comer White** of Birmingham died Feb. 7, 2009. A Life Emeritus trustee of Birmingham-Southern, she took a leadership role in the community in many ways: she was former president of the Linly Heflin Unit and of the National Society of the Colonial Dames, Birmingham Center; former chair of the board of Girls Scouts, as well as a devoted troop leader; and head of the Women's Division Campaign of United Way. She served for many years on the board of Gateway and the YWCA, and was a sustaining member of the Junior League and the Cadmean Circle.

White was a member of Canterbury United Methodist Church and the JOY Sunday school class, which was taught for many years by her late husband, William Bew White Jr. She served as president of the United Methodist Women, and was active in her church circle and in demand as a devotional speaker. She and her husband often spent time at their farm in Greene County, where they were members of Forkland Methodist Church.

She was a member of the Endowment Builders Society and the Ginkgo Society at BSC.

brothers **L. Randolph Hanna '42** and **Henry Parrish Hanna '43** (**Mary Louise Greene Hanna '45**). Other BSC family members include his late brother, **C. Beaty Hanna '50**.

**Willard Farrington Peters '50** of Hueytown died July 7, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, serving with the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater. Later he was employed in accounting at U.S. Steel for 31 years. Survivors include wife Doris E. Peters.

**Charles E. Sizemore '50** of Trussville died Dec. 7, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the European Theater and completing 35 missions as a ball turret and tail gunner. He was vice president/controller of Molton,

Allen and Williams. Survivors include wife Jeannine Roberts Sizemore.

**Benjamin F. Stokes III '51** of Mobile died July 11, 2008. He received a law degree from the University of Alabama. He served as a U.S. Army Judge Advocate General, or legal officer, from 1955-58, when he left the service. He then began the practice of law in Mobile, which he continued almost until June 2008. He was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1970 and served one term. Survivors include wife Alice B. Stokes.

**Col. Hollis Buford Boston Jr. (Ret.) '52** of Montgomery died March 4, 2008. After attending Birmingham-Southern, he received

a bachelor's degree in business administration from Baylor University and a master's degree in political science from Auburn. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 27 years and earned, among many decorations, the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars. After retirement from the military in 1975, he worked in the computer industry until his final retirement in

1989. He was active in civic affairs. Survivors include wife Nancy Boston.

**William Perryman Collins '52** of Birmingham, died Dec. 19, 2008. He was a veteran, serving in the Army Security Agency during the Korean war. He was the longtime owner of Kitchen Designers Inc. in Homewood. Survivors include wife Peggy H. Collins.

## In Memoriam '46



**William Reynolds Ireland** of Birmingham died March 5, 2009. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Navy. A leading businessman and a generous friend to the environment, education, philanthropy, volunteerism, and athletics, he left a lasting impact on his community.

In 1946, Ireland joined Vulcan Materials where, during the next four decades, he served in various executive positions, including president of two Vulcan subsidiaries, executive vice president of the Midwest Division, and manager of community relations. He served on the Vulcan Materials board of directors for 29 years.

He also served on the boards of many charitable groups, including the American Cancer Society, United Way, Boy Scouts of America, Alabama Sheriff's Boys and Girls Ranches, and Big Brothers of Greater Birmingham.

He supported a number of efforts at UAB, Auburn University, Marion Military Institute, the Baylor School, and Birmingham-Southern, where he was a member of the Ginkgo Society.

Well known as a friend of the environment in Alabama, he was instrumental in the development of "Forever Wild," served as state chair of the Southern Environmental Law Center's campaign for the future of the environment, as a member of the Cahaba River Society Advisory Council and the Alabama Wildlife Rescue Service Advisory Board, and as a board member and past president of the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

He received numerous awards, honors, and recognitions from community groups in these and other areas of interest, among them an honorary doctor of laws degree from Birmingham-Southern in 2004.

Survivors include wife Fay Belt Ireland and brother Glen Ireland, a former BSC trustee.

In *Memoriam* '48

**George Peach Taylor** and wife **Mary Leta English Taylor** of Tuscaloosa both died within recent months. George Peach Taylor died Dec.

