

The General Times

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter

Congratulations to the Class of 2021



After spending a year getting used to COVID19 restrictions, graduation was an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and the successes of a senior year full of lessons and meaning.

The Class of 2021 chose as their commencement speaker Mr. Ronnie West, who often joins the school as a chapel speaker, substitute teacher, and bus driver. His message, based on Proverbs 3:5-6, encouraged the class to “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”

Echoing his sentiment was the speech of Salutatorian Amelia Dawkins, who spoke about “doing senior year in a

mask”, but also asking whether the world is ready for the class of 2021, and from Valedictorian Nhung Nguyen, who spoke more personally, telling of her culture shock in coming to the US from Vietnam. There are twenty-seven members of the Class of 2021.

Citizenship Awards were also given to Evan Copeland, with over 321 service hours and Micah James, with 173 service hours. The Class of 2021 collectively completed over 3000 service hours over the course of their high school careers. First and Second Honor Merit Awards were given to Bailee Taylor and Christian Johnson as the students with the next two highest grade point averages after the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The award of Mr. & Miss GCS, given to the senior young lady and gentleman considered to exemplify the qualifications and ideals of leadership in the areas of Christianity, scholarship, friendship, and service, were given to Christian Johnson and Jenna Sykes.

The first recipient of the James R. Lee Math Scholarship was awarded to Nhung Nguyen. Mr. James Lee was also named the recipient of the 2021 Pine Embers Dedication.

To minimize COVID-19 concerns, reserved seating was limited, and social distancing was encouraged. General admission seating was provided in the bleachers on a first-come, first-served basis. Graduation was live-streamed via social media for the general public.



Logun Nowell Award Given

The Logun Nowell Award was given to two deserving 8th graders who exemplify a positive attitude in athletics and being a friend. They were honored with this award by Athletic Director Coach Chuck Knapp at the year-end Middle School Athletic Awards. This year's recipients were Jett Guilliams and Jordan Barber.



When You Wish Upon a Star...

Sometimes the best way to mark a transition to a new phase of life is by visiting the mouse. Mickey Mouse, that is. Georgia Christian's eighth graders did just that, accompanied by Mrs. Shelley Hazel and Mr. Drew Copeland, to mark the end of their middle school career. Unable to visit



Washington, DC for their usual annual trip, Georgia Christian's seniors also headed down to Orlando for some time at Disney and Universal before graduation. Mrs. Lindsi Elliott and Mr. Jim & Mrs. Cathy Lee went along to chaperone. It is just what Mickey and Minnie ordered.



GCS Rotary Speech Update

In our last alumni newsletter, you read about Deacon Hazel's Rotary speech on how cancel culture does not pass Rotary's 4-Way Test. A freshman at GCS, Deacon's speech was awarded 1st Runner-Up at the local level, which allowed him to go on to compete at Rotary's Zone Competition for a \$1,000 prize. We are proud to announce that Deacon was the winner of the Zone competition! Congratulations, Deacon!

How can you help?

Since 1914, GCS has changed lives one at a time. But we need your help to secure the next 100 years. This can be done through planned giving. We have two endowments:

- Our Misty Endowment is the Annual Fund endowment that helps to bridge a gap between tuition revenue and operational costs each year.
- Our Betty Louis Draughon Scholarship Endowment provides needs-based scholarship to students
- Additionally, GCS continues to upgrade the campus with capital projects that are part of the Master Plan.

Contact the school with your questions.

Named Scholarship Program

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



Alumni Association Members: Did you attend GCS? Join or renew today!

