

Meet BSC's
first female
president

College launches
three-year
fundraising effort

BSC tech
at the
White House

'SOUTHERN

A Publication for Alumni and Friends

Spring 2017 Volume 42, Number 1

Birmingham Renaissance:
Alumni leading
downtown development

BSC

Birmingham-Southern College

BSC SNAPSHOTS

This January, a group of Birmingham-Southern students traveled to Ecuador for three weeks of intensive practice in Spanish while exploring the country's remarkable geographic and cultural diversity. The Exploration Term trip was led by Professor of Spanish Dr. Barbara Domcekova and Professor of Chemistry Dr. Laura Stultz.





CONTENTS

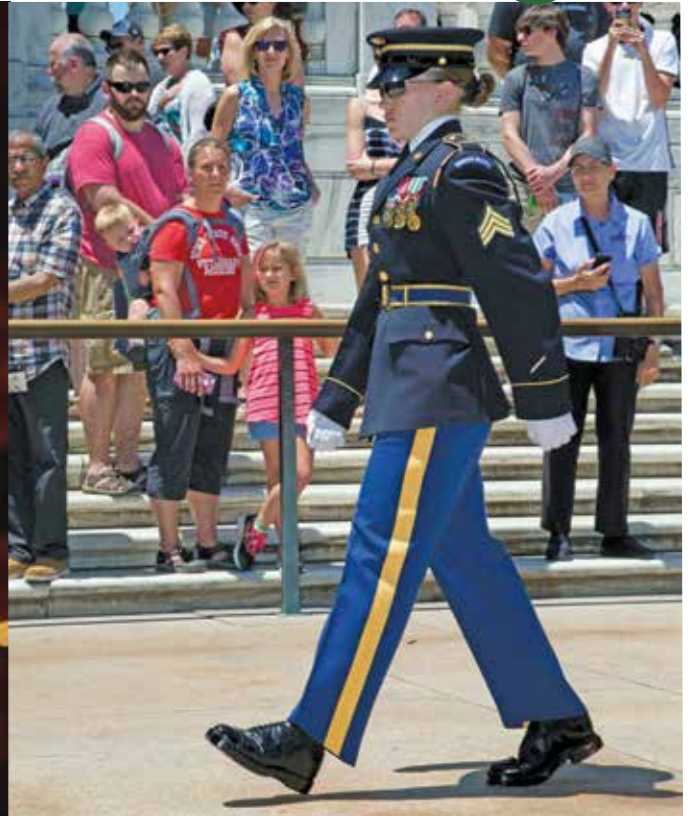
Spring 2017

'SOUTHERN MAGAZINE // VOLUME 42, NUMBER 1

7



9



FEATURES

7 // *Office hours*

Get to know longtime BSC Professor of Theatre Dr. Alan Litsey.

9 // *Honoring the fallen*

Ruth Hanks '10 is guarding our nation's heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------------|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | Editor's Note | 33 | Alumni Affairs | 46 | ClassNotes |
| 4 | Campus | 38 | Philanthropy | 63 | 'Southern Voices |
| 12 | Panther Pride | 44 | From the Archives | | |

18

26



18 // *Downtown renaissance*

BSC alumni are helping to speed up the city's downtown resurgence.

26 // *The new face of BSC*

The college's 15th president, Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith, talks about her passion for education, her desire to make an impact in the community, and her commitment to moving BSC forward.

BSC Birmingham-Southern College

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

'Southern magazine is published by the Office of Alumni Affairs and the Office of Communications at Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama 35254. Non-profit postage paid at B'ham., AL Permit No. 2575. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Alumni Affairs, Birmingham-Southern College, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254; telephone (205) 226-4912; or access at www.bsc.edu/alumni.

©2017
Birmingham-Southern College.

Editorial Offices:
10 Stockham Building
900 Arkadelphia Road
Box 549004
Birmingham, AL 35254
Phone: 205/226-4922
Fax: 205/226-4931
E-mail: hwolfson@bsc.edu

Executive Editor:
Hannah Wolfson,
Director of Communications

Managing Editor:
Pat Kindall MPPM '11
Communications Specialist

Art Director:
Traci Edwards,
Graphic Design Specialist

Contributing Writers:
Pat Kindall MPPM '11
Kristin Harper '92
Jennifer Jones
Hannah Wolfson

Photography:
Jennifer Alsbrook-Turner
(BANG Images)
Scott Butler
Wynter Byrd
Thomas Coiner
Bob Farley
Jennifer Jones
Erin Snell '17
Archived photos
Submitted Photos

www.bsc.edu

Editor's Note

Rising to our potential

It's spring, and along with new growth and warm days, there's a ton of new things happening on the Hilltop. We have an enthusiastic new president (you can read more on p. 26), who, with less than a year under her belt, has already tackled a wide range of projects designed to take BSC to the next level.

One of the most exciting for us is a brand-new marketing campaign designed by a team led by Jake McKenzie MPPM '97 of the Intermark Group. The advertisements, which launched this spring on the radio, on billboards, in airports, and in digital deliveries across the Southeast, focus on the greatest demonstration of BSC's strength—the success of its alumni. Each features a dreamlike montage of what a BSC student might accomplish, and we'll be sharing profiles of our actual graduates as well.

You'll read some of those stories in this issue of 'Southern, which you'll also notice looks different. We've redesigned it to make it more modern and fun to read. We know it's been a while since you've gotten an issue, but hopefully the new look and content will help make up for the delay.

Inside, you'll find several fresh new features. Our "Campus" section will let you know everything that's going on here on the Hilltop, from the classrooms to the theatre stage to the library to the playing fields. It includes several mini-features, including a faculty profile called "Office Hours," and "Fresh off the Hilltop," which shares the story of a recent graduate.

Even this issue's cover story, "Rebuilding Birmingham," reflects renewal, highlighting alumni who are transforming our city. And don't forget to check out the online issue and watch your email for special digital content, which will be better than ever. One thing hasn't changed, however: Class Notes are right where they've always been—in the back.

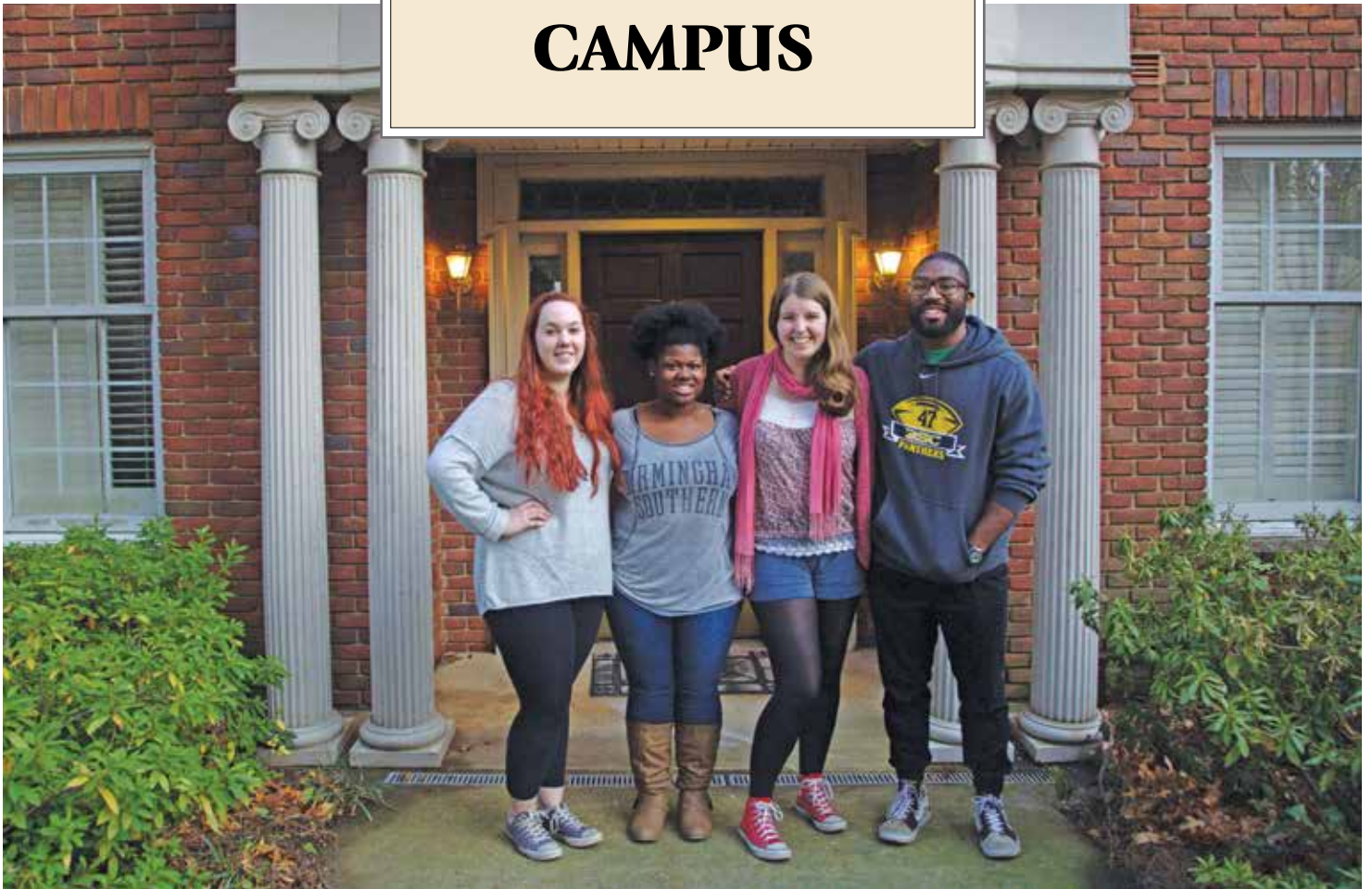
We hope you enjoy the newest version of 'Southern. Please let us know how we're doing. More importantly, tell us how and what you're doing so we can help tell the world how Birmingham-Southern College alumni live lives of significance. That, of course, never changes.

Forward, Ever!



Hannah Wolfson, Director of Communications

CAMPUS



L to r: Charlotte Schorle of Berlin, Germany; Kayla Smith of Memphis, Tenn.; Victoria Hodges of Bath, United Kingdom; and Rod Murray of Washington, D.C.

The Union

New campus space promotes African-American, international student engagement

The college has a new campus focal point for African-American and international students.

The Union House, or "The Union," as it's being called on campus, supports the college's diverse population with dedicated space to host programs, celebrations, and knowledge sharing. The former townhouse on Sorority Row was converted to a multipurpose facility for students to study, collaborate, and hold meetings and events throughout the year.

The idea began with BSC's multicultural students, who felt such a space would help them to better engage with and support each other as well as benefit the campus. The students have been the driving energy in all of the planning that's taken place, said Erica Brown, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, which helped make the project a reality.

"The Union is truly a community space," Brown said. "It was set up to cultivate a sense of belonging for students of African descent and international students at BSC. At the same time though, it promotes intercultural dialogue and a connection among all members of the Hilltop."

The Union currently houses the International Student Association, Black Student Union, Black Women's Union, and

Black Men's Union. It will be the future home of the One-A-Chord Gospel Choir, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

"Attending a predominately white institution is surely a unique experience for non-white students," said Kayla Smith, a junior with a self-contracted major in human rights and justice who serves as parliamentarian of the Black Student Union. "The Union is vital for African American and international students at BSC to fellowship, have their own personal space, and build those essential strong communities with one another."

The Office of Multicultural Affairs and the college's Interfraternity Council donated a combined \$10,000 for renovations. The 5,000 square-foot building is equipped with offices on the top floor, a kitchen and lounge area on the main floor, and meeting space in the basement. It is open to active members 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Non-members are welcome during special events or for organization meetings.

"We are working now to obtain additional funds to update and restore the building," Brown said. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact her at (205) 226-4733 or ebrown@bsc.edu.



Skjellum attends inaugural White House SXSL Festival



BSC's very own executive-in-residence for entrepreneurship, Jennifer Skjellum, was selected to attend the White House's inaugural South by South Lawn Festival (SXSL) last fall.

The prestigious national event brought together some 2,000 creators, innovators, and organizers—out of 20,000 applicants—who work to improve the lives of fellow Americans and people around the world.

Skjellum, who is president of TechBirmingham, said the highlight of the day was a conversation between then-President Barack Obama, Academy Award-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio, and climate scientist Dr. Katharine Hayhoe about protecting the planet and bringing an awareness of climate change; it was followed by the premiere of DiCaprio's new climate documentary *Before the Flood* presented by National Geographic.

Skjellum also attended panels on harnessing technology to solve complex problems and citizens' roles in bringing real and lasting change to our country. The weekend included more than two dozen interactive exhibits, along with panel discussions, a film portion, and music performances.

"I was so grateful to be able to attend SXSL," said Skjellum, who was recently honored by *BHM Biz* magazine as one of 20 bright leaders who will help propel Birmingham forward in the next 20 years. "It made a strong impression on me."

Skjellum said she was especially moved by a message from civil rights icon and U.S. Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga.).

"He talked about our responsibility to make a positive difference in the world and not to watch from the sidelines," she said. "I plan to share what I saw and learned that day with my students at BSC to facilitate discussion and incorporate some of the ideas for innovation and best practices into my classes."

Described as a festival of ideas, art, and action celebrating the spirit of innovation, SXSL was presented by the American Film Institute, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the National Park Foundation, and South by Southwest.

Board of Trustees welcomes new members

The BSC Board of Trustees appointed a new chair and vice-chair and seven new members in 2016 and thanked three members who completed their service.

David M. Smith '79, shareholder and practice group leader with Maynard, Cooper & Gale PC, who previously held the title of vice-chair, was elected chair, while Denson N. Franklin III '85, a partner at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP, was elected vice-chair. Both are serving two-year terms. DeLynn Moring Zell '86, managing partner at Bridgeworth Financial LLC, was elected secretary; she succeeds Franklin.

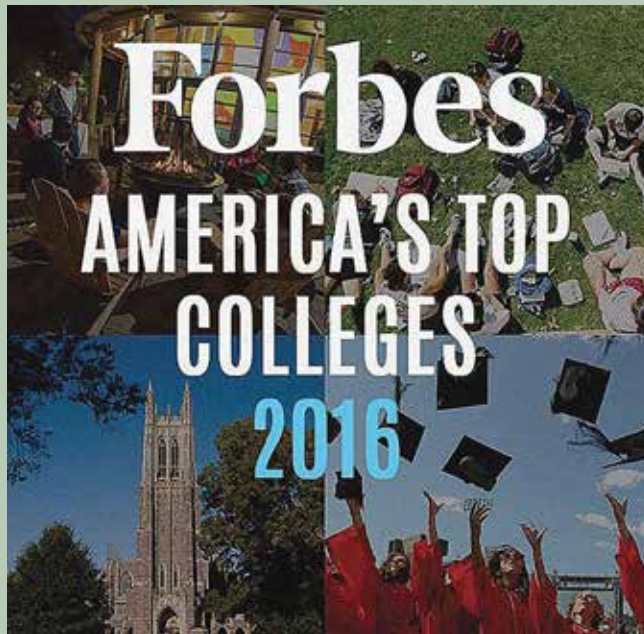
Serving their first year were six graduates of the college: Carl Crosby '83, executive vice president and executive director of employment services at BBVA Compass; Dr. Bruce Irwin '72, founder and CEO of American Family Care; Jim Pierce '74, investor and board member at Isagenix International LLC; Tommy E. Sisson '84, Birmingham managing member of Warren Averett LLC; Chad Wachter '87, general counsel for ITC Capital Partners LLC; and Richard Yeilding '73, founder of RBY Retail. Also new is Will Goodwyn, vice-chair and secretary of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company United Inc.

"It has been a joy to work this year with the newest members of the Board of Trustees," said BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith. "They all bring energy, talent, and passion for BSC and its mission, and each has a long history of commitment to and support for the college."

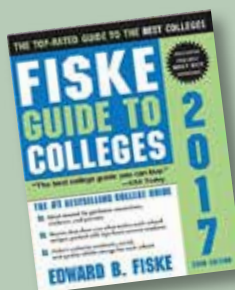
The board gratefully acknowledged the services of departing members Donald Hess, Birmingham retailer and a longtime supporter of BSC who served on the board 32 years; Ed Hardin '62, general counsel at Burr and Forman LLP, who served on the board 11 years; and Dr. Wayne Killion '72, president and CEO of Shook & Fletcher Insulation Co., who had served on the board—including three years as chair—since 2000. In addition, Flaherty-Goldsmith held the first reception at the newly renovated President's Home to thank past board members for their service.

College earns high marks

Three national publications recently gave Birmingham-Southern recognition:



Forbes magazine put BSC at No. 88 on its 2016 list of colleges and universities with the most "grateful graduates," its measure of return on investment. Reporters analyzed 10 years of private donations and alumni participation to determine graduate success.



The 2017 Fiske Guide to Colleges, one of the oldest and most influential higher education guides, rated the college a "Best Buy," calling BSC "a good choice for students who want to make a difference in the world."

U.S. News and World Report once again ranks the school in the top tier of liberal arts colleges in the United States. BSC tied for 132nd on the report's National Liberal Arts Colleges list and tied for 127th in the high school counselor ranking.



Faculty achievements

- **Dr. Joe Chandler '03**, assistant professor of psychology, received this year's Bob Whetstone Faculty Development Award, given by the Provost's Office. Chandler has been teaching at the college since 2013; he specializes in the consciousness, including individual differences in sleep and sleep loss, temporal meta-awareness, performance modeling, and social justice. He is the founder of and principal investigator at the 'Southern Sleep Laboratory.
- Professor of Biology **Dr. Scot Duncan** co-authored an article on [al.com](#) this fall with renowned biologist Dr. E.O. Wilson urging Alabama residents to vote for a ballot amendment in support of securing state park funding. Duncan, the author of *Southern Wonder: Alabama's Surprising Biodiversity*, argues that the state's parks provide cherished experiences for people and protect a wide range of natural resources. The amendment passed in November's election.
- **Dr. Jason Heaton**, associate professor of biology, co-authored a guest blog on the website for Scientific American called "The Fossil That Rewrote Human History." He celebrated the 80th anniversary of the first fossil adult ape man found in South Africa, which pointed to key information about human evolution; it was found at the site Heaton has been working at for 16 years.
- The college awarded retired faculty member **Dr. Wayne Shew** the title of emeritus professor of biology. Shew, who retired last May, taught in the Biology Department for 38 years, including three years as chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics. He also served as interim and associate provost.
- Associate Professor of Art History **Dr. Timothy Smith** will speak at the college's 2017 graduation ceremony after being named BSC's Outstanding Educator of the Year. The award, which includes a cash stipend, is given to a member of the faculty who, according to recommendations by his or her colleagues, excels in all aspects of teaching, including scholarship, classroom performance, and student advising. Smith was recently named associate provost to follow Dr. Susan Hagen when she retires in 2017.
- **Dr. Melanie Styers '99**, assistant professor of biology, has teamed up with other local scientists to form the Alabama Scientific Advisory Group (ASAG), which is designed to offer policy makers access to scientific experts. Members represent a wide range of expertise, from human health and biomedical research to environmental science. The group has met with U.S. Rep. Gary Palmer of Alabama's Sixth District and is sponsoring a luncheon this spring focused on STEM education and workforce development.
- BSC's **Media and Film Studies Department** was cited as the best film program in Alabama by ICX Media in its nationwide ranking this March. Schools were chosen based on their overall ratings, reputation, notable alumni, internship opportunities, faculty accomplishments, and more.

watchword

"Being a 'Yankee,' I was warned in advance that my students at BSC would be more politically and socially conservative than what I was used to (coming from the University of New Hampshire). However, midway into my first semester, I found that the majority of my students were able to critically engage in potentially controversial topics such as LGBT rights, health care reform, and the legalization of marijuana. We also discussed the class inequality between them as middle- or upper-class students living within the gated 'Hilltop' campus and the surrounding lower social class neighborhood immediately outside of the campus gates. The real challenge arose when it came to discussing race in the classroom."

— **Dr. Meghan Mills**, assistant professor of sociology, writing in *The Conversation* (www.theconversation.com).



Paying it forward—More than 400 first-year and transfer students fanned out around Birmingham for a half-day of community service during New Student Orientation at the beginning of fall term. Twenty-nine teams spent the morning volunteering at parks, nonprofit organizations, and agencies, including the Exceptional Foundation, Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, Girls Inc., and the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama. Afterwards, the students assembled at Railroad Park for lunch and a discussion about their experience. Now in its fourth year, "Engage: Service in the City" helps new students to learn about their community and leaves them with the unforgettable experience of giving back to it. "Engage" also introduces students to local community partners and possible avenues for service learning during their BSC career.

Alan Litsey

On a shelf in Theatre Professor Dr. Alan Litsey's office is a slim yellow catalog listing hundreds of old-time radio shows. The pages are dotted with small black check marks—each representing one of the shows that Litsey listened to as a child or has collected as an adult. They also represent his initiation, as a young boy growing up in a small agricultural town in California, into the world of drama.

