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## The Samford Crimson

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# Campus prepares for Hanging of the Green



Hanging of the Green and Lighting of the Way are long standing Samford traditions.

William Marlow/TSC

## By Selah Vetter

Staff Writer

Garland, Christmas lights and decorated trees adorn the campus at Samford University. Students can enjoy the decorated campus by attending the upcoming holiday festivities on campus.

To commence the festivities, the Hanging of the Green service will be held on Dec. 5. The ceremony begins at 6:00 p.m. in Reid Chapel. The service will last for an hour. Lighting of the Way will follow Hanging of the Green outside on the quad.

Hanging of the Green is a Samford tradition that spans four decades. According to Sarah Cain, the media relations manager at Samford Uni-

versity, the tradition began in 1980. Ginny Bridges Ireland, the former director of campus ministries, started the Hanging of the Green service.

Based on an old English custom, students and the Samford community can experience a traditional Christmas service on campus. This includes lighting candles in an Advent wreath and decorating Reid Chapel with garland and a Christmas tree.

There will be traditional Christmas music sung at the Hanging of the Green. This year, the Samford A Capella Choir will perform during the service.

“It will be a beautiful service of worship with meaningful prayers,

scripture, and music,” Philip Cope-land, the A Capella Choir conductor, said. “The A Cappella Choir will sing a stunning arrangement of Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming and other seasonal favorites.”

The service recognizes twelve seniors every year at Hanging of the Green. Samford employees nominate these students based on merit and university involvement. These twelve senior honorees also lead the service celebrating the birth of Jesus.

After the service, students can enjoy music and holiday snacks provided by the Student Activities’s Council, a branch of SGA. Festivities will occur on the quad and Centennial Walk.

## Renovations planned over winter and Jan-term

### By Selah Vetter

Staff Writer

The historical campus of Samford University continues to be modernized through campus renovations.

The Samford University master plan renovations continued throughout this past semester. Samford students enjoy the new renovations during the fall semester, such as the university center. Renovations on campus will continue during Jan-term. After Christmas break, students will be able to enjoy these new renovations.

The campus master plan focuses on building more student housing, fixing infrastructure needs and creating an energy efficient campus. The master plan is a four phase renovation. It is a 20 year plan, lasting until 2035.

“Already in the first three years we have built TriDelta and renovated Reid, Burns, Champan, Ingalls, Russell, Alumni Beeson Center, University Center, Daniel House, new Analytics Center, new Athletic Student Success Center, new stage in Boren Courtyard, new football scoreboard, minor projects in almost every building, and 40-50 infrastructure upgrades every summer,” Kim Brown, associate vice president for operations and campus initiatives, said.

Projects currently in progress continue during Jan-term. These new renovations focus on fixing minor repairs on campus.

The infrastructure repairs include repairing a chilled water leak in the Rose Garden between LSW and Wright Center. The boilers in Propst Hall will be replaced.

Buildings continue to be renovated to be more conducive for students and faculty. A lab in the College of Health Sciences will be subdivided to create additional exam rooms. Also, the top floor of Dwight M. Beeson Hall will begin renovations for a faculty collaborative. The renovation team continues to put up new signage every day.

The university will continue meeting student and faculty needs in the future through additional renovations. The master plan continues executing renovations during the spring semester.

# Holocaust survivor shares story on campus

## By William Marlow

Staff Writer

On Nov. 20, Holocaust survivor and Birmingham-resident Robert May spoke at Samford University about the persecution his family and him faced during Adolf Hitler’s rise to power and the Holocaust. The event was sponsored by Birmingham’s Holocaust Education Center.

Next year, 2020, will mark the 75th anniversary since the end of World War II and the Holocaust. May said

the rise in Holocaust deniers in recent years prompted him to speak out about the anti-Semitism and persecution his family faced while in Germany.

“We didn’t consider ourselves Holocaust survivors and we never really spoke about surviving Hitler’s Holocaust until the Holocaust deniers came out of the woodwork and then we felt obligated to explain the Holocaust to those who were unfamiliar with it,” he said.

May was born in 1926 in Camberg, Germany. The town is located in

southern Germany and sits 50 miles from Frankfurt. When May lived there, Camberg was a town of around 2,000 people. May’s father owned a general supply store, which had been passed down through their family. May’s family lived above the store on the building’s second and third floors.

