

The General Times

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter

Lady Generals Lead the Way in Post-Season Championships



The Jr. Pro Lady Generals were the first to clinch the Region title for the season during their weekend tournament January 22. The Jr. Pro Generals advanced to the third round of tournament play, but it was the ladies who won the first championship of the season.

Following close behind were the Middle School Lady Generals, who

became Region champs in a nail-biting overtime defeat of CCA at the February 5 weekend tournament. Both the Jr. Pro and Middle School Lady Generals were coached by Morgan Sykes ('05).



GCS Literary Team Sweeps Music Events at Region Competition



The GCS Literary Team recently swept the music events at the GISA Region 6AA Competition held at Pinecrest Baptist Church in Cordele, Georgia. In her first time competing, senior Liberty Vickers placed first in the Girls Solo category. A competition veteran, senior Drew Horton took home first place in both Boys Solo and Piano. The Trio, which consists of juniors Katie Moss, Lexi Lewis, and Lindsey Warren, easily took first place, defending their winning title from the previous year. With no Quartets competing at Region this year, this meant that GCS swept the music category at the competition.

Perhaps you were created for
**Such a
Time as This.**

Esther 4:14



Established 1914

A special thank you to Mrs. Angela Duncan, our accompanist, who works with our performers to get them into competition condition. The members of the GCS Literary Team will advance to the GISA AA State Competition at Gordon State College in Barnesville, GA, on March 16.

We Are Living in Unprecedented Times!



How many times have we heard that phrase in the last eighteen months? And yes, these are unprecedented times that we are living in. However, consider this fact in a different but equally true context. According to an online article from the *Wall Street Journal* (July 2, 2021), "the greatest transfer of wealth in modern history has begun." The article also says that Americans age 70 and over have a net worth of nearly \$35 trillion. That is more than the current National Debt (almost \$29 trillion). Talk about unprecedented times!

It is often said that one never sees a U-Haul in a funeral procession. This illustrates the obvious that we cannot take our possessions with us. So what will happen with the nearly \$35 trillion? It will be up to those who have stored it up to determine. Those that have a plan will pass on

their wealth to their family, friends, charities and/or projects. Others who do not have a plan will leave it in the hands of a surviving spouse, adult child or other court appointed representative to carry out what they believe to be their wishes. Unfortunately, most fall in the latter category. A recent statistic says that nearly 70% of Americans do not have an up-to-date will. Having a will has several advantages, including:

- Nominating your executor
- Nominating guardians for your minor children
- Nominating caretakers for your pets
- Instructions for debts and taxes
- Distributing specific assets and property
- Establishing your legacy by giving to nonprofit organizations

Deciding what to do with our possessions after we are gone is usually uncomfortable at best. However, planning ahead of time saves time and stress for our loved ones. If you are in the 70% that do not have an up-to-date will, consider making that a priority.

Georgia Christian School has been blessed recently with Alumni who have included GCS in their planned giving. Some have left gifts for named scholarships (housed in the Betty Louis Draughon Scholarship Endowment) and some to the Misty Hardin Annual Fund Endowment. Others have included restricted gifts towards a certain program or project. Still others have included unrestricted gifts that can be used in a variety of ways to fulfill the mission of Georgia Christian School.

If you have included GCS in your planned giving, thank you! These gifts will ensure that the mission of providing a Christian foundation can continue in the long term. If you have thought about including GCS in your estate planning but have questions, feel free to reach out to our Chief Financial Officer and Certified Public Accountant, Michelle Iturralde or to Brad Lawson, GCS President. Having a will and taking care of your family (even four-footed members) is important. It is our hope and prayer that you will consider making Georgia Christian School a part of your planned giving as well.



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

*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 Swilley '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	Grant Copeland '20
*William Udell '59	*Linda Carol Johnson Brown '78	*Nikki Copeland Warren '98	Evan Copeland '21
*Harold W. Graham '60	*Greg Brown '79	*Rebecca Thornhill Garbutt '00	*Brad Lawson President
*Charlie Copeland '62	*Kent Copeland '79	*Terri Lee Orrell '00	*James Lee Faculty
*Charles (Termite) Phillips '63	*Tammie Davis Bobbit '79	*Kristin Horne Blount '01	Carol J. McLeod Faculty
Judy Jensen McMullen '65	*Deland Guthrie '79	Vince Hamm '01	Julie Dykes Faculty
			*Michelle Iturralde Faculty

Thank You to Our Donors...



