2005

entre nous

between us

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2005 entre nous between us

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The staff of Entre Nous seeks to provide documentation of a year in the life of the Samford Community. To us this means more than recounting events. We seek to capture the impressions the year left on students, faculty and administration by moving beyond the events themselves to the way they affected and shaped us.

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Matt Garner Melissa Morgan Jenni Berryhill Sarah Davis Will Flowers Maureen Simpson Meredith Yates

Lauren Welty Vince Johnson Kendra Buckles Lauren Gardner

From The Editor's Desk

I WANT THIS BOOK TO BE TRULY PERSONAL, TOUCHING AND REAL.

Let's drop the fake smiles and meaningless "how are you's" as we walk to class, and let's create 100 pages that justly and honestly depict our lives on this campus. Four years, perhaps even more, of our lives have been dedicated to these faculty members, our fellow students, organizations, late nights studying...or not studying, and we can't forget the grass that is always the perfect shade of green. This place—Home away from home for four irreplaceable years. No matter why we came, we're all here. And Samford, for better or worse, has touched all of us.

US. BETWEEN US. STUDENT TO STUDENT.

From brainstorming story ideas to the final print — this is truly a student publication. This is our world and how we see it. This is the very essence of our Samford lives that only we, as students, could understand. This is our experience. This is our story.

THIS IS ENTRE NOUS 2004-2005.

My fellow staff members and I have tried to capture the Samford experience for you to look back on and remember life as it was and is. Many hours of hard work and creativity went into each story line, each photograph and each page of this book. I encourage you to enjoy this book now and put it away for years to come. It is my hope that you will find this Entre Nous as meaningful as I do.

As a soon-to-be graduating senior, I sincerely hope that each of you will make the most of your time here at college and in life beyond Samford's gates. I hope you have learned what you needed to learn, felt what you needed to feel, experienced all you could experience and enjoyed every single moment of your time here.

Life is Short. Enjoy it!

Stephanie Hoover


ECHO
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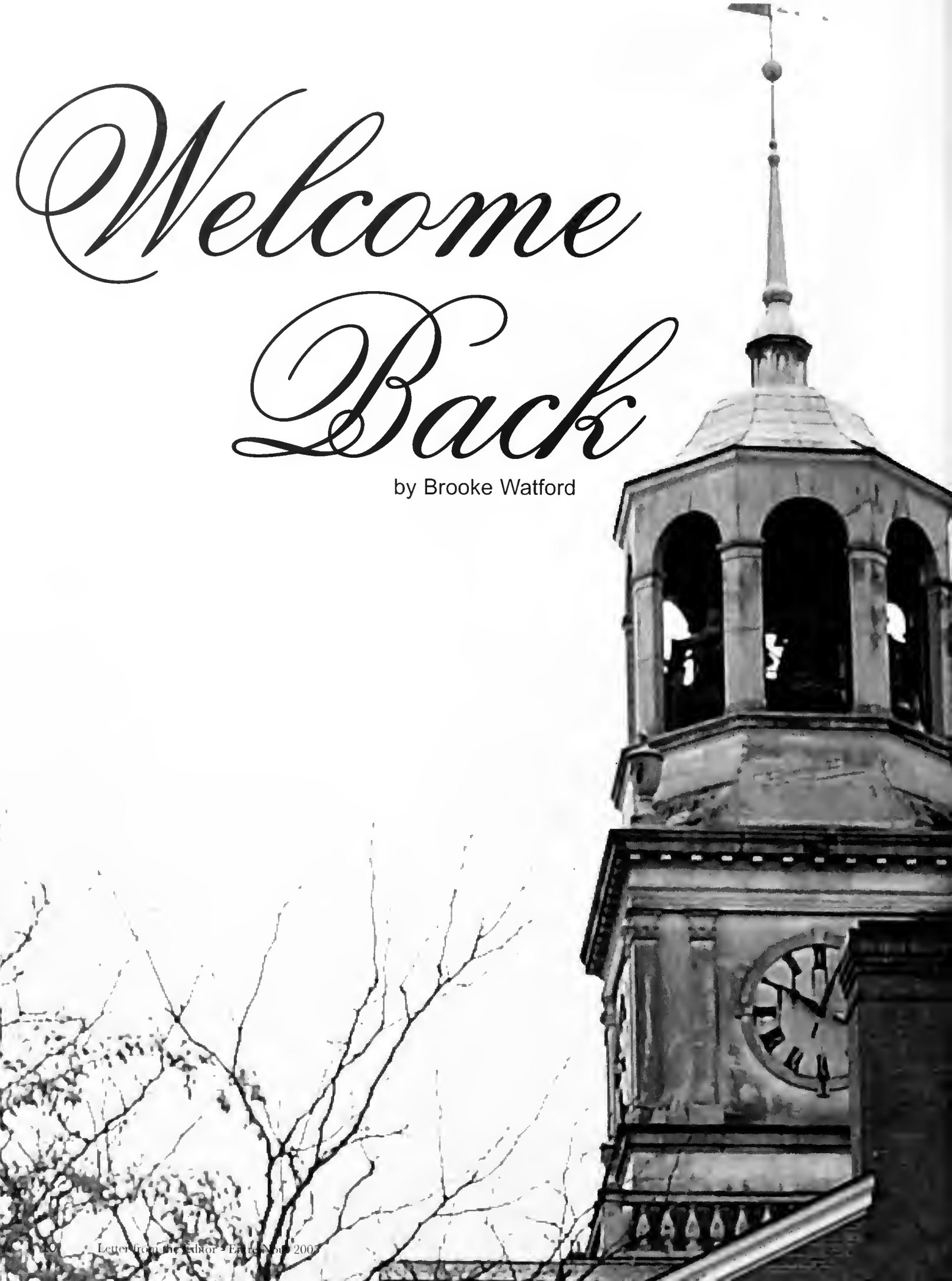
Welcome Back

by Brooke Watford



Dinner...on the dirt?

It's a time-honored tradition unique to the Samford experience, but some things never stay the same. Students have come to expect their first meal on campus and launch of Welcome Back activities to be, well, dirty. Dinner on the Dirt typically includes much skill and coordination with the task of balancing piled-high plates while hugging people who haven't been seen or heard from in months.

The juggling act was removed this year, as the BBQ dinner was no longer served outside on the Quad's dirt. Instead, it was moved inside to the Caf's tables. Senior journalism mass communication major Ashley Hudgins said, "As a senior I have come to enjoy the sights and sounds of Dinner on the Dirt. Most of the fun comes from eating on the Quad while enjoying the band with friends. Eating in the Caf dilutes the experience."

Along with the minor location change, an attire change came as well. The customary herds of sorority girls are highly visible. This year proved to be no different as they became perhaps even more noticeable than before by no longer wearing jerseys displaying their Greek affiliation. In an effort to keep affiliations unknown, all female Greeks wore the same shirt — the same blue shirt. Although the uniform shirts were a valid attempt to make Greeks less intimidating to the freshman girls, many would disagree that the effort was successful. Journalism mass communication major and Independent Kayla Futral walked away from the experience with an unbiased perspective. "In a way it was cool to see all of the sororities embracing each other, but, regardless, they still stuck out like a sore thumb," she said.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. The Quad was still full of live tunes. As the band played on the lawn, emotions clashed with the reality of a new school year. For newcomers, it means a couple of hours of awkwardness and even fear. For upperclassmen, it's a time to reflect on the summer and discuss the upcoming semester with others. Political science major Patrick Crandall reflected on his last Dinner on the Dirt as a senior with excitement, but remembers the event as a freshman too. "It's really cool getting to come back and see everyone, but I remember how awful it was as a freshman," he said.

In some ways, things never really change. The band continues to play, without much attention from the audience. Conversations inevitably turn to where you were this summer, generally what camp you worked at, who's engaged and how we should hang out sometime. Girls squeal at the sight of friends, and the guys maintain the coolness and reserve we have come to expect from them. The excited upperclassmen are easily distinguished from the timid freshmen who anticipate the time they head back up the hill to their dorms.

We can only hope that the overall meaning behind the Samford tradition of Welcome Back will never change. Most college memories are made outside of the classroom, and for most, Dinner on the Dirt is where it all begins. Many recall this event when they were freshmen as their first time realizing the essence of what it means to be a Samford student. Most will recall their last as seniors when they realize what it means to have been a part of the traditions that are unique to the Samford University campus. Dinner on the Dirt is a tradition that will undoubtedly continue throughout the years to come, and it will forever be one that can only be understood between us, the students of Samford. ■

Homecoming 2004

by Lizzie Ellison

Coming Home

Homecoming week at Samford is a week designed to make memories, and as always Student Activity Council filled each day with memory-making activities. The Homecoming committee set out to provide students with plenty to do.

Mixed in among the traditional Homecoming activities like the movie on the Quad, bonfire and pancake breakfast were the unique ideas that set this fall's Homecoming week apart from the rest. From the free funnel cakes on Wednesday to a Barn Dance complete with music from Trotline and a mechanical bull, there were plenty of opportunities for students to create a week to remember.

The football game brought current and former students together. Parents who have long

since graduated brought their little ones in Bulldogs T's and miniature SU cheerleader uniforms. As they traipsed across the parking lot and slid past the bleachers on cardboard boxes, I'm sure their parents couldn't help but wonder if one day they too will be Samford students years later.

On Saturday night, following the close finish to the football game, in which the Bulldogs beat Tennessee Tech 20-17, students, alumni and fans of country music superstar Brad Paisley came to the Wright Center for the biggest night of Homecoming events.

The traditional conclusion to Homecoming is the worship service in Reid Chapel followed by lunch in the Caf. However, if the true purpose of Homecoming is fulfilled, the events of the week will live on as students reminisce on their time at Samford.

Personal Experience

As a senior, I find myself caught between wanting to be done with class as soon as possible and wanting to stay at Samford forever. However, the uncertainty of the future somehow becomes less of a burden on Homecoming weekend. Watching alumni return to their alma mater is both exciting and encouraging. To hear from the most recent grads about their new lives in the real world is a dose of reality that seems so surreal for me right now, but will be all too true come May.

The graduates are different, but they still recognize Samford as part of who they are, and in a way it has contributed to who they have become. I don't know what may lie outside the gates of Samford after graduation, but I do know that Samford will remain the institution that I knew. When I re-enter those gates in the years to come, I will see fewer and fewer familiar faces, but I know I will be returning to all the memories I made during my time at Samford. Homecoming is a great week at Samford not only because of the concerts, bonfires and fireworks, but also because it brings us home. ■

Brad Paisley
IN CONCERT

by Kendra Buckles

On Saturday night of Homecoming Week, Brad Paisley, one of country music's most established artists, took the Wright Center stage. The audience, a mixture of Samford students, faculty, alumni and community fans, was wrapped around his finger from the moment he stepped onto stage.

Paisley, a recipient of multiple Grammy nominations, three Country Music Awards, and three number one hits, was the Homecoming Committee's top choice during their Spring 2004 planning. Alumni Relations Officer Billy Ivey was the main coordinator in planning the concert. Strongly urged by the students, Ivey and the committee decided to have a country star headline the concert. After seeing Paisley's entertaining performance with John Mayer on the CMT program "Crossroads," a show featuring two artists from different genres in concert together, Ivey was convinced Paisley was the artist for the 2004 Homecoming concert.

It was a change from recent Homecoming concerts to have a well-known, country star, but everyone felt the concert was a success. Though not a country fan himself, Ivey was definite in saying, "I was very, very impressed. It was a fantastic show." After talking to Paisley's road manager, Ivey also felt that much of the success can be attributed to the excitement of the fans. The road manager confided in Ivey that often big stars sometimes cut their sets for college concerts, especially in smaller venues. However, Paisley's road manager said the singer was very happy to be at Samford, and since the crowd gave him a lot of spirit and energy, Paisley gave it all he had for them in return.

His set was a sample of both past hits from Paisley's career and new hits from his album and tour "Mud on the Tires." The show's musical assortment included the tour's title song and smash hit "Celebnty" a comic mockery of the celebrity lifestyle, and his older favontes such as "He Didn't Have to Be," "I'm Gonna Miss Her," and "She Said Yes." Playing one hymn at every concert due to his strong faith, he also performed "How Great Thou Art" much to the surprise and enjoyment of the crowd.

One of the many highlights of the concert was his modified performance of "Whiskey Lullaby," a duet with Allison Kraus and currently his biggest hit. Many students hoping to hear the song were doubtful. Once he started to play the popular song, the audience cheered and applauded with excitement. When the time for Kraus's collaboration came, a video feed of her part was shown on the stage screen. It was an unexpected treat for many of the fans. Junior Katie Hill explained, "It was the song I wanted to hear most, but I didn't know if he would play it without Allison Kraus."

Paisley's opening act was another highlight and surprise for many fans. Rising singer, Shelley Fairchild's excitement and energy both set the tone for the rest of the concert and made many fans excited to hear more from her in the future.

Paisley's concert is considered a Homecoming favorite by longtime country fans and simple music enthusiast alike. His evident excitement and enjoyment to be at Samford and the crowd's enthusiasm from the opening act to encore made a perfect combination and a Homecoming success. ■

Miss Samford

by: Mandi Lawrence and Stephanie Hoover

Driven. That was the theme of the 2005 Miss Samford Pageant, and no word could be better fitting to describe the determination of the 14 young ladies who competed for the crown.

The "driven" theme was decided in the spring of 2004. "We wanted a phrase that had a double-meaning, Director of Contestants Holly Morgan explained. "Driven means that the theme is based around cars, places and driving, but it also characterizes Miss Samford herself." Once the "driven" theme was decided, the music, props and program were all centered around driving. The pagent opened with *Greased Lightening* where the escorts showed off their moves as Miss Samford 2004, Kristen Howard, flagged them in.

From that moment, it was clear that the competition had begun. The contestants braved the staged with poise and confidence, each attempting to sing, dance and impress her way into the judges' hearts.

Although all the contestants looked cool, calm and collected on stage, a few admitted to having backstage jitters. "We were nervous backstage, but the show ran very smoothly," sophomore vocal performance major Rachel Holland said.

"It was lively and fun backstage. We all laughed, and I brought music to listen to as I got dressed," senior elementary education major Jewel Littleton said.

"The energy backstage was unbelievable," junior JMC major Erin Brown said. "Everyone was so nervous, but we all just smiled and gave everyone compliments to make them feel at ease and confident before they walked on stage."

Each contestant was judged in five different phases, which included talent, swimsuit, eveningwear and on-stage questions.

Talents of the evening ranged from singing the jazzy *It's Only a Paper Moon* by Natalie Cole to playing Rachmaninoff's *Prelude in C-Sharp Minor* on the piano.

Overall, the talent part of the competition offered comfort to the contestants. "I felt very comfortable performing my talent on stage at the pageant because I sing solos in my church back home all the time," Brown said.

"I had the most fun performing my talent. I love jazz music. It was so great to be on stage in my black sequined dress and drawing energy from the music and the audience," Holland said.

If the talent portion of the pageant was the most comfortable part of the pageant, it's clear to see that the on-stage question was the least comfortable for the contestants. Sophomore business management major Hailey Hutchinson confirmed this idea. "The on-stage question is definitely one of the most difficult parts of the pageant. To have to stand backstage and watch as everyone answers their questions is extremely nerve-wracking. You hope that you get a question you can answer, and you hope you don't say something that comes out sounding silly," Hutchinson said.

Holland readily agreed with Hutchinson. "I was most nervous about my on-stage question," Holland said. "At least in the interview it's just you and the judges. The on-stage question made me nervous because I knew that the entire Wright Center would hear my response, and if I said something dumb, I would be remembered for that. I was so glad that I felt good about my response and felt like I said everything I needed to say."

The three hours of competition eventually came down to one moment of anticipation as the winners were announced.

"I felt so great once they had announced the winners. I had no idea I would place. I just expected to get a great experience out of the whole thing," freshman nursing/Spanish major Elizabeth Broome said.

"My heart was pounding the entire time the winners were being

Pictured Above: Elizabeth Broome, Rachel Holland, Melissa Morgan, Sidney White, Lindsey Samples. Photo by Caroline Baird.

read," Holland said. "I was so elated when I won the talent competition and got first runner-up."

In the end, only one contestant could be crowned Miss Samford 2005. This great honor was bestowed upon senior journalism mass communication major Melissa Morgan. "Hearing my named called was unbelievable; I was so surprised and honored to be chosen as Miss Samford University," Morgan said. Morgan hopes to encourage literacy while fulfilling her Miss Samford duties this year. Alongside other Miss Alabama preliminary winners, Morgan will make appearances all year long to educate more people about her platform and will compete this June for a chance at becoming Miss Alabama 2005.

All in all, it's safe to say that the Miss Samford 2005 pageant was a big success. Many participants continue to hold the pageant and the memories they gained from their experiences dear. "I met some great girls. I'm very grateful for that," Littleton said.

When asked if they would participate in the Miss Samford pageant again if given the opportunity, most of the contestants responded with a heart-felt "yes." "I will definitely do it again next year," Broome said.

"I would encourage all girls to compete in Miss Samford!" Hutchinson said. "It is a wonderful time to make new friends, and it gives you a chance to become more confident in yourself."

Looking back on the pageant and its driven contestants, Holly Morgan said, "These girls were all amazing in every portion of the competition. It was all of them that stood out to me, not just one."

CONTESTANT LIST
Melissa Morgan - Miss Samford 2005
Rachel Holland - 1st runner-up
Lindsey Samples - 2nd runner-up
Sidney White - 3rd runner-up
Elizabeth Broome - 4th runner-up
Hailey Hutchinson - Spirit of Miss Samford
Erin Brown
Elizabeth Collier
Mattea Crow
Elizabeth Harris
Jewel Littleton
Tiffany London
Caroline McCreary
Erica Rousseau

Q&A WITH MISS SAMFORD 2005

TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PAGEANT...

"During the weeks of rehearsals before the pageant, I had several people tell me I didn't seem like the typical pageant girl, and I've come to take that as a compliment. The Miss Samford title isn't about a crown or a sash; it's about young, competent women striving for excellence in every area of life by maintaining personal fitness, keeping abreast of world affairs and passionately serving her community with a confident sense of moral dignity and integrity."

TELL US ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH YOUR PLATFORM...

Since then, I've had the opportunity to promote my literacy platform on and off campus. I've read with children at the McWane Center and at local schools, imparting to children my passion for reading and the importance of literacy.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR PLATFORM...

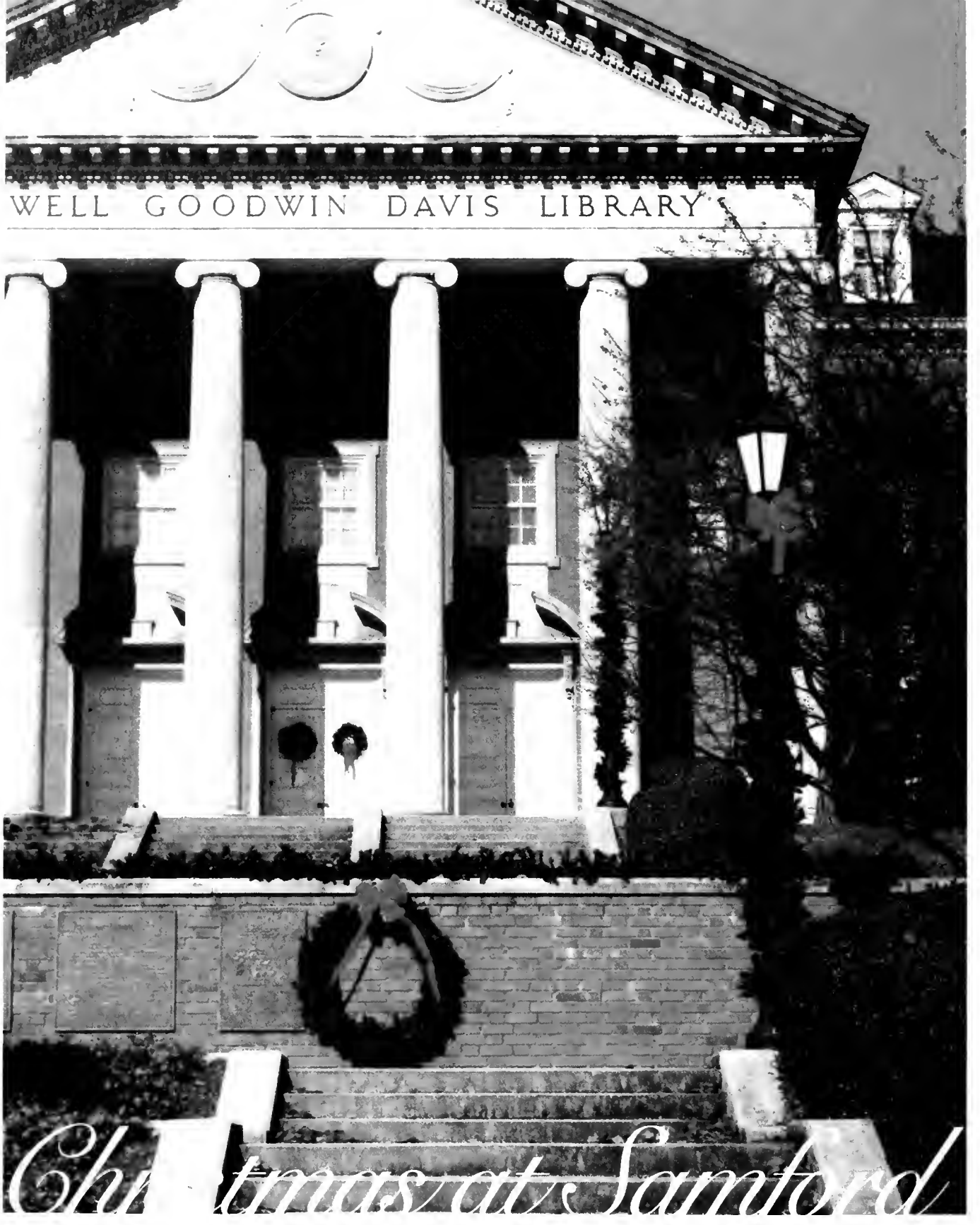
So many Samford students have been blessed with so much. It's oftentimes impossible for us to imagine a world where the simplest road sign or job application cannot be read. But for 25 percent of Birmingham residents, that world is reality. That's why I'm starting a literacy program on campus through which students and faculty will be able to become literacy tutors and reduce this alarming rate of illiteracy by tutoring members of the community who need help with their literacy skills.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE AS MISS SAMFORD THUS FAR?

As Miss Samford University, I've had the opportunity to speak in schools, organizations and civic groups on and off campus about the significance of community service work and the importance of extending your resources beyond yourself to help someone who is not as fortunate. My favorite groups to work with are children and mothers. Children have that inquisitive spark of creative curiosity, and to capture that with a book is to instill in them the importance of literacy at a young age. In the same way, educating a mother is educating a family and stopping a train of illiteracy.

I've had an incredible year as Miss Samford, and I'm so grateful to have held the title of my university where I have grown and matured and, hopefully, have been able to impact others lives for the better.

Congratulations to Melissa and to all the participants of Miss Samford 2005. ■



Christmas at Samford

by Jessica Jone

Just because Samford is surrounded by the lavish Brookwood Mall and extravagant homes doesn't mean that the purchasing of presents or decorations for a Christmas party are the "reason for the season." Samford University does not decorate to ensnare prospective students or to boast to the press. Samford covers its buildings with green wreaths, red bows, garland and Christmas lights to commemorate the Savior of Samford and each of her students—Jesus Christ. Samford creates a Christ-centered atmosphere for daily life. The celebration of His birth is no exception. Christmas at Samford brings a generous helping of traditional programs and exciting new festivities to rejoice in the birth of Christ.

The activities arranged for the Christmas season are endless and are geared toward student, faculty and community participation in the expectation for Christ's birthday. Samford presented the annual Hanging of the Green, a ceremony that includes a description of the purpose of each decoration to grace the walls of Reid Chapel. Select seniors were honored by helping to display the decorations and to carry the flames to candles and then into the night to signify bringing the hope of Christ into the world.

Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the Lighting of the Way was postponed a couple of days, but the wait did not discourage Samford students. This delay served only to heighten anticipation and camaraderie during the official lighting of Samford's Christmas lights. From a distance the lights seem to narrow like a runway toward the Samford University's Harwell G. Davis Library, where focus is distracted from the stoic and strong columns of the building and directed instead toward a cross hung on the top of the library over the clock. Students gathered to watch the spectacle and were met with performances from the choir and some steaming hot chocolate. The December chill laced with warmth of song and cocoa created the perfect atmosphere to observe the lighting of Samford's Christmas lights.

During convocation hour, Samford also hosted the annual Christmas celebration of foreign languages, dubbed "Christmas around the World." Several different foreign language students, including those studying Polish, Swahili, Japanese, Russian, Chinese, Spanish, French and German, all joined together to debut their different tongues through popular Christmas carols and Bible readings in each respective language. Two instrumentalists playing bagpipes and dressed in traditional Scottish kilts also presented a new and unique surprise as they recessed from Reid Chapel and ended the presentation.

Samford also held the 2004 annual Christmas Concert, featuring the Samford University choirs and presenting a stirring rendition of traditional Christmas music. This celebration of choral Christmas music served to delight and awe attendees as the audience felt itself transported into reverence for Christ and his miraculous birth. With the true form of worship, giving of their personal God-given talents, the Samford University Chorale and A Capella Choir lifted voices and debuted talents all for the sake of praise for the birth of Jesus Christ.

This year, the Birmingham Ballet Academy held performances of the ballet, the "Nutcracker," in the Wright Center. Although this event was not produced by Samford, parking near the guard gate was scarce as students, faculty and ballet enthusiasts from the Birmingham community flocked to see the recital. The audience members appeared to be as happy and full of Christmas spirit as they exited, taking visions with them of Sugarplum fairies and broken nutcrackers made right.

An exciting addition to the Samford traditional services and programs was the film "Star of Bethlehem" shown in the planetarium. Only eight days from the awaited Christmas, the film presentations were free and open to the public in order to draw the community in for the much debated topic—the actual star that announced the birth of Jesus. The show explained the phenomenon that brought the wise men from the East, addressing questions that historians and scientists have pondered for centuries. The video approached these questions historically and exposed astronomical solutions, such as comets and supernovae, which would account for the "miracle star." This presentation inspired an appreciation for astronomy and the importance that it held in the Christmas tradition even today.

This year, Samford's Christmas was definitely not without her bells and whistles. The Bells of Buchanan accompanied many of the Samford programs, including participation in the "Christmas around the World" convocation, as well as other concerts. However, this musical group does not just have an accompaniment-level of talent. The Bells of Buchanan held their own concert on December 9th. The unique and irreplaceable resonance and tone of the bells would not be so touching were it not for the flawless presentation of the musicians. They play as a team, and, therefore, they are able to pull heartstrings with their well-rehearsed Christmas arrangements.

Another "bell" that Christmas revealed is from Samford's very own faculty, Dr. Kelly Jensen, from the World Languages and Cultures Department. Dr. Jensen played a set of handbells single-handedly, a set that seems endless as she rushes back and forth to find the perfect bell to fit the song. Samford is blessed with this renowned bell-ringer who served to complete Christmas spirit at Samford.

With all of the activities, programs and decorations, Samford University created a warm and familiar atmosphere to announce the holiday season. From a simple wreath to the extravagant production of the "Nutcracker," each part of the celebration held its place in a festive yet reverent Christmas season. It was with a certain wistful, backward glance that students bundled up and said goodbye to friends, teachers and dorm rooms to journey home for the holidays. ■

STEP SING 2005

BY JENNI BERRYHILL

Someone pushed the crazy button on the "Samford Bubble." That's right, this is "Life As We Know It": the month of Step Sing.

"Life As We Know It" actually began well before February of 2005. Step Sing Committee Director Alison Tyler and Assistant Director Sarah Titrud started working on the extravaganza, known as Step Sing, with other committee members while the rest of us were still recuperating from Step Sing 2004. The committee decided to have a blanket theme again at this year's show. They "felt that as college students, everyone has a story to tell; everyone's life leads them down a different path," Tyler said. "The committee," he said, "hoped the theme was broad enough to allow groups to be creative and develop a theme that encompasses life as they knew it."

And so "Life As We Know It" began.

Excitement was at an all time high as students returned back to Samford's campus at the end of January. There to greet their enthusiasm was the annual Step Sing banner-drop. Tangible tension between shows arose as Bashinsky Field House filled with students. With banners looming from the track above, students eagerly awaited below to see the competition revealed. In the tradition of Step Sing, a community service project is attached to the event. This year, the sisters of Alpha Delta Pi brought in the most cans for the philanthropy, Feed the Hungry. But at the end of the night, Chi Omega took home the pride of best banner, and so began the most important three weeks of competition.

Directors were once again faced with conforming to an overall theme of "Life As We Know It." The Freshmen Show, which went on to win Best Theme, showed the audience what it is like to be a freshmen girl at Samford. The sisters of Chi Omega showed everyone the life they know in the jungle. Alpha Delta Pi expressed themselves through the rhythm and beats that lead their everyday

lives. The brothers of Sigma Chi sang and danced life as mama's boys. Reality TV led the lives of Alpha Omicron Pi sisters in their show. The brothers of Pi Kappa Phi know lives as underdogs, victoriously coming from behind. For the Independent Ladies, the theme meant old ladies "remembering the way they were, talking about the way things are now and how the spark in their relationship had died," director Drew Pournelle explained. For Dudes-A-Plenty, life as they knew it was a chance to escape back to all the things "little dudes" wished they could be and still wish they could be in their presentation as pirates. The sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha showed life in every season as the world turns.

Commence rehearsals. To help participants balance schoolwork and Step Sing practice during the week, the former 40-hour time limit for practice was established again, and this year the committee limited Sunday through Thursday night practices to three hours.

Life as a Step Sing participant/ student is a tough balance to strike. And by striking a balance, students find themselves barely stumbling into their 8 o'clock classes alive. And they have not even studied a lick the night before because their bodies will not cease running through eight counts of choreography over and over again.

Practice is crucial. Time is detrimental. When the director speaks, everyone listens. Each show has a different way of running practices. "We set goals for practices, and if we accomplished those goals, we would leave a little early," Alpha Omicron Pi director Kathryn Lamb said. This, however, may not be the case for many of the all-male shows. "Most of the time nobody really wanted to listen to instructions," Pi Kappa Phi director Michael Ferguson said. "So they didn't, and we had to run through each new thing multiple times."

Beneath the stress and tire of the month, however, Step Sing is more than a lifetime of fun. Despite rules, most Step Sing participants find that practice is not only the best way to make the show perfect, it's a good way to make a new friend. Formations inevitably land participants next to someone they had never met before. "Snack time was always a great bonding time for us" Independent Ladies director Eden Richardson recalled. "What better friend is there than a girl you haven't even met who would sacrifice the last doughnut or Cheese Puff for you on a Saturday morning, y'know?" And why else but for the sake of good times would participants return to the stage year after year? "I believe seniors participated in order to build relationships with.the younger girls in our sorority... I know they certainly became mentors for many girls," Lamb said. "This year we had five four-year Step-Singers," Ferguson said. "These people simply love being in the Step Sing atmosphere. These are people who love to have fun."

"Life As We Know It" continued to take Step Sing participants by surprise on Saturday night. Though most would say they are much more deserved than last year's winners, no one expected to find competition in newcomer and Sweepstakes winner, Dudes-A-Plenty's show. Displaying an impressive array of vocal talents, pelvic movements and puns on the word "booty" in their show "Pirates," Dudes-A-Plenty won the crowd as well. It was no surprise when the participants in the balcony stood up on Saturday night chanting "Dudes! Dudes! Dudes!" as they accepted the coveted Sweepstakes award. In addition to Sweepstakes, the Dudes took home Participants' Choice: Best Music and Participants' Choice: Most Entertaining Show. "I really liked getting the participants music award because that solidified our existence more than being a funny group, but, of course, Sweepstakes was awesome, and it means a lot more because of all the greek support and encouragement," Dudes-A-Plenty Director Joey Proffitt said.

Independent Ladies took First Runner-Up with their show "The Way We Were." Hobbling onto the stage as old women in smock dresses and canes, the Independent Ladies crooned tunes from Broadway shows snatching Excellence in Music from the Judges panel.

Alpha Delta Pi had the "Rhythm of the Night" synchronized and took Second Runner-Up, as well as Participants' Choice: Choreography and Excellence in Choreography in the competition.

Other winners included Zeta Tau Alpha with Participants' Choice: Best Costumes and the Freshmen Show with Excellence in Theme. ■

AWARDS

Sweepstakes: Dudes-A-Plenty

2nd Runner-Up: Independent Ladies

3rd Runner-Up: Alpha Delta Pi

Excellence in Theme: Freshmen Show

Excellence in Choreography: Alpha Delta Pi

Excellence in Music: Independent Ladies

Participants' Choice in Choreography: Alpha Delta Pi

Participants' Choice in Music: Dudes-A-Plenty

Participants' Choice in Costume: Zeta Tau Alpha

Participants' Choice Best Overall: Dudes-A-Plenty

PARTICIPANTS/Directors

Freshmen Show: New Kids on the Block
Caroline Davis

Chi Omega: Chi Omega Welcomes You to Life in the Jungle
Keisha Walding

Alpha Delta Pi: Rhythm of the Night
Lauren Sanders & Kelli Perkins

Phi Mu: Life is but a Dream
Leslie Wade

Sigma Chi: Mama's Boyz
Robert Scott

Alpha Omicron Pi: AOPi on Reality TV
Kathryn Lamb

Pi Kappa Phi: Pi Kappa Phi Comes From Behind: A True Underdog Story
Michael Ferguson

Independent Ladies: The Way We Were
Eden Richardson & Drew Pournelle

Dudes-A-Plenty: Pirates
Jacob Simmons & Joey Proffitt

Zeta Tau Alpha: As the World Turns
Katie Hall & Alison Skinner

Senior Survey

If you could change Samford's current motto (For God. For Learning. Forever) to reflect your personal experience, what would it be?

- Our Administration, who art in Samford Hall, conservative be thy name. Thy classes come, my convos done, on Earth so they will let me into Heaven. Give us this day our daily food court money, and forgive us our Values Violations, as we forgive those whose fault it was that we got caught in the first place. And lead us not into debt, but deliver us from student loans, for thine is the "Bubble," and the power, and the glory. For God, for green grass, forever, Amen.
- Different is ba-a-a-a-ad!
- Tuition, room & board, & meal plan: $18,000 per year; Text-books & art supplies: @ $600 per year; midnight Krispy Kreme and chocolate milk runs: $7; Experiencing London for a semester, making friends and establishing a coffee addiction that will last a lifetime: Priceless!
- For God, For Learning, For Twenty Thousand dollars a year!
- For Landscape, For Diversity, For still no boys...Forever.
- For diamond rings, for weddings, for your MRS.
- Learn. Laugh. Love. Leave.
- For Publicity. For Reputation. For Students' Money.
- To the Caf, To the Dorm, To the Cage
- For Growth, For Independence, Forever
- For Materialism. For Narrow-minded students. For Conservatives. Forever.

What's the worst trend you have seen come through Samford?

- When playing frisbee on the Quad became the cool thing to do.
- Daypacks - mine was so expensive, and the trend was gone before I knew it.
- Nalgene bottles.
- Bridal magazines.
- The front tuck.
- The flipped-up collar in a bright colored polo shirt.
- The ruffly, strapless tops that look like maternity wear.
- Those awful furry boots that girls wear with skirts. They look so stupid because this is not L.A., this is the South.
- When girls roll up their jeans to show the colorful rain boots they are wearing...even when it's not raining.
- Blankets & rugs worn as shirts
- Vera bradley!! monogrammed even!
- A typical Samford male outfit consisting of too short shorts, Jesus sandals and Tommy too-cool sunglasses around the nape of the neck.
- High heel flip flops - girls, seriously.
- The sunglasses backwards on the necks, coupled with the neon colored strap.
- Pink. Anything pink.
- Boys wearing shorter shorts than girls. (Man Thighs)
- Big gas hogging SUVs that run on diesel fuel.
- Those bright plaid pants that frat boys wear. Who told them that looks good?

What is one thing about your college years that you did/saw/felt that you would rather die than tell your parents?

