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# THE GENERAL TIMES

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter



## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST ALUMNI, THE CLASS OF 2024

*by Alumni Director Julie Dykes*

The Class of 2024 graduated on Friday, May 24, and were the first class in which one hundred percent became members of the 1914 Society (what we call the alumni association before you graduate) as seniors. That is quite an accomplishment! For their efforts, they have been rewarded with a class time capsule, which will be opened in twenty years. We hope this becomes a tradition with every class!



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Speaking of traditions, we welcomed the Class of 2024 into the ranks of the Alumni Association with an Ice Cream Social on the Saturday before graduation. It was a great time to look back over the activities of the past year and to think about where GCS is heading. We hope to continue the Ice Cream Social as an annual event and hope you can join us every year.

We also awarded the 2nd Annual Paula Jo Carpenter Alumni Service Award at the Ice Cream Social. The Paula Jo Carpenter Alumni Service Award was 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.

The recipient of this year's award is Jon Sykes. A 1990 graduate of Georgia Christian, he was the second generation of his family to attend the school. Like Paula Jo, he, too, left Dasher to attend college, then returned here, where he volunteered, coached basketball, and served on the Georgia Christian Board of Directors for 14 years. Jon has been instrumental in developing and driving Georgia Christian's Strategic Planning process, which has taken our school through an astonishing number of improvements in the last ten years. He also took a major role in helping us establish our Annual Benefit Dinner as the premier fundraising event in the southeast. Along with his wife, he has raised three Christian daughters who are Georgia Christian and Faulkner University alumni.



## PRESIDENTIAL GIVING CLUB MEMBERS

~President J.P. Prevatt ('15) Level - \$100/month (\$1200/year)  
Cynthia Watts ('65)  
Cleta Colson-Eyre ('80)  
Kevin Pittman (Board)

## PRESIDENTIAL GIVING CLUB UPDATE

The Presidential Giving Club is one of the easiest ways to give back to Georgia Christian School. You choose your level, make a commitment, and FACTS Giving does the rest. Your gift can really add up! On the GCS website ([www.georgiachristian.org](http://www.georgiachristian.org)), just choose the Giving tab, then click on the Donation link, choose your level, and you're all set! And did I mention that your President Giving Club Gift takes the place of your Alumni dues? It does! You never have to worry about your membership expiring again! Join today...

~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)  
Sarah K. Copeland ('48)  
Julie Dykes (Faculty/Staff)  
Michelle Iturralde (Faculty/Staff)  
Dr. Brad Lawson (President)

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

**IN LOVING MEMORY**

PAUL E. HARRIS ('55)  
SALENA LEWIS MILLER ('99)

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**1999**  
TESSA GREENE CARDER - running for Lowndes County Board of Education District 5

**2003**  
WILLIS & LINDSAY SHEA COLSON - expecting a baby boy September, 2024

**2005**  
BRENTON DASHER - received a Master of Education in Education; Graduate Licensure Program, Secondary Education Licensure from the University of Alaska Fairbanks

**2010**  
SARA CONNELL HAMLETT - expecting a baby boy September, 2024

**2011**  
AUSTIN HOLTON & Aubrey - new baby boy Cohen

**2012**  
JORDAN GREENE - Valdosta Police's newest K9 handler

**2013**  
CHRISTIAN MOORE & Savannah Moore baby boy 3/25/2024 Tate Garner Moore

**2014**  
SAVANNA GREENE YANDEL - new business "Impulse Fitness" Park City, KS  
MATTHEW OKOLICHANY & wife Kacie expecting a baby girl September, 2024  
MORGAN MOORE PARKER - expecting a baby boy September, 2024  
MADISON LYNCH CLAYTON - expecting a baby girl this fall

**2015**  
MORGAN SYKES - new job Barrington Dairy  
MATT AUSTIN married Miranda Lynn Huff 3/16/2024  
BLAKE WINTERS - graduated Duncan School of Law, LMU; applying to take the Bar Exam