10, 2008. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Navy from 1943-46. He was a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law, with honors including Law Review, winning team of the Moot Court competition, and president of the student body. After clerking for Chief Justice J. Ed Livingston, Alabama Supreme Court, he joined the Birmingham law firm known later as Dominick, Fletcher, Taylor, and Yeilding. Active in legal, political, civic, social, and religious life, he was president of the Junior Section of the State Bar and the Birmingham Bar Association and served as a State Bar commissioner. He was active in landmark voting rights litigation.

In 1965, he and his family joined the Peace Corps, where he served two years as director in Sierra Leone, planning and administering programs in community development, education, public health, and agriculture, one year as chief of the West Africa Division, and two years as director for Guyana. In 1970, he became chief counsel for the Mississippi Office of the Lawyers for Civil Rights Under Law, and continued his work for civil rights, particularly voting rights. In 1971, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award at BSC in honor of his many achievements.

In 1973, he joined the faculty of the University of Alabama School of Law, retiring in 1989 as professor emeritus. During his tenure, he used his extensive trial experience to revolutionize the school's Trial Advocacy Program from limited lecture classes to extensive hands-on experience, giving students the tools to become effective courtroom advocates. Following retirement, he was named chief public defender for Tuscaloosa County, 1989-93. In 2001, he received one of the American Bar Association's highest honors, the Litigation Section's John Minor Wisdom Award for Service to Civil Rights and the Legal Profession.

Mary Leta English Taylor died Sept. 16, 2008. Following her marriage in 1949, she was active in church and civic affairs here and abroad. From 1973-91, she served as coordinator of student affairs at the University of Alabama's College of Community Health Services.

The Taylors were members of the BSC Ginkgo Society.

**Jane Pepperd Thomaston '52** of Jonesboro, Ga., died Dec. 9, 2008. With a master's degree in education from Georgia State University, she served as an instructional lead teacher at Lillie E. Suder Elementary School and as a part-time educational consultant for the Clayton County schools. She was a member of the BSC Ginkgo Society. Her husband was the late R. Matthew Thomaston.

**Charles R. Kilgore '53** of Ormond Beach, Fla., died Jan. 3, 2009. He was an Army veteran of World War II, going ashore at Normandy during D-Day; he was in Paris on VE Day. Following the war, he completed his math degree at BSC and began a career supporting the U.S. space program at Cape Canaveral's Technology Laboratory. His work included calculating the trajectories of rockets and writing real-time flight control software ensuring that rockets were on course. In 1965, he moved to Huntsville to work on the Apollo program at the Marshall Space Flight Center, writing flight control software for the Saturn V's first stage. He wrote additional software for the space program at the Goddard Space Flight Center, before retiring in 1988. His wife was the late Virginia Jennings Kilgore.

**Norma Jo Gardner Walton '53** of Huntsville died Aug. 4, 2008. Following graduation from BSC, she attended Candler School of Theology at Emory University. She served as a preschool kindergarten teacher, Christian educator, and choir director. She was a member of the Ginkgo Society at BSC. Survivors include husband Rev. Harold E. Walton.

**Hugo Auburn Barton '54** of Florence died Dec. 15, 2008. He was a naval veteran of World War II, serving as a radioman in the Pacific Theater. He was

a business educator and was active in professional and civic organizations. Survivors include wife Martha Barton.

**Bettie Louise Cato Hicks '54** of Birmingham died Sept. 29, 2008. With a master's degree, additional graduate work, and an AA certification in education from UAB, she served for 28 years as a teacher with the Jefferson County Board of Education. She also was active in community affairs. Her husband was the late **David Edward Hicks '54**.

**Gene Paul McGinnis '56** of Springville died Sept. 14, 2008. A decorated veteran, he was awarded the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for service in Korea. Following a career with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, he served with the U.S. Marshall's service as a court security officer in Birmingham, Anniston, and Gadsden. Survivors include wife Martha Holmes McGinnis.

