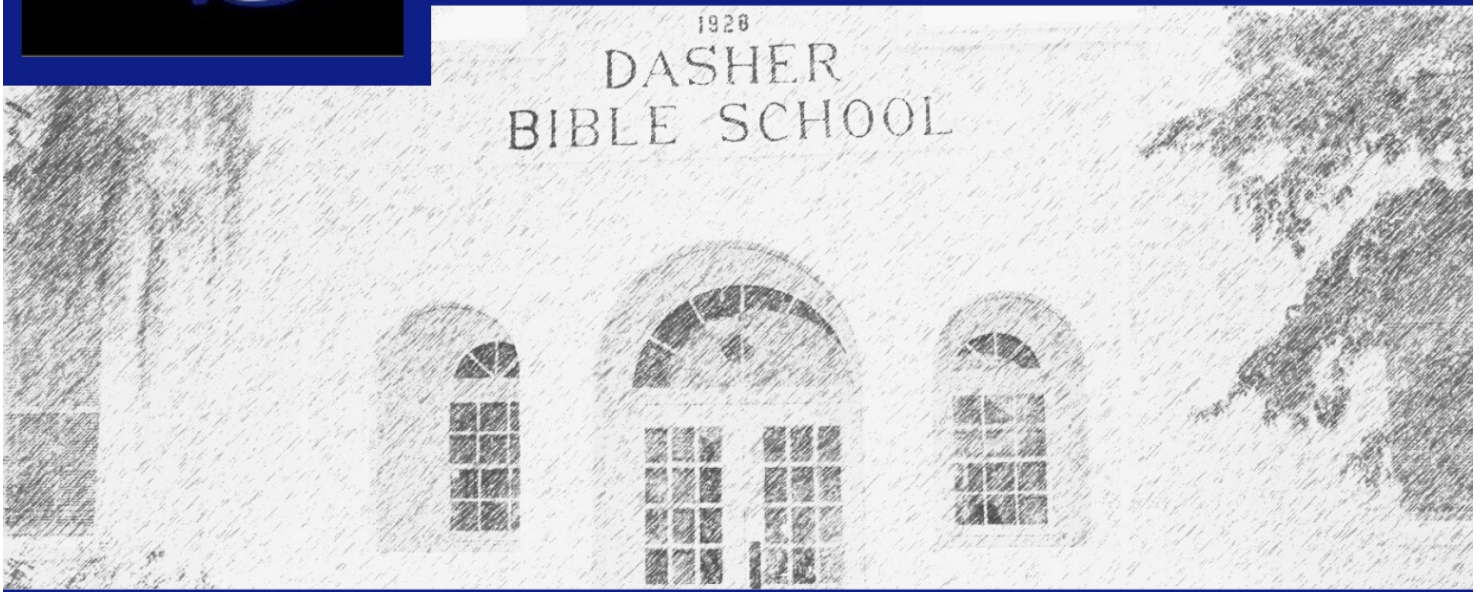




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# THE GENERAL TIMES

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter



## ANNUAL BLUE & WHITE WEEKEND BRINGS ALUMNI BACK TO CAMPUS

*by Alumni Director Julie Dykes*

Our annual Blue & White Weekend, held the weekend of December 15 - 16, 2023, combined the excitement of a weekend Christmas basketball tournament with a Saturday morning "Meet the Generals" showcase and a memorable Alumni game. We were also able to honor some very special alumni along the way.



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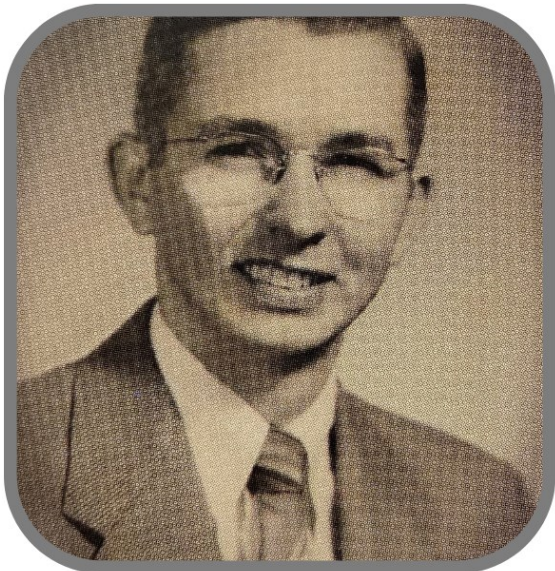
**ALUMNI NEWS**

**ALUMNI CHALLENGE**

The Christmas tournament, which started on Friday night and continued through Saturday night, brought teams and fans in from all across the region. Of course, our Generals and Lady Generals were triumphant in the end!

