# Southern

A Publication for Alumni and Friends

PANTHERS

Summer 2007 Volume 33, Number 2

# Football Returns to 'Southern

BSC begins NCAA Division III era

PANTHERS

Birmingham-Southern College

PANTHERS

### Editor's Note What a difference a year makes, but mission far from over

#### BY BILL WAGNON

What a difference a year makes.

It seems like an eternity to me now, but it *was* only 15 months ago that the college's Board of Trustees voted to transition the intercollegiate athletics program from NCAA Division I to non-scholarship Division III. That announcement came less than three months after two of our students were arrested for conspiracy and arson of nine rural Alabama churches. In August 2006, the college welcomed a smaller than usual freshman class of 292 students.

What a difference a year makes.

August 25, 2006: "The solution to our structural problem is going to be primarily enrollment. Enrollment, enrollment, enrollment."—BSC President David Pollick in his third annual State of the College address to the campus community.

August 24, 2007: "Well, you were nothing short of amazing! Led by Sheri Salmon [Dean of Enrollment Management] and her wonderful staff, we got better in every way. Our 'Southern Ambassadors were living examples of why we all believe in the students and graduates of this college. Admissions, while examining every aspect of their operation, opened their minds to the change and growth that was essential to success. And the faculty and staff took up the challenge, visiting with prospective students in person, on the phone, and via the computer, in many cases numerous times. And our coaches, the veterans as well those leading programs for the first time on our campus, were so focused that you didn't even realize it when you blew by the goals that had been set for your teams. A world-class performance. ... The Alumni Association set as its goal for this year to provide 500 new student referrals to admissions. They provided 600!"—President Pollick in his fourth annual State of the College address.

What a difference a year makes.

August 25, 2006: "There is no doubt that we are in a challenging period for fundraising. While we have been the grateful beneficiaries of some large and generous bequests ... these naturally are unpredictable. In contrast, annual gifting had become more difficult even before we entered this transitional phase, indicating that much work needs to be done to reverse that trend."—President Pollick.

August 24, 2007: "Well, the good news is that enrollment is not the only thing growing at the college. Fundraising for the academic programs and athletics is growing as well. ... Last year was one of the most successful fundraising years in the college's 151-year history. ... And while all of this is great news, securing the future with our alumni has also been a major goal. ... And not at all surprising, alumni participation in events on campus and around the country increased. ... "—President Pollick.

What a difference a year *does* make. Record freshman enrollment. Alumni and friends pledging their support to the college. A new beginning in Division III athletics and the numbers and kinds of scholar-athletes it is attracting to our campus.

It's nice to be able to celebrate some exciting times at the college with this issue of *'Southern.* Yet, there is still much work to be done. As President Pollick reminded us in this year's State of the College, *"*Today, we should all be proud of what was done this last year in the critical areas of enrollment and advancement. But you won't be seeing any banner behind me that says, *'Mission Accomplished,' although you might hear the more accurate, and certainly more eloquent, words, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But, it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.'"* 

The day before school started for the fall 2007 term, a faculty member told me that he's never seen such a buzz about the campus. For the first time in his nearly quarter of a century here, everyone—faculty, staff, students, and alumni—is pulling in the same direction.

What a difference a year makes.

Bill Wagnon Vice President for Communications

#### USPS 087-600

Dr. G. David Pollick, President Carl Bailey, Chair, Board of Trustees

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# Inside'southern

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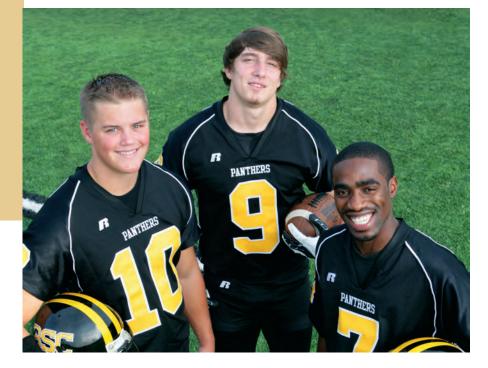
# Feature

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Birmingham-Southern enters new era of intercollegiate athletics; football team retakes field after 68 years



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### On the Cover

Birmingham-Southern is playing football again for the first time since 1939 with a slate of 10 games this fall. Shown are (from left to right) Chandler Bares, a sophomore quarterback from Highlands Ranch, Colo.; Tony Myers, a sophomore wide receiver from Alabaster; and Tay Walker, a junior wide receiver from Birmingham. Find out more about the football program and Division III athletics beginning on page 22. *Cover photograph by Geoff Knight.* 

### New students arrive among new construction, football Birmingham-Southern welcomes its largest freshman class in school history



BSC's large group of new students, including a record freshman class, fill the Bill Battle Coliseum floor for the Opening of School Convocation on Move-In Day Aug. 25.

The spring semester on the Hilltop ended in the midst of much anticipated change for the coming fall. Three large construction projects, the acquisition of an apartment complex, a new major course of study, one football team, six other additional new sports, and three months of summer later, the opening of the new school year heralded the untold excitement.

Classes began Aug. 29 with more than 500 new students, including the largest number of new freshmen in Birmingham-Southern history. The school-record 452 freshmen were joined by 54 transfer students. Another three freshmen and 25 transfers enrolled in January for the spring 2007 term.

The 506 new students compares to

326 last fall, which included 292 freshmen and 34 transfers. Overall enrollment is expected to grow from 1,207 last year to about 1,315. The freshman class included 14 National Merit Scholars compared to six last year; 60 percent of the freshman class was male students compared to 36 percent last fall. Additionally, the academic profile of the freshman class was virtually unchanged over previous years in terms of high school grade-point average and average ACT and SAT scores.

"This is a significant accomplishment for our college, our Admission Office, and our coaches," says Birmingham-Southern President Dr. David Pollick. "We set lofty goals and many people worked diligently to bring in a record freshman class and an outstanding group of transfer students."

About 120 of the new students will be playing one of BSC's seven new NCAA Division III sports, supporting the college's move to D-III athletics as a major step toward its long-term plan to grow and sustain enrollment at about 1,800 students in the next few years.

BSC Provost Dr. Kathleen Murray, however, emphasizes that the academic integrity of the college will not be compromised by this planned growth.

"We have made a commitment to maintain the 12-to-1 student-tofaculty ratio throughout this process," she says, "and we are doing so this fall without increasing the number of adjunct faculty. And, as our enrollment continues to grow in the future, we will add full-time faculty accordingly."

In May 2006, the college's Board of Trustees announced that the athletics program would move from the NCAA Division I level to nonscholarship NCAA Division III, citing both financial and philosophical considerations. It also announced that it was reviving the football program, which last took the field in 1939, along with the addition of six other sports for men and women. Other new sports include men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field and men's and women's lacrosse.

Pollick says that while an increase in enrollment was expected with the additional sports, there are several other factors intertwined that are helping the college forge ahead with its plan for growth.

"We knew that a Division III athletics program would be attractive to those outstanding young men and women who wanted to stay in Alabama to continue their athletics careers beyond high school, but couldn't before," he says. "Now they can, and they are, and on top of that they are doing so in a high-quality liberal arts academic environment. But we also knew we had to make our campus environment, our oncampus living arrangements, our academic programming, and even our scholarship offerings attractive as well, and those are just some of the seeds we are planting that will ultimately grow Birmingham-Southern for the future."

Among the seeds that have been planted and nurtured over the past several months are construction projects that welcomed the new and returning students in various phases.

The new donor-funded Admission Welcome Center, located just east of the Striplin Fitness and Recreation Center as you enter campus, will be ready for occupancy by the Office of Admission staff in early September. It will serve as the front door to the college for prospective students and their parents and other visitors.

Phase one of the new Football Complex also will be completed in the fall.

The completion of the first phase of the donor-funded Urban Environmental Park, which will serve as a place of recreation and leisure for students, as well as an outdoor laboratory for the new Urban Environmental Studies major, is under way as well. (More details on these projects, as well as photographs, are located elsewhere in the Community News section.)

The new Urban Environmental Studies major was formally approved by the faculty in the spring and will officially become a part of the curriculum in fall 2008. An honors track in international business has been added to the curriculum as well, and other majors which will appeal to today's students are under consideration.

A prelude to the new Urban Environmental Studies major was offered to new BSC students in a pilot two-week summer course project in August. About 20 new students enrolled in the Ecological Disasters and Human Health Course, which allowed the students to arrive at their new school two weeks prior to the traditional movein date.

Dr. Pamela Hanson, associate professor of biology at BSC who taught the course, says it was appropriate and well timed, noting the growing interest in urban environmental studies and a number of grant proposals in the works. The initiative was completely faculty driven, says Provost Murray, and grew out of discussions concerning student retention.

"The project allows its 20 freshman participants to interact with five or six faculty members, as well as provides an extra two weeks to adjust to college life and get a jump start on the academic climate at 'Southern," she explains.

The students received an Interim term credit for completing the course.

In January, Birmingham-Southern purchased the adjacent and recently renovated Hilltop Terrace Apartments and have enclosed them within the college's gates. Renamed Hilltop Village by the students, the apartments provide an additional 375 beds for students and include a swimming pool and club house, which will eventually be home to a convenience store. In addition to offering a more independent living environment for students, the apartments also offer theme housing for those interested in subjects such as Spanish language, environmental issues, and community service.

An important piece of the plan for growth includes continued support by alumni and friends, and Pollick says that enrollment is not the only thing growing at Birmingham-Southern. Fundraising for the academic programs and scholarships, as well as for athletics, is growing as well.

"Our alumni and friends contributed almost \$17 million in the past fiscal year that ended May 31, including major gifts in support of academic and interdisciplinary programs that are at the heart of our institution, including international study and travel and service learning, among other initiatives," he notes. "Major gifts also have been received to provide scholarships, specifically to provide need-based support to make sure we are able to welcome students who qualify to come to Birmingham-Southern, but have significant financial needs.

"And our annual giving from alumni continues to be strong as well, with unrestricted annual gifts from alumni in the past two years being the second and third highest in the past decade. Gifts to the Parents Fund have set all-time records the past two years, as well, growing by 152 percent."



Current BSC students (in gold T-shirts) welcome this firstyear student as he enters campus to move into his new residence hall home.

BSC's 2005-06 Outstanding Educator of the Year Dr. Bill Nicholas, who is James A. Wood Professor of History, addressed the 2007 graduating class during this year's Commencement.

Faculty award winner delivers Birmingham-Southern's Commencement address, two honorary degrees awarded

Dr. Bill Nicholas, James A. Wood Professor of History, addressed the Birmingham-Southern class of 2007 during the college's Commencement ceremonies May 26.

Nicholas was named the BSC Outstanding Educator of the Year for the 2005-06 academic year in recognition of excellence in all aspects of teaching. The award includes a cash stipend and an invitation to speak at the next year's Commencement.

He delivered the keynote address at the 148th event at the Boutwell Auditorium in downtown Birmingham when Birmingham-Southern conferred 306 bachelor's degrees, 21 master's degrees (the largest graduate class in the college's history), and two honorary degrees.

In his address, Nicholas urged graduates to expand their learning and interests beyond their degrees and shared with everyone his dream of playing the piano for an audience. "If a professor at BSC was able to change your life in the last four years, I can almost guarantee it is because of a part of their life that brought in a fresh perspective, a different angle or edge," he said.

Nicholas also related several stories and anecdotes, including a reference to the persistence, repeated failures, and eventual success of Albert Einstein told by guest lecturer Dr. Li Fu Tuan. ""When we are discouraged by the memory of our own academic failures, it helps,' Tuan told us, 'to think of Einstein. For it is in the moments when we stand back up in the face of that failure that the lesson truly begins.'"

In addition, Nicholas told graduates about the unexpected happenings that accompany each of our lives and advised them to use their BSC education to carry them through difficult times. "A liberal arts education teaches us that you cannot control the world around you, but you can control your response."

Birmingham-Southern's Commencement Day began with the Baccalaureate Service that morning at First United Methodist Church in downtown Birmingham. **Rev. Libba Stinson**, a member of the BSC Board of Trustees and pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Auburn, delivered the Baccalaureate address.

In her sermon, "Can You Hear Me

Now?", she used a current cell phone commercial as a metaphor for the day by asking graduates which voices they could hear right now. In addition to the praise of family and friends, she encouraged them to "listen for all the voices that have enabled and empowered you to reach this milestone in your lives."

Then citing the voices of Mr. Rogers, the five women involved in Moses' childhood, Truman Capote's *The Grass Harp*, and others, she wove together a message encouraging graduates to listen for the voice of God and for the voices within to help them write their own stories well. She also asked them to "remember to listen to your pain, your panic, and the things that are scaring you right now. God's voice is present to remind you that even in times of pain, you are not alone."

Birmingham-Southern also presented an accomplished husband and wife with honorary degrees during Commencement in recognition of distinguished careers and service to the college.

#### William Cabaniss of Birmingham, former Alabama senator and former U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic, received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. He served in the Alabama House of



Rev. Libba Stinson, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Auburn, delivered the sermon during the Baccalaureate. Stinson (center) is pictured with BSC President Dr. David Pollick and Provost Dr. Kathleen Murray prior to the service.

Representatives from 1978-82 and in the Alabama Senate from 1982-90. A leader in the Birmingham business community for many years, he is former owner of Precision Grinding Inc., a successful steel plate processing and metal machine business.

**Catherine Cabaniss**, gifted artist and wife of William Cabaniss, received an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. She aggressively represented the work of other American artists within the ambassador's residence during her husband's three-year term in Prague, introducing artists and their work to the citizens of the Czech Republic. In the late '90s, she joined a group of women to form the Alabama Committee for the National Museum of Women in the Arts, a coalition of women who believe in the importance of the creative contributions of Alabama's female artists.



Receiving honorary degrees during Commencement were William and Catherine Cabaniss.

### *To become the first of its kind in state* BSC to offer new Urban Environmental Studies major

Birmingham-Southern, in a progressive step toward a greener campus, will offer a new Urban Environmental Studies major beginning fall 2008. The program, the first of its kind in the state of Alabama, will focus on the study of the urban ecological environment and how people live in and interact with the environment.

The new major was developed through the work of the Environmental Studies Committee chaired by Dr. Scot Duncan, BSC assistant professor of biology. Like other environmental studies programs, it will include courses from across the liberal arts curriculum on ethics, politics, and societal issues, and not just science. Duncan says urban environments are quite messy, and it is important to find ways of making urban centers healthier for the natural ecosystems that sustain life.

Approved by faculty vote earlier this year, the innovative course of study will become an integral part of the Urban Environmental Park, currently under construction on the west side of campus near the old fraternity row site and the intramural fields. Phase I, which is nearing completion, includes a plaza, terraced seating for the intramural fields, irrigation, and landscape design. Phase II will include development of a lake/plant wetland and boardwalk. When completed, this urban oasis conducive for hands-on outdoor teaching will also serve as a place of recreation and leisure for students.

Architects are working to design the lake to capture storm water runoff, which is a major threat to this state's aquatic ecosystem, Duncan said. Alabama ranks No. 1 in the United States for aquatic biodiversity. Storm water runoff greatly impacts this population.

"We can show the rest of the country an example of how to deal with storm water runoff in a way that is aesthetically pleasing," noted Duncan.

The new major and Urban Environmental Park further advance the college's commitment to grow enrollment to about 1,800 over the next few years.

"Providing curricular offerings such as the Urban Environmental Studies major that are built first and foremost upon a common foundation in the liberal arts, but that also are attractive and useful to students and society, is an important part of our overall growth strategy," said BSC Provost Dr. Kathleen Murray.

The Urban Environmental Studies major is initially funded by a Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham grant awarded to the college that will be used to seek out and hire a program director. A search is under way, with hopes to have the director in place by fall 2008.

# **Q&A** An interview with BSC's recently retired dean of chapel

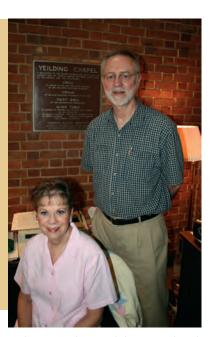
Editor's Note: 'Southern magazine recently sat down with Dr. Stewart Jackson, who retired June 30 as dean of chapel after 28 years of service to Birmingham-Southern. During those years, he served as the heart of campus life, offering pastoral ministry to all members of the college and in all faith traditions. A native of Birmingham, *Jackson received a bachelor's degree* from Auburn University and both master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Here are his reflections on his career and accomplishments.

### Q. How and when did you first

**receive your calling to ministry? A.** I think of anyone's calling as a long conversation that begins before we are ever born. Among the topics in my conversation that have been important and sacred to me are: growing up in the United Methodist part of Christianity; John Wesley's balanced emphasis of scripture, tradition, experience, and reason; balancing personal piety and social justice; being married and having children, and now grandchildren; the grace of the sacraments; and the power of forgiveness.

# **Q.** What interested you in bringing your ministerial work to BSC?

**A.** Before I came to BSC, I was a member of the North Georgia Methodist Conference and served three congregations. I knew about



Jackson, standing, with longtime chapel colleague Sue Powell.

BSC's great reputation, and I always wanted to work with college students and be a part of their lives as they matured into adults. When a position for chaplain opened at BSC in 1979, I called and talked to Mike Harper, who was my former youth director and the college's departing chaplain. He told me there was only one day left to apply. I drove from Atlanta the next morning and turned in my résumé at 8:15 a.m. The day after that, Dr. [Neal] Berte (former BSC president) called me for an interview.

### **Q.** What have been your primary duties over the years?

**A.** My initial appointment was working as the chaplain of the college. This meant that I worked

two-thirds of the time in religious life and one-third of the time as a personal counselor in the college's then one-year-old Counseling Center. In the early '80s, I became the counseling center's director and divided my time between serving there and serving as chaplain. Over the years, I've been fortunate to perform weddings, baby blessings, funerals, and baptisms; I have developed weekly worship services and given sermons; and I have helped develop the Service-Learning Interim at BSC. I've worked with the Service-Learning program each year either locally, nationally, or internationally. I also directed BSC's New Student Orientation 12 years and led the college's former Youth Ambassador Program.

## **Q.** What were your strategic and faith goals as a chaplain?

**A.** My goals were pretty simple. I sought to be true to myself and my faith and to connect to all parts of the college. I wanted to be vitally related to everyone on campus—from those in the President's Office and the trustees to the maintenance staff and students.

# **Q.** What unique personal or professional strengths do you feel you brought to BSC?

**A.** I think my strongest ability is to be a good listener. I also have a great love and affection for the people of BSC and the institution itself.

#### Q. How did your role as a chaplain change over the years as more types of faith were integrated into the life of the college, and how did you face that challenge?

**A.** Most students at BSC are from a Christian experience. I am among those who think we are enriched when we get outside of our traditions to learn about others.



And I believe the key to that is respect. I've had little difficulty talking to anyone about their religion as long I was being respectful. Also, I grew up in a time when significant adults taught me to "get over myself" and realize that I was not the only one in the world, nor the only perspective.

# **Q.** Who among the campus community influenced you the most?

**A.** It would take the rest of this edition of 'Southern to list them all. I know I was deeply appreciative of late BSC French Professor Diane Brown. She taught a lot more than French; she taught about life. She was a well-respected and tenured faculty member who worked with me to create the Service-Learning program, along with Dr. Bob Slagter [professor of political science]. Late Mathematics Professor Dr. Natwarlal "Bos" Bosmia was a beautiful person to be around. He loved God, loved people, and loved family. He would often arrive on campus at 2 a.m. to begin his day. I have and do appreciate the servant leadership of Dr. Neal Berte and the courage of people like Terry Goodrick, Tom Gibbs, the late Barbara Lester, Bill Nicholas, Bob Shelton, Joe Dean, and so many more.

# **Q.** What are your thoughts on the strength of the religious community at BSC?

**A.** I believe the religious community is very strong at Birmingham-Southern. The majority of BSC students believe in God and prayer, and most students come from Christian traditions. Most also are respectful of others. But students are growing up during a time of defensiveness among religions. Fanatical fundamentalism is now a part of all the major religions. Fortunately, there are places like BSC that challenge students to have a faith that seeks understanding.

# **Q.** What have been your most memorable experiences?

**A.** I have met so many wonderful people through my travels, in churches, on the campus, and locally. Of the thousands of conversations I've had with students, I remember one in particular. I was talking to a group of students about their calling in life and what they would do after college, and one student said, "You know, college *is* the real world. It's just not the whole world." Seeing student minds and hearts grow in relationship to service around the world has been deeply gratifying to me.

# **Q.** What have been your major accomplishments during your career?

**A.** With the support of Kristin Harper [service-learning director], Sue Powell [administrative assistant to Jackson], and many others, we established the Service-Learning program at BSC. In the '20s, there was a popular motto which stated "education serves." The thought was that students are not just in college to learn to make more money. They are also here to make something of themselves and their communities. What fell into my lap was the opportunity to organize it and call it service learning. In the early '80s, Jackson sings to a little orphan girl during a Service-Learning Interim trip to Zimbabwe, Africa.

that thought was pretty new and just starting to gain credibility. Dr. Berte was very open to it. And Bob Slagter also was very supportive. We thought, rather than just teaching students about service, what if they were actually doing it, while reading about it? The college's first servicelearning project was in 1985, where I took two BSC students, along with a church group, to Florida for a Habitat for Humanity project. Then in 1988, we were ready to take our first trip to Zimbabwe, Africa. Since then, we've done numerous projects overseas.

## **Q.** What will you miss most about BSC?

**A.** I will miss the people. Many have allowed me to be a pastor to them, and I will never forget them or that sacred privilege.

## **Q.** What are your plans for retirement?

**A.** I'll be working full-time with United Methodist Pastoral Counseling, which is a counseling program for pastors, church members, and the public. I'll work with married couples, families in transition, and people undergoing great stress. Our central office is in Birmingham and I'll also be working out of offices in Gadsden and Huntsville. I've been doing this sort of work for more or less 30 years and will be able to focus completely on it now. In terms of my connection with BSC, I am a big supporter of Rev. John Richardson and his ministry here as the chaplain, and I will remain connected to the college through the relationships I have made over the years. The people on campus I've worked with are special to me and I'll never forget them.

### Alumnus named to lead campus ministry efforts at Birmingham-Southern

The Rev. John Richardson, a 2000 summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa Birmingham-Southern graduate and a United Methodist minister, has been named the new chaplain at BSC. He replaced

> longtime Dean of Chapel Dr. Stewart Jackson who retired this summer after 28 years of service to the college.

Richardson assumed his new position July 1 after serving three years as associate pastor of First United Methodist Church in New Albany, Miss. Prior to his ministry in New Albany, he was circuit minister for the Stokesley Circuit of the British Methodist Church as part of a oneyear exchange through the British-American Ministry Program.

His chaplaincy training includes serving at Northside Hospital in Atlanta; Hospice Atlanta; United Methodist Children's Home in Decatur, Ga.; and Children's Hospital in Birmingham. A proficient musician, Richardson also has held positions across the South as a music leader and pianist in camping and youth ministry, including summers at Camp Sumatanga in the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church lue Lake Camp in the Alabama-West Florida

and Blue Lake Camp in the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

Following graduation from BSC, he earned his master of divinity at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where he received the prestigious Woodruff Fellowship, its top scholarship. He was ordained an Elder in Full Connection in June 2006 by the Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Richardson originally is from Hattiesburg, Miss., and is a fourth-generation BSC graduate. His wife, Jasmine Hodges of Thomasville, Ala., is a 1999 magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa BSC graduate.

### New campus construction projects continue in various phases

Birmingham-Southern is undergoing one of the biggest years of construction in its history as the college's three large projects continue.

(Top photo): Phase I of the college's new Urban Environmental Park area is near completion as contractors finish installing the plaza, seating arrangements, irrigation, and landscape design. Phase II of park construction will include development of a lake/plant wetland and boardwalk. The park is located on the west end of campus adjacent to the residence hall quad. It will serve as both a place of recreation and leisure for students, as well as an academic laboratory for the college's new Urban Environmental Studies major.

(Middle photo): The new Admission Welcome Center was set to be finished Sept. 10. When completed, the center will be the new home for the college's Office of Admission. Located near the main campus entrance and just east of the Striplin Fitness and Recreation Center, the facility will serve as a formal point of entry for prospective students and their parents and other visitors to campus. The center also is across the street from the one-stop Student Services Building, where prospective students can get questions answered about financial aid.

(Bottom photo): Phase I of BSC's new athletics complex is well under way. Phase I of construction on the athletics building includes a training room, locker room, and weight room for the football program. The athletics building and practice field are scheduled to be completed in early September. The state-of-the art competition field also will be complete by the end of September and the eight-lane regulation track surrounding the field will be finished in November. Phase II of the project will include a stadium, offices and additional locker rooms in the athletics building, a press box, and a concession area.



Richardson





### BSC receives accolades from national college guides

Birmingham-Southern has received praises recently from The Princeton Review and the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*.

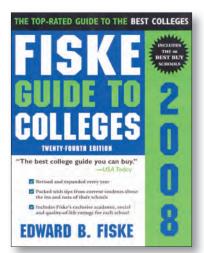
According to The Princeton Review, the Master of Arts in Public and Private Management program at BSC is an outstanding business school. The New York-

based education service company selected the school for inclusion for the first time in its 2008 edition of *Best 290 Business Schools*. The Princeton Review recommends the college's MPPM program to its readers and Web site users as one of the best places to earn a master's in business. It compiles the book's ratings and ranking lists based on institutional data it collects from the schools and its surveys of more than 19,000 students attending the schools profiled. The guide will be available in bookstores Oct. 9.

Birmingham-Southern also is one of the nation's "best value" undergraduate institutions, says The Princeton Review. The latest edition of its book *America's Best Value Colleges*, which profiles 165 colleges chosen for their excellent academics, generous financial aid packages, and/or relatively low costs of attendance, commends BSC for "its rank among the nation's best (and virtually always in the state of Alabama) in percentage of all graduates accepted to dental, health, and medical-related programs." The publication also includes a three-page profile on each college with information on academics, admission, financial aid, student body, and campus life. The list is available

at www.princetonreview.com.

In addition, Birmingham-Southern is included in the 2008 edition of the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*. The college is one of 26 private institutions chosen as "best buys" based on the quality of academic offerings in relation to the cost of attendance. The 24th edition of the book is available in bookstores and online.



### Three new members join Birmingham-Southern **Board of Trustees**

Birmingham-Southern welcomed three new members to its Board of Trustees this summer, one of whom is a BSC alumnus.

New trustees are G. Ruffner Page Jr. of Birmingham, president of McWane Inc.; Bill Terry of Birmingham, a partner in Highland Associates Inc.; and John Watts of Huntsville, founder and resident manager of Evans, Watts, and Schrimsher Wealth Management Group of Wachovia Securities.

