

# The Bulldog

A MAGAZINE FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF GEORGE WALTON ACADEMY

SUMMER 2017

An Intentional  
Approach to the  
**STUDENT  
EXPERIENCE**

Planning for  
**Future  
GROWTH**

## **New** Global Studies Program

- ✓ International Exchanges
- ✓ Study Abroad Opportunities
- ✓ Service Trips

## **Additional Course Offerings:**

New Electives + Dual  
Enrollment Options +  
Independent Study

## **REVAMPED**

↘ College  
Counseling  
Process

## *Breaking Out of the Pack*

Headmaster Dan Dolan uses the 2016 strategic plan to chart a new course for GWA.

# FROM THE HEADMASTER

Walking through the halls of George Walton Academy during the first weeks of the 2017-2018 school year this August, I've noticed several significant changes from when I first arrived on campus over a year ago in July 2016.

Students are enjoying new academic courses such as Hollywood and American History as well as expanded elective offerings like sculpture in the art department. Others have opted to pursue dual enrollment or online course options through local colleges and universities, while some of our ninth graders are gearing up for their first international exchange with our partner school, St. Paul's School, in Barcelona this fall. Some changes are more subtle – departmental restructuring, streamlined efforts across institutional advancement, and small shifts in policy that facilitate transparency and advocacy for both students and parents. When I opened the floor last year to a discussion among our faculty, staff and families about what GWA could do better, our conversations generated pages of ideas. It has been exciting to see so many of those ideas come to life. I know even small changes can make a big difference for our families.

Still, I see many things that haven't changed. Good things. Things that have always been a highlight of the George Walton Academy experience and have made our school the top choice for a private school education in the Monroe area for almost 50 years now.

Our faculty members remain wholly dedicated to their students. They're still willing to go above and beyond to give each child the extra attention, encouragement or little nudge he or she needs to succeed. Many of our teachers make lessons come alive to transcend the four walls of the classroom; their methods are effective, innovative and constantly evolving.

Our families still make up one of the most inclusive and supportive school communities I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. When I first came to GWA, I was amazed at the welcome my family received, but my experience is not unique. I have seen that same warmth and hospitality extended again and again to new students, parents, faculty, staff and visitors. We also have an exceptionally strong network of donors and volunteers who continually give their time, resources and efforts to make sure our programs operate at the highest level. We can't thank them enough.

We're still a school with a strong foundation of character built on Judeo-Christian values. Our students, guided by an exceptional faculty and staff, develop into principled young men and women who are fundamentally equipped to engage as leaders in their own communities and across the world.

As we begin this new chapter in GWA's history, I'm encouraged to know that, at our core, we remain committed to our founding values of offering a quality education in a college preparatory environment. Times may change, and George Walton Academy is changing, but we're still the great school we always have been. We work to create new opportunities for our students to grow as they seek to meet the shifting demands of college, career and beyond. We pull together to support each student's unique gifts, talents, interests and aspirations. We model leadership and flexibility; we build upon tradition to ensure a future full of possibility.

I hope you'll join me in making this coming year one of our best yet. That's a tall order, but I'm confident GWA is up to the challenge.



Daniel G. Dolan, Ph.D.





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**H. Arthur Bowick**

**Scott Briscoe**

**Michael Geoffroy '94, Chairman**

**Richard Hester '84**

**Bob Hill**

**Mike Malcom '84**

**Darrell McWaters**

**Fei Rawl**

**Roy Roberts '86**

**Melissa Machen Shannahan '93**

**Phil Stone**

**Lee Waldo**

**Bruce Williamson**

**Dr. Ray Wright**

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Middle & High School Principal

**Kevin Cloud**

Associate Headmaster

Lower School Principal

**Linda Smith**

Director of Counseling Services & Middle School Administration

## Advancement

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Director of Development

**Cari Bailey**

Director of Admissions

**Emily Roediger**

Director of Marketing & Communications

## Photography Credits

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Spring Street Studios – Monroe, GA

GWA Teachers, Parents, Grandparents and Friends

**On the cover:** Dan is the man with the plan – the strategic plan, that is. Read more about how Dr. Dolan is operationalizing the 2016 strategic plan on page 11, and get a rundown on the strategic planning process along with updates on the school's progress from GWA's Board of Trustees on page 15.