**2017**  
HUNTER BLACK & wife Kaytlin - expecting a baby boy

**2018**  
BRIANNA BOONE SANDLIN - new business "Brianna Sandlin Photography"  
LUKAS SMIDTAS - accepted to the Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University

**2019**  
GRACEY SHERLEY married John Leverett 3/9/2024 and started new business "White Lightning Photography"  
ABBY JONES - winner of "We Care" Team Member of the Month Award for January at Barnes Drug Store for her legendary customer service  
KATIE GUEST - March Top Sales & Design Associate Rugs A Bound

**2020**  
GRANT COPELAND - graduated Faulkner University with a degree in Biblical Studies; youth minister East Ridge Church of Christ, Chattanooga, TN  
ROSA ALVARADO - engaged to Cole McDaniel 3/22/2024; graduated from Berry College with a B.S. in Marketing  
BRITNI MOORE ALEXANDER - graduated from Faulkner University and married Cannon Alexander on 5/25/2024  
BROOKE MOORE - graduated from Faulkner University; will begin teaching at Georgia Christian 2024-2025 school year  
SAVANNAH WINTERS - graduated from UGA's Terry College of Business with an Economics degree

**2021**  
SABRINA CANADA - graduated from The University of Texas at San Antonio

**2022**  
EVIE HAZEL - spending the summer working with the girls at the Washington Ave Church of Christ in Evansville, IN

**2024**  
TRISTAN BUTLER - plans to join the workforce opening and operating a Doggy Daycare and Boarding facility  
STELLA COFIELD - attending Wiregrass Technical College with a career goal of becoming a Radiologist Technician  
TRISTAN CORBIN - attending VSU to major in Health Sciences  
NOAH CORBITT - attending VSU to major in Business  
DEACON HAZEL - attending Freed-Hardeman University to major in Biblical Studies  
KAYDEN HICKS - attending ABAC to major in Nursing  
JONAH HOUSER - attending VSU to major in Real Estate & Finance  
JAKE KILCREASE - currently enrolled in a real estate program through Wiregrass Technical College with a career goal of Computer Science  
MASIE KINSEY - attending VSU to major in Speech Pathology and minor in Business Administration  
KAYLEA NOLAND - attending VSU to major in Psychology  
MARIANA PALACIOS - attending VSU  
TANNER RAYFIELD - attending Faulkner University to major in Business  
ELLISON SHIVER - attending ABAC to major in Animal Science with hopes to attend auctioneering school as a hobby and side job while completing her degree  
WILL WISENBAKER - attending Wiregrass Georgia Technical College to learn Welding with plans to own a mobile welding rig in the future

## 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  
 \*Martha Harris '55  
 Donna Harvey McLeod '55  
 \*Barbara Wisenbaker Colson '56  
 Jimmy Hightower '57  
 \*Mary Jean Wisenbaker Armstrong '58  
 Julian (Jubie) Copeland '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  
 Elaine Black Dilbeck '69  
 \*Ben Vick '70  
 \*Jamie Copeland '71  
 \*Gayle Sterling Lightsey '72  
 \*Donna Darwin Batchelor '73  
 David Louis Branch, III '73  
 Cathy Cone Malone '73  
 Cleo "Tad" Williams '73  
 James Lee Naylor '73  
 Lisa Force Lang '74  
 Jason Wisenbaker '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  
 Clea 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  
 Norma Jean Peterson '86  
 Johnny Peterson '86  
 \*Donald Dawkins '88