"Listening to the shows really was my first experience with a version of theatre, of writing, of acting," said Litsey, who discovered radio plays, many of which date back to the 1930s, when they were undergoing a revival in the 1970s. "It was a window into another world. It was sort of an early introduction to what actors and writers and directors do."

Today, Litsey has collected thousands of hours of tape—more than he'll ever be able to listen to. It's just one of many interests for the busy professor. As well as teaching classes in acting, directing, and playwriting and overseeing student productions, Litsey just wrapped up time as director of rise3, the college's experiential learning initiative. He was the college's Outstanding Educator of the Year and praised for his ability to inspire students, his passion for and knowledge of his subject, and his willingness to always be available to students.

He also produces his own work. His latest play, "Nest of Angels," premiered at South City Theatre in Pelham, Ala.; Reese Thompson '14 and Christie Connolly '14 starred in the production.

Litsey says you can see a link between his play, which centers on a playwright's relentless efforts to get her work on stage, and the old radio shows he loves so much.

"One of the things I enjoyed about writing 'Nest of Angels' is the wordplay. The characters are on verbal overload," he said. "Radio really created a love for language and quirky humor; some of the writing for those shows is exquisite."



Dr. Susan K. Hagen in 1977.

Retiring faculty

Three faculty members with more than a century of combined service to BSC will retire this May. Political scientists Dr. Bob Slagter, who joined the faculty in 1985, and Dr. Natalie Davis, who joined the faculty in 1972 and is Howell T. Heflin Professor of Political Science, have brought great renown to the college with their analyses of Asian and American politics, respectively. Also departing is Dr. Susan K. Hagen, Mary Collett Professor of English and BSC's interim provost. Hagen has also served as associate provost, associate dean of the college, Phi Beta Kappa senator, and director of the Harrison Honors Program in her 41 years on the campus; the Honors Common in the Berte Humanities Center will be named for her. To contribute to plans to honor all three professors' contributions to BSC, please contact the Office at Advancement at advancement@bsc.edu or call (205) 226-4909.



BSC welcomes new faculty, announces faculty promotions

Three associate professors have assumed the position of full professor at Birmingham-Southern: Scot Duncan (biology), Randy Law (history), and Jim Neel '71 (art). Awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor were Melanie Styers '99 (biology), Chunbei Wang (economics), and Pete Van Zandt (biology).

One new faculty member joined the faculty in 2017: Amber Wagner is assistant professor for the brand-new Creative and Applied Computing program, which will launch in the fall. Wagner, who has a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Alabama, most recently taught in the computer science department at Kennesaw State University. She's tasked with helping design BSC's much-lauded new program.

Fifteen others joined the faculty earlier this academic year:

- Jessica Allen, assistant professor of psychology
- Gina Armstrong '92, assistant professor of library science
- Gay Barnes, assistant professor of education
- Teddy Champion, visiting assistant professor of media and film studies
- Robert Corna, visiting instructor of media and film studies
- Kevin Drace, assistant professor of biology
- Jessica Eckhardt, assistant professor of sociology
- Katie Gibbs, assistant professor of biology
- George Hendren, visiting instructor of classics
- Rebekah Pine Parker '09, visiting instructor of urban environmental studies
- Tracy Smith, assistant professor of accounting
- Keely Sutton, assistant professor of religion
- Esubalew Tiruneh, visiting instructor of economics
- Joe Wiinikka-Lydon, assistant professor of religion
- Joshua Zelinsky, visiting instructor of mathematics

by the numbers

While much of the campus will go quiet in the summer months, BSC's operations staff will be ramping up. The team must get all of the rooms ready for fall in the few short weeks after students move out—all while juggling the needs of the thousands of summer school students and summer campers who live and eat on the campus during June, July, and August. Here's a look:

11 full-time employees | **575** work orders

354 gallons of paint costing **\$2,905**

185 calls for HVAC repairs | **110** toilets needing work

1,624 beds in dorms and Greek houses

2,062 residential summer campers

1,317 day campers

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

Preserving honor

Alumna guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Ruth Hanks '10 links an unbroken chain of soldiers marching before a sacred American monument day and night, regardless of weather.

The U.S. Army staff sergeant earned the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge in 2016 and serves at Arlington National Cemetery. She is only the fourth woman in history to earn the badge—out of 646 badge honors—and the first since 1998.

"It's one of the highest honors I could achieve," said Hanks. "I've been called a role model for other women, but I'm just an Army sergeant who wants to do my part in honoring these soldiers."

Hanks, who was a soccer standout at BSC, joined the Army in October

of 2011 and completed military police training. She joined the Honor Guard in 2015 after a 2013 deployment to Afghanistan and is now a commander of the relief. Her duty begins at 5 a.m., when she prepares her uniform for the first ceremonial walk, and doesn't end until completion of relief at 7 a.m. the next day.

Being a Tomb Guard takes time, attention to detail, and heart, said Hanks.

"During each guard change, sentinels strive to match their movements with each other in perfect unison," she said. "From the measurements on our uniforms to the synchronous steps of our feet striking the granite to the 21-second intervals,

each motion we make conveys the respect we have for their memory."

Hanks, a native of Waco, Texas, played four years as goalkeeper for the Panther soccer team, making 95 saves in 39 games. She found her calling under the mentorship of BSC Professor of Biology Dr. Scot Duncan and worked in the forestry service after graduation. She wanted to serve her country, however, continuing a tradition as a member of a military family.

"The three soldiers whose tombs we guard gave everything for our country—even their names," said Hanks. "Tomb Guards strive to honor their sacrifice and guard their resting place to the best of our abilities. And that's what we do."



Hess Fellows pair hands-on community engagement with advocacy

BSC students are preparing to spend eight weeks this summer tackling projects such as coordinating lobbying events on Capitol Hill, tracking environmental projects on the Gulf Coast, and advocating for Birmingham’s homeless population as part of the 2017-18 class of Hess Fellows.

The Hess Fellows program, part of BSC’s Krulak Institute for Leadership, Experiential Learning, and Civic Engagement, places students at leading nonprofit advocacy agencies around the country, including the Clinton Foundation, Bread for the World, and the Global Campaign for Education. The sophomores and juniors serve as full-time staff members with their organizations, learning about the challenges and opportunities of advocacy work. They also participate in the Krulak Institute’s Summer Poster Expo and a donor luncheon.

The dedication and generosity of Ralph and Susan Doughton, Ronne and Donald Hess, the Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation, Gayle and Pat Pelham, Dan and Linda Young, and several other private donors make the Hess Fellows program possible.



The 2016-17 Hess Fellows, along with two of the program’s sponsors, are (front row, from left): Ansleigh Davies, Shibani Chakrabarty, Caralyn Patton, Jordan Porter, Donald Hess, Ronne Hess, Hattie O’Hara, Sarah Bowman, Mercedes Engle, and Anna Eggers; (back row, from left): Tuner Collins, Blaire Alexander, Shannon Walsh, Toby White, Allen Doyle, Morgan Schneider, and Caroline Grove. Not pictured is Molly Isen.

Web connect:

Read more about the Hess Fellows’ summer experiences here:
www.bsc.edu/communications/news/2016/20160517-hess.cfm

BSC adopts test-optional admission process, adds early decision

In an effort to reduce barriers to attendance, Birmingham-Southern has moved to a test-optional application for prospective students.

Students applying to BSC now decide whether to report their scores for standardized college admission tests such as the ACT or SAT. Those who do not include test scores instead have their qualification for admission determined by an evaluative interview and an academic portfolio that includes graded papers or school projects with teacher comments, in addition to the usual measures such as grade point average, high school ranking, and extracurricular activities.

“This move has in no way compromised the caliber of our incoming class or reduced BSC’s admission standards,” said Sara Newhouse, vice president for admission and financial planning.

“Rather, we hope it gives bright, engaged students who fear that BSC is out of their reach another way to apply.”

The college’s decision to move to test-optional admission is part of a growing national trend. BSC has joined the ranks of dozens of high-quality institutions who have taken up the banner including Bowdoin College, Wake Forest University, Middlebury College, George Washington University, and Colby College.

Schools that have made the switch have found that doing so broadens their application pool and increases applications from students of color, women, first-generation students, and students with learning differences—all groups that traditionally do not score as well on standardized tests even though they excel in college.

BSC also added an Early Decision option to allow students who know early in their college search that BSC is the best fit for them to stand out during the application process. Early Decision, which is common among elite colleges and universities, requires students to commit to attending if they are admitted. BSC received 46 Early Decision applications.

“There are already so many barriers to higher education that some of these students have to scale, and we’re trying to ensure that everyone has access to the kind of high-quality educational experience we offer at BSC,” Newhouse said. “None of our students are just a number to us—we judge all applicants as individuals with growth potential who will bring their own strengths to the Hilltop.”



SGA executive officers (l to r) Shiv Desai, Toby White, Caroline Irby, and Griffith Hawk.

SGA makes changes on campus

This year's Student Government has introduced a host of initiatives and improvements on campus, including a push to build a stronger network between students and Birmingham-Southern grads.

SGA President Caroline Irby said the SGA executive board hopes that strengthening BSC students' relationships with alumni will open up mentoring opportunities and offer practical support for students as they prepare for and launch their careers.

"Students need the relationships and connections with alumni while they're in school and when they graduate and begin their careers," she added. "Alumni, in turn, can enrich the students' overall experience and embody a continuing, reciprocal relationship with BSC."

Creating a stronger alumni network aligns with the executive board's other goals, including improving communication with the campus, increasing transparency, and expanding community outreach.

Also this year, the SGA contributed \$12,500 to the college to re-stripe parking lots on campus, and sponsored the refurbishment of patio furniture around Clay Long '58 Alumni Plaza.

This summer and fall, the SGA also:

- Implemented OrgSync, a campus engagement network, to create a more cohesive campus community;
- Worked with administration to implement a declining balance system called Rowdy Cash for fundraisers, event tickets, etc.;
- Renewed the TurboVote contract, which has enabled students to register to vote and receive election updates; and
- Hosted an "Ask SGA Day" in the Norton Atrium and used submitted suggestions to guide the work of committees.

"We're so grateful for everything SGA does to improve student life on the Hilltop," said BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith. "Their contributions are shining examples of how BSC really is a family."

PANTHER PRIDE



A fond farewell

After more than 25 years on the Hilltop, former Athletics Director Joe Dean Jr. decided to leave BSC this spring. Dean, who first came to BSC in 1983 as head basketball coach, closed out his winning run at the college with the title of senior vice president for advancement. He completed his six-year coaching stretch with a 137-45 record and was inducted into BSC's Sports Hall of Fame in 1994, then left to coach at the University of Central Florida. He returned in 1999 as AD; he led the college through its transition to NCAA Division III and helped expand its sports programs—then he tackled the role of fundraiser-in-chief for the college. "We will miss Joe more than I can say," said BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith. "He has been an incredible asset in every role he has taken on—and through it all, he has always put our students first."

Major leaguer Bruce Maxwell pursues passion for coaching

Bruce Maxwell '12, who helped lead BSC to a Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference title and appearance in the NCAA Central Region championship game, is starting the season playing AAA ball with the Nashville Sounds.

Maxwell made his major league debut last July when he was called up from Nashville by the Oakland Athletics; he stayed with the club for the rest of the season. But even while stepping up to the big leagues, he has also launched another passion: his desire to coach.

Maxwell, who splits his offseason between Arizona and Harvest, Ala., is a volunteer coach at Mountain Pointe High School in Phoenix. Last fall, he emailed three local programs offering his services, and he stayed with Mountain Pointe even after the A's spring training practices began.

Though the notion of working as a coach and finding his way into the prep ranks might surprise someone familiar with his playing career, the 6'1," 250-pound left-handed catcher says he wouldn't have it any other way.

"I love kids and I love to coach and teach," said Maxwell, who has helped coach Arizona-based youth travel ball teams in the past. "I started working at a high school so I could keep busy during the offseason."

Before Maxwell was called up, he appeared in 60 games for the



Nashville Sounds, earning PCL Player of the Week honors. He is the second Panther to make it to the big leagues; Connor Robertson '05 played for the Oakland A's and Arizona Diamondbacks.

During his BSC athletic career, Maxwell was named SCAC Offensive Player of the Year and D3baseball.com South Region Player of the Year, as well as D3baseball.com First-Team All-America and All-South, SCAC First Team and All-Tournament, and BSC Male Athlete of the Year.

Maxwell is hoping to gain a spot this season on the roster for the A's, and has put coaching on hold—for now.

"Ten years from now, I hope to have a family and still be playing in the big leagues," he said. "Once I've retired from the majors, I wouldn't mind coaching at BSC."



Champions made here

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams dominated the 2017 Southern Athletic Association Championships held at the Birmingham CrossPlex in February. The men took home their third consecutive league title and set a new SAA team points record of 1.013.5—that's 271 points ahead of second-place finisher Centre College. The women reclaimed their team title after outscoring the second-place finisher by 57 points. Head Coach Toby Wilcox earned SAA Coach of the Year after the wins.



Karmin Shute: on the fast track at BSC



Karmin Shute only considered Birmingham-Southern because one of her high school track and field coaches suggested it. She quickly realized it was a perfect fit. "After hearing his suggestion, I looked into the school," said the junior sprinter. "The family aspect of the campus is what I really liked; everyone was so welcoming and friendly."

Indeed, it has been a good match. The biology major from Atlanta has a 3.3 GPA and is a resident advisor and a member of the Black Student Union. She plans to attend a physician assistant program after graduation.

"She continues to be the kind of student-athlete that I believed she would become," said BSC Head Track and Field Coach Kenneth Cox. "And she shows a desire to be a leader within our women's team and within the campus community."

Shute has become a valuable asset to the Panther track and field program and made another strong outing this season after becoming the Southern Athletic Association 200-meter champion and 400-meter runner-up last spring as well as SAA Female Athlete of the Year. She also made the SAA All-Academic Team.

In her first year of track at Birmingham-Southern, Shute couldn't have asked for better outcomes. She was a member of the SAA champion 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 relay teams when BSC hosted the championship in 2014; she was a part of the spring 2015 NCAA Outdoor Championship All-American relay team, which competed at St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., and an NCAA Outdoor Championship All-American in the 4 x 100 relay; and Shute was SAA All-Conference Champion at the outdoor 4 x 100 relay held at Rhodes that year. This year, she made the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's All-Region indoor honors for the 60-meter, 200-meter, and 4 x 400-meter relay.

Between her first and sophomore years, she competed in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympic National Championship at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, where her relay team finished sixth overall. That finish awarded her Junior Olympic All-American status.

Shute said that track helps her find balance, and she looks forward to her preseason training and conditioning after spending her days studying.

"When I'm on the track, all of my worry and stress goes away," said Shute. "Track is a great extension to my life, and I feel free when I'm running, especially when I compete."



Fastest man

The Panther's first-ever indoor national title in men's track and field came in dramatic fashion in March as BSC junior Jamal Watkins ran the 60-meter final in 6.76 seconds, beating the runner-up by just .06 seconds. Watkins, a business major from McDonough, Ga., ran in the 2017 NCAA Indoor National Track and Field Championships at North Central College in Naperville, Ill. He is now the third Panther in program history to win a national championship. He joins the ranks of Tiarra Goode '15, who won the 60 indoor and 100 hurdles outdoor titles in 2012, and Robert Willett, who won the 800 outdoor title in 2013 as a senior.

New head coaches announced



White with BSC Athletics
Director Kyndall Waters '05



Schmidt



Williams



O'Quinn

Football

In November, Tony Joe White became the sixth head football coach in program history and the third since the program resumed in 2007. White was most recently the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Centre College.

Under White's guidance, the Colonel offense broke program total yard records every season since 2013, finishing last fall with 5,086 yards to rank 13th nationally for total offense. They are also ranked in the top 20 in NCAA Division III in six other offensive categories and ended the season in third place in the Southern Athletic Association.

In 2013, White led the Colonels to five single-game records and two single-season records.

Golf

Richard Schmidt, who has more than 35 years of golfing experience, was chosen to be men's and women's golf head coach. He has been an assistant golf professional at the Country Club of Birmingham and Wyoming's Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis, conducting clinics and organizing golf tournaments.

Before coming to BSC, he spent 12 years as a sales agent for American Lumber in Birmingham.

A native of Houston, Schmidt is a member of the U.S. Golf Association and Pine Tree Country Club. He graduated from Jacksonville State University in 1999 with a degree in criminal justice after competing in golf for four years with the Gamecocks.

Women's lacrosse

The college didn't have to go far to find its next head women's lacrosse coach. Courtney Williams, who served as BSC's assistant women's lacrosse coach from 2012-16, was named to take over the position vacated by Emily Wetmore.

Williams is no stranger to Division III lacrosse; she played for four seasons at Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk, Va. She was named conference Rookie of the Year and made the record books as only the eighth woman in VWC program history to score 100-plus goals in a career. She graduated from VWC in 2012 with a degree in recreation and leisure studies concentrating in therapeutic recreation.

Women's volleyball

Haven O'Quinn, former head coach of the 7A state champion Mountain Brook High School volleyball squad, will take over BSC's women's volleyball program on June 1.

O'Quinn led the Spartans to three consecutive state championships with an overall record of 223-50. She was the 2016 AL.com State Coach of the Year, 2015 NFHS State Coach of the Year, and a three-time recipient of the Over the Mountain Journal Coach of the Year award. Her coaching experience extends over 10 years. She graduated from Troy University, where she played for four years, and currently is top five in several individual and career record categories.

Weisberg hits 300th career win

The No. 3 baseball team gave Head Coach Jan Weisberg his 300th win at BSC with its two-game sweep on March 4, making him the fastest coach in the college's program history to hit the mark. The Panthers defeated University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh 6-3 and then took down Transylvania 6-2 in the nightcap to improve to 11-3 for the year. Weisberg is in his 11th season coaching at BSC.





Vinson



DiPiazza

A new era for soccer

In the first fall after longtime head men’s coach Preston Goldfarb retired, BSC soccer had two new head coaches in longtime men’s assistant coach Greg Vinson ‘96 and David DiPiazza ‘98, who is leading the women.


Vinson, a 2000 BSC Hall of Fame inductee, closed the 2016 season with a 9-6-1 overall record. He was a three-year captain and All-American on the pitch for BSC and spent 20 years coaching alongside Goldfarb. His assistant coach, Joe Nasco ‘07, played professionally for four years after his career at BSC.

Under DiPiazza’s leadership, the women finished 2016 with a 7-10 overall record, 3-4 in Southern Athletic Association play. Before returning to the Hilltop, he led teams to six high school state titles and was a four-time National Federation of State High School Associations Coach of the Year. As a student, he won two conference championships and a regional title.



Legends of BSC sports—The Birmingham-Southern Sports Hall of Fame gained six more members at the induction ceremony in October. Pictured (l to r) are Rachel Malmborg Skweres ‘05 (volleyball); John Quinn ‘05 (men’s golf); John Cairns, who accepted the honor on behalf of his late father, Buddy Cairns ‘26 (football, track and field, tennis); Joe Nasco ‘07 (men’s soccer); and Joe Thigpen ‘11 (football). In addition, Alex Lockett, a former volunteer golf coach for the college, received the 2016 Bob Strain Distinguished Service Award. The award is named after the late 1940 BSC alum who founded the hall of fame in 1981.

FEATURES


A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a dark blue graduation gown with a white stole, is speaking at a black podium. A microphone is positioned in front of her. The background is dark with a large, circular seal partially visible. The seal features the text 'SOUTHERN BAPTIST' and 'CONFERENCE' around a central emblem.

From a new president to new programs to what feels like a brand-new hometown, BSC is experiencing change and bringing it to the community. Inside, you'll meet President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith, find out what's happening on campus, and learn about alumni who are catalyzing downtown redevelopment.

Downtown Renaissance

*BSC alums help propel the city
of Birmingham forward*

Whether uptown, midtown, or downtown, Birmingham is booming. And Birmingham-Southern alumni are playing an integral part in its development. From stimulating business growth and running one of the city's key entertainment attractions to aiding in the historic renovation of a theatre and bringing jazz to the forefront of the arts scene, these six alumni—along with many more—are shaping the burgeoning metropolis. Long after they've put away their caps and gowns, they share their thoughts on the city's progress and their collegiate connections.



Glenny Brock '99

*BSC adjunct professor of English and
volunteer coordinator for the restoration of
the Lyric Theatre*

The Lyric was built in 1914 as a Vaudeville palace, but sat empty and decaying for decades. Brock helped lead a \$11.5-million fundraising campaign and extensive restorations, leading to the theatre's reopening last year 102 years after its debut.

"Birmingham has been called 'the city of perpetual promise.' Implicit in that moniker is the sad reality of decade after decade during which the potential lay latent. As proud as I am of recent progress, I resist too much self-congratulation. I want to be as clear-eyed as I am joyful. Continued momentum depends on objective assessment of the present conditions. We've still got a lot to do."



Erin Kendrick Stephenson '01

Vice president and director of client and community relations for the Alabama market, PNC Bank

PNC entered the Alabama market in 2012 after the acquisition of RBC. The 6th largest financial institution in the United States, PNC focuses its philanthropic efforts on early childhood education, economic development, and arts and culture.