# CLASS OF 2017



## COLLEGE DESTINATIONS



### **Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College**

Dustin Pennington

### **Auburn University**

Abbie Burrow  
Lexi Coleman  
William Maddox

### **Berry College**

Berkeley Hawks

### **Clemson University**

Amy Rees

### **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**

Josue Zayas Rodriguez

### **Emerson College**

Joseph Johnson

### **Emory & Henry College**

Aaron Nalepa

### **Emory University**

Sarah Hanson

### **Florida College**

Hailey Bender

### **Furman University**

Kaiya Samuel

### **Georgia College & State University**

Brennan Carter  
Mimi Crouch  
Daniel Pierce  
Elizabeth White

### **Georgia Institute of Technology**

Sophie Chapar  
Reese Howard  
Peyton Hutchison  
Kale Ledford  
Jarod Schneider

### **Georgia Military College**

Cedric Robertson

### **Georgia Southern University**

Gabrielle Fellows  
Abbey Gudnason  
Austin Parrish  
Alexis Syme

### **Georgia State University**

Brayden Bonkowski  
John Denhardt  
Madison Murray

### **Harvard University**

Maisam Goreish

### **Kennesaw State University**

Davis Brown  
Jackson Dobbs  
Jason Dokes  
Zan Kathryn Howard  
Tylan Lee  
Taylor Maddox  
Matthew Schorr

### **Lindsey Wilson College**

Frank Samuelson

### **Mercer University**

Adam Dombrowski  
Ian Malcom  
Ama Osei

### **Middle Georgia State University**

Rhett Moody



## Reinhardt University

Isaiah Tossie

## Salve Regina University

Emily MacDonald

## Samford University

Khadija Bello

## Savannah College of Art & Design

Cullen Downey

Ashlynn Findley

## Spring Hill College

Sanaja Andre

## United States Naval Academy

Alexa Jacquitte

## University of Georgia

Hannah Arnold

Belle Blackstone

Grayson Britt

Camille Engelbracht

Ally Hardison

Kennedy Heard

Kate Hester

Raj Jani

Lynelle Koffi

Tyler Lazenby

Grace Pulliam

Hinton Rogers

Perry Rogers

Emily Thrower

Taylor Wolf

## University of North Georgia

Cason Brown

Mikayla Brownlee

Hannah Chisholm

James Wesley Martin

Hollis Rae Stone

## University of West Georgia

Georgie LaPann

## CLASS OF 2017 BY THE NUMBERS

- 70 students
- \$3,750,000 in scholarships, excluding HOPE and Zell Miller
- 31 honor graduates
- 2 National AP Scholars
- 11 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 6 AP Scholars with Honor
- 5 AP Scholars
- 18 Competent Toastmasters
- 5 Youth Leadership Walton participants
- 4 Eagle Scouts
- 29 students who have attended GWA since K4/K5
- 10 students who had perfect attendance this year

# HONORS & AWARDS

## SCHOOL AWARDS

**Socratic Award:** Peyton Hutchison

**Bulldog Award:** Berkeley Hawks and Cason Brown

**Vires Acquirat Eundo Award:** Hannah Chisholm

**Beta Club Senior of the Year:** Alexa Jacquitte

**National Honor Society Senior of the Year:** Maisam Goreish

**Rotary Student of the Year:** Sarah Hanson



**Valedictorian:** Reese Howard  
**Salutarian:** Amy Rees



**Hearn Medallion:** Reese Howard

*George Walton Academy awards the Hearn Medallion to the senior who demonstrates the highest qualities in leadership, character, conduct, scholarship and athletics. It's the most distinguished award bestowed upon a graduating senior.*

# CLASS OF 2017

## COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS



**Radford Scholarship:** Kate Hester

**Monroe Junior Service League Scholarship:** Sophie Chapar

**Rotary Service Above Self Scholarship:** Taylor Wolf

**GWA Cure Dawg Scholarship:** Kaiya Samuel

**Monroe Pilot Club Scholarship:** Khadija Bello

**Walton County Foundation Scholarship:** Reese Howard

**Walton County Historical Foundation Scholarship:** Ally Hardison

**Hudson Family Foundation Scholarship:** Cedric Robertson

**Ethan Rutledge Memorial Scholarship:** Taylor Wolf

**Dr. Lavinia Wood Memorial Scholarship:** Sarah Hanson

**Rita Kennedy Memorial Scholarship:** Jarod Schneider

**Mike Head Memorial Scholarship:** Joseph Johnson

**McDonald's Ray Kroc Award:** Amy Rees

**Atlanta Journal Cup Award:** Grace Pulliam

**The Walton Tribune Youth of the Year:** Kate Hester

## ACADEMIC AWARDS & RECOGNITION



**Walton County STAR Student:** Peyton Hutchison

**National Merit Commended Student:** Peyton Hutchison

**National AP Scholars:** Sarah Hanson, Jarod Schneider  
*Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.*

**AP Scholars with Distinction:** Sophie Chapar, Camille Engelbracht, Maisam Goreish, Sarah Hanson, Ally Hardison, Berkeley Hawks, Reese Howard, Peyton Hutchison, Grace Pulliam, Amy Rees, Jarod Schneider  
*Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.*

**AP Scholars with Honor:** Grayson Britt, Hannah Chisholm, Adam Dombrowski, Alexa Jacquitte, Tyler Lazenby, Ama Osei  
*Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.*

**AP Scholars:** Hannah Arnold, Kate Hester, Taylor Maddox, Ian Malcom, Matthew Schorr  
*Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.*