The elections were approved at the annual meetings of the North Alabama and Alabama-West Florida conferences of the United Methodist Church.

In addition, longtime board member Carl Bailey of Birmingham, retired president of BellSouth Telecommunications, was elected the new chair of the board, replacing James Stephens of Birmingham, chair of EBSCO Industries Inc., whose term ended.

Page joined McWane in 1993 and worked in several aspects before being named president of the company in 1999. Prior to McWane, he held management positions at National Bank of Commerce, the Remington Fund, and Bankers Trust Co. in New York and Atlanta. He earned a double degree in philosophy and







Page

Watts

psychology from Vanderbilt University and completed a graduate degree at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business.

Terry has worked in the financial services industry since 1981 and specializes in serving healthcare clients. Prior to cofounding Highland Associates, he worked at the Investment Management Consulting Group of Interstate/Johnson Lane Securities, advising a national client base of primarily retirement plan assets. He graduated from Davidson College with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and is a chartered financial analyst.

Watts, a 1986 Birmingham-Southern graduate, specializes in providing customized investment solutions for high net worth individuals and is fully engaged with local merger and acquisition activity in partnership with the Capital Markets Group of Wachovia in Charlotte, N.C. He remains active at BSC serving as the vice president of athletics on the BSC Alumni Board, of which he is past president.



2007—Birmingham-Southern alumna Jill Balch Coon (center) presented the 2007 Honors Convocation address April 26. Coon, a 1992 BSC graduate and director of education and programs for the nonprofit

organization ENACT Inc., gave a speech entitled "You're the Inspiration," where she shared how she was inspired by faculty and peers as an undergraduate student at BSC and how she is inspired by the students that she works with every day. In her current position at ENACT, she uses creative drama and drama therapy techniques to teach social and emotional skills to New York City public school students and their families. Shown with Coon are BSC President Dr. David Pollick and Provost Dr. Kathleen Murray.

### Pollick attends Annapolis Group meeting to gauge validity of college rankings

Birmingham-Southern President Dr. David Pollick was among a group of 80 liberal arts college presidents who met this summer to formally endorse the development of an alternative format for assessing commercial college rankings.

At the annual meeting of the Annapolis Group, held in June in Baltimore, Md., members announced a new Web-based initiative that will provide more interactive and meaningful ways to aid students and their parents in the college selection process. The organization said it planned to work closely with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and other education groups that have begun creating a similar tool to provide prospective students with more candid information.

The Annapolis Group is an association of about 115 of the nation's leading national independent liberal arts colleges. The member institutions meet annually to share mutual interests and information that will strengthen their respective educational programs.

### Birmingham-Southern College Calendar of Events

September 7-28	<b>Plot Influential Art Exhibition</b> , a national invitational printmaking exhibition, M-F, 8:30 a.m4:45 p.m., Durbin Gallery, Doris Wainwright Kennedy Art Center/Azar Art Studios, reception on opening day at 5 p.m., 205/226-4928.		
September 20-23	<i>Miss Julie</i> Theatrical Production, an updated translation written by BSC Professor of Theatre Alan Litsey, Sept. 20-22 at 7:30 p.m. and Sept. 23 at 2:30 p.m., BSC College Theatre/ Theatre One, 205/226-4780.		
September 21	Black & Gold Preview Day for high school seniors, campus, 205/226-4696.		
September 22	<i>Destination: Pluto</i> <b>Planetarium Show</b> , 2 p.m., Robert R. Meyer Planetarium, 205/226-4771.		
September 30	Mildred Allen Faculty Recital (voice), 2:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.		
October 5-26	<b>Lisa Michitti Art Exhibition</b> , featuring paintings by the 1993 BSC graduate and artist/designer, in conjunction with the Sloss Artists Iron Pour, M-F, 8:30 a.m4:45 p.m., Durbin Gallery, Doris Wainwright Kennedy Art Center/Azar Art Studios, reception on opening day at 5 p.m., 205/226-4928.		
October 6	Family Day, campus, 205/226-4922.		
October 6	Football Homecoming vs. DePauw University, 1:30 p.m., Regions Park in Hoover, 205/226-4912.		
October 7	William DeVan Faculty Recital (piano), 2:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.		
October 11	<b>EcoFest VII</b> , to benefit the college's Southern Environmental Center, 6:30 p.m., WorkPlay multimedia complex, Birmingham, 205/226-4934.		
October 13	Fall Preview Day for prospective students, campus, 205/226-4696.		
October 20	<i>Ring World</i> Planetarium Show, 2 p.m., Robert R. Meyer Planetarium, 205/226-4771.		
November 2-30	John Lytle Wilson Art Exhibition, featuring paintings by the artist/instructor from Tallahassee, Fla., M-F, 8:30 a.m4:45 p.m., Durbin Gallery, Doris Wainwright Kennedy Art Center/Azar Art Studios, reception on opening day at 5 p.m., 205/226-4928.		
November 8-11	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i> <b>Theatrical Production</b> , a classic comedy by William Shakespeare, Nov. 8-10 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 11 at 2:30 p.m., BSC College Theatre/Mainstage, 205/226-4780.		
November 10	<b>BAMA Concert</b> , featuring violinist and BSC First Lady Karen Bentley Pollick with guitarist Paul Bowman, 7:30 p.m., Hill Recital Hall, 205/226-4950.		

### BSC president receives high ratings at national media conference

Birmingham-Southern President Dr. David Pollick set the bar high for a number of guest speakers at the 2007 How Colleges Can Obtain National and Regional Publicity conference held in June in Baltimore. Pollick's



Pollick

participation in the session "Communicating in a Crisis" earned him the honor of being the conference's highest-rated speaker. Of the 106 ratings of his talk, he pulled 96 "excellent" marks.

The annual conference, sponsored by the marketing consultancy firm Keith Moore Associates, brings together more than 200 media relations and communications professionals from colleges and universities across the country to receive insight from key higher education reporters, editors, freelance writers, and producers, as well as campus leaders and campus news professionals.

As noted on individual conference summaries, Pollick gained an attentive audience right after a previous speaker shared a true, heartwarming story about thoroughbred racehorse Barbaro. A recent note to Pollick and the Office of Communications stated, "You took a difficult time slot, following a truly moving story, and captured the audience's complete attention. That's almost an impossible task, but you did it so comfortably."

All college events can be found at www.bsc.edu.

# Estes appointed vice president for administration at Birmingham-Southern



Estes

Lane Estes, executive assistant to the president of Birmingham-Southern College since 1998, has been appointed the institution's vice president for administration.

In his new duties, Estes oversees the college's bookstore, cafeteria/food services, campus police, construction, facilities and events, human resources, landscaping, operations, post office, printing services, and

Southern Environmental Center areas.

"Lane has gained invaluable practical knowledge of many facets of the college while serving as executive assistant to the president, and his professionalism, discipline, and personal integrity, combined with that knowledge of Birmingham-Southern, will serve this college well," said BSC President Dr. David Pollick in making the announcement.

A native of Knoxville, Tenn., Estes holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in education, both from the University of Tennessee.

Prior to joining Birmingham-Southern, he was marketing director for Host Communications from 1993-98, and business, compliance, and library research assistant for the Southeastern Conference from 1991-93.

He is a member of the board of directors of the Homewood City Schools Foundation and Campfire USA. In 1997, Estes was named to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* "Top 40 Under 40."

### BSC faculty and student art exhibited in Czech Republic, First Lady performs at opening ceremony

Art work by Birmingham-Southern faculty and students was exhibited during the annual Pilsen Liberation Festival in the Czech Republic in May, and the opening ceremony featured a performance by BSC First Lady and violinist Karen Bentley Pollick.

Entitled "Birmingham-Southern College—A Southern View," the exhibit was part of the ongoing cooperation between BSC and the Institute of Art and Design of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic. The exhibit also honored the sister city relationship between Pilsen and Birmingham.

Pollick and Louisiana State University professor of cello Dennis Parker performed at the May 6 opening of the exhibit in the University Gallery. The duo was in the Czech Republic May 6-13 for an "American Spring" musical tour.

BSC faculty and students whose art was included in the exhibit were Natalie Andrews, a senior art-painting major from Franklin, Tenn.; Steve Cole, professor of art; Kendel Gordon, a senior art-studio major from Trussville; Jim Neel, assistant professor of art; Graham Ritchie, a senior art-sculpture major from Mobile; Kevin Shook, assistant professor of art; Cooper Spivey, instructor of art; and Pamela Venz, associate professor of art.

Pollick introduced the artwork to the Pilsen and Czech dignitaries gathered at the opening. Jan Vičar of Prague, who taught at BSC as a visiting professor of music in 2006, introduced Pollick and Parker, who performed Vičar's "Homage to Fiddlers," which was composed in Birmingham in 2006 while Vičar was teaching composition at BSC.

The duo then performed several concerts throughout the Czech Republic, in addition to collaborating with the Wind Ensemble of the Prague Castle Guard Band at Zbiroh Castle.



BSC First Lady and violinist Karen Bentley Pollick and cellist Dennis Parker perform at the opening of an art exhibit featuring works by BSC faculty and students in Pilsen, Czech Republic.

The art exhibition at the University of West Bohemia was the third in a series of exhibitions of American artists on the occasion of celebrations of liberation of the city of Pilsen by American troops and the end of World War II in Europe.

# Dr. Bob Slagter: mixing politics with sports

### BY PAT COLE

Dr. Bob Slagter has always been equally at ease, whether standing in front of the classroom or seated on a bench at a ballgame.

As professor of political science and outgoing chair of the Department of Political Science, Economics, and Sociology at Birmingham-Southern, Slagter also is an avid sports fan and has served as the faculty athletic representative for the college at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) level, and then later during BSC's affiliation with the NCAA.

"I love sports and probably have spent more time playing basketball during my life than any other activities except sleeping and reading," says Slagter. "I also appreciate the positive impact athletics can have as a part of the college experience."

Slagter will be on sabbatical during the spring 2008 term and recently relinquished his position as faculty athletic representative. Dr. Randall Law, assistant professor of history, will lead BSC into its inaugural season this fall as a member of NCAA Division III and the Southern Collegiate Athletics Conference (SCAC).

Slagter says he is proud to have served as one faculty voice that upholds the college's traditional liberal arts values and the well-being of its student-athletes. He received the title of faculty athletics representative in 1997 by then-BSC President Dr. Neal Berte because of his availability and willingness to serve. "The main focus of the FAR is academic integrity," says Slagter. "Less formally, I served as the liaison between BSC's athletic and academic programs to ensure that both components of the college attained the best possible degree of mutual understanding of the other's perspectives, demands, and needs. The position let me interact with many individuals in the BSC community to achieve a workable level of understanding."

And working with people is something that Slagter enjoys. Having a personality type that reflects both grace and humor, he helped steer the college through the difficult transition period last year when the move from Division I to Division III athletics was announced by the Board of Trustees. "The overwhelming majority of BSC faculty were in favor of the move," Slagter remarks.

"Birmingham-Southern is in a very unique position in American higher education. In 1999, the college made a necessary decision to leave the NAIA after winning two national championships in basketball and one in baseball during the previous 10 years. BSC committed to NCAA D-I affiliation and achieved success both athletically and academically, and reached full compliance and membership on schedule. As both a liberal arts institution and one of the smallest colleges competing at the D-I level, BSC faced issues involving the compatibility of D-I membership with the mission of the college and financial strain.

"One example illustrates the challenge. The college was giving full scholarships to some students on the basis of their athletic ability, but was unable to do the same thing for students based on academic ability. With our transition to D-III, student-athletes will receive financial

aid on the same basis as all other students and will be committed to academic achievement and athletic competitiveness in the great tradition of athletics at BSC."

Originally from Chicago, Slagter received his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from Southern Illinois University, all in political science. Prior to college, he served 14 months in the Vietnam War as a U.S. Army combat medic.

After returning and working in construction for several years, he earned his degrees and began his teaching career at BSC.

"One of my professors in college had attended graduate school in the South and knew about BSC," says Slagter. "He suggested that I contact the school and apply for a teaching position that was open."

Slagter has worked hard as a professor—while traveling and raising his daughter singlehandedly—to become a noted expert on social, economic, and political subjects in Thailand and their interaction with Japan and the United States. He also gained expertise in American politics, most notably at the national level, and an interest in the competence in teaching of research methods for political science and sociology.

He believes serving in the Vietnam War is what piqued his interest in (*Continued on next page.*)



Slagter

studying Asia. "When the Vietnam War ended, there just wasn't a lot of academic opportunity in that area," he says. "I kept that interest alive though, and in 1990, I spent a summer in Thailand as a Fulbright-Hayes Scholar. Then in 1993, I received another Fulbright Scholarship to study in Beijing, China, for a year."

In 2000, and after two years of writing, Slagter published *Modern Thailand: a Volume in the Comparative Societies Series.* "I never dreamed I would end up publishing a book in sociology and not political science, but the impetus to explore new topics from the perspectives provided by multiple disciplines is completely natural at BSC," he conveys. "The daily contact with professors and students in sociology, psychology, economics, and political science provides a constant intellectual challenge for me."

Slagter has gained intensive experience traveling abroad, having led students on international travel and service-learning interims throughout his 22 years of teaching at BSC. He is credited as one of the founders of the Service-Learning program at Birmingham-Southern in the mid-'80s, along with former BSC Dean of Chapel Dr. Stewart Jackson.

"The opportunity to travel with students to Zimbabwe, Brazil, and Bolivia in pursuit of learning and service has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my life here," says Slagter. "These shared experiences with students are unique to the learning environment at BSC."

In more recent years, his Interim projects have focused on Southeast Asia in which he and several student groups have visited Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand to explore intriguing historical and cultural situations. "I've had some wonderful students over the years," he expresses. "Their academic ability, collaborative work, and engagement in subjects that are interesting to me and to them have been terrific to watch."

Slagter has especially kept a watchful eye for the past decade on how BSC's student-athletes perform in the classroom. He's had help though in more recent years from an important academic measurement created by the NCAA. The Graduate Success Rate (GSR) measures the academic success of student athletic teams among the D-I institutions each semester based on a four-class average. The statistics have shown repeatedly that BSC is the premiere institution in Alabama when it comes to its student-athletes succeeding in the classroom and earning their college degrees.

"The GSR has revealed that the college has been doing a great job over the years in regard to the gradepoint average of our studentathletes," he notes. "The main challenge for the college this year will be the sheer number of students being admitted, with the addition of new sports. However, the college's newest athletic conference, the SCAC, and D-III competition in general, should allow both returning and new athletes increased opportunities for academic success and enrichment. The new athletic affiliation will allow student-athletes to enjoy the total BSC experience."

In addition to his love of sports, teaching, travel, and study of Asia, Slagter is the majority partner of a private beach resort on a Thai island in the Indian Ocean. His wife, Daeng, is a native of Thailand.

### Three BSC faculty members awarded endowed professorships

Three Birmingham-Southern professors in separate fields have been named to endowed chairs at the college that were made possible by previously established individual donor gifts. BSC faculty are appointed to endowed professorships in recognition of their high level of service to the college through teaching, research, or advising.

Dr. Stephen Craft, associate professor of marketing, was appointed to the Elton B. Stephens Professorship in Marketing. Craft will hold the endowed chair in honor of Stephens, the late BSC alumnus and trustee member who was a prominent businessman and philanthropist and founder of EBSCO Industries. Craft joined the college's faculty in 2004.

Dr. Bill Nicholas, professor of history, was appointed to the James A. Wood Professorship in History. The endowed chair is named in honor of the late Dr. Wood, a 1907 Birmingham College graduate (a parent institution of BSC) and a physician. Before her death, his widow, Kathleen Wood, presented a generous gift to BSC to establish the Wood Room in the college's Rush Learning Center/Miles Library. The room contains a collection of Wood's books on American history. Nicholas has been a member of the BSC faculty since 1972.

Dr. Duane Pontius Jr., associate professor of physics, was appointed to the T. Morris Hackney Professorship in Physics. The endowed chair is a tribute to Hackney, who is a BSC trustee, philanthropist, and a prominent local business leader. Pontius joined the BSC faculty in 1999.



Spieler

### Spieler receives Outstanding Educator Award

Dr. Barry Spieler, professor of mathematics at Birmingham-Southern, was presented with the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award for 2006-07 during the college's recent Commencement ceremonies.

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

"Dr. Spieler is an exceptional educator who has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and his students," says BSC Provost Dr. Kathleen Murray. "I am delighted to be able to recognize a faculty member who has had such a positive impact on the lives of students."

This is not Spieler's first teaching award though. In 1998, he was voted the Omicron Delta Kappa Professor of the Year by BSC students. He was named the 1999 Alabama Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

In 2002, he was recognized for his work as the principle investigator of a National Science Foundation project, through which he and his mathematics faculty colleagues at BSC implemented a new computer-equipped classroom and made major improvements to the college's mathematics curriculum.

A member of the BSC faculty since 1994, Spieler received his bachelor's degree from Tufts University and his master's and doctoral degrees from The Ohio State University.

# DeVan performs internationally in spring tour

During the spring semester, Birmingham-Southern Artist-in-Residence William DeVan supplemented his role as a piano professor on campus to devote some of his attention to performing and conducting master classes in Europe, China, and parts of the United States.



As a world-acclaimed Steinway artist and presenter, DeVan is recognized for his brilliant piano technique and his ability to give strong and convincing performances. His singular artistry earned him the distinction of being the first American pianist to win the prestigious "Vianna da Motta" competition in Lisbon, Portugal, and he is the founder of a concert series aimed at introducing young children to classical piano music. He also has co-authored a book on the solo piano works of Robert Schumann.

DeVan

During his spring tour, DeVan taught master classes, lectured, and presented concerts at the Music College of Qinghai University in Xining, China, and at the Guangxi Arts Institute in Nanning, China. This was his third trip to China in as many years, and he has been invited to return to both cities to perform and lecture during the 2008 concert season. Prior to his appearances in China, DeVan performed the Paris premiere of the *Piano Sonata No. 3* by American composer Lowell Liebermann at the American Church in Paris.

His tour also included stops throughout America with master classes at the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile, a Steinway Classics for Children concert at the Avondale School in Birmingham, then two more Steinway Classics for Children concerts in Indianapolis, and two workshops for piano teachers in Chicago. In March, DeVan performed *The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant* with narrator J'miah Nabawi at the Lucas Theater for the Arts in Savannah, Ga., as part of the Savannah Music Festival, in addition to giving a master class at the Savannah Arts Academy.

A native of Pine Hill, Ala., DeVan received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School. He also studied for five years in Germany, receiving the Konzertexamen Diploma in 1979 from the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover. He has been teaching piano at BSC for 27 years.

DeVan was introduced to Birmingham-Southern while a student at Juilliard. "I entered and won the Lilly Mae Caldwell Competition that BSC hosted one year and met several members of the music faculty, including the late William Baxter and Hugh Thomas," he recalls. "Then in 1980, when I saw an announcement for a piano position at the college, I applied."

This exuberant piano man plans to continue pushing the boundaries of live performance, playing concerts throughout the globe—wherever he is invited. "I particularly enjoy giving workshops and master classes, which allow me to meet other teachers from around the world."

### Lydia Rice: Soccer standout striving for a goal twice as high

#### BY PAT COLE

Playing sports has always been an integral part of Lydia Rice's life.

Since the age of seven, growing up in her hometown of Tupelo, Miss., she has participated in basketball, soccer, cross country, and even football. "Soccer is my main sport though," says Rice, a sophomore. "But I like to play pretty much anything."

An outstanding high school soccer competitor, she was recruited by Birmingham-Southern for the Panther squad in 2006. She served as co-captain of the varsity soccer squad at Tupelo High for three years and played for the Mississippi United club team, which won the 2006 state championship. Rice was part of a select team that ranked 10th in the nation in the U-17 ranks in 2005 and was a finalist that same year in the U.S. Youth Soccer Association Region III Tournament.

"I remember hearing about Birmingham-Southern for the first time when some people from Tupelo went there to visit," she recalls. "Then, later, my sister mentioned BSC when she was looking at colleges to attend. The school was out of my comfort zone since I knew hardly anyone on campus, but I felt the Lord was leading me to BSC."

This 5-foot-6 central defender has definitely earned the respect of her coach and teammates. Following her first season at the college last fall, Rice received a Big South Conference All First Team award, was a unanimous choice for Big South All Freshman team, and was named defensive player of the year for the Panthers.



Rice (foreground) during competition.

"Besides her accolades, any team member will tell you that Lydia is the hardest working and most competitive player we have," says Benji Walton, head women's soccer coach at BSC. "On the field, she is a born leader; off the field, she is a dedicated student."

And rightly so, since in addition

to her athletic achievements, Rice closed out her freshman year with a nearly perfect grade-point average of 3.95. She was valedictorian of her high school class with a 4.0 GPA. She admits that balancing sports and academics can be tough. "Time management is the key," notes Rice, who is undecided on a major. "You



just have to commit to getting all the work done between practices or on the road, and sometimes, you have to sacrifice other things you want to do."

Despite Rice's courteous, softspoken demeanor, she repeatedly has proven to be a fierce competitor in the classroom as well as on the field. Last season, she helped lead a defense that allowed only 27 goals and that helped her team to its first-ever victory over UAB in a 2-0 shutout.

She is thankful that Birmingham-Southern has provided her with a consistent mix of challenges. "BSC has given me a chance to play a

high level of soccer, while still letting me devote time to academics and friends," says Rice. "It's a great school with a challenging academic environment and which has many opportunities for travel, critical thinking, and service learning."

Rice's determination and dedication, coupled with her

enthusiasm, are what she relied on after receiving the announcement last summer that Birmingham-Southern would move from NCAA Division I to Division III athletics. "Like many other student-athletes, I was disappointed about the transition from D-I, especially because it was so unexpected," Rice expresses. "But even with our transition to D-III, our team really wants to step up and send a message that we are still a high-quality program and that we can compete successfully against anyone we play against. Trinity University will be a challenging competitor for us this coming season, and we will want to beat our former conference opponent UNC-Asheville."

On top of that big announcement, her team also had to adjust to a difficult coaching transition. Head Coach Keidane McAlpine accepted a job at Auburn University right before the start of the 2006-07 season, and his assistant, Nikki Smith, took over as interim head coach. Then, in January 2007, Benji Walton was hired to lead the Panthers. "I am proud of our team for working together to play well and to battle through the impending transition to D-III, plus the difficult season of adjusting to a different coaching situation than what we had originally expected."

Rice says her primary goals for the next soccer season are to emerge as a leader on the field and to mature as a player. "I believe that I have a good awareness of the game and good speed," she says. "However, I think it's important to play with integrity as well as a love for the game. Working as hard as I can for my team, encouraging and expecting great things from teammates, respecting the opponents, and playing up to my expectations and potential are all important to me. I also want my teammates to know that I respect and appreciate them because of their talent and hard work. They have helped me to grow as a player."

As the heart and soul of the Panther defense, Rice has just as great a passion for helping people and desiring others to be happy. She volunteered at the First Light Women's Shelter in downtown Birmingham this past spring and intends to continue her service there in the fall.

"I volunteered at the women's shelter as part of my Literature and the Social Experience class," says Rice. "It ended up being a meaningful experience in my life. I had some really interesting conversations with the women there and learned about the misconceptions a lot of us have about certain classes of people."

Rice also enjoys traveling and is considering working in a healthrelated profession after graduating from BSC. "I think what I've probably learned more than anything is that the college experience, and life, is what you make it."

Editor's Note: Since this article was written, Rice tore a ligament in her knee and will miss this season.



### BSC Theatre program receives grant to take collaborative production to famous Scottish festival

Student actors Mac Smith and Kate Jenkins rehearse on campus before traveling to Scotland.

The Department of Theatre and Dance at Birmingham-Southern recently performed an adaptation of August Strindberg's classic 1888 play *Miss Julie* at the International Fringe Festival in Scotland, the largest arts festival in the world.

The debut production, set in the American South and adapted by BSC Professor of Theatre Dr. Alan Litsey, opened with nine performances at the festival from August 3 to 11 at a venue in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The 75-minute play, which is a new model for collaborative research and creativity, was supported by an Undergraduate Collaborative Research and Engagement Grant from the Associated Colleges of the South (ACS) and the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation. Six BSC students collaborated with three faculty members and one staff member on multiple aspects of the preproduction and production process.

The unique project model includes as its distinct features teaching performances and discussions led by BSC students, a student/faculty study guide, a paper written by students and faculty on replicating the model, and a presentation at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in March. The "Miss Julie Project" marks the first of what BSC hopes will be many such projects focusing on themes that reflect the importance of human dignity in today's culture and promises future partnerships with other ACS theatre programs.

Litsey's skillful translation was inspired by a passion to rediscover the issues and relevance of this classic play for contemporary audiences. "As it heightens the characters' struggle to new levels of danger, *Miss Julie* renews its challenging examination of such issues as gender and social division, as well as the larger questions of realizing human dignity around the world," he says.

The play's action was set inside the modern-day household of a wealthy Southern family. Miss Julie is the daughter of the wealthy businessman, a wild child who has just broken off her engagement.

Other BSC faculty and staff who collaborated on the production included Theatre and Dance Department Chair Michael Flowers as director, Professor of Theatre Matthew Mielke as scenic designer and technical director, and Patti Manning as costume designer. The students who participated were Alex Brouwer, a senior from Fort Payne; Nikki Craft, a senior from Decatur; Kate Jenkins, a 2007 graduate from Vestavia Hills who portrayed Julie; Amanda Kramer, a junior from Alabaster; Mac Smith, a sophomore from Auburn who played the role of John; and Laura Spurgeon, a sophomore from Phenix City.

The new adaptation will be introduced to the Birmingham-Southern audience and local community Sept. 20-23 in the College Theatre.

# BSC student wins national music competition



Beenken

Timothy Beenken, who's majoring in vocal performance at Birmingham-Southern, won first place at the National Federation of Music Clubs competition in men's voice, competing against finalists from some of the top music schools in the country.

Earlier this year, he captured titles at the state and regional levels, which advanced him to the national competition in June. Contestants at the national level submitted a taped recording of their songs.

Beenken was awarded a \$1,000 cash prize at the state level and received \$4,000 as the national winner. A junior from Vestavia Hills, he studies voice under BSC Professor of Music Dr. David Smith.



### New SGA officers elected for 2007-08 academic year

Peter Starr of Atlanta is the new president of the Student Government Association at Birmingham-Southern for the 2007-08 academic year. Starr, a junior history major,

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was elected in the spring by student vote. His main goals for the year are to restructure the way in which the SGA uses its residual funds, to continue the trend of making

### BSC Fulbright Scholar to study in Hong Kong

Before Benjamin Marsh opened the big brown envelope in January that informed him that he was a 2007 Fulbright Scholar, he wasn't sure what he would do after receiving his diploma at Birmingham-Southern's spring Commencement. But now, life has gotten a little bit more interesting.

