

# 'Southern

*A Publication for Alumni and Friends*

*Spring 2015 Volume 41, Number 1*

BSC students  
experience business  
in the Big Apple

**BSC** Birmingham-Southern College



## BSC Snapshots

*The BSC Symphonic Band performed at Birmingham's historic Alabama Theatre on March 9. The concert featured a varied repertoire of music for wind and percussion and concluded with a full ensemble performance with the venue's Mighty Wurlitzer organ. Selected high school students performed alongside the band.*





# Inside'southern

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## BSC

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### On the Cover

A group of BSC business students took their learning experiences to a whole new level outside the classroom in January, visiting several Fortune 500 companies and other sites in New York City. Here, the group walks through the World Trade Center.



# Editor's Note

## A time of change

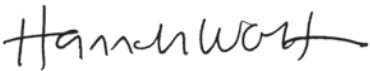
Here on a college campus, we're all about transitions. Every fall, we welcome a new batch of students—fresh young faces reveling in their independence and nervous about their next step. And every spring, we say goodbye to the latest graduates, new adults eager to take on the world. Over their four years here, they change immensely, learning, growing, and becoming something greater than they ever expected.

Yet, even as time whirls by in a blur, the campus itself remains unchanged. A few employees come and go, but as a body, the faculty and the staff stay mostly the same. The cherry trees bloom each spring and the ginkgos green up, then turn yellow and drop their leaves the following fall. A rhythm develops: Orientation, Convocation, Winter Break, E-Term, Spring Break, Commencement. A deep breath, and we begin once more.

Right now, we are gearing up for a new transition. After four years, we're saying goodbye not just to the Class of 2015, but also to our president, Gen. Charles C. Krulak, who is retiring June 1. I guarantee that more than the usual amount of tears will be shed when today's seniors walk across that stage and accept their diplomas—and hearty hugs—from the man who has led Birmingham-Southern since they began here. And now the staff and faculty, the alumni and supporters, are the ones keen to see what (and who) comes next.

But one thing is certain: the Hilltop will remain, solid as the Alabama limestone it is built on. The faculty will continue to teach, the students will continue to learn, and the busy life of the city will continue just beyond the campus' edge. And the number of BSC alumni—now stretched around the globe—will grow once more this May when the latest graduates take their places in the wider world.

Forward, Ever!



Hannah Wolfson  
Director of Communications

## Presidential search nears final phase

You'll read later in this issue about the work of our outgoing president, Gen. Charles Krulak. As you hold these pages, a committee of alumni, trustees, faculty, and staff are interviewing candidates for the position of BSC's 14th president, with assistance from a national search firm. At publication time, a first group of candidates had been selected from a pool of more than 65 applicants and nominations; they've been invited for in-person interviews in mid-April. There's still a chance for new candidates to enter the mix, too.

Even as the search heats up, however, you'll hear less and less about it. That's not particular to BSC; it's the industry standard in higher education. Confidentiality is key in hiring a college president. Many candidates currently hold positions of great trust and influence, and letting it be known that they're applying elsewhere would jeopardize their current positions.

"People back home will question your commitment and loyalty," Katherine Haley, BSC's advisor from the search firm Witt/Kieffer and a former college president herself, wrote last year in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. "In fact, we've seen sitting presidents lose their positions because they were discovered to have been a finalist in another presidential search."

The plan is for the committee to present three top candidates to the Board of Trustees, which will make the final selection, to be announced in May. Until then, you can find more information about the search at [www.bsc.edu/president](http://www.bsc.edu/president).

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

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2015

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## BSC's growing Media and Film Studies program emphasizes interdisciplinary studies



Dr. David Resha gives instruction to sophomore MFS major Adam Cordelle in the *Film Production II* course.

One of the newest programs at Birmingham-Southern is also one of the hottest these days.

The Media and Film Studies (MFS) major, which launched in 2010, currently has 26 declared majors. Recent graduates have already been accepted into the best film and media graduate programs in the country, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Chicago, USC, UCLA, and University of Texas-Austin.

It's a tribute to the strength of the college's broad-based approach to education, said Dr. David Resha, assistant professor of media and film studies and director of the program.

"I'm incredibly proud and encouraged by the success we have had so far," Resha said. "We've had some great acknowledgement of our students' talent and creative work."

Resha said BSC students seem naturally interested in understanding the media and technology that surround them, from television and film to computers and cell phones. Taught from a liberal arts tradition, the MFS program takes

an innovative, interdisciplinary approach that looks at all of these forms of media. Students examine films and their production, analyze the cultural impact of mass media, and develop historical and cultural understandings of text.

"Film and media-making is inherently interdisciplinary, bringing together writing, photography, design, journalism, psychology, and economics," Resha said. "The MFS program brings these diverse fields together while also allowing students to pursue one or more of these elements in a more focused way. This isn't just distinctive from other film and media programs—it's also essential to properly understanding media and how it works."

But not all the learning happens inside the classroom. Each January, Resha takes students to the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, where they get a backstage look at independent film production. Closer to home, MFS students attend and intern for Birmingham's annual

Sidewalk Film Festival; student Colin Perry even had one of his short films, *Relative*—a class project—shown at the prestigious event.

This year, the program has brought on Daniel Wheatcroft—an esteemed Hollywood producer and voting member of the Academy who was involved with the making, marketing, and distribution of blockbusters like *Schindler's List*, *Field of Dreams*, and *Apollo 13*—as an adjunct instructor. And Resha himself just published a book, *The Cinema of Errol Morris*, analyzing the work of the influential director, including commercial successes like *The Thin Blue Line* and *The Fog of War*.

MFS majors have had their own filmmaking successes, too. Current student Sean Alexander's short film, *One Way Out*, won the President's Award at the North Carolina Film Awards. Elizabeth Hagale '13, who is interning with the Huntsville production company Prototype Multimedia, is executive producing an episodic drama, *Son of Somerset Files*, that appears on YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and Tumblr.

But what thrills Resha most is watching MFS graduates succeed not just in filmmaking, but in a range of fields, including television, advertising, education, and public relations.

"I think this demonstrates the strength of this type of education, and it's the primary reason I wanted to teach at a liberal arts college," Resha said. "The entire faculty at BSC is training students to be careful thinkers, clear communicators, and effective problem-solvers. And these skills translate to anything graduates want to do in the real world."



## Cottrill appointed to distinguished professorship



Dr. Amy Cottrill has been named the Denson N. Franklin Associate Professor of Religion at Birmingham-Southern, one of a number of efforts that underscore the exceptional teaching that takes

place in BSC's classrooms.

The distinguished chair of religion honors Dr. Denson N. Franklin '36, the late United Methodist pastor and leader, who also served as a Birmingham-Southern trustee. The author of three books and numerous articles on Christianity, he was known for his broad commitments to both church and civic organizations and was the recipient of many honors during his lifetime in recognition of his contributions.

The new professorship, Cottrill said, will help her retain the close connection between the campus and the United Methodist Church in Alabama and West Florida as well as provide assistance to BSC's Office of Church Relations and Campus Ministries program.

"It is an honor to be connected with the legacy of Denson Franklin," she added. "I'm aware of the tremendous support that he and his family have offered BSC and I am so appreciative of their generosity. Gifts like these sustain the educational mission of the college and make such a difference in the lives of students."

Cottrill earned her Ph.D. from Emory University and has been a member of the college's faculty since 2007. Her primary area of research is the book of Psalms in the Hebrew Bible, particularly the individual laments.



## New blended-learning classroom open

Birmingham-Southern's second blended-learning classroom opened in February in the college library with a demonstration and open house.

The digital classroom links BSC to Locust Fork High School in an effort to improve graduation rates in rural Alabama. It is being used for college and career prep, classroom exercises, online interaction with faculty and staff from the two schools, and live broadcasting of the college's speakers. The classroom is modeled after Olin 205, the high-tech digital classroom that BSC installed in 2013.

The college received a \$120,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham last year to design and build two blended-learning classrooms, one on campus and one at the high school in Blount County. The classroom at Locust Fork launched in October.

## Senior earns Fulbright award

Rachel Buchan, a senior Harrison Honors Scholar who is double-majoring in religion and psychology, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to spend a year teaching in Turkey.

"I look forward with gratitude to learning from those I encounter in Turkey, and hope to carry on the profound commitment to academia that has been modeled for me at Birmingham-Southern: one of fearless inquiry, selfless service, and abiding love for one another," said Buchan, whose grandparents are George Jones '53 and Sue Poe Jones '58 of Birmingham and Don Brown '58 of Tuscaloosa.

Before heading to Turkey, she hopes to complete a summer internship at a law firm; after her Fulbright year, she plans to return to the U.S. and continue in academia.





## Spring graduation ceremonies and speakers



Mays



Brasher



Slagter

BSC Professor of Political Science Dr. Bob Slagter will address the Class of 2015 during the 156th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 16, at 9 a.m. at Bill Battle Coliseum on campus. A President's Reception will be held on campus immediately after the ceremony.

Slagter was named Birmingham-Southern Outstanding Educator of the Year during the college's 2014 graduation ceremony. The award is given to a member of the BSC faculty who, according to recommendations by his or her colleagues, excels in all aspects of teaching, including scholarship, classroom performance, and student advising. The award includes a cash stipend and an invitation to speak at the following Commencement.

Slagter joined the BSC faculty in 1985, focusing primarily on the field of American politics; he now specializes in Asian politics and development. After serving in the U.S. Army as a conscientious objector medic, he received his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. in political science from Southern Illinois University.

Dr. Larry Brasher, BSC emeritus professor of religion, will deliver the annual Baccalaureate address on Friday, May 15, at 11 a.m. at Canterbury United Methodist Church in Mountain Brook. A Capping ceremony will be held that same day at 3 p.m. in the coliseum.

Stephanie Houston Mays '04 will deliver the Convocation address at Birmingham-Southern's Honors Day ceremony on Thursday, April 30, at 10 a.m. in Munger Hall Auditorium. Mays, who received her J.D. from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, was recently promoted to shareholder at Birmingham-based Maynard, Cooper & Gale PC.

## Faculty awards and accomplishments

- Professor of Theatre Dr. Alan Litsey received the Suzanne M. Davis Memorial Award from the Southeastern Theatre Conference during the group's convention in March. The award honors one SETC member for distinguished service to the group over a number of years. Litsey is directing a new play by Jeanmarie Collins, "Mr. Will and Dutch: Alabama's Legendary Bankheads," which premieres in June in Jasper.
- Dr. Maria Stadnik, assistant professor of mathematics, and Dr. Greta Valenti, assistant professor of psychology, accompanied 11 BSC students who gave presentations at the Southern Regional Honors Council's annual meeting from March 18-22 in Greenville, S.C.
- A new book edited by Dr. Randall Law, associate professor of history, came out April 13. *The Routledge History of Terrorism* examines the convoluted history of the transnational phenomenon over 32 chapters from various experts in the field.
- Dr. Lester Seigel '79, Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music, received the 2014 Thomas R. Smith Award of the state chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. The award recognizes those "who have made outstanding contributions to the choral art."
- Dr. Shane Pitts, Jack G. Paden Professor of Psychology, was the lead author on an article recently published in the journal *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. "When one is ostracized, others loom: Social rejection makes other people appear closer" examines how people who have been rejected feel that others are physically closer to them than they really are.





## BSC IN THE NEWS

# College alum driving force behind Birmingham's bid for World Games



David Benck '90 is thrilled about the World Games coming to Birmingham in 2021—after all,

he's one of the lead organizers of the city's successful bid for the games. But he's even more enthusiastic about what could happen afterwards, once Birmingham proves it can handle a large-scale international event with hundreds of thousands of visitors and shine in the global spotlight.

"Hopefully, it will be a catalyst for great things," said Benck, who helped the city beat out competing bids from Lima, Peru, and Ufa, Russia. "I'm most excited about getting to show the world Birmingham—where it is today and where it's going to be in six years. Our city has so much to offer."

Benck, vice president and general counsel for Hibbett Sports, has long been passionate about sports' ability to unify people. He has served on USA Gymnastics' Ethics, Grievance, and Safe Sport Committee and was named to that group's board of directors in 2013. He also has extensive experience as an international arbiter in athletics and other areas.

But he didn't know much about the World Games until he and his wife joined Scott Myers, the executive director of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, on a just-for-fun trip to the 2013 World Games in Cali, Colombia. Suddenly, they were sold on the idea of a Birmingham bid for the games, which is operated under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee and bills itself as the world's second-largest international multi-sport event.

"There was tremendous community pride and excitement," Benck said. "The Colombians were very welcoming and hospitable; it reminded us of the

southern hospitality in Birmingham, but Scott and I recognized that Birmingham's venues would far surpass what most other cities around the world could provide."

When they returned, they reached out to Edgar Welden, a long-time Birmingham community leader, who brought the city, state, and business communities together. They partnered with the U.S. Olympic Committee, which selected Birmingham as the only city in the country allowed to bid on the event.

What really made it possible was the cooperation of Birmingham-Southern, UAB, and Samford, Benck said. The three campuses made up the core of the city's bid, with each hosting a potential range of events and acting as separate athlete villages.

For example, Benck said, athletes housed at BSC might compete at the Birmingham Metro CrossPlex, at Legion Field, or at venues on campus. Teams staying at UAB could compete at the BJCC or other in-town facilities, and Samford could host athletes with events on campus and at over-the-mountain locations like Oak Mountain State Park. A transportation system will connect all three, and there is plenty of housing for international federations and fans nearby.

"We were able to pitch something completely unique to the World Games," he said.

The committee and city estimates it will cost about \$75 million to host the games, through cash and in-kind contributions, such as BSC's contribution of its facilities—but that the economic impact could be more than \$250 million. The Colombia games drew 500,000 spectators and about 4,000 athletes from 100 countries.

And although some Americans have scoffed at the types of sport on offer—who's ever heard of korfbal anyway?—Benck points out that the World Games are host to all of the sports knocking on the door of the

Olympics. Some modern additions to the Olympic Games, such as triathlon, trampoline, and taekwondo, were World Games sports first, and softball recently moved from Olympic play to the World Games.

Plus, seeing the global enthusiasm for sports that Americans may not be familiar with is exhilarating, Benck said. At the event in Colombia, fans packed stadiums for competitive dancing, sumo wrestling, and in-line hockey and figure skating.

"All of them have their following and it's the smaller ones who have already reached out to us," he said. "They're so excited that this is happening in the U.S. and they get to show everybody their sport."

That kind of cross-cultural exchange is what makes the games so exciting for Benck. He sees it as a chance not just to show off Birmingham to the world, but to bring the world to Birmingham. Each country's athletes and delegations will need hosts, sponsors, drivers, and more. He said Birmingham-Southern students, especially, will find the opportunity to practice their languages and make connections that could carry them into a new career.

Benck, who studied economics on the Hilltop and earned his J.D. at the University of Alabama School of Law, credits his own travels while a BSC student to Australia, New Zealand, China, and Taiwan as giving him much-needed exposure to the world. Bringing the World Games to town will open up that opportunity to college, high school, and elementary students who might otherwise not have that experience.

"The true inspiration is what an event like this can produce for Birmingham's youth—to participate in a global event, with hundreds of countries coming to Birmingham, and to learn, network, and experience global cultures," he said. "The opportunities will be numerous."



## Bass fishing club catches on

If you happen to be out on one of Alabama's fishing lakes this spring, you may see something you don't expect—BSC jerseys in one of the boats.

Thanks to a small group of enterprising students, Birmingham-Southern now has its own fishing club, joining part of a wider trend nationwide in competitive collegiate fishing. What's more, the BSC Bass Fishing Team is holding its own against much larger and more-established schools. In February, the team placed third out of 60 anglers in a competition on Lake Guntersville, bringing in five bass weighing 17.2 pounds.

"Since we placed highly on the first event of the year, this puts us in the early discussion for contenders for team of the year," said Garret Whitworth, a BSC senior who is club captain and one-half of the two-man team, along with first-year student Harrison Jordan.

Although fishing for college may sound like a joke, it's actually hugely popular around the country and especially in the South. More than 600 schools have fishing clubs, up from about 90 a few years ago, according to F.L.W. Outdoors, which runs the Fishing League Worldwide collegiate fishing tour. Although most programs are club sports, a few colleges and universities have even begun to award scholarships.

"Bass fishing is an exploding sport," said Jordan, a Mobile native who competed in saltwater fishing contests before coming to BSC. "Every Southeastern Conference school has a team—it's a huge thing."

Fishing is not governed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, so the students are eligible for cash prizes at their tournaments—some of them worth thousands of dollars. That helps motivate the BSC team members, who almost entirely fund themselves, providing their own boat, equipment, and travel expenses, with a little bit of help from sponsors like Owner Hooks and the camera company Syn-Fab.

BSC's team competes in tours organized by F.L.W. and the Alabama-based Fishlife Collegiate; Whitworth and Jordan fished at an invited tournament at Lake Guntersville and plan to be at another at Tennessee's Chickamauga Lake in May. Typically, the two-person teams are judged on the biggest five bass they bring in over the course of the competition.

"It's challenging—you have to be able to find the fish," said Jordan. "The beauty of bass fishing is that there are a lot of different ways of bringing them in."



*Pictured at the Lake Guntersville fishing competition are Harrison Jordan (on left) and Garret Whitworth.*

## BSC working proactively to protect students, prevent violence

Lately, stories about sexual assault on college campuses have been all over the national news. Fortunately, Birmingham-Southern has been working for several years to get out in front of the issue—and to keep all students safe on campus.

Since 2012, the college has cooperated with its partner schools in the Birmingham Area Consortium for Higher Education, which received a grant from the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women. The grant pulls students, faculty, and staff members from Student Development, Campus Police, and other areas to work together on programs to prevent campus violence. Other recent efforts include educating students even before they come to campus through online tutorials they take over the summer before first-year Orientation.

College employees have also attended several training sessions, some of them paid for by the grant, to make sure BSC is up on the latest efforts nationwide. A team of student life staff members traveled to Atlanta this spring for a training on responding to assault reports, supporting victims, and investigating claims. And another group, including Dr. David Eberhardt, vice president for Student Development, headed to Washington, D.C., last month to learn more about developing a strategic plan to prevent assaults, stalking, and dating violence in collaboration with the Birmingham YWCA and the Crisis Center.

"We've really taken a proactive approach, supported by the BACHE grant, to ensure that we're not just being compliant, but really seeking to use the best practices around these issues," Eberhardt said. "It is so important to us to ensure that current and future students get to experience the same safe environment that we've all enjoyed here on the Hilltop."



## Young alum finds new form of nourishment—and crowdfunding



Chris Cage '10 thought he was on the right track after graduating from BSC with an accounting major and landing a job at Alabama Power. But about a year in, he was hungry for more.

So Cage saved up his paychecks, quit his job, and began to travel. He cycled the length of New Zealand, taught English in Thailand, and volunteered at an orphanage in Cambodia. When

he returned to the states, he tackled another challenge: hiking the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine.

"One of the biggest things that I took away from Birmingham-Southern—which

I don't think I realized until after I'd left—was the value of E-Term, especially E-Term at Sea," said the native of Peachtree City, Ga., who had run cross-country and been a Boy Scout before coming to BSC. "That month at sea really exposed me to adventure travel, and I absolutely fell in love with it. That taste of adventure travel undeniably affected my decision to quit my job and travel."

While he was trekking the trail, he came up with an idea for a new business. Cage found himself struggling to eat well as he covered miles on foot, and decided to develop his own meal substitute that would be more substantial than the average energy bar.