**Rev. Dr. William Jackson Rabey Shearer '56** of Mobile died Oct. 12, 2008. He was a graduate of Garrett Theological Seminary and received clinical pastoral counseling certification through Cook County Hospital and the University of Illinois. An ordained United Methodist minister in the Alabama-West Florida Conference, he had served as associate minister at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church, and later as minister at Grace United Methodist Church. Following his church ministry, he provided counseling at Mobile Mental Health Center and later through his own practice. He also was co-owner of the Haunted Book Shop and H.B. Publications.

**James Sturgeon Christie '59** of Mountain Brook died Dec. 2, 2008. He was an entrepreneur and owned and operated several businesses in Birmingham and

## In Memoriam '51



**Rev. Dr. Florence Wates Pert** of New York died Dec. 9, 2008. After graduation from BSC, she moved to New York and was employed by Pan-American World Airways, where her duties included supervising travel arrangements for U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld. Active at Marble Collegiate Church, whose minister was the internationally known Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, within a few years she left Pan-American to become director of leadership development for *Guideposts*

magazine, and she conducted workshops around the country on the dynamics of small groups and lay ministry. In 1973, Peale named Pert director of lay activities at Marble Collegiate Church, where she created many activities still in place today, including adult education, women's groups, and programs for ushers and greeters and for new members. Along with Pert's preaching, her promotion of broad-based congregational involvement inspired hundreds of laypersons to undertake leadership roles in churches throughout the country.

After receiving her M.Div. degree from New York Theological Seminary, Pert met the challenge of gaining ordination, in 1987, in a denomination with a four-centuries-old tradition of all-male ministry. She was named senior associate minister at Marble Collegiate Church. As a board member of the ecumenical ministry Faith@Work, she spearheaded a national effort to foster leadership positions for women in ministry and in lay activities. Through workshops around the country for Peale's School of Practical Christianity, she trained hundreds of clergy in spiritual renewal. As senior associate minister emerita of Marble Collegiate Church since 2002, she continued her activities there and throughout the country until a few months before her death.

Honors granted her included a community service award from the Harlem Interfaith Counseling Service, a BUDDY award from the Legal Defense and Education Fund of NOW, and citation as trustee extraordinaire and distinguished alumna of the New York Theological Seminary, which also awarded her an honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1998. She received a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003 from Birmingham-Southern, where she was a member of the Endowment Builders Society and the Ginkgo Society.

She is survived by her sister, **Dr. Roye E. Wates '54**.

Homewood. He also was active in community youth sports.

Survivors include wife Nancy Shepherd Christie.

**Joseph di Paola '59** of Austin, Texas, died Feb. 8, 2009. After attending BSC, he graduated from the University of St. Thomas in Houston and from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest. He was ordained deacon in 1961 and priest in 1962,

and served as a priest at a number of churches, including Trinity in Galveston and St. Martin's in Houston. Survivors include wife Betty di Paola.

**Wilson Price Hightower Jr. '60** of Birmingham died Feb. 15, 2009. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he served in its intelligence branch while stationed in Germany. In 1962, he joined his father-in-law's automobile dealership, Steel City

## In Memoriam '58



**Rev. Dr. Jerry Edward Sisson** of Trussville died Dec. 19, 2008. A graduate of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, he was a United Methodist minister for 48 years, and at the time of his death was pastor emeritus at Canterbury United Methodist Church. He also had served many other churches in the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, and also served

as district superintendent of the Birmingham-West District and as administrative assistant to the Episcopal Office and Lay Ministry.

He had been a trustee at Birmingham-Southern since 1987 and was a past chair of the board. He also served on the Pastoral Advisory Board and endowed a scholarship for United Methodist students. He received an honorary doctor of divinity from the college in 1988.

Sisson was the author of two books, *You Have a Beautiful Face, She Said* and *For the Quiet Times*.

He was a member of BSC's Endowment Builders Society and Ginkgo Society.