Beginning in August, Marsh began a year living and working at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, a public university-level school dedicated to the preparation and professional development of teachers. He will spend at least 20 hours per week in the classroom teaching and organizing languagerelated and cross-cultural student activities for his Fulbright project. In addition, he is taking courses in Cantonese and Hong Kong/Chinese studies, as well as English as a Foreign Language teaching methods.

A native of Birmingham, Marsh graduated in May after completing his degree in psychology last December. He views the Fulbright scholarship as a doorway to his

future aspiration of becoming a clinical psychologist and college professor. "I want to obtain a doctorate degree in clinical psychology, be a practicing clinician, and teach on a college level," he says. "I would also like to publish my poetry and other writings."

The Fulbright Scholarship Program, funded by Congress and honoring the late Senator J. William Fulbright, is a national grant competition which sends 800 U.S. students, scholars, and professionals abroad each year to study, teach, or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields and settings. Grants cover travel and living costs for the academic year and necessary tuition at overseas universities.

While going through an extensive application process and interview to win the famous scholarship, Marsh sought placement in an Asian culture, which he felt would be beneficial toward his goal of specializing in marriage and family counseling. "Asian cultures typically are more collectivistic, which yields a stronger family bond than Western society," he stated in his Fulbright proposal. "I am interested in knowing the rate of child delinguency in Hong Kong and what that culture may cite as the causes."

Marsh experienced two other cultures during his undergraduate career at BSC. He participated in two service-learning trips to Mozambique, Africa, and studied abroad in London one summer. "These experiences left me with a desire to learn and experience more foreign places," he says. "I pursued the Fulbright out of personal curiosity."

This summer, Marsh worked locally, while diligently preparing for his year abroad. "Among my preparations, I purchased a language CD and tried to learn a little Cantonese."



Marsh

lasting improvements to campus, and to work with the SGA presidents of other Birmingham Area Consortium for Higher Education colleges to establish discounts for students at local businesses and restaurants. Additionally, Starr plans to support BSC athletics—particularly the new football program—by funding tailgating events and providing funds for students who wish to attend away games.

Other newly elected officers for 2007-08, who also are juniors, are Trey Cotney, a business major from Helena, first vice president; Laura Buckner, an interdisciplinary sociology/political science major from Hendersonville, Tenn., second vice president; David Miller, an English major from Monroe, La., treasurer; and Elizabeth Molony, a biology major from Hoover, secretary.

### Top students recognized at annual Honors Convocation

Birmingham-Southern hosted its 2007 Honors Day Convocation in the spring to recognize the college's top scholars.

Graham Ritchie, a senior art-sculpture major from Mobile, received the Robert Hewlin Jackson Meritorious Scholarship Award. It recognizes the graduating senior who has achieved the highest grade-point average during his or her four-year college career.

Camille Spratling of downtown Birmingham is the recipient of the Dyson-Wagnon Award for 2007. The award, named after former Birmingham-Southern staff members David Dyson and Connie Wagnon, recognizes a student in the college's Master of Arts in Public and Private Management program who has achieved the highest grade-point average. Spratling, who graduated from the MPPM program in May, is employed by Birmingham-Southern as executive assistant to the president.



Sack

# Kentucky student receives BSC's top scholarship

Katie Sack, born in London and a resident of Louisville, Ky., received the 2007 McWane Honors Award to attend Birmingham-Southern.

This coveted four-year scholarship—awarded annually since 1980 provides full-tuition, plus an \$11,000 annual stipend, and supports summer travel, internships, study-abroad programs, and special projects. It is the college's top academic scholarship award.

Sack, a straight-A graduate of Assumption High School in Louisville, intends to pursue a double major in psychology and Spanish at BSC and join the college's cross country team. In high school, Sack's honors included salutatorian; varsity letters in cross country and track; a commendation in the National Merit Scholarship Program; Honor Roll, having earned a 3.99 grade-point average in the advanced curriculum; and a Scholar Athlete Award.

She also served as a class officer and was selected into Kentucky's Governor's Scholar Program. Additionally, she volunteered in her community with Green Hill Therapy, where she helped disabled children with therapy sessions on horseback and worked with developmentally disabled children in schools.

Sack's non-identical twin sister, Lexi, was high school valedictorian, and both will be enrolled at BSC this fall as freshmen. Their mother is a Methodist pastor.

The McWane Honors Award is sponsored by the McWane Corp., a Birmingham pipe manufacturer. It is one of the most inclusive and prestigious undergraduate scholarships available at any college or university in the United States. High school seniors are selected for the scholarship based upon demonstrated merit, leadership, and activism in the community.

**Sorority honors**—The Birmingham-Southern Panhellenic Council received several regional accolades in April at the Southeastern Panhellenic Conference in Atlanta. The Panhellenic Council, the governing body of the college's six national sororities, accepted the Order of Omega Award for Outstanding Chapter in the Southeast for the college's Eta Xi chapter, a Public Relations Award, and the Gamma Sigma Alpha Award for sorority grade-point average in the Southeast region for the fifth consecutive semester. Shown with the awards (clockwise from top) are Whitney Anderson, Kadie Ann Duren, Laura Buckner, Joanna Philip, Sarah Grace Wilder, and Jeanne Sleadd.



### Celebrating the small-

town spirit—Amid songs, stirring sound effects, and flashes of the Fourth of July, Birmingham-Southern student actors performed the college's first-ever production of Eugene O'Neill's classic comedy Ah, Wilderness! April 26-29 on campus. Taking place over the 1906 Fourth of July weekend in a quaint Connecticut town, O'Neill's story follows the lives of the Miller family and especially the Miller's son, Richard, who is lovesick for a girl named Muriel McComber. A student company of 31 was involved in the production, along with a 10-year-old guest actor. Unique to the production was an extensive change of sets using the College Theatre stage's lift-revolve mechanism and the reconfiguration of audience seats. Pictured are Matt Adams, a sophomore from Birmingham, who played the role of Richard, and Christina Johnson, a sophomore from Montgomery, who portrayed Muriel.



# BSC student choir tours Central Europe, further fosters connection with Czech Republic

The Birmingham-Southern Concert Choir, conducted by Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music Dr. Lester Seigel, completed a four-city tour this summer of the Czech Republic and Austria.

The choir performed May 30-June 3 at churches and venues in the cities of Prague and Pilsen in the Czech Republic and in Vienna and Eisenstadt in Austria, including a performance for the U.S. Ambassador, officials of the Czech government, and foreign press at



The BSC Concert Choir poses just prior to its performance in the Karlskirche, *a historic 18th-century church in the center of Vienna.* 

the historic Clam-Gallas Palace.

The choir for this tour was comprised of 22 BSC students and six BSC faculty or alumni. Their program featured works by Czech and Austrian composers, including Petr Eben's "Prague Te Deum 1989," composed in commemoration of the establishment of the modern Czech Republic, and a selection of outstanding American works.

The tour was planned in part to further the sister city relationship between Pilsen and Birmingham. The college established a relationship with the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen with the help of Dr. Jan Vičar of Prague, who taught at BSC as a visiting professor of music in 2006.

In addition to these public performances, the choir visited and performed in Terezin near Prague, which is the site of the infamous Nazi concentration camp. In anticipation of this stop, the choir performed three Czech folk songs by Gideon Klein, a well-known composer who was a prisoner of the Nazis, and who wrote these pieces while in the camp.



### Capping an undergraduate career-

Prior to attending Birmingham-Southern's Capping Ceremony May 25, this group of graduating seniors was all smiles. From left are Casey Daniel, an English graduate from Hoover; Mary Ivey, an interdisciplinary sociology/political science graduate from Hoover; and Penney Patterson, an interdisciplinary psychology/ sociology graduate from Fairhope. In what has become an annual tradition, more than 1,000 graduates, cappers, and guests filled Bill Battle Coliseum on campus as graduates were capped by someone dear to them. The following day, the college's 2007 Commencement ceremony took place at the Boutwell Auditorium in downtown Birmingham.

# Are you ready for some 112 BOOT Dall?

Birmingham-Southern enters new era of intercollegiate athletics; football team retakes field after 68 years

BY PAT COLE & BILL WAGNON





t's a story that's been told. And told again. And again and again. It's been played out for the past 15 months in the local and national media.

Legendary sports columnist Frank Deford. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. *The Christian Science Monitor*. College Sports TV. *The Birmingham News*. USA *Today*. *Inside Higher Education*. And others.

It's been called "extraordinary." "Bold." "Unusual." "An important statement for higher education." After all, no college or university had been so "bold" since 1988. And only three have in the past quarter of a century.

Birmingham-Southern had moved its intercollegiate athletics program from NCAA Division I to non-scholarship NCAA Division III, a transition that would better align the nationally recognized liberal arts institution with colleges and universities of similar mission, size, and financial resources.

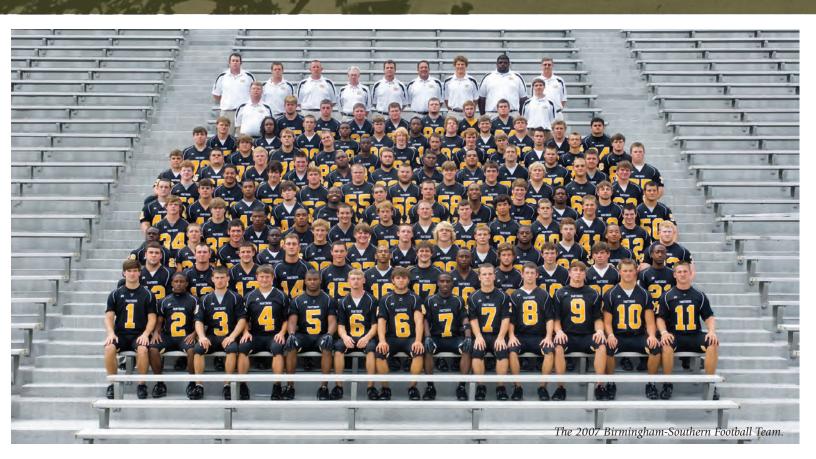
# THE D-IIII JOURNEY BEGINS

"One institution, Alabama's Birmingham-Southern, has had to reject the myriad lures of Division I and 'move down' to Division III. ... Though athletic types in Birmingham may fret about the school's lower national profile, they should not fret about quality of competition. Division III is a bastion of old-school, amateur competition ... "

—A.G. Gancarski, The Greentree Gazette, November 2006.

"In 2006, Birmingham-Southern College, a small private school in Birmingham, Alabama, made what appeared to be a surprising decision. While the college did not have a football team, it did compete quite successfully in other Division I sports. ... The board of trustees and board of the college voted to drop the school from Division I to Division III ... Birmingham-Southern came to the realization about college athletics that Washington & Jefferson College has been practicing since its first football team took the field in 1983—that when athletics and scholarship are on an even playing field, both aspects of the college experience benefit. ... "

---Washington & Jefferson College Magazine, Spring 2007.



" ... And oh yes, this too. With the money saved from scholarships, a football team has been added at Birmingham-Southern, as well as four other new sports, male and female. Almost twice as many students will actually play intercollegiate sports than did before. Giving up athletic scholarships at Birmingham-Southern greatly improved, yes, athletics at Birmingham-Southern."

—Frank Deford, National Public Radio and CNN/SI.com, January 10, 2007.

" ... It is possible for a college to maintain a healthy environment for student-athletes while still keeping support of alumni, students, faculty, and the Evansville community. Consider Birmingham-Southern. With an enrollment of 1,300 and a Methodist affiliation, this small college in Alabama is similar to UE [University of Evansville] except for one detail: early last month, it dropped from Division I to Division III athletics. Did this change decrease retention? Deter alumni giving? Just the opposite. The freshman class has increased by nearly 50 percent, and alumni contributions are up."

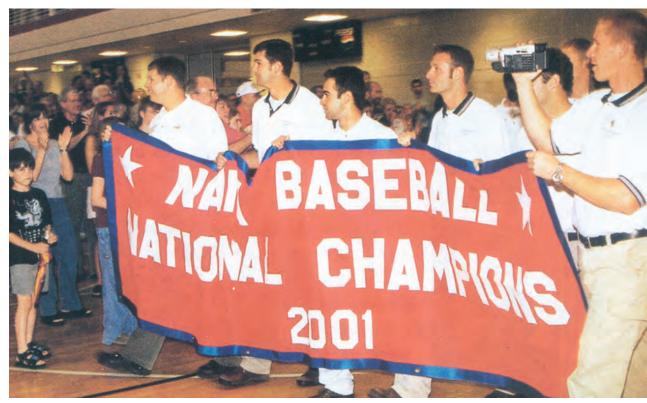
—*The University of Evansville Crescent* online, February 16, 2007.

Historic Munger Bowl, site of BSC football until 1939.

hus the NCAA Division III journey for Birmingham-Southern begins. The time for talk is over. With much fanfare, Birmingham-Southern has begun its NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletics era.



# A HISTORY OF ATHILETICS SUCCESS



BSC supporters welcome the 2001 National Championship Baseball Panthers home.

he college's long athletics history includes 46 years as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, where the men's basketball team captured national championships in 1990 and 1995, and the baseball team in 2001.

In May 1999, the college announced that it had applied for membership in scholarship granting NCAA Division I, the highest level of intercollegiate athletics competition. To meet NCAA requirements, sports were added including women's basketball, softball, and rifle, and men's and women's golf. Birmingham-Southern joined the Big South Conference, and won eight Big South Conference titles and competed in five NCAA Division I tournaments. In May 2006, the Birmingham-Southern Board of Trustees voted to transition the college's intercollegiate athletics program from NCAA Division I to non-scholarship Division III. Trustees cited both philosophical and financial reasons for the transition.

"One of the things we considered in the decision was which athletics division is indeed the right fit for an institution of our size, of our academic mission and quality, and of our financial resources," then BSC Board of Trustees Chair James T. Stephens said at the time. "Division III is compatible with the college's mission and profile."

"Birmingham-Southern just simply matches the profile of a Division III school," says BSC President Dr. David Pollick today. "We look like them—in terms of our size and academic quality. We have 1,300 students. We have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, just like 11 of the 12 schools in our new athletics conference. What we did was very important in higher education in this country, and very important to our college."

Shortly after the announcement, the college accepted an invitation to join the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (highlighted elsewhere in this feature), and sports were added, including football, men's and women's lacrosse, and men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field.

Birmingham-Southern already is seeing the benefits of the move to Division III in terms of its plan to grow enrollment to about 1,800



Birmingham-Southern provides its students with the opportunity to participate in 21 NCAA Division III varsity sports. The college is a member of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

### **Men's Sports**

#### Women's Sports

Baseball Basketball Cross Country Football Golf Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Lacrosse Soccer Tennis Basketball Cross Country Golf Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Lacrosse Rifle Soccer Softball Tennis Volleyball

students over the next few years.

"Adding sports at the nonscholarship level allows many more students to play varsity sports at Birmingham-Southern than before, and also is one small part of our enrollment strategy that will allow us to grow in size similar to other national liberal arts colleges in the country," says Pollick.

"Division III sports are so attractive to young men and women in our state and across the country who love to compete and want to balance that with a top-notch educational experience."

Birmingham-Southern Director of Athletics Joe Dean Jr. estimates that about 344 students will play varsity sports at Birmingham-Southern this academic year, about 233 men and 111 women. That's up from about 200 scholarship athletes when the college was fully operating as an NCAA Division I program.

Some 506 new students were

expected to start classes at BSC in August, including a record 452 freshmen. Of the new students, about 120 will play varsity sports at Birmingham-Southern.

"The move to NCAA Division III has worked very well for us, and our coaches and student-athletes are excited about the future," says Dean. "This is my 15th year on the Hilltop and I can't remember anything that has created more excitement on campus and in the community than our new football program. With new programs beginning this year and next in lacrosse and track and field, we will have 21 sports teams and 350 student-athletes on our campus. Their energy and enthusiasm is inspiring, and certainly we want to give them every opportunity to be successful both in the classroom and on the fields and courts. Our rich tradition of excellence will continue as we move forward."

# D-IIII FACTS & FIGURES

(from www.ncaa.org)

**Total Members** 443 (80% private, 20% public)

#### Average Institutional Enrollment 2,057 (BSC: 1,319)

### Average Number of Sports:

Men: 7.8 Women: 8.6 BSC: 10 Men; 11 Women

### NCAA-Sponsored Championships Opportunities

Men: 13 sports Women: 14 sports National Collegiate: 9 sports

### Scholar-Athletes

Men: 86,116 (58%) Women: 62,632 (42%) Total: 148,748 (100%)

### Average Number of Participants per Institution

Men: 202.0 Women: 146.1 BSC: 344 (233 men; 111 women)





Briana Williams, a sophomore pre-pharmacy major from Forestdale, is ready for some football!

# JUST WHAT IS DIVISION III ?

#### (from www.ncaa.org)

The National Collegiate Athletic Association, or NCAA, is a voluntary organization through which the nation's colleges and universities govern their athletics programs and is broken up into three distinct divisions.

**Division III** athletics features student-athletes who receive no financial aid related to their athletic ability, and athletics departments are staffed and funded like any other department in the university. Division III athletics departments place special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators. The student-athlete's experience is of paramount concern. Division III athletics encourages participation by maximizing the number and variety of athletics opportunities available to students, placing primary emphasis on regional in-season and conference competition.



### **2007 Football Schedule**

#### (All times central)

Sept. 6 (Thursday)	Mississippi College, junior varsity	Legion Field	6 p.m.
Sept. 15	Rhodes College	Regions Park	Noon
Sept. 23 (Sunday)	at Maryville College, junior varsity	LaGrange, Ga.	1:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Trinity University	San Antonio, Texas	1:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	DePauw University	Regions Park	1:30 p.m.
	(Homecoming)		
Oct. 13	at Austin College	Sherman, Texas	1 p.m.
Oct. 20	Centre College	Homewood Field	Noon
Oct. 27	Colorado College	Regions Park	Noon
Nov. 3	at Sewanee	Sewanee, Tenn.	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 10	at Millsaps College	Jackson, Miss.	1 p.m.

# ARE YOU REA

"A re you ready for some football?" shouts Athletics Director Dean at yet another gathering of Birmingham-Southern alumni and supporters. Yes, football is back on the Hilltop.

Dean is not the only one enthusiastic as the college fields its first football team in 68 years.

"BSC Football: Undefeated since 1939" proclaim the T-shirts that have been selling briskly at the BSC Bookstore for over a year, and which are located near the BSC logo tailgate tent also for sale. Billboards on the interstates leading into the city proclaim that "Football is Back at Birmingham-Southern." Students have been preparing tailgate plans for months, and checking into travel arrangements to select out of town games. The Athletics Department and the Alumni Association will entertain alumni before games with barbecue and entertainment.

Phase one of the new BSC Football Complex is nearing completion on the northwest side of campus below the BSC Softball Park and adjacent to Interstate 59/20. Phase 1 includes a training room, locker room, and weight room. Turf on the practice field has been laid and the synthetic playing surface on the competition field will be in place before October. A state-of-the-art eight-lane track will encircle the field by late fall.

For the 2007 season, the new team will play home games at Legion Field, Regions Park in Hoover, and Homewood High School.

Two BSC students were so enthusiastic about the resurgence of football at BSC that they spent the spring semester writing a history of Birmingham-Southern football for course credit (highlighted elsewhere in this feature).

# DY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

Birmingham-Southern's parent institutions—Southern University and Birmingham College—each fielded football teams. According to the 2007 BSC Football Media Guide, Birmingham College played varsity football from 1904 to 1917, with a 19-32-4 record (with no records available for 1905). Southern University fielded varsity football teams from 1909-11 and 1915-16, posting an overall 3-16-11 record.

Following the consolidation of the two institutions in 1918, Birmingham-Southern compiled a 87-80-16 record between 1918-39, winning Dixie Conference championships in 1932, 1934, and 1937. A perfect 9-0 season in 1934 included a road victory over Auburn.

Home games were played in Munger Bowl on the BSC campus. The Panthers' big rival game in those days with Howard College (now Samford) was played on Thanksgiving at Rickwood Field and later Legion Field. Known then as the Magic City Classic, it was without a doubt the state's biggest football game each fall. In fact, it was BSC vs. Howard that dedicated the new Legion Field in 1927.

By the time the 1939 season kicked off, however, the BSC players and coaches knew it would be their last on the Hilltop. In November of that year, the Panthers upset the heavily favored Howard Bulldogs 9-6 in what would be the last Birmingham-Southern football game for 68 years. Football was scrapped because of its costs and its influence.

As 1958 BSC alumnus and journalist Don Brown would write in his 2005 Forward, Ever: Birmingham-Southern College at its Sesquicentennial, "A great tradition ran headlong into a brick wall of

'unreasonable' costs and overemphasis in 1939. At President Raymond Paty's request, the trustees said play that season, then no more. A supportive *Hilltop* alumni magazine declared, ' ... football [cannot] occupy a normal place in the life of a student interested in the fundamental curriculum ... if a college is to be regarded as primarily a place of higher education [athletics should] be a normal incident in every student's life.' Upon such a predicate, the college shifted emphasis to intramural sports. A few attempts to revive football went nowhere. ... "

Nowhere, that is, until now. Football *is* back at Birmingham-Southern College.

Former University of Alabama and Atlanta Falcons star receiver Joev Jones was introduced as the college's fifth head football coach on June 19, 2006, and was charged with reviving the long dormant program. He left a highly successful high school coaching career (Mountain Brook and Dora) to build a Division III program at Birmingham-Southern. After assembling a coaching staff, he hit the recruiting trail. On Aug. 12, 2007, he welcomed 126 players to the Legion Field turf (where the Panthers practiced during August before moving to the new oncampus facilities in September) for preseason workouts in preparation of the first BSC football game in nearly seven decades-Sept. 6 against Mississippi College at Legion Field.

Coach Jones recently discussed the revived BSC football program and the 2007 season.

# GRIDIRON CLUB

### New Gridiron Club to support BSC football program

Birmingham-Southern alumni, fans, and friends who would like to support BSC football can join the new Gridiron Club. Become one of the men and women who are committed to the continued growth of BSC and the college's football program.

Head Coach Joey Jones and his staff recruited more than 120 football players to Birmingham-Southern to begin NCAA Division III play in September 2007.

Coach Jones' success as an All-SEC player at the University of Alabama under Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and his 125 career wins at Dora and Mountain Brook high schools bring an added excitement to the Hilltop, as football returns for the first time since 1939. Fans can join at the following levels:

### Touchdown member: \$100

Includes two season football tickets for all BSC home games, a football media guide, and newsletters.

#### Corporate member: \$500

Includes 12 season tickets for all BSC home games, a football media guide, newsletters, and recognition in the "game day" program at home games.

### Season tickets only: \$50 per season ticket

Season tickets are \$50 each for five home games and may be purchased in any amount. Season ticket holders will receive one football media guide and newsletters.

### Championship member: gift in any amount

Designed for BSC football donors who wish to support Coach Jones and the BSC football program with a gift. Members will not receive season tickets unless specifically requested, but will receive the football media guide and newsletters.

# **O&AWITH HEAD FOOTBALL** COACH JOEY JONES

### Interview by Fred Sington, assistant athletics director for media relations

O. NCAA Division III football rules do not allow teams to wear full pads. What was the main focus of spring practice?

A "Our focus was purely about teaching the kids fundamentals and introducing our offensive and defensive packages. Obviously, we didn't get too deep into it from the fundamental standpoint because we didn't have pads on. We can't teach blocking and tackling like you would want to. But for scheme purposes, we got a lot in. We probably got about 70 percent of what we would do on each side of the ball over the course of the spring. We felt like it was definitely useful."

**Q.** How many student-athletes participated in spring and what was your overall assessment of spring practice?

A "We had 29 kids who we started off with and we ended up with 27. I think the kids had great attitudes and work ethic. I challenged them to be the nucleus so that when we got back in summer they could teach the newcomers about what we want in practice. I think it went very well. Obviously, we were glad to have a full slate of players this summer. It was hard to practice with 29 kids, but I was excited about how they practiced." Q. How many student-athletes arrived on campus for preseason camp and what transfers or newcomers do you expect to be significant contributors this season?

A "We had 126 players come in on the opening weekend. We feel real good about the numbers and the type of kids we brought in. Offensively, Anthony Mostella (transfer from Army), who was here



Jones

this spring from Oneonta, and Walter Arrington (freshman from Bessemer Academy), who will be another running back/receiver, have potential to be great players for us. Tony Myers, a transfer from The Citadel, has a chance to be a really good receiver.

"I feel really good about our battle at quarterback. We have five quarterbacks who we feel really good about. I don't know how we are going to end up there, but it is going to be a great battle. We have Drew Jackson, a transfer from Tennessee-Martin; Joe Thigpen, a signee out of Crestview, Fla.; Chandler Bares, a transfer from Rhodes College; David Howe from Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville; and Jake Turing out of Sand Creek, Ga.

"I think we have three or four guys who we feel like are going to be really good players for us on the offensive line. But we have got to find some guys who are going to fill in the rest and also back up. We need to find at least eight guys who can play.

"Defensively, I am real impressed with the secondary guys we have. I think we are going to have depth in the secondary, which really helps in that a lot of teams are pass happy. So now we can run a lot of nickel coverage with five defensive backs in the game. I think we will have enough depth to do that. Jerron Mitchell out of Sparkman High School and Chase Brown out of Muscle Shoals are a couple of standouts who we feel good about in the secondary. We have a lot of numbers linebacker and defensive line-wise. Defensive line-wise, we are a little thin. I think we have more defensive end types than we

do interior guys. So we have to step up on the inside."

Q. Talk about your offensive coaching staff and what type of offense BSC will run in 2007.

A. "Ioel Williams is our offensive coordinator. We worked together at Mountain Brook for three years. I feel good about his plan. I feel real good about him as a coordinator. He is one of the best in the business. He will coach the quarterbacks, and I'll coach the receivers. Hindley Brigham will be our running backs coach. He is doing a good job of learning our system and has been very eager to learn. Brad McAbee, our offensive line coach, is no doubt a very good offensive line coach. He is the kind of guy who gets the players playing hard and does a good job at getting the kids understanding things. He keeps things simple enough so they can progress.

"Offensively, we are going to fourwides and very multiple. We will also attach tight ends and get under center some. We are going to be very multiple in what we do, but our basis will be out of four-wide."

On Talk about your defensive staff and the type of defense BSC will employ this season.

A. "Coach Eddie Garfinkle has done a great job putting our defensive package together. He is a very fundamentally sound coach. I was very impressed with him in that area. Kelvis White, our defensive line coach, is going to be an extremely good defensive line coach.



Offensive Line Coach Brad McAbee works with his linemen at Legion Field during preseason practice.