"Creating a perfect meal became my mission," Cage said. Thus, Greenbelly was born. He got help from a chef and a dietician to develop an all-natural meal replacement based on peanut flour, whole nuts, and dried fruit that provided the energy he needed to hike or bike long distances. He started making, packaging, and selling the bars himself, sending them to outdoor outfitters and

bloggers to try to break into the market. He also built in a charitable component: for every bar sold, Greenbelly buys a meal through the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

When *Bicycling Magazine* wrote a favorable review, the business took off, and Cage found himself in need of capital to scale up his operations. (In his words, "getting out of my parents' house wouldn't be bad.") He used the skills he learned at BSC to research all of his options, including loans and individual investors, and landed on a plan for a 30-day crowdfunding campaign via Kickstarter.com, a site that allows ordinary people to pledge a small amount to projects of their choosing, often in exchange for a first shot at the product.

Within 32 hours of launching the campaign, he'd already beaten his \$10,000 goal.

"In June, when I started this, I had no customers, no social media accounts, no blogging or public relations connections... and I had to figure out what makes a campaign go 'boom,'" said Cage, who spoke to students about his experience this spring.

Cage has a lot of work to do in the coming months: fulfilling orders, designing new packaging, and working on a new production facility. But although he does have targets for national distribution, his definition of success also includes being able to travel while he runs the company and continue having a good time.

Ultimately, Cage credits Birmingham-Southern with broadening his world and giving him campus leadership opportunities that positioned him to tackle this challenge.

"The type of courses I took forced some exposure on me that I would never had had otherwise," Cage said. "This exposure—speakers from cultural credits, classes like beginning band, the hands-on biology course, music of the world's people, religion, and history of the American South—all played a role in me wanting to see more, try more, and learn more."

**Chance meeting in Selma**—The final rehearsal for the 1,000-voice Selma 50th Anniversary Jubilee Choir was held at Sixth Street Peace Baptist Church in Birmingham on March 1, setting the stage for a serendipitous encounter between Marcia Rogers Bentley '75 (far left) and Ashley Tippit '18 (second from right). When Bentley found out that Tippit, who was sitting next to her, was a member of the BSC One-A-Chord Gospel Choir, she excitedly told her that she had graduated from the college long before Tippit was even born. It turned out that they were both psychology majors and in the symphonic band (Bentley on clarinet and Tippit on French horn). "We talked about how drastically the school has changed since I was there, both in physical size and student population," Bentley said. "There were less than 1,000 students in 1975." Tippit then asked whether the college had a Black Student Union then and discovered that Bentley was one of the students who got the BSU and its scholarship program started. Pictured with Bentley and Tippit at the foot of Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge during March's 50th commemoration of "Bloody Sunday" and the Selma-to-Montgomery march for voting rights are One-A-Chord choir members (from left) Allen Doyle, Willie Williams, Erin Snell, and Ryan Key. "Even though the full Jubilee Choir didn't get the chance to sing [too little room on the stage], I certainly appreciate my alma mater sending such a delightful contingent to this momentous occasion," said Bentley. The BSC choir members who were able to sing on stage were Erin Snell, Jordan Powell, and Laura Carbajal.



# Steering by the stars, leaving footprints on the moon

## In just four years, BSC's 13th president leaves an indelible impact

BY HANNAH WOLFSON

Sometimes thinking outside the box pays off.

Take Birmingham-Southern's search for a new president in 2010. Reeling from a financial crisis, program cuts, and under sanction from its accreditors, the college needed a jolt of energy and fresh leadership. But who on earth would be willing to take on the challenge?

Someone from well outside of academia, it turned out—a leader with boundless enthusiasm, a refusal to take “no” for an answer, and fearlessness in the face of a crisis. Someone who had literally been shot and lived to tell the tale; someone who loved young people more than anything; someone who fell in love with BSC's people and campus at first sight. Someone so committed that he ended up serving as president for four years without ever taking a paycheck.

“What we needed, I guess, was a four-star general,” said Bruce Rogers '80, chair of the BSC Board of Trustees. “What's interesting is that we didn't really choose him; he chose us. He recognized something in BSC that was unique and valuable and that's where he wanted to give his time and energy. And then we realized what an extraordinary leader he would be.”

### Righting the ship

In what would turn out to be a preview of his modus operandi, Gen. Charles C. Krulak didn't even wait until his official start date—July 1—to start work, beginning in March instead. He and his wife, Zandi, moved into the Hilltop Village Apartments, sharing walls with the students. He quickly gained a reputation for ubiquity on campus; within weeks, students, faculty, and staff shared stories of being “Krulaked,” with the new president dropping in on a class, a meeting, or sitting down with them at lunch.

“That's how he works—he believes in interacting with students, faculty, staff alumni, donors, etc., directly and getting to know how things work through hands-on personal experience,” said Russ Appleton, Krulak's chief of staff at Birmingham-Southern, who has worked with him in several capacities in the U.S. Marine Corps. “He referred to it as ‘kicking boxes’ when he was Commandant and it is a daily, often hourly, example of how he leads from the front. He dislikes getting stuck behind a desk and sitting in long meetings. His energy, intellect, and integrity drive him to develop a deep understanding of an organization and its people. His passion is real and you have to be on your toes.”

His first priority was to right the ship, which he did with great speed. Years of experience as the former Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps and in international banking gave him a laser focus on how to fix the school's budgetary issues. In the first year, he stabilized spending, hit new records for fundraising and alumni participation, and began negotiations with the college's creditors. He reorganized administration, set his sights on shrinking BSC's board down to a more manageable size, and began work on boosting enrollment.











Indeed, over the course of four years, Krulak and his team:

- Restructured the college’s debt and reduced it almost 10 percent;
- Operated under balanced budgets and received clean audits for three years running;
- Reinforced ties with the Methodist church, which generously donated \$1 million to the college on top of its regular scholarship contributions;
- Conducted record fundraising campaigns, tallying more than \$40 million in gifts and pledges;
- Reconnected with the college’s alumni, increasing the alumni giving rate from 28 percent to a record-high 34 percent.



For a time, his top task was to get BSC back into the good graces of its accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), which had placed the college on sanction for

financial weakness. For months on end, Krulak and senior staffers held weekly meetings that invariably started with SACSCOC-related progress reports; every area of campus set new goals and was required to document progress; and policies and procedures were instituted for a range of matters. And it worked—SACSCOC first removed BSC from warning, and then last fall, a visiting committee conducted the college’s 10-year review of whether to reaffirm accreditation and had no recommendations. Finally, after four years, everything was ship-shape.

2011

Gen. Krulak named 13th president of BSC

Krulaks move into student housing

Debt restructuring begins

Explorations curriculum launched

Gen. Krulak begins tradition of cookies at finals

College balances budget for first of three years



## Sense of place

Between his childhood as the son of a Marine and his own military service, Krulak had visited more than 140 countries—but he had never been to Alabama. That is, not until he was invited to Birmingham’s Veteran’s Day Parade in 2010.

“We fell in love with Birmingham almost instantly,” Krulak said. “This city has such a mystique and an ethos that came from a community that fought through hard times. The people are so generous.”

Almost immediately after taking the job at Southern, his sphere of interest expanded well beyond the Hilltop, into the community that is inextricably part of the college’s existence. He quickly took on a touchy subject: a long-standing lack

of regional cooperation was holding the city and its neighbors back, and he stepped forward to address the matter to fellow leaders in business, education, and more. His efforts garnered him the 2012 Community Service Award from the Birmingham chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

“He has plugged himself into this community enough to address its problems the only way he knows how: honestly,” The Birmingham News wrote. “Which is more than we can say for many leaders who have been in town far longer.”

He also focused on renewing the longstanding partnership between Birmingham-Southern and the City of Birmingham. He and

Mayor William Bell hold regular meetings and worked together to organize BSC’s April 2013 march in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Birmingham’s pivotal role in the civil rights movement (photo below). Mayor Bell asked him to write the forward for the city’s upcoming book on the anniversary of the movement, and BSC has teamed up with the city and with Miles College to put in Birmingham’s pending bid for a presidential debate.

“Birmingham has been lucky to have Gen. Krulak,” Bell said. “I feel fortunate to count him as a partner in our city’s revitalization, and as a friend, and I’m continuously inspired by his energy and



**2012**

<b>Board of Trustees restructured</b>	<b>BSC in 2012 edition of “Colleges that Change Lives”</b>	<b>Baseball, softball, men’s lacrosse, football, women’s soccer win championships</b>	<b>Panther Partnerships Mentoring Program launched</b>
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“This place has been a calling for us,” Krulak said. “That isn’t changing with my retirement. This is our home.”

### “His” students

But above it all, Krulak’s devotion is to the same thing that is central to BSC’s mission: the students.

“You’re why I’m here, and I will miss you,” he told students as he made his retirement announcement in December; afterward, he was so overcome with emotion that he had to duck behind the curtain on the stage in Munger Auditorium.

That’s not just talk. Krulak lives by the mantra, “You can pretend to care, but you can’t pretend to be there,” putting in countless hours attending student presentations, sporting events, theatre productions, art exhibitions, and also cheering on the Greek community as it raised \$250,000 for charity.

“The General comes to every single game we play, heckles the refs, and says good luck to us before every set,” said junior volleyball player Katie McCormack.

When he first took the job, he instituted open office hours first thing in the morning for students to come talk to him, and he regularly eats lunch in the campus Caf, dropping in on tables of students unannounced. He also keeps the names of about 170 students on

commitment.”

In addition, Krulak has spearheaded the Western Area Economic Development Group, bringing stakeholders from the city’s west side together to spur much-needed growth. He participates in the city’s trademark Veteran’s Day activities and frequently speaks to military, civic, and student groups around the state at no charge. For all this and more, he was awarded the inaugural Vulcan Newcomer’s award.

“One expects a college president to play a significant role in their community, if only by dint of his or her position,” said BSC President Emeritus Dr. Neal Berte. “Gen. Krulak has far exceeded those

expectations. In the short time he has been in Birmingham, he has been one of the city’s biggest boosters, devoting his time, energy, and considerable leadership abilities to moving our region forward. As someone who has been involved in our community for many decades, let me say that Gen. Krulak has made enormous contributions in his short time here, and we would be much the poorer if he hadn’t made Birmingham his home.”

While Krulak is leaving his office on the Hilltop, he and Zandi are sticking around, renovating their new house off Dolly Ridge Road; he and Berte will share an office together in Birmingham.

## 2013

**Norton Board refocused on students**

**BSC gets \$1 million gifts from Methodist church & Boston businessman**

**SACSCOC removes college from sanction**

**Blended-learning classroom opens**

**BSC teacher named Alabama professor of the year by CASE**





speed-dial on his iPhone; each week, he calls 10 of them to check on how they're doing.

"He's someone you can go talk to anytime," said senior Zackary Perkins, BSC's SGA president. "He's a friend, not someone who's seen as 'oh, he's the president so we'd better

act right.'"

"That attitude was apparent even before Krulak took the job," said Lee Hopf '11, the student representative on the search committee that hired Krulak.

"I felt a great comfort in knowing that Birmingham-Southern had a

future in this man because Gen. Krulak cared deeply for the students from the very beginning," Hopf said. "His tenure since then has only proved that the students have always been at the center of his heart and they always will."



<p>2014</p> <p>Moody's upgrades bond rating</p> <p>New provost hired</p>	<p>rise3 initiative launched</p>	<p>BSC completes 10-year reaccreditation</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>BSC, Miles, city bid for presidential debate</p>	<p>Gen. Krulak delivers Stump lecture</p>
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# “Don’t tell me ‘the sky’s the limit,’ when there are footprints on the moon.”

—Gen. Charles C. Krulak, President, Birmingham-Southern College

## In your words

As much as Gen. Krulak has done for Birmingham-Southern College, his true love has been for its people—especially the students. The best way to show his impact is to let the BSC community speak. Here’s your own tribute to “the General.”

“I still remember the first day I met Gen. Krulak. I was carrying paperwork to Munger and he stopped me. Caught off-guard, I stood up straight and proceeded to have a conversation with our new president. What impressed me the most was how he took time to get to know me. He must have been busy with other time commitments, but I could tell he genuinely cared. As I finished out my time at BSC, I would often notice him greeting students in the Caf and having one-on-one conversations with others. Yet again, I could see the interest in his eyes, the full attention he had for each and every student. When I walked across the stage on graduation day, I was proud to shake his hand, but also a little saddened because I knew I was saying goodbye to a friend.”

—**Nicole Smith '12**

“I am so excited about what the General has accomplished at BSC. Not only is the college on a good footing academically and financially, the feeling of being a family has been restored. Thank you, General!”

—**Dr. Angela Camp Morrow Baker '77, mother of Charles Morrow '02**

“Move-In Day... the Suburban was filled to the top... and we were late. My daughter and I exited on the right side of the car. As my husband was getting out of the driver’s side, we heard him ask, ‘Do I call you President or General?’ Emily was so nervous (first day and all), but her eyes were huge when she heard her father speaking to Gen. Krulak. She wasn’t sure whether to run the other way or come say hello. Gen. Krulak somehow knew just the right thing to do... He stepped around the corner of the car and as Emily held out her hand to shake his, he grabbed her, picked her up off her feet, and gave her the biggest bear hug I had ever seen. Momma Bear knew at that very moment her daughter was in the right place.”

—**Betsy Rice, wife of David Rice '87 and mother of senior Emily and William, a first-year student.**

Come share your own story!  
Tell us about how Gen. Krulak impacted you by entering it on our website at [www.bsc.edu/krulakfarewell](http://www.bsc.edu/krulakfarewell).

“I am deeply and truly honored to have had the chance to get to know Gen. Krulak over the last four years. The General has challenged me to take on roles that I never thought I would or could, particularly at my age, and his faith in me and my abilities has meant so much to me. He has inspired me to go the extra mile and to be a constant ambassador for BSC. Most of all, however, I am so grateful that he chose us. I am so grateful that he was willing to make personal sacrifices to lead us. I am so grateful that he has expanded his love, passion, and dedication beyond the fences and walls of BSC and has become a tireless advocate for my city and my state. I am so grateful that he saw in us and in our community what and who we truly are and what and who we strive to be, particularly at a time when we perhaps could not see that for ourselves. Finally, I am most and eternally grateful that I can call the General my friend.”

—**Rebecca Beers '04**

“I don’t know how many college presidents call students to tell them about the scholarships they’ve earned, but I wouldn’t be surprised if Gen. Krulak is the only one. When he did this, Gen. Krulak reserved for himself a secure place in my heart and memory because he told me that I had achieved the greatest dream I had had by then. The only words I could utter were ‘Thank you’ and I feel that even now, almost a year later, there is no need to say more. Thank you, Gen. Krulak, for telling me that my greatest dream has come true and it’s time for the next greatest one!”

—**Mirella Dankova, first-year student**





"I was walking along the path to the Humanities building and I noticed a tour a few yards ahead of me. I stood back, since I was talking on the telephone, and saw Gen. Krulak talking to the family and telling them all about BSC. He finished and then walked towards me. He came up and asked, 'Who are you talking to? Your boyfriend?' I answered, 'No Gen. Krulak, it is my mom! Would you like to say hi?' He agreed, took the phone from me, and had a conversation with my mother on the phone. He held me in a side hug the whole time. He bragged about me to my mom telling her how I grew at Birmingham-Southern and how I was succeeding. This went on for a few minutes, and I knew my face was blushing with everything he said. He finally handed the phone back, told me to have a good day, and walked away, waving. I'm so proud to call him my president and my friend."

—**Margaret Ann Ward, junior**

"Gen. Krulak was the reason my son made BSC his first choice. He found us when we were touring campus that December day. He is very much going to be missed. Whoever replaces him will need very large shoes!!!"

—**Cindy Campbell, mother of David Campbell, a first-year student**

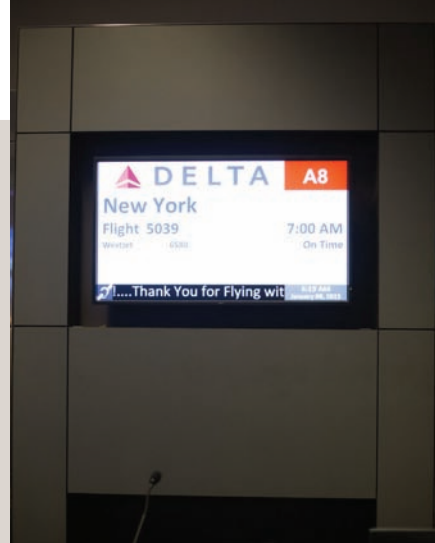
"Since the day he arrived on campus, 'Gen. K.' has continued to touch the lives of every student and faculty member with his

humble and caring spirit... He has been an outstanding role model, influencing me greatly in the way I want to lead my life. I will always cherish the time that I was fortunate enough to spend in his presence, whether that be at school functions, casual chats in his office, or enjoying a warm chocolate chip cookie in the library during the stressful time of finals. I can only hope to someday develop a burning passion for my occupation so much that I won't view it as such, but instead as a willful service, just as Gen. Krulak has exemplified at Birmingham-Southern."

—**Corbin Burns '14**

"Not since my own grandfather, Wade Andrew Norton '49, have I met a more humble, kind, generous, selfless, respectable, helpful, admirable, intelligent, caring, personable, compassionate, hardworking, fun-loving, progressive, understanding, interesting, God-fearing, and genuinely true man than Chuck Krulak. I had the pleasure of interviewing the General during my stint as the arts and entertainment editor of The Hilltop News, and the heart of our conversation was his belief in Birmingham-Southern's ability to make true Renaissance men and women out of her students. As a Renaissance man himself, the General can certainly speak on that point. He has served with grace and the steadfast determination to bring our beloved alma mater out of a trying time, and as such will always be remembered as one of the greatest presidents ever to preside over the Hilltop."

—**Grant Swanson '13**



# BSC business students take a bite out of the Big Apple

PHOTO ESSAY BY TOM COINER

*“If I can make it there, I’ll make it anywhere...”  
—theme from “New York, New York”*

This January, a group of Birmingham-Southern students found themselves on the streets of New York City, learning while doing in one of the world’s biggest hubs for business.

As part of the Exploration Term course “The Business of the Big Apple,” the 32 business majors studied four areas of commerce: finance, sports, entertainment, and fashion. They met with alumni in those areas and also got behind-the-scenes tours of key sites around the city, including the Bank of New York, the NASDAQ, the Federal Reserve Bank, Yankee Stadium, Madison Square Garden, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NBC, Rolling Stone magazine, Lincoln Center, the New York City Public Library, and theaters and local fashion houses.

When they returned to campus, students worked in teams to research and prepare business plans for start-up ventures based on innovative business models they saw in the NYC market. Much like the television show “Shark Tank,” each group presented their plan to a panel of executive evaluators from Birmingham’s business community as well as faculty from BSC’s Business Administration Department.

Scan the QR code with your mobile device or go to [www.bsc.edu/video/newyork](http://www.bsc.edu/video/newyork) to watch a video about the E-Term project and see a gallery of more photos.





## THE BIG APPLE | January Exploration Term 2015



Led by Dr. Sara Robicheaux, B.A. Monaghan Professor of Business, the team maps out a game plan in Grand Central Station on the day of their arrival. Robicheaux and Assistant Professor of Management Dr. Rick Lester led the E-Term course.