“My time at BSC equipped me to be a lifelong learner, and my exposure to service-learning projects—both close to home and around the globe—led me to my profession. Having recently made the move from the nonprofit sector to corporate philanthropy, I continue to tap into my liberal arts education as I seek to make an impact with PNC’s community investments in Alabama.”

David Fleming MPPM '02

CEO, REV Birmingham

REV Birmingham was formed in 2012 by merging Operation New Birmingham and Main Street Birmingham. It seeks to create vibrant commercial districts in the downtown core and in nearby neighborhoods by growing local businesses and filling vacant spaces.

"I have always believed in Birmingham's potential. It's great to see so many more people believing in it as well and doing things that help our city realize its potential while chasing their own dreams. I'm not surprised by what we're seeing in our city because I knew the potential was there if we believed in it and worked for it."



Amy Wingard Templeton '82

CEO, McWane Science Center

The interactive science museum is housed in the historic and refurbished Loveman's department store. It has brought thousands of visitors downtown since its founding in 1998.

"I learned so much from all of my classes at BSC, but I think the lessons I learned outside the classroom are the ones that have shaped me the most. The call to leadership and the understanding that we can't simply sit on the sidelines and wait for someone else to tackle the important issues of the day were underlying themes in every aspect of life on campus. The idea that every individual matters—whether that manifested itself through Dr. [Neal] Berte, [BSC President Emeritus] taking the time to learn the names of every student or professors counseling their students about so much more than their performance in a particular class—has inspired the way I interact with people in my workplace."






Bernard Lockhart '83 (MPPM '08)

Executive director, Magic City Smooth Jazz

Lockhart founded Magic City Smooth Jazz, a nonprofit dedicated to exposing residents to great jazz, and launched its Jazz in the Park series in 2010 with five concerts around the city. It now hosts about 25 concerts a year across the state.

“The most recent growth of Birmingham has surprised me somewhat since it’s always been known as a second-tier city in terms of population. However, what doesn’t surprise me is all the attractions that draw people to this city—all the great medical research and technology advancements, safe communities in which to live, quality schools to choose from, and of course, a thriving arts community.”



Camille Spratling '98 (MPPM '07)

Executive director, Railroad Park Foundation

Railroad Park, an eight-block green space celebrating the city's industrial heritage, has been a prime catalyst for development downtown, spurring a boom in restaurants and apartments around 1st Avenue South.

"Birmingham-Southern is an anchor on the western side of the city and has been an integral part of Birmingham for decades. The college has produced thousands of graduates who have made a positive impact on society, many of whom have done so right here in Birmingham. BSC graduates serve in important roles throughout the city and region as teachers, chefs, doctors, parents, CEOs, artists, attorneys, musicians, nonprofit leaders, and more."

A photograph of four young adults (three women and one man) smiling in a room. The woman on the far left is wearing a blue jacket. The man next to her is wearing a white shirt. The woman next to him is also wearing a white shirt. The woman on the far right is wearing a white t-shirt with 'BSC' and 'BENTON COUNTY' printed on it. They are standing in front of a table with papers on it. The background is a green wall with a decorative border.

Meet BSC's first female president

By Hannah Wolfson

When Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith received an honorary doctorate from BSC back in 2013, she had one piece of advice for new graduates: "Just say yes!"

Flaherty-Goldsmith—who at the time was leaving her post as the college's chief of staff to take on a new challenge working as a *pro bono* consultant for Human Rights First to help launch a campaign against human trafficking—told members of the senior class to follow their passions, take the opportunities they would be presented, and work toward positive change in the world.

In her first year as the college's 15th president, Flaherty-Goldsmith has followed her own advice, tackling every challenge with enthusiasm, focus, a team-building approach, and a hearty "yes!"





Butch Rowell '66 of Hoover and President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith at the 50th Milestone Reunion celebration during last fall's Homecoming/Reunion/Family Weekend.

In her first semester on campus, she launched the Bridge to the Future, a plan that recognizes the need to raise \$30 million over three years in order to provide time for the college to reach a stronger and sustainable financial position. Working with BSC's advancement team, she has made it a personal priority to meet as many alumni, parents, and current and future students as possible, traveling almost weekly across Alabama and the South to do so. She has reached out to partner with others in the community and the city to find ways to assist Birmingham's western area. In conjunction with faculty and the provost, she is helping to shepherd new programs, including the much-anticipated Creative and Applied Computing major, into existence for fall 2017.

"The faculty is so creative, and there are many other ideas on the drawing board," she said.

Another item she introduced as a "high priority" when she arrived last June—implementing articulation agreements with local community colleges to simplify transfers for students—has been put in place. This spring, under her direction, the college launched a new marketing campaign, "Rise to Your Potential," to help raise awareness of BSC's strengths across the state and region. In her usual style, she credits members of the senior team with doing the heavy lifting on these and other projects. And finally, during her first ten months, she has worked with the college's financial team, the Board of Trustees, and local banks to lead a restructuring that reduced the college's debt by almost 25%.

"Being a college president is not something I ever planned on. In fact, as others can confirm, it was something I carefully avoided

for many years," Flaherty-Goldsmith said. "During my long career in higher education, I had worked directly for seven presidents, closely enough to know that this is a role that overtakes your life. There is only one college that could have enticed me to fill this role, and that is BSC. It grabbed my heart when I arrived on the Hilltop in 2010, and it hasn't let go since."

That's saying a lot, considering Flaherty-Goldsmith devoted much of her career to the University of Alabama—her alma mater—as well as the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she earned her MBA, and the University of Alabama System. She joined UAB's staff as a budget analyst in 1980 and spent 13 years there in progressively more demanding positions, left to become vice chancellor for financial affairs for the UA System, then returned again from 1996-1998 as interim VP for finance and administration while also continuing as vice chancellor.

"The Board convinced me that UAB needed me to come back for a period of time to help the interim president lead a restructuring in Finance and Administration, and I was honored to do what I could—tired, but honored," she smiled.

She also said "yes" when recruiting as vice president and chief operating officer of the University of Connecticut in 2003, putting her plans for retirement on hold. "My previous chancellor—then UConn's president—convinced me that he and the university needed what I had to offer, so I moved to the Northeast," she said. While there, she helped the university restructure several departments, strategically save costs, and gain control of a troubled \$2-billion construction project.

Flaherty-Goldsmith, or LFG as she is more frequently called, first arrived on the Hilltop in a similar role, when BSC's Board of Trustees hired her as a consultant in 2010 after financial issues came to light. When BSC's 13th president, Gen. Charles C. Krulak, asked her to stay on as his chief of staff, she again took her own advice and said yes. In that role, she worked with the president to restructure the college's leadership team, helped achieve record levels of fundraising, and was instrumental in BSC's reaccreditation process.

"There is no person more critical, more important, to what has happened here than Linda," then-BSC President Gen. Charles C. Krulak said at her going away party. "She saved this college. What she's done for this school ought to be written up, and it will be written up for the future."

Educational power

It was a long way to come for a woman who grew up poor in rural Mississippi. Her mother—her father abandoned the family when Linda was eight—raised Linda and six of the eight siblings who were still at home. She credits the determination

of her mother and grandmother and the faith exhibited by her grandfather, a Baptist minister, with her positive approach to life's challenges.

"We grew up with the understanding that 'You will do better,'" she said. "This was a statement, not a question. There was no leniency. Ever. And there was always an understanding that education and tenacity play equal roles in achieving success... along with a sense of humor."

Nonetheless, she did not start college until age 24, after being sidelined by life-threatening health problems and the absence of mentors for bright young people who lacked financial resources.

"Even though I was valedictorian of my high school class, no one talked to me about the possibility of applying for scholarships," she said; instead, she was urged to consider secretarial school so that she could earn a living. She worked full-time as an administrative assistant, earning her degree at night, on lunch hours, and on weekends in a little over five years, graduating *summa cum laude* from UA's Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration, then going on to earn her MBA at night while working as UAB's budget director.

That experience as a first-generation college student helped her understand the transformative power of higher education and produced a life-long commitment to mentoring young people seeking to further their education. Today, she says, a small liberal-arts college experience is the best option not just for students of privilege who have always expected to land on a professional track, but also for first-generation students like herself looking to broaden their intellectual and social horizons.

"That's because BSC supports every student and challenges each one to go for the gold," she said.

As her first major donation other than to church, Flaherty-Goldsmith established a scholarship at UAB through payroll deduction; its focus is supporting women returning to college after having struggled in the workplace. It is named for the two strong women who guided her childhood—her mother and grandmother.

Changing attitudes

Flaherty-Goldsmith's understanding of poverty and community led her to set a new strategic priority for Birmingham-Southern even before her official return to campus. Going forward, one of the college's goals will be to support, encourage, and drive economic development in the neighborhoods that surround the campus.

She has also set two other strategic priorities: making the college more accessible to a broad base of students who currently believe BSC to be out of their reach, and increasing the diversity of the student body, faculty, and staff on the Hilltop. The college took a positive step this year by introducing a new Student of Color Scholarship to assist with recruiting.

"This college needs to reflect the world in which we live and the city we call home," Flaherty-Goldsmith said. "We've been fortunate that a number of students of color have chosen BSC and have become extraordinary campus leaders. Now it's time that our faculty be equally representative of our nation. We are making progress in that arena, as well."

That's important, she said, because offering a diverse educational experience will prepare all students to succeed in a diverse world. At the same time, changing national and global demographics means more college students will come from non-traditional backgrounds. That includes an increasing pool of students who don't move immediately from high school to four-year institutions;

today, it is estimated that more than half of all college grads will attend a two-year college for some portion of their education.

At the same time, she said, BSC must begin to tear down the myth that private liberal arts education is simply out of reach for most students. The college's estimated cost of attendance (including tuition, fees, housing, food, and more) is high—but because of generous scholarship packages, very few students pay full freight. In fact, the net cost to the student is comparable to that paid to attend a state institution. Nonetheless, she said, many families will not even consider a place like BSC because they assume it's beyond their reach.

"We know the true value of a BSC education, all the plusses you get on a campus like this—faculty relationships, leadership opportunities, a true community," Flaherty-Goldsmith said. "Unfortunately, many families entering the college search process don't understand what makes us distinct from larger universities, and because they see the high sticker price, they simply close that door before exploring our generous financial aid packages."

The "Rise to Your Potential" advertisements, which highlight the success of alumni as proof of what BSC provides students, are the first step in changing that perception, along with stepped-up recruiting efforts across the South and into Texas.



Flaherty-Goldsmith jumped into the pool after the women's swimming and diving team won this year's SAA Championship.



Flaherty-Goldsmith at a Southern Society Reception at the President's Home last fall honoring alumni and friends who further the well-being of the college with annual contributions of \$1,000 or more.

"We knew that Linda was the perfect fit for BSC going in, but we have been so pleased with how much she has already accomplished in her short time on the Hilltop," said BSC Board Chair David Smith '79. "Working closely with her as Board chair, I am constantly impressed by her unfailing energy and intelligence, her ability to cut to the core of a problem or take advantage of an opportunity, and her dedication to putting Birmingham-Southern on the path to an even greater future."

It may sound like she is trying to do it all, but BSC's first female president says she believes strongly that she can and must make a difference—because she has the support of the BSC family. As an example of what drives her to maintain such a pace, she cites her favorite quote from Helen Keller, who said:

"I am only one, but I am still one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

"That's the mantra by which I have tried to live my life," Flaherty-Goldsmith said. "When people ask me to do something, I ask myself these questions: Is it something worth doing? Is it something that calls to my heart? Is it something I can do? If the answer to all three questions is yes, then I say 'yes'."

"The 'something' I am currently fixated on is making our nationally ranked educational experience available and accessible to many more students, so that they, too, can 'just say yes' to BSC."

Collaboration in the corner office

Many leaders—in business and academia—are eager to brag about their accomplishments. But for BSC's new president, the priority is giving credit where credit is due. In fact, President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith believes that teams do the best work, not individuals, and she makes sure to systematically recognize members of her senior administrative team for making the large-scale innovations she has already accomplished possible, as well as for handling the everyday details that allow her to focus on long-term strategy for the college. She even moved the president's office from its previous location in the Stockham Women's Building back to Munger Memorial Hall to enable her to share a hallway with more team members, especially the provost.

Meet her team:

Dr. Susan Hagen didn't expect to be taking over as provost in the final semester before she retired, but when Dr. Michelle Behr departed mid-year, she ably picked up the reins. Flaherty-Goldsmith has insisted the provost is the president's "right-hand person," and credits Hagen with making her dream of articulation agreements with community colleges, which will increase the number of transfer students to BSC, a reality in record time. Bringing **Dr. Tim Smith** into the role of associate provost a few months early has made Hagen's massive workload much more manageable.

Lane Estes has helped every BSC president since Dr. Neal Berte, but Flaherty-Goldsmith officially named him her Chief of Staff as well as vice president of community initiatives. She depends on him to manage strategically important projects, especially the Western Area Initiative that she outlined on her very first day in office—a shared passion.

CFO **Eli Phillips** and Flaherty-Goldsmith also have a shared passion for the bottom line; she is a self-described "numbers person" and former finance officer herself. That's why she respects Phillips' strong financial expertise so much. The two are engaged in a comb-through of the college's budget to find ways to redirect resources to strategic priorities, and most notably were successful in bringing a dramatic debt reduction financing to fruition this March.

Another finance guru—Interim VP for Advancement **Dr. Sara Helms Robicheaux** '97, who was a math major at BSC—serves as

the interim leader of the college's fundraising efforts, including the ambitious Bridge to the Future initiative. Robicheaux is also Dean of Business Programs, B.A. Monaghan Professor of Business, and director of the Stump Entrepreneurship Program, and a frequent traveling partner of the president as they strike out to meet alumni and donors.

Anthony Hambey, vice president for Information Technology, and his team are also critical when it comes to managing expenses and being innovative in providing greater services with fewer resources. This spring, IT began a project to run new fiber on the campus, an early step in a multi-year project to guarantee the college is technologically up to speed in the future.

Sara Newhouse, vice president for Enrollment Management, has the important task of increasing the college's enrollment each year. Her department has tackled a range of new projects in cooperation with Flaherty-Goldsmith, including test-optional admission, adding recruiters in new regions, and updating financial aid, among other efforts. And the president has accompanied able recruiters throughout the southeast to sell BSC to prospective students.

Dr. David Eberhardt, vice president for Student Development, has always been focused on making the student experience the best it can be, and has taken on the role of improving retention at the college and researching new opportunities to engage first-year, first-generation, and all students. His department also manages all aspects of residential and student life, from the residence halls to the Greek system to career services and counseling—even the Honor Code.

Another crucial role is played by the president's assistant, **Chuck Evans**, who manages Flaherty-Goldsmith's office and overflowing calendar. "His collegial style and attention to detail makes all the difference and makes my office run efficiently," she said.

"And then there's **Hannah Wolfson**, this magazine's editor and this article's author," President Flaherty-Goldsmith insisted on adding. "She is our star communicator, and not only would publications like this one never see the light of day, I'd be at a loss for words without her!"



Rebirth and growth on the Hilltop

New leadership—as well as careful planning in recent years—has brought a slew of initiatives to fruition on the Hilltop. Most are focused on the goals of the Bridge to the Future (see p. 38), including increasing enrollment, enhancing the student experience, and improving the quality of life in the broader community. Here are some of BSC’s priority items.

Creative and Applied Computing

This new program grew out of last year’s academic visioning project, in which members of the faculty generated ideas for areas of strategic focus, with an emphasis on generating interest from prospective students. Projects that emerged included a Distinction in Public Health, a Poverty Studies program, and plans to enhance Urban Environmental Studies. But perhaps most exciting is a brand-new major in Creative and Applied Computing, an innovative approach to computer science through a liberal arts lens—in part because the return of computing to BSC’s curriculum is so important to the college’s growth. The interdisciplinary approach will draw from areas across campus as students learn how technology impacts modern life in many ways and amass the skills to work in a professional world of electronic platforms, software, and big data. Classes will begin this fall. “I feel really good about it and the faculty feels really good about it,” said acting provost Dr. Susan Hagen. “It’s about educating people with computing, and really it’s about creative problem solving at the core.”

Western Area Initiative

Still in the early stages, this effort was President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith’s priority upon assuming her new role. The goal is to serve as a catalyst for community and economic development for the neighborhoods near campus, while also providing meaningful work for BSC students to integrate hands-on experiences with their academic studies. The college is working with local residents and community organizations, including the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and the nonprofit housing group Navigate, to collaboratively determine areas of focus. A team on campus has defined the region of focus—a stretch that includes Princeton Baptist Medical Center, the Birmingham Crossplex, Legion Field, and more—and launched a survey of existing service and research projects already happening in the area and around the Birmingham region. In addition, a community needs assessment is underway. “We have to start by asking people what they need,” said BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith. “We’ve told our neighbors, whatever you need from us, we’re going to work together toward those ends, because we know that if you succeed, we succeed.”

Provost Search

With the departure of BSC Provost Dr. Michelle Behr, BSC embarked in December on a national search for a new chief academic officer. A strong pool of candidates gathered by the firm Academic Search Associates led to an impressive group of

finalists, four of whom were scheduled to visit campus in early April to meet with faculty, staff, and students. The goal is to have a new provost—who will oversee Birmingham-Southern’s academic programs—in place before the end of the summer. “I am so pleased by the quality of the professionals we’re looking at to fill this very important role,” Flaherty-Goldsmith said. “I also want to thank the search committee and our acting provost, Susan Hagen, who have done masterful jobs.”

Articulation Agreements and Enrollment Growth

One of Flaherty-Goldsmith’s other top priorities upon taking the position was to make arrangements with two-year colleges to make it easier for students taking classes there to transfer to BSC. These articulation agreements, as they’re called, outline the credits that will be awarded to incoming students from community colleges, how they’ll fulfill major requirements, and more. The goal is to ensure that a top-quality liberal arts education is accessible to the growing number of students taking less-traditional routes to a degree; it’s also another important tool for enrollment growth. In fact, a report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center found that close to half of all students who complete a four-year degree in the United States were enrolled at a two-year college first; most took at least three semesters of community college first. BSC has signed agreements with Lawson State Community College and Jefferson State Community College; it is also working with Wallace State Community College and others. “Unless we make it easy for those students to succeed on the Hilltop, we’re simply closing our doors to a number of people,” Flaherty-Goldsmith said. “I’m so pleased we’re on track with this.”

Student Retention

As BSC works to increase the size of the student body, ensuring that current students succeed plays as much of a role as recruiting new students. Although some students depart due to poor fit or medical issues, research shows that students who are more engaged in campus life better connect to the college and are more likely to complete their education at BSC. A campus retention team directed by the Office of Student Development has taken several steps to help all students find their fit on the Hilltop, enhancing orientation programs and academic advising for first-year students; instituting a campus-wide system of early warnings for students who may be exhibiting issues that professors, coaches, or advisors can spot; and adding special first-year programming and more options for free tutoring. This year, BSC will offer its second session of “Southern Exposure,” a summer workshop for first-generation college students; all of the students who participated in the first round stayed from their freshman fall to spring. And the team is exploring more strategies, such as a first-year learning experience and special January courses for skills development.



ALUMNI AFFAIRS



Homecoming 2017 **Save the date! October 14-15**

Mark your calendar for Homecoming 2017 and the following events: the Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony, a Friday night shrimp boil, Tailgating on the Quad, the football game against Sewanee, and reunions for the classes of 1967, 1992, and 2007! If you'd like to serve on a reunion committee for your class, please contact Christie Wenke Janey '09 at ckjaney@bsc.edu or (205) 226-4912.



Trailblazing doctor and BSC Board member transforms American health care delivery

by Pat Kindall

One of the great things about a liberal arts education is the way that it allows graduates to switch tracks, even in the middle of a successful career. Just ask Dr. Bruce Irwin '72.

Irwin chose Birmingham-Southern College because he knew he wanted to go to medical school, and BSC, then as now, had a great reputation for preparing and placing students.

But after several years as a hospital physician, Irwin saw a problem—a glut of patients in emergency rooms—and came up with a solution. He founded his first urgent care clinic in Birmingham in 1982 and today's he's CEO of American Family Care (AFC), a national company with more than 160 clinics and 500 doctors caring for more than two million patients a year. And he's looking at even more growth for the future, with plans to take AFC international.

"When I opened the first office, the medical establishment—including

physicians and hospitals—was concerned, and some were outright hostile," Irwin told BSC students and others at the 2016 Stump Lecture on campus. "You have to think big, I mean really big, work hard, ignore naysayers, and believe in yourself."

Life-changing experiences

Irwin's strength started from within. Born the son of a cobbler in Center Point, Ala., Irwin spent much of his childhood watching physicians and nurses tend to his father, who lost both legs in a locomotive accident. He began shining shoes in his father's cobbler shop at the age of six, but dreamed of becoming a doctor. That vision drove him to succeed all the way through high school and college.

"I was fortunate to get a scholarship to BSC," Irwin said. "My father had recently died, and I knew my mother

and family needed help, so I also wanted to be near home."