“We were well established in this town and had been for several generations. We felt like we were part of the community,” May said.

The townsfolk were primarily Catholic but 12 Jewish families also

# Holocaust survivor shares story on campus



A holocaust memorial along the Danube river in Budapest, Hungary.

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resided in town. According to May, Jews had lived in Camberg since the middle ages. May's father served as the prayer leader in the town's synagogue and a Mezuzah hung in their home. However, May's family did adhere to traditional Jewish practices.

"My family was not orthodox. We did not keep kosher and observed the rules we chose to observe. We celebrated Jewish holidays and my father liked to sing," he said. "This was my life in Camberg. Then Hitler came to power and everything changed."

Hitler began imposing his policies on Camberg such as the Hitler Youth. The Hitler Youth indoctrinated German children, both boys and girls, into the Nazis' ideology. At May's school, everyone wore uniforms, decorations and even daggers. May's classmates trained and played games.

"The thing that most affected at the time was the Hitler Youth. I was the only boy in my grammar school who was excluded. My first memories of Hitler's reign were exclusion," he said. "I felt shunned. I had no more friends to play with. They never physically harmed me but they teased me and called me names." Soon, the town turned against May's entire family. They boycotted his father's store and the community excluded their family from the town's politics and social gatherings.

"Life went on. We accepted it as this too will pass. We figured Hitler was a temporary regime and that Hitler's regime could not last because the German people would come to their senses," he said.

Then the town's stores banned Jews and in 1935 Germany enacted the Nuremberg Laws, which targeted Jews directly. One of the laws pro-

hibited German Jews from acquiring income. The Nazis removed Jewish teachers from schools and bared Jewish lawyers from the town's courthouse. Jewish doctors could not enter hospitals. The law also segregated Jews and non-Jews. It prevented these groups from dating or marrying each other.

At school, May's bullying intensified and in 1936 his parents enrolled him in a Jewish school in Frankfurt. While in Frankfurt, May lived with his aunt and uncle.

Wealthy uncle living in the United States. He had moved to New Orleans. His uncle vouched but the U.S. Department of State stopped issuing visas. According to May, U.S. Department of State in the issued the lowest number of visas between the 1930 and 40.

"Visas for German Jews were almost impossible to get. We could not get a visa," he said.

"The Americans were coming out of a recession but it was more than that. There was anti-Semitism in the State Department as we now realize. There is evidence to that effect," he said.

May's family could only wait and hope they would be granted visas. One night, the man that delivered groceries to the store, Wilhelm Hartmann, visited May's parents. Hartmann urged May's parents to leave their home.

"He told my father you cannot stay here tonight. There is going to be trouble," May said.

German soldiers had entered the town and Hartmann offered to shelter May's family and hide them from the soldiers. However, May's father refused, not wanting to endanger his friend.

As nightfall approached, the soldiers began ransacking Jewish homes and businesses. May's parents fled to the town's Jewish

cemetery and hid there during the night. Soldiers hooked a chain to Camberg's synagogue and tore down the walls until it collapsed.

The next morning, May's parents returned to discover that their store had vandalized. The soldiers had smashed the windows, flipped furniture and slashed beds.

"Feathers were all over the place and mirrors were all broken. Our pictures were all broken. Nothing was intact," he said.

The police soon arrived and arrested May's parents. The police placed his parents in protective custody. His parents stayed in jail for several days.

Earlier that same day in Frankfurt, May was sitting with his aunt and uncle in their apartment when a neighbor began warning them to leave. They walked down the street only to find May's school burning. Firefighters encircled the school tried to contain the fire and preventing it from spreading.

After wandering the streets for a few hours, May along with his aunt and uncle returned home. The apartment appeared undisturbed. The windows were not broken but the inside told a different story.

"The apartment had been totally destroyed. Similar to my house, mattresses were cut and furniture was turned upside down. Anything that was breakable was broke," he said.

Following the acts of violence, May's family requested visas to travel to England. England had begun accepting Jewish children, ages 16 and under. May transferred to a boarding school in England's countryside.

However, as May's aunt and uncle were preparing to leave Germany, German soldiers captured and arrested them and sent them to the Auschwitz concentration camp where they were killed.