The group posing together at the Bank of New York: (back row) Wesley Hansard, Will Fagan, Zachary Wagner, Mike VanSickle, Donnie Bigler, Zac Phillips, Kendall Watson, Cliff Bell, Nathan Boldt, Phillip Miller, and Bren Marschner; (middle row) Ryan Hawks, Billy McMahon, Ashley Bice, Paul Caudill, Ben Reardon, David Bourbonnais, Avery Dumont, Ryan Deveikis, Wes Kent, Johnny Clausen, and Michael Flynn; (front row) Matthew Weigel, Dr. Rick Lester, Katherine McCain, Dr. Sara Robicheaux, Demarious Cole, Blake Stevens, and Jerrier Atassi (nearest front), vice president of the Bank of NY.

Left, a tour of Yankee Stadium



## THE BIG APPLE | January Exploration Term 2015



Alex O'Briant '94 of Maplewood, N.J., an associate partner at Ennead Architects, led students on a tour of the firm. O'Briant, a BFA graduate who received a Master of Architecture degree from Rice University, told the group how his career has benefited from his liberal arts education and the intersection of art and business.

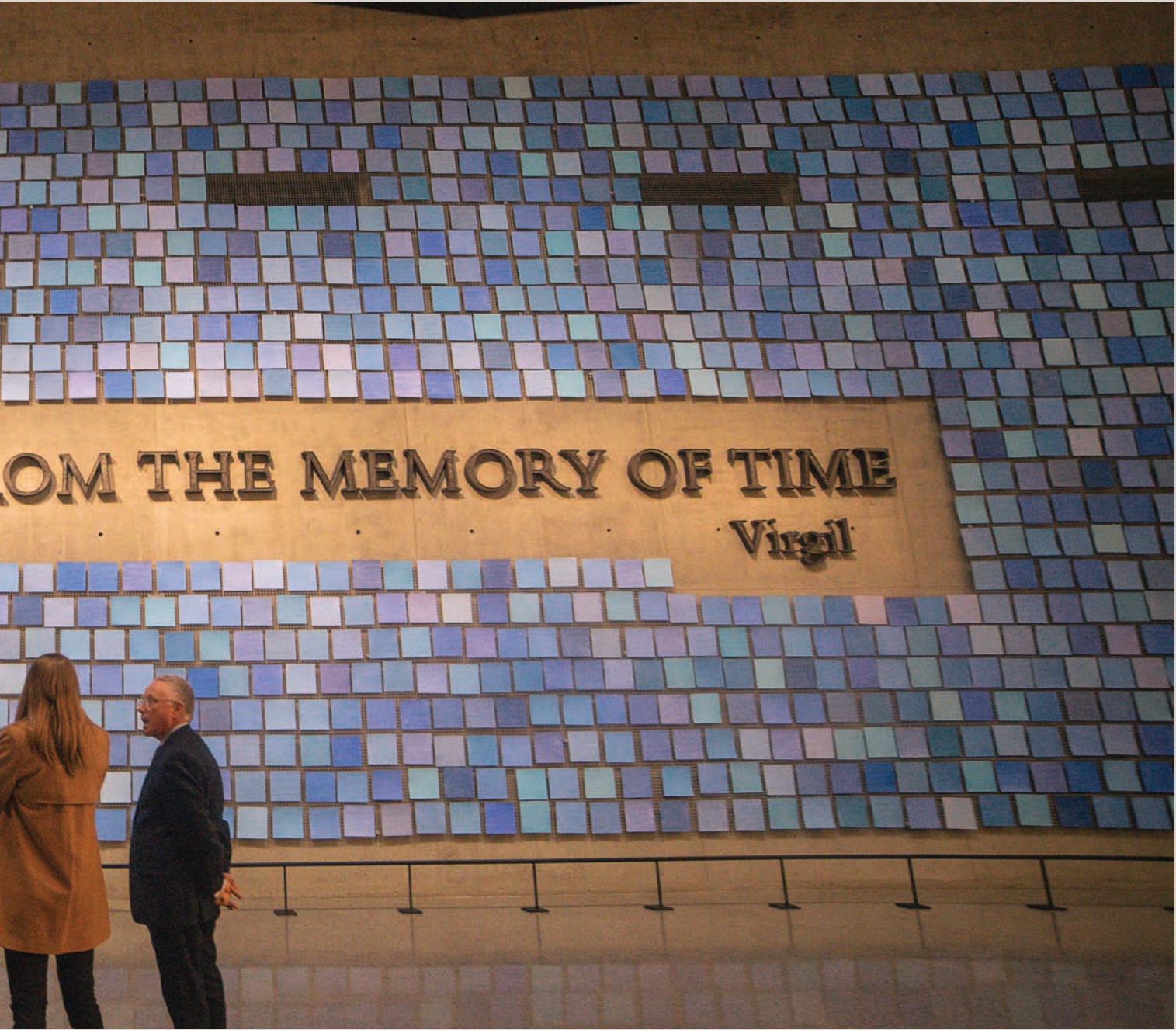






Students toured the 9/11 Memorial Museum at the site of the former World Trade Towers.











## THE BIG APPLE | January Exploration Term 2015



The two-week trip was packed with activities, but included some time to soak up the feel of the city, including a late-night theater performance, skating in Bryant Park, and running a very chilly five-mile race in Central Park.







Students visited with alumni in the New York area at a networking reception held at Hotel Wales.



## THE BIG APPLE | January Exploration Term 2015



To cap off their trip, the group showed off their BSC pride on national television with a cameo on the Today Show.



Senior Donnie Bigler presents his team's concept for Fifth Year Productions (5YP)—an entertainment booking company for Greek organizations—to a local panel of executives upon his return from New York.

## A share of honor

# Documentary to portray BSC alumna and former first lady of Costa Rica

BY PAT COLE



MacGuire at Costa Rica's 2012 Independence Day celebration

Henrietta Boggs MacGuire was 22 years old and a junior at Birmingham-Southern when she traveled to visit her aunt and uncle in what some consider a tropical paradise.

On her adventure in Costa Rica, she had lunch with a local estate owner named José Figueres. MacGuire said that her aunt approached her and whispered "you've got to marry this man."

"I asked my aunt, 'why?'"

MacGuire said. Her aunt's response was "I'm sure he's going to be president. Just look at the beautiful curve of the back of his head (referring to a famous statue)."

"That was my aunt's logic and she was always making predictions about things," said MacGuire, who dismissed the premonition about the man, whom she thought was an unusual person with strange, penetrating blue eyes—but way too old for her. Nonetheless, the young woman from Birmingham ended up accepting a ride on his Harley-Davidson, falling in love, and marrying him. Their relationship lasted 11 years, right through the

1948 revolution led by Figueres, who indeed did become president.

Their story helped shape the country, but is little known outside Latin America. A new documentary titled *First Lady of the Revolution* may change that.

The film's director and senior producer, Andrea Kalin, who was inspired to create the film when she met MacGuire in Washington, D.C., about five years ago, calls it "an extraordinary story of romance, vision, and historic change."

"Many Latin American countries have experienced upheavals and revolutions, but nothing like the sweeping changes that resulted from Costa Rica's civil war," said Kalin, who is founder and principal of Spark Media, which produces socially-conscious documentaries for theatrical release, broadcast, and advocacy. "Henrietta was an important part of that transformation and contributed in a vital way to the democratically vibrant Costa Rica we all know today."

The feature-length film is expected to be completed this fall for its debut in the U.S. and Costa Rica; it will be screened at various U.S. and international film festivals. The Alabama Humanities Foundation supported the film in part and will be actively involved in the film's educational outreach.

BSC planned to host a sneak preview of the film on April 25 at the college's 23rd annual Latin American Studies Symposium. MacGuire expected to return to the Hilltop to talk about her experiences and to field questions from students.

The film, which takes place in Costa Rica and Alabama, includes

footage of the Birmingham-Southern campus. It traces MacGuire's personal story from her early days in Birmingham to her life after Costa Rica's historic revolution.

For the 96-year-old Montgomery resident, the film is a reliving that she calls "a comforting closure."

"It feels like a time warp, but with magnified emotions," she said.

## A broader horizon

In the film's trailer, MacGuire talks about her desperation as a sheltered young woman to leave the South and experience a wider world.

"Too much segregation, too much pressure to conform, too narrow a horizon over which to spread my wings," she said.

She came from a religious upper-middle class family on the city's Southside; her father was an engineer and owned a construction company. Her family wanted her to attend BSC because of its strong ties to the Methodist church.

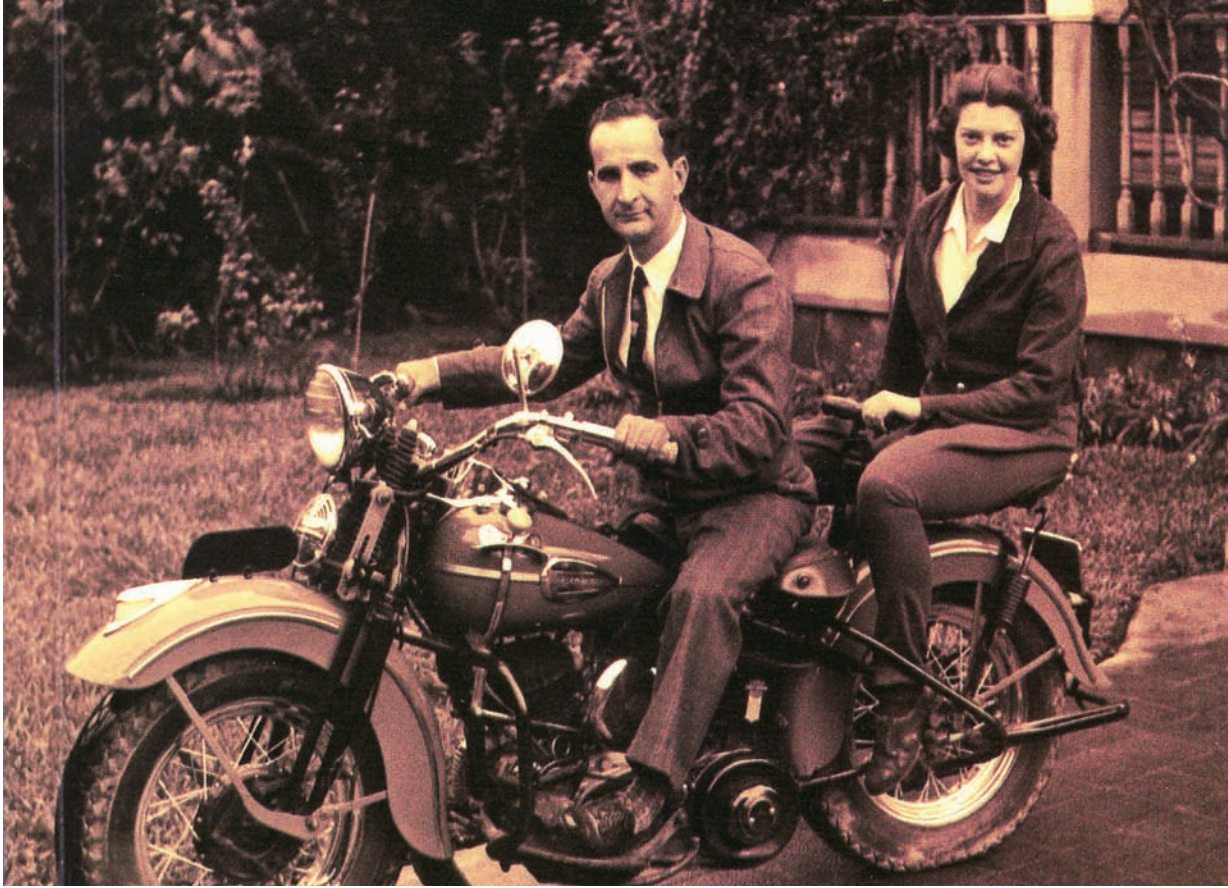
"The college opened my eyes to so many things," she said. "My leap from high school was to wider horizons since there were so few people from overseas in Birmingham at that time. My mother was very accepting of foreigners; she had traveled abroad and spoke four languages. Being on campus opened me up further to the global world we inhabit."

Her world broadened even more when she received a postcard from her aunt and uncle, who had settled in Costa Rica to farm. They introduced her to Figueres—known as "Don Pepe"—who had studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before returning to his homeland to operate a coffee



MacGuire from the 1939 BSC yearbook





MacGuire with Figueres

and fiber plantation. Together, they would fight Costa Rica's huge socioeconomic disparities. In the 1940s, women were not allowed to vote; the country's minorities lacked access to social benefits and public education.

A year after their marriage in 1941, the couple was forced into exile due to Figueres' public criticism of the government. They traveled through Central America, ultimately finding refuge in Mexico City, where she worked to create a home for their two children—and her husband planned a revolution.

They returned to Costa Rica in 1944, and in 1948, Figueres led the National Liberation Army in a *coup d'état* against the government of President Teodoro Picado and the Costa Rican army. The revolution lasted 44 days with sporadic fighting; as many as 2,000 people were killed. MacGuire described the revolution as "bloody" and remembers how

terrifying it was to be under gunfire as she and her children, Muni and José Martí, fled the country through the mountains with the help of a brother-in-law.

After the war, Figueres took over the government for 18 months and MacGuire stepped into the role of first lady. Among the country's reforms, women were given the right to vote; the Costa Rican army was abolished and money instead poured into education, social benefits, and environmental preservation; banks were nationalized and credit made available to farmers and those who wanted small businesses; and the system of government was reformed so that power was not based on family relationships. Figueres relinquished power in 1949, turning the government over to the country's first democratically elected president.

MacGuire said she pushed especially hard for legislation to give

women the right to vote. She also helped establish an English-language school, where academic courses were geared toward American colleges and universities; at the time, Costa Ricans were having a hard time gaining acceptance to U.S. schools.

Figueres was elected to two more terms as president of Costa Rica: 1953-58 and 1970-74. His son, José María (her stepson), also served as president from 1994-98 and is considering running for president again in the country's next election. But MacGuire's marriage did not survive the years that followed Figueres' rise to power.

## Returning home

Kalin, the filmmaker, said MacGuire's ability to take her children and leave a man that powerful is a testament to her remarkable inner strength.

"That she could be in a foreign





country, stand by someone, and be part of something so transformative is incredible," Kalin said. "And then, when it didn't work out, to pack up two children and have the courage to walk away—wow."

Following that intense journey in Costa Rica, MacGuire transitioned to a happy landing and a calmer life in Alabama. She returned to the United States in 1952 and moved to Montgomery with her two children. She became active in local politics and began doing social activism for women's labor rights. She married the surgeon Hugh C. MacGuire, who was known for his efforts to radically change hospital construction; he

died in 2001.

MacGuire herself continued to break ground. She owned a magazine, *Montgomery Living* (now *River Region Living*), but sold it; she still lives in Montgomery and writes a column for the magazine each month.

At age 96 (she will turn 97 on May 6), MacGuire is vivacious and energetic and has a youthful sense of humor. And she still carries a passion for studying different topics and learning.

"Everywhere I've lived in the world, I've taken classes somewhere," she said.

MacGuire's Birmingham and

Birmingham-Southern ties add flavor to the documentary. While at the college, she enjoyed her studies of old English literature, especially *Beowulf*; she majored in English.

"I studied a lot of Shakespeare's plays with [professor of English] Dr. James Saxon Childers," she said. "He was a fabulous teacher and had a way with words."

She was also a student writer for *The Hilltop News* and discovered her knack for learning languages, taking French and German courses for a brief time. Spanish—she is fluent—came later.

She still keeps up with politics and life in Costa Rica through her



children who live there. She travels there once or twice a year to see her family; she has nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Her daughter served as an ambassador from Costa Rica to the U.S. for several years, and her son owns a restaurant and various other businesses, including coffee and trucking operations.

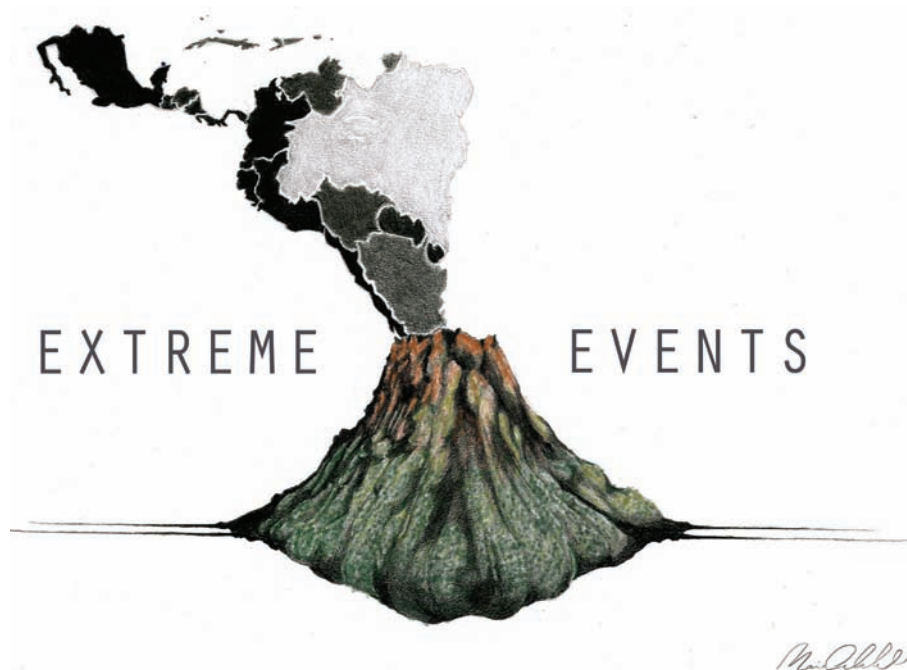
For MacGuire, Costa Rica will always be a second home and a second country. She is proud of the country's emphasis on education and its increasing focus on service and technology. In 2011, she published a memoir of her experiences titled *Married to a Legend, Don Pepe*.

Though MacGuire left BSC and migrated to Costa Rica without a diploma, she went on to achieve prominence in a time of great change and unrest in a foreign country.

"I was just an average person who got tossed into an extraordinary situation," MacGuire said. "But I wanted to demonstrate that a first lady can do more than serve tea and cupcakes. That's what I want to be remembered for."

Check out the trailer for the documentary: [sparkmedia.org/projects/first-lady-of-the-revolution](http://sparkmedia.org/projects/first-lady-of-the-revolution).

## BSC hosts 23rd symposium on Latin America



Undergraduates from some 20 colleges and universities planned to share their original research and creative projects at the 2015 Latin American Studies Symposium on campus, April 24-25.

The symposium, themed "Extreme Events in Latin America," covers politics and culture, the global economy, literature, the environment, public health, gender, art, and more. All sessions and talks are free for BSC students and those not giving papers and are open to the public.

A pre-screening of the documentary *First Lady of the Revolution* was scheduled to be the culminating event of the symposium at 5 p.m. Saturday in Norton Theatre. Henrietta Boggs MacGuire, the film's subject, planned to be present along with the filmmakers to answer questions at the open event.

Also on Saturday, Dr. Douglass Sullivan-González, associate professor of history and dean of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi, was to discuss the cholera epidemic that occurred during Guatemala's civil war in the 1830s at 1:45 p.m. in Norton Theatre. On Friday, April 24, Dr. Richard Olson, professor and director of extreme events research in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University, was to deliver the keynote address at 4:30 p.m. in the Norton Theatre.

