

Meet the 2017
alumni award
honorees

College adds
academic
programs

Student coach
wins big at
Dwarf Games

'SOUTHERN

A Publication for Alumni and Friends

Fall 2017 Volume 42, Number 2

It's time
to rethink
college pricing

*BSC takes bold move,
resets tuition*

BSC

Birmingham-Southern College



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BSC SNAPSHOTS
.....

The Class of 2017 tosses their hats high in the air at the conclusion of BSC's spring commencement ceremony in May.
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BSC Birmingham-Southern College

Editor's Note

A bold move for BSC

We don't often break news in 'Southern—but we don't often have such big news. BSC is announcing this September that next year, it will reset tuition back to 2002 levels in a direct response to students' and families' concerns about the skyrocketing price of college.

BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith said recently while announcing the move to faculty and staff that taking a step like this requires "vision and courage." She has displayed both. She put the idea of a tuition reset on the agenda in her first days in office a little over a year ago. In the intervening months, she has directed her team to conduct extensive research, crunch the numbers, and figure out just how to make this work for Birmingham-Southern College. You'll read more details about how the reset will work in our cover story inside these pages.

You'll also find stories that demonstrate why we want to make the BSC experience available to even more students: stories about graduates making a difference in the lives of the hearing impaired, those with medical need in impoverished countries, and even a little boy with a big dream. These are just a few examples of ways BSC alumni lead lives of significance every day.

You may have your own questions about how the upcoming tuition reset might affect the value of your degree. It will only make it better. A transparent pricing system will encourage more talented students to consider Birmingham-Southern, including many who until now have thought that the life-changing education we provide was simply out of their reach. It will increase the size of the student body, increase the number of 'Southern alumni making a difference out there in the world, and spread the word of BSC's innovation and bravery far and wide. Vision and courage, indeed.

Forward, Ever!



Hannah Wolfson, Director of Communications

Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith,
President
David M. Smith '79, Chair,
Board of Trustees

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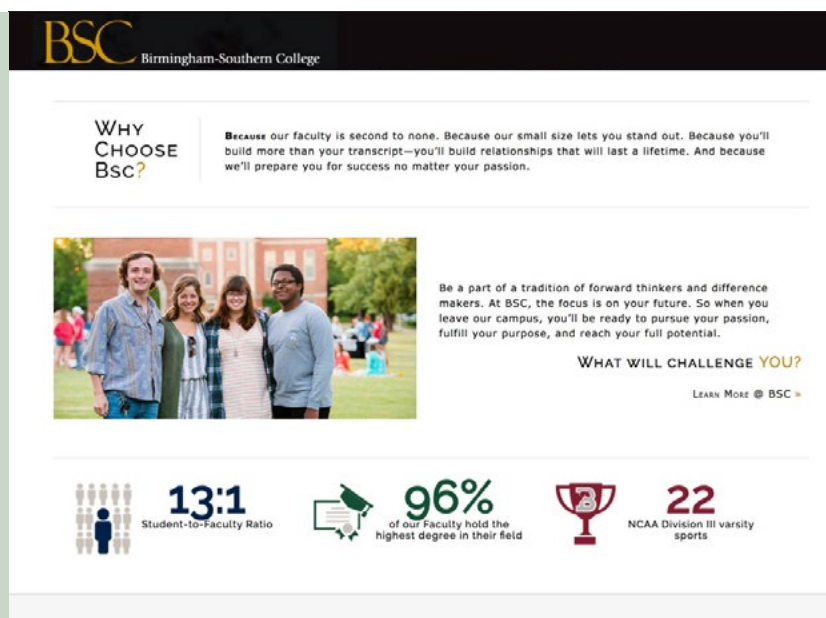
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www.bsc.edu

BSC has a new website!

The new and improved www.bsc.edu was designed with input from across campus and is focused on telling the BSC story to new audiences. Come check it out. If you have any feedback, send it to communications@bsc.edu.



The screenshot shows the BSC Birmingham-Southern College website. At the top is the BSC logo. Below it is a section titled "WHY CHOOSE Bsc?" with a quote: "Because our faculty is second to none. Because our small size lets you stand out. Because you'll build more than your transcript—you'll build relationships that will last a lifetime. And because we'll prepare you for success no matter your passion." Below this is a photo of four students standing on a lawn. To the right of the photo is a quote: "Be a part of a tradition of forward thinkers and difference makers. At BSC, the focus is on your future. So when you leave our campus, you'll be ready to pursue your passion, fulfill your purpose, and reach your full potential." Below the photo is a section titled "WHAT WILL CHALLENGE YOU?" with a link "LEARN MORE @ BSC". At the bottom are four icons with statistics: "13:1 Student-to-Faculty Ratio", "96% of our Faculty hold the highest degree in their field", "22 NCAA Division III varsity sports", and a trophy icon.

CAMPUS



A plethora of new programs

This spring, the BSC faculty approved a series of new majors and distinctions to offer students even more options for pre-professional development within the liberal arts. These on-campus programs come on top of in-development dual degrees with Samford University's Cumberland School of Law (accelerated law degree) and UAB (master's in nursing degree).

Architectural Studies: Designed to give students interested in architecture a strong foundation (no pun intended), this interdisciplinary major blends visual design with the study of architecture as an art form that impacts social and community development. Students will take courses in art, art history, math, philosophy, urban environmental studies, and even set design; they'll be prepared to go on to post-graduate work in architecture, urban planning, urban design, and other fields of study.

Creative and Applied Computing: Perhaps BSC's most-anticipated new major, CAC goes beyond a traditional computer science degree to give graduates not only the basics of coding and program-building, but also a broader understanding of technological change in our world. Students who major in CAC will be strongly encouraged to minor in another discipline so they can apply computing concepts to health, the humanities, or education. New courses being added include: the Global Impact of Innovative Technology, Architecture and the Internet of Things, and Systems and Cybersecurity, along with programming and computer science fundamentals.

Health Sciences: This new major is aimed at students who plan to go into allied health and related careers after graduation, including nursing, physical and occupational therapy, pharmacy and pathology work, and more; it may also be combined with the new

distinction in public health for broad flexibility (see below). BSC's health professions advisor will work with students in the program to tailor the major to their chosen field; students who major are also required to take one rise³ course or experience that connects with their interests.

Philosophy, History, and Law: This blend of disciplines focuses on giving students the knowledge and skills they'll need for law school and a legal career. Students who major can choose a philosophy track, which will emphasize analytical techniques, or a history track, which will emphasize how the past has affected our system of law, including the historical development of the U.S. Constitution. Both will include studies in accounting, writing, and economic analysis.

Distinction in Poverty Studies: Students will examine the complex problems of poverty and inequality from multiple perspectives and will complete a relevant internship or other experiential learning project, including internships via the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty, which BSC has joined. Graduates with this distinction (in addition to a separate major), will get valuable preparation for health careers, law, business, education, public policy, and ministry, among other fields.

Distinction in Public Health: This distinction includes courses in biology, sociology, a capstone rise³ project, and new public health courses that will help students with a range of majors understand health and wellness within and across populations. Those who earn the distinction may go on to public health positions in government, nonprofit, and business or to graduate work in public health; it will also be helpful for pre-law and pre-health students.

Presidential activism: three college leaders speak out on major issues of the day

You may know them best as BSC's leaders, but some of the college's recent presidents have also made their personal passions into public priorities.

Dr. Neal R. Berte is using his platform as president emeritus to shine a light on payday lending, which he says is "exploiting the poor." He first became aware of Alabama's predatory payday and title lending system five years ago while attending a social justice rally at the YWCA of Birmingham.

"Toxic lending laws take money from vulnerable Alabama borrowers and their families and drive them into a downward spiral of poverty," said Berte. "The average payday loan APR is 300 percent plus, but high-cost lenders are able to charge up to 456 percent APR interest."

Berte has spoken and worked across the state to increase awareness of the issue. He's also working with the Alliance for Responsible Lending in Alabama and the Predatory Lending Advisory Group, which supports legislation that would extend the minimum loan term from 10 days to 30 days for payday loans. He is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Consumer Lending, which reviews Alabama's consumer credit legislation.

"Only the Alabama Legislature can put an end to the triple-digit interest rates charged by these companies, with the majority of the huge profits paid to high-cost lenders going to their corporate offices in other states," he said. "Alabama needs to join with the more than 35 other states that have made major reforms to give relief to our most vulnerable citizens."

President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith and President Emeritus Gen. Charles C. Krulak have a shared passion. They are working with the nonprofit group Human Rights First (HRF) on a national effort to educate the public about and advocate for laws and funding to combat human trafficking.

Krulak co-chairs HRF's global campaign to dismantle the business of human trafficking with former FBI Director Louis Freeh; Flaherty-Goldsmith previously was a *pro bono* consultant for HRF and now serves as one of the campaign's ambassadors. Krulak's involvement with trafficking began some 14 years ago while he was chair and CEO of an international bank in England.

"One of my people had their child taken and, unfortunately, never recovered," he said. "I was appalled at the tragedy and vowed that I would try to do something about it."

Once Krulak returned to the U.S., he teamed up with Freeh, the HRF, and former Cleveland Browns and Aston Villa Football Club owner Randy Lerner to combat what he calls "a



cancer on humanity." In 2013, Flaherty-Goldsmith joined the effort and brought her own passion to bear on the problem.

"I first learned about human trafficking six years ago in a documentary, and it was so troubling to me that I couldn't sleep," Flaherty-Goldsmith said. "It is the most egregious example of vulnerable people being exploited. Shockingly, in 2017, there are more slaves in the world than at any time in history."

She and Krulak have been active during that time working with the HRF staff to draft legislation to put more "teeth" into the process of prosecuting criminals as well as pushing for more money to prosecute perpetrators of this crime, protect and assist victims, and increase educational resources. They've also been speaking to local organizations and groups on the topic of human trafficking, bringing attention to both sexual exploitation and forced labor.

watchword

“Even if you study hard, then don’t sleep, you’re pouring water into a leaky cup. You can spend all the time you want taking in the information, but without sleep it simply slips away. This is not just theoretical. There are several studies that link missed sleep to bad grades during finals. The worst grades tend to come when students report having stayed up all night before the exam, regardless of prior achievement.”

— Dr. Joseph Chandler '03, assistant professor of psychology

USA Today College, “Three reasons why you shouldn’t pull that all-nighter ahead of your final”

BSC welcomes new provost

Dr. Bradley Caskey joined the campus as provost and vice president for academic affairs in July.

Caskey, who was previously dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, has had a career in



academia spanning more than three decades. As dean, he oversaw 16 academic departments and interdisciplinary programs that included 2,200 students and more than 200 faculty and staff.

Under his leadership, the school developed new academic programs and majors; built a program for students whose primary language is not English; introduced a new first-year course emphasizing key skills often associated with the liberal arts (e.g., information literacy, constructive teamwork); and increased the number of first-year students; among other accomplishments. He also helped the College of Arts and Sciences secure and steward its first \$1-million non-estate gift.

Caskey graduated from UW-River Falls with a double major in psychology and secondary education. He earned a master’s and Ph.D. in developmental psychology at Purdue University. He looks forward to providing collaborative leadership to strengthen and expand the life-changing educational experiences synonymous with BSC.



Before (above) and after renovations (below)

A fresh look

From new furniture for New Men’s to a farm-to-fork approach to dining, there’s a lot of renovation and rejuvenation happening on the Hilltop. Here are some highlights:

- BSC hired a new provider this summer to run all dining areas. Bon Appétit, a California-based industry pioneer, has built a reputation on offering fresh, made-from-scratch, local, sustainable food. The new executive chef will be sourcing about 20 percent of ingredients from small farms located within 150 miles of Birmingham, and there’s a new focus on healthy and varied options, as well as a facelift coming for the Café.
- Ricoh USA is now providing printing and postal services to the campus, including employee printing and publishing and a new mailbox system for students. Starting this fall, “Panther Print & Post” will offer a full-service print and mail center on the ground floor of the Norton Campus Center.
- BSC was also busy with renovations to the residence halls this summer. In Margaret Daniel Residence Hall, bathrooms on each floor were renovated and the building received a fresh coat of paint inside and new common room furniture. In New Men’s Residence Hall, the original, built-in furniture was removed and replaced with new modular furniture that provides flexibility for residents to configure their rooms; there are also new tile floors in the bedrooms and fresh paint throughout the buildings.
- Thanks to contributions from this year’s graduating class and the Student Government Association, a new deck and landscaping have been installed on the residential quad.

Faculty achievements

Robert E. Luckie Jr. Professor of English Dr. **Sandra Sprayberry** received the Arts and Culture Award at the Transatlantic Connections Conference for her paper connecting the poet W.B. Yeats and Birmingham. The award was presented by the Institute of Study Abroad Ireland. Sprayberry and Erica Brown, BSC's director of multicultural affairs, traveled to Bundoran, Ireland, with students in January and participated in the conference.



Dr. Greta Valenti, assistant professor of psychology, published a paper in the journal *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* this summer on "Considering Roads Taken and Not Taken: How Psychological Distance Influences the Framing of Choice Events." Valenti and co-investigator Dr. Lisa Libby of Ohio State University looked at how people look back at the choices they made, conducting three experiments. They found that the farther the "psychological distance"—that is, the more distant in time or the more socially distant the decision was—the more people tended to frame their decision in terms of what they chose (rather than what they passed up), regardless of whether the decision turned out to be a good or bad one.

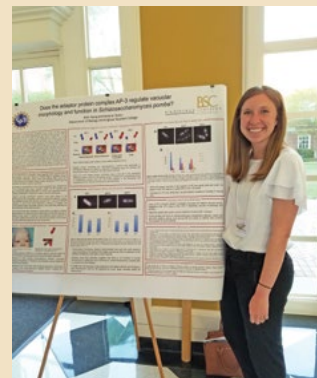
Professor of History **Dr. Randall Law** was invited to attend the 2017 Tweeps Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; he participated on a panel discussing the role social media plays in combating extremism and terrorism. The conference, held in conjunction with U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia, drew young people from across the region to hear from political, business, academic, NGO, and other leaders, including officials from Facebook and Twitter and the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.



Dr. Jason Heaton, associate professor of biology, received the Richebourg Gaillard McWilliams Faculty Scholarship Award during Honors Day in May. Named for an English professor who served from 1929 until 1971, the award goes to an outstanding faculty member who has excelled in scholarship. Heaton, who joined the BSC faculty in 2010, works as part of the Swartkrans Paleoanthropological Research Project, one of three fossil human sites in the Smithsonian Institution's human origins exhibit, and has published extensively on finds uncovered there.

Undergraduate researchers present, publish

This spring, seven BSC students presented at the Southeast Regional Yeast Meeting in Tuscaloosa, which brought together scientists and students conducting yeast-based research from across the region. Dylan Franks, Austin Rossi, Stephanie Waldrep, Allie Young, Spencer Nichols, and Helen Taunton all shared posters detailing their summer and senior research experiences in the lab of BSC Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Melanie Styers '99; Addison Rains presented a poster and gave a talk. In addition, the lab's manuscript, "Ypt4 and Ivs1 regulate vacuolar size and function in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*," was accepted for publication in the journal *Cellular Logistics*, giving the students involved a publication to add to their resumes.



President's house highlighted—

Birmingham Home and Garden is featuring BSC's President's Home in its September/October 2017 edition.

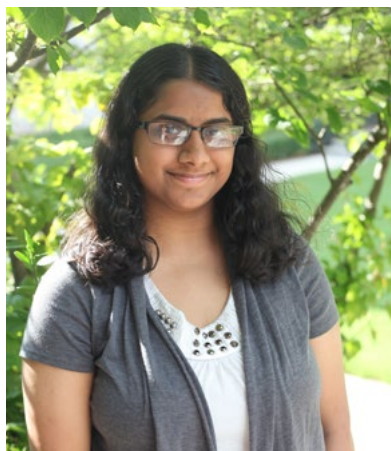
The renovated house is highlighted in the publication's "Why They Matter" story, which examines the significance of historic homes that are open to the public across Alabama, their influence on today's architectural designs, and the importance of preserving them for continued use.

"We especially like the Birmingham-Southern house because it is preserved and represents a place in history," said Cathy McGowin, the magazine's editor. "It's not a relic that is frozen in the past—it was carefully and meticulously updated so that it could continue to serve as a gathering place for the community."

The President's Home, which was built in 1925, underwent renovation in 2015-16 by the Taylor Burton Co. with a gift from the Stockham family. The home's interior was designed and contributed by Julie Stephens, wife of BSC Trustee Jim Stephens.



A celebration of Jewish athletics—This summer, BSC co-hosted the 2017 Maccabi Games, an Olympic-style international sports competition for Jewish teens ages 13-16. This was the first time Birmingham was selected as the site of the games, which took place July 31-Aug. 4, with the Levite Jewish Community Center as the main host. Some 900 youth competed in about 14 sporting events, including soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, tennis, swimming, bowling, table tennis, golf, flag football, lacrosse, and dance.



BSC student wins Phi Beta Kappa writing internship

Veena Krishnan, a junior chemistry major from Hoover, is the first BSC student to be chosen for a competitive Phi Beta Kappa writing internship. Krishnan—who is also a Harrison Honors Scholar and is conducting chemistry research under the Charles B. Vail College Fellows Program—will spend five months this academic year writing articles for *The Key Reporter*, Phi Beta Kappa’s publication, while studying at BSC.

“I am so pleased that Veena has been selected,” said Robert E. Luckie Jr. Professor of English Dr. Sandra Sprayberry, BSC’s Phi Beta Kappa chapter president. “The chapter officers recommended her for this prestigious internship.”

Three received honorary degrees

BSC bestowed honorary degrees upon three long-standing members of the college community at its 158th spring commencement ceremony in May.

William “Bill” Raines Battle III, a former BSC trustee and the father of collegiate athletic licensing, received an honorary Doctor of Law for his impact on higher education in Alabama and nationwide. Bill Battle Coliseum is named for his father, William Raines Battle Jr., who was BSC’s athletics director from 1952-74; his support made possible the Hall of Fame Room, Battle Field at Panther Stadium, and more.

Henrietta Boggs-MacGuire '40, who when she was a junior at BSC met and married the future revolutionary president of Costa Rica, received an honorary Doctor of Humanities to acknowledge her lifelong promotion of social change and equality. As first lady of that emerging democracy, Boggs-MacGuire pushed for suffrage for women and other key measures; she later returned to the U.S. and was active in civil rights, women’s rights, and labor activism.

Derry Brice Bunting '69, a BSC trustee who has generously supported BSC’s service-learning program and the college as a whole, received an honorary Doctor of Law for her lifelong commitment to service. Since the founding of the Bunting Center for Engaged Study and Community Action a decade ago, hundreds of BSC students have experienced engaged service through their coursework, with community partners, and across the world during Exploration Term. (Read more about the Bunting Center on p. 29.)



Bunting with President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith



2017 fall enrollment by the numbers

The Class of 2021 arrived on the Hilltop in August. Here’s a look at the newest stats.

26 ACT average | **3.7** GPA average

19 states (including Alaska and Hawaii) | **5** countries

52.8% male | **47.2%** female

7% have alumni parents or grandparents

Share your news

Send us information about your honors, awards, volunteer work, and other activities of interest. We also welcome your photographs. Submit photos to communications@bsc.edu.

fresh off the hilltop

A spring break service project leads to a heart for the hearing impaired

With ambition and a commitment to service, Charlie Vines '16, who graduated with a degree in business administration, recently moved to Jamaica for 10 weeks to live and work in a village for the hearing impaired.

During his time at BSC, Vines played for the football team and participated in Reformed University Fellowship. During his sophomore year, he signed up for an RUF spring break trip that took him to volunteer at a deaf school in Knockpatrick, Jamaica. Two years later, for his senior spring break, he returned to work in the Jamaica Deaf Village run by the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf in the Parish of Manchester.

While there, he learned of an opportunity to return as a short-term missionary to Jamaica Deaf Village, a community where 20 hearing impaired adults and their families live and work.

"I have jumped at the chance to be able to work with the deaf,

and I am so excited to have this once-in-a-lifetime experience," Vines wrote in his blog. To prepare himself, he took two sign language classes after graduation and interned in the deaf services department of the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority.

In Jamaica, he has helped teams build houses so village residents can move out of the apartments they currently use, poured concrete for new roads, and planted citrus trees. He has also visited a deaf school in the Jamaican capital of Kingston to research a coffee-canning business started there. He says the days are long—he usually leaves his room around 6:45 a.m. and doesn't return until 10 or 11 p.m.—but the work is rewarding.

"I just want to bring light to the fact that being deaf is not a disability or a disadvantage," Vines said. "It's just a different perspective."



Vines with a mission worker from Illinois

Alumnus delivers inspiring Honors Convocation speech



An unexpected moment—or even a turn that you’ve been advised against—can change the direction your life takes, the Rev. Hill Carmichael ’02 told BSC seniors during Honors Day in May.

Carmichael, who is executive director of the lauded inner-city organization Urban Ministry, said that as a BSC undergraduate he thought he had it all figured out, until one day he volunteered for a tutoring program through the Bunting Center for Engaged Study and Community Action. (Read more about the Bunting Center on p. 29.)

To get to the tutoring site, however, he had to go against the conventional wisdom of other BSC students, who told him “don’t turn right” into the western area upon exiting campus.

“It is that right turn that brought me on the journey to where I am today,” said Carmichael, who now leads the United Methodist Church’s inner city ministry in

Birmingham’s West End neighborhood, including the Urban Kids afterschool program, the West End Community Gardens, the West End Community Café, homelessness prevention efforts, and the Church Without Walls. “It was a fateful turn that shaped my life ... I wonder what I would have been missing out on if I hadn’t volunteered that day.”

