

**SEWANEE: THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH  
2008-2009 REPORT TO  
THE DIOCESE OF ATLANTA**

**College of Arts & Sciences enrollment from the Diocese of Atlanta for the 2008-2009 academic year:** 121 students, 36 of whom report themselves to be Episcopalians.

**School of Theology enrollment from the Diocese of Atlanta for the 2008-2009 academic year:** 9 students, 6 of whom were in the summer Advanced Degrees Program.

**2008-2009 Financial aid awarded to all undergraduate students from the Diocese of Atlanta:** \$1,712,247.00

**2008-2009 Amount of support from Atlanta churches and the Diocese of Atlanta:** \$4,985.00

**Governing board representatives from Atlanta:**

*Board of Regents*

The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Sr., D.D.

*Board of Trustees*

The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Sr., D.D.

The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Assistant Bishop

The Rev. C. Dean Taylor (2010)

Steve Burnett (2011)

John Ford (2009)

**School of Theology Programs Center information for Atlanta:**

Education for Ministry (EfM) groups: 47

EfM Diocesan Coordinator: Ms. RuthElizabeth Conine, [reconine@gmail.com](mailto:reconine@gmail.com),

**About Sewanee**

The University of the South, popularly known as Sewanee, is home to both an outstanding liberal arts college and a seminary of the Episcopal Church. Located atop the Cumberland Plateau between Nashville and Chattanooga, Tenn., Sewanee's 13,000-acre campus — the second largest campus in the United States — provides vast opportunities for research, recreation, and reflection. Within the traditionally strong curriculum of humanities, sciences, and graduate theological studies, Sewanee faculty members promote intellectual growth, critical thinking, and hands-on research. According to its mission statement, Sewanee “is an institution of the Episcopal Church dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom in close community and in full freedom of inquiry, and enlightened by Christian faith in the Anglican tradition, welcoming individuals from all backgrounds, to the end that students be prepared to search for truth, seek justice, preserve liberty under law, and serve God and humanity.”

**Sewanee’s Relationship to the Episcopal Church**

The University of the South, an institution of the Episcopal Church, was founded by church leaders from the southeastern United States in 1857. Sewanee is the only

university in the nation that is owned and governed by dioceses of the Episcopal Church, specifically the 28 dioceses that are successors to the original founding dioceses.

The University's Board of Trustees is composed of the bishops of the 28 dioceses, together with clerical and lay representatives elected by each diocese and representatives of other University constituencies. The Board of Regents, to which the Board of Trustees delegates some of its responsibilities for governance, is composed of Episcopal bishops, priests, and lay people, and may include a limited number of members of other Christian bodies. The Chancellor of the University, elected by the Board of Trustees, is a bishop from one of the 28 dioceses. The historic ownership and governance of the University by these Episcopal dioceses has produced a living synergy of leadership, resource, and mutual support, enriching the Church and advancing the University's role in American higher education.

### **2008–2009 Statistics**

College of Arts and Sciences students: 1,483

Undergraduate Class of 2012: 409

SAT combined (middle 50% range): 1148-1360

ACT (middle 50% range): 26-30

High School GPA: 3.6

Female 52%, Male 48%

Student/faculty ratio: 11:1

Percentage of college students declaring Episcopal heritage: 34.9%

Majors offered (college): 36

Minors offered (college): 32

School of Theology residential students: 79

Newly enrolled students: 32

Returning students: 47

Female 33, Male 46

School of Theology summer graduate students: 61

Degrees offered (seminary): Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Theology, Master of Sacred Theology, Doctor of Ministry. Other programs: Diploma of Anglican Studies, Certificate of Theological Studies

University Fiscal Year July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009:

Unrestricted operating revenues: \$67.6 million

Endowment: \$246 million (June 30, 2009)

### **Finances and Academic Grants**

In the face of global financial turmoil, gifts and grants to the University declined in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Despite the economic setting, however, 8,403 alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends made gifts totaling over \$13.6 million to the University the South. Approximately \$3.2 million of this total was to the Sewanee Annual Fund. Episcopal church giving through the One Percent Program was \$311,374 from 203 parishes. The University's 2008-2009 operating budget was \$67.6 million.

Approximately 66 percent of revenue to the University comes from student-funded tuition, room and board, and fees.

Science faculty made renewed efforts to build its sponsored research program. Several faculty members in biology and chemistry submitted proposals (some of which are still being considered) and Robert Bachman, associate professor of chemistry, earned a \$276,000 grant for his research into advanced materials. The Jessie Ball duPont Fund continued to support the University's service-learning, innovative teaching, and social justice ministry programs. At the conclusion of The Sewanee Call Campaign, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation made a \$1 million challenge grant for environmental studies, for which the University must raise \$2 million to claim. Approximately \$800,000 has been secured, and new initiatives such as the Sewanee Environmental Institute and the Center for Religion and Environment have been initiated. Sustaining both efforts will require new gifts and grants, and the University is actively seeking support for its environmental programs.