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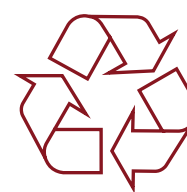
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# Community Submissions



File Art

## FROM THE AIR FORCE ROTC

Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 012, based at Samford University, serves the entire Birmingham area and welcomes students from Samford, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Miles College, Jefferson State Community College, the University of Montevallo and Birmingham-Southern College. Cadets come with different backgrounds, majors, and professional goals, but leave as better leaders, citizens and with a dedication to service.

AFROTC provides many opportunities for professional growth to its cadets. Two of these programs are the Advanced Cyber Education (ACE) program and Operations Air Force (OPS AF). ACE is a program which offers incredible opportunities to learn from experienced military cyber-security personnel and to apply what has been learned in a controlled environment. OPSAF is a two-week program

designed to give cadets the opportunity to experience an operational AF base and gain experience and knowledge about what Active Duty has to offer.

Detachment 012 seniors C/Andrew Reville and C/Patrick Cothran were selected for the ACE program this summer. C/Reville is a Computer Science major with a scholarship through the AFROTC High School Scholarship Program (HSSP). In addition to his selection for the ACE program, he served as a Cadet Training Assistant at AFROTC's Field Training at Maxwell AFB. He earned a rated slot for pilot this past year and following commissioning will go to pilot training with hopes of flying bombers for the USAF. C/Cothran is also a Computer Science major at Samford University. C/Cothran explained "I am currently selected to be an RPA [Remotely Piloted Aircraft] pilot and the ACE experience has already helped me to understand the importance of cyber in that career field. Without our cyber person-

nel, many jobs throughout all branches of the military would not be able to perform at the level that they do now."

The ACE program is a four-week intensive course on Cyber Operations, and specifically the 17D and 17S AFSCs. C/Reville described the experience: "We spent seven hours a day in the classroom both in lectures and in lab scenarios learning how to hack into vulnerable machines and how to better defend both military, civilian and personal computer systems. We had world-class instructors from the Air Force Institute of Technology teaching us and each of us were able to work on state of the art machines."

Detachment 012 also sent two cadets to Operations Air Force this summer. C/King and C/Moreira are both in their Sophomore year of college and plan on attending Field Training in the summer of 2020. The cadets traveled to Hill Air Force Base in Utah where they had the opportunity to ride in a C-130, observe surgery using cutting

edge medical technology, tour the NCO academy and learn assembly and disassembly of M-9's and M-4's. They were also able to speak with squadron and group commanders, NCOs, civilian contractors and meet with the installation commander.

For C/Moreira, one of the biggest lessons from this experience was that as "an officer and leader, you have to take care of yourself so the nation can be taken care of as well." He then went on to quote Colonel Smiles, the Vice Wing Commander from Hill AFB who said, "If you take care of yourself, you will be able to have patience to take care of your family, and by knowing your family is safe, you can go ahead and focus on your work, and if your work is secured, the nation is as well."

These experiences only scratch the surface of what AFROTC offers cadets in terms of professional development, personal growth and leadership. C/Cothran commented on his experience in AFROTC since he joined in Spring 2017.

This will be our last issue of the semester.  
Thank you and have a happy holiday!  
-Your Crimson Staff

# Sports

## Samford football finishes the year with a 5-7 record

By **Gunnar Sadowey**  
Sports Editor

The 2019 Samford football season came to an end a few short weeks ago. The Bulldogs completed the season with an overall record of 5-7 (4-4 SoCon), finishing fifth in the Southern Conference standings.

Highlighted by impressive conference wins over No. 21 Wofford and No. 25 The Citadel, the Bulldogs played stellar football during a selection of games but lacked the depth and defensive prowess to put together a winning season. In the final game of the season, Samford was thrashed 52-0 by the Auburn Tigers at Jordan-Hare Stadium.

Throughout the course of the season, a quarterback duel ensued between University of South Florida transfer Chris Oladokun and junior Liam Welch.

Oladokun finished the year with 2,058 passing yards, 18 touchdowns and seven interceptions. He added 491 yards and eight touchdowns on the ground. Oladokun was also sacked 15 times.

In comparison, Welch passed for 759 yards, six touchdowns and seven interceptions. He rushed for 160 yards and four touchdowns. Welch was sacked a total of nine times.

A third quarterback who saw



Several Bulldogs picked up all-SoCon honors.

Photo courtesy of Samford Athletics

playing time in 2019 was Head Coach Chris Hatcher's son Ty Hatcher. Hatcher finished the year with a 100 percent completion percentage, completing a perfect 7/7 passes for 29 yards. He also tallied one reception on the year for 11 yards.