- How many classes I really skipped.
- That I hold the record in my sorority for breaking the most consecutive nights of visitation in a single semester (63).
- Samford really isn't as strict as they think it is.
- How many Values Violations I should have gotten.
- The extensive amount of time spent laying on the quad and the practically non-existent time spent in the library.
- Nothing—I'm a good kid.
- Hiding beer in the various shrubs around campus.
- How I spent all the money they gave me.
- That two people really can fit comfortably in a twin-sized bed.
- Anything that happened at the Music Hall.
- That I made out with a boy up on the top floor of the library.
- I can't think of anything I wouldn't tell my parents.
- Thursday Nights.

What was the funniest thing you ever saw or experienced in a class?

- In Marketing Class, we were giving a presentation. Matt Wilson falls asleep, his chair slid off the side of the risers in class and he fell out of his chair. It was all in slow motion as he fell. He then did a backward roll and jumped up. It was hilarious.
- A girl in my CP class freshman year asked if Martin Luther was the same as Martin Luther King, Jr.
- A scavenger hunt in fitness walking
- Watching Elvis give a CA speech freshmen year.
- One time I pretended to be a substitute teacher, and people actually believed me!
- Nothing, I am a religion major.
- Learning that Matt Garner fit the description of the campus streaker.
- Mrs. Newell singing the phonemes of the alphabet.
- In Dr. Sanders' Music History class, the day we got to polyphony, he handed out Oreo's.
- Dean Price shimmying in a cappella choir rehearsal.
- One of the twins get pushed in the fountain with his bike.
- I slept though most of my classes -- had I been awake I might have seen something funny.
- The credit card toss in Dr. Bowman's sports psychology class.


DECLARE

SEPT 11 TH

by Stephanie Hoover

This year at graduation, another class of students will leave their Samford glory days behind them and embark on the world outside the "bubble." Along with unique personalities, leadership contributions and faces on campus, we, the Class of 2005 will also be taking something else with us. Our memories of September 11, 2001 – What we were doing, who we were with and where we were when we first heard the news. The answers are all different, yet they reveal the true emotion, fear and concern of each senior. We are the last group of students who were here that fateful day, and this is the legacy we're leaving behind.

"My plans for the day were simple. I was going to go to convo and class the rest of the day. It was supposed to be business as usual." As the senior above details, the day started out like any other for Samford students. Waking up, hurrying to an 8 a.m. CA class, contemplating the pros and cons of attending convo. But by mid-morning, everyone had seen the sight. Everyone had heard the horror. It was clear. This day would be a day no one would ever forget. September 11, 2001.

"I met my sister in Reid Chapel for convo, and we visited until Dr. Barnette approached the microphone. With a stark look of disbelief and confused concern, he announced to us that he had just been informed that a plane had flown into one of the twin towers in New York. I, naturally, thought 'Oh no, what a horrible horrible accident. I wonder how many people were hurt?' Never did I think it could be something like a terrorist act."

"I remember my roommate and I woke-up and someone from our hall came in and told us. We turned on the television in time to see the second tower get hit. I think, like everyone, I felt like I was watching a movie."

Regular chapel was cancelled due to the events and a special service of silence and prayer was lead by Dr. Barnette, but students came in numbers to pray before convo, after convo and throughout the rest of the day.

"I will never forget how during that day people kept finding their way over to the chapel. They would just walk in, have a seat, and grieve and pray quietly," Dr. James Barnette said. "As I recall it was later in the afternoon that we actually put out an annoucement about the chapel being open, but people had already been coming by since late morning."

"The sights were blinding. The sounds were deafening. I remember walking back to Vail and seeing maintenance workers and students alike gathered around the TV in the lobby. We all just stood there – in awe, in shock, in complete and utter disbelief."

"My parents were supposed to be flying to California that morning. I was so worried. I called my mom, and when she answered the phone, I just started to cry."

"All the girls on my hall got together in our RA's room. We sat glued to the TV, hungry for answers to our questions and starving for an explanation. We sat there in silence for what seemed like forever."

As days went by, life slowly began to return to normal around Samford's campus, but nothing would ever be the same. We were closer as friends. We were more aware as young adults. We were more patriotic as Americans. Even here in the "bubble," no one could ignore the fact that we were changed.

One year later, on September 10, 2002, Captain John Pruitt, the deputy director of Naval training at the Pentagon, gave a glorious talk in Reid Chapel about his personal experience in the Pentagon on September 11th. His daughter, Blair Pruitt, was a Samford student at the time.

"It was the highest attendance of any chapel in my 10 years at Samford, a testament to our students' commitment to remembering those who died, as well as showing support for those who are on the front lines defending our freedoms." Barnette said.

On the one year anniversary of the attacks, the SGA dedicated the new American flag that now flies in Sherman Circle. On Thursday, September 12, 2002, Colonel Kenneth Brown, Chaplain of the 101st Airborne Division of the Army, spoke in chapel. Colonel Brown had just returned with the 101st from Afghanistan and gave one of the most moving addresses ever spoken on campus. Both Colonel Brown and Captain Pruitt received lengthy standing ovations by a moved Samford audience as their talks came to a close.

This past fall on September 11, 2004, the Samford community observed a moment of silence at the Samford-Furman football game followed by an intensely magnificent Air Force fly-over that set the tone for the day.

Even though months and even years have passed, it is clear that Samford has not forgotten the terrible events and the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

Just ask a senior. We all have personal stories of the day and those following September 11th. We'll soon graduate and be gone, but the images, moments and memories of being at Samford on September 11, 2001, will live on within us.

"I will never forget the image of people jumping from the top floors to their deaths. It was beyond anything I could have ever imagined. It was a real life nightmare."

"I will always remember how vulnerable and confused I felt. American soil? Twin Towers hit? Terrorists? Afghanistan? Thousands dead?"

"I will never forget the people running – it made me cry on the spot. It was absolute horror."

"I think the thing that I remember the most about that day is silence. Never has the world been that quiet to me and never will it be again. Rarely do things bring the whole world to silence." ■

HURRICANE IVAN

by Brittany Fancher

He caused the National Guard to take disaster relief action across the Florida Panhandle. He killed 39 people in the Southeast and left over 1.8 million without food and power for two weeks. He summoned over 20 tornadoes from Georgia that roamed as far north as the Virginian Appalachian Mountains.

His name was Ivan, and he was the fourth major hurricane of the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season.

The Cape Verde-born tropical cyclone developed into a hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean. His quick development into adolescence sent him traveling through Grenada, Jamaica, Cuba, the Cayman Islands and the Gulf of Mexico. His last stop was the southeastern United States.
Reaching adulthood quickly, Ivan ruthlessly blasted through the Gulf Shores area in Alabama, destroying farms, homes, businesses and lives. After landfall on September 16, Ivan moved north and then turned east, bringing heavy rainfall to large areas of the southeastern United States, including Louisiana and Texas.

He did his damage and never looked back.

Ironically, Ivan was never supposed to reach the land, yet he doubled in size and conquered many tropical islands within hours. The coastal damage caused once-untouched buildings and homes to collapse from the unstable foundation caused by the heavy surge of water, especially through the Gulf Shores area.

For many Samford students and their families, Ivan didn't just present an unexpected school holiday or a hurricane party. It literally touched their lives and homes.

Several classmates lost their homes or knew many people who did. Their hurricane was not a party; it was an evacuation, a scramble for generators and a dangerous, face-to-face meeting with nature.

Junior Stephanie Snyder recalled how her family was spending a quiet evening at home when almost 15 of her father's employees whom had evacuated from Southern Florida in order to flee from Ivan unexpectedly interupted her family's dinner. Totaling over 20 guests by the next day, the adventurers were out of power for two weeks and water for three days.

Students who decided to stay at Samford awoke the morning after classes were cancelled to absolutely no power and the strongest rains that many had ever seen. Samford employees came into work that day to aid the chaos that invaded and dominated the Caf. Food piles, to-go boxes and silverware were laid out like the Red Cross was preparing for another attack.

In the midst of all the excitement, sophomore Holly Jaye was able to take a step back and recount her experience, "My roommate and I piled into my car and raided the Caf, bringing back a ton of goodies. To get weather info, my friends and I brought out the shower radios and sat downstairs listening and talking with each other. I found out a lot about the people I live with and laughed more than I had in a while. Although the Samford bubble didn't protect us from the storm, it didn't rule us out of the good things that come from bad situations. One thing that can always be said about a disaster is that it brings people closer together, and after spending the weekend with Ivan, I know the statement is true."

My experience with Hurricane Ivan was also on campus, but just a little different. For me, going home was not an option. Growing up in Knoxville, Tennessee, I was raised not to be a fair-weather fan. The warnings prompted an adventure. As I opened the infamous "Jennifer Dunn" e-mails on September 15, my expectations were confirmed and the hurricane soiree was on!

The next morning, my REM cycle that included visions of movies and a relaxing weekend was tragically disturbed when Residence Life came charging through the hallways like the Titanic was about to sink. Despite the slight abrasiveness, I finally realized the severity of the hurricane, especially since the building didn't have power and I couldn't see out my window.

I hitched a ride to the Caf for some gourmet survival food, but my time there was brief. The state of confusion and disorder that attacked us in the dining hall only made me turn towards the exit. I decided it might be better to take my chances with the candles and crackers that I had smuggled from my sorority's chapter room.

"So...what exactly do we do now?" was the big question that roared across campus.

For me, the morning's chaos turned into a very charming afternoon with six girls in my sorority house who had also decided to brave the weather and partake in the adventure. Dimly glowing from the center of my floor, a collection of candles recalled a Samantha and Carrie moment from Sex and the City. We gathered around them like Dawson's Creek characters. You know those cheesy episodes when all the actors pour their hearts out in intense conversations over salsa and brownies—yeah, that was definitely us. A candle-wax stain in the middle of my floor serves as a reminder and stirs nostalgia of our girlish heart-to-hearts. By the way, Residence Life, due to these extenuating circumstances, I plead guilty of illegal candle lighting and request pardon for such criminal acts, especially my hidden stains.

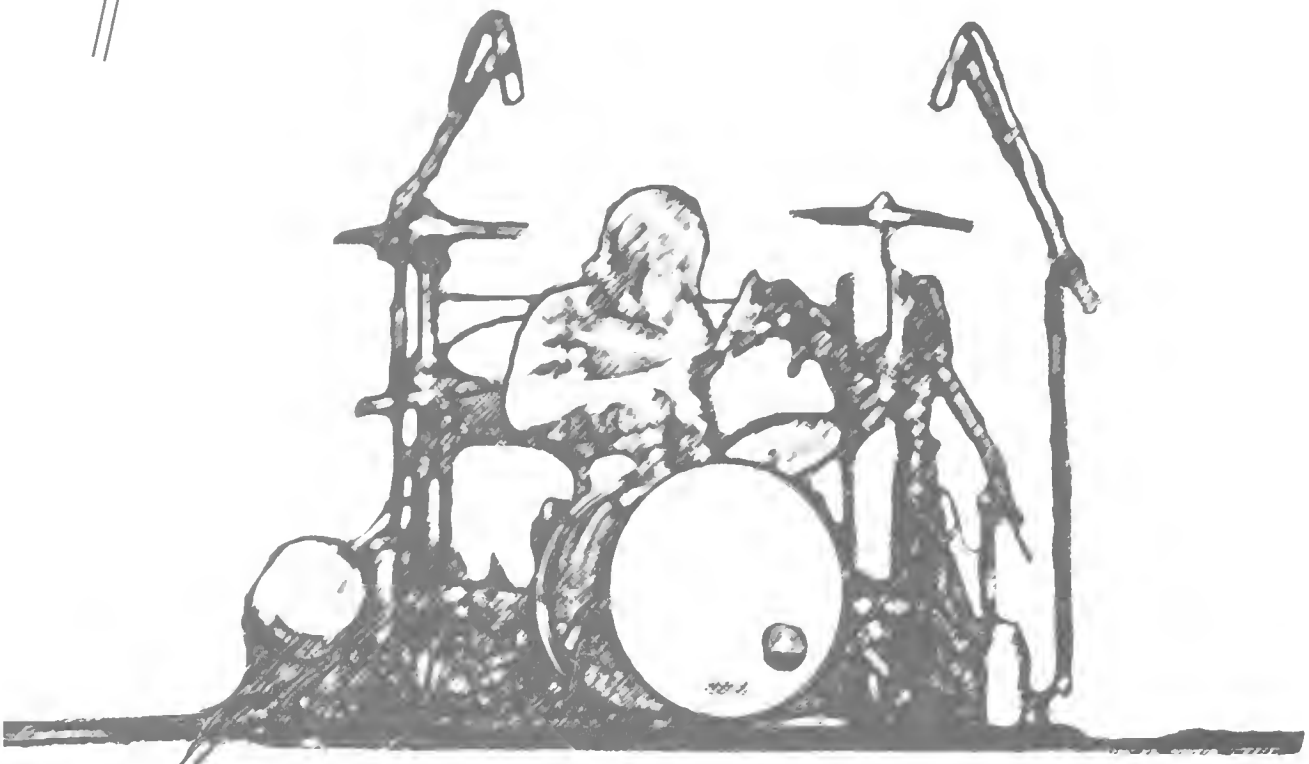
Through the disaster, neighboring West Campus houses became confidants and companions. Gathering up the "essentials," we draped ourselves with waterproof ensembles and bared the down-pour. We and our new-found associates were in a stand-off against the irritable Ivan. Our agenda began with touch football and continued as the hurricane's eye hit. Soon a grill-out on the porch was much needed. Alright, if this sounds lame to you when you read it, just consider it a "had-to-be-there" moment.

When the power returned, the conquest was over. We had won. All those fair-weather fans would be returning back to our battle ground. Fun memories and funny stories became our battle wounds.

While my experience "roughin' it" ended positively, many of those in the path of the storm were left with flooded basements, runaway lawn décor, destroyed homes and the loss of loved ones.

Those almost 40 lives that were taken out of the comfort of their homes, the destruction of property throughout our Southeast and the infected scars of the experience itself haunts us with the aftermath of regrouping. Ironically, the regrouping stage is actually what has brought more survivors closer to priorities and the appreciation of this fragile scene called life. Reverently, my heart and thoughts extend to those who experienced the wrath of Hurricane Ivan, the spiteful traveler that dropped by Samford for Fall Break. ▫

Best Foot Forward



by Amber Adamson

"This is your life ... are you who you want to be?"

Deep words from an award-winning rock group who rocked Samford's campus in November 2004.

Switchfoot stopped at Samford to perform the sold-out concert on November 9, along with opening acts Honorary Title and The Format.

Formed in 1997 in San Diego, Calif., Switchfoot claimed the music spotlight first in Christian music. The band includes Jonathan Foreman as singer/guitarist, his brother Tim Foreman on bass and Chad Butler on drums. The album "New Way to be Human" appeared, their second album, in 1999; and the title track earned Switchfoot a Dove Award for Song of the Year in 1999. The 21st century brought a new album, "Learning to Breathe," and an additional band member, keyboardist Jerome Fontamillas. This latest album and its success proved to be a key link in Switchfoot becoming a more mainstream rock group. The 2002 Mandy Moore movie "A Walk to Remember" prominently featured the music of Switchfoot on its soundtrack, and the group was on its way to a major recording-label attempt with its latest release, "The Beautiful Letdown," on Columbia/RED.

Word first began circulating over the past summer that Switchfoot might be coming to Samford in the fall. It seemed like an amazing opportunity for a concert—a rock band with a solid, Christian undertone. Beginning to take the spotlight on the mainstream rock stage, Switchfoot had undoubtedly stirred a diversity of fans with singles hitting the Birmingham airwaves on alternative rock station 105 the X and top 40 station 103.7 the Q. By the start of the fall semester, it was officially announced: Switchfoot was scheduled to rock the stage of the Wright Center in November.

The Student Government Association began working on finding a big-name band for a concert back in June 2004. Through working with Concert Ideas, SGA president Mike Giles, vice-president for activities Brooke Bamberg and director of student activities Jennifer Dunn found that Switchfoot was a desirable, popular choice in an affordable price range.

In the past, SGA used Ticketmaster for all ticketing transactions, but Dunn found a company called University Tickets.com that she wanted to try out for the event. SGA worked with University Tickets.com to form a website called Samfordtickets.com, in which students and the public could purchase tickets. According to its website, University Tickets.com is "the world's leading provider of ticketing services for colleges and universities." The organization was founded in 1999 in order to be a simple, cost-effective way so sell tickets online.

Samford had no trouble selling any tickets. In fact, students began filling the University Center lobby as early as 9 p.m. the night before tickets went on sale. Crowds swarmed the University Center and students camped out overnight to claim first-dibs on tickets—it was a campus-wide slumber party! Students were limited to 10 tickets per person. The ticket line steadily grew overnight and increased as the new day began with a line trailing out of the University Center and down the sidewalk. In the first day of sales alone, approximately 1,550 of the 2,640 tickets were sold, all through Samfordtickets.com. Within two weeks of the concert, the show was sold out.

According to Giles, "It really worked beautifully. It is only because of the overwhelming support of the Samford community that this was possible. SGA definitely found that the way to the Samford community's heart is by providing quality entertainment that is enjoyable for the vast majority of the university as a whole."

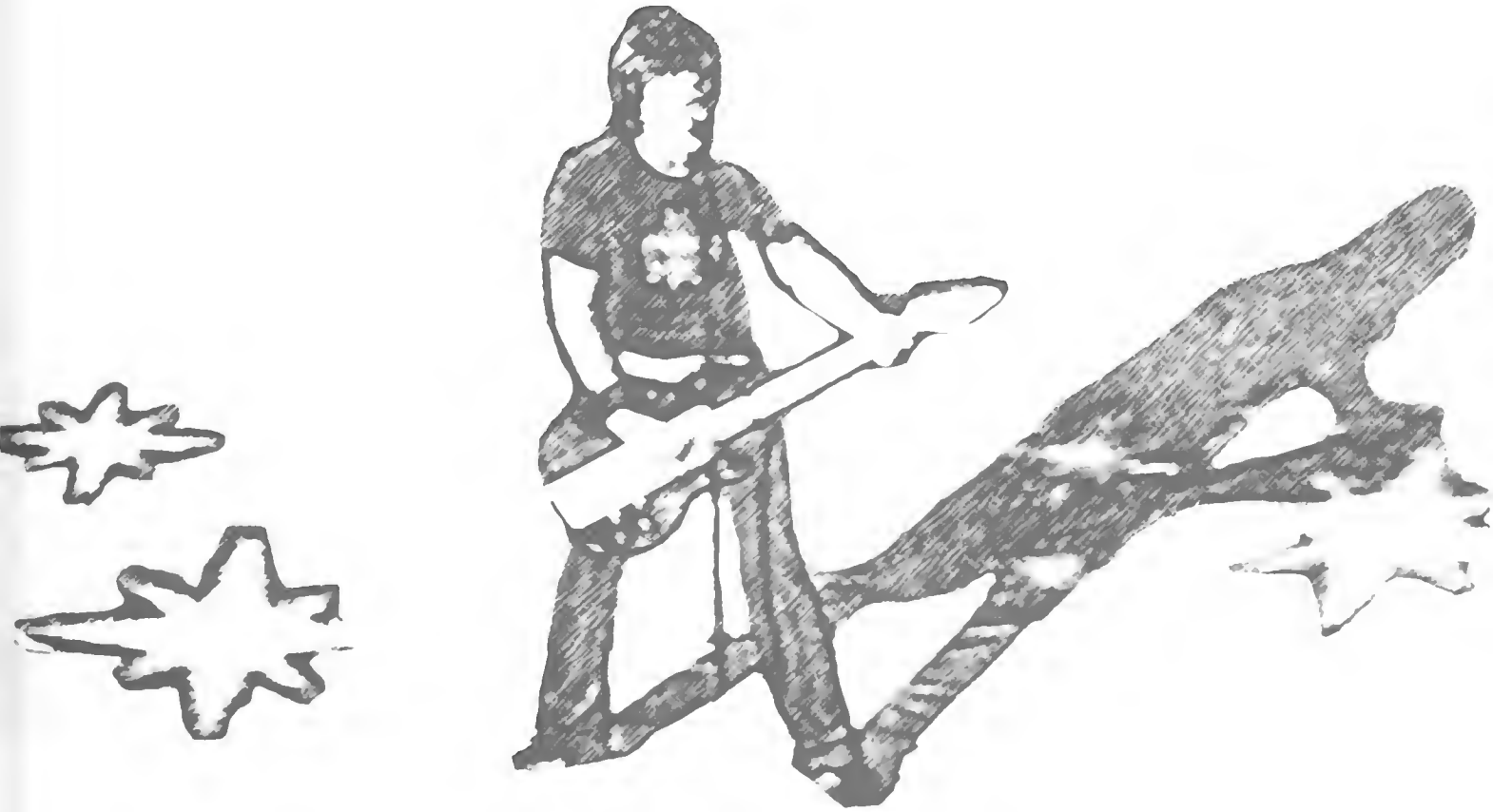
The night of the concert, Samford swarmed with Switchfoot fans. People within walking distance and from miles around headed to the campus to see the rock band perform. A face-value ticket price of $13.50 proved to be well-worth the quality and length of the show. While the concert began at 8 p.m., Switchfoot did not take the stage until 10 p.m., and the show lasted until almost midnight.

Fans left the Wright Center with ringing ears, abundances of adrenaline and minds racing full of Switchfoot lyrics and melodies. Along with Honorary Title and The Format, Switchfoot put on a high-energy show that kept the audience awake, sometimes dancing and always enjoying the moment. In addition to songs from the group's upcoming album, many of the group's hits, such as "Meant to Live" and "Dare You to Move" were included in the show. It was an incredible show; it was one that will not soon be forgotten by the Samford community. Losing a little sleep in the middle of the week was a small price to pay for such an extraordinary show—a welcome break from the stresses of early November, first preparations for finals, recuperation from Homecoming and anticipation for Thanksgiving.

"I thought the concert was fabulous, and I applaud SGA for finally bringing a band to our campus that is worthwhile to go see," senior sociology major Rachael Lovoy said.

The success of the Switchfoot concert is only the beginning of such high-quality entertainment sponsored by the SGA. Students think the organization should continue to offer such great musical events in the future, and according to the president, SGA wants to continue bringing on the bands as well.

Giles also said that the SGA is planning on continuing to provide such entertainment to follow the organization's mission statement—to "serve, lead, and nurture the student body of Samford University." ■



"THIS LAND IS

by Aaron Hutchens

The race for votes had begun. With both Republican and Democrat Parties avidly supporting their candidates, intense campaigning swept the nation months before the November 2nd presidential election. Televisions aired political commercials, polls faced scrutiny and conversations began to bubble with opinion and debate.

It was time for democratic rights to be utilized and voices to be heard. As Republican candidate George W. Bush, Democratic candidate John Kerry and the third party candidates traveled the nation for votes, Samford students geared up for the campaign.

Freshman music education major Daniel Banke was one of many students who displayed his political preferences around campus. "I put stickers on my car and talked to people about the election. I told people my reasons for supporting Kerry."

Banke also acknowledged the viewpoints of those supporting other candidates. "Republicans see Bush as a very moral man who did a great job of rallying the country together after September 11," he said. "Bush did do a good job with that, but I don't agree with his presidency and the war in Iraq. We went from having lots of support in our fight against terrorism in Afghanistan to being one of the most hated countries in the world," Banke continued. "I think that is one of the main objections Democrats hold to Bush's presidency."

The expressions of political support, however, were not limited to discourse. The large composite of Republicans on Samford's campus revealed their favorite candidate with campaign gear. Bush/Cheney signs hung in dormitory windows, "W" buttons were stuck on backpacks and bumper stickers speckled the parking lots.

Sophomore political science major Meg Allred gave out buttons and bumper stickers and encouraged her friends to sign up as volunteers on the Bush/Cheney campaign Web site. "I sent e-mails to my friends inviting them to participate in the campaign," she said. "It was my first time to be able to vote in a presidential election, so I wanted to make sure I got involved and encouraged others to vote."

After the campaign frenzy, the voting began. Junior nursing student Stacy Harris arrived at the polls early to cast her ballot. "I got there at 7 a.m.," she said, "and I still had to wait in line for about 30-45 minutes."

While some students made their final decisions on election day, others were able to cast their ballots early in many states. Early voting was introduced to allow people to avoid the possibility of waiting in line for hours at the polls and to let out-of-state residents vote early when they were at home.

Sophomore physics major Daniel Mills took advantage of the early voting system and voted during his fall break at his home in Indiana. "It took about 15 minutes for me to vote," he said. "I think early voting should be used in every state because it's really convenient. If you are like me and are out of your home state on the election day, you can plan ahead and

YOUR LAND"

STUDENT CAMPAIGN INVOLVEMENT

vote early."

The other method available to out-of-state Samford students was absentee voting. Freshman and Georgia resident Nicki Kroko found absentee voting to be relatively easy. "I just printed off an absentee request from the Internet and faxed it in. The ballot arrived in the mail sometime later," she said.

After the ballots were marked and the polls closed, the waiting began. On campus, students came together to watch the election coverage on the television. The College Republicans threw a party in Bashinsky Fieldhouse with a giant projector broadcasting Fox's election coverage. They had food, drinks and a live band to entertain the waiting crowd.

On the television news stations, the commentators filled time with policy discussion, projections of the 2008 election and possible outcomes. States began to announce their election returns, and electoral votes were tallied. It was time for the infamous "swing" or battleground states to confirm or reject the polls and predictions.

Though the counting continued through the night and the headlines on the morning papers read that a winner had not been determined, Kerry conceded the election to Bush the following day. Bush won with 286 electoral votes, Kerry received 252 electoral votes, and Independent party candidate Ralph Nader received 0 electoral votes.

As for the nation's voice, the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate reported that more than 122 million people voted in the presidential election. It was the highest turnout of voters since 1968 with 60.7 percent of the population participating.

As for first-time voters, the nonpartisan Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) reported that at least 20.9 million Americans under the age of 30 voted in this year's election. The demographic showed a 9.3 percent increase in voting turnout. More specifically, 51.6 percent of young adults went to the polls this year, and 4.6 million more youth votes were cast than in the 2000 presidential election.

After months of talk about the potential youth influence, Kerry received 54 percent of the youth vote, and Bush obtained 44 percent. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 40.7 million 18- to 29-year-olds make up 21 percent of the voting population. Efforts such as "Rock the Vote" and "20 Million LOUD!" encouraged young adults to have their voices heard this year.

Until the 2008 presidential campaigns begin, Samford students can continue to be involved on campus through the College Republicans or College Democrats organizations. "It's important to know what's going on in the nation and the world on a daily basis," Allred reminded. "I hope the campaign coverage allowed people to learn about the issues facing this country, and I hope they continue to be interested in the world outside the Samford "bubble." ■

Numbers.

by: Kimberly Holland

In the end, it came down to the numbers. The country held its breath while America elected the next president.

Samford's campus remained still and quiet. Some Samford students sat in their dorm rooms watching as the results flooded the screen and the rain poured outside on the brisk November night. Others spent the evening in Bashinsky Fieldhouse with live music, food and friends. And still others were tucked away in the library doing homework or reading while America chose its president for the next four years. The numbers started coming. Everyone held his or her breath.

For months, both President George W. Bush and Massachusetts Senator John Kerry toured the United States asking for votes, making promises, shaking hands and doing the political obligation of kissing babies. Media made predictions; politicians and analysts made predictions; the average citizen made predictions. Exit polls coming out of Ohio and Florida showed Kerry with a predicted strong lead over Bush. The final numbers did not quite tell the same story. In the end, neither predictions nor polls won the election. The number of votes was the only thing that truly counted.

Late in the evening on Tuesday, November 2, Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate John Edwards, a senator from North Carolina, spoke to the crowd waiting to celebrate Kerry's returns. "It's been a long night. We've waited four years for this victory. We can wait one more night," Edwards said.

Americans went to sleep that night without knowing who had been elected the next president.

"I was nearly positive there would be no definite result at the end of the night because of the 2000 election. I was feeling there wouldn't be a winner, so that took the fun out of watching the results come in," Junior biology major Jonathan Dunlap said.

Many students expressed the nervousness and anxiety they felt while waiting for the results. Many who chose to stay awake and watch the reports were up until the early hours of the morning.

Sophomore interior design major Shylan Bearden said, "I was a bit nervous but very optimistic. When I finally went to bed, I was quite confident that Bush had won."

As America awoke the next day, the victory still remained uncertain. Both Bush and Kerry election headquarters were not giving up hope. Ohio, one of the key swing states for both campaigns, still hung on the balancing pendulum.

At 8:43 a.m. on Wednesday, November 3, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card announced that the Bush campaign believed they would be declared victorious soon. "We are convinced that President Bush has won re-election with at least 286 in the Electoral College," Card said. Still victory was not certain for Bush.

Americans waited frantically to hear the latest news. At Samford, televisions were set up throughout campus to watch election returns. Students huddled around televisions and computers in the food court and library waiting for a verdict. Finally, the answer came.
Bush proudly accepted his victory. Kerry phoned Bush around 10:30 a.m. to concede the election. The Republicans exhaled while the Democrats shook their heads in disbelief. News spread quickly around Samford's campus.

Sophomore athletic training major Ashley Fowler was watching the results that day. "It took less time than I thought. I think it was a good idea that Kerry conceded instead of submitting the country to counts and recounts," she said.

"When I was told about the results and Kerry's phone call, the first thing that ran through my mind was the fact that the exact same thing happened four years ago when Al Gore called President Bush. I was just

hoping it wouldn't come down to a miscount again," sophomore political science major Meg Allred said.

At 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3, Kerry seized the stage at Boston's Faneuil Hall to offer his supporters his concession. Many eyes and ears on Samford's campus were tuned in leaving seats momentarily empty in Wednesday's one o'clock classes.

"Earlier today, I spoke to President Bush, and I offered him and Laura our congratulations on their victory. We had a good conversation, and we talked about the danger of division in our country and the need – the desperate need – for unity, for finding the common ground, coming together. Today, I hope that we can begin the healing," Kerry said in his emotionally-charged speech.

Later, Bush spoke to his supporters and to the nation from the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C.

"America has spoken, and I'm humbled by the trust and the confidence of my fellow citizens. With that trust comes a duty to serve all Americans, and I will do my best to fulfill that duty every day as your president," Bush said gratefully. Bush addressed America about many of the issues brought up during the campaign and his continued pursuit to act on the promises he made.

Bush concluded his speech saying, "The campaign has ended, and the United States of America goes forward with confidence and faith. I see a great day coming for our country, and I am eager for the work ahead. God bless you, and may God bless America."

According to CNN's Web site, the president won the election by a margin of 34 Electoral College votes. Two hundred seventy votes are required to be declared the winner in a presidential election. That margin breaks down to a 51 percent to 48 percent victory for the Texan over the Massachusetts senator. Bush received 59,459, 765 votes compared to Kerry's 55,949,407 (CNN.com).

Many Americans predicted intense and lengthy legal battles over the results. Days before the election, television stations and media outlets began reporting that both Bush's and Kerry's campaign offices had called in legal teams of lawyers, analysts and advisers to be prepared for the forthcoming battle. A repeat of the 2000 election was feared and predicted.

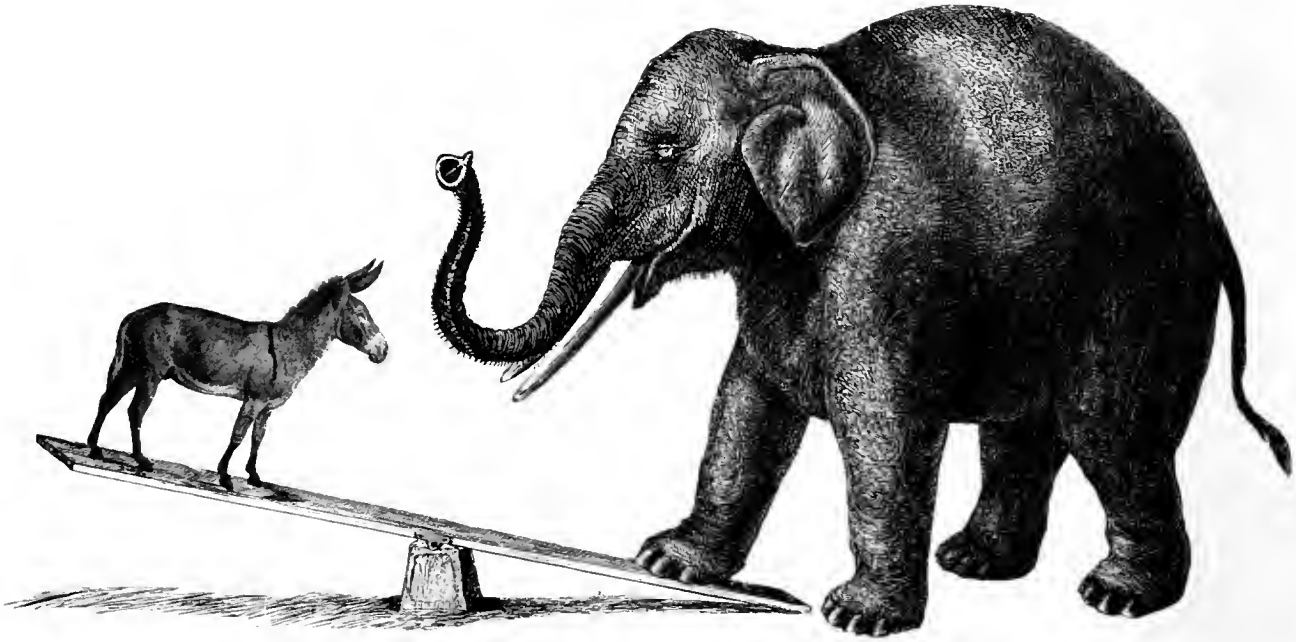
As few uncounted votes remained, and things began looking dismal in Ohio for Kerry, his political team and staff began weighing their alternatives. Aides to Kerry said there was a review of all options, including legal challenges of votes in Ohio in order to gain a victory.

One Kerry aide told NBC news that the campaign could not afford a quick decision. "There was too much at stake," the aide said. "In America it is vital that every vote count and that every vote be counted. But the outcome should be decided by voters, not a protracted legal process. I would not give up this fight if there was a chance that we would prevail. But it is now clear that even when all the provisional ballots are counted, which they will be, there won't be enough outstanding votes for us to be able to win Ohio. And therefore, we can not win this election," Kerry said during his concession.

Serving in the Senate for the past 20 years, Kerry returned to Massachusetts to continue his term. On the other hand, Edwards, his running mate, did not choose to seek re-election to his Senate seat in North Carolina. Edwards returned to private life with his wife Elizabeth and two young children, Emma Claire and Jack, in January at the end of his term.

With a record turnout, Bush became the first presidential candidate since 1988 to win more than 50 percent of the popular vote. By getting 58.6 million votes, Bush broke Ronald Reagan's 1984 record of 54.5 million votes (CNN.com). Bush also became the first president elected while gaining seats in the House of Representatives and the Senate since 1936 (CNN.com). The president can attribute the fact that he was able to increase his percent of the vote from 2000 in 45-out-of-50 states to his victory (CNN.com).

Immediately following the election, it seemed as though the nation became deeply divided. However, Americans are now looking forward to the next four years with hope and a renewed sense of patriotism. Both candidates have called their supporters to begin a rally for unification in order to bridge the divide that has severed our country. Whether your candidate of choice will be staying in the White House or going home to Beacon Hill, the American people have once again proven how our democracy works. ■



Being a Democrat at Samford University

by Ben Fiechter

College: The place where I'm supposed to have my mind opened up to new ideas. Right?

This is the attitude with which I came to Samford University as a wide-eyed freshman, ready to have my beliefs challenged and my mind expanded. I realized I was probably in for a rough time when a girl in my CP class said she didn't like Plato because "he wasn't a Christian." Personally, I didn't expect much better of Plato since he lived 500 years before the birth of Christ.

During my first month at school, I joined the College Democrats. After the Plato incident, I knew that there were probably a lot of Republicans at this predominately Baptist institution. Despite my presuppositions, I wasn't prepared to walk into my first College Democrats meeting and see only six people there. Wondering if this was just a down week, I asked then-president Jamie Gibson about the low turnout. He said to me, "We have about 15 members. Everyone else in this school belongs to the College Republicans." I honestly thought he was kidding.

Not only does the vast majority of Samford students identify with the Republican Party, but they also don't take to outsiders too kindly. In those rare instances that I volunteer my political persuasion, I am greeted with looks ranging from amusement to sheer terror. Most people look at me like I'm an albino leper, as in "You poor soul, how in the world did you end up like this?"