## EXTRACURRICULAR & ATHLETIC RECOGNITION



**U.S. Army All-American Band:** Grace Pulliam

**All-State Band:** Jason Dokes, Grace Pulliam

**GHSA Literary State Champion in Personal Essay:** Amy Rees

**Region Runner-up Literary Team Members:** Hannah Chisholm, Jason Dokes, Alexa Jacquitte, Joseph Johnson, Reese Howard, Amy Rees

**All-Region Football:** Cason Brown, Aaron Nalepa, Frank Samuelson, Isaiah Tossie

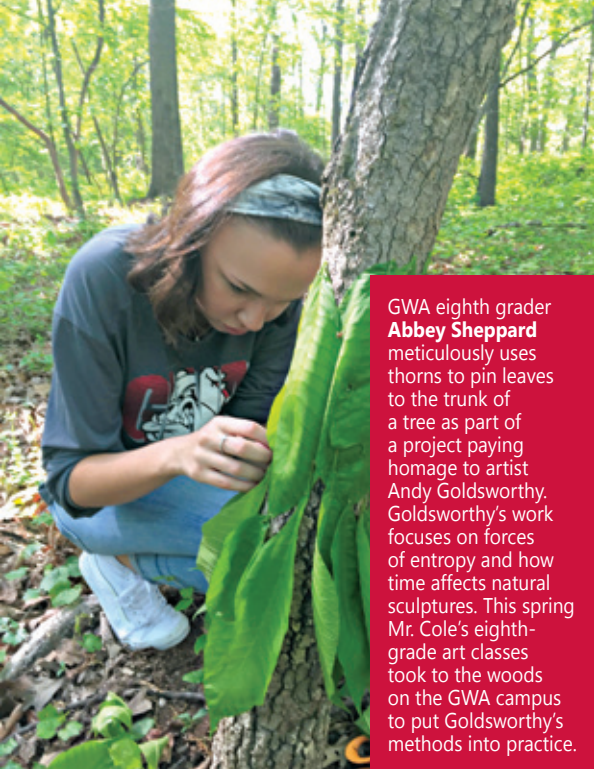
**All-State Softball:** Hannah Arnold

**GHSA State Swimming Qualifier:** Berkeley Hawks

**Collegiate Athletic Signings & Scholarships:** Berkeley Hawks (Swimming – Berry College), Kale Ledford (Baseball – Georgia Tech), Aaron Nalepa (Baseball – Emory & Henry College), Frank Samuelson (Football – Lindsey Wilson College)







GWA eighth grader **Abbey Sheppard** meticulously uses thorns to pin leaves to the trunk of a tree as part of a project paying homage to artist Andy Goldsworthy. Goldsworthy's work focuses on forces of entropy and how time affects natural sculptures. This spring Mr. Cole's eighth-grade art classes took to the woods on the GWA campus to put Goldsworthy's methods into practice.



They're on a roll! The GWA Marching Bulldogs wow the crowd – and the judges – at the Rockmart Yellow Jacket Invitational on Oct. 15 last fall. The Bulldogs finished with superior scores in all categories including drum major, color guard, drumline and overall band. They also took home the Overall Band Championship and won the High Music Award.



A group of alumni girls prepare to face off against players from the 2017 girls soccer team. In February a group of GWA soccer alumni joined current players for a friendly game on the field, followed by a kickoff banquet in anticipation of the 2017 spring season. The alumni game was the first of its kind at the school and celebrated 10 years of Bulldog soccer.

# BULLDOGS OUT & ABOUT

Snapshots of students around campus  
and out in the community.



Second graders gather around a pair of hermit crabs, who visited campus as part of the Pet Day festivities in late May. Other guests joining in the fun included dogs, ducks and turtles.

With water guns as the weapon of choice, sixth grader **Keith Mims** squares off against a fellow classmate at the band's spring Rock-A-Thon.





## BULLDOGS OUT & ABOUT



Several of GWA's Technology Student Association (TSA) officers – juniors **Grayson Eady**, **Libby Lee McDaniel** and **Megan McGoldrick** – suit up in helmets and harnesses before hitting the ropes course at the Chapter Officer Retreat for Excellence (CORE). Held every September at the Kaplan Mitchell Retreat and Conference Center in Clayton, CORE provides Georgia TSA local chapter officers with an opportunity to develop interpersonal and leadership skills as well as prepare their programs for the upcoming year.



Under the joint leadership of teachers **Debbie Dyer** and **Megan Sims**, third graders perform "Artful Music" as their spring production. In preparation for the musical, these students studied artwork and techniques of various artists – including Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet and Jackson Pollock – and created many of the production's decorations and displays themselves.



Led by teachers **Carolyn Thigpen** and **Katie Crowell**, the high school San Francisco travel group poses for an iconic shot in front of the Golden Gate Bridge.



