

MARCH 2025 | EDITION 12, VOLUME 1

# THE GENERAL TIMES

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter



1928  
DASHER  
BIBLE SCHOOL

## GEORGIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CONTINUES TO MAKE HISTORY

*by Alumni Director Julie Dykes*

The Georgia Christian Generals baseball team made history recently when they hosted Clinch on Alumni Field in its first-ever baseball game "under the lights". C.J. Lynch ('13) threw out the first pitch. Without his tireless efforts and his countless hours of hard work, the whole project would still be getting off the ground. We cannot thank him enough.

This has been a dream of GCS baseball players for decades, to play evening games, and we are so grateful for the efforts of alumni like C.J., and for the donations of many of our alumni to get this project rolling.



### IN THIS ISSUE

#### GENERALS BASEBALL UNDER THE LIGHTS

#### PRESIDENTIAL GIVING CLUB UPDATE

#### ALUMNI NEWS

#### JEFFORDS FAMILY HIGH SCHOOL CUTS RIBBON



This has been a dream of GCS baseball players for decades, to play evening games, and we are so grateful for the efforts of alumni like C.J., and for the donations of many of our alumni to get this project rolling.

We need your support to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$85,000! With a strategic plan in place, we aim to raise these funds over the next three years—but we can't do it without you.

If you or someone you know would like to contribute, any amount would make a meaningful impact. Your generosity will help elevate our program, giving our athletes something to be truly proud of as they compete.

We would love for you to be part of this journey and see firsthand the difference you're making. Thank you for your support and investment in Christian education. Go Generals!



## 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! 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)

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)

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



SCAN ME

## IN MEMORY OF

MARCH 2025 EDITION 12, VOLUME 1

JUDY DEWEESE (Faculty/Staff) - 1/2/25

## ALUMNI NEWS

STEVE COPELAND (Class of 1977) - 3/9/25

MARILYN NEWELL KING (Faculty/Staff) - 3/2/25

1999

TESSA GREENE CARDER - named Public Life & Fire Safety Educator for the Valdosta Fire Department

2001

ZACH NELSON & wife Lindsey welcome baby Annalise Kay on 1/8/25

2006

CHAEI NELSON WISENBAKER & husband Charlie welcomed baby girl Emily Ann on 1/28/25

2010

TAYLOR BOSCH & wife Kelsey welcomed baby girl Lena Jade on 1/15/25

GRANT COLSON & wife Shelby welcomed baby girl Colbie Beth on 2/19/25

2011

RACHEL SWILLEY JOHNSON & husband Eric welcomed baby girl Jordi Welles 3/6/25

2013

QUINTON CARTER engaged to Charla Livingston

2014

KYLE WATKINS & wife Emme welcomed baby boy Hollis Owen on 3/1/25

ETHAN BOYD received orders to transfer to Moody AFB

2016

COLSON & ELIZABETH CRIBBS GUTHRIE expecting a baby boy.

ERIN COPELAND SWILLEY & husband Dalton expecting a baby boy in August.

2018

BOSTON GUTHRIE & ANNIE EILDERS married 12/28/24

2019

ANNIE EILDERS & BOSTON GUTHRIE married 12/28/24

2019

IVAN SEASHOLTZ engaged to Emily Crocker

2020

BAILEY WARREN ERICKSON & husband Taylor expecting a baby July 25, 2025

GRANT COPELAND will join Georgia Christian School as a Middle School teacher for the 2025-26 school year and Dasher Church of Christ as Youth Minister

2022

EVIE HAZEL traveled to Paris, France with FHU Abroad

2024

Masie Kinsey - Valdosta State University Dean's List

2025

Jordan Barber - Zorn Scholarship, Faulkner University

IF YOU HAVE NEWS, OR KNOW ANY NEWS ABOUT ALUMNI OF GEORGIA CHRISTIAN, PLEASE CONTACT US AT [GCSALUMNI@GEORGIACHRISTIAN.ORG](mailto: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...*

~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)

