

# 'Southern

*A Publication for Alumni and Friends*

*Fall 2014 Volume 40, Number 2*

**rise<sup>3</sup>**

BSC reaching  
new heights  
in hands-on  
education

**BSC** Birmingham-Southern College



## BSC Snapshots

*Sloss Furnaces' metal arts sculptors set up a small furnace and melted hundreds of pounds of scrap iron outside the Kennedy Art Center/Azar Studios on Oct. 3. The iron pour was held in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition "Second Line" by artist and University of North Florida professor Jenny Hager.*





# Inside'southern

'Southern magazine / Fall 2014 / Volume 40, Number 2

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## BSC

### Features

- 13 Welcoming the Class of 2018
- 20 Improving student learning through rise3
- 28 The SEC: Celebrating 20 years

### Departments

- 2 Editor's Note
- 4 Community News
- 12 Features
- 36 Alumni Affairs
- 39 Philanthropy
- 43 Athletics
- 46 ClassNotes
- 60 'Southern Voices



### On the Cover

BSC students learn by doing, and the college's new rise3 initiative offers three pathways for improving student learning: collaborative research, internships, and service-learning. Students from an E-Term course on winter entomology visited a cave at Birmingham's Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve to search for insects with Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Peter Van Zandt. Van Zandt also collaborated with students on moth research pictured on the inside back cover.

# Editor's Note

## Experiential learning—the heart of what makes BSC so successful

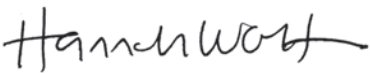
One of the things that I love about working on a college campus is the never-ending opportunity to experience something new. Just this week, I visited Birmingham-Southern's brand new cadaver lab, a converted laboratory in the Stephens Science Center. As a non-scientist, I admit I was apprehensive about walking into that room, but my anxiety quickly dissipated as I watched the students work. Here, among the fumes of formaldehyde, 16 young men and women—most hoping to go into medicine or other health professions when they graduate—are able to immerse themselves in the functions of the human body in the most visceral way.

As I watched the students move between their textbooks and the donated bodies before them, it dawned on me that I was seeing one of the purest examples of how experiential education excels. The brightly-colored anatomical charts on the page and the x-rays spread out on a desktop took on deeper meaning when the students donned rubber gloves and picked up scalpels to examine the muscles and bones and nerves. In that moment, ideas transformed into reality. And their professor—Dr. Jason Heaton, this year's winner of the Whetstone Award (see p. 8)—stood ready to provide guidance while allowing them to explore.

"By doing this now, they'll already have a certain set of knowledge and a huge advantage when they get to graduate school," Heaton told me. "It's a really good opportunity for our students."

You may be asking "What's my role in all this?" There are so many ways you can help. Read our feature on the rise3 learning initiative on p. 20, then spread the word about the groundbreaking work we're doing here on the Hilltop. Lend us your own expertise: you might serve as a mentor, host an intern, become a community partner, or simply come see a performance, exhibition, or presentation to support the students in their endeavors. Or consider making a donation to set up a scholarship or provide resources. That new cadaver lab? It took just \$10,000 from a generous donor, which provided for the equipment and materials. Even a small gift—and even a fleeting experience—can make an enormous impact and change our students' lives.

Forward, Ever!



Hannah Wolfson  
Director of Communications

Gen. Charles C. Krulak, President  
Bruce Rogers '80, Chair,  
Board of Trustees

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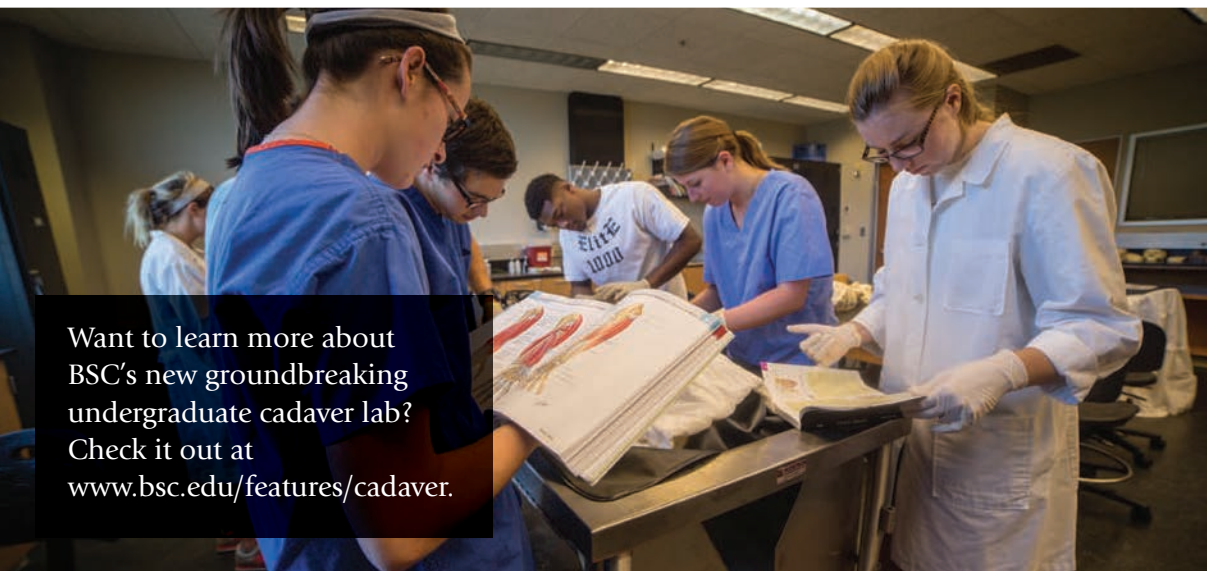
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Want to learn more about  
BSC's new groundbreaking  
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Check it out at  
[www.bsc.edu/features/cadaver](http://www.bsc.edu/features/cadaver).



# BSC

Birmingham-Southern College

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

## Looking Back to Go Forward

2014-2015

### Come out and support the arts at BSC!

Birmingham-Southern's 2014-15 visual and performing arts season has something for everyone. Performances and exhibits will feature classical and contemporary choral works, a tribute to Emeritus Professor of Art Bob Tucker, an opera scenes program, four jewel-like plays by Tennessee Williams, and much more.

**Web connect:** To view the 2014-15 Visual and Performing Arts calendar, visit:  
[www.bsc.edu/academics/fas/calendar](http://www.bsc.edu/academics/fas/calendar)





## Q&A with Dr. Michelle Behr

### Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

*Dr. Michelle Behr, formerly acting dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Northern Colorado, took office as provost at Birmingham-Southern this summer. As the college's chief academic officer, she will guide and oversee BSC's academic programs and support services. She shared her thoughts about the college, academia, and her passion for education.*



#### Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am a life-long educator, beginning with the “school” lessons that I’m sure my younger brother did not appreciate when we were small. I think that one of the great joys in life is the capacity that we all have to continue to learn and experience new things throughout the course of a lifetime, and formal education is one important means toward those ends. I am proud of the joy of learning and the sense of curiosity about the world that I have managed to instill in students over the years.

#### What attracted you to the position of provost at BSC?

In conjunction with its focus on providing a top-notch liberal arts experience for students, Birmingham-Southern’s emphasis on interdisciplinarity, community engagement, internationalization,

and undergraduate-faculty research collaborations were attractive to me as these are all passions of mine. The fit seemed great!

#### What would you describe as your top accomplishments at Northern Colorado?

My experiences at the University of Northern Colorado were wonderful preparation for the role of provost at BSC. Not only did I lead and manage a college with about 130 full-time faculty and more than 2,000 majors, but I was given the opportunity to work on a variety of exciting initiatives across campus. For example, I led a task force that developed the strategic plan to enhance internationalization on campus. I am especially proud of the work I did to build cohesion among the college’s faculty and staff.

#### How has higher education changed during your career?

Higher education has never operated in a more challenging environment than it finds itself in now. Financial pressures on institutions and families, increased competition, calls for external accountability, changes in the numbers and experiences of the college-going population, and many other issues confront all colleges in ways that were not present when I began my career.

#### What will be most important to you as you begin your new position?

The most important thing will be to listen and learn about BSC. While all colleges have characteristics in common, each has its own unique mission and culture. One of the most critical things I did early on was to get out to meet and to talk with as many people as I could to deepen my understanding of the strengths and challenges of the college.

#### What influenced your college studies in anthropology/geography?

Human cultures, artifacts, and interactions are endlessly fascinating. Both anthropology and geography are disciplines that are broad as well as deep and that allow for wide-ranging exploration of endless topics related to people, their interactions in groups, and how they make use of the worlds in which they find themselves. To me, the ability to ask interesting questions that help to address real-world problems is an irresistible draw.

#### What is the best piece of advice you’ve ever received?

Probably the best piece of advice I’ve ever received is to “invite yourself to the party.” To me this means that one should volunteer, get engaged, stretch oneself, and “step up.” It’s great advice for life in general, and it certainly has led me to all kinds of unanticipated (and wonderful) career opportunities.



## Alumnus and attorney leading BSC Board of Trustees



Rogers



Bunting



Pharo



McDonald



Smith

Bruce Rogers, a partner and attorney with Bainbridge, Mims, Rogers & Smith LLP in Birmingham, is the new chair of the college's Board of Trustees.

A 1980 BSC history graduate, Rogers assumed his new duties this summer after serving as a member of the board for 12 years. He replaced Dr. Wayne W. Killion Jr. '72, president and CEO of Shook & Fletcher Insulation Co., who served as chair since 2011 and joined the board 13 years before that. BSC President Gen. Charles C. Krulak expressed gratitude to Killion, who will remain an active member.

"Birmingham-Southern has been blessed with a long line of remarkable individuals who have selflessly served as president of our Board of Trustees," he said. "Bruce Rogers now joins that long line. Dr. Killion served with distinction, providing leadership, strategic vision, and guidance during some of the more challenging years our college has faced. We, as the BSC community, welcome Bruce and his leadership, and, at the same time, extend our heartfelt thanks to Wayne."

One of Rogers' brothers, Alan Rogers '77, is also an attorney in Birmingham. For more from the new board chair, see Southern Voices on p. 60.

The board has also selected four new members: Derry Bunting '69, the wife of Dr. Peter Bunting '66, for whom the BSC Bunting Center for Engaged Study and Community Action is named; Liz Featheringill Pharo '00, chair of Momentum Telecom; Jane McDonald, founding member and fundraising chair at Arab Musical Theatre; and Hatton Smith, president and CEO of Royal Cup Coffee.

The selections were approved by the college's board in May.

"We are delighted to welcome these four community and business leaders to our Board of Trustees," Krulak said. "Their fresh perspectives, experience, and business acumen will be a valuable addition as the board works to move the college forward during this pivotal time."

## facebook Kudos for BSC



"A big shout-out and thank you to Birmingham-Southern College for going above and beyond to take care of their students! My daughter, Marjory, had to drive down to campus for a training session recently. In a parent's worst nightmare, the car broke down just north of Birmingham. Neither my wife, Jodie, nor I were able to help. She called BSC and they immediately sent a campus police officer to help out. When he determined that it wasn't just a matter of adding coolant—the tensioner belt had broken—he waited with her until AAA showed up with a tow truck, then made sure she got back to campus safely. When you send your child away to college you never totally relax. But knowing that the BSC community truly does watch out for their students and are just a phone call away if they ever need help sure makes us rest a little better."

Roger Day of Franklin, Tenn.  
Father of Marjory Day '17



From the President's Desk

## *Critical moment in college's history coming up this fall*

Each year, when we open school with a faculty and staff assembly, I outline our priorities for the academic year. This year, one priority is very clearly right at the top: Birmingham-Southern's 10-year reaffirmation review. Many of you have heard a great deal about our efforts to prepare for this moment—and now that it's here, we are ready.

In November, a team of reviewers appointed by our accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), will arrive on campus. We are excited to show them everything we have accomplished in the past few years. We have retooled our administration to make sure we have the best-qualified leaders for the college. We have updated our methods of assessing students' progress. We have gone through our policies and procedures with a fine-toothed comb to make sure we're following the best practices in higher education. And—thanks to our alumni and supporters—we have put the college on a firm financial footing, reining in spending and raising \$8.8 million in the last fiscal year alone. I am deeply appreciative of everyone who has worked so hard in these efforts.

But perhaps the most exciting part of the process is watching our Quality Enhancement Plan come to fruition. When I arrived on campus, we were just beginning to talk about what the focus should be for improving student learning. This fall, we unveiled the full force of the rise3 initiative to engage students through experiential education. Watching the banners go up, the t-shirts appear, and the general buzz of enthusiasm about rise3 has been a thrill. Hearing the stories of the students' own experiences has been even better. You can read some of them on p. 20.

We are truly in the homestretch of a very long and hard race. I am confident that this spring, we will be able to share news about receiving our 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation. This auspicious event, coupled with the success we have seen in all other aspects in recent years, will set us up to really become the college we know we can be—a premier, nationally recognized residential, liberal arts, college. Believe me, when it happens, we'll be cheering on the Hilltop!

GENERAL CHARLES C. KRULAK

## BSC welcomes new class of interns for second year of Project SEARCH; program awarded by UCP

Birmingham-Southern's Project SEARCH program, which is in its second year running, has been presented with the "Program Partner of the Year" award from United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham (UCP).

The UCP's annual Life Without Limits Awards honor individuals and groups who have made a significant impact in the lives of people with disabilities. The award is a feather in the cap for BSC's one-year internship program, which helps young adults with intellectual and physical disabilities improve their chances of employment.

Ten interns are working Monday through Friday in multiple departments across campus, practicing repetitive and systematic job skills while learning the art of small talk with co-workers. They are assigned job coaches from Project SEARCH who give them continual feedback. A formal graduation ceremony will be held for the interns in May.

The program, driven by collaboration with community partners, targets students in their last year of high school eligibility—up to age 21. The co-sponsors of BSC's Project SEARCH endeavor are the Alabama State Department of Education, Birmingham City Schools, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, UCP, Alabama Department of Mental Health, and Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities.

"We think the program and this award really mirrors what Birmingham-Southern is all about—helping people to live and work as valued members of the communities where they live," said Angela Harrill, BSC associate director of human resources. "It's our many partnerships with the community that help make us great."



## Recent graduate launches hit sports application



Little did Dewar Gaines '14 know that a BSC football injury would lead to a new career creating a smartphone application designed to prevent baseball pitchers from needing surgery.

Gaines, a business major, is CEO of the startup technology firm Abracadabra Health; within months of graduation, his company's first product, "Throw Like a Pro," had been endorsed by renowned orthopedic surgeon Dr. James Andrews and received national media attention, including mentions on ESPN.

The iPhone app grew out of a brainstorm Gaines had while rehabbing from ankle surgery in early 2013. While he worked on his physical therapy, he thought it might be helpful if, instead of using a stack of papers outlining his exercises, he could keep track of them on his phone. Almost exactly a year later—with help from Banks Nelson '12, who designed the app—"Throw Like a Pro" was born.

The app, which launched this spring, gives players from Little League through high school warm-ups and other exercises to prevent them from injuring themselves; Gaines' goal is to stem the rising tide of elbow surgery (also known as Tommy John) common in young pitchers. For \$9.99, users get access to advice from Andrews, who has done surgery on some of the top professional baseball, football, and basketball players, and physical therapist Dr. Kevin Wilk, who helps those patients get back up to speed. A portion of the proceeds go to the American Sports Medicine Institute, Andrews' nonprofit research foundation based in Birmingham.

"For the first time kids and parents everywhere will have access to the information and routines that we hope will put an end to this epidemic," Andrews said in a news release.

Gaines said preventing pitching overuse is just the first step; down the road, Abracadabra hopes to launch more apps that can be used for other sports, physical therapy, and additional health tracking. And the new tech star credits his BSC education with handing him the tools to dream big. In fact, he's so convinced he's hired BSC undergraduates as interns and hopes some of them will return to work for the company full-time after they graduate.

"Birmingham-Southern is the best thing that ever happened to me as far as business goes," said Gaines, who started his college career at the University of Southern Mississippi, then took time out to work before returning to the classroom. "The liberal arts education fostered a way to think out of the box. It didn't necessarily prepare me for one career or another—I know I can do anything right now."

## BSC's president makes ending human trafficking a top priority

BSC President Gen. Charles C. Krulak joined a campaign this year to encourage the United States to do more to fight human trafficking, including what he calls "modern-day slavery" in American businesses.

He is working closely with international nonprofit Human Rights First on efforts to provide policy makers and law enforcement with common-sense solutions to the problem.

For Krulak, it's an issue close to his heart. He also works with "She's Somebody's Daughter," a nonprofit in Hummelstown, Pa., to help raise awareness of the plague of sexual exploitation and sexual slavery. In addition, he writes about the problem of human trafficking through his blog on the Huffington Post.

"Human trafficking happens in every nation in the world, including right here in the U.S.," Krulak wrote in an op-ed published by Fox News. "Victims are trafficked for both sex and labor, forced to work in virtually every sector of the U.S.

economy—from farming and manufacturing to meat and poultry processing, domestic service, and the hospitality sector."

Worldwide, prosecutions have lagged behind the rapidly-growing rate of trafficking, which is estimated to create global profits of roughly \$150 billion per year—second only to narcotics. A recent Trafficking in Persons Report issued by the State Department found that the Department of Justice prosecuted only 161 human trafficking cases in 2013, putting 174 traffickers behind bars.

"We must work together to ensure that the U.S. is a place where the rule of law is strong and traffickers from all parts of the trafficking exploitation network are brought to justice, taking away their profit motive so that we can shut down the business of trafficking once and for all," Krulak wrote. "It is well past time for all those who find modern-day slavery intolerable to force exploiters to close up shop."



## Heaton receives 2014 faculty development award



From left are Dr. Bob Whetstone '55 and his wife, Janelle; Heaton; and BSC Provost Dr. Michelle Behr.

Dr. Jason Heaton, assistant professor of biology at Birmingham-Southern, is this year's recipient of the Bob Whetstone Faculty Development Award.

Heaton, who joined the BSC faculty in 2010, has conducted archaeological and paleontological research in South Africa for more than a decade, much of it at the Swartkrans Paleoanthropological Research Project, one of the most important human fossil sites in the world. In addition to teaching biology and anthropology courses, he has published peer-reviewed research in the *Journal of Human Evolution*, *Journal of Taphonomy*, and many others. His work has also appeared in two magazines aimed at the general public, *Popular Archaeology* and *Quest: Science for South Africa*. His page on Academia.edu, a social networking page for scholars to share their research, is in the top 5 percent of views for the site.