Carmichael graduated with a degree in psychology and earned an MPA from UAB. He worked as a program manager and senior communications specialist at Alabama Power Co. before joining Urban Ministry in 2015.

He encouraged the Class of 2017 to take their own risks and get to know people who are different from them, not to teach or change them, but to learn from them.

“Every single one of you is smart and capable and every one of you is going to do good things,” Carmichael said. “But those of you who choose to go down a different road—who go in a different direction—are the ones who will change the world.”



BSC



**VISUAL &
PERFORMING
ARTS SEASON
2017-2018**



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

Web connect: To view the 2017-18 Visual
and Performing Arts calendar, visit:
<http://www.bsc.edu/events/calendars.html>.

PANTHER PRIDE



BSC student takes on big role in World Dwarf Games

By Pat Kindall MPPM '11

This fall, a Birmingham-Southern senior returns to the Hilltop with a world coaching credit to his name.

Owen Ferguson trained 10-year-old Aiden Cockrell of Homewood and accompanied him to the World Dwarf Games in Ontario, Canada, where Cockrell won a gold medal in basketball and volleyball and a silver in soccer and floor hockey.

The medals are a major victory for Cockrell, who was born with achondroplasia, the most common form of dwarfism. They were also a huge win for Ferguson, who said there has been no better experience. Although the business major is still considering his post-graduate career options—including possibly working in sports or in sales and marketing—he has discovered a passion for coaching.

"This coaching opportunity came out of nowhere and became a huge part of my life," Ferguson said. "Not only did we get to travel overseas, but we've been all over the news—in magazines, in newspapers, and on TV... It's been a truly amazing experience for Aiden and myself, and it has impacted me in so many ways."

Part of that experience was helping Cockrell's family raise funds online to send them to the games, which were held Aug. 4-12. Supported by the International Dwarf Athletic Federation, the event, which occurs every four years, is the largest sporting event exclusively for athletes with dwarfism and includes competitors from kids through seniors.

Last fall, Cockrell's mom was looking for someone to train her son for the games. She knew Ferguson because he had coached the boy's flag football team in 2015 and asked him to help out.

"Basketball is Aiden's favorite sport, and Aiden and his mom knew that I've been playing basketball my whole life," said Ferguson, who played on the BSC basketball team his first two years on campus. "I'm so glad I accepted. Aiden is an inspiration to me and to everyone who knows him."

Ferguson worked with Cockrell for two years to train him on specific skills and general athleticism. He even enlisted his BSC Sigma Chi fraternity brothers to come cheer at practices.

"There is a family feel around BSC and I have definitely felt that the past three years," he said. "I'm thankful for the love and support the campus and broader community have shown throughout my and Aiden's journey."



"I'm so glad I accepted. Aiden is an inspiration to me and to everyone who knows him."

No slowing down for national champ

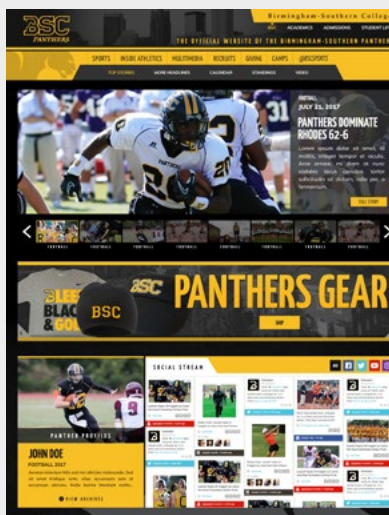
BSC senior Jamal Watkins isn't planning on resting on his laurels in 2017-18.

Watkins picked up his second NCAA Division III national title in May when he won the 100-meter dash in a stadium and personal record time of 10.34 at the SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio. Combined with his 60-meter indoor national title, he's BSC's first indoor/outdoor national champion since former Panther Tierra Goode in 2012.

He's 'Southern's first men's track and field student-athlete to win two national titles and the first men's indoor national champion. He's also a three-time NCAA Division III All-American for the 2017 indoor and outdoor track seasons and plays on the Panther football team.

Now Watkins, a business major from McDonough, Ga., who wants to be an executive chef, is focused on winning the national 200-meter and 4x100 relay before he graduates this spring.

"I'll have to really work on my endurance though," Watkins said. "It's going to have to be a year-round effort with me being a dual-sport athlete."



BSC's athletics website gets new look

The BSC athletics website will relaunch with a new design this September at www.bscsports.net.

The new site will feature more photo galleries with direct links to team social media accounts as well as BSC academics and student life information. It will continue to provide up-to-date schedules, game stories, and stats for BSC athletics, including detailed information on its programs and student-athletes.

"The site as a whole really needed to be more modern, user-friendly, and fresh, just something that was more with the times," said Jennifer Jones, the assistant athletics director for media relations, who helped oversee the redesign. "There are also some new capabilities that will allow us to implement and use our videos and social media in more effective ways."

BSC alumna picked to lead women's lacrosse program



Logan Harris '14, most recently the Panthers' assistant women's lacrosse coach, is taking the helm this fall as the team's head coach.

Harris played lacrosse all four years at Birmingham-Southern and was team captain for two. An injury limited her play her first year, but she received second-team all-conference honors her sophomore year and continued to excel from there. She earned all-conference honors in both her junior and senior

seasons after coming in second on the team in caused turnovers and third in the league in ground balls.

"As a coach, my goal is to develop each player to maximize their potential," said Harris. "I want to see continual growth both on and off the field."

Before coming to BSC as a coach, she worked as program coordinator for the local nonprofit group Magic Moments, which fulfills wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

Hanging up the cleats

Goldfarb makes soccer history with second gold at Maccabiah Games

Retired BSC Head Men's Soccer Coach Preston Goldfarb made history this summer by leading the Maccabi USA men's soccer team to a dramatic gold-medal win at the 20th World Maccabiah Games in Jerusalem, Israel.

That's another gold added to the one the Americans won under Goldfarb in 2013. They became the first team to win back-to-back men's soccer championships in the 80-year history of the games after they edged out Great Britain in a final rematch on July 16. Goldfarb, who will be inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Commack, N.Y., next spring, says his coaching career is now done.

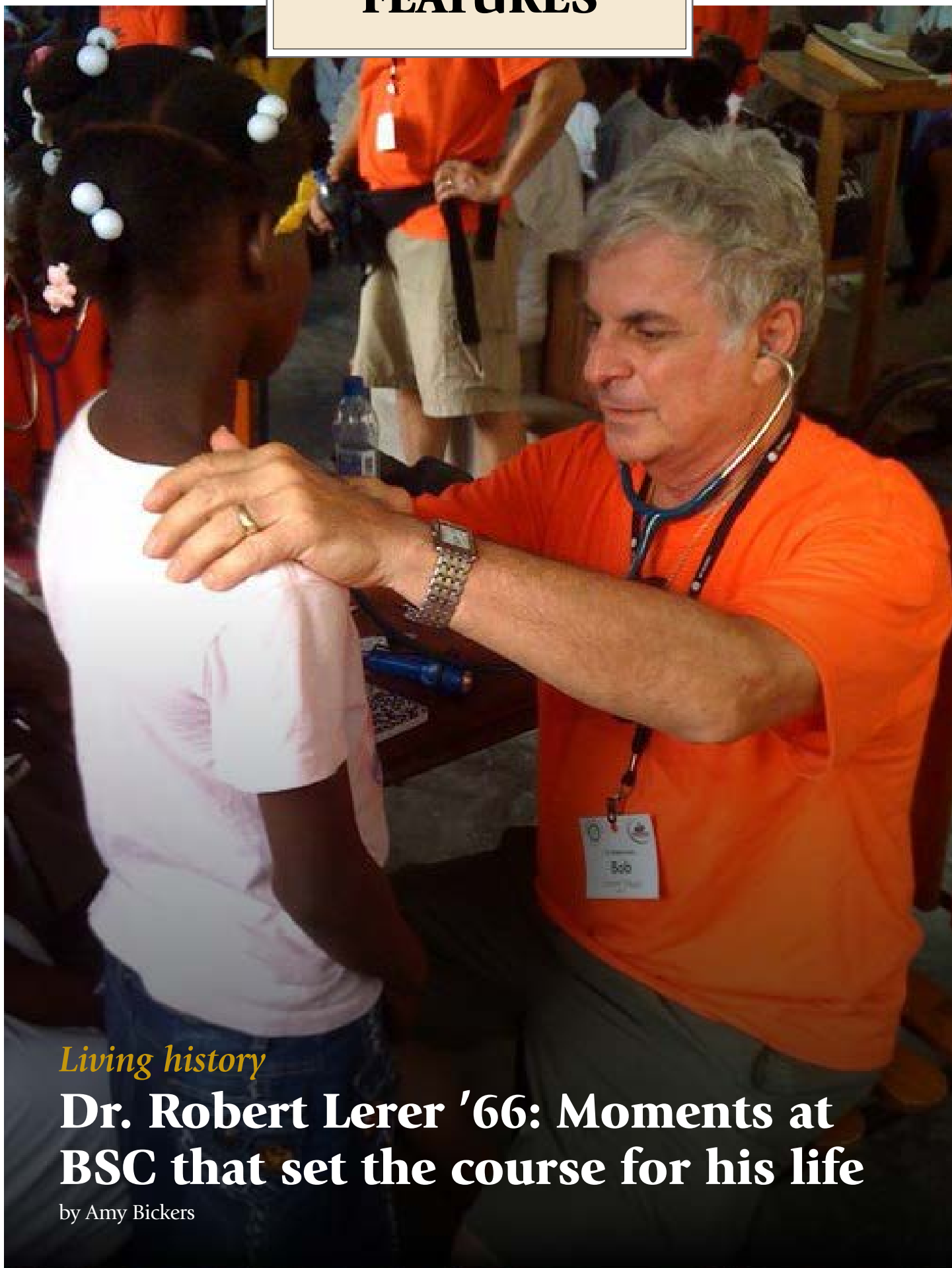
"I can't think of a greater way to end my career than following our historical first gold medal with the 2013 Impossible Dream Team for the U.S. Open Men's Soccer Team with another gold

medal with our 2017 Forever Team," he said.

Goldfarb retired from leading the Panther program in 2015 and led his final BSC youth camp in 2016. He built the college's soccer program from scratch into a prominent, intercollegiate program. In 2013, Birmingham-Southern's soccer field was named the Preston Goldfarb Field in his honor. Goldfarb will be inducted into the BSC Sports Hall of Fame this fall.



FEATURES



Living history

Dr. Robert Lerer '66: Moments at BSC that set the course for his life

by Amy Bickers

The thing about history is that before it becomes history, it's a series of days in someone's life.

In 1950, Robert Lerer was a boy of Eastern European heritage playing with his friends in Havana, Cuba. His parents had moved there after fleeing Poland for France during World War II. His parents never talked about the war. Their lives before his birth in 1946 were a mystery to him, although he knew that many of his Jewish family members had died in the Holocaust.

In 1953, Lerer was a boy of 7 years old, being raised in the Catholic Church on a northern Caribbean island where a revolution was just beginning—a revolution that would last for five years, five months, and six days.

In November of 1960, Lerer was a boy of 14, whose parents told him that they were taking him and his brother away from Cuba to a city in America: Miami. They were part of a historic wave of more than 100,000 refugees who emigrated from Cuba to countries around the world after Castro-led revolutionaries overthrew the Fulgencio Batista regime in 1959.

In the summer of 1961, Lerer's family moved to Birmingham, where his father, Joseph Lerer, had been admitted to the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. Both of Robert's parents were already dentists before leaving Europe; his father had been an oral surgeon in Cuba, and his mother was a teacher in Cuba.

Robert attended Ramsay High School. As he applied to colleges throughout Alabama, he thought maybe one day he could be an engineer.

These were the moments in history that marked Lerer's path to BSC in 1962. It was at BSC that his path changed course.

"A chemistry professor, Wynelle Thompson, changed my life," he said. "She saw that I was more suited for something else."

In 2017, Lerer is an esteemed physician with a long career of service, decades spent in service to the place he lives and the place from which he came. He is associate professor emeritus of pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and Cincinnati

Children's Hospital Medical Center and is one of the longest serving health commissioners in the state of Ohio; he volunteers in underserved areas around the world; and this fall, he will be one of the honorees receiving BSC's Distinguished Alumni Award.

After graduating *magna cum laude*—and as valedictorian of his class—with a bachelor's in chemistry in 1966, he attended Johns Hopkins University Medical School and excelled there.

"I would not have been third in my class at Johns Hopkins without my education from BSC," he said. From there, he continued his post-graduate education in pediatrics at Yale University and became chief resident. He is an expert in neonatology and has reviewed and consulted on thousands of newborn cases.

"God gave me skills and intelligence and drive, but all of that really developed while I was at college," Lerer said. "Birmingham-Southern made all the difference in my life."

Long before the phrase "lives of significance" became common on campus, it was a way of life on the Hilltop.

"Being a servant to others, being a person of integrity, and having a purpose in life was very important," he added. "It's one of the reasons I chose to go into pediatrics. Pediatricians become advocates for children."

A lasting impression

As much as his early years were marked by revolution, Lerer's time at BSC also occurred in the midst of unrest.

"Birmingham was still segregated at that time, as was BSC," he said. "It was only natural that I became friendly with groups that, at that time, felt like demonstrating openly our displeasure with the Jim Crow laws. I remember vividly going to work after chemistry lab—I worked at Birmingham Book and Magazine Company downtown and parked my old beat-up 1956 DeSoto near Kelly Ingram Park—and seeing Bull Conner using hoses



Bottom photo: Lerer with a team of medical faculty from Christian Medical & Dental Associations

and dogs. I witnessed those things with my own eyes."

On May 3, 1963, 60 young people were arrested in the vicinity of the park. The next day, thousands more arrived to demonstrate. In April of that year, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

Lerer recalls another time when the segregation of the South was made clear to him personally.

"Not being from the United States, this had a very deep impact on me," he said. "In Cuba, there were no outward signs of discrimination; brown children and black children and white children played

together. In '63 or '64, a friend who was a student at UAB and also Cuban and I went to a Y dance downtown. During one of the intermissions, a couple of students asked us to go outside and announced they were members of the Klan, and they started beating us up. We had been chatting in Spanish and they'd caught wind of that. They said people from Latin America weren't welcome, and how dare I dance with a white girl?

"We were speaking Spanish to one another to better communicate to each other about which girl we would like to dance with next. That was my priority at that young age, of course."

He arrived home that night with two black eyes and stayed home from classes the next day. It made an impression on him that lasted much longer than the injuries.

Lerer says living in Birmingham and attending BSC, which integrated in September 1965, taught him a great deal about race relations.

"In some ways, by its example of acceptance when this was still very controversial, Birmingham-Southern served as an example that has lived with me for the rest of my life," Lerer said. "And personally, the experience of having been accepted into the midst and given a scholarship at a time when I was a needy and poor adolescent gave me a lifelong desire to help people who are not well off."

"God gave me skills and intelligence and drive, but all of that really developed while I was at college."

Inspiring the future

Since leaving the Hilltop, Lerer has given back by traveling to Haiti after natural disasters; providing primary care in India and Nicaragua, and participating in faculty exchange trips to teach health care providers in China, India, and Ukraine.

And, as the course of history often does, Lerer's life brought him back to the place

where he began. He serves on the board of the nonprofit group Caring Partners, which has provided more health care services to the government of Cuba than any other organization. He has visited Cuba more than 50 times, delivering medical supplies and bringing faculty teams from various medical schools.

"I have always had a regard for people who are not well off, because we were refugees and had almost no money. As soon as I was able, I started contributing what I could to Birmingham-Southern," he said.

In 1991, Lerer established a scholarship named for his family. He and his wife, Janis, a retired nurse, contribute to the Joseph, Frances, and Robert Lerer Scholarship annually and have included the college in their estate planning. The scholarship provides aid for Hispanics and other minority students pursuing careers in the medical and dental fields.

Antonio Castanon '12 received the scholarship his senior year at BSC and graduated with a degree in biology with concentrations in Spanish and chemistry. Like Lerer, Castanon was an immigrant; he moved to the U.S. from Mexico with his mother.

"At that time it was very challenging for me and for my family. My mom was diagnosed with a brain tumor during that period of my life, so the financial backing from my family was really limited,"

Castanon said. "Being a recipient of the Lerer Scholarship was a ray of hope in pursuing the dream of completing my higher education. I was the first in my immediate family to have the opportunity to become a graduate."

Today, Castanon is a union representative with Laborers' International Union of North America, advocating for workers in the construction industry.



Antonio Castanon '12

He also works in community advocacy for immigration, and he is a candidate for a Masters of Public Health at George Washington University.

Inspired by alumni like Lerer, Castanon says he would like to start a scholarship himself someday for immigrant students pursuing degrees at Birmingham-Southern.

"The scholarship let me know that the BSC family is committed," Castanon said. "The president's office, the faculty and support staff at Birmingham-Southern, the people at the post office, cafeteria workers—I have fond memories of good meals in the Caf—everyone is helping everybody out. That may not be reflected in the degree title, but it is certainly part of the education at BSC."

Lerer's own memories from 50 years ago mirror Castanon's more recent experience—proof that Birmingham-Southern has a decades-long tradition of supporting students.

"I recall the warmth of the faculty, the eagerness to help you after hours. More than once I walked down faculty row and knocked on the door of a faculty member because I was having trouble with something," Lerer said.

"And I was always met with an open door."

Other 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award honorees

Traci Satisfield Blackmon '85

Rev. Blackmon has built a powerful platform through her dedication to community engagement and change. She is executive minister of Justice and Witness Ministries with the United Church of Christ and senior pastor of Christ the King United Church of Christ in Florissant, Mo. In August, Blackmon was a member of the clergy who traveled to Charlottesville, Va., to bear witness at the Unite the Right rally. She also gained national attention for her communal leadership and response to racial tensions in the aftermath of the killing of Michael Brown Jr. in Ferguson, Mo. Blackmon was appointed to the Ferguson Commission by Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon and co-chaired the Municipal Governance and Court Reform workgroup. During the presidency of Barack H. Obama, she served on the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships. She also received the White House President's Volunteer Service Award, and was recognized in the 2015 Ebony magazine Power 100. A native of Birmingham, Blackmon earned a bachelor's in nursing from BSC, and she has more than 25 years of healthcare experience. During her years in nursing, she shifted from cardiac care to focus on mobile healthcare in underserved communities. She also earned a master of divinity and an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary.



Betty Hawk '81

As vice president for 3M's Materials Resource Division, Hawk was one of three female division vice presidents and one of the youngest overall. As she rose to leadership positions—she worked in manufacturing, research and development, technical service, and marketing in both the U.S. and Europe—Hawk made it a point to serve as a mentor and role model for women in the workplace. She is a member of the American Chemistry Council and the Industrial Suppliers Association, the Georgia Tech Chemistry and Biochemistry Advisory Board, and has served as a mentor in the Menttium 100, the first cross-company mentoring program, which was established in 1991. Now retired, Hawk has been named president of the 2017-18 BSC Alumni Board. Previously, she has served on the Norton Board and the Urban Environmental Studies Advisory Committee, funding the Betty Hawk Internship. UES internships provide paid summer positions for students to work with environmental organizations. Hawk, a native of North Alabama, received her bachelor's in chemistry and sociology at BSC.



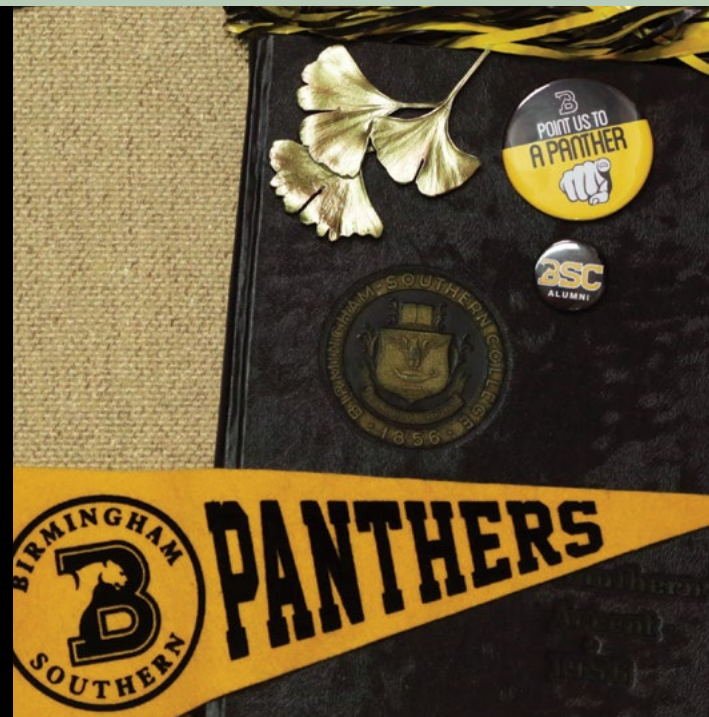
Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Erin Kendrick Stephenson '01

Stephenson, who earned her bachelor's degree in English literature, is vice president and director of client and community relations for the Alabama market, PNC Bank. Prior to accepting her position at PNC in February, she served an 11-year term as vice president of development at the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham. During her term, Foundation assets grew from \$131 million to \$253 million. Stephenson currently is serving a term on the Homewood Board of Education. A Birmingham native, she also has held volunteer positions with the YWCA of Central Alabama, the Rotaract Club of Birmingham, and Trinity United Methodist Church. While attending BSC, she worked for The Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham. Stephenson's first full-time job was at Habitat for Humanity. She is a former Birmingham Business Journal Top 40 Under 40 honoree.



A celebration for the entire BSC family
Friday, October 13 & Saturday, October 14
www.alumni.bsc.edu/homecoming2017



The marketplace spoke. BSC listened.

