



JUNE 2023 | EDITION 10, VOLUME 2

# THE GENERAL TIMES

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter

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BIBLE SCHOOL

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST ALUMNI, THE CLASS OF 2023

*by Alumni Director Julie Dykes*

Commencement exercises were held for the Georgia Christian School Class of 2023 on Friday, May 26, 2023, at the Lacy Elrod Gymnasium at 7 p.m. Friends, family, and community members gathered to watch the twenty-two members of the class graduate. Former GCS teacher and coach Austin Morrison gave the commencement address, in which he talked about the importance of putting Christ first in your life and making decisions that will honor your commitment to God.

The Salutatorian of the Class of 2023 is Miss Emily Hernandez. In her address, Emily talked about how she came to be a student at Georgia Christian, her initial reluctance to open up, make friends, and connect, and how, little by little, she came to value the differences that GCS had to offer her.

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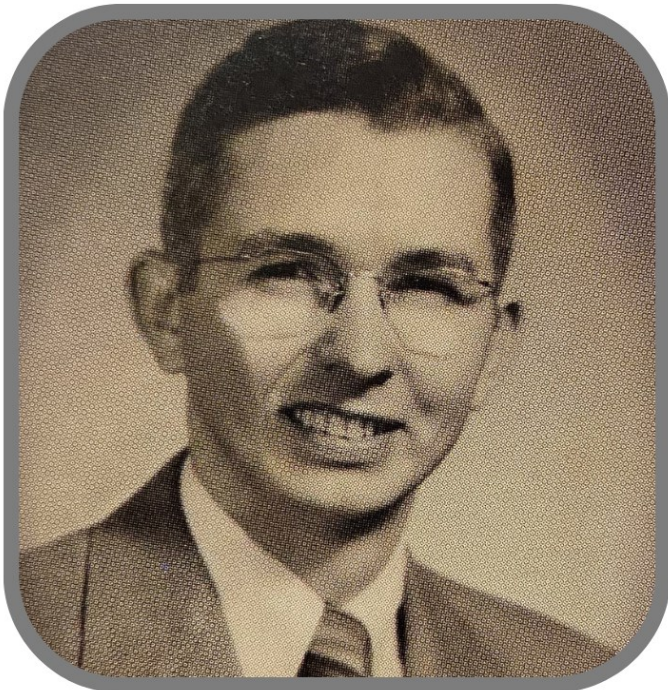
**BRATHWAITE RECEIVES  
ALUMNI AWARD**



## CLASS OF 2023 (CON'T)

In his address, the Valedictorian of the Class of 2023, Mr. Reagan Lawson, defined the three features of good character: integrity, humility, and empathy coupled with compassionate action. He went on to describe individuals and examples that illustrate those three features of good character and encouraged the members of his class to strive to develop those in their lives beyond Georgia Christian.

This year, for the first time, the senior class was given the opportunity to join the "1914 Society". This gave them their first-year membership in the Alumni Association at a special rate while they were still students at GCS, allowed them to wear a special royal blue cord at graduation, and provided them each with a *Centennial Memory Book* from the school. Nineteen out of twenty-two class members joined the 1914 Society this year



## PRESIDENTIAL GIVING CLUB MEMBERS

~President J.P. Prevatt ('15) Level - \$100/month (\$1200/year)  
Cynthia Watts ('65)

## PRESIDENTIAL GIVING CLUB UPDATE

The Presidential Giving Club is one of the newest and easiest ways to give back to Georgia Christian School. It allows you to "set it and forget it". You choose your level, make a commitment, and FACTS Giving does the rest. For as little as the cost of that Starbucks cup of coffee each month, you can help make a difference at GCS! Your gift can really add up!