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Geraldine McLeod Thompson '47	*Ellis Shiver '90	*Lindsey Warren '23
Sarah Copeland '48	Jon Sykes '90	*Destiny Alaniz '24
Patricia Dicks Lester '49	Alison Sykes Cartee '93	*Helen Bundrick '24
William J. Long '51	*Michelle Bass Copeland '94	*Tristan Butler '24
*Pat Avants Bishop '53	*Audrey Strange Dawkins '96	*Stella Cofield '24
Jo Williamson Guest '53	*Melissa Lee England '98	*Tristan Corbin '24
Dr. Sondra E. Wilcox '54	Patience McMullen Lawson '98	*Noah Corbitt '24
*Martha Harris '55	*Nikki Copeland Warren '98	*Corbin Delk '24
*Donna Harvey McLeod '55	*Sarah Fiveash Wickstrom '00	*AnaGrace Gunsolus '24
*Barbara Wisenbaker Colson '56	*Rebecca Thornhill Garbutt '00	*Deacon Hazel '24
Jimmy Hightower '57	Terri Lee Orrell '00	*Kayden Hicks '24
*Mary Jean Wisenbaker Armstrong '58	*Tony "Travis" Taylor, Jr. '00	*Jonah Houser '24
Julian (Jubie) Copeland '58	*Kristin Horne Blount '01	*Levi Kelley '24
*William Udell '59	*Vince Hamm '01	*Jake Kilcrease '24
*Harold W. Graham '60	*Leanne Jenkins Hood '03	*Masie Kinsey '24
*Charlie Copeland '62	*Heather Cobb Johnson '03	*Katelyn Kotterman '24
*Charles (Termite) Phillips '63	Kristen Byers Hartman '03	*Makalyn Meyer '24
Judy Jensen McMullen '65	*Kristin Copeland Dykes '04	*Mariana Munoz Palacios '24
*Elaine Graham Stacy '65	*Lydia Thornhill White '04	*Daniel Naylor '24
Cynthia Jean Watts '65	*Nicole Renfro Olbright '05	*Linh Nguyen '24
*Lynda Wilkins Lawlor '66	Morgan Plyler Guthrie '05	*Kaylea Noland '24
Brenda Darwin Johnson '67	*Katie Colson Plyler '06	Tanner Rayfield '24
Frankie Johnson '67	*Nathan Renfro '06	*Kylynn Root '24
*Ellen Conway Williams '67	*ShaCourtney Thomas-Jenkins '06	*Hunter Shelton '24
*Tommy Williams '67	*Austin Plyler '07	*Will Wisenbaker '24
Ron Copeland '68	Adam Guthrie '08	*Elle Shiver '24
Andrew Sykes '68	*Sarah Copeland Lynch '09	Jordan Barber '25
*Joan Andrews Winn '68	*Pamela Brown Kimbrell '10	Kaila Barney '25
*Mike Black '69	*Georgia Thomson '11	Mac Bowling '25
*Patsy Hamm Black '69	*Augusta Guthrie '12	Athen Bradford '25
*Elaine Black Dilbeck '69	*Keaton Bentley '15	Olivia Brown '25
*Ben Vick '70	Morgan Sykes '15	Tyson Copeland '25
*Jamie Copeland '71	Kaitlyn Williams Leblanc '15	Gentry Dees '25
*Gayle Sterling Lightsey '72	*Erin Copeland Swilley '16	Conner Downing '25
Donna Darwin Batchelor '73	*Allison Dasher '16	Briceten Gaines '25
*Cathy Cone Malone '73	*Laurn Russell '17	Benji Galindo '25
Cleo "Tad" Williams '73	Lindsey Sykes Redmon '17	Davey Grizzle '25
*James Lee Naylor '73	*Emmy Copeland '18	Logan Guest '25
*Lisa Force Lang '74	*Hunter Cardin '19	Jett Guilliams '25
*Jason Wisenbaker '74	*Katie Guest '19	Nick Guthery '25
Ginger Copeland Knowles '76	*Grant Copeland '20	Andrew Hutcheson '25
Russell Knowles '76	*Kylie Greene Cardin '20	Bella Iturralde '25
*Cathy Guthrie Lee '76	Kyla Watson '20	Sam James '25
*Cindy Guthrie Horne '77	*Evan Copeland '21	Rowan Lawson '25
*Mike Horne '77	Jenna Sykes '21	Hannah Lissimore '25
Linda Carol Johnson Brown '78	*Karsyn Black '22	Ellie Lewis '25
Greg Brown '79	Drew Horton '22	Bo Miller '25
*Kent Copeland '79	*Christian Powell '22	Maddie Mira '25
*Tammie Davis Bobbit '79	*Tiffany Taylor Harris '22	Presley Pittman '25
Deland Guthrie '79	*Braylon Black '23	Cameron White '25
Cleta Colson Eyre '80	*Clancey Carter '23	William Wilson '25
Bonnie Barrett Guthrie '80	*Seth Copeland '23	Brad Lawson President
*Philip Guthrie '80	*Casey Crowder '23	Kevin Pittman Board
*Joey Redshaw '81	*Corbin Evans '23	*James Lee Faculty
*Eisa Copeland Barnes '82	Emily Hernandez '23	Carol Naylor Copeland Faculty
*Dottie Eckberg Redish '82	*Austin Knapp '23	Carol J. McLeod Faculty
*Connie Colson Guthrie '83	*Reagan Lawson '23	Julie Dykes Faculty
*Lori Copeland Alley '84	*Lexi Lewis '23	Michelle Iturralde Faculty
*Denise Wright Hammitt '84	*Garrett McQuaig '23	*Robert Jeffords Faculty
*Daphne DeWeese Warren '84	*Katie Moss '23	*Teresa Jeffords Faculty
*Norma Jean Peterson '86	*Katie Mullins '23	*Kim Moss
*Johnny Peterson '86	*Jenna Plymel '23	
*Donald Dawkins '88	Heidi Rowan '23	<b>*Please renew your Alumni</b>
*Christy DeWeese Kilcrease '88	*Kaden Sanders '23	<b>Association membership</b>
*Jason Chesser '89	*Ainsley Tucker '23	
William D. Christie '89	*Austin Van Ausdall '23	
*Lori Dawkins McGuire '90	*Liz Walden '23	



