



The Legacy

How are you connected to the BCM?



Theme for this fall, image drawn by current BCM Student Valentina Lizasoain

As any one who has ever been to Walt Disney World knows, it's a small world after all! I apologize for getting that song stuck in your head. But there is a lot of truth in that statement.

While the world is huge, our connections often make it much smaller. Take for instance the story of Bill and Audrey Cowley and me. You can find their story on page 2.

Dr. Cowley taught me in the religion department at Samford University in my undergraduate days. I never knew he was a graduate of UF and I bet he didn't know I had left SU and ended up as the BCM director here at UF! He and Audrey even came to my wedding. I

remember, he doesn't!

I had no way of knowing the influence of the BCM would come full circle back in 1982. But the Lord did!

My guess is that you have had similar occurrences through the years. You start talking about your days at UF with a fellow Alum and before you know it you know someone who knew someone who knew you!

UF is a big school. That's no secret. But it's the relationships you make through the BCM and other campus organizations that give meaning to your college experience after you graduate.

So let us know how you are connected to the BCM. Who invited you to your first BCM or BSU event? How did you connect with the director or fellow student leaders? Who have you stayed in contact with through the years?

Invite your friends and fellow BCM/BSU alumni to join you for the next Alumni gathering which will be Saturday, January 24th at 6:00 pm! If you can make it to Gainesville on Friday, the BCM will host it's annual talent show on the 23rd and we would love to have you join us for both events. Plan to stay and visit your old college church on Sunday!

Looking forward to connecting again with you!

Eddie

UP NEXT

Catching up with former president Lee Boushell 82-83 and specific projects that you can help sponsor to help us continue to share the gospel on the campus and around the world!

2015 Alumni Gathering

January 24, 2015

6:00 PM

Food, Stories, Laughter and a return of Volley Pong!

Bill '54 and Audrey Cowley

Dear Friends of UFBCM,

We have enjoyed both issues of the newsletter. I received my MA in 1954. A couple of weeks after that, Audrey Evans and I were married in the Chapel at the BCU (BCM) center. Ray Koonce performed our ceremony and he and Virginia were encouraging mentors, confidants and advisors. The reception was in the Fellowship Hall. Ray Koonce was the State Director of BSU. Audrey was his Associate as well as Director of UFBSU.

After our wedding we went to Georgetown College, KY where Audrey was BSU Director and I taught in the Speech Department. At the end of a year, we were appointed as educational missionaries to Nigeria where we served for 23 years. During that time our two daughters were born and we established a secondary school which continues to be one of the best in the country. Over several years, I completed requirement and received my PhD from Michigan State University.

After our daughters completed high school in Nigeria, we followed them to Samford University in Birmingham, AL from which they both are graduates. I was a Professor in the Speech and Religion Departments for 16+ years and was given the Buchanan Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching upon nomination by students the first year of my eligibility. Audrey served several years as Treasurer of national Woman's Missionary Union. We were active in student affairs, especially that of MKs (the children of missionaries). We accompanied students on many mission trips, were surrogate parents, performed many weddings and helped train many for ministry and missions as well as other professions.

Our older daughter is a physician in a VA clinic about 20 miles from where we live. Our younger daughter is married to an attorney who is a graduate of Samford and Cumberland School of Law. They live about three miles from us and are the parent of our two grandchildren, both of whom are Samford graduates, have their Masters' from University of Alabama, and are CPAs. Our grandson is married to a Samford grad and they live and work in Washington, DC. Our granddaughter lives in Birmingham, is married to a Samford faculty member who is also organist of their church.

Since retirement, we have continued our interest in and commitment to missions. We have been privileged to travel widely as tourists whose journeys invariably became mission mini-trips, giving us friends all over the world. We have volunteered for tasks in our church and helped the church establish and maintain a partnership with Chapel of the Snows, Antarctica.

Less than perfect health prevents our traveling as much as in the past. However, the Lord keeps life interesting and vital by leading us into close relationships with a number of Muslims and with many disabled persons with whom we share the use of the fitness facilities of Lakeshore Foundation where Olympians and Paralympians train. (No, we don't hope to be either of these!)

We are pleased and humbled by two honors which have recently come to us: both a building at the school we founded in Nigeria and a Samford scholarship to benefit MKs have been named for us.