A group of second-grade girls are all smiles at last fall's Ice Cream Social, where sugar and school spirit go hand in hand.



Center stage is no match for this group of fearless guys. High school students **Taylor Maddox**, **Noah Shriver**, **Jack Power** and **Mitchell Greene** share the spotlight during May's Dessert Theater performance.





Fourth-grade girls observe starfish and sea anemones from a safe distance during a field trip to the Georgia Aquarium in February.



Lady Bulldogs varsity basketball team members stroll through the breezeway on their way to load the bus for their Sweet 16 state playoff game against the Wesleyan School Wolves.



High school students enjoy a little downtime – and a song – during the Virginia trip this spring.



This One Act team is no one-hit wonder. Seniors **Amy Rees** and **Kate Hester** along with junior **Summer Haag** perform “Riverview, Tape 23” by Colleen Neuman at the Brenau Downtown Center in Gainesville last fall for the GHSA Region One Act Competition, where they received outstanding scores. Summer Haag’s portrayal of Lydia Parrish, an 87-year-old nursing home resident, earned her a selection to the All-Star Cast.



Kindergarten student **Harper O’Lenick** dons her white veterinarian’s coat and prepares to see the day’s patients. K4 and K5 students visit the Interactive Neighborhood for Kids, or INK Museum, in Gainesville every spring as part of their Communities Project.



GWA seventh graders pause for a group shot in front of the Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington, D.C. in March.



The quintessential Field Day accessory? Bunny ears, courtesy of a generous classmate, of course. Third grader **Lora Kate Peters** has **Kade Franklin** to thank for hers.



## BULLDOGS OUT & ABOUT



Two Bulldog football players celebrate after a winning play against Mount Vernon Presbyterian on Nov. 11. The Bulldogs advanced to the second round of state playoffs last fall, with seven players named to the 8A All-Region football team: **Cason Brown, Isaiah Tossie, Frank Samuelson, Aaron Nalepa, Omar Daniels, Terrens Toussaint and Torey Zanders.**



Seniors **Berkeley Hawks and Hollis Rae Stone** pause to take in “Red Butte with Mountain Men” by Maynard Dixon. AP Art students traveled to Atlanta’s High Museum of Art in March to view Cross Country: The Power of Place in American Art, 1915–1950, an exhibit which included original pieces from artists Ansel Adams and Andrew Wyeth, among others.



Junior Interact Club members **Audrey Bradley and Tori Chapman** sort through book donations at the Books for Africa Atlanta warehouse. Students collected books through the winter as part of a service-learning project and had the opportunity to deliver, sort and pack their donated books to send to children and adults in Africa.



Now that’s not something you see every day! GWA choirs perform on stage at Carnegie Hall in April as part of world-famous venue’s 2017 Octavo Concert Series.



Four GWA families greet their German exchange students with brightly decorated signs at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in March. The young visitors stayed with GWA families and shadowed students for several weeks – and even joined in on families’ Spring Break plans. This year the school hosted a total of eight international students from several different countries and for varying lengths of time.



Senior **Cedric Robertson** reaches for the sky and sand as he competes in the long jump at GWA’s first home track and field meet against Strong Rock Christian. Robertson would go on to place third in the 110m hurdles at the GHSA Track and Field State Championships in May.



## Breaking Out of the Pack

Headmaster Dan Dolan uses the 2016 strategic plan to chart a new course for GWA.

By Emily Roediger

Why did you choose a private school education for your kids? What made you call the admissions office at George Walton Academy or stop by for a tour? Why do you still recommend GWA to friends, family and neighbors today?

If you're like most families who enroll their children in independent schools, you were looking for a challenging, college preparatory curriculum in a safe and nurturing environment. You wanted dedicated, high-quality teachers who would get to know your kids on an individual level and foster a deep love of learning. You were hoping to find a strong community of professionals who modeled good character, who felt more like family and less like observers.

According to Dr. Dan Dolan, GWA's eighth headmaster, that part of independent education – the parent motivation behind school choice – hasn't changed much over the years.

"The first thing everyone is looking for is safety, be it physical, emotional or intellectual," he said. "But one of the great privileges of independent education is that teachers have the luxury, capacity and time to give that student the extra attention he or she needs and to let students know they genuinely care. Yes, academic rigor is important, and so is character formation, but nothing comes before the teacher-student relationship and how it affects the student experience."

So if the core values of independent schools haven't changed, why does education today feel so different?

Dr. Dolan explained that it's not so much about the *why* anymore; rather, it's about the *how*. From new course offerings and enrollment options like Move On When Ready to unique opportunities afforded by technology or international exchanges, partnerships and



## ACADEMY NEWS

travel, today flexibility is key in order to meet the changing needs of students and families as well as school communities at large.

“The educational landscape is a really interesting place to be right now,” he said. “There are infinite possibilities. And that’s both a blessing and a curse because when you have infinite possibilities, sometimes it’s very difficult to decide where you want to go.”