\*Christy DeWeese Kilcrease '88  
 \*Jason Chesser '89  
 William D. Christie '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  
 Patience McMullen Lawson '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  
 Kristen Byers Hartman '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 Swilley '16  
 Allison Dasher '16  
 \*Lauryn Russell '17  
 \*Lindsey Sykes Redmon '17  
 \*Emmy Copeland '18  
 \*Hunter Cardin '19  
 \*Katie Guest '19  
 \*Grant Copeland '20  
 \*Kylie Greene Cardin '20  
 Kyla Watson '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  
 Destiny Alaniz '24  
 Helen Bundrick '24  
 Tristan Butler '24  
 Stella Cofield '24  
 Tristan Corbin '24  
 Noah Corbitt '24  
 Corbin Delk '24  
 AnaGrace Gunsolus '24  
 Deacon Hazel '24  
 Kayden Hicks '24  
 Jonah Houser '24  
 Levi Kelley '24  
 Jake Kilcrease '24  
 Masie Kinsey '24  
 Katelyn Kotterman '24  
 Makalyn Meyer '24  
 Mariana Munoz Palacios '24  
 Daniel Naylor '24  
 Linh Nguyen '24  
 Kaylea Noland '24  
 Tanner Rayfield '24  
 Kylynn Root '24  
 Hunter Shelton '24  
 Will Wisenbaker '24  
 Elle Shiver '24  
 Brad Lawson President  
 Kevin Pittman Board  
 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

### **\*Please renew your Alumni**

### **Association membership**

## Join the Alumni

## Association today!

- Annual  
Membership Dues:  
\$25
- Two-Spouse  
Alumni Rate: \$40
- Recent Graduates  
(within 4 years of  
graduation from  
GCS): \$10



## 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...*

- ~Lester/Coppage Family 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, Bill & Jan Tyler Scholarship (Established '20)
- ~Carl David, Jr. & Margarete K. Johnson Scholarship (Established '21)
- ~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)
- ~Jack & Gwen Brogden Scholarship (Established '20)

## GENERALS BASEBALL KICKS OFF THE SUMMER WITH ALUMNI GAME



God blessed us with beautiful weather and a great turnout for the annual Alumni baseball game. The original date was rained out, but that didn't deter any of our athletes from getting together the following weekend for food, fun, and fellowship. We hope you were able to join us for this wonderful occasion!

We want to inform you about a very exciting project. We are in the process of getting lights for the baseball field! I am reaching out to you in hopes of receiving ideas to help us fundraise and reach our goal of \$75,000. We have a plan in place to raise these funds over a three-year period and we need your help to make our dream become a reality! If you know anyone who would be interested in helping in any way, please share this information with them. Of course, if you would like to contribute to this project, any amount given would be greatly appreciated! We really believe this can help to elevate our program and help these athletes really have something to be proud of as they compete. I would love for you to be a part of it and know you helped push the program even further! Thank you for your support and investment in Christian education. Go Generals!

## And the Winner Is... GCS Alumni Challenge

Thank you to all of the GCS Alumni who gave as part of the GCS Alumni Challenge! It was a lot of fun, and we are closer than ever to our fundraising goal for the new high school.

There were a total of twenty-seven donations to the Alumni Challenge, and most of them far exceeded the \$100 goal. The total amount raised for the challenge was \$4,600. Two of the donations were designated as memorials.

The very first decade to participate in the Challenge was the 2010's. The very last decade to participate in the Challenge was the 1960's. Nearly every decade between the 1940's to present-day participated.

Now for the news that everyone has been waiting for, the greatest percentage participation by decade. We calculated the percent participation by the total number of class members who participated divided by the total number of class members who could have potentially participated, based on our current data. We wanted to allow both smaller and larger classes the chance to win the Alumni Challenge.

With 4% of the total alumni from their decade participating, the 1960's is the winner of the Alumni Challenge! We also received the greatest total number of donations and total dollar amount from the 1960's for the Alumni Challenge! Thank you to everyone who participated.

It's not too late to give! You may give using either of the methods below by scanning the IQD code using a QR Reader or by using the Venmo app, or by going to our website, [www.georgiachristian.org](http://www.georgiachristian.org), and clicking on Giving and New High School Campaign. We can't wait to hear from you!



Georgia Christian School  
@georgiachristian





## 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 Draughton 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.

