

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

# Annual Report 2024





**1,087**  
Record number of  
**FIRST-YEAR**  
**STUDENTS ENROLLED**  
*(fall 2024)*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### **Samford University's Strategic Plan is Aspirational. And Inspiring.**

When the Board of Trustees adopted *Fidelitas* in December 2022 as the university's roadmap for building an even more impactful and faithful university, it committed to lofty goals. Embedded within the plan's eight pillars of focus are outcomes that move Samford forward in its ascending journey as one of the country's best Christ-centered universities.

After the first full year of implementing the plan's goals and objectives, we can already point to some amazing outcomes. Students have never been more prepared to pursue professional and vocational excellence. Faculty are using cutting-edge tools and resources to educate the next generation of leaders. And Samford's 57,000 alumni are making the world a better place.

The world is noticing what's happening in Homewood, Alabama. Recently, *The Wall Street Journal* ranked Samford among the top 10 universities in the country on three important metrics, each one tied directly to the university's *Fidelitas* vision.

**#2 in Character Development** – Spiritual formation is at the center of *Fidelitas*. Educating students while encouraging them to grow closer to Christ and emphasizing virtuous character development is a hallmark of the Samford experience.

**#8 in Career Preparation** – Life after college is important, and Samford has never been better at preparing students for their professional journeys. Employers are lining up to hire our graduates.

**#10 Most Recommended** – Current students and alumni are quick to tell others about the transformational experiences they enjoyed. Samford's reputation is expanding as more people come to know the quality and excellence of the Samford experience.

Thank you for taking the time to read the exciting stories in this report. You will be encouraged as you learn about how Samford and its people are impacting the world for Christ. May we continue to be found faithful.

For God. For Learning. Forever.



Beck A. Taylor, PhD  
President







# Academic Distinction

Samford distinguishes itself as a growing, comprehensive, Christ-centered university with rigorous and relevant undergraduate, graduate and continuing studies programs that are innovative. Led by faculty committed to excellent teaching, scholarship, creativity and service, these programs are designed to equip graduates for meaningful lives of vocation, service and ministry.



### Wall Street Journal Ranks Samford 8th in Career Preparation

The Wall Street Journal ranks Samford 8th in the nation for career preparation, citing the quality of networking opportunities, career support and applied learning. Some 97% of Samford undergraduate alumni are consistently working or in further study within six months of graduation.

“Among many metrics for success, these national rankings place Samford among elite company. This recognition is a testament to our students, alumni and faculty, all of whom compel Samford’s academic reputation to flourish,” said President Beck A. Taylor. “These rankings illustrate the longstanding success of Samford in preparing graduates to lead lives of impact. They affirm the Samford experience is thriving.”

Among the highlights, Brock School of Business accounting candidates achieved the highest first-time pass rate on the Certified Public Accountant exam in the state, ranking among the top 5% nationally. The Association of Social Work Boards reported 100% of the School of Public Health’s Master of Social Work students passed the clinical exam, surpassing the overall state pass rate of 64%. Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing announced that its fourth consecutive BSN cohort achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN licensure exam. These impressive outcomes illustrate the exceptional career readiness of Samford graduates.

#8  
in the nation for  
**CAREER  
PREPARATION**  
*The Wall Street Journal (2025)*



### David Cimora Named Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Following an extensive nationwide search, Samford announced David Cimora as its next provost and vice president for academic affairs. He officially assumed the role on July 1. Cimora previously served as the executive dean of George Fox University’s Wellness Enterprise after serving on the faculty of Biola University for 22 years. He earned his PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Denver.

experience here? How are we going to love our students?” he said. “Our students are great people who want relationships. But if I don’t get outside of this office—if I’m not in the cafeteria, I’m not at the football game, or I’m not at the music recital—I’m not going to be able to engage with the students and learn what they think is best for them. I know who already knows what’s best for them—they do. We should listen to them.”

“Dr. Cimora is just the right person to lead Samford’s comprehensive academic program to new heights, and I warmly welcome him to the Samford family,” said President Beck A. Taylor.

After only a few months in his post, Cimora said it’s apparent how much Samford’s president and Board of Trustees value what is best for its 6,000-plus students.

“When we came back from the trustee retreat in September, the number one thing—other than loving Jesus—was how are we going to enhance the student







Shannon Boutwell

TJ Riggs

Bulldog Investment Fund

Robert Smith Jr.

Excellence in Teacher Training

1 Peter 4:10 Grants

Edinburgh, Scotland

100% NCLEX-RN Pass Rate

Top Ranked Pharmacy School

Mary Harper Simmons

## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

### National Achievements Showcase Samford's Distinctive Academic Programs

*Across the past year, Samford University's 10 academic schools and its students earned national and international recognition. Some of these outstanding accomplishments include:*

#### School of the Arts

Shannon Boutwell, a junior double major in violin and piano, earned the prestigious Becker Family Foundation fellowship. The foundation allowed Boutwell to select a 100-year-old violin, valued at \$115,000, from their world-renowned collection to use freely for the rest of her musical career. The school's original opera, *Dragon's Breath*, was nationally recognized as the 2024 American Prize in Composition in the opera/theater/film/dance professional category by The American Prize National Nonprofit Competitions in Performing Arts.