*Tuition price drops 50 percent
to wipe out “sticker shock”*

By Amy L. Foster

While colleges and universities throughout the nation will raise their published price yet again next year, Birmingham-Southern will instead reset tuition back to what it was more than 15 years ago: \$17,650.

In doing so, BSC is taking the lead among America’s prestigious colleges and universities to respond to national concerns about college affordability.

It’s one thing to scroll through an online article or watch a TV report about the skyrocketing price of college. But that doesn’t capture what it feels like for a family trying to select a college.

Imagine a student who will be the first in her family to attend college, who has discovered she will thrive better at a small school that can provide her with personalized learning, advising, and mentoring. But she sees a published price at private colleges that would eat up more than half of her family’s annual income—and her heart sinks.

Picture a parent who recalls how he managed to work his way through summers to pay for college. But now the tuition price he sees gives him a stab of fear that there’s no way his son will be able to do the same.

Or what about a mom who attended BSC and wants that for her child, too. But she’s stunned to discover that the price at private colleges has more than doubled since she graduated—and despairs that there’s no way her family can pay that much.

This is sticker shock.

It happens because too few families understand how pricing actually works at most private colleges and universities. They just see the bottom line and assume they can’t afford them.





BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE
PRO CHRISTO ET REPUBLICA
1856

In reality, families who submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (commonly called the FAFSA) will be awarded federal and state grants if they qualify for them, as well as loans. Then on top of that, BSC—like other colleges and universities—will provide its own merit- and need-based financial aid to bring down a family's out-of-pocket costs even further.

Thus, the published price is hardly ever the same thing as the actual cost. And in fact, at Birmingham-Southern, where more than 90 percent of students receive financial aid, the average amount of scholarships and grants that BSC awards directly has been covering about 70 percent of a student's tuition and mandatory fees.

Yet not everyone knows that.

"Students and families are telling colleges all across the United States—and they're telling us—that encountering a high published price is a real barrier to accessing a high-quality education," said BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith. "So we decided to step up and do something about it."

The numbers also tell a story

At many private colleges, the total published price has risen to well above \$50,000, factoring in the costs for housing, food, books, and other expenses. This year at BSC, tuition and required fees alone (not counting room and board) add up to \$35,840.

Yet throughout the United States, only about 15 percent of students attend colleges or universities with a tuition and fees price higher than BSC's. In fact, the majority of full-time students obtain their four-year undergraduate degree from schools with published tuition and fees of less than \$12,000.

That's because two out of every three of American students attend a public institution. In the Southern states, students are even more likely to choose a public university—here in Alabama, three out of every four college-bound students end up at a public institution.

And many of them know that's where they're headed before they even start their college search. According to Sallie Mae's annual study "How America Pays for College," 54 percent of America's college-bound students will cross a college off their consideration lists based on its published tuition price alone—before applying to find out what their own actual cost would be.

"A too-high published price causes people to walk away, even though it's very often not what they'll really pay," explained Sara Newhouse, who has observed this phenomenon firsthand as BSC's vice president for admission and financial planning. "What's more, when families are blinded by the published price, they lose sight of how to calculate the overall value."

Of course, affordability is only one variable in the value equation. A family should also factor in what students get—both during and after college—for their educational investment. Birmingham-Southern is one of the most prestigious private colleges and universities in the South, routinely lauded in national rankings for the quality of the educational experience and the successful outcomes our graduates attain as a result of it. But too many students and families believe a BSC education is simply beyond their reach.

"With our tuition reset, we want to make sure that the best and brightest students have access to the kind of personalized, challenging, hands-on educational experience of lasting worth that BSC provides," Flaherty-Goldsmith said.

Much deliberation

The college's announcement of the tuition reset is the culmination of a 14-month process of careful study, planning, and preparation.

"As soon as Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith became president in June 2016, she set a strategic priority of making the college more



accessible to a broad base of students who believe BSC to be out of their financial reach,” said David M. Smith ’79, chair of the Board of Trustees. “Board members gave this goal our full support.”

A working group of BSC administrators and board representatives convened to begin investigating ways to accomplish that objective. Along with initiatives such as test-optional admission and efforts to be more welcoming to transfer students—both tackled in 2016-17—a tuition reset quickly came to the forefront.

“Only a handful of colleges have reset their tuition in the past five years,” said BSC board member Denson N.

Franklin III ’85, who served on the working group. “To learn how to do a successful reset, we spoke with administrators at these colleges because they share our commitment to nudging the entire private higher education industry toward a better pricing model.”

“The teams at places like Concordia University in Minnesota, Converse College in South Carolina, and Utica College in New York—which have experienced great results in improving access and increasing enrollment with their tuition resets—were generous in sharing the ‘lessons learned’ during their own planning and implementation processes,” Flaherty-Goldsmith said.

From there, the leadership team commissioned a series of studies. A survey of applicants who were admitted for fall 2016 but chose not to enroll revealed that price topped the list as the single most important reason for not selecting BSC. A pricing research study among prospective students found that only 27 percent would even consider a college with a total price above \$40,000.

The research also revealed that an inherent preference for state universities—either because of their lower sticker price or because of generational and sports-related familiarity—means only 13 percent of Alabama high school students prefer to attend a private college.

“The study confirmed what our admissions counselors had been hearing on the ground,” Newhouse said. “It also revealed that Alabama students are more likely than students from other states to rule out a college simply because of a high sticker price.”

Next, the Birmingham-Southern team conducted several rounds of financial aid modeling to determine the potential impacts of a tuition reset on enrollment and the composition of the student body.

“The students in our market would rather apply to a high-quality

Before and after the reset

	2017-18	2018-19	Change
Tuition & Fees	\$35,840	\$17,650	↓ 50.75%
Room & Board	\$12,300	\$12,300	0%
Total Published* Price	\$48,140	\$29,950	↓ 37.79%

*Need-based and/or merit-based financial aid is awarded to qualifying students to lower their actual cost even further.

college like BSC if it has a total published price of \$30,000, as opposed to assuming they’ll get enough financial aid if the price is \$50,000,” said Eli Phillips, BSC’s vice president of business and finance. “Our models showed we can achieve our institutional revenue and growth objectives by targeting students with this

The total published price for tuition, fees, room, and board will now fall below \$30,000 for one of the best educational experiences in the South.

preference, since families across all income levels feel this way.”

Once the college determined that a tuition reset was fiscally responsible, campus administrators began detailed planning not only for its implementation, but also for spreading the word to students and families. Beginning this fall, a concerted awareness campaign will highlight the overall value of a BSC education, in terms of both what students pay and what they get.

How the reset works

For the 2018-19 academic year beginning next fall, BSC’s published price for tuition and fees will drop by more than 50 percent. The rates for room and board will remain the same as this year. And the total published price for tuition, fees, room, and board will now fall below \$30,000 for one of the best educational experiences in the South.

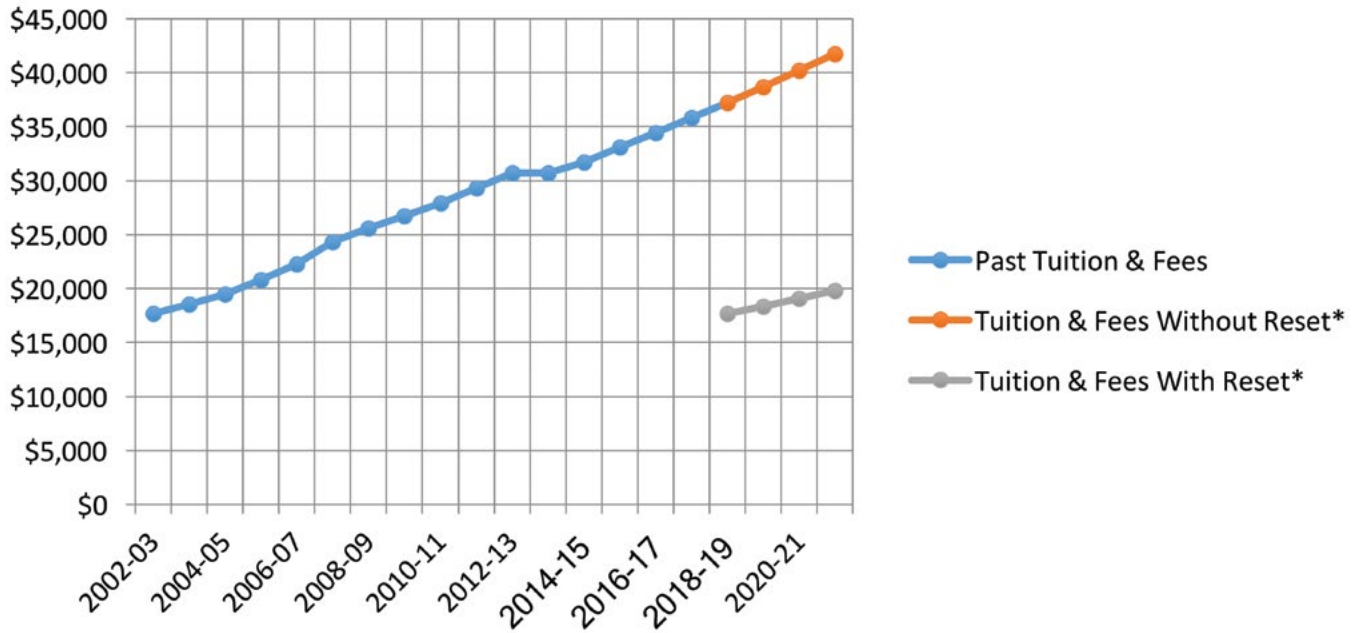
This change resets BSC’s tuition price back to what it was more than 15 years ago. The “sticker price” had climbed significantly due to standard annual percentage increases. Yet this rise is deceiving, because at the same time the college has been awarding very large merit scholarships and institutional need-based grants—meaning few students actually paid anywhere close to the full retail price. This “high tuition, high discount” model has become the norm for small private colleges, and one that BSC will buck with the reset.

With a lower published tuition price, Birmingham-Southern won’t need to offer those huge financial aid packages to get students to an affordable final figure. That means the college can lower the dollar amounts of scholarship and grant awards without any consequence to current students. And it will allow BSC to make the best possible use of the generous scholarship gifts alumni and other donors provide.

Federal and state financial aid will continue to be awarded to its fullest extent. Currently enrolled students who receive merit- and need-based aid directly from BSC will see the dollar amount of their awards go down by the same amount as the published price for tuition and fees.

Without a reset, all students would have seen a standard increase in tuition and fees of about four percent next year. Instead, most returning students will pay exactly what they are paying this year in 2018-19. BSC is guaranteeing that no

Resetting tuition back to 2002 levels



returning student will have to pay a higher net cost next year. There may be slight differences for those students selecting more expensive housing options, and a small number of students will end up paying less than they currently do because their funds from outside scholarships or aid will remain the same even as tuition drops.

Prospective students who intend to enroll for fall 2018 will see a more transparent published price that better reflects the actual cost for most BSC students before federal and state financial aid is awarded. And BSC will have one of the most affordable published prices of all the South’s prestigious colleges and universities.

Expected enrollment outcomes

By eliminating sticker shock, the tuition reset should have cascading effects: More prospective students will consider BSC because fewer will turn away based solely on published price. As more students consider BSC, more will see the tremendous value of a Birmingham-Southern education and will apply.

As more students apply, more will receive a financial aid offer that specifies their actual cost. And as more students see they can afford the small-college teaching and support that the Hilltop provides, greater numbers will enroll.

“Ultimately, our objective is to encourage more prospective students from all family income levels to discover the actual cost—not to mention the true value—of a BSC education,” said Flaherty-Goldsmith.

The reset represents a shift from the prevailing “high tuition, high discount” model to a lower, more transparent tuition price. Opening the doors to more students ideally will increase enrollment and allow BSC to continue to grow. Either way, the college will not limit educational offerings or scale back in any way to implement this groundbreaking reset.

In fact, the college is in an accelerated effort to expand programs and has launched new options for students’ pre-professional development within the liberal arts and sciences. New offerings include majors in architectural studies, creative and applied computing, health sciences, and a combined major in philosophy, history, and law, as well as distinctions in poverty studies and public health.

The college will continue to rely on the generosity of donors and the continued strength of the three-year *Bridge to the Future* initiative to help provide funds for student scholarships, support faculty, and continuously improve the campus and curriculum. Right now, a number of changes are happening on campus, including residence hall renovations, new cafeteria service, and an overhaul of the Norton Campus Center, the center of student life (see more details on page 5).

The value of responsiveness

And so BSC has heeded the call for affordable college pricing.

“Even as we reset our published price of tuition and fees to half of what it has been, we will continue to not just offer the same life-changing educational experience that BSC has always provided, but continue to improve it,” Flaherty-Goldsmith said. “The difference is that now more families will see our commitment to ensuring that all worthy students can access the value of a BSC education.”

“By smashing through the perceived price barrier, BSC will become a pioneer in meeting families’ needs,” she added.

Perhaps it’s not a surprise, coming from a college that has always put personal relationships with its students and families first.

“When it comes right down to it, our tuition reset is a matter of listening to what the marketplace has been telling us and being bold enough to respond,” she said.

Investing in their family's future

In the DuVall family's hometown of Albany, Ga., most families send their children to state schools for college. But Willis and Dana DuVall had other hopes for their daughters.

"Willis and I both attended liberal arts colleges in the South, and we really believe in the value of a small liberal arts college experience," explained Dana. "So naturally we wanted both of our children to have that option."

As Emily, their eldest, began her college search, the family read through the book *Colleges That Change Lives* to plan campus visits, coming up with an itinerary that would give Emily (and her younger sister, Maggie, who tagged along) an overall picture of the pros and cons of both large and small schools.

"We basically researched all the schools in the Southeast that we wanted to visit—and that's how we first came to understand what the price of tuition is these days at a small liberal arts college," recalled Willis.

The DuValls hoped Emily's academic ability could earn her merit scholarships, but also knew that federal aid formulas would determine the family had no financial need. "Still, we have always valued education," said Dana, "so we prioritized investing in that for our daughters."

Birmingham-Southern made the DuValls' list on the recommendation of Willis and Dana's nephew, Andy Clack '13, who shared how happy he was on the Hilltop.

"We promised my sister-in-law that we would visit Birmingham-Southern," said Dana. "We went just to check it off our list. But once we were there, we all knew there was no turning back—that this was the college for Emily."

"The rigor of the academics was our primary concern," Willis added. "And at BSC we saw that in combination with everybody being interested in each student's success, not only at college, but in life."

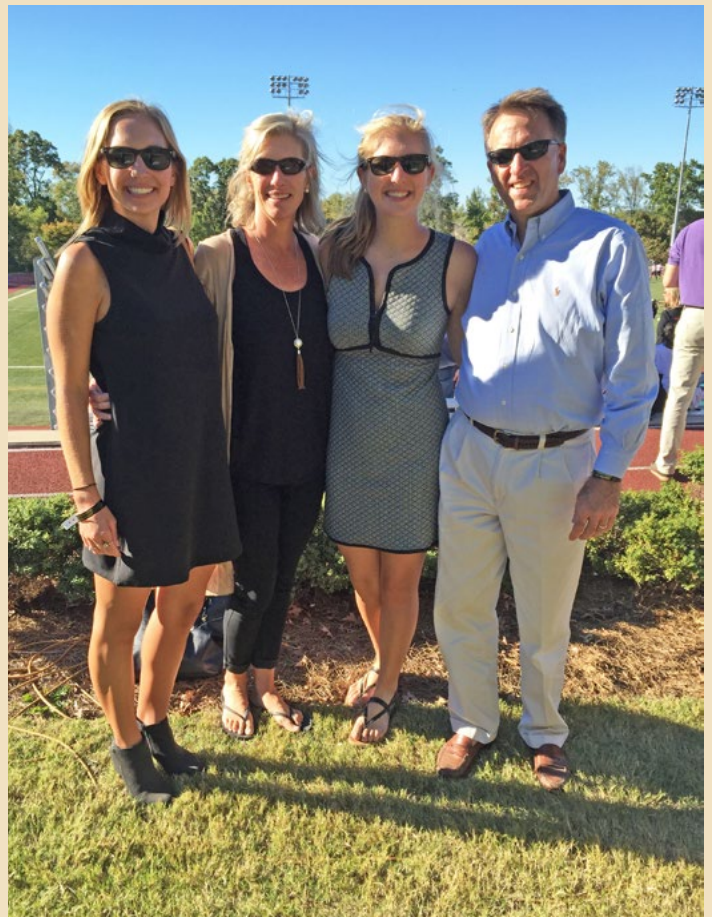
They spent the weekend on campus for Select 'Southern, one of BSC's open houses for prospective students and families, where they were able to meet with admission staff and also with professors.

"I was so impressed that the entire faculty turned out on a Sunday afternoon," added Dana. "I really felt a connection with several of the professors and appreciated the opportunity to visit with them in a casual setting. There was something about being there and knowing it's the right fit for your child. When we left BSC's gates, I had tears of happiness in my eyes."

Her instincts were right. Emily graduated in 2016 with a major in history and a minor in art history, and her experience upheld the family's expectations. She is now continuing her education in an art history master's program at the University of Georgia.

"Emily truly experienced the added value of professors who were accessible and invested in her success. There was always someone there for her," Dana said.

When the time for Maggie's college search came around, the younger DuVall kept BSC at the bottom of the list because she



didn't want to be in her big sister's shadow. But the lure of the Hilltop ended up being too strong: two days before the May 1 deadline to notify colleges of intent to enroll, Maggie decided BSC was the right fit for her after all, and she's now a junior majoring in accounting.

"I read in college guidebooks that you'll find the one—the perfect school," Dana said. "For both of our daughters, that was Birmingham-Southern."

While the DuValls were thrilled by Maggie's choice, having two children enrolled in college was a financial strain. "We always told them that we would help pay for college. But it was a painful year financially when both girls were there at the same time," admitted Willis.

So when the DuValls heard that Birmingham-Southern would be resetting its tuition price to a lower amount, their first reaction was "That's a great idea!"

"We never told our children 'You cannot go to that school because it costs too much,' but I know that happens for families," Willis said. "I just think getting down to the real number is important, so the college can say, 'Hey, this is what it is, and we're not going to give out a merit scholarship just to get the cost down, but rather because you really deserve it.'"

"I'll say this: Based on the tuition that we have been paying for our children, I could not be more pleased and feel like we received our money's worth from the girls being at Birmingham-Southern," he added. "So when the tuition goes down, I expect the people who benefit from the price reset will be jumping for joy. I know we would!"

Mark your calendar

The Office of Alumni Affairs sponsors events each year as varied as BSC's more than 16,000 living alumni. Many of the events are free or have minimal fees. Come join us! Visit www.alumni.bsc.edu for more information and events.

Sept. 28 Huntsville Alumni Gathering at Van Valkenburgh & Wilkinson Properties, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sept. 28, 29, 30 & Oct. 1 Performance of the musical *[title of show]* at the College Theatre/The Underground, times vary.

Oct. 13 Distinguished Alumni Award Luncheon in Bruno Great Hall of the Norton Campus Center, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Oct. 13 Iron Pour and Opening Reception for

the Audrey Davis and Lucia Calderon-Arrieta: Esthesia Exhibition at the Durbin Gallery, 5-8 p.m. Exhibition runs through Oct. 26; artists' lecture will be Oct. 12 at 11 a.m.

Oct. 14 Homecoming and Milestone Class Reunions

Oct. 24 Chattanooga Alumni Gathering at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club, 6-8 p.m.

Nov. 3 Opening Reception for Art Heist, an exhibition by sculptor and painter Herb Williams '96 at the Durbin Gallery, 6-9 p.m. Exhibition runs through Nov. 22; artist's lecture will be Nov. 2 at 11 a.m.

Nov. 3 Washington, D.C. Alumni Reception at Nike's Office of Government Relations, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Nov. 16 *The Tempest* Opening Night Dinner in the Executive Dining Room at the Norton Campus Center; play opens Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m. and runs through Nov. 19.

Nov. 16 Nashville Alumni Gathering, 5:30-7:30 p.m., location TBD.

Dec. 1 & 3 81st Annual Service of Lessons and Carols at Canterbury United Methodist Church in Mountain Brook, 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 1 and 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 3.

Jan. 15 Ugandan Kids Choir family concert in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the Hill Recital Hall, 7 p.m.

Feb. 7 Atlanta Alumni Luncheon at the Piedmont Driving Club, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.



ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Alumni moments



The college celebrated the Easter season by bringing back the beloved tradition of the Easter Egg Hunt. Alumni and their families enjoyed hunting for eggs on the lawn of the President's Home and even enjoyed a special visit from the Easter Bunny.



BSC's young alumni came out to the Cahaba Brewing Co. this summer to mix and mingle and sample some of the city's celebrated craft brews.



Hailey Bain '17, Turner Collins '17, and Mackenzie Yeager '17

BSC alumni in the legal community gathered at Bradley law firm this summer to send some of the college's newest graduates off to law school.



The Hon. Carnella Greene Norman '72



BSC Trustee Denson N. Franklin III '85



Turner Collins '17 and Jeannie Sleadd '09



Wilson Nash and Payne Baker '04

This spring, President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith enjoyed meeting many BSC alums from the New York City area at the NYC alumni reception. Special thanks to **Hilda Barron Frost '83** and Arnold Neis for hosting the event. L to r: **Byron Mathews Jr. '70**, Flaherty-Goldsmith, BSC Trustee Jane McDonald, **Frost**, and Neis.



Next year BSC will be marking the 100th anniversary of the college at its current location. In celebration, we want to share your favorite memories. What do you love most about Birmingham-Southern? Let us know by emailing communications@bsc.edu or post on social media and tag it **#100ontheHilltop**.