Enter the 2016 strategic plan. GWA underwent a very intensive, very intentional strategic planning process during the 2015-2016 school year, and although the resulting plan wasn’t the first the school had ever published, many would say it is indeed the most expansive in terms of scope and vision. The plan not only outlines a direction for school programming and future growth, but it also assigns goals to individual categories that can double as measurable benchmarks. The plan will be updated, revised and evaluated every year at the GWA Board of Trustees’ annual retreat.

If you think this type of in-depth strategic planning belongs in the boardrooms of Fortune 500 companies or in the

administrative offices of large universities, think again.

In an industry like education where options, challenges, recommendations and pressures are constantly evolving, most leaders agree that a solid strategic plan isn’t a luxury anymore; it’s a necessity.

“It helps us chart a course,” said Dr. Dolan. “We’re not just reacting to whatever the trend of the day or moment happens to be. We’re deliberately and carefully thinking about what the

GWA experience should be for our students.”

Dr. Jeff Jackson, the president of the Georgia Independent School Association, agrees. He regularly works with member schools and their boards to provide mentorship and support through the strategic planning process.

**“Strategic planning is critical for independent schools when it comes to meeting challenges and remaining flexible.”**

“Strategic planning is critical for independent schools when it comes to meeting challenges and remaining flexible,” he said. “It’s absolutely the highest responsibility of both a head of school and its board. Where are we going? How are we doing on getting there? A strategic plan allows you to answer those questions intentionally and honestly. And if we discover something new



Dr. Dolan speaks at a pep rally following last year’s Ice Cream Social.





Double trouble? Kevin Cloud and Dr. Dolan do time in the Swim Team Jail House at the 2016 Fall Festival.

or different about ourselves or our families along the way, we're able to move and shake with that information."

Like Dr. Dolan, Dr. Jackson also sees the teacher-student relationship as the hallmark of an independent school and the differentiating factor between private and public education.

"That's the beauty of a strong independent school," he said. "Your teachers know you. They care for you. They're able to bring out your strengths and help you overcome your weaknesses. It's the personal touch."

In that regard, GWA's 2016 strategic plan is somewhat of a return to the school's roots – and its mission. Many of the planned initiatives and areas of concentration focus on the student experience, whether in the classroom, on the playing field, on the stage, in the studio or even across the world. GWA is not only supporting the teacher-student relationship through added faculty positions and programs; the school is also creating new avenues and contexts through which those connections can flourish. From additional elective choices and dual enrollment options to new art classes, athletic teams and study abroad opportunities, families can expect to see big changes as early as the 2017-2018 school year.

With GWA's 50th anniversary coming up in just two years, many of the school's initiatives also focus on sustainability, in terms of both financial resources and educational relevancy. Couple the abundance of

educational models available to students today with a changing set of 21st-century workforce expectations, and schools have to work harder than ever to make sure students are ready to tackle life beyond the classroom.

"Students know what they need in order to be successful in the 21st century," said Dr. Dolan. "They'll tell you they need skills like the ability to work together and the ability to problem solve. They need to be able to ask good questions. But most schools are not currently structured in ways that facilitate the development of those skills."

Of course, focusing on 21st-century skills is not new to schools; in fact, they've long been a part of the STEM/STEAM movement in education and larger conversations surrounding innovation, adaptability and the entrepreneurial mindset. GWA's strategic plan, however, aims to turn those big ideas into practical, real-world applications as well as professional development opportunities for faculty.

"We're mounting a conscious effort to make sure students are getting those skills as part of a larger package," said Dr. Dolan. "And that happens in everything we do, from classroom lessons and internships to our new Global Studies Program. Even the daily conversations we have in the hallways can make a difference. We can model that mindset, and as a school community, we should. That's the goal."

With so many changes slated for 2017-2018, one can only imagine what the remaining years in the strategic planning cycle may bring. "It's a great time to be a Bulldog," said Dr. Dolan. "Our families have heard me say that several times this year, but it's something I've come back to again and again. This is a very special time to be at George Walton Academy."



Dr. Dolan and wife Erin enjoy a little friendly bidding at the Lucky Dawg Gala and Benefit Auction in March.

## ACADEMY NEWS

### Meet GWA's New Board of Trustee Members

Three new members joined the board last March.

The George Walton Academy Board of Trustees welcomed three new members last spring and bid farewell to several others.

Katie Downey departed after nine years of service, having joined in 2008, and William (Billy) Fortson, a board member since 1986, stepped back after 31 years. We thank these two individuals for their invaluable contributions to the school and wish them well in their future endeavors.

We'd also like to introduce our newest members: Melissa Machen Shannahan, Scott Briscoe and Wes Bond.

**Melissa Machen Shannahan** is a GWA alumna and attended GWA from kindergarten up through her graduation in 1993. She belongs to a legacy of board leadership, as her mother Faye Machen served on the board of trustees from 1987 to 2016 and her grandmother Mae Henderson served on the board from 1978 to 1987.