The interdisciplinary conference was established at BSC in 1992 to foster research in and awareness of Latin America. This year's sponsors include the Sklenar Center for International Programs and the Student Government Association.

For more information, contact Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Vincent Gawronski at [vgawronski@bsc.edu](mailto:vgawronski@bsc.edu).

## Taking BSC's message to prospective students

Earlier this year, Birmingham-Southern launched a new program to better reach prospective students by using one of its greatest strengths: its graduates.

The Admission Ambassadors program, jointly run by the BSC Alumni Association and the college's Office of Admission, tags alums to act as remote recruiters. In that role, they may visit college fairs, drop off materials at local schools, deliver acceptance letters, or host get-togethers in their homes. The goal is to make sure any interested high school student has the opportunity to learn more about Birmingham-Southern, no matter where they live.

"We don't have the resources that some larger universities have to place a professional recruiter in all 50 states," said Brittany Arias Sturdivant '13, an admission counselor who recruits in Huntsville, Memphis, Mississippi, and Arkansas and coordinates the Admission Ambassadors. "This program helps us work with alumni who are in farther-out states that we don't get to visit very often."

The response from alumni has been enthusiastic, Sturdivant said—especially from young alumni like her who want to give back to the college but don't have extensive financial resources. So far, more than 25 graduates have signed up from around the country, including representatives in Texas, Florida, Illinois, and the District of Columbia.

Take Grace Elliott '13, who works for Union Pacific in Omaha, Neb., and represented Birmingham-Southern at the Omaha Area College Fair. She said

she had fun meeting with prospective students and seeing what other schools were offering.

"The best part was getting to share BSC with students who have never heard it before—which was most of them!" Elliott said. "I really enjoyed telling them about all the different programs the college offers and also explaining that it's a great place to go to school if you want to go somewhere away from home because of its tight-knit community and warm culture."

There's no substitute for that kind of personalized contact, said Coty Lovelady '13, an admission counselor who recruits in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Florida. He recently attended an event in Tallahassee hosted by Meg Hoagland Guyton '76 that included six families interested in Birmingham-Southern.

"It was a very relaxed atmosphere," he said. "They got to ask Meg and I really candid questions about the college—there were even tears of happiness as we talked about what BSC meant to us!"

Participants are armed with a fact sheet and recruiting materials, but they're mostly just expected to provide a friendly contact and share their own BSC experience, Sturdivant said. Any alum may participate regardless of location, class year, or major. Simply complete the online application at [www.alumni.bsc.edu/BeAnAmbassador](http://www.alumni.bsc.edu/BeAnAmbassador) and indicate what you're able to do to help, and an admission counselor in your region will contact you.

## Special thanks to our inaugural group of Admission Ambassadors!

Megan Snider Bailey '12 (Tuscaloosa)

Hillary Beard '12 (Washington, D.C.)

Emily Bell '90 (Fairhope)

Dallas Culver '77 (Decatur)

Peyton Caruthers Drysdale '02

(Knoxville, Tenn.)

Catherine Gilliland '14 (Chicago, Ill.)

Caroline Glass '15 (Tuscaloosa)

Meg Hoagland Guyton '75 (Tallahassee, Fla.)

Liza Pugliese Hallsten '08 (Leesville, La.)

Kyle Hoffman '14 (Birmingham)

Beth Douthit Holt '73 (Rainbow City)

Lee Hopf '11 (Green Bay, Wis.)

Corrine Jobe '03 (Lake Worth, Fla.)

Stefanie Hall Lopez '06 (Irving, Texas)

Laura Moore '13 (Tallahassee, Fla.)

Benjamin Odendahl '11

(Washington, D.C.)

Madeleine Walker Odendahl '12

(Washington, D.C.)

Marc Parker '09 (Birmingham)

Ashley Rhea '11 (Birmingham)

Donald Roser '74 (Hoover)

Alexa Marie Ruiz '13 (Houston, Texas)

Kyle Sherrin '13 (Birmingham)

Bradlee Simoneaux '08 (Atlanta, Ga.)

Dr. Ashlee Vinyard '10 (Jackson, Miss.)

Haley Williams '14 (Orlando, Fla.)

Taylor Williams '14 (Hyattsville, Md.)

Nino Christopher Yu Tiamco '13 (Chicago, Ill.)



## Legacy student wins BSC's top scholarship

Evan Whisnant of Chapel Hill, N.C., has been selected as the Rushton Scholar for the college's incoming Class of 2019.

The talented senior from the Chapel Hill School, who is the son of Dr. Anne Mitchell Whisnant '89 and David Whisnant, beat out more than 370 other qualified high school students from around the country for the award, which provides full tuition, fees, room, and board each year, plus a \$2,000 annual stipend for travel, internships, or special projects. He is a National Merit Semifinalist, plays trumpet in multiple bands, is a member of the National Technical Honors Society and the Tri-M Music Honors Society, and is president of Triangle Technical Teens, a group of high school students that does free technical support for non-profit groups.

"I am so excited for Evan to go off to



Birmingham-Southern in the fall," said his mother, who earned her Ph.D. in history at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and currently works as UNC's deputy secretary of the faculty and an adjunct faculty member in the history and American Studies departments. "Even though Evan's never lived in Alabama, it feels to me like he is going home. Birmingham-Southern provided a great foundation for me, and my husband and I are so pleased for Evan to have this opportunity for what we know will be an outstanding experience there."

### The Legacy Scholarship Program

This year's Rushton Scholar is a legacy—that is, the son or daughter of a BSC alum. Legacies are very important to the college; to demonstrate that, BSC has increased the amount of the Legacy Scholarship from \$500/year to \$1,000/year. Any child, grandchild, great-grandchild, or stepchild of a BSC alumnus who is admitted is eligible for this scholarship; so far this year, more than 75 Legacy Scholarship offers have been extended. If your child is college-aged, be sure to let Admission and Alumni Affairs know by filling out a quick online form at [www.bsc.edu/referastudent/form.cfm](http://www.bsc.edu/referastudent/form.cfm).

## Keep your information up-to-date

Have you moved or changed your name? Keep us updated by joining the Birmingham-Southern alumni online community at [www.alumni.bsc.edu](http://www.alumni.bsc.edu) and building your profile. Once we have your updated contact information, we can keep you informed about upcoming events at the college and alumni events in your area!

## Distinguished graduates honored at Spring Alumni Weekend

Time after time, BSC graduates tell how their experiences on the Hilltop gave them a sense of direction and purpose and set them on the pathway to high achievement. At the inaugural Alumni Awards Gala on April 17, five outstanding graduates of the college were honored for careers of distinction. For more information on each honoree, visit [www.alumni.bsc.edu/awards](http://www.alumni.bsc.edu/awards).



### OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI

#### Ansley Collins Browns '01

Browns has been working at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston since graduating from BSC. She started in the Information Technology department before advancing to Lead Trajectory Operations Officer for several International Space Station missions and then Astronaut Office Engineer, where she provides support to International Space Station astronauts. Browns was one of 24 NASA employees selected for NASA's Mid-Level Leadership Program in 2014. As a part of this program, she is currently on a six-month rotation—until June—as a project manager for the Starport Johnson Space Center Exchange, which promotes the welfare and morale of the NASA workforce through wellness programs and services. *(Photo courtesy of NASA.)*



#### Kyle Whitmire '01

Whitmire is the state political columnist for the Alabama Media Group. His work appears on Al.com and in the Birmingham News, Huntsville Times, and Mobile Press-Register. Before working for the Alabama Media Group, he co-founded the weekly newspaper and website *Weld* for Birmingham and wrote an award-winning political column for the Birmingham Weekly. Whitmire has also contributed to The New York Times and CNN.com.



### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

#### Norton Dill '68

A former music and drama teacher at Wenonah High School in Birmingham, Dill founded Dill Productions in 1985, launching his career in film and video. He has shot television commercials for clients all over the country and has produced several documentary films. *Music In Their Bones*, his first film, aired nationally on PBS, while *The Story of a Teller* won major awards at each of the eight film festivals where it played, including the coveted Crystal Heart Award from the Heartland Film Festival. Dill has been involved in theater his entire adult life and has directed more than 100 major productions, mostly musicals, in the Birmingham area. He has also performed for many years with his theatrical/music group, The Dill Pickers.



#### Dr. Thomas Moody '69

Moody, a urologist at Urology Centers of Alabama in Birmingham, has been praised by the National Prostate Cancer Coalition as a "major presence in the battle against prostate cancer in Alabama." The coalition had previously issued a "failing" grade to Alabama in its 2006 assessment of prostate cancer management nationwide. In response, Moody pushed for new legislation requiring insurers to cover physician-ordered tests for prostate cancer, and he marshaled the resources of his practice to offer free screenings to citizens in many parts of the state, particularly in the Black Belt, where incidence of death from the disease is high. He has received many awards and acknowledgments for his achievements and has written numerous articles and abstracts for professional journals.



#### Dr. Helen Krontiras Anderson '89

Anderson is a professor of surgery at UAB, medical director of the UAB Breast Health Center, co-director of the Norma Livingston and Lynne Cohen Preventive Care Program for Women's Cancers at UAB, and cancer liaison physician of the UAB Health System. She is also an associate scientist with the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center whose primary research interests are in prevention and risk assessment of breast cancer, disparity in cancer care, and outcomes of breast cancer treatment. Since entering academic practice in 2001, Anderson has been engaged in the education of medical students and residents on a daily basis.





*L to r: Stephanie Houston Mays, Rodney Barganier, and Alicia Fritz Bennett in Stockham Parlor*

## Alumni attorneys speak at Brown Bag Luncheon on campus

BSC's Black Alumni Group hosted a Brown Bag Luncheon in March featuring successful Birmingham attorneys Rodney Barganier '94, Alicia Fritz Bennett '92, and Stephanie Houston Mays '04.

The panel—which covered such topics as trends in the legal profession, the importance of mentorship, the challenges in today's legal landscape, and how a liberal arts education influenced their career trajectories—was moderated by Gabrielle Harris Smith '91.

Barganier studied history at BSC before advancing to Miles Law School. In 2013, he opened his own firm, the Rodney Barganier Law Group LLC, which specializes in the areas of product liability, workplace injuries, injuries to children involving recreational/playground equipment, and other cases involving personal injury and wrongful death.

"While attending BSC, Dr. Mark Lester was my influence to become an attorney," he said. "His guidance and Birmingham-Southern prepared me for the law school experience. Additionally, I come into contact with so many attorneys who are graduates of BSC, which is a credit to the college."

Bennett, who studied English at BSC, earned her J.D. from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. She works for the firm

Boardman, Carr, Bennett, Watkins, Hill & Gamble PC, where she is an education attorney. Bennett discussed the unique challenges of her practice.

"Today's parents (and students) are different," she said. "When I was in school, if a teacher told my mother I had acted inappropriately, I knew I would be punished accordingly. Today's educators don't have as much parental support as they once did. I enjoy supporting our educators as they take on the challenge of educating young people."

Mays, who majored in political science on the Hilltop, also attended the Cumberland School of Law. She was recently promoted to shareholder at Maynard, Cooper & Gale PC, where she defends public and private employers. Mays emphasized the importance of staying "coachable" and being surrounded by people who know more than you.

"Mentors, who provide a brain to pick, an ear to listen and a push in the right direction, and sponsors, who are within your organization and connect you with career opportunities and help promote your accomplishments, are vital to success in the legal profession," she said.

Look for the next scheduled Brown Bag Luncheon on the college's alumni website, as well in communications from Alumni Affairs.

**BSC vs. Barons**—After welcoming some 2,500 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and baseball fans through the gates at Regions Field on April 7, the BSC baseball team took on Birmingham's double-A Barons. The Panthers recorded three hits in the game before losing to the Barons 8-0. At the time of this magazine's printing, the baseball team is ranked sixth in the nation and is looking to defend its Southern Athletic Association title in late April.

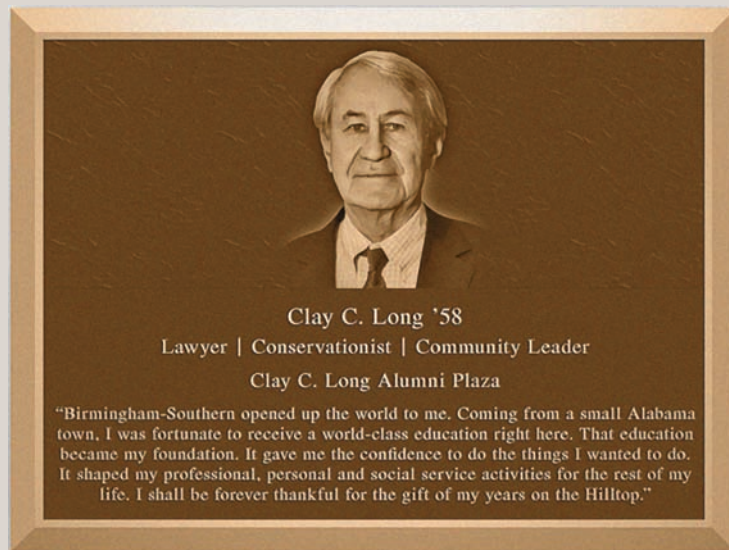


## Alumni Plaza: a new campus landmark dedicated

As part of the inaugural Spring Alumni Weekend, the Alumni Plaza just outside the Norton Campus Center was dedicated to Clay C. Long '58, a long-time supporter of Birmingham-Southern.

Long, a founding partner and former co-chair of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP in Atlanta, currently serves on the BSC Board of Trustees. He was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by the college in 1999.

"Mr. Long has a deep and abiding love for the college, rooted in his belief that BSC truly changed the direction of his life for the better," said Charles Vinson II, vice president of institutional advancement. "He has certainly demonstrated his affection through generous gifts, but he's also generously given his work and wisdom. We wanted to honor his generosity by dedicating the Alumni Plaza in his name."



### Show your colors

Did you know that buying a Birmingham-Southern College license plate helps fund scholarships to deserving students? Collegiate car tags also spread awareness of the college every time you hit the road. So display your car tag with Panther pride, and consider purchasing one next time you renew if you haven't already!

## Parents play a key role in supporting BSC

More than two decades ago, a group of BSC parents stepped up to form the Parents Fund, an annual drive for unrestricted gifts from the families of current students.

Today, the fund is stronger than ever. This year's campaign has set a goal of \$200,000 and 100 percent participation—and it's more than halfway to that goal. The funds raised will support scholarships that allow the next generation of students to choose Birmingham-Southern; they also help with faculty salaries, the Academic Resource Center, health services, library acquisitions, and more.

"It is vital for a college like BSC to provide valuable, decision-changing scholarships for prospective students," said Chad Wachter '87, who, along with his wife, Sonya Thomas Wachter '86, is co-chair of the 2015 Parents Fund (their daughter, Mary Stewart Wachter, is a sophomore). "As current parents and alums ourselves, we know just how life-changing this place continues to be."

Fund organizers are looking for gifts, but they're also looking for leaders to help reach out to other parents via peer-to-peer fundraising, social media, and regional networking events. If you'd like to give or help, contact Bobby Watson at (205) 226-4908 or email [bjwatson@bsc.edu](mailto:bjwatson@bsc.edu).





## Senior Giving Campaign: A lesson in the power of philanthropy

Along with making a transition from college to the real world, BSC's newest alumni get a lesson every spring in how to give back to their alma mater via the Senior Giving Campaign.

This year, a committee of seven students organizing the campaign (Sumner Pilcher of Leesburg, Ga.; Kelly Foster of Athens, Ga.; Kendall Watson of Coker, Ala.; Sara Katherine Bracewell of Chelsea; Sam Vermilyea of Newnan, Ga.; Cate Cullen of Vestavia Hills; and Avery Dumont of Marietta, Ga.) have decided to kick it off with a week-long celebration of giving.

Philanthropy Week will include a day of educating students about how donations make a difference in the classroom, a giving day in the atrium of the Norton Campus Center, and more. The goal is to make sure every senior donates before graduation, with an overall target of \$15,000 for the entire 232-person class. Parents and others are invited to contribute in honor of the seniors as well—including Gen. Charles C. Krulak, who will be “graduating” with the class he started with on the Hilltop. To make a gift to the senior campaign, visit [www.bsc.edu/egiving](http://www.bsc.edu/egiving) or e-mail [annualgiving@bsc.edu](mailto:annualgiving@bsc.edu).



*The Hon. Margaret Ryan, member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, speaks with pre-law students in Hulsey Hall during her visit to campus this spring.*

## Cornerstone Luncheon connects students and donors

The second annual Cornerstone Luncheon was held on campus March 10, celebrating the generous alumni and friends who provide life-changing support through scholarships, professorships, and programming funds. Donors and students ate lunch together, shared the story of how funds were established, and learned more about the impact the gifts have made at Birmingham-Southern.



*Hallie Jordan, a senior psychology major, Harrison Honors Scholar, and recipient of the Blount-Monaghan/Vulcan Materials Honors Scholarship, with Judith Hayes Hand '91, director of BSC's former Adult Studies Program.*



*Martha B. Hastings, parent of Judy Hastings Pittman '87 and long-time BSC Fine Arts Society supporter, with first-year students Ryan Key, a musical theatre and history double major, and Megan Pecot, a theatre arts major.*



## Federal military judge delivers second Acker Lecture

The Hon. Margaret Ryan, judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, spoke on campus March 4. She also fielded questions from a class on Congress and the American Presidency; had breakfast with a group of female leaders from student government, Greek life, and other campus organizations; and talked with pre-law students at a reception.

Ryan's visit was made possible by the William M. Acker Jr. Visiting Scholar Program in the History of the Early American Republic. Launched in 2011, the program—created by a generous gift from the Hon. William M. Acker Jr. '49—brings distinguished speakers to campus.

"(Judge Ryan) is a down-to-earth but brilliant jurist who has had a fascinating career path," said Acker. "She proved to this judge that the top tier of our military justice system is in good hands. I am happy to have had a part in bringing her to the campus."

Acker graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a political science degree from Birmingham-Southern and received his law degree at Yale University. After 30 years in private practice, he was appointed U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama by President Ronald Reagan. He now serves in a senior status.

Before becoming a judge, Acker was involved in Republican Party politics and served on the Alabama Republican Executive Committee; he has also been president of the Legal Aid Society, the Birmingham Jaycees, and the Birmingham Area YMCA. His endowed gift ensures that students are exposed to a broad perspective on legal and other issues on campus.

*"Once you are ready to thrive in your professional life, think about how you can strive for the ultimate goal of significance."*

— Judge Ryan



Frank Mason, chairman of the Mason Corp., with Russell Day, junior chemistry major and 2012-13 Rushton Scholar. Mason's scholarship supports future entrepreneurs.



L to r: Dr. Vijay Caplash, BSC Professor of Marketing Dr. Jack Taylor, and Dr. Monica Caplash Lucas '06. The Sundeep Andy Caplash Scholarship will be awarded at BSC for the first time this year in honor of Andy Caplash '94, who was killed in a car accident in 2011.

*Game changer***BSC alum is shining star among state's high school basketball coaches**

BY PAT COLE

*Courtesy of Village Living*

Bucky McMillan III '08 is becoming something of a coaching legend in Alabama and is making a huge impact on basketball in his community.

Now seven years into his stint as head varsity boys' basketball coach at Mountain Brook High School, the 31-year-old has led the school to program gold. For the third year in a row, McMillan coached his team to the state championship game. He has been awarded the Birmingham Tip Off Club or Alabama High School Athletic Association Men's Hoops Coach of the Year for each of the past four seasons.