#### Howard College of Arts and Sciences

TJ Riggs, a senior law, politics and society major, became the fifth Samford student to be named a Truman Scholar in honor of his dedication to public service and leadership. The Department of Geography and Sociology earned an honorable mention in the American Association of Geographers Award for Bachelor's Program Excellence, while Samford's renowned debate team finished its season ranked 3rd in the nation.

#### Brock School of Business

The Bulldog Investment Fund, managed exclusively by current business students, reached a portfolio value of approximately \$4 million. It is the largest student-managed fund in Alabama and is among the largest in the Southeast. The school also announced a new accelerated degree program in sports business, allowing students to earn a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a focus in sports business in just five years. The program features a unique 18-month sports residency where students work full time with sports organizations while completing their MBA. The inaugural cohort will start in fall 2025.

#### Beeson Divinity School

In January, Beeson Divinity School welcomed its first cohort of PhD in Theology for the Church students, and, in August, its first cohort of Master of Arts in Christian Counseling students. During the summer, the school hosted its inaugural preaching conference in honor of retired faculty member, Robert Smith Jr.

#### Orlean Beeson School of Education

Orlean Beeson School of Education was recognized twice in the National Council on Teacher Quality's Action Guide for its excellence in clinical internships and hands-on teacher training opportunities. The school launched new degree and certificate offerings through Samford Online, including a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development and Family Science.

#### School of Health Professions

Through the support of a generous donation, the newly established 1 Peter 4:10 Service Grants provide opportunities for faculty and students to serve local and global communities. The school's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders developed a fast-track program for its Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology, launched new directed research courses for undergraduate students and enhanced service opportunities, including a clinic for individuals with ALS.

#### Cumberland School of Law

Cumberland School of Law was ranked 8th in the nation in the American Bar Association's ranking of the top 10 law school competition teams in arbitration, negotiation, client counseling, mediation and appellate advocacy. The school was also ranked 6th in the nation for trial advocacy training by *U.S. News & World Report*. The school added a new study abroad program for students at the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland, and hosted an international continuing legal education conference for U.S. and U.K. attorneys.

#### Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing

Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing announced its fourth consecutive cohort achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN licensure exam. The school's most recent class of nurse anesthesia graduates also achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Certification Exam.

#### McWhorter School of Pharmacy

McWhorter School of Pharmacy tied for the #1 private school of pharmacy in the South and ranked among the country's top 10 private pharmacy schools by *U.S. News & World Report*. The year also marked the first cohort of fourth-year students to transition into Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences under its new Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum, titled "Practice and Team Ready," which launched in 2021.

#### School of Public Health

Mary Harper Simmons, a Master of Science in Nutrition student, presented her research on the consumption of baby carrots and their impact on skin carotenoid levels at the annual conference of the American Society of Nutrition. Her research gained significant attention from national and international news media over the past year.





# Faith Formation

Samford encourages students and employees to grow in their Christian faith while extending the love of Christ to all and applying biblically and theologically informed reasoning to contemporary issues.





### Office of Faith, Learning and Vocation Supports the Integration of Faith and Learning

Samford emphasizes the integration of faith and learning across the academic enterprise. The university's Faith and Learning Initiative, launched in 2022, provides a university-wide strategy and new resources for faculty development. In 2024, the university strengthened these efforts with the creation of the Office of Faith, Learning and Vocation, as part of the portfolio of faculty development opportunities through the Faculty Success Center.

The Faith and Learning Initiative seeks to equip Samford faculty to thoughtfully integrate a commitment to faith in Jesus Christ with the pursuit of academic

excellence. The Office of Faith, Learning and Vocation offers personal and professional development opportunities that are aligned to the four emphasis areas of the Faith and Learning Initiative: personal spiritual growth, pedagogical integration, scholarship development and vocational exploration. P.J. Hughes, associate provost for faculty success said, "Not only are we focused on faculty success in the domains of teaching, scholarship and service, but we are also focused on having faculty live into their spiritual and vocational calling at a unique institution like Samford."



*"We encourage faculty in their current understanding of the integration of faith and learning, and also stretch them to reimagine what it could be."*

Bryan Gill, director, Office of Faith, Learning and Vocation



Faculty engage in the Faith and Learning Initiative in a variety of ways. "We encourage faculty in their current understanding of the integration of faith and learning, and also stretch them to reimagine what it could be," said Bryan Gill, director of the Office of Faith, Learning and Vocation. Programming includes faculty and staff worship, Story Matters lunches, guest lectures and reading groups throughout the year. For faculty seeking more rigorous engagement, the Christian Teacher Scholar Program was developed as a three-year interdisciplinary cohort-based program where faculty explore the integration of faith in their vocation, teaching and scholarship. Currently, there are two cohorts of 20 faculty members participating in the program. Betsy Dobbins, professor of biological and environmental sciences, said the first year of the Christian Teacher Scholar Program "was the most personally enriching faculty development activity I have done at Samford."