He is the kind of guy the kids love, and he teaches great technique. In the secondary, Andrew Pace, who played for me at Mountain Brook and played at Vanderbilt, is very knowledgeable. He was one of those guys who was a coach on the field at Vanderbilt. He understands what is going on up front as well as in the secondary. We are excited about him. Dyer Carlisle, who coached at Mississippi State and Southern Miss, is going to coach the secondary with Andrew. We feel good about having some gray hairs on the wisdom side on defense."

Q. BSC will be playing in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. What are your thoughts about the overall level of football in the conference and who are top tier teams?

A. "I think when you talk Division III in general, it's going to surprise a lot of people in the type of talent that you are going to see on the field. Fifteen years ago, Division III was probably what I would call a weak league. I think Division III is probably getting the old Division IItype talent and Division II is getting Division I-AA-type talent. Things are kind of trickling down. When you watch the films of these guys, Division III is a lot better football than anybody would ever imagine. "As far as our league goes, Trinity and Millsaps are obviously two powerhouses. They have done a great job traditionally and they have great coaching staffs and players. They are going to be the two that everybody is kind of gunning for at this point. I think it is a very good league and a good fit for Birmingham-Southern's mission. There are going to be some great rivalries with Sewanee, Rhodes, and Millsaps that are very near us."

• The BSC Football Complex is expected to be completed by spring 2008. Talk about the overall facility and how you think it will rank among the nation's top Division III programs and its advantages in recruiting.

A "The facilities that we will have will be as nice as we could present to a high school student who is looking to play football at a Division III school. They have not held back on the type quality that they said they were going to do. We are going to have a sprint turf field, a nice stadium, coach's offices, and meeting rooms. The weight room is 3,600 square feet and the locker room will have over 120 lockers. We feel good about our facilities."

# DIVISION IIII PHILOSOPHY STATEMIENT

#### (from www.ncaa.org)

Colleges and universities in Division III place highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience and on the successful completion of all students' academic programs. They seek to establish and maintain an environment in which a student-athlete's athletics activities are conducted as an integral part of the student-athlete's educational experience, and in which coaches play a significant role as educators. They also seek to establish and maintain an environment that values cultural diversity and gender equity among their student-athletes and athletics staff.

To achieve this end, Division III institutions:

- Place special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators and place greater emphasis on the internal constituency (students, alumni, institutional personnel) than on the general public and its entertainment needs;
- Award no athletically related financial aid to any student;
- Encourage the development of sportsmanship and positive societal attitudes in all constituents, including student-athletes, coaches, administrative personnel and spectators;
- Encourage participation by maximizing the number and variety of athletics opportunities for their students;
- Assure that the actions of coaches and administrators exhibit fairness, openness and honesty in their relationships with student-athletes;
- Assure that athletics participants are not treated differently from other members of the student body;
- Assure that athletics programs support the institution's educational mission by financing, staffing and controlling the programs through the same general procedures as other departments of the institution. Further, the administration of an institution's athletics program (e.g., hiring,

compensation, professional development, certification of coaches) should be integrated into the campus culture and educational mission;

- Assure that athletics recruitment complies with established institutional policies and procedures applicable to the admissions process;
- Assure that academic performance of studentathletes is, at a minimum, consistent with that of the general student body;
- Assure that admission policies for studentathletes comply with policies and procedures applicable to the general student body;
- Provide equitable athletics opportunities for males and females and give equal emphasis to men's and women's sports;
- Support ethnic and gender diversity for all constituents;
- Give primary emphasis to regional in-season competition and conference championships; and
- Support student-athletes in their efforts to reach high levels of athletics performance, which may include opportunities for participation in national championships, by providing all teams with adequate facilities, competent coaching and appropriate competitive opportunities.

# STUDENTS TACKLE FIRST BOOK ON HISTORY OF BSC FOOTBALL

Being in the right place at the right time gave two Birmingham-Southern students a rare opportunity to take on an original class project of historic significance.

History majors Ben Lewellyn and Peter Starr, under the direction of two BSC professors, penned a book this year entitled *Panthers on the Gridiron: Football at Birmingham-Southern*. The 28-page book chronicles the history of the football program at Birmingham-Southern—from its inception at the college's parent institutions (Southern University in Greensboro, Ala., and Birmingham College)—to its last season on the Hilltop, which was in 1939.

"Dr. Mark Lester [professor of history] approached me about the writing project at a meeting on campus last fall and asked if Peter and I would be interested in pursuing it," says Lewellyn, a senior from Hoover. "The three of us then talked it over with Dr. Guy Hubbs [associate professor of library science and archivist], and Peter and I agreed to take on the project as a contracted class under the two professors. We worked on the book during the entire spring 2007 term."

Having done some additional fine-tuning to their writing and research over the summer, Lewellyn and Starr anticipate the book being published and distributed during the early part of the BSC football season. The students will not benefit monetarily, but will receive a 300-level history credit toward their major.

"We wrote *Panthers on the Gridiron* to familiarize BSC football fans and current students with the program's past," explains Lewellyn. "The book highlights special players and seasons and offers some drama to accompany the newly re-established football team's return this year.

"We used mostly primary sources for our research including campus and city newspapers and Birmingham-Southern yearbooks. This meant spending a great deal of time in the Birmingham Public Library microfilm room and even more time in the BSC archives. We also talked to two players from the 1939 team, Gus Noojin and Ben Royal."

The students believe they were especially suited to team up for the project. Both are members of Theta Chi fraternity and share a close friendship as classmates and as former roommates. "Our talents and personalities were well-matched from the start," says Starr, who is a junior from Atlanta and this year's Student Government Association president. "We've often proofread each other's papers and have a familiarity with one another's writing styles—strengths and weaknesses.

"We both feel grateful that Drs. Hubbs and Lester offered us this opportunity. They spent several long days revising the text with Ben and me, even after the spring term had ended."

For both Lewellyn and Starr, completing the book-writing project has created a great sense of accomplishment and euphoria.

"The most intriguing part of my research was finding out that BSC had a perfect, undefeated, and untied football team in 1934," notes Lewellyn. "We were one of nine teams (including the University of Alabama) that accomplished that feat in the nation that year."

"The most valuable knowledge I gained doesn't have to do with the football program, but about the continued progress of Birmingham-Southern as an institution," says Starr. "Learning the history of the program has led me to appreciate BSC's present quality even more and to be grateful for the men and women who have worked to get it there."

Panthers on the Gridiron: Football at Birmingham-Southern can be purchased from the BSC Bookstore this fall at a cost of \$9.95. Also, look for the book to be sold at Panther football games.



### THE ORIGIN OF THE PANTHER

(Excerpted from Panthers on the Gridiron: Football at Birmingham-Southern by Ben Lewellyn and Peter Starr.)

For years our athletic teams were simply known by their colors. Southern University was just the purple and white; Birmingham College fans cheered on the "Old Gold and Black."

Birmingham College had been playing football for twelve years before earning the name of the Panthers. The occasion was the 1916 Spring Hill game in Mobile. In a game that *The Birmingham* News would later call the best offensive work of the season, the BC team surprised everyone on game day by shutting out Spring Hill and scoring a whopping thirty-three points. During the one-sided affair, an anonymous spectator likened the Birmingham team to a pack of panthers ripping through Spring Hill's players like hungry beasts. In the next week's edition of the Birmingham College Reporter, a sports journalist put it this way:

An anonymous scribe, whose habitat is in the dense jungles of Mobile, becoming enthused with to the extent of entire forgetfulness of the sphere inhabited by mortals, mounted to the ethereal skies ... finally fell with a resounding thud to common English and rebounded to Mount Simile ... and in the height of his dementia likened the members of Birmingham's gridiron squadron to panthers, wild and carnivorous quadrupeds camping in Africa, Asia and Ringling Brother's circus.

The account continues with a description of the way the Gold and Black "ran wild" last week and "ate ravenously of the flesh offered in appeasement by the youths of Spring Hill." The article ends with a charge to "Hail the Panthers!" The name stuck—despite the ridiculously inflated diction.



After being dormant for five years, Birmingham-Southern's cheerleading program is back and its new squad ready to add some high-decibel excitement to BSC football this fall. The squad also will support the college's men's and women's basketball teams and perform at special events.

The last time the Panther cheerleaders added volume to BSC games was during the 2001-02 basketball season. "The cheerleading program was stopped before due to a lack of interest," says Kyndall Waters, assistant athletics director at BSC and coordinator of the cheerleading program. "The addition of football is what really got it going again."

Presently, the college's cheerleading squad is made up of a coed combination of six women and two men, along with Rowdy the Panther. Tryouts will continue this fall to add additional students to the squad.

Ashley Byrom, a 2001 graduate of the University of Alabama, was named the new cheerleaders coach for Birmingham-Southern last spring. This summer, she and the squad attended the threeday Universal Cheer and Dance Association camp at the University of Alabama to learn the latest in cheers, chants, and fight-song routines. They returned with second-place and Most Improved trophies in the camp's cheer competition.

For BSC's cheerleaders, preparing to get crowds of people—as well as players—pumped up for the games requires high energy and hard work. "The time commitment for cheerleading is not as strenuous as that of the college's athletics teams, but the training and games can be demanding," remarks Waters. "For that reason, we incorporate mandatory cardiovascular activities such as running and strength training into the practices."

The cheerleaders practice balance, cheers, dances, and formations two to four times a week for one to two hours per day. When the squad performs on the field and the court this academic year, they will don their new two-piece black uniforms with gold lettering and trim.

Historically, the cheerleading program at Birmingham-Southern has been around a long time, and in more recent years, has been competitive. In 1988-90, BSC cheerleaders made it to the NCAA National Cheerleader Association competition three times, finishing 8th, 10th, and 13th respectively. "Once the cheerleading program becomes fully established, we want the team to begin competing again," says Waters.

The BSC cheerleaders will hold a clinic for area girls and boys ages 5-14 this fall to teach them the latest in cheers and chants. Participants also will have an opportunity to cheer at a BSC football game. Visit www.bscsports.net throughout the fall for more details about the clinic.

## BSC SET TO INTRODUCE THE SPORT OF LACROSSE TO CAMPUS, PLAY BEGINS IN SPRING 2008

Inless you're from the northeast corner of America—the country's breeding ground for lacrosse—you're probably only remotely familiar with the sport and have hardly come across men or women on a field flinging a rubber ball in all directions using a basket on a stick.

But the game of lacrosse is gaining popularity in middle and high schools across the United States and increasingly among colleges and universities all over the globe. Several high schools in the Birmingham area now offer the sport as well. Now, it's been added to the sports offerings at Birmingham-Southern.

"We brought lacrosse to the campus because it is one of the fastest growing sports in the country and making rapid strides of growth in the South," says Joe Dean Jr., BSC athletics director. "We wanted to be on the cutting edge of this growth and provide students in the South with an opportunity to play college lacrosse closer to home and at an institution of academic distinction, which normally appeals to lacrosse players."

Sports Illustrated magazine two years ago named lacrosse as the fastest-growing sport in America. And according to a spokesperson for US Lacrosse, the national governing body of the men's and women's sport, lacrosse is steadily increasing in schools and communities at an overall growth rate of 15 percent each year. "Lacrosse is a very appealing game," says the spokesman, "and historically, it is the oldest team sport in North America. Also, organizations like ours have helped to promote the game even more."

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, and the men's roster is substantially larger, the game basics still apply. "The



major difference is that the men's game is full body contact—they wear helmets and upper body pads," explains Emily Thomas, a New Jersey native and head coach for women's lacrosse at BSC. "The women's game is less contact and more a game of finesse."

Each game begins with a center face-off for men as in ice hockey and a draw for women likened to a basketball tip-off. In men's lacrosse, the positions consist of a goalie, plus defensemen, midfielders, and attack men, all in groups of three.

Lacrosse originally was an indigenous game among Native Americans in Canada, who played lacrosse not only for recreation, but also to settle disputes and for a variety of rituals, including communicating with the spirit world. The game was adopted by French settlers in the late 19th



Thomas



Bonasera

century and was so well-liked that it quickly became Canada's national game.

Birmingham-Southern, which added a women's lacrosse program in 2006, now fields 21 sports teams with the more recent addition of men's lacrosse which begins play in the 2008-09 academic year.

Andy Bonasera, head coach for the men, and Thomas will lead the college into its first lacrosse season in the spring of 2009. Both the men's and women's lacrosse teams will play an independent schedule for the first few seasons and then transition to the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference once the minimum number of required teams joins the conference.

Some of BSC's nearby competitors will be Sewanee in Tennessee and the University of Dallas. Home games will be played at the new BSC football stadium.

"Several Division I schools in the Southern region have already added lacrosse to their sports offerings," says Thomas. "We feel fortunate to be in their numbers."

## NIEW TRACIX AND FILELD PROGRAM OFF AND RUNNING

he cross country program at Birmingham-Southern sprang to life in 1997; now it is putting down even deeper roots.

Next spring, the college's inaugural indoor/outdoor track and field team of men and women will compete in the Division III Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. The team will practice and host meets on a stateof-the-art eight-lane regulation track that will be added around BSC's new football field, currently under construction. The track is expected to be ready for use after the fall 2007 term. The team will hold its indoor meets at off-campus venues.

Birmingham-Southern Athletics Director Joe Dean Jr. announced during the fall 2006 semester the addition of track and field. "Adding men's and women's track and field to our athletics program is a natural move for us and one which will complement our excellent cross country program," says Dean. "I am excited that Lars Porter and Mark Everett have accepted the challenges of building a quality track and field program for Birmingham-Southern."

Porter, head coach for cross country and track and field, tabbed three-time Olympian Everett this past January as the new assistant coach for both programs. A 2004 Birmingham-Southern graduate, Porter was the college's top male long-distance runner in each of his four years as a student-athlete. Everett was a 10-time All-American at the University of Florida and was a 12-time national champion.

"Our focus is on running since neither Coach Everett nor I have participated in technical events such as the pole vault," says Porter. "We



BSC junior Forrest Boughner ran a 15:23 in the 5K track event at Auburn University as a freshman.

have, however, learned how to coach a few of these technical events over the years and can apply simple aspects of training, but we'll be bringing in outside help for the majority of the work."

The coaches will be busy yearround with practices, meets, and travel. The cross country races are held in the fall, indoor track competes in the winter, outdoor track is in the spring, and extended practices take place throughout the summer. "We're going to try to balance each track season with hard and easy races to enable students to compete at their best," says Porter.

"We plan to grow the track and field program by simply bringing in more numbers and better talent every year. As our runners become more competitive, it will be easier to convince more students to join the sport."

The men's and women's track and field teams currently consist of 35 student-athletes, with recruitment still open. "The distance runners are primarily experienced upperclassmen, while the sprinters, jumpers, and hurdlers are mostly a freshman roster," remarks Porter. "We expect that number to grow by the spring as other sports end their seasons and several of those players join the track and field team."

BSC's first four years of track and field competition are under the mandatory NCAA compliance period before becoming eligible for postseason competition in 2011-12.

And, the sport of track and field has some unique rules when it comes to competitions. As a Division III program, Birmingham-Southern will face SCAC competitors on a regular basis, but also attend the larger meets held at NCAA Division I schools, including Auburn, Alabama, and Georgia Tech. "If any of our student-athletes are talented enough to qualify for the large national meets such as the Penn or Texas relays, we will get them there," remarks Porter.

"This is an exciting time to be a part of Birmingham-Southern athletics, especially track and field."



#### New conference provides BSC with fresh start in athletics

Change fills the air at Birmingham-Southern as the college officially transitions into the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) this fall with the addition of football. BSC is the 12th and newest member of the NCAA Division III league, composed of some of the most prestigious liberal arts colleges and universities in the nation.

Birmingham-Southern's SCAC membership will be effective for the 2007-08 academic year for the sports of baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, tennis, track and field, soccer, and volleyball. The Panthers will begin future SCAC participation in softball and men's and women's lacrosse in 2008-09. The college's rifle squad competes annually in the Southeastern Air Rifle Conference.

"The addition of Birmingham-Southern College signals a message from our presidents that we are committed to providing an athletics environment for student-athletes that reflects two important aspects—a first-class liberal arts education and the opportunity to compete with similar colleges and universities at the Division III level," said SCAC Commissioner Steve Argo during the 2006 announcement. "We are excited about the conference gaining Birmingham-Southern, and we look forward to a long and lasting membership."

The SCAC currently consists of Austin College of Sherman, Texas; BSC; Centre College of Danville, Ky.; Colorado College of Colorado Springs, Colo.; DePauw University of Greencastle, Ind.; Hendrix College of Conway, Ark.; Millsaps College of Jackson, Miss.; Oglethorpe University of Atlanta, Ga.; Rhodes College of Memphis, Tenn.; The University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn.; Southwestern University of Georgetown, Texas; and Trinity University of San Antonio, Texas.

Eleven of the 12 institutions in the SCAC house Phi Beta Kappa chapters, as does BSC.

"The Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference is comprised of some of the most prestigious liberal arts colleges and universities in the nation, so we believe this is a natural fit for Birmingham-Southern College," says BSC President Dr. David Pollick. "This is a group of institutions among which we belong in terms of our academic mission and our intercollegiate athletics program. Our scholar-athletes can compete on the playing fields and courts while at the same time preparing for extraordinary careers."

The SCAC was founded and began operation with four member institutions in 1962 as the College Athletic Conference. Membership reached a then all-time high of eight in 1991 when the conference was renamed the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. The conference celebrated its 15th anniversary as the SCAC during the 2005-06 academic year.

With headquarters in suburban Atlanta, the SCAC was formed to provide an association through which the member institutions might encourage organized competition in intercollegiate sports among teams that are representative of their respective student bodies. Members of this conference share a commitment to the overall quality of academic standards and educational experiences at their schools.

Under SCAC program guidelines, BSC will not be eligible for conference championships or post-season play for the next four years.

For more on the SCAC, visit its Web site at www.scaconline.org.

## Soccer alum helps spread innovative PE program in Germany

#### BY BARRETT HATHCOCK

For one Birmingham-Southern athlete, a passion for playing a single sport has turned into a passion for teaching multiple sports to children across his native country.

German alumnus Thorsten Damm attended BSC from 1998 until 2000, majoring in international business and playing soccer for coach Preston Goldfarb. After graduating, Damm returned to Germany and played professionally for 1. Fussball-Club Kaiserslautern alongside famous German striker Miroslav Klose.

After he returned to Germany, Damm also studied business and education at the University of Mannheim and physical education at the University of Heidelberg through a cooperation agreement between the two institutions. While completing his studies, Damm was introduced to the "Ballschule Heidelberg" (Heidelberg Ball School), an internationally recognized PE program created by Dr. Klaus Roth. As he finished up his exams, Damm was asked by Roth and Dr. Daniel Memmert, another of Damm's professors, to join their work at the University of Heidelberg's Institute of Sport and Sport Science.

"The original [Ball School] idea was not to teach each game independently, but to find the similarities between sports games like soccer, basketball, and so on," says Damm.

Based on tactical and technical similarities between the sports, the institute developed games that

BALLSCHULE MEDRARD

Damm at the Heidelberg Ball School.

contained common elements from these different sports, so that students could learn the general abilities and skills in new, nonspecific games.

"That way, all children can engage in physical activity," says Damm, who himself serves as a "playing coach" for a senior professional team in Germany. "Usually, when you play soccer, the ones who don't like soccer (or the ones who are not good at it) are left out. The next week, though, others kids might dislike the next sport offered."

The philosophy of the Heidelberg Ball School is to reinvigorate a sense of physical activity for kids everywhere, particularly the kind of free play embodied in an active culture of street games. The program also is designed to give kids a general sense of different types of games and different types of skills before having to actually specialize in a specific sport, potentially reducing the risk of burnout or too early of a specialization.

"The participating children naturally don't care about the theory that is behind the program," Damm says. "That is perfectly okay because they are supposed to have a lot of fun and enjoy what they are doing. [The program] might also be a good way of fighting against the lack of exercise, obesity, and so on. The most important thing still is to get and keep kids moving!"

The institute offers the program to elementary schools as an extracurricular activity in addition to its regular PE classes. It also instructs club teams to offer this program to their kids. Among teams that are participating in the program are famous teams and former German championship winners like SV Werder Bremen (soccer), THW Kiel (team handball), Mannheim



Damm in competition.

Eagles (ice hockey), and USC Heidelberg (basketball). The nonprofit sports institute also relies on the sponsorship of companies such as BASF, Capri Sonne (German Capri Sun), and the software company SAP.

"I think the time at BSC prepared me in a really good way for what I'm doing right now," says Damm, who's a project manager for the institute. "When you start a project, there is no routine or a ready-made way that you can just go along. It's more like: Here are our goals—you go ahead and do it and get it done. At BSC, you had all the possibilities and all the help to get something done. What you established was up to you, though."

The institute currently supports international projects in Austria, Brazil, Nigeria, Japan, China, and Chile—but none yet in America.

"Just like in Germany, we want to offer this as an after-school activity to keep kids active and safe at the same time, help working families, and develop skills and talents," he says. "Since students achieve best when they're physically fit, we might even improve academic performance through our PE program."

For more information on the Heidelberg Ball School, feel free to contact Thorsten Damm at thorsten.damm@ballschule.de.

## Come home this fall for

# HOMECOMING 2007

Birmingham-Southern's next Homecoming will be held Saturday, Oct. 6.

Come celebrate the rebirth of football on the Hilltop, as the Panthers take on Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference foe DePauw UniversityTigers at 1:30 p.m. at Regions Park in Hoover.

# Please Note

# Our next Alumni Reunion Weekend will be fall 2008.

Beginning in fall 2008, Alumni Reunion will coincide with the annual Homecoming football game. Not only will you join your classmates and friends for Alumni Reunion, but you also will enjoy BSC football, Homecoming festivities, tailgating, and more!

Watch your mailbox and future issues of *'Southern* for more information.

To get the latest news and info, be sure to update your contact information at www.bsc.edu/alumni/form-address.htm.

## Alumni Reunion Weekend 2007 "The Best of Times"

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

This past spring, more than 650 alumni came back to visit during Alumni Reunion Weekend April 27-28. They celebrated at class parties, receptions, lectures, a family festival, dinner on the quad, and more.



Lighting the skies— Alumni Reunion Weekend 2007 culminates with a grand fireworks extravaganza set to music.



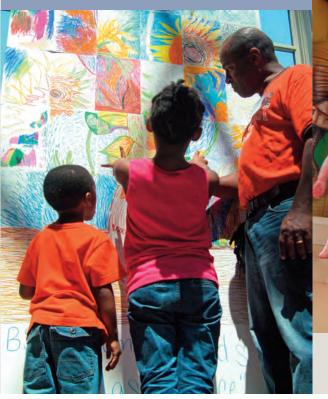
Registering for reunion—Josh Vasa '03 and Carrie Kramer Vasa '03 report to the reunion registration desk for their nametags and materials and to greet friends and fellow alumni. Hilltop performance—Almost 150 alumni enjoy a performance by the Hilltop Singers during the Saturday Alumni Awards Luncheon.



Alumni achievers—BSC President Dr. David Pollick (left) congratulates Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipients (from left) Grover Robinson IV '92 and Congressman Robert Aderholt '87, and Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Elvin Hilyer '60, Jean Prescott Pierce '52, and Bob Clem '67.



Budding van Goghs—A father and his children view the artwork created by children of alumni at the art camp during the Alumni Reunion Family Festival.





Just jump—Two little girls have a blast jumping in the inflatable Cinderella's Castle.



Job well done—President Dr. David Pollick congratulates then-BSC senior, now assistant director of alumni affairs, Mallie Searcy on a successful Senior Gift Campaign.



A bittersweet sound—Dean of Chapel Dr. Stewart Jackson plays with the "Dill Pickers" during the Service Learning reunion honoring his retirement from the college.



Presidential honors—2006-07 National Alumni Association President Julie Lockwood '92 speaks to alumni during the dinner on the academic quad.



All smiles—Current BSC students join alumni at the dinner on the academic quad.



Fish and hushpuppies—More than 350 alumni, faculty, staff, and students are treated to a tasty fish fry on the grounds Saturday night.

# Alumni travel to Italy with BSC professor

Spring Break 2007 was special for 12 Birmingham-Southern alumni who traveled to Italy with BSC Professor of Classics Dr. Sam Pezzillo. The group first traveled to the island of Capri and visited the famous "Blue Grotto." They also visited the ruins of the Villa Jovis, a favorite villa of Emperor Tiberius. Visiting sites affected by the eruption on Mount Vesuvius, the group explored the ruins at Herculaneum before making their way down the spectacular cliff-hugging, serpentine roads of the Amalfi Coast en route to Pompeii. The remainder of the trip included visits to the Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Cathedral, and more classical sites in Rome, with an optional excursion to Florence.



Lemons in Capri—Italy is known for its lemon and orange groves. On the island of Capri, (from left) Regina Cates '95, Barbara Simon, Melissa Shackelford '01, and Harriet Rejonis pose in front of a large lemon tree.



Experiencing Pompeii—Jo Anne '93 and Walter Garrett '67 were among the BSC alumni who visited Pompeii. Here, they are shown in front of an ancient oven.



Friends and family—One group of alumni traveling together included friends and family. (From left) Brian Cash '97, Maryann Loman, Kelly Williamson, Foster Williamson '97, Howard Williamson '71, and Harrison Walker '97 await the boat to Capri.

Tag! BSC is it—Have you seen those Birmingham-Southern license tags? For just \$50, you can show your BSC pride by both displaying a BSC license tag and supporting the college. And \$48.75 of that cost comes back to the college in support of the Annual Fund. BSC collegiate license plates may be purchased at any time, regardless of your tag renewal month. Due to confidentiality laws, the Department of Transportation does not release the names of tag owners. To receive gift credit, contact Maggie McDonald in the Office of Annual Giving at 205/226-7737 or mmcdonal@bsc.edu.



# BSC to offer variety of travel opportunities for alumni

Throughout the next year, Birmingham-Southern will offer many travel opportunities tailored specifically for alumni. Led by BSC professors and staff, these trips are packed with both adventure and education and include some of the most beautiful locations in the world.

Spots for the trips must be made in advance, so don't hesitate. For additional information, contact Lisa Harrison, director of alumni affairs, at 205/226-4912 or lharriso@bsc.edu.



#### Argentinean Adventure: Buenos Aires

March 20-30, 2008 Dr. Barbara Domcekova, associate professor of Spanish Dr. Janie Spencer, professor of Spanish Cost: \$2,850

Spanish professors Barbara Domcekova and Janie Spencer will pack as many of this great South American city's attractions as possible into this whirlwind visit. Travelers will experience an in-depth city tour and also will be able to explore on their own. Visitors will learn about the city's history and culture through its many museums, art galleries, and elegant cafés, as well as trips to Buenos Aires' multifaceted neighborhoods, from the exclusive Recoleta to colorful La Boca to hip Palermo Soho.