Over the last five years, the basketball program has won more games than any 6A team in Birmingham.

The Mountain Brook Spartans have won 19 consecutive playoff games over the last three years in the state basketball tournament, and they earned two state titles in 2013 and 2014.

"We were probably not the most talented team Mountain Brook has ever had," McMillan said. "But I rank this year's team among the best we've ever had in terms of their sheer will to win."

The Spartans returned to the televised Final Four in February with the hopes of capturing a state title three-peat. Despite the team losing the championship 43-50 to the Hoover High Buccaneers, McMillan is hugely proud of his players.

"We had a great, great season and it was an amazing final game," said

McMillan. "Our goal was never to win a championship. Our goal was to play the hardest, to play fearlessly, and to play unselfishly."

Before 2001, Mountain Brook had never made it to the final four of the state basketball championship. But McMillan changed that as the star point guard for the 2001 team. After graduating from high school, he came to Birmingham-Southern on a basketball scholarship and played under coach Duane Reboul.

McMillan was an outstanding point guard and two-year starter on BSC's NCAA Division I team from 2003-06. They were co-champions of the Big South Conference in 2004; he was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court in 2006. When the Panthers dropped from D-I to D-III, McMillan sat out a semester and then returned to complete his degree in educational services.

"I learned so much under Coach Reboul about basketball, life, and the value of character," said McMillan, whose father is also an accomplished basketball coach and whose wife is fellow BSC basketball student Britni Ballard McMillan '07. "Reboul, along with many coaches and professors at Birmingham-Southern, really cares about the well-being of students inside and outside of the classroom and court."

McMillan coached for the Over-the-Mountain Basketball League during his senior year at BSC and became the junior varsity coach for the Spartans after graduation, compiling a 36-6 record in his first two seasons. When students ask him about BSC, which he said they often do, he views it as a chance to brag on his alma mater and to share his personal experiences as a student-athlete on the Hilltop.

Would he ever consider coaching at the college level one day?

"It would have to be something unbelievably special to leave the special place that I'm in," McMillan said.



## Student-athletes in service

As focused as Birmingham-Southern athletes are on the field, court, and track, they often take time out to serve the larger community in meaningful and impactful ways.

Many teams have their own service projects, including: facilitating swimming meets for the Special Olympics, mentoring high school students for the Blueprints College Access Initiative, tutoring and facilitating activities at Bush Hills Academy, working with mentally-disabled adults at the Exceptional Foundation, taking part in the Read Across America program, volunteering at Mutt Strutt/Hand in Paw with animal-assisted therapy teams, and many others.

Here are some other ways they make a difference:



**Homebuilding**—Members of the men's basketball team are shown helping build a home with Habitat for Humanity in Calera, Ala., where they installed siding and windows. Pictured (from left) are Conner McKinley, Owen Ferguson, Jordan Pietri (standing), and James McLean.



**Ring the red kettle bell**—This holiday season, dozens of student athletes took shifts as bell ringers for the Salvation Army at Brookwood Mall in Homewood. Here, Panther track and field players (from left) David Campbell, Assistant Coach Ryan Petrocchi, Rebecca Horne, Earen Robinson, and Allie Crump take their turn. The track and field and cross country teams are volunteering this semester at the Horizons School in Birmingham, a training program for young adults with learning difficulties.

## Motivational reading

—Basketball student-athletes just wrapped up their annual reading program, "Turn the page with Coach Graves," in which more than 700 elementary students read books in exchange for tickets to Panther basketball games; the athletes also traveled to 15 schools to read with students. Shown (from left) are Ben Hardiman, Ian Thom, Mason Holle, and Alex Perkins doing a skills demonstration at Tarrant Intermediate School. The student-athletes will continue to visit local schools through the end of the spring semester to promote literacy.



## Grand salute to basketball history

—The Birmingham-Southern men's basketball team that captured the 1990 NAIA National Championship and all of the Panther basketball letter winners were honored during halftime games against Centre College on Feb. 13. These alumni players, who helped put BSC in the national spotlight, were recognized before huge applause from the crowd in Bill Battle Coliseum for their contributions to the programs they represented.



1990 squad

Front row (l to r): Eddie Bowman '90, Matt DeFore '90, Jeff Woody '93, Brent Carter '90, Fred Martinear '91, Coach Duane Reboul, Eric Mann '91, Brad Proctor '93, and Chris Smith '92. Back row (l to r): Bill Condon '93 and Scott Web '90. Not pictured: Robert Hanna '91, Stacy Butler '90, Tyrone Mobley '92, Jack Skipper '92, Coach Paul Brown, Coach Ralph Watson, and Guy Hargrove III '91.



Lettermen

L to r: John London '86, Isiah Doaty '11, Dr. Buddy Stanford '63, Jason Holland '14, James Cason III '95, Bernard Lockhart '83 (MPPM '08), Carl Crosby '83, Billy Coupland '70, Mike Heckman '79, Jay Higgenbotham '81 (MPPM '92), Dr. Harold Wehby '71, Ralph Patton '79, and Clarence Ware '51.



Letterwomen

Elizabeth Bromirski Reece '14 and Reba Ross Hudson '08 (holding her daughter, Devyn).





*Gen. Charles C. Krulak jumped into the pool after the men's swimming and diving team won this year's SAA Championship.*

**Champions!**—The swimming and diving teams celebrate winning the 2015 Southern Athletic Association Championship in February. The men won the meet with a record 975 points, almost 200 points ahead of second-place Centre College. Between the men's and women's teams, the Panthers won 17 individual conference titles. The women placed second overall in the championship, just 6.5 points behind champion Rhodes College. Only two years after they launched, BSC's swimming and diving teams are making their mark on the sport. "It's one of the strongest teams on our campus, and academically they really stand out," BSC Athletics Director Joe Dean Jr. said. "[Head Coach] Toby Wilcox has done a phenomenal job."



*Head Swimming and Diving Coach Toby Wilcox (far left); on far right are Assistant Swimming and Diving Coach Jenna Petrocchi and Assistant Diving Coach John Sirmon.*



# BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN PANTHERS

## Name droppers

Congratulations to all the student athletes and coaches who've received conference or regional recognition in 2015! They include:

- The BSC 800-yard free relay team—including juniors **William Cushman** and **Drew Priede** and freshman **Wilson Barton IV**—earned All-American honors in March at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championship in Shenandoah, Texas, notching eighth-place finishes.
- Also for swimming and diving, **Priede** of Mobile is the SAA Male Swimmer of the Year, sophomore **Ryan Gaines** of Dunwoody, Ga., is the SAA Male Diver of the Year, and **Toby Wilcox** of Pinson, is the SAA Men's Coach of the Year.
- Senior right-handed pitcher **David Bourbonnais** of Atlanta was named to the D3baseball.com Honorable Mention Preseason All-America Team.
- Senior softball pitcher **Bethany Fronk** became BSC's all-time win leader with her 55th career victory in a 10-2 win against Roanoke College on Feb. 28.
- Senior catcher **Jacob Mayfield** of Gadsden was named to the D3baseball.com Second-Team Preseason All-America Team.
- Senior right-handed pitcher **Blake Stevens** of Atlanta was selected for the D3baseball.com Team of the Week and was named to the D3baseball.com Second-Team Preseason All-America Team.
- Senior basketball guard **Larry Thomas** of Fairburn, Ga., was chosen to play in the 2015 NCAA Division III Reese's All-Star Game on March 21 in Salem, Va. He also won Third-Team All-America honors from the National Association of Basketball Coaches for the second straight year after repeating as the SAA Men's Basketball Player of the Year. Thomas also became BSC's all-time leading scorer this past season with 1,666 career points.
- Junior basketball guard **John Crain** of Hoover was selected for the Capital One Academic All-District Team by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

## SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES ARE ONLINE

Visit [www.bscsports.net](http://www.bscsports.net) and click the links for men's tennis, women's tennis, men's track and field, women's track and field, softball, men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, baseball, men's golf, and women's golf or navigate to those sports' pages.

Check frequently for stats, rosters, live streams, and more as the spring sports season continues.

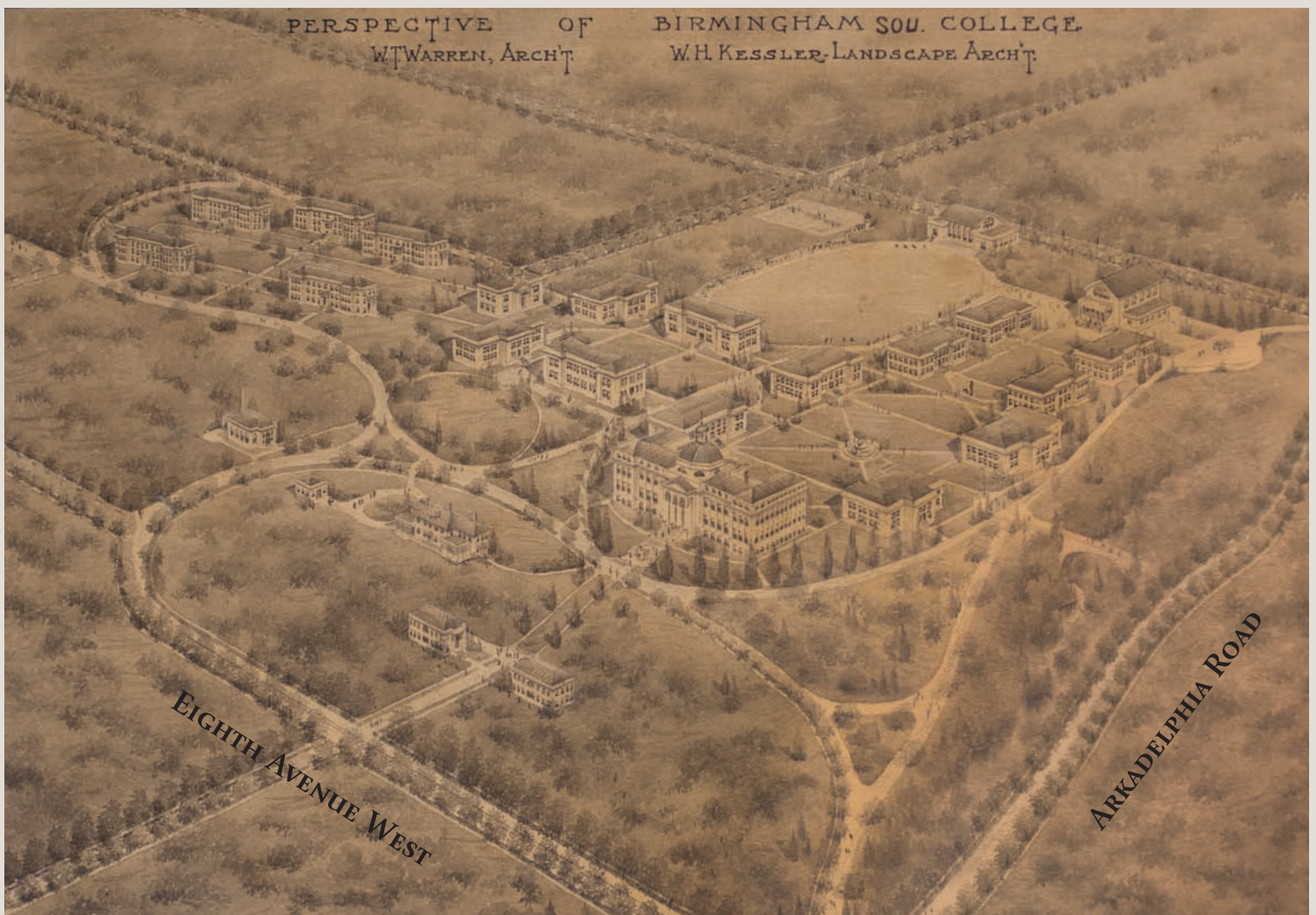
The teams will play the remainder of their slates through mid-May.



# ClassNotes BY PAT COLE

## The BSC campus — as it almost was

In 1914, architects W.T. Warren and W.H. Kessler created a remarkably far-sighted master plan for the campus of Birmingham College. And when four years later that school merged with Southern University to form Birmingham-Southern College, the subsequent building campaign incorporated most of their ideas: a main quad headed by an imposing administrative building (Munger), flanked by the library and other academic buildings, the dorm quad on the western hill, the athletic building and stadium (Munger Bowl, now demolished), and the President's Home (although the proposed site was eventually flipped). Warren and Kessler failed in one regard, however; although Ford's Model T was in full production by 1914, their master plan made no provision for parking spaces!





'42

Retired educator **Ruth Bentley Wilvert** reports she is living in Tallapoosa, Ga. and turned 94 in April. She has three grandchildren and one great-grandson.

'55

**Rev. Dr. Thomas Ogletree**, who has made national headlines for his efforts on behalf of civil rights and LGBTQ justice and equality, was named a Vanderbilt Divinity School and Graduate Department of Religion Distinguished Alumni Award recipient in October. A resident of Guilford, Conn., Ogletree is the Frederick Marquand Professor Emeritus of Theological



Ethics at Yale. He earned a master of divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and a doctorate in theological

studies from Vanderbilt. From 1963-65, Ogletree served as chaplain and assistant professor at BSC.

'65

**Britt Leach**, who has been writing for the past 20 years, recently had an essay published in *River Teeth*, a literary journal out of Ashland University. Prior to his writing career, he was an actor in Hollywood, probably best remembered as the man who was hit in the head by lightning 66 times in the 1988 comedy *The Great Outdoors*. Other film credits include *Baby Boom*, *Father of the Bride*, and *Weird Science*. He continues to reside in Los Angeles with his wife, Catherine Roberts Leach, a fine art photographer.

'70

**Carol Cook Hagood** is employed at Samford University, where she has served as administrative

coordinator for its Research Experience for Undergraduates Program. She also volunteers in many aspects of the educational program at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, where she was named BBG Volunteer Educator of the Year in 2013.

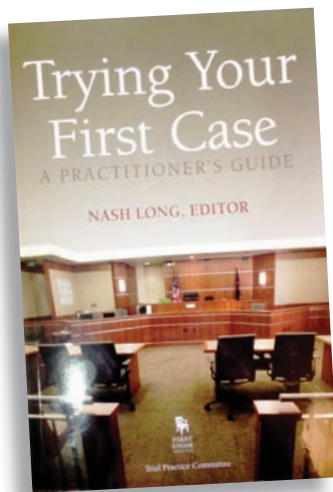
'72

**Wayne Morse Jr.**, attorney and partner at the Birmingham law firm of Waldrep, Stewart & Kendrick



LLC, authored a chapter for the American Bar Association's newly published *Trial Practice*

*Notebook, Trying Your First Case: A Practitioner's Guide*. Morse, a trial and appellate lawyer, wrote on the opening statement and was the only Alabama-based attorney who contributed.



'74

Birmingham native and internationally renowned pianist and composer **Michael Dulin's** newest CD, *My Beloved*, was released in January by Equity Digital Music. The intensely personal and romantic 12-song CD is dedicated to his wife, Jan.



**Choral connection**—Each year, Southern Union State Community College (SUSCC) in Wadley, Ala., hosts their musical tradition, the Southern Union Christmas Show. **Jimmy New '59** founded SUSCC's choral program in the 1960s and served as its first director of music. His niece, **Ann Boyd Caldwell '69**, next stepped into the role of director in 1974, continuing to make the show a staple of the Christmas season in Randolph County for nearly four decades. **William "Trey" Rayfield '05** became SUSCC's director of music in August, conducting his first Christmas show in 2014. The three grads, who all studied music at BSC, are pictured on the opening night of the show, which ran Dec. 2-5.

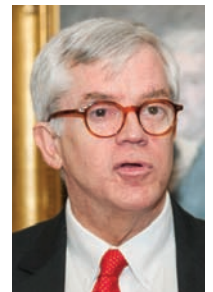
'76

**Terry Cooper**, who served with the Mountain Brook School System for 39 years—the past 23 as athletic director—retired in October. During Cooper's tenure, the Spartans won 85 state championships and logged 30 runner-up finishes. He was an assistant basketball coach at BSC from 1987-89 and was inducted into the BSC Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

'80

**Donald Heflin** has received his first ambassadorial post to Cabo Verde, also known as the Cape

Verde Islands. He earned his law degree from the University of Alabama and worked as a lawyer in Huntsville and Mobile until 1987, when he passed the Foreign



Service exam and joined the State Department. In 2012, following service as vice consul in Lima, Peru, and Madras, India, Heflin joined the Consular Affairs Visa Office in D.C., where he served until his nomination to the Cabo Verde post.



**Timeless monument**—A bronze sculpture, “A Celebration of Reading,” created by Birmingham artist **Branko Medenica '72**, was unveiled last April by the Monroeville/Monroe County (Ala.) Chamber of Commerce on its courthouse square in front of a crowd of about 250. The project was the brainchild of Alabama Tourism Director Lee Sentell, who said he has personally witnessed the large number of people who travel to Monroeville, seeking the state’s literary capital. The Monroeville committee selected Medenica after a rigorous selection process. “The challenge with the project was to capture that special quality of timelessness that’s so prevalent when studying *To Kill a Mockingbird* and other literary works, which transcend language and cultural barriers,” said Medenica, whose sculpture was six years in the making. Pictured (standing, l to r) are **Edith Mason Howington '72** of Cartersville, Ga., **J. Milton Coxwell Jr. '71** of Monroeville, **Hon. Samuel Welch Jr. '72** of Montgomery, **John Barnett III '74** of Monroeville, **Stephen Clarkson '71** of Birmingham, **Stan Hamilton '72** of Birmingham, Medenica, and **Rebecca Lewis Barnett '75** of Monroeville; (seated, l to r) are **Charlotte Warner Clarkson '70** of Birmingham and **Debbie Wood Medenica '75**, Branko’s wife.

**David Wilson** is the new Gainesville, Fla., market president for Heritage Bank of the South, a bank chain that recently merged with Ocala-based Alarion Bank.

**'82** Forensic pathologist **Dr. James Wilkerson IV**



of Windsor, Colo., who has conducted hundreds of death scene investigations and thousands of autopsies, assumed

new duties as coroner for Larimer County in January. He received his medical degree from the University of Alabama while on a U.S. Army scholarship, culminating with a prestigious Forensic Pathology Fellowship at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in D.C. His professional memberships include the National Association of Medical Examiners.

**'86** **Col. Jefferson Dunn** was recently appointed Alabama Department of Corrections Commissioner by Gov. Robert Bentley. Dunn formerly served as commander of the

Thomas N. Barnes Center for Enlisted Education at Maxwell Air Force Base; he retired in March.



**'87** **Shannon Wayne Key** is now a senior account manager at Illumina Inc. in San Diego. Illumina develops and manufactures instruments and reagents for genetic analysis and is ranked No. 1 by the MIT Technology Review on its 2014 list of the “smartest” businesses in the world.

**Burton McDonald** was recently tapped as BB&T’s new regional



president for Alabama. He will oversee all banking activities for BB&T’s 94 branches throughout the state and the panhandle. McDonald, who has more than 27 years of banking experience, has been with BB&T since 2007. Prior to joining BB&T, he held various management positions at several other Birmingham financial institutions, including executive vice president of Regions Morgan Keegan Private Banking.

**Robert Ingram Jr.** of Tuscaloosa was recently named one of the top 10 public accounting professionals by the National Academy of Public Accounting Professionals.