Freshman running back Jay Stanton led the Bulldog rushing game the entire season. Stanton appeared in 10 games, rushing for 690 yards on 122 carries, good for an average of 5.7 yards per carry. He finished with seven rushing touchdowns and two receiving touchdowns at the conclusion of his freshman campaign.

Senior wide receivers Chris Shell-

ing and Robert Adams led the Bulldog receiving game. Shelling tallied five receiving touchdowns while Adams compiled 565 receiving yards in 2019.

Samford struggled on the defensive side of the ball, finishing with zero interceptions at the end of the year. They allowed 37.8 points per game, ranking 120 out of 125 total FCS football teams. The defense gave up a total of 5,486 total yards and 57 touchdowns.

In terms of end-of-season accolades, multiple Bulldogs took home Southern Conference awards.

Junior Montrell Washington

earned a second-team SoCon special teams spot for his kickoff and punt return ability. Washington finished the year with 458 return yards and one touchdown.

Sophomore kicker Mitchell Fineran earned second-team SoCon special teams as well, completing the year with 15 made field goals and 46 made extra points.

On the offensive side of the ball, senior offensive lineman Nick Nixon took home first-team SoCon honors. Two players made the all-freshman list, Stanton and freshman wide receiver AJ Toney.

Samford's defense had three players earn SoCon defensive honors. Junior linebacker John Staton made first-team SoCon defense, finishing the year with 115 total tackles and three tackles for loss.

Junior Armond Lloyd picked up second-team honors, completing the year with 62 tackles and two sacks.

Freshman Trimarcus Cheeks earned an all-freshman spot with 47 tackles on the year.

Although the Samford football season has come to an end, multiple Bulldogs are currently continuing their NFL seasons. The list of former Samford standouts includes Steelers quarterback Devlin Hodges, 49ers safety Jaquiski Tartt and Ravens offensive lineman Michael Pierce.

## Breaking down the College Football Playoff possibilities



The College Football Playoff rankings have fluctuated throughout the year.

Photo courtesy of Samford Athletics

By **Collin Reese**  
Staff Writer

**Ohio State:** No team in college football this season has looked as complete as the Buckeyes. They finished the season a perfect 12-0 and are set to face Wisconsin in the Big Ten Championship Game. Led by sophomore quarterback Justin Fields, the Buckeyes offense leads

the country in points per game (49.9 ppg) and ranks fifth in yards per game (534.3 ypg). Defensively, Chase Young projects to be one of the top picks in this year's NFL Draft. He and the rest of the Ohio State defensive unit rank fourth in the country in points given up per game (11.8 ppg).

**LSU:** Each one of these teams is

led by an extremely talented quarterback, but Joe Burrow might be having the best year of any quarterback in the country this season. In the game against Texas A&M, the Tiger's quarterback set the SEC single-season passing record with 4,366 yards, and tied the league's single-season passing touchdown record with 44 and they still have at least two games

to play. Burrow's supporting cast on offense has helped the Bayou Bengals regain the offensive prowess that had been absent in Baton Rouge for sometime.

**Clemson:** Defending National Champs? 27-0? A weak conference schedule and an early-season scare have made critics question whether or not this is the same Clemson team from a year ago. All the Tiger have done to counteract that is post the nation's top scoring defense (10.1 ppg), and the nation's fourth ranked scoring offense (45.3 ppg). Trevor Lawrence has continued to show the country why there is a very good chance his name will be called first in the 2021 NFL Draft.

**Georgia:** Where is the offense? The defense, arguably the best unit in the country (10.4 ppg), show up week in and week out to keep the Bulldogs in games. The Bulldogs are one of two teams (Clemson the other) not to allow a team to score more than 20 points this season. Offensively, Jake Fromm has been effective this year, just not constantly. The SEC Championship game will prove to be the ultimate test to see if the Bulldogs can keep up.

# Samford volleyball clinches tournament berth



Samford will be participating in NCAA Tournament this year.

Photo courtesy of Samford Athletics

By **Carson Caulfield**  
Staff Writer

The Samford Bulldogs Volleyball team (24-5, 15-1) won their second consecutive Southern Conference Tournament which took place in Spartanburg, SC on Nov. 18.