Heaton recently served as the principal photographer for the book *Caves of the Ape-Men* and authored a chapter titled "Human Evolution in the Neogene" for *Quaternary Environmental Change in Southern Africa*, a book that will be published by Cambridge University Press in March.

In addition, Heaton has mentored 19 students during their senior research projects. His students have traveled to archaeological digs in South Africa and to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History to study primate skeletal collections.

"In my department and across campus, I am surrounded by colleagues who have modeled excellence and who are always seeking to improve their teaching," said Heaton, who earned bachelor's degrees in biology and anthropology from the University of South Alabama and a master's and Ph.D. from Indiana University at Bloomington. "This pushes all of us to be better mentors and instructors. Among this caliber of faculty, I am honored to receive this award."

Named for Professor Emeritus Dr. Bob Whetstone '55, the former longtime chair of the education division at BSC, the annual award goes to a non-tenured faculty member for excellence in teaching and includes funding for professional development and travel.

## Welcome new faculty

Birmingham-Southern is pleased to introduce four new faculty members who will contribute in BSC's classrooms and within the academic community for the 2014-15 year:

- **Dr. Jeremy Grall**, Assistant Professor of Music,
- **Dr. Kate Hayden**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry,
- **Dr. Shelia Ingram**, Assistant Professor of Education, and
- **Dr. Meghan Mills**, Assistant Professor of Sociology.

In addition, seven professors have been awarded promotion and tenure:

- Promoted to full professor: **Dr. Barbara Domcekova** (Spanish), **Dr. Megan Gibbons** (biology), **Dr. Guy Hubbs** (library science), **Dr. Doug Riley** (mathematics), and **Dr. Kathleen Spies** (art history).
- Promoted to associate professor and granted tenure: **Dr. Jeff Kensmoe** (music) and **Dr. Amelia Spencer** (education).





Smith



Brasher

## College grants emeritus status to two professors

Two retired faculty members were recently honored with emeritus status.

Dr. Larry Brasher was named emeritus professor of religion after 15 years of service. Dr. David Smith was named emeritus professor of music after 31 years of service.

The title of emeritus is awarded to faculty who have attained the rank of professor or associate professor, who have served the college for at least 10 years, and who have made significant contributions in the classroom, to their department, or to the college.

## Future's so Fulbright

### Ford receives prestigious award to teach abroad



Dr. Charlotte Ford, associate professor of library science and director of the BSC library, has been selected for a prestigious Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to teach at the Francisco Morazán National Pedagogical University in Honduras this spring and summer.

Ford will teach in the university's new master's program in library science and will participate in program assessment and development activities.

Ford, who was born in Peru and grew up in Kentucky, holds a bachelor's degree in international studies from Earlham College as well as a master's in library science and a Ph.D. in library and information science from Indiana University.

## Professor's research on sleep receives big boost—a \$150,000 grant



Here's a study it should be easy to get student volunteers for. Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Joe Chandler '03 has received a \$150,000 federal grant to look at whether a form of sugar helps sleep-deprived people stay alert.

To conduct the experiment, Chandler will keep about two dozen student volunteers awake for 40 hours in a new sleep lab that will be constructed in the Harbert Building. The students—who are probably well accustomed to studying while eating jellybeans and drinking Mountain Dew—will take a series of tests before and after drinking either a specific amount of glucose or a placebo.

Chandler received a three-year grant from the U.S. Navy for the project; the funds come from the Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU)-Dayton, via the Department of Defense's Joint Program Committee for biomedical research. Before joining the BSC faculty, he was a researcher for NAMRU; much of his work focuses on how food and

drink, including energy drinks and other sources, affect sleep.

"Glucose is the brain's primary fuel," Chandler said. "Neurons run on glucose, and when you're doing something that requires concentration or inhibition of other functions, that burns a lot of fuel to run your pre-frontal cortex."

That means a sleep deficit makes it harder to regulate emotions as the brain focuses its limited resources on more critical tasks, leaving us grumpy or snappish when we're overtired. Earlier research has shown that replenishing glucose improves self-control. Chandler plans to test how 10 to 15 grams of glucose—less sugar than a serving of soda—helps performance on the kind of tasks that, say, a sailor on watch might have to do while tired.

It's a pretty low-risk test, Chandler said, and he expects that it will show that drinking glucose helps a little, but not for very long. He hopes to continue the research after this project and to look more into college students' myths and misconceptions about sleep.

*Way worth it*

## BSC students combine their education and passion to make a difference in the world

BY PAT COLE

Every year, hundreds of Birmingham-Southern students explore social, economic, human, and political issues across a spectrum of academic departments and in the community. Others set out for study or service abroad.

The college's professors encourage students to venture into the larger world and to strive to serve a bigger purpose than themselves. This kind of personal and intellectual risk-taking contributes largely to their experiences at BSC and affects these students' civic engagement and sense of civic responsibility in the post-BSC years. Here are just a few examples.

### Imagine No Malaria

Maggie Ward, a junior history major, Harrison Honors Scholar, and member of the Religious Life Leadership Team at BSC, coordinated the college's 2014 Veto the 'Squito campaign, leading a "swat" team of other students on campus to support Imagine No Malaria.

This is the sixth year that BSC's Office of Church Relations has partnered with Imagine No Malaria, a national campaign of United Methodist churches and colleges with the ambitious goal of eradicating the infectious disease—mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa—by the end of 2015. Hundreds of thousands of individuals and organizations have joined the campaign created by the United Nations Foundation, including singer-actress Katharine McPhee, the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares; and *Sports Illustrated*.

Under Ward's leadership, the BSC team set out to raise enough money for Imagine No Malaria to distribute at least 500 insecticide-treated bed nets.

They invited members of the campus community to purchase a t-shirt with the Veto the 'Squito logo, contribute directly to the purchase of a mosquito net, and/or give a gift of a net with personalized cards to honor or memorialize family, friends, coworkers, or classmates. Each \$10 t-shirt brought a net; they were sold in the Norton Atrium and at home basketball games.

In addition, the group hosted two films, *A Killer in the Dark* and *Mary and Martha*, each followed by a discussion, to help students understand the science of malaria as well as



Maggie Ward (left) and Shannon Thompson '14

the burden of the disease on Africa's healthcare system.

The team also came up with an innovative campus marketing campaign featuring photos of students holding items that usually cost around \$10. One of the fliers read: "For \$10, you can buy a DVD. For \$10, you can buy a net. Save lives. Buy a net."

At the end of the campaign, the BSC group had exceeded its goal and raised enough money to purchase 520 nets.

"Malaria can be prevented," said Ward, a longtime member of Calvary UMC in Nashville. "If we can save lives through the use of a net or the distribution of medicine, we should do everything in our power to prevent malaria."





*Saurav Bhandary (left) and Wesley Chambers in Nepal*

## Global Peace Exchange

Nepal—home to the world’s highest mountains, the mighty Himalayas—is a far cry from the BSC campus. It’s where BSC juniors Saurav Bhandary, an economics and math double major from Nepal, and Wesley Chambers, a music major and Harrison Honors Scholar from Porterdale, Ga., volunteered this summer as Global Peace Exchange (GPE) volunteers.

The GPE was founded in 2006 at Florida State University as a student organization devoted to sustainable grassroots development and is now in its third year partnering with other undergraduate GPE chapters to work in Nepal. This year’s Nepal Project team consisted

of six students from FSU as well as Bhandary and Chambers, who founded BSC’s GPE chapter last year.

For four weeks in June and July, the team stayed at the home of Bhandary’s uncle in Meghauli and taught preschool children, educating them about character development, public health, and environmental concepts. They also taught English to local villagers, led a summer camp, raised awareness of safe drinking water and sanitation, distributed more than 2,500 re-usable cotton bags and 46 trash receptacles, and supported a medical clinic that serves thousands of rural villagers. They faced many challenges, like working in weather over 100 degrees and intermittent electricity, a common obstacle in developing countries.

“Working with the Global Peace Exchange has taught me so much about the way things work outside of developed nations,” said Chambers. “This trip has changed the way I see the world as well as my understanding of how BSC’s GPE chapter should operate in the future.”

“This trip was more personal to me,” said Bhandary. “I got to go back to my home country and work with my American friends to give something back to the community where I grew up. This experience gave me a different perspective on life.”

## Documentary on Syrian Civil War

For her honors project, junior Dunya Habash has taken one of the largest humanitarian crises on the planet.

Habash, a Harrison Honors Scholar and history major, is working on a documentary this fall titled “Al-laj’een: The Zaatari Refugees” to bring awareness to war-torn Syria and the two million-plus Syrian refugees living in desperate conditions around the Middle East. Accompanied by her brother, Majd, a sophomore chemistry major at BSC, she spent two weeks in August filming at the Zaatari Camp, which is located about 60 miles outside Amman, Jordan, and houses 81,000 refugees.

“We stayed in an apartment in Amman and signed up as volunteers at Zaatari, which gave me the opportunity to create the documentary,” said Habash, a native of Birmingham whose parents are from Syria. “My fluency in Arabic helped me gain the trust of refugees.”

A talented songwriter and pianist, she is also composing an original music score for her documentary. She put on a music concert this past summer, which funded her travel, as did a Kickstarter campaign.

“I want this to be more than a creative project,” said Habash. “I believe a documentary is the most effective way to tell a real story with real characters and to raise real awareness about the plight in Syria.”

To get help, Habash studied the art of documentary filmmaking with BSC Assistant Professor of Media and Film Studies Dr. David Resha. She plans to present the film next year at BSC, UAB, Indian Springs School, and the UNA-USA Greater Birmingham Chapter.

Meanwhile, Habash is studying abroad this semester at Kansai Gaidai University in Japan after winning a scholarship from the U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation. She was one of just 74 students nationwide to earn the \$4,000 award, and the third BSC student to do so.

If successful with this film project, Habash said she might do more video interviews with friends in New York and D.C. who have been to Zaatari.

“This is just the start,” she said.



*Dunya Habash in concert*



# HILLTOP WEEKEND REUNION 2014

For more photos of Hilltop Weekend Reunion 2014, visit our alumni Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/BSCalums](http://www.facebook.com/BSCalums) and look for the Hilltop Weekend 2014 album. We would also like to add **your** photos from the weekend, and you can email them to [alumni@bsc.edu](mailto:alumni@bsc.edu) so we can include your shots in the album. Tag yourself and your friends!





## First impressions

# Class of 2018 arrives on campus

BY PAT COLE



Scan this code with your smart phone or other device to watch BSC's Move-in Day video.



Birmingham-Southern proudly welcomed one of its best groups of incoming students this fall. The Class of 2018 drew from the largest pool in BSC history, with more than 2,700 applications. Ten of the 385 new students ranked No. 1 in their high school class, and others were remarkable in many ways. Here are just a few:

- **Natalie Daniel** represented her home state of Tennessee in the 2013 U.S. Lacrosse Women's National Tournament.
- **Charlotte Schorle** of Germany choreographed a musical theatre performance for students at Marshalltown

(Iowa) High School while she was an exchange student there, earning them the opportunity to compete for the first time in a state contest.

- **Lloyd Doyle IV**, a fourth-generation BSC student, was ranked in the top 10 in high school standings for percussion in the state of Tennessee.
- **Shannon Hickey** of Hueytown performed, directed, or headed the technical team for 17 theatrical shows in four years; she either performed or understudied the lead role in eight.
- **Connor Jarecki** of Gadsden, Ala.,

led his high school cross country team to a state championship and served as head engineer and captain for the school's Robotics Team.

Almost half of the students hail from outside Alabama; they represent 21 states and 11 foreign countries, including Japan, Bulgaria, Sweden, Croatia, and Austria.

"We are so excited to welcome the Class of 2018 to campus," said Sara Newhouse, assistant vice president for admission. "They are a talented group of young people who will embrace life at BSC fully and make an impact inside and outside the classroom."





**Two by two**—You can usually count on at least one set of multiples in each new class. Shown are fraternal twins Earen and Elbert Robinson of Mobile. Both of the Robinsons are student-athletes—track and field and football. The first-year class also includes identical twins Ross and Luke Anderson of Section, Ala.



BSC Dean of Students Ben Newhouse designed the t-shirts worn at Move-In Day by Orientation team members. A photo of the shirt posted on BSC’s Facebook page garnered almost 700 “likes,” the most ever by a post on the page. Many alumni and parents wanted to buy the shirt, which are now available at the BSC Bookstore.



BSC President Gen. Charles C. Krulak, Provost Dr. Michelle Behr, BSC Board of Trustees Chair Bruce Rogers ’80, Assistant Vice President for Admission Sara Newhouse, and SGA President Zack Perkins ’15 helped lead the procession into Bill Battle Coliseum for Convocation, where new students were welcomed and presented with their commemorative BSC ginkgo coins. The magnificent ginkgo tree, one of the oldest and most recognized landmarks on campus, is a symbol in many cultures of longevity and hope.





## experience puts students in the community

At BSC, Orientation means a lot of things—including familiarizing the students with their new hometown.

To that end, the Class of 2018 fanned out across the metro area the day before classes began for EXPERIENCE: Service in the City. They volunteered at 25 sites, including the Birmingham Zoo, Greater Birmingham Ministries, Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, First Light Women’s Shelter, and the BSC Community Garden.

“I always look forward to this event, where we introduce our new students to their new community in Birmingham,” said Kristin Harper ’92, director of the BSC Bunting Center for Engaged Study and Community Action. “From the very beginning of their time here on the Hilltop, students understand BSC’s commitment to experiential learning. Through service projects and conversations with our community partners, new students learn about the assets and needs of our community and find avenues for engagement.”

Work included painting a home through Urban Ministry, gardening at Jones Valley Teaching Farm and NorthStar Youth Ministries, cleaning the Ronald McDonald House, and participating in activities with special needs children and adults at the Exceptional Foundation.

Jordan Powell, a media and film studies major from Atlanta, volunteered at the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama.

“My service experience taught me the value of putting others before myself and to be grateful for what I have,” Powell said.



One group of new students packed food at the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama for the Weekender’s Backpack Program, which combats childhood hunger.



Another group visited the Exceptional Foundation, where they helped special needs children and adults engage in a variety of activities, including obstacle courses, dodge ball, and art projects.

COLLEGE 101

*What's on your*

BSC



# BUCKET LIST

?

We asked a few first-year students to put together bucket lists of some of the opportunities and experiences they don't want to miss during their undergraduate years.



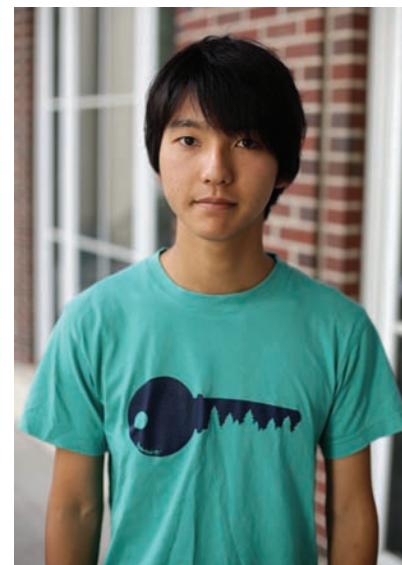


**JUSTIN DENNIS**  
**Business major from Buford, Ga.**

- Play in a varsity football game this fall.
- Eat at the best restaurant in Birmingham.
- Make a lot of new friends.
- Stand on top of one of the buildings in the academic quad.
- Make the BSC campus a better place—whether that’s picking up trash off the ground or helping a fellow student in need.

**CHIKASHI TAKAGI**  
**Biology major and pre-health student from Japan**

- Meet lots of new people and make lots of new friends.
- Learn as much as I can about Birmingham and the U.S.
- Pet all the cats I come across on campus.
- Do an internship through rise3.
- Get a driver’s license.
- Find all the city’s great Japanese restaurants.



**MARK LEE**  
**Art studio major from Pell City, Ala.**

- Have my drawings presented in the Durbin Gallery.
- Perform in a BSC theatre production.
- Study abroad for a semester.
- Attend a philanthropic student event.
- Do well at my work-study position.
- Have lunch with Gen. Krulak.
- Do some interesting E-Term projects.
- Take Prof. Pamela Venz’s photography course.
- Graduate!



**WILLIE WILLIAMS**  
**Art studio major from Birmingham**

- Take a trip to Africa.
- Learn to speak a foreign language fluently.
- Leave a “mark” in some way.
- Become SGA president.
- Take a picture with the BSC mascot.



**SAVANNA ROBERTS**  
**Political science major and Harrison Honors Scholar from Birmingham**

- Visit the color tunnel in downtown Birmingham.
- Attend at least one game/match of each sport at BSC.
- Complete a Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.
- Travel to another country.
- Attend a concert at Oak Mountain Amphitheatre.
- See how many different types of food I can eat in Birmingham (Greek, Thai, Indian, etc.).
- Watch a Christmas movie at the Alabama Theatre.

**ZOE WIRT**  
**Music major and Harrison Honors Scholar from Columbus, Ga.**

- Perform a lead role in an opera, play, or musical.
- Ace music theory.
- Study in another country.
- Learn a completely new skill.
- Truly, fully help someone with something that matters.
- Figure out the rest of my life!





From alums: a bucket list

## 23 things first-year students should experience before graduating

We asked our alumni for their recommendations of things BSC students must do before they graduate. Here are some of their suggestions:

1. **Visit the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.**
2. Ring the bell atop the Berte Humanities Center on your last day of class.
3. *Watch a sunset from Vulcan Park on top of Red Mountain.*
4. Attend lots of Birmingham Barons games.
5. **Volunteer in the Birmingham City elementary schools located near campus.**
6. *Attend the BSC Carol Service.*
7. Turn right out of campus.
8. Visit the graves of three of the four little girls killed in the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church bombing near the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport, followed by a guided tour at the church.
9. **Experience a sunset from the bleachers of the BSC baseball field (one of the best spots in Birmingham for this).**
10. *Eat at Irondale Cafe, The Bright Star, Lloyds, and Nikki's West.*
11. Attend the Rickwood Classic (the annual Barons game at Rickwood Field, America's oldest baseball field).
12. Make a visit to Uptown to take advantage of the cool atmosphere—eat a burger at Mugshots and grab a coffee to go from Octane.
13. **Visit the Tuxedo Junction neighborhood of Birmingham.**
14. *Sit in a class with a leftist professor with imagination, courage, and compassion.*
15. Pull an all-nighter, even if you've prepared for weeks for the next test. You'll make lasting friendships, and if you're pre-med, get used to it.
16. Rush a fraternity/sorority, even if you don't plan on joining one.
17. **Eat at Al's Deli and Grill. Order a gyro, ranch fries, and sweet tea.**
18. Play a prank on your RA—but nothing too mean.
19. *Eat at Fat Sam's Subs.*
20. Get two other friends and paint yourselves with "B-S-C" for a sporting event. Make sure to stand in order.
21. **One night during E-Term (if you're on campus), strip down to your boxers and jump in the fountain.**
22. *Enjoy E-Term. It's awesome.*
23. Take at least one video of yourself with a group of people you're hanging out with your freshman year. A decade later, determine what kind of an impact those people had on your life.