Like being a leper in Jesus' time, being a Democrat at Samford also carries a certain social stigma with it. Even my fraternity makes fun of me for it. During Rush, our president, hoping to impress upon the freshmen that our fraternity is a repository of leadership, mentioned to a group of rushees, "We have the president of the College Democrats." Such a statement stimulated a collective snicker throughout the room. A low, slightly embarrassed laugh accompanied the furtive left-right glances to see if "the Democrat" was standing next to them. Then our chapter advisor got up to speak and mentioned, hopefully jokingly, that "the Democrat" should probably be kicked out of the fraternity. Very funny, Jeff.

Possibly the worst thing about being a (gasp!) liberal at Samford is that most people I talk politics with don't know anything about the issues. I know several people have a really good grasp on why they vote Republican, but I have found many who lack true political knowledge. Here is a sample conversation that took place before the November presidential election:

Republican: Who are you voting for?

Me: John Kerry.

R: You do know that he supports killing babies and letting them sick, sinful gays get married, right?

M: Uh, you mean abortion and letting gays have the same rights as everyone else? Yeah. You do know that more abortions occurred during the W. administration than during any four years of Clinton's term?

R: Yeah, right. The liberal media brainwashed you. Bill O'Reilly knows what's up.

M: .....Sure. So why are you voting for Bush?

R: Values, man.

M: Like invading third-world countries under false pretenses? And staying there for an indefinite period of time, creating more hatred toward America? Yeah, them's good values.

R: (walking away) ...values.

But is it impossible to be a Democrat at Samford? Absolutely not. I've managed for four years. Even though some discussions with conservatives have been a little annoying, I wouldn't change my college experience for the world. Despite the many students who come to Samford and don't allow their core beliefs to be challenged, I did. Since the day I arrived, I have been assailed by conservatism from my fellow students. Though I don't agree with many conservative perceptions, political debates with many of my peers have only served to affirm my own beliefs in liberalism. They have also made me realize that I do not have all the answers. While it is very frustrating to have your own opinions fall on deaf ears, I have not become less of a liberal because of different viewpoints. The constant barrage of attacks on my beliefs has probably even made me a stronger Democrat. I am sure that the 20 or so members currently enrolled in the College Democrats would agree with me. So, yes, college IS the place to have your mind opened to new ideas. For that, I thank the typical conservative at Samford. ■

Being a Republican at Samford University

by Will Flowers

College: A place where stereotypical Republicans are usually prevalent. Right?

Like many students at Samford, I go to church on Sunday, read my Bible and vote Republican. In the beginning, I came to Samford as many other freshmen do -- open to new ideas on society and its ideals.

I am a commuting student, and as I try to find a spot to park on campus each day, I get a good chance to see the car bumpers of most students. During the November presidential election, I noticed many "W" stickers graced the back of both commuter and residential students' cars.

I know that some consider the sticker a fad during the election. Interestingly enough, as I spent endless hours trying to find an open spot, I noticed many Kerry/Edwards stickers in the Faculty and Staff and commuter parking areas. From CP to BP, many professors at Samford were supporting the Democrat candidate. Though this is the beauty of democracy, it's not what I expected to be the norm of a Baptist college in the Heart of Dixie.

Some people just think that Democrats are wrong and Republicans are right or vice versa. Despite this polarity, I am a Republican and supported George W. Bush with my "W" sticker because I can relate to the ideals that most of the party members uphold. I have friends in my fraternity that are Democrats, and I respect them for their party preference. They have the right to their own ideals.

For example, one day as I sat in the food court, I had a chance to talk with one of the grounds keepers about the election. The first words out of his mouth were, "So how can you kill someone in war?" I replied with a smile, "Good question. I guess we have to do it so that we can keep our freedom."

Some might believe that being a Republican is the easy road to take. When your country is at war and your friends are overseas, however, you think below the surface.

The bottom line in my political beliefs is that with great power comes great responsibility. America is both a powerful and free nation. The fact that I could have a conversation with a liberal and not be persecuted for it makes me want others to have that same experience.

I grew up in a family that votes Republican, but I also have family members that do not. I love my family. The differences we have promote involvement and loyalty, and involvement and loyalty are two things that make our country great and unique.

I'm very interested in the political issues broadcast on television and online. It's important for me to understand what is going on outside of my comfort zone.

Even though Democrats at Samford are in the minority, it doesn't mean that they are outcasts. Democrats are typically knowledgeable about their passions. I challenge Republican students at Samford to be just as knowledgeable. Don't just put a sticker on your car because it's a fad. Study the issues and be able to defend your points.

If you think voicing political beliefs to friends and family who respect your knowledge is easy, try talking to a liberal with a Ph.D. It makes for a self-confidence buster. It makes me want to know the issues carried by my political side, rather than just blindly promote the party.

So, is it easy being a Republican at Samford? During the years of a Republican president and with my friends on the same political side, then yeah, it's not too bad. I was, however, born in the traditionally conservative South, live in the traditionally, conservative South and love the traditionally, conservative South.

So, to my fellow Republicans, read the newspaper, watch speeches and know why you have a "W" sticker on your car. To the Democrats at Samford, thanks for trying to expand the "Bubble." ■

devastation

TSUNAMI

chaos

devastation

devastation

by Ashley McCleery
photo credit:
AP/ World Wide Photos

SILENCE, eerie silence, protruded the December morning in Phuket, Thailand. Sunbathers watched warily as the tide of Patong Beach receeded abruptly. Suddenly, the silence was pierced with the rumbling of a massive tidal wave. Early morning swimmers turned to the direction of the trembling and were confronted with the tsunami, or "wall of water," moving swiftly in their direction.

Filled with fear and confusion, they ran desperately, trying to escape the 50 foot waves. Each gigantic wave destroyed homes, overturned cars and washed people out to sea. Children screamed for their parents as they clung to lamp posts and poles. After 20 minutes had crept by, the last surge of water forced most of the beach and town under the ocean.

On December 26, 2004, a 9.0 magnitude undersea earthquake occurred about 100 miles from the western coast of Sumatra Island, Indonesia. According to CNN, the quake was the strongest earthquake on the planet in 40 years. Consequently, it produced a tsunami that hit the shores of Indonesia, South India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and other countries boarding the Indian Ocean.

A tsunami can be caused by a displacement of water from a landslide, volcanic eruption, or in this case, slippage of the boundary between two tectonic plates. Not all earthquakes result in a tsunami. However, the India and Burma plates slipped about 600 miles due to the quake, which created the 7.3 magnitude tsunami. It's estimated that about 212,000 people have been killed, but the count may never be finalized because some of the bodies were swept into the sea.

Although most Samford students weren't directly impacted by the tsunami, they were still overcome with emotion as they watched the reports. "At first I was surprised about the amount of people it killed," sophomore Patrick Sewell said. "But, I was shocked when the numbers kept growing larger and larger. I just didn't realize a natural disaster could kill so many people." Sewell was also devastated to learn about how many children lost their parents, leaving approximately 13,000 children orphaned. "It's so sad hearing about the orphans. I keep thinking about the one baby that nine parents are trying to claim."

In the midst of the despair, junior Lori Holman chooses to see the positive side of the disaster. "When we know God is in control, we question why these tragic things happen," Holman said. "But, God has so much control. He used this tragedy to illustrate what He wants our world to be like. People were coming from all over the world out of compassion to help."

Sophomore Canaan Helms was also touched by the disaster. "When I see something as tragic as the tsunami, I realize that I take life for granted. It makes me question what I'm doing with my life."

While most Samford students learned about the tsunami from the news, sophomore Waranya Rungsakolert received a call from her parents. Rungsakolert is originally from Bangkok, Thailand but lives in Birmingham with her aunt and uncle. "When my dad called me, he said that the shore was completely destroyed," Rungsakolert said. "He also said the inside of the city was very lucky because the water didn't come far enough to reach the town. So, everything inside the city was fine."

Although Bangkok isn't close to the coast, Rungsakolert still mourns for those who died in Phuket. "I'm so sad because I'm very connected to my country," she said. "It's very unfortunate that 5,000 people died because of this natural disaster. That's double the amount of people who died in the bombings of the twin towers."

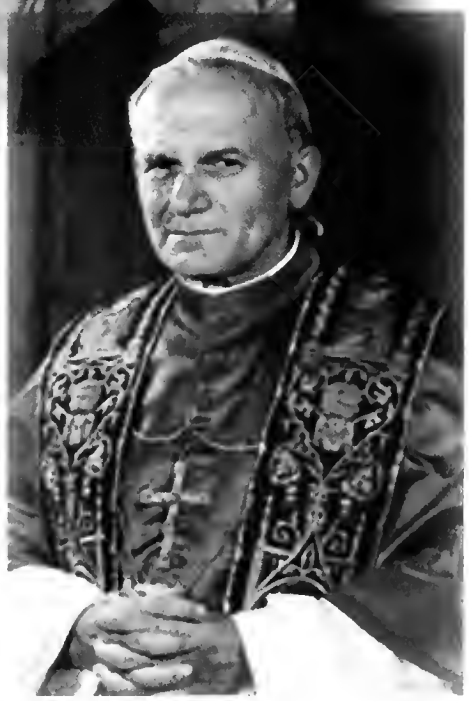
Rungsakolert is also concerned with the tsunami's effect on the economy of Thailand. "Even though Bangkok wasn't directly affected, the economy was. The economy is slowly getting worse," Rungsakolert said. "People are losing money and starting to not feel as safe."

The tsunami tugged at hearts across the world, which has spurred many people to help with the relief effort. Junior Julia McNeese was able to witness how London's theatre is participating in the effort while she was studying abroad. "As the cast was taking their bows, one member of the cast waited for the clapping to subside," McNeese said. "Then, they mentioned how their actor's guild was supporting the cause for the tsunami relief fund. Most everyone I saw contributed something, and I can imagine that they raised a large amount of funds for the relief aid from doing that night after night."

Victims of the tsunami have now started the difficult journey of rebuilding their homes and lives. Though many lost everything, they have not lost hope. Each donated dollar brings a few more needed supplies, and each day brings a little more relief to those whose lives were so savagely interrupted by the devastating tsunami.

a Year in Review

by Megan Voelkel



All images from Corbis.

Feb. 25, 2004: Mel Gibson releases the controversial Passion of the Christ, which receives both commercial success and anti-Semitic criticism.

March 11, 2004: Islamic militants, possibly linked to al-Qaeda, bomb four morning commuter trains in Madrid, Spain killing 191 people and injuring over 1,000.

April 21, 2004: Pop star Michael Jackson is indicted by a grand jury in Santa Barbara County, Calif., for allegedly molesting children at his Neverland Ranch.

April 28, 2004: Photographs reveal American soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad. Three U.S. soldiers were sentenced for their involvement, and investigations of prisoner mistreatment at other U.S. Army detention centers followed.

May 6, 2004: The last episode of television series "Friends" is aired as Monica, Joey, Rachel, Ross, Phoebe and Chandler say goodbye to 10 years of friendship.

June 1, 2004: Amidst suicide-bombings and the beheadings of civilian hostages, an interim government is set up in Iraq under the leadership of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

June 5, 2004: Former President Ronald Reagan loses his 10-year-battle with Alzheimer's Disease and dies at the age of 93 at his California ranch.

June 10, 2004: Singer and piano player Ray Charles dies from liver disease at age 73.

June 15, 2004: The Detroit Pistons defeat the Los Angeles Lakers to win the NBA championship.

June 21, 2004: Pilot Mike Melvill flies the first privately built spacecraft, the SpaceShipOne rocket, into outer space above Mojave, Calif.

June 25, 2004: Michael Moore's documentary Fahrenheit 9/11 hits the box office and grosses over $119 million.

July 1, 2004: Famous for his performance in a "Streetcar Named Desire," actor Marlon Brando dies at 80.

July 22, 2004: The 9/11 Commission's report reveals the "deep institutional failings" of U.S. intelligence preceding the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

July 25, 2004: Lance Armstrong wins his record-breaking sixth consecutive Tour de France.

Aug. 13, 2004: Athens, Greece hosts the Summer Olympic Games with over 11,000 athletes competing and representing 202 countries.

Aug.-Sept.: Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne rage through the Atlantic Ocean hitting Florida and leaving in their paths devastation totaling $26 billion and 99 deaths.

Sept. 1, 2004: Chechen militants storm an elementary school in the Russian province of North Ossetia taking almost 1,000 school children hostage in a school rigged with explosives.

Sept. 2, 2004: Prosecutors in the Kobe Bryant criminal case drop charges against the NBA star after the woman who accused Bryant of rape chooses to not continue the case.

Oct. 8, 2004: Homemaker goddess Martha Stewart is sent to prison after being convicted of lying to federal investigators about her inside trading practices in a 2001 stock sale.

Oct. 9, 2004: Despite the threat of Taliban violence, Afghans elect Hamid Karzai as president in the country's first presidential elections.

Oct. 10, 2004: After suffering from a near-fatal spinal cord injury in 1995, Christopher Reeve, the actor most famous as "Superman," dies at 52 from heart failure.

Oct. 27, 2004: The Boston Red Sox win their first World Series in 86 years beating the St. Louis Cardinals and ending the so-called "Curse of the Bambino."

Nov. 3, 2004: A $3 billion bond measure is passed in California to fund stem cell research over the next decade.

Nov. 3, 2004: George W. Bush is declared victorious in his re-election campaign for president against Massachusetts Senator John Kerry.

Nov. 7, 2004: U.S. and Iraqi troops capture Fallujah in Operation Phantom Fury.

Nov. 9, 2004: The U.N. Security Council addresses the genocide of black Africans in Darfur, Sudan and threatens sanctions if the Janjaweed militia is not disarmed

Nov. 11, 2004: Seventy-five year-old Palestinian Liberation Organization leader, Yasser Arafat, dies from multiple organ failures at a French military hospital.

Nov. 30, 2004: Ken Jennings completes the longest winning streak on Jeopardy! and earned $2,520,700 in 74 episodes.

Dec. 13, 2004: A California jury recommends the death penalty for Scott Peterson after he was convicted of killing his pregnant wife, Laci, and their unborn son, Conner, in December 2002.

Dec. 22, 2004: Radical Islamics bomb a U.S. military base in Mosul killing 22 people and injuring over 40.

Dec. 26, 2004: An earthquake, measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale, shakes the ground off the coast of the island of Sumatra and generates deadly tsunamis in the Indian Ocean. The natural disaster leaves over 225,000 dead across Asia and thousands more homeless.

Dec. 27, 2004: Viktor Yushchenko wins the re-run of Ukraine's presidential election after his opponent, Viktor Yanukoych, was declared the winner in November.

Jan. 23, 2005: Johnny Carson, the former host of "The Tonight Show" dies from emphysema at age 79.

Jan. 25, 2005: The jury is selected and opening statements are heard in the scandal trial of Richard Scrushy. The founder of HealthSouth Corp. in Birmingham, Ala., Scrushy is accused of directing a $2.7 billion fraud at the company.

Jan. 30, 2005: Iraqis vote in their first open election since the reign of Saddam Hussein.

March 31, 2005: After an intense right-to-life battle in the courts, Terri Schiavo dies, nearly two weeks after doctors removed her feeding tube. The 41-year-old brain-damaged woman had been in a persistent vegetative state for 15 years, until her husband, Michael Schiavo, petitioned to have the feeding tube removed. Mrs. Schiavo's parents, opposing their son-in-law's actions, were unsuccessful in their attempts to have the courts remove him as her guardian.

April 2, 2005: Regarded as "a champion of human freedom," Pope John Paul II dies at 84, after leading Catholics for 26 years. As the first Slavic pope in papal history, John Paul was mourned by tens of thousands of people in St. Peter's Square and millions around the world. With the third-longest papal service, he was also the first pope to visit the White House, communist Cuba, and a synagogue.

April 9, 2005: Prince Charles of England and Camilla Parker Bowles marry at Windsor's Guildhall in a 20-minute civil wedding ceremony. Receiving a public blessing at St. George's Chapel, Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall wed 9 years after the prince's divorce from Diana Spencer. ■

Senior Survey

What has been your most memorable experience/ run-in with campus safety?

- I thought my car was stolen one time, and before we even checked around the parking deck (which was where my car was), they were about to call Homewood Police Dept, had already filed the missing property form and called other officers for back-up.
- Where do I begin, probably one of the 32 parking tickets that they have given me. I swear that I paid for their bicycles and the little cart.
- Having to wake the lil' old man in the security gate up so that I could drive through.
- Not being able to interview certain campus safety officers because they were on vacation (but I later saw them working that night), or not being able to interview a campus safety officer because this member had recently had surgery on his/her face ... but the following morning there wasn't a single trace of the supposed "facial surgery."
- I'm pretty sure that it would be the night our "all systems failure" alarm was going off in Marvin every 30 minutes, and when all of the officers realized they had no idea how to fix it, one suggested that we "put a pillow over the speaker and duct tape it there."
- After strolling through the sorority quad once while waiting for my ride one night, Campus Safety came flying up telling me that I had be reported as a "suspicious person" and that I should be more careful about where I walk.
- During freshman year, every time we would come in late, we would hit that panic button in the pit and try and get to Smith before they would come.
- They continued to give me tickets, even though they knew my car was broken down in the parking lot.
- For a holiday I had to stay an extra night in the dorm, but because my name was not on the "magical list" that makes it ok to stay, I was kicked out, and found myself packing my clothes in a sack and driving 3 hours in the rain at night to prevent me from terrorizing the campus for the remaining 12 hours I planned on staying.
- My cell phone battery was dead, and my mom was trying to get in touch with me (I was in a computer lab until 12 o'clock that night). I get back to my dorm room and find a message from Campus Safety saying to call my mother because she was wondering where I was.
- The evening that started with the idea of cooking dinner and ended with smoke - fire fighters and a campus safety stake-out.

How many convos did you save until your senior year?

- ZERO!!
- Only 9.
- 25.
- None. I had them all by spring of my junior year! That's the way to go, kids!
- 44, but they're optional, right?
- 20ish?
- 1.
- None.
- 'Bout 30, but I've seen worse.
- 10.
- Seeing that I'm a 5th year senior...I have about 20 left to go before I graduate in December.
- 32.
- What's convo?
- 16.

What organization/activity do you wish you had taken part in?

- Ville Crew.
- The "I Paid $80,000 in Tuition to Get My MRS Degree" Club.
- Step Sing committee.
- Gospel Choir.
- Alpha Delta Pi.
- Meaningful dating relationship.
- STEP SING.
- I wish I had been involved in student ministries all four years.
- Habitat for Humanity.
- I missed the Intramural train, and I regret that.
- Swing Kids.
- Sig Ep.
- SGA.
- 10-minute plays.
- SAC.
- M.O.W.M.A. (Making Out With My Arm) ... due to the lack of normal boy/girl relationships.
- I wish I'd actually cut class once in a while.
- CAMPUS OUTREACH.
- Intramural laser tag.
- CONNECTIONS.

Where's the best place to take a date?

- Guys ask girls out for dates on this campus?! Who knew!
- First date - any good coffee shop around B'ham. Any date - WorkPlay or a show at BJCC
- The Chang (aka PF Changs)
- The lookout near Vestavia Hills Baptist Church.
- Botanical Gardens on a cool, sunny, spring day.
- We don't know...however, if we send you our phone number, will you direct them to us?
- McWane Center.
- Oak Mountain—picnic, paddleboats, biking...even golf!
- Cheesecake Factory.
- Southern Progress parking lot.
- Convo.
- Botanical Gardens, Five Points, O'Henrys.
- Lack of experience to draw from....

What's the biggest prank you've pulled during the past four years?

- I never really pulled one.
- Sending a love note to Joey Proffitt.
- Pi Kap new foyer day!!!
- Freshman year, just one day before graduation, our whole hall put panties in a tree in front of Vail. All of the visiting parents got to see them. HA!
- Koolaiding Ben Brown Fountain red
- I play on an athletic team here, and we played a prank on our freshmen by stealing the tires off their cars and putting the cars on cinder blocks... they stayed like that for three days until Campus Safety called their parents.
- Took a friend's car key, copied it, put it back, then moved his car to the other side of campus—for three days.
- Throwing donuts and salami on people kissing from the roof outside my room in Vail.
- My freshman year around Halloween, my Mom sent me this 3 1/2 foot witch that screamed, "I'm gonna get you!" when you walked by it. So I put the witch upside down (so that when you walked by it, the motion sensor would set her off) in a stall in the bathroom of 3rd East in Vail. I put an "Out of Order" sign on the front of the stall and locked it from the inside. People came in at 2 a.m. and heard that witch scream at them!
- I would not be able to graduate if I told.


testify

student ministries

by Alisha Damron

Who are they anyway? An organization? A club? A close group of friends who spend hours contemplating scripture or stalking April Robinson or cleaning Reid Chapel for the next convocation?

"I hear that to be a member you have to pass a drug test." "I hear you have to be a missionary's kid or at least Baptist."

"I think you have to participate in Bible drills." No, no, no. Student Ministries is nothing like the stereotypes that seem to be lingering around this campus.

Student Ministries is not a club. There are no requirements to participate. I have heard April Robinson, director of Student Ministries, refer to it as a "network." The more I contemplate this idea, the more I agree. Student Ministries is about helping students figure out what shape their lives are taking vocationally and theologically.

If you're passionate about social justice, Student Ministries has a committee dedicated to just that – The Social Concerns and Cultural Awareness Committee. This means if you are all about politics, there's a place for you in Student Ministries. Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform is attempting to start a student chapter. This committee is also responsible for starting chapters of Global Women and Bread for the World. They organize "Hope for Hunger" every year and dedicate most of their time showing documentaries, sponsoring speaker series and educating the student body of Samford University about international issues.

If it is Birmingham you're interested in, the Community Involvement Committee has made it possible for you to tutor kids and adults in need of education. This committee sponsors Ville Crew, a group that spends their Saturday mornings doing activities with children from Inner City Birmingham.

Maybe worship and/or performing are your spiritual talents. Great! Shiloh, a weekly worship service sponsored by Student Ministries, is always in need of students willing to prepare and execute the service. There is also the drama team Word Players and Student Ministries Choir, groups willing to allow your artistic expression to happen.

Going on summer missions? Need money? Student Ministries has scholarships available for any student involved in missions through the Global Involvement committee. They dedicate their year to fundraising by working athletic concessions, babysitting and cookie sales.

Maybe it is simply a small group that you crave, a place where authenticity meets faith. Cadres and small groups are designed for students to have healthy dialogue on issues that concern them as Christians.

This, unfortunately, just scratches the surface of Student Ministries and its presence on this campus. Hopefully, this section will help by attempting to fill in the blanks on some of the mysterious quandaries about Student Ministries—who we are and what exactly we've been up to this year. From the pages of this year's Testify section, one thing I hope you will grasp is that Student Ministries is not inaccessible—after all, it exists for students. ■

Imago dei

The Auxiliary room is tucked safely away between Reid Chapel and the language labs of Chapman Hall. There is nothing extraordinary or glamorous about it. It seems to have suffered a minor explosion of mauve, shades of green, including forest green and nauseating décor. Still, there is something spectacular about that space when a dozen college women gather in a circle of sorts squeezing as many on the couch and others in arm chairs with the purpose of exchanging ideas, understanding already established ideas and embracing new ones. The memory of that room is all too familiar to me. Everyone would settle in balancing their caffeine of choice in one hand, a pen in the other and notebooks across their laps almost perched forward in anticipation for the Bible study to begin. Come to think of it, "Bible study" just doesn't seem to give Imago Dei any shimmer of justice.

Imago Dei, a small group sponsored by Student Ministries, is a term with a theological origin meaning "image of God." Imago Dei gets its roots from Genesis 1:27 where scripture claims that humans were created in God's image. The 10- week study dissects modern articles written about various topics that directly relate to women's issues such as body concepts, identity, sensuality and attachment. The dissection of articles, pieces of literature, poetry and even scripture is combined with dialogue between participants and leaders. The group focuses on breaking down the messages and restrictions culture has placed on women and re-introduces the concept of deciphering between culture and Christ.

Imago Dei speaks clarity and truth to women at Samford, in a way unlike any other packaged Bible study curriculum, because it is homegrown, created by Samford faculty and staff. April Robinson, Director of Student Ministries, was the visionary and coordinator of this concept. She also collaborated with other inspiring female faculty who individually and collectively recognized a need and felt a deep passion to provide female students with an outlet to discuss difficult ideas about the way culture sees them, and in turn, the way women see themselves.

Carol Ann Vaughn, Director of the Christian Women's Leadership Center and major contributor to the curriculum of Imago Dei, said that the study is designed to provide female students with "an opportunity to explore issues of identity, healing and wholeness without segregating spirituality, intellect, physicality, emotions and relationships." She continued to describe Imago Dei as an experience, "for many females viewing themselves as created in the image of a loving God who wants them to be whole, unique individuals is counter-cultural, even in Christian cultures."

Sarah Dockrey, junior graphic design major from Nashville, Tenn., almost didn't join Imago Dei. "I almost didn't think that this (Imago Dei) would be a good small group for me because I believed that I had a pretty good self-image, but Imago Dei showed me just how much we all struggle with certain things. What struck me was that God doesn't love me any less because I deal with those issues, but he loves me just the same, with an unconditional, freeing love," Dockrey said.

For Mary Jenkins, junior family studies/child life major from Destin, Fla., it was a friend who strongly recommended she participate in Imago Dei. So, she simply did. According to Jenkins' advice, Imago Dei is not for the faint of heart. "If you choose one small group to really put your whole self into, make it this one. The work you put into it will definitely pay off, but don't be scared to deal with hard things," Jenkins said. For Jenkins and other students like her, this study wasn't simply a social circle or something to scratch off the "to do" list, it was transformational. "Imago Dei was the start of a huge change in my life. I have become a totally different person through Imago Dei and the things that have unfolded through it," Jenkins said. "God definitely placed that group in my life at that time for a purpose, and I have been able to be closer to Him, being secure in the person He made me to be!"

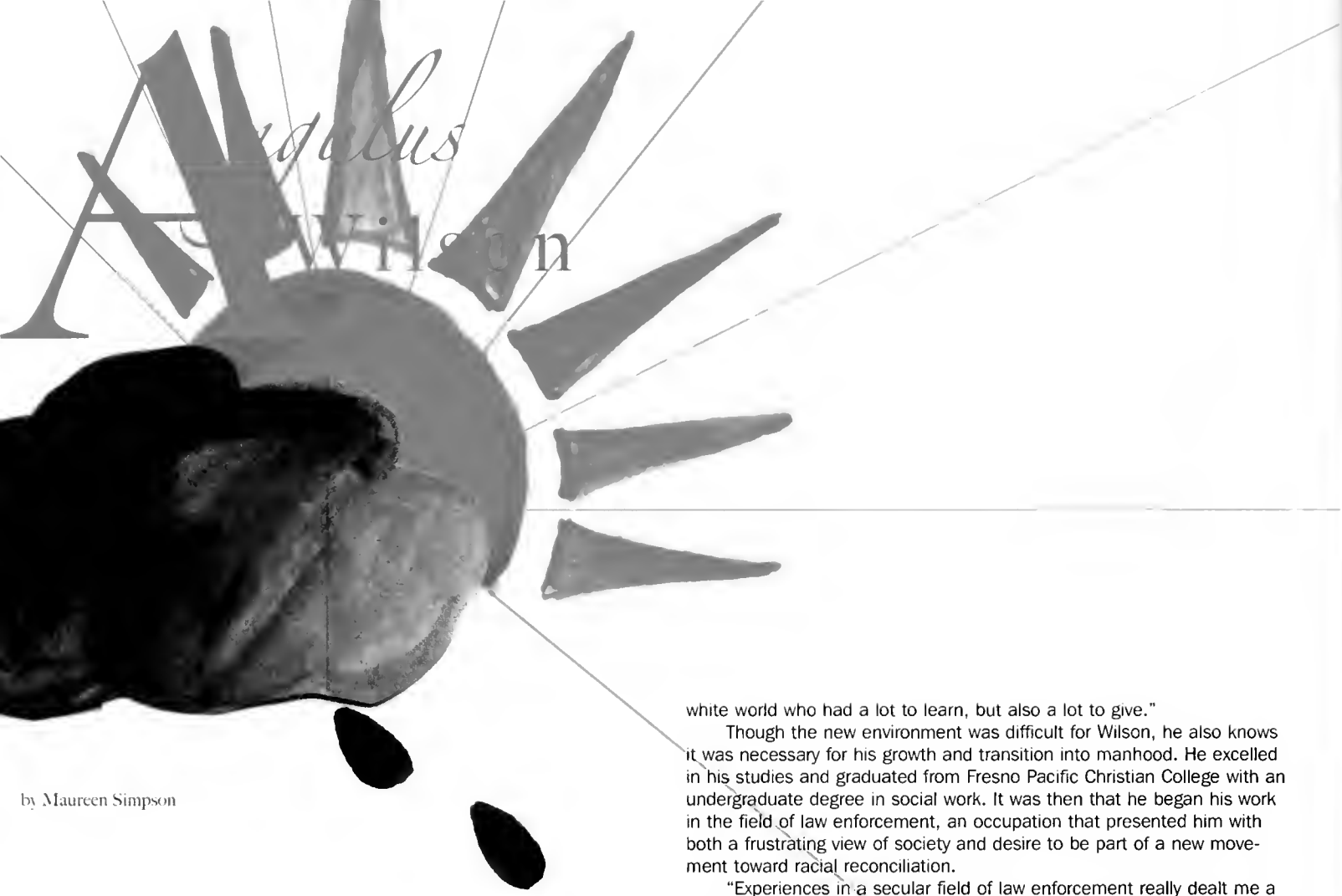
Hearing positive reviews through the grapevine, Abby Callahan, senior elementary education major from Bowling Green, Ky., boldly signed up for Imago Dei. For Callahan it was the group dynamics that seemed to stand out in her mind. "After exposing deep issues that have been in your life with a few strangers, a certain bond forms that you may not have had with anyone else. This is also a bond that you can't just drop after one semester of the study—the women I have gotten to know through Imago Dei have been an invaluable source of encouragement both spiritually and emotionally," Callahan said. When the study was over, Callahan's group decided to continue meeting. One group of participants from Imago Dei has been meeting for three years now. Her advice for other college women prepared for a challenge is to "go into this open and ready to be transformed. Don't be scared to dig deep." Callahan understands the importance of remembering her starting place and recalling her journey through the study. "I was struggling to find my identity at Samford. It is amazing to me to look back over the year and a half since the study and see a newfound confidence of myself in Christ and how that has affected my leadership and involvement with activities on campus," Callahan said.

Even though this small group opportunity seems to open up the door to honest reflection

and authentic dialogue, there is still more to be desired. What about the guys? Robinson also sees a needed, for men on campus to have the same opportunity for reflection and dialogue. "Men are dealing with self-esteem issues as well, and are finding even less freedom to talk openly about them. There is an expectation for males to be calm, cool and collected," Robinson said. "In reality, men on our campus are struggling with feelings of inadequacy and isolation. They 'know' there are cultural expectations of them—to be successful in their job, marry the right woman, have 2.5 kids and be able to afford cars, vacations and retirement. However, there isn't much conversation about whether their Christian faith challenges or underwrites those expectations. There is a great chasm between the expectation and the reality for most men, and that creates a lot of tension. Men do not have a place to speak honestly about fears and questions—a place to talk about what it means to be a man, created in the image of God."

Until men on this campus get passionate about creating such material to engage males in a healthy dissection of cultural expectations compared to the realms of the spintual, the women will be celebrating the distance that has been made in the female population, and the breakthroughs that have happened for individuals through such a powerful small group experience like Imago Dei. One participant reflected on her completion of Imago Dei and stated, "The truth is—I may have a few pounds to lose, a not so clear complexion, or a lacking personality, but I am a child of God. The truth—I may have a million things to change about myself, but with or without those changes I am loved and treasured by the God of the universe. The truth is—I have a life that is worth every ounce of energy, effort and hope. The truth is—I am God's, and now I must choose to embrace this truth as my identity in Christ." ■

Angulus Wilson



by Maureen Simpson

You could say that Angulus Wilson has a one-track mind.

Though he has found himself in a number of fields and various roles, the mission has always been the same.

"I love the Lord, and I am all about making disciples," Wilson says. "I recognize that Jesus is coming back, so I want to be about advancing the kingdom of God on earth for the return of Christ."

Whether it's ex-offenders, juvenile delinquents, gang members, orphans in South Africa or students, Wilson's calling is to serve people with broken lives. It's a passion that has taken him to three continents and across the United States, most recently landing him in Birmingham as the Associate Director of Outreach for the Samford in Mission (SIM) program.

Before coming to Samford, Wilson spent more than a decade serving in the field of law enforcement as a deputy probation officer, juvenile boot camp director, gang investigator, prison warden and evangelist for the Institute for Prison Ministries at the Billy Graham Center of Wheaton College in Chicago, Ill. His work in this particularly difficult field was no accident, because the stories that accompanied these broken lives were hauntingly familiar to the reverend from South Central Los Angeles.

"I voluntarily went on a long ride (13 years) full of gang involvement in the inner city. I have been shot, stabbed, beaten unconscious, victimized, robbed and violated. I lost a lot of things like friends to gang involvement. I lost my innocence, my freedom and my sanity on occasions. Besides this, I found myself in the presence of death," Wilson says. "I have seen a lot of human storm clouds and heavy rains. However, in all of this, I thank God for these experiences because they made me stronger for the noonday events."

The noonday events Wilson speaks of were his move from the inner city to Fresno, Calif., from gang involvement to college life. "I moved away with some help from a high school teacher who saw something in me," Wilson says. "When I arrived in Fresno, I had a big surprise. My neighborhoods looked nothing like these, my associates looked nothing like these, and my mental models were nothing like the life I was to encounter. I quickly found out that I was a black man in a white world who had a lot to learn, but also a lot to give."

Though the new environment was difficult for Wilson, he also knows it was necessary for his growth and transition into manhood. He excelled in his studies and graduated from Fresno Pacific Christian College with an undergraduate degree in social work. It was then that he began his work in the field of law enforcement, an occupation that presented him with both a frustrating view of society and desire to be part of a new movement toward racial reconciliation.

"Experiences in a secular field of law enforcement really dealt me a blow. I was able to see two sides of a one-sided story about racism and the turmoil that plagues our nation," Wilson says. "I saw white people who were terrified about blacks because they did not understand them, and I saw blacks that were angry about the past, which they could do nothing about. I noticed that both of these groups lived with a mental model that neither could escape. This vision changed the way my mental models were shaped and impressed upon me that I must attempt to bring both sides together under the banner of Christian love."

In 1991, Wilson was licensed and ordained by the Grace Community Baptist Church and began his ministerial experience in urban evangelism and prison ministry. He continued his biblical instruction at the Conroe School of Theology and received a Masters Degree from Wheaton College in Evangelism and Spiritual Formation. Since then, he has labored in international and national evangelistic ministries, prisons, mission agencies, schools and cross-cultural congregations. His desire at Samford is to continue this call to urban and rural evangelism through outreach programs that involve music, sports, mentoring and missions.

"It is quite apparent that our inner cities and rural areas of our nation are in great need of many spiritual resources and spiritual truths. I desire with all of my heart to bring these things for the masses of people in our urban ghettos," Wilson says. "I want to be a leader for our nation in change, and I want to be a leader that points men and women's hearts to God." Currently, SIM is working locally in urban Birmingham and Perry County, but Wilson's hopes are to see the university working on a national and global level as well.

"Nationally, I believe that Samford has the opportunity to be a peer mentor or peer leader for universities in North America that can really call universities back to mission and evangelism," Wilson says. "My global hopes are that Samford will rise to the challenge of being a world changer. We've got our hands in a lot of different enterprises, and I think that's not by chance. God has given us favor and an open door to preach the gospel in various forms and various methods all across the world, and so globally, I hope that we will really be instrumental in making disciples and changing the world." ■

Natalie McIntyre

by Alisha Damron

She called again last night. It was 1 a.m. There was no medical emergency. Her car wasn't stranded on the highway. She wasn't wading through a social dilemma. She had, however, spent the last hour panicked over the lack of time to invest in Perry County, an impoverished area of Alabama. A week ago, the late phone call was in honor of a possible gala to raise money for Southeast Asia's Tsunami tragedy. Only a few nights before that, she needed to talk about the Alabama constitution. Natalie McIntyre, senior political science major from Fayetteville, Ark., has a problem – Injustice in the world keeps her from prioritizing normally. Her priorities are stationed upon the conviction that there is nothing normal about Christian discipleship or about the way Jesus treated humanity. He was hilariously concerned with the "least of these" and went to dangerous, ridiculous lengths to prioritize those whom society cast aside. McIntyre encapsulates this hilarity with profound resolve. She is a friend, an activist and a cliché come true. Natalie Macintyre is someone who really does make a difference.