The Cousins Foundation made a second grant to the School of Theology's Holy Land Pastoral Renewal Program in 2009. The Program offered 20 pastoral leaders a life-changing, vocation-renewing experience and enabled them to address three needs critical to pastoral life and practice:

- The need for community, fostered in orientation, a two-week pilgrimage to Israel, and reflection two months after our return.
- The need for sustainable habits of spiritual formation, to be explored in times of prayer and worship, personal quiet time, lectures, and assigned readings.
- The need to reclaim and sustain patterns of lifelong learning and discovery for clergy serving in an ever-changing ecclesial landscape.

## **University Financial Aid**

In the 2008–2009 academic year, approximately \$18.4 million was awarded in institutional financial aid to undergraduates. Sixty-eight percent of entering first-year students received aid, with almost half of those receiving need-based aid. Almost 66 percent of undergraduates received some form of aid, including University aid, scholarships, and other aid from all sources. Of the 198 graduate students at the School of Theology and the School of Letters, 67 percent received some form of financial assistance. The University strives to ensure that accepted students can afford a Sewanee education and that seminarians can graduate with as little education-related debt as possible.

## **Student Life**

Sewanee welcomed 409 first-year students in the fall of 2008, including another group of 10 academically motivated students from urban public high schools through the Posse Foundation program of financial assistance and peer support.

In November, Sewanee was one of five schools profiled in *USA Today* in a set of education articles about the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). *USA Today*, with a circulation of about 2.28 million, covers NSSE results every year and focuses each year on a different aspect of student engagement. In 2008, the story highlighted schools where students report high levels of faculty involvement outside of

class. Sewanee continues to exceed the norms of comparable colleges and universities on all NSSE measures.

The Office of Career Services annually sponsors "Beyond the Gates: Preparing for Life and Work After Sewanee," before the start of Easter semester. This year nearly 100 juniors and seniors had the chance to interact with dozens of alumni and parent volunteers during panel discussions, mentoring, practice interviews, workshops, and a business luncheon.

During the course of the year, research and internships offered students unique opportunities. Emily Feitl, Evey Gannaway, Wyatt Harper, and Hayley Robb were awarded prestigious Fulbright fellowships; Chris Tipler, Kendra Tippens, and Karimeh Moukaddem received highly competitive Critical Language Scholarships; Alexander Harris, Brandi Moore, and Ximeng Zhang were named Sewanee's first Carey Fellows; Emily Beeson and Laura Candler became Sewanee's 37<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> Watson Fellows; and Jordan Casey was awarded the school's 27<sup>th</sup> NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. Eleven students from Sewanee this summer explored vocations in ordained ministry or service with non-profit organizations as part of the eighth Summer Discernment Institute.

More than 40 percent of Sewanee students typically study abroad, and about 80 students participate each year in summer programs in places such as Bangladesh, China, France, Italy, Russia, and Spain.

Commencement weekend recognized the achievements of 360 graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and 39 seminarians from the School of Theology. The college's Class of 2009 has one of the highest four-year graduation rates in recent history, at 84%. More than 10 students were nominated for the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, Sewanee's highest honor, for character, leadership, and service to the University and the community. Charles (Chase) Spurlock III, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was recognized with the award for his service as student chief of the Sewanee Volunteer Fire Department and as chair of the Honor Council. The 2009 valedictorian was Wyatt Eugene Harper IV of Dickson, Tenn., and Cong Lu of Suzhou, China, was the salutatorian.

The School of Theology's Commencement and Crossing sent 39 men and women out into the church's mission. They had earned 36 degrees (20 Master of Divinity, five Master of Arts, three Master of Sacred Theology, and eight Doctor of Ministry) and three Diplomas in Anglican Studies. Of the five honorary degrees conferred during the weekend, two were conferred during the School of Theology commencement ceremony. Vincent Currie Jr., the administrator of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast in Pensacola, received an honorary Doctor of Canon Law, and the Rt. Rev. Lloyd Emmanuel Allen, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras, received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

This year's commencement marked a first for the University's fledgling School of Letters — the granting of Sewanee's first Master of Fine Arts degree to Tina Suzann Whipple of Shelbyville, Tenn. The School of Letters enrolled its first summer master's degree students in 2006.