It's all relative

## Students with multi-generational ties arrive on the Hilltop

While many first-year students may be the first in their families to ever step foot on the Birmingham-Southern campus, the college is proud that each year a considerable number of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of alumni are among the new students who've enrolled.

These are legacy students, like Leonie Fay of Franklin, Tenn., for whom spending four years on the Hilltop is a family tradition. Leonie is the daughter of Tony Fay '77 and Jaydie Gamble Fay '86; the goddaughter of Angela Sanzotera '86 and Dr. Howard Day '83 and his wife, Sharon; and the granddaughter of Doris Lawler Gamble '51. Leonie visited BSC many times over the years with her parents, which gave her the opportunity to interact with other alumni, students, faculty, and staff at homecoming and other events. Those impromptu tours left her with a desire to follow in their footsteps.

These are the other new students fulfilling a family legacy this year:

**Bridget Adams** of Huntsville, daughter of Lisha Harbaugh Adams '83; **Richard Bass** of Birmingham, son of Melanie Merkle Atha '86 and the grandson of Marilyn Mullins Merkle '61; **Thomas "Hayden" Baugh** of Midway, Ala., son of Aubrey Baugh III '89 and Margaret Estes Baugh '89 and grandson of Dr. Aubrey Baugh Jr. '59; **Eva Bodon** of The Woodlands, Texas, daughter of Jean Richard Bodon '73; **Andrew Brown** of Florence, son of Dr. David Brown '86; **K. Scott Burchfield** of Oak Grove, son of Julie Statum Burchfield '89 and grandson of Erskine R. Statum '51; **Libby Chambliss** of Vestavia Hills, daughter of Lee Chambliss '88 and Payge Smith Chambliss '89; **Mary Crenshaw** of Birmingham, granddaughter of the late Dr. James Crenshaw '33; **Elizabeth Dial** of Mt. Olive, Ala., daughter of Susan Huguley Dial '83; **L. Allen Doyle** of Shelbyville, Tenn., and Brownsville, Tenn., son of Clare Golson Doyle '85 and grandson of Henry Golson '60 and the late Carol Clotfelter Golson '59; **Virginia Hammond** of Chattanooga, Tenn., granddaughter of the late Dr. Norton Cowart '43 (see "Obits"); **Ashley Harmon** of Hampton Cove, Ala., daughter of Larry Harmon '85; **Christina Harmon** of Mountain Brook, daughter of Dr. Harvey Harmon '82 and Dr. Renee Brown Harmon '83; **Mary Margaret Jackson** of Homewood, daughter of Melissa Puckett

Jackson '89; **Kathryn Jones** of Roswell, Ga., daughter of J. David Jones '84 and Cynthia Hartsell Jones '84; **Colin Lambert** of Hoover, son of Melanie Luther Nichols '88 and Christopher Lambert '88, step-son of Christine Wenning Lambert '86, and grandson of Charles Lambert '60 and Dr. A. Lynn Luther '64 and Joanne Thomas Luther '64; **Anna Leahey** of Reno, N.V., daughter of Melissa Fanning Leahey '91; **Andrew Maley** of Hazlehurst, Ga., grandson of the late John Maley '56; **Alyson Maye** of Reisterstown, Md., daughter of Gerald Maye '97 MPPM; **Daniel McCarty** of Wilsonville, Ala., son of Ernest McCarty III '98 MPPM and grandson of Kitty Hurst Douglass-Whitehurst '54; **Jenna McEachern** of Norcross, Ga., daughter of Elise Lawson McEachern '89; **Clare Mills** of Dallas, Texas, granddaughter of John Lee '57; **Mary Rose Patrick** of Birmingham, daughter of Rev. Melissa Self Patrick '87 and Bentley Patrick '89, granddaughter of Margaret Hines Patrick '56 and James Patrick '58 and the late Edgar "Eddie" Self '49, and goddaughter of Hanna Brown Schock '83 and Bill Schock '95 (aunt is Adelia Patrick Thompson '86); **Kelsey Peake** of Vestavia Hills, daughter of Ben Peake '86 and Amy Lasseter Peake '88 and great-granddaughter of Dr. Benjamin M. Carraway '32; **Amy Pecot** of Hoover, daughter of Carol Pecot Stewart '89 and granddaughter of the late Elise Wheeler Stewart '42 and the late L. Cuthel Stewart '38; **Julia Potts** of Tuscaloosa, daughter of Ellen Woodward Potts '88 and Daniel Potts '88; **William Rice** of Lookout Mtn., Tenn., son of Dr. David Rice '87; **Mary Nix Roberson** of Mountain Brook, daughter of Anna Swindle Roberson '87; **Rebeckah Roe** of Fairhope, daughter of David Roe '86; **Mary Katherine "Katie" Russell** of Owens Cross Roads, Ala., granddaughter of Amma Hurt Barnes '57; **Hannah Smith** of Dothan, daughter of Stephen Smith '83; **Andrew Townsend** of Haleyville, Ala., grandson of Margaret Stewart Pugh '65; and **Robert Yockers** of Daphne, son of Dr. Teresa Kidd Kelly '84.

We want more of our legacies to experience some of the same life-changing Birmingham-Southern traditions that our graduates experienced as students. If you are the parent, step-parent, godparent, or grandparent of a future BSC student, or if you know a BSC legacy, please complete the form at [www.bsc.edu/alumni/form-prospect.cfm](http://www.bsc.edu/alumni/form-prospect.cfm).





# rise<sup>3</sup>

OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR THE EXPERIENCE  
OF A LIFETIME

BY HANNAH WOLFSON



When Shelby Kile came to Birmingham-Southern, she wasn't quite sure what she planned to do with her life.

A graduate of Bob Jones High School in Huntsville, Kile was thinking about marine biology or maybe medical school before she arrived on the Hilltop. But then she took a psychology course, and, in her words, "found out where my passion was."

For a time, she and her parents worried what her new focus would mean. But this summer, Kile worked at Piper Place, a rehabilitation center in Birmingham for adults with severe mental illness. The senior taught classes on substance abuse, life skills, anger management, and more to students with schizophrenia, depression, and bipolar disorder.

"I got to learn more about mental illness and medication in a real-world environment, and my supervisor was so generous with her time," said Kile, who is now looking into graduate school and hopes to become a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner or an occupational therapist. "It's something I can be passionate about—and it's given me a unique thing I can sell to future employers."

Kile's internship was made possible by Birmingham-Southern's newest initiative, rise3. One of the most important in the college's history, the project's roots go back to 2012, when BSC began to work on its Quality Enhancement Plan, a broad-based 10-year outline to boost the effectiveness of a Birmingham-Southern education. With extensive community input, a team of faculty, staff, and students set out to determine the best way to improve student learning.



All signs pointed to one area: experiential learning, one of BSC's long-time strengths.

Research backed up the idea. The Association of American Colleges and Universities, a national organization focused on quality undergraduate liberal arts education, identifies a range of what it calls high-impact teaching and learning practices that have been widely tested and proven to benefit a diverse range of students. The list varies from first-year seminars to writing-intensive courses, but BSC's team decided to focus on three primary areas: collaborative research, internships, and service-learning. And thus r(research)-i(internships)-s(service-learning)-e3 was born.

The initiative dovetails perfectly with BSC's overarching push to encourage students to explore their passions, experience learning hands-on, and excel after graduation—also known as e3—said BSC's president, Gen. Charles C. Krulak.

"This really sets us apart as a college by giving our students a unique combination of a liberal arts curriculum with an innovative hands-on approach to learning," Krulak said. "They'll learn by doing, they'll get valuable experiences to add to their résumés, and they'll be ready to take on any challenge after they leave the Hilltop."



## Economic and social impact in Uganda

BSC students have traveled to a lot of places to expand their knowledge. This year, for the first time, three went to Uganda for two weeks as part of a rise3 research project. Working with Associate Professor of Business Administration Dr. Bert Morrow, who was hired as a consultant to help design a plan to boost efficiency for rural farmers in that country, the students designed a survey about cooperative development and then collected responses on location in the country's Bushenyi district.

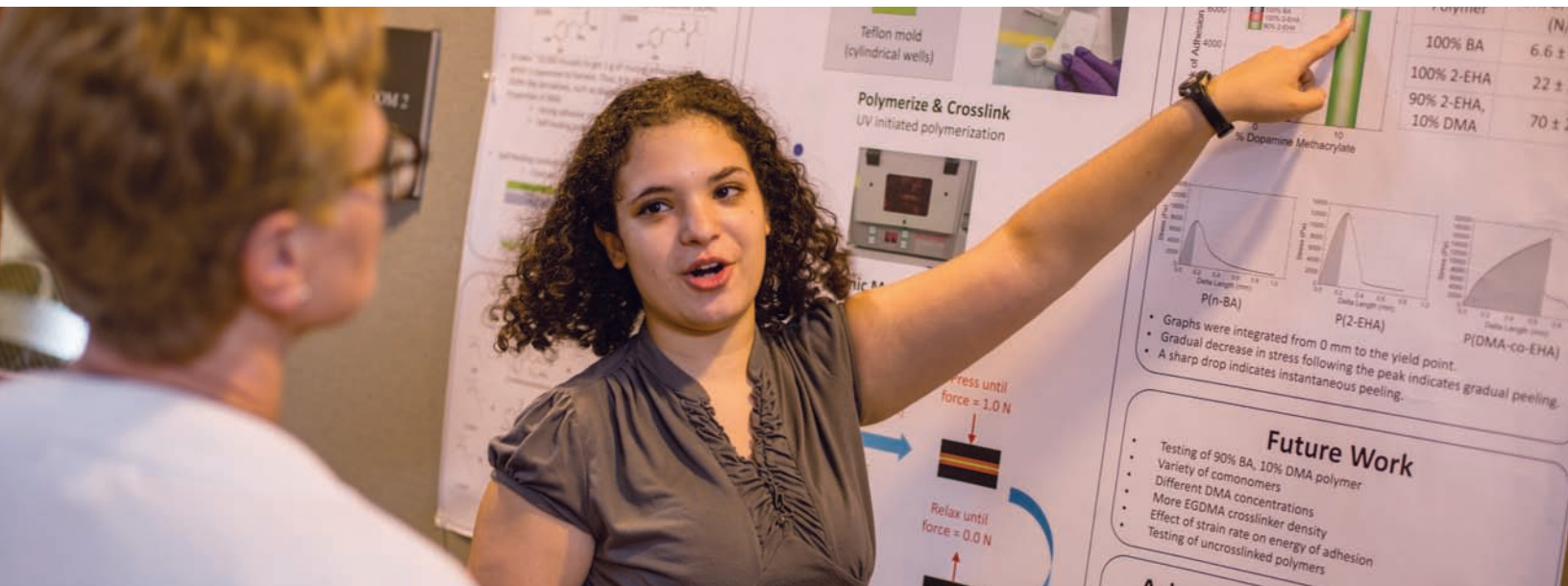
The students learned how to create a survey instrument, administer it, and gather data all while in a foreign environment. But they also learned to question their assumptions.

"We might have gone in there with pre-formed notions about bottom line revenue and costs," said Patrick Joyce, a junior business administration major and Stump Entrepreneurship Scholar who was so affected by the trip that he is considering a career in international business or development. "But then when you visit, you see things that make a real difference—simple things like water, roads, and resources."

They found that the farmers were, indeed, eager to cooperate, although they weighed the social benefits over economic boosts. The team is working this semester to analyze their data and submit a report to an academic journal—a rare boon for undergraduates. It has also opened their eyes not just to world travel, but to a whole new world of career opportunities.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Caleb McVicker, a senior business administration major from Indianapolis, Ind., who had been considering financial law for a career path, but is now thinking more broadly. "It definitely gives you an entirely new concept of what's out there."





## Beyond the action

But rise3 is more than just research, internships, and service learning: it's about thoroughly integrating those experiences into students' education and engaging them to think critically and creatively. Every rise3 project, whether conducted in a classroom setting or independently, requires students to reflect on what they learn before, during, and after their experience. They also celebrate the students' accomplishments in campus-wide forums such as public performances and poster presentations as a way to honor their work and inspire others.

"This structured reflection exponentially deepens the learning process," said Professor of Theatre Dr. Alan Litsey, rise3 director. "Students not only identify learning in rise3, they also identify when that learning has taken place and, importantly, how it will make a difference in the future."

In its first year, the 2013-14 academic year, there were 16 rise3 pilot projects—either courses offered by BSC faculty with a research, service, or internship component or opportunities for students to engage in those experiences on their own. This year, 29 pilots are being offered.

Some projects are independent study organized with a professor and a student—Litsey is collaborating this semester with a theatre major who is directing four short plays by Tennessee Williams, for example—while others incorporate rise3 elements into a course, often in surprising ways. For instance, a business administration course called "Marketing the Arts" requires students to act as real-world marketing consultants; one group even worked with the Birmingham Museum of Art to design a marketing plan for reaching Millennials.

"This goes beyond the status quo by giving students actual marketing problems to solve," said the course's professor, Dr. Carolyn Garrity, assistant professor of marketing. "It expands their networks and introduces them to new outlooks and viewpoints, engaging them with the community outside of BSC. This kind of hands-on learning should, in turn, enrich classroom learning."

Take, for example, a project that three business students tackled with Associate Professor of Business Administration Dr. Bert Morrow, who was asked to understand business issues facing farmers

in rural Uganda. The students traveled to Uganda with Morrow this summer to hold focus groups, collecting data from 183 Ugandan farmers. (See sidebar on p.21.)

"This is an opportunity I don't think I would ever have gotten at a large institution," said Billy McMahon, a senior business administration major from Homewood who participated in the project. "This is something that a graduate student would have done."

That, Litsey said, is one of rise3's strengths—that students get the kind of focused, engaged, learning that often isn't available to undergrads; it takes BSC's traditional liberal arts approach a step further. No matter the project, students who participate are asked to think critically about their own personal goals, make connections between classroom knowledge and real-world experience, and to consider their own role in the wider world.

"A rise3 experience becomes part of a student's muscle memory," Litsey said. "Students own the skills developed in this closer collaborative model and are ready to build on them. Rise3 is a bridge for students to build their futures."





## Student finds calling through internship



When Denzel Okinedo showed up for his internship at Greater Birmingham Ministries this summer, he thought he might learn something. Little did he know how much the experience would change him.

Okinedo, a junior majoring in political science with a minor in human rights and conflict studies, found himself coordinating two weekly programs at the Birmingham-based interfaith nonprofit as a Hess Fellow: handing out bags of groceries to low-income residents and allowing access to a free clothing closet. He also helped retrieve more than \$4,000 in illegally held back wages for undocumented immigrants and checked on voter access in low-income areas.

"The internship taught me so much—not just what advocacy is, but I feel like I learned how to love and care for people," Okinedo said. "It really helped me focus on what I'm called to do."

That's key for Okinedo, a Huntsville resident who was born in Nigeria to a family of physicians. He knew he wasn't meant for medical school, but wasn't sure what path to follow. Now, with his new love for advocacy, he's thinking about law school and then a move into the nonprofit world. He'll undertake his pre-law internship this year; he's also participating in the Panther Partnerships Mentoring Program and is teamed up with Melanie Merkle Atha '86, a defense litigator with Cabaniss, Johnston, Gardner, Dumas & O'Neal LLP. Both experiences should help move him even closer to his goals, Okinedo said.

"I know that at BSC, I have people who are looking out for my best interests," he said.









## Advancing knowledge through research and collaboration

When Dr. Anne Yust, assistant professor of mathematics, set out to do a collaborate project, she made it really collaborative.

Not only does Yust work with BSC students through a rise3 research project—she shares the project with a colleague at Rhodes College and with students there, too.

The research focuses on using applied mathematics to model and analyze population dynamics. Each year, the team chooses a topic, reads dozens of scientific papers about it, draws data from them, programs a computer model, and then interprets the results. Last year, they looked at an endangered fox species on the Channel Islands in California; this time around, they are calculating the effects of climate change on

yellow-bellied marmots (a large rodent similar to a groundhog) in Colorado.

She and sophomore Adam Pratt, a Harrison Honors Scholar and mathematics major from Homewood, did much of the initial research this summer and are sharing their results this fall at the Biomathematics and Ecology: Education and Research conference in Claremont, Calif.

“This gives them the experience of what academia is like at the national level,” Yust said. “They not only get the experience of presenting their work in that setting, they also get a chance to hear what work other people are doing, including graduate students and faculty at other schools.”

They get to see Yust and her colleague work through (and sometimes discard) ideas in regular team meetings throughout the year, and they’ll submit their research to a peer-reviewed journal—both important precursors of graduate school. But they’re also learning skills that will serve them in any profession, especially the ability to work independently, Yust said.

“They have to participate in a meeting, take away information from that meeting, implement it, and be able to report on what they did,” Yust said. “They also have to be able to motivate and drive themselves. They often do even more than expected. To be honest, I’ve been really impressed by what our students can do.”





## Research/Internships/Service

*The backbone of experiential learning*

Although the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) identifies a wide range of "high-impact teaching and learning practices," rise3 focuses on three types of hands-on experiences:

### Research

College scientists—with help from the National Science Foundation—are drawing students into systematic investigation and research to help them learn and connect key concepts. "The goal is to involve students with actively contested questions, empirical observation, cutting-edge technologies, and the sense of excitement that comes from working to answer important questions," the AAC&U writes. But at BSC, collaborative research extends well outside the typical science lab. Mathematics students researched ways to model animal populations and presented their work at a national conference; English students will work in Dublin with the original manuscripts of the poet W.B. Yeats; and the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics have offered one-on-one faculty-student research projects plus summer workshops and community-building to introduce students to scientific life.







## Internships

BSC internships give students practical work experience while they learn. “The idea is to provide students with direct experience in a work setting—usually related to their career interests—and to give them the benefit of supervision and coaching from professionals in the field,” the AAC&U writes. In a January course, history students tackled archival and preservation projects at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Vulcan Park, and other facilities around Birmingham; business students spend a semester working at banks, investment firms, start-ups, and more; and a small group of students are working on campus to collect and showcase BSC student and faculty research.