Natalie leads the Social Concern and Cultural Awareness committee of Student Ministries. For her and like-minded students, the call to put faith into action, combat injustice on behalf of the oppressed and be a globally minded Christian, is fundamental to experiencing faith in Christ. "There is a tendency to interpret 'seek first the Kingdom' as an instruction about personal, devotional habits rather than a command to respond courageously to injustice," April Robinson, director of Student Ministries said. "We consider fighting inequality, battling intolerance and overcoming injustice as the 'extra mile,' but a closer reading of the Gospel makes it clear that these actions are not the second mile of discipleship, but the first. Natalie McIntyre takes seriously the teachings of Christ," Robinson said.

The purpose of the Social Concern and Cultural Awareness committee is to empower students to engage in small actions with large implications and to fulfill the Christian mission and obligation towards justice. They promote awareness of global and domestic issues as world hunger, modern slavery, the AIDS epidemic, third world development, homelessness and political injustice. In the last two years, chapter organizations such as Bread for the World, Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform, International Justice Mission and Global Women, have sprung onto campus through their initiation, and students have responded in slow, but steadfast numbers. "Don't worry about whether or not anyone else cares," McIntyre said. "And don't underestimate your peers. They are so much more like you than you think. As soon as you start talking about your concerns with other people, you'll be shocked at how concerned they can be."

For McIntyre, the marriage of faith and works presented in the epistle of James leaves no choice—she feels she must engage in her social, political and cultural concerns. She didn't experience an almost overwhelming conviction until her sophomore year of college when she joined the Social Concern and Cultural Awareness Committee. Towards the end of the year, Omicron Delta Kappa's involvement in Perry County created a buzz, which she caught. She wanted to do something and was told that if something was to actually happen, and students were going to actually join in the concern, she was on her own. So, she planned a forum. Around 25 people showed up to learn about Perry County's desperate situation. Directly after the forum, Natalie signed her summer away to work in Perry County as an intern. She worked with church groups who traveled into the area for mission work. "Things really came alive for me that summer. But, I want to emphasize that the way I feel now about social issues now has been incremental," McIntyre said. "Many experiences have led to where I am now. I hope students don't feel too overwhelmed to do something, whether it's reading a book about an issue that concerns you, talking to other people about even finding a movie about the issue or having a corporate prayer time about it. Let things build upon each other. But, start with educating yourself. You have to know what the problem is before you can do anything about it, and you don't have to have an entire plan about fixing the problem that concerns you; but realize that it is a process you can immerse yourself in. Everyone is capable of doing something," McIntyre said.

In October, McIntyre and three other Samford students organized a forum featuring Bread for the World, a faith based non-partisan movement that seeks justice for the people in the world who are hungry. The event included such speakers as President of Bread for the World Reverend David Beckman, Republican Representative Spencer Bachus and Democrat Representative Artur Davis. Over 300 students, faculty and members of the community were in attendance. During the program, a woman named Elaine Van Cleave told her story. After attending a Bible study on hunger, Van Cleave, a stay-at-home mom, became passionate about relieving hunger in developing countries. Passing legislation that would forgive Third World debt was the major focus of Bread for the World at the time. Thus Beckman asked Elaine if she would speak to Bachus. Van Cleave traveled to Washington D.C. and met with Bachus and asked him to care, in the name of Christ, about hungry people. They presented facts—that over 30,000 children were dying everyday from hunger and related preventable diseases. Legislation was passed that began the process of forgiving the astronomical debt of the world's poorest countries. "If we want to heed Jesus' call to care for the least of these," Van Cleave said, "we have to go to the very root of the problems and change the systems that keep people down. Poor and hungry people don't have lobbyists in Washington working on their behalf. We can provide a voice for those who have no voice." Elaine's story and Natalie's existence are a reminder of the nature of God's presence—a God who is relentlessly concerned with the affairs of each of His creatures across the globe.

The moral of the story is something like this: one human being, God-within and before, can change things for those whom Jesus called the least of these. "Change" is perhaps a strange word because home building impacts a temporary change any human is capable of, but the love of Christ and the mercy of the brethren that spurs such sacrifice can transform souls. Even at Samford—a community known for its steadfast social uniformity—Christians come in a variety of shapes, political affiliations and theological convictions; and it seems that Jesus' command to be neighbor-loving will extend its hand to each and every one. Consider Natalie McIntyre and Elaine Van Cleave. Consider their focus to pursue the commandments of Christ. Consider the hand extended to you. Perfection is unnecessary and hilarity is inevitable, but if you allow yourself to care you might be surprised— at both the ability of God to use you and at the passion you'll leave in your wake. ■

THE WANAHASH Project

by jennifer gish

It's a cozy room. Bookshelves line the walls and rich red curtains frame the windows. The family gathers to unwind from a long and hectic week. Several sit on an overstuffed leather couch. Laughter is heard among the several hum of intense conversation.

From the other room, you can hear the sounds of the kitchen dishes occasionally clash, and female voices direct the arrangements of the meal and ask for helping hands. Two women quietly enter and join the kitchen, furiously preparing for the dinner that will soon be devoured. Though dinner preparation isn't their weekly task, they glide in and out of the kitchen like a couple of biblical "Marthas."

Finally, dinner is served. The group becomes solemn, and one of the older members of the group offers up a reflective prayer of blessing and thanksgiving. After the "amen," the plates are filled with generous helpings of Hamburger Helper, potato chips and coconut cake. Although the eclectic menu seems like the leftovers from a holiday party, for this family, it is a meal worthy of the dining room table and even dinner table manners.

At the dinner table, the group discussion comes to life as people begin to interact in centralized discussions. Topics range on a variety of subjects from entertainment to current relationships. As the food gradually disappears from the plates, several begin to clear away the dishes, while the rest continue talking. A change of roles takes place. The hands that picked up the dishes were not the hands that prepared it. Those who were in charge of the dinner preparations the week before are in charge of clean up this week. Still, the dinner plates are paper and the utensils are plastic, to ease the clean up process.

Welcome to the weekly gatherings of a group of college students who function much like a family, though their living room is really the Samford in Mission Forum meeting room on the edge of campus. But, for a couple of hours on Tuesday nights, it is home.

Who are these college students who meet together week after week sharing their lives and struggles with each other? They call themselves the Wanahash Project, and their goal is to discover how followers of Christ can live and commune together in an atmosphere of acceptance and grace. The group consists of 12 students, eight females and four males. Brian Pritz explained, "Wanahash is Swahili for 'Life Together.' In a nutshell, that sums up the entire project." At the heart of the project is the foundational belief that Christianity involves not only a vertical relationship with the Father, but it also involves a horizontal relationship with those in the community.

They began their semester with a trip to Koinonia Farms, an intentional farm-based community in Sumter, Ga. Originally this community was designed to live out the principles set forth by Jesus in scripture. Koinonia Farms was founded in 1942. The farms grew amid racial persecution and poverty, becoming a modern example of what it means to live out the Christian faith practically. While in Georgia, the students attended with some of the chores on the farm, dined in the community dining room and began to flesh out what it might look like to bring such a Christian community to Samford's campus.

The Wanahash project is experimental. The group has based its entire foundation on three main pillars: spiritual friendship, spiritual service and spiritual disciplines. Group members live together, eat together once a week and participate in numerous "spiritual friendship times" that are designed to strengthen their bond and bring them closer together as a group. These "friendship times" have been events like karaoke nights and barbeques. They participate in service projects together and several group members find it helpful to keep each other accountable in the spiritual disciplines of prayer and solitude with God. As a result, several new friendships and closer, personal relationships have developed among the group members.

But when reflecting on this community as a whole, Diana Farrell, a senior interior design major from Madison, Ala., is not romanticized by the idea of "Christian community" and realizes that there are still conflicts within that community. According to Farrell there have been times of turbulence. "Just because you love Jesus, doesn't mean that you love that pile of dirty clothes in the corner." Tensions and personality differences within the project have been heightened by the physical and emotional closeness of the group, but many members feel that without hardship, their community would not be reality.

Chris McCaghren, a sophomore religion major from Montgomery, reflected, "Within every group there are conflicts. The difficult part is learning how to deal with those conflicts in a Christ-like manner every time."

That does not necessarily mean there is a spiritual answer for every problem. Farrell clarified, "Some problems can be fixed with glue, and some problems can be fixed with prayer. There is no reason to over-spiritualize everything." They all agree that the way they communicate as a group has vastly improved since the project started.

This intimate group has run into many of the conflicts that are also present in the church today. They struggle with the delicate balance between attempting to keep each other accountable and still maintaining an atmosphere of sincerity absent of judgment. Their goal is to create a "community of grace" in which the members give each other permission to interact on a spiritual level, whether that is seeking spiritual encouragement or exploring spiritual doubts.

McCaghren, who applied to become a part of the Wanahash Project last spring, sought spiritual growth. "I wanted a place where I could go and be myself, where I could be spiritually challenged and at the same time spiritually rejuvenated," McCaghren said.

Many of the parameters and guidelines for the group have changed as the project has progressed. Differences among individuals and uncontrollable factors have led to small changes in the direction of the experiment. However, according to Pritz, the visionary of the project, "If we can look back in a couple of years and view this community as a community of grace, then Wanahash was a success." ◦

Shiloh

A Worship Gathering

by Alisha Damron & Erin Dawson

She is walking. Silently she carries a lit match. At the altar table she picks up a single white candle. A flame ignites, and the candle burns brightly. She sets the candle down and picks up another...and another...and another, until the light of the flames fills the entry way to the chapel with a flickering illumination and the slightest sent of smoke. And so begins a worship gathering called Shiloh.

A melody is heard softly from the piano as clusters of students quietly enter in through the powerfully overwhelming doors of Hodges Chapel. The silence of the crowd lends itself to reflection as preparation for worship continues. You pause for a single moment and try to remember the last time there was a feeling of comfort and peace at a Convocation event. Realizing this night is unlike any other worship experience the opening chords of "Poor Wayfarin' Stranger" resonate through the Chapel capturing attention and quieting the crowd.

In the history of worship services, Shiloh is a mere infant. It is a far cry from what some students remember of the most recent Student Ministries worship service, Quest. "After the death of Quest, Student Ministries has been longing to sponsor another worship service. But instead of simply clogging up students' time, Student Ministries wanted to provide students with an avenue to worship in an authentic, reflective way...Shiloh does just that," said Alisha Damron, senior public relations major from Fayetteville, Ark. and president of Student Ministries. Shiloh doesn't pretend to mimic worship experiences from the past or the present. Instead it seeks to provide students with a kind of worship gathering that transcends generational worship trends, reaching deep into the rituals of the early church without neglecting the dynamics of the modern church experience.

Shiloh finds great meaning in taking communion weekly. Students are invited to the front altar to take of the bread, dip it in the chalice and experience communion by intinction. "This is the body of Christ broken for you. This is the blood of Christ shed for you." Those words have a sweet meaning when spoken softly from the lips of the ministers serving the bread, holding the chalice, offering communion. It is in the simplicity of weekly communion that Shiloh honors the traditions set by the early church. Traditional hymns are sung often and their presence seems to be a reminder of Christian heritage and the story of faith that has unfolded throughout time.

Shiloh isn't committed to only traditional forms of worship, but finds comfort in presenting students with new and inventive ways for students to connect with God. Art is one of those ways. Art has been a part of the Christian church for centuries, but what is unique about art at Shiloh is that it is created as an integral part of the scripture reading, the singing of the hymns and the taking of communion. At seven o'clock, when students enter, a blank canvas sits at the front of the chapel. By the time students leave, the canvas is a new creation, a work of art. It sits at the front as an offering of worship. Daniel Mitchell, a senior art major from Sheffield, Ala., has been one of the contributing artists. Using chalk, Daniel has depicted scenes and symbols from the fall semester scripture readings that focus on Philippians. Daniel's drawings, now completed, tell the story of Paul's letter to the Philippians. Daniel values his artistic expression, "not just as decoration, but as a vehicle of worship." Addressing his support for Shiloh, Mitchell said, "I guess you could say it's confirmed my conviction that visual art is a form of worship."

A time of fellowship following the service extends an invitation to local churches to provide students with food, conversation and further reflection. A variety of denominations has hosted the fellowship and continues to find importance in contributing to the lives of Samford students.

The entire staff of University Ministries and Student Ministries has made a whole-hearted investment in the planning and presentation of Shiloh. The service offers a regular sermon rotation allowing each staff member the opportunity to preach and shining no solo spotlights on any one minister. Dr. Jim Barnette takes part, as does the director of Student Ministries April Robinson. Angulus Wilson, a new member to the community of Samford University Ministries has also contributed to the preaching at Shiloh. On more than one occasion the service has involved all of the staff members to preach different segments of one sermon. This unique approach provides students with five different ministers with their individual view points. Contributing minister and the missions coordinator for Student Ministries, Renee Pitts, describes Shiloh as "the results of the vision God is laying before the staff of Student Ministries and a unifying force for us as a team."

Though Shiloh promotes a kind of filling silence and calm reverence before God, it does not happen without intentional preparation. Brian Pitts, spiritual formation coordinator for Student Ministries, is the staff member who not only directs and advises the student planning team for Shiloh, but he also takes part in the service by leading worship, offering communion, and reading scripture. "Shiloh invites students to explore different elements of worship, to really experience the presence of God," said Pitts in regards to the dynamics and purpose of the new worship gathering.

Just as a Shiloh service begins, so it ends. Clusters of students leave the majestic presence of the Hodges Chapel, making sure their Samford cards get swiped and enter the night air often with expressions of stunned silence. Music still lingers as the pianist plays one more melodious ballad. Parting words are often spoken, and sometimes there is nothing more than the exchange of gentle smiles. The communion cup is cleaned. Conversation gradually fades into silence. The candles are blown out, and the trickle of wax that has made its way to the table cloth begins to harden leaving a stain of wax to be cleaned before the next Shiloh worship gathering the next week. ■

Senior Survey

What was your favorite class and/or professor at Samford?

- Concepts with Dr. Czech - too bad he's gone now.
- Christian Spirituality with Dr. Sansom.
- Anything JMC!!!
- Dr. Sanders' Music History Class.
- Dr. Jonathan Davis, Family Studies.
- Bells of Buchanan with Dr. Billy Strickland.
- Media Law with Mr. Hartzog.
- Dr. Siegfried.
- Dana Basinger!!! CA in the house!
- Mass Media Ethics with Dr. Clemmensen.
- Fiction & Film with Dr. Steward.
- Italy trip with Shannon Flynt.
- Dr. Ruble's Exercise Physiology class.

What is something about Samford that someone outside of the "Bubble" would never understand?

- That it's normal to be friends with your professors and get invited to eat dinner at their house.
- Exactly what Step Sing is.
- The importance of going to convo, even if you sleep or do homework there.
- Only staying until halftime at the football games.
- The social importance of dressing up for class.
- The wedding craze
- That sadly, more people will attend Step Sing in one night, than all athletic events combined for the entire spring semester.
- The cage, convo, Jan term, chicken finger night.
- Chalk messages on the bridge to Beeson and the maze that is the Art Dept. building.
- Why our gym has a window in it.
- How with a ratio of 1-3, guys here still can't get a date for Friday night.
- The Step Sing Face.
- The selling of a soul for convo credit.

What's the most overused phrase at Samford?

- "Hey!....How are you?"
- The phrase "way cas" as an abbreviation for "very casual."
- I'm engaged.
- "Sketchy."
- "You need to join the Face-Book."
- How was your break?
- "Hey girl"
- Without a doubt, it's "DTR."
- Sad!
- What's up?
- "Be Aware" and "Marriage."
- I just got in from running.
- Problem-based learning (I cringe just thinking about it).
- Anything with the word "Bubble" in it.

What is the most important characteristic for a good roommate to have?

- Understanding and considerate.
- Flexibility and a sense of humor.
- Being supportive about your Diet Coke addiction.
- The right dosage of medication.
- A non-snorer.
- Regular bathing habits!
- Just being straight-up considerate...and not weird!
- They have to be up for a good, hearty laugh at anytime...enjoy old youth group musical numbers, be willing to eat Jason's Deli at least five days a week and sleep on an iron-on "One Tree Hill" pillowcase.
- The ability to not walk around naked all the time.
- Madden skills, Tiger Wood skills, Numbchuck skills and a plethera of movie quotes stored in his or her brain.
- Mental stability!!!! I'm 2 for 3 on the negative side...
- The same sleep schedule as you....
- Know when to be quiet and give you your space.
- Get out of bed for at least a few hours each day.


Pledge

th floor

by Andrea Redus

The 17th Floor? Playing at Samford University? No way. Some Samford students have driven as far as Tuscaloosa and Auburn to see this "sometimes scandalous" hip hop/rap cover-band perform. I was shocked when I found out that they would be playing here on campus for Samford's Greek Weekend. The Interfraternity Council President Austin Bourgeois stated, "I first began to think about getting the 17th Floor to come to Samford as soon as I was elected." IFC and Panhellenic wanted to put on a huge event that would be of interest to Samford students, both Greeks and non-Greeks. Junior Panhellenic member Abby Lindsey said, "The concert actually ended up being a tool to encourage freshmen to go through recruitment." Their idea was to get the entire Samford community out and involved with the Greeks splitting the bill.

The 17th Floor band started with brothers Greg (drums) and Aaron (bass guitar) Thompson. The rest of the group was chosen through lengthy auditions. Before long the bands popularity grew as they became the favorite on many mid-west college campuses. The band received its big break when it was asked to tour with female rap group TLC. It later went on to also join Usher on his "My Way" tour.

Presently, the 17th Floor is seen mainly at college campuses and private parties, performing for smaller audiences. It does a mixture of well-liked cover rap/hip hop music.

In order for IFC's idea of the 17th Floor performing at Greek Weekend to be approved, they had to get the band to sign an entertainment rider. It's a document of standards of what the band can or can not do during a perform-

ance. Samford University has one of the most extensive entertainment riders of any institution. Our entertainment rider includes such things as the artist or artists can not consume alcohol before the performance, it can not make any inappropriate gestures, swear and so on. The way the document is drawn up is strict on interpretation. If the 17th Floor violated the contract in any way, they would not get paid. Sophomore Alpha Delta Pi Ashley Corley said, "It was incredible how they remembered to sing without all the cuss words."

Samford was also obligated to sign the 17th Floor's contract rider. The 17th Floor contract rider contains all of the bands accommodation requirements. The necessities the band required was a sober driver, six hotel rooms, 10 clean white towels, a fruit tray and drinks in a dressing room and six large pizzas for after the show.

This was not the first edited show that the 17th Floor had done. "Their manager told me that it was no problem and the band didn't mind doing a clean show at all." Bourgeois said, "They were very professional about everything." During their performance at Samford, the 17th Floor didn't break any of the terms in the contract. Sophomore Nikki Elmore said, "The concert was amazing. The fact that they couldn't cuss didn't really affect their performance."

In the past, money posed as a problem. No single sorority or fraternity was able to book the 17th Floor by themselves because the band comes with such a high price tag. It was important for IFC and Panhellenic to recruit a good band to come and perform at Greek Weekend, so they aimed high. When it was all said and done, it was an expensive event to host. First Panhellenic and IFC split the cost, and then each Greek paid four dollars to cover the rest of the cost.

After finding, approving and hiring the best possible band—the 17th Floor, IFC's new project was to find the perfect concert venue. They wanted to do something different; something that no one had done before at Samford. Bourgeois said, "We wanted to have it outside, and we wanted to have it on West Campus because the Greeks were paying for the concert." They had originally planned to have it on the West Campus parking deck, but at the last minute, Hurricane Ivan ruined that idea. Bourgeois recalled, "We were at Mountain View after we had cleared all the cars out, and we started unloading all the sound equipment, about $250,000 worth. We just got finished unloading all of it when it started pouring down rain." Luckily, they reacted quickly and moved the concert to Bashinski Field House.

By the time I showed up at the field house everyone was waiting in anticipation for the band to come on. The 17th floor was already running an hour behind. Due to the quick change of venue, the 17th Floor's concert was delayed. I started to have doubts if there was going to be a concert at all.

After what felt like almost a five hour wait the band came on. After the band played its first song, all the audience's energy was restored and the wait was well worth it. Lindsey stated, "Waiting a while for the band to come on made me even more excited about the concert." The performance was nothing short of amazing. Stage lights were shining everywhere as the music only seemed to be getting louder.

Everyone seemed to be having a blast. It didn't matter if you were Greek or non-Greek that night. This was a party for both, and everyone on campus was invited. The 17th Floor band marveled us with their singing and rapping ability as well as the high energy of the show and their elaborate choreography. The majority of people danced and yelled with the band the popular words of every song.

When he was asked, knowing now all that went into this project, "If you had the chance would you do it again?" Bourgeois replied, "Absolutely."

Rush Diary

by Lauren Welty

September 21, 2004

Excited. That is the only word that describes my feeling about going through Rush. By this time next week, I will have decided which, if any, of the sororities on campus to join. While I am dreading making the decision, I can't wait to see what my friends and I decide. Will my roommate and I make the same decision? Will my friends?

The sorority girls have been so nice, and I love my Rho Gamma, Emily. She has been especially helpful. Last night she stopped by with a bag of goodies and talked for a little bit. If I feel this stressed about keeping up with all of my classes and rushing, I can't imagine what she is going through to keep all of us sane.

I had so much fun at dinner tonight with my Rho Gamma group. It was nice to meet people like me, but even more than that, I got to know different people. We had fun talking, but you could feel everyone's feelings of nervousness rising as we went through dinner. I'm still excited, but now, somewhat anxious too. I'm just waiting for tomorrow night to arrive.

September 22, 2004

Tonight at my first Philanthropy parties I had fun talking to so many people. Standing in line outside of the first house made our entire Rho Gamma group nervous. There were even a few girls who were almost sick to their stomachs. As we waited, all of the sorority sisters came up to the front windows and started chanting and banging on the windows. At that point, I was overwhelmed. I had no idea what I had gotten myself into.

After a sorority member escorted us inside, the rest of the night became a blur. I talked to so many people about philanthropies, parties and their favorite part of their sorority. I had no idea the sororities were involved in so much both on and off campus. I had also never seen so many smiling, excited faces in my life. My cheeks are tired tonight from smiling so much!

It was amazing to me that after spending only 30 minutes talking and listening, I really had an idea of where I would consider pledging. I could tell where I fit in best with the girls. I loved all three of the houses I visited tonight, Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Delta Pi and Zeta Tau Alpha, and I think any of them would be tons of fun. Now I just have to pray about where God would want me. After all, I am going to leave the decision of where I should be up to him.

September 23, 2004

Tonight I made the first of my many decisions this week. I went to the last two Philanthropy parties, Chi Omega and Phi Mu. Afterwards my Rho Gamma group met, and we filled out Scantron sheets ranking the sororities in the order of our preference. I was very surprised when it took some girls only a minute or two. It took me longer because I didn't get bad impressions from any of the houses, which I think is what the sororities wanted me to feel. As much fun as everything has been, I am looking forward to the next two nights when things will be less rushed and superficial. Up to this point, I've only had time to ask a few simple questions at each house.

I know I will feel really bad if a rushee isn't invited back to any of the houses tomorrow night. How horrible a feeling! I hope that it doesn't happen to me, but more than anything, I hope it doesn't happen to any of the other girls, especially those who are already set on a certain sorority.

Exhaustion has begun to set in. I am so tired of walking back and forth from the gym to the different houses. Even though I haven't been too stressed, this has already been a hard week emotionally. Not only have I kept up with classes, but I also have really sought God's will for where he can best use me. As fun as this week has already been, I can't wait to get back into a routine. I can't wait for normalcy to return!

September 24, 2004

Emotional is the best word to describe the atmosphere of tonight. Almost everyone has a good idea of where they would want to pledge after tonight. I was invited back to four sororities, the maximum number that you could get invited to. I went to ADPi, AOPi, Phi Mu and Zeta. I loved all the parties. They were so fun because they expressed a lot of the personality that each sorority possesses.

I cannot believe Rush is almost over. I'm not ready to make a decision tomorrow. I'm so much more confused tonight about what I'm supposed to do. Up until this point, God had given me a peace about not joining a sorority this year. After tonight, however, I am so confused as to whether I should pledge or not. I have absolutely loved my Rush experience, but I really want to seek God's will for whatever he would want for me, whether it is as part of the Greek system or not.

After an extremely long night, we finally ranked the houses we visited. I am completely drained physically and emotionally from this hard week. At midnight, our Rho Gammas asked us to decide where we wanted to go back one final time. For me, that decision was a little too much. The stress had built up all week. I made a quick decision and then came back to my room to get rid of my heels and finally put on something more comfortable to wear.

It was hard coming back to my hall tonight and seeing some of my Independent friends feeling a little left out as we were all dressed up and ready to tell them about the parties. I know this week has been hard for them, but everyone has to find the area that God is calling them to, and Greek life simply wasn't for them.

September 25, 2004

As fun as this week has been, I'm glad that it's finally over. I've made my decision, and now I am just waiting for either a visit from my Rho Gamma tonight to tell me that I have been dropped, or what I hope- a bid tomorrow afternoon to my first choice, Alpha Delta Pi.

I was amazed at how easy it was for me to make my decision between my two final choices. My Rho Gamma told me that the decision would be really clear, but deep down, I really didn't believe it. I thought that I would be torn between my two pref parties, Phi Mu and ADPi, and it would take me forever to decide. I loved both of the houses so much and the girls that filled them. I felt so welcomed and wanted in both places. After a few minutes in the ADPi house, however, I knew that I was home. I was completely comfortable and felt an incredible peace about putting it as my first choice.

Tonight I had a chance to ask all of my final questions and see a glimpse into the ritual side of sororities. The atmosphere was completely serious, with no excited cheers or dances like the nights before. Instead, there were emotional, beautiful songs and lots of personal talking. Many girls left the houses in tears simply from being overwhelmed.

"I can honestly say that it was not only a social experience but a spiritual journey as well."

Although I was at peace with my decision, there were several girls around me who were unhappy because they got dropped. I felt awful. I felt guilty being excited about getting invited back to my top two choices. If I could give up my spot for one of my friends, I would. But I know that there is somewhere else on campus for them, and I pray that they find it.

September 26, 2004

At noon today, our Rho Gamma group met for one last time. Sadly, it was considerably smaller than when we first started. I felt like a contestant on "Survivor." Everyday we waited to see who had made it through the night and who would be invited to return. All the Rho Gammas, including mine, had button-up shirts covering their sorority letters. Curiosity almost killed me, as I knew that it would be just an hour before some of the week's secrets were revealed.

After waiting over an hour in the heat of the West Campus parking deck, the Rho Gammas finally gave us our bid cards. In the tradition of Bid Day, we had to sit on our cards and wait until the official unveiling. The anticipation grew. I had the answer to my question right in front of me. Finally the Rho Gammas started their song to reveal their sororities. When the song mentioned their sorority, they pulled off their top shirt to reveal their Greek letters. It was really fun! Both of my Rho Gammas were ADPi's, so I became even more excited to find out if I was going to become their sister. I opened up the envelope that I had been sitting on, and as I tore it open, I read the words "Alpha Delta Pi." I jumped up and started hugging my friends around me.

Within seconds, I pushed through the crowd to the ADPi girls who handed me a T-shirt and sent me on my way to the house. I ran through the tunnel of my new sisters, and Beth, my Connections leader, started hugging me and ran through with me. As I approached the door, someone called my name and handed me a nametag, and we entered the house together. I loved the excitement today. It was the perfect way to end an emotionally stressful week. I am finally home!

September 27, 2004

Rush is over, but school is definitely not. This morning, I had my first college test in French. That test quickly brought me back to reality. Last week was so much fun, but now it's time to refocus and get back to work. I know my schedule is about to get crazy from my demanding class load and the exciting new events planned for me as an Alpha member of ADPi.

Things on our hall are already improving, and hurt feelings are beginning to heal. Everyone is exhausted. But for me, a huge burden has been lifted, now that I know exactly where I'm supposed to be.

I'm so proud and blessed to be a part of the Greek system at Samford, and looking back on my Rush experience, I can honestly say that it was not only a social experience but a spiritual journey as well. I loved Rush 2004! ■

RUSH TESTIMONY

by Ryan McIntire

Rush. The very word can inspire memories of fondness, confusion and fear. In the weeks leading up to Rush 2004, I had heard many rumors about the weekend. Some said it was one of the greatest moments of their freshman year; some said it had changed the direction of their college lives; others claimed it to be one of the scariest things they had experienced. As it turned out, my rush experience was a little of each, and it was a time in my college life that I would never trade.

I went into Rush weekend convinced that I didn't want to pledge. I had heard of the whole "frat" concept, and, personally, I viewed it as buying your friends. I wasn't very excited about the weekend, but all my friends were rushing. And like most guys, I had heard rumors of free food.

Thursday night, I dressed up for Smokers and headed down to meet the 200 other fraternity rushees in Brock Forum. Everyone seemed apprehensive about the coming night; many felt they had to use every moment to try and impress the fraternity members. We listened to an introduction of the weekend's activities. The Inter Fraternity Council speeches seemed to take forever, probably because of the hunger pains that were setting in.

We split up, and we walked to the four houses, where we spent 45 minutes at each. At the houses, we shook hands with every frat member, which became quite repetitious after the first 100, and we then sat down to hear a speech about the individuality and glory of each frat. I will never understand how each one could claim to have a GPA above the Greek Men's average. Next, an older frat alumnus spoke on how the fraternity had altered him. I don't know how they expected us to relate to someone older than our parents; after all, we came to college partly to get away from our parents!

After this program, we walked around and introduced ourselves to a few people, but the conversations never got very deep because we only had a few minutes to talk. I said my name, hometown and major and then moved on to the next person. This lasted for hours at all four houses, and I left feeling like I had met the same nondescript fraternity member over and over again.

After the first night, I didn't feel like continuing on with Rush. I thought I would keep having the same mindless conversations, and I was beginning to like the idea of a fraternity less and less. I wondered why should I go around to each house and make myself nervous about talking to these people about nothing.

Nonetheless, I decided to stick with the experience. I got ready Friday and headed to Open House night where each rushee went to as many of the houses for as long as he wanted. I was initially reluctant, but by the end of that night, my views on fraternities had changed.

I went to all four houses Friday night so I could give each one a chance and hopefully have a little fun.

First, I dropped by Sigma Phi Epsilon's party. The theme was a shrimp fest with a big trampoline in the middle. I stayed for a while, ate and talked with a few members of the fraternity. I went to Sigma Chi next and ate a hamburger, relaxed and watched a game on TV. My third party, Sigma Nu, hosted a party designed for men because of the lack of girls at Rush. I met a few people and once again relaxed and watched some sports. Lastly, I went to Pi Kapp, where there was a Mexican buffet and a bull ride in the yard. The activities were all fun and gave a good idea of how each fraternity relaxes, but the conversations I had that night truly changed my mind about fraternity Rush.

It was on this night that I recognized people as they were and not as fake fraternity members. I talked to about 10 people at each house, and each person seemed to be genuine and real. We talked about Samford, hobbies, memories or God. It seemed we rarely actually talked about the fraternity, and everyone encouraged us to explore all the fraternities before deciding on one. I had begun that night expecting to meet the same boring people over again, but instead I met unique individuals who had an interest in me and were excited about the Rush process.

By Saturday morning, most of the rushees were nervous. By noon that day the fraternities had distributed invitations for the last rush party: Brother's Night In. We wondered if we had made a good impression over the last two nights and if we would get invited back to any of the fraternities tonight and Sunday. They came around 11 a.m., and I was invited back to two of the fraternities I was interested in visiting again. There were sighs of relief around the hall as older members passed out the cards.

I started liking the idea of being in a fraternity; I had met and connected with so many interesting people and nice guys. However, I didn't want to race into something if it wasn't God's will for my time at Samford. I decided to be myself and trust God to work out his plan for my life.

Saturday night presented a chance to meet even more people and make a few new friends. There were smaller groups of rushees at each house, and I had the chance to see how the fraternity members related to each other and how they acted as a group. This night of Rush was the best for me because I felt like I could be myself and have fun. On top of that, the food improved with each night, which, as most guys can agree, definitely made Rush even better. As the night came to an end, I knew I would have to wait again for an invitation Sunday morning.

The same nervous atmosphere was felt on our hall that day, maybe even more so than on Saturday. These invitations told us if any fraternities had recruited us for the final night of Rush. I went to church early, and rushed back to check under the door at 12:30. Sighs of relief were heard all over the hall, and I received an invitation to the fraternity that I was most interested in.

Sunday night's Brothers Night Out was the best night of Rush, to me. The tension of talking to unfamiliar people was gone. The franticness of trying to talk to as many people as possible was no more, and now it was merely me and the older Rush members I had grown to know over the last few nights. We talked mostly about the fraternity, its rules and events. Members spoke to us about how Greek life had altered their time at Samford, and each person encouraged us to think about the fraternity and decide if joining was what we felt led to do.

I went back to my dorm that night and considered everything that had happened over the last few days. Monday's Bid Day came, and I had to make a decision.

I decided to remain Independent, at least for my first year at Samford. It was such a new and exciting place, and I didn't want to join a fraternity without first experiencing the school on my own and enjoying all that my freshman year had to offer.

Many say that pledging a fraternity changed the direction of their college life, but I feel that I can say the same thing about Rush. Before Rush, I was closed to the idea of a fraternity, but Rush showed me that strength can truly be found in the bond of brotherhood when a group of people supports each other without ceasing. Before Rush, I felt a little lost at Samford. But after rushing and meeting hundreds of interesting and awesome people, I felt a little more like Samford was home.

My freshman year has been the best of my life, and Rush was an important part of making it what it was. I can truly say I'm glad I rushed, and even though I'm independent this year, I can say that I support our fraternities here on campus and am happy to be a part of a university that allows groups like Sigma Nu, Sigma Chi, Pi Kappa Phi and Sigma Phi Epsilon to flourish and encourage growth in me and my peers as we journey through our university life. ■

ΛΧΛ CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

by Sarah Bond

Lambda Chi Alpha, the 2004 Step Sing champions and second fraternity established at Samford, lost their recognition on Samford's campus for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Alongside Samford's campus, the fraternity's house, located at 632 Shelburne Ln., was closed by their housing corporation in late summer after the Samford administration brought concerns involving the fraternity's actions to their attention.

The fraternity, which was on probation during the 2002-2003 academic year for a number of violations, including alcohol, theft and removing trees from property, was placed on probation again in the spring of 2004.

According to Director of Greek Life and Student Organizations Frank Parsons, there had been a history of issues and concerns over a number of infractions with the fraternity; therefore, the university felt a need to step in and re-evaluate their presence on campus. Parsons said that with the fraternity's history, combined with several events in the spring, a meeting with their leadership was needed.

Lambda Chi president Chris Edmunds, who was in London for the spring 2004 semester, expressed his surprise at the news when he returned.

"I was blindsided by this," he said. "I was disappointed in the time manner that it was handled."

A number of members of the fraternity realized that disciplinary action needed to be taken, but felt that the punishment was too extreme.

"Some organizations have received social and intramural probations as a wake-up call. We seemed to go from a probationary period, without any real restrictions, straight to suspension," Lambda Chi Executive Council member John Schluchter said. "I find that inconsistent."

During the time that the Samford administration was evaluating the situation, the fraternity's housing corporation stepped in and decided to suspend their charter. Parsons said that the university supported the corporation's decision to close the chapter for a year, and he would like to see the fraternity go in a different and more positive direction.

"We want the leadership of the fraternity to provide intentional steps to revamp the direction of the fraternity," Parsons said.

"The success of any Greek letter organization, in my opinion, is active involvement by the alumni," Vice President and Dean of Students Richard Franklin said.

Both the administration and the fraternity agree that it is unfortunate that it only takes a small number of members' wrongdoings to put the entire organization in jeopardy.

During the 2003-2004 academic year, Lambda Chi won both the Step Sing Sweepstakes award and the Outstanding Community Service award. Lambda Chi also won fraternity league football and the overall volleyball championship in intramural competitions.