THE POWER OF GIVING



Bunting Center plays pivotal role in preparing students for lives of significance

On a quiet weekday in the summer with few students on campus, Kristin Harper '92 was working on big plans for the future. Harper is planning out new programs in her role as director of BSC's Bunting Center for Engaged Study and Community Action—programs designed to draw students into meaningful service as part of their academic experience at Birmingham-Southern.

"There is an urgent need for thoughtful, engaged citizens in our country. Those who succeed in addressing some of society's biggest challenges will be those who can communicate effectively, are willing to understand and appreciate multiple perspectives, and are able to solve problems creatively," Harper said. "We are looking for even more ways to encourage students with a broader perspective and empower them with the skills of engaged learning and dialogue."

That's the strength of the Bunting Center, which was founded a decade ago thanks to generous support from Dr. Peter '66 and Derry Bunting '69. The Buntings, who are still committed to the ethical and intellectual growth of BSC students, decided to build on the groundbreaking work of former BSC Chaplain Dr. Stewart Jackson, who pioneered service learning in the 1980s.

Today, hundreds of BSC students get hands-on experience with dozens of community partners from as close as College Hills and as far away as Africa. Some experiences are simple—a chance to help build houses with Habitat for Humanity, or tutor local kids, or to learn about civil rights on an overnight

trip to Montgomery. But the real goal is to go beyond basic volunteering to build relationships with community members so that students' world views are expanded and collaborative partnerships emerge to address community challenges together.

To that end, the center has evolved and grown over the years; it is now part of the Krulak Institute for Experiential Learning, Leadership, and Civic Engagement, which provides a "one-stop shop" for students looking to get involved in their community or to travel. Here are some of the exciting new changes happening right now:

Poverty studies

This spring, Birmingham-Southern joined the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty, a network of 23 schools committed to integrating the study of poverty with the liberal arts. The membership aligns with BSC's brand-new Distinction in Poverty Studies, which requires participating students to take an introductory course and complete an internship and a senior capstone in poverty studies.

The Shepherd Consortium connects BSC students to more than 120 internship-granting organizations addressing poverty around the country. Because of this association, the college was able to expand its Hess Fellows program by adding five poverty internships through the Shepherd Consortium. This summer, BSC's first five Hess Poverty interns worked in Charleston, W. Va.; Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; and Baltimore. In addition to

the internships, the consortium organizes an annual symposium on poverty and offers staff and faculty development.

BSC's distinction isn't designed to supplant traditional majors, but to enhance students' understanding of disciplines likely to intersect with poverty-related issues.

Harper said at BSC, that's likely to mean some students participating will already know they want to focus on solving the complex problems of poverty by going into community development, public policy, public health, and more.

"Whatever field of study or career path they choose, exposure to the issues of poverty and to people living in poverty informs our students and encourages active citizenship," she said. "Whether you're going to be a teacher, a business owner, or a doctor, it's important that you understand issues of economic disparity."

Buiga Sunrise School

For the third year in a row, BSC students will travel to Mukono, Uganda, this January to work with the nonprofit school called the Buiga Sunrise School; 16 students have already enrolled in the Exploration Term experience. In the past, the students have focused on helping with curriculum development, English teaching, and other services for the local students.

This year, they'll be accompanied by Maggie Besh '17, who has already spent two E-Terms at the Sunrise School as a student. She'll stay on for a year to help teach English and writing—and to deepen the relationship between BSC and Buiga.

"Our dream is that Maggie can help us strengthen our partnership by getting to know community members and helping us to prepare to bring other groups of students," Harper said. In the future, that could lead to teacher exchanges between Buiga and Bush Hills Academy, the neighborhood school with which BSC has had a partnership for over 20 years.

Bonner Leaders

The Bonner Leader Program, which was developed by the nationally-known Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation, is a four-year scholarship program designed to provide college access to low-income students who have a passion for community engagement. BSC—the only Bonner campus in Alabama—recruited its first class through the Bunting Center in 2015, with plans to add at least five new students a year. Participants receive a \$2,500 scholarship and a community-based federal work-study position; they commit to being engaged in the community 8-10 hours a week throughout their four years at Birmingham-Southern.

"This lets us reach out to high school students who are committed to community engagement and attract them to BSC," Harper said. "They try out lots of community partners their first year, then choose one or two to get involved on a deeper level."

Current students have taken on coaching youth teams for Northstar Soccer Ministries, a local program that brings soccer into low-income urban neighborhoods; raising awareness and funds for Red Mountain Park; and working with the Blueprints College Access Program through the anti-poverty group Alabama Possible.

Like the Shepherd Consortium, joining the Bonner community connects BSC to a network of about 70 schools across the country and offers additional resources for faculty, staff, and students.

Service-learning courses

In addition to specialty programs, Harper says one of the greatest areas of growth has been BSC faculty integrating service learning into their courses or into rise3 experiences for students. Much service learning happens in areas where you'd expect it, like poverty studies, public health, education, and sociology.

But others think outside the box. Medicinal chemistry includes a public service project, where students communicate with the public on a chemistry-related topic; last year's focused on the dosing and disposal of medication. A course called "Theatre's Call to Action" sent students to Bush Hills Academy to interview teachers and create a drama, which they then performed at the school. And a project in history is looking to capture the stories of those who lived through the civil rights-era bombings in the nearby Smithfield neighborhood, then dubbed "Dynamite Hill."

"We've made a real effort to work with faculty to adopt criteria for service-learning designated courses, which are now identified in the college's catalog," Harper said. "We have always had a handful of service-learning courses. With the development of the rise3 program, we are able to increase not only the quantity of service-learning courses, but also the quality."



Dr. Peter and Derry Bunting

Building a Bridge

In fall of 2016, BSC launched *Bridge to the Future*, a three-year initiative designed to ensure the college's future success. The effort also includes ambitious goals for student enrollment, faculty support, and opportunities for BSC to deepen its connection to the community.

The fundraising component kicked off with a generous lead gift from BSC Trustee Jim Pierce

'74 and his wife, Tammy; other BSC trustees and leaders are also on board, along with alumni and friends. As of Aug. 1, *Bridge to the Future* is almost halfway to its \$30 million goal.

For more information and to become part of this groundbreaking effort, visit www.bsc.edu/givetobsc or connect with us at (205) 226-4909.

Harnessing the transformational power of giving

Virginia Gilbert Loftin started her new position as the college's vice president of advancement and communications on Aug. 1. She has 20 years of experience in higher education, most recently as the head of communications strategy for UAB's \$18 billion campaign. Dr. Sara Helms Robicheaux '97, who had been serving as interim vice president of advancement, returned to the classroom and to her primary role as dean of BSC's business programs. We sat down to ask Loftin a few questions in her first week.

Q: What are you most excited about as you jump into your new position at Birmingham-Southern?

A: First and foremost, I'm excited to work with BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith. Her leadership has already made great things happen, and I'm honored to join her team and help make her vision a reality. Second, my daughter's four years at Centre College were transformative for her, as were the four years my nephew, Parks Gilbert '07, spent at Birmingham-Southern, so I'm a true believer in the power of this kind of educational experience. And finally, Birmingham is my hometown, and I grew up in the United Methodist Church, so I've always known Birmingham-Southern plays an important role in our city's intellectual and cultural growth. I'm excited to play a role in the college's future as leader of our fundraising and communications strategy.

Q: If you could tell BSC supporters one thing to inspire them, what would it be?

A: This place rocks! Seriously—these students, this faculty, this environment for learning (and for learning to think, which is at the core of a liberal arts education) ... these are the elements that make the college such a remarkable place. But our alumni know that, because they lived it during their years on the Hilltop. So I would invite them to visit us, first in their memories and then whenever possible in person, because even though some things may have changed since they were students, the spirit of learning and service wrapped up in a highly personalized vibe is still very much present in 2017. They'll feel it again when they set foot on the campus. And when we call to set up a visit with alums, they can expect us to bring that spirit with us.

Q: What's the most rewarding part of fundraising?

A: Without question, it's giving donors a way to make something happen that they find personally meaningful. Fundraising is not about asking for money. It's about hearing someone's story, finding out what they care deeply about, and then offering them the



opportunity to invest in a person or a program that matches their passion. When that happens—when you know you've helped that donor make something wonderful happen—it's a good day.

Q: What causes do you support in your personal life?

A: These days, my time is spent with my sorority, Delta Zeta. In my role as president of our national foundation, I am privileged to lead a simply incredible group of women who are committed to the part of our creed that calls us to "give graciously." My gifts to the Delta Zeta Foundation provide leadership training for our collegiate members and help bring the gift of hearing to the world through our partnership with the Starkey Hearing Foundation. I'm also chairing the building committee for the new Delta Zeta house at the University of Alabama. The old saying "sorority can be more than four" has certainly been true for me, and I surely get back more than I give.

Q: Any parting thoughts?

A: 1. Every gift, no matter the amount, makes an impact on Birmingham-Southern College. The collective power of giving transforms the lives of students now, and prepares them to lead and serve for the rest of their lives. So every gift really does make a difference.

2. Donors always drive. By honoring their intentions, we honor their generosity.

Alumni involvement makes first day of giving a success

All bets were off when BSC first started planning for its first-ever day of giving. And with good reason—as with most colleges' giving day efforts, there were too many unknown variables to know for sure how a first-time effort would go.

But BSC alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends blew #FORWARDEVERDAY out of the water, raising an incredible \$271,736 in just 24 hours.

"It seems to get harder and harder to reach people these days when everyone is so busy and pulled in different directions," said Bobby Watson, director of annual giving, who led the giving day efforts. "We were amazed to see how quickly everyone caught on. Larger colleges and universities try again and again to achieve this level of success. It really goes to show the strength and depth of BSC's alumni network."

The 24-hour event, held April 4, asked members of the BSC family to share their love of 'Southern across their social media networks and to encourage classmates, family, and friends to support the college and its programs. A special online giving platform included contests for groups (Alpha Omicron Pi fraternity won the participation contest with 173 gifts, with Athletics close behind) and allowed donors to give on behalf of campus departments or in honor of individual professors, graduates, and others. Challenge donations throughout the day helped spur lively competition—including from nearly 250 first-time donors.

"It was really fun to be part of a big push," said Maggie Ward '16, who helped move the needle with a \$5 gift—all her budget allowed as she prepared to start graduate study at the Boston University School of Theology.

"Birmingham-Southern gave me so much while I was there," Ward said. "I know that in the near future I won't be able to give a lot back, but this was a way to do a little something, and I know having alumni participate is helpful."

Planning for last year's event got serious in January of 2017, when staff

in the Office of Advancement started recruiting students, faculty, and staff to act as ambassadors and spread the word on campus. Athletic teams, student groups, campus offices, and academic departments formed teams to compete for prizes by trying to bring in the most gifts. Members of the BSC Alumni Board and Junior Alumni Board also jumped in to help.

Not only did the event bring in 1,243 gifts totaling \$271,736, it notched a number of other superlatives. The average donation was one-third higher than the national average for online donations. Three dozen donors achieved 'Southern Society status with their gifts. And the message of BSC was spread far and wide, with more than 25,000 page visits from nine countries, including as far away as Singapore.

Participation was so great that the college is already planning #FORWARDEVERDAY 2.0, scheduled for April 4, 2018, with plans to tie into the college's year-long celebration of the 100-year anniversary of BSC's existence here on the Hilltop.

The real strength, Watson said, was seeing alumni and friends of the college share their mutual love of the place on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other outlets, reconnecting with each other and spreading the word about BSC across their social networks.

"My dear friend Kristin Harper '92 shared her gift and that inspired me to do the same," said Susan Crow '92 of Birmingham, who posted a picture on Facebook of her four BFFs from freshman year—four of the many reasons she chose to make a gift on #FORWARDEVERDAY. "I liked the online interface, the energy and press leading up to the day, and wanted to support the college under its new leadership, but ultimately it's always that personal push for me."

Allowing alumni to personally connect to the college and each other was an exciting part of the day, said Associate Professor of Biology



Dr. Melanie Styers '99, who served as faculty liaison for #FORWARDEVERDAY.

"We all have this vision of BSC from our own experiences here, and now we're in a whole different era and there's a whole lot of really amazing new things happening on the campus and in the classroom every day," Styers said. "It was also a nice way to see everybody give back all at once on one day; the alumni are always doing things behind the scenes, but not very often is it visible all at one time."

And the reconnection worked both ways, Watson said. While alumni shared their own stories of how BSC changed their lives, it was inspiring to see current students and professors post about how alumni support improves the current student experience.

"This brings back attention to programs that they may not have thought about a lot since graduating," Watson said. "We love seeing alumni in far-flung locations connect to what's happening in our music studios, English classrooms, and biology labs here on the Hilltop. Our graduates do so much for 'Southern, for our community, and for their professions, and it's important that we provide innovative ways for them to connect with one another as they continue to move BSC forward."

If you'd like to serve as an ambassador or help recruit a giving day group for #FORWARDEVERDAY in April 2018, contact Watson at bjwatson@bsc.edu.



Charitable bequests:
**Creating future
scientific pioneers
through an
estate gift**

Most young women heading off to college in the 1930s were looking for a broad-based education—not an intense and lifelong career in science. Dr. Dora Henley Going '37, who majored in biology at BSC, went on to earn her Ph.D. in microbiology, and became a professor and researcher, wasn't like most young women.

Going, who died last year at the age of 99, has ensured BSC will produce more groundbreakers in science and medical research by leaving behind funds that will create endowed scholarships for math majors and pre-health students and allow the BSC library to purchase new materials.

"She was a pioneer," said Larry O'Neal, a friend of Going for about three decades and the trustee of her estate, "But when I would bring it up and say that to her—which I did multiple times—she would look at me in her sweet way and say, 'That's not how I saw it, I just did what I liked, I didn't think I was special—I was just doing what I was good at and had an interest in.'"

After graduating from BSC, Going earned a second bachelor's in medical technology at Temple University. During World War II, when positions opened up for women as men left for the front, she worked as a medical technologist at the Army-owned, Dupont-run Indiana Ordinance Works plant in Charleston, Ind. She returned to Birmingham when her father died and served as the head of the Department of Medical Technology at the Highland Hospital (currently UAB Hospital-Highlands).

She began her teaching career in 1947 with a stint as an instructor of microbiology at the University of Alabama, a place where her family roots ran deep (her great-grandfather was an early trustee). She took a leave of absence and headed to the University of Michigan to earn her master's and Ph.D., then returned to UA—where she met Dr. Allen Going, a history professor; they were married in 1954. Three years later, the couple left for Houston, where Allen took a professorship at the University of Houston and Dora became a microbiology professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center. They returned to Tuscaloosa when they retired in 1980.

"She had a career, he had a career, and they never gave up on those careers, and they never had any children," said O'Neal. "They both came from very deep Alabama roots, although they were consummate travelers and travelled the world."

They also committed to giving to the causes they believed in—even promising that whoever lived longest would support the others' alma mater and other pet projects, O'Neal said.

In life, the Goings were charter members of BSC's Endowment Builders Society; Dora was also a member of the Ginkgo Society. In death, they left enough to support multiple endowments, including the Dora H. and Allen J. Going Endowed Library Support Fund for new library acquisitions, the Mary H. and John W. Henley Endowed Scholarship in Mathematics, and the Dora H. and Allen J. Going Endowed Scholarship for Pre-Medical Students. In 1999, she was awarded BSC's Distinguished Alumni Award.

"She loved Birmingham-Southern, she remembered it very fondly," said O'Neal, who added that she was always a genteel Southern lady in every way. "It obviously gave her a great education and the foundation to go forward to the ultimate academic pursuit and to do that in a time when it was really very unusual for a woman to do so."

To learn more about how your estate gift can help BSC students and the college, contact Meredith Wolfe at (205) 226-4977 or mwolfe@bsc.edu.

BSC theatre celebrates 70 years of performances

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Birmingham-Southern College's theatre program and its distinctive turntable stage, which is one of only two like it in the world.

A team including Claudia Cumbie-Jones '72 is working to create a digital repository of historic information with a goal of making it publicly available in 2018. Meanwhile, you can dip into BSC's rich theatrical history—from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1959 to *Dollhouse* in 1982 by award-winning playwright Rebecca Gilman '87 to last year's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*—online at www.bsc.edu/academics/theatre/past-seasons.cfm.

The theatre program is not only celebrating its 70-year history, but its current students, alumni, faculty, and staff as well, knowing that their incredible talents—combined—have created some incredible moments on stage. Costume designer Patti Manning has served the longest in the Department of Theatre—more than 30 years.



Cat's Paw, 1957

*The theatre program will announce plans later in the 2017-18 academic year to celebrate this special anniversary and pay homage to its storied history.



Alice in Wonderland, 1949



Misanthrope, 1977



The Immigrant, 1992



The Passion, 1998



Fiddler on the Roof, 2016

Medical mission to Africa



Dr. Timothy Berg '80 was in junior high the first time he went on a foreign mission trip.

"My mom had an interest in medical missions and took our family to Mexico when I was in seventh or eighth grade," said Berg, who is a general surgeon. "Both mom and dad were doctors."

After Berg earned his biology degree from BSC—following in his father's footsteps—and started medical school at Wake Forest University, he

took a mission trip to Macau. As a medical resident he took another to the Dominican Republic, then, after his residency, to Kenya and Yemen.

"I just loved it," he said. "I thought that if I was having this much fun, it couldn't be a calling. It took me a long time to quit second guessing myself and just step out in faith."

When Berg met his wife, Linda, they both shared a desire to serve through missionary work. As a surgeon, he used his skills to minister to the sick in India, Haiti, and Rwanda, covering a critical shortage in surgically trained health care workers in those regions.

After serving three years at a hospital in rural Rwanda through the international relief organization Samaritan's Purse, Berg and his family moved to Kijabe, Kenya, in 2015, where he's working with the surgical team at Kijabe Hospital as part of the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons' program for surgical education. Berg now serves as program director.

His wife teaches at the nearby Rift Valley Academy, which provides education for missionary children from all over Africa. They have five children split between two continents: Hannah, 21, a senior at Wheaton College in Illinois; Stephen, 19, a junior at Texas A&M University; Ruthie, 17, a senior at Rift Valley; Samuel, 16, a junior; and Deste, 8, who is in first grade. The Bergs adopted Deste three years ago after meeting him as a patient at Kibogora Hospital in Rwanda, where Berg served prior to Kijabe. Deste's birth parents drowned in Lake Kivu in Rwanda.

During his years on the Hilltop, Berg was on the Student Judiciary Board (now the Honor Council) and served as an officer for Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He took piano lessons during his first January term and continued each subsequent year.

"One thing I really liked a lot about BSC was the small class sizes and the personal interaction with stellar professors, even in my introductory classes," he said. "Studying biology under Dr. Dan Holliman's gentle spirit and quiet encouragement set such a good example for me, and I still enjoy playing pieces my piano teacher, Jane Gibbs, taught me. I received a solid liberal arts education that really shaped me as a person."

Last year, Berg and his family returned to the United States for a family reunion. It was the first time he had seen his five brothers and sisters in five years, and the first time they got a chance to meet Deste, the newest member of the family.

"Life in Africa has sometimes been very difficult, with limited medical resources, and it has been hard to navigate all the crazy transitions and challenges my family has been through in the last six years," said Berg. "But overall, following God's call on our lives to Africa has turned out to be the best thing I could have done for my family."

'68

In February, **Dr. David Wilson of Boaz** was honored for his service and commitment as athletic director for Snead State Community College from 1987 to 2003. He was presented a plaque of recognition with his family alongside him during a break in a men's basketball game. Wilson also served as chair of the science department and taught classes. He earned master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Alabama.

'72

Kathryn Foxhall of Hyattsville, Md., was selected as "member of the month" in February 2017 by the Society of Professional Journalists. She has covered health in Washington for 40 years, including 14 years as editor of the American Public Health Association's newspaper. SPJ cited her work against efforts by agencies and other entities to force reporters to get approval from public information offices before talking to staff, among other issues.

'73

Dr. James Sawyer of Longview, Texas, a specialist in internal medicine, was named laureate of the Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians for contributions to the medical community. He earned his medical degree from UAB.



Sawyer

'75

John Cottle was appointed managing shareholder of the Becker & Poliakoff law firm in its Fort Walton Beach, Fla., office in 2016.

G. David Johnston, a partner in Johnston, Hinesley, Flowers, Clenney &



Turner in Dothan, was inducted as a fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation in 2016. He is a graduate of Samford University's Cumberland School of Law.

This past April, *AI.com* named **Ray Reach Jr.**, one of "30 Alabamians who changed jazz history." Reach, director of student jazz programs at the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame, has spent more than 40 years writing, arranging and performing with various groups as a keyboardist, vocalist, guitarist, and record producer.



'76

Renee Hyche McKee of Cary, N.C., recently released *Preludes of Peace*, a collection of meditative classic hymns for piano, on iTunes and Amazon. These pieces and her other arrangements are available in print through sheetmusicplus.com and her studio website mckeemusicstudios.com. McKee and her husband, **Richard McKee '75**, performed a piano duet at the Kammermusiksaal-Beethoven House in Bonn, Germany in June,



while on tour with the Campbell University Wind Symphony.

'78

Bill Dowell, founder and president at Vision Financial Group in Vestavia Hills, has been elected to the board of directors of the Washington, D.C.-based Financial Services Institute, which advocates for more than 100

independent broker dealers and the 130,000 independent financial advisors they serve.

'82

Dr. Janet Hinson Shope, associate provost for faculty affairs and professor of sociology at Goucher College in Baltimore, was cited in *Redbook* in reference to a book she co-authored, *Paid to Party: Working Time and Emotion in Direct Home Sales*.