When Irwin moved into North Hall, it was the first bedroom he had ever had; he had slept on a sofa in the living room at home. He worked his way through college with no time for extracurricular activities, devoting his time to his schoolwork as a biology major—he cites Professor Emeritus of Biology Dr. Dan Holliman as the most caring and fair teacher he had—and preparing for medical school.

"Studying and my outside work were pretty much my life," he said. "BSC gave me the academic background I needed to be accepted into the University of Alabama School of Medicine and to complete the program. But it also opened my life to so many things I cannot enumerate. I was like Mowgli in the 'Jungle Book' when I entered Birmingham-Southern. But I left the college a well-educated, broadly oriented,

polished young man who was able to converse and appreciate a wide range of subjects and things."

He also was ready to see an opportunity. As an ER doctor at Birmingham's Brookwood Hospital, he noticed that patients who didn't truly need that level of care were filling up the waiting room.

"We even had a name for them—GOMERs, which stands for 'Get Out of My Emergency Room,'" Irwin said. "But they had nowhere else to go. These patients clogged up the system and created long waits, frustration, and higher health care costs for everyone."

Despite his lack of experience in business, he sketched out a plan for a network of urgent care clinics on a notepad. The facilities would be designed, equipped, and staffed much like hospital emergency rooms, but they would be located in neighborhoods near where patients lived and be designed to provide care for a fraction of the cost of the ER.

"Urgent care is really a misnomer," said Irwin. "What we really provide is accessible primary care: a mix of urgent care, family care, and occupational health services."

Each facility is fully equipped with the most advanced imaging and diagnostic equipment and offers the latest techniques and treatments by its physicians, with a patient wait time of

30 minutes or less. From that idea, he turned American Family Care into what's now the world's leading provider of urgent and family care.

A plan for tomorrow

With a reputation as an innovator, Irwin is working on some new ideas to expand his reach and further improve the medical care that people receive.

A lack of accessible health care is a world-wide problem, said Irwin. He is currently in negotiations to take AFC international, most likely starting in China. On the domestic front, he is focusing on chronic disease management—something that will help members of the Baby Boom generation as they age.

"Almost half of Baby Boomers have a chronic health care problem which, in most cases, is poorly managed," Irwin said. "We are in the process of developing systems to make access to chronic disease health care and management as easy to obtain as we made day-to-day urgent care and primary care. This will lead to better outcomes, lower health care costs, and longer lives."

Even in his role as leader of a fast-growing company, Irwin has stayed at the forefront of medicine. In addition to his previous Fellowship in Primary Care Development at Michigan State

University and board certification from the American Board of Family Practice, he has held board seats and/or memberships in organizations such as the American Academy of Family Physicians, the National Association for Ambulatory Care, and the American Board of Family Practice.

With the extraordinary success of AFC, he has evolved into a leading philanthropist for health-related issues. He has held volunteer leadership roles and provided significant financial support to causes such as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, American Heart Association, and Arthritis Foundation, and currently serves as co-chair of the Alabama Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's "Light the Night Walk."

In his down time, Irwin is an avid big-game fisherman and enjoys piloting planes and aviation-related activities; he also collects watches and vintage European sports cars. He describes himself as an extreme optimist, who finds something useful in any situation, even if it didn't turn out the way he hoped.

"Perhaps the thing most people do not know or understand about me is I never 'try' to do anything," said Irwin. "I do not use that word in my vocabulary, nor do I allow anyone to use it in my presence. You either do something or you don't. That's all there is to it."

College boosting young alumni engagement

The Office of Alumni Affairs has restructured its Young Alumni Council to better engage and serve Birmingham-Southern's most recent graduates with events and communications tailored to their needs and perspectives.

The council's primary mission is to assist the college in developing meaningful programs and support services for current and future young alums and to help increase young alumni giving, which is critical to the success of BSC.

Birmingham-Southern alumni who have graduated within the past 10 years are eligible for membership. Members will be nominated, recruited, and selected based on their abilities, commitment to BSC, and potential for advancing the council; the Alumni Office seeks members who are passionate about working to enhance the post-graduate experience for young alums, regardless of their involvement as students or their current engagement with the college. Alumni may nominate themselves or other young alums.

If you are interested in joining the council or submitting a nomination, please contact Christie Wenke Janey '09 in the Office of Alumni Affairs at ckjaney@bsc.edu. Future appointments to the council will be made each August.

2016-17 members:

Samantha Davis '08
Jeanie Sleadd '09 (President)
Whitney Williams '09
William Moore '09
Keith Gray '10
Kathleen Hillen '10
Claire Hubbs '11
Tiffany Dy Moore '11
Jennifer Commander '12
"CeCe" (Clementine Corbin) Lacey '12
Nino Yu Tiamco '13
Kayla Absher '14 (Secretary)
Mary Kathryn Waters '15
Jackson "Paden" Gaines '16

All aboard

Members of BSC's restructured Alumni Board held their first annual meeting on campus this fall during Homecoming. The new board has 57 members and chapters in Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, Mobile, and Pensacola.



First row (l to r): Sandra Barker Thurmond '84, Leanna Bankester Pittard '98, Rick deShazo '67, Barbara Payton-Wright Quackenbush '65, Barbara Noxon Boydston '78, Ellen Woodward Potts '88, Ford Ray '08, Byron Mathews Jr. '70, Lydia Carter Cheney '72, Vicki VanValkenburg '88, Brant Phillips Jr. '91, Sharon Lynch Davis '88, Stephanie Houston Mays '04, Olivia Hooper Reed '05, Rebecca Beers '04, Elizabeth Kennedy Lawlor '89, Ann Gunter Johnson '74, Carl Johnson Jr. '75, Dow Perry Jr. '71, Dick Stanford '70, and Rena Williams Ramsey '85; second row (l to r): Trey Echols III '96, Jeb Pittard '98, Jay Dunn III '12, Bernard Mays Jr. '04, Jonathan Boydston '76, Al Pearson III '69, Jeff Woody '93, J.J. Jaxon III '98, Jay Mitchell '98, Bill Smith '96, Kathryn Cannon Lavender '92, Betty Hawk '81, Greg King '96, George Fibbe '97, Paul Fancher '97, Dave Ellis '97, Steve Hicks MPPM '11, Brooks Adams '86, and Dr. Howard Day '83.



BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith spent the fall and spring traveling around the country to visit with alumni groups, with stops in Florida, Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, New York, and throughout the state of Alabama. Shown at a late February luncheon in Nashville are (l to r) Meredith Wolfe '09, Dan Hite '80, Flaherty-Goldsmith, Dr. Sara Helms Robicheaux '97, David Taylor '86; Joelle James Phillips '89, and Brant Phillips '91.

Alumni moments

L to r: Lauren Kilgore '06, Jennifer Pagliara '10, and Allie Saxon '13 at an alumni event in Nashville.



Katie Glenn Hutto '11 and Jennifer Howard Waters '86 pose in front of the Wesley Cup trophy before the Huntingdon vs. BSC football game in Montgomery.



Rev. Kelsey Grissom and her husband, Lee Tibbetts, enjoy the milestone reunion celebration for the Class of 2006 that was held at The Club in Homewood during Homecoming.



BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith alongside sisters Vicki VanValkenburgh '88 (far left) and Sara Lauren Kattos '95 with their grandmother, Sibil Wilkinson, who hosted a Huntsville reception.



Alumni from the class of 1966 and all the classes who graduated before were invited to the Stockham Parlor during Homecoming, Alumni Reunion, and Family Weekend to reconnect and reminisce.



Members of the BSC Black Alumni Group along with members of BSC's One-A-Chord Gospel Choir at a reception in Stockham Parlor on March 9.

PHILANTHROPY



Building Bridges for BSC

A generous \$2 million lead gift from BSC Board Member Jim Pierce '74 and his wife, Tammy, kicked off Birmingham-Southern's new fundraising campaign, Bridge to the Future.

The giving initiative, announced in December, set an ambitious three-year goal to raise \$30 million to build on the college's strength as a national-caliber liberal arts institution by allowing BSC to introduce new academic programs, increase the size of the student body, and give back to Birmingham.

News of the effort made a splash locally.

"School leaders are already focused on improved curriculum with new majors and programs launching for the (upcoming) school year," the Birmingham Business Journal wrote, adding that the initiative "will allow for sustainable and diverse enrollment growth, a stable financial platform, and support of the larger and nearby community."

That's key right now for the college, said BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith, as it makes a commitment to improve Birmingham's western area and provide more

hands-on learning opportunities for students (to learn more, see p. 31).

"We have the opportunity to impact not just the lives of our students, but through them to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods, our city, our state, and our world," Flaherty-Goldsmith said.

A successful fundraising initiative will also allow BSC to make an enrollment leap to stay competitive in the marketplace, she said. Her goal is to expand from the 1,300 students currently on campus to 1,600 by 2020. There are three main ways the Bridge funds will help reach that target. First, donations will help provide scholarship support to ensure that great students have access to a BSC education. Second, they'll cover much-needed renovations to first-year residence halls Margaret and Cullen Daniel, which house first-year women, and New Men's, which houses first-year men and is slated for work to begin this summer. And last—but not at all least—they will support the college's

efforts to launch several new programs, including an innovative Creative and Applied Computing major that is expected to bring in more students looking for opportunities to study this cutting-edge topic in a liberal arts setting.

The Board of Trustees is driving the fundraising effort, making its own financial commitment and assigning outreach tasks to each member. Board members Hatton Smith, Liz Featheringill Pharo '00, and Richard Yeilding '73 are serving as volunteer co-chairs on the project.

"BSC is on the cusp of greatness, and while we're already respected as a top national liberal arts college, it's time for us to make sure that we're bringing in the best students from all over the world," Smith said. "The community values Birmingham-Southern, and BSC alumni drive the city forward. The Bridge to the Future will allow the community an opportunity to invest in the college's future."

The Pierces jumped at the opportunity to take the lead on that front. Pierce, whose BSC scholarship allowed him to earn his degree while working full-time as a computer operator for a local bank, said that his experiences at and support from the college put him on the path to success. After graduation, a professor encouraged him to apply to the Wharton School of Business, where he received a fellowship and completed a graduate degree in cost accounting. After 10-year stints with Anderson Consulting and Arthur Young, he started his own company, sold it, and retired at 48.

Two years later, after assisting a friend in writing a business plan, he stayed on, helping create Isagenix International, an Arizona-based health and wellness company that reached nearly \$1 billion in global sales in 2016; he is now an investor and board member there. He and Tammy, who call the Florida panhandle their home, have also donated generously to child protection and founded the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center/Pierce Family CAC in South Walton.

"There is no question that BSC changed my life," Pierce said. "Tammy and I want to ensure that the next generation of students has the opportunity to receive the kind of hands-on, high-caliber education that this college offers—and that's becoming even more important as our world is becoming more complex. We are so excited about everything that's happening right now on the campus and with the new strong leadership."



If you are interested in supporting Bridge to the Future, please contact the Office of Advancement at (205) 226-4909 or email advancement@bsc.edu.

^ABridge to the Future

BUILDING FOR BSC'S NEXT CENTURY

The three-year, \$30-million Bridge to the Future fundraising initiative will support three strategic goals for building BSC's next century:

1. Achieve sustainable and diverse enrollment growth for the next 100 years on the Hilltop.

Additional funds will increase access to BSC's transformative education and allow the college to offer groundbreaking programs designed to equip future professionals within a liberal arts framework. BSC will continue with its innovative curriculum designed to ensure that all students graduate with the skills employers and graduate schools seek, and increase access for a broad range of students.

2. Create a stable financial platform for growth and to enhance student success.

Funds raised will allow BSC to provide scholarship support, build new programs, improve campus infrastructure, and continue to prepare students through the Krulak Institute for Leadership, Experiential Education, and Civic Engagement and other expanded experiential learning opportunities.

3. Support and engage the larger community.

BSC is one of Birmingham's most enduring and valuable institutions, with more than 300 employees and an estimated annual economic impact of \$128 million. Its graduates make up a large segment of professionals in the city and the state. BSC plans to reinvest in the community—especially in neighborhoods surrounding the campus—through a meaningful and forward-thinking academic curriculum that takes the classroom to the community and that brings the community to the classroom.

Corporate funding brings back accounting program

Major in high demand

Thanks in large part to generous corporate sponsorship, Birmingham-Southern's accounting program is back on track.

The accounting major, which was trimmed in 2009 due to financial constraints, returned to campus in 2014, and Dr. George Klersey rejoined the BSC faculty as associate professor of accounting; Dr. Tracy Smith joined the BSC faculty as assistant professor this academic year. The college graduated nine accounting majors in 2016 and an additional 50 majors are in the pipeline.

"We've had tremendous demand for the major from students and firms; about one-third of our business majors want to focus on accounting," said Dr. Sara Helms Robicheaux '97, interim vice president for advancement, B.A. Monaghan Professor of Business, dean of business programs, and director of the Stump Entrepreneurship Program. "In the processes of re-envisioning the new accounting program, I had the opportunity to meet with many accountants in Birmingham who expressed their excitement about the opportunity to hire BSC graduates once again. Our accounting graduates are in such high demand because firms know the value of hiring accountants educated in a liberal arts framework."

To satisfy the demand, Robicheaux's department plans to add an endowed professorship—thanks largely to local financial services firms and individual donors. To kick off the drive to raise \$1.5 million for an endowed professorship, Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP, stepped up with a lead gift in honor of James L. "Butch" Williams '77, a national leader in business valuation and former member of the BSC Board of Trustees. Additional funds have been donated by Regions Bank, IBERIABANK, Warren Averett LLC, and many BSC accounting alumni.

Williams, an accounting major himself who became managing partner of Dixon Hughes, launched the careers of many Birmingham-Southern accountants, said Tim York '93, managing partner of DHG Dealerships.



The college hosted an event to provide business and accounting students an opportunity to meet face-to-face with representatives of international companies to discuss internship and career possibilities.

The firm has hired more than 20 BSC accounting majors in the last 25 years.

"Butch was managing partner of our firm and location for many years, and in that time was instrumental in providing internship opportunities to many BSC students, including me in 1992," York said. "Accounting is a foundational block for so many of the business degrees that the college either provides or someday will ... We believe heavily in the quality of students that the college can produce."

That quality stems in part from BSC's liberal arts tradition and commitment to experiential education. Because they learn communication and critical thinking along with the specific skills required by accountants, BSC accounting majors are primed for leadership positions. In addition, the college's curriculum allows students to sit for the CPA exam and enter the job market within four years, so they can start employment in September or October of the year they conduct their spring internship. Recent statistics show that more than two-thirds

of BSC students pass the exam on the first try, the second-highest rate in the state.

"This puts us ahead of the competition in having students job-ready immediately following their internships and graduation," Robicheaux said. "Plus, BSC accounting students possess the qualities that make for executive presence."

For more information about funding the accounting professorship or corporate giving, contact Jennifer Sholund '95, director of development, at (205) 226-4979 or jsholund@bsc.edu.



Making a difference in the lives that follow

As a young boy growing up west of Birmingham, U.W. Clemon longed to attend Birmingham-Southern College.

He was elated when the college in 1961, unaware of his race, invited him for a tour of the campus. But at the end of the tour, college officials politely informed him that notwithstanding his qualifications, he could not be accepted for admission because of Alabama's rigid segregation laws. Even so, Clemon's admiration for the college continued.

He later served as a member of BSC's adjunct faculty and its President's Advisory Council. In what he describes as the fulfillment of a dream deferred for 42 years, the college conferred on him an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities degree in 2003 in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to his home state and nation.

Now Judge Clemon—who attended Miles College and Columbia Law School before becoming Alabama's first black federal judge—is making it possible for students with unanticipated needs to continue to benefit from a BSC education. The Judge U.W. Clemon Assistance Fund, is designed to help students cover non-tuition expenses related to attending BSC so they can stay at the college and concentrate on their studies. Occasionally, students find themselves without means to fully participate in extracurricular activities or even to meet other financial demands, such as required textbooks or travel for internships. The Clemon Fund has the flexibility to provide such meaningful assistance.

"I was amazed to find this incredible program existed when I started at Birmingham-Southern," BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith said. "We've helped some students buy textbooks and other students with their study-abroad and Exploration Term expenses."

The fund grew out of the college's earlier assistance fund, called the Seedling Grants, launched in 2008 and funded by a BSC alumnus. During its tenure, the grants provided 104 awards totaling \$172,000. The alumnus, also a friend and admirer of Clemon, approached the judge in 2015 to redesign his existing BSC scholarship to provide permanent funding for the Seedling Grants. Together, their combined contributions created a fund of more than \$500,000 to assist students.

The awards are granted each semester by a committee of faculty, staff, and alumni, based on recommendations from BSC faculty and staff. Since its launch, the Clemon Assistance Fund has made 25 awards.

"All of us on the committee find great joy in helping students because of his fund, and we are so grateful to the donors for making this program possible," said BSC Assistant Provost Martha Ann Stevenson, who has overseen the distribution of the awards.

Charitable bequests:

Giving voice to a philanthropic spirit

Katherine Davis didn't attend Birmingham-Southern—but that didn't stop her from leaving the college a generous gift upon her death.

Davis, who passed away in 2014, wanted to honor her late father, Watts E. Davis '36, who studied music at BSC and then earned his law degree at the University of Alabama. Because music remained the lawyer's lifelong love, his daughter—who had her own success as an industrial hygienist, working for International Paper and others—created a scholarship that allows future Birmingham-Southern students to pursue their own passion for music.

"Ms. Davis' generosity is an example of how including BSC in your will provides one last opportunity to express your personal values and wishes," said Meredith Wolfe '09, BSC's assistant director of development. "It gives voice to your philanthropic spirit and expresses confidence that the college will continue to make a difference in the lives of future generations."

Charitable bequests can take on a number of forms. Donors may decide to name a specific dollar amount, designate a percentage of their estate, or set aside specific assets for the college. Davis, for example, set aside a percentage of her estate to provide an estimated \$15,000/year to cover the cost of scholarships for BSC music majors.

For more information on wills, including sample language for making a charitable bequest, please contact Wolfe at (205) 226-4977 or mwolfe@bsc.edu.



Parents Fund

One of the central components of life at Birmingham-Southern is the common experience of living on campus. The on-campus living experience is especially critical for first-year students, many of whom choose BSC because it offers them a close-knit community that's unavailable at larger institutions. At the same time, in the ever-changing world of student recruitment, accommodations and amenities are increasingly important in prospective students' college decisions, and comfort and engagement are critical to the retention and long-term success of all BSC students.

To that end, the 2016-17 Parents Fund is directing its fundraising efforts toward the revitalization and renewal of BSC's campus housing, with a special focus on ongoing renovations to first-year residence halls. Cullen Daniel underwent a revamp this summer and now has new bathrooms, fresh paint, new lighting, and updated common areas. Margaret Daniel is currently closed for similar renovations, and work on New Men's totalling an estimated \$500,000 is slated to begin this summer. Hanson—which houses first-year honors students as well as sophomores—also needs updating to the common areas, which a number of student groups use.

This effort is a tangible way to give towards the future of the college and help it recruit, retain, and graduate the finest students available. If you are interested in supporting the 2016-17 Parents Fund, please contact John Sweeney at jbsweene@bsc.edu or (205) 226-4910.

Keep BSC rolling—utilize an IRA charitable rollover

If you are age 70½ or above and have an IRA, you will want to know this: You can transfer up to \$100,000 from your IRA to qualifying charities—including BSC—free from federal income tax each year. If your spouse has a separate IRA, he or she can also make a charitable IRA rollover gift.

This opportunity applies only to IRAs, not to other types of retirement plans. You pay no income tax on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you don't itemize deductions.

An IRA rollover gift can also satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution for the year. Contact your IRA administrator to find out more.

Enhancing Jewish life

Growing up in Birmingham, Samantha Dubrinsky '11 didn't expect to attend Birmingham-Southern College. But after a semester at Tulane University, she returned home to Birmingham and transferred to BSC. The moment she stepped onto the Hilltop, she said, she felt at home.

"Transferring to Birmingham-Southern was the best decision I could have made," said Dubrinsky, who is director of community impact for the Birmingham Jewish Federation. "My experience at BSC has helped me every step of my professional journey, and I made friendships that will last me a lifetime."

Now, in an effort to ensure that more Jewish students like Dubrinsky know they'll have a home on the Hilltop, BSC has launched an initiative to increase Jewish student enrollment. Birmingham philanthropists Hal and Judy Abroms have generously established the Abroms Scholars Program for outstanding Jewish students seeking to attend BSC. The first two Abroms Scholarships will be awarded next fall.

"The Abroms' have been longtime leaders in Birmingham and in the Jewish community, and their generosity is well known," said BSC Interim Vice President for Advancement Dr. Sara Helms Robicheaux '97. "This gift will help us attract more talented Jewish students to BSC and contribute to the diversity of the campus experience."

In addition to the Abroms' gift, the BJF is providing seed money to establish a Hillel, a place for Jewish students to gather for fellowship and to share their experiences with non-Jewish friends. Dubrinsky, along with BJF Programs and Special Projects Officer Florina Newcomb '07, is helping lead the effort.