# JEFFORDS FAMILY HIGH SCHOOL CUTS RIBBON



On Monday, March 10, at 9:30 a.m., the Board of Directors, dignitaries, administrators, teachers, staff, students, alumni, and community members gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Jeffords Family High School Building at Georgia Christian School (GCS). Chamber of Commerce President Christie Moore kicked off the festivities with enthusiasm, setting a lively tone for the event. The new 17,000-square-foot facility was designed by Architect Bruce Smith of Studio 8, and representatives from S.C. Barker Construction Company were also present to celebrate the milestone.

Dr. Brad Lawson, President of GCS, opened the ceremony by reflecting on the school's rich history. Founded in 1914 as Dasher Bible School, the institution has long been committed to Christian education. Dr. Lawson emphasized the school's mission, stating, "Georgia Christian School will provide a Christian foundation that promotes a passion for learning." He continued, "This is just a part of our mission statement, but it is evident everywhere in the design of this new building."

GCS Chairman of the Board Austin Plyler ('07) introduced his classmate, Dustin Jeffords ('07), and spoke about Mr. Jeffords's unwavering positivity and championship spirit. He recalled a moment from high school when Mr. Jeffords, with no prior experience, decided on a whim to compete in the shot put track and field event. They traveled to the competition that same day, and Jeffords won first place, a testament to his determination and competitive nature.

Representing the Jeffords family, Dustin Jeffords shared heartfelt remarks, reflecting on his time at GCS and expressing his family's enthusiasm about contributing to the school's future. The Board of Directors and the Jeffords family participated in the ceremonial ribbon-cutting, with Dustin, his wife Camille, his parents Robert and Teresa Jeffords (both former faculty and staff), his sister Kailynn Grow ('10), her husband Tyler, and their children in attendance.



Chairman Austin Plyler spoke again, reaffirming the board's unwavering commitment to the project and their excitement at seeing it come to fruition. He also expressed gratitude to the GCS family—alumni, current students, parents, grandparents, and friends of the school—for their continued support in advancing the mission of Christian education.

As part of the celebration, a special reception and tour for donors was held on Sunday afternoon, followed by a dinner and devotional on Sunday night for the Class of 2025, the first senior class to attend school in the Jeffords Family High School Building.



## 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: 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.

