



## THE PROJECT

Dober Lidsky Mathey (DLM) collaborated with Davis Architects, Inc. (DAI) to prepare a comprehensive campus master plan for Samford University in Homewood, Alabama, just south of Birmingham. DLM led the team, working with Samford participants to articulate current and future needs, and develop solutions for meeting those needs. DAI, who has worked closely with the University since the 1950's assisted as a full partner in the planning, preparing campus and building analyses and conceptual solutions to the wide variety of Samford's planning initiatives.

## CHALLENGE

Samford is a 5,000-student university focused on providing an exceptional residential liberal arts undergraduate experience with an array of professional schools preparing masters and PhD candidates for careers in law, health sciences, business, education, arts, and ministry. The challenges of the planning included:

- Projecting space needs and recommending essential expansion projects to accommodate Samford's planned enrollment growth to 7,500 students
- Integrating a newly-acquired adjacent campus designed in a modernist style with Samford's wonderfully strong and elegantly-detailed Georgian Colonial historic campus
- Physically enhancing and rethinking space assignments in existing buildings to improve functionality and increase efficiency

## SOLUTION

A key element of the planning study was updating, extending and enhancing key institutional planning data to meet Samford's planning agenda:

- The campus base map needed to incorporate the newly-acquired acreage
- A uniform set of core building floorplans was prepared for accessible, easily understood building layout and room numbering

## REFERENCE

Harry B. Brock III  
 Executive Vice President  
 205 726 4071  
 bbrock@samford.edu

- Using the floor plans, a space-by-space facility inventory was created to support in-depth space allocation, utilization and needs analysis

With these tools, DLM conducted a wide-ranging series of interviews with Samford faculty, administrative, and student life staff, that informed a comprehensive space needs assessment while DAI prepared an analysis of the physical campus. Synthesizing these analyses, the team prepared several conceptual plan options diagramming campus development choices. These were presented to the plan steering committee and shared in a series of well-attended community forums designed to stimulate feedback from groups of faculty, staff, students, and neighbors.

Comments from all groups were essential in refining and focusing the alternatives, ultimately resulting in a preferred concept. The key recommendations included:

- Significant reallocation and renovation of existing academic space to improve space quality and function while enhancing programmatic adjacencies
- Consolidating university classrooms in two central campus buildings to create a high-quality, contemporary learning environment for all students
- Major renovations to university center and recreation facilities
- New housing alternatives for freshmen, Greek life, and junior, senior and graduate student apartments

## RESULTS

Samford's Board of Trustees approved the plan in the fall of 2016, and initial academic building renovation designs are underway. Simultaneously, a new university capital campaign effort to fund further improvements is under development.

## PRINCIPAL IN-CHARGE

George G. Mathey, AICP  
 Study Director



**DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY**  
 CREATING CAMPUS SOLUTIONS