Samford is beginning to achieve national and international recognition for these efforts. Numerous faculty members have delivered presentations, contributed articles and received grants over recent years, and there is enthusiasm across the university. "The opportunities from the Office of Faith, Learning and Vocation grow in interest and participation every semester. It is heartening to witness," Hughes said.







## Relational Ministry is Creating Spiritual Maturity and Fruit Among Students

Samford's 2024 freshman retreat—an overnight getaway to Shocco Springs where nearly 900 freshmen mixed praise and worship with rock climbing and Spikeball—provided a deep impact for incoming students. With attendance having grown four-fold since 2019, campus pastor Bobby Gatlin is witnessing the retreat become “a mass movement,” where students begin their college careers with spiritual momentum.

Older students are recruited to serve as small-group leaders, which Gatlin believes to be the most important aspect of the retreat. The 100 or so upper-division students undergo training that prepares them to guide discussions at the retreat, but it's their intrinsic ability to build trust—often through sharing about their own struggles—that makes them crucial. They become built-in mentors for the freshmen with the ability to forge long-term connections.

“You want your kids to meet the caliber of student that you hope they will look up to,” said Gatlin, who leads Samford's Office of Spiritual Life. “These are individuals you want freshmen to emulate. You want your child to have a Samford story like theirs, a faith walk like theirs.”

Small-group leaders at the retreat often become mentors back on campus through Bible study, discipleship and accountability. Semester-long cadres led by staff or faculty advisers are growing as touch points, said Todd Oakley, associate campus minister.

“The spots fill up so fast, and they're helping build community. Some cadres are specific to athletes who have crazy schedules, and some are for freshmen, so there are these cool little pockets of things happening. Students have a heart for the Gospel and growing as followers of Jesus,” he said. “A desire to grow in that spiritual component is a big part of why they chose Samford.”

These types of intentional connections and peer-to-peer mentorship is among the reasons *The Wall Street Journal* ranked Samford 2nd in the nation for student character development in its 2025 list of Best Colleges in the U.S.

“The relational ministry that's happening on campus is really strong right now, and our team is seeing a lot of spiritual depth, maturity and fruit from students,” said Taylor McQueen, associate campus minister. “Our primary role is to help point them to Jesus, and so many people on campus—faculty and staff—have different roles in doing that. We're getting a front-row seat to what God is doing in students' hearts during their college years.”



## Students, Employees and Parents Serve Together in Ecuador

In March, the Office of Parent and Family Engagement and the Office of Community Engagement partnered with Reel Life and International Ministry of Jesus to host a university-wide spring break mission trip to Nanegalito, Ecuador. The mission team included 28 students, parents and employees. While in Ecuador, half the team led a soccer camp and vacation Bible school for children in the small town. The other half spent the week constructing a new home for a widow and her five children.

The impact of this trip expanded well beyond spring break. The Samford community shared their love in both intangible and tangible ways. Samford parents came together to purchase shoes and backpacks for the children in Nanegalito, and the Samford Parent Association made a gift of \$10,000, enabling the university to underwrite the cost of the home that was constructed by the team. Additional money was donated to purchase chickens so the family could use their eggs for food and future income.

The Office of Parent and Family Engagement and the Office of Community Engagement collaborated once again this past fall to host a community service project during Family Weekend. Almost 300 students and their families packed 32,500 meals that were sent to Ecuador to be distributed to families in Nanegalito. Samford will send a new team to the town this spring, and among the work they plan to do is construct a new church building, funded by a generous donation from a Samford parent.



#2  
in the nation for  
**STUDENT  
CHARACTER  
DEVELOPMENT**  
*The Wall Street Journal (2025)*

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Taylor McQueen, associate campus minister





# Student Engagement

Samford provides meaningful and creative opportunities for students to actively shape the university and their own experiences through leadership, service, social, spiritual and wellness activities.





## Samford Unveils \$85 Million Campus Recreation, Wellness and Athletics Complex

Samford celebrated the debut of its 165,000-square-foot Campus Recreation, Wellness and Athletics Complex—an \$85 million project that combines world-class fitness amenities with communal spaces for students and employees.

“This proudly stands among the best such facilities in the nation,” said President Beck A. Taylor. “It’s a game changer for Samford.”

The massive four-story complex features basketball, racquetball and pickleball courts, along with studios for spin classes, yoga, Pilates, Zumba and barre core. There are tonal strength stations, free weights, cardio and circuit training, turf areas, billiards, an elevated jogging track, a coffeehouse and 24-hour market. There’s also an esports studio designed to launch the university’s new video gaming program.

“This is the first building block of a very ambitious plan to continue elevating Samford as a top residential Christian university in the country,” Taylor said. “Our students and families are choosing Samford in record numbers because we’re all about the residential experience.

“Above all, this complex is a place for community. Obviously, students will use the equipment, but they’ll also have the opportunity to run into each other, to



### BY THE NUMBERS

- 106 cardio machines
- 105 weightlifting stations
- 100 student employees
- 45 monitors and TVs
- 6 basketball courts

encourage one another, and to study for an exam between intramural games. This is going to be a real student hub in the west campus area.”