Shannahan has served as a part-time magistrate judge for two years and has also represented DFACS in four counties. She's now in private practice as an attorney with the Shannahan Law Firm and is a board of directors member for the Walton County Chamber of Commerce.

Shannahan currently serves on the budget committee for the school. She resides in Monroe and has two children attending GWA: son Landon in first grade and daughter McNair in fourth grade.



Left to right are Morgan Machen Smith '00, Faye Henderson Machen, Harold Machen, Meredith Machen Adams '95 and new board of trustee member Melissa Machen Shannahan '93.



New board of trustee member Wes Bond.

**Wes Bond** is the Director of Domestic Tax and Assistant Treasurer for Halyard Health, Inc. He has practiced as a CPA in a number of states, including Georgia, Maryland, Washington D.C. and Virginia, and he has also worked in KPMG LLP's Baltimore and Northern Virginia offices as part of their National Energy Tax Services practice. He moved to Atlanta in 1998 to work in Deloitte Tax LLP's National Strategic Tax Resources group.

Bond has previously served on KPMG's Board of Advisors to the Energy Sector and was also treasurer and chair of First United Methodist Church of Monroe's Finance Committee. He's also a current board member for the Safari Club International's Georgia chapter.

Bond currently serves on the budget committee for GWA. He lives in Monroe with his wife Mandy and their two daughters: 2010 graduate Sara Smith and fourth grader Lexi.



New board of trustee member Scott Briscoe.

**Scott Briscoe** is the President of E.R. Snell Contractors, Inc., in Snellville and has been involved in the family business since 1993.

Briscoe is a past member of the Snellville Jaycees and was a previous board member of the Georgia Asphalt Pavement Association. He currently serves on the board of the Georgia Highway Contractors Association and on the First United Methodist Church of Monroe's Pastor Staff Parish Relations Committee and Board of Trustees.

He and his wife Christie live in Good Hope. They have two children attending GWA: daughter Balie in first grade and son Landen in fourth grade.



## Two GWA Teachers Celebrate 25 Years With GISA

Georgia Independent School Association recognizes a service milestone.

Paula Allen and Chris Britt were recognized last spring for hitting the 25-year benchmark with Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) member schools, and both teachers have spent all of those 25 years at GWA.

“Being at a place for 25 years means I now have students in my classes who are the children of my former students,” said Mrs. Allen, who teaches middle and high school math. “That has been really great. The school has changed so much since my first year, but students are still my favorite part of teaching.”

Mrs. Britt retired at the end of May after a 26-year career as a bus driver and lower school technology teacher at GWA. “My heart is full from my experiences on the bus,” she said. “Being the first person to greet students in the morning and the last person to see them in the afternoon has been amazing.”



## Strategic Plan Update: A Roundtable Q&A With Dr. Dolan and the Board of Trustees

A look back at last year's strategic planning process and updates on the school's progress.

GWA's strategic plan turns one year old in August, and we thought now would be a good time to revisit not only the origins of the school's strategic planning process but also the reasons behind it. How did this journey start? And, perhaps more importantly, how are we doing? We sat down with Headmaster Dan Dolan and Chairman of the Board Michael Geoffroy as well as board members Fei Rawl and Phil Stone to get their take, one year later.

**Q: Last fall's strategic plan spent years in the making. What type of process did GWA follow, and who was involved?**

**Michael Geoffroy:** After interviewing four prospective professional facilitators, we zeroed in on Bob Chambers, who had been the head of school at Athens Academy for over 20 years. He had a lot of experience in independent schools and was also the person who introduced long-term strategic planning to SAIS (Southern Association of Independent Schools). It has been a career-long passion for him.

Mr. Chambers led us through a process he had developed over the years, which started with asking our interested stakeholders to take a survey. We had never reached out to some of these stakeholders, such as those in the community who were not directly connected to GWA. From there we put together a series of committees to involve as many people as possible in the individual steps of strategic planning. The entire process took about a year from start to finish.



## ACADEMY NEWS

**Q: What is GWA hoping to accomplish through this strategic plan? Why now?**

**Michael Geoffroy:** Last fall we felt like we were facing a few unique opportunities and challenges in the future, especially with the retirement of Mr. Whitley and Mr. Nicholson along with the purchase of the new property. It was a great time to put a roadmap in place for the changes we had coming up. We were also interested in taking a realistic assessment of how we were doing as a school.

**Q: The strategic plan focuses on five interrelated categories: faculty, programs, community, facilities and sustainability. How are these categories important for the future of GWA?**

**Dan Dolan:** There's no relationship in a school that's more important than the one between teacher and student. Everything we do should be in support of that relationship. Whether you're the head of school or work in the cafeteria or the development office, everything we do should be ensuring that we're enriching rather than diminishing that relationship. You can't compromise the classroom experience. Fundamentally, at a school's very core, the teacher-student relationship is what's most important, and that's why investing in a strong faculty is key.