Legacy Village at Park Regency, a premier assisted living and memory care community serving Colquitt County, Georgia, presented GCS with a special \$1,105 gift in the name of Pearl Collins in honor of her 105th birthday on December 28th. Collins, who served for many years as a manager of school cafeterias, was celebrated with a parking lot parade at Legacy Village at Park Regency featuring community members, fire and police officials. So touched by the spirit of Collins, Barry Ray and Bryan Cook, founder of Legacy Village at Park Regency's parent organization, Legacy Senior Living, wanted to honor her through a donation in her name to a dining services program at the school of her choice. Collins promptly chose Georgia Christian, from which her younger daughter, Rita ('71), graduated.

GCS President Brad Lawson met Ms. Pearl Collins at Legacy Village at Park Regency in Moultrie on January 4th to receive the gift in her name. "It was such an honor to meet Ms. Pearl and to thank her personally for remembering Georgia Christian school with the donation from Legacy. Even though her youngest daughter, Rita, graduated in 1971, knowing she wanted to help another generation get a Christian education is so heartwarming. Ms. Pearl is an inspiration to all who know her, and we'll be telling

her story for years to come," he said.

Thank You for Your Service...

Georgia Christian would like to welcome two new Board members, both alumni, to the GCS Board of Directors.

Austin Plyler ('07) is the husband of Katie Colson Plyler ('06) and is a realtor with Southern Classic Realtors Valdosta. Their children, Kara and West, currently attend Georgia Christian, in K5 and K3 respectively. We are so excited to have Austin as part of our Board!

Brenda Darwin Johnson ('67) is the wife of Frank Johnson ('67) and is a retired Elementary School Principal. The Johnsons make their home in Winter Haven, Florida. Their children include a son, Darwin Franklin Johnson, an attorney in Atlanta, Georgia, and a daughter, Dana Elizabeth Johnson, the Assistant Director of Moffit Cancer Center Breast Clinic in Tampa, Florida. Brenda and Frank share fond memories of the fun they had at Georgia Christian, and we look forward to having Brenda as a member of our Board!



Georgia Christian Students Excel



Senior Samantha Johnson was recently named Georgia Christian's 2022 PAGE STAR Student. Samantha is the daughter of Mike ('97) and Carrie Johnson of Lake Park. Her older brother, Christian ('21), is also a recent graduate of GCS. Samantha earned the recognition as STAR Student for academic achievement and performance on the SAT.

She selected Mrs. Lindsy Elliott as her STAR Teacher. About Samantha, Mrs. Elliott says, "Sam's ability to analyze literature and make real world connections are one of the many reasons she is a pleasure to

teach. The same skills that help her see a text from various viewpoints also make her compassionate and supportive of others. She is an asset to those around her in the classroom, on the court, and in her everyday interactions."



Fifth-grader Greta Carter was honored at a recent luncheon by the local chapter of the DAR for her award-winning essay in

which she imagined what it might be like to live during a historical time period. Her teacher, Mrs. Casey Seasholtz, announced the honor at a recent joint chapel service.



Where in the World are Our Alumni?



This year, in honor of the Rosemary Jackson Read-A-Thon in March, we are tracking down our Alumni near and far. No matter how far away you live, drop us a postcard and we will track it on our map. Follow Alumni postcards on our GCS Alumni Facebook page. The most miles away will receive a free GCS Centennial Memory Book. Our mailing address is 4359 Dasher Rd., Valdosta, GA 31601. We can't wait to hear from you!



Sydney Morrison Joins the GCS Family

As many of you may have heard, Mrs. Lori Alley ('84) has decided to retire this year to keep her new grandson. We will all miss her so much and we appreciate the years of dedication she has given to Georgia Christian School.

We would also like to welcome Sydney Morrison, wife of Middle School teacher and coach Austin Morrison, who has joined GCS to help fill Mrs. Lori's responsibilities as well as a few others. She has been with us since January trying to learn the ins and outs of GCS. We are all looking forward to working with her!

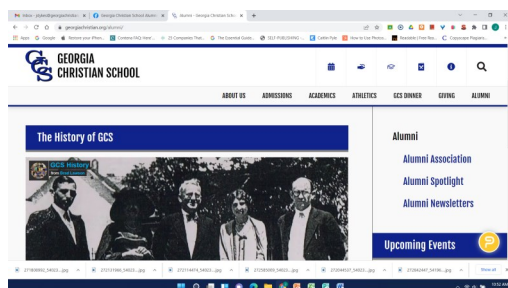


The mission of the Georgia Christian School Alumni Association

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.

Georgia Christian School
4359 Dasher Road
Valdosta, GA 31601



Have you seen our updated website?

Check out our updated website, which can still be found at www.georgiachristian.org. Click on the Alumni page to find out how to join the Alumni Association today!