"My goal is for them to come back," Franklin said. "And to take a year to regroup, I hope they can do it."

"I would hope that the students would allow the local alumni to become more involved in the fraternity in helping it be successful, and that there would be a nucleus of those guys who believed in the ideals and the principles of fraternity and also believed in the mission and values of this institution, so that those two can belong together," Franklin said.

"Because I've been here 15 years, I know that Lambda Chi has done that and been very supportive of that. They have had an outstanding reputation, and I'm hoping that they will come back. There is also evidence of another fraternity that has come back (so it is possible)," Franklin said.

Parsons and Franklin both said that they wanted the leadership of the fraternity to come up with a clear plan and steps to restore the course of the fraternity and rebuild the chapter.

Fortunately during the 2004-2005 school year, Lambda Chi Alpha did just that.

University administration and leaders from the fraternity have taken the opportunity to discuss the fraternity's return to the Samford campus.

Parsons said the university would like to see the fraternity come back, and the fraternity was given a specific plan of action and a number of solutions, which they will present to university administration for final approval.

"We are optimistic and assisting them in meeting the requirements that we have asked of them," Parsons said.

"I will disclose that the administration has put a few stipulations on our return, but nothing we will not be able to negotiate. We look forward to further negations with the administration in our quest of restoring Lambda Chi Alpha to Samford's campus," Edmunds said.

Parsons said that the decision to come back is largely in the fraternity's hands now. If all requirements are met, Lambda Chi Alpha will be recognized as a fraternity at Samford University and will reopen for the fall 2005 semester.

Requirements included: greater alumni involvement, a revamping of the pledge program, alcohol education, the institution of an academic program and visits from national organization members among others.

"Lambda Chi has a great history here and we want them here," Parsons said. "It can be done."

building 'E'

the fall of Delta Zeta :: by Lara Wallace

Thinking that it would be a trial period to see how I really liked the sorority world, I joined Delta Zeta during the fall of my freshman year. I didn't just like it—I fell in love with it. Three years later I became President of Delta Zeta's Alpha Pi chapter, and in May of 2004, I retired my position as the last outgoing President. Though I had known from the beginning the possibility of what was coming, I left our closing ceremony utterly heartbroken. My chapter was gone, and I was crushed.

The sad part about closing a chapter isn't that there are no more formals to attend or that you won't be wearing cute T-shirts around campus to socially identify yourself. The thought that kept me virtually in tears was that no more Samford girls would have the opportunity to experience the home that I had found in Delta Zeta. No more girls would carry out our traditions and legacies. They wouldn't have the opportunity to join confused and unsure of themselves and then emerge four years later as confident, powerful women strengthened by our special bond of sisterhood. For three years my school and social life revolved around my sorority, but suddenly I was left behind for my last year on Samford's campus practically homeless, unaffiliated and without a clue as to what to do with myself.

The women who did not graduate in the spring of 2004 were automatically granted official alumni status. Immediately, we decided that we wouldn't fall out of touch and into oblivion like the remnants of a sorority grown pitiful in the daylight. Now, we walk around campus still within the Greek system, but strangely outside of it. We get together for the occasional "girls' night out," we formed two intramural bowling teams, and we continue to eat together in the caf. I still wear my Delta Zeta shirts with the pride that comes from belonging to a group that I am still honored to call my own. Several of us still live together in a cluster of rooms in "Building E," but we will be the first to tell you that it's not the same. Yes, we love each other and have fun together, but a significant portion of our lives is missing, and there is no way to get it back.

I had always thought that after college I would leave my sorority to go out into the world, get a fabulous job, have a wonderful family and live the rest of my days with the lovely memory of the times I shared with my Delta Zeta sisters. However, thrust into this alumni status a year too soon, I now see what life is like beyond the home we made for ourselves as active members of a sisterhood. It is not enough to carry the memories; you must continually refresh them if they are to mean anything. My advice to you is to enjoy and cherish the time you have with your current sisters and continue to involve the members of your alumni community. They miss it, and one day you may realize too late that you will miss it too.

Any Greek woman will tell you that it is not the parties or the bumper stickers or the designated Caf tables that make a sorority—it is the women and the sisterhood, which fill your brief college moments that make your sorority an experience you carry for a lifetime.

As Delta Zetas, we honor tradition, academic and personal excellence and, above all, an everlasting bond of the sisterly love that is unique to our sorority. Founded in Oxford, Ohio, at Miami University in 1902, Delta Zeta has 165 active college chapters containing several thousand members, making it one of the largest sororities in the nation. I am fiercely proud to have shared my college days with an extraordinarily wonderful group of fine, gifted women, and I can barely contain my excitement when I think about what the future will bring for Delta Zeta. Our chapter may be closed, but our sisterhood is strong, and we will never disregard our bond. ■

Sig Ep:

the little chapter that could :: by Melissa Morgan

There was a time just last year when the Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter had dwindled down to four members, and students and faculty expected the worst for what appeared to be the dying embers of a once strong fraternity. One by one, members ranging from pledges to seniors turned in their pins for every reason from monetary restrictions to personality conflicts, and it looked as though Sig Ep nationals had no choice but to revoke their charter.

Senior Hiram Centeno pledged Sig Ep his freshman year with eight other young men anxious to embark on their college fraternity experience. However, by the last stage of pledging, nine had become two and, eventually, Centeno became the only remaining brother left in his fledgling pledge class.

"When May of 2003 came along, we had lost about 12 or 13 seniors, and a lot of our pledges dropped," Centeno said. "Nationals said our charter would be pulled because with just four members we didn't have enough people to sustain a chapter here on campus."

But Centeno and the other three Sig Ep members were unabashed and determined in spite of their small number.

"Nationals and our alumni had given up on us. Everyone looked us over, but we believed in ourselves," Centeno said. "All we had was each other, but we believed in one another. We knew we could defy everyone's expectations, and we told people we could survive."

The brothers banded together with oneness of purpose and a common goal, and throughout the next year, students began to take notice of new faces proudly sporting Sigma Phi Epsilon T-shirts. Sig Ep started this year with 16 members. Through a combination of fall and spring recruitment and open bids, they more than doubled that number, now boasting of a brotherhood 36 members strong.

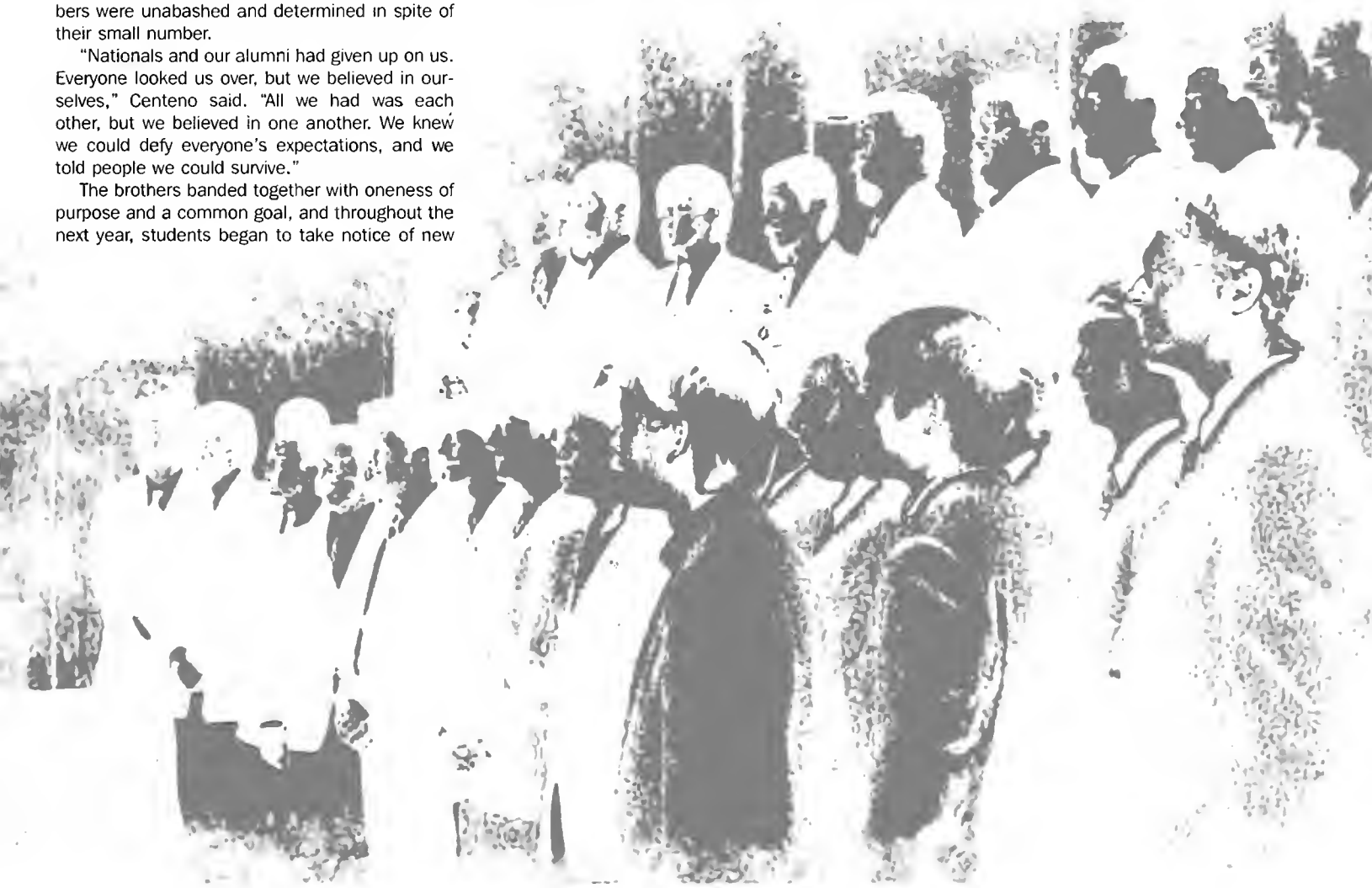
"We did a lot of praying," Centeno said of the weeks spent soliciting new members. "We felt that we were the only fraternity that subscribed to Samford's standards, and we started establishing individual relationships with guys. One person after another, they joined; it was like dominoes. Of all the fraternities on campus we had the highest retention rate this year."

Currently the Samford chapter of Sig Ep is ranked in the top 1 or 2 percent of all Sig Ep chapters across the nation, and Sigma Phi Epsilon Nationals uses this chapter as an example to others of not only determination and motivation, but also of rush techniques and methods for soliciting new members.

Freshman Stephen Black pledged Sig Ep during this year's fall recruitment and has already risen to a position of leadership as vice-president of recruitment. In doing so, he has taken advantage of the fact that Sig Ep immediately accepts pledges as brothers, exempting them from the oftentimes long and tedious periods of pledgeship that other fraternities require. Black and his pledge brothers instantly enjoyed the benefits of brotherhood.

"Pledging was the best decision I've made since I've been at Samford," Black said. "It's helped me develop skills like leadership, and I feel humbled to be a part of something bigger than I ever imagined."

From almost losing their charter to the miraculous forming of their newly formed member base, the brothers of Sig Ep have personified devotion to a worthy cause in their pursuit of a brotherhood that refuses to accept defeat. Centeno might have put it best when saying that Sig Ep "really is the little chapter that could." ■



by Melissa Morgan, Mary Hood and Ann Shivers

Sigma Phi Epsilon's national philanthropy is Youth AIDS. This year, they gave money to this cause by collecting proceeds from inflatable playground toys set up at the edge of the football field for children to play on during Samford games. Closer to home, Sig Ep's new members participated in painting and constructing a home in a local community through Habitat for Humanity.

"I love working with Habitat," new member class president Adam Oliver said. "When we are there we get to meet the people whose house we are building, and we can tell how appreciative they are. It's not just for a house; it's for a person."

Focusing mainly on juvenile arthritis, **Alpha Omicron Pi** held several events to raise money on campus for its national philanthropy, the Arthritis Foundation. In the fall, they hosted a spaghetti dinner and Lick Arthritis Lollipop Sale as fund-raising campaigns followed by a Bowl-A-Thon and Smoke Arthritis campaign in the spring.

Sorority members also participated this year in the Arthritis Walk and Jingle Bell Run to raise support and awareness for the Arthritis Foundation.

Former philanthropy chair Becky Richerson recognizes the threat of arthritis and its far-reaching effects."When I first thought about arthritis, I thought it was a disease for the elderly, but the majority of people who suffer from arthritis are children and women. It could affect someone like me or one of my friends," she said.

You might have seen the brothers of **Pi Kappa Phi** rolling through the overflow parking lot collecting donations for their philanthropy, Push America. This organization builds wheelchair-accessible play units for handicapped children, and Pi Kapp raises money for this worthy cause each year through a variety of ways, one of which is the Atrox factory haunted house. This year they raised $1,800 working at Atrox and put the money toward Push America and other charities they support.

"It's so great when we get a big check from Atrox because we use that money to help out kids who are less fortunate," philanthropy chairman Josh Wiggins said."Mentally handicapped kids don't have the opportunities we had growing up, and it feels really good to know that we're helping them."

Pi Kapp also volunteers at the Lakeshore Foundation by sending members every month to play basketball with the kids there.

Zeta Tau Alpha's national philanthropy promotes breast cancer awareness.
"We are very involved with the Susan G. Komen Foundation," ZTA's co-philanthropy chair Sarah Newman said.

Each year ZTA participates in the Race for the Cure in Birmingham. The girls help out by running in the race, handing out drinks and lending their support by cheering on the participants. In the spring, ZTA hosted a basketball tournament all the proceeds of which went to the Komen Foundation. Last year their chapter raised $18,000 for the Foundation. The ZTA chapter also volunteers throughout Birmingham by requiring each member to fulfill three service credits within the community.

Phi Mu's national philanthropy is the Children's Miracle Network (CMN), an international, non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funds for children's hospitals. Phi Mu supports CMN by raising money locally for Birmingham's Children's Hospital. Fund-raisers include a car wash every spring, a 5K Children's Miracle Run and trick or treating for pocket change in the fall. Phi Mu also hosted the Phi Mu Foundation National Telethon. "Last fall alone, we raised more than $35,000 for CMN," philanthropy chair Hailey Hutchinson said. Phi Mu also supports CMN through weekly visits to the Children's Hospital Sunshine Room to play with children.

Although **Sigma Nu**'s national philanthropy is the Big Oak Ranch, they have been involved with many projects this year that supported many different organizations.

"Our big event is the charity softball tournament in the spring," philanthropy chair Scotty Watson said. The event, scheduled to be hosted in Birmingham in April, is open to all fraternities of all schools in Alabama. It will be prompted as the Greek Softball State Championship with benefits going to the Big Oak Ranch. Needless to say, involving Greek males from all over Alabama makes it a very large tournament that leads to lots of financial support for the Big Oak Ranch.

Sigma Chi's national philanthropy is Children's Miracle Network, a fund-raising organization that supports children's hospitals. To raise money, Samford's Sigma Chi chapter sponsored two competitions—Derby Days and Penny Wars.

Andrew Morgan, a senior management major and Sigma Chi's philanthropy chair, described Derby Days as "a weeklong event with various challenges and games, which allow the girls [Greek and Independent women] to earn points toward winning the competition, and the group that gets the most points gets a share of the money collected that week to go toward their chosen philanthropy."

Each organization, including Sigma Chi, raised money during the week through corporate sponsors. In the past, this event has raised up to $150,000 for Children's Miracle Network. For the other fund-raising competition, Penny Wars, girls put change in their organization's jar, and all proceeds go to Children's Miracle Network.

"It is a home away from home," said Emily Towne, **Alpha Delta Pi** philanthropy chair, when describing the Ronald McDonald House, ADPi's national philanthropy. "It's a place where families can stay and find comfort while their children are in the hospital for an extended amount of time."

The ADPi chapter at Samford supports both the national Ronald McDonald House organiza-

tion as well as the local RMH here in Birmingham. In the fall, ADPi held their first annual RMH golf tournament that raised over $5,000 for their local RMH. In the spring, the entire chapter participated in a spring cleaning project at their local RMH that involved everything from scrubbing floors to landscaping.

Members also prepare dinner for all of the families staying in the Ronald McDonald House once a week as well as collect pob tabs off cans to raise money. "Everyone can help out by saving pop tabs off cans. RMH uses the tabs to help pay for the cost of families staying there. It allows people to stay for a cheaper amount," Towne said. "We encourage everyone to save tabs and then just give them to any ADPi member. Every little bit helps."

Chi Omega supports its national philanthropy, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, by volunteering at local Birmingham events and through fund-raisers. The Make-A-Wish Foundation is an organization that grants wishes to children with terminal illnesses. In November, Chi O sponsored the Phil Keaggy concert to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Locally, Chi O supports the Big Oak Girls' Ranch, an organization that provides "a Christian home for children needing a chance," philanthropy chair Allison Pittman said. Members invite the girls at the ranch to spend the night at the Chi O house, and twice each month, Chi O members go to the ranch to babysit, tutor and plan field days for the girls. "Our members really love both of our philanthropies," Pittman said. "Many of them personally know families that have been blessed by the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and they all quickly come to care very much about the ranch because of the relationships we get to build and develop with the girls."

Alpha Kappa Alpha's national philanthropy is the Sickle Cell Foundation, but the sorority participates in many events to help people in need throughout the Birmingham community. The sisters of AKA partnered with the Salvation Army and served weekly dinners, in addition to scheduling a spring gala to raise money for the Sickle Cell Foundation.

Philanthropy chairman Jewel Littleton sees the importance of AKA as not merely a social organization, but a service institution as well.

"It is quite energizing and encouraging to know that Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., is a service-oriented organization that is making great impacts on the world, national, and local levels," Littleton said. "We are women of prestige working to help our community by doing just that—work." ■

Senior Survey

What is the best advice you've gotten while attending Samford, from a student or a staff member?

- There's a difference in making a living and making a life.
- Relationships/Marriage will not solve your problems - only perpetuate them.
- "Know when to or when not to..." Dr. Jon Remley.
- Learn from everything and everybody around you.
- Encouragement from April Robinson to pursue an internship in campus ministry at the University of Miami.
- WARNING: Caf eggs are made from powder.
- "Grades don't really matter" – the best JMC professor ever.
- I once heard Dr. Corts give a speech on leadership that was chock-full of good advice. That'd have to be it.
- Get the banana pudding first, then go put your bag down and get the rest of your lunch.
- Just be you.
- Smile every day, twice on rainy days.
- Be still.

What song defines your freshman year? Your senior year?

- Freshman: "Save Me" by Remy Zero. Senior: Whatever song is the complete opposite of "Hakuna Matata" with a balance of "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper.

- Freshman: The Boxer by Simon and Garfunkel. Senior: "Parachute" by Guster.

- Freshman: "Where is My Hairbrush?" from Veggie Tales. Senior: "Time" by Hootie and the Blowfish.

- Freshman: "Life is a Highway." Senior: "I Don't Want to Grow Up."

- Freshman: "Go West Young Man" by Michael W. Smith. Senior: "Milkshake" by Kelis.

- Freshman: "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!" Senior: (I'm in Education) A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z, next time won't you sing with me?

- Freshman: "Roll Out." Senior: "Drop it Like it's Hot."

- Freshman: Gary Jules cover of "Mad World" originally performed by Tears for Fears. Senior: "We were meant to Live" by Switchfoot.

- Freshman: "Colorblind" by Counting Crows. Senior: "I Will Love You" by Fisher.

- Freshman: "Subterranean Homesick Alien" by Radiohead. Senior: "Dare You to Move" by Switchfoot.

Describe your Samford experience in one word.

- A whirlwind.
- Unforgettable.
- Expensive.
- Over.
- Exhilarating.
- Amazing.
- Crazy!
- Growth.
- Long.
- Overcommitment.
- Change.
- Love.
- Skookum.
- Hmmm....
- Rebirth.
- Couldntvewishedforanythingbetter.
- Scrumtrilescent.
- StillTryingToFindAParkingSpace.
- Confusing.
- Phenomenal.

What is one question about Samford you always find yourself asking, but never have figured out an answer to?

- What would they do at the guard gate if I didn't stop to show them my Samford ID?
- Why does the Chick-fil-a station in the food court not understand that everyday between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. there will be people there asking for chicken nuggets and french fries, and that it would be a great idea to start cooking to have some prepared in advance and not wait to cook stuff when there is none left.
- What does the room behind the conveyor belt in the Caf look like? Where do all the dishes go??
- When is Samford not mowing the grass or blowing off the sidewalks?
- Why does our school have a jazz radio station that nobody who actually goes here listens to?
- Where does all that money go?
- Oh my gosh! What IS that funky smell outside the Caf!?
- How can girls wear those stiletto heals around campus? I'd fall on my face.
- Why isn't there a place on campus that serves food that is ALWAYS open...I feel so confined by the "eating hours."
- How much does the landscaping actually cost?
- Why is it so hard to schedule classes when rooms are empty and professors are available?
- Why on earth does the conveyer belt in the Caf smell so... ripe?
- What happened to the yeast rolls from the Caf?
- Why we have a post office that is only open four hours a day, closed on weekends and every Holiday imaginable and is the Valentine police?
- Why do people always pick on campus safety? Just park in the right spot!
- Why don't people like to go out on weeknights?


CHEER
SU

student athlete by Bryan Baddorf

The experience of an average student enrolled at Samford University is a life that would appear very foreign to a dedicated student-athlete. Most young adults come to college and encounter an exciting life with a wide array of new freedoms. For a serious athlete, the liberties exercised by peers are nothing but fiction. While being free from parental control, other factors dictate a lifestyle that is in some ways more oppressive than the one they knew.

Regular students have the luxury of choosing their own class schedules including times that allow them a nice sleep-in. In the afternoon they might even find time to fit in some quality video games or a shopping trip before a little bit of homework and a late night snack at Purple Onion with their pals.

Athletes on the other hand are forced into a much different routine. The dedicated athletes cram their classes around the three or four hours a day that are required for their sport. They must take into consideration what they eat to see that the food does not affect an upcoming athletic performance. Leisure time is very limited and the late night excursions are unlikely due to the 6 a.m. workout waiting for them the next morning.

On the weekends, ordinary students have the opportunity to venture home to see the family or go to a show and catch their favorite bands. They stay out late and unwind during the well-deserved time away from classes. The athletes are also up late, but it is because they are too uncomfortable to sleep on the cramped bus ride back from their out-of-town game.

Chris Scott, Samford Assistant Athletics Director, has a unique outlook on student-athletes because of his constant contact with them. He reinforces the immense difference between athletes and regular students by comparing it to a juggling act. "Most college students have two main components in their life, one of which is academics and the other is their social life. You toss athletics into the mix, and it can become overwhelming," Scott said. "It is really just a juggling act in which time management is of the essence."

Another aspect about athletes that outsiders sometimes overlook is the year-round commitment for each sport. Scott also stresses the importance of athletic dedication. "Most non-athletes think that when you're out of season then there are no athletic demands, but there are plenty, such as weights, drills and conditioning," Scott said. He agrees that after you consider nutrition, sleep and countless other factors, it is in some ways a "24-hour-a-day job."

One more aspect of student-athletes' lives that should not be overlooked is that many of them are financially self-sufficient. Although scholarships are available for their efforts on the athletic field, they still must work part-time in order to secure spending money for food, clothes or the amount of tuition not covered by scholarship.

Trent Schmidt, a red shirt senior track and field athlete, has had to balance more than just academics and athletics. Schmidt was a NCAA regional qualifier last year and commits many hours a day to perfecting his pole vault technique. When not at practice or in the weight room, Schmidt can be found approximately 20 hours of the week at the Homewood Piggly Wiggly scanning and sacking groceries. "Having to work is definitely a burden that takes a lot out of you, but I've gotten to meet so many people that I wouldn't have, and at the end of the day, I feel pretty good about all that I've done," said Schmidt.

On-campus employment also offers athletes opportunities to earn money between their classes and workouts. Chad Johnson, former president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and a fifth year senior on the men's cross country team, has worked as many as three on-campus jobs while pursuing a degree in Exercise Science. "I don't think a lot of students and faculty realize that athletes have to work jobs besides just fulfilling their scholarship obligations. Very few athletes are on an actual "full ride," and I don't think people understand the financial strain," Johnson said.

College is a unique time in an individual's life when one is able to explore his or her beliefs and decide who he or she will be in the future. Athletes are no exception to this transformation. Johnson admits that he probably will not make a living as an athlete but it is still a huge part of who he is. "Running is simply a part of my life now and will be forever," Johnson stated.

Assistant Athletics Director, Chris Scott, also respects and boasts of the development of student-athletes at Samford. "Athletics is the most diverse area of the campus, and being exposed to the different sports and the different backgrounds of the athletes add to the growth of an individual," Scott said. The complicated atmosphere created by many sports on a small campus offers social development that ordinary students do not encounter.

The challenges that wait beyond graduation are as tough and diverse as any athletic competition. As the time comes for Samford athletes to leave here, many will be forced to abandon the competitive drive that their sport has demanded. The years of resilience will not be in vein, however, because the mental and physical resources that have been designated for athletics will quickly be translated into habits that will prove invaluable in future encounters. Skills will surely fade as the time for practice is consumed by aspects of post-grad life, but the unique demands of the student-athlete will be the defining attribute of their college experience for the rest of their life. ■

soccer

by Brandon Gresham

The Samford women's soccer team struggled to find goals and keep players healthy this season. But in the end, the hard work and poise that the Bulldogs showed earned them their second straight Ohio Valley Conference Championship during regular season play and the opportunity to host the OVC Women's Soccer Tournament for two consecutive years.

The Samford women started off slow at the beginning of the year, losing their first four games of the season. Their opposing teams throughout their season's schedule, however, prepared the Bulldogs well to defend their regular season OVC title. Samford faced the 20th ranked Auburn Tigers, the Wildcats of Northwestern University and Tulane University's Green Wave. And while Samford struggled to get a win at the start of their season, their level of play was heightened by the tough competition.

Their increased competitive drive quickly became apparent as the Bulldogs moved in to their regular season games and conference games. Following their initial losing streak, the Lady 'Dogs won nine of their next 11 games and notched a stellar 7-1 record in conference play.

"The team really played well in the conference games this year," head coach Todd Yelton said. "Once we got over some of our injuries and the early season struggles we had with scoring goals, we were able to settled down and play some really good games."

Samford cruised to their second straight regular-season title and easily handled the Jacksonville State Gamecocks 3-0 in the first round of the OVC tournament. Samford was looking to earn its first ever birth in the NCAA regional tournament with a win in the OVC conference tournament, but the Bulldogs still had to face Eastern Illinois, the team that defeated the Bulldogs in the championship game the previous year.

The OVC championship match looked like it would lead to a Samford victory, as they dominated the game for the first 87 minutes. The Bulldogs held on to a 2-1 lead as they entered the three final minutes of the game when things started falling apart. When the final whistle blew the Bulldogs had fallen 3-2 to Eastern Illinois for a second straight year.

It was a disappointing end to a stellar season for the Samford women's team, but the Bulldogs season showed Samford fans just how resilient they could be. Battling through injury and a tough early-season schedule, the Samford women dominated OVC soccer for a second-straight year.

"I could not be more proud of the way our team performed this year," Yelton said. "They battled through a number of different struggles and always seemed to find a way to come out on top."

This season marked the end of five Samford players' careers as Bulldogs. Lindsay Shanks, Heidi Kearns, Crystal Royall, Keala Ryan and Kathy Nichols all finished their soccer experience at Samford with the loss to EIU. Shanks became Samford's all-time matches-played leader as she played in her school-record 79th match against EIU. She started in an unprecedented 78 of those 79 matches and ended her illustrious four-year career as Samford's all-time leader in goals with 25. Royall was named an All-South Region and Academic All-American player for her stellar work as Samford's goaltender. She was also name OVC Player of the Year and OVC Defensive Player of the year at the conference's annual banquet.

Despite losing a core of talented seniors, the Bulldogs look forward to the 2005 soccer season where they will once again make a run for the OVC Championship..

"We have a number of talented players returning next year," Yelton said. " And we also have a great recruiting class coming in that will make our team even stronger."

spotlight :: crystal royall

This past season, whenever the word "defense" was mentioned in reference to the Samford women's soccer team, one name automatically came to mind: Crystal Royall.

The senior from Richmond, Va., was the heart and soul of Samford's suffocating defense in 2004 as she started all but one of the Bulldogs' 18 regular season matches.

"Crystal has been a key player for our team for a long time," Head Coach Todd Yelton said of his star goalkeeper. "We have been able to rely on her in a lot of tough situations, and she always came through."

During the 2004 season, Royall registered a conference-best seven shutouts and limited her opponents to a stingy 0.64 goals against average. She only allowed 11 goals on the season and compiled an impressive .867 save percentage. Royall, however, will be the first to tell you it was a team effort.

"It was a good year for us, we continued improving and made progress in a lot of areas," she said. "We were young, so the program should only get better and better in the coming years. It was great to win another championship and continue the winning tradition our program has worked so hard for."

The most decorated athlete in Samford soccer history, she earned Third-Team Academic All-American honors this postseason and was recently named a First-Team NSCAA South Region Scholar All-American.

"My soccer career was amazing," she said of her time as a Bulldog. "All my teammates, coaches and all the fans made it an unforgettable experience. I can't put into words how much representing Samford in this way has meant to me—I loved every second of it."

Royall, who became the first person in Ohio Valley Conference history to be named both Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year in 2004, was one of 13 people named to Soccer Buzz's third team. With the honor, she joins an elite list of some of the nation's top players.

"It's always nice to be recognized. This sort of thing is obviously a representation of the great team that plays in front of me," she said. "I hope that some of this can bring some respect and recognition to our program.

She finished her illustrious four-year career as a Bulldog with a stellar 3.67 grade point average in physical education and is the team's all-time leader in both goals against average and shutouts. And while her Samford career may be over, Royall hopes she is not finished with her soccer endeavors.

"After I graduate I am hoping to travel to Europe to continue playing soccer," she said. "One way or another I will continue to be involved in soccer either through coaching or playing."

men's basketball

by Brandon Gresham

Nobody expected the Samford Bulldogs men's basketball team to perform the way they did during the 2004-2005 season. Nobody, that is, except for the Bulldog players and coaches.

Samford erupted this year in the Ohio Valley Conference after struggling to win games in the prior season. A 12-16 record in 2004 turned in to a 15-13 record in 2005. And while some might not see the two records as being very different from one another, any person who set foot in Seibert Hall this year to watch the Bulldogs play knew there was a difference.

This year's team had heart; they had a will to win and never seemed to give up. There were double-digit comebacks and double overtime games, but head coach Jimmy Tillette's Bulldogs still kept cool heads and diligently went about their work.

"We played really well as a team this year," Tillette said. "The guys had good chemistry with each other and were able to keep most of their opponents on their heels."

The Bulldogs remained atop the leader board in the OVC for most of the season, starting out conference play with a six game win streak. It seemed like Samford caught the other teams in the conference by surprise early in the season with their meticulous attention to ball handling and the feisty play that had been absent on past Bulldog teams.

Opposing teams came into Seibert Hall, a place that was notorious as being one of the toughest places to play in the OVC, knowing that they were in for a fight.

"The fans that we had coming out to games were great," Tillette said. "Their excitement for the game helped us as a team get excited as well."

From a fan's standpoint at the beginning of the season's play, the Bulldogs displayed great promise in cruising to their first-ever OVC championship. The Bulldog coaches and players knew better. Following their dominating start, the Bulldogs dropped two games and had to refocus their play.

The Bulldogs followed up the two losses to Eastern Illinois Southeast Missouri State by winning three of four in a home stand at Seibert Hall. While at home, the Bulldogs up-ended first-place Tennessee Tech to take full possession of the top spot in the conference, and they also defeated Austin Peay University in an overtime contest that left everyone on the edges of their seats up until the final buzzer.

The next Bulldogs' road trip, however, did not play as triumphantly for the tired Samford team. The Bulldogs lost two straight to TTU and Austin Peay and finished off the regular season with a loss to Tennessee State.

Samford, however, was not about to go down without a fight. The Bulldogs finished fourth in the OVC regular season, earning them the right to host a first round playoff game at home. Thousands of fans turned out to see their team face Austin Peay for a chance to play in the OVC

tournament finals in Nashville, but the Bulldogs fell short against the Governors 71-60.

Following the end of Samford's season, you might have expected to see heads hanging and people complaining of how the Bulldogs choked. On the contrary, the Samford players, coaches and fans could not have been happier of the way their team performed. Fans captured some of the best action Seibert Hall has ever seen, and the players and coaches rode on a roller coaster of emotion and excitement throughout the season's competition. After faltering in the past few seasons, Samford basketball's success swept across the campus in 2005. Bulldog fans flocked to see their team play, and they were never disappointed.

"We had a great run this year and our guys showed a lot of heart," Tillette said. "In the end we came up short but nobody is denying the fact that the team had a great year."

The Bulldogs said goodbye to seniors Beau Green, Bryan Boerjan, Jon Mills and Josh Hare at the end of this season, but the team will also be welcoming back regular starters Jerry Smith, Randal Gulina and J. Robert Merritt.

"It's sad to see us lose a number of great players," Tillette said. "But we have a great core of guys returning for us next year and a number of talented players ready to step up and do their part."

The depth of the 2005-2006 Bulldogs team already has the coaches and players excited. And if next year's basketball season is anything like the experience Samford had this season, it will definitely be a year to remember and continue to look forward to arriving.

spotlight :: bryan boerjan

Bryan Boerjan has held a basketball in his hands for most of his life. From his humble start on the local YMCA team in first grade, to helping lead the Samford Bulldogs basketball team to one of its best seasons in years; basketball has played an integral part of Boerjan's life.

Along the way, the 6-foot-8 native of Rock Falls, Ill., has seen a lot of success in his career, including a state championship in high school and numerous appearances in the Illinois elite eight and sweet sixteen rounds of the state tournament. "One of the things I'm most proud of from high school is how the whole town had something to be proud of and got behind us since it was Rock Falls' first state championship team," Boerjan said. During his four years in high-school, Boerjan's team won over 100 games, and he was just one of four players in Illinois state history to reach at least the sweet sixteen of the state tournament for four consecutive years.

Boerjan's journey to becoming a Samford Bulldog seemed to have happened almost by chance. "The coaching staff heard about me kind of by accident and ironically had a scholarship open up in the middle of year for my position. I came to Samford on a visit and immediately felt like it was the right school and team for me," Boerjan remembered.

And the rest is history. Boerjan has been lighting up the court for the Bulldogs for the past few seasons and played a crucial role in the team's success this past season. He was third on the Bulldogs roster in scoring his senior year with 240-points, averaging over eight points per game and pulling down a total of 79 rebounds on the season. Boerjan couldn't have finished his senior season better, scoring a career-high 21 points on Senior Night at Seibert Hall.

But Boerjan will be the first to note that all the success he has enjoyed on the basketball court has not come without hard work. "Most of my memories of growing up and basketball are shooting for hours on my basketball hoop at home," he said. "That drive and desire kept me going everyday, all the way through high school and on through college."

With his basketball career behind him now and graduation looming in May, Boerjan is focused on his plans for the future.

"After graduating with a degree in exercise science, I plan on attending Logan Chiropractic College in St. Louis, Mo., next year," he said.

But before fading away into the record books of past Samford Bulldogs, Boerjan hopes people will be able to remember him by his work ethic and dedication. "I think most people will remember me as that player who threw that backdoor pass, took a charge or dove on the ground for a loose ball," Boerjan said. "I just want to be remembered as a player who always gave it his all and never was outworked by my opponent." ■

by Stephanie Hoover

women's basketball

"Respect, Reputation, Refusing to Lose." This new slogan adopted by the women's basketball team at the beginning of this 2004-2005 season served to both define their goals and motivate them to succeed. When the season concluded, it was clear that the new motto did just that.

The team had a ground-breaking season, winning an impressive 13 games, the second highest win total in the program's history and only the third time the women's basketball team has won more than 10 games in a season. In only their second season in the Ohio Valley Conference, the Samford women's basketball team qualified for its conference tournament for the first time in four years.

Preparation for the season started in spring and summer of 2004. The coaches challenged each of the players to work harder and get stronger. When the players returned in the fall, it was clear that they had answered the challenge. The increase in physical strength was one of the factors that helped give the Bulldogs edge over their competition.