In Sewanee athletics, 72 student-athletes were named to the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) Academic Honor Roll for their academic performance in the Easter

term, two more than last year. To be a member of the Honor Roll, a student-athlete must have a 3.25 GPA for the term in which they are competing. The Sewanee field hockey team earned its first SCAC Championship and its first NCAA Tournament bid in the 2008 season. Former All-ACC soccer player at Duke Patrick Johnston has been named head women's soccer coach after serving as one of the assistant coaches in 2008. Katy Caine has also been named head volleyball coach for the 2009 Tigers. Six alumni and a team were inducted into the Sewanee Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008: Yogi Anderson, C'72, Sophie Brawner Correll, C'83, Ryan Harrigan, C'98, Nathaniel Owens, C'70, the doubles team of Linnie Wheelless, C'95, and Kristin Ialaci Crane, C'96, and the 1958 Football Team.

The University's Outreach Office encourages students to find creative ways to give back to their communities. Mission trips, organized during 2009 Spring Break, took students to work on projects in the Gulf Coast states, Jamaica, Haiti, Costa Rica, and Ecuador. The work of Sewanee's campus ministries attracts about 25 percent of the student body.

## **Campus**

The dedication of Spencer Hall, a 49,000-square-foot addition to Sewanee's science facilities, was part of the 2008 Founders' Day celebration. William M. Spencer III, a 1941 Sewanee graduate, presented to the University the new facility named in his honor, which was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley Jr., Bishop of Alabama and Chancellor of the University.

Spencer Hall, with classrooms, laboratories and offices for chemistry, biology, biochemistry, and environmental science, both reflects and extends Sewanee's distinguished tradition of science instruction and research, expanding the physical space dedicated to scientific study while also making possible new scholarly opportunities for faculty and students. The sciences faculty has more than doubled in number since the existing science building opened, and their research is an increasingly collaborative enterprise that finds students learning in the field as well as the classroom, often by working side-by-side with faculty on research projects. Spencer Hall is expected to earn LEED Silver Certification.

Four alumni were honored during Homecoming 2008 on Oct. 25. The Distinguished Alumnus Award went to Philip Wilheit, C'66. The Distinguished Young Alumni Award was presented to Jason Forrester, C'93, and the Crawford Service Award was received by Nick Babson, C'68. The Distinguished Faculty Staff Award was awarded to Tam Carlson, C'63.

In an effort to broaden its applicant pool to students across a range of backgrounds, Sewanee took the step of making college entrance examinations optional for admission beginning with the freshman class entering in 2010. Prospective students, who in the past were required to submit SAT or ACT test scores as part of the admission process, may now decide not to submit the standardized test scores. Those who make that choice must instead submit a graded academic paper and complete an evaluative interview with a representative of the University. The University will test the program for five years and assess its success throughout the period.

The Sewanee Environmental Institute (SEI) was begun during 2008-09, and shows great promise for enhancing and expanding student opportunities associated with the Domain while also strengthening the University's reputation as a locus for environmental education and sustainability. This summer, its first, a Pre-College Field Studies Experience for talented rising high school juniors and seniors had more applicants than places in the program; 28 students from 13 states were enrolled in the inaugural year. The SEI also introduced three new intensive summer field courses for undergraduates.

Work started this summer on a renovation and addition to Snowden Hall, built in 1961. The changes will enhance Sewanee's forestry and geology resources and support the strategic plan to strengthen environmental education and sustainability. The building will more than double in size, to about 24,000 square feet, and will feature new labs, classrooms, resource rooms, research space, and faculty offices. The renovation is expected to be completed in summer 2010. Sewanee will pursue LEED Silver Certification for this facility.

During the summer of 2009, Sewanee created the Center for Religion and Environment, which connects the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Theology, and All Saints' Chapel in order to develop educational programs and public forums that unite environmental learning and action with faith practices.

### **Faculty and Administration**

In February, Vice Chancellor Joel Cunningham announced his plans to retire in June 2010. Cunningham's administration has been characterized by fiscal discipline and a commitment to strategic planning, which have allowed campus construction and renovation projects that have modernized Sewanee's learning and living environment. Careful management discipline and financial stewardship have helped the University remain fiscally sound despite the current worldwide economic crisis.

During Cunningham's tenure, Sewanee has enjoyed record applications to the College, growth in the influence and reach of the School of Theology, and increasing recognition as a leading national liberal arts university. Under his leadership, The Sewanee Call fundraising campaign came to a record-breaking conclusion in June 2008. Cunningham's announcement of his retirement next year will allow an orderly transition of leadership for the University. A nationwide search is being conducted for a new Vice Chancellor under the direction of a Search Committee chaired by Joel A. Smith, C'67.

Sewanee's Board of Regents approved the appointment of Samuel Williamson, former vice chancellor of the University, as University historiographer and Gerald Smith, religion professor and faculty marshal, as assistant historiographer.