'83

Charles Ball Jr. was selected to serve as chair of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education through 2019. He joined the commission in 2009. Ball also serves on the boards of Forever Wild and AIDS Alabama. Ball has served as the executive director of the Regional Planning Commission, which provides land use and transportation planning and economic development assistance for Birmingham's metro area, since 2006. He holds a master's degree in community planning from Auburn University.



'85

Dr. John Pendergast, assistant professor of Russian language and literature in the Department of Foreign Languages at the United States Military Academy at West Point, has published "The Patriotic Elegy: Zhukovsky's Orleanskaya Deva," in the latest issue of *Daugavpils University's Slavic Readings*. He received his doctorate in comparative literature from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in 2015. Pendergast retired from the U.S.



Pictured (l to r): Natella, Ilya, Elsa, Vanya, Suzy, Patrick, Sergei, and Andrei.

From Russia with love— Suzanne Hornung

McKinney '88 spent a week in the Soviet Union in the summer of 1984 and never expected to go back. "If someone had told me that I would someday return to the Motherland to adopt six children, I would have laughed hysterically," said Suzy, who, with her husband Patrick, have built their family through international adoption. They adopted their first child, Vanya, from Khabarovsk, Russia, in 2000. Three years later, they returned to adopt a little girl from an orphanage in Komsomolsk, Russia; during that trip, a little boy ran up to Suzy and called her "Mama." "He had me!" she said, and six months later Andrei joined the family, along with sister, Elsa. Several years later, Suzy and Patrick decided to adopt just one more—an older girl from Magadan, Russia. Turns out, the girl had two orphan brothers—and all three joined their family in 2009. "The paperwork for adoption is daunting and the process is long, but we are raising children who know they are adored, special, and loved unconditionally," McKinney said.

Army in 2008 after 27 years of service: 12 as an enlistee; 15 as an officer.

'86

Melanie Merkle Atha was elected president of the Global Collaborative Law Council last year. The GCLC is an international organization dedicated to, among many things, resolving civil disputes outside of court. Merkle has practiced law with Cabaniss, Johnston, Gardner, Dumas and O'Neal LLP in Birmingham since 1990. She earned her JD from Vanderbilt University.

John Collar Jr. has been included among the *Best Lawyers in America* for 2017 list. In addition, Collar

was named as Lawyer of the Year in Atlanta for family law. Collar practices at Boyd Collar Nolen & Tuggle in Marietta, Ga.

'88

Nashville singer/multi-instrumentalist **Buck Johnson** toured with Aerosmith this summer in Europe as the rock legends performed their "Aeroverderci" tour. The tour will continue in South America this fall. Johnson has toured with Aerosmith since 2014; his first performance with the band was in front of 20,000 fans at Lokomotiv Stadium in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Administrative law judge **Suzanne Schmith Van Wyk** of Tallahassee, Fla., was reappointed for a second

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term on the Florida Bar Committee on Professionalism. She is immediate past president of the board of the Florida State University College of Law Alumni Association. Van Wyk has a bachelor's with honors from the FSU College of Law and a master's in urban and regional planning from FSU. She is board certified by the Florida Bar in city, county, and local government law.

'89

Rhett Workman was promoted to managing director of London Heathrow airport for American Airlines. He was previously based in Philadelphia with the airline as managing director of government and airport affairs. He graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from BSC and earned a master's and JD from Duke University. "Attending college at BSC opened up the world to me, and for that I am forever grateful," he said.

'90

David Benck, vice president and general counsel for Hibbett Sporting Goods Inc., has been appointed to the International Tribunal Arbitral du Sport/Court of Arbitration for Sport. The body is seated in Lausanne, Switzerland, and is recognized as the global supreme court of sport with final jurisdiction over all global sport disputes, including high-profile disputes involving the Olympic Games and the Fédération Internationale de Football (FIFA). Benck also has recently been appointed to the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta from the Birmingham district for an initial term through 2018. The Atlanta Fed's geographical territory includes Atlanta, New Orleans, Miami, Nashville, and Birmingham.

'91

Bass, Berry & Sims PLC appointed **Brant Phillips** to serve as chair of the Nashville-based firm's 90-lawyer Litigation & Dispute Resolution

Practice Group. He graduated with honors from Washington and Lee University School of Law, where he was a senior editor of the law review, and earned a master's degree from Duke University.



Andrew Roberts is vice president and senior commercial lender with the Southern Bank Co. in Gadsden. Roberts holds a real estate broker's license with Kessler Land Agency. He and his wife, Kathy, have four children, including triplet sons.

'92

Alicia Fritz Bennett joined the law firm of Hill Hill Carter Franco Cole & Black PC as a shareholder in 2016. Bennett has represented boards of education, their members, and employees for more than 19 years. She formerly served as vice president of the Alabama State Bar, president of the Shelby County Bar Association, and bar commissioner. She currently serves as a disciplinary hearing officer for the bar. She received her JD from the Cumberland School of Law.



Amorak Huey of East Grand Rapids, Mich., was awarded a National



Endowment for the Arts creative writing fellowship in poetry for 2017. Huey is an assistant professor of writing at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich., following 15 years as a reporter and editor. He holds an MFA in creative writing from Western Michigan University. He is the author of three poetry collections and is married to **Dr. Ellen Schendel '93**.

Calhoun/Cleburne County District Attorney **Brian McVeigh** was elected as president of the Alabama District Attorney's Association for 2017-18. McVeigh is the first person to hold the position after being named District Attorney of the Year in 2015; he won Assistant District Attorney of the Year in 2011. A graduate of the Cumberland School of Law, McVeigh has served as DA since 2011.

Col. David Tabor has been promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force. He currently resides in Tampa, Fla.

'93

Zeta Tau Alpha sorority elected **Lynn Compton Chapman** of Birmingham to its National Council for the 2016-18 term at its international convention in Phoenix last year. The nine-person National Council is elected every biennium to lead the organization. This is Chapman's third term on the council, where she currently serves as vice president collegiate.

'95

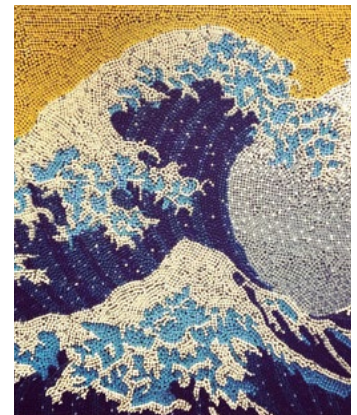
Anna-Katherine Graves Bowman is a senior attorney with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings in Birmingham.



'96

Montgomery resident **Scott Speagle** was named managing partner of his firm, Webster, Henry, Bradwell, Cohan, Speagle & DeShazo PC, which has offices throughout Alabama. Speagle practices commercial and business litigation throughout the southeast in federal and state courts and in the American Arbitration Association.

Artist **Herb Williams IV** is exhibiting his crayon-based works at the Taubman Museum in Roanoke, Va., this September, and at BSC's Durbin Gallery in November. He resides in Nashville and is represented by the Rymer Gallery.



"The Great Emoji" by Herb Williams

'97

George Fibbe is deputy general counsel for litigation, regulation, and enforcement with the U.S. Department of Energy. He resides in Houston.

Dr. Anna Froula received two grant awards from the National Endowment of the Humanities through the Standing Together Initiative: Dialogues on the Experience of War. Froula traveled to the American island of Saipan this summer with two colleagues to engage veterans of contemporary wars, surviving civilian participants of World War II, and families of veterans. This fall and next, she will direct a bridge program for incoming student veterans to talk through their experiences of wars. Froula

is associate professor of film studies and associate chair of the English Department at East Carolina University.

President Donald Trump named Jefferson County (Ala.) Place One Probate **Judge Alan King**, a Democrat, to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity this summer. King joined a 15-member panel charged with researching voting in the U.S. to maintain public confidence in the election process.

'98

Ben Bolton was appointed energy programs administrator in the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Office of Energy Programs in 2015. Specifically, he is the principal investigator for a U.S. Department of Energy project for "Advancing Energy Efficiency in Wastewater Utilities and Other Underserved Sectors" in Tennessee and Alabama. Aside from work, Bolton enjoys tending to the more than 300 varieties of Japanese maples at his Nashville home.

Jake McKenzie (MPPM) is the CEO of the Intermark Group, now the second largest advertising agency in Birmingham.

'00

Anne Tyler Hall, a principal at Hall Benefits Law of Atlanta, has been named a 2017 *Georgia Super Lawyer* Rising Star.

Dr. Heather Hancock of Madison, Miss., has joined North Mississippi Medical Center's Retina Center as a surgeon specializing in vitreoretinal diseases. She holds a master's degree in physiology and biophysics from UAB and earned her medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

'01

Brad Parsons, a longtime employee of Baptist Memorial Health Care, has been serving as CEO of all Jonesboro operations for the Memphis-based hospital company since 2015. Parsons earned a master's degree in business



Saving faces: Alum launches beauty brand

Three years ago, beauty industry executive **Murphy Bishop II '94** stumbled upon the perfect business opportunity over Thanksgiving dinner.

He was at the home of Natalya Rachkova, a former nurse turned aesthetician who had moved from her native Uzbekistan to Seattle, where Bishop lived at the time.

"During my visit, I noticed women walking in and out her home, each with a small plastic tub of cream," Bishop said. "Natalya had cooked the cream the day before and it had been cooling—waiting for a new batch of clients. Each woman would hand her \$40 and leave with their purchase. When I tried Natalya's home-brewed masterpiece, I was hooked."

Bishop joined forces with Rachkova to help develop the product commercially and together they co-founded The Better Skin Co., which entered the market in 2016 with the launch of Mirakle Cream. Marketed as "genius in a jar," the cream is an antioxidant-rich recipe of natural ingredients such as beeswax, sea buckthorn, aloe, and algae that treats everything from hyper-pigmentation to fine lines and eczema.

Since then their brand—now based in Los Angeles—has been featured on television in the top 10 major U.S. markets (it was selected as a holiday gift pick on the Wendy Williams Show); used by Hollywood insiders for trips down the Oscar and Emmy red carpets; and highlighted in most major magazines, websites, and by famous YouTube stars. It is sold at select Urban Outfitters, Bloomingdales, Dermstore, EVINE Live Home Shopping, and a host of e-tailers and independent beauty boutiques. The duo plan to add a cleanser and other products to the beauty lineup soon.

Bishop, a Grand Bay, Ala., native, credits much of his success to BSC. He fondly recalls Dr. Jack Taylor, whom he said ignited his passion for marketing, and President Emeritus Dr. Neal Berte, whose leadership inspired him.

"The college really prepared me for my career by giving me the permission to be a free thinker and push boundaries," said Bishop, who majored in finance and marketing. "At BSC, we were always encouraged to think first, answer second, and fight for our position when challenged. Creative thinking was celebrated and rewarded."

After graduating, he took his first job with Parisian, eventually moving on to big cosmetics companies like Estée Lauder and Bare Escentuals. At Lauder, he was promoted to an executive position with the Bobbi Brown Division and then the Stila Division. He has traveled the globe representing multiple brands and sat in the front row at fashion week in New York and London. He is also the founder/CEO of Bleu Brand Development in Santa Monica, Calif., a full-service brand development agency specializing in personal care.

Although Bishop and his partner enjoy the sun, sand, and fast-paced environment of the West Coast, they miss the friendly, slower-paced lifestyle that he remembers from Alabama.

"We have life goals of moving back to the South, remodeling an antebellum mansion, and setting up an organic farm complete with livestock," he said. "One can dream..."



Distinguished membership— Dr. Carol Newsom '71, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, was elected to the prestigious ranks of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation's oldest honorary societies. Newsom is part of the 236th class of the academy's members, a group that includes some of the world's most accomplished scholars, scientists, writers, and artists as well as civic, business, and philanthropic leaders. Her research focuses on the Dead Sea Scrolls, the wisdom tradition, the book of Daniel, apocalyptic literature, and theology and the environment. "The honor of election to the American Academy is also a call to service," said Academy President Jonathan Fanton at the induction ceremony in Cambridge, Mass. "Newsom was the first woman to be invited to join the international team of editors of the Dead Sea Scrolls." Newsom has written and edited 13 books and scores of articles, book chapters, translations, encyclopedia articles, and reviews. She holds an honorary doctorate from BSC.

administration and hospital administration from UAB.

Tyrenda Williams Reed is the human resources director at Cobbs Allen's corporate office in Birmingham. Reed earned a master's degree in journalism and



Latin American and Caribbean studies from New York University. In 2016, she was recognized as one of the city's "Women to Watch" by the Birmingham Business Journal. She lives in Gardendale with her husband and two daughters.

'02
Leigh Griggs completed her master's degree in management from Troy University in March 2016 and is employed at Birmingham's Department of Veterans Affairs as a Talent Management System domain manager.

Robert Hahn of Pensacola, Fla., is senior financial officer at Fisher Brown Bottrell Insurance Inc.

'03
Cori Jobe Fishman of Lake Worth, Fla., joined the adjunct faculty at Florida Atlantic University last fall and continues to teach high school science. Her husband, Michael, is a Realtor (see Weddings).

Katy Leonard, former Exploration Term director at BSC, has been appointed resident dean of Eliot House at Harvard University.

Mary Jacob McKinley is working at First Baptist School in Charleston, S.C. "I fell in love with Charleston during Interim Term (now Exploration Term) my senior year and moved here after graduation," said McKinley, who holds a master's degree in teaching from the University of Southern California. Last fall she was recognized as a master teacher in the South Carolina Independent School Association. She recently completed the STEM Ambassador Program at The Citadel, which focuses on building a community of science, technology, engineering, and math teachers in the South Carolina low country.

Stephanie Rebman recently marked her first year as managing editor of the Birmingham Business Journal. She is a veteran journalist who previously served as editor of the award-winning Oxford (Mississippi) Eagle and night editor of the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal.

Rev. Dr. David Saliba is in his second year serving as senior pastor of the Perdido Bay United Methodist Church in Perdido Key, Fla. Saliba serves on BSC's Board of Trustees and holds a master of divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where he serves on the advisory council. He earned a doctorate of ministry in church leadership excellence from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have two children (see Births).

The McWane Science Center in Birmingham has named **Josh Vasa** as its new vice president of operations. He previously served as festival director for the Sidewalk Film Festival, corporate support manager for Alabama Public Television, development manager at Kid One Transport, and director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at BSC.

'04
Rebecca Beers, an associate in the Birmingham office of Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, was elected president-elect of the Birmingham Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section; she will serve as president of that organization in 2018. Among her professional awards, Beers received BSC's Outstanding Young Alumni award for 2012 and is immediate past president of the college's Alumni Association and a former member of its Board of Trustees. In 2015, she was named a "Rising Star" in law by the Birmingham Business Journal and has been named a "Rising Star" in securities litigation by Mid-South Super Lawyers since 2014. She earned her JD *cum laude* from Washington & Lee University School of Law in 2007.

'06
Lisa Glenn was elected to the governing board of St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance in Phoenix, Ariz. Glenn was also promoted to assistant director for Lifelong Learning at Arizona State University. In this position, she manages the Baobab social learning network for the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program serving 15,000 African scholars, and the Young Thinkers Program for the Al Ghurair Foundation in the United Arab Emirates.



'07
Dr. Casey Daniel is assistant professor of oncologic sciences at the

University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute in Mobile, working on cancer prevention and control strategies. She holds a master's degree in public health and a Ph.D. from UAB and completed her postdoctoral training at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Raj Patel of Vestavia Hills opened up a new dermatology practice over the past year, True Dermatology, which serves Clanton and Alabaster. In addition to doing routine skin exams, Patel performs a special surgery called "Moh's Micrographic Surgery" to remove skin cancers and provide a 99 percent cure rate as well as reconstructive surgery. He graduated from the UAB School of Medicine.

'08



Rev. Dr. Dedric Cowser received a doctorate of ministry in May from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He is senior pastor of New Beginnings United Methodist Church in Birmingham and serves as conference secretary for the North Alabama Conference of the UMC.

Samantha Masdon Davis has been promoted to manager of regulatory affairs and strategic development with Viva Health in Birmingham.

Patrick Scott, assistant organist-choirmaster at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, was named to The Diapason magazine's list of 20 leaders and organists under the age of 30. Scott has recently performed in



Charleston as part of the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, in Houston at the American Guild of Organists National Convention, and at St. Paul's Cathedral in London; he was invited for a residency with the choirs of both Salisbury and Durham Cathedrals in England.

'09

Whitney Williams is development director at the Birmingham Education Foundation in Birmingham.

'11

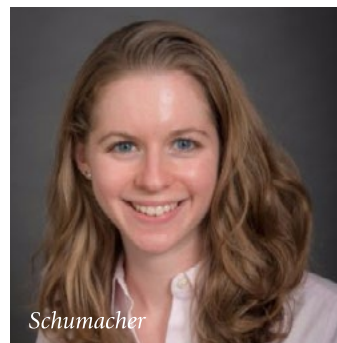
Rev. Ani Missirian-Wilson, a graduate of the Vanderbilt University Divinity School, is the lead pastor at First United Methodist Church in Modesto, Calif. She was ordained an elder in June by the California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church (see Weddings).



John Mayfield Jr. is attending Western Michigan University's MBA program while working at Box On Demand. He also serves as a captain in the Michigan Army National Guard.

Avani Patel and her mother, Rupa Patel, are co-owners of Avani Rupa Fine Jewelers in Mountain Brook. She resides in Homewood with her husband, Milind.

Dr. Amy Schumacher started working for the Centers for Disease Control in Madison, Wis., this summer as an epidemic intelligence service officer. She earned a master's in biostatistics from the University of Iowa in 2013 and graduated with a Ph.D. in community and behavioral health with a health communication sub-track in May.



'12

After graduating from Georgia State University with a master's in actuarial science, **Brittany Sterling Soto** is now a financial analyst with ADP in Norfolk, Va.

'13

William Justice landed two principal acting roles after signing on with TDH Unlimited, a talent agency in Georgia. He played Justin Timberlake on "National Enquirer Investigates: Britney Spears," which aired on the Reelz cable channel this spring. Justice also played Officer Swanson on the crime webseries T.R.A.D.E. He continues to audition for roles while teaching piano at Mason Music and the Homewood School of Music.

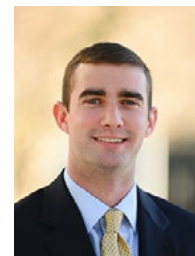
Elizabeth Hagale won awards for Best Action/Adventure Short Screenplay at the 2016 Nashville Film Festival and Best Short Screenplay at the 2016 Orlando Film Festival. Her script *Welcome Back!* is about a woman who is killed so her husband can become a superhero again, but she returns from the dead to turn the trope on its head. Hagale works as a social media manager at an advertising agency in Athens, Ala.

'14

Artist **Melissa McIntyre Litton** is working out of her downtown Birmingham studio space, 21st Street Studios. She also joined the Ground Floor Contemporary Gallery as an artist member. Her husband, **David Litton '12**, is a solutions architect at Ad Victoriam Solutions, a cloud solutions provider in Atlanta.

Lance Mengel

has served as a mortgage loan officer for South State Bank in Charleston, S.C., for the past two years. When not at work, he is an active participant in the V Cancer Foundation; he plays in the Edward Mengel Memorial Jimmy V Golf Tournament, started by his father, every year. Mengel also volunteers with the Charleston Youth Development Center.



'16

Post-folk singing duo **Nick Bierman** and **Wes Chambers**, known as The Caged Birds, have produced their debut album *Henry*, a 10-song cycle that traces the activities and adventures of a young man growing up in a one-parent home in the Deep South.

FRIENDS

The Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce awarded former BSC trustee and fundraising co-chair **Hatton Smith** with the 2016 Jemison Award for significant contributions to the community. Smith is CEO emeritus of Royal Cup Coffee. Smith was also named United Way of Central Alabama Outstanding Civic Leader by the Association of Fundraising Professionals during last year's National Philanthropy Day event.

BIRTHS

1 A daughter, Helen Olivia, Nov. 15, 2016, to **Louisa Elizabeth Perry Comeaux '98** and husband, Chris, of Birmingham. (not pictured)

2 A son, Luke Matthew, April 19, 2016, to **Dr. Amy Hajari Case '01** and husband, Chad, of Marietta, Ga. Big brother, James.

3 A son, Benjamin Sharpe, June 4, 2017, to **Dr. Sarah Sharpe Flanagan '01** and husband, **Dr. Brian Flanagan '01**, of Birmingham.

4 A son, Elias Beaux, June 27, 2016, to **Ryanne Duffie Saucier '02** and husband, Dan, of Atlanta.

5 A daughter, Josefine Ruth, March 25, 2017, to **Cori Jobe Fishman '03** and husband, Michael, of Lake Worth, Fla.

6 A daughter, Abigail Clay, April 10, 2017, to **Ellen Segrest Fortin '03** and husband, James, of Alexandria, Va.

7 A son, Shepard Sullivan, Feb. 2, 2017, to **Katie Sullivan Kauffman '03** and husband, Joel, of Birmingham. Big brother, Asher.

8 A daughter, Grace Elizabeth, Feb. 7, 2017, to **Rev. Dr. David Saliba '03** and wife, Elizabeth, of Perdido Key, Fla. Big brother, Joseph.

9 A son, Ronan Donnach Neill, May 6, 2017, to **Bevin O'Neill '06** and husband, **Brian DeLoach '04**, of Birmingham. Big brother, Malachy.

10 A son, Samuel Jackson "Jack," June 23, 2017, to **Sadie Galloway Wootten '06** and husband, Gerald Edward "Jeremy" III, of Birmingham. Big brother, Gerald Edward "Teddy" IV.

11 Triplets—Frances Hereford, Laura Stone, and William Seaton—Dec. 21, 2016, to **Lucy Hamilton**

Daniel '07 and husband, **Christopher Daniel '08**, of Birmingham. Photo: (l to r): Frances, Will, and Laura.