BSC currently counts 12 Jewish students, about one percent of the college's overall enrollment. The BJF plans to work with the college's Office of Religious Life and Chaplain Julie Blackwelder Holly '01—and with Jewish faculty members like Dr. Lester Seigel '79, Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music—to help support current students and recruit more each year. President Emeritus Gen. Charles C. Krulak, who volunteers with the BJF and other causes relevant to the local Jewish community, is also part of the effort.

"The student body at Birmingham-Southern is already so rich—adding this component will only enhance the environment," Dubrinsky said. "We're all excited about the opportunities and proud to play a role in making that happen."

To learn more about this ongoing effort, contact Director of Development Jennifer Sholund '95 at (205) 226-4979 or jsholund@bsc.edu.

\$266,621.

1,241 GIFTS. 24 HOURS.

THANK YOU TO THE BSC FAMILY!



BSC

**#FORWARD
EVER
DAY**

APRIL 4, 2017



Class of 1859 - the first graduate

The connection between **Dr. Megan Seibert Cherry '04** and her great-great-grandfather, **John V. Glass '59** (1859, that is!), spans three centuries. Glass received the first diploma from Southern University in Greensboro, Ala., the precursor institution to BSC, from President William M. Wightman. He was one of only two graduates that year (the other was Ben Huey), and since the diplomas were awarded alphabetically, Glass came first. A typed letter composed by Glass's late grandson, **Rev. Robert H. Glass '49**, and kept by Cherry's mother all these years, tells the vivid story of his family and life after that historic commencement. Here's an excerpt:

"Upon graduation, John Vincent Glass taught school in Forkland, Ala., and married Anne Adelle Taylor, daughter of Dr. C.M. Taylor, but then the Civil War was declared and grandfather served with the Confederate Army. Being in the Advocate General's section, he served in several separate enlistments, including the Battle of Stones River (also called the Second Battle of Murfreesboro) in Tennessee, where he was wounded. His father, Rev. Hiram M. Glass, was a Methodist preacher and missionary to the Cherokee Indians near Gordo, Ala. He served as the Confederate chaplain with Hood's Raiders [a Confederate cavalry unit]. Methodist Bishop Asbury recorded in his journal a visit with Vincent Glass at Appomatox, Va. [sic.] It read: 'The bed was hard and the food was spare. The Baptists and Presbyterians had messed Glass up, but I think I have straightened him out.' From the union of John Glass and his wife, Anne, two sons and their offspring had and have close ties today with Birmingham-Southern College."

One of John's sons, **Norman Glass Sr.**, attended Southern University in the late 1800s. Norman's grandson, **Norman Glass III**, attended BSC in the late 1950s/early 1960s. Norman Sr.'s granddaughter (and Norman III's cousin), **Dr. Katherine Glass Kirkpatrick '64 (Don Kirkpatrick '57)**, became an associate professor of education at BSC. Cherry, a Birmingham dermatologist, is Katherine's first cousin once removed and the fifth generation in a line of BSC grads dating back to the mid-1800s. A *summa cum laude* graduate of BSC in interdisciplinary biology/psychology, she received her medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine. She and her husband, **Brad Cherry '01**, have 2-year old twin daughters—who may land among the next generation of BSC alums.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Dr. Cherry reviews her family history and diplomas among the archived materials in the campus library at the time of her BSC graduation. Below is a copy of the original letter typed by Cherry's grandfather, Robert Glass, some 20 years ago about his own grandfather, John Glass, who was the first 'Southern graduate.'

A Brief Overview of the Affiliation of Birmingham-Southern College With Its First Graduate, John Vincent Glass, 1859, and his Descendants, By Robert Hargrove Glass

Megan Danielle Seibert's great-great grandfather, my grandfather, John Vincent Glass, received the first diploma from Southern University, Greensboro, Alabama in 1859. Two men comprised the graduating class. They were Grandfather, John Vincent Glass (sometimes incorrectly recorded as James V. Glass), and the other graduate was a man named Huey. But Grandfather received the very first diploma. Ultimately the diploma was given to Birmingham-Southern College. Unfortunately, it was neglected and damaged. The family requested and received the return of this historic document. It is currently owned by Dr. John V. Glass III Professor of English at Rockford College, Illinois.

Upon graduation, John Vincent Glass taught school in Forkland, Alabama, and married Anne Adelle Taylor, daughter of Dr. C. M. Taylor, but then Civil War was declared and Grandfather served with the Confederate Army. Being in the Advocate General's Section, he served in several separate enlistments, including the Battle of Stones River (also called the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee) where he was wounded. His father, the Reverend Hiram Michael Glass, was a Methodist preacher and missionary to the Cherokee Indians, near Gordo, Alabama (Pickens County). He served as the Confederate chaplain with Hood's Raiders. Methodist Bishop Asbury recorded in his journal a visit with Vincent Glass at Appomattox, Virginia. It read: "The bed was hard and the food was spare. The Baptists and Presbyterians had messed Glass up but I think I have straightened him out."

From the union of John Vincent Glass and Anne Adelle Taylor two sons and their offspring had and have today close ties with Birmingham-Southern College. My father Dr. Norman Clifton Glass was the youngest. He graduated from Central High School in Birmingham. He later received his DDS degree from Birmingham Dental College. Dad was President of the Alabama Dental Society and Vice-President of the American Dental Society. He practiced in Birmingham and served on the faculty of the Dental College, and as a Steward at Walker Memorial Methodist Church.

Dr. Norman Clifton Glass married Annie Pearl Patterson. From this union, four sons were born. I am the youngest. My brother, Dr. Norman C. Glass, Jr. took pre-dental at Birmingham-Southern College and later graduated from Atlanta Southern Dental College, now Emory Dental College. His son, Norman C. Glass, III, attended Birmingham-Southern where I believe, he was an all-time star in basketball. Now, he is retired as Chief Clerk of Birmingham City Court. He still resides in Birmingham.

Aubrey Patterson Glass, the second son, had two daughters. Dr. Katherine Glass Kirkpatrick, is currently Associate Professor of Education at Birmingham-Southern College.

The third son, Dr. Edward Glass married Annie Lollar who was attending Birmingham-Southern. Her father, Frank L. Lollar was a pioneer with photography stores in the city. He was known as "Mr. Kodak". Frank's son William Lollar and a daughter

Mary Evelyn Lollar (now Mrs. Henry Aston) attended Birmingham-Southern College. She was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority.

I was born July 27, 1923, delivered by Uncle Ed, Dr. E. T. Glass. I was named at Uncle Ed's suggestion, after Bishop Robert Hargrove, my paternal grandmother's (Adelle Taylor Glass) brother. Bishop Hargrove was the first native of Alabama to become a Methodist Bishop. Bishop Hargrove was President and later Chancellor of Vanderbilt University.

I met my future bride, Miss Frances Tiller at my fraternity house, Kappa Alpha. Her lovely smile and lilting laughter captured my heart. I said to myself, "That's the girl for me." Several years later, she became my wife, the mother of our three children, a wonderful help-mate, and wife. She also came from a Methodist family. Her uncles, Albert Bowen, a missionary to China and Albert Carmichael, Lieutenant-Governor of Alabama, were both Methodists. Frances' father, H. Grady Tiller, was a steward at First Methodist Church, Montgomery.

While at Birmingham-Southern College, I majored in economics with a minor in accounting. Dr. Emory Q. Hawke was my major professor. I served as his student assistant for 1 1/2 years which was a real educational benefit. Dr. John Milton Malone was my advisor and a real help.

The flood of veterans (1946-49) made Birmingham-Southern a marvelous laboratory of learning. I received an outstanding liberal arts education that became a strong foundation for future graduate studies and a wonderful preparation for life.

Dr. E. T. Glass, Sr.'s family had a number of descendants who graduated or took pre-med at Birmingham-Southern College. Uncle Ed was a steward at First Methodist, Birmingham.

John Vincent Glass I took pre-med at Birmingham-Southern and completed osteopathic training. He practiced many years in Birmingham.

Ruth Glass Thorington, still living in Birmingham and is in her nineties, had two sons who attended Birmingham-Southern during the same time as I did. (1946-49). Ed Chilton Thorington took pre-med, became an osteopath, and practiced with Uncle John Vincent Glass.

Fletcher Thorington attended Birmingham-Southern, was ordained a Methodist minister and served at First Methodist Church in education for many years.

Last year Mrs. William R. Sutton III's children, nee Beth Glass, attended Southern Academy, Greensboro, Alabama. The building was constructed from the bricks of the old Southern University. The football field was the drill field their great-great grandfather, John Vincent Glass had marched on before the Civil War.

It is my hope that my granddaughter, Megan Danielle Seibert, will continue her great-great grandfather's legacy at Southern.

Alum profile '87 (MPPM '98)



John "J.T." Dabbs III never thought all of the hikes, camps, and outdoor pleasures he enjoyed as a boy would one day turn into a career.

Following some 29 years of scouting, Dabbs is the top executive leading the Greater Alabama Council of the Boys Scouts of America (GAC), headquartered in Birmingham.

In partnership with the GAC's local leaders and executive board, he provides vision and direction to staff members and to 5,000 adult volunteers who serve more than 27,000 youth in Central and North Alabama.

"Scouting gave me a deep and abiding interest in the outdoors, which was reinforced by my experiences at BSC," said Dabbs, who studied biology on the Hilltop before returning some years later for his graduate degree. "The opportunity to learn from [biology professors] Dr. Dan Holliman, Dr. Doug Waits, and Dr. Wayne Shew guided my journey into a career of service and character."

Dabbs previously served as scout executive for a council in Austin, Texas, and before that, in Portland, Maine. He began his professional scouting career in the Birmingham Area Council in 1987 and became scout executive/CEO of the GAC in 2011.

A native of Birmingham, Dabbs is an Eagle Scout and an Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor member and completed Wood Badge, among many other scouting awards.

He credits Earnest United Methodist Church in Concord, Ala.—the sponsor of his youth troop—and its volunteer leaders, along with his parents, for turning him on to BSC as a choice for college. Dabbs was involved in local scouting for all four years as an undergraduate.

"My experiences on the Hilltop truly prepared me for a career that, according to BSC's philosophy, emphasizes the notion that its graduates will go out into society and improve the world at large," said Dabbs, who is a Birmingham Rotary Club member and active in the Audubon Society, teaching regularly at the Audubon Mountain Workshop.

Dabbs also serves as president of the board of the St. Louis-based group PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) and coordinates the Boy Scouts of America Religious Emblems Program.

He and his wife, Ginger, have a 13-year-old daughter, Lydia, whom Dabbs said he will encourage to join the coed scout program Venturing when she turns 14.

"I plan to continue my work for the Boy Scouts of America for many years to come with the goal of giving every youth the opportunity to participate in its life-changing programs," he said.

PLEASE NOTE: This issue of Class Notes reflects activity up to March 2016. Due to delays to the magazine publication schedule, some updates will not be reflected here. However, we'll make every effort to include any news received in the interim and new information you have to report in the next issue of *'Southern*. We appreciate your understanding. Submit class notes and photographs via email to alumni@bsc.edu.

'58

Donald Brown of Tuscaloosa has his seventh book published in 2016. *Mr. X and Mr. Y*, a work of nonfiction, reflects on a Calhoun County double murder that Brown covered for the Birmingham News as a young journalist. The book can be ordered through local book stores or Amazon. Brown taught advanced journalism for eight years at the University of Alabama and retired last May.

Along with an article, "The First French-language Hymnal for United Methodists in Europe and Africa," that was published recently in *The Hymn*, **Dr. S T Kimbrough, Jr.** released a book of poems in 2015 by his deceased son titled *The Cadillac Poems of Steven Forris Kimbrough 1958–2010*. Arabesque Records also recently released his new CD, *Songs of Freedom, Justice & Peace*. A professional singer, scholar, churchman, and author with widespread experience in these fields, Kimbrough resides in Durham, N.C.

'59

John Martin retired in 2015 after spending exactly 50 years with the Carrington, Coleman law firm in Dallas. After graduating from BSC and Harvard Law School, he worked on voter discrimination cases and was the first lawyer in the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division to win a voting rights case in the Mississippi District Courts. He was also involved with the admission of James Meredith at the University of Mississippi and with the admissions of Vivian Malone and James Hood at the University of Alabama.

'62

Edward Hardin Jr., an attorney at Burr & Forman LLP in Birmingham, served as president of the 11 Southeastern Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates during 2015-16. He also served on BSC's Board of Trustees.

Ferrell Singleton is working part time as senior advisor to the head of school at St. Benedict's Episcopal School near Atlanta. Following his retirement in 2005 as head of school at Lakeview Academy in Gainesville, Ga., he started working as a consultant for independent schools and nonprofits. He holds a master's in psychology from Furman University.



'64

Award-winning author **Dr. Sena Jeter Naslund** was among several poets, essayists, novelists, and memoirists inducted into the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame Inaugural Induction Ceremony in Tuscaloosa, Ala., in 2015. Naslund, who has published seven novels and two collections of short fiction, lives in Louisville, Ky., but was born

and raised in Birmingham. She is co-founder and program director of the Spalding University low-residency MFA in Writing.

'67

Filmmaker and Stone Ridge, N.Y., resident **Robert Clem**'s latest project has put him back in Alabama—in Mobile—to pick up footage for the film "How They Got Over," which tells the story of African-American gospel music and the important groundwork it laid for soul and R&B; it will premier this year and is expected to be on PBS in 2018. Clem's 90-minute film celebrating the centennial of America's entry into WWI called "The Two Worlds of William March" premiered in Mobile and on Alabama Public TV in early April.

'72

Dr. Bobby Sharp retired in 2015 as director of institutional research, assessment, and planning for Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., after a 35-year career, including 28 at ASU. Sharp received a master's from Duke Divinity School and then attended the University of Kentucky for a master's in consumer economics before earning his doctorate at Virginia Tech. In retirement, he has moved to Winston-Salem, N.C., where he enjoys spending time with his wife, **Dr. Sharon Andrews Sharp** '75; daughter; son-in-law; and grandchildren, plus rediscovering old interests and exploring new ones.

'78

Jerry Keith Watson is the founder of Keith Watson Productions Inc., headquartered in Gainesville, Fla. The company's design team has produced events throughout the U.S. at notable venues such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim Museum, Madison Square Garden, and Lincoln Center. The company was recently named Event Producer of the Year by

BizBash magazine. Watson and his wife, Roberta, have two children.

'80

After serving three years at a hospital in rural Rwanda, **Dr. Timothy Berg** and his family moved to Kijabe, Kenya, in 2015, where he has been teaching surgical residents at Kijabe Hospital. In his blog at <http://bergfamilyafrica.blogspot.com>, he wrote "We are adapting to the totally different way of life here in our new home, Kenya." Berg received his MD from the Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston Salem, N.C.

Dr. Richard Hunter is executive director of new church development for the North Alabama Conference of the UMC. "It's great to be back in Alabama and be closer to BSC!" said Hunter, who relocated from Atlanta to Huntsville in 2015.

'82

Huntsville High School's **Mike Chappell** retired in 2015 from his alma mater after spending 32 years in education, directing 60 or more plays at Huntsville High and at Butler High School before that and appearing in more than 30 plays. He did not, he stressed, retire from the theater. He is currently an agent with Weichert Realtors.

David Wangerin, who is married to **Rebecca Lile** '83, is one of only 240 certified physician assistants nationally to recently earn a Certificate of Added Qualifications specialty credential from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. He is employed at Haywood Regional Medical Center, Waynesville Family Practice, and Meridian Behavioral Health Services in North Carolina.

'83

Lisha Harbaugh Adams is the new executive deputy to the commanding general of the U.S.



Swearing in a BSC affair—The Hon. Robert H. Smith '66 (left), circuit judge of Mobile County, administers the oath of office to the Hon. Joe Basenberg '67, district court judge of Mobile County. Basenberg is serving a six-year term of office. Both were members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at BSC.

Army Materiel Command. Adams, who transitioned to the position in 2015, is the organization's most senior civilian. She earned an MBA from the Florida Institute of Technology and has held various leadership positions in her 30-plus years of government service.

Rev. Dale Cohen began serving as the senior pastor of Canterbury United Methodist Church in Mountain Brook, Ala., in 2015. Cohen has spent the past 12 years working with the North Alabama Conference and the Northeast District of the UMC. He received his master of divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology.

Dr. Alfred Shearer of Pediatric Associates in Mobile received the 2015 Nappie Award for "Best Pediatrician." Shearer is a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

'87

Rev. Melissa Self Patrick, was appointed to serve at Lesters Chapel United Methodist Church in Columbiana, Ala., in 2015. She also is North Alabama Conference liaison to the Pan-Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty and is a clergy member of Alabama Faith in Action. Her husband, **The Hon. Bentley Patrick** '89, was appointed by Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley to the Circuit Court in Jefferson County in 2015 to

CLASS NOTES

complete the term of a retiring judge. Patrick has returned to the private practice of law in Jasper, Ala. He joined the law firm of Nelson, Bryan & Jones, where he works alongside **Gina Cross '89** as a plaintiff's attorney.

'88

Since serving as wing chaplain for the 165th Airlift Wing of the Georgia National Guard in Savannah, Ga., **Rev. Major Thomas "Brannon" Bowman Sr.**, has been awarded the Air National Guard Samuel Stone Award for Outstanding Chaplain of the Year. Bowman became the wing's first full-time chaplain in 2012. He holds a master's in music from Auburn University and a master of divinity from Birmingham Theological Seminary. He is married to **Carol New Bowman '88**.

'89

Kacy O'Brien Donlon, a founding shareholder of the Tampa law firm of Wiand Guerra King, was named Outstanding Member of the Year by the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar at its annual meeting in June 2015 in Boca Raton. Donlon has been a part of the 5,000-plus member section since 2000 and has been on the executive council since 2004; she has also chaired several committees.

Dollar General Corp. promoted **Rhonda Taylor** to executive vice president, general counsel in 2015. Prior to joining Dollar General, Taylor, who holds a JD from the University of Virginia, specialized in labor law and employment litigation at Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart in Nashville.

'93

Fred Smith has grown his real estate practice, The Fred Smith Group, to include 10 top producing agents focusing on the Birmingham metro area. He and his wife, Holly, have three daughters: Lily, a senior high school student, who will be attending Rhodes College in the

fall; Isabel, a first-year high school student; and Darby, who is in the fifth grade. All are in the Mountain Brook school system.

'94

Paul Arthur is president of Nokuse Education, Inc. and director of the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center—an environmental education facility—in Freeport, Fla.

Dr. Thomas Cox, associate professor of history at Sam Houston State University, was selected by the Organization of American Historians to receive a 2015 China Residency at Renmin University of China. Cox earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in history from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is the author of *Gibbons v. Ogden, Law, and Society in the Early Republic*.

Dr. Todd Green received tenure and was promoted to associate professor of religion at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, in 2015. His second book, *The Fear of Islam: An Introduction to Islamophobia in the West*, was published by Fortress Press that year. Green is currently spending his sabbatical year as a Franklin Fellow at the U.S. State Department, where he advises on Islamophobia in Europe.

Rod Kanter of the Birmingham law firm of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP, has been elected as a regular fellow to the highly selective American College of Bond Counsel, which recognizes attorneys based on their skills, accomplishments, and high standards of professional and ethical conduct in the practice of bond law. Kanter earned his J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School.

Lloyd "Rusty" Lane joined Moore Colson in Marietta, Ga., as a director in the firm's consulting practice. He has more than 20 years of experience in accounting, business operations, tax compliance, and litigation support in the public

and private sectors. A resident of Dallas, Ga., Lane is an MBA graduate of UAB and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. He is also a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs' Fraud and Forensic Services Advisory Council and the Georgia Chapter of Certified Fraud Examiners' Student Affairs Committee.

After a successful career with Regions Bank, **Scott Reed (MPPM)** took on the task of starting his own bank in 2007 in the midst of the financial crisis. Oakworth Capital Bank is now one of the fastest growing banks in Birmingham. Reed and his wife, Robin, have three children.

'95

Dr. Leigh Ann Peters Berte, associate professor of English at Spring Hill College in Mobile, was selected as the Edward B. Moody, S.J. Teacher of the Year for the 2015-16 school year. The award is given to a faculty member who has displayed excellence in the fulfillment of the teaching mission of the college.

Carolyn Hembree's debut poetry collection, *Skinny*, was published by Kore Press in 2012. Her collection, *Rigging a Chevy into a Time Machine and Other Ways to Escape a Plague*, won the 2015 Trio Award and 2015

Rochelle Ratner Memorial Award. Hembree is an assistant professor at the University of New Orleans and serves as poetry editor of Bayou literary magazine.

'96

Meg Williams Fiedler of Montgomery was named assistant clerk of the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals in fall 2014.

'98

Coastal Bank and Trust named **Alan Nickelsen** as executive vice president and commercial banker for Florida's Escambia and Santa Rosa counties in 2015. A resident of Pensacola, Nickelsen has 20 years of community banking and commercial and consumer lending experience.

J. Michael Thomason, who earned a master's degree from Troy University, is a realtor at LAH Real Estate in Homewood, Ala. He is a board member of the nonprofit group, Wish2Enrich, and is a member of the National Association of Realtors, Alabama Association of Realtors, and Birmingham Association of Realtors. He and his wife, Angela, have four children and attend Vestavia Hills Baptist Church.