**'88** NAI Chase Commercial of Birmingham has named **Donny Grundhoefer** as its new COO. He’s worked for nearly three decades in commercial real estate. He was formerly at Daniel Corp. for 19 years, where he worked on a variety of large portfolios that

included office, multifamily, retail, and mixed-use projects.

A book by **Dr. Daniel Potts, M.D.**, and his wife, **Ellen Woodward Potts**, *A Pocket Guide for the Alzheimer’s Caregiver*, was named to Alzlive.com’s list of Best Alzheimer’s Books of 2014. The Potts, who reside in Tuscaloosa, continue to write a monthly blog about Alzheimer’s disease for MariaShriver.com. Their daughter, Julia, is a first-year student at BSC.

**'89** **Rev. Dr. Leigh Meekins** received a Ph.D. in education from Capella University in June and joined the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville as editor for older elementary in October.

**'91** **Paul Wright Jr.**, development director at the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED), gave a presentation



at the Achieving Energy Savings Workshop and Luncheon this past fall in Middlesboro, Ky. Wright, who earned an MBA from Eastern College, directs MACED’s enterprise support and capital programs and serves on the management team. He resides in Berea, Ky., with his wife and four children and enjoys hiking, mountain biking, and family.

**'92** **Grover Robinson IV** of Pensacola, Fla., was re-elected to the Escambia County Commission seat in November. Robinson, a Republican, beat out his Democratic challenger to hold his District 4 seat for a third term with 71 percent of the vote.

**'93** Mississippi State Associate Head Baseball Coach **Butch Thompson**



was inducted into the Itawamba Community College Athletic Hall of Fame in October. The Amory, Miss., native began his collegiate career at ICC before transferring to BSC and leading the Panthers to back-to-back Southern States Conference Championships. The announcement of his induction came on the same day that Baseball America and the American Baseball Coaches Association named him the 2014 National Assistant Coach of the Year. Thompson is in his seventh season of coaching at MSU.

'95

**Richard Grimes** of Birmingham has been named RealtySouth's new CEO. Grimes joined First Real Estate in 1998, which later merged with RealtySouth. He served previously as regional vice president over RealtySouth's new home sales division and director of land management projects and builder relationship programs; he was promoted to senior vice president in 2009.

**David Roysse** of Nicholasville, Ky., is listed among his state's "Litigation Stars" in the 2015 edition of the publication Benchmark Litigation. Roysse specializes in general commercial, real estate, banking, lender liability, and personal injury litigation at the law firm of Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC in Lexington.

'96

**J.W. "Trey" Echols III** was appointed president and CEO of Highland Associates Inc., a Birmingham-based institutional investment advisor with more than \$20 billion under management. Echols formerly served in a senior leadership role with Deloitte's Mergers & Acquisitions Advisory practice, based in finance, in

Charlotte, N.C. Prior to Deloitte, he spent 12 years at Merrill Lynch in a variety of roles, including leading its private banking, consumer banking, and commercial banking groups in Atlanta and Chicago. His last role at Merrill Lynch was as managing director of the Structured Lending group in Chicago.

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

**Frank Lang** been named business development manager of national rental accounts at Atlas Copco Construction

Equipment based in Denver, Colo. Lang, who works out of his home office in Snead, Ala., has more than 30 years of experience in the construction rental industry.

**Rosalind Flanigan Operton** was the keynote speaker at the Meridian, Miss., Martin Luther King Jr. parade and celebration on Jan. 19. An educator for more than 20 years, Operton is the principal of Parkview Elementary in Meridian. She has

also taught elementary and middle school in the Hoover City Schools (Ala.) district. Operton, who is currently working on a Ph.D. in education from Mississippi State, holds memberships in several professional, social, and service organizations and has been married for 27 years to Rev. Dr. Zachary Operton, pastor of Prince of Peace Christian Fellowship Church.



## AlumNews '71

**Steve Briggs**, president and CEO of Petra Life Services Inc. in Birmingham, has stepped down after some 15 years as chair of BSC's Norton Board, handing over the reins after assisting with the board's recent reorganization and revitalization.

But the move doesn't mean Briggs is slowing down. He remains involved with the Norton Board, which now consists of 250 professionals committed to helping BSC and its students, and with the Panther Partnerships Mentoring Program. After a more than 40-year career as a business and life insurance consultant, he was recently elected to the board of United Security Bancshares Inc. and its subsidiary, First US Bank. He is serving on the audit committee of the company and the bank. He was also recently elected to the board of directors of the American United Mutual Insurance Holding Company in Indianapolis, where he serves as lead independent director.

Briggs says the mentorship he received from his professors while he was a student at Birmingham-Southern speaks to the value of a liberal arts education.

"Lifetime friendships were formed, a commitment to learning and serving was instilled, and an appreciation for critical and consequential thinking was promoted during my years on the Hilltop," said Briggs, who began his career with Protective Life Insurance Co. as a student actuary while pursuing his BSC degree in mathematics. He was also active with the Triangle Club, Kappa Alpha fraternity, and the SGA. "Perhaps the most amazing aspect of life at 'Southern was that they let me graduate—I certainly brought down the average GPA!"

Afterward, he attended Georgia State University, where he took graduate-level studies in actuarial science at Georgia State University; he continued to work for Protective and in 1986 took over as head of the individual life division at Protective Life, and later the annuity division, helping grow the company from its regional status to one of the industry's largest. In 2008, after retiring from Protective as executive vice president, he founded Petra Life, which uniquely provides fee-based insurance, financial, and investment consulting.

Briggs was honored by BSC as a Distinguished Alumnus for outstanding achievements and a commitment to service in 2001. He is also active with the Birmingham Rotary Club and over the years has been involved with the Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center, Junior Achievement of Alabama, United Way, and Leadership Birmingham. The Freedom Source, which he and his wife, Lynn, founded, develops community strategies to address issues around alcoholism and substance abuse.

Aside from his job, family (he and his wife have three children and four grandchildren), board involvement, and volunteerism, he enjoys writing. He recently published his first book, *Does God Always Answer Prayer?*, written during his son's battle with addiction; it is available at Amazon.com.



## AlumNews '96 MPPM

Using the tools of his liberal arts graduate education, **Herschell Hamilton** has established himself as a strategic business leader.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta recently appointed Hamilton to a three-year term on its Birmingham branch's board of directors, where his insight and business relationships will contribute to the Federal

Reserve System's understanding of the economic conditions in the Birmingham region, and to the understanding of the effects of these conditions on the economy as a whole.

Hamilton is also managing partner and principal of BLOC Global Group, a commercial real estate development and investment firm. For the past three and a half years, the firm partnered with Brasfield & Gorrie as construction managers for the terminal modernization project at the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport. Among its current projects, BLOC is working with the Birmingham Board of Education on its asset disposition program, helping the board to monetize the value of surplus real estate assets.

He believes the mayor and city council have guided Birmingham well out of the recession and that the Magic City is definitely bucking a nationwide slow-growth trend in the building and construction industry.

"Key developments like the Westin Hotel and Marketplace and Regions Field have spurred construction activity and jobs, helping to drive the city in a positive direction," Hamilton said. "There's also growth in skilled manufacturing jobs and in the life sciences fields that's helping to stabilize and support commercial real estate activity."

Prior to starting BLOC in 2003, he was vice president of New Market Ventures for Masada Resource Group LLC. His career also includes a two-year stint in the late 1990s as chief administrative assistant to then-Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington and another high-level public financial administration post with then-Alabama Gov. Jim Folsom.

A native of Birmingham's Woodland Park community, Hamilton went to Howard University and majored in zoology, intending to follow in the footsteps of his sisters, who studied as pre-meds at Howard as well, and his late father, Herschell L. Hamilton, M.D., a popular surgeon who treated injured civil rights workers in the 1960s. Prior to graduation, Hamilton's interest turned to business, which ultimately led him to BSC's MPPM Program, where he mastered the disciplines of strategic management and consulting.

"I had a desire to work in both the public and private sectors and saw value in the program," Hamilton said. "There was a host of esteemed professors—Natalie Davis, Byron Chew, and Cecilia McGinnis Bowers—guiding the program's direction, and I developed strong business and personal relationships with my classmates, many of whom are now senior managers and CEOs of organizations throughout the state and region."

In addition to his daily work managing complex real estate, building, and public/private partnership projects, Hamilton has served in leadership roles in a number of professional and community organizations, including Leadership Birmingham and BSC's Norton Board. He and his wife, Majella, along with a group of dedicated community members, recently founded the Ballard House Project, Inc., a nonprofit aimed at renovating the historic Ballard House located in the Birmingham Civil Rights Historic District to serve as a hub for knowledge and a celebration of the rich history of the city's African-American community.



'98  
Writer and artist **Murray Dunlap's** poem "Defiance" was recently accepted

by the Cahaba River Literary Journal. Dunlap, who resides in Mobile, is returning to live in Birmingham later this year. You can keep up with his work at [www.murraydunlap.com](http://www.murraydunlap.com).

### Dr. Christopher Wootten

is director of the Pediatric Otolaryngology Service at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where he supervises the treatment of ear, nose and throat-related

disorders in children. He first came to Vanderbilt as a resident in 2002 before rejoining the center in



2009 as an assistant professor and member of the Pediatric Otolaryngology clinic. Wootten graduated from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

### '00

**Stephanie Campbell Baker**, director of market development for KW Plastics Recycling Division in Troy, was named a Young Mover & Shaper by Business Alabama magazine in 2014. She is active



in her church and community, including assisting with the TroyFest community art festival.

### '02

**William "Will" Moore**, an attorney whose practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, has been elected partner at

Andrews Kurth LLP a Houston-based transactional and litigation firm with more than 400 lawyers in 10 offices worldwide. Moore graduated with honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 2005. He lives in Dallas with his wife, Mandy, a criminal defense attorney and entrepreneur, and his two sons: Fin, who is four, and Fisher, who is two.

### '03

Wesley Medical Center in Hattiesburg, Miss., has named **Barry Moss** as its new COO. Moss



had served as assistant CEO at Flowers Hospital in Dothan since 2011; he also worked for five years as vice president of professional services. In 2013, Moss was recognized as one of Dothan Magazine's Top 40 Under 40 and was named a Young Mover & Shaper by Business Alabama magazine in 2013. He received both his MBA and master's in health administration from UAB.

### '04

**Stephanie Houston Mays** has been promoted to shareholder at the Birmingham law firm of Maynard Cooper & Gale PC. Mays is a member of the firm's Labor & Employment practice, where she has significant experience defending public and private employers. She has been listed in the publication Alabama Super Lawyers since 2013 and was a selected participant in the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum for 2013-14. Mays is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at BSC's Honors Day Convocation in April.

Chesapeake Urology in Silver Spring, Md., recently welcomed urologic oncologist **Dr. Anup Vora** to the practice. His expertise includes the treatment of bladder, kidney, and prostate cancers. Vora





graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine magna cum laude. He has

published articles extensively on urologic cancer topics in multiple medical journals.

**‘05**  
**Lauren Kilgore Dixon** is a trial lawyer in Nashville with the law firm of Shackelford, Bowen, Zumwalt & Hayes. Dixon’s practice is focused on complex litigation for both plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal court, with a focus on entertainment, intellectual property, and business litigation. Prior to joining Shackelford Bowen, she practiced with Burr & Forman in Nashville. Dixon graduated from the Vanderbilt University Law School. Her husband, Matthew, is a vice detective with the Nashville Metro Police Department, and they have one daughter (see “Births”).

**Art Richey** has joined the Birmingham office of Sirote & Permutt PC as an associate working in the Business & Corporate Services, Health Care, and Real Estate practice groups. Richey graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in May and passed the Alabama State Bar exam in July.



**Whitney Williams** graduated from Georgetown University in May with a master’s degree in English. Upon graduation from Georgetown, she worked in the university’s Institute for College Preparation. She returned to Alabama in January to serve as director of youth programs at Project Horseshoe Farms in Greensboro.

**Dr. Bethney Reynoldson Wilson** received her Ph.D. in communication from the University of Kentucky and is now assistant professor of communication at California State University, Stanislaus.



**‘08**  
**David Posey** and his wife, **Claire Davis Posey ‘10** (see “Weddings”), now reside in Boston, where David works as a web developer for a social network tech company and Claire manages programming and fundraising for Haley House, an innovative community development nonprofit.

**‘09**  
**Faith Renneker Masterson** has joined the Church at Agape Outpost of Breckenridge, Colo., as worship arts minister. Her husband, **Alex Masterson ‘11**, graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in May. Upon being admitted to the Colorado Bar, he joined the law firm Weeks & Luchetta LLP of Colorado Springs as an associate.

**‘11**  
After completing law school at Tulane University last fall, **Spence Dabbs** is living in Nashville and working in the wealth management industry for the private bank, Truxton Trust.

**Zach Guyse** graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in May. After passing the Alabama State Bar last summer, he joined the Huntsville law firm of Wolfe, Jones, Wolfe, Hancock, Daniel & South LLC as an associate.



**Gathering of faith leaders**—**Rev. Ryan DeLaune ‘07** of Gainesville, Fla., **Rev. Steve Reneau ‘08** of Phenix City, Ala., and **Rev. Kaleigh Hussey-Tomich Corbett ‘09** of West Orange, N.J., participated in the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society’s Young Clergy Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. in January. The forum provided an opportunity for them to network, study, and worship with other young clergy from across the United Methodist connection, while receiving information about the GBCS’ advocacy work on key legislative issues on Capitol Hill. The three, who are from the Florida Conference, Alabama-West Florida Conference, and Greater New Jersey Conference, respectively, were all nominated and selected to attend. Shown (l to r) are Reneau, DeLaune, and Corbett at the Capitol, where the dome is undergoing restoration.

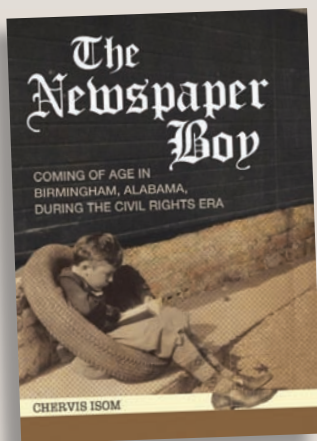
**J.D. Hulse** is an assistant baseball coach for the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs. Hulse spent the last two seasons as an assistant coach at BSC.

**Katie Sack Lloyd** graduated from the Candler School of Theology in May and was commissioned as a probationary elder in the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church. She now serves as a chaplain resident at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

**Merritt Milam** opened her new pet care facility, Wags ‘n Whiskers, in January in Homewood.

# Book Bin

*A sampling of recently released titles from alumni*



*The Newspaper Boy:  
Coming of Age in Birmingham  
During the Civil Rights Era*

**Chervis Isom '62**

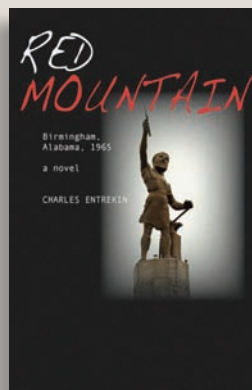
A Birmingham attorney, Isom presented his new memoir at the booksALIVE festival in Panama City, Fla., in February. The book is a candid account of a young man's coming of age during the Jim Crow era and his emergence from that culture over a period of time due to the intercession of the Millers, his favorite customers

on his newspaper route. Read more about his new book at [www.thenewspaperboy.net](http://www.thenewspaperboy.net).

*Red Mountain:  
Birmingham, Alabama, 1965*

**Charles Entrek Jr. '64**

Entrek's newest novel, a love story about his years at BSC during the civil rights movement, is receiving excellent reviews. His most recent book of poems is *Listening: New & Selected Work*, published in 2013. He lives in Orinda, Calif., with his wife, poet Gail Rudd Entrek.



*Save My Place*

**Olivia deBelle Byrd '71**

Byrd, an author known for her humorous southern anecdotes, is enjoying traveling the country promoting her successful second book. According to Byrd, who resides in Panama City, Fla., the book is an "old-fashioned love story that took place during my coming-of-age era; the first part of the book is about Birmingham-Southern." It is available in the BSC Bookstore. Keep up with her work at [www.oliviadebellebyrd.com](http://www.oliviadebellebyrd.com).

*Eyes Over the Delta*

**Major Hank Collins '86 MPPM**

Collins, a former senior vice president of SouthTrust Bank (now Regions Bank), held his first book signing last fall at Alabama Booksmith in Birmingham.

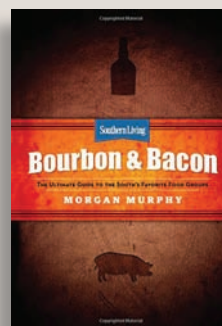
In his memoir, he recounts some of his experiences as a fourth platoon leader with the men of the 221st Reconnaissance Airplane Company from November 1965 to November 1966 in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. Collins was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with V Devise and 12th Oak Leaf Cluster, and a Bronze Star, as well as three Cross of Gallantry medals by the Republic of South Vietnam. Retired from banking, he lives with his wife, Irene, near Columbiana, Ala., where they enjoy spending time with their five children and nine grandchildren.



*Islam, Immigration, and Identity*

**Dr. Todd Green '94**

Green, an assistant professor of religion at Luther College in Decorah, Ia., has edited a book of academic essays with contributions from Europe, Canada, and the U.S.; it was published in December.

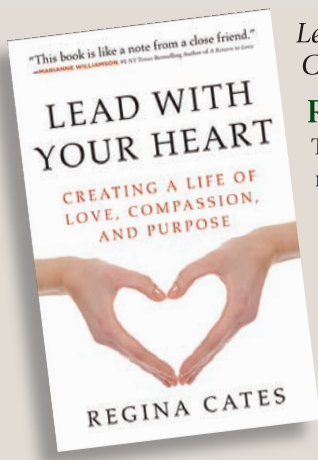


*Bourbon & Bacon*

**Morgan Murphy '94**

An author, food critic, and decorated naval officer, Murphy released his second book in September; it immediately became a must-read for lovers of the two smoky flavors in the title. He released his third book in his bestselling "Off the Eaten Path" series, *On the Road Again*, on QVC on March 29. "America's funniest food critic" and former editor of *The Hilltop News*, who resides in Birmingham, has appeared regularly on Travel Channel, Fox & Friends, the Today Show, and many others.





*Lead with Your Heart:  
Creating a Life of Love, Compassion, and Purpose*

### Regina Cates '95 MPPM

Throughout her new book, Cates shares her amazing (and often heart-wrenching) stories of how she moved away from a volatile, victimized frame of mind to a place of making conscious actions and decisions from a centered, heart-driven state. An author and personal empowerment coach, she inspires people to live lives of limitless possibility through her Los Angeles-based company, Romancing Your Soul. Keep up with her work at [www.romancingyoursoul.com](http://www.romancingyoursoul.com).

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

## A BSC book collaboration from three decades

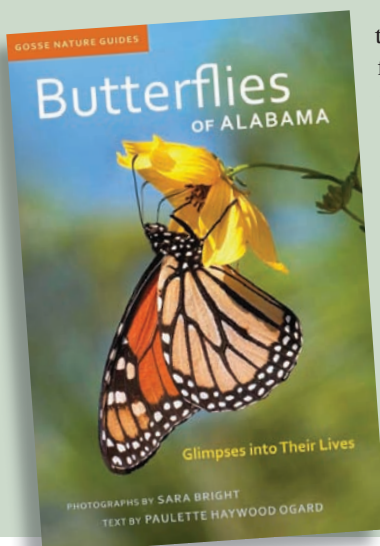
The book, *Butterflies of Alabama: Glimpses into Their Lives*, co-authored by Sara Cunningham Bright '81 (right) and Paulette Logan Haywood Ogard '76 (left), was donated along with a teacher's guide developed by Audrey Ann Prude Wilson '68 (center) to each of the 1,090 public elementary schools in Alabama in September.