The tournament was won through a nail-biting 3-2 victory over the ETSU Owls (25-6, 14-2).

“I feel very fortunate because ETSU is an exceptional team,” Samford Head Coach Keylor Chan said in the post-game press conference. “We

were able to do the small things. Now that we’ve made it, we want to win a round in the NCAA Tournament.”

Prior to the championship match, the Bulldogs also took down the Citadel (11-20, 4-12) and Furman (8-21, 7-9). Samford dominated the Citadel 3-0, and then defeated Furman in a close 3-2 battle in the semifinals.

The fact that the trophy was hoisted after a victory over ETSU was especially rewarding for the Bulldogs. ETSU was the only SoCon opponent that the Bulldogs lost to in the reg-

ular season. The Bulldogs later beat the Owls in their second meeting of the regular season, but it was nearly inevitable that the two powerhouses would meet once more.

Samford won the first two sets, 25-23 and 25-22, respectively. The Bulldogs just needed to win one more set to win the title, but the Owls were not done yet.

They won the next two sets, 25-23, 25-17. Finally, in the fifth and final set, the Bulldogs dominated 15-8 to win the match.

This victory gives Coach Chan his

third SoCon tournament championship in only four years at Samford.

Chan has yet to advance his Bulldogs past the first round of the NCAA tournament, however, the Bulldogs will have another chance to upset a high-seeded opponent this year.

As for All-Tournament honors, the Bulldogs had several ladies on the list.

Senior Kelsi Hobbs was named the tournament’s most valuable player. She recorded a career-high 26 kills in the championship match.

## Hobbs earns SoCon tournament MVP honors



Hobbs led the Bulldogs in several categories this year.

Photo courtesy of Samford Athletics

By **Carson Caulfield**  
Staff Writer

Samford volleyball player Kelsi Hobbs came away from the 2019 Southern Conference tournament with two trophies to add to her resumé.

After defeating The Citadel and Furman, the Bulldogs (24-5, 15-1) faced the ETSU Owls (25-6, 14-2) in the championship game. Samford came out victorious in a close 3-2 battle, winning their second consecutive tournament championship.

Hobbs arrived back in Birmingham not only with a spot on the All-Tour-

nament team, but also the tournament’s MVP trophy.

The senior from Hoover, AL finished the tournament with 59 kills, 25 kills and five blocks.

Hobbs’ performance against ETSU might have very well been the performance of the tournament. She recorded a career-high 24 kills against the Owls. She also had 12 digs and only three errors.

“No one from the SoCon has ever won (an NCAA Tournament game), but we want to make it happen,” said head coach Keylor Chan in a post-game press conference. “When you have special players like Kelsi Hobbs, who steps up in these kind of situa-

tions, you have a chance.”

In total this season, Hobbs has 425 kills. She also has 248 digs and 55 blocks. Her veteran presence on the team has been a staple to the Bulldogs’ front-line offense.

Last season, Hobbs was also a crucial piece to the offense, as she finished with 351 kills, 287 digs, and 56 blocks.

The win against ETSU extremely rewarding for Hobbs and the rest of the team. On Oct. 18, the Bulldogs lost to the Owls in a tight 3-2 match in Pete Hanna. Even though the Bulldogs beat the Owls in their second regular season match on Nov. 16, that was their only SoCon loss this season.

In that loss against the Owls, Hobbs had 18 kills and five errors.

In their second regular season game against ETSU, Hobbs had 17 kills and four errors. This just goes to show that Hobbs had something to prove against the Owls when they met for a third time in the SoCon Tournament.

Hobbs will now have the NCAA

Tournament to look forward to. On Sunday, the tournament bracket revealed that Samford will face the Louisville Cardinals (19-9) in the first round. The Bulldogs and Hobbs will have until Thursday to prepare for the chance to pull off an upset.

# Men's basketball defeats Trojans, falls to Jackrabbits



Samford basketball will begin SoCon play in a few weeks.

Photo courtesy of Samford Athletics

By **Larsen Griffeth**  
Contributing Writer

Inconsistency seems to be negatively affecting the Samford men's basketball team in the early stages of the season. Despite this, the Bulldogs added another win to their record with a 72-60 victory against Troy at the Pete Hanna Center.

Samford dominated for most of the game and held a 21 point lead going into halftime.