12 A son, Miles Gregory, March 2, 2017, to **Christie Harris Brinkman '09** and husband, Greg, of Chicago.

13 A son, Declan John, Nov. 3, 2016, to **Dr. Bethney Reynoldson '09** and husband, John Michaels, of Phoenix, Ariz.

14 A son, Graham Vance, Nov. 15, 2016, to **Madeline NeSmith Woodham '13** and husband, Tyler, of Gadsden, Ala.





WEDDINGS

If you would like to submit a photo of your wedding for consideration in 'Southern magazine, send a digital photo (as a JPEG or TIFF file) to alumni@bsc.edu clearly titled with your name.

Jeannie Bennett '85 to Daniel Russell Jr., June 3, 2017. Pictured above at the wedding, which took place in Hampton Cove, Ala.: front row (from left) are **Mike Chappell '82**, **Hollie Russell '14**, **Katie Russell '18**, **Bennett**, and **Amma Hurt Barnes '57**; back row (from left) are **Sarah Spencer Chappell '83**, **Gary Real '83**, **Jill Limbaugh Real '85**, **Kristi Adcock Valls '85**, **Jennifer Sloan Dill '92**, **Ralph "Randy" Dill IV '89**, and **Jeff Bennett '89**.

Richard Falkenhagen '00 to Javier Garza, April 29, 2017.

Cori Jobe '03 to Michael Fishman, June 18, 2016.

Charlotte Beam '07 to **Robert "Bobby" Peinhardt '07**, Jan. 28, 2017.

Meredith Reid Cheney '09 to Lt. David Phillips III, March 11, 2017. Matron of Honor was **Kelsey Frady Malone '10**.

Rev. Ani Missirian-Dill '11 to John Wilson on July 1, 2017.

Aaron Brown '12 to **Alexis Gilmore '12**, April 8, 2017.

Julia Guyton '12 to Jesse Kamps, March 25, 2017.

IN MEMORIAM

**Obituaries are organized by graduating class year and include alumni whose deaths were reported from January 2016 through June 2017.*

Carl Ferdinand Wittichen Jr. '35 of Irondale, on Oct. 29, 2016. Wittichen served in World War II as a major in the Chemical Corps of the U.S. Army. He began his business career by founding Wittichen Chemical Co., and later, Wittichen Supply Co., which still operates today. Wittichen was active in community life, including a term as president of the Birmingham Kiwanis Club; he was recently honored by the naming of the Wittichen Fountain at Mountain Brook City Hall. He was an avid outdoorsman. Wittichen is survived by his wife, three daughters, nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Clara Rice Brightman '37 of Centerville, Iowa, on Nov. 5, 2016. Brightman continued her education, earning a master's degree. She worked as a director of religious education, a social worker, and as executive director for Planned Parenthood in Connecticut. She moved to Centerville in 1999. Among her survivors is a sister.

Dr. Dora Henley Going '37 of Tuscaloosa, on March 10, 2016 (See Philanthropy).

Dr. McLemore Bouchelle '40 of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., on Jan. 3, 2016.

Marion C. Murphy '40 of Birmingham, on Jan. 17, 2016. Murphy was a longtime member of Trinity United Methodist Church and had retired from personnel work with the department of defense in Mobile, Pensacola, and Birmingham. Two nephews are among her survivors.

Mary Penruddocke Britton '41 of Birmingham, on June 8, 2016. Britton was a parishioner of St. Luke's Episcopal church, where she served on the staff from 1963-2013. Her survivors include two daughters, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Rev. Arthur M. Carlton Sr. '41 of Fairhope, on April 28, 2016. Carlton was a retired member of the clergy for the Alabama/West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church and a recognized leader in civil rights. He earned his master of divinity from Duke University and served in ministry nearly 60 years, including providing staff and leadership for Blue Lake Camps for intellectually and physically challenged adults. Carlton served on BSC's Board of Trustees from 1969-80. He is survived by eight children, including **Arthur Carlton Jr. '70** of Fairhope, **Kay Carlton '72** of Durham, N.C., and **Charlie Carlton '80** of Indian Springs, as well as a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dr. Joseph S. Davis Sr. '41 of Tuscaloosa, on June 24, 2016. Davis served in the medical corps in the U.S. Navy and later attended the School of Medicine at UAB. A fifth-generation physician, he practiced medicine in Tuscaloosa from 1947 until his retirement in 1999. He was chief of the medical staff at Druid City Hospital from 1961-62 and co-founder of West Alabama General, now Northport Medical

Center. Among his survivors are three children, including **Joseph Davis Jr. '73** of Tuscaloosa; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to the Hiram Glass Davis Scholarship at BSC, Office of Advancement, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Rd., Birmingham, AL 35254. It is awarded to students preparing for ministry or a church-related vocation.

Elaire Cooper Fletcher '41 of Birmingham, on Sept. 30, 2016. A homemaker, Fletcher was married to the late **Gordon Fletcher '41**. After their children were grown, she volunteered with University Hospital Auxiliary for many years. Her love of outdoor activities included horseback riding, flying small airplanes, gardening, water skiing, and camping. Among survivors are three children, including **Madeline "Cissy" Fletcher Bennett '69** of Birmingham and **Susan Fletcher Smith '67** (**Dr. Robert E. Smith Jr. '68**) of Highlands, N.C.; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Elaire's father, the late **Kenneth E. Cooper**, graduated from Southern University, BSC's predecessor.

Dr. Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton '41 of Birmingham, on April 4, 2016. Hamilton worked for the Birmingham News and became one of the first faculty members at UAB. She taught history classes, ran the library, and later became the chair of the History Department. She has written several notable books on Alabama history, including *Hugo Black: The Alabama Years, Alabama: A History*, and several textbooks. Hamilton was also involved with history and politics on a national level. She earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from BSC and was the second woman to earn a Ph.D. from UAB. She received a BSC Distinguished Alumni Award in 1972. Among her survivors is a grandson.



Walker with wife, Nancy

IN MEMORIAM '49

Elbert "Billy" Sterling Walker, a World War II veteran, successful engineer, and contributor to the communities in which he lived, passed away on Jan. 27, 2017, in Birmingham. He was 91.

Walker served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a radio/radar technician. Afterward, he enrolled at BSC, where he studied physics, and later earned his MBA from the University of Denver.

A registered professional engineer in

Colorado, Walker was employed for 36 years by the Hughes Aircraft Co. in the development of radar and space communications equipment in California, Canada, and Colorado. Upon retirement, he and his wife, Nancy, returned to Birmingham.

Throughout his life, Walker was an enthusiastic and generous supporter of Birmingham-Southern. He was a regular contributor to the Annual Fund, supported the Elton B. Stephens Science Center and Admission Welcome Center building projects, and endowed two scholarships at BSC: the Elbert S. Walker Science Scholarship for students studying in any of the sciences, and the Smith Family Scholarship, which assists financially challenged students born in Alabama.

His volunteer activities included reading on the Alabama Radio Reading Service Network, recording textbooks for the Hoover School System's Talking Books Program, and driving for the Hoover Express. Walker was a lifetime member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Birmingham Museum of Art, and the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

He was also an active member of Bluff Park United Methodist Church. Survivors include a niece and nephew.

Walter Jackson Elementary School for six years, then transferred to Austin High School, where she taught English until her retirement in 1986. Butler is survived by two children, four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Lilian Culley White '44 of

Birmingham, on July 31, 2016. White graduated from BSC Phi Beta Kappa with honors. She met her husband, the late **Dewey White '45**, at BSC. They enjoyed many adventures together, including working on their farm, on the political front in Montgomery, and helping those less fortunate than themselves. She also taught ballet and led many Girl Scout groups and PTAs. She was a longtime member of South Highland Presbyterian Church. White is survived by four children, 13 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Emily Louise Irving Allen '45 of

Birmingham, on June 21, 2017. In 1944, she married the late **Bibb Allen '44** and was a devoted wife and mother. She was an active member of First United Methodist Church and the Birmingham and Alabama State Bar auxiliaries. She was also involved in community service with the Birmingham Symphony Association and the Birmingham Museum of Art. She is survived by two children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. The family requests memorial donations be made to the Bibb Allen Honors Pre-Law Scholarship at BSC, Office of Advancement, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Faye Little Curl '45 of Cantonment,

Fla., on June 4, 2016. Curl was a church organist and pianist. Her husband, **Rev. Dr. William E. Curl '48**, died on March 19, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Curl received his master of divinity at Emory's Candler School of

Beulah Gilliland Ormond '41 of Tuscaloosa, on Nov. 2, 2016. During World War II, Ormond worked as a chemist for U.S. Steel. After earning her master's degree, she became a chemistry and biology professor at the University of Montevallo. Later, she was dean of women and professor of chemistry and mathematics at the University of West Alabama. When Ormond retired, she moved to Tuscaloosa; she wrote poetry and earned a real estate license. Ormond enjoyed entertaining, sewing, traveling, reading, and dancing. Among survivors are four children, eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Rev. Woodfin K. Grove '42 of Anniston, on Oct. 16, 2016.

Almeta Anderson Mitchell '42 of Birmingham, on Jan. 28, 2016. Mitchell was a full-time homemaker. She was an active member of Independent Presbyterian Church for more than 70 years. Survivors include two children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Caroline Winston Winters '42 of Birmingham, on Dec. 13, 2016. Winters loved teaching, reading, Spanish, and meeting new people. She is survived by three sons, including **Dr. John Winters '79** of Birmingham, and a granddaughter.

Mary Wolford Pate '43 of Irondale, on Feb. 2, 2016. Pate obtained a master's in education and an education specialist degree from UAB. She began working as a staff

writer for the Birmingham News and received numerous rewards for her reporting. Later, Pate taught journalism and produced the school newspaper at Brooke Hill, now the Altamont School. She retired as assistant director of the Emmett O'Neal Library. Survivors include two children and three grandchildren.

Allie Christian Butler '44 of Decatur, on Sept. 11, 2016. During World War II, Butler taught airplane mechanics for the U.S. Air Force at Keesler Field in Biloxi, Miss. She obtained a master's degree from Peabody College (now Vanderbilt University) in 1962. Butler taught piano lessons before teaching piano at schools in Cullman and Decatur. She taught sixth grade at

Theology and entered into ministry. He served churches throughout the North Alabama Conference, retiring in 1987. In retirement, he served in other capacities, including district superintendent. Curl was given an honorary doctorate from BSC, where he chaired the executive committee of the Board of Trustees. They are survived by their daughter, two granddaughters, and five great-grandchildren. The family requests memorial donations be made to the William E. and Faye L. Curl Scholarship at BSC, Office of Advancement, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254. It is awarded to outstanding United Methodist students at BSC.

Walter Sinclair Fletcher '45 of Mountain Brook, on March 22, 2016. After attending the University of Alabama School of Law, Fletcher practiced law with Dominick, Fletcher, Yielding. He was an avid golf and tennis player. Survivors include his wife, three children, 12 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

John Olan McDaniels Jr. '45 of Vestavia Hills, on Oct. 30, 2016. McDaniels reached the rank of colonel in the U.S. Air Force and served in World War II. He was a member of the Vestavia Country Club for more than 50 years and was a champion golf and tennis player. He is survived by two step-children, two step-grandchildren, and three step-great-grandchildren.

Lillian Douglas Berg '46 of Clearwater Beach Fla., on Dec. 31, 2016. She enjoyed teaching chemistry for many years at Northern Virginia Community College and was a church organist, pianist, and choir director at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Falls Church, Va. Survivors include a son, **Frederick Berg '83** of Del Rio, Texas.

Jane Scruggs Randolph '46 of Birmingham, on May 16, 2016. Randolph earned master's degrees

from Middlebury College and the Sorbonne in Paris. When her French husband died in a flying accident after World War II, she regained her U.S. citizenship and embarked on a career as a French teacher at the Brooke Hill School until 1975. In 1952, Randolph re-married and began parenthood. She enjoyed playing tennis. She is survived by five children, 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Emily Blake Vail '46 of Greensboro, N.C., on May 30, 2016. Vail received master's degrees in English literature and in counseling from Georgia State University. She began writing at an early age, eventually publishing more than a dozen books of fiction and poetry that earned state, regional, and national awards; she served two years as president of the Georgia Poetry Society. Vail was a promoter of arts for children, often reading her poetry in schools. She loved opera and was a soloist in her church choir. Her late ex-husband, **Dr. Charles B. Vail '45**, endowed the Vail College Fellows Program at BSC. She is survived by two daughters, two granddaughters, and four great-grandchildren.

Johnnie Bates Edwards '47 of Birmingham, on April 20, 2016. Edwards earned a master's degree from the University of Alabama. She spent most of her life as a teacher throughout the Birmingham area and was at the forefront of computer science. Edwards traveled all over the world with friends and family, was an avid reader, and supported the arts in her community. Survivors include two daughters, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

The Hon. Perry O. Hooper Sr. '47 of Montgomery, on April 24, 2016. After earning his JD from the University of Alabama School of Law, Hooper began his law career in Montgomery. He was elected probate judge of

Montgomery County in 1964 and re-elected in 1970. In 1974, he was elected as a circuit judge in Montgomery. In 1994, he became the first Republican chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court since reconstruction. He was one of the founding fathers of the modern Republican Party in Alabama, serving as the state's longtime National Committee chair and onetime party chair. Among survivors are his wife, four sons, and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Thomas Alfred Parker '47 of Birmingham, on April 9, 2016. Parker served as a naval aviator during World War II and was in the reserves until his retirement in 1964. He was a longtime employee of Liberty National Life Insurance Co. and was active in the Boy Scouts of America. Survivors include his wife.

Elizabeth Baker Leath '48 of Irondale, on May 3, 2016. A homemaker, Leath was active at Irondale United Methodist Church for 66 years. She is survived by a son and three grandchildren.

Jack Stevens Breckenridge '49 of Mountain Brook, on Feb. 14, 2016. Breckenridge was a CPA and 30-year employee of Southern Natural Gas Co.; he began his career as a staff accountant and retired as vice president/controller. He served with the U.S. Air Force's 31st Bomb Squadron in the South Pacific during World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart. Breckenridge was a member of Canterbury United Methodist Church. He and his wife belonged to several dance clubs. Among survivors are three children and five grandchildren.

Dr. Edward Brock Dismukes '49 of Hoover, on Dec. 24, 2016. Dismukes received his master's and Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Wisconsin and worked at Southern Research

Institute. As a senior research advisor at SRI, he became a nationally recognized expert on flue gas conditioning processes and studied methods of air pollution control. He was a U.S. Army veteran. His survivors include two children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Hugh Anderson Neighbors Jr. '49 of Alexander City, on April 13, 2017. Neighbors served as a medical corpsman in the South Pacific Theatre during the last years of World War II. After graduating from BSC, he worked one year at TCI Steel (U.S. Steel) before joining his father in the family business, Alex City Provision. Upon his father's death, Neighbors became president of the company until his retirement. He was an active member of First United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, **Ann Smallman Neighbors '51**, three children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Hugh and Ora Neighbors Ministerial Tuition Scholarship at BSC, Office of Advancement, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Julia Walker Williams '49 of Birmingham, on May 28, 2017. Williams was a longtime member of the American Association of University Women and a member of Trinity United Methodist Church. Survivors include her husband; three children, including **Robert Williams, Jr. '72** of Birmingham; six grandchildren, including **Sarah Keathley Hutchings '05** of Birmingham and **Charles Williams '05** of Angier, N.C.; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mariam Wilder Bailey '50 of Hoover, on May 21, 2017. Bailey was a beloved seventh and eighth grade teacher for 38 years at Inglenook Elementary School. An avid reader, her natural curiosity led



IN MEMORIAM '54

Dr. Ralph M. Tanner, former BSC president (1972-75), passed away on Nov. 24, 2016, in Baldwin City, Kansas. He was 89. A Birmingham native, he also earned an M.A. degree from BSC and was the second graduate of the college to become its president.

As an undergraduate, Tanner performed in several College Theatre productions, sang with the Concert Choir, served as Hilltop News business manager, and was a member of several organizations, including Omicron Delta Kappa and Kappa Phi Kappa.

He had first aspired to be an attorney and, later, a radio-TV personality. During his undergraduate years, Tanner worked as a reporter, announcer, and performer

for two local radio and TV stations. After serving as a teacher, basketball coach, and administrator for schools in Warrior and for then-Walker Junior College, he joined the BSC history faculty in early 1960 following the death of one of his mentors, Dr. Henry T. Shanks. Tanner earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Alabama in 1967 and was promoted to associate professor of history at BSC. His diverse capabilities were proven as he led a student choir and served successively as registrar, admissions officer, professor, dean of the college, executive vice president, and chief executive officer before being named BSC's ninth president in 1972—the same year he was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of the college.

Under Tanner's leadership, significant fiscal and academic progress was achieved. The college's endowment increased by 131 percent; the percentage of contributing alumni more than doubled; key academic programs were begun or enhanced; and construction began on the Charles Andrew Rush Learning Center. Further, a decision was made by the Board of Trustees to remain on the existing campus.

When he resigned the BSC presidency on Aug. 1, 1975, Tanner was made a Distinguished Professor and returned to the classroom. In 1977, he moved to Nashville to work with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. During 1980-87, Tanner served as president of Baker University in Baldwin City, Kan. After retiring from Baker, he served four terms in the Kansas State House of Representatives, where his colleagues selected him to be chair of the Education Committee and the Rules Committee.

His other civic activities included Rotary International, United Way, and the Chamber of Commerce in both Baldwin City and Lawrence, Kan. Across his career, Tanner led or sang in many church choirs. He loved gardening, music, golf, and football. A mentor to many, Tanner truly cared for his students and urged them to develop keen minds devoted to lifelong learning.

"Dr. Tanner helped teach one of my fall freshman courses, and his wise critique of my first college essay did more to teach me about good writing than any course I had in college," said **Ann Gunter Johnson '74**. "I am still grateful."

Tanner was a member of BSC's Ginkgo Society. In May, the college's Board of Trustees adopted a Memorial Resolution of Tribute "dedicated to the life and distinguished career of Ralph M. Tanner." He is survived by his wife, **Judith Berry Tanner '54**; three children; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

her to become a world traveler. She also held a passion for ballroom dancing and belonged to multiple local dance groups. She is survived by her husband, daughter, and grandson.

Carey J. Chitwood '50 of Birmingham, on May 19, 2016. Chitwood received his LLB degree from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1957 and joined the firm now known as Balch & Bingham LLP. His practice encompassed real estate and contract work. He was a member of the Panel of Arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association. Chitwood was an avid sports fan. His father, a highly regarded Methodist minister, served on the Board of Trustees at BSC. A nephew is among his survivors.

Dr. Morris Whitsett Hollis Sr. '50 of Sylacauga, on Oct. 18, 2016. Hollis was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1946. After college, he was admitted into the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. He practiced family dentistry until he retired in 1996. Hollis' interest in orofacial pain became a hallmark of his 44 years in practice; patients would travel to Sylacauga from across the U.S. and the world to be treated by him. His wife, **Betty Barnes Hollis '48**, passed away Aug. 22, 2016. Survivors include two children, **Morris Whit Hollis Jr. '74** of Salt Lake City, Utah, and **Marie Hollis McElheny '75 (Terry McElheny '75)** of Birmingham; two grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Dr. Neil Everett Lawler '50 of Birmingham, on Oct. 27, 2016. Lawler was a World War II U.S. Marine Corps veteran. He graduated from BSC's Conservatory of Music and later received his master's and Ph.D. from the University of Alabama. Before teaching, Lawler was employed by U.S. Steel for 12 years in the general office. As a band director, he taught at Tarrant,

Montevallo, Berry, Bessemer, and Jess Lanier high schools; he spent 28 years as an adjunct professor at UAB. An active musician, he performed with numerous groups and productions, including 20 years as conductor of the Miss Alabama Pageant. He is survived by his wife, a son, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Juanita Willene Paxton '50 of Johnson City, Tenn., formerly of Birmingham, on July 23, 2016. Throughout her career at East Tennessee State University, and following her retirement in 1993, she was active in professional associations and her church, Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church. Nieces and nephews are among her survivors.

Charles C. Pinckney, Jr. '50 of Bear Creek Pike, N.C., formerly of Columbia, Tenn., on March 18, 2016. Pinckney served in the U.S. Army during World War II. In 1970, he and his wife started a tax return and bookkeeping business that still operates in Columbia. He was a student of history and enjoyed sports, reading, and crossword puzzles. He is survived by his wife, four sons, four grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and four step-great-grandchildren.

William Tinman Walker '50 of Tiburon, Calif., on Oct. 30, 2016. Active in sports, Walker signed to play baseball as a catcher for the Giants, but was drafted into the military instead. He became a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and went to sea during the Korean War. After the Navy, he earned a JD from the University of Alabama. Walker clerked for the Alabama Supreme Court before re-enlisting as part of the Judge Advocate General Service stationed in Naples, Italy. He then left the Navy and his law practice to work for IBM and later, for several large consulting firms. In 1974, he started his own executive search company. He is survived by his wife,

two children, a step-daughter, and two grandchildren.

Barbara McClain Clyde '51 of Chapel Hill, N.C., on Jan. 30, 2017. Clyde received her bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance from BSC's Conservatory of Music. She served on its faculty for two years and performed with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Clyde later served as a church organist and was pianist for a chorus that performed in New York City. She was also a faculty member at the Peabody College for Teachers (now Vanderbilt). She had lived in Chapel Hill since 1961, where she taught piano in her home, played concerts in the area, taught the children's choir at her church, and served on the Chapel Hill Music Teachers' Association Board. For many summers, Clyde was involved with the International Workshops performing in Austria, Norway, and other countries overseas. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, one granddaughter, and two great-granddaughters.