**Fei Rawl:** As owners of a business with international connections, we're presented with many opportunities and challenges relating to cultural and environmental issues. Younger generations are facing a complex world, so to speak. I think GWA's initiative of increasing students' exposure to global cultures and challenges through new programs is important when it comes to helping them better understand the global environment and preparing them for a changing world.

**Phil Stone:** GWA has a great history and tradition that speaks to who we are as a school community and family. This sense of community and tradition is something I feel we should continue to build on. However, to grow and thrive, we constantly have to consider how to improve our family experience so we can continue to be the best option for private school education in our area. We're working towards a unique experience for students that's built on tradition.

Also, being the oldest private school in our area means that our facilities can sometimes feel a little dated. Keeping our facilities current and making sure we have enough parking on campus are physical challenges to consider.

**Michael Geoffroy:** Sustainability is the foundation of every mission. If you don't have a realistic long-term plan for your financial sustainability, all of your other wishes are going to disappear.

In regards to long-term sustainability at GWA, we would first like to see a continued commitment to being good stewards of the dollars entrusted to us. We want to be as responsible as we can be. We also want to continue to offer a great value for our families and expand tuition assistance through GOAL and other programs to help as many people as possible be a part of GWA. And lastly, we'd like to be realistic about what we can do so we don't create any sort of false expectation.

**Q: What part of the strategic plan are you most excited about?**

**Fei Rawl:** From a parent's perspective, I'm mostly excited about new programs and enhancements in the areas of academic enrichment, broader global exposure and college counseling



Board members get down to business in the GWA upper school media center during their April meeting.



as well as a long-term plan for expanding the arts and athletic programs. I can also appreciate a renewed emphasis on the value of developing students as critical and independent thinkers and encouraging them to take intellectual chances.

I'm also very excited about our goal of improving the communication among all constituencies, both internal and external. A great example of improvements in communication this year was the implementation of the Coffee With Administration meetings on campus. Parents love these meetings because we have the opportunity to voice our concerns and can get clarifications openly.

**Phil Stone:** Next year we'll have seven grandchildren at GWA, and we know we'll have at least one more enrolling in several years. I'm excited that the school has a plan and that we're being proactive. This strategic plan will not only help us anticipate our future needs so we can continue to serve our students, but it will also make sure our facilities can support those efforts.

**Q: What changes have already come about, or are in the works, thanks to the strategic plan?**

**Dan Dolan:** From new faculty and staff positions to restructuring departments and the creation of new programs, we've already made significant changes in order to operationalize the strategic plan, especially heading into the 2017-2018 school year.

A few significant changes worth mentioning are the hiring of Michael Clancy, our new director of college counseling, as well as more academic choices for students like dual enrollment,

increased elective offerings, online courses and the option to take independent studies. Also, the implementation of our new Global Studies Program and international exchanges, the creation of Dawgs 360, the hiring of the school's first full-time athletic director, and the streamlining of our development efforts all came about as a direct result of the strategic plan. We'll see most of these changes really start to take effect this fall.

**Q: Where do you see GWA in five years, and how will the strategic plan help us get there?**

**Fei Rawl:** In the next five years, I see GWA remaining not only a relevant but an excellent college preparatory school. For one thing, our strategic plan aims to create an environment that attracts, retains and rewards faculty to ensure GWA is driven by exceptional teachers who are knowledgeable, challenging and inspiring.

**Q: As part of the strategic plan, GWA has a new vision statement: "Expanding Our Possibilities." Why is that vision important for the school?**

**Michael Geoffroy:** A vision statement is something that changes from time to time. We have a school motto and our founding values that don't change, but we also have a vision statement that needs to reflect where the school is at this moment in its history and where we want to go. "Expanding Our Possibilities" is a great vision statement for us because, in a few short words, it encompasses how far we've come and all we've accomplished, but it also indicates that we want to expand on that. We really want to take a look beyond traditional views of education and say, "Why not?"

## Making the Most of a Mission, One Day at a Time

Lower school character education emphasizes founding values in fun and creative ways.

On the surface of a typical school day lies many reasons for levity, but look a little deeper into routines, curriculum and assemblies, and you'll find something a little more serious: a mission. A school's mission carries thought and purpose. It's not a statement tucked away in the back of a desk drawer, a token introductory page at the beginning of official publications or even a nicely formatted webpage. A school's mission is its ultimate legacy – it's why the school was founded in the first place and how its faculty, staff, students and families see their place in the world.

George Walton Academy's mission is no exception, and by its guidance we create a culture that upholds our Judeo-Christian values by instilling high moral standards, discipline and respect. Again, this is serious stuff! And those words – high moral standards, discipline and respect – probably don't remind you of your most fun days at school. So how do you make that type of responsibility exciting for a fourth grader? Or a K4 student? How do you carry on the tough, character-building work that parents begin at home consistently and enjoyably in a lower school setting?