Other activities will include tango lessons, fabulous shopping for antiques or leather goods, and sampling Argentina's exquisite cuisine and spectacular wines.

A non-refundable deposit of \$150 is due by Oct. 15.



#### Springtime in Paris!

March 21-March 30, 2008 (BSC spring break)

Kim Thomas, director of the Foreign Language Lab and Academic Resource Center, and member of the Alliance Française of Birmingham

Cost: \$1,889 per person for Alliance members; \$1,939 for non-members

Birmingham-Southern alumni are invited to join Alliance Française of Birmingham for a once-in-alifetime trip to Paris. During the weeklong trip, you'll enjoy Paris a la carte!

For those new to Paris, you will be free to hit the major sites: Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and Centre Pompidou, which houses the National Museum of Modern Art. Veteran visitors may wish to explore such sites as Saint Denis, the tombs of the kings of France and the origin of Gothic style, and the Marais district, with its medieval and renaissance townhomes.

A non-refundable deposit of \$299 is due by Nov. 15. Final payment is due by Jan. 31, 2008.



## **Exploring France—Provence and Paris**

May 14-24, 2008 Dr. Sam Pezzillo, professor of classics Cost: \$3,985

This study tour of France will be conducted by Professor of Classics Dr. Sam Pezzillo, who will guide alumni through the Roman antiquities of Provence and serve as the overall tour host. He will be assisted by Karen Greene '85, veteran group traveler and organizer. The trip includes two nights in Aix, four in Avignon, and three in Paris, and will feature numerous sites of historical interest as well as ample time for individual exploration. Highlights include a visit to the Fragonard Perfume Factory, a tour of Avignon including the Papal Palace, a visit to Chateneuf de Papes with an excursion to the wine cellar, and trips to Vaison La Romaine and Orange to see the Antique Theatre.

A deposit of \$400 is required to reserve a space. Final payment of \$3,585 is due March 14, 2008.



## Exploring the Galapagos Islands

May 29-June 10, 2008 Dr. Megan Gibbons, assistant professor of biology Cost: \$5,395 per person

Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Megan Gibbons will lead this 13-day discovery expedition that will take alumni travelers from Birmingham to Ecuador for three days and then to the Galapagos Islands for another seven days. Passengers will tour the islands via a 20-passenger private yacht.

Most days will include two moderate hiking excursions and at least one opportunity to snorkel or lounge on a beautiful beach with Galapagos sea lions. Participants also will see Galapagos penguins, frigate birds, flightless cormorants, marine iguanas, and other amazing animals found nowhere else in the world. A deposit of \$1,000 is required.



hours.

#### Service Learning in San Francisco

One week in late June 2008; specific dates to be determined Kristin Harper, director of service learning Cost: \$1,250

The service project will be located at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, located in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. The project will be a miniature version of the college's previous service learning program at the church. Participants will help serve meals at Glide, whose program serves over 1 million meals a year-three meals a day, seven days a week. Or, to put it in perspective, that's 800 lunches in two

Housing will be provided at the Fort Mason Youth Hostel, which includes dormitory-style rooms with hall baths and a continental breakfast each morning. The location features beautiful views of San Francisco Bay. Transportation will be available via San Francisco's historic streetcars, as well as by the city's Municipal Railway (Muni) buses and cable cars.



#### River Run and River Dance! Dublin and the West of Ireland July 1-16, 2008

Dr. Sandra Sprayberry, professor of English Cost: \$4,500

Led by Professor of English Dr. Sandra Sprayberry and Irish tour guides the Enrights, this alumni trip highlights Ireland's rich cultural heritage and spectacular landscapes. Martin and Joyce Enright, an Irish music expert and archaeologist, respectively, offer personal touches not often found in standard group tours.

This tour will allow visitors to explore the many activities available in Dublin while also experiencing the spectacular Gaeltacht region of Western Ireland, seemingly untouched by time or British culture. Our itinerary includes Dublin and the counties of Meath, Roscommon, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, and Galway. Activities will include guided museum tours; poetry, storytelling, and theatre experiences; tours of political, historical, and archaeological significance; ceili (musical pub sessions); and nature walks.

A \$300 deposit is due by Oct. 1.



### Coral Reef Ecology in Roatan, Honduras

July 19-26, 2008 Dr. Andy Gannon, associate professor of biology Cost: \$2,500

Participants will spend a week with Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Andy Gannon visiting coral reefs and dolphins at the Institute for Marine Sciences on the island of Roatan, off the coast of

Honduras in the Caribbean Sea. The trip will be a condensed version of one of the most popular of all BSC Interim trips—the month-long Coral Reef Ecology Interim project.

Alumni will dive and snorkel on one of the most beautiful reefs in the world, and they will get to participate in lectures and lab exercises to understand what they are seeing down below, as well as in ongoing reef biodiversity and water quality monitoring projects.

SCUBA certification is encouraged but not required, and everyone must be able to swim. A deposit of \$150 is due Oct. 1.



### Down Under: Australia and New Zealand

Last two weeks in July 2008; specific dates to be determined Dr. Byron Chew, Monaghan Professor of Management Cost: Approximately \$7,500

This trip to Australia is designed to familiarize participants with the unique history, culture, ecology, and economic environment of the land down under. The experience will include an examination of the region's history and its cultural diversity, the magic of the Great Barrier Reef, the wildlife of Australia, and the excitement of the Australian and New Zealand economic and business environments.

Of particular interest will be the external pressures that are shaping the economic future of Australia and New Zealand. Travelers will visit Sydney and the reef, in addition to a trip to the center of the continent.

## Recent alumna named assistant director of alumni affairs



Mallie Searcy, a Tuscaloosa native and 2007 Birmingham-Southern cum laude psychology graduate, has been named assistant director of alumni affairs at the college. She replaces Amanda Warren '04, who is the new donor relations manager at BSC.

Searcy's past experience includes internships in the offices of Institutional Advancement and Student Affairs at both Birmingham-Southern and the University of Alabama. At both colleges, she researched annual giving, the cultivation of giving among students at peer and aspirant institutions, and the giving patterns of alumni; served as Senior Gift Campaign chair; and planned and organized student programs.

As a student at BSC, Searcy was active as president of the Panhellenic Council, service-learning coordinator for First Light Women's Shelter, and BSC liaison to the American Red Cross. She also was a member of numerous honoraries.

In her new position at the college, Searcy says she's looking forward to helping organize the upcoming joint homecoming and reunion in fall 2008, as well as coordinating alumni football events this fall.

## Seven ways to get involved with your Alumni Association

If you've ever wondered how you might get more connected to your alma mater, think about serving as an Alumni Association volunteer. It's a great way to reconnect with friends and classmates, network, and give back to the place that gave you so much.

Here are seven ways that you can become involved:

**Become a chapter leader**—With more than 40 designated alumni chapter areas in the United States, the college needs leaders to help establish and implement active chapters. For more information, contact Mallie Searcy at 205/226-4908 or msearcy@bsc.edu.

**Start an affinity group**—BSC alumni share many similar interests and professions. Consider starting a group of like-minded alumni in your area. For assistance, contact Searcy.

**Recommend and recruit prospective students**—We're looking for prospective students who fit the BSC profile. We need volunteers who will recommend prospective students, attend college fairs, call applicants, and present Alumni Book Awards. To volunteer, contact Tyler Davis at 800-523-5793, ext. 4681, or tdavis@bsc.edu. **Serve on a reunion committee**—Alumni Reunion Weekend celebrates all alumni, whether they are celebrating special class reunions or not. We need alumni to serve on class committees as well as on the Reunion Weekend planning committee. To volunteer, contact Lisa Harrison at 205/226-4912 or lharriso@bsc.edu.

Assist with fundraising for the Annual Fund—The Annual Fund is looking for volunteers who will sign fundraising letters and make phone calls soliciting their classmates for annual unrestricted gifts to the college. For more information, contact Maggie McDonald at 205/226-7737 or mmcdonal@bsc.edu.

**Get involved in service and outreach**—A new goal of the Alumni Association is to provide more outreach and service involving alumni across the world. If you are interested in serving, contact Harrison.

**Serve as a member of the Alumni Board**—The Alumni Association is looking for leaders who want to help manage various areas of responsibility. If you like to lead and want to assist the college in this way, contact Harrison. No matter how you serve, we need you. Volunteer today.

# Flip that house: Distinguished couple turns rental house into charitable giving reward



The McCoys

Dr. Walter and D'Anne McCoy are one busy couple. At age 94, he continues to work two days a week as the medical director of PlasmaCare. She still maintains a vigorous volunteer schedule throughout the city, and they both enjoy working in their garden.

But when they decided earlier this year that they wanted to slow down just a bit and give up their Southside of Birmingham rental property, the McCoys realized they could give it to Birmingham-Southern as a charitable gift annuity—and still reap the rewards.

Dr. McCoy '33 purchased the house in 1974 as an investment property and turned it into a multi-unit rental. Some 33 years later, the McCoys continued to enjoy the income stream it generated, but were tiring of the maintenance requirements and other hassles of property management.

Realizing that the property had greatly increased in value and wanting to avoid capital gains tax, the McCoys began exploring charitable options with Birmingham-Southern. They were happy to learn that a charitable gift annuity could be funded by the transfer of this property with the following results:

- retention of an annual return similar to the income produced by the rental property,
- receipt of an income tax deduction, and
- avoidance of capital gains tax on the gift portion of the transfer.

Most importantly, the McCoys would be able to make another generous gift to BSC during their lifetime.

### A long history of giving

Dr. and Mrs. McCoy were among the earliest BSC donors to catch the vision of how deferred giving can both benefit Birmingham-Southern as well as meet some of their own longterm financial goals. Since 1989, the McCoys have jointly established two charitable remainder trusts and 10 charitable gift annuities. The remainder amount from a number of these gifts will fund the Walter C. and Dorothy H. McCoy Endowed Scholarship for Pre-Medical Education.

Dr. McCoy received his bachelor's degree from BSC in 1933 when he was only 19 years old. He also received a master's in 1935 from BSC. In 1938, he graduated from the Medical College of Alabama, and, in 1940, he received his medical degree from Tulane. He later did graduate work at Harvard University, after serving in the U.S. Army for four years.

McCoy then went on to practice internal medicine in private practice and at various area hospitals for the next 47 years. He served much of that time as president of the medical staff at St. Vincent's Hospital, retiring at age 80.

The McCoys have seven children and 12 grandchildren. Their grandson, Chris McCoy, attended BSC and graduated in 2000.

Due to their previous service to BSC, the McCoys were nominated by BSC and recognized by the Alabama Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives as VIPs—Volunteers in Philanthropy.

In 2001, Dr. McCoy received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the BSC Alumni Association for his career accomplishments, community involvement, and contributions to the college.

Not only have the McCoys been consistently generous to BSC, they've been consistently inventive with their generosity. But then, when you've got places to go and people to see, you've got to plan your giving wisely.

For more information on planned giving—everything from setting up your charitable gift annuity to receiving financial advice—be sure to check the college's Planned Giving Web site. It's your one-stop shop for all of your planned giving needs. Go to www.bsc.edu/advancement/ planned.htm.

## How a Gift Annuity works

A charitable Gift Annuity is a contractual arrangement between the donor and Birmingham-Southern College. A donation is made of cash, marketable securities, or highly marketable real property in exchange for a fixed annual payment for the life of the annuitant (i.e., the donor or the person named to receive the payments). At the death of the annuitant (or second annuitant in the case of a two-life agreement), the remaining value of the gift passes to BSC.

#### A Gift Annuity saves taxes

If a gift is funded with cash, a portion of each annuity payment will be free from both federal and state income taxes until the donor's life expectancy is reached. If a Gift Annuity is funded with appreciated securities, the donor may be able to spread capital gains tax liability over their life expectancy.

#### A Gift Annuity can increase income

A donor may be able to receive more fixed income from a Gift Annuity than from money market funds or CDs. Part of this income may be tax free, and the donor will be entitled to an income tax charitable deduction in the year that the annuity is established. Gift annuities are especially attractive in a low-interest rate environment, since this generally means a higher tax-free component. If securities are owned that provide little or no income, a Gift Annuity may provide an opportunity to unlock an investment while providing the college with financial resources.

#### How to obtain a free calculation of benefits

If you would like more information on a charitable Gift Annuity with Birmingham-Southern College, call Martha Hamrick Boshers at 205/226-4978, or e-mail mboshers@bsc.edu. You can also prepare your own benefits summary online by going to BSC's updated Planned Giving Web site at www.bsc.edu/advancement/ planned.htm.



The numbers are in ... and it's time to thank BSC donors for their participation this year

# The Power of One the Impact of Many

- \$633,584 was contributed by BSC alumni in support of the Annual Fund
- **3,479** BSC alumni contributed to the Annual Fund between June 1, 2006, and May 31, 2007
- \$62,592 was contributed by parents of current students—setting another record
- 52% of the Class of 2007 contributed to the Annual Fund through the annual Senior Gift Campaign—the highest participation percentage of any senior class
- \$67,120

was contributed by BSC alumni in response to the Reunion Trustee Challenge—well exceeding our goal of \$50,000

\$761,000 THIS YEAR'S GOAL!

This year, *Be The One* who makes a difference. Support all of our students this year by contributing to the Annual Fund. Your gift will make an immediate impact on their education by supporting scholarships, faculty salaries, academic programs, technology, athletics, and more.

For more information, please contact: Maggie McDonald Director of Annual Giving 205/226-7737 mmcdonal@bsc.edu



www.bsc.edu/egiving







GRAND MASTER 2008 - TOM ROBBINS, internationally known for his wildly popular and influential fiction, is the author of eight novels, seven of which have been *New York Times* bestsellers. Robbins has been named by *Writer's Digest* as one of the 100 Best Writers of the Twentieth Century.

FRANK DEFORD is the Senior Contributing Writer for Sports Illustrated, a commentator on NPR's Morning Edition, and a correspondent on HBO's RealSports with Bryant Gumbel. Deford has received the U.S. Sportswriter of the Year award six times and been elected to the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Sportscasters and Sportswriters.

JULIANNA BAGGOTT (aka N.E. Bode) is the author of four novels, including the bestsellers *Girl Talk* and *The Miss America Family*, as well as three books of poems, including *Compulsions of Silkworms and Bees*, winner of the 2007 Lena-Miles Wever Todd Poetry Series from Pleiades Press.

The Writers' Conference

Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8, 2008

Writing Today has been a world-class conference for more than 25 years.

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- · Fiction, non-fiction, drama, screen, juvenile
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For more information, please contact Birmingham-Southern's College Events Office at **205-226-4921** or go to our Web site at **www.writingtoday.org**.

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# BSC Sports Hall of Fame inducts seven new members

The Birmingham-Southern Sports Hall of Fame grew by seven names as six former athletes and one former head coach were inducted into the 26th annual class at a ceremony in May.

Included in the 2007 class are Mike Goggans (men's basketball, 1980), Dr. Paul McCrary (men's basketball, 1989), Jason Mitchell (men's tennis, 1998), Chad Post (baseball, 1999), Lorrin Etka-Shepherd (women's soccer coach, 1990), Marcus Trost (men's soccer, 2000), and Alabama State Senator James "Jabo" Waggoner (men's basketball, 1960/contributor). Bill Legg, a 1985 BSC Sports Hall of Fame inductee, was honored with the Bob Strain Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contribution to BSC athletics during his career on the Hilltop.

Goggans played men's basketball for two seasons from 1978-80 under Head Coach Greg Walcavich. He helped lead the Panthers to the NAIA District 27 title and the school's first-ever trip to the NAIA National Tournament during 1978-79. He led BSC in scoring, averaging 13.7 points per game and ranked eighth in the nation in field-goal percentage. He was voted team captain his senior year and was recognized as a First-Team All-Conference and All-District performer both seasons.

McCrary was a four-year letterman on the men's basketball team from 1984-88. When his college career ended, McCrary left the Hilltop as the all-time assists leader with 544, including a team-high 200 in 198788. He led BSC to 41 victories as the starting point guard his junior and senior seasons and wrapped up his career averaging 4.5 assists per game. The Panthers captured two Southern States Conference and NAIA District 27 titles and went to the NAIA National Tournament two times.

Mitchell played for the men's tennis team from 1995-98 under Head Coach Ann Dielen and is the only men's tennis player to earn All-American laurels in singles three times. He also earned All-American honors in doubles in 1996. During his four-year collegiate career, Mitchell helped BSC land four NAIA National Tournament appearances, earning a top 20 NAIA national ranking.

Post was a top performer on the baseball team from 1996-99. He hit .358 with 53 doubles, 10 triples, 25 home runs, and 189 RBI, and stole 97 bases during his career. He currently ranks sixth in career batting average and home runs, third in RBI and total bases, and fourth in triples, steals, and steal attempts. He was named All-TranSouth Conference and NAIA All-American in 1999 while leading BSC to the TranSouth Conference title and to the NAIA World Series.

Etka-Shepherd was the first head women's soccer coach at Birmingham-Southern, starting the program in 1994. She would coach the Panthers for seven years from 1994 to 2000, posting a 66-49 record. BSC averaged 13 wins a season over her final five years at the helm, which included four TranSouth Conference runner-up finishes and a TranSouth Conference title in 2000. Her final team in 2000 went 18-4-1, winning the NAIA Region XI title and advancing to the NAIA National Tournament. Etka-Shepherd was named the TranSouth Conference and NSCAA South Region Coach of the Year in 2000.

Trost played men's soccer from 1997-98. He helped BSC to two TranSouth Conference titles in 1998 and 1999, the 1999 NAIA Region Championship, and two appearances in the NAIA National Tournament. He left the Hilltop with 40 goals, 26 assists, and 108 points. Trost was BSC's leading scorer in the NAIA National Tournament, helping BSC reach the semifinals. He earned All-TranSouth Conference honors in 1998 and 1999 and was named NAIA All-Region and NSCAA All-American in 1999.

Waggoner, who is the current senator for Jefferson and Shelby counties (the 16th District) in the state Legislature, lettered in men's basketball from 1958-60. In his first season, he helped the Panthers to a 14-11 overall record in 1958-59 and earned All-Tournament honors for his performance in the Dixie Invitational hosted by Rhodes College in Memphis. After graduating from BSC in 1960, he attended the Birmingham School of Law and earned his juris doctor degree in 1964. His political career began in the Alabama House of Representatives, where he served for 17 years from 1966-83 before being elected to his first term in the Senate in 1990.



Hall of Fame inductees—The 2007 BSC Sports Hall of Fame honorees are (from left) Sen. James "Jabo" Waggoner, Chad Post, Marcus Trost, Bill Legg (Bob Strain Distinguished Service Award winner), Lorrin Etka-Shepherd, Jason Mitchell, Mike Goggans, and Dr. Paul McCrary.

# Jerry Narramore, lifelong BSC athletics supporter and alumnus, dies

Jerry Narramore '61, longtime contributor and BSC Sports Hall of Fame member, passed away June 10, 2007, at a Birmingham hospital. He was 71.

Narramore was a 50-year supporter of BSC athletics, having seen—in person more than 2,000 sporting events at the college. He kept the official scorebook for BSC men's basketball for more than four decades. He was honored with the college's Bob Strain Distinguished Service Award in 2001 and was inducted in the BSC Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

He also served BSC as the house director of the New Men's Residence Hall from 1975 to 1990 and was even the sports information director for the school in 1978-79. Narramore also did much of the labor involved in building the Striplin Baseball Field when the facility was established in the early '80s.



Narramore

"As much as any BSC alum, Jerry Narramore exemplified the true spirit of excellence associated with Birmingham-Southern athletics," said BSC Athletics Director Joe Dean Jr. "He served the college in many ways for over 50 years and was a wonderful friend to hundreds of athletes, coaches, and staff. Birmingham-Southern was Jerry's life, and we will all miss his quick wit, selfless spirit, and having him at the scorer's table during our basketball games."

While in college, Narramore played baseball and was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity, graduating with a degree in business. Away from BSC, he worked as an investigator for insurance companies and attorneys, and for many years, he was a national steward for the Sportscar Club of America, traveling the country to serve as a race official and inspect race cars.

The college held a memorial service in his honor.

## BSC athletics adds men's lacrosse

Athletics Director Joe Dean Jr. announced during the past academic year the addition of men's lacrosse, which will raise the number of Birmingham-Southern sports offerings to 21.

Andy Bonasera, previously of the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio, was hired as BSC's first men's lacrosse head coach. Bonasera will spend the upcoming 2007-08 year recruiting student-athletes, and his squad will play as a full varsity team in 2008-09 as a member of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Bonasera served as men's lacrosse head coach at the Mount for two years and was an assistant men's lacrosse coach at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va., for two years.

A 2003 graduate of Roanoke College in Salem, Va., he was a four-year letterwinner and was the school's first-ever four-time All-American, earning Honorable Mention honors in 2000 and 2001, Third-Team honors in 2002, and First-Team honors as a senior in 2003.

"We are very excited about Andy Bonasera starting our new men's lacrosse program," Dean said. "Andy was an All-American player in college, and his head coaching experience gives him the skills necessary to build a quality lacrosse program for us here at Birmingham-Southern."

Saturdays at 10 a.m. this fall on CW-21 (WTTO) and Mondays at 10 p.m. on WOTM, a local independent TV station offered by most Birmingham cable outlets

Birmingham-Southern Head Football Coach Joey Jones will be the featured guest of this 30-minute magazine-style format hosted by radio and television broadcasting veteran Kevin Henslee. The interactive weekly forum will examine the new football season at BSC with in-depth conversation with Jones, insight from other coaches and players, game replays, special features on sports facilities, and other BSC-related activities.

*The Saturday shows will precede the* Inside Southeastern Football Show *and air Sept. 22 through Nov. 17, excluding Sept. 29.* 

The Monday shows will follow the Hoover Football Show and air Sept. 24 through Nov. 19, excluding Oct. 1.





THE JOEY JONES SHOW

## Women's golf finishes banner season at NCAA Regional

The Birmingham-Southern women's golf team finished the 2006-07 season winning five of 12 events, including the college's second straight Big South Conference Women's Golf Championship and a berth in the NCAA East Regional in Baton Rouge, La.

BSC dominated the Big South Conference Tournament for the second year in a row by 14 strokes over second-place Coastal Carolina. Recent graduate Jill Stupiansky became the first



(From left) Karlin Beck, Sara Hunt, Jill Stupiansky, Jordan Hardy, Shelley McGraw, and Head Coach Michele Drinkard are pictured in front of the scoreboard at the 2007 NCAA Women's Golf East Regional at LSU's University Club in Baton Rouge.

Panther to capture the Big South Conference individual title, winning with a five-over 218. Freshman Sara Hunt finished third, followed by recent graduate Shelley McGraw in fourth, junior Jordan Hardy in sixth, and sophomore Karlin Beck in 16th.

BSC concluded the banner season with a team aggregate score of 890 to finish 15th at the NCAA East Regional, hosted in May by Louisiana State University.

Stupiansky, McGraw, and Hardy garnered All-Big South Conference laurels while Stupiansky earned Big South Women's Golf Scholar Athlete of the Year for the second straight season. Head Coach Michele Drinkard followed suit, winning her second consecutive Coach of the Year award.

The All-Conference trio combined for five individual victories during the season. Stupiansky, who led BSC with a 75.0 stroke average, won the UAB Beach Bash, Ann Rhoads Invitational, and Big South Conference titles. McGraw won the Birmingham-Tri-Match, and Hunt won the Lady Pirate Invitational.

BSC garnered five team titles, winning the Birmingham Tri-Match, the Lady Pirate Invitational, and the UAB Beach Bash during the fall. The Panthers also finished fifth at the Lady Wildcat Invitational and ninth at The Derby at Auburn University, which involved top teams from the Southeastern, Conference USA, Big 12, and Big East conferences. In the spring, BSC won the annual Ann Rhoads Shootout at the Bent Brook Golf Course as well as Big South Conference tournaments.

**Goal-keeping drills**—Birmingham-Southern soccer counselors Christy Dettmer and Reese Feist teach ball-control skills to a group of youth in the Preston Goldfarb Excellence Through Fundamentals summer soccer camp held at the BSC Soccer Park on campus. More than 400 campers from around the Southeast attended one of the three weeklong camps directed by Goldfarb, BSC's longtime men's soccer coach. The college also offered summer sports camps in baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball, and track and field, as well as a Student Leaders in Service program and dance, music, and theatre camps.





BSC Athletics Director Joe Dean Jr. (left) presents J.T. Clendenin with the Big South Conference Freshman of the Year Award at the annual banquet in April prior to the 2007 PUPS Big South Conference Men's Golf Championship.

# BSC's Clendenin named Big South Conference Freshman of the Year

Birmingham-Southern's J.T. Clendenin was named the Big South Conference Freshman of the Year at the Big South Conference men's golf pre-tournament banquet held in April at the Sheraton in downtown Birmingham.

Clendenin won the BSC Spring Invitational with a nine-under 207. He also posted five top-10 finishes and was named the Big South Conference Golfer of the Week twice. Clendenin finished the year with the team's top average, averaging 72.8 strokes per round.

Sophomore Robert Lindstrom won two events during the season and finished second on the team with a 73.2 stroke average. Lindstrom captured the MacDonald Cup hosted by Yale University, helping BSC to a seventh-place finish. He later captured the Hal Sutton Intercollegiate title hosted by Centenary College in Shreveport, La. His two over- par 218 at the Raines Development Group Intercollegiate garnered him Big South Conference Golfer of the Week honors for the week of Sept. 28.

The Panthers posted eight top-10 finishes in 11 events during the season. BSC wrapped up the fall with a third-place finish at the Buffalo Rock/Southern Showdown and opened the spring schedule with a second-place finish at the BSC Spring Invitational at Oxmoor Valley Golf Course on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

BSC closed the season out by hosting the 2007 PUPS Big South Conference Men's Golf Championship at Limestone Springs Golf Club in Oneonta. The Panthers finished seventh with a team aggregate score of 928 in its final Big South Conference Men's Golf Tournament.

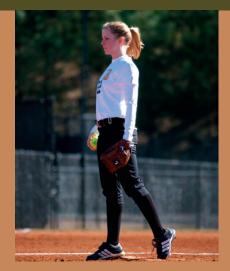
## Softball marked by impressive wins, despite tough season

Three players from the 2007 Birmingham-Southern softball team earned post-season honors this season, as senior Heather Fox earned a spot on the All-Big South Conference First Team, senior Bethney Reynoldson was named Second-Team All-Conference, and senior Lindsay Creighton was named to the All-Academic squad.

The team experienced an up-and-down season, but still notched big wins over in-state rivals UAB, Alabama A&M, South Alabama, and Alabama State, as well as Grambling State, Southeastern Louisiana, Georgia State, Alcorn State, Nicholls State, North Florida, Chattanooga, Jackson State, and Belmont.