Nick Madsen, executive director of campus recreation, was part of a leadership team that evaluated recreational facilities at more than 20 major universities to inform Samford’s design.

“We were seeking to understand what those schools liked, what they didn’t like, and what they wished they had in their facilities,” Madsen said. “We researched a lot of different universities to see what they had, and we wanted ours to be the best. We want this to be a showcase, and it is the best around the Southeast. This facility is going to bring students here.”

Encompassing intramural sports, events and lounge spaces, along with renovations to the student health and CARES counseling facilities, the complex reveals a purposeful blueprint encouraging the holistic wellness of Samford students in mind, body and spirit.



*The opening month of the Campus Recreation, Wellness and Athletics Complex revealed what a transformative hub it will be, registering 35,005 visits in October alone.*



### 2024 TOTALS\*

- 74,586 visits
- 3,138 intramural sports participants
- 2,971 fitness class participants
- 878 club sports participants

\*Complex opened Sept. 30, 2024



## Samford Launches Esports Program

The ambitious launch of Samford's esports program coincided with the opening of the Campus Recreation, Wellness and Athletics Complex. The video gaming program is led by Michael French, the esports facility manager and coach—though the role is equal parts recruiter, scheduler, ambassador, project manager, event organizer and motivator.

Even before students got their first glimpse of the esports studio inside the new recreation complex, French worked for weeks to mobilize gamers via the Discord social media platform commonly used by gaming communities. French worked to generate enthusiasm during the fall semester, gathering a dedicated group of gamers before Samford's teams begin competing in tournaments this spring.

"If you're building a brand-new basketball team entirely sourced from your existing student base, you're not going to expect them to make March Madness the first year. You're sort of building from scratch," he said. "The short-term goal is to get some sort of competitive base going."



Teams will begin competing this spring in three popular game titles: *Fortnite*, *Overwatch* and the spectator-friendly *Super Smash Bros*. And looking ahead, the university approved three additional games for team competition—*Valorant*, *League of Legends* and *Rocket League*—giving the program room to grow and expand.

Samford esports is launching with a sophisticated facility designed to meet gamers' preferences.

"It has a state-of-the-art competition room, casual play area and console area," said Joseph McCormick, chief information officer. "We were meticulous in even the smallest details and spoke with many students as we developed our plans."

As with traditional sports, there is an expectation for players to attend mandatory practices and maintain GPA requirements.



## Samford CARES Focuses on Wellness and Mental Health

A vital part of the Campus Recreation, Wellness and Athletics Complex is newly renovated spaces in the first floor of the Dwight M. and Lucille S. Beeson Center to serve the health and wellness needs of students.

"By Samford really investing in a wellness district with facilities and resources, we are sending a message to students that their health matters and the best health is integrated health," said April Robinson, assistant vice president of student development and support. "Samford's mission is to nurture persons, and we are committed to nurturing the whole person."

The new facilities include a health clinic, counseling offices and facilities to house the university's CARE team. This special group of colleagues work daily to identify students in distress, work with them to create personalized care plans and connect them with resources both on and off campus. The new spaces also include a food pantry to provide resources to students in need.

"Having a unified space has improved our ability to meet and serve students in a more collaborative way," Robinson said.

"This reminds students there is a space on campus to heal, grow and return to a place of thriving. We know students can only do as well in the classroom as they are well outside the classroom, so we have worked to respond to that growing need. We see students are more open to support and they are seeking guidance to overcome whatever obstacles they might be experiencing."

***"By Samford really investing in a wellness district with facilities and resources, we are sending a message to students that their health matters and the best health is integrated health."***

April Robinson, assistant vice president of student development and support







# Athletic Success

Samford attains athletic excellence through competitive success, academic achievement, community participation and spiritual formation.





**Athletics Director Martin Newton Honored,  
Second Highest Graduation Success Rate in the Nation**

Martin Newton, director of athletics, was among the Athletics Directors of the Year selected by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) in March. The award highlights efforts of athletics directors for their commitment and positive contributions to student-athletes, campuses and their surrounding communities. Newton was one of four honorees at the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) level.

Since joining Samford in 2011, Newton has transformed Samford into one of the most successful athletic programs in the country. The Bulldogs have captured 77 Southern Conference regular-season and tournament championships during his tenure. In the most recent Southern Conference all-sports standings, Samford won both the Germann Cup (top women's program) and the Commissioner's Cup (top men's program), marking the first time any school has swept the awards in more than a decade.

Academically, the school's student-athletes have posted outstanding results in the classroom, with 2,175 Bulldogs being named to the SoCon Academic Honor Roll during Newton's leadership. Samford's student-athletes posted a 98% in the most recent NCAA's Graduation Success Rate report, the highest in the Southern Conference and tied for the second-highest score among all 351 Division I schools in the nation.

"Those of us who work alongside Martin Newton every day and have seen the incredible impact he has had on Samford's athletic programs are not surprised to know he's at the head of the class," President Beck A. Taylor said.