~President W.O. Norton ('39) Level - \$75/month (\$900/year)

~President Lacy Elrod ('46) Level - \$50/month (\$600/year)

~President Prewitte "Brother C" Copeland ('53) Level - \$25/month (\$300/year)

Dr. Sondra Wilcox ('54)

Julie Dykes (Faculty/Staff)

Michelle Iturralde (Faculty/Staff)

~President William J. Long ('61) Level - \$15/month (\$180/year)

ALUMNI NEWS

**1984**

LEGARY CARTER - graduated University of Alabama, Doctorate of Nursing Practice

**2006**

CHARLIE & CHAELI NELSON WISENBAKER - expecting a new baby & new business (Wisnaker Lawn Care LLC)

**2009**

TRAVIS CARTER - new business (State Line Outdoor Services, LLC)

**2012**

REBEKAH SWILLEY ANGLEA - expecting a new baby

CASEY ALLEY GREENE - recipient of the Robert Warde Chambers Teacher Scholarship

**2014**

LAUREN REDSHAW HARRINGTON - celebrating 5-year anniversary with Citizens Community Bank

MATTHEW OKOLICHANEY married KACIE KIEFFER 5/27

**2018**

COURT HAMBRICK - graduated Faulkner University

LOGAN HORNSBY - graduated Faulkner University & married MALLORY BLACK 4/23

**2019**

ANNIE EILDERS - graduated Valdosta State University, Speech & Language Pathology

KATIE GUEST - Top Sales & Design Associate, Rugs A Bound, April & May

ANSLEY HILL married GABE PARKER 4/22

KRISTY MENDOZA - graduated Georgia Southern University, Diagnostic Medical Sonography

**2020**

ROSA SANCHEZ ALVARADO - Dean's List, Berry College

BRITTNI MOORE - engaged to CANNON ALEXANDER

CASSIE PARTIN - inducted into the National Organization for Human Services, Tau Upsilon Alpha & graduated University of the Cumberland

BAILEY WARREN - graduated University of Georgia

**2023**

BRAYLON BLACK - pursuing a career in the Electrical Field

SETH COPELAND - attending Faulkner University to play baseball; pursuing a degree in Biology

CORBIN EVANS - pursuing a career in the Electrical Field

EMILY HERNANDEZ - attending Georgia Tech, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

AUSTIN KNAPP - pursuing a degree in Exercise Science

REAGAN LAWSON - accepted appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point

LEXI LEWIS - attending Freed-Hardeman University to play soccer

KATIE MOSS - attending Valdosta State University

KATIE MULLINS - attending Valdosta State University; received Chick-fil-A Leadership Scholarship

JENNA PLYMEL - attending Valdosta State University, majoring in Business Management

HEIDI ROWAN - attending Georgia Military, then Georgia Southern-Armstrong Campus, pursuing a degree in Sonography

KADEN SANDERS - attending Valdosta State University, pursuing a career in Exercise Science

AINSLEY TUCKER - attending Wiregrass Georgia Technical College pursuing a degree in Nursing

AUSTIN VAN AUSDALL - pursuing a career in Real Estate

LINDSEY WARREN - attending Georgia Southern, majoring in Marketing



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

\*Geraldine McLeod Thompson '47  
 \*Sarah Copeland '48  
 Patricia Dicks Lester '49  
 William J. Long '51  
 \*Pat Avants Bishop '53  
 Jo Williamson Guest '53  
 Dr. Sondra E. Wilcox '54  
 Paul E. Harris '55  
 Martha Harris '55  
 \*Donna Harvey McLeod '55  
 Barbara Wisenbaker Colson '56  
 \*Jimmy Hightower '57  
 \*Mary Jean Wisenbaker Armstrong '58  
 Julian (Jubie) Copeland '58  
 James (JC) McMullen '58  
 \*William Udell '59  
 \*Harold W. Graham '60  
 \*Charlie Copeland '62  
 \*Charles (Termite) Phillips '63  
 Judy Jensen McMullen '65  
 \*Elaine Graham Stacy '65  
 Cynthia Jean Watts '65  
 \*Lynda Wilkins Lawlor '66  
 Brenda Darwin Johnson '67  
 Frankie Johnson '67  
 \*Ellen Conway Williams '67  
 \*Tommy Williams '67  
 Ron Copeland '68  
 Andrew Sykes '68  
 \*Joan Andrews Winn '68  
 Mike Black '69  
 Patsy Hamm Black '69  
 \*Ben Vick '70  
 \*Jamie Copeland '71  
 \*Gayle Sterling Lightsey '72  
 Donna Darwin Batchelor '73  
 \*Lisa Force Lang '74  
 Ginger Copeland Knowles '76  
 Russell Knowles '76  
 Cathy Guthrie Lee '76  
 \*Cindy Guthrie Horne '77  
 \*Mike Horne '77  
 Linda Carol Johnson Brown '78  
 Greg Brown '79  
 \*Kent Copeland '79  
 \*Tammie Davis Bobbit '79  
 \*Deland Guthrie '79  
 Clela Colson Eyre '80  
 \*Bonnie Barrett Guthrie '80  
 \*Philip Guthrie '80  
 \*Joey Redshaw '81  
 \*Elsa Copeland Barnes '82