The team welcomed the season victoriously, winning (61-46) against Jacksonville with four players finished the game in double figures, and ended the season successfully by making it to the OVC Tournament. "It was one of the best feelings finally getting to make it there. I've been here for four years, and it was my first tournament," said senior LaBrena Friend. "I was truly excited to get to share this experience with my teammates and our families."

Although the team demonstrated an outstanding effort, jumping into an early lead by scoring the first nine points of the game, their season ended in a hard-fought 47-45 loss.

After the tournament loss, emotions of the close-knit team ran high, especially for the seniors and coaches. The team spent nearly an hour going around the room sharing what was special to them about the team and the great season that had just ended. "It was a chance to show how much we mean to each other and a chance to show our appreciation and gratitude to our coaches and teammates."

The team surprised many critics this season by finishing seventh in the conference despite many setbacks. Losing two of the top scorers for the team, Alex Munday, sophomore forward from Knoxville, Tenn., and Chelsee Insell, junior guard of Gallatin, Tenn., early in the season due to injuries produced many challenges for the team. There were days that the team barely had enough players to play five-on-five during practice due to injuries. "No one in the league gave us any respect at the first of the season, and we got even less when we lost two of our 'big dogs,'" Clement said. In the face of adversity, the team bonded even closer together on and off the court. The support, determination and team chemistry gave the Bulldogs the additional motivation that led to the many triumphs of the season.

The seniors of this year's team, LaBrena Friend of Huntsville, Ala., Che Walker of Powder Springs, Ga., and Sarah Clement of Russellville, Ark., finished strong in their last season as Samford Bulldogs. Junior player Insell displayed strong leadership for the team this year as one of the team captains for this season, despite injury that forced her to take a medical redshirt. Smith and Andrea Ward of Brewton, Ala., will return next season as seniors, looking to continue building on this year's successful season.

spotlight :: sarah clement

Senior guard Sarah Clement is no stranger on the Samford basketball scene. She finished her senior season holding six top-10 all-time school records: second in school history in three-pointers attempted (257), third in three-pointers made (78), fifth in scoring (654 points), blocks (37) and rebounds (370).

Ask anyone and they will tell you that Clement contributed to the team not only as an fearless star player, but also as a great leader. Voted as one of three captains by her teammates, Clement pushed herself in practice and earned respect of her teammates by establishing an intense work ethic and leading by example.

"In any kind of running, I always pushed myself as hard as I could to finish first. I don't want anyone to be able to say they outworked me," Clement said.

Clement's hard work paid off this season as she went into the conference tournament averaging a team-high 10.7 points per game in OVC play.

But Clement's career has not always been without adversity. In her first two seasons at Samford, the women's team won only 10 games combined. During that time, Clement was set-back by both shoulder surgery and knee surgery. "With the exception of a few games, there weren't many ups from those two years," said Clement.

The difficulty for Clement only worsened during her third year at Samford. "My third year was probably the hardest year I have ever faced. I red-shirted following a second shoulder surgery and sitting out was not easy for me," Clement said. "To complicate matters, my dad had a stroke and was in ICU. I couldn't go home to see him because of basketball commitments. During that same week, my grandfather passed away."

After overcoming her trials, Clement returned to basketball determined to make-up for lost ground and put her troubled days behind her. Starting in her fourth year at Samford, she played in 26 of 27 games, averaged 3.3 points and 2.6 rebounds per game and had a season-high 21 points against Eastern Kentucky.

"I remember the ups more than the downs. There have been a lot of hard times and tough losses, but the good times and exciting wins far outweighed the bad," Clement said.

Clement came to Samford as a two-time All-Conference and All-State selection from Russellville High School in Russellville, Ark. Starting as a sophomore, Clement led her team to the state finals and then to state semi-finals both her junior and senior year.

Now graduating in May, Clement plans to take a year off from school and work before going to medical school. When reflecting back on her time at Samford, Clement smiled. "Without a doubt, I have enjoyed the chance to get to know and love my teammates. These are the girls that will be my bridesmaids and close friends for a long time," Clement said. "We have faced many challenges and shared so many celebrations together. I will never forget the times we spent both on and off the court." ■

baseball by Vince Johnson

The expectations for the Samford baseball team were unprecedented going into the 2005 season. The 2004 team won 15 of its last 16 regular season Ohio Valley Conference games, and the young squad rolled to a third place finish in the OVC tournament.

New head coach Casey Dunn brought a track record of success to the Samford program, both as a collegiate and a professional player and as the head coach of Spain Park High School. He also brought an unmatched intensity level to Samford baseball. "He's the most competitive coach I've ever met," junior left-fielder Justin Worthington said.

But for Dunn, building the Samford program is about more than just coaching players inside the chalk lines. Within months of arriving on campus, he had conducted off-season youth and high school baseball camps, held the first-ever Samford Hall of Fame banquet and bought the team new, high-quality equipment and uniforms. "He's a first-class guy, and that's the kind of program he's building at Samford," junior right-fielder Matt Alling said. "The future of Samford baseball is definitely bright."

Dunn inherited a Bulldog squad laden with talent. Both Alling and junior flame-thrower Stephen Artz were named to the preseason All-OVC team by Baseball America, and Artz and sophomore right-hander Joseph Edens were named the top prospects from the OVC in the 2005 and 2006 Major League Baseball drafts, respectively.

Alling finished the 2004 season as the team-leader in batting average (.386), hits (86), triples (7), RBIs (48), total bases (122), slugging percentage (.547), walks (33) and on-base percentage. He was also a member of the 2004 OVC All-Tournament team.

Artz used his mid-90s fastball to win his final five decisions to finish 6-5 with a 3.70 ERA. He also led the team in strikeouts (98) and allowed just two runs in a complete game performance against Austin Peay in the first round of the OVC tournament.

Edens finished his freshman campaign as the team leader in ERAs (3.49) in 95.1 innings of work. He used his vast array of pitches to lead the team in wins (8), and he gave up just one run in eight innings against Eastern Illinois in the OVC tournament.

The pitchers joining Artz and Edens in the pitching rotation for the 2005 campaign include sophomore Chadler Tidwell, senior Michael Neimkin, junior transfers Scott Fowler, Justin Harris and Scott Kubina, sophomores Andrew Kerth and Parker Gargis, and freshmen Dan Marshall and Matthew Thomas.

Alling leads a Bulldog lineup that was forced to replace key position players at shortstop, second base and catcher following the 2004 season. Junior Jeff Dils and Gargis split time at shortstop in 2005, while junior Trey Moody made room for freshman third baseman Bill Whitehead by moving from third base to second base, and junior transfer Chet McDonough took over behind the plate, with junior Hunter Tubbs and freshman Dan Williams also seeing action. Rounding out the Samford lineup was sophomore first baseman Garrett Rice, Worthington, and freshman outfielders Bear Burnett and John Morgan. "The freshmen have really contributed even more than we expected," Alling said.

Midway though the 2005 season, the team sits in the middle of the pack in the OVC, a vast improvement from the 0-11 start the team rebounded from in 2004. "We're still in a good position to make a run. We just need to put everything together for an entire series," Alling said.

Steps ahead of a year ago, but steps behind where they want to be, the Samford baseball is determined to make waves down the stretch in the OVC, a feat they accomplished in 2004. Between Dunn's unmatched intensity, Artz's live arm, Alling's steady bat and that clubhouse 'chemistry' that can't be described in print, they're ready, and the rest of the OVC doesn't want to see them in the opposing dugout come playoff time. You can bet on it.

spotlight :: richard bishop :: by stephanie hoover

Ask anyone who knows anything about Samford baseball, and they will tell you, there's a number one on Richard Bishop's jersey for a reason. The Alabama native has greatly contributed to the Bulldogs during his five-year career both as an athlete and as a team moral leader.

"Richard is truly a team player. It doesn't matter if he is on the field or in the dugout, Richard is doing something to help us be a better team," Head Coach Casey Dunn said. "Bishop helps the team on a daily basis by working with the younger guys to help them understand the college game. He has become a great on the field mentor for our freshmen."

"I feel that I can give a lot of the young guys on the team a lot of advice because I have been in their shoes and have been here at Samford for five years." Bishop said.

Starting his Samford career off right, Bishop saw great action early, playing in 35 games and starting in 17 as a freshman in 2001. However, Bishop's baseball career did not continue as smoothly as he had hoped. After seeing action in two games in 2002, Bishop suffered an unfortunate injury that forced him to red-shirt for the rest of the season.

Determined to pick-up where he left off, Bishop returned for his sophomore season in 2003, playing in 35 games and starting in 29. Bishop batted .188 with a home run and 11 RBIs.

Continuing his junior year, Bishop played in 55 games and started in 52. He led the team with eight home runs and was second on the team with 35 RBIs. One of Bishop's greatest games as a junior was against UAB. "I hit a grand slam, had four RBIs and was 4 for 6," Bishop said. "It was also great that I earned player of the week honors for the Ohio Valley Conference after that game."

In the first game of his senior season, Bishop had the game-winning hit in his only at-bat of the game. Bishop's three-run double to right field in the top of the ninth inning was just what the Bulldogs needed to lift them to a 5-3 win over Georgia State. Samford began the ninth inning trailing 3-2, but finished on top with Bishop's hit when it was all said and done.

It's clearly no coincidence that Bishop wears the number one.

When thinking back over his five years of baseball Bishop said, "There have been a lot of ups and downs in my time here at Samford. It has been a great learning experience."

As he nears the end of his collegiate baseball career, Bishop looks forward to getting a job in sales and becoming a new father. "I am very excited about the new chapter of my life that is quickly approaching," Bishop said. "I want to be the best dad I can possibly be." ■

softball by Rob Collingsworth

The Samford softball team came into the 2005 season off an 18-11 Ohio Valley Conference record in 2004 after being eliminated in post-season play by three-seeded Tennessee Tech. The team experienced a great year over the 2005 season, very much due to their strong chemistry as a team, a large group of talented freshmen and strong upperclassmen leadership.

The 2005 season has been a saga of swings as the softball team has worked on aligning their hitting with their stellar defense and pitching.

"Hitting has definitely been our biggest obstacle this year and something we've had to work on a lot," freshman Emily Deaux said. "Our pitching and defense have been pretty consistent, but we have put the most time into practicing our hitting, and I think it's really paid off."

The Bulldogs opened the season Feb. 8 on the road as they split a doubleheader against the Troy Trojans in Troy, Ala. Susanna Meyer opened the season strong as she pitched a three-hit shutout against the Trojans in Samford's 1-0 victory.

Meyer, a sophomore from Davie, Fla., is one of the hardest workers on the team—a fact no doubt reflected by her 1.76 ERA and 13-11 record from the 2004 season. With continually strong showings this year, Meyer help lead the Bulldogs to multiple wins in the 2005 season and looks forward to two more years to continue improving.

"The main thing I wanted to work on coming into this season was consistency and coming out 100% every game," Meyer said. "I definitely feel like I was more consistent this season, and my mental game has improved a lot."

One of Samford's best hitting performances came at the Mercer Classic in Macon, Ga., where highly-touted freshman Meghan Wagner hit two grand slams, one a walk-off to win the game against Mississippi Valley State.

"We had been really struggling in hitting at that point, myself included," Wagner said. "It was so much fun to see the ball coming in and then just unleash on it. It felt great."

Wagner is just one of seven freshmen on the team this year as the softball team begins a rebuilding process and looks to the future. This year's freshmen, including Wagner, Deaux, Bethany Weisser, Tracey Deaux, Jeslyn Metcalf, Haley Scism and Heather Williams, have been a major factor in the Bulldogs' success over the 2005 season.

"We came into the season with pretty high expectations. We have a really talented team, even though we're young," coach Beanie Ketcham said. "Our biggest problem has been consistency—one day we'll come out and play great, and another day we can't tie our shoes right. Being such a young team though, we can only get better from here."

Another aspect of the Bulldogs' success this season has been the quality upperclassmen leadership, especially from seniors Trisha Holman and Kelly Smith. Holman continues to lead the team as a powerhouse hitter. She finished her junior season with a stellar .310 batting average and was ranked in the top 10 of OVC players in stolen bases, on-base percentage and walks. Holman has worked hard and contributed much to the team this year, including batting .500 over a weekend in a three-game sweep against Tennessee Tech.

"We're such a diverse group with so much talent—we have grown so close as a team this season and I look forward to playing with these girls over the next two years," sophomore Shelley Stanley said. "We just have great chemistry. Not only are we teammates on the field, but we are friends off the field. That's the best part."

All in all, the Bulldogs performed well over the 2005 season and look forward to the next few years as they bring in a new group of freshmen and continue to work on hitting and overall consistency. If they continue to make as much progress next year as they have this year, there is no limit to how far they can and will go.

spotlight :: kelly smith :: by stephanie hoover

As a four-year varsity letterman for Samford's softball team, Kelly Smith of Chattanooga, Tenn., has made her presence known. Her first collegiate hit was a grand slam, and ever since that memorable moment, Smith has continued to delight and impress those on the softball scene.

As a freshman, Smith hit the ground running and finished the season with five multiple-hit games, 16 runs and 10 RBIs. As a sophomore, Smith earned second-team All-Atlantic Sun Conference honors by leading the team with a .341 batting average and 17 doubles. After batting a stellar .470 in 26 league games as a junior, Smith earned first-team Ohio Valley Conference honors. Smith was named the OVC's Player of the Week on May 10, 2004 for a five-game performance, batting .714 (10-for-14) and driving in five RBIs. Smith finished her junior year ranked fifth in the OVC in doubles, totaling 16 for the season.

As she was named 2005 Tricaptain, the honor and recognition also continued for Smith during her senior season. In addition, Smith was ranked among the top-10 in five of Samford's all-time statistical categories. In just the first few weeks of the 2005 season, Smith was already second in both career doubles (34) and runs batted in (74) and fifth in home runs (10). She possessed sixth-place for all-time runs scored (69) and for her stellar batting average (.283, 143-for-506). On March 20, 2005, Smith reached the 500 at-bat plateau.

The impact of an athlete like Smith is undeniable. She had one of her best games of the year against Eastern Illinois where she led the Bulldogs with a 3-for-4 performance at the plate and scored a run, earning a pair of RBIs.

As for life after softball, Smith will be getting married this summer and starting the job hunt. "I've played softball my whole life, so I'm going to take a year off and explore job possibilities," Smith said.

When asked what thing she would miss most about playing softball at Samford, Smith made it clear that practice wasn't it. "I won't miss practice, but I will miss the girls and my coaches the most after I graduate. I've enjoyed playing at a Division I school—I've had the best of everything."

With Smith's enthusiastic dedication and stellar career achievements, it's clear that Samford's softball program has had the best as well.

volleyball

by Bryan Baddorf

The Samford Volleyball team engaged in a tough battle this season as they attempted to tear down the walls of the old program and build a competitive conference program in its place. The transition offered too many obstacles for the lady Bulldogs to accomplish a winning season, but the hardships they endured together insured a different kind of success.

The reason for the drastic change in the team's behavior and chemistry is a result of an alteration in the coaching staff. Michelle Durban in her first season as head coach faced the task of having to reinvent the team's approach to the game. The modifications ranged from the conduct of practices to the execution on the court.

"Perhaps the biggest challenge I faced as a new coach was simply getting the team used to a new style of offense and defense and then getting them to believe in it," Durban said. The team was forced to continue with intense technical work well into a part of the season that ideally would have been used to further focus on conference matches.

Injuries also played a significant role in the Bulldogs' season. When one player would get hurt, another would have to slide into a position that they were not accustomed to playing. This prevented the team from settling into a successful groove. "Injuries forced us to keep the entire team rotating and working together in different ways. We rarely had the entire team together for a practice," Durban said.

According to Coach Durban, the high point of the season was the home match against Austin Peay. A large number of parents showed up for this match, and the girls pulled out a victory in a very close fifth game. "The girls played exactly how they were asked and really clicked as a team," Durban said. The coach attributes this victory to the spirit and leadership of the senior girls.

The seniors served as leadership figures by helping to organize and host various team building activities. During the grueling pre-season training, the coaches conducted two-a-day practices for two weeks before school began. During this time, the seniors stepped-in and hosted dinners and movie nights at their apartments. This season's schedule consisted of an unusual amount of mid-week matches, which inhibited the organization of team Bible study or anything of that nature. When in-town, the girls would attend the Shiloh worship service or FCA as a team.

The off-court activities combined with the turmoil of the season and created a strong bond between the girls on the team. Senior teammate Hillary Gary looks back at the season and reflects on the closeness shared. "Any time you go through trying times together you become stronger in your friendships. I respect these girls and will treasure their friendships forever," Gary said.

The team did not reach their goal of being the first Samford volleyball team with a winning season, but each player acquired valuable lessons for the future. It's clear that this year's losing record was not representative of the intense effort put forth by the team or the incredible lessons that were learned from their trying experiences. With the experiences, lessons and friendships that the volleyball girls were able to come away with this year, it is simply impossible to describe their season as anything but a success.

spotlight :: hillary gary :: by stephanie hoover

There are certain days in people's lives that turn out to be a pivotal time in their existences. The events that transpire in a short amount of time can forever influence their outcomes. When these moments occur, they often go unnoticed and the participants would scarcely conceive that they just dictated their journey for the next 10 years.

For senior Hillary Gary of Coppell, Texas, one of these defining moments arrived when she was in the seventh grade and walked through the doors of her dusty gymnasium to take part in the middle school volleyball tryouts. She qualified for the schools "B team." From that moment on, Gary's life was forever changed. "I tried out on a little of a whim," Gary said. "But after the first few practices and games, I knew I had found something I could excel at."

Gary's passion, talent and dedication soon led her to an impressive volleyball career. At the end of her senior season at Coppell High School, Gary had been named District Offensive MVP and MVP for Coppell High School, as well as being nominated for First team All-District, Texas Sports Writer team, All-State Team Alternate and All-District Academic Team.

It was her outstanding high school performance that landed her a scholarship at Samford. Playing in 61 games as a true freshman, Gary recorded a total of 74 kills, averaging 1.21 kills per game. Gary finished the regular season with a season-high four aces against Arkansas State.

As a sophomore, Gary continued to excel and was ranked second on the team in kills, total attacks and blocks. Gary also made several other career-highs during her sophomore season, including a career-high seven blocks and a career-high 13 digs twice.

The success didn't stop there. Soaring through her junior season, Gary led the team in games played, hitting percentage and block solos. She had a team-high 1,069 attempts, the fifth-highest single-season mark in Samford history, and had five straight matches with 17 or more kills.

In 2003, Gary proved that she wasn't just a champion on the court, but also a champion in the classroom as she was named to the Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll for her academic efforts.

Gary finished her senior season with several team-highs, including number of kills (1,118), total attacks (2,978), block solos (30), block assists (202), total blocks (232) and a tie for highest attack percentage (.203). Gary made Samford history by being inducted into the Samford 1,000 Kills Club, finishing the season with an average of 3.12 kills per game. Gary's name is currently listed on two All-Time Season-Records Lists and three All-Time Career-Records Lists.

Adjusting to a new coaching style and dealing with an injury added challenge to her last season in a Samford uniform. But as a true athlete and person of character, Gary was able to grow in the face of adversity.

"My injury forced me to recognize that volleyball had been so much a part of my life for so long and that I got my significance from my ability to play. I learned through my very difficult circumstances this year that my significance can only come from my relationship with Christ. This is something I am sure I will continue to learn the rest of my life," Gary said.

After graduation, Gary is planning to take the N-CLEX nursing boards and work a few years before getting her masters or specialization.

track & field by Katie Lantz

Any established group or organization has a mission statement that serves as the defining heartbeat of the operation.

From it's beginnings in 776 B.C., track and field might not have received its mission statement until 1845, when French author Alexandre Dumas published The Three Musketeers. From this novel emerged the unforgettable phrase: "All for one and one for all." This phrase simply states that all members of a group support each of the individual members, and the individual members pledge to support the group. With track and field being such a diverse sport, the phrase endures and runs in the hearts of all track athletes.

Putting the mission statement into action, head coach Glenn McWaters said, "My goal is to strive to build team unity and through the team unity that support will help each individual reach their highest potential."

The Samford University men's and women's track and field teams are not three fighting French men, but 54 strong individuals bound together by the love for competition. Beginning in January and ending in June, the teams compete in over 20 events at 14 meets. Whether it is racing indoors at the University of Kentucky or vaulting over the bar in downtown Atlanta, Ga., at Georgia-Tech, the Bulldogs work hard to be the top dog in every event.

"Even though track is very individual, it is impossible to underestimate the team aspect. I can't even count the races that my will has been broken and I just want to coast into the finish. What keeps me going is fact that I know my teammates are right there suffering with me. They are counting on my points and I am not going to let them down," said senior runner Bryan Baddorf.

Through out the season, the Bulldogs were able to capture several individual crowns and smash several school records. Meet by meet, turn by turn, jump by jump and throw by throw; each action has been a progressive performance strengthening the team.

A motive for Dumas' phrase might have been national unity; in sports terms it is referred to as "Team."

"I hope that as a coach I can instill team camaraderie; so when they have completed four years at Samford, they've pushed each other to their limits truly experiencing the value of a team," said coach Chad James.

Each and every day it takes personal dedication from all the athletes to work hard and perform to the best of their abilities. The support of the teams and the coaches encourages the internal desire to seize every opportunity to better oneself and the team.

"Even though we compete on an individual basis, no one can be successful in track and field with out a support system. For me it is my family, teammates, and coaches along with my internal motivation that encourages me each and every day," said sophomore high jumper Laura Malnati.

It's evident in the way they practice and the way they compete. The mission of men and women's track teams: "All for one and one for all" in their hearts will continually beat.

spotlight :: sarah aultman

Someone once said that life is a chain of lessons hooked together never to be broken. Others believe it's a defining event or a remarkable individual. For senior track athlete Sarah Aultman, it has been a single motto.

"If I can give it my all in everything that I do, it is all I can ask of myself. To me it is common sense. This mentality has carried me through," Aultman said.

For the past decade Aultman has been jumping great lengths and running hard and turning left. Her track career began in junior high school and continued into high school in her hometown of Pleasantgrove, Alabama. Aultman's high school solo track career escalated to new heights as she captured three Alabama High School Championships, a county MVP award and a sixth place 5A team finish her senior year.

Samford University knocked on the door to Aultman's future, and she opened it. "Samford University not only allowed me to fulfill my goal of being a colligate athlete, but they provided me with a solid education," Aultman said.

Battling training struggles her freshman year, Aultman found a friend in a high school rival that would support her through out the next four years. "My friend, LaToya Cunningham, has been there stride for stride every work out and stride for stride in my life," Aultman said.

Her main event on the track is the 400-meter, but her forte has always been the long jump. In 2003, Aultman broke the school record with a jump of 19'4". Her goal of breaking 20' was cut short her junior year when a jump during an indoor conference tore her ACL. "It was tough. I came to jump, and at that point, I had to regain strength to run," Aultman said.

After six months of rehab, Aultman was back with the team. "The experience taught me to appreciate my ability to run and be active," Aultman said.

In her last season, Aultman sees each day as an opportunity to help others become successful. As team captain over the past two years, she has also showed leadership in the classroom receiving honors from Samford and the Ohio Valley Conference.

With a major in psychology and a minor in Spanish, Aultman plans to enter medical school to focus on psychiatry or neurology. "My goal is to help decrease the stigma of mental illness in society. I want to be the doctor that leads by example," Aultman said.

In the next decade and the ones to come, Aultman will always have her motto to carry her through. ■

Time is an interesting concept. It can control the day: when we eat, when we sleep, when we come or when we go. It defines the length of our existence both universally and individually. Years, months, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds... all measurements of time. In the race set before us, there are certain times to sprint, jog or to simply enjoy the ride. The Samford women's cross country team did more than enjoy the ride—they defined the season every step of the way.

The Lady Bulldogs started the season with one goal in mind: victory. After the first win for the team and individual title at Belmont, the season opener, the goal established at pre-season camp began to unfold. The women continued the season by capturing second at Florida State University, first at Aubum University and first at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

"This season has been a great step in the right direction. With each race our team is transformed into a competitive unit capable of capturing not only the conference title but a chance to race at nationals," captain Connie Heiskell said.

At the conference championships a soggy course might have tumed out slower times than expected, but it didn't slow the timing of Bulldog determination for victory. One, two, three, four, five Samford runners clocked in the first times to seize the Ohio Valley Conference team title with a perfect score. Along with team honors, Lauren Blankenship received "Runner of the Year," Britney Almaguer received "Freshman of the Year" and Coach Glenn McWaters received "Coach of the Year." Brittney Mensen, Michelle Brewer, Jessica Brewer, and Robyn Debenet all received first team honors, and Connie Heiskell received second team honors.

"Awesome, awesome, awesome!" head coach Glenn McWaters said after the race. "The girls were fantastic. It is a privilege to coach a team that raced exceptionally well. A perfect score is very rare, especially at the colligate level."

Although the team stopped their watch at regionals by finishing sixth place overall, the highest in Samford's history, Lauren Blankenship wanted to race one more time. Finishing fourth at regionals, she accompanied three other individuals to the NCAA Division I National Cross Country meet at Indiana State University.

"Running at nationals was an amazing experience. I was very thankful to represent Samford and to see all the hard work and sacrifice I had made for my season finally pay off," Lauren Blankenship said.

Time may be up for the 2004 cross country season, but the Bulldogs aren't stopping. They're planning to enjoy the ride in the seasons to come.

When writing about a cross country runner many words come to mind like fast, quick, speedy, enduring, but none of them are complete or suffice to describe Ricky McLain. He was not only born to run, but is driven for success.

Growing up in Alliance, Nebraska, McLain tagged along with his dad to the track and watched as he ran 24 laps. Both his father and his grandfather were early inspirations for McLain's future running career. McLain always knew deep down that he was destined to be a runner, but it wasn't until eighth grade when he ran the mandatory mile in gym class that his destiny became a reality. "After I ran the mile, my teacher went to the high school cross country coach and told him how well I had done. Next thing I knew, I was running up to the high school everyday after school to train with the high school coach and team."

During his running years at Houston High School in Memphis, Tennessee, McLain improved as a runner, gained a training partner and friend, and was taught lasting advice from his coach. "My freshman year I know that I was pretty good and expected to be the best freshman on the team, but Bryan Baddorf, who is my teammate here at Samford, transferred in and more or less humbled my thoughts," McLain said. From his freshman's personal best of 17:09 for 3 miles to his senior's best of 15:35 for 3 miles, McLain captured many awards and became close friends and competitors to Baddorf. "I trained with Bryan the summer before my junior year and by my senior year Bryan and I were swapping the number one spot on the team."

After his freshman year at the University of Memphis, McLain transferred to Samford in the Fall of 2002 in order to train with Baddorf once again. "I knew nothing about the school, but trusted him. Since arriving, I have grown to love it for its Christian atmosphere and high academic standards," McLain said.

Over the next three cross country seasons McLain has an 8K best of 25:34 and a cross country school record in the 10K of 30:53.

Other than running, McLain is an accounting major that has begun his graduate courses to earn his Master of Business Administration and Master of Accountancy. With the help of the accounting professors here at Samford, he has accepted an internship with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, one of the best accounting firms in the world.

"Running at Samford has made me a better individual all around. I have learned a lot from leading this team with Bryan and also from the guys that I run with. Thanks to my continued running at Samford, I have learned that even when I am out of eligibility I will always be a distance runner, not because it's who I am, but because I love every step I take." ■

golf by Tricia Harlo

The Samford men's golf team made history this year. For the first time ever, the boys are ranked 91st in the nation. "This ranking means a great deal," coach Woodie Eubanks said. "It's really pushed the guys to work hard and have the mental focus to know they can play with the best teams in our region."

The men's team finished in first place in the OVC Championships with a score of 873 (287-296-290). Out of nine tournaments the men finished all of them in the top five. All of the starting five members of the team have had at least one top-ten finish. The Bulldogs have a notable stroke average of 291, which is only three over par.

Bradley Farmer, a senior political science major, has had an exciting final year. Not only did he drastically lower his stroke average from a 77 last year to a 73 at the end of the fall season, but he finished as OVC championship MVP and All-OVC First team honoree. Farmer took the individual crown with a score of 213 (74-69-70) for the tournament. "This semester has gone really well for me, and I have made some lasting memories, more so than any of the previous ones," Farmer said. "I wish our guys the best of luck in the future because there is something special that is going on with our program, and it will be exciting to watch after I graduate."

With such an exciting year under their belts, the men's team anxiously awaits the next season with even higher hopes and expectations. Ryan Mayberry, a junior business major, stated, "This season, we made strides toward our potential, and because of that, I can only expect the best for next year. We have finally realized that we can compete with anyone, now we just have to do it."

The wom[illegible] also anticipates next season to be a m[illegible] one. Although the women did not finish as strongly as they had hoped this year, the drive and determination is there to make next season better than ever. Unfortunately many tournaments were cut short due to bad weather this season.

The women had three Top 10 finishes and three Top 20 finishes in the fall. Kelly Stout, a junior interior design major, shot the lowest score of the season with a 75 at the Wachovia-Great Smokies Intercollegiate Tournament. Stout said, "I will be working hard over the summer and throughout next year to try and bring to the team the best golf game I am capable of. I know the rest of the team will be doing the same, and I can't wait for the season to begin."

The two freshman teammates, Brooke Barriento and Courtney Weir, were also key players to the team this year and qualified for nearly all of the tournaments. They look forward to practicing extensively during the off-season and entering their second year on the team even more focused than the first. Barriento said, "College golf is much different than high school golf. I can't wait for next season when I am more confident and relaxed. I think there will be a drastic improvement not only in my game, but in everyone's game."

This year, women's golf will be losing two seniors, Kelly Villarreal and Tricia Harlow. Villarreal and Harlow have qualified for every tournament over the past four years and have been through the good and the bad with their golf games. They both consistently played between the number one and three spots, always fighting to be the number one player. "This year has gone by so fast. The two seniors, Tricia and Kelly, have been great leaders on the team and I am going to miss them next year," Sto[illegible]ed.

[illegible] Villarreal and Harlow plan to graduate in D[illegible]ber 2005. Villarreal said, "Tricia and I have remained focused throughout the years and have made efforts to build team chemistry, which is finally there. We have tried to build the team a solid foundation and look forward to watching their success in the years to come."

Both the men and women's golf teams are certain that next season will be filled with great improvements and victories. As for right now, they anticipate hosting the OVC Decatur, AL to finish up the spring season with a bang.

spotlight :: kelly villarreal

Kelly Villarreal, a senior on Samford's golf team, learned years ago what true dedication meant. While other 13-year-old girls were worried about make-up, shopping, and boys, Villarreal was playing golf on a daily basis.

She was first introduced to the game by her father and began playing in junior tournaments by the age of 14. Not only was Villarreal the only female golfer at her country club, but she was also the only girl on her high school golf team. She had to work non-stop in order to retain her spot among a team full of boys.

Villarreal grew up practicing regularly with her brother, Andrew, who is now a freshman on Samford's men's team. She remembers having constant competitions with her brother to keep things interesting. They give credit to each other for staying focused and motivated in an ever challenging and frustrating game.

As a junior at Catholic High School in Florida, Villarreal was second in the state. At times she experimented with other sports including basketball, volleyball and rowing until realizing her true passion, golf. She then decided to focus solely on that game. Hard work in high school paid off; she was CSAC All-Conference, All-Tournament and second in All-State.

Samford's coach, Ian Thompson, recruited Villarreal in 2001 and she was able to immediately establish herself as a leader on the golf team. Thompson described Villarreal as, "a tireless worker and an impact player for the team." Villarreal was awarded for her efforts by being voted onto the All-Freshman team for the Atlantic Sun Conference.

Throughout her four years on the golf team, she qualified for all of the tournaments she played in, missing only one due to health problems. She alternated between playing the number one and two spots each tournament. Although some competitions were worse than others, they only made Villarreal stronger and increased her work habits.

Villarreal's career-high at Samford was a second place finish at Jacksonville State's spring tournament her freshman year. She also had ten Top 20 finishes while just missing a third Top 20. Sophomore year she finished tied for fifth at Southern Mississippi, tied for eighth at the Samford Intercollegiate, and was also an individual champion at the 2003 Collegiate Players Tour held in Delaware, Ohio, shooting a 72-73-71. Also in 2003 she was the Decatur Country Club Champion shooting a 71-70.

Although graduating in December 2005 with a double major in Business Management and Spanish, Villarreal plans to play as much golf as possible in her life after Samford and looks forward to competing in some amateur events.

"Although it is difficult to look at the past and realize things are coming to an end here at Samford and on the team, it is also just as exciting to look towards the future and see that I am about to enter another phase in my life. Samford has given me some great memories, helped me to mature personally and emotionally, and I am confident that it has prepared me for what the future holds," Villarreal said. ■

tennis by Tricia Harlow

The men's tennis team has had an invigorating season this year and anticipates an exciting future for the team. The men's team has been undefeated in the Ohio Valley Conference for much of the season. Coach Kemper Baker said, "I am very proud of how our team performed this year. We are very excited about what this team can accomplish in the years to come."

The men made a great name for themselves in the OVC last season and are hoping to do the same this time around, considering they are in first place going into conference.

Men's tennis had a 5-0 conference record and 11-6 overall with still three more to play. Some key wins this season included Jacksonville State and the Birmingham-Southern Panthers. Junior Johnny Griffee has a 14-2 record number four spot in singles, and freshman Renen Silveira has a 12-5 record at number three singles. Five players are undefeated in conference play and plan to continue the trend.

James Bryce, a junior fitness and health promotion major, looks forward to conference and hopefully taking home a win. Bryce said, "We have a good shot at winning the OVC this year. We might have a young team, but it is filled with lots of talent."

The only senior on the team, Joey Jensen, will be graduating in the spring with a major in business management. Jensen plans to enter into the financial field and eventually obtain his MBA after working a few years. "I have really enjoyed my collegiate experience at Samford." Jensen said, "It is a great feeling playing a close conference match and looking down at the courts and seeing five of your teammates battling every point to win their matches."

The men look forward to finishing up the season strong and continuing to be victorious next season as well. "I am happy with the way our guys have responded in competitive situations this year. Hopefully we can continue to improve and be playing our best tennis at the conference tournament," coach Baker said.

Like the men's team, the women's team is extremely young with nearly all freshman and sophomore competitors. The women are reining OVC Champions and aim to succeed again this year. Sarah Mckey took home the title last season of All-OVC for the women along with then-senior Emily Nunnally.

The girls have had a great season so far and look forward to attending the OVC tournament. Mckey, a sophomore sports medicine major, said, "We had a tough loss against Tennessee Tech, but saw great improvement."

The girls hope to get two wins against Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State in order to set themselves up for the fourth seed going into the OVC's. "It should be an interesting weekend," Mckey said.

The women's tennis team will be losing one player this year, nursing major Katie Crawford. Crawford has added a great deal to the lineup and will be greatly missed. Two new freshmen will be joining the team next fall, and according to Mckey, "should add depth to the team."

Both the men and women's teams have made great strides from the years past and look forward to more progression in years to come and have great hopes to take their success even further on the court.

spotlight :: johnny griffee

Although certainly one of the youngest featured athletes, the magnitude of Johnny Griffee's talent and character are certainly worth noting.

Griffee, a junior on the team along with Manuel Miletic and James Bryce, has shown excellence of character and performance on the court for many years and developed close friendships with his teammates. "I have the utmost respect for Johnny as a teammate and a friend," Bryce said. "He is a great leader and sets the standard in athletics and academics for the team."

Griffee took up tennis at the age of 10, but did not focus exclusively on the game until he was 16. "I saw a big improvement in my game when I started training at one of the premier junior development programs in the South, the Racquet Club of Memphis. Although I had a lengthy commute to practice everyday, it definitely helped my game," Griffee said.

Griffee's new and improved skills were clearly evident during his four years at Marion High School in Marion, Ark. As four time 4A State Champion and the overall State Champion in 2000, the depth of Griffee's talent was undeniable.

Griffee's talents have already taken him far during his three years at Samford. During his freshman year, Griffee went 6-12 in singles and 10-9 in doubles. One of Griffee's biggest accomplishments as a freshman came on February 4, 2003, when he and teammate James Bryce defeated the Ohio Valley Conference Champions Gernot Fisher and Luis Aguemevere of Tennessee Tech.