Carolyn Hembree. Photo by Lynda Woolard.



'99

Ross Gower was presented with a 2014 Grammy Award by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences for his recording engineering work on the Mike Farris album *Shine For All The People*, the 2014 winner of the Best Roots Gospel Album award.

'01



Florence Sunette Culpepper was appointed principal of Lincoln Middle School in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

in 2015. Culpepper, who earned a master's degree in educational leadership from California State University-Northridge, also has credentials in single subject teaching and administrative services and is a doctoral candidate at the University of California in Los Angeles.

Jennifer Harris Henderson was appointed U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Western Division of the Northern District of Alabama in 2015. She previously served at the Birmingham law firm of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP.

'02

Dr. Mark Berry (MPPM) has been named vice president of

Environmental Affairs for Georgia Power. He previously served as a director at the Electric Power Research Institute and spent nearly two decades with Southern Co. He also holds multiple patents related to power plant emission control.



Rev. Hill Carmichael is executive director of Urban Ministry in Birmingham. He succeeded Rev. Melissa Self Patrick '87. (See her note on p. 47).

Dr. Jonathan Malone completed a diagnostic radiology residency in 2014 and a musculoskeletal radiology fellowship in 2015 at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla. He is currently in private practice at Radiology Associates in association with Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, La.

Ryanne Duffie Saucier was a 2015 Broadcast Leadership Training graduate. The 10-month MBA-style program in Washington, D.C., targets senior broadcast executives; she delivered the commencement address on behalf of her class. In August of 2015, she was selected as one of the Top 50 Leading Business Women in Mississippi by Mississippi Business Journal. She is now a corporate counsel for Cumulus Media in Atlanta.

'04

Carrie Comer is the permanent representative to the International Criminal Court for the International Federation for Human Rights, based in the Netherlands. Previously, she worked documenting and investigating war crimes, human rights abuses, and corruption—primarily in Guatemala and Honduras. She holds a master's in international human rights law (with distinction) from the University of Oxford.



Phillips with Gov. Haslam. Photo courtesy of Tennessee Photographic Services.

Alum profile '89

Joelle James Phillips uses skills she learned at BSC's theatre every day—even though she's playing a role she hadn't expected. In her position today as president of AT&T Tennessee, the theatre graduate continues to find her college studies relevant.

"Managing a team feels a little like directing, orchestrating individual performances into something that works as a whole," she said.

Though Phillips was preparing to be an actress, she said the Birmingham-Southern curriculum prepared her for things she hadn't yet realized she wanted to pursue. She first recognized how useful her dramatic training would be when she decided to study law.

At Washington and Lee University School of Law (she graduated *summa cum laude*), she found that memorizing lines easily translated into memorizing case names and new Latin terms. And while the Socratic method paralyzed many of her classmates, she was able to listen and learn in class.

"Answering questions in class was not likely to be the most embarrassing thing I'd ever done in front of an audience," said Phillips.

Today, she has a confidence about the possibility of creating something from nothing, and she believes that comes from her theatre experience of seeing a blank stage become a jungle clearing, or a skid row florist shop, or a school for the deaf.

Her inclination to pursue new and creative ideas is a trait she shares with the innovators at AT&T. It's also a trait she admired in her father, an electrical engineer who was in the audience every time Phillips took the stage at BSC.

Because education has made such an impact in her own life, Phillips is eager to support education-focused policy initiatives in her community. A resident of Nashville, she serves on the boards of Martin Methodist College and the State Collaborative on Reforming Education.

Phillips also chairs the Drive to 55 Alliance, a group of Tennessee's largest employers who are working with Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam on strategies to equip more Tennesseans with college degrees or technical certifications beyond high school. The goal is to drive attainment up to at least 55 percent by the year 2025.

"My BSC theatre training and legal background seem custom made for my current leadership roles," said Phillips, who is the wife of **W. Brantley Phillips '91**.



Pictured at the Sidewalk Film Festival are (l to r) Robert Corna, BSC visiting instructor of media and film studies; Andrea Kalin, founder and creative director at Spark Media; Henrietta Boggs; and Dr. Teddy Champion, BSC visiting assistant professor of media and film studies.

Award-winning story—A feature length documentary featuring **Henrietta Boggs '40** garnered multiple honors last fall, including Audience Choice Awards at both the Sidewalk Film Festival in Birmingham and the Fairhope Film Festival. It won the Hoka Award for Best Documentary Feature Film at this year's Oxford Film Festival in Oxford, Miss. A Spark Media production, written and directed by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Andrea Kalin, *First Lady of the Revolution* traces the life of Boggs, who married three-time president José Figueres before he came to power following the Costa Rican Civil War in 1948; she became an integral part of the country's lasting reform. Boggs, a native of Birmingham who resides in Montgomery, will turn 99 in May. She will be awarded an honorary doctorate of humanities at BSC's commencement on May 27. View the trailer for the film, which includes rare archival footage of the campus, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJdanDExRJE>. Visit firstladyoftherevolution.com or sparkmedia.org to read more.

in the Netherlands. She joined Germany-based BASF Corp. in its MBA Leadership Development Program in 2015, and has since completed rotations in Charlotte, N.C.; Ludwigshafen, Germany; and Southfield, Mich.

Katherine Tillery Katz is associate head coach for the Ragin' Cajuns women's basketball team at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Katz, a native of New Orleans, was a four-year member of the BSC softball team.

Rev. Wade Langer Jr. is senior pastor at The Belief Experiment (formerly The Capstone UMC) in Tuscaloosa.

'07

Lucy Hamilton Daniel, who served as past president of the Alabama Ballet Junior Board, chair of the Birmingham Zoo Gala and chair of the Alabama Ballet's Pointe Ball, was inducted into Leadership UAB. Her husband, **Christopher Daniel '08**, an associate at Sheffield and Lentine P.C., has been recognized for the past three years as a Top Attorney in Criminal Defense by Birmingham magazine as well as an Alabama Super Lawyer Rising Star.



Kruti Parimal Gandhi of Tampa graduated with a master's in health policy and organization

from UAB and then obtained her master's in the Physician Assistant Program from Barry University in Miami Shores, Fla. She began her dermatology physician assistant career in 2013 in a retirement community in The Villages, Fla. Since 2015, she has been practicing with Advanced Dermatology in Lakeland, Fla.

'09

Wesley Rich graduated with a dual JD/MBA from the University of Tennessee in May 2015 and is working as the terms and conditions process lead for ExxonMobil in Houston.

'11

Haylee Fletcher earned her MPS degree from the University of Arkansas' Clinton School of Public Service in 2015 before relocating to Sacramento, Calif., for a job as a case manager with the International Rescue Committee. She adds, "My studies at BSC gave me the opportunity to study abroad and complete my capstone project overseas—further cultivating my passion and drive to serve vulnerable populations and leading me to my work with refugees. Thank you Birmingham-Southern for providing such a great undergraduate experience!"

Rev. Katie Sack Lloyd is pastor at Bethel UMC in Mount Washington, Ky.

Brooks Webb led the USA Baseball 15U National Team to a gold medal at the Pan Am Championship in Aguascalientes, Mexico, in 2015, serving as the team's general manager and director. Now Webb is director of operations for the baseball program at Vanderbilt University. He played baseball all four years at BSC.

'12

In the spring of 2015, **Monecia Miller** was inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at Auburn University at Montgomery, where she earned her MBA. She is currently an operations manager for USA Security LLC in Hampton, Ga.

Kait Talley Tracy is now business operations specialist in the Office of the Registrar at Emory University. "I run testing and evaluation for the university and support other

Dr. Charles Roberts, assistant professor of history at Andrew College, has published his first book, *The Farm Security Administration and Rural Rehabilitation in the South* by University of Tennessee Press. The book looks at efforts to solve rural poverty in the South during the New Deal, with chapters focused in and around Birmingham. Roberts received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Alabama. He lives in Eufaula, Ala., with his wife, Lauren.

'06



Kate Drummond, who resides in Detroit, graduated from the University of Michigan in May 2015 with

an MBA from the Ross School of Business and a MS from UM's School of Natural Resources and Environment. While completing her MBA, she spent two months studying at the Rotterdam School of Management at Erasmus University

Leaders in academia

Two BSC alumni land college presidencies

Dr. Devin Stephenson '75 and Dr. Steve Echols MPPM '02, whose leadership paths were shaped by BSC, have embarked upon new college presidencies.

Stephenson was appointed the fourth president of Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) after serving as president of Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Prestonburg, Ky., since 2015. Echols became the 17th president of Brewton-Parker College after serving as president of Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga for nearly four years.

Stephenson and Echols are two of four known BSC alumni who are currently college presidents. The others are **Dr. Robert Glenn '75** (Athens State University) and **Dr. Jay Simmons '85** (Simpson College).



Stephenson



Echols

Stephenson began his tenure at NWFSC in January. NWFSC, a college in Niceville Fla., which is part of the Florida College System, has an enrollment of more than 11,500 students.

He has more than 40 years of experience in higher education, including as vice president of external affairs and dean of students at Beville State Community College, CEO of Snead State Community College, and dean of students at Walker State Technical College.

A Sumiton, Ala., native, Stephenson attended community college himself before receiving his bachelor's degree in business from BSC. He earned both master's and doctoral degrees in higher education administration from the University of Alabama.

"My BSC experience was invaluable in helping me actualize the reality that through will, determination, and the education I obtained, I could accomplish anything," Stephenson said. "The college laid the foundation for me to pursue my master's and doctorate, and it has played a critical part in my successes as a college president/CEO."

Echols began his tenure in 2015. Brewton-Parker, a private four-year college in Mt. Vernon, Ga., has an enrollment of more than 900 students and is affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention. He was a faculty member and dean for 11 years for the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Echols also served as a pastor for more than 30 years at churches in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Georgia.

He graduated from Mercer University with a bachelor's degree in religion and earned his divinity and Ph.D. degrees from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He also holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Beeson Divinity School.

"Being in the MPPM program was the best possible preparation for being president at Tennessee Temple and now at Brewton-Parker," said Echols. "I received the training and skill development that proved to be of the utmost value in the real world of leading a large organization."



Photo by Andrew V. Gonzales

Alum profile '13

After getting her degree in media and film studies, **Elizabeth Hagale** threw herself into the realm of video and film production, establishing herself as a screenwriter, director, editor, and transmedia architect.

The year following her BSC graduation, Hagale co-directed the music video “Magenta” for Los Angeles-based pop singer Deqn Sue that was featured at Birmingham’s Sidewalk Film Festival that August. The video later garnered Best of Festival and First Place awards in the Independent Short Music Video category of the River City Film Festival in Decatur, Ala.

“I made the first bold move to contact Sue, and her producer was kind enough to hire me for the Magenta video,” said Hagale, who helped bring the singer’s off-kilter concept and vision to life. “It was a month-long project filmed in Alabama and Tennessee that involved collaboration with cinematographers Jay Burleson and Ryan Sims.”

Hagale, who lives in Huntsville, also worked on a transmedia project last year in which she wove real-time social media—YouTube, Twitter, Tumblr, and Instagram—into her science fiction story “Son of Somerset Files.” She collaborated with Burleson on that project as well; **Meghan Ford '13** composed the theme song.

She studied another transmedia project, “The Lizzie Bennet Diaries,” a 2012 adaptation of the 19th century Jane Austen novel *Pride and Prejudice* and the first YouTube series to win a Primetime Emmy, for her senior seminar project at BSC. She presented her paper about the project at the Cinema and Media Studies Undergraduate Conference in Oklahoma.

Hagale is excited as she anticipates the future and said she feels a debt of gratitude to her alma mater.

“My liberal arts education really focused on writing, which is an extremely beneficial skill to have after graduation,” said Hagale, who was a Harrison Honors Scholar and active in the BSC Film Club. “It’s also a well-rounded education, allowing for and even demanding interdisciplinary experiences.”

Hagale, who said her father inspired and encouraged her work in film, has been finding herself in the social media landscape more lately. Currently, Hagale works as a social media manager at Mindvolt, an advertising agency.

“I see myself delving more and more into the world of social media, while still finding some outlets for my media and film productions,” Hagale said.

academic services such as class and room scheduling,” she said. “I’m excited about this new challenge and so grateful for the wonderful preparation BSC gave me.”

'13

Since receiving his MFA from the New York Film Academy, **William Justice** is a piano instructor at both Mason Music and the Homewood (Ala.) School of Music. He’s also received two prime acting roles in Atlanta.

Christian Pereyda is attending the University of Alabama School of Law and is set to graduate this May. He is interning for bankruptcy Judge Jennifer Henderson of the Northern District of Alabama, Western Division, while taking classes.

'14

Amanda McFall is development coordinator with Nashville-based Siloam Health, a faith-based nonprofit health care clinic serving patients who lack insurance or who have difficulty accessing health services.

'15

Laura Carbajal is a graduate student at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and a Dallas-Fort Worth Teach for America corps member currently teaching third grade bilingual literacy.

We know we’ve missed exciting life events from the past year. If you’ve sent us your news, we’ll fit it in the next issue of Class Notes. If you have new information to share, please send it to alumni@bsc.edu and we’ll get it posted soon.

WEDDINGS

Allen Sumner '76 to Mary Stamp,
May 2, 2015.

Mattavia Burks '96 to Stephen Ward, Nov. 1, 2014.

Murray Dunlap '98 to Mary Balfour Van Zandt, Sept. 26, 2015.

Kori Saucier '07 to Judson Crawley, Jan. 17, 2015.

Elizabeth Wilson '08 to Dr. Benjamin Huang, April 11, 2015.

Kimberly Farris '10 to Taylor Narewski, June 27, 2015.

Sarah Kate Masters '11 to **William "Robb" Roberts Jr. '11**, Oct. 10, 2015. Father of the bride was **Daryl Masters '81** and best man was **William Skinner Jr. '11**.

BIRTHS

A son, Foster Carlye, Aug. 10, 2015, to **Melanie Stutts Williams '02** and husband, Scott, of Greenville, S.C. Big sister and brothers, Bailey, Palmer, and Graham.

A daughter, Columbia Jane Awendela, May 1, 2015, to **Patrick Cashio '06** and wife, **Catherine Dooley Cashio '07**, of Camden, N.J. Big brothers, Jeremiah and Daniel.

A son, Austin Blake, May 28, 2015, to **Jennifer Damian Hamrick '06** and husband, Brett, of Birmingham. Big brother, Cole.

A daughter, Miller Frances, June 6, 2015, to **Katherine Lester Mooty '07** and husband, **Robert Mooty '08**, of Montgomery. Big brother, Styles.

IN MEMORIAM

**Obituaries are organized by graduating class year and include alumni whose deaths were reported prior to 2016.*

Sara Hoffman Robinson '37 of Birmingham, on Dec. 5, 2015. Robinson worked with children at the Cerebral Palsy Center in Birmingham and was chair of women volunteers for the first CP national telethon. In addition to her charitable activities—she

was a charter member of BSC's Endowment Builder's Society—Robinson expressed her creativity through painting, refinishing and refurbishing furniture, and designing and making clothing. She is survived by two children, four grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. At the request of the family, memorial contributions may be made to the Scholarship Fund through the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Gladys Smalling Tetley '38 of Midvale, Utah, formerly of Hoover, on April 8, 2015. Tetley worked for U.S. Steel and Loveman's Department Store. She enjoyed painting and was active in her community; she was membership chair for the Bluff Park Art Association in Hoover and a member of the Episcopal Church. Survivors include a son, two grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Dr. Martha Haralson Tyson '39 of Houston, Texas, on May 4, 2015. Tyson was associate professor emerita of psychology at the University of Houston, where she received her Ph.D. Among survivors are three children, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Bessie Davis Sasser '40 of Tuscaloosa, on Aug. 21, 2015. Sasser worked as a teacher before earning an advanced degree in library science from Emory University. She served as director of the Tuscaloosa County Public Library system from 1962 until her retirement in 1980. Sasser was a longtime member of First United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa. She was also a strong supporter of the performing and visual arts and enjoyed reading and gardening. She is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Margaret Maxwell Stewart '40 of Birmingham, on Sept. 21, 2014.

Sam Perry Phelps '41 of Hoover, on April 28, 2015. Phelps began working at the American Cast Iron Pipe Co. in 1936, alternating between jobs in production and research during college. He served as an aerial gunnery instructor in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Phelps became employment manager at ACIPCO in 1956 and retired in 1986 as personnel director, becoming the first ACIPCO employee to complete 50 years of service. He served on a number of professional and civic boards and committees. Survivors include his wife, **Wayne Bynum Phelps '41**; daughter; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Anne Berry Brice '42 of Decatur, formerly of Oneonta, on Sept. 4, 2015. Brice was a homemaker, avid bridge player, and a member of several clubs in Oneonta. She is survived by her daughter, two grandsons, and three great-grandchildren.

Nora Savio Murray '42 of Birmingham, on March 3, 2015. After graduating *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from BSC, Murray enlisted and served in the military during World War II as a radio operator and secretary. She retired from Ennis Business Forms Inc. after 40 years and was a longtime member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. She is survived by a daughter, stepson, three grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Helen Hughes Phelps '42 of Birmingham, on March 7, 2015. Phelps worked in banking and real estate for many years. She and her late husband, **Edwin Phelps '42**, were charter members of The Club in Homewood and the Hoover Country Club. Her sister-in-law, **Wayne Bynum Phelps '41**, is among survivors.

Frances Blake Satterthwaite '42 of Greer, S.C., on Feb. 18, 2015. Satterthwaite, who earned a master's in library science from Peabody College, had a long career as a high school librarian, working in Chattanooga; Aliquippa, Penn.; Hollywood, Fla.; Hapeville, Ga.; and College Park, Ga. She was a longtime member of College Park Presbyterian Church. Survivors include three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Martha Thompson Fleischmann '43 of Daphne, formerly of Birmingham, on Sept. 25, 2015.

Katherine Martin Riddell '43 of Birmingham, on Feb. 10, 2015. Riddell served in the U.S. Air Force and then worked for the Social Security Administration until her retirement. Two nieces are among her survivors.

Jane Huddleston Aaron '44 of Palo Alto, Calif., on Feb. 12, 2015. Aaron was a librarian at Swarthmore College. She is survived by four children; two grandchildren; a sister, **Nancy Huddleston Packer '45** of Palo Alto, Calif.; and a sister-in-law, **Alice Jeanne Haworth Huddleston '45** of Birmingham. At the request of the family, memorial contributions may be made to the Bertha and George Huddleston Sr. Scholarship through the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254. The scholarship was established in her parents' memory by their five children, all of whom graduated from BSC.

Rev. Samuel Allen Balch Jr. '44 of Birmingham, on Sept. 3, 2014. A graduate of BSC and Emory University, Balch served as a United Methodist minister in the North Alabama Conference for more than 50 years. He was church relations director/chaplain with Goodwill



IN MEMORIAM '44

Marguerite Jones "Wita" Harbert, a civic leader, philanthropist, and former Birmingham-Southern life trustee, passed away on March 17, 2015, at the age of 91. She was a resident of Mountain Brook.

While a student at BSC majoring in physical education, Harbert was an early pioneer in women's athletics, playing golf, tennis, softball, and basketball along with swimming. She was voted the top intramural female athlete all four years and inducted into the BSC Sports Hall of Fame in 2006. She later became a major donor to the college.

"We are thankful to Mrs. Harbert for her longstanding support of the college she so loved," said BSC President Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith.

"She played an enormous role here on the Hilltop and in our broader community."

Her most visible contribution to the campus is the Marguerite Jones Harbert Building, named in her honor in 1988. The building anchors the Academic Quad and houses BSC's business, education, and social science departments. She was also a leader in the campaign to build the Kappa Delta sorority house on campus.

Harbert was the wife of Birmingham-based Harbert Corp. magnate John M. Harbert III, who died in 1995. The company built Birmingham landmarks such as the Riverchase Galleria, the Red Mountain Expressway, and the AmSouth-Harbert Plaza and also had construction projects worldwide.

After graduating from Birmingham-Southern, Harbert worked at the American Red Cross, heading up the safety service division and supervising all teaching programs in Jefferson County. Her civic involvement included the Junior League of Birmingham, Advent Episcopal School, and the Linly Heflin Unit; she also served on several boards.

Harbert loved hunting birds, needlepoint, tennis, bridge, golf, and the outdoors. She won several golf club championships in North Carolina and Alabama.

She is survived by three children (**Dr. Sam Gray '82**, who serves on the BSC Board of Trustees, is a son-in-law), six grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters.

deployments as a hospital corpsman in the U.S. Navy during WWII and the Korean Conflict, he started his practice at Lloyd Noland Hospital. Holt was then recruited to Bessemer as a family practitioner and surgeon; he practiced there for 47 years until his retirement in 1998. He received many community honors and awards and served as president of the Alabama Medical Association. Survivors include his wife; six children, including **David Holt '87** of Rainbow City, Ala.; 14 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Jane McCarty McRae '45 of Birmingham, on Nov. 23, 2015. McRae earned a pilot's license during World War II. Afterward, she returned to BSC, graduated, and then completed her master's in library science from Florida State. McRae became a librarian and retired in 1986 from the Vestavia School System. Afterward, she joined the Peace Corps and spent three years in Jamaica developing libraries. She loved traveling and was an avid hiker. Survivors include three children and four grandchildren.