\*Dottie Eckberg Redish '82  
 \*Connie Colson Guthrie '83  
 \*Lori Copeland Alley '84  
 \*Denise Wright Hammitt '84  
 \*Daphne DeWeese Warren '84  
 \*Donald Dawkins '88  
 \*Christy DeWeese Kilcrease '88  
 \*Jason Chesser '89  
 \*Lori Dawkins McGuire '90  
 Ellis Shiver '90  
 \*Jon Sykes '90  
 Alison Sykes Cartee '93  
 \*Michelle Bass Copeland '94  
 \*Audrey Strange Dawkins '96  
 \*Melissa Lee England '98  
 Nikki Copeland Warren '98  
 Sarah Fiveash Wickstrom '00  
 \*Rebecca Thornhill Garbutt '00  
 \*Terri Lee Orrell '00  
 Tony "Travis" Taylor, Jr. '00  
 \*Kristin Horne Blount '01  
 \*Vince Hamm '01  
 \*Leanne Jenkins Hood '03  
 Heather Cobb Johnson '03  
 \*Kristin Copeland Dykes '04  
 Lydia Thornhill White '04  
 \*Nicole Renfro Olbricht '05  
 \*Morgan Plyler Guthrie '05  
 \*Katie Colson Plyler '06  
 \*Nathan Renfro '06  
 \*ShaCourtney Thomas-Jenkins '06  
 \*Austin Plyler '07  
 \*Adam Guthrie '08  
 \*Sarah Copeland Lynch '09  
 \*Pamela Brown Kimbrell '10  
 \*Georgia Thomson '11  
 \*Augusta Guthrie '12  
 \*Keaton Bentley '15  
 \*Morgan Sykes '15  
 \*Erin Copeland Swlley '16  
 \*Lauryn Russell '17  
 \*Lindsey Sykes Redmon '17  
 \*Emmy Copeland '18  
 \*Hunter Cardin '19  
 \*Katie Guest '19  
 Grant Copeland '20  
 Kylie Greene Cardin '20  
 Evan Copeland '21  
 \*Karsyn Black '22  
 Drew Horton '22  
 Christian Powell '22  
 Tiffany Taylor '22

Braylon Black '23  
 Clancey Carter '23  
 Seth Copeland '23  
 Casey Crowder '23  
 Corbin Evans '23  
 Emily Hernandez '23  
 Austin Knapp '23  
 Reagan Lawson '23  
 Lexi Lewis '23  
 Katie Moss '23  
 Katie Mullins '23  
 Jenna Plymel '23  
 Heidi Rowan '23  
 Kaden Sanders '23  
 Ainsley Tucker '23  
 Austin Van Ausdall '23  
 Liz Walden '23  
 Lindsey Warren '23  
 \*Brad Lawson President  
 James Lee Faculty  
 Carol Naylor Copeland Faculty  
 Carol J. McLeod Faculty  
 Julie Dykes Faculty  
 \*Michelle Iturralde Faculty  
 Robert Jeffords Faculty  
 Teresa Jeffords Faculty  
 Kim Moss

**GCS NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Did you know that a named scholarship can be created for as little as \$10,000? See pg. 6 of this newsletter for more details...*

- ~Coppage/Lester Scholarship (Established '22)
- ~Jack & Gwen Brogden Scholarship (Established '20)
- ~Tom & Lynn Walker Scholarship (Established '18)
- ~Mary L. Landis Scholarship (Established '16)
- ~Paul & Adene Baldwin Scholarship (Established '16)
- ~Adam McSween Scholarship (Established '16)
- ~Mary Louise Black Scholarship (Established '15)
- ~Dr. Donald P. Jouvenaz Scholarship (Established '00)
- ~Earl Edge Scholarship (Established '00)
- ~George & Eunice Copeland Scholarship (Established '99)
- ~Ray Jerkins Scholarship (Established '98)