Shooting has usually been a weakness for the Bulldogs this season, however, they shot their best percentage yet, going 12/23 (52%) from three point range and shooting 53% from the field.

Four of the five starters for Samford finished with double digits in

points and guard DeAndre Thomas led the way with 21 points and 7/11 from three point range.

A key piece to the team, Josh Sharkey, scored only 8 points but led the team with 14 assists.

Up next it was the long trip to Brookings, South Dakota to face the South Dakota State Jackrabbits.

It was a tough game that saw five Samford players score more than ten points.

Despite 43% shooting from behind the arc, and almost 50% field goal percentage, it wasn't enough to overcome South Dakota State, whose best player, Douglas Wilson, scored 30 points.

The Jackrabbits came away with an 86-77 win. Brandon Austin scored

19 points, Josh Sharkey scored 16 points along with 9 assists, and forward Jalen Dupree had a double-double with 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Samford enters the beginning of December with four different players averaging at least ten points per game.

As the season gets tough and conference play begins to pick up, statistics like those are very important.

Statistically, teams that have many double digit scorers tend to go far in March.

Another thing to look for would be shooting because good shooting teams are very dangerous.

As a team, the Bulldogs are shooting 35% from three point range and

45% from the field.

There are great signs of teamwork and this is led by senior point guard, Josh Sharkey, who is averaging nine assists per game.

Sharkey's passing is key if the Bulldogs want to keep winning.

Another key factor is depth. Head Coach Scott Padgett tends to play four to five players off the bench regularly throughout the course of the game.

Padgett has relied on Logan Dye, Logan Padgett and Donte Tatum to give the Bulldogs key minutes as non-starters.

If the Bulldogs can continue to rely on players coming off the bench, they can continue to grind out the late moments of games.

## Simple, meaningful ways to give back to your community

(BPT) - With today's busy and distracted lifestyles, it can be difficult to find ways to make a difference to those less fortunate in the community. However, today it is simpler than ever to give back, and you do not have to alter your hectic routine to make an impact.

### 1) Give back while you shop

If you want to make a difference with your shopping dollars, look for retailers that give a percentage of their profits to those in need.

For example, Walgreens gives 1% of sales from participating vitamin products to nonprofit Vitamin Angels.

Through this partnership, undernourished pregnant women and children under 5 receive life-changing nutrients to combat the devastating effects of malnutrition.

When customers purchase, they support Vitamin Angels' mission to improve child and maternal health in the U.S. and around the world.

The partnership has already reached more than 200 million children and mothers throughout the U.S. and worldwide with essential vitamins and minerals. To learn more, visit [www.walgreens.com/vitaminangels](http://www.walgreens.com/vitaminangels).

Many retailers and grocery stores

also provide shoppers the opportunity to donate to causes when they are at the checkout register.

With just a couple of extra clicks, you can opt to add a small contribution to your total bill to provide resources to a worthy cause.

### 2) Give while you work up a sweat

You can get exercise and support a cause you care about at the same time.

Several apps on the market allow you to donate to your charity of choice for every mile you walk, run or bike - the miles can even add up as you carry your phone around all day.

All you have to do is download an app, create an account, select your favorite charity and get moving.

You can also join organized walks and runs that suit all fitness levels to support your cause.

Turn it into a social event by rallying friends, coworkers and family members to join you, or ask them to sponsor you (and cheer you on) for each mile completed.

### 3) Give back while you de-clutter

Next time you join in on the Marie Kondo craze to clear out your closets,



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consider sparking even more joy by donating gently used items to a local nonprofit.

Clothing and goods you no longer use can be life-changing for those in need.

Check before you donate to make sure your charity of choice needs your donations.

Some organizations will even come to your home at no charge, making it even easier to give back.

### 4) Give your time

With crammed schedules, it can seem like a big commitment to volunteer, but today's nonprofits offer

flexible arrangements.

Most nonprofits welcome any level of assistance, even one-time engagements or a couple of hours a month.

Contact a local nonprofit you are interested in to ask about volunteering opportunities.

Some employers will even allow you to use PTO (paid time off) for volunteering, so it's worth asking your employer's HR department.

Making a difference with your dollars or giving your time can feel great, and it can also be effortless. Find a way to make a difference that works for you - and then go for it! Even small actions can make a huge impact to your community.

# Arts & Life

## Alabama Ballet to perform “The Nutcracker” at Samford



“The Nutcracker” will feature both professional dancers and children from Birmingham.