Agnes Rogers Clark '46 of Birmingham, on Sept. 6, 2015. Clark was a noted educator who was employed as a school psychologist and psychometrist, counselor, special education teacher, principal, child welfare worker, and medical/psychiatric social worker during her career. She received a master's in counseling and school administration from the University of Alabama. Clark later earned a master's in social work from William and Mary College and an educational specialist degree from UA. She was a field director with the American Red Cross in Japan during the Korean War. Survivors include a son.

Irene Stewart Hendricks '47 of Hoover, on March 15, 2015. Hendricks, who graduated from

Industries for 12 years. He is survived by his wife, **Evie Seales Balch '54**, three children, and three grandchildren.

Dr. Robert Thompson Bowen Jr. '44 of Athens, Ga., on Sept. 19, 2015. He was a professor of physical education, avid golfer and sportsman, and veteran of the 398th Bomb Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps. He piloted 33 missions from England, earning three Bronze Stars and the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters. After he earned

his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, he and his wife relocated to Athens, where he became an active member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church. He is survived by his wife, **Jane Hutto Thompson '49**; five children; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Mary Esslinger Richardson Harris '44 of Birmingham, on Oct. 14, 2015. For more than 60 years, Harris was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and was a longtime member of the Belvedere

Study Club. She was married for 58 years to the late **Dr. William M. Harris Jr. '38**. Survivors include three children, including **Rev. Sally Harris '74** of Birmingham; six grandchildren, including **David Kemp '00** of Bonaire, Ga., **Miriam Smith '09** of Huntsville, and **Charis Smith**, a BSC junior; and six great-grandchildren.

Dr. LeRoy Lyon Holt '45 of Birmingham, on Aug. 19, 2015. Holt attended the Emory University School of Medicine. After two

BSC *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa, taught English and journalism at Banks High School from 1965 until her retirement in 1985. She was a member of Central Park Baptist Church. Among survivors are two children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Blanche Berry Logsdon '47 of Birmingham, on April 25, 2015. Logsdon was an administrative assistant in the UAB orthopedic division for many years. She is survived by two children and two grandchildren.

Maxwell Owens Sims '47 of Vestavia Hills, on Oct. 30, 2015. Sims served in the U.S. Navy for three years, obtaining the rank of lieutenant junior grade. He earned an MBA from the University of Alabama and started an accounting career with F.W. Nichols & Co., later becoming partner. Sims was one of the founding partners of McCarty, Dudley, Hopton-Jones, Sims & Freeman PLLP, CPAs. In addition to his many professional affiliations, he was a former chair of the Federal Tax Clinic at UA, where a scholarship was named in his honor at the School of Accountancy. Survivors include two daughters, seven grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Dr. William B. McCrory Jr. '48 of Huntsville on May 9, 2015. McCrory served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After graduating from BSC and the Southern College of Optometry, he practiced optometry until retirement. Among survivors are a son and four grandchildren.

Dr. Edwin Arthur Miles '48 of Birmingham, on May 3, 2015. Miles, who earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina, taught at the University of Houston, retiring in 1986 as department head and moving



IN MEMORIAM '48

Art Sharbel died on Nov. 14, 2014, at the age of 90. He was a lifelong resident of Birmingham.

Before coming to Birmingham-Southern, Sharbel served in Belgium and Austria in WWII during the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star by the U.S. Army.

At BSC, Sharbel studied business and was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He was active in track and intramural sports, serving on the Intramural Council.

"As a track runner, he ran so fast, he was nicknamed the 'Atomic Flash,'" noted his wife, **Ginger McVea Sharbel '55**.

Sharbel's career was in sales and construction. Over the years, he and his wife became ardent supporters of BSC's Fine Arts Society and attended numerous events on campus. "Birmingham-Southern was where Art and I met," Ginger said.

They were planning their 60th anniversary celebration when he died.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three children, 10 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. The family requests that memorial contributions in his name be made to the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

to Birmingham. He published many articles and books on early 19th century American history and donated history books and early American dictionaries to the libraries of UH and BSC. Miles was a veteran of World War II. Survivors include a nephew. He and his late sister, **Nan Elizabeth Miles '39**, established the Ernest Percy and Ida Duke Miles Scholarship Fund at BSC in honor of their parents. Contributions to the scholarship may be made in his memory through the Office of Advancement, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Frank Andrew Wagner '48 of Birmingham, on July 17, 2015. Wagner was director of the Birmingham Parks & Recreation

Board from 1961-87 and was active in numerous civic and community organizations. After graduating from BSC, he received a master's degree from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University. Wagner was inducted into the BSC Sports Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Alabama Tennis Association Hall of Fame in 1992. A U.S. Navy Veteran, he received many awards for his service, including a Battle Star, before being honorably discharged in 1945. Survivors include his wife, **Merlee Sears Wagner '48**; two daughters, including **Janet Wagner Potter '73** of Brooklyn, N.Y.; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Joseph Anthony Zicarelli '48 of Anniston, formerly of Birmingham,

on July 16, 2014. Zicarelli was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. After graduating from BSC, he sold office products for a store in Birmingham. Zicarelli moved to Anniston in 1953 to start a business with his wife called Joe Zic & Company Office Equipment and Supplies; they sold the company in 1980. He was a member of several professional and community organizations and attended Anniston First United Methodist Church. Among survivors are a daughter and three granddaughters.

Robert Earl Brown '49 of San Jose, Calif., on Sept. 23, 2015. Brown served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and the Korean Conflict. He and his wife lived in various U.S. cities



IN MEMORIAM '48

Ezra G. Sims Jr., a pioneering Boston-based composer who wrote works based on a 72-note division of the octave, died on Jan. 30, 2015. He was 87.

In 1960, Sims began creating his unique microtonal system of notation—one of the most challenging and complex forms of 20th-century music—that was adopted by many U.S. composers after him.

“I seem finally to have identified and made transcribable what my ear was after all along: a set of pitches

ordered in an asymmetrical scale of 18 (or 19) notes, some of them acoustically more important than others, transposable through a chromatic of 72 pitches in the octave,” he once wrote.

Sims, who was born and raised in Birmingham, studied at the Birmingham Conservatory of Music (the forerunner of BSC’s Music Department) and earned his bachelor’s degree in music from Birmingham-Southern. He earned a second degree from the Yale School of Music and a master’s degree at Mills College in Oakland, Calif., where he was mentored by composer Darius Milhaud.

“Ezra was strongly attached to BSC and had many fond memories of his time there,” said his cousin, **Susan Greene Pitts '65**. “On at least two occasions, he taught what is now referred to as a ‘master class’ to fellow students. These classes were held under the guidance of [late BSC Professor of Music] Hugh Thomas, for whom he had great admiration.”

Sims eventually moved to Boston to work at Harvard University’s music library and taught briefly at the New England Conservatory (1976-78). His output consisted largely of vocal music, but he was best known for his chamber works written for acoustic instruments and based on a subset of pitches from his 72-note octave.

Early in his career, Sims won a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship and a citation from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2009, he received a distinguished achievement award from the American Music Research Center.

Sims had lectured on his music in the U.S. and abroad, most notably in Heidelberg, Germany, and Salzburg, Austria. He also had published several articles on his technique and designed a font, now widely adopted, for use with computer printing programs.

In 2011, composer and critic Kyle Gann, writing in *Chamber Music Magazine*, described him as one of the most original underground musical legends. Sims’ portrait is included in the Gallery of Honor in the lobby of BSC’s Hill Recital Hall.

Survivors include a nephew and cousins.

Birmingham, on Feb. 21, 2015. Lyons was retired from the U.S. Marine Corps, where he attained the rank of captain. He fought in the South Pacific Theatre during World War II and served stateside during the Korean Conflict. He was active for a time in the Marine Corps League of Birmingham. Surviving family are three children and four grandchildren.

Dr. David Sperling '49 of Birmingham, on March 2, 2015. Sperling earned a master’s degree in psychology from the University of Kentucky; served in the U.S. Air Force, where he achieved the rank of second lieutenant; and then received his MD from the Washington University School of Medicine. He opened a private general surgical practice in Birmingham that lasted more than 30 years. Sperling served in leadership capacities with Baptist Medical Center Montclair and Trinity Medical Center and was a member of the Birmingham Surgical Society. Survivors include four children and seven grandchildren.

Raymona Brown Bomar '50 of Houston, on June 3, 2015. Among her many skills and talents, Bomar was a teacher, counselor, and artist. She earned a master’s degree from the University of Tennessee and then a second master’s in social work. Bomar taught at Houston’s Milby High School for many years and later provided counseling to Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse. A dedicated volunteer, she served on several community boards. She enjoyed her book club and travel. Among survivors are her husband, three children, and four grandchildren.

while he was piloting and settled in San Jose in the late '50s. Brown obtained his teaching credential and master’s degree from San Jose State University and taught history at Campbell High School. He later

helped to open Westmont High School in Campbell and worked there as a counselor for the next 24 years until retiring in 1988. In retirement, he worked as a courier. Brown enjoyed tennis, golf, hiking,

backpacking, and traveling with family. Survivors include two children and four grandchildren.

Robert Edward Lyons '49 of Tupelo, Miss., formerly of


Hugh Wylie Brown Jr. '50 of Birmingham, on Oct. 16, 2015. Following two deployments in the Korean War, Brown and his wife, Connie, settled back in

Birmingham, where they were charter members of Briarwood Presbyterian Church and then Faith Presbyterian Church. He was a founding partner and later president of Gewin Tucker & Associates, a manufacturer's representative agency in the commercial lighting industry; he retired at age 80. Brown was also an avid sailor, sang in several groups, and was concert master of the Woodlawn High Orchestra. He is survived by a son and two grandsons.

Bonnie Keiffer James '50 of Cullman, on June 30, 2015. James served in the U.S. Army in World War II. After an honorable discharge in 1946, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from BSC. James' first job was band director at Hanceville High School, where he started its first band program. He then moved to Cullman High School in 1955, where he stayed until retiring in 1979. He is survived by two children, five grandchildren, and a brother, **Hollis James '54** of Hartselle.

Pat P. Upton '50 of Jasper, on Dec. 6, 2015. Upton became a lifelong educator and coach in the Walker County and Jasper City school systems. He earned a master's degree from the University of Alabama. After retiring from teaching, Upton taught tennis at Musgrove Country Club and at his home; he was inducted into the Alabama Tennis Hall of Fame in 1988. He was also a well-known singer. Upton is survived by his wife, son, two step-children, and nine grandchildren.

Maj. Bryan Dorroh Williams '50 of Birmingham, on Aug. 29, 2015. Williams was manager and jeweler at A&A Ash, Inc. in Vestavia Hills. He had served in World War II and the Korean Conflict in the Strategic Air Command before his



IN MEMORIAM '50

Dr. Donald R. Kahn Sr., who had a long and distinguished career as a physician, thoracic and cardiac surgeon, medical researcher, and scientist, passed away Oct. 24, 2015. He was a resident of Mountain Brook.

Kahn was a biology/pre-med major at BSC, earned his medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, and completed his medical internship at Washington University in St. Louis. He did his medical residencies in general surgery and cardiac surgery at the University of Michigan.

He spent a major part of his career as a member of the faculty and medical staff at both UM and the University of Wisconsin. While at UM, he performed the first heart bypass surgery in Michigan and in the history of the university. At the time, this procedure revolutionized modern medicine and the treatment of heart disease. He was also the first to use the internal mammary artery for the procedure; it is still used today.

Kahn served as chair of the Department of Cardiac Surgery at the University of Wisconsin, where he performed that state's first heart transplant. He also developed the solution that was used to transport donor hearts for transplantation, and he co-authored one of the first medical textbooks detailing the clinical aspects of cardiac surgery, *Clinical Aspects of Operable Heart Disease*.

Feeling a strong tie to his home state of Alabama, Kahn moved back to Birmingham in the early '80s to start the heart transplant program at Princeton Baptist Medical Center. The practice of medicine was not only his vocation, but also his passion; he worked in the field for 60 years, during which time he received numerous honors and recognition and served on the boards of many national and international medical boards and associations.

In 2011, Kahn received the Distinguished Alumni Award from BSC. During his acceptance speech for the award, he credited the professors and the liberal arts education that he received at BSC for his intellectual curiosity and lifelong love of learning.

He is survived by his wife; six children, including **Donald R. Kahn Jr. '87** of Birmingham; and five grandchildren.

retirement from the U.S. Air Force in 1969. Williams was a member of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church and several civic organizations. Survivors include several nieces.

Dr. Jack Brien Key Jr. '50 of Atlanta, on July 29, 2015. Key taught history at several schools, including the U.S. Naval Academy, University of Alabama, Oglethorpe University, and England's Bristol University. He obtained his master's degree from Vanderbilt University and his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. Key was a U.S. Army Veteran. He is survived by many

friends. Memorial contributions may be made to the Key-Windham Scholarship that he endowed in memory of his parents, J.H. Key and Flowers Windham Key, to the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Mary Ann Casimes Welsh '51 of Ormond Beach, Fla., on Oct. 11, 2015. Upon graduating Phi Beta Kappa from BSC, she went to Duke University's graduate school to study Latin American history. Her husband's work moved them to numerous small towns across the Southeast, where she taught school.

After earning a second master's from the University of Georgia, she became a media specialist until her retirement. She is survived by her husband, four children, eight grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Percy E. Sullivan Jr. '52 of Hoover, on March 2, 2015. Sullivan grew up working in his family's grocery business and had careers with both Kroger Foods and Associated Grocers of Alabama. In his later years, he worked as a warehouse manager for hardware distributor Moore-Handley Inc. He was a

CLASS NOTES

veteran of the U.S. Army. Survivors include his wife and son.

Rev. Hillard C. Vance '53 of Hoover, on Aug. 17, 2015. Vance, a World War II veteran, was in the ministry for 68 years, having served in 15 different appointments in the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, four step-children, eight grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

JoAnn Boyd Pappas '54 of Eufaula, formerly of Birmingham and Mobile, on March 18, 2014. After college, Pappas taught piano at the BSC Conservatory of Music and taught private lessons for many years at her home. She loved to entertain, cook, travel, read, and spend time with her family. She is survived by four children and 13 grandchildren.

Fred P. Whittaker Jr. '54 of Birmingham, on May 9, 2015. After graduating from BSC, Whittaker earned a master's degree from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University as a Carnegie Scholar. He then returned to Birmingham and taught biology at Hewitt-Trussville High School for 30 years. Whittaker was also an integral part of the Mountain Brook Flower Shop. After retiring from full-time teaching, he continued to work at the shop until his death. He is survived by friends and family.

Dr. Ronald Goldman '55 of Birmingham, on Aug. 18, 2015. Goldman was prominent in the profession of speech-language pathology and audiology. For 50 years, he was active as a teacher, clinician, researcher, and administrator. Goldman earned his master's and Ph.D. in speech and hearing from the University of Pittsburgh. He later served as a professor at Tulane University, Vanderbilt University, and UAB. As a scholar, Goldman published

numerous research articles in his specialty and was honored by national and state associations. Survivors include his wife, three daughters, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Dr. Geoffrey L. Story Jr. '55 of Bloomington, Ill., on Feb. 11, 2015. Story retired in 1998 from a 32-year career as a professor of religion at Illinois Wesleyan University. He received his bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern University. He was ordained a minister in the UMC in 1962 and fulfilled his calling by teaching. His wife, **Bettie Wilson Story '55**, died on Nov. 1, 2014. She was the director of communications for the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, retiring in 1998. She was also an accomplished children's book author and had served for many years on the Bloomington Public Library Board of Trustees. They are survived by two children, a granddaughter, and two great-grandchildren.

Jeannette Bryant Downs '56 of Birmingham, on May 30, 2015. Downs worked for 30 years as a teacher at Phillips High School. After retiring from teaching, she worked at The Birmingham News for seven years. In retirement, she enjoyed her pets and gardening. Survivors include three children and three grandchildren.

Judge Roy Glenn Landrum '56 of Lakewood Ranch, Fla., and West Jefferson, on April 25, 2015. Landrum served in the U.S. Naval Air Corps during World War II. Afterwards, he received a degree in physics from BSC, worked as an engineer, and founded the Landrum Lumber Co. in Burnwell, Ala. In 1964, Landrum graduated from the Birmingham School of Law and opened the law firm of

Jones and Landrum. In the early 1970s, he was appointed municipal judge of Adamsville, Ala.; before he retired from the bench in 2004, the Adamsville Municipal Building was renamed in his honor. Among survivors are his wife, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

Rev. Gene Brown O'Quinn '56 of Petersburg, Va., formerly of Birmingham, on April 16, 2015. After graduating from BSC, O'Quinn attended Emory University's Candler School of Theology and was ordained an elder in the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. He served 25 congregations from 1951 until his retirement in 1990. In retirement, he volunteered at the University of Alabama and worked at the VA Hospital in Tuscaloosa. O'Quinn served as a pastor in four additional appointments after his retirement, including three in Virginia. He enjoyed classical music and opera. Survivors include his wife; son **Rev. Dr. James G. O'Quinn '78** of Chesterfield, Va.; and three grandchildren.

George William "Bill" Arledge '57 of Birmingham, on May 18, 2015. Arledge, who received a master's degree in banking from the University of Virginia, retired from South Trust Bank after many years of service. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Survivors include his wife.

William Robert Lee '57 of Great Falls, Va., on Aug. 26, 2015. Prior to his studies on the Hilltop, Lee served as a staff sergeant in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. He taught in the Arlington County School System from 1960 until he retired in 1991. Lee taught world history, world geography, and American history, but his true love was psychology; he earned a master's degree in human development from the University of Maryland in 1968. After retiring, Lee pursued music, travel,

volunteering, and tennis. He is survived by his wife, three children, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Dr. Carlton L. Jackson '58 of Morgantown, Ky., on Feb. 10, 2014. Jackson began teaching at Western Kentucky University in 1961, eventually earning the title of Distinguished Professor of History. He wrote more than 30 books and lectured extensively throughout Europe, Asia, and South America. Jackson earned bachelor's and master's degrees from BSC and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Georgia. Before graduating from BSC, he was a reporter for the Birmingham Post-Herald and also served a tour of duty in the U.S. Air Force. He is survived by his wife; four children, including **Beverly Jackson Berry '77** (**Stephen Berry '77**) of Jacksonville, Fla.; 15 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Nestor "Bubba" Kampakis '58 of Birmingham, formerly of Gadsden, on Dec. 31, 2015. After college, Kampakis enlisted in the U.S. Army and served for three years. He owned a successful wholesale beer distribution business in Gadsden for 36 years. Kampakis was active in the community and a lifelong member of the Greek Orthodox Church. Survivors include his wife, three children, and 10 grandchildren.

Jane Lankford McGahee '58 of Birmingham, formerly of Keystone Heights, Fla., on Jan. 26, 2015. McGahee worked as a reading teacher and guidance counselor. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from BSC, she earned a master's degree in reading education from Jacksonville State University and a second master's in counseling at Florida Atlantic University. The wife of a Methodist minister, McGahee lived in several cities in Alabama and was active in ministry. They moved to Florida in

retirement; in 2002, she relocated to Birmingham. She is survived by five children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Bobby Joe Williamson '58 of Homewood, on June 8, 2015. Williamson worked for State Farm Insurance Co. for 37 years. He ushered at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church for many years. Survivors include his wife, three children, and three grandchildren.

G. Bailey Leopard Sr. '59 of Franklin, Tenn., on Sept. 21, 2015. Leopard was the founder and publisher of The Williamson Leader newspaper. He served as a deacon at both Forest Hills Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Franklin, and was a founding member and elder at Grace Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his wife and three children, including **Louise Leopard Wachsmen '87** of Pelham and **G. Bailey Leopard Jr. '91** of Memphis. Memorial gifts may be made in his honor to the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Dr. Aubrey Thomas Baugh Jr. '59 of Hoover, on May 7, 2015. Baugh, who attended the University of Alabama School of Medicine after BSC, was an immunologist and the founder of the Alabama Allergy and Asthma Center in Homewood. He held medical leadership positions in a number of organizations and was a longtime member of Bluff Park United Methodist Church. Baugh served as a U.S. Navy medical corpsman during the Korean War. Survivors include his son, **Aubrey Baugh III '89** of Midway, Ala.; daughter, **Zelia Garth Baugh '88** of Birmingham; and three grandchildren, including **Thomas Baugh**, a junior at BSC.

James J. "Jimmy" Bethune Jr. '59 of Marietta, Ga., formerly of Birmingham, on May 18, 2015.

Bethune was a practicing CPA in Birmingham for more than 30 years, retiring in 1992 as a founding partner of Ledbetter and Bethune. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Bethune was a charter member of both Briarwood Presbyterian Church and later Faith Presbyterian Church, where he served for 42 years. Among survivors are two children and two grandchildren.