Additionally, in the Big South Conference, the Panthers picked up at least one win against every conference opponent and finished the season ranked fifth in the league standings.

Two Panthers also broke BSC records this season as sophomore Danielle Honore' broke the single-game RBI record this year with six RBI in two separate games, and Reynoldson broke two pitching records: the single-game and single-season strikeout records. To break the single-game record of 11 strikeouts, Reynoldson struck out 16 batters against Jackson State, and she also shattered the previous single-season record of 151 strikeouts with 221 this season.



Junior pitcher Bethney Reynoldson earned Second-Team All-Big South Conference honors this season and broke BSC's single-game and single-season strikeout records.

## BSC women's tennis posts 25th consecutive winning season



Head Coach Ann Dielen and the Birmingham-Southern women's tennis team wrapped up its 25th consecutive winning season this past spring, posting wins in five of its last six matches to finish 10-9 overall and 2-4 in the Big South Conference.

Since the start of women's tennis in 1983, the Panther women have never had a losing season.

Recent graduate Casey Ragsdale registered a 13-5 singles record and a 4-2 mark in the Big South, earning All-Big South Conference laurels. She teamed with junior Kate Lambert for a 7-7 doubles mark. Recent graduate Stephanie Boucher was named to the Big South All-Academic team. Ragsdale and Boucher were later honored with the Johnny Johnson Most Inspirational Senior Student-Athlete award at the annual BSC Athletic Honors Day.

The Panthers fell 4-0 to Charleston Southern in the first round of the Big South Conference Tournament to close out the 2007 campaign.

Casey Ragsdale earned All-Big South Conference singles honors, posting a 13-5 single record at the No. 3 position for BSC.

## Engler, Ray receive Big South Conference honors in men's tennis

Recent Birmingham-Southern graduates Mauricio Engler and David Ray were honored at the annual Big South Conference Men's Tennis Banquet in April prior to the conference's 2007 championship tournament.

Engler posted a 12-7 singles record and a 4-2 record in league play to earn All-Big South Conference laurels. Ray was honored as a Big South All-Academic selection.

The Panther men struggled through a tough year, finishing the season 3-17 overall and 1-5 in conference play. BSC recorded wins over Martin Methodist, Liberty University, and Millsaps College. The Panthers wrapped up the season with a loss to Radford University in the first round of the Big South Conference Tournament in Radford, Va.



Mauricio Engler had a 12-7 record at No. 1 singles for the Panther men's tennis team in 2007.

## BSC SPORTS SCHEDULES ONLINE!

For a complete listing of schedules for all of Birmingham-Southern's Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Division III sports teams, visit the athletics Web site at www.bscsports.net.

## ClassNotes



Glenn family gathers near Cape Town—At the Cape of Good Hope, wearing their BSC shirts, are (from left) Lisa Glenn '06; her mother, Laura Whitehurst Glenn '78 of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; and her sister, Katie Glenn '11, who is a freshman at Birmingham-Southern this fall. Laura and Katie Glenn recently visited Lisa in South Africa, where she has been studying at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg since January, on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship she received last year. She will complete her year abroad in December 2007. While in Africa, Lisa will participate in the 2007 Rotary AIDS Hike from Johannesburg to Durban (more than 1,000 km). The event raises money and awareness for AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children in Africa.

#### '37

Emlyn Colmant Bode is working on a travel journal, combining her many travel diaries into a volume to be called *Emmy's ABC Travels: Air, Boat, and Camper.* At the age of 90, she and her husband have given up camping across the U.S., Canada, and Newfoundland and are entertaining themselves with hundreds of slides, as well as happenings in their hometown of Richmond, Va., and visits from their large family.

#### '41

The Belvedere Study Club recently presented a copy of John Randolph's *The Battle for Alabama's Wilderness* to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Library, in honor of the club's former president, the late **Mary Ivy Burks**. The book outlines Burks' tireless efforts to preserve a wilderness area in the Bankhead National Forest.

#### '44

Rev. George Harper of Helena, Mont., was speaker at the 125th commencement of Rocky Mountain College last May and received an honorary doctorate of public service from the college. Harper's long career in the Methodist ministry has been particularly concerned with youth. He served as executive secretary of the National Conference of Methodist Youth and as executive secretary to the Montana Conference Board of Education. He was pastor of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Helena for 17 years.

#### **'65**

#### Dr. Tennant McWilliams of

Birmingham, former dean of the UAB School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, has relinguished that position to return to the school's faculty, citing his desire, after a quarter of a century of service in administrative roles, for a return to full-time teaching and writing. McWilliams joined the UAB faculty in 1974 as an assistant professor of history. He also had served as department chair, assistant vice president for academic affairs, and interim senior vice president for University College, before being named dean of SBS in 1990.

#### **'66**

**Dr. Harry Mueller III** continues to work for Saudi Aramco in Dharan, Saudi Arabia, and travels as often as he can, having taken trips to Tanzania and IndoChina last year.

#### **'67**

Dr. F. Cleveland Kinney, professor, senior associate dean, and medical director at UAB, was recognized as a leader in area health care in the Feb. 9, 2007, *Birmingham Business Journal*. The report notes that Kinney "has served in a variety of roles at UAB, helping to teach students in psychiatry and behavioral neurobiology, cell biology, and medicine, as well as playing a large role in the clinical affairs of the University of Alabama School of Medicine."

#### **'68**

Norton Dill of Birmingham, a director of commercial and documentary films, was profiled in the April issue of *Birmingham* magazine. The profile cites Dill's films *Music in Their Bones: The Music and People of Sand Mountain* (1999) and *Kathryn: The Story of a Teller* (2004).

#### Catherine Rye Gilmore of

Birmingham was included in the April 27, 2007, *Birmingham Business Journal's* "Who's Who in Hospitality." The arts leader is president of The Metropolitan Arts Center and Virginia Samford Theatre. *BBJ* notes "she cochaired the \$3 million fund-raising campaign to restore and renovate the historical Clark Memorial Theatre as a multi-purpose arts center for the Birmingham community—now renamed the Virginia Samford Theatre."

Kirby Sevier Jr. is pictured in the cover story of the June 8, 2007, Birmingham Business Journal. The article reports the expansion of Sevier's Birmingham law firm Maynard Cooper & Gale PC into the Huntsville market. Its new office there will be staffed with 14 attorneys who left Balch & Bingham LLP's North Alabama office in an amicable split. The addition of the Huntsville group brings Maynard's attorney roster to 175 and represents a significant expansion for the firm founded by Sevier and others in 1984.

#### **'70**

**Dr. Robert Corley** has been named director of the Global and Community Leadership Honors Program at UAB. Students in this program will be able to participate in special honors courses and learning experiences relating to global and community issues to prepare them for leadership roles. For the past 13 years, Corley, an assistant professor of history, has directed the UAB Center for Urban Affairs. He has served on the honors council of the UAB Honors Program since 1989.

**Byron B. Mathews Jr.** of New York shares entertaining news about his dog "L'il Pup." A video of the pooch won first place in a contest held in connection with a Paramount film, *Year of the Dog.* As winners, L'il Pup and Mathews were flown to Los Angeles for a meeting with Paramount representatives. L'il Pup also was treated to prizes, including a day at L.A.'s poshest dog spa.

#### '71

Fr. David Lowell, executive director of Raphael House, a San Francisco shelter for homeless families, has been presented a Jefferson Award, a recognition given to individuals making a difference in their communities by the American Institute for Public Service. An article in the March 18, 2007, San Francisco Chronicle details Lowell's 21-year career at Raphael House, an organization which also has won the San Francisco Foundation's John R. May Award for making a difference in the community, among other awards received.

**Dr. Carol Newsom**, author and Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament at Emory University, presented Birmingham-Southern's inaugural Bishop's Lecture in Faith and Ethics April 17, 2007, on the BSC campus. Her presentation, "Three Ways of Imagining Good and Evil: The Bible's Internal Conversation," was sponsored by the college's Office of Church Relations and dedicated to **Dr. Roy Wells Jr. '57**, professor of religion at BSC, who retired this past spring after 40 years of teaching at the college. Newsom was chosen to present the inaugural lecture in part because she was a student of Wells at BSC. The lecture series was established and endowed by Bishop William Willimon, presiding bishop of the United Methodist Church North Alabama Area, and his wife, Patsy Willimon.

#### **'72**

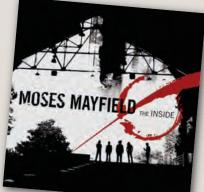
Dr. Donald Bruce Irwin, founder and CEO of American Family Care, a 25-year-old, Birmingham-based chain of free-standing independent health clinics, was named a finalist for Small Business Person of the Year, Category 4 (76-500 employees) in the Birmingham **Regional Chamber of Commerce** 2007 Small Business Awards programs. American Family Care, which now operates clinics in 13 Birmingham locations, as well as three Huntsville clinics and two each in Mobile and Montgomery, has announced plans to double its operations within five years, as reported in the June 22, 2007, edition of the Birmingham Business Journal.

#### Dr. Wayne Killion Jr. of

Birmingham, president and CEO of Shook & Fletcher Insulation Co., recently was elected president of the National Insulation Association, a trade association representing the mechanical and specialty insulation industry. Killion, who also holds an MPPM degree from Birmingham-Southern, is a trustee of the college.

### AlumNews





March 27, 2007, was a special day for members of the Moses Mayfield band:

Matthew Mayfield '05 (vocals, guitar), Will Mason '07 (guitar), Matt Taylor '03 (keys), Hans Ford '04 (bass), and Wil Drake (drums). That's the day their first major label CD was released by Columbia Records.

*The Inside*, recorded with producer Ben Grosse (Marilyn Manson, Fuel, Vertical Horizon), features a dynamic, according to the group's Columbia Records Web site, that is "a balance of bare-knuckled rock combined with lush ambient textures." If *The Inside* is about anything," says Mayfield, "it's about forging connections—reaching out to people and connecting on a personal, emotional level." More about the CD, including purchase information, is available online.

The band first formed in 2002 as the Stewart-Mayfield Project, with members who had become friends at BSC. Playing to an ever more devoted following, the group changed its name to Moses Mayfield. After two indie releases, the 2003 EP, *Unified*, and the 2004 full-length *Enough to Let Go*, the group marked a turning point with a sold-out performance at WorkPlay in Birmingham, which was recorded on a DVD that attracted the attention of a rep at Sony BMG and led to the Columbia contract.

Live appearances, both as headliner and as opener for groups such as Switchfoot, The Fray, and My Morning Jacket, provide the group with the energy that fuels the CD. "Music is storytelling," says keyboardist Taylor, "and, to me, being a musician is being a part of that group that gets to tell the story."

After nearly 30 years of practicing veterinary medicine in northeast Oklahoma, **Dr. Mary Jane M. Sepmeier** has moved from Claremore to Ada, Okla., with her 11 cats, three dogs, horse, donkey, and parrot. In Ada, she is happily

working at a mixed animal practice

with a dear friend from vet school, has added three more cats to her household, and is enjoying life in an older home in the country that backs into a 3,000-acre cattle ranch—"like living in Wyoming," she says. "The rest of the world is insignificant once I get home."

#### Hon. Samuel H. Welch Jr. of

Monroeville was elected to Place 3 on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals last November, after serving the past 27 years as circuit judge in the 35th Judicial Circuit, which includes Monroe and Conecuh counties. Welch, a Republican, replaced Sue Bell Cobb, who was elected chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in November.

#### **'73**

Last May, **Sue Dill Grogan** principal at Shades Cahaba, and her friend, **Patricia Kendricks Simpson** of Birmingham, former assistant principal at Shades Cahaba Elementary School, were honored with the Birmingham Urban League's Multi-Racial Friendship Award. Simpson now has been promoted to the position of principal at Edgewood Elementary School.



**Trant**, a practicing attorney in Knoxville, Tenn., for the past 29 years,

Douglas A.

past 29 years, has been named a

fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a group composed of "the best of the trial bar from the United States and Canada." Fellowship in the group, founded in 1950, is extended by invitation only "to those experienced trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility, and collegiality."

#### **'74**

Thomas Bankston, general director of Dayton Opera in Ohio, served as a judge last spring in the 29th annual W. Cassell Stewart Vocal Competition held in Birmingham.

#### **'75**

In December 2006, **Dr. Clinton Anderson** of Washington, D.C., received his doctoral degree in community psychology and applied social psychology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Clinton has been employed by the American Psychological Association for 19 years. He is director of the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Office in the Public Interest Directorate.

#### **'76**

In May 2007, **David Buchholz** of Rome, Ga., received a master's of divinity from the Candler School of Theology of Emory University. Bucholz is a member of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

#### **′78**

Dr. J. Eugene "Gene" Lammers was promoted last fall to the

newly

created position of medical director of senior patient safety and quality for Clarian

Health Partners in Indianapolis, charged with providing geriatric medicine expertise and managing quality improvement initiatives within the Clarian hospitals and its partner institutions. Lammers has served for 14 years with Methodist

## AlumNews



In May 2007, James E. Hicks of Dothan took part in a special ceremony honoring the memory of his daughter, the late **Erin Kathleen Hicks '07**, whose life was lost in a car accident during her freshman year at BSC.

Erin Hicks was an AOPi pledge. Her father has said that he was touched by the supportive response he received from the BSC college community, especially his daughter's AOPi sisters. Recently, he established an endowed scholarship in memory of his daughter, which will be awarded annually to a member of AOPi's freshman pledge class. The first recipient of this scholarship, **Katelyn Hancock '10**, was recognized at the May event.

Members of the Birmingham-Southern community who would like to contribute to the Erin Kathleen Hicks Memorial Scholarship may do so through the Office of Institutional Advancement, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Hospital and Clarian Health Partners. Most recently, he was medical director for the Senior Health Center at Methodist Hospital. He also is an adjunct clinical professor of medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

#### **'79**

In May 2006, **Kathryn Carter Fowler** joined the EDS Corp., based in Plano, Texas, as a customer sales executive in the Healthcare Division.



James M. Pool, an attorney with Maynard Cooper & Gale PC in Birmingham, recently was listed in *Birmingham Business Journal's* "Who's Who in Health Care," a section published by the journal every five years, with the stated purpose of informing readers of the top healthcare decisionmakers in the area.

#### **'80**

Last May, **Patricia Kendricks Simpson** of Birmingham, former assistant principal at Shades Cahaba Elementary School, and her friend, **Sue Dill Grogan '73**, principal at Shades Cahaba, were honored with the Birmingham Urban League's Multi-Racial Friendship Award. Simpson now has been promoted to the position of principal at Edgewood Elementary School.

#### '81

Betty Hawk recently was

appointed division vice president of the Materials Resource Division at the 3M Company in St. Paul, Minn.

#### Carol A. Herrmann-Steckel of

Birmingham, commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency, now is a member of the BSC Edward Lee Norton Board of Advisors.

Bryan Polivka, chief learning officer and divisional vice president of the eLearning Group of Laureate Online Education, recently has published his first two novels. The Legend of the Firefish (published March 1, 2007) and The Hand That Bears the Sword (published July 1, 2007) are the first two parts of a planned trilogy and are available online. The final part of the trilogy, The Battle for Vast Dominion, is scheduled for publication Jan. 1, 2008.



#### '82 Angela

Fisher Hall has been named vice president of publications and special projects at

the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Hall has been with BCRI since 1993. She most recently served as executive assistant to the president and CEO. With this title change, and in her expanded role, Hall will serve as the communications representative for BCRI and will continue to coordinate special projects, as well as produce publications and documents to support the institute's ongoing programs and projects.

James I. Owens Jr. is president and CEO at HomeTown Bank of Villa Rica in Gainesville, Ga. He formerly was senior vice president and commercial real estate group senior credit officer at Regions Bank in Birmingham.

#### **'83**

Alfred F. "Buddy" Smith Jr. of Birmingham has been named chair

of the Jefferson County Personnel Board. Smith is a partner with the law firm of Bainbridge, Mims, Rogers, and Smith.

#### Col. Anthony Larry Steadman of

Bedford, Mass., retired from active duty Sept. 1, 2007, after nearly 24 years of service in the U.S. Air Force. Upon retirement, he planned to practice government contract law.

#### **'84**

**Rev. Russell J. Levenson Jr.** now is rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston. Levenson

## AlumNews '67



In the Wake of the Assassins, a new documentary by filmmaker **Robert Clem** '67 of New Paltz, N.Y., aired this summer on

Alabama Public Television to strong reviews.

The film, which premiered at the State Archives in May, tells the story of former Alabama Governor John Patterson's entry into politics following the assassination of his father, then Alabama Attorney General Albert Patterson. According to **Dr. Harvey H. Jackson Ill '65**, professor of history and head of the Department of History and Foreign Languages at Jacksonville State University, the Patterson film is "a dandy." In an *Anniston Star* column of June 13, 2007, Jackson remarks how this "remarkable documentary" helped him appreciate "the difficulties the man faced and how much he accomplished despite them."

The Patterson film and other ongoing projects of Clem's were the subject of June 2007 interviews on WBHM radio's *Tapestry* and APT's *For the Record*, available online.

previously served as rector of Christ Church in Pensacola.

**Craft O'Neal** of Birmingham, chair of O'Neal Steel Inc., has been named to the Board of Trustees of Children's Hospital of Alabama. O'Neal also serves on the boards of The Birmingham Zoo, Emmet O'Neal Library, and Birmingham-Southern, among others.

#### '85

**Dr. Jeff Clark** of Brookhaven, Miss., has been chosen as a member of the Cambridge Who's Who Registry. This honor recognizes his professional accomplishments as a proven leader in the regional healthcare industry. Clark, a urologist, has practiced in Brookhaven with Dr. Jeffery Boyd since 1996.

#### Cynthia Lamar-Hart of

Birmingham, a shareholder at Maynard, Cooper & Gale PC, has been named to the group "Southern Women of Distinction" by the Southern Women's Committee of 50.

#### **'86**

#### Susan Beard Brouillette of

Birmingham was named among the "Who's Who" of area healthcare leaders in the Feb. 9, 2007, edition of the *Birmingham Business Journal*. She is CEO of Alacare Home Health and Hospice, and she was named earlier to the *BBJ's* "Top 40 Under 40" and "Top Birmingham Women."

#### In 2005, Henry F. Sherrod III of

Florence helped found Alabama's first organization for attorneys for employees, NELA-Alabama, an affiliate of the National Employment Lawyers Association. He was elected to its executive board, served as president of the group during 2005 and 2006, and earlier this year was again re-elected president.

#### **'87**

When contestants representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia gathered in Birmingham in May 2007 for the National Chicken Cooking Contest, they were entertained at The Restaurant at Culinard and enjoyed an elegant dinner planned by Culinard Director Anthony Osborne and Executive Chef **Gray Byrum**.

In February 2007, **Rebecca Gilman** of Chicago was elected to the Council of the Dramatists Guild of America.

#### Attorney James C. Pennington

from the Birmingham office of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart PC was ranked in the 2007 edition of *Chambers USA* as a leader in the field of labor and employment law. Pennington is president-elect of the BSC Alumni Association.

#### **'88**

In March 2007, Gov. Bob Riley appointed attorney **Don Lambert** of Vernon as Lamar County district judge.

#### **'90**

In March 2007, the **Rev. Paul Courtright Elliott** was named interim rector at St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church in Peachtree City, Ga.

Merle Whitehead Underwood of Birmingham is proud that her grandson, Brandon Pierce Underwood, is a sophomore at Birmingham-Southern. His family history on the Hilltop is a strong one, she says. Other family members who are BSC graduates include his grandfather, Howard Linwood Underwood '50; greatgreat aunt, Jane Hood Newton McConnell '41; and great grandmother, Mary Newton Underwood '25.

#### **'92**

The winter 2007 issue of *Southern Theatre* includes a profile of **Michelle Ladd** of Huntsville, a BSC theatre major now employed in the film industry as a motion capture fight director/stunt woman/combat teacher. Ladd's film credits include *Lord of the Rings, Return of the King; The Chronicles of Narnia;* and *Flags of Our Fathers.* 

#### Rev. Matthew Irvin Penfield of

Birmingham received his doctor of ministry degree from Saint Paul School of Theology in May 2007. His praxis thesis was published with distinction. Penfield is the son of **Dr. H. Irvin Penfield**, BSC professor emeritus of political science and former provost, and **Elise McWilliams Penfield '61.** 



BSC alumni reunite in Washington State— Callie Betancourt Daniell '62 of Port Ludlow, Wash., (third from left) learned earlier this year from a newspaper mention that her old college friend Henry King Stanford Jr. '61 had joined the growing number of BSC alumni in Washington State. With help from the Alumni Office, she contacted Stanford and learned that he and wife Lois were living in Belfair, not far from her home. After friendly e-mailing back and forth, Daniell arranged a mini-reunion, including BSC classmate Sherrill Lamppin-Bohart '62 of Seattle. Last May (as pictured above), the Stanfords, Daniell, and Lamppin-Bohart met at an inviting restaurant on the Bremerton waterfront for lunch and long-overdue conversation.

Do you have college friends you'd like to see again? BSC AlumNet at www.bsc.edu/alumnet can bring you together in moments. If, like these alumni, you arrange a mini-reunion, be sure to send a photo to chagood@bsc.edu for ClassNotes.

#### **'93**

Dr. Julia Tyra Hemphill and Michael Hemphill of Elliston, Va., are balancing a growing family (see "Births") with interesting careers. She is "working at her dream job of practicing family medicine in a small town in the Virginia mountains." He primarily is a stay-at-home dad, but also directs a local nonprofit foundation, and has raised more than \$1 million to renovate an old nursing home into a library, YMCA, and community center. **Don J. "Pete" Walker** is senior officer/chief financial officer for American Village in Montevallo. He reports that another BSC graduate on the American Village staff is **William "Billy" Stewart '03**, who is an interpreted programs officer and director of performance.

Michael H. Witcher of Birmingham is homeland security director for the Omega Group, and reports that he has worked with the White House, Congress, the Department of Homeland Security, and the intelligence community, advising on sophisticated technology.

## Alumni art enlivens Alabama exhibitions





This past summer, Homewood artist **Dr**. **Don Stewart '81** says his work took on a new dimension—literally. Stewart, known internationally for his complex, humorous drawings, was selected by the Eastern Shore Art Center in Fairhope to decorate a five-foot

fiberglass pelican using his signature composite technique. He joined 60 artists from around the state in the "Art Takes Flight" project. Modeled after Chicago's successful public art display "Cows on Parade," the project planned a display of customized pelicans around the Fairhope area from March through September 2007.

Ordinarily, Stewart, a ballpoint artist, draws big pictures made up of smaller ones, with a humorous theme that ties the images together. For example, his "Fast Food" is a drawing of a motorcycle made up of cookies and sub sandwiches. For the pelican project, Stewart applied his composite process to sculpture for the first time. He rebuilt the fiberglass pelican sent to him with shapes of seashells, after an earlier drawing of his "Shellican." This time, rather than drawing, he used a painting technique to apply plastic resin to the surface of the bird, slowly transforming wings and feathers into elongated snail shells, scallops, clams, mussels, oysters, abalone, and more.

With all the shells in place, the piece received several coats of paint before being mounted for display, along with the works of other artists, along the pleasant streets of Fairhope, where they will remain through September. If you plan a late-summer trip to the beach, be sure to visit Fairhope before "Art Takes Flight"—takes flight!

Join the crowd Sept. 13, 2007, 5 to 8 p.m., at the Monty Stabler Galleries in Birmingham, for the opening of a new show featuring the work of painter **Gina Clark Hurry '94** of Birmingham. A lifelong artist, Hurry says in her studio brochure that her love of color and light was first apparent when she traveled with her grandparents to Europe as a child and was captivated by the ceilings of cathedrals and stained glass windows of the churches. Churches often appear in her works, as do angels, but the most common theme in her light-washed paintings is tender scenes of children.

The mother of three young children of her own, Hurry says she often paints amidst a flurry of activity, sometimes setting her easel in the kitchen and



Red Rover by Gina C. Hurry

juggling paint with peanut butter and jelly. Other times she paints outside in the sun and wind. Her trademark acrylics, she says, match her lifestyle: "They forgive; they communicate; they respond."

For a look at Hurry's latest works, you can visit her show at Monty Stabler Galleries until Oct. 2, 2007. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The glass art of **Donna Branch MPPM '93** of the Tara GlassArt studio in McCalla recently took the second place award for sculpture in the show Southern Roots, sponsored by the Academy of Fine Arts, Birmingham.

Her glass also was featured in the show Alabama Originals: Contemporary Craft, July 13-Aug. 31, 2007, in the Alabama Artists Gallery, Alabama State Council on the

Arts in Montgomery. This exhibition was organized by the Alabama Council on the Arts gallery director, Georgine Clarke, in celebration of the Year of the Alabama Arts.

Branch's work will be shown in The Red Clay Survey at the Huntsville Museum of Art, Sept. 8-Nov. 4, 2007, an exhibition which "takes the pulse" of contemporary Southern art. From the nearly 1,000 slides considered for this exhibition, 88 works from 65 artists were chosen.



A Relic of Memories Past by Donna Branch, shown recently in Alabama Originals. Photography by Ralph Anderson.

# BSC treads the boards

Actor **Jim Newman '86** of New York, celebrated for his lead role in *Almost Heaven* (*Playbill* said "he plays John Denver with the voice of an angel"), as well as his Broadway appearances in *Steel Pier, Minelli on Minelli, Sunset Boulevard,* 



Jim Newman and Dr. David Pollick celebrate at Sardi's.

and *The Who's Tommy*, now has another significant credit. On March 22, 2007, he opened in *Curtains*, a Broadway musical that has received eight Tony nominations, including "Best Musical" (with star David Hyde Pierce bringing home the win for "Best Leading Actor in a Musical").

This past July, a group of Birmingham-Southern staff,

All the way from

MAGNOLIA

PRING

alumni, and friends enjoyed *Curtains* and afterwards celebrated its success with Newman at a post-performance gathering at Sardi's, the famed Times Square restaurant. BSC Alumni Director Lisa Harrison calls Newman's performance "dazzling." Tickets are available online.

Playwright and director **Ed Howard '70** of Marietta, Ga. (one of the creative forces behind the hilarious *Greater Tuna*, one of the most-produced plays in the English language), recently adapted friend Fannie Flagg's best-selling novel, *Daisy Fay and the Miracle Man* for the stage. The resulting comedy, *All the Way from Magnolia Springs*, enjoyed a sold-

out run at Birmingham's Virginia Samford Theatre last October and returned in May 2007 "by popular demand." *The Birmingham News*' Alec Harvey, in an Oct. 7, 2006, review, found Birmingham actress **Amber Quick '04**, who brings the character Daisy Fay Harper to vivid life, "darned near perfect. ... One woman shows are never easy, but she makes it look like a piece of cake."

