

JUNE 2025 | EDITION 12, VOLUME 2

THE GENERAL TIMES

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter



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DASHER
BIBLE SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST ALUMNI, THE CLASS OF 2025

by Alumni Director Julie Dykes

The Class of 2025 has officially graduated and joined the ranks of the Alumni Association. They were the second class to all join the 1914 Society while still seniors, so their 25-year Time Capsule awaits their journey into the future. We are so proud of all their successes, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for them.

There are twenty-four members of the class, nine girls and fifteen boys. Eight of them have been enrolled at Georgia Christian since Pre-K.



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WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2025

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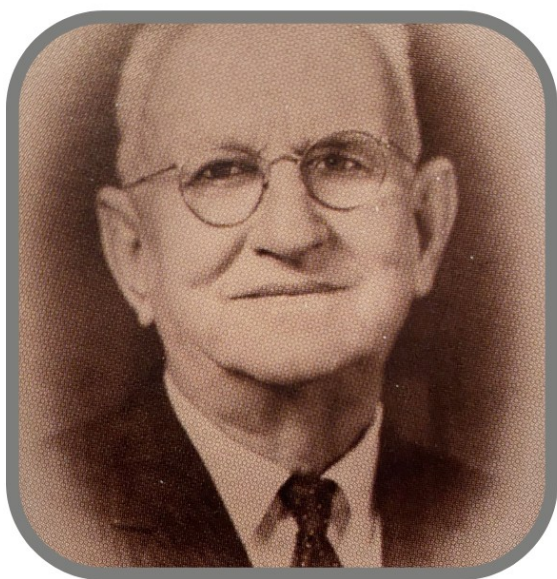
ALUMNI NEWS

GCS HONORS RETIREES AND FACULTY FOR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

The salutatorian of the class is Miss Presley Pittman and the valedictorian is Miss Maddie Mira. The class chose Bible teacher Mr. Doug Frazier as their commencement speaker.

The 2025 Mr. & Miss GCS, chosen by the faculty & staff, are Jett Guilliams and Jordan Barber. The 2025 Bible Award went to Mr. Jett Guilliams, as well.

For their class gift, the Class of 2025 donated the balance of their class account to establish the Georgia Christian School Alumni Scholarship Fund.



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), just choose the Giving tab, then click on the Donation link, choose your level, and you're all set! Or just click on the QR Code below to go directly to online giving. And did I mention that your Presidential 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)

Cole Shiver ('15)

~President Prewitte "Brother C" Copeland ('53) Level -

\$25/month (\$300/year)

Dr. Sondra Wilcox ('54)

Julie Dykes (Faculty/Staff)

Michelle Iturralde (Faculty/Staff)

Dr. Brad Lawson (President)

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

(\$180/year)

Deland ('79) & Bonnie Barrett ('80) Guthrie

Pat Lester ('49)



IN MEMORY OF
SARAH KATHERINE COPELAND (Class of 1948) - 3/17/25

ALUMNI NEWS

2004

CALEY STOKES EDWARDS was promoted to Scheduling Coordinator/Receptionist at Hester & Morris Orthodontist

2005

NICOLE RENFRO OLBRICHT named SMDG 2025 Civilian of the Year

2010

PAMELA BROWN KIMBRELL & husband Eric moving to Gray, Georgia to pursue new career opportunities

2012

CASEY ALLEY GREENE received her Specialist Degree from Valdosta State University

2013

CARLY BOSCH ANDERSON & husband Christian expecting a baby boy September, 2025

BAILEY BARRETT ELLIS & husband Randall expecting a baby girl in November, 2025

2020

BRITTNI MOORE ALEXANDER & husband Cannon expecting a baby in October, 2025

2021

AMELIA DAWKINS graduated Faulkner University

MICAH JAMES graduated Faulkner University

CHRISTIAN JOHNSON graduated Faulkner University

JACI BLACK graduated Faulkner University

2022

SARAH RUSSELL is engaged to Hunter Folsom

JENNA SYKES graduated Faulkner University and will go on to attend the University of St. Augustine for Health Services in the fall

PAIGE BASS is on the Dean's List at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

2024

KAYDEN HICKS is on the President's List at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

2025

JORDAN BARBER will attend Faulkner University in the fall as the recipient of a Zorn Scholarship; she plans to pursue a career in Christian Counseling

KAILA BARNEY will attend Wiregrass Georgia Technical College to study Radiologic Technology

OLIVIA BROWN will attend ABAC in the fall to major in Nursing

MAC BOWLING will attend VSU in the fall to pursue a career in Real Estate

TYSON COPELAND will attend VSU in the fall to pursue a degree in Marketing

GENTRY DEES has signed with Freed-Hardeman to play soccer; she plans to study Nursing

CONNER DOWNING plans to join the US Navy

LOGAN GUEST plans to work with his dad and eventually take over the family business, Guest Dirt Hauling