Sarah Jones McCleskey '59 of Birmingham, on April 22, 2015. McCleskey was a gifted artist whose works spanned oils, acrylics, charcoal, water colors, and three-dimensional form. She especially enjoyed working with youth and gave countless hours to church youth groups and to Camp Sumatanga. She is survived by two children, including **Rev. Sally McCleskey Allocca '87** of Birmingham (a former BSC adjunct professor), and a grandson.

Dr. Charles W. Lambert '60 of Birmingham, on March 6, 2015. A dentist, Lambert opened his practice in Athens, Ala., in July 1964 after graduating from BSC and the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. Prior to attending college, he served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in France. Survivors include his wife; four children, including **Jennifer Lambert Herrin '82** of Potomac Falls, Va., and **Chris Lambert '88 (Christine Wenning Lambert '86)**; seven grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

Dr. John E. Reaves Sr. '60 of Anniston, on Nov. 16, 2015. Reaves received his MD from the UAB School of Medicine. He served as chief of surgery in ophthalmology and practiced in Anniston from 1968-94. Reaves has a U.S. patent for an optical device used in eye examinations. His professional and civic leadership included the Alabama Board of Ophthalmology

and the Anniston City Council. He is survived by his wife; daughters **Millie Reaves Nelson '91** of Anniston and **Patricia Reaves White '86** of Kennesaw, Ga.; sons **Dr. John Reaves Jr. '84** of Carmel, Ind., and **Ed Reaves '92** of Eastaboga; and 11 grandchildren.

Janice Ham Saidla '60 of Auburn, on Feb. 28, 2015. An educator, Saidla began her career teaching Head Start in Opelika. In the '70s, she developed the Auburn Association of Parents of Children with Learning Disabilities. She also helped develop a Montessori preschool program for Auburn and was involved in the merger and formation of Lee-Scott Academy. After a move to Ithaca, N.Y., Saidla worked in health education at Cornell University. Upon returning to Auburn in 2000, she served as head of the MERCY outreach mission and as a commissioner for the Auburn Housing Authority. She helped found the Christian Women's Job Corps. She is survived by her husband, three children, and a granddaughter.

Betty Sue Carter Wallace '61 of Lynchburg, Va., on Nov. 13, 2015.

McNeil Robinson II '62 of New York, N.Y., on May 9, 2015. Robinson, who chaired the organ department at the Manhattan School of Music for more than two decades, was a renowned improviser, composer, and teacher. After attending BSC on scholarship, he moved to New York City in 1962; he studied piano at the Mannes College of Music and perfected the organ at the Julliard School. His works have been heard both on the concert stage and published in hymnals. Survivors include his wife and brother.

Leland "Terry" Cargile '64 of Mableton, Ga., on Oct. 6, 2015. After his graduation from BSC, Cargile served in the U.S. Army

Reserves before moving to the Atlanta area in 1973; he resided there until his death. He was a member of Vinings Lake Church. Survivors include his wife, a son and daughter, a stepson, and three grandchildren.

Maj. (Retired) Gerald A. Ganus '64 of Gardendale, formerly of Copperas Cove, Texas, on May 13, 2014.

Charles Houser Booth Jr. '65 of Mountain Brook, on Jan. 16, 2015. After graduating from BSC and Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, Booth practiced law in the private and corporate sectors and taught at the Birmingham School of Law. A distinguished member of the American and Alabama bar associations, he was recognized as Mediator of the Year in 2011, among his many awards. He was also active in sports car clubs, where he mentored young drivers. Survivors include his wife and two children.

Marilyn June Lewis Bower '65 of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., formerly of Birmingham, on June 22, 2015. Bower was a high school English teacher for more than 35 years; she spent 20 of those years at Fort Walton Beach High School. She also served as a part-time professor of language studies at Troy University. Bower loved classical literature, boating, car shows, quilting, and travel. She is survived by a son and two grandchildren.

Roy Jackson Higginbotham '65 of Decatur, on May 1, 2014. Higginbotham's career was in construction and sales. He was a member of the Decatur Jaycees networking group and a lifetime member of Ninth Street Methodist Church. He is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren.

Barita Ann Rivenbark '65 of Raleigh, N.C., formerly of Birmingham, on Aug. 25, 2015.

Rivenbark earned her master's and MFA degrees from the University of Alabama and a divinity degree from the School of Theology at the University of the South-Sewanee. She worked in the art field for several years and was an assistant professor of art at Ferrum College. Rivenbark retired shortly before her death and move to Raleigh after many years as an antique dealer in Birmingham. She is survived by several cousins.

Dr. William F. McCoy '66 of Cambridge, N.Y., formerly of Birmingham, on Aug. 23, 2015. After graduating from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, McCoy served three years as a medical officer in the U.S. Army. In 1974, he opened a private practice specializing in homeopathic medicine. He continued his practice in Greenwich, Conn.; Tallahassee, Fla.; and then Cambridge. He was a member of many professional and civic organizations. Among survivors are a son, **Christopher McCoy '00** of Maynard, Mass.; three step-children; and eight grandchildren.

Robert D. Kruidenier Jr. '68 of Waxhaw, N.C., on Feb. 24, 2015. Kruidenier served as a volunteer and resident naturalist and tour guide at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in Socorro, N.M. After his honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, he worked for Kodak and Campus Crusade for Christ before pursuing his love of the outdoors and fine carpentry in Santa Fe, N.M., where he lived until 2012. Kruidenier also volunteered with HawkWatch International and was principal photographer for the book *Hawk Highway in the Sky: Watching Raptor Migration*. He is survived by his brother, **William Kruidenier '70** of Matthews, N.C., and a sister.

Phillip Jeffrey Owings '68 of Langley, Okla., on Aug. 24, 2015. Owings worked for several companies, including Vulcan Materials and Bank of Oklahoma, ultimately serving as president of the company he founded, Sungard Wealth Management. He enjoyed duck hunting, golf, fishing, politics, and World War II history, and was active in his local church. Owings is survived by three children and six grandchildren.

Catherine Snow '72 of Nashville, on Nov. 25, 2015. Snow attended Vanderbilt Divinity School from 1975-76. She worked for seven years at Vanderbilt University in various leadership positions. As a writer and marketing specialist, Snow founded her own business, The Writeous Sisters. Her travels to more than 50 countries led to her in 1998 to found Antics, a store offering art and antiques from around the world. In 2008, she opened the Snow Gallery, featuring pieces dating from the 18th century to the present. Snow also started Mulberry House, a cottage that still welcomes visitors to Nashville on vacation or business. Always politically active, she recently co-founded and served as a member of the steering committee for Women for Tennessee's Future. Survivors include her husband, two children, and two grandchildren.

Dr. Claiborne L. Moquin '74 of Huntsville, on May 17, 2015. Moquin graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1978 and began his practice in family medicine in 1981. He earned several special certifications, including senior aviation medical officer for the Federal Aviation Administration and medical review officer for Marshall Space Flight Center. Survivors include his wife and two sons.

David Wayne Mason '75 of Birmingham, on May 11,

2015. Mason worked at Southern Research Institute for 38 years, from 1977 until his death. He served in several capacities for the institute, including as director of intellectual property. Mason studied chemistry at BSC and earned a second bachelor's in engineering from UAB. Survivors include his wife and two children.

Barbara Helen Calvert '80 of Morris, on March 8, 2015. Calvert graduated from BSC's former Adult Studies program and retired from KGS Steel. She enjoyed quilting, cooking, reading, and gardening. She is survived by three children, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Mary Carolyn James '82 of Birmingham, on April 10, 2015. James loved politics and served as a congressional aide to an Alabama representative in Washington, D.C., and as a Rotary Club ambassador to France. She also worked as a certified financial planner at Mutual of New York and volunteered for many years at the Crisis Center of Alabama. James loved music and playing guitar and was an avid horseback rider in her younger years, winning medals in English tradition competitions. Among her survivors is a daughter.

Dr. Glenn Alan Feldman '83 and '89 of Homewood, on Oct. 19, 2015. Feldman was a noted Alabama civil rights historian and author and published 11 critically acclaimed books on the subjects of race, violence, and politics in the Deep South. A member of the history faculty at UAB, he was passionate about learning and held five degrees from three different schools in four subjects—including two from BSC. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Mary Bonner Wagnon '83 of Birmingham, on May 19, 2015. After graduating from

BSC, Wagnon went on to a career in politics, the arts, and as an administrator for nonprofit agencies in Birmingham. Her work ranged from clerking for the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives to helping create the website Birmingham365.org and directing development and programs at the Lakeshore Foundation. Survivors include her husband; mother; stepmother, **Constance Wagnon '84** of Birmingham; two stepchildren; and a step grandson.

Sarah Doris Fischer Cobb '84 of Birmingham, on March 29, 2015. After studying accounting in BSC's former Adult Studies program, Cobb became an enrolled agent for the IRS and had retired shortly before her death. She was a lifelong musician and songwriter, once producing a record. Cobb loved learning and cooking. She is survived by three children, nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Dr. Eric Todd Nicholson '87 of Tallahassee, Fla., formerly of Birmingham, on April 28, 2015. After graduating from BSC and the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Nicholson began his medical/infectious disease practice, research, and teaching in Fairhope before relocating to Tallahassee. He was affiliated with several hospitals and devoted much time to committees to improve patient care. He loved boating and fishing. Survivors include his wife and two children.

Derak Stanley Bevis '88 of Lilburn, Ga., on March 28, 2015. Bevis worked in the radiology IT department of Emory Healthcare. Among survivors are his wife and three children.

Dr. Eric Jonathan Hughes '00 of Vestavia Hills, on Aug. 8, 2015. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa

from BSC, Hughes received a DMD degree from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry, an MPH from UAB, and an MSD from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He worked at Birmingham Orthodontics for two years before becoming owner of Tuscaloosa Orthodontics in 2009. Survivors include his wife and three daughters.

Lucy Josephine Sprain '14 of Birmingham, on March 25, 2015. Sprain was a junior business major at BSC, where she had been a member of Kappa Delta sorority and the Stump Entrepreneurship Scholars Program. She was active in campus life and had served as Homecoming coordinator. Sprain had spent one academic term in Italy to study art. She was a member of St. Francis Xavier Church. Survivors include her parents and three sisters.


Bennett "Ben" Austin Sinclair '15 of Hendersonville, Tenn., on April 25, 2015. Sinclair was a first-year student who had served in the U.S. Navy before coming to BSC in the fall of 2014. He was a member of the lacrosse team and a fraternity. He was also an avid golfer. Sinclair is survived by his parents, brother, stepfather, and stepbrother.

Memorial donations may be made in his name to the BSC lacrosse team via the Office of Advancement, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Joseph Francis Wallace '15 of Alexandria, Va., on July 2, 2015. He is survived by his parents and brother.

FRIENDS

Dr. Conrad Elbert Adair of Birmingham, on Aug. 25, 2015. After retiring from a 32-year career with U.S. Steel Corp.



IN MEMORIAM '59

Rev. William "Bill" Lowell Gunn, an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church who served 43 years in the North Alabama Conference, passed away March 21, 2015, in Birmingham. He was 78.

Gunn studied history at Birmingham-Southern before earning his divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. His entire life was dedicated to practicing his faith and to family.

During his ministry, he served at Anniston First United Methodist, Altoona United Methodist, New Brashiers Chapel in Arab, St. Paul's United Methodist in Birmingham, Canterbury United Methodist in Mountain Brook, Ashland First Methodist, Christ United Methodist in Jasper, Oakmont United Methodist in Homewood, Bessemer First United Methodist, and St. Mark's United Methodist in Anniston. Even after he retired from formal ministry, Gunn continued to speak and teach at Canterbury.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, **Betty Scruggs Gunn '60**; three children, including BSC Professor of Education **Dr. Amelia Gunn Spencer '85 (Brad Spencer '86)**, and **Catherine Gunn Walker '89 (Cleveland Walker '90)** of Birmingham; and eight grandchildren, including **Liza Spencer '16** and **Graham Spencer '16**.

Gunn and his wife were great friends and strong supporters to the college. The family requests that memorial contributions be made in his memory to the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

as superintendent of personnel services, Adair began a second career teaching management courses at BSC. He taught in the undergraduate program, Adult Studies program, and MPPM program, retiring in 1997 as Professor Emeritus of Business Administration. Adair received his bachelor's degree in engineering from Auburn University, an MBA from Samford University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama. He began a third career after retirement as an instructor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency serving in

the country's disaster-stricken areas. He is survived by three children, 10 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Mae Jeanette Black Andrews of Birmingham, on Oct. 8, 2015. Andrews worked in the Traffic Department of U.S. Steel's Fairfield Works for several years. She was employed at BSC for 39 years as a secretary for President Emeritus Dr. Neal R. Berte and had recently retired. Survivors include her daughter, **Michelle Andrews '92** of Homewood. The family suggests that memorial donations be made

in honor of Jeanette to the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Winton M. Blount III of Montgomery, on Feb. 9, 2015. Blount, who was a philanthropist and the CEO of Blount International, was a former member of the BSC Board of Trustees. A political strategist, he was instrumental in the early successes of the Alabama Republican Party, Business Council of Alabama, and A+ Education Partnership; he was one of the founders of Leadership Alabama.

After undergraduate studies at the University of the South-Sewanee, he received an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Among survivors are his wife; six children, including **William Blount '92** of Telluride, Colo.; and 11 grandchildren.

Dr. Lyman Aubrey Drewry Jr. of Hoover, formerly of Roanoke, Va., on April 16, 2015. Drewry had a long and distinguished career as a college professor. He retired from BSC in 1999 and then taught for Troy University in its Pacific Military Program. Students were always a major part of his life and he led groups to countries all over the world. Survivors include his wife; two children, **Jonathan Drewry '95** and **Timothy Drewry '96**, both of Birmingham; and four grandchildren.

Johnny Jeely of Birmingham, on March 16, 2015. Jeely was a longtime BSC employee who retired in 2006. He worked in the print shop and as a residence hall director. Jeely was a member of the United Methodist Church. He is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Frances McKinnon Kaylor of Birmingham, on March 14, 2015. Her late husband, **Dr. Hoyt Kaylor '43**, was a longtime physics professor at BSC. She was fully immersed in the campus community, including serving as president of the Faculty Wives Association; years later, she worked at the planetarium and in admission. Frances graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in journalism. She and her husband were active in the Methodist church. She is survived by two children, including **Leigh Kaylor '82** of Birmingham, and a sister-in-law, **Mahala Kaylor McKinney '53** of

Birmingham. The family suggests that memorial donations be made in honor of Frances to the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.

William M. Lammons of Birmingham, on April 11, 2015. Lammons was a longtime employee of U.S. Pipe and retired from Jim Walter Computer Services, where he was a vice president. After retiring, he became an adjunct professor of accounting at BSC. Lammons was a graduate of Florida Christian College, David Lipscomb University, and Samford University, where he earned an MBA. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He had a great tenor voice and loved to sing. Survivors include his wife and son.

Dr. Grace Ezell Weeks Marquez of Birmingham, on May 3, 2015. A BSC Emerita Professor of Spanish, Marquez won countless academic awards for her excellence and devotion and provided the Grace Hicks Ezell Scholarship for international student travel. "In many ways, Grace was the matriarch of Spanish study in the Birmingham area, training others who would teach Spanish in Alabama and beyond," said BSC Professor of Spanish Dr. Janie Spencer. She also taught Spanish Bible study and Chinese Sunday school classes at Baptist Church of the Covenant. Among survivors are three children, six stepchildren, and six grandchildren.

Carroll Burt McVea of Birmingham, on July 2, 2015. McVea worked in the steel industry with Tieco for more than 20 years. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy, serving 10 years in each branch. He is survived by his wife; five children, including **Sheri Scholl Salmon '85**, BSC assistant athletic director; seven grandchildren;

and his sister, **Ginger McVea Sharbel '55** (see page 55). The family requests that memorial contributions be made in McVea's name to the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Col. (Retired) Richard A. Peacock of Birmingham, on July 1, 2015. Peacock retired in 1980 after 32 years of service in the U.S. Army; his many decorations included the Legion of Merit and the Korean Service Medal with two bronze battle stars. He also had a corporate and academic career. Peacock was adjunct professor/lecturer of English for 15 years in BSC's former Adult Studies Program. He retired in 1988 from Alabama Power Co., where he worked in advertising and marketing. Peacock had two degrees from UAB and a second master's in theological studies from Spring Hill College. He is survived by his wife, four children, five grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Lorraine "Rainey" LaBruyere Reboul of Birmingham, on May 1, 2015. Reboul received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from UAB. She taught first grade at St. Aloysius Catholic School for 15 years from 1992 to 2007. She was a devout Catholic and a parishioner of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. Survivors include her husband, retired BSC Head Men's Basketball Coach Duane Reboul; a daughter; and three grandchildren.

Dr. Jeannette Runquist of Birmingham, on Nov. 7, 2015. Runquist was Professor Emerita of Biology at BSC, where she had specialized in human anatomy and physiology and also taught archaeology. She took part in

Class Notes submissions

You can send news of weddings, births, deaths, job changes, career highlights, honors, and awards directly to Birmingham-Southern 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.

numerous archeological excavations both abroad and as near as Montgomery. Runquist came to the Hilltop in 1982 and served as a division chair, department chair, and co-director of the Honors Program. She was the Health Professions Advisor from 1991 until her retirement in 2012. Students selected her for the 2009 Omicron Delta Kappa Excellence in Teaching Award. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. Jeanette Runquist Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to biology majors with financial need and outstanding academic achievement, or as a memorial gift in her name to the BSC Forward Ever Fund. Gifts can be made to the Office of Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, Birmingham, AL 35254.

Beyond reciprocity: My experience of life in Birmingham

BY KRISTIN HARPER '92

I love Birmingham, and except for a short time when my parents moved to Texas to attend graduate school, this city has been my home.

Birmingham is friendly. Birmingham is five hours from the beach and five hours from the mountains. Birmingham has small-town charm with big city resources. Birmingham has incredible food, beautiful green spaces, world-class medical care, and passionate and caring people. It's a great place to live.

I also love Birmingham-Southern College. After my birth, I came home from the hospital to a house on 9th Court, which is now fraternity row. My mother grew up in a house on 9th Avenue, now Bruno Drive. During the 70s, I lived on campus on Greensboro Road during my father's service as the college chaplain. My four years as a student at BSC were deeply transformative as my assumptions about the world—and myself—were challenged and my horizons broadened through travel and service. When I returned to the Hilltop in 1999 to work in service learning, I moved with my young family back onto Greensboro Road. For nearly half my life, I've been a resident of this beautiful community.

I've heard many say that Birmingham is experiencing a renaissance, and there is certainly a lot of evidence to suggest that is true. Over the past several years, we've seen the construction and opening of Railroad Park and Regions Field, restaurants and shops proliferating on downtown streets, Zyp bikes appear, the renovation of the beautiful Lyric Theatre, and most recently, the opening of the Rotary Trail. I can't wait to shop at the new downtown Publix and visit the new 18,000 square-foot food hall and bar planned for the old Pizitz building. This is a great time to live in Birmingham.

Have you ever heard the phrase "a rising tide lifts all boats?" What if you

don't have a boat? In that case, a rising tide may be a not so-welcome threat. Not all of Birmingham's citizens are able to enjoy these new developments. In many ways, the social and political system built by years of institutionalized racism conspire to keep some from realizing Birmingham's full potential. Defacto segregation in many of the city's schools and neighborhoods, a lack of a regional vision and cooperation, and inadequate public transportation are just a few of the issues that remain a challenge in the city. Even with all the progress we've made as a society, Birmingham residents tend to gravitate to communities where people look, live, and believe alike. Ironically, as the world grows smaller and flatter, there are fewer opportunities to interact with people whose life experience differs from our own. But when we fail to encounter diverse perspectives and life experiences, we develop blind spots and risk marginalizing whole groups of people.

A critical part of the BSC educational experience involves community engagement, which is all about encountering diverse perspectives. As students, staff, and faculty meet and interact with their neighbors here in Birmingham's West End, they begin to notice the social and political structures that have shaped this city. As our students grow and develop their own beliefs and values, their sense of community grows to include these neighbors who are often on the margins of society—children living in poverty, teens and adults struggling with mental illness, the homeless, and the elderly.

In community engagement and service-learning work, we use the term "reciprocity" to describe campus-community partnerships. A partnership is most successful when it is mutual and reciprocal, when all parties contribute to the work and gain something



from the relationship. Reciprocity is the core of BSC's service-learning program; the success of its community engagement work locally, nationally, and internationally is dependent on the understanding that each of us, whether in the mainstream or on the margins of society, has something unique to offer and something important to learn.

That's why I'm encouraged by the college's alumni, many featured in this issue, who not only celebrate the recent renaissance in Birmingham, but also ask tough questions about who is being left out and how we can extend the promise of development and opportunity to more of our neighbors.

Kristin Harper is the director of the Bunting Center for Engaged Study and Community Action at BSC.

The dog-tor will see you now—To

help students de-stress during final exams last semester, Two by Two Animal Rescue brought some of their dogs to campus.



BSC Birmingham-Southern College

900 Arkadelphia Road
Box 549003
Birmingham, Alabama 35254

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.bsc.edu

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2575
Birmingham, AL