Sisson was preceded in death by his wife of 21 years, **Martha Ann Jacoway Sisson '60**. Survivors include wife **Laura Boyer Sisson '79**, sons **Thomas Edward Sisson '84 (Leigh Ann Alexander Sisson '87)** and **Rev. James Bryan Sisson '94** (Tracy), and daughter Jayne Elizabeth Sisson Randall (**Dr. Richard Randall '88**). By request of the family, memorials may be sent to the Jerry and Laura Sisson Scholarship Fund at Birmingham-Southern through the *Office of Institutional Advancement, Birmingham-Southern College, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254*.

## In Memoriam '59



Photo courtesy of Wake Forest University

**Dr. Thomas K. Hearn Jr.** of Winston-Salem, N.C., president emeritus of Wake Forest University, died Aug. 18, 2009. He held a divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctoral degree in philosophy from Vanderbilt University.

After teaching philosophy at the College of William and Mary for 10 years, he returned to his home state of Alabama in 1974 to establish the Philosophy Department at UAB. He was later named dean of the School of Humanities, vice president, and senior vice president for non-medical affairs at UAB.

In 1983, he became the 12th president of Wake Forest University and served until 2005, the second-longest tenure in the school's history. During his presidency, the school developed from a small, regional liberal arts Southern Baptist college into one of the nation's premier independent universities.

Following his retirement, he received the university's highest award for service, the Medallion of Merit. He also received the North Carolina Award for public service, the state's highest honor.

He received the Distinguished Alumni Award at Birmingham-Southern in 1990.

Survivors include wife Laura W. Hearn.

Oldsmobile, becoming sole owner in 1980, and adding Isuzu, GMC truck, and Hyundai franchises to his business. He was president of the Birmingham Automobile Dealers Association, as well as the state association, received the *Time* magazine Quality Dealer Award for the state of Alabama, and was named a member of the General Motors President's Council. He also was active in community and church affairs. He was a member of the Ginkgo Society and the Endowment Builders Society at BSC. Survivors include wife Anne House Hightower and sister **Betty Hightower Pewitt '52**. Other BSC family includes his aunt,

the late **Ouida Boyd Hightower '37**. *At the request of the family, memorial gifts may be made to the Price Hightower Scholarship Fund through the Birmingham-Southern Office of Institutional Advancement, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.*

**Martin Earl "Butch" Donegan '66** of Birmingham died Feb. 9, 2009. He was a certified public accountant and was a member of both the Alabama Society and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Survivors include wife DeLoris Shipp Donegan.

**Charles Edward "Chuck" Pearce Jr. '69** of Mobile died Jan. 26, 2009. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he received his law degree from the University of Alabama and was an attorney in the oil and gas industry in Mobile County for many years.

**Reginold R. Sanderson '70** of Birmingham died Dec. 12, 2008. After completing a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Birmingham-Southern (he was the first African American male in a freshman class at BSC), he received a law degree from the Miles College School of Law. He also studied Catholic theology in the master's program at Spring Hill College. A certified project manager and certified data professional, he was employed for 25 years in information technology at South Central Bell (now AT&T). He then began a second career as an educator, serving as assistant principal, religion instructor, and assistant basketball coach at Holy Family High School and later as a mathematics instructor at Hudson Middle School, Kennedy Alternative School, and Riggins Opportunity Center. Survivors include wife Cynthia Sanderson and sister **Eusebia Comez Sanderson '70**.

**Claud Alexander Nuckols '77** of Birmingham died Aug. 27, 2008. With a BFA in painting, he was an artist in several genres and contributed to the artwork for "Dungeons and Dragons." He served as director of the art department at Champion Paper Co. A veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, he was a collector of uniforms, weapons, and paper ephemera, but was best known as an expert in the renovation and repair of toy trains and the designer of collectors' toy train layouts. He was a member of the board of the Heart of Dixie Railroad Club.

**Leigh Peters Wright '83** of Pensacola, Fla., died Nov. 29, 2008. A talented musician, she graduated from BSC with a double major in business and music. While a student, she represented the college as Miss Birmingham-Southern in the Miss Alabama pageant, where she won the preliminary talent competition. She also was winner of the Alys Robinson Stephens piano competition. Continuing her education at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, she earned various degrees in human resources which supported her work for the Escambia County (Fla.) Board of Education. Survivors include son James Gage Wright IV and brother-in-law **Gilbert Sullivan '74** (Lynn).