Birmingham area alumni who

missed the Virginia Samford Theatre performances might want to catch a late-September run of *All the Way from Magnolia Springs* at the Art Station in historic Stone Mountain Village near Atlanta.



Higginbotham brings Evita back to the Birmingham stage.

#### Ten years ago, **Kristi Tingle Higginbotham '87** of Birmingham starred in *Evita* at the Clark Memorial Theatre (now the Virginia Samford Theatre) in a Town and Gown

production that, according to *Birmingham News* critic Alec Harvey, "was among the most memorable of the venerable theater's last years." On May 29-June 3, 2007, she returned in a new production of *Evita* mounted by the Magic City Actors Theatre, this time joined by husband **David Higginbotham '88** and their eight-year-old son, Clay, in the chorus. Her reprise of the challenging role of Evita brought great reviews: According to Harvey,



Higginbotham with son, Clay.

"time has only strengthened Higginbotham's reading of the role. Her singing, as always, is impeccable ... she's giving Evita even more depth than she did in 1997."

**Denise Clegg Bennett '80** premiered her one-woman show, *The Heart's True Scale*, at the Firehouse Theatre in Richmond, Va., this past April. For this production,

described as an "original fairytale for adults," she wrote the book as well as the musical score, which features voice and Celtic harp.

Bennett, who has done graduate work in drama and holds a master's in divinity from Union Theological Seminary, lives in Richmond with her husband, Jim, and their two sons.



#### In June 2007, Dane Peterson '97 Bennett

appeared in the Pulitzer Prize-winning one-man play *I Am My Own Wife*, in a production staged by Birmingham



Festival Theatre. This challenging piece, which won the Tony Award for 2004, is based on the life of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a transvestite who survived the Nazi and Communist regimes in Berlin. According to *The Birmingham News* review of June 8, "Peterson has made such a name for himself as a director in Birmingham in recent years, it's easy to forget what a

Peterson

fine actor he can be. ... [This role, in which he plays 40 characters] provides ample opportunity for him to remind us."

Peterson made his stage debut 20 years ago at the Birmingham Children's Theatre. His acting credits since include productions with Town and Gown, Terrific New Theatre, Hoover Library Theatre, Summerfest, and more and, recently, as a guest artist in the nationally ranked production of *Urinetown: The Musical*, with the BSC Theatre. He is founding vice president of the Birmingham Area Theatre Alliance, and recently completed his 10th and final year as theater director at John Carroll Catholic High School. He can be seen as "Amos" in the musical *Chicago* with the Red Mountain Theatre Company, Sept. 27-Oct. 7, 2007.

**Amy Miller Brennan '00** of Rahway, N.J., appeared in *Respect: A Musical Journey of Women* at the 14th Street

Playhouse in midtown Atlanta, March 8-July 29, 2007. Written by Vanderbilt University Professor Dorothy Marcic, this production follows four women through significant moments in their lives, as illuminated by



chart-topping pop tunes. Respect Brennan

features an ensemble cast, a live band on stage, and more than 50 songs we all remember.

An audience pleaser, the production also won high critical marks. Wendell Brock of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* said "Professionalism pays off here—with fantastic performances by Atlanta actress Denitra Isler and out-of-towners Amy Miller Brennan, Cory A. Farinacci, and Mary Kathryn Kaye. Playing historical figures like Rosa Parks and just regular gals trying to cope with life, these women have winning personalities and serious vocal chops, which is always a good thing when taking on tunes sung by Doris Day, Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin, Billie Holiday, and Tammy Wynette. If you want my R-E-S-P-E-C-T, you've got to earn it. They do."

#### **'94**

**Todd Green** recently received his doctoral degree from the Divinity School at Vanderbilt University. He will serve as an adjunct professor at the Vanderbilt Divinity School for the spring 2008 semester.

Stewart Shields is employed in the television industry and has worked in the production of reality shows including *Fear Factor* and *Flip That House*. Now with Actual Reality Pictures, he is involved in seeking video submissions for a new Web/television series, *Facebook Diaries*.

**Ryan S. Simpson** is vice president for operations at Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

#### **'95**

Jason Estabrook, former BSC baseball player and assistant coach, has been tapped to lead the baseball program at Hewitt-Trussville High School in Trussville. Estabrook formerly was coach at Moody High.

Peggy Facklis, assistant general counsel for Essilor of America Inc., recently was named by the *Texas Lawyer* as a "rising star," and by *D Magazine* as one of Dallas' "Best Lawyers Under 40."

#### Edward "Ward" H. Lacy III of

Birmingham has joined First Commercial Bank as a vice president.

#### '96

**Leslie Banta** of Staunton, Va., is an artist whose works are featured at a new gallery called Kronos in Staunton's wharf district.

**Tonya G. Drake** of McCalla recently has been promoted from supervisor to manager of industrial billing and revenue accounting at Energen/Alagasco.

Ted Whisenhunt, associate professor of art at Judson College in Marion, has exhibited his series "Saints and Haints" at galleries in Alabama and Georgia in recent months. In an article in the Feb. 28, 2007, *Marion Times-Standard*, he says of his work, "In this series, I use rigid, simplistic figures that are reminiscent of grave markers

... Gothic cathedrals and graveyards in Europe were the initial source of inspiration for the 'Saints,' which I wanted to present through the eyes of a Southerner. The rich folklore of the Black Belt region includes stories about 'Haints' (derived from the term 'haunts') ... I'm interested in exploring the duality of these two seemingly opposing forces and cultures."

#### **'97**

Andrew Szmela is president of Magnolia Lane, a Trussville-based import company that offers Cabell Sweeney's painted pottery designs—ceramic trays and other pieces—with colorful designs geared to Alabama, Auburn, and more than 60 other colleges and universities. The Magnolia Lane Collection can be found at area stores and online.

#### **'98**

**Ben Bolton** of Franklin, Tenn., an environmental scientist, has been appointed by Gov. Phil Bredesen to the Tennessee Water & Wastewater Financing Board for a three-year term. Bolton will serve as a representative of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

**Bo Coln** now is head boys' basketball coach at Grissom High School in Huntsville. Coln formerly served in the same position at Hewitt-Trussville High. His wife, **Dr. Evelyn Frazier Coln '99**, a dentist, has joined a practice in

Huntsville.

#### Christopher "Chris" Noyes is

working as a network administrator for Hunton and Williams law firm in Atlanta. His wife, **Dr. Christina Dithmer Noyes**, is an anesthesiologist and assistant professor at Emory Crawford Long Hospital. The couple lives in Decatur, Ga., with son Owen Alexander, born May 12, 2006.

#### **'00**

Tim Calhoun of Alabaster was named Big Brother of the Year in the local Big Brother Big Sister program. He went on to represent Alabama in the national 2007 Big Brother of Year awards program. Calhoun and his Little Brother, Marquis, have been matched since 2004. Calhoun says that in the midst of his busy life as an assistant vice president at Regions, the opportunity to talk with his Little Brother "truly adds light to my day."

Ashley Hanson Gabriel, a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at the University of Alabama, has been selected for an APAaccredited internship in clinical psychology through the UAB Psychology Training Consortium. She will complete her 2007-08 internship at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Birmingham.

The Birmingham-Southern community has welcomed a new chaplain, Rev. John Richardson. He and wife Jasmine Hodges '99 returned to campus earlier this summer for their new roles on the Hilltop (see page 8). Richardson, a distinguished graduate of Birmingham-Southern, has deep ties to the BSC alumni community. His family numbers many BSC graduates, among them his mother, the late Catherine Jones Richardson '70; uncles, Mark Jones '73, David Jones '76, and John Daniel Jones '83; grandfather, the late Dr. Daniel Jones '39; great-uncle, Dr. John Howard '41 (Sarah Shepard Rice Howard '40); and cousin, Robert Howard '72.

#### **'01**

Dr. Brian Flanagan graduated from UAB Medical School in June 2007 and has begun a residency in internal medicine at UAB Hospital. His wife, Dr. Sarah Sharpe Flanagan, practices dentistry in Leeds. The couple lives in Crestline.

Wendi Blake Rahm of Decatur has received her master's degree in architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology. She was named Outstanding First Year Student in the program and placed third in the Architectural Thesis Competition. Rahm has begun her career with CNNA Architects in Atlanta.

Sean Michael Roark graduated from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in May 2007. He now is engaged in his residency in internal medicine at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

#### **'02**

Kirstin Anderson continues her career in musical education at Harlem's St. Aloysius School in New York City. Her work with the students there is lauded in the March 20, 2007, edition of the Carnegie Hall online newsletter. St. Aloysius students have taken part in the LinkUP! concert series at Carnegie Hall since 1997.

Christopher Bowen graduated from the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine in May 2007 and is pursuing specialty training at the Friendship Hospital for Animals in Washington, D.C.

Lauren Cantrell, a theater teacher at Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tenn., recently came one step closer to her dream of pursuing a career in the film



Young doctor receives recognition—Dr. David L. Spencer Jr. '00, a urology resident at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, received the 2007 Robert S. Caldwell, MD, Memorial Award, presented to him in July at the Mississippi State Medical Association annual session. The award recognized the quality of his work, particularly his practice during a brief period recently when Mississippi was without a pediatric urologist. Dr. Charles D. Pound, chief of the Division of Urology at UMMC, praised "the service that David did for the children of Mississippi during this period of need, especially the indigent population that did not have the ability to travel to another state for care. ... His assistance [proved] far beyond his years and experience; patients did not suffer any break in care and, in fact, received excellent care."

## AlumNews '69



physician and president of Birmingham's Urology Centers of Alabama, has been recognized for his exceptional efforts in the battle against prostate cancer. Though prostate cancer is a very curable disease, he says, with high probability of recovery given early identification and proper treatment, Alabama's record of dealing with the disease has been a poor one.

2007, reports some of the

problems, as well as Moody's energetic response: "In 2006, [the National Prostate Cancer Coalition] issued its first prostate cancer report card. Alabama was one of five states to receive a failing grade, based on current prostate cancer screening rates, death rates, and whether or not laws are in place to guarantee insurance coverage for prostate cancer screenings. Urology Centers was one group not willing to accept this news. With Dr. Tom Moody leading the charge, the doctors have taken a grassroots approach to reaching out and spreading the word on the importance of cancer screenings."

Since African-American men are more likely to get prostate cancer and are 2.5 times more likely to die from the disease, compared to Caucasian men, Moody's group planned an initial clinic, offering free prostate cancer screenings, in Selma in September 2006, followed by a second clinic in October at Birmingham's Sixth Avenue Baptist Church. Since then, the group has continued bringing critical screening services to those unlikely to receive them otherwise, with more screenings scheduled this fall in Birmingham and in Perry, Wilcox, and Montgomery counties.

Moody also moved to address problems in access to screenings at a legislative level. In June 2007, Alabama passed a bill requiring insurance companies to cover physicianordered exams, and the National Prostate Cancer Coalition was quick to credit Moody, whom they called "the main catalyst for the success."

"Dr. Moody has been a major presence in the battle against prostate cancer in Alabama," said NPCC chief executive officer Dr. Richard N. Atkins. "He has donated his own time and money to set up screenings and raise awareness of the disease across the state and has testified ... on the need for greater access to screening," tirelessly traveling to both Washington, D.C., and Montgomery.

In part because of the new legislation, the state recently received an improved grade ("C") in the NPCC 2007 Prostate Cancer Report Card.

For more on Moody's continuing efforts against the disease, see his interview with Tim Lennox on the July 8 edition of For the Record: Face to Face, archived online at Alabama Public Television.

#### Dr. Thomas E. Moody '69,

Portico magazine, April

industry, as noted in the March 28, 2007, online edition of The Decatur Daily. An article there reports that Cantrell was recently tapped to appear as an actress in Martina McBride's music video "Anyway." Though she did not meet the music star, Cantrell served during production as her lighting stand-in.

#### Sonya Edwards Eubank of

Birmingham now is at Burr & Forman LLP as an associate in the firm's labor and employment group. A 2005 graduate of Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, she is a member of the American Bar Association's labor and employment and alternative dispute resolution sections.

#### Lauren Faulkner Humphrey is

working for Auction Insurance Agency in its fraud investigations unit. She also has begun work on her MBA degree at the University of North Alabama in Florence, with an anticipated graduation in fall 2008.

#### Sherrie McCoy Jones, 2002-03

president of the Birmingham chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals, was named Administrative Professional of the Year at the group's February 2007 meeting. In June, she was among four finalists for the award at the state level. Jones is administrative assistant to Dr. Robert R. Rathburn, executive director of Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark.

Megan Mitchell of Birmingham recently accepted the position of corporate controller of Countryside Hospice Care, located in Alabama

## AlumNews '70



Dr. William U. "Bill" Eiland

**'70** of Athens, Ga., has been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries.

As director of the Georgia Museum of Art, Eiland has guided the institution through a period of unprecedented growth. The museum has

greatly expanded the number of works in its permanent collection, moved into its current location at the University of Georgia's Performing and Visual Arts Complex, increased the size of its membership organization, and is close to success in raising the necessary funding for much-needed expansion.

Under Eiland's leadership, the museum has won 99 awards for publications, programming, and exhibitions. Its collection has grown more than 25 percent and its dependence on state funds has declined by 50 percent.

#### and Georgia.

**Dr. John David Reed** graduated in May 2006 from the School of Dentistry at the University of Alabama and is employed by the University of Mississippi. He and his wife, **Olivia Hooper Reed '05**, reside in Flowood, Miss.

Daniel Seigel will assume his first teaching post this fall at LeMoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y., after earning his master's degree and graduate professional diploma in opera from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. During the past year, he appeared in several opera roles and was a member of the Choir at Washington National Cathedral. Last May, he was awarded second place in the Mobile Opera's Palmai-Tenser Competition.

Joshua South, who received his master's degree in vocal performance from the Manhattan School of Music, is active as a soloist and ensemble singer throughout the NYC area. He has performed with the New York Choral Artists, the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, Temple Emanu-El, and the Concert Chorale of New York. In 2006, he sang the role of Peter in the St. Matthew Passion at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and was deemed "unforgettable" by The New York Times. In November 2006, he

appeared in the American premiere of Sir Paul McCartney's oratorio *Ecce Cor Meum* at Carnegie Hall. In March 2007, he appeared in the semi-staged production of *My Fair Lady* starring Kelsey Grammer, Brian Dennehy, and Kelli O'Hara, with the New York Philharmonic.

#### **'03**

Natalie Anne Perkins Barker of

Marietta, Ga., is a math teacher at Griffin Middle School in the Cobb County school system.

#### Carrie Beth Formby Garrick of

Birmingham graduated from the Physical Therapy School at UAB in December 2006 and began work at Baptist Princeton Hospital in February 2007.

**Christopher Perry** of Birmingham is an accountant at Hardman, Frost & Cummings PC. His wife, **Georgina Simmons Perry '04**, is an accountant at Kassouf & Co.

Sarah Elaine Styers of Mobile graduated from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in May 2007. She is engaged in her residency in pediatrics at the University of South Alabama Hospitals.

Joshua Vasa of Pell City has joined the corporate support staff at Alabama Public Television. He was formerly development manager for Kid One Transport. His wife, **Rev.** Carrie Kramer Vasa, is an associate pastor at the First United Methodist Church of Pell City.

#### **'04**

**Reginald Bell Jr.** of Birmingham received a master's of divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in May 2007.

#### Allison Christen Hargett received

a master's degree from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is working as an animal keeper for the Knoxville Zoo in Knoxville, Tenn.

#### Elizabeth Marie McLeod of

Birmingham graduated with a master's degree in counseling from Wake Forest University in May 2007.

John Rogers of Tupelo, Miss., received a master's of divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in May 2007.

Franklin Slaton of Birmingham is an account executive with the Alabama Press Association, working with outside sales of Ala-SCAN and DisCover and with out-of-state display advertising. Slaton formerly lived in Washington, D.C., and was employed by The National Academy of Sciences as a senior program assistant.

This fall, **Sonya Rachelle Thomas** will pursue her MBA degree at the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia, attending on a full-tuition fellowship. During the past two years, she has been working at Turner Broadcasting Systems Inc., in the Turner Network Sales Division in Atlanta.

Jose David Vega of Birmingham graduated from the Wake Forest University School of Law in May 2007. He is employed by Sirote & Permutt, PC.

#### '05

In May 2007, **Paula Barnes** of Muscle Shoals completed her master's of science degree in hospitality and tourist management at the University of Central Florida.

In March 2007, **Joseph "Joe" Hutchings** and a competition partner won the University of Alabama School of Law John A. Campbell Moot Court Competition and an award for Best Brief. This good news was shared by **Sunday Vanderver '04**.

Abbott Marie Jones is attending the School of Law at Tulane University in New Orleans. She is a staff member for the *Maritime Law Journal* and is a member of the Maritime Moot Court Team.

**Chad Long** has been promoted from client services representative to management associate/credit officer at ServisFirst Bank in Gulf Shores. He will oversee credit and loan applications.

**Susan Petty** of Mountain Brook has been named the first girls' youth intern at Grace Presbyterian Church in Fort Payne.

Kristen Prince of New York City is employed as a creative production coordinator at Victoria's Secret Direct.

Richard Scales of Charleston, S.C., has joined First National Bank of the South as a customer service representative in its East Bay Street office. He formerly was employed by Southcoast Community Bank.

#### **'07**

Kelli Hilyer, formerly editor of *The Hilltop News*, has joined *The Demopolis Times* as a staff writer.

## Master's Programs

## **′78**

Valerie Kennedy Pailloz was named director of the Guntersville Museum last February. A recipient of a master's degree in music education from BSC, Pailloz spent 25 years in corporate work for Boeing and later Computer Sciences Corp., before returning to her hometown of Guntersville 10 years ago.

#### '96 MPPM

Deborah Glascoe Huff is a

recipient of the 2007 Silver Beaver Award from the Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America Inc. The Silver Beaver is the highest award given to volunteers within the council for long and outstanding service to youth.

#### '05 MPPM

James J. Bushnell now is dean of the Birmingham School of Law. The Cumberland School of Law graduate previously had a more than 25-year legal career, including private practice as well as service as managing attorney for USF&G and Alabama staff attorney for St. Paul Insurance.

## Friends

**Dr. Paul Bailey**, BSC professor emeritus of biology, is mayor of Baileyton, near Cullman, a town of 684 residents.

### Herbert A. "Herb" Sklenar, retired

chair and CEO of Vulcan Materials Co. and a BSC trustee, was honored in the June 15, 2007, edition of *Birmingham Business Journal* with a Lifetime Achievement Award in the 2007 Best in Business awards program, for his impact on the Birmingham business community and also for his numerous contributions to the larger community.

**Dr. Karl Stegall** has retired after 23 years as senior minister at First United Methodist Church in Montgomery. He was the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Birmingham-Southern.

James T. Stephens, chair of EBSCO Industries and immediate past chair of the BSC Board of Trustees, served as commencement speaker at the University of Alabama this past May. Stephens was recipient of an honorary doctor of human letters degree from the university.

## Marriages

James "Jake" O. McKenzie III '98 and Carly Elaine Timmons, May 18, 2007.

- Erin Regan Pennington '99 and Brian Payne, June 2, 2007.
- James Douglass Grimes '00 and Amy Leigh Pirkle, June 9, 2007. Ashley Hanson '00 and Dr. Mark
- Gabriel, Aug. 19, 2006. Andrew Chase Bell '01 and
- **Megan Brooke Michael ′01**, March 31, 2007.
- Carden K. Healey '01 and John Cole, April 28, 2007.
- Joseph Henry Marks '01 and Shannon Marie Robinson '02, June 23, 2007.
- Nancy Sharmon Meigs '01 and John Douglas Mills '03,

#### June 9, 2007.

- Andrew B. Barker '02 and Kristin Nicole LeMaitre '03, June 3, 2006.
- Elizabeth Ellis Dennis '02 and Walden French Wright III, April 14, 2007.
- Matthew Thornton Dukes '02 and Leah Moren Green, April 21, 2007.

Meredith Jane Randall '02 and Andrew Hoffman Underwood, June 30, 2007.

Carrie Beth Formby '03 and Paul Garrick, Jan. 13, 2007.

Mary Louis Lydick '03 and John Quinn '05, Aug. 11, 2007.

- Sara Elizabeth Pearce '03 and David Elwyn Reed, June 9, 2007.
- Natalie Anne Perkins '03 and Michael Barker, May 27, 2007. Christopher Perry '03 and
- Georgina Simmons '04, July 14, 2007.
- Rev. Carrie Kramer Vasa '03 and Joshua P. Vasa '03, Aug. 5, 2006.
- Stephanie L. Houston '04 and Bernard Mays Jr. '04, Aug. 18, 2007.
- Christopher Scott Love '04 and Rozalyn Grace Farmer, Dec. 29, 2006.
- Rachel Elizabeth Vinson '04 and Wiley DeWitt Truss '05, May 12, 2007.
- Amy Nicole Woods '04 and Stephen Gaylon Barnett, June 23, 2007.
- Erica Brittney Crump '05 and Jason Harold Sellers, July 21, 2007.
- Rebecca Clair Perry '05 and Ryan Kenneth Posey, June 22, 2007. Anna Leigh Sullivan '05 and Tyler Griffin Price, April 21, 2007.
- David Curtis Gaston '06 and Katherine Leanne Landry, July 1, 2006.
- Ashley Brooke Goodson '07 and Jacob Brandon Lindsey '07,

Aug. 11, 2007.

- Holly Meredith Kitchens '07 and Byron Vladimir Baquero, July 28, 2007.
- William Loy Mason '07 and Sarah Isabel Babcock, June 9, 2007. John Wilson Nash '07 and

Elizabeth Callahan Stone, June 16, 2007.

## Births

- A son, Nicholas Alan, March 25, 2007, to **Dr. G. Alan Young '90** and wife Tammy (big sister Ally Mackenzie).
- A daughter, Margaret Irene "Meg," April 25, 2005, to **Dr. Julia Tyra Hemphill '93** and **Michael Hemphill '93** (big sisters Naomi Katherine and Emily Marie).
- A daughter, Morgan "Maggie" Grace, March 31, 2006, to **Rev. Denise Baker Mullaney '93** and husband John.
- A son, Henry Simpson, Feb. 8, 2007, to William Jonathan Green '94 and Tory Simpson Green '95.
- Twin sons, William Carson and Connor Wilson, Nov. 20, 2006, to Henry Wilson Hilliard '95 and wife Amy (big brother and sister, twins Tanner Clark and Kendall Rose).
- A son, John Alexander "Jack," June 3, 2006, to **Amanda Buck Varella '95** and husband John.
- A daughter, Margaret Grace "Greta," Jan. 14, 2007, to Eleanor Haggstrom Christiansen '96 and husband

Tyler.

A daughter, Maggie Audrey, May 8, 2006, to **Jeffrey Garrett Miller '96** and wife Dana (big brother

#### Bo).

- A daughter, Katherine Riley, April 23, 2007, to **Mary Harmon "Mimi" Brunson '97** and **C. Thomas "Tommy" Brunson '98**. A daughter, Elizabeth Serene, April 10, 2007, to **Marie Shunnarah Bateh '98** and husband Brian (big sisters Anna and Abbie). A daughter, Tilly Lane, Jan. 2,
- 2007, to **Katie Moran Bostrom '98** and husband Joel.
- A daughter, Hannah Mathilde, April 14, 2006, to **Matt Brown '98** and **Sarah Raney Brown '98**.
- A son, Owen Alexander, May 12, 2006, to Christina Dithmer Noyes '98 and Christopher Noyes '98.
- A daughter, Lucy Winifred, July 14, 2007, to Gregory Brian Reynolds '98 and Amy Wear Reynolds '00.
- A daughter, Cate Elizabeth, Jan. 20, 2007, to **Molly Pardue Cloran '99** and husband Chris (big brothers Andrew and Evan).
- Twin sons, Wesley Jackson and Everett Iverson, March 1, 2007, to **Dr. Sean Hair '99** and wife Kristin.
- A daughter, Mary Caroline, Sept. 1, 2006, to **Emily Bell Wilder '99** and husband Jim.
- A son, Michael Thomas, Feb. 19, 2007, to Laura Neese Skinner '00 and husband Chad.
- A daughter, Sally Ann, May 31, 2007, to **Kimberly Shubert DeShazo '01** and husband John.
- A daughter, Mary Evelyn, Jan. 31, 2007, to **Jenny Lou Barber**
- **Grindle '01** and husband Chris. A daughter, Adelia "Ada" Joan,
- June 8, 2007, to Alexa Bullock McEiroy '01 and Mel McEiroy '01.

## In Memoriam

#### Roy E. Hitchcock '29 of

Birmingham died Feb. 20, 2007. After attending BSC, Hitchcock graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in architecture. Among other places, his design work can be found on college campuses in South Carolina and Georgia, particularly at the University of Georgia.

#### Bartow Crowder Williamson '33 of

Adamsville died March 3, 2007. She was a retired interior and floral designer. BSC connections include her late sisters, **Idell Crowder Kincaid '31** and **Virginia Crowder Smith '36**.

#### Mary Julia Minto Harris '34 of

Birmingham died June 15, 2007. Her husband was the late **Claude E. Harris '39**. Other BSC family members include her late brother, **Hawlett Minto '27**.

#### Mary C. Tyler Kitchens '35 of

Center Point died March 31, 2007. She was a retired teacher who served in the Jefferson County school system.

#### **Charles DeForrest McDuff '35** of Fairhope died May 5, 2007. A veteran of World War II, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific campaign. Following the war, he returned to Birmingham, where he worked for Baggett Transportation Co. and Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.

#### Martha Kirkland Parker '36 of

Birmingham died Feb. 16, 2007. After attending BSC, she graduated from the University of Alabama and earned a master's degree from UAB. Memorial gifts may be made to a scholarship fund established in honor of her father, **Robert Henry Kirkland '32**, through the (Office of Institutional Advancement, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254).

#### Mae McIntosh White '36 of

Birmingham died May 16, 2007. She was a founding member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and was active in numerous community groups.

#### Marion Mayer Bergin '37 of

Arlington, Texas, died March 5, 2007. After attending BSC, she graduated from Northwestern University. She served as head librarian for the Leon Jaworski law firm in Houston. She was a member of the Endowment Builders Society at BSC. We received notice of her death from her classmate, Martha Franklin Matthews '37.

#### Grace Robins Whetstone '37 of

Jackson, Tenn., died June 25, 2007. A magna cum laude graduate of BSC in English and Latin, she received a master's degree in New Testament studies from Scarritt College and an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Lambuth University, where she taught English and speech for 27 years. She was named Educator of the Year at Lambuth in 1980. She also served as an educational missionary to India for 15 years with her husband, **Dr. Wood K. Whetstone '36**.