## Service learning

Hands-on experiences with community partners are built into academic courses, giving students the opportunity to apply what they are learning in real-world settings. “These programs model the idea that giving something back to the community is an important college outcome, and that working with community partners is good preparation for citizenship, work, and life,” the AAC&U writes. For example, students in a business administration class on nonprofit and arts marketing worked with the Birmingham Museum of Art to design a marketing strategy to reach college students; students in a Leadership Studies practicum conducted in-person surveys in the city’s Avondale neighborhood to tackle issues surrounding gentrification; and students in an English seminar reading about gender, race, and class were required to volunteer in the community and to address those issues head-on.





SEC celebrates 20  
years as epicenter  
of environmental  
education in Alabama

# green FOCUS

BY HANNAH WOLFSON





*building sustainable communities*

It's an outdoor classroom. It's an interactive museum and tourist attraction. It's a string of parks that stretch from the inner city to a free-flowing stream and forest. It's a major player in protecting Alabama's natural heritage and revitalizing urban neighborhoods.

And it's right here at Birmingham-Southern.

We're talking about the Southern Environmental Center, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. About two decades ago, a BSC political scientist joined up with a few students to start planting trees and setting up a recycling program on the Hilltop. The project blossomed into more than anyone expected.

"It's gratifying to see how the environmental community has grown," said Roald Hazelhoff, the SEC's director. "While there's still a real need for advocacy, there's also a growing sense of awareness in the public—and that makes this a much better place to live."

Hazelhoff, who left political science to become BSC's environmental coordinator, wanted to do more to teach about the environment beyond the campus walls. In those days, he said, the city desperately lacked parks and the green spaces around Alabama that were open to the public were often marred by

litter and treated with little respect.

"The environmental work being done in the state tended to be high-level academic work by biologists and others," he said. "I wanted to create hands-on demonstration projects and share them with the general public."

It worked: the Birmingham-Southern College Conservancy, the SEC's precursor, was awarded one of then-Pres. George Bush's Points of Light awards in 1990, the inaugural year of that program. That gave Hazelhoff—who was then doing environmental demonstrations on campus like installing low-flow showerheads in Greek houses ("I'm not sure they were cognizant of what we were doing!" he says.)—the base to expand. He figured the 11,000 schoolchildren who visited the college planetarium each year were a good place to start and suggested adding a small leg to their tour that zoomed in from the galaxy onto lessons about our own planet. In 1993, he started a small museum in the then-empty basement of the college library.

In 1996, events again gave the tiny program a boost, as Birmingham-Southern became home to athletes in town for the Summer Olympics. Suddenly, there was a new effort put towards beautifying the campus. As administrators started to talk about cleaning up a trashy vacant lot next to

the practice fields and planting pines, Hazelhoff stepped in with another idea: an outdoor classroom filled with native plants and linked to trails through the woods. It became the first EcoScope; now a dozen dot the Birmingham metro area.

The next year, the SEC moved from the library to its new home in the college's abandoned swimming pool. Hazelhoff and his team scavenged building materials wherever they could, coming up with a design that today would be recognized as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) project. The former pool was covered with a steel floor made from recycled cars, large windows were installed to take advantage of natural daylight, and energy-efficient insulation made from old newspapers was added.

"This was really ground-breaking work," said Dr. Bill Holt, assistant professor and coordinator of BSC's Urban Environmental Studies program. "In a state that wasn't really known for its environmental efforts, it was a real uphill fight to convince folks of the benefits of something like this."

Today, the museum counts some 20,000 visitors a year, who learn about everything from urban runoff and energy issues to environmentally friendly household products. It is the largest

*SEC Director Roald Hazelhoff leads visitors through the center's museum on campus.*





environmental education center in Alabama and one of the only one of its kind located on a college campus.

It has been featured on PBS' nationally aired *Dragonfly TV* and in *University Business* magazine as an example of sustainable redevelopment.

That's not all that has changed. Colleges around the country are touting their commitment to sustainability; BSC is renowned for its beautiful, tree-lined campus and Urban Environmental Studies Program; and Birmingham itself has made green space—from downtown to the crest of the nearby mountains—a priority.

Meanwhile, Hazelhoff sees the SEC's partnership with BSC as a way to create a new generation that will improve the world around them.

"We need to engage our students;

they need to be leaders in terms of community involvement," he said. "We are ambassadors for the school."

And in the midst of it all, the SEC continues to grow, sharing eco-concepts and resources with the local community and acting as a partner for pulling it all together. It recently landed a coveted

grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to hire an outside consultant to help the SEC plan for future expansion, which Hazelhoff hopes will go hand-in-hand with Birmingham's emergence as an eco-tourism destination.

"We still have a long ways to go," Hazelhoff said.









# EcoScapes: Greening Birmingham's urban environment

Of all the Southern Environmental Center's many programs, one is leaving the biggest mark on the metro area: the EcoScapes. Since the first one launched on the BSC campus in 1996, an additional 13 parks have emerged—with more in the planning stage each year. The program has gained national recognition from Neighborhoods USA and other organizations.

In the earliest days, says SEC Director Roald Hazelhoff, the program was designed to turn vacant lots into tiny urban parks. Today, the EcoScapes range in mission, from showcasing drought-friendly gardening to offering therapy for patients at Princeton Baptist Medical Center to protecting a tiny spring that houses an endangered fish. They're always filled with natural beauty and local artwork, and they're always designed in cooperation with the local community or other stakeholders to meet specific needs.

"The unifying theme is that EcoScapes solve a problem," Hazelhoff said. "You take an area that has been vacant or abused and you transform them from blight into something that serves as an anchor for revitalization."

## Arlington–West End EcoScape

Corner of Cotton Ave.  
and 9th Street SW

Designed for passive recreation, this pocket park creates a neighborhood green complete with flowerbeds, seating areas, and panoramic vistas. Local schoolchildren designed mosaic pavers and park benches, and a flower sculpture made from recycled roofing material is the center of the garden.

## Brown Springs EcoScape

73rd Street and Oporto Ave.

Built on a vacant lot owned by the city, this garden surrounds a natural spring that historically served this community



at the foot of Ruffner Mountain. Future plans call for replanting an orchard for use by neighbors.

## College Hills EcoScape

8th Ave. West and Arkadelphia Road  
(behind McCoy United Methodist Church)

Located just outside the BSC campus, this community park and outdoor classroom incorporates one of the original gateways to Birmingham-Southern. Camp NorthStar's Youth Ministries uses the raised vegetable and herb gardens. The SEC has also planted more than 50 trees along 9th Avenue, created a native plant bed at the entrance to the College

Hills neighborhood, and installed a stone bench at the bus stop opposite the campus' main entrance.

## Hugh Kaul EcoScape

Birmingham–Southern campus  
The four-acre outdoor classroom that started it all, the Hugh Kaul EcoScape was at one time a training site for the National Guard. Gardeners and local artists turned it into a miniature version of Alabama, complete with a Mobile Bay Basin wetland and Appalachian Trail. Visitors and the BSC community alike are drawn to the fragrant and medicinal gardens, metal and stone sculptures, and two-story tree house.



### North Birmingham EcoScape

2619 30th Ave. North

Set near a senior living facility and a public library, this urban park serves as a green gateway to the North Birmingham Business District. It features drought-resistant native wildflowers, azalea alcoves, fruit trees, and an open lawn that serves as a play and picnic area. Its proximity to two bus stops makes it an ideal edible garden harvest site for low-income residents.

### Princeton BMC Healing Garden and Princeton BMC Sound Garden

10th Street SW near Tuscaloosa Ave.

This unusual garden was designed to be a therapeutic tool for staff and visitors at Princeton Baptist Medical Center. Residents of the elderly care facility Princeton Towers were interviewed during the design process; the plants they remembered—fruits, herbs, and medicinal plants commonly grown a generation ago—were included to help trigger fond memories. BSC Associate Professor of Art Jim Neel '71 designed a water sculpture for the garden. The adjacent Sound Garden has a fountain, wind chime sculpture, and other artwork around umbrella-covered tables.

### Riley-Travellick EcoScape

3550 Park Ave. SW

Located in a southwest Birmingham neighborhood bordering Midfield, this urban park is an anchor for revitalizing a small community that has suffered from population decline and illegal drug

distributions. A pavilion is used for community festivals and a large bioswale (natural berm system) reduces flooding.

### Samuelson EcoScape

601 West Blvd.

Sited behind the Jefferson County Health Department's Eastern Health Center, this EcoScape features native medicinal plants. Designed for year-round color and fragrance, it's a therapy garden for patients, and plans call for it to become an access point to a proposed greenway to East Lake Park.

### Seven Springs EcoScape

2001 Cleburn Ave. SW

This EcoScape came into being after a population of the endangered Watercress Darter—a tiny, colorful fish that only lives in and around Jefferson County, Ala.—was discovered in Seven Springs on property owned by Faith Apostolic Church. The EcoScape protects the fish and serves as a site for meditation and lessons. Gravel paths wind through limestone boulders and native plants, catching and filtering runoff from the nearby parking lot before it runs into the spring.

### Sims EcoScape

908 Highland Road, Homewood

(open by appointment only)

This EcoScape serves as a living monument to the late Catherine Sims '38, who was known as "the Plant Lady of Edgewood." She donated her five-lot garden and greenhouse to the city of



Homewood to be used as a park upon her death. Located just blocks away from a busy commercial district, it provides a tranquil refuge and a place to learn about low-impact gardening.

### Tarrant EcoScape

1113 Ford Ave., Tarrant

Built on the site of a former dry cleaning store, this park serves as a focal point for the city's revitalization efforts. It is the site of an annual music festival and provides a welcome refuge from Tarrant's industrial setting. Native plants provide a hands-on demonstration of drought-friendly landscaping; and the herb garden by Tarrant Middle School students as an outdoor classroom. Designed to help alleviate chronic flooding in the area, the EcoScape mitigates runoff from nearby parking lots.

### Turkey Creek EcoScape

3906 Turkey Creek Road, Pinson

This EcoScape is located at the entrance to Turkey Creek Falls and is part of a 466-acre Forever Wild preserve managed by the SEC. Once a dumping ground for unincorporated Jefferson County, it now showcases green landscape practices and protects the home of the Vermillion Darter, a small fish found only in Turkey Creek. A drainage system percolates into a native plant garden, earthen berms direct storm water away from the creek, and boulders keep visitors from parking in natural areas.







## Charles Yeager: Protecting an ecological treasure

Not many campuses in the middle of a city can also lay claim to hundreds of acres of wild land—and a responsibility to protect it.

But Birmingham-Southern has deep connections to Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, which is located off U.S.-79 in Pinson, about 15 miles north of Birmingham's urban core. The Southern Environmental Center co-manages the preserve—which is home to three endangered fish, including one, the Vermilion Darter, that lives only in Turkey Creek—in partnership with Alabama's Forever Wild Program and the Freshwater Land Trust. The SEC also runs an environmental education center there, providing hands-on programming to school groups, scout groups, and other visitors.

And the man who manages it all is Charles Yeager '10, one of the first graduates of BSC's Urban Environmental Studies Program. Yeager—who lives in a home on the preserve with his wife, Rebecca Yeager '06, and the newest

addition to their family, baby Charlie Ann—worked to map the land at Turkey Creek as an intern with the Freshwater Land Trust when he was a student. He also helped the SEC construct its North Birmingham and Seven Springs EcoScapes.

More than that, Yeager has helped turn Turkey Creek into a community attraction. Before becoming a preserve under the state's public land conservation program, it served as a dumping ground for much of northern Jefferson County. Today, some 100,000 visitors arrive to swim in the falls, picnic nearby, or hike in the woods. The trails were recently added to the National Trails System by the U.S. Department of the Interior, the preserve's "Float Your Boat" festival is Pinson's most popular, and this summer al.com named Turkey Creek one of its "Don't Miss Alabama Swimming Holes."

"We have worked very hard to develop an experience for our guests that is unique in the state, and we're constantly

working to add new features," said Yeager.

The preserve, which contains some of the most biologically rich habitats in central Alabama, also provides fertile ground for Birmingham-Southern students and faculty. Each year, biology and UES students and professors join local field biologists for a "BioBlitz," a 24-hour species survey that gives students hands-on field techniques. Yeager has hosted student interns from various fields, including UES and history. And BSC students regularly volunteer at the preserve for service-learning projects.

"As a student, I was provided many unique experiences by Birmingham-Southern's amazing faculty that helped me develop a deep appreciation for our native landscape," Yeager said. "Today, I feel honored to not only be a part of the BSC family, but also to help enhance the student experience by sharing the beauty of Turkey Creek with them and the broader community."









From left are David Fawal '86, Joe Fawal '73, Abe Fawal '54, and Alex Fawal '16.

### *A family tree full of BSC roots*

## Generations of Fawal family thrive on legacy

Very often, the Birmingham-Southern experience is shared among multiple generations of immediate and extended family members. We'd like to introduce you to one such family whose roots run deep on the campus.

**Dr. Ibrahim "Abe" Fawal '54** moved to Birmingham in 1951 to attend BSC, enrolling as a sophomore. His cousin, Dr. Isa Fawal, and his wife, Tarri (both now deceased), also relocated from Ramallah, Palestine, to the U.S. in the '50s. Isa's sister, **Hala Fawal '70**, and brother, **Joseph "Joe" Fawal '73**, came with them. They originally settled in Washington, D.C., but moved to Birmingham, where Isa did his medical fellowship.

Abe and his late wife, Rose, had three of their four children attend BSC: **Gina Fawal Jaber '86** of Alameda, Calif., **Freda Fawal Farah '89** of New York City, and **Rima Fawal Hartman '90** of Birmingham. They also have 11 grandchildren. Abe's nephew is **Dr. Peter Harb '78** of Birmingham.

Isa and Tarri also had four children, two of whom are BSC graduates: **David Fawal '86** and **Dunia Fawal Ritchey '89**, both of Birmingham. The couple also leaves behind 14 grandchildren, including David's son, **Alex Fawal '16**. 'Southern magazine recently sat down with Abe, David, and Alex for a cross-generational conversation.

As for continuing to build on the family's links to Birmingham-Southern, David's 17-year-old daughter, Hannah, hopes to study media and film studies in college and has applied to several schools. And, yes, BSC is one of them.



## A conversation with three Fawals

Alex Fawal is a junior mathematics major at BSC; his father, David Fawal, is an attorney at Butler Snow LLP; and Dr. Abe Fawal, or “Uncle Abe,” as many of his family members affectionately call him, is a retired professor, novelist, and filmmaker. Dr. Fawal served as an adjunct professor in BSC’s former Adult Studies Program from 1987-96 and taught film and literature at UAB for decades before he retired. Upon graduating from BSC and earning his master’s degree in film studies from UCLA, he landed a job working as a top assistant during the filming of the Oscar-winning epic *Lawrence of Arabia*. The first of his two novels, *On the Hills of God*, won a PEN Oakland literary award.

### ‘Southern: Why did you choose BSC?’

**Abe:** I was 18 when I came to the United States. My brother, an affluent businessman, was already in Birmingham. He told me about Birmingham-Southern and encouraged me to apply.

**Alex:** I was trying to choose between Birmingham-Southern and Auburn, and although I felt the schools balanced out as far as the pros and cons, it just made more sense to go to BSC. I had already gotten accepted here, and so many of my family members had attended, including my dad, and they turned out well and spoke highly of it. I just figured that it was the best choice for me, too. Although I lived in Birmingham, I had never visited the campus before I applied. Knowing that Uncle Abe, my dad, and other family members walked around this same campus is pretty cool.

**David:** BSC had a reputation for providing an excellent education, and while that was important, what really sold me was the campus. Although it was practically in downtown Birmingham, you felt like you were on a hilltop miles away.

### ‘Southern: Do you have a favorite BSC memory or moment?’

**Abe:** I have two favorite memories. My senior year, I won a BSC award for having the most books in a home

library—300. My two favorite people on campus were [the late] Professor of Theatre Dr. Arnold Powell and [the late] Dr. Cecil Abernethy ’37, dean of students and professor of English, with whom I became very, very close. After I graduated, Arnold and I maintained a 35-year friendship; we wrote screenplays and formed a film company together.

**Alex:** I really enjoy the fraternity aspect—the mixers and parties we have, hanging out at sporting events together, and doing philanthropy projects. We try to do at least 40-plus hours of community service each semester. In the past, we’ve spread mulch and fixed up the garden areas at the BSC EcoScape. We also visit homeless shelters and have done some projects there. I enjoy helping others and our philanthropy projects encompass a lot of what our fraternity does.

**David:** Graduating. I loved my four years at BSC, but when it was done, I was ready to move on to the next phase of my life, and BSC prepared me to do so.

### ‘Southern: How do/did you spend your time?’

**Abe:** I hung out with Dr. Powell, the theatre professor, and participated in theatre productions whenever I could. I also enjoyed attending lectures in Munger Hall Auditorium on Wednesday mornings with the entire college community;

theatrical productions were also performed there.

**Alex:** I’m a member of the math honor society. Other than that, I go to a lot of football and basketball games, lectures, and other events on campus and hang out with my fraternity brothers and friends.

**David:** I had a close group of friends and spent a lot of time with them. I also worked my entire time at BSC and that kept me busy as well.

### ‘Southern: What are some of the developments on campus that impress you the most?’

**Abe:** The College Theatre that was built after I left... The theatre’s design elements, which include a lift and turntable, were common in England, but unique in the U.S. when it was constructed.

**Alex:** I like the new Olin 205 digital classroom and the recent campus upgrade to the SEC Network, which is useful to watch SEC football games on Saturdays.

**David:** The new dorms, fraternity houses, and apartments.

### ‘Southern: What did you learn at BSC that you feel prepared you for the rest of your life?’

**Abe:** One of my professors told me if you don’t understand something, ask. I’ll never forget it. It was such a simple piece of

advice, but it has made all the difference in the world.

**David:** Leadership—that has served me well over the years, both in my Navy career and law practice.

### ‘Southern: Alex, what do you hope to do when you graduate?’

**Alex:** I might go to graduate school in mathematics and pursue a career around sports and math—maybe become a statistician. I plan to participate in an internship one summer; I’d like to work in a place that deals with math and sports and see if that will move me closer to my goal. Teaching is also an option. I’ve thought about it every now and then. I’ll probably try to stay in Birmingham since I’ve been here for the majority of my life.