**Rev. Frank Blalock McRight Jr. '85** of Thompson Station, Tenn., died Nov. 9, 2008. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He held a master's degree in divinity from the University of the South. He was employed as an international banker and a construction supply manager. He also had ministered at Episcopal churches, including The Church of the Good Shepherd in Huntsville, St. John's in Tallahassee, Fla., and the Church of the Apostles in Thompson Station. He was a member of the BSC Ginkgo Society. Survivors include his sister, **Karen McRight Lastovic '88**.

**Dr. Nathan Wayne Lewis '97** of Savannah, Ga., died Sept. 14, 2008. With a degree from St. Eustatius School of Medicine, he was an anesthesiologist employed with the Anesthesia Associates of Savannah and had earlier served with Anesthesia Services of Birmingham. Survivors include wife **Kimberly Malchow Lewis '97** and sister **Carolyn Lewis '98**.

## In Memoriam '59



Photo courtesy of the University of Georgia

**Dr. Henry King Stanford** of Americus, Ga., president of Birmingham-Southern from 1957-62, died Jan. 1, 2009, at the age of 92. Stanford, who also had served as president of Georgia Southwestern College (Americus, Ga.), Georgia State College for Women (Milledgeville, Ga.), the University of Miami, and the University of Georgia, was known for both his intellectual skills and his spirited leadership.

Stanford was a beloved leader at BSC, where students protested on his lawn in 1962 when it was learned that he had been offered the presidency of the University of Miami. Years later

he was reported to say that, in reflecting on his tenure at BSC, that gathering of students was among his most cherished memories.

Stanford held bachelor's and master's degrees from Emory University, a master's degree from the University of Denver, and a doctorate from New York University. He also was awarded 13 honorary degrees. He served as president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and vice president of the International Association of University Presidents. He was a founding member and director of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Stanford's wife was the late **Ruth King Stanford '61**. Survivors include sons **Henry King Stanford Jr. '61** and **Lowry C. Stanford '64**, granddaughter **Stephanie Stanford Branham '91**, and grandson **Dr. L. Claiborne Stanford, Jr. '94**. By request of the family, memorial gifts may be made in his name to Birmingham-Southern through the *Office of Institutional Advancement, Birmingham-Southern College, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254*.

**Penelope S. "Penny" Haynes MPPM '00** of Hoover died Jan. 28, 2009. She held a bachelor's degree in computer science from UAB. A member of the BSC staff since 1994, she was senior systems analyst in the Office of Information Technology. Colleague Rusty Howell said of her "Over the years, she has touched many lives with her commitment to service and friendship." Her husband was the late **G. Bennett Haynes Jr. '65**. Survivors include son **Gifford Bennett III '02** and daughter **Christina Stolk Lamb Haynes '05**.

**Thomas Melvin (T.R.) Reed II '03** of Mobile died in an automobile accident in Atlanta on Aug. 26, 2008. He was a two-year starter and letterwinner in 2000-02 for Coach Duane Rebol's men's

basketball team, and in 2002 received the college's Bill Burch Award as the most inspirational player. He was an NCAA All-Independent selection following the 2001-02 season in which he led the Panthers in scoring, rebounding, and steals. Survivors include fiancé Marie Sabine Delorme.

## Friends

**Dr. Paul Clinton Bailey**, a former professor at Birmingham-Southern, died Feb. 27, 2009, in his hometown of Baileyton, the Cullman-area community founded by his great-grandfather. He was a respected professor of biology and an energetic administrator at Birmingham-Southern for 22 years.

Following his retirement from the college in 1985, he returned to Baileyton, where he later served as mayor for 18 years until his second retirement in 2008. For more on his life and accomplishments, see page 21. His survivors include wife Eileen Garmon Bailey and children **Paul Bailey Jr. '69**, **Stanley Bailey '71**, and **Jeanne Bailey Green '73**.