DAVEY GRIZZLE plans to attend Wiregrass Georgia Technical College to train to become an electrician

BENJI GALINDO plans to attend Georgia Southern University to earn his Business degree with plans to become an Accountant

BRICETEN GAINES plans to attend Georgia Southern University to study Accounting

JETT GUILLIAMS has signed with Faulkner University to play baseball; he plans to major in Accounting

ANDREW HUTCHESON plans to attend VSU and pursue his dream of becoming a writer

BELLA ITURRALDE plans to attend Georgia Southern to study Graphic Design

SAM JAMES plans to enter the workforce and travel the world

ROWAN LAWSON has signed with Harding University track & field

HANNAH LISSIMORE plans to attend VSU and study Psychology/Sociology

BO MILLER plans to attend South Georgia Technical College to attend Lineman School

MADDIE MIRA plans to attend the University of Georgia to study Elementary Education or Special Education

PRESLEY PITTMAN has signed with Freed-Hardeman to play soccer; she plans to study Nursing

CAMERON WHITE plans to attend Georgia Southern and major in Health & Physical Education

ELLIE LEWIS has signed with Freed-Hardeman to play soccer; she plans to study Nursing

WILLIAM WILSON is interested in possibly pursuing welding as a career option, but is pursuing all of his career options

FACULTY/STAFF

ROBERT JEFFORDS honored with the Hero Award by Valdosta City Schools

IF YOU HAVE NEWS, OR KNOW ANY NEWS ABOUT ALUMNI OF GEORGIA CHRISTIAN, PLEASE CONTACT US AT GCSALUMNI@GEORGIACHRISTIAN.ORG OR AT 229-559-5131 OR REACH OUT TO US ON SOCIAL MEDIA. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Geraldine McLeod Thompson '47
 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 Dillbeck '69
 *Ben Vick '70
 *Jamie Copeland '71
 *Gayle Sterling Lightsey '72
 Donna Darwin Batchelor '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
 Cleta 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
 Kaitlyn Williams Leblanc '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
 Jenna Sykes '21
 *Karsyn Black '22
 Drew Horton '22
 *Christian Powell '22
 *Tiffany Taylor Harris '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
 *Garrett McQuaig '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
 *Kyllynn Root '24
 *Hunter Shelton '24
 *Will Wisenbaker '24
 *Elle Shiver '24
 Jordan Barber '25
 Kaila Barney '25
 Mac Bowling '25
 Athen Bradford '25
 Olivia Brown '25
 Tyson Copeland '25
 Gentry Dees '25
 Conner Downing '25
 Briceten Gaines '25
 Benji Galindo '25
 Davey Grizzle '25
 Logan Guest '25
 Jett Williams '25
 Andrew Hutcheson '25
 Bella Iturralde '25
 Sam James '25
 Rowan Lawson '25
 Hannah Lissimore '25
 Ellie Lewis '25
 Bo Miller '25
 Maddie Mira '25
 Presley Pittman '25
 Cameron White '25
 William Wilson '25
 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**

GCS HONORS RETIREES & FACULTY FOR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE



It started with Lori Renfro Day on May 5, 2025. No, she's not retiring. But we couldn't let an incredible 30 years of service pass by without marking the occasion. At a special joint chapel service at Dasher, Dr. Lawson decreed it officially Lori Renfro Day in spectacular fashion. It was great to have her children Nicole Renfro ('05) Olbricht and Nathan ('06) Renfro as well as her husband, James, and many, many former Mrs. Lori babies join us for the occasion.

Next was Mr. David Nelson Day on May 13, 2025. After 34 years heading up the Bible Department at Georgia Christian, Mr. Nelson is retiring from teaching Bible. We honored Mr. Nelson after a joint chapel service at Dasher, again in spectacular fashion, sending him off to enjoy a Tennessee game on the school. We were so glad to have Mr. Nelson's wife Sheryl (former GCS faculty) and his son Benjamin ('08) for this occasion.

As announced at graduation, Mr. Nelson was also this year's *Pine Embers* annual dedication nominee for his loving heart and many years of service.



Mrs. Karen Dasher is also retiring this year. She has been teaching fourth grade for the past nine years. Prior to teaching with GCS, she was "Teacher of the Year" at Lake Park Elementary. Her love for students and educating them from a Christian perspective has made a lasting impact for generations!

We are so grateful to Mr. Roger Steis for his service to our school! Make no mistake about it, we wouldn't be where we are technologically speaking, without Roger Steis! Couple his talents with his heart for children and deep love of the Lord...it has been an absolute blessing. May God bless him in his well-deserved retirement.

Mrs. Miki Mole retired once from public school and liked it so much that she retired again from GCS! We were so fortunate to have her here for two years to teach middle school math! We hope you enjoy your second retirement, Mrs. Mole!

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)



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, 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, click on the Giving Tab and follow the link to Online Giving to find out more.