**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
highest score in the nation  
**GRADUATION  
SUCCESS RATE**  
NCAA Division I







### Historic Season Gives Bulldogs a Taste of March Madness

Men's basketball carried Samford to historic heights—a 29-6 record, a Southern Conference title sweep and a dramatic near-miss in March Madness. Head coach Bucky McMillan built the Bulldogs into a mid-major darling with a team that:

- Won 17 consecutive games over a span of 75 days and finished 18-0 at home in the Pete Hanna Center.
- Won 29 games overall, more victories than any other Division I team in the state.
- Won the outright Southern Conference regular-season championship after sharing it the year before.
- Won the SoCon Tournament, never trailing in the second half of three wins.
- Earned the school's first trip to the NCAA Tournament in 24 years, just the third Samford team to participate in March Madness.

Then came the NCAA Tournament matchup against Kansas.

The game will be remembered for Samford storming back from a 22-point deficit and A.J. Staton-McCray's chasedown block of a Kansas dunk that would've sparked a 5-on-4 Samford fastbreak for the win—if an official hadn't called a foul that no one else saw.

This was heart over height, #AllBall as the hashtag declared. The highlight video went viral, and the Bulldogs secured their legacy even in a 93-89 defeat. For guard Rylan Jones, hearing 17,000 people in the Salt Lake City Delta Center chanting "Let's go, Bulldogs" down the stretch "was a feeling that will give me chills forever."

McMillan won SoCon coach of the year honors for the third consecutive season as Samford ranked 5th nationally in scoring (86.1 points per game), 5th in 3-point percentage (39.5), 5th in turnovers forced (16.66 per game) and 7th in fastbreak points (15.20 per game).



### Soccer, Track & Field Claim SoCon Championships

Samford's soccer team won the Southern Conference tournament title for the sixth time in program history, stunning top-seeded Western Carolina 1-0 in the championship match on the Catamounts' home pitch. The Bulldogs made their eighth appearance in the NCAA Tournament field, losing to defending national champion Florida State. Ella Simpson and Whitaker Buchanan represented Samford on the first-team all-conference squad.

The Bulldogs continued their powerhouse dominance in SoCon track and field under Rod Tiffin, the 16-time conference coach of the year. The men won the 2024 indoor championship for the fifth straight year and claimed the outdoor crown for the fourth consecutive season. Samford's women extended their streak to nine straight indoor titles and five consecutive outdoor crowns.



**81**  
Southern Conference (SoCon) regular-season & tournament championships since 2008





# Community Celebration

Samford celebrates the different experiences and perspectives that students, employees and alumni bring to the campus community while cultivating unity and spirit around common aspirations for Christ-centered community life.





### A Decade of Impact: The Samford Black Alumni Association

The Samford Black Alumni Association (SBAA) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2024, commemorating this milestone at their annual African American Alumni and Friends luncheon in April.

Founding member Isaac Cooper '12 partnered with President Emeritus Andrew Westmoreland in 2014 to make the SBAA an official extension of the Samford University Alumni Association. Now a pillar of the Samford community, the SBAA is led by an intergenerational board and maintains a solid partnership with the Office of Student Success and Diversity.

Since its formation, the SBAA has expanded opportunities for Samford's Black alumni in the form of fellowship, programs and services. One hallmark program, SBAA Connects, offers mentorship between alumni and students. These mentors guide students of color throughout their university experience and beyond.

"We have alumni now that have a touch point to stay more engaged with the university than ever before," said Kendell Jno-Finn '04, who served the SBAA as its president for two consecutive terms (2020-24). "When you pair that with the success we've had across campus, I think that is a pivotal thing in terms of where we go moving forward."



### Students and Employees Serve with the Ministry Center at Green Springs

Located just miles from Samford's campus, the Ministry Center at Green Springs is a Christian, nonprofit organization that serves the community through a client-choice food pantry, free ESL classes and case management services. Both Samford students and employees have embraced the opportunity to serve alongside this ministry, supporting and elevating its ongoing work for people in Birmingham.

Leadership Samford, an 11-month leadership development program for university employees, first partnered with the ministry in 2023, and they have continued to collaborate with the Ministry Center at Green Springs into its



second year. In addition to participating in hands-on service projects, employees also volunteer their time and professional expertise, like reviewing the ministry's organizational structure, assisting with program evaluation and advising on marketing and advancement strategies.

Through the Office of Community Engagement, the Ministry Center at Green Springs is a partner with Samford Community Cadres, a program that enables Samford students to serve on a weekly basis for eight weeks per semester. Additionally, students in the School of Public Health have participated in service-learning opportunities, providing operational support to the ministry.

### Medallion Awards Recognize Community Difference Makers

The Samford University Medallion Awards recognize local people outside the Samford family who are responsible for deeds of kindness and documented actions of record that make a difference in community and civic life.

The 2024 award recipients include Linda and Jim Jones, co-founders of Alabama Childhood Food Solutions; Carolyn Green Satterfield, founder of Alabama Governor's School; and Chris Yarboro, executive director of Community Furniture Bank.