Nicholas C. Babson, C'68, was appointed director of the Babson Center for Global Commerce. Babson played a leading role in conceiving and developing the Center and had served as acting director of the program since 2006. The Center brought entrepreneur and oilman T. Boone Pickens to campus for a day-long visit in April; he addressed packed rooms of students and community members on the topic of sustainable energy.

Sewanee's Executive Director of the Associated Alumni Jay Fisher, C'79, was appointed Acting Dean of Admission and Financial Aid when David Lesesne, who had served as Admission and Financial Aid Dean since 2001, left that position during the summer.

### **School of Theology**

Beginning the 2008-2009 academic year, the School of Theology welcomed 32 new students, bringing the total student body to 79 students representing 28 Episcopal dioceses. New student orientation featured a full week of activities introducing students to the seminary, the University, and the Sewanee community.

The 2008 DuBose Lecture series, Oct. 30-31, featured Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Bandy Distinguished Professor of Preaching and New Testament Emeritus, Candler School of Theology, Emory University. In three lectures, Dr. Craddock addressed "Preaching Jesus: Jesus in the Letter to the Hebrews." Dr. Michael Battle will deliver the 2009 lecture series on "Ubuntu: A worldview and spirituality for reconciliation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" on October 29-30.

Also in October, the faculty welcomed bishops from the owning dioceses for its annual dialogue. The 2009 conversation is scheduled for October 14, focusing on the role of three-year residential seminary education as preparation for priesthood.

In November, the School of Theology Visiting Committee focused on formation for priesthood. The 2009 meeting is scheduled for November 11-13, and will give its chief attention to the Programs Center's Education for Ministry (EfM) and the Advanced Degrees Program.

In January, the Education for Ministry program again collaborated with the Trinity Institute of Trinity Wall Street to participate in the webcast of the 2009 Trinity Institute National Theological Conference, *Radical Abundance: A Theology of Sustainability*. EfM facilitators led discussion groups as part of the conference. Sarah "Sissie" Wile continued serving as interim EfM director while the search continues for a director. Wile has served EfM as a mentor and trainer, as trainer-in-residence, and as assistant EfM director. A strategic planning team, which began working together in June 2008, has sought to discern the ways EfM will move into the future, and submitted a draft of a strategic plan to the University.

In February, "Sewanee: Come and See" hosted several dozen prospective seminarians. The annual preview weekend offers people considering seminary an opportunity to experience community life, theological learning, and formation for ministry as they are lived out in the Sewanee context. Seminary students, faculty, and staff plan opportunities for their guests and their families to worship, attend classes, tour the campus, and get to know the seminary community. The 2010 Preview Weekend is scheduled for Feb. 25-28.

In April, University Chancellor the Right Rev. Henry Parsley, Bishop of Alabama, celebrated the Eucharist and consecrated the new outdoor altar (a gift of the Class of 2007) at the foot of the Chapel of the Apostles.

In May, the Rev. Dr. Robert Hughes, professor of systematic theology and Norma and Olan Mills professor of divinity, was named the inaugural recipient of a major new award

for scholarship in pneumatology, the study of the Holy Spirit. The Poullart Libermann Award in Pneumatology, created by Duquesne University, honors “the individual who has made the most significant scholarly contribution to the area of pneumatology in the preceding five year period.”

In June, the School of Theology hosted “Does It Fit?”, the first nationwide vocational discernment conference for young people of color, sponsored by the Ethnic Ministries offices and the Pastoral Leadership Search Effort of the Episcopal Church Center. About 40 young adults attended the four-day event, which was made possible by a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation intended to expand initiatives in promoting diversity within the seminary community.

Sewanee once again participated this year in the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, with strong representation in Anaheim including staff members and alumni, the Vice Chancellor, Provost, Chaplain, and Dean of the School of Theology. The University hosted a dinner for approximately 75 alumni and friends, which included remarks by Chancellor Parsley.

Two pillars of the seminary faculty retired this year. Noted scholar and author the Rev. Dr. Donald S. Armentrout retired Dec. 31 as professor of church history and historical theology, the Charles Quintard Professor of Dogmatic Theology, and director of the Advanced Degrees Program. Professor and author Dr. Joseph E. Monti, professor of Christian ethics and theology, retired from the faculty June 30 after 27 years of service. Three new members joined the faculty on July 1. Dr. Paul Holloway was appointed associate professor of New Testament, the Rev. Robert MacSwain was appointed instructor of Theology and Christian Ethics, and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin King was appointed assistant professor of Church History. The Rev. Dr. William F. Brosend II is now serving as director of the Advanced Degrees Program.

### **For More Information about the University**

[www.sewanee.edu](http://www.sewanee.edu)

<http://theology.sewanee.edu/>