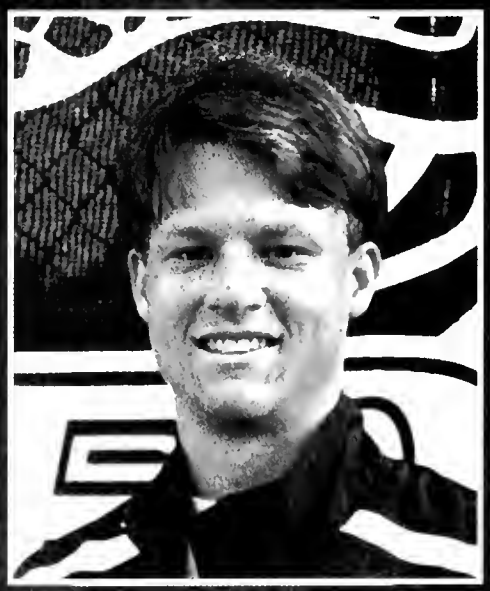
During his sophomore season, Griffee was named the Most Valuable Player of the year. He finished 20-5 overall in singles and 12-14 overall in doubles.

Now as a junior on the team, Griffee has continued to excel. He is currently 15-3 in the 2005 spring season with only one loss in singles and one in doubles.

Even with his success, Griffee modestly recognizes his coach and fellow teammates for their triumphant support. "Since my freshman year at Samford, our team has continued to improve every year. I attribute much of my individual success, as well as the team's improvement, to Head Coach Kemper Baker," Griffee said. "His commitment and instruction has undoubtedly had an enormous impact on the team and has brought the program to a level of national recognition in just two years as head coach."

Griffee's quality of character is evident when he expresses how proud he is to be on one of the hardest working teams as far as conditioning and weight training. " I believe everyone's hard work has taken the Samford tennis program to the next level," Griffee said. "Our commitment on the court has paid off throughout the season with an undefeated conference record."

A political science major, Griffee hopes to attend law school when he graduates next May. For now, he looks forward to hopefully taking home another victory at the OVC championship. "We hope to finish the season by accomplishing our ultimate goal of competing in the NCAA championships," Griffee said. And as a stand-out athlete in his junior year, Griffee has yet another season of quality playing time on Samford's tennis team to do just that.



supporters

by Meredith Yates

College athletic events are designed to showcase the talent and athleticism of the university's teams. Fans attend these games with the hope of witnessing the 40-yard pass that ties the game or the miraculous 3-pointer that swishes just before the final buzzer sounds. But there is more to the spectacle than the athletes and their coaches. Samford's stadiums and gyms reach an unparalleled level of excitement and showmanship when the cheerleaders, the mascot, Spike, and the dance team fill the arena. Yet behind the clean-cut uniforms and the sparkling pom-poms lie some of Samford's most motivated and hard-working athletes.

The Samford cheerleaders lead cheers and showcase difficult aerial stunts at all of the football and basketball games. Led by a new coach, Mary Ussery, the cheerleaders' main goal is to get the crowd more involved in the game. This year's team has noticeably improved since the start of the season. "I plan to take the cheerleading program to a new level in the 2005-2006 school year," Coach Ussery said. "I train my athletes to be true athletes, working to raise the bar."

The level of training and commitment results not only in a polished team, but also in friendships that can last for the entirety of college. Junior biology major Bruce Johnson has been cheering with the team for the past three years. "The friendship shared within the squad is what has kept me coming back each year that I've been at Samford," he said. Freshman nursing major Julie Swafford agreed that the experience has been the ultimate reward. "For me it was great way to start out college—just to have fun with the squad," she said. As for the future of the team, the cheerleaders host tryouts every year, recruiting from public and private high schools in the Birmingham area. The team hopes to recruit higher numbers in the next year so that they can continue to increase the stunt difficulty and keep the crowds on their feet.

Perhaps the most recognizable member of Samford's athletic "support team" is the mascot, Spike. The mascot program has been steadily improving at the Universal Cheerleading Association national competition every year. Last year, Spike jumped from the 12th spot in the nation to the 9th spot. Samford has consistently been the only private school entering the competition, competing against larger schools, such as Kentucky, Tennessee and Auburn.

Sophomore business major Josh Bordas has been Spike for the past two years and has found the task to be difficult and rewarding at the same time. "It's been tough getting people interested in Samford's athletic program, but I think it is coming along great," he said. While Spike has been showing his competitive nature at a national level, he still enjoys being goofy and entertaining the kids at home. "When Spike is in front of the crowd, I mainly just want them to be entertained," Bordas said. "Everyone really responds to the four-wheeler at the football games and the different outfits. The kids like it best when Spike puts on his Spiderman suit."

Other supportive participants at athletic events are the Samford dance team members. Since this 15-member group has no coach and no financial support from the university, they have struggled in the past to find money, leadership and their own place in the college scene. This past school year proved to be a groundbreaking year for them.

Junior interior design major Morgan Gillespie has witnessed from the inside how the team has turned around. "This past year's team has finally shared the same level of talent and passion for performance," she said. Under the guidance of

their student captains, the dancers made appearances at both football and basketball games and also at a performance of their own. Sophomore Kathryn Lamb was one of the directors of the dance team's newest endeavor, a solo production that paid tribute to the choreography of Bob Fosse.

"The *Fosse* production allowed the team to showcase our true abilities," Lamb said. "We couldn't have asked for a better turnout or a more rewarding experience." Held in Harrison Theatre in November, the Fosse show raised over $2,200, which the team donated to the Birmingham Inner City Fine Arts Department. "We know better than anyone how difficult it is to thrive in a poorly-funded program," Lamb said. "We want to use our abilities to help other people."

There may not be write-ups in the local paper, fame or even recognition. There may not even be any scholarship money, but the hard-working supportive athletes are doing their part to make Samford athletics a true success. Whether it is the cheerleaders trying to pump-up a lackadaisical crowd, Spike making friends with the families or the dance team forging ahead and breaking ground, each supportive athlete deserves a moment in the spotlight. ■

football

by Vince Johnson

Samford football made a splash in the Ohio Valley Conference during the 2003 season, finishing 7-4 overall and 5-3 in its inaugural year in the OVC.

With the 2004 squad featuring the reigning OVC Defensive Player of the Year, Cortland Finnegan, and the reigning OVC Male Athlete of the Year, Efrem Hill, Coach Bill Gray's squad was poised to make a run for the conference title as the season began.

Three months later, one could only wonder what might have been. What might have been if Samford didn't lose its first three conference games in a total of six overtimes by three points each? What might have been if Finnegan didn't break his arm in the fourth quarter of the Eastern Kentucky game, only to play in the remainder of the double overtime loss? What might have been if one key play or one key call would have gone the other way?

"There's a very fine line between a 4-7 season and a 7-4 season," Gray said. "We went through a tough stretch where we lost five games in a row, but we were still only nine points from having the same record as we did last year."

Despite the undesirable outcome to the season, it didn't end minus some record-breaking numbers, especially on the explosive offensive side of the ball.

Senior quarterback Ray Nelson and senior wide receiver Efrem Hill continued to excel combining to rewrite the Samford record books. Nelson became the school's all-time leader in total yards, [illegible] and touchdown passes.

Each only several months removed from his senior prom, the pair combined to rush for over 500 yards.

On the defensive side of the football, Finnegan led the team in tackles despite his injuries. His efforts earned him first-team all-conference honors, along with Nelson and Hill. Finnegan's absence forced other players to step up. Sophomores Steve Tennin, Brad Booth, Justin Ray and Calvin Hodge each recorded more than 50 tackles on the season, and sophomore Quinton Griffin collected a team-high four interceptions, providing hope that the young defense of 2004 will pay dividends in upcoming seasons.

"We're losing seniors who put points on the board for us, but we're returning a bunch of young, defensive players who saw valuable playing time," Gray said.

As Samford football looks back at the careers of seniors Hill, Nelson, Josh Taylor, Brad Baker, Will Grogan, Mark Hamby, Eddie Mason, Howard Terrell and Marcus Montgomery, it also looks forward.

Gray and his staff hit the recruiting trail after the season was over, and Samford signed 18 incoming student-athletes to National Letters of Intent, which particularly focused on improving the defense. Samford added several players who received Division I offers. "The national exposure that Efrem and Ray have given us has really helped us in recruiting. In addition to the on-field accomplishments, they've been worth lots of dollars in publicity for the program," Gray said.

[illegible]

While Hill narrowly missed his second-straight 1,000-yard receiving season despite constant double-teams from opposing defenses, some young receivers also emerged as viable threats for Nelson.

Junior Ossie Buchannon, sophomore Freddie Young and freshman Jeff Moore each recorded over 30 receptions for over 300 yards for the potent Bulldog aerial attack.

Nelson also led the team in rushing with 799 yards, including a 199-yard outburst in the quadruple overtime loss at Southeast Missouri State. Joining Nelson in the backfield was the freshman duo of Philip Hyde and Drew Guess.

[illegible] season to pursue other coaching opportunities. Meachem left the Bulldogs to become the tight end coach at Oklahoma State University, and Armstrong accepted the head coaching position at Louisiana College.

For the Bulldogs to have a successful season in 2005, they'll need to improve on the defensive side of the ball and replace the voids left by the talented senior class. If the team can pass these challenging tasks, it could make a run at winning the OVC in just its third season in the league.

"We've learned we're not far away in this conference," Gray said. "Not only from having a winning season, but from being at the top."

At the top, one doesn't have to wonder what might have been.

spotlight :: efrem hill/ray nelson

A thin, sticky-fingered, lightning-fast wide receiver streaks down the sideline, his dreadlocks the only thing able to keep up. His stocky, rifle-armed, multi-threat quarterback throws the "go" route, fully confident that his guy will come down with the prize.

As the talented wide-out floats into his final destination for six, he notices his pants are riding up on him and decides to taunt the Lambeau crowd by pretending to take them off. League officials gasp, and Randy Moss is officially the "bad boy" of the NFL.

Nearly a world away at Samford University, another thin, sticky-fingered, lightning-fast wide receiver streaks down the sideline, his dreadlocks the only thing able to keep up. His stocky, rifle-armed, multi-threat quarterback throws the "go" route, fully confident that his guy will come down with the prize.

As the talented wide-out floats into his final destination for six, he humbly and graciously hands the official the pigskin, time and time again. Consequently, Efrem Hill and Ray Nelson become arguably the greatest two players in Samford football history.

By the numbers, it's almost unfathomable. In his career, Hill gathered 214 receptions for 3,054 yards and 31 touchdowns. His counterpart in secondary destruction, Nelson, finished his career with 704 pass completions for 7,950 yards and 60 passing touchdowns, as well as 1627 rushing yards for 20 touchdowns.

But for the duo that now owns the Samford record books, the outcome was not always as predictable as it might seem.

"Efrem pl[illegible]

[illegible]

"Thankfully for us, we were able to recruit them to our program."

Upon graduation, the duo that have been roommates since their sophomore year will pack up their Beeson Woods suite to pursue individual careers in professional football.

For Nelson, it will be close to his Samford home, as he plans on competing for the starting quarterback position with the Arena Football League's Birmingham Steeldogs.

As for Hill, he received extremely positive reviews following the NFL combine in Indianapolis and was praised by the NFL scouts for his great hands and play-making ability.

Hill signed with the Carolina Panthers as a free agent late April 2005. "It's always been a dream of mind to play in the NFL, and it's cool to think I will have the chance," Hill said.

As each member of Samford's most prolific duo of all-time goes his separate way, it won't be without leaving a lasting legacy on the Samford community.

"I've really enjoyed the opportunity to play here at Samford," Nelson said. "It's been a great experience."

"People always talk about my legacy as a football player," Hill said. "But I would like to just be remembered as a guy who people liked to be around."

For the duo that Gray labels "even better men than they are football players," it has been a job well done, on and off the field – And the world and professional football will be better for it. ■

Ray Nelson

Senior Survey

What about you has changed the most since freshman year?

- I'm more concerned about people and relationships rather than what all I'm involved in.
- The World...the War on Terror has changed the hearts and lives of all of us (especially having our friend Eric Kelly, a marine and senior accounting major, oversees fighting for our country).
- Marital status.
- My weight, unfortunately.
- My vocabulary.
- My athletic performances (have gone downhill).
- I don't care what people think.
- The amount of caffeine I consume on a daily basis.
- The way I study and prepare for exams. I came into freshman year thinking I didn't really have to read..and I quickly faced the consequences of that assumption. And now..I spent a week preparing for my first Cognitive Psychology exam.
- My fat belly.
- My alcohol tolerance.
- When I hear the word "male" now, I solely think of my post office box.
- My perspective.
- My hair.
- The level of my voice.
- Well besides my waist line, my confidence in my self as person.
- I can now grow facial hair—and I like it.
- I'm totally cooler, and I am a "professional."

What's your favorite restaurant in Birmingham?

- PF Chang's.
- Crepes Egg-cetera.
- Bert's on the Bluff.
- Wendy's on 280.
- Sonic – I used to drive 20 minutes to enjoy the gourmet food of Sonic. We finally get one near school, right in time for me to graduate. Sad. But it's nice to know future Samfordites will get to enjoy a close Sonic for years to come.
- Starbuck's.
- Paw-Paw Patch.
- Zoe's!
- The Mill -- (Now known as Five Points Grill)
- O'Carrs.
- Moe's.
- Surin West.
- Silvertron Cafe.
- Mr Wangs's.
- Panera bread (fairly reasonable pricing, free Wireless internet -- what more could you ask for?).

What do you know now that you didn't know when you were a senior in high school?

- Getting anywhere in life takes some networking, some research and lots of initiative.
- Cherish the true friends that you have because when it is all said and done, those are the few people that will really matter.
- I am nothing without my Social Security Number.
- That I would cry like a baby when my fish died. Rest In Peace, Captain Morgan.
- I know now just how much I don't know.
- What I look like when I'm 4 years older.
- Disposable dishes and flatware are treasures far greater than the finest china or silver.
- God really can do more than we can even imagine.
- That you don't have to know what you're going to do for the rest of your life once you enter college.
- Paying bills & lots of them.
- There is no such thing as "The Most popular person" in college.
- That you could really have girls as true friends.
- That I would owe $30,000 dollars in loans when I finished college.
- Life is expensive.
- There is a time when school ends and real life starts...
- Study skills really are crucial for survival in college.
- It's a small world, after all.

In 20 years from now, what do you think you will miss the most about Samford?

- Seeing my friends on a daily basis.
- The beautiful campus and wonderful sunsets that accompany it.
- Dorm life.
- Meaningful discussions with professors and peers.
- UCF.
- The girl I'm currently dating...
- Shiloh.
- Being able to go to the Caf and have someone cook my food and wash my dishes.
- Web CT.
- The amazing amounts of freedom... and the complete and total lack of responsibility.
- The attacking squirrels.
- Ben Brown Plaza!!! Food court ladies, Step Sing and Intramurals!!
- The feeling in the fall while walking from West Campus to the Caf at sunset while that guy is playing the Bagpipes over on the football field.
- 20 years from now, I'll miss the ladies in the food court. I used to work there my freshman year, and they are some of the nicest people I have ever met at Samford.
- Laying on the Quad when winter turns to spring and fighting the urge to jump into the fountains.
- The ideal of college life... and just how close and how far away my Samford experience came to it.
- The spontanaity of dorm life or maybe the incredible thrill of having mail in your post office box... 24-hour availability of friends...having my homework to be to read an incredible novel...the Caf...relationships...
- I will miss the heart of this place.


INT
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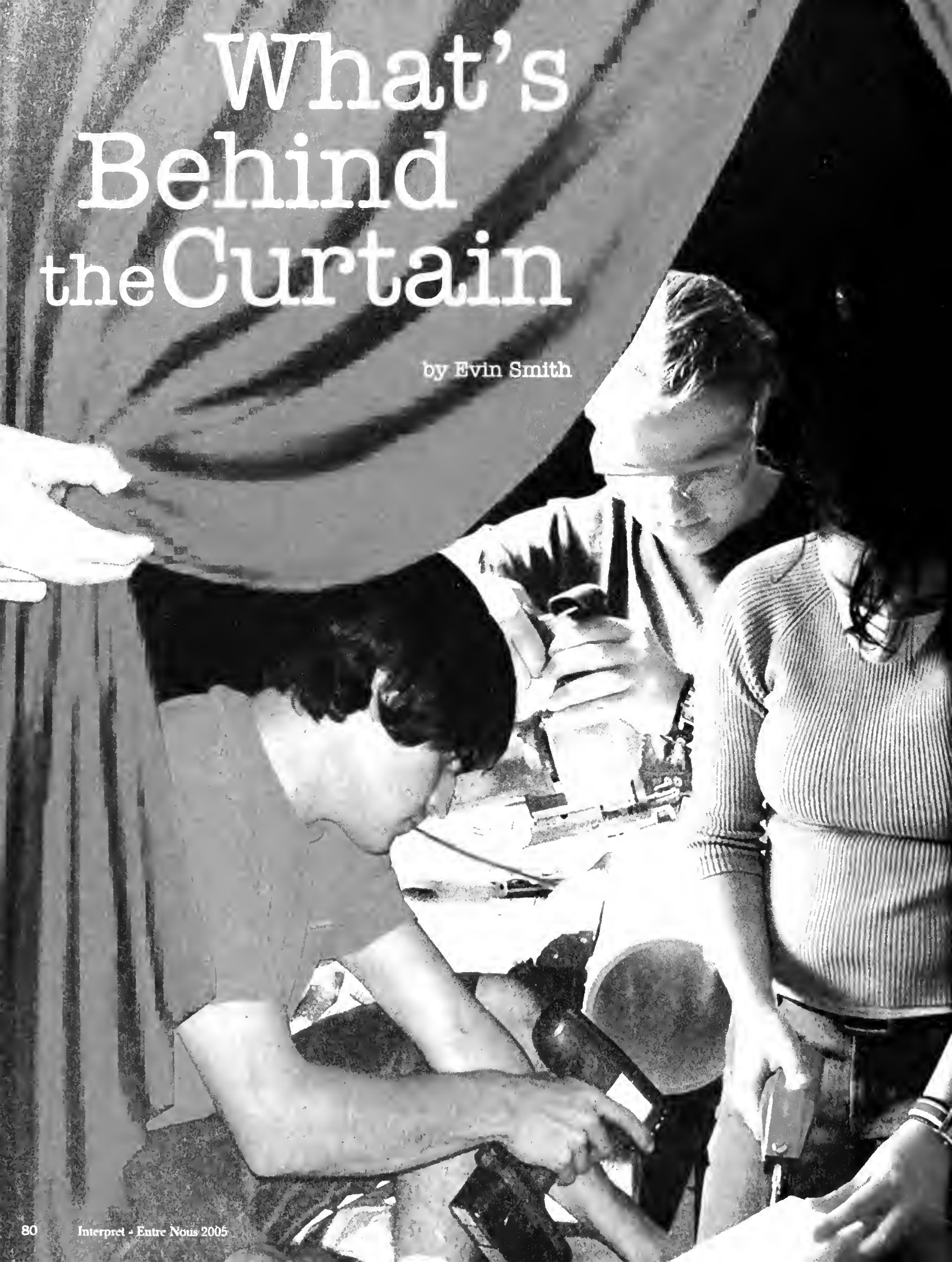
What's Behind the Curtain

by Evin Smith



Hurry, the show is about to begin. The tickets are collected, seats are taken and the lights are dimmed. Then like magic, characters take the stage and tell their story. Lines are eloquently spoken. The mood is set. The audience laughs, cries, and sometimes cheers - for the moment encompasses them all. Finally, the characters take their bow, and the audience exits. It is a simple night of entertainment. But there's more...

What goes on behind the curtain? The people behind the scenes are more than just characters. They are future doctors, lawyers, teachers, designers, architects and playwrights. The philosophy of the Samford Theatre department is to give its students a taste of what goes into theatre. This includes a wide variety of jobs for a wide variety of talents. The department is "student-enabled," and every student is given tremendous opportunities and responsibilities.

It all begins five to six months before opening night when the faculty brings their ideas to the table to choose the next production. Once chosen, deadlines for completion of the production are set, and everyone gets to work.

Designing occurs three to four months before the production. Some students create models and blue prints of the set in the design studio. Then the construction begins in "the shop". "The shop" is a fully-functional woodshop complete with all the tools and materials needed to solidify the designer's dream. This is where the set and even some furniture come to life. Any setting, from the house by the lake in Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull" to the balcony scene in "Romeo and Juliet, can be realized in "the shop."

Other students and faculty explore an expansive prop closet for costumes. But if the proper attire is not found, sewing machines can take up the slack. Each costume is fitted and organized for each character in the show. They are labeled with their names and hung up accordingly. Sometimes, several accessories must be located, such as jewelry, hats, wallets, belts, purses and anything else that is needed to properly illustrate the character.

"The department's value structure is to resist the star "prima donna" concept. We all celebrate everyone's accomplishments. No one stands out above the rest."

The lighting crew experiments with shadows and colors to set the mood and atmosphere. They will spend countless hours hanging and focusing lights until they are satisfied. The light must hit certain characters at certain spots at certain times, or the moment will be lost. Therefore, the lighting designer's job is an art of precision. Each lighting cue will be logged in sequential order into the light board and a cue log that keeps the show running like clockwork.

The next most tedious job is hanging the drape to conceal the left and right wings of the stage. Without the drape, they cannot demonstrate the illusion. This job requires lowering and raising certain batons to which they fasten the drape. This keeps backstage distractions to a minimum.

Rehearsals, taking place one to two months out, start the countdown to the curtain first opening. Student and faculty actors will meet with the director for a "cold-read." Actors are then responsible for memorizing their lines by a deadline set by the director. This is called being "off-book." Until the script is out of their hands, the actors cannot immerse themselves into their characters.

Before most main stage shows, make-up designs will find their way from the director's mind to the make-up designer's pencil and finally to the face of the actor. Different shows require different makeup designs. Make-up designers can reshape noses, re-route eyebrows, color hair, and even apply horns where needed.

Finally, the campus and surrounding areas must be canvassed with flyers and posters advertising the release of the show. This job requires some public relations saviness and a good eye for location.

Every job contributes to the performance. Dr. Don Sandley, Chair of the Theatre Department, said, "The department's value structure is to resist the star "prima donna" concept. We all celebrate everyone's accomplishments. No one stands out above the rest."

The Theatre Department offers entertainment and education. Whether in the audience or in the academic program, there is something for everyone. Dr. Sandley best explained it when he said, "Theatre can help with everyday life skills such as group work, public speaking, design, time management, communications, and even how to put on make-up." ■

INTERIOR DESIGN DEPARTMENT

THE REALITY TELEVISION SHOW, "TRADING SPACES," REDESIGNS A ROOM IN TWO DAYS. ASK ANYONE IN SAMFORD'S INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM AND HE OR SHE WILL TELL YOU, THIS IS FAR FROM THE REALITY OF INTERIOR DESIGN. AT SAMFORD, THE INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM EQUIPS STUDENTS TO ENTER THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD KNOWING THE REALITY OF THE JOB. BY LAUREN GARDNER

"This program makes us aware of how interior design works and teaches us where to go to find any answer," Ellen Kiel, junior interior design major, said.

The interior design students learn how to combine the practical function of a room with aesthetic qualities.

The major requires students to learn about the safety and needs of people. It also requires specific classes such as design theory, art and architecture.

The program also teaches students not only to choose colors, textiles and furniture for a room, but also to incorporate the entire three-dimensional space in order to create a fully functioning and unified design. "We learn to design a room thinking of how the whole thing goes together," Kiel said.

Samford has hired professors in this department that are both well-educated and experienced in this field. Professor Jeannie Krumdieck has worked at Samford for 12 years. She received her Master of Science in interior design from the University of Alabama. She practiced interior design for 14 years in New Orleans, La. and Birmingham, Ala. She and her husband own an architectural and design firm, Krumdieck A+I Design Inc., and she works as a consultant to the firm.

According to Krumdieck, Birmingham is a prime location for interior design. Alabama is a leading state in the legislation of the architectural and interior design profession. Therefore, the opportunity exists in Birmingham for Samford to have a strong design program. Due to Samford's reputation for intelligent and well-rounded graduates, there are constant contacts in the community requesting interns from the interior design department.

Unfortunately, there is not much awareness about this program among the students at Samford. "Students do not know it exists, and if they do, they have very little understanding of what interior design is," Krumdieck said. She further explained that the lack of understanding for true interior design programs is mainly due to the misconceptions represented on reality television shows. "On one hand, they are good because they raise awareness, but they are not an accurate picture of interior design," Krumdieck said.

The interior design program has grown immensely from 10 years ago. It started with only 19 students, and it currently enrolls almost 70 students.

The interior design program is offered through the Education Department of Samford, but Krumdieck said it is more closely related to the Art Department.

The majors are required to have a minor in art, including 12 hours in art history. "Three semesters in art history is good for our future as professionals because we know what clients want when they ask for specific styles from a certain period," Kiel said.

The interior design program was accredited by the Foundation for Interior Design Education Research in 2000. ■

Crossing the Pond

by Matt Garner

He's about to be a senior. He's over six feet tall with shaggy, brown hair and a goatee, and if you get him to smile, you would swear you were looking into the face of Nicholas Cage. You know him as a powerful lion, a loyal friend to a sick Benjamin or a dirty old man—all characters he has portrayed on the Samford Stage. These are shadows he has cast of himself, but few at Samford know the real Kurtis Donnelly without the make-up, the costumes, the lights and the sounds. He is a person of vision who sees life past the stage. He is a person who isn't afraid to cross the pond.

Donnelly lived a life far from the norm. He was born on an American Army base in Frankfurt, Germany, a country that would see and shape him through 12 years of his life. These 12 years were divided between homes both stateside and abroad, ripping Donnelly away from friends time and time again. "Towards the end of the fifth grade, they sat us down and told us [we were moving]," Donnelly said. "I had started making relationships that were substantial. I thought they would forget me."

However, Germany was where Donnelly would taste his first experience of theater. The family would often take a ferry from Frankfurt to London. This particular time, they were on their way to see Cats. "I remember my mom making me go," Donnelly said with a smile. "I thought it was stupid. How wrong I was." For Donnelly, the experience was unmatched. "I remember being so amazed at how entertaining it was and how so many people made the aspects of it come together." He left the theater with his conceptions of it forever changed.

After his initial enthusiasm took root, Donnelly looked for outlets to express his newfound interests. Unfortunately, his environment did not promote them. "There wasn't any theater for me to do," Donnelly said. "This is stereotypical—Army people aren't that cultured." His experiences with theater in Germany were limited to a technical class he took in the ninth grade. "It was kind of weird," Donnelly said. "Most people don't take technical theater as their first class."

Just before his sophomore year in high school, the Donnelly family moved back stateside to Athens, Ala. "That's where I started hardcore," Donnelly said. The school's theater department was very small, and Donnelly's first year saw the department's first full-length play, *The Canterbury Tales*. "I guess that was my first time on stage," Donnelly chuckled.

Later on during his senior year of high school, Donnelly played the character Elwood in the play *Harvey*. However, his ambition for theater could not hold him just within his high school. He began acting in community theater as well. He did two productions with a children's theater landing him the roles of the avidly fantasized Prince Charming in *Snow White* and the "Herald guy with the slipper" in *Cinderella*. While acting for the Athens Art Council, Donnelly played a revised role in *Blythe Spirit*, a play that he would be able to revisit at Samford several years later.

To the surprise of many who are reading this story, Donnelly came to Samford and majored in biology, looking to a doctorate in medicine. He didn't abandon theater altogether as you may know. He simply added it as a minor. At the beginning of his junior year, that minor quickly became a major. Not many people take a degree in arts and sciences as literal as Donnelly does, but as he said, "There's a method to my madness."

Donnelly's first love is medicine, oddly enough. "The reason I'm a theater major," Donnelly said. "Is to be a good physician. The most important thing is communication. If a doctor is able to communicate with a patient, it makes them feel comfortable with you." Donnelly sees the communication skills he has learned in theater as an essential part of the medicinal process when treating a patient. "Basically, I want to be Patch Adams," Donnelly said with a laugh. "I want to be the doctor that every kid wants to come to because he does voices or comes in wearing costumes."

Donnelly got a taste of this when he played Eddy in *David Saar's The Yellow Boat*, a story about a young hemophiliac boy who contracts AIDS through contaminated blood. This is Donnelly's favorite show because they were playing to his favorite crowd—children. "They were so close you could watch how they react," he said. "It gave me hope that theater still has captivating power in a world of television, movies and short attention spans."

Donnelly admits that many have fueled his ambitions in theater and medicine, but few match up to the influence given to him by the faculty in Samford's theater department. "Angie Lindbloom took a chance on me my freshman year, not knowing what I could do," Donnelly said. "She has taught me how theater works as an art form and community." Donnelly also credited Don Sandley for teaching him numerous aspects of theater. "I mean, he's the man," he said emphatically.

In 20 years, Donnelly sees himself practicing pediatric surgery in a children's hospital. "Hopefully, I'll be talking to some big wigs to build a new children's hospital with a theater attached for educational purposes," he said. Donnelly believes this medium can help explain cancer to children. "They don't want to hear it from some guy in a single color coat who's using big words," he said. "They need to see something visual, something they understand."

Kurtis Donnelly is a talented actor and student who does not dream of fame or fortune, Nobel Prizes or scholarly notoriety. He simply crosses the pond to help a sick child find his smile again. His story should help you find yours. ■

the Boys Next Door

by Matt Garner

Theater paints a picture of reality for the viewer. Often, it is a reality that would not be fully understood outside of the medium. It lives, and it breathes, but only because it is given life by its characters. If done right, the show reaches out and takes hold of you. It is raw and personal. In all that I have seen and experienced in Samford Theater, few shows have impacted me like *The Boy's Next Door*.

The show was written by Tom Griffin about the day-to-day events of four mentally challenged men and their social worker. Arnold suffers from a nervous disorder that concocts delusions of a government sys-

tem, which is out to get him. Barry is a schizophrenic who appears quite normal on the surface. Unfortunately, he keeps a cap on his real pain caused by verbal and physical abuse from his father. Norman is a large mentally retarded man who is obsessed with donuts and a set of keys that hang from his belt. Lucien is also mentally challenged. Of all of them, his heart is the biggest. Finally, there is Jack – their social worker. Jack is horribly existential in his present situation, but he triumphs with the "boys" where a lesser man would fail.

What makes this story work is not the strength of the plot or the underlying themes. Rather, the show works on the strengths of the characters. Their personalities are not hindered by their mental challenges. Years down the road you will not remember their faces as the actors David, Geoffrey, Kurtis, Leo and Eric – but rather Arnold, Barry, Norman, Lucien and Jack. You will almost swear that they actually existed. They had to. You know their story.

There are several instances in the play that are reserved for asides – monologues meant especially for the audience and often not heard by the other characters on stage. Several of the characters are given these opportunities. Some of them are quite unique. There are instances when their mental handicaps are left behind as they approach downstage for a bold, well-articulated statement or a beautiful dance. It is the expression of their souls that we can understand. As the audience, we appreciate this, but would rather them be them selves. They do more damage to our hearts that way.

Sometimes, we assume that people with mental challenges live in an alternate reality, that we do. What we do not realize is that they face some of the same realities that we face each day. Arnold is bullied at his job. Norman forces small talk with his newfound girlfriend. Sheila. Barry works hard to build his business of golf lessons. Lucien fights the government for financial assistance. Their lives are not that different from our own. Sure, they express themselves differently. They understand differently. They don't worry about politics or war. They live moments at a time.

Is the story about the "boys", or is it about Jack, who struggles with his placement in life? He tells us how frustrating his job is – how envious he is of his ex-wife. He is our intermediary.

Is the show about him or the other characters? It's both. The lesson that is taught in this show is expressed in all characters – to love. Whether you are mentally handicapped or not, you can recognize love and you can give love. All thrive on it, and all perish without it. This reality is universally understood. With that in mind, we thus [illegible] knowing that *The Boys Next Door* is [illegible] of the same [illegible] which you put your hope [illegible]

Senior Survey

Who do you wish you had gotten to know better in the past four years?

- Dr. Carol Ann Vaughn.
- All of my professors.
- More people.
- All of the Samford Student Ministries staff...and Dr. Siegfried.
- Joey Proffitt.
- Dr. Brad Creed.
- The blonde lady in the library or Dr. Barnette.
- The Athletes.
- God.
- Natalie McIntyre - she inspires me.
- Cafeteria staff - Gotta love Ms. Lonnie, Etoria and Dot!
- Ryan Thompson's Mom
- Fellow students in the Art Department.
- Mr. Beeson, I should have sat on the bench and talked to him more.

If there is one thing you could change about Samford, what would it be?

- More pride in our school.
- No parking tickets!!!
- I would change the visitation policy so that no one else would have to suffer through as many Values Violations as I did.
- Everyone should be required to take Christian Spirituality class with Dr. Sansom - the class challenges you to think critically about things you wouldn't normally think about.
- Step Sing would be year round.
- Campus housing rules. We need people to see outside the bubble.
- How much it costs
- Make Jan-term into May-term.
- Dress code to class.
- The negativity towards people that stand out or look different than the majority of Samford students.
- The Speed-Mountains. I mean, is that really necessary?
- Other than its cost, I'd have to say visitation hours.
- Put money from unused Caf meals on my food court account. Now that would be awesome!

What do you think is going to run through your mind when you cross the stage in May at graduation?

- What now?
- "Don't fall...don't fall...don't fall... I should have worn shorter heels!"
- That was it?
- I guess the Bursar's office didn't find a way to keep me from graduating!
- Aughh! I'm not ready for the real world yet!
- All of the amazing/challenging experiences of four years.
- Left, right, left, right
- "This little piece of paper, signed by people I've never met, has cost me an ungodly amount of money."
- It doesn't seem like four years since the last time I did this.
- Hallelujah!
- "This was worth $30,000 in loans. This was worth $30,000 in loans. This was worth $30,000 in loans."
- I can't believe I was able to pack four years into five!
- "I still have three more years of grad school left."

What was your most odd Caf moment?

- Deciding whether or not I should wake up Ms. Dot
- trying to eat with bull riding, Tony the Tiger, and karoke.
- I had a really bad day and Joe started yelling and me and making fun of me and I started crying--right in the middle of the Caf.
- I once made a big deal about the grill being out of curly fries, and the Head Chef brought an entire basket of fresh curly fries to my table. He wore his chef's hat and all! I was embarrassed a little.
- When one of my friends ate yogurt straight from the machine, she put her mouth right under it.
- Singing Happy Birthday with a 4 layer cake made out of waffles and whipped cream.
- One unfortunate Monday of my freshman year, I managed to knock over a stack of about 30 bowls. Fortunately, Samford was using plastic rather than porcelain in those days...but it was chicken-finger night, so half of the university saw and heard this catastrophe.
- My freshman year when the girls on my volleyball team played a game that entailed having to go up and hug the first guy they saw walk into the Caf....no matter what.
- The day that the fire alarm went off during lunch in the caf and no one moved an inch. The Caf workers were just chilling behind their stations – we didn't smell smoke – so all of us just sat at our tables determined to eat our omelets that we had waited an hour for.... We finally were forced to leave as a Caf worker moseyed through the tables saying "This is not a drill. This is not a drill." We all grabbed our cokes, left our trays on the table and headed out.
- When the caf suddenly turned into some sort of enchanting picnic area, to sit on quilts and eat your baked cod and fried chicken....yea for theater children.
- The time I winged a carrot at Marvin and missed, and it wound up hitting some freshman... took her glasses clean off her face. As she looked back I busied myself with hiding under the table while two tables plus worth of people laughed at me.

What is your advice as a graduating senior for underclassmen?

- Yes, get involved, but pick that handful of groups/activities/organizations that you want to really put some time into. It will be more rewarding in the future.
- Get outside of the "Bubble," enjoy the "Bubble," but get outside of it.
- Value humility.
- To take your time and enjoy each moment that you experience. Don't take for granted the fact that you have been blessed to attend Samford, a truly beautiful university.
- You are not doomed if you are one of the three people at Samford that are not going to be missionaries.
- Do extracurricular things your first two years because after that, you won't have time.
- Talk to your friends - struggling together is a lot easier than fighting the battle alone.
- Don't ever let the words come out of your mouth "Man, I can't wait to graduate."
- Go to London for a semester!!
- Develop a technique for studying for exams early on (everyone's style is different). Don't feel like you have to make flash cards if that is not your style.
- Seek God's face, not only His hand. Savor every lingering, spring moment on the Quad. Eat in the Caf just to be with your friends, even if you hate the food. And remember that even though Samford isn't perfect, for four years, it's home. And there's no place quite like it.