The book, published by the University of Alabama Press in 2010, chronicles the life histories of 84 species of Alabama butterflies and the plants on which they depend.

The authors partnered with several organizations to bring the project to fruition, including the Alabama Department of Education and Wild South; dozens of individuals also helped fund the project. Their goal was to advance the cause of conservation through education to the more than 700,000 children who attend Alabama's public schools each year.

Wilson, a teacher for 26 years, created the teacher's guide based on state and national courses of study. She is currently the education coordinator at Aldridge Gardens in Hoover. She is also a recipient of the Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award given by the Garden Club of America for environmental education of youth.

Bright, a photographer, and Ogard, a writer, who both reside in Birmingham, teamed up for almost 15 years to document the life histories of Alabama's butterflies. They continue to work together on butterfly-related projects.



## AlumNews '04



**Lacey Daughdrill Smith's** work in the system of justice and the legal profession is gaining notice.

She was honored as one of Mobile Bay Magazine's 40 Under Forty in its January 2015 issue. A panel of business and community leaders chooses the honorees each year based on career success, involvement in professional organizations and trade groups, and community service.

Smith, whose legal career includes a specialty in complex aviation litigation, was recently named a partner at Armbrrecht Jackson LLP in Mobile. To properly represent clients, she has to keep up with expert witnesses on topics like the metallurgical properties of aircraft-quality steel. For the past three years, Smith has been named a "Rising Star" in aviation litigation in the publication *Alabama Super Lawyers*.

She credits one of her best friends and pledge sisters during her undergraduate years, **Rebecca Beers '04**, for turning her on to the field of law.

"Rebecca inspired me to follow in her footsteps and pursue the legal field," said Smith, who received her law degree from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law.

In addition to studying history at BSC, she played on the volleyball team as a first-year student and participated in the Leadership Studies Program, service learning, and Greek life. She acknowledges the faculty at Birmingham-Southern for helping her to succeed.

"I think the most important influence my BSC professors had on my career was emphasizing the importance of writing and helping me hone that skill," Smith said. "I feel confident that crafting historical arguments to the satisfaction of Dr. [Mark] Lester has helped me in my legal career because he was as sharp and tough (in a good way) as any judge."

Smith is involved in a number of legal professional organizations, including the Alabama, Mississippi, and Mobile bar associations; the executive committee of the Mobile Young Lawyers; and the Mobile Volunteer Lawyers Program. She also donates her time each month to the Ronald McDonald House and other community nonprofits; last year, she raised more than \$27,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Alabama/Gulf Coast chapter.

She said her main goal going forward is to lead a well-rounded life. She and her husband, Glenn, have a one-year-old son, Morris.

"I want to successfully balance my career and family without ever taking the latter for granted," she said.

'12

**Julia Guyton** is pursuing a master's in fisheries and wildlife services at the University of Missouri. She is funded by the state conservation agency to develop a standardized fish and

amphibian sampling protocol for wetlands statewide and to document wetland species assemblages.

The World Student Christian Federation–North America and the

Student Christian Movement–USA (SCM-USA) recently hired **Sarah McCune** as SCM-USA national coordinator. McCune is primarily responsible for planning the national SCM-USA Leadership Training Program that was held in April. She is also exploring her creative side: her mixed media piece "Prayer in a Time of Distress" won first place for visual art in the National Religion Campaign Against Torture, and she is currently working on a new series on Biblical stories using candle wax.

In addition to joining Montgomery's Southern Poverty Law Center as digital media associate in September, **Kindred Motes** was officially conferred a master's in international relations with honors last fall from the University of Essex in the UK.

**Courtney Tallant** is one of the newest faculty members at the Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga, Tenn.

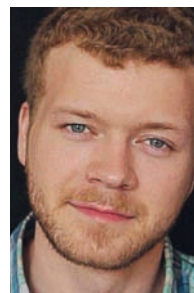
'13

**Ryan DeMarco** earned a master's in international relations from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland in the UK in May. He is now an admission counselor at BSC, along with **Jordan Crenshaw '12**, **Anna Bodenhamer '13**, **Coty Lovelady '13**, and **Brittany Arias Sturdivant '13**.

**William Justice**

completed his first year of graduate school at the New York Film Academy in New York City and is enrolled for his second year at the academy's Los Angeles branch, where he is pursuing an MFA in acting and film.

**Mandy Shunnarah** of Birmingham is working for Marie Forleo, a motivational speaker and internationally known author of the best-selling self-help book *Make*



*Every Man Want You: How to Be So Irresistible You'll Barely Keep from Dating Yourself!* Forleo's online TV show, MarieTV, and her business certificate program, B-School, are geared toward helping women entrepreneurs create better businesses and relationships.

'14

**Andrew Conner**, who graduated with a double degree in mathematics and English, is enrolled in the Ph.D. program in mathematics at the University of Nebraska.

Every year, the AmeriCorps program engages Americans aged 18-24 in intensive service to their communities. Several new BSC alumnae are serving as AmeriCorps members in Birmingham, including **Kiwi Lanier**, **Hope Lloyd**, **Claire McIlwraith**, **Nneka Walker**, and **Amanda Williams**. For many AmeriCorps members, finishing a term of service is the beginning of a life dedicated to public service. For example, **Kelsie Overton '13** was placed with Leading Edge Institute through the YWCA's AmeriCorps program in 2012. She is currently assisting with program development for the Alabama Association of Nonprofits and other local organizations. Her long-term goal is to attend law school and create systemic change through public policy.

**Robert Potts** is a business development analyst at New Capital Partners (NCP) in Birmingham. He joined the team full time in June after working as an intern analyst since 2013. During his time at NCP, Potts has been involved in researching prospect companies in NCP's Southeast and Texas markets. In addition, he's involved with the creation of new, streamlined research strategies and manages relationships with intermediaries throughout the U.S.



**Allison Russell** is in San Antonio working with the Teach for America program. She is teaching sixth-grade math at Irving Middle School through May 2016.

**Susan Tuberville**, who completed her student teaching internship at BSC last fall, was recognized as Alabama's Preservice Art Educator of the Year in December by the Alabama Art Education Association. She is now working for Hand in Hand Early Learning, a program of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham.

**Caroline Wilder** is a clinical research assistant in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Unit at Georgia Regents University in Augusta.

## Friends



**Dr. Kathleen Murray**, former BSC provost, will become the next president and first woman to lead

Washington's Whitman College in June. Murray has been provost and dean of the faculty at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., since 2008. A renowned pianist, she served as a professor of music at Lawrence University for many years before entering academic administration.

**Philip Shirley**, GodwinGroup CEO and former director of public information for BSC, was among several business and communications leaders from four states inducted into the Southern PR Hall of Fame in Starkville, Miss. He joined the GodwinGroup in 1989 as vice president of public relations and was promoted to board chair and majority shareholder in 2010. Shirley has written or co-authored five

books, as well as *Opportunity in Adversity: How Colleges Can Succeed in Hard Times*, in which he co-wrote a chapter with then-BSC President Dr. Neal Berte that was a case study on the college's turnaround. His most recent book, *The White Lie*, is a crime thriller that was published last year.

Pianist **Margery Whatley**, who teaches at the BSC Conservatory, was named a Steinway Artist in October. Whatley received the prestigious distinction due to her artistic and professional achievements, which have taken her from her native Macon, Ga., to performances in Rome, Italy, to the U.S. Supreme Court, and to concert solos with orchestras in Chicago, Atlanta, and Huntsville. She also brings a wealth of experience on the academic front, having taught at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and the University of Montana, after studying at the University of Cincinnati and University of Southern California. Whatley has recorded three CDs of music ranging from Bach to Gershwin.

## Weddings

**Lauren Mallory '05** to Chip Dews, Nov. 8, 2014.

**David Posey '08** to **Claire Davis '10**, Nov. 23, 2014.

**Megan McGowan '09** to Robert Bell, Feb. 15, 2014.

**Edwin Robinson '10** to **Melissa Fetterer '12**, June 21, 2014.

**Katie Sack '11** to Trent Lloyd, May 25, 2014.

**Robert Sturdivant '12** to **Brittany Arias '13**, June 14, 2014.

**Andrew Armour '13** to **Erin Wainwright '13**, June 14, 2014.

**Evan Grovenstein '14** to Jessica Carter, Aug. 2, 2014.

## Births/Adoptions

A son, Benjamin Paul, Nov. 4, 2014, to **Elizabeth Perry Comeaux '98** and husband, Chris.

A daughter, Amelia Camille, Nov. 29, 2014, to **Mary Stowe Mareno Rigrish '98** and husband, John (big sisters, Mary Fran and Elizabeth).

A son, James Dylan, April 25, 2014, to **Amy Hajari Case '01** and husband, Chad.

A son, Malachy Brendan, Aug. 23, 2014, to **Brian DeLoach '04** and wife, **Bevin O'Neill '06**.

A daughter, Juliette Elizabeth, Sept. 8, 2014, to **Elizabeth Mitchell Jones '04** and husband, Paul (big sister, Savannah Grace).

A daughter, Caroline Dianne, June 30, 2014, to **Meagan Garland Kidd '04** and husband, Craig.

A daughter, Josephine Grace, Feb. 1, 2015, to **Lauren Kilgore Dixon '05** and husband, Matthew.

## In Memoriam

**Dorris Lassiter Greene '37** of Birmingham, on Oct. 31, 2014. Greene enrolled at BSC at age 15; after graduating, she married and raised her two children. In the 1950s, after earning her real estate broker's license, she and her husband founded Ernest Greene and Company. In the 1970s, while keeping her real estate business viable, Greene began to travel to England two to three times a year to purchase and import antique Oriental rugs for resale in Birmingham. She is survived by a daughter, **Susan Greene Pitts '65** of Birmingham, and five grandchildren.

**Pauline "Nelee" Lyle Campbell '38** of Birmingham, on March 29, 2014. Campbell taught school for many years, ending her career as a girls' advisor at Ensley High School. In 1973, she was selected as an Outstanding Secondary Educator of America. She earned her bachelor's and M.Ed. degrees from BSC and an advanced professional diploma from the University of Alabama. Campbell enjoyed playing bridge, travel, reading, knitting, community work, and

being with her family. She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church. Survivors include her daughter, **Paula Campbell Girouard '63** of Bellingham, Wash., and her brother, **J. Paul Lyle Jr. '45** of Verona, Pa.

**Martha Thompson Lollar Yates '38** of Birmingham, on Jan. 8, 2015. Widowed in 1956, Yates became president of the family photofinishing and photo supply business, Lollar's Cameras. She received awards from the Master Photo Dealers and Finishers' Association and the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce for photo delivery packaging designs that featured Birmingham landmarks. In 1963, Yates re-married, and she and her husband traveled throughout the U.S. and abroad. She is survived by a son and daughter and two stepsons, 12 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

**Errante "Ronny" Corina '39** of Birmingham, on Dec. 29, 2014. He served as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II in France and Germany. Corina earned his J.D. from the University of Alabama School of Law before being recalled to military duty during the Korean War. He reached the rank of colonel by the time he was discharged. He then had a distinguished law career of more than 40 years, including serving as the chief clerk and register of Jefferson County Probate Court. Corina was a gifted musician and played violin for local churches and community orchestras. Among his survivors are three children, one grandchild, and three great-grandchildren.

**Jane Enslen Brown '41** of Birmingham, on Nov. 15, 2014. Her many interests of family, church, travel, crossword puzzles, reading, and singing hymns kept her active throughout her life. She was a member of South Highland Presbyterian Church and participated in church activities for more than 50 years. Brown's husband managed Sears stores, so they lived in many different places. She is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and several great- and great-great-grandchildren.

**Barbara Callaway Morgan '41** of Homewood, on Nov. 22, 2014. Morgan sang with choirs at Trinity United Methodist Church in Homewood for about five decades. During college, she was an active member of choir and theatre productions and took part in stagings at the Lyric Theatre and the Alabama Theatre, often playing lead soprano. Morgan remained active in her community, cooking and serving meals at the Firehouse Shelter and visiting nursing homes with other members of Trinity's senior choir. She also loved traveling and spending time with family. Survivors include two children; seven grandchildren, including **Leslie Miller Klasing '89**, **David E. Miller '95**, and **Melissa Boren Vinson '98 (Greg Vinson '95)**, all of Birmingham; and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Eugenia Wall Dean '43** of Birmingham, on Sept. 27, 2014. A Pi Beta Phi graduate of BSC, Dean received a master's degree from Duke University in American history and more advanced degrees from Auburn University. An educator, she taught history for many years at schools in Alexander City, later becoming a school librarian. Following her husband's death, she moved back to Birmingham. Dean was a lifelong member of the Methodist

church. She is survived by her daughters, **Kathryn Dean Leeman '69** and **Laura Dean Ramsay '72 (Erskine Ramsay II '69)**, both of Birmingham; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Betty Davis Freudenburg '45** of Colorado Springs, Colo., on Jan. 2, 2015. Her husband's career in banking landed the family in West Point, Neb., where the couple raised three children. She was active in scouting and as a Red Cross volunteer at the area's hospital. They retired to Colorado

in 1974. There, her passion for history surfaced as she first volunteered for a local historic property and then wrote a book about it titled *Facing the Frontier: The Story of the MacGregor Ranch*. Freudenburg also was an active hiker for many years and loved gardening and flowers. She is survived by a son and daughter, five grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

**Rev. Charles Owen Butler '50** of Rochester, Minn., on Oct. 29, 2014. Following his studies at

BSC, Butler graduated from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University and completed additional postgraduate work at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and at New Mexico State University. He served as a missionary in Panama, and later as a pastor of United Methodist churches in Alabama and Iowa. In recent years, he was active in prison ministry. Butler served in the U.S. Army near the end of WWII, stationed at Fort Benning, Ga. Among his survivors are three children and two granddaughters.

## In Memoriam '48



**Oliver Walter "Joe Bob" Russ Jr.**, who had a rewarding career as a computer systems analyst, died Nov. 7, 2014, in Oak Ridge, Tenn., at the age of 91.

Born in Fort Smith, Ark., Russ later moved to Springfield, Mo., where he attended Drury University for two years before being drafted to serve in World War II. He performed U.S. Army military duties in Fort Nix, N.Y.; France; Belgium; and Germany before completing his education in physics at Birmingham-Southern.

After graduating, he moved to Oak Ridge, where he took a job as an instrument mechanic and then as a computer analyst at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. At ORNL, he met his wife, Dorothy

Roark, whom he married in 1950. They enjoyed their life together and took special pleasure in their home and garden.

The Russes were generous supporters of BSC, including a significant estate gift to the college.

"Oliver really valued his BSC education and was pleased to make higher education the focus of his vast estate," said Dr. Mary Palmer, his next-door neighbor for many years. "He was a great person to be around—polite, kind, and a delightful sense of humor. When dealing with people, he never liked to say 'no.' Instead, he would tell you 'maybe.'"

Survivors include nieces and a nephew.



## In Memoriam '50



**William Legg**, athletic hall of famer and former executive director of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, passed away on Feb. 13, 2015, in Birmingham, at the age of 86.

"Coach Legg," as he was affectionately known, played a major role in the planning and oversight of the construction and eventual move of the Hall of Fame's headquarters to its present location and its later expansion. He guided the museum, which is considered one of the best sports halls of fame in the country, and its programs over a period of outstanding growth and development before retiring in 2009.

Legg studied business on the Hilltop and was a baseball and basketball standout. After a storied athletic career at BSC, he earned a

master's degree from Peabody College (now Vanderbilt University) and joined the U.S. Navy in 1952; he served for four years. Legg retired from the Naval Reserve program in 1983 with the rank of captain. Prior to assuming his role at the hall of fame, he was a geometry teacher and coach at Shades Valley High and was athletic director for the Jefferson County Schools for 20 years.

He was inducted into the BSC Sports Hall of Fame in 1985 and was honored by the board of directors of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame as its 2001 Distinguished Alabama Sportsman.

On April 4, 2009, the Alabama Legislature certified a resolution commending him for professional achievement, most notably for his distinguished record as executive director. That same year, then-Gov. Bob Riley proclaimed May 30 "Bill Legg Day" for his service to Alabama.

Legg was a member of First United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, seven children, 17 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the William Legg Award at the Office of Institutional Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35254. The scholarship is presented annually to a senior student-athlete who plans to attend graduate school.

**Jack Russell Cunningham Sr. '50** of Mobile, on Jan. 5, 2015. Cunningham began his career at U.S. Steel in Fairfield, Ala., and moved to Liberty National Insurance in Birmingham. He then was employed by General Motors and was the youngest person in its history to be promoted to manager. He ultimately retired after 35 years of serving as vice president of Grady Buick Automotive. He was an avid outdoorsman and an active member of Spring Hill Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife, four children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**William Claud Ingram '50** of Pelham, on Oct. 17, 2013. Ingram retired from Southern Natural Gas after 34 years of service. He served his country during WWII and the Korean War as a Navy medic and was a survivor of the Battle of Okinawa. Ingram was a member of Lakeside Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife; two children, including **Claudia Ingram Harris '80** of Adamsville, Ala.; a brother, **Cecil Ingram '47** of Atlanta; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Benny Carle '51** of Florence, on Oct. 2, 2014. Carle was a broadcasting pioneer and television entertainer, best known as the host of TV shows in Birmingham, Decatur, and Huntsville from the late 1940s to the late 1970s. He began his career on radio after his service in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. He became owner and manager of TV23 in Decatur in 1965, changed the channel to 48, and moved the station to Huntsville. He sold that operation and moved to Florence in 1977 to begin WBCF-AM/FM/TV;

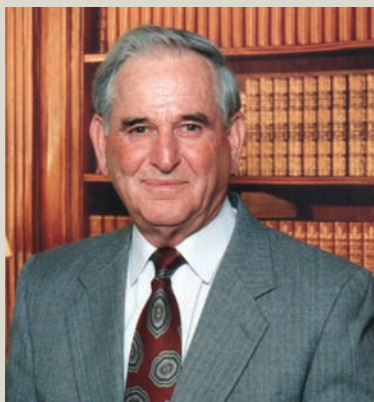
his son, Benji, operates the family stations today. Carle's acting credits include *The Rifleman*. He is survived by his wife and three sons.

**Katherine Pritchett Clark '52** of Albany, Ga., on Dec. 29, 2014. A keyboardist and organist, Clark's interests were primarily music and teaching. After graduating from BSC, she studied privately at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, the San Francisco Conservatory, and the Summer Music Conference at Interlochen, Michigan; she earned a master's degree from the University of Alabama. Clark enjoyed performing as an accompanist for oratorios, operas, weddings, and recitals. She was honored with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Dougherty County Youth Orchestra. She was a member of Porterfield United Methodist Church. Survivors include her husband, **Dr. Eugene C. Clark '51**, four children, and four grandchildren.

**Mildred "Millie" E. Davis '52** of Birmingham, on Sept. 15, 2014. Davis retired from the U.S. Department of Justice after serving 25 years in the U.S. Marshals Office and 15 years in the U.S. Attorney's Office. She was an active volunteer at Highlands United Methodist Church, a staunch supporter of civil rights for all, and an advocate of rescued dogs. She is survived by a cousin and many friends.