## BRATHWAITE RECEIVES ALUMNI AWARD

The Paula Jo Carpenter Alumni Service Award has been created to honor the Georgia Christian School alum who exemplifies the following characteristics: service to the school, a love for its history as well as for its current students, and a commitment to ensuring its mission continues into the future. The award was named after Paula Jo because she embodied those qualities. Most of her academic career was spent right here at Georgia Christian. She left Dasher only to attend college, then returned here to teach for the entirety of her career, which was cut tragically short due to cancer.

The recipient of the 1st Annual Paula Jo Carpenter Alumni Service Award could not illustrate those characteristics more brilliantly. A 1983 graduate of Georgia Christian, he was a dorm kid to whom Dasher was more than just a school, it was home. Like Paula Jo, he, too, left Dasher to attend college, then returned here to teach. In a 2014 letter sent to alumni and friends, he said, "Having been a Christian for only two years before coming to the school, those four years [at Georgia Christian] also gave me the foundation of what it meant to be a disciple of Christ. Georgia Christian School has been the one constant factor in my life; it has been an anchor and a lighthouse; a reason for hope and faith. Faith in the knowledge that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Mr. Jorge Brathwaite taught History, Government, and Economics at Georgia Christian from 1990 to 2015. It was through his efforts that the soccer program at Georgia Christian began and flourished and he continues to work with it as an assistant coach with Coach Colson and to help out regularly with the Turf class and the upkeep of the football and soccer field. It is our privilege to award the 1st Annual Paula Jo Carpenter Alumni Service Award to Mr. Jorge Brathwaite.

Mr. B was honored at the Annual Soccer Alumni game on Thursday, June 1.



Generals baseball also continued their tradition of an Alumni game this year on Saturday, May 20.







## GCS: A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

Georgia Christian School has survived for 100 years because good people have been willing to give of their means. GCS has been the setting for countless memories of so many people throughout the world. As we stand on the shoulders of those who helped us get this far, we need your help to continue our founders' mission. When you give to our Annual Fund Endowment, our Scholarship Endowment, or towards a capital project, you can be sure that your donation is going to impact children's eternal destiny!

The Betty Louis Draughon Scholarship Endowment was established in 1996 in order to provide annual scholarships to students in need. Since then, several named scholarships have been added to the endowment. If you have wondered how you can help Georgia Christian School continue providing a Christian foundation, please consider a named scholarship. For a minimum gift to the Scholarship Endowment, a plaque of the named scholarship and date established will be added to the recognition piece in the lobby of the high school building. See page 4 of this newsletter for a list of named scholarships currently in place at GCS.

When you give to the Misty Hardin Annual Fund Endowment, you are ensuring that we can keep our tuition affordable, increase our teachers' pay and keep our programs up to date with technology and quality facilities. Our donors expect us to be good stewards of the gifts we receive.

The short and long-range plans of the GCS Board of Directors ensure that we continue to "live within our means" as we grow the school. Your gift will ensure the long-term viability of Georgia Christian School. Knowing the impact that the school has had over the last century, you can be a part of the next 100 years of impacting lives for Christ.

There are several ways to donate to the Misty Hardin Annual Fund Endowment. While cash gifts are the simplest and most common form of giving, gifts of real estate, securities, or insurance are also ways to donate. All of these provide potential tax-deductible savings. This can be accomplished through your estate planning as well.

You may also choose to donate towards capital projects. As improvements are made to the school via capital projects, they are only made possible through the generosity of donors like you. The vision of our leadership has provided measured guidance on our growth capabilities, and every dollar that we raise brings that vision closer to reality. You may learn more about our Strategic Planning for the school by visiting the About Us Tab on the school website, [www.georgiachristian.org](http://www.georgiachristian.org), then clicking on Master Plan.

Memorial donations can be made online in memory of someone who has passed on or in honor of someone still with us. On the school website, [www.georgiachristian.org](http://www.georgiachristian.org), click on the Giving Tab and follow the link to Online Giving to find out more.