Millard Joe Crump '51 of Birmingham, on April 23, 2016. Crump served in the U.S. Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland and in the Philippine Islands. He started work at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama in 1951 and continued for 35 years. After retirement, Crump spent more than 15 years planning and escorting tours all over the world for his church, Huffman United Methodist. Survivors include his wife, two daughters, four grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Richard M. Evans '51 of Birmingham, on April 26, 2017. Evans enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps; at the end of World War II, he was stationed in Guam. He married and lived in Provo, Utah, before returning to Birmingham to join his father and brother

at Belcher-Evans Millwork Co. Survivors include four children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Harriette Kinnebrew Norman '51 of Huntsville, on Oct. 2, 2016. Norman went to seminary and became an ordained Science of Mind minister. She was a lifetime lover of the outdoors and the arts and was an avid traveler. She retired and spent most of her later years in Franklin, Tenn. Survivors include five children, a stepdaughter, five grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Ralph W. Powell '51 of Smyrna, Ga., on June 3, 2016.

Charles Brannon Smith '51 of Hueytown, on Jan. 1, 2017. Smith was a WWII veteran who served in the U.S. Air Force. He was a data analyst for 23 years at U.S. Steel and for 10 years with Jefferson County, Ala. In 1978, he founded his own computer company, S&W Minicomputers, Inc. As CEO, he was still partially active until a few months before his death. He was a lifelong member of Bethlehem Methodist Church. He is survived by three children, four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Annie Sims Akin '52 of Marietta, Ga., on Jan. 1, 2016. Following her BSC graduation, Akin went to Atlanta to teach. She retired in the 1980s. Akin created many exquisite pieces of knit and crochet lace, carrying on the craft that her mother taught her. She was also an avid reader. Her survivors include her two children and two granddaughters.

Dorothy Peggy Lee '52 of Birmingham, on Feb. 5, 2016. Lee was a teacher in the Birmingham area for 40 years and a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Betty Jo Taylor Nash '52 of Trussville, on Jan. 20, 2017. Nash graduated *summa cum laude* from BSC. She later received her AA and master's degrees from the University of Montevallo and was a much beloved teacher at Leeds and Erwin high schools. Nash was a longtime member of Huffman United Methodist Church and served on the board of directors of the Shepherd Center East and the Chalkville Girls' School. She was the first nationally certified gymnastics judge from Alabama. She is survived by her husband, **James E. Nash Jr. '51**; three daughters; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Helen Waid Powers '52 of Highland, Texas, on March 30, 2016. Powers taught science and mathematics at Grissom High School in Huntsville as well as in private schools abroad, including Greece, Turkey and Spain. She continued as a substitute teacher in Highland Village into her late 70s. Powers remained an avid bridge player and was a member of several book clubs. Among her survivors are her husband, two children, two grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Dolores Brow Cook '53 of Destin, Fla., formerly of McLean, Va., on April 11, 2016. Cook worked in New York City for Knoll Furniture and as a research librarian before putting down roots in Virginia. She had a great love of literature, good food and wine, British mysteries on PBS, and travel. She is survived by her husband, son, and two grandsons.

Dr. John "Jack" Reed Crawford '53 of Mountain Brook, on Nov. 9, 2016. Crawford was a highly accomplished pianist, organist, and composer. He earned degrees from BSC, Vanderbilt University, Harvard University, Union Theological Seminary, Emory University, and the University of Strasbourg. After studying, traveling, and working in many different places, he returned to live in Birmingham. Survivors include nieces and nephews.

CLASS NOTES

Andrew Joseph Douglas Jr. '53 of Robertsdale, formerly of Birmingham, on Dec. 13, 2016. Douglas served as a military policeman in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. Douglas had retired from U.S. Steel/Fairfield Works. After retiring, he and his wife moved to Baldwin County. He enjoyed bowling and bingo. Among survivors are three daughters.

Wade Lanning Herren '53 of Birmingham, on Dec. 7, 2016. Herren served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He attended BSC on a tennis scholarship, and during his career, won more 200 tennis titles, including an SEC Championship in 1948 while at Tulane and four national championships. Herren later founded Highland Racket Club and built tennis courts all over the South. He was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, the Southern Tennis Association HOF, the Alabama Tennis Association HOF, and the BSC HOF for his achievements and influence in tennis. Herren served as president of the Alabama Tennis Association. He is survived by his wife, three children, and 10 grandchildren.

Joanne Hayes McLaughlin '53 of Auburn, on Jan. 5, 2016. McLaughlin assisted her husband in his dental practice. She loved antiques and playing bridge; she taught several bridge classes over her career. She and her husband attended Auburn United Methodist Church. She is survived by her husband, four children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Terrell G. Latham '54 of Birmingham, on June 10, 2016.

Marilyn Brittain Rice '54 of Nashville, on Dec. 30, 2016. Rice worked for the Nashville Public Library system for 26 years after earning her master's in library science from Peabody College

(now Vanderbilt). She was the head librarian of the Bellevue branch library from its founding in 1984 until her retirement in 1997. After retiring, she served at the Bellevue United Methodist Church and volunteered at Nashville's ALIVE Hospice. She is survived by three children, four stepchildren, six grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, and eight step-great-grandchildren.

Dr. George Neal Wilson '54 of Bessemer, on Oct. 31, 2016. Wilson attended the School of Medicine at UAB and went into private practice as a family physician with his friend and medical partner, Dr. Leroy Holt, for more than 30 years. He finished his career by serving 10 years as director of the University of Alabama's Russell Student Health Center. Wilson served on the Board of Education for the Bessemer City Schools and was a past president of the Bessemer Rotary Club. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean conflict. He is survived by four children and seven grandchildren.

Rev. Howard Earl Collins '55 of Birmingham, on May 26, 2017. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Collins subsequently served as a Methodist minister for 26 years at various churches in the North Alabama conference. He graduated from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. In retirement, he continued his ministry serving as director of continuing care at Parkside-Bradford Health Services. He is survived by his three children, six grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Charles Robert Walker '55 of Navarre, Fla., on June 27, 2017. After graduating from BSC, Walker earned his master of divinity degree from Emory University. He was a clergy member of the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church for more than 55 years, serving on several of its boards and agencies; he retired in

1999. Walker had served on mission trips in Cuba and the U.S., where he worked with youth. He was recognized as pastor emeritus at Mary Esther UMC in Mary Esther, Fla., in 2006. He is survived by his wife, two children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Rev. William G. Cowart Jr. '56 of Carrollton, Ga., on Dec. 8, 2016. Cowart was a retired Methodist minister. He served in the U.S. Navy as a chaplain and also served two years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is survived by his wife, two children, and 17 grandchildren.

James Lemuel Sanders '56 of Hoover, on Jan. 7, 2016. Sanders served as the rector of Episcopal churches in Athens and Selma and was dean of the cathedral for the diocese of East Tennessee in Knoxville. He retired as the vicar of Steelwood Chapel in Loxley. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran and earned his master of divinity from the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia. Among survivors are his wife, three children, six grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

William E. Dean Jr. '57 of Birmingham, on Sept. 27, 2016. Dean served in the U.S. Army Reserve and then worked nearly 30 years at Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan. In retirement, he enjoyed traveling with his wife, fishing, volunteering with church activities, and spending time with his two grandchildren. He is also survived by his wife, **Norma Goodwin Dean** '63, and two children.

Waymon Franklin Martin '57 of Birmingham, on March 20, 2016. Martin served in Korea as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during the '50s. He worked as a disc jockey for WYDE and other radio stations during and after college. Martin helped start the Birmingham City Schools' instructional television facilities and became director. At

retirement, he worked with Meals on Wheels. Among his survivors are two children, six grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Daniel D. Roper '57 of Atlanta, on Sept. 3, 2016. After college, Roper served two years in the U.S. Navy on the battleship USS Lake Champlain before becoming a reporter for the Birmingham News. Later he joined BellSouth, continuing with AT&T in public relations. He retired in 1987. He is survived by his wife, two children, and five grandchildren.

Beverly West Turner '57 of Trussville, on July 6, 2016. Turner received her master's degree from the University of Alabama. She studied abroad in Mexico and Costa Rica, and taught as well. She retired from the Jefferson County Schools after several years of service as a Spanish and French teacher. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Center Point. Turner is survived by three children, including **Lara Turner Gowder** '00 of Trussville, and five grandchildren.

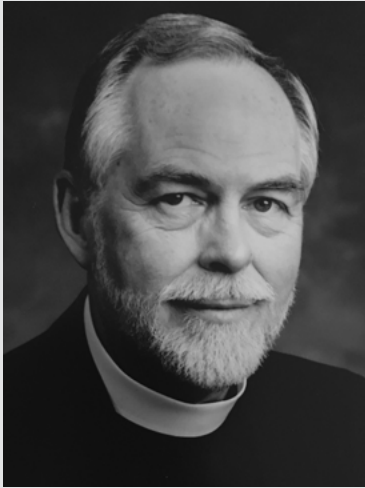
Robert T. Gorman III '58 of Vestavia Hills, on Aug. 11, 2016. Gorman was a retired commercial real estate broker and an avid Meals on Wheels volunteer. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean conflict. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, and two grandchildren.

Nancy Gentry Orr '58 of Nashville, on Jan. 24, 2016. Orr was active in several areas of ministry at Forest Hills Baptist Church; she did mission trips to Mexico, Guatemala, Poland, and Portugal. She was an avid gardener and reader and a world traveler; she visited more than 40 countries and many parts of the U.S. She enjoyed water rafting, hot air ballooning, hang-gliding, and flying in antique airplanes. Her survivors include her husband, four children, 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

G. Preston Bryant '60 of Coosada, on April 9, 2017. A U.S. Navy veteran, Preston worked for many years as a licensed psychologist in Huntsville and Decatur. He later moved to Montgomery to work as a psychologist at Gunter Air Force Base, before transferring to Maxwell Air Force Base to round out his career as an editor for Air University Press. He was an award-winning short story writer, animal lover, sports enthusiast, and big band aficionado. Preston is survived by his wife, **Gloria Glasgow Bryant '57**, five children, four grandchildren, two great-grandsons.

Dr. Gordon H. Doss '60 of Mountain Brook on March 27, 2017. Doss spent his early career at the Alabama Department of Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services and later served as executive administrator of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. His interest in cancer led to a cancer research company in Tennessee, followed by work with the Social Security Administration's Office of Hearings and Appeals. He earned a Ph.D. in rehabilitation counselor education from the University of Alabama. Doss volunteered with many organizations that served the sick or disadvantaged or in places where he could interpret for the hearing impaired. Doss also served with the Alabama National Guard and was deployed to France during the Berlin Crisis, where he became fluent in French. Survivors include his wife, two daughters, two step-children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Virginia Davis Gauld '60 of Pell City, on March 14, 2017. Gauld earned a master's in rehabilitation counseling and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Alabama. She was the first female vice president at UAB, where she was the vice president for student affairs. She remained involved with the YWCA throughout



IN MEMORIAM '58

The Rev. Denson N. Franklin Jr.—part of a four-generation BSC family, including his father, the late **Dr. Denson N. Franklin Sr. '36**; son and daughter, **Denson N. Franklin III '85** and **Rev. Dr. Lee Franklin Shafer '83**; and granddaughter, **Holland Bauer '11**—died at his home on May 29, 2017, in Birmingham. He was 80.

Franklin studied English at Birmingham-Southern, graduating in three years. A naturally gifted singer, he performed with the Concert Choir under the directorship of the late and legendary Dr. Hugh Thomas, and sang with the college's Alumni Choir for several years.

"One of his favorite memories of his time at BSC was when Robert Frost visited the campus on his way to Florida," said Denson III. "Mr. Frost read his poetry in Dad's English class, which was held outside underneath the ginkgo tree that day."

Franklin graduated from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University with a master of divinity in 1961. He served as a student pastor while in college and seminary, was ordained a deacon and presbyter in the Methodist Church, and served the North Alabama Conference until 1972. He left parish ministry to work in human resources for 25 years at Rust Engineering, UAB, and First National Bank of Birmingham; he retired as senior vice president of AmSouth Bank (now Regions) after 16 years.

Again answering the call to ministry, Franklin was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, and for a time, served at St. Barnabas in Hartselle, Ala., while remaining full-time at AmSouth. He later served St. Luke's in Mountain Brook, St. Stephen's in Cahaba Heights, and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, N.C. During his tenure as a priest, Franklin developed a career transitions ministry, drawing from his business experience to counsel people seeking new employment due to job loss or other life changes.

Franklin was a lifelong learner, avid reader, traveler, and one who made authentic connections with others. The Denson N. Franklin Professorship in Religion was established at BSC in 1996 to honor his father, a distinguished United Methodist pastor, leader, and author, who also served as a BSC trustee.

In addition to Denson III and Shafer, he is survived by his wife; three other children, including **Scott Pyburn '85** (**Margaret Renneker Pyburn '84**) of Birmingham and **Stacy Pyburn '92** of Asheville, N.C.; and 11 grandchildren, including **Reid Pyburn '19**, who is a football student-athlete. The family has requested that memorial contributions be made in his name to the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

her career and in retirement; in 1990, she became the first board president. When Gauld retired from UAB and moved to Pell City, she expanded the YWCA shelter services for Blount and St. Clair counties; she co-chaired two successful capital campaigns that together raised close to \$30 million for the YW. She held many leadership and volunteer

positions in the community. Gauld is survived by her husband; five children, including **Rev. Dr. Lee Franklin Shafer '83** of Anniston and **Denson N. Franklin III '85** of Birmingham; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

John L. Putnam '61 of Birmingham, on Aug. 25, 2016. Putnam lost

his eyesight before graduating from BSC, but went on to earn a master's in psychology from the University of Mississippi. He taught at the college level before moving into administration and then entered the private sector, where he remained for the rest of his career, excluding four years of government service with the



IN MEMORIAM '71

Wanda Stubblefield McNeil, an attorney who championed women's issues and civil rights, passed away on May 26, 2016, in Nashville at the age of 66.

Growing up, McNeil was active in the Methodist Church, specifically at Camp Sumatanga, as a youth leader. She was among a select group who traveled to the Soviet Union on a "People to People Goodwill Tour" under the auspices of the Methodist Church in 1967.

Born in Granite City, Ill., McNeil graduated from Huntsville High School and then studied religion on the Hilltop, where she formed many lifelong connections. During her years at BSC, she joined Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and was a member of the cheerleading squad.

A graduate of Vanderbilt Law School, McNeil practiced law with the firm of Shearman & Sterling in New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles. In 1991, she returned to Huntsville with her children, where she continued her successful career as a corporate attorney, serving as managing partner of Sirote & Permutt.

Throughout her career and into retirement, she served on numerous boards and mentored young women. She was also an active and contributive member of the Class of 1971 and included BSC in her estate planning.

McNeil loved opera, politics, and travel; she had a second home in Costa Rica. Survivors include her husband, two children, and a grandson.

Kontzen retired from the Social Security Administration with more than 32 years of service. He served two years of active duty in the U.S. Naval Reserve as a radioman aboard the supply ship U.S.S. Denebola. Kontzen was an active member of Huffman United Methodist Church for more than 32 years, including singing in the choir. His survivors include his wife, **Pamela Lord Kontzen '65**, two sons, and three grandchildren.

Dr. Charlotte Hicks Glover '64 of Birmingham, on April 29, 2016. Glover received her doctorate in education from the University of Alabama. She was a founding member of the Birmingham Civic Chorale and taught English and Spanish to middle and high school students. Glover was active in many professional, civic, and social organizations. In recent years, she had discovered a new talent and passion for watercolor art. Survivors include three children and three grandsons.

Molly Hicks Hagood '66 of Montgomery, on May 7, 2016. Hagood earned a master's degree in counseling from Troy University and served as a middle and high school guidance counselor. She was an accomplished musician and dancer and sang for many years in Eufaula's Camarata Chorus. Hagood also served on the board of the Eufaula Heritage Association and in leadership capacities in many genealogical historical societies. She is survived by her husband, two sons, and three grandchildren.

Nancy Davis '68 of Westminster, Colo., on Aug. 1, 2016.

Betty Clark England '69 of Panama City Beach, Fla., formerly of Birmingham, on Sept. 5, 2016. After marrying and having children, England attended BSC. Armed with an education degree, she taught middle school in the Tarrant school system for 27 years. She retired in 1995 and moved with her husband

Reagan administration. He traveled throughout the U.S. and joined the governor of each state in making awards to college students who had made superior accomplishments, including at BSC. Survivors include a brother. The family requests memorial contributions be made to the endowment of the John L. Putman Award at BSC, Office of Advancement, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254. The award recognizes an outstanding junior or senior member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Dr. Charles Harlan Reynolds '61 of Friendsville, Tenn., on Jan. 25, 2017. Reynolds was professor emeritus and former head of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Tennessee. He

completed his Ph.D. in religious studies at Harvard. During his long career at UT, he established himself as an activist for justice, an acclaimed teacher, and a highly respected scholar. Reynolds was recognized as the university's Macebearer—the highest honor given to a UT faculty member—in 1993-94. He later served as a volunteer baseball and basketball coach, and continued to enjoy fishing, boating, and investing. Reynolds' survivors include four children and seven grandchildren.

Ronald Edward Brown '62 of Centreville, on March 13, 2016. Brown was an accountant and tax practitioner for 50 years. He loved football, travel, and camping. He is survived by his wife, two children, three stepchildren, and four grandchildren.

Andrew Wales Smith '62 of Trussville, on June 18, 2017. After a career with the Birmingham News, Smith founded Affinity Marketing Inc. He was as the publisher of his company's newspaper, Senior Living, for more than 20 years. He was a member of numerous boards and clubs. Among his survivors are his wife, five children, 10 grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

J. Emory Clotfelter '63 of Mechanicsville, Va., on Sept. 29, 2016. Clotfelter graduated from BSC and American University's Washington College of Law and made a living in the sign industry. His survivors include his wife, four children, and eight grandchildren.

Robert Clark Kontzen '63 of Birmingham, on March 13, 2017.

to their vacation home in Florida. Among her survivors are three children, nine grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Susan Prentiss Parker '69 of Birmingham, on May 2, 2016. Parker worked as a counselor for the Occupational Rehabilitation Center from 1971-94. She earned a master's in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Alabama. Parker was once named Handicapped Professional Woman of the Year for outstanding achievements. She was a member of South Highland Presbyterian Church. Survivors include nieces and nephews.

Virginia Harden Bailey '70 of Bayleaton, on Sept. 22, 2016. Bailey was a successful stockbroker with Merrill Lynch and J.C. Bradford & Co. before retiring in 1998. She continued her postgraduate association with Alpha Chi Omega sorority as a field consultant, regional officer, and national board representative. Bailey was a founding member and president of the Birmingham Heart Guild of the American Heart Association. She was also an avid equestrian. She is survived by her husband, **C. Stanley Bailey '71**; and daughter; brother-in-law, **Paul Bailey Jr. '69** of Falls Church, Va.; and sister-in-law, **Jeanne Bailey Green '77** of Selma. Her father-in-law was the late **Dr. Paul Bailey**, BSC dean.

Rev. Dr. John Galloway '70 of Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 10, 2016. Galloway earned a master of divinity at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University and later received a doctorate from Columbia Theological Seminary. He had an accomplished career as a pastor, marriage and family therapist, and clinical pastoral educator; he worked for the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church for 43 years. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and several stepchildren and grandchildren.

William Davis Cornwell Jr. '71 of Irving, Texas, formerly of Decatur, Ga., on April 16, 2017. Cornwell began his journalism career at the Decatur Daily newspaper in 1971. He also was a writer or editor for the Birmingham Post-Herald, St. Petersburg Times (now Tampa Bay Times), Anniston Star, San Jose Mercury News, Tampa Tribune, and Florida Weekly. He worked as an editorial voice for Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration and in PR for a company in Houston. Cornwell won many writing awards and his work appeared in The Nation, Washington Post, Miami Herald, and elsewhere. Among his survivors are two children and three grandchildren. The family requests memorial contributions be made to the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

William Frederick Neil Jr. '71 of Orange Beach, formerly of Birmingham, on May 29, 2017. Neil spent the majority of his 27-year career as the pathology teaching coordinator at the School of Medicine at UAB. He was a member of Vestavia Hills Methodist Church. Neil also umpired SEC, other college, and high school baseball and coached all age levels of baseball, soccer, and basketball. Among survivors are his wife, **Celeste Chambers Neil '73**; four children, including **Ryan Neil '02** and **Jessica Neil Carson '06**, both of Orange Beach; and five grandchildren.

Robert Fontaine Howard '72 of Galveston, Texas, on June 14, 2016. Howard served with the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam, where he earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. After college, he supported his family as an electrician. Survivors include his daughter and grandson.

Beverly Ann McFee Jones '72 of Homewood, on Nov. 22, 2016. Apart from spending one year in Tuscaloosa to earn a master's degree,

Jones stayed in Birmingham all her life. She spent 36 years working with emotionally conflicted students at UAB and Birmingham City Schools. She is survived by her husband, three children, and one granddaughter.

Judith "Judy" Carmichael O'Connor '72 of Columbiana, on June 13, 2016. O'Connor was a career law enforcement officer, serving 25 years with the Alabama Pardon and Parole Board; she spent six years as a member by appointment of the governor and two years as chair. O'Connor was a member of Columbiana Church of Christ. Survivors include her husband, **Robert O'Connor Jr. '74**, and two children, including **Rebecca O'Connor '98** of Alabaster.

Mary Ann Butler Lewis '75 of Nashville, on Jan. 5, 2016. Lewis was a retired educator with degrees from BSC and Vanderbilt University. Among her survivors is a son.