Through the Medallion Awards, Samford engages the Homewood, Birmingham and broader communities around the university in partnership, service and cultural understanding.

"Highlighting the inspirational vision and service of our award winners compels all of us to think about how we can use our gifts and resources in new ways to serve the communities we call home," President Beck A. Taylor said. "Congratulations to Jim and Linda Jones, Carolyn Satterfield and Chris Yarboro. Thank you for allowing us to tell your stories and thank you for the incredible ways you are impacting lives in our community. May God bless each of you as you continue to serve."





# Employee Elevation

Samford elevates the professional, economic and spiritual growth, as well as overall wellness of its employees as essential to reaching the university's full potential.







## Leadership Samford Brings Increased Sense of Calling, Vocation and Belonging to Work Environment

The second cohort of Leadership Samford, identified in June, began an 11-month program with lofty aspirations that included:

- Exploring unique features of Samford University and Christian higher education.
- Navigating complex leadership environments.
- Developing participants to be intentionally reflective leaders.
- Recognizing roles and responsibilities as part of a team.
- Cultivating a community engaged in service to others.

Leadership Samford participants expect to gain an increased sense of calling, vocation and belonging to the work environment at Samford. The program aims to develop skills that allows members to effectively lead and influence colleagues.

One member of the first cohort that concluded in May said, “the program helped build my confidence as a leader and it equipped me with tools to be more intentional.”

Another cohort member credited Leadership Samford’s wide-ranging impact. “This program has challenged me

to be not only a better leader but a better employee, friend, family member and person. It has given me an opportunity to examine what I truly believe as a Christian and how that impacts my actions. I’m more conscious of the various personalities and leadership styles and the importance of each one.”

Leadership Samford utilizes a blended instructional method, featuring face-to-face instruction and leveraging online technology for delivery of course content. Participants interact with colleagues and complete assignments in an asynchronous manner online, in addition to regular in-person meetings as a cohort or smaller group.

A cardinal feature of Leadership Samford is three planned retreats where participants engage with the history of Samford and discuss leadership lessons in that context. Each of the retreats examines a unique aspect of Samford’s history, and participants engage with pivotal inflection points of the institution. They also learn about the three communities that Samford has called home: Marion, East Lake and Homewood, Alabama.

Participants who complete the requirements of the program are eligible to receive funding to continue their own leadership development.



## \$1 Million Innovation Fund Sparks Creative Reinvention

In its second year, Samford’s Innovation Fund continued promoting creativity among its academic and cocurricular programs. Through an allocation of \$1 million annually, the initiative accepts proposals from faculty, staff and students who have innovative concepts that will advance the university’s mission and strategic plan.

The Innovation Fund aims to empower members of the Samford community to think entrepreneurially and strategize “about how to reimagine new opportunities,” said Colin Coyne, vice president for finance, business affairs and strategy.

In 2024, the Innovation Fund received four times as many grant applications compared to the inaugural year. Along with two carry-over recipients continued from 2023, these seven new awards ranged from \$45,000 to \$140,000. They included:

- Exploring and expanding campus resources for SWELL, a wellness initiative for Samford staff.
- Creating a RN to BSN program in Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing for licensed registered nurses whose entry into practice degree is the associate degree.



- Securing the Pathways Kaplan All Access Plan for the Academic Success Center to provide currently enrolled students access to prep courses for various post-baccalaureate entrance exams and licensures.
- Accelerating the growth of external research funding, a potentially significant revenue stream, through a strategic investment into a two-phased expansion of the Office of Research.
- Building out the Land Use and Natural Resource Law Center programming to oversee clinics, develop new tuition streams through international and online academic programs and develop stronger ties with related Samford programs.
- Providing English language support services to all Samford students and others from non-native English environments.
- Developing a storytelling space, which utilizes innovative technology and purposeful audience journey methodology, to foster enrollment and fundraising growth in Brock School of Business.





# Global Influence

Samford positively influences the world through education, outreach and service by preparing students to engage others through athletic, cultural, economic, intellectual, language, political, religious and social exchanges.





### Samford Primed to Shape New Generation of Global Citizens

Reflecting a strategic shift toward a broader international focus, Samford's Office of Global Engagement was renamed SamfordGlobal in 2024. The change emphasizes the global influence pillar of *Fidelitas*, the university's comprehensive strategic plan, as a critical priority to prepare students for meaningful engagement with the world.

Under the name SamfordGlobal, the office's commitment to creating a positive global impact through education, outreach and service is accentuated. By enhancing international partnerships, increasing opportunities for student and faculty exchanges and promoting global awareness, SamfordGlobal aspires to shape a new generation of global citizens equipped to lead and serve.

SamfordGlobal will drive the university's international strategy, expanding initiatives to help students and faculty build cultural competency and address global challenges. In addition to working with international students and scholars, its programming supports students and employees studying abroad, engaging in service-learning projects and participating in internships with international organizations, all of which contribute to a well-rounded global education.