Photo courtesy of Michael Afonso

By **Mackenzie Simms**  
Contributing Writer

The Alabama Ballet will be performing Balanchine’s “The Nutcracker” at the Wright Center on Dec. 15-18 and Dec. 20-22 with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and shows at 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. This event is a beloved tradition at Samford that audiences will

not want to miss.

Based on E.T.A. Hoffman’s 1816 novel “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King” the ballet has delighted audiences since its very first performance in 1892. The classic Christmas story follows Clara, a young girl that enters a magical world on Christmas Eve. With the help of a toy nutcracker prince brought to life, Clara goes on

an epic adventure and fights an army of mice.

According to the Alabama Ballet’s description of the performance, “Tchaikovsky’s beloved melodies transport the young and young at heart to a magical world where mischievous mice besiege a battalion of toy soldiers and an onstage blizzard leads to an enchanted Land of

Sweets.”

Balanchine’s “The Nutcracker” is a ballet choreographed by George Balanchine, one of the most influential contemporary ballet choreographers of the 20th century. Balanchine’s work is so revered that only eight ballet companies in the world are licensed by The Balanchine Trust to perform his Nutcracker, including the Alabama Ballet.

Ashlyn McClellan, the PR and Marketing Manager for the Alabama Ballet, explains the difference of Balanchine’s perfected choreography.

“A lot of the more traditional versions the dancers don’t do too much, other than the principals. Whereas in Balanchine’s version, the corp de ballet work is demanding and challenging for the dancers,” McClellan said. “It is something that they work hard at perfecting.”

In addition to the divine professional ballerinas, the performance will also feature nearly 100 children from the Birmingham area that get the opportunity to perform on stage beside the professional company as a part of the production’s community cast every year.

Tickets to this event can be purchased through the Alabama Ballet’s website for \$40. College students are able to buy tickets at the discounted price of \$25.

## Opera to perform holiday concert

By **Moriah Mason**  
Staff Writer

On Dec. 15 at 2:30 p.m. the Opera Birmingham Chorus will be performing “Sound of Seasons” in Jane Hollock Brock Recital Hall.

Formerly known as the Birmingham Civic Opera, the Opera Birmingham Chorus has been entertaining audiences for over 60 years.

“From its humble beginnings in 1955 to its 60th anniversary in 2015 and beyond, Opera Birmingham has produced world-class operatic productions and concerts that have been hailed by critics and loved by audiences,” states their website.

In 1955, the opera was led by Martha Dick McClung, and under her direction, the opera performed two musical productions.

“Under the leadership of Martha Dick McClung, director of Opera Theater at Birmingham-Southern Col-

lege, the company’s first production was Smetana’s ‘The Bartered Bride,’ followed by Puccini’s ‘Madama Butterfly’ the following year,” the website states.

In the past, the opera merged with the Southern Regional Opera in 1986, and was later changed to Birmingham Opera Theater.

Now led by Daniel Seigel, the opera has done over 50 other performances and have also managed to bring hundreds of other performers to Birmingham.

Furthermore, the Opera Birmingham Chorus will be doing a holiday-themed performance at Brock Recital Hall.

“Kick off the holidays with ‘Sounds of the Season,’ a concert of favorites both sacred and secular,” the website states. “Drawing on the talent of the Opera Birmingham Chorus, this family-friendly concert is an audi-

ence favorite, jam packed with classic Christmas carols and beloved holidays songs! It is a true gift of the Season, certain to put you in the holiday spirit!”

The opera will also be performing with Opera Birmingham Chamber Choir and the Indian Springs Cham-

ber Choir. Attendants of the performance will also be able to meet the artists and enjoy holiday treats in the lobby after the concert.

Ticket prices differ based off of seating. These prices range from \$29-\$64. However, there are student discounts and wheelchair seating available.



Opera Birmingham will perform in Brock Recital Hall. Moriah Mason/The Samford Crimson

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# Dean discusses Samford Arts celebration event



Samford Arts is an annual tradition that is adding different aspects to the event this year.

Moriah Mason/The Samford Crimson

By **Moriah Mason**  
Contributing Writer

On Dec. 6, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Arts Department will be doing their annual event, Celebrate Christmas with the Samford Arts, in the Wright Center

Samford has many annual Christmas traditions, including lessons and carols from the campus worship team, Hanging of the Green, Lighting of the Way, Christmas Around the World, and lessons and carols from the choral vespers.