Unpack Your Suitcase

by Belinda Martin

It's Friday night and for most college students that means party night. So why does Samford's campus suddenly turn into a ghost town from Friday to Sunday? It's been said that Samford is a suitcase campus. Plus, it is only three hours away, depending on your driving, from Nashville and Atlanta, which can make Samford a pretty lonely place on the weekends. But I would like to encourage you to take the time this weekend and unpack your suitcase. Give Birmingham a chance. The following restaurants, venues and stores are some that my friends and I frequent. I would highly suggest these places for others who don't know Birmingham and what the Magic City is all about.

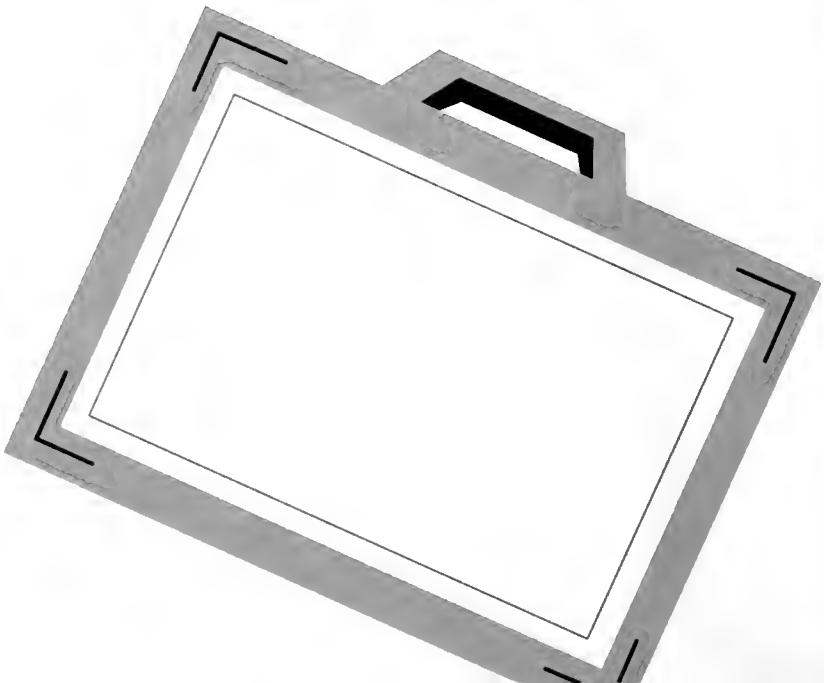
1. First stop is Chez Lulu located in English Village. This bohemian café serves lunch and dinner Tuesday through Friday. The gourmet menu offers a variety of choices that include an assortment of sandwiches, soups, pizzas, and pastas. The European atmosphere is reflected by dim lighting and outside dinning. For information about directions and hours, visit www.birminghammenus.com/chezlulu.

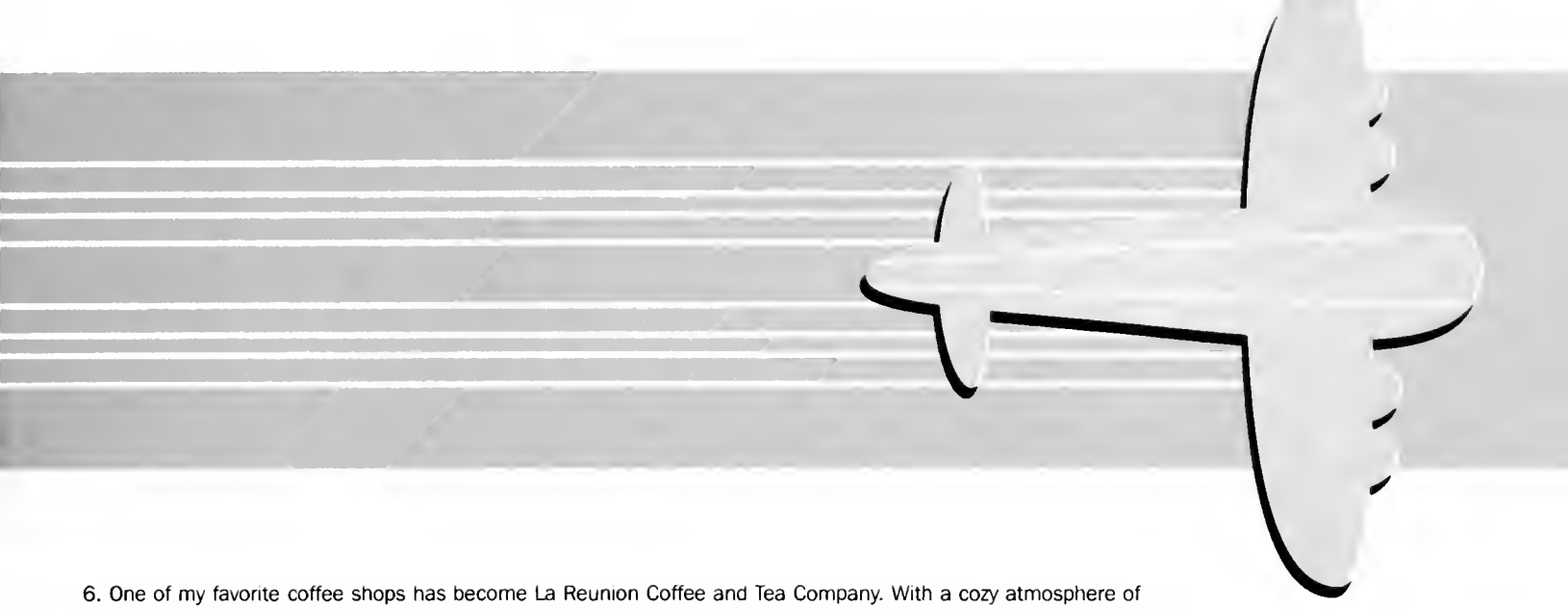
2. For a touch of the good ol' days go to the Alabama Theatre. The best thing about this place is the architecture. Its extravagant and amazing designs are both inside and out. This place will make you understand why people used to get dressed-up to go to the picture show. Sometimes they still show movies at this old theatre. The attention to the details inside are amazing. There are mirrors on the ceiling when you walk inside to buy your tickets, and they have the traditional red carpet on the floors. There are also details such as gold trim, star lantems and high ceilings that indicate that this is someplace not to be taken for granted. With operas, ballets, rock shows and other theatrical events, there is something for everyone.

3. Sakura is a Japanese restaurant located in the Pickwick Plaza at Five Points South. Sakura offers traditional Japanese cuisine and an extensive sushi bar. I would suggest the California rolls. They're vegetarian-friendly and reasonably priced. The cool thing about Sakura is a thing they like to call "Midnight Sushi." On the weekends the restaurant has normal hours, but reopens from midnight till 3 a.m. At "Midnight Sushi" the staff chooses the music so you never know what to expect. But if you're not there right at midnight, be prepared to wait a while for a table. However, if its late, and you're wanting some good fun on the weekend, "Midnight Sushi" is the perfect way to spend a Friday night.

4. For a new person on the Birmingham scene, you need to visit the Civil Rights Museum. It's free on Sundays, but a donation is accepted. It is an interactive museum that will leave you truly inspired about the people who lived in the time of racial separation. This museum shows the courage and spirit of the people who pioneered the Civil Rights era. The fact that they show the aspiring artists during this time of oppression is truly eye opening. If you plan to invest time in this city, you should go and experience the museum first-hand.

5. Cave 9 is a venue for bands of all genres and for guests of all ages. It is completely volunteer-run. It isn't a big club. It's just a room, a P.A. and a bunch of people that love music and the independent music scene. I've seen big names in the indie scene such as Lucero, Copeland and Mae, play at Cave 9. There is also an opportunity for local bands to perform. One of my favorite things about this venue is that it is a smoke-free club, so your clothes won't have the "night before" smell. This is a good place to take a break from the radio-friendly music, explore some local talent and meet some really cool people. For more information, visit www.cave9.com.





6. One of my favorite coffee shops has become La Reunion Coffee and Tea Company. With a cozy atmosphere of couches and local art on the wall, this is the perfect place to study or to go on a first date. Another nice thing about this coffee shop, besides being a alternative to O' Henry's, is that it is not quite so close to home. It makes you explore outside the Homewood enclosure and branch out into a different and equally-enchanting section of Birmingham. Located on Clairmont Ave. S. La Reunion is the nice escape from the familiar. For more information call, (205) 595-6040.

7. If nature is where you like to spend your weekends, then Boulder Field is the place for you. This free park is a hidden treasure to the people of Birmingham. It has trails to hike, places to camp and nice spots to rock climb. So, for all those who like nature, this is a great spot to go that is close to home.

8. Zoe's Consignment Shop is known for its unique clothes for girls. But what you might not know is that it also has cool apparel for guys. Plus, with its new location, it makes you wonder how they ever fit all those clothes in the old house they used to occupy. From sunglasses to shoes, there is an assortment of colors, genres, accessories and clothing at Zoe's. It's fun to window shop, but there are dressing rooms in the front of the store. They also buy clothes from customers. But there are a few rules, so call before you bring all you old clothes to trade out. Another cool thing about Zoe's is that if you wait long enough the price will usually drop. After couple of weeks that really cool, vintage sweater that was $20 might just drop down to $10. But you might just run the risk that someone else is willing to pay the $20 to get that sweater first. Yet for those who are patient, Zoe's can turn into a real bargain.

9. For the artsy one in the group, Birmingham has a great art museum. Birmingham Museum of Art has a great selection of art from the Classic and Modem Era. There are many collections of art from different cultures, such as Asian, African and American. They also have art from different genres, including decorative arts, paintings, sculptures, photography, prints, drawings and a sculpture garden. In addition, they have changing exhibitions at various times of the year. It is also the home of the largest Wedgwood collection in the Southeast. Plus, there are also many glass pieces that are worth the trip. For more information, visit www.artsbma.org.

10. For those who never leave home without their ipod and always buy the newest CD's first, I would suggest going to Charlemagne Records. It is one of the best places to find new and used music. From the mysterious stairway in the front, the upstairs room will offer you a great collection of vinyl, CDs and other music merchandise. The best thing about Charlemagne Records is that it is not a chain music store, so you feel like you're really helping the local business when buying from this store. This is not your typical music shop. It's not a new store. Charlemagne Records is an excellent source for vintage vinyl as well as new music.

There are plenty more places that I could have mentioned, but I think you should explore Birmingham and make your own reason to stay. So unpack that suitcase. Girls, make a night out on the town. Guys, ask out that cute girl you've been thinking about all semester. Find out for yourself why they call this place the Magic City. ■

eating disorders

by Ashley McCleery and Emily Vernon

"Just the sense of shame and sort of self-revulsion that I felt. I know I didn't want to live with that, and when I felt **I couldn't make it stop,** I knew I needed help. But ***I didn't know how to get the help.***"

"I was wishing I could go and **hide in** a hole somewhere and start to disappear."

"My value was completely dependent on *my weight* and what I'd eaten."

"I was doing up to about 500 sit-ups a night. I was doing sit-ups in hospitals. You're avoiding everything: everything's superficial. And that's it. That's your life, your eating disorder. You can't have anything else. It's very hard to live a normal life and have an eating disorder."

Eating disorders are [illegible] According to recent statistics, **eight million Americans are struggling with eating disorders every day.** In one person's lifetime, approximately 50,000 people will die as a direct result from an eating disorder

Each woman quoted above dealt with some type of eating disorder. Although these quotes derived from a Harvard Eating Disorder video, women on Samford's campus are dealing with these same issues.

At a National Eating Disorder Awareness forum on February 22, Samford graduate Abby Blair described her tribulations with bulimia. Although B[illegible] with eating disorder behaviors at age [illegible] wasn't diagnosed with bulimia until her freshman year in college. **"Samford felt like an Abercrombie and Fitch catalogue, like everyone had a perfect life," Blair said.** "I felt like everyone else on campus was a straight-A student, top of their class, homecoming queen, and I remember thinking that to be competitive I had to lose weight."

Blair is not the only student to feel this way. "When I looked in the mirror, I looked like a corpse, but *I still wanted to be thinner.*

I wanted to die. I knew it would have been better if I had never been born," one Samford student said.

In fact, eating disorders are prevalent in college students. According to Samford psychology professor Nicole Siegfried, one out of every six college students demonstrates eating disorder behavior. "When you're a student, you don't have much to control. And food intake is something you can control," Siegfried said. She also explained that pressure to excel in school and preoccupation with marriage can also drive a student towards an eating disorder.

Undoubtedly, there are many Samford students dealing with an eating disorder. However, Siegfried says it's important to dispel the rumor that Samford is third in the nation. The rumor could actually promote eating disorders instead of prevent them. "I do think eating disorders are rampant on this campus, but they are also on other campuses. So, Samford is not all that different." According to a recent survey, 17 percent of 235 students tested displayed eating disorder behaviors. The average for other colleges is 15 percent. "We are a little above the norm, but we are definitely **not the third highest in the nation," Siegfried said.**

Even though some college students suffer from or know someone who suffers from an eating disorder, they are not sure what to do about it. People wonder what they can do to help their friends or themselves, but have no idea where to start.

Erika Radtke of the Alabama Network for Eating Disorder Awareness spoke at a forum during Eating Disorder Awareness Week at Samford. Radtke provided information about warning signs of eating disorders and gave suggestions about what could be done to help people with eating disorders.

Eating disorders fall into four categories: anorexia nervosa, **bulimia nervosa, binge eating** disorder and compulsive overeating. Each disorder is characterized by certain symptoms and signs of behavior. However, some warning signs are common among all four diseases. "Disordered eating occurs when a person becomes obsessive about eating, and there are certain things you can watch out for," Radtke said.

"What do I need to watch out for?"

• Obsession with weight and food.

"If a person is excessively concerned about their weight and food intake, they may constantly make comments about food and the amount of calories he or she eats each day," Radtke said. "**A person with an eating disorder knows exactly how many fat grams are in everything they eat and is constantly pointing this out.**"

• Feeling the need to exercise constantly.
• Wearing baggy clothes.
• Avoiding other people during meals.
• Dramatic or restrictive diets.

"This person will be consumed with thoughts of dieting and show obsessive concern about the food on his or her plate during the meal. This means a person may cut food into tiny pieces and move food around on the plate instead of eat it. A person that does this is very precise about how **food is arranged on the plate,**" Radtke said.

• Frequent visits to the restroom, especially after meals.
• Low self-esteem.
• Frequent sore throats and/or swollen glands
• Despite losing weight, that person continues to talk about how fat he or she is.
• A person appears to be gaining weight even though you never see him or her eat.
• Frequently taking laxatives, steroids or diet pills.
• Tendency to faint or bruise easily.
• Pale appearance.
• Complaints of being cold more than usual

"Cold intolerance can be symptom of being **underweight,**" Radtke said.

"What can I do to help?"

Before talking to the individual:

• Prepare to approach the individual

Radtke suggests that you may want to rehearse what will you are going to say if you are going to talk to an individual with an eating disorder. **"You may want to do some of your research about eating disorders," Radtke said.**

• Try to make the conversation one-on-one.

Radtke says it will be much easier for a person with an eating disorder to talk to one person instead of a two or three people. The situation will be less intimidating.

• Make sure you have healthy attitudes toward weight and recovery.
• Establish a safe, private, quiet environment

"Timing is everything," Radtke said.

What to do while talking to the individual

• Let the person know you are learning and reading about eating disorders.

"Share some examples of times you may have felt afraid for the individual or uneasy. Make sure to phrase your sentences using 'I' instead of 'you,'" Radtke said.

• Give the person time to talk and encourage him or her to verbalize feelings.
• Be prepared for strong feeling or reactions from the individual.

"Let them be **angry** at you. It may get worse before it gets better," Radtke said.

• Provide information and resources for counseling or treatment.

Radtke suggests that you offer support by offering to go with them when they tell their parents or go to their first appointment with them.

• Make sure you tell him or her that you are willing to **talk and listen** again. Plan a time for a follow-up visit.

After the discussion:

If the person **refuses to get help**, remember that you have done what you can, Radtke said. **"You made progress by being honest with the person and sharing your concerns and offering support."**

If the person is willing to seek help, there are ways you can support them. Here are a few of Radtke's suggestions:

• Be patient.

Recovery takes time. Pay attention to the small steps a person makes.

• Offer support at meal times.

Eat together and discuss neutral topics of conversation. "This provides reinforcement. Neutral conversations will help keep the eating disorder from being the topic of conversation and keep it from ruining your friendship," Radtke said.

• Grocery shop together.
• Plan meals in advance.
• Encourage other activities that do not involve eating or dieting.
• Plan a special event together.

For example, plan a fun activity both of you would enjoy doing like getting a manicure.

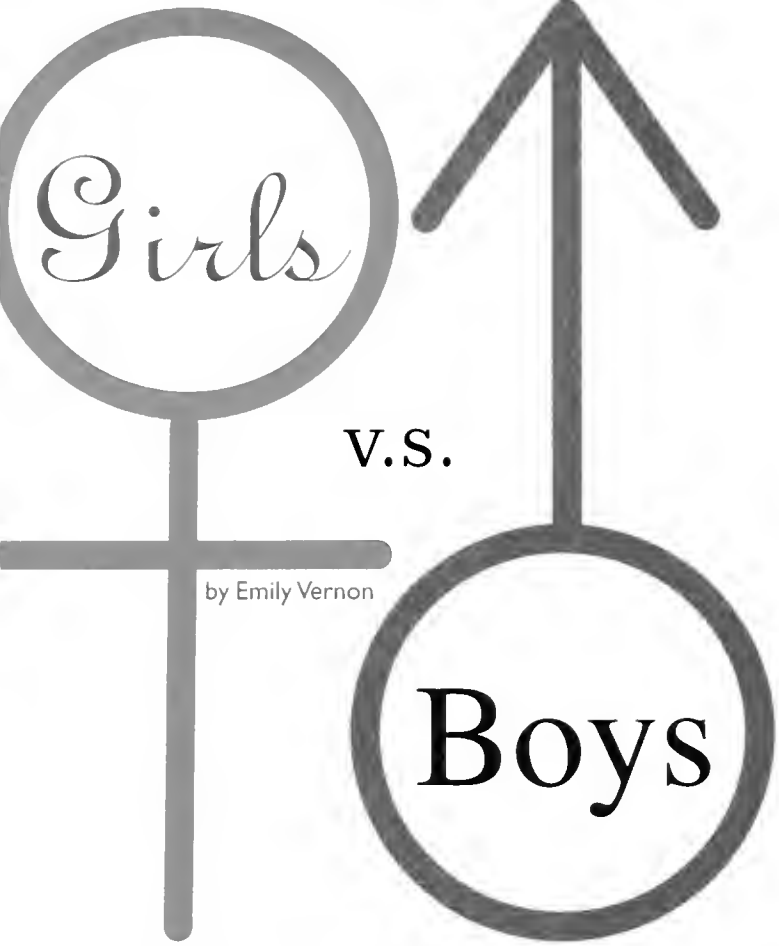
• Make positive comments about the person.

Make comments about energy level and their overall health. Do not comment on how they look.

• Try to avoid magazines and other media that promote unhealthy body images.
• If the person is in acute medical danger and/or at risk of committing suicide, contact help immediately.

Dealing with an eating disorder is challenging, but there are ways to deal with them. "It is important to realize that **anyone can have an eating disorder. They do not have to be too skinny or overweight,"** Radtke said. ■

**All of the tips and suggestions above come from the handout "When Your Friend Has An Eating Disorder..." This handout was presented by Erika Radtke, during the lecture on March 3, 2005.*



by Emily Vernon

As you made your way around campus this year, you may have realized the grass is bright green, no matter what the season is. You might have noticed students constantly sleeping on the sofas in the library, even though their parents pay the hefty price for a dorm room. You probably have already come to terms with the fact that chances are great that you won't be able to find a parking spot on campus when you want one. These and other subtle constants create a secure haven for members of the Samford community.

Each year Samford students also face the repetitious cycle of war. That's right. You heard me correctly. Year after year Samford's campus turns into a huge battlefield. Don't worry. No guns or weapons of mass destruction are used in this type of combat. Enrollment statistics and jokes become the weapons of this endless battle. This is a battle of the sexes.

By the end of their first year, every student has heard a joke or some other comment about this gender issue. Some remarks are hilarious while others are more serious. However, the topic never changes, and the question remains the same. Is it true? Does the student population at Samford really consist of more girls than guys?

"In any given place, males are always outnumbered by females," sophomore David Fisher said.

Enrollment statistics for the 2004-2005 academic year, provided by Samford's Web Site, show that the male to female ratio is 40 percent to 60 percent. A total of 4,416 students enrolled at Samford in the fall. Only 1,774 of those students were males. Statistics of the past six years show a similar trend of gender enrollment. In 1999, the male/female ratio was 42 percent male to 58 percent female. In 2000, the guys lost 1 percent, while the ladies increased their numbers by 1 percent. Since the fall of 2001, the ratio has remained steady at 40 percent to 60 percent

Samford is not the only university of its kind facing this issue. Other religion- affiliated universities across the Southeast, such as the University of Mobile and Belmont University, located in Nashville, Tenn., also deal with the struggle of an overwhelming difference in gender population numbers. According to figures given by Belmont, the enrollment for the 2003-2004 school year consisted of 2,235 females and 1,394 males. Academic statistics released by Birmingham-Southern College also show a difference in the attendance ratio. In 2002, Birmingham-Southern reported that 810 women and 597 men had enrolled.

Like Samford, Furman University, located in South Carolina, has a larger increase in females enrolling in the institution than males by the year. The Furman University Web Site charts the numbers during a period of five years. Beginning in 1996, the total enrollment was 2,461 students, 1,118 males and 1,343 females. By the year 2001, 1,162 males and 1,467 females enrolled at Furman. During those five years, the number of enrolled female students constantly increased, but male enrollment numbers have proved to be unstable. In 1999, Furman reported a total of 1,195 male students. This number decreased in the year 2000 with only 1,162 males attending Furman.

At Samford, the biggest battle of the sexes takes place in the classrooms. Gender numbers vary according to different majors and career fields. Information found on Samford's web site shows the differences in these figures. The College of Arts and Sciences enrolled 570 females and 456 males during the fall of 2003. The Schools of Education, Nursing, Performing Arts and Pharmacy all had higher numbers of female students than male students. However, in some cases the numbers were reversed. The Business School enrolled 284 males and only 177 females. The Divinity School had 148 males and 50 females, and Cumberland School of Law had 329 males and 207 females in attendance.

A majority of Samford students feel like most of the statistics are correct and that the male to female ratio of 40 percent to 60 percent is fairly accurate. "I believe the numbers are true to the ratio at Samford," sophomore business major Drew Killingsworth said. " It also depends on which class you are in. In most of my core classes, there are more girls than guys, but my astronomy class has a pretty even number of both."

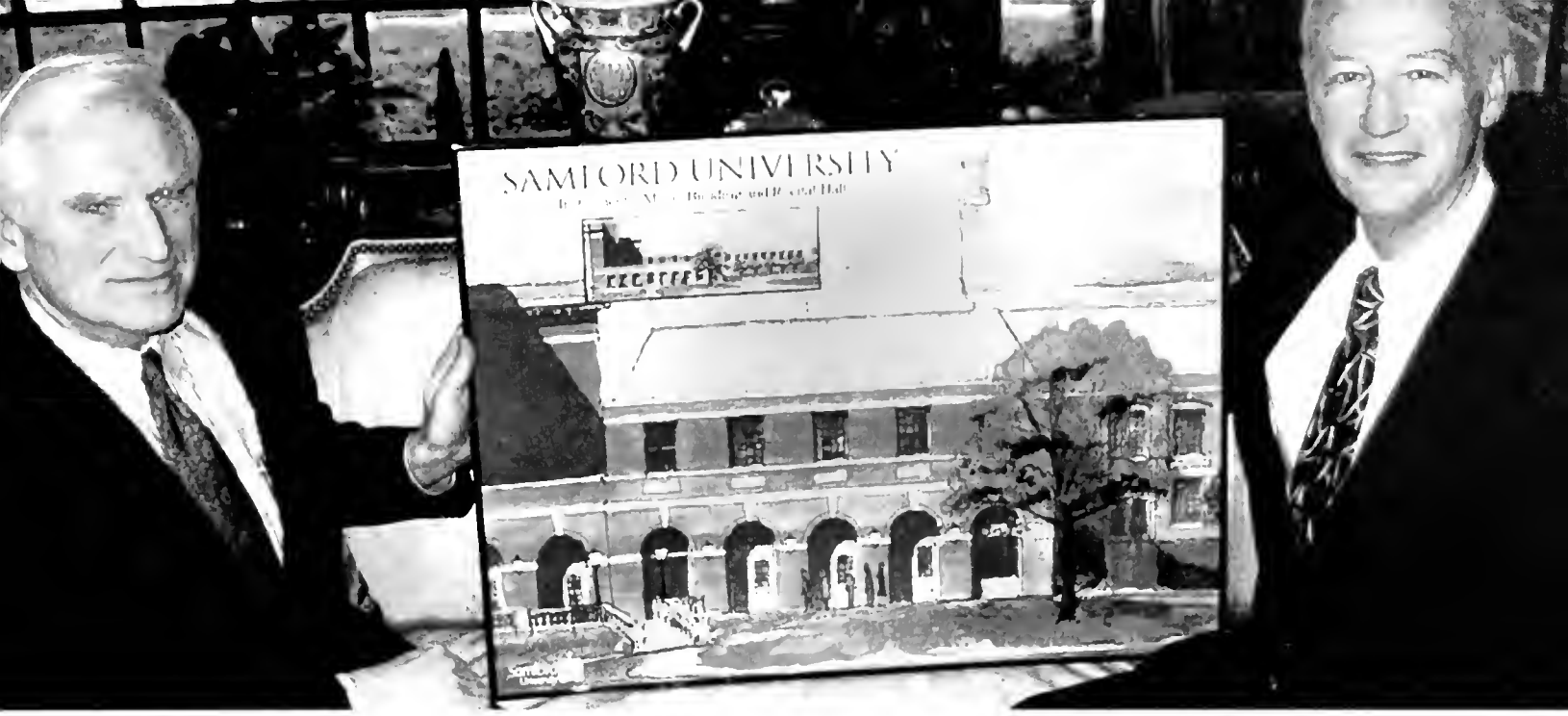
Senior accounting major Cheryl Knight said the gender ratio has not changed much during her time at Samford. "My business classes have typically been half female and half male. In my core classes, two out every three people have been females, and the rest have been males."

In some business courses, males make up a larger percentage of the population than girls do. Knight experienced a situation like this in a business course, Strategy and Simulation. Sixty percent of the students in the class were males, and 40 percent of them were female. "It is a senior level class that is supposed to be taken at the end of your senior year. I couldn't take it at that time because I had to do my accounting internship in the spring, so I took the class in the fall." Knight said. "The only other students in the fall class are those graduating early or those who did not graduate last May. A majority of those students are male. This makes the male ratio higher than the female ratio."

Junior Alexandra Maddox, a voice/music major, has also witnessed unusual numbers in some of her classes. "In my Voice Seminar class, we have 10 girls and only three guys," Maddox said. "It is really strange. When I was a freshman, there were more guys than girls in my music classes. By sophomore year, more and more people began to drop out. Most of them were guys who wanted to switch to business or some science major."

The number of females attending Samford continues to increase. "It's not that the number of males attending school has decreased," Knight said. "Today there are more females attending college than ever before. If Samford wants to increase male enrollment, the school will have to do a better job of marketing to males interested in this type of university, and change its image or restrict the number of females admitted."

Another year comes to a close, but the same war continues to be fought. The future is unpredictable. The final result of this battle is hidden from the eyes of all. The outcome will be determined by future generations of the Samford community. Who will be able to claim victory in this fierce battle of the sexes? Could it be the guys, or will it be the girls? ■



Groundbreaking Promises

by Ashley Belser

The first-chair violinist strikes her solo with a long, yet hushed chord, so soft that you feel surrounded by nothing but the stillness in the room, which in turn sends chills down your arms. You cannot help but ponder upon the power that this one instrument, even in its meekest moment, has upon you. You come to realize that you have come face-to-face with the beauty of music.

For the past 15 years, such beauty has been found in John H. Buchanan Hall, Samford's music building. Everyday classrooms are filled with students practicing the art of music. However, for the past five years, Samford has considered accenting that beauty even more with the erection of a new music facility. This spring, Samford broke old ground for the sake of their dream to bring the music program new ground.

The land between the east wing of the Wright Center and the south end of Samford Hall will become a new multi-purpose music facility including a recital hall and instrumental wing. The new building will connect with the existing music building, Buchanan Hall. According to the current plan, the new building's completion date is scheduled for Summer 2006, making it ready for the students' return in the fall. The project is estimated to cost $7.5 million, which will be funded through a series of outside gifts.

For over the past 15 years, there has been, in the words of Dean of Performing Arts Milburn Price, "steady growth" in the music school. However, Buchanan Hall, the current facility, has proven to be "woefully inadequate" in many ways. The strongest inadequacy is found in the lack of rehearsal space. Not only is the building home for the band and orchestra, but it also houses the wind ensemble, jazz ensemble and percussion ensemble. For years, the music program has had two on-campus options for performances, Harrison Theatre and the Wright Center. Harrison Theatre accommodates up to 170 people, making space quite limited, whereas in the Wright Center, space is anything but limited. "Not every event is suited for the Wright Center," President Thomas Corts said. "The idea here is not build another theater." The new music facility will accommodate around 300 people, creating a recital-friendly atmosphere. Overall, the new music facility will provide a much better venue."

Another issue with Buchanan Hall is found in the shortage of instrumental storage space. Unlike many other programs of study, music students not only have to keep up with textbooks, but they are also responsible for their instruments. Many of their instruments, such as tubas, require more than your average storage space. Reserving more room for instrumental storage will aid in creating more space for rehearsal. Not only will the new structure include advantageous rehearsal space and instrumental storage, but it will also include additional office space and individual practice rooms.

In addition to the new facility increasing availability of space for the music program, it will also benefit the program's education. By providing more space for classrooms and faculty offices, there will be more positions available for those interested in instructing classes. Samford's orchestral program is one that distinguishes our music program from the rest. "Everyone has recitals; however, there are very few schools that have a full orchestral program," Corts said. With an increase in teaching space, there is a greater chance that potential, new orchestral positions will be created for more students to join. The new recital hall will potentially benefit all Samford students. "Music majors are not the only ones involved here," Dr. Price said. "There are a number of non-music majors in our orchestra, band and percussion ensemble."

Price also hopes to utilize every advantage included in the new building by involving both the Samford community and those within the recital community. "With the addition of this facility, we also hope to bring in more events that will provide for more cultural enrichment," Price said. He hopes to host guests such as the Birmingham Chamber Music Society once the project is completed. By inviting outside guests to share their talents, Price believes that this is just another way that Samford, as a whole, will benefit from the new music hall building. Price also believes that by providing a more "adequate home for the current program," that, in time, more students will be drawn to Samford. "An attractive facility with an attractive program will attract great people," Price said.

The recital hall is only part of Samford's new initiative program. As discussed by Dr. Corts in the spring of last year, Samford looks to increase its presence in surrounding communities and to make many improvements to the current campus. Renovating Robinson Hall, renewing Brooks Hall, finishing renovation in the University Center, removing or rebuilding John D. Pittman Hall, adding more undergraduate students, adding 500 additional residence spaces, creating some $20 million in endowed scholarships, producing at least 20 endowed professorships and creating a student fitness/wellness center, consisting of an arena for recreation and athletics are just some of the aspects of Samford's hopeful plan for the future, totaling nearly 337.5 million dollars. The recital hall is the first of these projects to get underway. ■

SCHOOL SPIRIT

by Courtney Keen

Take a stroll around our campus and it is easy to spot students sporting the SU logo. Samford's school spirit extends from the freshmen to the seniors and involves a wide range of activities, but often fails to fill the seats and ring through the air of such events.

How many Samford students attend plays, concerts and other school sponsored events for reasons other than convo credit? "Fight, fight, fight!" How many Samford students know more than these last three words to the Bulldogs' fight song? In one aspect, athletic support has increased immensely over the past few years and continues to grow.

Head Athletic Director Bob Roller said, "I believe there are several factors that have led to increased school spirit over the past few years. Without question, the number one reason is a winning team that is exciting to watch."

Senior Julia Kelley agreed. "I can definitely say that school spirit has increased since I was a freshman. Students are taking the initiative to make their college experiences better." Although record size crowds are turning out for sports like soccer, other athletic teams such as women's basketball and tennis, still

receive very little student support.

"It's very disheartening to see hardly any fans in the crowd for our games and then have the bleachers almost full when the men play," senior basketball player Che Walker said.

Fortunately, the low attendance has not greatly hindered the women's competitive composure. The victorious athleticism of Samford's women's sports won the Ohio Valley Conference All-Sports Trophy in 2003-04. "That is huge for a university our size," Roller said in response to the women's athletic success.

Some students feel that the lack of attendance may result from the large amount of students that leave Samford's campus on the weekend and also the stronger focus on academics in comparison to bigger state schools. Sophomore Josh Saylor said, "I try to go to everything I can, but students here care a lot about academics, and scheduling conflicts can make it hard."

However, students may not realize how much they can positively impact teams simply by showing up and cheering. "School spirit is tremendously important to our teams' successes," Roller said. "To have 10,000 people in Seibert Stadium for a football game or standing-room-only at our new soccer field shows how intercollegiate athletics can have its healthy place on the Samford campus."

Senior Ashley Baldowski grinned and said, "I feel proud to be here when people are standing up singing the fight song, wearing red and blue, and rooting our team on."

Still, bulldog pride extends far beyond the football field and gymnasium. Mike Giles, President of the Student Government Association, said, "I think that it is very important to note that we show school spirit in other ways than athletics."

So, how about supporting Samford's aspiring actors and musicians?

Dr. Milburn Price, Dean of Performing Arts, believes that Samford students provide excellent support for the arts. "But, of course, all of us involved would love to see even more student attendance at both theatre and music events," he said.

Oftentimes, student support depends on requirements of various arts appreciation classes or convocation credit. "I've had to go to a lot of recitals and concerts recently for class, and it definitely has given me insight into what other students on campus are working for," senior Brooke Berryman said.

On the other hand junior Heath Tipps had a different approach. "If the show is good enough I will go regardless of convo. But if it is not a good show, or not well known, then convo credit is the only way you can get me there," he said.

Plays and concerts might not fit everyone's idea of a good time. But Samford offers plenty of opportunities for support, and it doesn't always require a pom-pom or a ticket stub. Giles said, "I advise students to find a way that they can support Samford. The varsity athlete has the responsibility to support Samford on the playing field. The minority student supports Samford by recruiting other qualified minority students. Older students make Samford a better place by mentoring younger students."

School spirit encompasses a broad spectrum of actions, and all students provide a unique view of what that means to them. "We all have a role," Giles said. "If we can find our role and be effective in it, there is no school that could stand up against Samford." ■

Samford was chartered in 1841 and opened its doors on January 3, 1842, in Marion, Ala., as Howard College.

It has survived two destructive fires and the partial paralysis of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

In 1887, it was relocated in Birmingham, and in 1967, the institution was moved to its present campus.

Women were first admitted to Howard College in 1895. The College officially became co-educational in 1913.

In 1920, Howard College gained membership in the Southern Association of Colleges.

The establishment of the Teacher Education Division in 1914 and Division of Pharmacy in 1927 highlighted the school's continuous growth throughout the years.

The historic and renowned Cumberland School of Law, established in 1847 at Lebanon, Tenn., was acquired in 1961.

In 1966, the master's degree program was reinstituted. This development coupled with the existing diversity of degree programs, resulted in Howard College's official elevation to university status on November 9, 1965.

The Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing (owned by the Baptist Medical Center of Birmingham) was added to the university in 1973. In 1988, the Beeson School of Divinity was established through the generosity of Ralph W. Beeson.

The university now consists of the Howard College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, Orlando Bulland [illegible] School of Education and Professional Studies, School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing, Montgomery campus, [illegible] School of Divinity and Cumberland School of Law.

[illegible] Michael D. Clark has been president of Samford University since August 1, 1[illegible], [illegible] academic experience [illegible] in higher [illegible].