Saturday morning's festivities began with "Meet the Generals", in which all of our current teams and coaches were introduced. Our honorary coaches for the Alumni Game were also introduced, brothers Kent ('79) and Burt ('84) Copeland. Then the Alumni game battles were on!

Before lunch, we took a moment to honor some of our special alumni with the first annual Prewitte "Brother C" Copeland Award for a lifetime of service to the school. We were proud to honor Mr. Wally ('55) and Mrs. Barbara ('56) Colson with this award.



## 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 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 Starbuck's cup of coffee each month, you can help make a difference at GCS! Your gift can really add up! And did I mention that your President Giving Club Gift takes the place of your Alumni dues? It does! 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)

ALUMNI NEWS

**IN LOVING MEMORY**

JIMMY JONES ('74)  
RUSS MOELLER ('65)

**1999**

BO BEWLEY - announced as new traffic manager for the City of Valdosta

**2004**

CALEY STOKES - engaged to Cody Edwards 12/25/2023

**2006**

NATHAN RENFRO - Teacher of the Year, Carroll High School

**2016**

COLE COPELAND - expecting a baby girl with his wife Madison in August, 2024

**2018**

EMMY COPELAND - new team member at State Farm

**2019**

SAVANNAH CARTER - engaged to Cyrus Parris 12/15/2023

SAVANNAH CARTER - graduated from VSU cum laude

KATIE GUEST - top November Sales & Designer Rugs-A-Bound; top December and January Sales & Design Associate Rugs-A-Bound

**2020**

BAILEY WARREN - engaged to Taylor Erickson 1/6/2024

KYLA WATSON - graduated & started new business

SAVANNAH WINTERS - will graduate in May, 2024, with an Economics Degree from UGA with a minor in Legal Studies

KINLEY TOUCHTON - President's List, Georgia Southern University, Fall 2023

ROSA SANCHEZ ALVARADO - Dean's List Berry College Fall Semester

**2022**

SAMANTHA JOHNSON - studying abroad in Europe for 3 months

**2023**

AUSTIN KNAPP - signed with Faulkner University Football

**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!**

**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)

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  
 \*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  
 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  
 \*Erin Copeland Swlley'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

# Georgia Christian Breaks Ground on New High School



Georgia Christian broke ground on the new Jeffords Family High School building on the morning of Thursday, February 22, 2024, in a ceremony that took place in front of the Joe Virgil Dasher Middle School. Board members, faculty, staff, administrators, students, alumni, and friends were all gathered for the occasion.

Dr. Brad Lawson opened the ceremony by hearkening back to the history of the school, which was founded in 1914 and was originally called Dasher Bible School. We held the ceremony on the original site of the girls' dormitory, and Dr. Lawson reminded the gathered crowd of the tradition of students making bricks that built many of the buildings on campus.

That tradition continues with the hard work and generous donations of alumni who are dedicated to ensuring that the mission of Georgia Christian continues into the future.

Mr. David Nelson provided an opening prayer for the ceremony. Chairman of the Board Austin Plyler ('07) also commented on the board's long-standing commitment to building the new high school and their excitement over having it come to fruition.

Dustin Jeffords ('07), representing the Jeffords family, gave a short speech about his memories of the school and his families' excitement over being a part of the building of the new high school.

The Board of Directors and Dustin Jeffords were on hand to break ground together. Dustin and his wife Camille, his mother and father, Robert and Teresa Jeffords (both former faculty/staff), and his sister Kailynn Jeffords Grow ('10), along with their children, were also in attendance.

Scott Plyler provided a closing prayer for the ceremony.

## How Can You Help? GCS Alumni Challenge

If you attended GCS, do you remember the special bond you had with your classmates, your teachers, your administrators, and the Dasher community?

We want others to be able to have what you had. It's time to g-r-o-w and we want YOU to be a part of the alumni that will help to promote learning and further beautify the campus!

Simply find your graduating group below, fill in the blanks, and we're on the road to allowing other students to have a memorable high school experience and make lifelong friendships, just like you did!

Will you join your GCS friends in making this move a reality? Let's see which decade participates the most! We'll announce at 2024 Graduation on 5/24!

You may make your \$100 (or more) Alumni Gift from you or in honor of someone

- \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 1940's
- \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 1950's
- \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 1960's
- \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 1970's
- \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 1980's
- \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 1990's
- \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 2000's
- \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 2010's
- \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 2020's

Sign me up! Enclosed is \$100 or \_\_\_\_\_ to help GCS with funding for the new high school building. Or scan below for online giving options.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



Georgia Christian School  
@georgiachristian



venmo



## 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.