#### Anne Ratliff Sexton '38 of

Mountain Brook died June 22, 2007. After attending BSC, she graduated from the University of Oklahoma and served as a teacher for three years in the Alliance and Crestline Heights schools. Later, she was active in civic affairs. Her



Price, from the 1933 La Revue.

Loulie Jean Norman Price of Studio City, Calif., died Aug. 2, 2005. Called "the world's most heard unknown soprano," she was, as her family's memorial Web site explains, "considered the most flawless studio soprano for more than 50 years in the entertainment industry, and her voice was heard around the world."

Price's is the celebrated voice in the wordless theme to *Star Trek*, the thrilling soprano in the Tokens' 1961 hit, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," and the real voice behind the memorable "Summertime" in the 1959 film *Porgy and Bess* (dubbed for actress Diahann Carroll). Her voice also is that of the "crazy soprano ghost" in Disney's "Haunted Mansion" theme park attractions.

In the course of her long career as an ensemble

singer, Price sang with many of the greats in American music, including Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Dean Martin, Bing Crosby, and Elvis Presley.

She performed as a regular on a number of television shows, including *Dean Martin*, *Carol Burnett*, and *Dinah Shore*, appearing both as a singer and actress in various sketches.

According to her longtime friend, BSC classmate, and fellow music industry luminary, **Hugh Martin '32**, author of legendary songs including "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "The Trolley Song," from Judy Garland's *Meet Me in St. Louis*, "she found her niche singing with the brilliant group of vocalists in Hollywood who sang back of the stars and made them sound twice as good. She was the most in-demand of any singer in that extraordinary group of vocalists ... stepping out of the shadows into the limelight only once when André Previn chose her to sing 'Summertime,' Gershwin's masterpiece, dubbing for Diahann Carroll [in the film *Porgy and Bess*]."

Martin, who admits happily to a lifelong "crush," also notes Price's extraordinary gift of beauty: In a high school musical he attended when both were 17, she "played a secondary role, but when she walked down to the footlights and sang "There is a Fascinating Magic in a Smile," my heart stopped. I thought she was the most beautiful girl I'd ever seen, and her high, cool, clear soprano knocked me out of my seat. She was a star that night and was never anything else thereafter. ... Her personal beauty, to quote a lyricist we both love, was 'just unforgivable.' She was still movie star beautiful when she left us at age 92, but when she attended Birmingham-Southern College, her face could have launched a thousand ships!"

But it was her life choices that win Martin's highest praise. Wisely judging the siren song of "fame and fortune, name in lights, all those things that 'Broadway Babies' fought and died for," instead "she craved simplicity—a devoted husband, loving and bright children—these were the desires of her heart, and the God she served so faithfully gave her everything she desired." In sum, Martin says, "Her life was a legacy from a lady whose light shone for many decades with a rare incandescence." (*To see the complete text of Martin's remarkable tribute, visit http://www.bsc.edu/communications/southern/summer07/index.htm.*)

#### husband was the late **Richard Palmer Sexton '38**. Survivors include sons **Richard P. Sexton Jr. '68** and **Robert R. Sexton '71**.

Sam F. Carter Jr. '40 of Vestavia Hills died May 5, 2007. He held a master's degree in metallurgy from the University of Wisconsin and enjoyed a distinguished career in the iron industry, retiring from American Cast Iron Pipe Co. as vice president and works manager after 42 years with the firm. He served as national president of both the Foundry Education Foundation and the Ductile Iron Society, was a trustee of the Metal Casting Training Institute, and was national director of the American Foundryman's Society. In 1984, he was named Alabama Foundryman of the Year. Survivors include wife Patricia Carter and sister-in-law **Dorothy** Deshazo Carter '47.

#### Hobson Rudolphus "Rudy" Riley

'40 of Bluff Park died April 21, 2007. He was the owner of Ensley-Fairfield Mattress Co. His first wife was the late Doris Hotlzclaw Riley '41. Survivors include wife Jewell P. Williamson Riley.

#### Gordon Donald Fletcher '41,

formerly of Birmingham, died May 2, 2007, in Sun City Center, Fla. He was a veteran of World War II, serving as a flight instructor in the U.S. Army Flight School in Decatur. He then served as a corporate pilot for the remainder of his career, working for companies in Georgia and Alabama. Survivors include wife Elaire Cooper Fletcher '41 and daughters, Susan Fletcher Smith '67 (Dr. Robert E. Smith Jr. '68) and Madeline Fletcher "Cissy" Bennett '69.

Ruth Baker Truss of Birmingham died June 9, 2007. She was a teacher at Tarrant City Elementary School and also served as assistant treasurer for Birmingham-Southern. BSC connections include her late sister, Ola Grace Baker '31.

Her generous support of Birmingham-Southern includes the Rev. Robert Lee Baker Endowed Scholarship Fund, which she and her husband, the late William "Bill" Truss, established in honor of her late father.

#### Mary Ann Nance Farlow '43 of

Mountain Brook died March 8, 2007. She was formerly active in committee work at Canterbury United Methodist Church and as a volunteer in various charities. Survivors include grandson **Richard Davis Lee '02**.

#### Mildred Love McGehee Son '44 of

Birmingham died June 11, 2007. She retired as executive vice president and corporate secretary of Birmingham Federal Savings and Loan, and was one of the first women executives in the savings and loan business in Alabama. Formerly president of the Birmingham Advertising Club, she also served as president of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra Women's Committee and was active in numerous other community groups.

#### Mildred Moore Stovall '44 of

Mountain Brook died March 17, 2007. She was active at Canterbury United Methodist Church and in a number of civic organizations. Survivors include husband Edgar Fletcher Stovall.

## **Lucie Monette King '41** of Tuscaloosa died April 7, 2007.

#### Rev. A. Tillman Sprouse '41 of

Birmingham died Feb. 19, 2007. With a doctor of divinity degree from Athens College, he served as a United Methodist minister in churches throughout Alabama, and was district superintendent in Gadsden. He also served on many boards and commissions in the church, including 15 years as a clerical member of the World Methodist Conference. After one of his sermons was printed in the Jasper Daily Mountain Eagle, he was invited by the World Travel Bureau to tour post-World War II Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. He met world figures including Anwar Al Sadat, David Ben-Gurion, Crown Prince Hussein, and Pope Pius XII, who granted him permission to hold the first Protestant worship service in the ruins of the Coliseum in Rome. He held two George Washington Honor Medals from the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge. Survivors include wife Ruth Anne Sparks Sprouse.

## In Memoriam '40



**Robert E. Luckie Jr. '40** died Feb. 28, 2007. A longtime business and community leader in the city of Birmingham, he is celebrated as the leading figure in the development of Alabama's advertising industry. Robert Luckie & Co., founded in 1953 and becoming Luckie & Forney in 1964 with associate John Forney, was the largest advertising agency in the state for years and was widely recognized for the quality of its work.

Since 1966, following Forney's retirement, the firm has continued as Luckie & Co., continuing to set standards for quality and creativity. Luckie was recognized widely for both his professional and civic contributions. He was a

member of the Alabama Academy of Honor, created by the Alabama State Legislature to honor 100 Alabamians for outstanding accomplishment and service; a charter member of the Kiwanis Club's Birmingham Business Hall of Fame; Birmingham Ad Club's "Advertising Man of the Year;" and recipient of the American Advertising Federations and Printer's Ink Silver Medal Award.

Among many community efforts, he was president of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham and of the Metropolitan Development Board, a founding member of the UAB School of Nursing Board of Visitors, director of the President's Council at UAB, and co-chair of the Jefferson County United Appeal. A World War II veteran, who served as assistant Pacific fleet press officer under Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, he was 1964 chair of Radio Free Europe.

Luckie also served his alma mater with energy and devotion. A life trustee of Birmingham-Southern, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1968 and later was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. He served as president of the national alumni association and was a member of the Ginkgo and Endowment Builders societies. His generosity supported the work of the college in many ways, including the creation of an endowed chair in the English Department.

Survivors include granddaughter Laura Luckie Finch '97.

**Donald Campbell Brabston Sr.** of Birmingham died June 3, 2007. Following graduation at BSC as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and ODK, he completed an MBA from Northwestern University in only nine months, in order to begin military service in World War II. He served as a lieutenant commander on the battleship USS Alabama, receiving nine battle stars and ribbons, and later was instrumental in bringing the ship to Mobile Bay as a war memorial.

Following naval service, he began his accounting career with Ernst & Young in Birmingham in 1945 and retired in 1979 as managing partner. In 2004, he was inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame.

Among many leadership roles in the community, he was president of the Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce; president, honorary life member, and trustee of Central Alabama United Way; and honorary life director of the Salvation Army, receiving its highest award for a lay person, the William Booth Award. He also served as chair of the YMCA and the Executive Service Corps of Birmingham and was treasurer of the United Way Community Food Bank.

A faithful supporter of Birmingham-Southern, Brabston received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1976. He established and served as first chair of the Edward Lee Norton Board of Advisors. He was a member of the Ginkgo and Endowment Builders societies, and his generosity made possible many areas of support at the college, including the Mary Jane and Donald C. Brabston Scholarship and an endowed chair in accounting. He continued his service to the community in retirement, providing care to mothers at risk through a state of Florida program. He served as president of both the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Florida Obstetric & Gynecologic Society. Survivors include wife Helen Bernstein Fealy and sister **Grace Fealy Reid '41**.

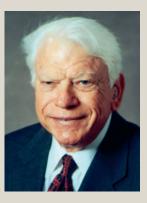
Betty Hawkins Norton '47 of the Birmingham area died April 6, 2007. She held a master's degree in library science from the University of Alabama. After a stint as a reporter and photographer at *The Birmingham News* in the '40s, she served as a librarian at Glenn High School from 1967 to 1985, and at Woodlawn High School from 1985 to 1987. Survivors include husband Robert Louis Norton.

#### Barbara Allen Blackwell '47 of

Birmingham died Feb. 20, 2007. She attended Vassar College before graduating from BSC. She was active in the altar guild at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, as a volunteer at St. Vincent's Hospital and the Birmingham Museum of Art, and as a member of the Junior League. Survivors include husband Jack Henderson Blackwell.

**Dr. Jack Fealy '47** of Palm Beach, Fla., and New York, N.Y., died March 29, 2007. He received his medical degree from George Washington University, and, following military service, began a practice of obstetrics and gynecology in West Palm Beach in 1957. In his 29-year career, he delivered more than 7,000 babies.

## In Memoriam '44



**Bibb Allen** of Birmingham died March 17, 2007. A veteran of World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, flying more than 100 missions in the Aleutians and the European Theater and receiving seven bronze stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

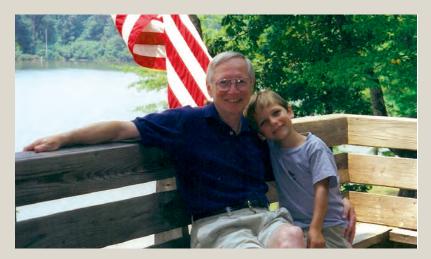
He later received a bachelor's degree from Auburn University and attended the University of Alabama School of Law. At the legal firms London, Yancy, Clark and Allen and Christian and Small, he practiced law for 57 years.

During that time, he served as president of the Birmingham Bar Association (which also honored him as "Lawyer of the Year"), the Alabama Bar Association, and the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association. He was author of the widely used *Alabama Liability Insurance Handbook*. He taught torts for 40 years at the Birmingham School of Law, where he

was named professor emeritus in 2005.

Survivors include wife Louise Irving Bibb '45.

At his family's request, donations may be made in his memory to the Bibb Allen Honors Endowed Scholarship at Birmingham-Southern, through the Office of Institutional Advancement, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.



**Newman Manly Yeilding Jr.** of Birmingham died May 20, 2007. Following graduation from BSC, he graduated from the New York University of Law in 1954. He then served in the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps of the U.S. Army in Japan, returning to Birmingham in 1956 to join the law firm which would become Dominick, Fletcher, Yeilding, Wood & Lloyd P.A. He practiced there for more than 40 years and served as managing partner for 25 years.

Active in professional affairs, he was president of the Alabama State Junior Bar and served on the Birmingham Bar Executive Committee. He also was a founding member of the Estate Planning Council of Birmingham, serving on its board and as president.

A lifelong Methodist, he served in many leadership roles in the church, including chair of the board of the United Methodist Children's Home and of the board of Pastoral Care and Counseling, and as a member of the board of Ordained Ministry. Always drawn to matters of social justice, he was one of the founders and supporters of Greater Birmingham Ministries for more than 35 years.

Yeilding's family has many ties to Birmingham-Southern and its members have long been loyal supporters of the college. His grandfather was Birmingham businessman Frank B. Yeilding, memorialized at BSC by his family's gift of Yeilding Chapel. Frank Yeilding sent all six sons to Birmingham-Southern, including Manly Yeilding's father, **Newman M. "Red" Yeilding '22**, who served the college for decades in a variety of administrative roles, including a brief term as interim president. Manly Yeilding's mother was **Annie Lou Fletcher Yeilding Westbrook '30**.

Survivors include wife Harriet Howard Yeilding '53, sister Anne Yeilding Upton '53 (W. David Upton '53), daughter Katy Yeilding Olson '82, and grandson Nicholas Olson '09.

Manly Yeilding was a loyal alumnus of the college and was a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1997. He was a member of the Ginkgo and Endowment Builders societies.

At his family's request, donations may be made to Birmingham-Southern in his memory, through the Office of Institutional Advancement, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.

#### Elizabeth Adele "Betty Adele"

**Bass Verchot '47** of Decatur died Feb. 7, 2007. In early years, she was employed by the IRS and Auburn University. Survivors include husband Edgar A. Verchot.

Nanette Davis Dewald '49 of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., died March 21, 2007. Survivors include husband Robert H. Dewald.

#### Betty Jo McWilliams Harmon '49

of Birmingham died March 9, 2007. Following graduation from the BSC Conservatory of Music, she taught music in the Birmingham public schools before pursuing further studies at the Philadelphia Academy of Vocal Arts. Later, she was a soloist with First United Methodist Church and Canterbury United Methodist Church for more than 30 years, was a singer and director for the Birmingham Civic Opera, and was a soloist with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Hugh Thomas Singers. She taught voice at Birmingham-Southern and in her home studio. Survivors include husband Carroll C. Harmon, sister Elise McWilliams Penfield '61 (Dr. H. Irvin Penfield, BSC professor emeritus of political science and former provost), and

#### Ross Leon Keith Jr. '49 of

Penfield '92.

nephew Rev. Matthew Irvin

Andalusia died March 13, 2007. A veteran of World War II, he served in Naval Intelligence. Later, he was employed by the Frigidaire Sales Corp., a division of General Motors Corp., for more than 30 years. Survivors include wife Janette A. Keith.

**Ernest M. Pharo '49** of Atlanta, formerly of Birmingham, died May 26, 2007. A lifelong musician, he was trained as a classical pianist, but loved to entertain with popular music and, during World War II, hosted a musical radio show in Birmingham. Later, following service in the Korean War as a chaplain's assistant and organist, he served in the U.S. State Department, with postings throughout Central and South America, Europe, and the Middle East, where he employed his fluency in four languages. Returning to Birmingham, he dealt in jewelry and antiques and became an accomplished painter and iconographer.

Dr. Paul William Scokel III '49 of Birmingham died June 1, 2007. With a degree from the University of Alabama, he practiced medicine until his retirement in 2006. Survivors include wife Anne H. Scokel and daughter Nona Scokel Buskill '89.

James L. Sullivan '49 of Lynn Haven, Fla., died May 4, 2006. Survivors include wife Georgia L. Sullivan.

Louise Elizabeth Williamson '50 of Birmingham died March 25, 2007. She was a teacher with more than 40 years of service in Jefferson County schools.

Sam M. Tomlin '53 of Sarasota, Fla., formerly of New York City, died May 30, 2007. He was employed by the NYC public school system for 21 years, teaching fifth and sixth grades, before he was promoted to guidance counselor, working with emotionally handicapped children. After retirement, he operated a used and rare book company, Old Mill Books, which later became a mail-order firm. He was a volunteer for several amateur theaters, serving as business manager of Panama City's Pelican Players in the 1950s and, more recently, as assistant director of theaters in Virginia and South Carolina. Survivors include partner George Loukides. Tomlin's friend and classmate **Dolores Brow Cook '53** shared the news of his death.

#### William A. McGregor '54 of

Arcadia, Calif., died June 7, 2007.

L. Dwight Henslee '57 of Cullman died Feb. 16, 2007. He was the retired president of Henslee Insurance Agency. Survivors include wife Etheline "Susie" Henslee.

#### Daniel Lee Burgess '58 of

Birmingham died May 29, 2007. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. With a degree from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, he practiced law for more than 30 years and was active in professional organizations. He served as a municipal judge for the city of Sumiton for 22 years and was president of the Municipal Judges Association during that time. He was a devoted member of the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham and served on its administrative board. Survivors include wife Beverly S. Burgess.

#### Dr. Jeanne E. Shaffer '58 of

Montgomery died April 9, 2007. Singer, composer, radio host, and college professor, she was a lifelong musician who began her career singing on radio at age four, signed a five-year contract to sing with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra at age 11, and appeared in the MGM movie *Girl of the Golden West* at age 12. With a master's degree in music from BSC and a doctoral degree from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, she later was a composer, radio host, and producer for public radio, and, from 1976 to 1989, was professor of music and chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department at Huntingdon College. Survivors include husband Col. Robert S. Barmettler.

#### Jerome Franklin (Frank) Brown '59

of Dacula, Ga., died April 6, 2007. Following service in the U.S. Air Force, he was employed for many years by Westinghouse/ Eaton Corp.

#### Dr. Gary Edward Ganus '60 of

Birmingham died May 14, 2007. He served in the Vietnam War as a major in the U.S. Army National Guard Medical Detachment and was awarded the Bronze Star. With a degree from the School of Dentistry at the University of Alabama, he served as a family dentist to patients in Birmingham and Tarrant for more than 40 years. Survivors include wife Lynda Henderson Ganus.

#### **Rev. Daniel Zachery Kitchens '60**

of Huntsville died Sept. 17, 2006. With graduate degrees from the Vanderbilt Divinity School, he was a pastor with the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church for 45 years.

During that time, he served churches in Birmingham, Anniston, Columbiana, several in North Alabama, and was district superintendent of the Huntsville District. He also served as chair of the board of directors of the United Methodist Children's Home in Selma.

Survivors include his wife, Emily Gannaway Kitchens, and children including **Joel Daniel Kitchens '89**. **Richard "Jack" Taylor Jr. '60** of Birmingham died May 21, 2007. A longtime member of the Birmingham business community, he was co-owner, with his father, of Continental Enterprises. Survivors include wife Joni Taylor.

#### Carolyn Jones Wilder '63 of

Helena died April 2, 2007. An accomplished musician, she was the owner of Opus II Music House and was an agent with RE/MAX Realty and a member of the Birmingham Board of Realtors. Survivors include husband Jack Wilder.

#### William "Bill" R. Thomas Jr. '65 of

Tuscaloosa, formerly of Opelika, died March 6, 2007. With a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Tennessee, he served two years in the U.S. Army as a researcher in the Army Scientific Engineering Corps in Bethesda, Md., and later at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He also taught math at Abraham Aldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga., and for Houston (Texas) public schools.

Timothy Edward Hill '83 of

Adamsville died Jan. 2, 2007.

#### Dr. John W. Carroll Mills '85 of

Mountain Brook died Jan. 19, 2007. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving on the aircraft carrier USS Ranger. With a degree in dentistry from the University of Alabama and with additional training in oral surgery and endodontics, he maintained a private practice for 19 years. He also served as director of the endodontics program at the University of Alabama School of Dentistry, was active in professional associations, and served as president of the



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Birmingham Dental Society. Survivors include wife Helen Crow Mills.

#### **Dr. Charles Thayer**

Montague '89 of Johnson City, Tenn., died March 5, 2007. With a medical degree from the University of Alabama, he worked for 10 years for Anesthesia and Pain Consultants. Survivors include wife Jennifer Montague.

#### Rev. Sidney Hill Jr. '91 of Birmingham died March

18, 2007. He was formerly employed by the United Mine Workers of America. Survivors include wife Carol Hill.

#### Barbara K. Phillips Chafin

**'92** of Forestdale died March 12, 2007. She was manager of America's First Federal Credit Union, Forestdale Branch. Survivors include husband Jerry Chafin.

#### Robert Walter Dean '98 of

Brandon, Miss., formerly of Birmingham, died Jan. 28, 2007. He was a veteran, having served as a medic in Vietnam. He was employed by the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation. Survivors include wife Gretchen Buntyn Dean.

#### Dr. Hugh H. Haden Jr.,

Friend, of Birmingham died June 3, 2007. He practiced medicine in Birmingham for more than 50 years and also worked with the Mental Health Association, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Alcoholism Recovery Center, and other public agencies. His memorial service was held at Yeilding Chapel on June 4, 2007. Survivors include wife Carmetta Craddock Haden.

#### Rev. Gerry M. Hearin Jr.,

Friend, of Huffman died Feb. 17, 2007. A longtime minister in the United Methodist Church, he was a past chair of the board of directors of pastoral advisors at Birmingham-Southern. Survivors include wife June Hearin.

#### Judith Jinks Nelson,

Friend, of Hueytown died April 25, 2007. She was retired from many years of service in institutional advancement at Birmingham-Southern.

#### Bishop Carl Julian Sanders, Friend, of

Richmond, Va., died March 7, 2007. A former trustee of Birmingham-Southern with a long and distinguished career in the United Methodist Church, he retired as bishop of the Alabama-West Florida Conference in 1980. He was co-founder of the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Foundation and served, among many other positions within the church, as president of UMCOR and as vice president of the Board of Global Ministries.

## The spotlight is shining —on Birmingham-Southern and on Division III athletics

#### by JOHN WATTS '86

Twenty-one years after graduating and only one short year away from my daughter attending Birmingham-Southern, I can only be excited about all of the changes that are under way on the Hilltop.

I reflect back today on my freshman year of 1982 and remember the anticipation of attending classes, meeting new people, getting to know my professors, fraternity rush, and getting into the daily regimen of tennis practice under Coach Ann Dielen. I was very fortunate to have excelled in the sport of tennis and to have been offered an athletic scholarship for four years. BSC was the perfect place for me since I had an interest, at that time, in pre-med. I will never forget trying to balance all of the activities that came with being a freshman with the demands of the curriculum.

What I did not come to realize until later was the dynamic that existed with regard to academics and athletics during my years at 'Southern. It became very clear to me that the emphasis would be academics first and athletics second. I remember having difficulty early on with my studies and Coach Dielen granting me the flexibility of attending lab during practice on occasion. I finally became acclimated to life on the Hilltop as a scholar-athlete, but only as a result of Coach D's belief that we were really there to get an education. I am truly thankful that Coach Dielen personally communicated this to all players under her care. And her beliefs were consistent with the true mission of the College. Please do not misunderstand me-we definitely put in the hours practicing very hard while we were under her direction in preparation for regional competition. And we wanted to compete as hard as we could, and we wanted to win with a passion.

I now think about what is taking place with the re-introduction of a football program, the introduction of new areas of study for students to pursue, the construction of muchneeded green space on campus, and the many other changes that will grow our college for the future. It is no wonder that Birmingham-Southern has record enrollment for the incoming freshman class. Having spent a fair amount of time myself over the last five years coming to understand the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead for BSC, I can easily say that I have never been more proud to be an alum.

Now that clear progress is being made in recruiting for many of the teams under Division III, one can conclude that the decision to leave NCAA Division I athletics was the right call for the long-term health of the institution. The alumni who have invested a little time in learning why BSC went to Division III have come to realize this as well. Taking a step back to view what has taken place over the last three decades, first under the leadership of Dr. Neal Berte and now under the leadership of Dr. David Pollick, BSC is once again exhibiting strength in delivering a superior liberal arts educational experience to students and scholar-athletes. The financial resources that have been freed up to reinvest in tangible ways are having an immediate and meaningful impact—one that can be clearly felt by everyone who steps foot on campus.

I can think of no better place for my daughter to learn and grow as a person than at Birmingham-Southern. She will have the benefit of so many things when she arrives next year. A new Urban Environmental Studies major will be in place, the Admission Welcome Center will be opening its arms to our future students and visitors, and

the Urban Environmental Park will be providing an outdoor classroom and leisure area for the students. And, a full season of football will be complete under Coach Joey Jones (his competitive spirit is evident) and the new football stadium will be ready to be filled with enthusiastic BSC students. We've all watched an intense in-state football rivalry over the years. Now it's exciting to wonder who our football rival will be in the coming years. No one knows the answer, but won't it be fun to sit back and watch this unfold before our very eyes?

It really is comforting to know that so many young men have chosen to play football at Birmingham-Southern and for a man of such high character. Coach Jones is a man with strong faith who will teach these young men what it means to excel in all aspects of life. But more importantly than playing football at BSC or playing for a man of such high character, they will be getting one of the best liberal arts educations in the nation.

It seems that the spotlight is shining on Birmingham-Southern-and on our football program and the other Division III sports. And it is such a deserving spotlight. Much of what is being accomplished and what will be accomplished in the future requires that we as alumni continue to support Birmingham-Southern in any way possible, whether that's helping recruit prospective students, attending sporting events, making sure you send that important annual gift in, or simply telling others about the good story that is Birmingham-Southern. Let's do what we can to keep the spotlight on our college for many years to come.



Watts

Editor's Note: John Watts of Huntsville is a 1986 Birmingham-Southern graduate, a member of the college's Board of Trustees, and vice president of athletics for the BSC Alumni Association's Board of Directors. He is founder and resident manager of Evans, Watts, and Schrimsher Wealth Management Group of Wachovia Securities



## Back in the day,

Birmingham-Southern students had their own ideas about celebrating a big day on the gridiron—say, the Nov. 22, 1930, match-up with the Panthers' archrival Howard Bulldogs. This page from the 1931 annual *La Revue* sets the scene: coeds in football finery, a brass band parade through the heart of town, and a happy-go-lucky jalopy driving home the message of the day: Beat Howard!

Now that football is back at BSC, today's Hilltoppers will find new ways of enjoying the game (tailgating, anyone?). And here's some exciting news: beginning in 2008, the annual BSC Alumni Reunion will take place in the fall, and each year's festivities will feature Homecoming football fun.

Meanwhile, mark your calendars for this year's exciting Homecoming game, which pits the Panthers against DePauw University Oct. 6 at 1:30 p.m. at Regions Park in Hoover. Call your friends now to make sure they'll be sitting with you in the bleachers as we begin a grand new Homecoming tradition at BSC.

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