**Bill Burch** of Lebanon, Tenn., died Dec. 7, 2008. He held a master's degree from George Peabody College and had done extensive work toward a doctorate at Indiana University. In 1947, he was hired as a basketball, tennis, golf, and baseball coach at Birmingham-Southern, and remained on the staff until 1973, serving in various capacities, including athletics director, dean of men, and director of development. He was inducted into the BSC Sports Hall of Fame and had the Old Gym named after him. While in Birmingham, Burch also served as president of the Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board, member of the Chamber of Commerce Athletic Affairs Committee, and senior member of the Alabama State High School Football Officials Association. Survivors include wife Helen Boyd Burch and sons **Richard L. Burch '67**, **William F. Burch '68**, and **James B. Burch '73**.

**Dr. Tom Oliver Caldwell** of Birmingham died Oct. 20, 2008. He was a pediatrician with 42 years of service in the Birmingham area. Through the Career Consultant Program at BSC, he welcomed student interns into his practice and graciously shared his knowledge of pediatric subjects. Survivors include daughter **Anna Claire Caldwell '81**.

**Dr. Dan Clark Holliman** of Birmingham, professor emeritus at Birmingham-Southern, died Feb. 19, 2009, at the home of his daughter, **Dr. Diane Carol Holliman '87**, in Valdosta, Ga. He

was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Agnes Brooks Holliman, who died this past summer. An honored scholar and a revered teacher of BSC students during his 38 years at the college, Holliman retired in 2000 as the Ada Rittenhouse Snavely Professor of Biology. For more on his career and achievements, see page 20.

**Florence Moore Jackson** of Birmingham died Dec. 19, 2008. She was an educator and, for more than 30 years, taught English, Spanish, French, and social science to area high school students. She was a member of the Writing Today Advisory Committee for more than six years and chaired the 2004 conference. According to her fellow committee members, "Her passion for youth and the written word prompted Flo to initiate creative writing workshops for high school students as part of Writing Today's outreach to the community." In her honor, the group has renamed the Writing Today scholarships for high school students the Florence Jackson High School Scholarship Program, which will in future years enable area students to attend lectures and workshops from some of the country's most outstanding authors, editors, and publishers.

**Dr. David E. Johnson** of Birmingham died Sept. 4, 2008. He held bachelor's degrees from Louisiana Tech University, and a master's degree and doctoral degree in applied mathematics from Auburn. After teaching for six years at Louisiana Tech, and for 21 years at LSU, during which time he wrote or co-authored more than 40 academic textbooks, many translated for use around the world, he taught mathematics at Birmingham-Southern for 11 years, retiring in 1994. Survivors include wife **Frances White Johnson '54** and daughters **Nancy Johnson Forshaw '87**, **Mercedes Johnson Compton '91**, and **Katherine Johnson Holmgren '91**.

# For the love of Birmingham-Southern College

BY CARL BAILEY

One of the things that makes Birmingham-Southern College so special is its people. Although I graduated from Auburn University, I have served on Birmingham-Southern’s Board of Trustees since 1985. Over those 24 years, I’ve been exposed to many BSC graduates, and I’ve always been amazed by their life accomplishments. Not just how far they have risen on the career ladder or how much money they have made, but by the impact they have made on the lives of others. Birmingham-Southern graduates *do* change lives.

Maybe the most interesting thing I’ve come to realize about BSC people is that they love their college. This love for an alma mater is very strong, and very special. The college has been asking alumni far and wide of late, “Just what is it that makes BSC so special, so distinctive?” It’s an age-old question to which there have been many, many answers. All of them the right answer in one way or another. But we still haven’t been able to pinpoint that one thing that sets BSC apart from the other colleges and universities. And maybe it isn’t just one thing, but a combination of factors. All I know is that Birmingham-Southern graduates love their alma mater, and they will go to great lengths to help the college.