**Charles W. Copeland Jr. '54** of Tuscaloosa, on Aug. 16, 2014. Following BSC and three years in the U.S. Army, Copeland received a master's degree in geology from the University of North Carolina. He worked at the Geological Survey of Alabama for 34 years, retiring in 1995. In 1989, as project director, he and a group of others compiled the Geologic Map of Alabama, which is still used today.

## In Memoriam '51



**Earnest "Earnie" Ray Stanford**, World War II veteran and athletic hall of famer, passed away on Nov. 23, 2014, in Fairhope. He was 87.

Stanford was inducted into the BSC Sports Hall of Fame in 1991 for outstanding performance in baseball and basketball.

Born in Summerland, Miss., and raised in Birmingham, he graduated from Ensley High School, served in the U.S. Army, and later graduated from Birmingham-Southern with a degree in physical education. He returned to Ensley High to teach and coach basketball and football and began a career in management

for Stockham Valves and Fittings, which then led to a position in operations at Rockingham Stainless Steel in Rockingham, N.C.

Upon returning to Birmingham, Stanford committed much of his free time to his church, Mountain Chapel United Methodist Church in Hoover, where he taught Sunday school for more than 32 years. When he retired to Fairhope, he joined Fairhope United Methodist Church.

Among survivors are his wife, **Kathryn "Kitty" Holder Stanford '51**; three children, including **Karen Stanford Haywood '79**; eight grandchildren, including **Nathan Haywood '13**; and one great-granddaughter. Memorial donations may be made to the BSC Athletic Foundation, Box 549041, Birmingham, Alabama 35254.

He was active in professional associations and in the community, serving as a charter member of the Alabama Geological Society and as a volunteer at DCH and DCH Cancer Center for 19 years. He was a longtime member of First United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa. Survivors include his wife, **Doris Shelton Copeland '56**, and two sons.

**Dr. Richard L. McBride '57** of Montgomery, on Nov. 19, 2014. Following graduation from BSC, McBride served as a teacher and coach at Ensley High and Bessemer High for nine years. He earned his Ed.D. in school administration from the University of Alabama in 1970. He then became superintendent of the Pleasant Grove and Tarrant City school systems for three years each, while also serving

a term in the Alabama House of Representatives. In 1978, McBride moved to Montgomery to become director of legislative services for the State Department of Education. He then served as executive secretary of the Alabama Retired Teachers' Association, while teaching graduate education courses at UAB and Troy, until his retirement in 2002. McBride served two terms on the Montgomery City Council from 1987-95 and remained involved in the community and church. He is survived by his wife, two children, and five grandchildren.

**Lyndel E. Lyons '58** of Decatur, on Aug. 23, 2014. Lyons studied piano at Birmingham-Southern and earned a master's in music from the University of Louisville. Over her career, she taught at the BSC Conservatory of Music and was

an organist at several Birmingham churches before retiring as a music instructor at Jefferson State Community College. Lyons was a member of the Decatur Music Club and First Baptist Church of Decatur. She is survived by a daughter and granddaughter.

**Sylvia Brown Patrick '58** of Birmingham, on Dec. 16, 2014. After college, Patrick worked as assistant director of youth services at a YWCA. Throughout her life, she performed and taught performing arts across Birmingham. Patrick also spent countless hours devoted to civic and charitable causes, including the Birmingham Music Club, Birmingham Symphony Association, and served on the board of Spain Rehabilitation. Survivors include her husband, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

**Delores Hodgens Howard '59** of Birmingham, on Oct. 24, 2014. Howard was crowned Miss Alabama in 1961 after a stunning piano performance. After she finished as a Miss America semifinalist, she married **Sam Howard '59** (died Jan. 23, 2015). They each earned master's degrees from the Juilliard School and then went to London to study under Ilona Kabos, an influential piano teacher. Afterward, they toured the great concert halls of Europe and North America. A Rockefeller Foundation grant helped them launch a 30-year career as an international two-piano classical performance act called Hodgens and Howard. While touring to perform, the Howards were also artists-in-residence for 24 years at BSC, and then 20 more years at UAB, before retiring from touring and teaching in 2002. They are survived by a daughter.

**Mary Jim Lyons Shockley '59** of Brentwood, Tenn., on Sept. 8, 2014. Shockley taught in the public schools of DeKalb County (Ga.) for three years while her husband, **Dr. Donald Shockley '59**, attended seminary at Emory University. He then served eight years as BSC chaplain, during which time, she developed deep and lifelong friendships with members of the college faculty and their families. While living in California in the 1970s, Shockley developed exercise programs in nursing homes as a volunteer; due to her work with seniors over the last 20 years, Brentwood United Methodist Church recently named her a "Hero of the Spirit." She enjoyed playing bridge and watercolor painting. Survivors include her husband, three children, and six grandchildren.

**Dr. Judy Clem Klaas '60** of Huntsville, on Dec. 1, 2014. Klaas was among the first Peace Corps volunteers to go abroad in 1961, working for two years in a malaria eradication program in northern Thailand. Her Peace Corps work sparked an interest that led to jobs



at Emory University Hospital and Huntsville Hospital. She earned a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of North Carolina. She taught at Framingham State College in Massachusetts and later became a dean and vice president. Klaas is survived by her husband; brother, **Robert E. Clem '67** of Stone Ridge, N.Y.; and nieces and nephews, including **Paul Clem III '01** of Birmingham and **Dr. Jennifer Clem '01** of Northport, Ala. Memorial donations may be made to the Paul and Nell Echols Clem Travel Fund at BSC, which helps students study abroad during E-Term, to the Office of Institutional Advancement, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254.

**Arthur Lovett Jr. '60** of Auburn, originally of Birmingham, on Oct. 3, 2013. Lovett helped manage his family's business, Lovett's Flowers, in Birmingham for nearly 40 years. After retiring, he and his wife moved to Auburn. He is survived by his wife, **Annette Davis Lovett '63**; three children; eight grandchildren; and several cousins, including **Mary Jane Mills Maulsby '62**.

**Margaret Reno Self '60** of Empire, on May 9, 2014. A longtime schoolteacher, Self retired from the Jefferson County Board of Education in 1988. She held a master's degree from Samford University and a Class AA certification from UAB. Self was a member of Sandusky First Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir. Survivors include her husband, four children, 10 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

**Hon. James C. Brotherton '63** of Jasper, on June 13, 2014. After graduating from BSC, Brotherton served in the Peace Corps in South America, where he coached the Colombian National Swim Team. He graduated from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in 1970 and served as

a law clerk in Madison County. Brotherton was elected to the 14th Judicial Circuit, Walker County, and held the position of presiding circuit court judge for more than 25 years, retiring as the second-longest sitting judge in the state's history. He also served in leadership capacities in numerous civic and community-based organizations. In 1975, the **Hon. Howell Heflin '42**, then-chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, asked him to co-author the Juvenile Code for Alabama. Brotherton established the first short-term juvenile detention center in Alabama, the Alternative to Prison Program, and other assistance programs. Among

survivors are a sister and two nephews.

**Gordon "Chips" Bailey Jr. '66** of Atlanta, on Nov. 5, 2014. Bailey, an accomplished attorney, graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1969, after which he served as a captain in the U.S. Army JAG Corps in Washington, D.C. He then returned to Alabama to practice law in Anniston, where he and his wife, **Anne Paulk Bailey '66**, raised their children and lived for 34 years before moving to Atlanta in 2007. Bailey was recognized at the local, state, and national levels for his work in family law; he received the President's Child Support

Community Service Award in 1999 and the Walter P. Gewin Award in 2008 for his ongoing commitment to legal education. In 2002, the Alabama Child Support Association established the annual Gordon Bailey Jr. Attorney of the Year Award to honor him for 26 years of service. He loved to play the guitar and sing, and he enjoyed sports. Survivors include his wife, three children, and nine grandchildren.

**Janet Mitchell Spahn '66** of Tusculumbia, on Oct. 4, 2014. After graduating from BSC, Spahn worked in accounting for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama; she also did accounting work in Germany. She loved nurturing

## In Memoriam '85



**Dr. Tara Nabors Sudderth**, who taught accounting from 1990-95 and from 1998 to 2010 at Birmingham-Southern, died Oct. 18, 2014, in Birmingham. She was 68.

During her tenure, Sudderth held the Donald Brabston Chair of Accounting, was chair of the Accounting Department, and was later dean of the Master of Arts in Public and Private Management program. She was known for her devotion to her students and her excellence in teaching tax.

Sudderth graduated magna cum laude from BSC and earned her master's degree from UAB and her Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi—all in accounting. She was a certified public accountant and a certified management accountant as well as a nationally published author in the field of accounting. She retired as a full professor at BSC and was then named professor emeritus.

Dr. George Klersey, BSC associate professor of accounting, who worked with Sudderth for more than a decade, said Birmingham-Southern was fortunate to have had her on the faculty.

"The love she had for her job was reflected in her excellent teaching and leadership at BSC," Klersey said. "The fact that most of her students excelled on the tax portion of the CPA exam speaks to her skill in the classroom. Tara was also well regarded by all of her colleagues and peers, and was a caring and kind person who led the Accounting Department thoughtfully and fairly."

Survivors include her husband, a daughter, three step-children, and two grandsons.

## In *Memoriam* Friend



**Glenn Ireland II**, a former longtime Birmingham-Southern trustee, an executive at Vulcan Materials Co., and a philanthropist in Birmingham, passed away on Feb. 7, 2015. He was 88.

Ireland served in various capacities at Vulcan, the construction aggregates company his family founded. He worked in a number of executive roles and was also on the board of directors.

He was also a leading advocate for mental health. He founded Glenwood Mental Health Services and also was appointed commissioner of mental health for the state of Alabama in 1979.

After earning a bachelor's in business from the University of Virginia, Ireland received advanced degrees from the

University of Virginia Graduate School of Business Administration, the University of Illinois' College of Commerce and Business Administration, and the Harvard University Business School.

He was awarded a Doctor of Humanities from Birmingham-Southern in 1982 and a Doctor of Laws from UAB in 1989.

"Glenn always said that every association he ever had with BSC and Neal Berte [now president emeritus] was a joy and a delight; he felt privilege to be involved there," his wife, Mallie, said. "He was an active trustee and was committed to helping students receive a quality education."

He was also involved in many civic organizations, including the Alabama Department of Youth Services, the Crippled Children's Foundation, the Alabama Division of the National Council on Alcoholism, the President's Committee of the Alabama Chamber of Commerce, the Mental Health Association of Jefferson County, and Children's of Alabama. His civic and academic awards included the Alabama Jaycees Lurleen B. Wallace Award for outstanding service to the field of mental health; the Baylor School Alumni Distinguished Service Award; and the Huxley Institute Achievement Award. He was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in 1982 and the Alabama Business Hall of Fame in 1999.

Ireland and his family were also active in the philanthropic community. As generous donors, they supported many scholarships at BSC, especially the Mallie and Glenn Ireland II Scholarship, established in 1995. Memorial donations may be made to the scholarship at the Office of Institutional Advancement at BSC, Box 549003, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35254.

Survivors include his wife; three daughters; 10 grandchildren, including **Glenn Ireland Drennen '02** and **Katharine Drennen '04**, both of Birmingham; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Allen earned a J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law and was admitted to the Mississippi Bar. He interrupted his legal studies in 1969 to enlist in the U.S. Army, where he achieved the rank of first lieutenant, served in Korea, and received the Army Commendation Medal. He is survived by his wife; three daughters, including **Melissa Allen Foster '94** and **Jennifer Allen Kuhn '97**, both of Knoxville; and six grandchildren.

**Linda Carter Gill '68** of Montgomery, on Sept. 13, 2014. Gill was a longtime organist and assistant director of music at Montgomery's First United Methodist Church. She had been a prominent figure among church musicians for well over four decades, serving nine churches as organist. Gill received master's degrees in choral conducting and organ performance from the University of Alabama. Long active in the American Guild of Organists, she also had worked as director of the Montgomery Chorale and of the Montgomery Master Singers. Survivors include her husband, a son and daughter, and six grandchildren.

**Thomas Leon Precise '68** of Birmingham, on Oct. 29, 2014. Beginning in 1969, Precise served his entire career as a minister at Canterbury United Methodist Church in various capacities, ranging from youth director to ministerial supervisor. He received a master's degree in Christian education from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. He is survived by his wife; sons, **Scott Precise '96** and **John Precise '99**, both of Birmingham; a brother, **Rev. Clyde "Bud" Precise '59** of Birmingham; two sisters; and four grandchildren.

the animals on her family's farm and had a knack for telling stories. Survivors include her husband and a sister.

**Sam Harrison Allen III '67** of Knoxville, Tenn., on Jan. 2, 2015. Allen served as a special agent of the FBI for 28 years, following in his father's footsteps. After a brief assignment in El Paso, Texas,

he served in the Washington, D.C., field office from 1974-86, and then joined the Knoxville FBI office, where he worked until his retirement in 2002. He excelled in legal and firearms instruction of law enforcement professionals.



**Elizabeth “Libba” Mullane Ard '74** of Birmingham, on May 13, 2014. Ard was an avid reader and was always surrounded by stacks of books. She enjoyed gardening, cooking for a crowd, attending concerts (especially performances by her husband, a trombonist), and spending time with family and friends. She also loved traveling to other countries to sample the local cuisine, listen to music, and visit historic castles and museums. Among her survivors are four children and three grandchildren.

**James Michael “Mike” Caraway '75** of Trussville, on Nov. 20, 2014. Caraway taught and coached football and baseball at Huffman High School in Birmingham before becoming a financial advisor. He worked at AXA/Equitable for more than 33 years. Caraway had a passion for baseball and loved working in his yard. He is survived by his wife and three children.

**Sharon Stone-Bentley '81** of Stockbridge, Ga., originally from Birmingham, on Dec. 18, 2014. Stone-Bentley had a passion and gift for crafting and gardening, which she delivered through her business, ME, Myself, and I. A rising star in the United Way, she left her work to devote her energy to raising her three children. She later joined her husband, **Robin Bentley '79**, to build a successful business. Survivors include her husband and three children.

**Barclay Browne '88** of Eugene, Ore., on Jan. 7, 2015. After graduating from BSC, Browne received her Ph.D. in microbiology at UAB. She then relocated to Eugene, where she pursued post-doctorate studies at the University of Oregon. Browne pursued a diversity of interests in scientific research, teaching, art, humanitarianism, and the environment, and was generously

involved in community service. She had recently received international acclaim for developing the World Leader Twitter and Web Directory. Survivors include her parents, stepmother, and grandparents.

**Laura Stansell Whitney '91** of Birmingham, passed away on Dec. 17, 2014. Whitney was a music performance graduate of BSC and sang for years in the choir of a local Presbyterian church. She was also a singer and songwriter who

performed in groups and at venues around Birmingham. Survivors include her daughter.

**David Lee Walker '06** of Knoxville, Tenn., formerly of Birmingham, on Oct. 2, 2014. After graduating from BSC, Walker received a master's degree in engineering from Auburn University. He worked for the Bechtel Corporation and traveled around the country as a site engineer. Among survivors are his wife, **Katherine Jenkins Walker '07**, and a sister.

## Got good news?

We want to hear it! BSC takes great pride in the achievements and success of our alumni. Whether it's career changes and promotions, family additions, business and community recognitions, interesting travels, awards, reunions with classmates, marriages—or anything in between—submit a Class Note through the college's online alumni community at [www.alumni.bsc.edu](http://www.alumni.bsc.edu).



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# A sentimental journey

BY SUMNER PILCHER, SENIOR BUSINESS MAJOR FROM LEESBURG, GA.



As a soon-to-be graduate of Birmingham-Southern College, I've reached a point where every aspect of my day-to-day life has become sentimental.

Not a day goes by where I don't see a familiar face or hear a kind voice that reminds me of the precious time I've had here. Even the smell of the ginkgo trees in the spring reminds me of the countless hours I spent in Stephens Science Center my first year when I thought I wanted to study biology. While every aspect of my life seems to evoke an emotional effect, the strongest trigger is seeing Gen. Charles Krulak's smiling face. If you asked me, I would swear that it was only yesterday that I met him for the first time on my college tour.

It was that college tour that made me fall in love with this amazing community. As a high school senior, I had my heart set on a giant state

school where I would have no doubt become another obnoxious SEC football fan. But, like any good parent, my mother made me explore other options. I could not deny that the Hilltop was beautiful and everyone was as nice as they could be; however, that wasn't what led me to choose this remarkable institution. My tour guide knew every person we passed by name—classmates and professors alike.

Assuming that this was a brilliant plot arranged by the Admission Office, I began to study other students passing by and discovered the phenomenon was the same. They all knew each other and were all connected in some inexplicable way. As we finished our tour in the Admission Welcome Center, a petite man approached me and began to explain that he was an incoming first-year student as well. Out of curiosity and utter confusion, I asked him why he chose Birmingham-Southern above all other options. His response was, "There's just something about the people here." He was right.

Gen. Krulak has taken this unique characteristic of our college and made it something spectacular. His commitment to BSC shows the student body what it means to be a part of something bigger than your average undergraduate education. Birmingham-Southern is a *community* of exceptionally hardworking, dedicated, and honorable people. As a community, we understand that the only way to achieve our goals is by helping one another. From our sports teams to the arts, from SGA to Greek life and everything in between, the BSC sense of community is evident in everything that we do. You can also see this dedication to community in our everyday interactions. The General's constant evoking of the Marine Corps mantra, "No man (or woman) left behind," shows we recognize how important this community actually is.

I finally realized what it is that keeps this community so united and is most likely the characteristic the General

and I saw on our first tour of the school—honor. Being a military man, this idea of honor is not something he takes lightly. As an average student, it took me a while to understand what it means here at Birmingham-Southern.

In the real world, honor is treating yourself and others with respect. But on this campus, it is so much more than that. Honor is earning your degree and not having it handed to you; it's knowing that the person sitting beside you is keeping you accountable for your actions, just as you would do for your best friend. I know this because I have been lucky to be a part of the Student Government Association, and more importantly, to be a part of selecting peers to represent the student body on the Honor Council. Although the process took seven long hours, I am able to see how precious it is. It's more than just promising not to lie, steal, or cheat. Honor is having respect for yourself, your peers, and your professors, and holding yourself to a higher standard. Honor is what holds BSC together and it is what the General and I hold so dear to our hearts.

As a graduating senior who will soon be walking across the stage with our commander-in-chief, I am certain that I will be especially sentimental. Gen. Krulak has taken this small liberal arts college and showed its inhabitants how unique and significant our home away from home is. Although we are all sad to see him go, we are also eager to meet the next president, who will lead this institution to new heights.

Whether focusing on academics, financials, or philanthropy, I find comfort in the knowledge that the college will choose a new leader based on his or her commitment to community. For it is this dedication to community that puts Birmingham-Southern College above and beyond the rest; it is the General's understanding and enhancement of honor that makes him so special to all of us.





## BSC Snapshots

*An exhibition honoring the work of the late Cooper "Bud" Spivey, who taught in BSC's Art Department for more than two decades, ran at the college's Durbin Gallery during March. The display included this canvas and prints as they were arranged in Spivey's studio when he died in 2013.*



## Saying goodbye

Birmingham-Southern will bid farewell to its 13th president, Gen. Charles C. Krulak, when he retires this spring after four years on the Hilltop. Here, senior Nisha Kashyap (facing) and sophomore Brooke Akins Clayton get one of "the General's" signature bear hugs.

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