### ‘Southern: Abe and David, what advice do you have for BSC students like Alex?’

**Abe:** Be grateful that you belong to a college like Birmingham-Southern. It’s a great college, and I loved it. Having earned my Ph.D. from Oxford University, I’ve always believed that BSC is the closest college to Oxford in terms of quality of teaching.

**David:** Work hard, have fun, and take advantage of all the leadership opportunities you can.





**Pitch perfect**—BSC President Gen. Charles C. Krulak threw out the ceremonial first pitch at a Birmingham Barons game on Aug. 10 with a strike over the outside corner. A crowd of more than 100 'Southern alumni cheered him on before enjoying a game day picnic on the Home Run Porch. See more photos from the day on the BSC Flickr page and look for a return to Regions Park next season.



*Save the Date*

## 2015 ALUMNI SPRING WEEKEND

Birmingham-Southern will host its **inaugural Spring Alumni Weekend** from April 17-19, 2015. Weekend events will include the Distinguished Alumni Awards Program, an Alum/Student Service Day, and Jazz on the Hilltop. Circle the dates in black and gold and look for more details to come in early 2015.





*Blended learning classroom at Locust Fork High School*

## BSC uses Community Foundation grant to build digital classrooms on campus and beyond

Just a year after Birmingham-Southern launched its cutting-edge high-tech classroom on campus, the college has been asked to replicate the project at a high school in rural Locust Fork, Ala.

BSC received a \$120,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham to design and build two blended learning classrooms, one on campus and one at Locust Fork High School in rural Blount County. The classrooms—which are modeled after BSC’s first foray into digital learning, Olin 205—will link the college and high school students in an effort to boost graduation rates in Blount County.

The partnership between Birmingham-Southern, Locust Fork High, the Blount County Board of Education, and the Blount County Education Foundation will include mentoring opportunities for BSC students, on-campus speakers broadcast live to the high school, college and career prep, and online interaction between faculty and staff from the two schools.

“This partnership would not be possible without the generosity of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and its supporters,” said John Sweeney, BSC’s director of development for corporate and foundation relations. “The relationship between CFGB and the college has always been a strong one, and this grant strengthens our

bond as BSC reaches beyond the gates to an underserved community. We hope this project will be an example for future collaborations between the college and communities in our area.”

The Locust Fork classroom opened at the beginning of the school year, and Toby Holmes, the Locust Fork social studies teacher who is piloting the classroom, says he has already seen his students inspired by their digital lessons, such as a virtual visit to the Sistine Chapel.

“Some kids told me they went home and looked up other works by Michelangelo,” Holmes reported. “One student even looked up the other major Renaissance artists to compare and pick their favorite—and that was not a student who would normally do this! I feel like the technology is already having an impact in this very early stage.”

Foundation and corporate grants are an important opportunity for businesses and foundations to engage with BSC. Grants provide the resources for faculty and staff to dream of the possibilities of education and the impact it can have throughout our Birmingham-Southern footprint. If you are associated with a corporation or foundation and would like more information on opportunities with BSC, please contact Sweeney at [jsweeney@bsc.edu](mailto:jsweeney@bsc.edu) or (205) 226-4910.



Strength in numbers

# Increasing scholarship and programming resources to maximize impact

*As an alum of Birmingham-Southern, you know the influential impact scholarships and other funding had on your experience; in fact, the scholarships you were offered may have made it possible for you to attend. That impact continues today through our endowed funds that support scholarships, programming, and faculty; what you may not know is that you have the opportunity to provide the same resources to today's students. For some insights into building strong scholarship and programming funding, we talked with Charles E. "Chuck" Vinson II, BSC's vice president of institutional advancement.*

## 'Southern: Are there certain elements that make a strong and useful scholarship?

**Vinson:** I would have to say that having the least number of restrictions on how to award would be a high priority. The more restricted you make the scholarship, the harder it is to find a qualified student. For instance, if you want to create a scholarship for students from Chilton County who are Methodist and who plan to study mathematics, we probably won't be able to use your scholarship every year. But a scholarship that can be awarded to any student who has been admitted and demonstrates financial need would help many students.

## 'Southern: How much do you need to start a scholarship?

**Vinson:** We recently increased our minimum funding for scholarships to \$25,000 to better serve our students. This amount provides the earning potential to award amounts that make a real difference and allow us to offer competitive scholarship packages. We've had scholarships established that fund the \$25,000 over a five-year period—this can be done by completing a scholarship agreement with a corresponding pledge agreement. So it doesn't necessarily need to be a one-time payment. You can, of course, add to your scholarship once it has been established, contributing to its earning distribution and increasing the impact for recipients.

## 'Southern: What role do scholarships play in how BSC recruits students?

**Vinson:** We have nearly 500 separate endowed scholarship funds, and collectively, they earn nearly \$2 million that can be used toward scholarships. While this may sound like a significant amount, it's only a fraction of what BSC awards each year to attract and retain high-quality students. The more we strengthen

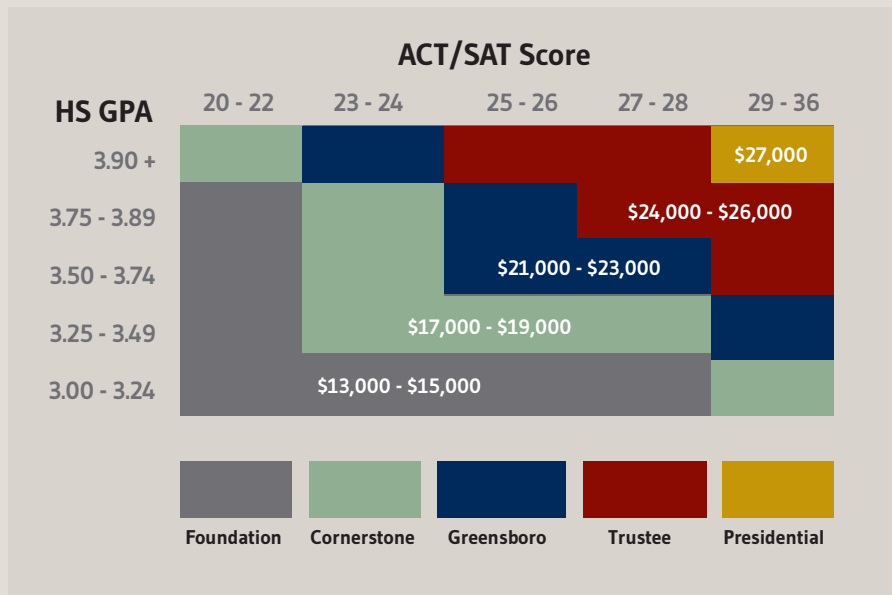
our endowed funding through scholarships, the more we strengthen the overall financial health of the college—as well as our ability to compete for the best of the best.

BSC's recently updated scholarship matrix (see chart) shows the minimum amounts we guarantee. As our enrollment grows, the funds needed

to support our scholarships will, of course, grow. So establishing a scholarship or adding to an existing one are meaningful ways to help us compete.

## 'Southern: What about faculty development and programs?

**Vinson:** The same funding model would apply—and we have many existing funds that provide resources for faculty





## Children of beloved BSC professor establish fund in his honor

There are so many reasons to start a scholarship fund. For Kendal Weaver '66 and his brother, Dr. Larry Weaver, there was one main driver: to honor their father, BSC alumnus and longtime faculty member Dr. O. C. Weaver, Jr. '35.

Dr. Weaver, who died in 2012, was a well-loved figure on the Hilltop and cited in the college's history as "a leading figure on the faculty, in the administration, and in the Methodist church." He taught in the Department of Philosophy and Religion for more than four decades and served as dean of the college from 1964-68. He and his wife Laura Weaver '38 built a house on Greensboro Road in 1957 and were fixtures at Birmingham-Southern basketball games.

The Weavers chose to honor their father with a \$25,000 fund that will provide one scholarship per year to a student majoring in philosophy or religion. The family invites others to contribute by contacting the Office of Institutional Advancement at (205) 226-4909.

"What a wonderful way to honor a beloved member of the BSC family," said Chuck Vinson, BSC's vice president for institutional advancement. "Dr. Weaver touched the lives of so many students. This gift will allow others to follow in his footsteps well into the future."



development, academic programming, travel, and other non-scholarship uses. Any alum can tell you that our professors make the BSC experience as extraordinary as it is. I talk to alumni every day who want to tell me about a favorite professor or an amazing learning experience, and providing resources to help them excel in the classroom is another priority for our team.

### 'Southern: What should someone who is interested in establishing a scholarship do?

**Vinson:** Call me! Seriously, one call to me or anyone on our advancement team is all you need. We will get you connected to the right development officer who can work with you to create a meaningful scholarship or program fund that reflects your desires and that will provide true value to BSC and have a real impact for our students and faculty. We'll work with you to outline your wishes and create a formal agreement, then report back about how your scholarship helped a student here at the college.

### 'Southern: Any final insights?

**Vinson:** BSC is poised to expand its reach and compete on a national level. The introduction of e3, which so clearly brings the distinctiveness of a BSC education into a focused message, is the ideal platform from which we launch. But securing the resources for a successful launch and journey will be paramount. Our alumni know what their Birmingham-Southern experience offered them, and I know they want to ensure it is offered for many decades to come. Let's work together to secure the resources and watch us soar.

*For more information on how you can strengthen BSC's resources, visit [www.bsc.edu/advancement](http://www.bsc.edu/advancement).*

## Our donors win BIG!

# CASE<sup>®</sup>

Thanks to the generosity of all the alumni and friends who gave to Birmingham-Southern last year, BSC has earned one of the development world's highest honors: an Educational Fundraising Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). BSC was one of just five schools honored nationwide for Overall Fundraising Performance in its category (private liberal arts institutions with endowments under \$100 million). Judges consider factors such as how well gifts are used and growth in alumni support to select colleges and universities that "show solid program growth, breadth in the base of support, and other indications of a mature, well-maintained program." And we couldn't do it without you!

**OUR GOAL:**  
Raise

# \$2.1 million

for the BSC Annual Fund

Make your Annual Fund gift today to support scholarships that allow BSC to continue its legacy of changing lives and creating opportunities for the best and brightest students to explore, experience, and excel on the Hilltop.

Increase your giving and you increase BSC's ability to offer scholarships. Donors who give \$1,000 or more qualify for our 'Southern Society designation, and alumni donors who give each year for five years consecutively are recognized as Ginkgo Society members.

Give securely online at [www.bsc.edu/egiving](http://www.bsc.edu/egiving) or by contacting Bobby Watson, director, annual giving, at (205) 226-4908 or [bjwatson@bsc.edu](mailto:bjwatson@bsc.edu).

To see the **Annual Donor Report** for the 2013-14 fiscal year, visit the "Give to BSC" section at [www.bsc.edu](http://www.bsc.edu).





The 2014 Larry D. Striplin Athletes of the Year (l to r): Larry Thomas, Blake Stevens, Hannah Busk, Duncan Bonney, and Hank Ballard.

## BSC names Athletes of the Year

Birmingham-Southern held its annual Athletic Awards Banquet in May and named the 2014 Newcomers, Athletes, Teams, and Man and Woman of the Year, as well as the Johnny Johnson Most Inspirational Senior Student Athletes.

Sophomore swimmer **Hannah Busk** was named Larry D. Striplin Female Athlete of the Year after earning her second-straight Southern Athletic Association Women's Swimmer of the Year honor and helping lead the Panthers to the 2014 SAA Championship. On the men's side, four Panthers shared the Larry D. Striplin Male Athlete of the Year award: track and field's **Hank Ballard**, swimming and diving's **Duncan Bonney**, baseball's **Blake Stevens**, and men's basketball's **Larry Thomas**. BSC's Athlete of the Year awards were named in honor of late benefactor Larry D. Striplin '52, a member of the college's Board of Trustees and the BSC Sports Hall of Fame; the baseball field and fitness center on campus are also named in his honor.

In the Newcomer of the Year category, the college named two women and two men. Softball's **Taylor Harkins** and runner **Elise Pittman** were named Female Newcomers of the Year, and swimmer **Scott Taylor** and men's tennis' **Alex Makarenko** were named Male Newcomers of the Year.

The Johnny Johnson Most Inspirational Senior Award was given to women's soccer's **Richelle Byrd** and baseball's **Evan Grovenstein**. The award is named for the late vice president for business and finance at Birmingham-Southern, who was an avid supporter of BSC athletics.

The college also named its Man and Woman of the Year, given to student-athletes who've earned First-Team All-Conference honors, are members of the SAA Academic Honor Roll, and who are active in the community. **Elizabeth Bromirski**, a dual-sport athlete in women's basketball and track and field and SAA high jump champion and SAA Woman of the Year, was named BSC Woman of the Year, and baseball's **Miles Nordgren**, who was First-Team All-SAA this past season and also earned Capital One Academic All-District accolades, was named BSC Man of the Year (read more about his accomplishments on p.44).

Finally, BSC named its Teams of the Year, giving the award to SAA champion squads women's swimming and diving, softball, and baseball.



The 2014 HOF winners (l to r): Jack Thompson, who accepted the award on behalf of his brother, Russell; David Horne; Kirby Sevier; Reba Ross Hudson; Jill Stupiansky; and Paul Rogers.

**Hall of Fame day**—During Family/Homecoming/Alumni Weekend festivities Oct. 3-4, six alumni were officially inducted into the college's Sports Hall of Fame, bringing the total number of inductees to 189 individuals and teams. Those honored were:

- **Kirby Sevier '68**, basketball
- **Russell Thompson '71**, basketball
- **Paul Rogers '89**, tennis
- **David Horne '06**, baseball
- **Jill Stupiansky '07**, golf
- **Reba Ross Hudson '08**, basketball

In addition, Kathy Webster, the office assistant for athletics, received the 2014 Bob Strain Distinguished Service Award that weekend. The award is named after the late 1940 BSC alum who founded the hall of fame in 1981.



Kathy Webster received her award from BSC Athletics Director Joe Dean Jr.

*Panthers in the pros***BSC alum earns spot on major league roster**

The Birmingham-Southern baseball team finished 2014 with a 35-10 record, winning the Southern Athletic Association regular season title and garnering a berth at the NCAA Regional Tournament. That meant a closer look from major league scouts across the country—and a new job for one graduating Panther.

Miles Nordgren '14, a 6-foot-2 right-handed pitcher, was picked by the Minnesota Twins in the 2014 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft; he began rookie practice in Ft. Myers, Fla., in June. Nordgren is the third BSC player selected in the past four MLB drafts, joining Bruce Maxwell, who was chosen by the Oakland A's in the second round of the 2012 draft, and Drew Leachman, who was selected by the Twins in 2011.

Nordgren was taken as the 680th overall pick after a stellar senior season in which he earned All-America and All-Region accolades from both D3baseball.com and the American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings. Nordgren also earned a spot on the Capital One Academic All-American Team as well as First-Team All-SAA and SAA All-Tournament honors after helping the Panthers win the regular season and tournament titles.

In addition, he was named 2014 BSC Man of the Year and was voted 2013 SAA Pitcher of the Year last season. He went 8-2 on the mound with a 1.37 earned run average in 14 appearances, including 11 starts.

Nordgren, who studied mathematics at BSC, is a native of Gadsden. His "Plan B" was to pursue a master's degree in civil or mechanical engineering at Auburn University this fall.

"I am so thankful that God has blessed me with this opportunity to continue playing baseball," he said. "I wouldn't have had this opportunity without the help of the coaching staff at Birmingham-Southern and the support of my family."

**Women's soccer program scores alumnus as head coach**

*Photo courtesy of al.com*

Sean McBride '99 has returned to the Hilltop as the new head women's soccer coach.

McBride, a standout on the pitch during his two soccer seasons with the Panthers, had served as varsity boys' soccer coach at Homewood High School since 2001, leading the Patriots to four state titles. His coaching honors also include

Birmingham News Metro Soccer Coach of the Year and Alabama High School Athletic Association All-Star Coach.

As a student, he was named NAIA All-America in 1997, 1997 Mid-South Region Player of the Year, 1997 TranSouth Conference Player of the Year, All-Conference in 1996 and 1997, and NAIA All-Tournament. McBride served as a graduate assistant coach for BSC from 1998-2000 while finishing his degree in history. Prior to his arrival at BSC, he played at Massasoit Community College in Canton, Mass., where he was a two-time NJCAA All-American.

A native of Scotland, McBride has also played for the Glasgow Celtic Football Club Reserve Team, the Scottish National Youth Team, and the Scotland National Schools Team.

"I am excited to be back full time on the Hilltop, and especially coaching the women's soccer team," said McBride, who was inducted into the BSC Sports Hall of Fame in 2003. "I have a lot of very dear friends who've played on past women's teams, and I hope that I can continue the success that they laid down for future players and teams."



# PANTHER PRIDE



The Birmingham-Southern baseball team had a banner season in the spring, winning both the regular season and tournament championships in the Southern Athletic Association. The Panthers also earned an at-large bid to the NCAA South Regional in Piedmont, Ga., and were ranked as high as 11th in the nation. Courtesy of Cari Dean



Gutting out an impressive five-straight elimination game wins, including four in one day, the BSC softball team won the 2014 Southern Athletic Association Championship in Conway, Ark., in April. After falling into the loser's bracket on day one of the tournament, the Panthers battled with five straight victories to win the SAA crown. Courtesy of Hendrix College

## FALL AND WINTER ATHLETICS SCHEDULES ARE ONLINE

The schedules for football, men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's swimming and diving, and men's and women's basketball are available to view at [www.bscsports.net](http://www.bscsports.net).

The basketball season will open with the Black Tie Classic on Nov. 15 with the men playing at home against Rust College. On Nov. 20, the college will hosts its first Autism Awareness event in basketball for the men's home game vs. Huntingdon. Check the site frequently for stats, rosters, live streams, and more as the fall athletics season continues.





# ClassNotes BY PAT COLE

## A college icebreaker

From moving into residence halls and meeting new roommates to connecting with classmates for service learning in the community, orientation has a long history at Birmingham-Southern.

These photos, taken from the 1958 *Southern Accent* yearbook, reveal one tradition used to welcome new students. The weekend before fall classes began, new students, faculty, and student leaders would ride a bus from the Hilltop to Camp Winnataska, then located in Leeds, Ala., for the college's annual Freshman Camp. The camp was later switched to the Sumantanga Camp and Conference Center in Gallant, Ala.