As always, this issue of *Southern* magazine includes “In Memoriams” for those alumni who have passed on. In particular are six Trustees of the college who have passed away in the last 12 months, each who did great things in their lives, and devoted their time, energy, and resources to help steer Birmingham-Southern through—at times—troubled waters to become an institution that today is realizing record

enrollments and well-deserved national recognition, while securing its financial future.

Mr. James C. Lee Jr. ‘40, a Life Emeritus member of the Board; Mr. Frank M. Dominick Jr. ‘41, a Life Emeritus member and past chair of the Board; Mr. L. Paul Kassouf ‘42, a Life Member of the Board (“In Memoriam” appeared in Fall 2008 issue); Mrs. Gabriella “Gay” Comer White ‘44, a Life Emeritus Trustee; and Rev. Dr. Jerry Edward Sisson ‘58, a 22-year member of the Board and past chair.

Then there was Mr. John Cowan Evins ‘33, also a Life Emeritus member of the Board of Trustees, or “John the Methodist,” as he was eulogized by Rev. Allen Montgomery at Canterbury United Methodist Church in Mountain Brook in February. I was fortunate to serve with John both at Birmingham-Southern and at Canterbury. He epitomized what it means to be a Birmingham-Southern graduate, and a Methodist. His love for both his college and his church was beyond measure.

John gave his time, attention, and financial resources to BSC for some 75 years. He served on the Board of Trustees for 44 years and held just about every position of leadership, including chair of the Board, and chair of the Executive, Development, and Finance and Investment committees.

He was a confidant to BSC presidents, and was there for Birmingham-Southern through some of its most trying times. He played an integral role in keeping the college at its present location, and in ensuring that Birmingham-Southern remained open in the mid ‘70s when enrollment was 727 and the endowment was around \$10 million.

John Evins was the most humble man I ever knew. And he was private, especially about his giving to Birmingham-Southern. Not only did he give his time and leadership to the college for three-quarters of a century, he gave his money—both directly and indirectly. He never would allow the college to talk publically about his contributions, but he was one of the college’s most generous



donors. When an idea or project arose that was for the betterment of BSC and its students, the Trustees would say, “How are we going to pay for this?” John would say, “This is what we need to do, and I will help raise the funds and also make a contribution to see that it gets done.” He also encouraged the many organizations of which he was a member to support Birmingham-Southern.

John never sought recognition for his leadership or his gifts, but both were invaluable. Whether he was leading or giving, it was always behind the scenes. He was a quiet leader. Birmingham-Southern would not be here today if not for John Evins. I truly believe that.

John served his church just like his college. He served as chair of the Administrative

Board and as a Trustee for Canterbury United Methodist Church. He was a Lay Leader and on the Board of Trustees for the Birmingham District of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. In 1995, he received the Francis Asbury Award from the United Methodist Church as the one individual in the nation having the most outstanding contribution to higher

education within the church.

John loved Birmingham-Southern, and he loved the United Methodist Church.

And both will miss him. As will Birmingham-Southern miss Jimmy, Frank, Paul, Gay, and Jerry. I hope you will read their expanded “In Memoriams” and realize how much this place meant to them and how much of their lives they gave back to the college in service. These are the types of respected and dedicated people who lead your institution. And we should all be thankful for their love of Birmingham-Southern.

**Editor’s Note:** Carl Bailey is a past chair and Life Member of the BSC Board of Trustees. He is retired president of South Central Bell/BellSouth and co-chair of BellSouth Telecommunications.



Sticks up!—March was a historic month for Birmingham-Southern athletics as the men's and women's lacrosse teams played their first games at Panther Stadium on campus. Lacrosse—a combination of the elements of soccer, basketball, and hockey—is a field game typically played in the spring by two teams of 10-12 players on the field, each of whom uses a long-handled stick with a net pouch on one end to carry or throw a small, hard ball into the opponent's goal. Although the rules for lacrosse are different for each gender, the game basics still apply. The BSC women won their home opener—and first match ever—March 5 against Methodist College; the men's team captured its first victory March 8 at Guilford College.

*Freshman Brytanny Uy of Fayetteville, Ga.*

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