Elizabeth Keyser Wilson '75 of Tuscaloosa, on Nov. 8, 2016. Wilson received an MFA from the University of Alabama. She was an accomplished artist in the mediums of painting, drawing, collage, and photography, and her work was featured in numerous shows and represented by galleries throughout her career. Wilson was a professor of art at Stillman College for 30 years and received the Joseph A. Gore Faculty Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2009. She is survived by her mother.

George Glenford "Glen" Allen '76 of Alabaster, on Dec. 22, 2016. Allen earned a master's degree in cytology at the University of Miami. He proudly served his country as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army Medical Corp and went on to become a captain in the National Guard. Survivors include three children and five grandchildren.

Roger Stephen Morrow Sr. '76 of Montgomery, passed away on Feb.

27, 2016. Morrow received his JD from the University of Alabama Law School. He served as a law clerk for the Alabama Supreme Court before establishing Morrow, Romine & Pearson P.C. Morrow specialized in civil litigation for 30 years in Montgomery. He was appointed and served as a deputy attorney general and a special assistant attorney general for Alabama. Among his professional endeavors, he was a member of the Alabama State Bar Association. Morrow enjoyed diving and was a licensed assistant SCUBA instructor. Survivors include his former wife, **Dr. Angela Camp Morrow Baker '77**; four children, including **Charles Morrow '02** of Montgomery; and four grandchildren.

Linda Taylor Hancock '79 of Vestavia Hills, on Sept. 7, 2016. After graduating from BSC with honors, Hancock taught for the Birmingham City School System for 32 years; she retired in 2011. Among survivors are her husband; three children, including **Kevin Hancock '06** of Asheville, N.C., and **Katelyn Hancock '10** of Los Angeles; and a grandson.

David D. Callahan '80 of Birmingham, on March 25, 2017. Callahan served as a nuclear weapons man in the U.S. Navy. After his service, he went to work for South Central Bell, where he spent many years as a network manager, eventually retiring from AT&T. Callahan earned an MBA from Samford University. He was a member and deacon at Sulphur Springs Baptist Church in Trussville. Survivors include three children and seven grandchildren.

David C. Middleton '80 of Atlanta, on April 25, 2016. Middleton also held a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Auburn University and an MBA from the University of Alabama. Among survivors is a brother, **Mike Middleton**, who attended BSC from 1984-86. The family requests

CLASS NOTES

memorial contributions be made to BSC Alumni Memorials, Office of Advancement, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham AL 35254.

Dr. George Robert Storey Sr. '80 of Huntsville, on May 22, 2016. Storey graduated from the School of Medicine at UAB. He practiced family medicine in both Huntsville and Talladega for 25 years before moving to Athens, Ala., to open a new practice. In addition to serving his local community through medicine, Storey made multiple medical mission trips to West Africa and the Caribbean. Among survivors are his wife; five children, including **Jon Storey '15** of Hialeah, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

Dale Edwin Gann '81 of Irondale, on Aug. 8, 2016. Gann became a small-business owner in Birmingham and Vestavia. His stores and his houses were a center for informal BSC alumni gatherings. He was a community leader and strong supporter of the arts. Gann was also a recognized expert on orchids, an accomplished chef, and loved water skiing, music, and travel. He is survived by his parents. **Rev. Dale Clem '82** officiated the funeral.

Richard "Ricco" Rolston '81 of New Orleans, on Sept. 9, 2016. Rolston graduated *magna cum laude* from BSC and obtained an MFA with honors in printmaking from the Cranbrook Academy of Art. He was a professional artist and designer and was the founder of the Dutch Alley Artist Co-op in the historic French Market of New Orleans. Among survivors are two brothers.

Jane Jackson Campbell '82 of Birmingham, on June 25, 2016. Campbell was the kindergarten director at South Roebuck Baptist before teaching until her retirement at Going Elementary. She was

also a Sunday School teacher. Survivors include three children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Dr. Arthur Stacey Headley '83 of Memphis, on April 10, 2016. Headley attended the School of Medicine at UAB and began his medical career at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. He accepted a position on staff as a pulmonary critical care physician. He received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his career. An Eagle Scout, Headley's dedication to the Scouts continued into adulthood; in honor of his service, he received the Silver Beaver Award in 2012. Headley loved the outdoors. Among survivors are his wife and two children.

Ronald Tyrone Dudley Jr. '84 of Bessemer, on Nov. 16, 2016. After graduating from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in 1987, Dudley worked as a clerk for the Supreme Court of Alabama and practiced law at Environmental Litigation in Birmingham. He gave much time and effort to helping people with legal needs and volunteered time to Teen Challenge of Alabama. Dudley loved history, was an avid reader and researcher, and had a love for genealogy. Survivors include his wife and two children.

Martha Glaser Johnson '84 of Birmingham, on Dec. 26, 2016. Johnson participated in various Birmingham dance groups and was known for her baking prowess. She earned a second degree from the American International School in Vienna, Austria. Survivors include a daughter.

Lewis Edward Thomason II '86 of Birmingham, on June 16, 2017. Thomason had retired from South Central Bell, where he worked as a lineman. He was a U.S. Navy World War II veteran. Among his

survivors are a daughter and four grandchildren.

Dr. Demetrius K. "Jimmy" Morros '89 of Birmingham, on Nov. 10, 2016. Morros was a graduate of the School of Medicine at UAB. He practiced medicine at St. Vincent's East for the past 18 years. Morros was a member of the Birmingham Radiological Group and was its immediate past president. He was also active in the Alabama chapter of the American College of Radiology; he served as president for two years. Morros enjoyed hunting, golf, and traveling with his family. He sang in the choir at Holy Trinity-Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Sarah Glenn Kimbrell '91 of Birmingham, on Dec. 20, 2016. Kimbrell graduated from the college's former Adult Studies Program. She is survived by two daughters, including **Margaret Kimbrell '99** of Warrior.

Jennifer Shay McNamee '91 of Birmingham, on Oct. 12, 2016. McNamee obtained her master's degree in graphic design from Boston University. A gifted artist and designer, her work appeared in national publications and she was often called upon for special projects. Survivors include her mother and brother.

Michael Heath Witcher '93 of Birmingham, on April 16, 2017. Witcher was active in philanthropy and politics. Among survivors are his mother, father, stepfather, and two brothers, including **James Witcher III '90 (Laura Grigsby Witcher '96)** of Mountain Brook.

Donna Hand Naugher '94 of Oak Grove, on Jan. 21, 2016. Naugher retired after 30 years as a teacher with the Jefferson County Board of Education. She is survived by

her husband, three children, and four grandchildren.

Claude Howard Small '94 of Vestavia Hills, on April 13, 2017. Small graduated from BSC's former Adult Studies Program. He loved learning and invested in family, work, community, and church. For 50 years, he was as an usher at Vestavia Hills UMC, was a member of the Rotary Club, and served as an insurance consultant for several mayors and councils. Survivors include his wife; three children, including **Scott Small '89** of Vancouver, Canada; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Donnell Hale Perry '97 of Birmingham, on Feb. 13, 2017. Perry was as an educator at Lawson State Community College for 17 years. He earned a master's degree from Alabama A&M University and was in the process of acquiring his Ph.D. Throughout his career, he acquired a multitude of accolades and certifications, including Occupational Safety and Health Association-authorized instructor. He was also well known for his videography and photography services. Survivors include his wife and four children.

Amy Freeman Williams '97 of Nashville, on June 17, 2017. Williams received her master's in nursing from Vanderbilt University and was employed for more than 15 years with Tennessee Women's Care as a nurse practitioner. She also worked for a time as a nurse practitioner with the Tennessee Prison for Women, and served as a nurse on a mission trip in 2013 with the Alabama Honduran Medical Network. Survivors include her parents, **Dr. Phillip Freeman '73** and **Patricia Vogel Freeman '73** of Cullman, and sister, **Meredith Freeman Middlebrooks '00**, of Nashville.

Lt. Col. Jessica Walker Crowder '99 of Biloxi, Miss., on Dec. 27, 2016.

Crowder was a four-year captain of BSC's women's soccer team and was honored as scholar athlete of the year upon graduation. Having joined the U.S. Air Force in college, she also received the BSC/Samford University Air Force Cadet of the Year award. She was inducted into the BSC Sports Hall of Fame. She and her husband graduated with honors from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. After finishing their residency, they moved to Biloxi, where Crowder practiced neurology at Keesler Air Force Base. Survivors include her husband, three boys, and two sisters, including **Jennifer Walker '02** of Brentwood, Tenn.

Hester Jo Wills '02 (MPPM) of Bluff Park, on Feb. 13, 2017. Wills was a graduate of the University of Alabama, where she earned a bachelor's in accounting. While in high school and college, she was a member of debate teams and won multiple awards on both the state and national level. Wills spent her entire career in leadership positions in the banking industry in Birmingham and was a certified internal auditor. She was a member of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church and was an ordained elder. Her parents and sister are among survivors.

Tiffany Naomi Newborn '06 of Birmingham, on May 23, 2016.

Schylar Keith Freeman '15 of Leeds, on March 11, 2016. Freeman was a former Panther men's basketball player. Survivors include his mother.

FRIENDS

Jim Bennett of Montgomery, on Aug. 17, 2016. Before entering politics, Bennett was a reporter for the *Birmingham Post-Herald* and held several public relations positions, including with BSC. He was a four-time Alabama Secretary of State.

He served in the Alabama Senate from 1983-93 and as member of the Alabama House from 1978-83. Among survivors are his wife, two children, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Gera Brown Comfort of Birmingham on Feb. 14, 2017. Comfort served on the boards of many Birmingham organizations, including Summerfest. Her greatest passion, though, was for the arts at BSC; she was the first chair of the BSC Arts Council. She was recognized with a BSC Fine Arts Society Community Award, among her many other honors for community service. She is survived by her husband, four daughters, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

C.H. "Stretch" Dunn of Birmingham, on Feb. 26, 2017. Dunn served on the Norton Board of Advisors at BSC following his military and corporate careers. He was a 1966 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, a distinguished graduate of the Command and General Staff College, an Army War College Fellow, and a professional engineer. He served in the U.S. Army 26 years and earned many awards for valor, including the Silver Star in Vietnam. He retired from the Army and served 11 years in corporate America with BE&K, an international engineering and construction firm. After his second career, he co-wrote two books on professionalism and patriotism, and for the past decade, offered corporate and university seminars. He is survived by his wife, two children, and five grandchildren.

Robert McLester Ramsay of Middleburg, Va., on March 7, 2016. Ramsay endowed the Ramsay Family Scholarship at BSC for students preparing for a career in business or engineering. He attended the University of Virginia

and completed his education in mechanical engineering at the University of Alabama. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran. Ramsay began his career as a design engineer for James A. Evans Engineering. In 1951, he founded Banks, Ellett & Ramsay, Inc., a mechanical engineering and contracting company, where he served as president for 30 years. In 1958 he purchased Birmingham Lead and Smelting Co. and served as president. In 1972, his company purchased Shook and Fletcher Air Conditioning, Inc.; he became the largest mechanical contractor in Alabama. In 1982, he and his son, Erskine Ramsay II, founded Superior Mechanical, Inc., where he served as president and CEO for 17 years until his retirement. He is survived by his wife, five children, 13 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

Howard Henson Sisson of Hoover, on Sept. 19, 2016. Sisson was a strong supporter of the college, and all of his children graduated from BSC. After a 40-plus year career, he had retired from ACIPCO as southeastern sales manager in its Atlanta office. Sisson was an accomplished high school athlete who received 16 sports letters and was a member of both the football and basketball teams at Howard College, where he graduated. He was a longtime high school football referee and later a supervisor of referees in the Birmingham area. Sisson served as a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy during WWII, retiring from the reserves with a rank of lieutenant commander. He was an avid gardener and golfer. Survivors include his wife; three children: **Anne Sisson Smith '67 (Hon. Robert Smith '66)**, **Jane Sisson Seigel '75 (Dr. Lester Seigel '79)**, and **William Sisson '75** of Mobile; eight grandchildren, including **Kerry McInerney '92**, **Amy McInerney Dillard '90 (Clint Dillard '88)**, and **Daniel Seigel '02 (Jessie**

Class Notes submissions

You can send news of weddings, births deaths, job changes, career highlights, honors, and awards directly to BSC through the college's online alumni community at www.alumni.bsc.edu; you can also view all of the recently submitted class notes. Or, you may submit them via email to alumni@bsc.edu. If you would like to make a gift to honor or memorialize a classmate, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (205) 226-4912, or, you can mail a check with a note of tribute to: Alumni Affairs, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Mayne Seigel '12); and 12 great-grandchildren, including **Elizabeth Dillard '19**.

Margie Faye Smith of Birmingham, on Nov. 21, 2015. Smith had retired in 2010 as head of housekeeping at BSC after faithfully serving the college community for more than 24 years. She is survived by two children and several grandchildren.

Gloria Reach Tinker of Birmingham, on June 16, 2017. Tinker worked at BSC for many years and retired from the American Red Cross. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church in Pleasant Grove. Survivors include her husband, a son, three step-daughters, 13 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Webster of Birmingham, on Aug. 17, 2016. Webster was retired from BSC, having served as associate director of financial planning from 1975-94. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church. Among her survivors are three children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

ALUMNI BOOKSHELF

BSC's alumni authors write about everything from history to science fiction to mixing cocktails. The recently-published books listed here are available at chain and independent book stores and online retailers.

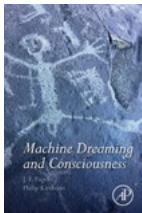
'66

Kendal Weaver of Montgomery published his first book, *Ten Stars: The African American Journey of Gary Cooper—Marine General, Diplomat, Businessman, and Politician*. Published by NewSouth Books, it is about the life of a man born in the depths of Jim Crow to an Alabama family that challenged the rules of segregation. This year, he gave a talk on the book at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta. Last year, Weaver received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Press Association recognizing his work for the Associated Press over a 40-year career. He is the son of the late **Dr. O.C. Weaver Jr.** '35, former dean and professor of philosophy and religion at BSC.



'73

Academic Press re-released **Dr. James Pagel's** first book *The Limits of Dream—A Scientific Exploration of the Mind/Brain Interface* as a paperback in 2016, and Springer published the second edition of *Primary Care Sleep Medicine*, of which Pagel is the co-editor. His latest book, *Machine Dreaming and Consciousness*, co-authored with Philip Kirshtein, came out this April. Published by Academic Press, the book addresses questions raised by the advent of



dreaming by artificial intelligence systems. Pagel is associate clinical professor in the University of Colorado Medical School System and director of the Rocky Mountain Sleep Study Center in Pueblo, Co.

'84

The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson Jr. is the author of several articles in various magazines and religious journals and four seasonal devotional books: *Autumn Leaves: An Autumn Companion*; *Provoking Thoughts: A Lenten Companion*; *Summer Times: A Summer Companion*; and *Preparing Room: An Advent Companion*. He also penned *An Advent Wreath Devotional* for adults and families, as well as a version just for children. All of his books were published by Insight Press. For 10 years, Levenson has served as rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, the largest Episcopal Church in North America with nearly 9,300 members. He received his master of divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary and doctor of ministry from the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University. He will speak on campus Oct. 2 at 5 p.m. in the Norton Theatre.



'86

Keith Parker's first novel, *Madness Rising*, is a science fiction novel for young adults. Published independently and exclusively to Kindle in 2016, the story revolves around a girl whose life is being ruined by a monster she hates and the people she loves. Parker, who resides in Huntsville, is on the senior staff of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab; he works from the lab's field office.



'89

Dr. Tondra Loder-Jackson, associate professor of the educational foundations program at UAB, has published her first book, *Schoolhouse Activists: African American Educators and the Long Birmingham Civil Rights Movement*. Drawing on multiple perspectives from education, history, and sociology, she revisits longstanding debates about whether certain educators were friends or foes of the civil rights movement. The paperback was released by State University of New York Press in 2016.



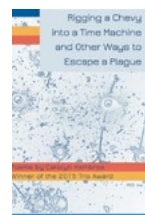
'92

Mobile author **Watt Key's** latest book, *Hideout*, is a young adult novel of mystery and adventure set on the Mississippi Coast. It was published this year by Farrar, Straus & Giroux.



'95

In 2016, Trio House Books published **Carolyn Hembree's** second poetry collection, *Rigging a Chevy into a Time Machine and Other Ways to Escape a Plague*, selected by Neil Shepard for the 2015 Trio Award and by Stephanie Strickland for the 2015 Rochelle Ratner Memorial Award. **John Lavin II** '96 directed and produced a video trailer for the book. Hembree is an assistant professor at the University of New Orleans and serves as poetry editor of Bayou, a literary magazine.



'97

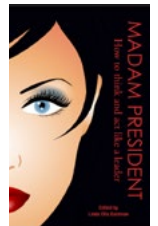
Gin Phillips Ashe's fifth novel, *Fierce Kingdom*—published this

summer by Viking—is the story of a mother trying desperately to protect her young son when their trip to the zoo turns into a nightmare. The book was reviewed favorably in the New York Times and received a starred review from Publisher's Weekly. Ashe, a resident of Birmingham, won the Barnes & Noble Discover Award for her first novel, *The Well and the Mine*. She worked as a magazine writer for more than a decade, living in Ireland, New York, and Washington D.C.



'00

Ursula Mastin Bradley had two books published this year by the Professional Women Network: *Madam President: How to Think and Act Like a Leader*, which she co-authored with 13 powerful women, and *Forgiving Father*, which talks about the importance of forgiveness. Bradley is the founder of the Mastin Cancer Foundation in Birmingham, formed in memory of her father who died of leukemia, and in honor of her mother, a four-year breast cancer survivor.



'13

Clair McLafferty's first book, *The Classic & Craft Cocktail Recipe Book*, was released by Rockridge Press this year. "I hope it will help make cocktails accessible to professional and home bartenders alike," said McLafferty, who resides in Homewood. A columnist for the digital publication *The Bitter Southerner*, she is working on a video series to complement the book—and also digging into her second book project.



Want to share more books by BSC alumni? Find the Birmingham-Southern College group on the virtual bookshelf Goodreads and add your own published works.

Birmingham-Southern: an enduring value

BY CHAD WACHTER '87

There are a lot of different paths to Birmingham-Southern College. As an alumnus, the husband of a BSC grad, and the parent of a BSC alumna and a current student, I know that well.

My own landing at Birmingham-Southern—which I learned about through the Summer Scholars program—was very different from that of my wife, Sonya (Thomas '86), who transferred in after starting at another college.

We followed different roads through and after BSC as well. I was convinced I would be a chemistry major, but I became a double major in physics and philosophy and ended up working for technology companies that acquire and grow their businesses. It was not something I would have planned to do in college.

Our middle child, Mary-Stewart, graduated from BSC in May and has mapped her own path in a way that would be difficult to do at another institution. She pursued her love of mathematics while in college, but her dream was to become a meteorologist—a career many would not associate with Birmingham-Southern—and she never gave up on her dream.

A classmate helped her identify a BSC connection to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Forecast Office in Birmingham. Her determination and the college's reputation helped her get an internship her senior year. She learned skills like becoming certified to launch weather balloons; she did her senior project on the math behind forecasting tornados. Her experience and her degree at BSC distinguished her from others applying at some of the few universities offering a master's degree in meteorology. She's now working on her master's in meteorology at Mississippi State University, and we couldn't be more proud.

Our daughter, Catherine, is a first-year student at Birmingham-Southern, and we're excited to watch her adventure unfold. We've learned our lesson about

early expectations regarding majors and careers, but we are confident she will have a great experience and that the BSC family will take care of her while she is there.

Sonya recently made some changes in her life. While we transition to empty nesters, she has fully converted from a full-time mother to controller at Bridgeway Diagnostics, an imaging center in Auburn and Phenix City, Ala. This has been a significant change in our lives, but she found her accounting degree from BSC is just as relevant today as when we graduated. Our degrees have held their value throughout our lives, and if we had to make the decision again, we would make the same choices.

Why do I tell you these stories? Because I am so thrilled about the news that the college is resetting its tuition next fall. Not because it directly impacts us as a family—as a member of the BSC Board of Trustees, I will be supporting Birmingham-Southern no matter what—but because it allows me to tell prospective students and their parents about the strengths of BSC without having to work through the barrier of perception with regards to the posted sticker price. I repeatedly hear from parents who tell me they would like their child to look at BSC, but they won't let them visit because they don't want their child to fall in love with a school they can't afford.

As a parent living in Auburn, I've had more conversations than I can count with young people and their parents who chose a state institution by default based on a price perception, without investigating what the cost for their child would be.

We know that BSC isn't for everyone. Our son, Mason, was laser-focused on becoming an electrical engineer and found his best fit at the Citadel. But we would love for every student to be able to make choices freely the way my own children have. When two of our children picked BSC, they couldn't easily explain



why this is the school they picked, but they were both passionate about their choice and were able to decide without looking at the cost first. We knew that the sticker price wouldn't be the final price with their academic and test scores, but some of the students their age that would have looked at the school did not.

That's why as a parent and as a graduate, I am impressed that Birmingham-Southern is making this bold move on college pricing. Now the children of parents who wouldn't have looked at BSC because of the sticker price can make the choice based on the college's merits and what it can do for them in their lives to come. If they visit and decide to attend BSC, I am confident they will go far and do incredible things.

Wachter is General Counsel for ITC Capital Partners LLC in West Point, Ga., as well as its operating companies like Point Broadband. He is a member of the BSC Board of Trustees.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.bsc.edu

A feeling of home—Faculty, staff, alumni, and current students turned out in force Aug. 18 to welcome new students to the Hilltop and help them move in. The Class of 2021 arrived excited, and probably a little nervous, and with plenty of stuff as BSC's academic year got underway.