At camp, students learned how to adjust to college life and discussed study habits and campus activities. One of the highlights was the "Talent Show" on Saturday night, which provided the opportunity for the Music and Drama Departments to scout talent among the first-year students. There was also singing around a campfire, swimming, and square dancing—a tradition that continues to this day.

The camp is believed to have been held from the late '50s to the mid-to-late '60s.

"It was fun to be in an informal camp setting," said **Champ Meyercord '62** of Fairhope. "We had a great time getting to know each other before we hit the campus and classes. The camp was optional, but those who didn't attend really missed out."



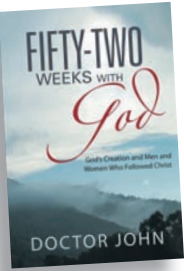
*Square dancing and folk games were among the activities.*



*A study habits discussion group led by juniors and seniors*



'27



Two recently published books, *Our Proving Ground: Memories of the Good Old Days* and *Fifty-Two Weeks With God: God's*

*Creation and Men and Women Who Followed Christ*, talk about late Methodist minister **Rev. Robert Lawrence** of Dothan. He, his wife, and seven children served small towns in Alabama and Florida during the Great Depression and World War II. The books were written by his son, Dr. John Lawrence, who almost followed in his father's footsteps until he decided to become a pediatrician after preaching his third sermon. The books are available on Amazon.com and at Barnes & Noble and Books-a-Million.

'58



**Mary "Mimi" Kimbrough Jackson** of Hoover has spent her life composing and performing

music. She is a trained vocalist and plays both the piano and the organ. She has composed music for churches from Alabama to Singapore, accompanied the Alabama Symphony on performances, and worked as a chorus master for Opera Birmingham. She continues to work with Opera Birmingham and serves as vice president of the symphony's Volunteer Council. She collaborated with her brother, **Dr. ST Kimbrough Jr.**, on the recently released CD *Songs of Freedom, Justice and Peace* by Arabesque Records.

'65

Retired Huntsville orthopedic surgeon **Dr. John Higginbotham** received the 2014 Samuel Buford Award, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama's highest honor, for his service to North Alabama over more than 40 years.

'72

**Mary Kathryn "Kathy" Foxhall** received the Sunshine Award from the Society of Professional Journalists this summer for her notable contributions to open government. Foxhall is a longtime freelance reporter in Washington, D.C., with experience covering Congress and federal agencies. For the past six years, she has spearheaded efforts to raise awareness about increasing controls by federal public information officers that block reporters.

'73

**Dr. Richard Sims** retired in January after 33 years of private medical practice. He graduated from the UAB School of Medicine in 1977 and spent three years in internal/emergency medicine in Phoenix and Mesa, Ariz. After residency at the University of Texas Southwestern/Parkland Hospital in Dallas, he became board certified in anesthesiology in 1985 and practiced primarily at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas. He and his wife, Renee, still live in Dallas. He is continuing his love of birding, outdoor photography, desert environments, and naturalist activities.

'75

Birmingham resident **Andy Campbell** and his former law school classmate, Jay Guin, have merged their practices to create the boutique firm Campbell, Guin, Williams, Guy & Gidiere, LLC. Along with their partners, they plan to build a regional specialty law practice throughout Alabama



### Divinity Awards Day—**James Darrell Cook '63**

received the 2014 Pastoral Ministry Award from Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in May. He graduated in December and is the pastor of Dogwood Grove Baptist Church in Adger, Ala., which was destroyed by fire late last year. Services are being held in a portable, modular chapel beside the ruins until the church is rebuilt. In presenting Cook with the award, Director of Ministry Leadership Thomas Fuller (on right) noted that he has "distinguished himself as someone of pastoral care and demeanor, a pastor's heart, a love for the scriptures, and a love to preach and teach God's word."

and eastern Mississippi. The firm currently has 16 attorneys and three offices in Birmingham, Hoover, and Tuscaloosa. It represents clients in areas such as shareholder and corporate litigation, corporate and municipal bankruptcy, labor and employment; municipal law; state and local tax, and trusts and estates.

**Katherine "Katje" Griffis-Greenberg** was selected as a doctoral student tutor by the Humanities Division/Department of Continuing Education at the

University of Oxford, United Kingdom, last spring to take part in the school's mentored teaching program. One of only eight selected doctoral students from a large group of applicants across the university, she has been paired with Egyptologist Dr. Rosalind Janssen as her mentor instructor to assist in teaching the course "Egyptian Artefacts for the Living and the Dead," during the 2014-15 academic year.



The beauty of aging—**Debbi Strain Miller '70**, a professional singer and music teacher, was crowned 2013 Ms. Virginia Senior America. She also won the Community Service Award at the pageant. Throughout the year of her reign, Miller performed in TV interviews, parades, motivational speeches, and celebrations of all kinds. She participated in the 2013 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, winning two silver medals, and sang the national anthem for the 2014 Virginia Senior Games. She was recognized on the floor of the Virginia General Assembly with a resolution in her honor, and received the Outstanding Senior Award from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax Senior Council. A natural performer, Miller has sung throughout the U.S. and the world, in concerts and in leading opera roles, including a world premiere. She also plays violin and conducts musicals. Currently, she is the soprano soloist and section leader of First Baptist Church of D.C. Miller resides in Fairfax, Va., with her husband, Ambassador (ret.) Terry Miller, whose diplomatic career has taken them to several overseas posts. They have three children who are all college graduates and professional musicians. When not making music, she loves to work in the garden, read books, practice yoga, and do puzzles.

'79

**Dr. Joel Martin**, former chair of Franklin & Marshall College's Department of Religious Studies and former vice provost for academic personnel and dean of the faculty at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, returned



to F&M this summer to take up responsibilities as its next provost and dean of the faculty.

*Courtesy of Jan de Ubl*

'81

**Dr. Don Stewart** delivered the inaugural lecture in the new quarterly Guest Artist Series at the Johnson Center for the Arts in downtown Troy, Ala., this summer. The event coincided with the center's annual ArtBridges conference, which offers K-12 teachers ways to incorporate art techniques into their STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) classes. More than 140 of Stewart's original drawings and prints are featured in a solo exhibit at the Johnson Center through Oct. 26.

'83

The Dallas-based law firm of Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal LLP recently added **Bret Madole** as a leader of its corporate practice. Madole's practice involves general corporate transactional work, mergers and acquisitions, banking, bank lending, and intellectual property, including copyrights, trademarks, and licensing. He joined the firm from Dallas' David, Goodman & Madole, where he practiced for 22 years. Madole graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law. He also has a background in sports marketing, technology, and product manufacturing.

'85

**Robin Harrell Raney** was named CEO of Goodwill Industries of Northwest Texas in March. Raney is responsible for the development and execution of a strategic plan and the overall administrative management and oversight of operations, external affairs, contract services, mission integration, and fund development. Most recently she served as vice president of business development for the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce and CEO of the American Red Cross South Plains Regional Chamber. Raney earned dual degrees in accounting and business administration from BSC and later graduated from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute of Organization Management. She lives in Lubbock, Texas, with her husband, Dr. Donald Raney II, and their two children.

'86

**Roseanne Flippen** recently moved to Clearwater, Fla., to work as a product data specialist for a company called TOLD (Trade Only Design Library), an online resource library for interior designers, architects, builders, etc. to assist in finding products and professional services. The site also offers

resources to students interested in these professions. "I love living in Florida again, and I'm excited to report that I will be getting married for the first time at the age of 50 in December!" she said. "You just never know what life has in store for you just around the corner when you take the time to slow down, keep an open mind, and an open heart!"

'89



**Dr. Darin White**, professor of marketing and sports marketing program coordinator in the Brock

School of Business at Samford University, was recently appointed chair of the national American Marketing Association's Sports Marketing Special Interest Group. The group is the leading international scholarly body charged with expanding the knowledge base in the field of sports marketing. In this role, White will have the opportunity to interact with executives at the highest level of sports on both the national (NFL, MLB, NBA, MLS, NASCAR, etc.) and international level (EPL, FIFA, Formula One, etc.). He and his wife, **Laura Houser White '91**, enjoy the many opportunities this position affords them to attend sporting events around the globe. White is currently writing his first sports marketing textbook for McGraw-Hill, which will be released in 2015.

'90

**Amelia "Amy" Griffith** of Decatur serves on the board of the Mental Health Association of Morgan County and works as a guardian ad litem at the Decatur law firm of Amelia H. Griffith, Attorney at Law, near her husband, **Brian White '91**, who



also serves as an attorney. In that role, she represents the interests of children who may be living in negligent or unsafe conditions. Griffith has also devoted herself to sharing her own journey with bipolar disorder in an effort to improve mental health awareness and treatment.

**Rebecca Roberts** has been named by the international publication *Intelligent Insider* as one of the “40 Influential Women in Reinsurance.” She earned a law degree from the University of Alabama in 1993 and is currently senior vice president for Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd. in Hamilton, Bermuda.

**Dr. Melissa Gibbons Whetstone** earned a Ph.D. in early childhood education from UAB in December 2013. She is now employed as the children’s curriculum design editor at National WMU (Women’s Missionary Union) in Birmingham.

**’91**

**Ana Clavell** is now the official sports psychologist for the Puerto Rico Shooting Federation. The team has participated in various Caribbean and Central American tournaments, obtaining first or second place in all of them, and recently finished its participation in the Pan-American Shooting Championship in Guadalajara, Mexico. Clavell has also been invited by the Puerto Rico Olympic Committee to be one of the four sports psychologists to be part of the medical team that will accompany the PR national delegation to the XXII Central American and Caribbean Games in Veracruz, Mexico, in November.

**’93**

A new book by **Erica Walker**, *Beyond Baneker: Black Mathematicians and the Paths to Excellence*, explores the formative, educational, and professional



experiences of African American mathematicians in the U.S., past and present. It is available from SUNY Press and Amazon. Another book

by Walker, especially targeted to parents and educators, *Building Mathematics Learning Communities: Improving Outcomes in Urban High Schools*, was published in 2012 by Teachers College Press. A former McWane Scholar at BSC, she is now an associate professor of mathematics education at NYC’s Teachers College, Columbia University.

**Koethi Zan** is a rising star in the world of crime writing. Her international bestseller and first novel about four kidnapped girls, *The Never List*, is currently being adapted by CBS Television Studios. Author and screenwriter A.M. Homes will pen the script and executive produce the drama, which is expected to debut in the near future. Zan will be on board as a supervising producer. Her book, published by Viking/Penguin, has been translated into more



Courtesy of Pieter Van Hattem

than 20 languages. She was formerly senior vice president and deputy general counsel for MTV.

**’94**

“Beyond Land’s End,” a collection of new oil paintings by **Will Smith Jr.** that add to the cause of wetlands restoration, was exhibited in August at the Jean Bragg Gallery of Southern Art in



## AlumNews '81

**Dr. Francois Blaudeau** is one of a growing number of professionals who have opted out of the traditional single-job track, crafting two successful careers instead.

Blaudeau studied political science at Birmingham-Southern with the goal of attending law school. But on the road of life, he ended up first at the UAB School of Medicine and established himself as a top physician and surgeon in private

practice before heading to law school.

He completed his residency in OB/GYN at Tulane University at the world-renowned Charity Hospital. After several years caring for patients who had suffered complications as the result of others’ malpractice, he decided to do more to help and enrolled in law school. He received his law degree from the Birmingham School of Law in 1998 and was admitted to the Alabama State Bar that same year.

“I find that surgeons have pretty much the same characteristics as trial lawyers,” Blaudeau said. “We’re aggressive and willing to take on some tough stuff.”

Now a nationally recognized leader in minimally invasive gynecological surgery, he continues to perform surgery at the Alabama Surgical Institute in Birmingham, where he also trains surgeons from around the country who want to learn his revolutionary techniques.

Recently, Blaudeau was promoted to *of counsel* attorney for Heninger Garrison Davis’ Birmingham office, where he focuses on medical device and pharmaceutical personal injury cases from around the U.S. He founded the Southern Institute for Legal and Medical Affairs to advocate for physicians’ and patients’ rights about six years ago. He is also a fellow in the American College of Legal medicine and has been associated with the law firm of Riley & Jackson P.C. since 2001.

Blaudeau was a student-athlete at BSC and played soccer all four years.

“Being able to travel and play ball as well as being a part of such a strong institution academically has been very helpful to me in my careers,” he said. “Professors O.C. Weaver ’35 [religion], Irvin Penfield [philosophy], and Natalie Davis [political science] were just incredible, and being around so many students and faculty who are super bright helped me learn to think.”

His dual professions have made him uniquely qualified to not only understand the medical aspects of a case, but to also navigate the complex litigation process where medicine is involved. However, thinking like a lawyer can be a mixed blessing, according to Blaudeau.

“I tend to be shunned a bit by the medical community,” he said. “Sometimes when doctors find out I do plaintiff’s work, they stop talking to me.”

Blaudeau was born in Paris and is fluent in Spanish and French. His parents were naturalized from North Africa; his siblings include **Dr. Jean Blaudeau ’80** of Bel Air, Md., and **Dr. Erick Blaudeau ’88** of New Orleans. He and his wife, Dr. Tamilane Blaudeau, an exercise physiologist at UAB, have five children, including his step-daughter, **Natalie Hathcox Williams ’04** of Birmingham, and seven grandchildren.



## AlumNews '96

### Brooke Tanner Battle

was one of five startup business owners who took home prize money in the 2014 Alabama Launchpad Startup Competition.

She, alongside five other teams, which included Blondin Bioscience (**Brad Spencer '86**), advanced to the finals of the

statewide competition with winners announced during the Alabama Launchpad Innovation Conference in Birmingham on Sept. 26. Finalists endured an intense spotlight that included a "shark-tank" style investor pitch before a panel of judges. Battle's software company, Swell Fundraising, formerly called SMART Party, received the highest award amount of \$89,000.

Swell Fundraising, based in Birmingham, provides nonprofit clients with a suite of tools—including an online application—that will create a peer-to-peer fundraising game at a live event. The platform allows supporters to connect to the event from any location and rewards participants for fundraising and awareness building. Battle developed the software and company because of her personal experience with nonprofit fundraising and the difficulty reaching new donor groups; use of the tool increased individual giving to events by 50%.

The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama Foundation puts on the contest each year in Birmingham to promote, reward, and increase the pipeline of high-growth, innovative ventures in the state.

"While the process alone was beneficial to the company, winning this grant from Alabama Launchpad might just be one of the best moments for me professionally," said Battle, who graduated from BSC with a degree in political science and serves on the college's Board of Trustees. "The preparation was intense, which made the excitement and relief that much greater."

Battle also has a successful 15-year career in private equity real estate finance and has served on numerous nonprofit boards including Friends of the Railroad District Inc., Oasis Counseling for Women and Children, Alabama School of Fine Arts Foundation, and The Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham.

She has been recognized by the Birmingham Business Journal as a 2002 "Top 40 Under 40" honoree and was included in a 2009 feature by The Birmingham News as one of the Top 15 Emerging Leaders in Birmingham and in a 2012 feature by B-Metro magazine titled "Women Reshaping our Community."

New Orleans. Smith's first work of art, a mural called "People Dancing," was executed in purple crayon at age three. Since then, he's completed hundreds of private and commercial commissions and is well experienced in a breadth of media. His BFA degree from BSC afforded him the opportunity to continue his work as an artist and set designer in the South and at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Theater Department. He now resides in the New Orleans Arts District.



Bayou Lafourche by Will Smith Jr.

### '95

#### Anna-Katherine Graves Bowman

recently joined Synovus Family Asset Management in Birmingham as a senior relationship manager.

### '99

#### Dr. M. Hunter Manasco

was tenured and promoted to associate professor of speech-language pathology at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa., this year. Manasco is an author, educator, and researcher in that field who joined the university in 2008. His areas of expertise include neuroanatomy, traumatic brain injury, dementia, stroke, and autism. He teaches a range of courses on the anatomy of speech and hearing, neuromotor disorders of speech, and more. Manasco earned a master's degree in speech-language pathology from the University of Montevallo and his Ph.D. in speech-language

pathology from the University of South Alabama. His textbook, *An Introduction to Neurogenic Communication Disorders*, was recently published by Jones and Bartlett Learning.

### '01

#### Lindsay Roten Cardella

of League City, Texas, recently published a revision and update for two of her international multicultural cookbooks. *The Multicultural Cookbook for Students* and *Holidays of the World Cookbook for Students* are both published under her maiden name, Roten.

#### Lawrence Pippins

and his wife, Jeidi, opened a Sweat Fitness Studio in Huntsville in 2012 after his 11-year career as a medical



sales professional. Beyond his duties at their family business, he is a financial advisor associate

with Morgan Stanley in Huntsville. The couple has a son, Lawson, who is nine, and a daughter, Emery, who is four.

### '02

#### Dr. Manu Sancheti

has been appointed assistant professor of surgery at Emory University in Atlanta. He is a specialist in thoracic surgery.



### '03

#### Eric Hudgens

has been serving as vice president of operations and a principal owner of Sloan Utility Contracting Inc. in Hokes Bluff, Ala., since 2010. Hudgens began serving as vice president of the Alabama Utility Contractors Association this year. He resides in Vestavia Hills with his wife, Christy; daughter, Grayson, who



is seven; and son, Walker, who is three.

**Josh Vasa** and **Wilder Adkins '06** won a city-wide contest this past summer to write a song about Birmingham. They earned two of the three top spots an event titled LOCAL, sponsored by the Alys-Stephens Center at UAB and held on its plaza. The artists received \$1,000 apiece for their efforts, plus recording sessions.



Birmingham. She and her husband, Kevin, have a two-year-old son, Lawson, and a newborn daughter (see "Births").

**'05**  
**Michael Dean** recently accepted a position as assistant athletics director for compliance with the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of Alabama. His wife, **Andrea Boohaker Dean**, recently accepted a position as an orthopaedic trauma nurse practitioner with the Upper Extremity Division at UAB. The couple resides in Hoover.

**Jessica Boe Duhe** is now assistant director of nurses for Nottingham Regional Rehab Center in Baton



Rouge, La. She just published her first book, *A Love Beyond Fairytales: The Journey to Discovering Love and Discovering*

*You*. In the book, Duhe transforms well-known fairy tales into stories applicable to life. It was written "to remind the reader where they have come from and where God can take them through His love throughout their lives," she said.

**Christopher Friedman** received his J.D., summa cum laude, from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in May. He is now fulfilling a one-year clerkship for Judge Abdul Kallon of the Northern District of Alabama.