We are thankful to have shared with you the blessings of UFBCM.



Who do you know that would love to get a copy of the Legacy? Send us your friends and classmates email addresses or mailing addresses to ufbcm@ufbcm.org. We really want to expand our Alumni base and you are our most valuable asset in that effort.

Jim Stoutamire '99

I grew up and was saved at a small town Methodist Church, outside of Tallahassee, FL. It was a church that was very welcoming and very friendly and open.

My very first Monday morning class at UF in 1995, God put me right next to an active member of the BCM. It wasn't long and he was inviting me to the BCM. I was hesitant at first, but very quickly found that I didn't find that same welcoming and friendly environment that I grew with at other organizations in town. So I told him I would like to come. I instantly felt at home, especially when I met then Director Otto Spangler and his famous "hello beloved" and saw that warm smile.



I made many friends while at UF through the BCM. It was a daily part of my life. I couldn't wait to get there and see what was going on and check in on friends or just to have a place to sit, study, pray, or play many games of ping pong and pool. I especially have fond memories of the BCM Football Game Block and celebrating all of those victories in the Swamp. We were undefeated at home during my time there.

Shortly after attending regular BCM functions, I began attending Fellowship Baptist Church in High Springs, FL where I was later baptized. After I graduated in 1999 with a degree in Electrical Engineering I began working at Tampa Armature Works in Tampa, FL. I started attending Bell Shoals Baptist Church in 2004 where I met my wife Melissa. We have two children, Emily age 7, and Ethan age 5.

I was first introduced to mission work through the BCM. Since then, God has allowed me to go to Haiti and I'm going to Cuba in November doing door to door evangelism. God has also allowed me to serve Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, FL as a Deacon for the last several years.

Words alone can't describe how the BCM changed my life and affected me in so many positive ways and how God has used me to share the Gospel to so many others. All because one young man invited a stranger on the first day of class to the BCM! I encourage everyone I meet who's going to college or who is about to go to college to get plugged into a place like the BCM and to invite others. May God Bless you and Go Gators!

Well Done Good and Faithful Servant!

Paul Truett Langston, organist and composer, who served as the Dean of the School of Music at Stetson University from 1963-1985 and continued as Professor of Music until his retirement in 1993 when he was named Professor and Dean Emeritus until his death in 2012 was a 1950 graduate of the University of Florida and the BCM.

After graduating from UF he earned a Masters of Church Music from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Sacred Music from the Union Theological Seminary. He also studied with Nadia Boulanger at the Conservatoire Americaine in Fontainebleau, France. His compositions include pieces for organ, solo voice, choir; his oratorio *Petros* premiered in DeLand in 1983.

Before coming to Stetson Dr. Langston served as organist-choirmaster at St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina from 1953-1960.

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Century of Ministry Club

We've reached the \$150,000 mark in the Otto Spangler Director's Fund and we received gifts last year to get the Mission's Fund started. We are praising the Lord that we are on our way to reaching the 3.6 million dollars that we need to fully endow the three funds to help us hire a full-time associate director, provide scholarships for mission trips, and to provide for major renovations of the BCM facility.

If the BCM/BSU impacted your life in a significant way, would you pray about joining in this campaign to meet these needs prior to our Century of Ministry celebration in 2017? If you need some help in deciding the best way to give for your family, let us know. We have experts in the field that have agreed to help structure your giving and can provide valuable advice on how to give generously to this campaign. Please contact Eddie if you would like to take advantage of this service.

Century Club Levels

Gators Level

\$100 total gifts by '17—100 (4) members

Baby Gators Level

\$1000 total gifts by '17—100 (2) members

Mama Gators Level

\$10,000 total gifts by '17—50 members

Papa Gators Level

\$100,000 total gifts by '17—10 (1) members

Big Gators Level

\$1,000,000 total gifts by '17—2 members

You can also create your own level anywhere along the scale as the Lord leads!

Leave a legacy for the next generation of students who will call the BCM their home base for ministry during the next Century of Ministry! Let's do our part to provide a perpetual source of income for the future students to be able to reach and impact the world for Christ from The University of Florida and Santa Fe College! Send Eddie an email at eddie.gilley@ufbcm.org to claim your membership in the Century of Ministry Club today!