"I'm thrilled in Samford's recommitment to global efforts by including this as a priority in *Fidelitas*," said Lauren Doss, executive director of SamfordGlobal. "We look forward to impacting our community and the world as we invest, broaden, cultivate and enrich through SamfordGlobal."



### Strengthening Economic, Cultural Ties to Japan



As SamfordGlobal seeks to influence educational, economic, cultural, political and religious exchanges, the university strengthened its relationship with Japan during 2024.

Colin Coyne, vice president for finance, business affairs and strategy, visited the Japanese cities of Fukuoka and Maebashi, along with P.J. Hughes, associate provost for faculty success. The university welcomed Japan Outreach Initiative coordinator Eri Taguchi for a two-year stay on campus. Along with serving as an ambassador for students, Taguchi's cultural affairs experience helps the university network with Japanese-owned industries in the region.

"As a private Christ-centered institution, we have such a competitive advantage to

live into efforts of diversity," Hughes said. "That means multiculturalism, bringing more ambassadors to campus, bringing more students to campus, inculcating the sense of radical hospitality and radical Christian welcome—to really live into that missional calling."

With Japan being the largest foreign direct investor in the state of Alabama, Samford is primed to lead development of a managerial force that's culturally competent.

SamfordGlobal is developing an international recruitment strategy to grow curricular education opportunities for international students. And Japan is among the locations at the forefront as Samford evaluates expanding the Daniel House model to other continents.

### Celebrating 40 Years of the Daniel House

The Daniel House, Samford's London study center, is not simply a building, but a vessel through which history is created, and in 2024, Samford celebrated 40 years of history in this special home.

Former Samford President Thomas E. Corts had a vision for students to see and experience the world in an immersive way. He didn't want students to simply visit London, but to live there, study there and gain cultural experiences that can be difficult to gain in the classroom. With help from the Daniel family, the Daniel House doors were opened to students in 1984.

Since then, thousands of students and faculty have stayed in the house to explore all London has to offer. Over the years, Daniel House programming has evolved, awakening passions in students they may not have even known were there.

In 2019, a major renovation restored the historical home while also adding features to enhance the student experience. Both students and visitors are enjoying the renovated facility, and the 40th anniversary celebration events in March allowed alumni to experience the house as well.

Tom Crosby, Samford's director of U.K. programs and operations, has seen the journeys of hundreds of students during his tenure, and is immensely encouraged by their personal growth.

"This kind of cultural capital stays with students long after they leave the Daniel House," he said. "It changes the way they view the world, enhances their perspective of their own country and fosters a nuanced understanding of themselves and their own identity."





# Financial Stewardship & Strength

Samford stewards and grows its financial, physical and technological resources to sustain excellence across the university in service to its mission and vision.







### Financial Stewardship and Strength

Samford's financial trajectory remains robust thanks to a 16th consecutive year of record-breaking enrollment. To serve that growth, the university's campus master plan, known as Samford Horizons, continues transformational construction projects across the university. The \$85 million Campus Recreation, Wellness and Athletics Complex opened on Sept. 30, following a \$10 million renovation of the campus dining hall, known as the Caf, which earned an innovation award from the National Association of College & University Food Services.



"We are obliged to multiply the gifts God grants to us so that others might know Him," said Colin Coyne, vice president for finance, business affairs and strategy. "The Caf's upgraded dining experience, the holistic environment of the new recreation complex and the well-considered living spaces of our new residence halls speak to realizing the vision of Samford Horizons faithfully."

Work is well underway on four new residence halls and a 550-space parking deck, all to open in the fall. These projects are on schedule and on budget.



Samford also has achieved new milestones in fundraising, including the completion of a \$20 million campaign to support the new recreation complex. "Philanthropy is critical to resourcing the ongoing transformation and strength of Samford," said Betsy Holloway, vice president for advancement and marketing. Holloway's team worked with over 4,500 loyal donors who supported Samford in 2023-24 to enrich student experiences and sustain the university's mission in an era of rising financial demands. "Gifts to Samford are a mission multiplier, and we are so deeply grateful for each and every donor."

Philanthropy is especially important in supporting the growing financial needs of our students. Today at Samford, 94% of all students receive some level of scholarship funding or financial aid, vital to making their education accessible. In 2023-24 alone, 70 new scholarships were established, reflecting the university's commitment to reducing financial barriers and empowering students to pursue their aspirations.

Philanthropy is also essential to fostering excellence in research, teaching and programmatic development across the institution. "Record enrollments, new facilities, increasing impact, winning sports programs, big donations—these are fundamental signs that describe a successful university," said President Beck A. Taylor. "We were mightily blessed in 2024, and the world will be better for it."