**'07**  
**JanieMac Dixon Roe** is now employed with LAH Real Estate in

**'08**  
**Dr. Brian "Chad" LeCroix** received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Tennessee last year and is now a full-time lecturer at Georgia State University for this academic year.

**Ashley Pyron Partridge** of Helena, Ala., was awarded "Most Outstanding Graduate Student" in the School Psychology Program at the University of Alabama for the 2013-14 academic year, where she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in school psychology.

**Dr. Patrick Scott** won first prize as well as the Audience Favorite prize at the National Competition in Organ Improvisation held recently in Boston. At the prestigious competition, sponsored by the American Guild of Organists, participants improvised based on submitted musical themes. Part of Scott's prize includes a monetary award as well as an opportunity to perform at the guild's national convention in Houston in 2016. Scott earned his BSC degree in organ performance, studying with Emeritus Professor of Music **Dr. James Cook '68**, and his graduate degrees in organ at the University of Texas at Austin. He now serves as assistant organist-choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta.

**'09**  
**Margaret "Grace" Guyton** is the new associate pastor for senior care and adult education at Vineville United Methodist Church in Macon, Ga. She received a Master of Divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology in May.

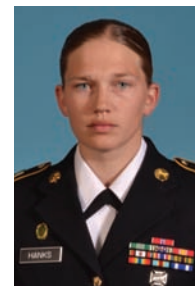


Putting service first—**Ellen Woodward Potts '88**, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Tuscaloosa, was honored with the 2014 Rotary Rose Award by the city's Rotary Club for being an unsung hero of her community. She is married to **Danny Potts '88**, and their daughter, Julia, is a first-year student at BSC. Also pictured is Dr. Charles Durham, senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa, who chaired the award selection committee.

**Anna Underwood** graduated from Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy with a PharmD degree in May in the top 20 percent of her class. She is now employed at Walgreens in Birmingham.

**'10**  
Since returning from deployment in Afghanistan to Fort Carson, U.S. Army Sergeant **Ruth Hanks** has had a big year. She outperformed her peers and was selected as the 759th Military Police Battalion Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter (2nd QTR, FY14) and also was promoted to the rank

of sergeant this year. In February, she will be moving to the 3D Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at Fort Myer, Va. The Old Guard is known as the "escort to the president" and is also responsible for memorial affairs to honor fallen comrades and ceremonies and special events at Arlington National Cemetery. Her goal is to be selected as a Tomb Sentinel for the Tomb of the Unknowns.



*Alumni art exhibition*

## Celebration: Work by Robert Tucker and his students

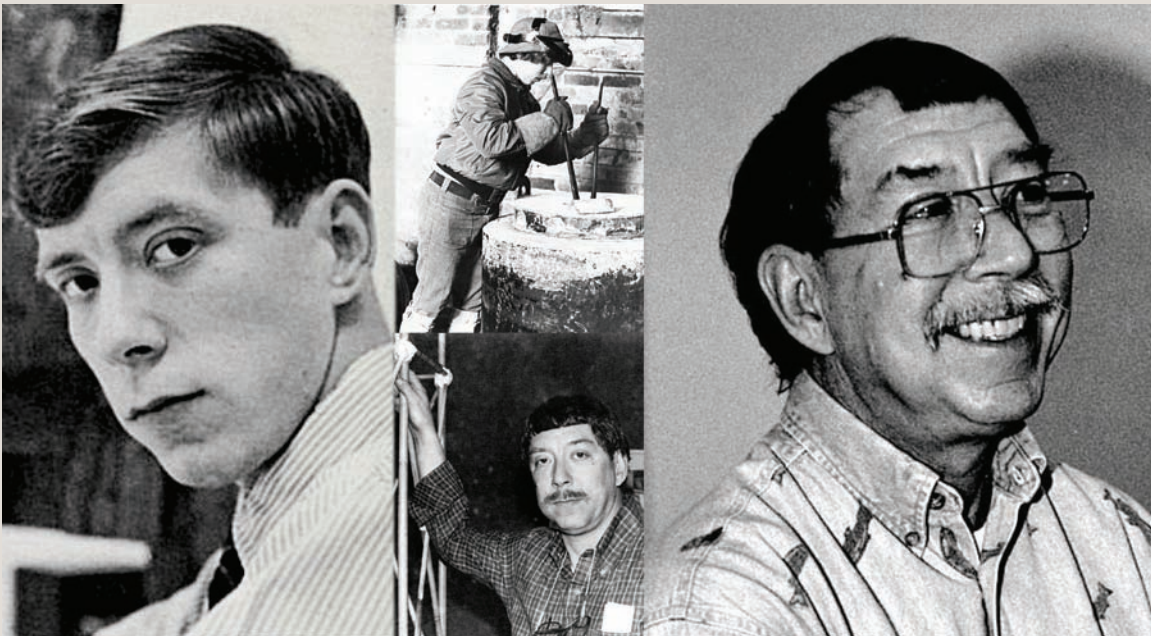
The Department of Art and Art History will host a special alumni art exhibition this fall titled “Celebration: Work by Robert Tucker and his Students” in honor of BSC Emeritus Professor of Art Robert “Bob” Tucker III.

The exhibition will open Friday, Nov. 7, and continue through Nov. 25 in the Durbin Gallery.

Tucker taught thousands of students in his classes and influenced them with his ideas, his teaching, and his warm personality. His former students tell a wide variety of stories, ranging from the funny to the philosophical, about their own defining moments when an idea bloomed in Tucker’s classes. They’ve since created their own varied paths in art and in the world.

In this exhibition, eight of his former students will present artwork that shows Tucker’s influence through an iconography of animals that he’s used to celebrate life: crows, snakes, and fish; others will contribute their written memories. While influence manifests in different ways and in a variety of materials, these artists show work from a time in their lives when their own imagery resonated with Tucker’s—years after the seeds were planted at BSC.

The exhibition is curated by Professor of Art Steve Cole, who is also gallery director, and freelance fine artist **Allen Peterson ’94** of Atlanta. The gallery will be accessible to visitors Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. An opening reception will be held Nov. 7 from 6-8 p.m. that is free and open to the public.







Left, posing with youth between shoots for Poster Style Child, are (from left) Kate Cronin, Elizabeth Pettey, and Lauren Lockhart. Below, Pettey (holding camera) with Cronin (on left) and Lockhart.



*Pixel perfect*

## New alumnae enter world of fashion photography

It didn't take long after graduation for **Lauren Lockhart '13** and **Elizabeth Pettey '13** to land a great gig in the realm of children's fashion photography.

Together, they spent long days shooting the fall and winter collections for the worldwide children's magazine Babiekins and a new online digital magazine, Poster Child Style. Earlier this fall, they shot at the Birmingham Museum of Art with child models from Atlanta, using items from children's fashion designers all over the globe.

"BSC prepared us for opportunities like this by fostering an environment that encouraged us to set high expectations for ourselves, and by teaching us to communicate responsibly and effectively with all different types of people," said Pettey, an education graduate and Decatur native. "Both of these are imperative to success in this business—especially as young people."

Pettey, who moved to New York City in September with fellow photographer **Kate Cronin '13** to continue shooting for both publications, has been employed with Babiekins for a year. She assisted with a shoot that was printed on its spring cover and was commissioned for a photo in the summer issue that's in stores now. She also contributes to the magazine's blog and serves as digital photo editor

for online issues.

When Poster Child Style advertised for editorial and photographic submissions earlier this year, Pettey applied, and her photo concept was approved by its editor, who connected her with several designers, shops, and PR firms. She brought in Lockhart—whom she called "the fashion queen"—for help.

"I've kept up with Lauren via social media post-graduation and immediately knew I wanted her to style these shoots," she said. "The puzzle pieces just fell into place."

Lockhart, who is the digital media manager for Birmingham's B-Metro magazine, recently started her own fashion blog at [lolacharlesblog.com](http://lolacharlesblog.com), where she shares her real-world style advice for young professionals.

"I'm thrilled to have joined forces with Elizabeth for this fashion shoot for Poster Child Style and Babiekins," said Lockhart, who received her degree in business with a distinction in leadership studies. "Kids' fashion is fun and playful; I even handcrafted whimsical pompom accessories to take this shoot's style over the top. I think Elizabeth and I made a great team, and I look forward to collaborating more in the future."



U.S. Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade **Bradley Robinson** reported on board the USS Cole in January. Since then, he and his shipmates have participated in rigorous training on both coasts of the Atlantic, culminating in a six-week long series of war games with NATO Allies off the coast of the United Kingdom. Cole has now deployed to the eastern Mediterranean Sea for Ballistic Missile Defense of Israel and U.S. European allies until early spring. The ship was attacked by Al-Qaida in Aden, Yemen, in 2000. "Cole is a living memorial and a fighting warship," said Robinson. "As such, serving on board is both an incredible honor and a tremendous responsibility—we honor our lost shipmates every day by being ready to answer our nation's call."

**Dr. Ashlee Vinyard** graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in May. She is now pursuing a residency in general surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Miss.

**'11**  
First Lieutenant **John Mayfield Jr.** is currently a Cavalry Scout platoon leader in the Georgia Army National Guard. He attended the U.S. Army Reconnaissance Course in 2012 and graduated as an honors graduate. As a civilian, Mayfield is employed as a geographic information systems technician with Larson & McGowin Inc. of Mobile in the company's Athens, Ga., office. "I'm more and more

proud to be a BSC grad every year that goes by!" he said.

**Patrick Thomas** is a television news reporter at WVII/WVFX, a dual affiliate with ABC/FOX in Bangor, Maine. He earned his master's degree in broadcast journalism at Boston University.

**'12**  
**Nathan DeRosa** of Peachtree, Ga., is employed by Atlanta's ExpressJet Airlines after recently earning his FAA flight dispatch license.

**Matthew St. John** is enrolled in the film studies Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison this fall.

## In Memoriam '50



From the day she first arrived on campus to her golden years, **Margaret "Peggy" Rountree Stockham** never forgot Birmingham-Southern. She died May 6, 2014, in Birmingham, at the age of 85.

Stockham, who graduated with a degree in history from BSC, was a member of Kappa Delta sorority and was prominent in many civic and community activities, including the Linly Heflin Unit, Bookmarkers Literary Club, Progress Study Club, and Junior League of Birmingham. She enjoyed painting, needlepoint, and crosswords, but her greatest joy was her family.

She and her late husband, Herbert, were deeply loyal to BSC and provided consistent support to the college. They and other members of their family were instrumental in creating a fund for the restoration of the President's Home on campus, which the Stockham family built in 1923.

The Hilltop's Stockham Women's Building, which was completed in 1931, is named for her grandmother-in-law, Mrs. W.H. Stockham, the only female chair of the BSC Board of Trustees, who donated \$75,000 toward the building's construction.

Her only grandson, Edward F. Thomas III, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2012 by BSC President Gen. Charles Krulak.

She is survived by four daughters and four grandchildren.

**'13**  
Media and film studies graduate **Elizabeth Hagale** helped create the music video for the new single "Magenta" by Los Angeles-based pop singer Deqn Sue. Hagale was recently mentioned in a Q&A with Sue on Impose Magazine's video website.

**'14**  
Local folk-rock band The Heavy Hearts released its first full-length album *Keep your Light On* in May, featuring lead singer and primary songwriter **Lauren-Michael Sellers**. Sellers began performing locally as a solo act while studying music at BSC. For about a year now, the band has performed at Birmingham venues such as WorkPlay, Bottletree Cafe, Moonlight on the Mountain, Iron City, and The Red Cat.

## Friends

Attorney **Frank Young** has joined the Red Mountain Law Group as the group's newest member firm, Young Law LLC, concentrating his practice in the areas of civil, commercial, employment, financial and healthcare litigation, as well as international law for strategic growth for small and medium-sized companies. He serves on the Norton Board of Advisors at BSC and chairs its International Programs Advisory Committee. Young also is an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama School of Law. A graduate of Washington & Lee University, he received his J.D. from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law and an LL.M. in Securities Law from Harvard Law School.



## In Memoriam '52



**Maxie Boyd Moore Jr.**, a former professional pilot, passed away on June 26, 2014, in Pullman, Wash. He was 86.

A native of Birmingham, Moore enlisted in the Alabama Air National Guard to pursue his dream of flying while enrolled as a business major at Birmingham-Southern. After he graduated from BSC, he attended pilot training—soloing in 1953—and was stationed for a time at Vance AFB in Oklahoma.

He then worked for Hayes Aircraft Corp. in Birmingham until his guard unit was called to active service in 1961 as part of the U.S. response to the Soviet construction of the Berlin Wall. Moore served as base operations officer at Dreux Air Base near Paris, flying a C-47 on resupply

missions to overcome the Soviet blockade of West Berlin. He received the National Emergency Service Medal from the governor of Alabama for his service overseas.

In 1963, Moore was hired as a corporate pilot for Southern Natural Gas in Birmingham, rising rapidly to the position of director of aviation. He was elected to the board of directors of the National Business Aircraft Association in 1980. His retirement in 1989 marked a distinguished career that encompassed flying a wide variety of aircraft, including the C-47, Cessna Citation, and Falcon 10, 20, and 50 corporate jets.

He and his wife, **Sarah LeSueur Moore '49**, were active in Birmingham's Huffman United Methodist Church. He served on the church board and as chair of the building committee among many other church activities. They moved to Pullman in 2005 to be closer to family and became involved in the community through volunteer work at Pullman Regional Hospital.

"The loyalty to Birmingham-Southern shown by he and his wife over the years has been a source of inspiration to many," said Dr. Neal Berte, BSC president emeritus. "Max came to a lot of college events over the years, including many basketball games."

Moore is survived by his wife; by his son, **Dr. Barry Moore '75** of Pullman; and by four grandchildren.



The Alabama Community College System appointed **Dr. Cynthia Anthony** as acting president of Enterprise

State Community College in March. She is a graduate of the former "Executives in Residence Program" at BSC. Anthony earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Talladega College and her Ed.S. and M.Ed. from UAB.

## Weddings

- Lindsay Roten '01** to Nicholas Cardella Jr., April 21, 2013.
- Robert "Bo" Harris '03** to Elizabeth Eyler, Feb. 22, 2014.
- Shelley Scarbrough '04** to Hunter Hodges, March 22, 2014.
- Katherin "Katie" Pellerin '05** to Stephen Furtado, May 31, 2014.
- Mary Catherine McAnnally '11** to Jordan Scott, Aug. 2, 2014.
- Ben Odendahl '11** to **Madeleine Walker '12**, Oct. 11, 2013.
- Ben Tracy '11** to **Kaitlin Talley '12**, June 14, 2014.

**Anne Peebles '12** to **Alex Wilson '12**, May 3, 2014.

## Births/Adoptions

- A son, Reynolds Bullard, Jan. 31, 2014, to **Garian North Gooden '96** and husband, Stan.
- A daughter, Haley Sloane, April 19, 2014, to **Dr. Kimberly Vinson '99** and husband, Brandon.
- A daughter, Claire Elise, April 28, 2014, to **Tim Calhoun '00** and wife, **Laura McAbee Calhoun '01** (big sister, Ella Cate).

- A son, Christian Hanson, Dec. 4, 2013, to **Dr. Ashley Hanson Gabriel '00** and husband, Mark.
- A daughter, Cailyn Grace, Oct. 18, 2013, to **Lindsay Roten Cardella '01** and husband, Nicholas.
- A daughter, Ella Mae, March 27, 2014, to **Jennifer Turner House '02** and husband, Alan.
- A daughter, Amelia Anne, Aug. 20, 2013, to **James Martin Murphy '02** and wife, **Susan Evans Murphy '04**. Proud grandparents are **James Mark Murphy '76** and **Meryane Martin Murphy '76**.
- A son, Leo James, Jan. 22, 2014, to **Lauren Cantrell Salerno '02** and husband, Michael.
- A son, Reed Austin, Feb. 19, 2014, to **Susan Geist '03**, and husband, Brian (big brother, Anderson Reaves).
- A son, Rhine McHelm, Feb. 25, 2014, to **Hunter Holzhauser '03** and wife, **Mikael Cobb Holzhauser '05** (big brother, Carr Holunder, and big sister, Nora Kate).
- A daughter, Katherine Payne, May 7, 2014, to **Rae Forrest Baker '04** and husband, **J. Payne Baker Jr. '04**.
- A son, James "Jeb" Edward, June 18, 2014, to **Melissa Martin Burton '04** and husband, William Walter III (big brother, William "Liam" Walter IV).
- A son, John Benjamin Jr., April 27, 2014, to **Anna Donaldson Chappell '04** and husband, John Benjamin Sr.
- A son, Liam Joiner, May 14, 2014, to **Anna Sullivan Price '05** and husband, Tyler (big brother, Griffin Sullivan).
- A daughter, Stella Isolde, Feb. 8, 2014, to **Erin Ritchie Ehrhardt '06** and husband, Rainier (big brother, Julien Gaëll).
- A son, Colton Warner, Dec. 11, 2013, to **Boyd Partridge '07** and wife, **Ashley Pyron Partridge '08**.

A daughter, Marian "Mary Fletcher," Aug. 24, 2014, to **JanieMac Dixon Roe '07**, and husband, Kevin (big brother, Lawson).

## In Memoriam

**Mary Virginia Pounds Brown '37** of Birmingham, on May 26, 2014. She was an author, bookseller, and librarian who dedicated her life, talent, and resources to putting books and people together. She earned a master's degree in library science from Emory University and later served as a librarian in the Birmingham Public Library and at BSC. In the 1950s, she and her husband, William, opened the Book-Keepers bookstore in Mountain Brook and ran it successfully for 25 years. Brown's career in writing, publishing, and editing grew out of her interest in local history. An avid and skilled golfer, she wrote about that subject too. In the '70s, she wrote "I see how my epitaph might well read 'Booked.'" Among her honors were the Birmingham Festival of Arts Literature Award and the Alabama Historical Commission Award of Merit. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

**Mary Madge Seales Pettit '40** of Nashua, N.H., formerly of Bessemer, Ala., on March 3, 2014. Pettit graduated from BSC cum laude while working full time to pay for her education. She taught school briefly, then in 1942, moved to San Diego, Calif., where she built B-24 bombers for Consolidated Aircraft. Her other jobs included insurance investigator, museum docent, and telephone operator. She also was an accomplished research genealogist and the author of four books on the subject. Pettit and her husband, Bill, a World War II combat veteran, lived in France and England before returning to the U.S. "She always thought

## In Memoriam '58



**Gloria Spruill**, who taught at Birmingham's Woodrow Wilson Elementary School and later went on to be one of the first female regional educational sales consultants for D.C. Heath and Company, died March 19. She was 78.