“Celebrate Christmas is the climax of Christmas celebrations on the campus of Samford University,” states the Samford Arts website

Associate dean of the school of the arts Eric Mathis discussed that the event is different from other celebrations because it captures the whole picture of Samford.

“One challenge is that none of these Christmas traditions possess the full picture of who Samford and Samford Arts has grown to be in the last decade,” Mathis said.

Due to the size of the student body, many buildings such as Reid Chapel are not able to hold all of the student body. So, venues like the Wright Center are more ideal to have a Christmas celebration.

“Our campus includes more than 6,000 students, faculty, and staff. Only 10 percent of this population

can fit in Reid Chapel for Hanging of the Green, perhaps the most beloved Christmas tradition on campus, along with the Lighting of the Way.” said Mathis

In addition, “So, I believe we stumbled into something successful by adding Celebrate Christmas to the roster of Christmas events at Samford because the Wright Center has the capacity to hold 1/3 of our campus population.”

Mathis hopes that the upcoming program will remind Samford students of what the Samford community really is.

“I hope it will reinforce to Samford students who they – and who we – know Samford to be: an institution

and a family of people grounded on core commitments of intellect, creativity, faith, and the whole person that has characterized our community for so many Christmas seasons in the past.”

Even though Celebrate Christmas with the Samford Arts is an annual tradition, the Arts department will be adding different aspects this year.

Mathis said, “This year, we are excited to have a video company on site that will provide close-up footage of performers. We are featuring faculty members from the School of the Arts this year. We’ve kicked our dress code up a notch. And, we have a beat-boxer performing with one of the groups. That’s right – a beat-boxer.”

There has been a lot of preparation and rehearsals with this event. Mathis discussed how he is always proud of the students, faculty, and staff from the Wright Center who come together to make this event happen.

“I’m always most proud of the students, faculty, and staff in the School of the Arts and the Wright Center who come together to make this event happen. It requires a lot of rehearsal hours during a busy season of the year, but they put in the time and the work. And, they offer the event in the spirit of a Christmas gift to the Samford and Birmingham community.”

He also elaborated on how the world needs the arts.

“You know, the world deeply needs the beauty and the joy that come from the arts, and I’m so proud of the way that our students, faculty, and staff use this event to give those gifts away at this time of the year,” Mathis said.

## Student presents photography series

By **Katy Beth Boyers**  
Arts and Life Editor

During the time of year when people visit friends and family, Art major Rebekah Casagrande took people back to times when they visited grandma’s house with her photography series now displayed in the art gallery on campus. Casagrande remembers her own grandmother, who passed away in May, in this project.

“The vibrant house is now sulky: it does not feel the same,” Casagrande said in her artist statement. “There is emptiness, a loss, and a lack of warmth in the environment. Everything is the same as she left it, except she is not there to take care of it.”

Casagrande spent seven months taking photos of her grandmother’s house, collecting hundreds of photos. She then had to decide which ones she would edit and use for her project.

“I took the photos in three different trips to my grandmothers, alternating between 35mm film and digital camera,” said Casagrande. “I went through hundreds just to get the right ones in my show. The 24 chosen were lightly edited with Photoshop, typically only changing brightness, contrast,

and color.”

The purpose of this project was to connect her viewers to the photos and remind them of their own times visiting their grandparents.

“In some way, their house is embodied in my photographs,” she stated. “I want to encourage you to pause and remember.”

For this project, Casagrande said she was inspired by multiple artists and how they display emotions and memories to make this project including Ian Howorth, Sally Mann and Graciela Iturbide. She has always had a passion for photography since she was in grade school. She continues to use that passion to tell stories like “Grandmother’s House.”

“Photography has been my hobby ever since I got a disposable film camera for my third grade field trip,” she said. “It changed from a hobby to a career path my senior year of high school.”

Before she transferred to Samford in 2017, she attended community college and received her certification in imaging and photography. She will graduate and receive her Bachelors Dec. 13. Casagrande says that she has had a lot of opportunities while she



Rebekah Casagrande presented her project “Grandma’s House”|Photo courtesy of Nicole Weldy

has attended Samford.

“Samford expanded what I would have considered an art career,” Casa-

grande said. “There are so many more opportunities than I would have imagined.”