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| *Cecil H. Phelps '47 | *Elaine Graham Stacy '65 | *Cleta Colson Eyre '80 | *Leanne Jenkins Hood '03 |
| *Geraldine McLeod Thompson '47 | *Lynda Wilkins Lawlor '66 | Bonnie Barrett Guthrie '80 | *Kristin Copeland Dykes '04 |
| Sarah Copeland '48 | Brenda Darwin Johnson '67 | *Philip Guthrie '80 | *Nicole Renfro Olbricht '05 |
| Patricia Dicks Lester '49 | Frankie Johnson '67 | *Joey Redshaw '81 | Morgan Plyler Guthrie '05 |
| William J. Long '51 | Cynthia Jean Watts '65 | *Elsa Copeland Barnes '82 | *Katie Colson Plyler '06 |
| Pat Avants Bishop '53 | *Ellen Conway Williams '67 | *Dottie Eckberg Redish '82 | *Nathan Renfro '06 |
| Jo Williamson Guest '53 | *Tommy Williams '67 | *Connie Colson Guthrie '83 | *Austin Plyler '07 |
| Ron McCurry '53 | Ron Copeland '68 | Lori Copeland Alley '84 | Adam Guthrie '08 |
| *Dr. Sondra E. Wilcox '54 | Andrew Sykes '68 | *Denise Wright Hammitt '84 | *Sarah Copeland Lynch '09 |
| Paul E. Harris '55 | *Joan Andrews Winn '68 | *Daphne DeWeese Warren '84 | *Pamela Brown Kimbrell '10 |
| Martha Harris '55 | Ben Vick '70 | *Donald Dawkins '88 | *Georgia Thomson '11 |
| *Wally Colson '55 | *Jamie Copeland '71 | *Christy DeWeese Kilcrease '88 | *Augusta Guthrie '12 |
| *Donna Harvey McLeod '55 | *Gayle Sterling Lightsey '72 | *Jason Chesser '89 | *Keaton Bentley '15 |
| *M.C. McLeod '55 | *Lisa Force Lang '74 | *Lori Dawkins McGuire '90 | *Morgan Sykes '15 |
| *Barbara Wisenbaker Colson '56 | Ginger Copeland Knowles '76 | *Jon Sykes '90 | *Erin Copeland '16 |
| *Jimmy Hightower '57 | Russell Knowles '76 | *Alison Sykes Cartee '93 | *Lauryn Russell '17 |
| *Mary Jean Wisenbaker Armstrong '58 | *Cathy Guthrie Lee '76 | *Michelle Bass Copeland '94 | *Lindsey Sykes '17 |
| Julian (Jubie) Copeland '58 | *Cindy Guthrie Horne '77 | *Audrey Strange Dawkins '96 | *Emmy Copeland '18 |
| James (JC) McMullen '58 | *Mike Horne '77 | *Melissa Lee England '98 | *Brad Lawson President |
| *William Udell '59 | *Linda Carol Johnson Brown '78 | *Nikki Copeland Warren '98 | *James Lee Faculty |
| *Harold W. Graham '60 | *Greg Brown '79 | *Rebecca Thornhill Garbutt '00 | Carol J. McLeod Faculty |
| *Charlie Copeland '62 | *Kent Copeland '79 | *Terri Lee Orrell '00 | Julie Dykes Faculty |
| *Charles (Termite) Phillips '63 | *Tammie Davis Bobbit '79 | *Kristin Horne Blount '01 | Michelle Iturralde Faculty |
| Judy Jensen McMullen '65 | Deland Guthrie '79 | *Vince Hamm '01 | |

Generals & Lady Generals Soccer Both End Seasons in Championship Bids

The Generals and Lady Generals soccer teams faced huge disappointment last year when their hopes for a season were dashed when COVID-19 closed down schools and sports. However, it did nothing to dampen the spirits of our soccer players this year, and they hit the field ready to make the most of their season. The Generals, coached by Willis Colson, played a huge season, recording on one loss. They also won the coveted “Georgia Christian Cup” at the GCS Tournament. In the playoffs, the boys made it all the way to the Final Four, which was played on the home field, which is where they fell to Harvester Christian Academy. The Lady Generals, coached by Terry Carter, also played a great season, recording only three losses. In the playoffs, the girls were State Runners-Up, falling to the State Champs Griffin Christian. Congratulations to both these teams on their fine seasons!



2021 Generals



2021 Alumni Soccer Game



2021 Lady Generals

Mr. James Lee Retiring



Many alumni were seen at the recent retirement party held for Mr. James Lee. And it was no wonder! Dr. Lawson shared quite a few memories and heartfelt wishes from alumni across the country, and local alumni had a chance to provide a note for Mr. Lee to enjoy later.

In honor of his many years of service, the school celebrated “Jim Lee Day”, and the entire high school honored him by greeting him wearing t-shirts emblazoned with an inside joke, “Eat π, not cornbread.” At lunchtime, we also shared pie and a cookie cake.

This year, the yearbook staff and school administration have chosen to dedicate the 2020-2021 Pine Embers to Mr. Lee. This year’s dedication was made at Senior Graduation.



YEARBOOK SALE

Missing your yearbook?

Need an extra copy?

Now is your chance to buy that copy of *Pine Embers* you've always wanted...



All extra copies of *Pine Embers* from 1961 through 2019 are on sale for \$10. Proceeds go directly to the Alumni Association. Contact GCS for more information.



Phone: 229-559-5131
E-mail: jdyses@georgiachristian.org
Facebook: Georgia Christian School Alumni
www.georgiachristianschool.org

Contact person: Julie Dykes

Shipping is available for \$5.
Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis.

The mission of the Georgia Christian School Alumni Association

is to provide a forum for communication among graduates of Georgia Christian School

(Dasher Bible School/Georgia Christian Institute) to promote more involvement with the school.

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