An avid patron of the arts, Spruill supported the BSC Fine Arts Society, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and Alabama Ballet; chaired the Birmingham Opera Theater Board of Trustees; and was active in the Birmingham Music Club. She was a former member of the Birmingham-Southern Arts Council and the BSC Alumni Board.

Spruill was an education major at BSC and earned her master's in education from the University of Alabama in 1967. During her teaching career, she was active with many education and reading associations, including

with the Literacy Council of Alabama during its formative years.

She worked with D.C. Heath for 29 years before retiring from the company. Then she worked for 10 more years as an education consultant, traveling primarily through the West, Southwest, and Southeast, and finally as an Alabama textbook representative before retiring as a consultant.

Spruill was active with the Alzheimer's Association of Central Alabama and the Susan G. Komen Foundation. She also served as president of Alpha Omicron Pi and was involved in Camp Sumatanga.

She was honored with the college's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2000.

Spruill often spoke fondly about late Professor of Music Raymond Anderson's influence on her life, as well as friendships with faculty and students that continued throughout her career.

"Every concert I attend, I can remember something he said," Spruill once said. "Southern is special; I don't think you can build relationships at other schools like you can here."

Her survivors include a brother and two nieces.

"Southern was a great school and was so happy she had the opportunity to go there," said her sister, **Evie Seales Balch '54** of Hoover. Other survivors include her husband, her daughter, and one grandson.

**Sarah Watson Scott '43** of Mountain Brook, on Feb. 16, 2014. She was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church of Birmingham, where she was very involved. Scott was also active in many service organizations such as the Junior League of Birmingham and the Linly Heflin Unit. She is survived by two children and three grandchildren.

**Dr. Norton E. Cowart Sr. '43** of Huntsville, on July 20, 2014. Cowart served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War. He was well known in Huntsville, having practiced internal medicine for more than 30 years, and was a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Cowart rose to the position of chief of medicine at Huntsville and Humana hospitals. He served on the board of directors of Mutual Assurance and Peoples National Bank. As a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, Cowart was a deacon and an elder. He was also an avid golfer and

played regularly until the age of 93. Survivors include his wife, Lillian; five children; eight grandchildren, including **Virginia Hammond**, who is a freshman at BSC this fall; and three great-grandchildren. Close cousin is **Lillian Belle Palmer '06**.

**Mary Louise Greene Hanna '45** of Vestavia Hills, on March 11, 2014. She married **Henry Hanna '43**, "the love of her life," on Feb. 4, 1945, while he was on leave from the U.S. Navy in World War II. After the war, they reared their family of four. She loved nature and the beauty of the outdoors, was an excellent cook, enjoyed refinishing furniture, and had a green thumb.



## In *Memoriam* Friend



**John Ronald "Ron" Council**, former director of public relations for Birmingham-Southern, died on June 8, 2014, at the age of 74.

A longtime Birmingham resident, Council was the consummate public relations master, advertising professional, serial entrepreneur, and innovator. Among his many other professional endeavors over the decades, he founded and ran the Advertising & Art Council Inc., and in 1993, co-founded Metro Monitor, a professional broadcast news monitoring and news clipping service, with his wife, **Martha Myers Council '94**; his son **Bryan Council '90** is now president. He retired as director of communications for the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church.

During his career, Council was an active member of both the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and the American Advertising Federation of Birmingham (AAF), serving as president of AAF, PRSA, and the Public Relations Council of Alabama. He received many awards, including the Otis Dodge Memorial Award as well as the lifetime Silver Metal ADDY award from AAF.

Council used his public relations expertise to promote the causes important to him, including the revitalization of Avondale Park, recycling initiatives, and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. He was a scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America and an avid photographer. He and his wife were always part of Birmingham's social scene and supported many local charities.

In addition, Council was a passionate activist for technological advancements in cardiac medicine and an outspoken and active supporter of organ donations. He was also very involved with BSC's former annual Writing Today Conference, which brought literary professionals from around the country to the campus. Council served for several years as chair of the Writing Today committee.

He is survived by his wife; son; daughter, Thyme; and two grandsons. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Martha Myers and J. Ronald Council Scholarship Fund, established in 1989, to the Office of Institutional Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Hanna learned the art of sewing from her mother, a professional seamstress. She worked as a volunteer at St. Vincent's Hospital for more than 20 years and was awarded their Lifetime Member pin. She is survived by three daughters, six grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. "Mom had great years at BSC," said her daughter, Marie Hanna Nelson of Millbrook, Ala. "She and dad talked highly of their years in college when we were growing up."

**Ellinor Creel Butterley '47** of Birmingham, on April 6, 2014. She was a teacher at Barrett Elementary School for 22 years before retiring in 1988. Along with her family, she was active in the United Methodist Church, attending Lake Highlands UMC, where she grew up, and Highlands UMC later in life. She loved to travel and visited all 50 states. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Rev. Elbert Butterley '36**, and her brother, **Rev. George Creel '52**. She is survived by two daughters, including **Lynn**

**Rock Ritchie '77** of Greenville, S.C.; a step-daughter; and two grandchildren, including **Erin Ritchie Ehrhardt '06** of Greer, S.C.

**Mary Louise Coker Davis '47** of Birmingham, on April 21, 2014. After graduating from BSC, she spent almost 40 years teaching in the Birmingham City School System. She is survived by her husband, a daughter, a granddaughter, and a great-grandson.

**Paul Edward Davis '50** of Hoover, on May 26, 2014. After BSC, Davis earned a master's degree with a banking emphasis from the University of Virginia. He also was a U.S. Army veteran who served his country during World War II, most notably in Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. Davis was retired from Regions Bank. He enjoyed all sports, but had a special fondness for golf and football. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

**John James "Jack" Keyes Jr. '50** of Bessemer, on May 24, 2014. Keyes proudly served his country as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Army, and the Alabama National Guard. He was a lifelong member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church and a graduate of the Birmingham School of Law. He also earned a Master of Theological Studies degree from Spring Hill College. Keyes became an attorney in 1956 and a CPA in 1958. He worked alongside his son, Jim, for many years. He was a longtime member of the Bessemer Bar Association and the Birmingham Chapter of the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants. Among survivors are his wife, two sons, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**James Pope Wingo '50** of Birmingham, on July 29, 2014. Wingo was a member of one of the last U.S. Army Cavalry troops trained at Fort Riley, Kansas, and served in the Allied Occupational Forces in Germany from 1945-47. He was director of purchasing at UAB for 28 years, retiring in 1987. Wingo served on the vestry and in other volunteer ministries at All Saints' Episcopal Church, where he was a member. Survivors include his wife, **Nan Barnes Wingo '52**, a son and daughter, and several grandchildren.

## In *Memoriam* Friend

**Rev. Elmer J. O'Brien '54** of Boulder, Colo., on May 2, 2014. O'Brien retired from United Theological Seminary (UTS) in Dayton, Ohio, in 1996. He served as librarian and professor of bibliographic information and founding director of United's Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage. His most recent publication, *The Wilderness, the Nation, and the Electronic Era: American Christianity and Religious Communication, 1620-2000: An Annotated Bibliography* (Scarecrow Press, 2009), was listed by the American Library Association as an outstanding reference work for the year. In 2011, he was honored for his 27 years at UTS with the naming of the Elmer J. and Betty A. O'Brien Library. Among survivors is his wife.

**Rev. Kenneth Roderick Franklin '54** of Warwick, R.I., on March 20, 2014. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from BSC. After service in the U.S. Army, he earned two graduate degrees in theology from the General Theological Seminary in New York. Franklin was ordained a deacon in 1959 and a priest the following year. He served Episcopal parishes in Alabama and Connecticut before being called to be rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Warwick. He worked faithfully for 33 years, retiring in 2001, at which time he was named rector emeritus. Survivors include his daughter and three grandchildren.

**JoAnn Boyd Pappas '54** of Birmingham, on March 18, 2014. After college, she taught piano at the BSC Conservatory of Music and later taught private lessons for many years at her home. Pappas married her husband, Alonza, in 1955 and moved to Enterprise where they made a home and raised their children. She was an active member of Enterprise's Church of the Epiphany, where she was organist and choir



director. She continued to sing in the Episcopal choir when she moved to Mobile and later back to Birmingham. Pappas loved to entertain, cook, travel, read, and spend time with her family. She is survived by four children and 13 grandchildren.

**M.C. "Chris" Boner '58** of LaGrange, Ga., on May 7, 2014. Boner was educated in public schools in Alabama. He earned additional college degrees from Vanderbilt University and Emory University and did advanced academic studies at the University

**Duane Pontius Sr.**, who taught physics on the Hilltop for many years, passed away May 26 in Gardendale, Ala., at the age of 75, soon after finishing a series of bronze sculptures of classical ballet poses.

From 2000-08, Pontius regularly taught physics at BSC, where he worked alongside his son, T. Morris Hackney Professor of Physics **Duane Pontius Jr. '81**. Pontius Sr. taught full time at BSC for two years, then six more years in a part-time position.

Upon retirement in 1998, he took great joy in exploring his artistic side, including piano playing, drawing, and fine woodworking. His large scale models of wooden ships—constructed

one plank at a time—were displayed in his home. He produced sculptures made out of a synthetic material in collaboration with his wife, Sue, a former ballerina and dance teacher.

"He was very modest; a lot of people had no clue about the breadth and depth of what he did," his daughter, Jennifer, said. "He did the things he did because he wanted to, not because he wanted to impress people."

In his early years, Pontius enlisted as a seaman in the U.S. Navy and was selected for its Enlisted Scientific Education Program, which provided support for sailors to receive undergraduate degrees in science. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Auburn University in 1962.

In 1964, after completing Naval Officer Candidate Training School, Pontius received his commission as a lieutenant. He served his country at sea aboard the U.S.S. McCard and the U.S.S. Wright and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal.

Pontius then returned to Auburn to earn his master's and Ph.D. in physics. While working on his Ph.D., he handcrafted two violins. He taught at the University of West Florida from 1973-75 as an assistant professor of physics before accepting a position at Southern Research Institute, where he became director of the physical processes section.

In addition to his artwork, Pontius loved classical music, mentally challenging puzzles, Russian literature, chess, and most of all, his family. He is survived by his wife, his son and daughter, and one granddaughter.

of Alabama, Jesus College, Wadham College, and Oxford University. Boner taught English at Marion Military Institute for 18 years. He was the first headmaster at LaGrange Academy in the early '70s. He worked 20 years for the Callaway Foundation as director of Coleman Library and of the Callaway Educational Association. He had been resident manager at the Bellevue antebellum home in LaGrange since 2005. Survivors include a brother and several nieces and nephews.

**Ann Walker Harrison '58** of Trussville, on July 2, 2014. Harrison worked at Blue Cross Blue Shield until meeting and marrying her husband, Frank. She accompanied him to numerous conventions and events for his job at Southern Natural Gas, where they made many lifelong friends. They were longtime members of First Baptist Church of Center Point. After retirement, she and her husband enjoyed traveling the world. She enjoyed the great outdoors and nature and instilled that love in her children and grandchildren. She is survived by a daughter,



two grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

**Rev. J. Andrew Lipscomb**

'61 of Jasper, Ga., on April 21, 2014. After BSC, he attended Vanderbilt Divinity School, graduating in 1965. While in seminary, he served as pastor of several churches in Tennessee and North Alabama. He spent years working with Will Campbell and the Committee of Southern Churchmen. In the '70s, he was on the staff of the Southern Field Office of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, executive director of the Georgia Council on Human Relations, and director of the Georgia Coalition on Jails and Prisons and the Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger. Later he worked as a general contractor and as director of public housing in Talbot County, Ga. His joy was his volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity. He is survived by his wife, **Jane Kelso Lipscomb '64**; three sons, including **Adam Lipscomb '89** of Austin, Texas; and seven grandchildren.

**Ronald David Cobb Sr. '62** of Douglasville, Ga., on Sept. 28, 2013. He spent most of his professional life in sales. Cobb was also an avid golfer and gardener. He is survived by his wife, four children, 14 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**Barbara Best '62** of Birmingham, on May 23, 2014. Best was a member of Riverchase Community Church, where she sang in the choir. She was a gifted lyric soprano, using her talents in her career as a music teacher at Wylam Elementary School. She earned a bachelor's degree from Anderson University and was awarded a master's degree in education from BSC. She loved children and acted as a guardian to several of her younger cousins. Among survivors is her sister.

**Gina Hill Christoff '79** of Dallas, Texas, on July 18, 2014. After graduating from BSC, Christoff moved to Midland, Texas, to live and work, and in 1984, to Dallas. Her life was devoted to her family and she was especially proud of her son and daughter, who are both college graduates. She is survived by her husband and two children.

## Friends

**Evelyn Ventress Bishop** of Birmingham, on April 28, 2014. Throughout her life, her family remained the focus of her love and care. She was a member of Vestavia Hills UMC for more than 50 years. She and her husband, **Julian Bishop Jr. '42**, have always been avid supporters of the college.

**Blanche Battle Reed** of Birmingham, on July 4, 2014. She attended BSC in the spring of 1941 and graduated from Huntington College. She was a devoted wife, mother, and homemaker. Many of her family members have strong ties to Birmingham-Southern, including her nephew, University of Alabama Athletics Director Bill Battle III, for whom the Panther Stadium field is named; and his father/her brother, the late **William Raines Battle Jr. '30**, who was BSC's athletics director from 1952-74, a professor of physical education and a BSC Sports Hall of Fame 1981 inductee. The coliseum on campus is named after him. Reed is survived by three children.

**Emmett B. Weaver** of Birmingham, on April 21, 2014. He was one of three co-founders of Summerfest (now the Red Mountain Theatre Company), longtime entertainment

editor of The Birmingham Post-Herald, and a World War II and Korean War veteran. At the close of World War II, he re-entered the University of Alabama and earned a bachelor's degree in journalism/communications. His first job was editor of the Pell City News-Aegis. One year later, he met and married his wife, Bobbye Jo, who was a performer at theatre companies in the community. They returned to the University of Alabama, where she was a student and he worked on his master's degree. He was a member of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church. His hobbies included record collecting, swimming, gardening, playing with his beloved Boston terriers, and travel. He is survived by his wife. Both were ardent supporters of the arts at BSC and often attended fine art events. The Weavers donated property to BSC to establish the Bobbye and Emmett Weaver Endowed Scholarship Fund.

# Got good news?

We want to hear it! BSC takes great pride in the achievements and success of our alumni.

Whether it's career changes and promotions, family additions, business and community recognitions, interesting travels, awards, reunions with classmates, marriages—or anything in between—submit a Class Note through the college's online alumni community at [www.alumni.bsc.edu](http://www.alumni.bsc.edu).



## Birmingham-Southern: "A force for good"

BY BRUCE ROGERS '80, BSC BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR



Among the many wonderful messages I received after being selected as the new chair of the BSC Board of Trustees, my favorite was a postcard discussing "Fort BSC." The sender offered encouragement that "the forces of good are sure to prevail" and gave assurance that he stood "ready to serve." The sender referred to me as "Private Rogers," and I'm really hoping I'll earn a promotion after being on the job

a while. Certainly my predecessor, Wayne Killion '72, earned the highest rank for his steady and healing presence as chair these past three years.

Reference to a "fort" may be misinterpreted by some to be a defensive posture, and the truth is that this college is **not** hunkered down. We are absolutely moving ahead and life here is exciting and great. All credit for the successes of late goes to the extraordinary leadership of Gen. Krulak and his entire team. Financial discipline is in place, 10-year reaffirmation of our reaccreditation is within our sights, and enrollment is growing. Additional credit for our "forces of good" goes especially to current and former trustees, alumni, and friends who quietly and generously give their resources to Birmingham-Southern. All of this support enables the college to excel at its primary purpose, educating students and preparing them for the future.

Only one thing in life is certain—change. The college has shifted its focus from looking backward at where we have been; instead we are looking forward to explore how much better we can become at providing the best education. According to the latest edition of Loren Pope's *Colleges That Change Lives*, we continue to be recognized as one of 40 colleges offering a transformative experience to a broad range of students. The college changes lives because the value of doing the right thing at the right time is so much a part of the education here.

We are often considered the best college or university in Alabama, but our reach is so much broader. About half of our students come from outside the state, including from more than 20 countries. I recently met an incoming first-year student from Birmingham who is thinking about becoming a lawyer. He recognizes that a high percentage of our students are accepted into the most prestigious law schools, and he knows that professors like Dr. Mark Lester (himself a lawyer) will be ready to expand his mind. This Birmingham freshman will be rooming with a classmate from Vietnam who has never even been to the United States. That young man researched colleges and universities with the best mathematics programs and chose our alma mater. One of our math professors, Dr. Bernie Mullins, will be using the latest technology and online platforms to teach mathematics to our student from Vietnam. We are truly bringing worlds together and expanding the reach of BSC well beyond our state borders.

This college is changing for the better by focusing on outcomes. In a highly competitive world, our students are being equipped to become the professionals of tomorrow—physicians, ministers, teachers, dentists, lawyers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, writers, artists, and more. Technology is being embraced and used effectively by our world-class faculty; that is just one element of their commitment to our students both in and out of the classroom.

There seems to be an innate ability encoded in our college's DNA to learn from experience and to change for the better. Your Board of Trustees is doing just that—we are finding new ways to help BSC educate today's students for tomorrow's opportunities and challenges. Having abundant resources to do the job is absolutely critical, so we are continually expanding our "forces of good." "Private Rogers" asks each of my fellow alumni to not only "stand ready to serve," but to also step up and join with me and the board so that the "forces of good" will allow Birmingham-Southern to continue to explore, experience, and excel. Forward, Ever!

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*Editor's Note: Bruce Rogers is a partner and attorney with Bainbridge, Mims, Rogers & Smith LLP in Birmingham. He was elected chair of the Birmingham-Southern College Board of Trustees in June. His role, along with other board members and BSC President Gen. Charles C. Krulak, is to ensure that the college continues to thrive while maintaining its premier academic program.*





## BSC Snapshots

*Birmingham-Southern Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Peter Van Zandt worked with students from BSC and Elon University this summer to collect, identify, and count several species of moths from three different locations around Birmingham. Work is continuing on the project this fall to determine if the warmer temperatures in the city influence the activity times of moths.*

## Parting shot

First-year students donned their casual attire for some fun, fellowship, and fancy footwork at the college's traditional orientation square dance that took place in late August. Students gathered in the academic quad and moved to the twang of old-time bluegrass music provided by a professional square dance caller.



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