***"Gifts to Samford are a mission multiplier, and we are so deeply grateful for each and every donor."***

Betsy Holloway, vice president for advancement and marketing





## Summary Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

Year Ended June 30, 2024

### Assets

|                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cash                               | 230,678,331             |
| Investments                        | 453,932,858             |
| Pledges Receivable, net            | 23,237,233              |
| Student Loans Receivable, net      | 17,708,204              |
| Property, Plant and Equipment, net | 446,588,421             |
| Other Assets                       | 19,434,878              |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                | <b>\$ 1,191,579,925</b> |

### Liabilities

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities   | 26,147,677            |
| Deferred Revenue                           | 9,206,619             |
| Other Liabilities                          | 13,584,221            |
| Lease Liability                            | 2,189,313             |
| Annuities Payable                          | 2,190,018             |
| Pension Plan Obligation                    | 36,484,599            |
| Notes Payable of Consolidated Subsidiaries | 20,090,337            |
| Infrastructure Debt                        | 26,371,913            |
| Long-term Debt                             | 507,483,382           |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                   | <b>\$ 643,748,079</b> |

### Net Assets

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Without Donor Restrictions              | 108,376,187             |
| With Donor Restrictions Time or Purpose | 154,994,328             |
| With Donor Restrictions Perpetual       | 284,461,331             |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>                 | <b>\$ 547,831,846</b>   |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b> | <b>\$ 1,191,579,925</b> |

## Summary Consolidated Statement of Activities, All Funds

Year Ended June 30, 2024

### Revenues, Gains and Other Support

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Tuition and Fees   | 209,983,249           |
| Less: Scholarships and Fellowships                       | (89,807,379)          |
| <b>Net Tuition</b>                                       | <b>\$ 120,175,870</b> |
| Board and Lodging  | 29,868,404            |
| Gifts, Grants and Contracts                              | 16,725,263            |
| Endowment Spending                                       | 22,057,892            |
| Other Income   | 11,502,213            |
| <b>Total Operating Revenues, Gains and Other Support</b> | <b>\$ 200,329,642</b> |

### Expenses by Function

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Academic and Student Services                           | 167,448,955           |
| Administrative Support                                  | 25,039,532            |
| Fundraising Expenses                                    | 4,853,883             |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b>                         | <b>\$ 197,342,370</b> |
| <b>Increase in Net Assets from Operating Activities</b> | <b>\$ 2,987,272</b>   |

### Non-Operating Activities

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Pension Liability Adjustment and Periodic Pension Cost | 7,451,080            |
| Investment Income                                      | 40,637,365           |
| Draws from Endowment for Scholarships and Operations   | (22,074,356)         |
| Capital and Endowment Gifts                            | 11,022,769           |
| Other Changes  | (9,764,906)          |
| <b>Net Increase from Non-Operating Activities</b>      | <b>\$ 27,271,952</b> |

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Total Increase in Net Assets</b>    | <b>\$ 30,259,224</b>  |
| <b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b> | <b>\$ 517,572,622</b> |
| <b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>       | <b>\$ 547,831,846</b> |

The financial information was derived from the audited consolidated financial statements.



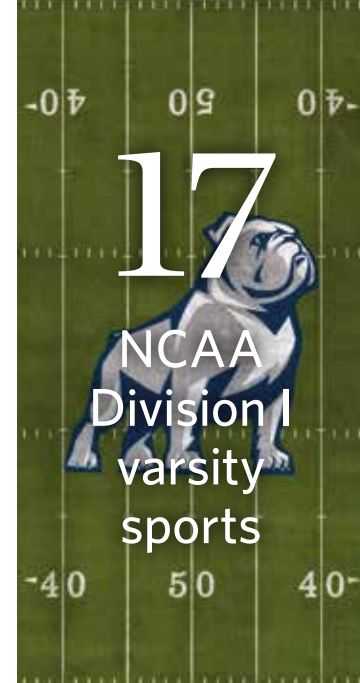


**87th** oldest university in the United States

**ENROLLMENT**  
**6,101**  
4,210 undergraduate  
1,891 graduate/professional



**97%**  
of undergraduate alumni are working or in further study within six months of graduation



**ENDOWMENT**  
**\$471.1 million\***  
\*Value reported is current through Nov. 30, 2024



Average undergraduate class size  
**19**

Student-to-faculty ratio  
**14:1**

Geographic diversity of student body  
**45** STATES & PUERTO RICO | **16** COUNTRIES



**178** Undergraduate majors, minors and concentrations

**65** Graduate majors, minors and concentrations



**ACADEMIC SCHOOLS**

- School of the Arts
- Howard College of Arts and Sciences
- Brock School of Business
- Beeson Divinity School
- Orlean Beeson School of Education
- School of Health Professions
- Cumberland School of Law
- Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing
- McWhorter School of Pharmacy
- School of Public Health

**AN ENGAGED CAMPUS**

|  |   |   |   |                                |
|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>57</b><br>student activities organized events | <b>6</b><br>main-stage theatre and opera events | <b>18</b><br>Greek-letter organizations | <b>91</b><br>cadres engaging students in spiritual growth | <b>17</b><br>club sports       |
| <b>74</b><br>annual arts events                  | <b>151</b><br>student organizations             | <b>31</b><br>residence halls            | <b>152</b><br>spiritual life events                       | <b>24</b><br>intramural sports |









**Samford  
University**

800 Lakeshore Drive | Birmingham, AL 35229

*samford.edu*