"Challenge accepted," said GWA Associate Headmaster Kevin Cloud, who worked with Bible teacher Ellen Hester throughout the school year to find creative ways of incorporating these very important, very serious founding beliefs into lower school culture and

## ACADEMY NEWS

curriculum. At the start of August, Mr. Cloud and Mrs. Hester decided to focus on three character traits for the year: positivity, respect and responsibility.

“My motto for the year was ‘Be a good friend; be a good leader,’” said Mr. Cloud. “Beginning with day one, students arrived at school to find the columns in the carpool line adorned with bright banners that displayed each of our chosen traits. We wanted to make an impact from the start that would continue to enhance a culture of character throughout the year.”

One major component of the lower school’s culture of character was the quarterly character assembly programs that were introduced this year. Each program emphasized one character trait and incorporated guest speakers as well as skits to help tell an engaging story.

The fall assembly focused on positivity and tied in a math lesson taught by Mrs. Hester – that day known as Nurse Ellen – who appeared in full costume and spoke with students about how positive behavior “adds” and negative actions “divide.”

The winter program, led by guest speaker and GWA parent Lieutenant Colonel Mike McGinn, focused on respect. GWA Eagle Scouts presented the colors, and McGinn shared experiences about his military service that highlighted both respect for others and respect for one’s country.

Written and performed by fifth-grade students who bravely entered the courtroom of Judge Judy (again, Mrs. Hester in costume), the spring assembly emphasized responsibility. Students pleaded their cases regarding common school scenarios – forgetting homework and cleaning the lunch table, among others – in front of the honorable judge herself and a student jury. The student skits showcased the difference between blaming others for one’s mistakes and assuming responsibility, even when negative consequences might be involved.

Students also chipped in throughout the year to assist in the reinforcement of good character by helping with the morning announcements and leading the school in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Cloud would also introduce weekly “manner moments,” which were minute-long lessons encouraging outstanding conduct. Manner moments incorporated a reminder to be respectful to classmates, use positive words, and take responsibility for personal work and actions.

So was it mission accomplished, so to speak? Character-building activities for lower school students had definitely been fun, but did they, well, build character?

“I can say that I certainly noticed an increase of ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ from students as well as holding the door open, general politeness and good manners,” said Mr. Cloud. “It’s seeping in. The little things are adding up and making a noticeable difference.”

Next year Mr. Cloud intends to partner with Sara Smith, GWA’s new Bible teacher, to continue the character assembly programs in conjunction with the Bible curriculum. With a mission as enduring and fundamental as GWA’s, no doubt the two will find new character traits to emphasize – along with new ways to make this very important part of the student experience something to anticipate and celebrate.



Bible teacher Ellen Hester, in character as Judge Judy, prepares to hear cases of student responsibility.



GWA's Eagle Scouts also participated in the lower school character assembly on respect.



Lieutenant Colonel Mike McGinn spoke on respect at the winter character assembly.



## Shedding Light and Sharing Insight on College Admissions

Changes to GWA's college counseling process mean a more streamlined approach for students and parents.

Nothing strikes fear into the hearts of teenagers quite like college application season. Mention phrases like "SAT/ACT prep," "admissions essays" or "recommendation letters" in their presence, and even the most boisterous, carefree 17-year-olds suddenly turn quiet and thoughtful.

College application requirements have been around for as long as the colleges themselves, but some seniors – and parents – still feel somewhat uneasy about the application process. Many colleges have different requirements or recommendations for prospective students, and if seniors plan on applying to more than one school, they better buckle up and take good notes, especially if their list of potential colleges includes out-of-state or private universities.

George Walton Academy's guidance and counseling office has a long tradition of college admissions assistance, but the school is doing more to step up its game. In the fall of 2016, GWA introduced several new programs that not only help guide students through the college application process but also give them insight into where they should apply in the first place.

One of these recent introductions, a software package called Naviance, provides college research and matching tools, course planning options, scholarship sources, and alumni tracking information. Naviance also streamlines the application process by giving real-time updates on a student's application status as well as required documents (letters of recommendation and official transcripts, among others) at a particular university.

YouScience, another addition to the counseling office, is a web-based program that aims to help juniors more clearly identify their strengths and interests as they consider potential career and academic paths. The program's personality and career aptitude assessments feel more like games as opposed to standardized tests, and students can access their results for up to 10 years after their initial assessment date.

Perhaps one of the most noticeable changes to the guidance and counseling office is the hiring of the school's first full-time college counselor, Michael Clancy. Mr. Clancy will join GWA's ranks this August by way of the Shekou International School in Shenzhen, China. His previous appointments include schools located in Indonesia, Uganda, Myanmar, Bolivia and Oregon. He has served as a college counselor for over a decade, working with American families living abroad as well as many families from a multitude of nationalities who would like their children to attend college in the United States. As part of his counseling duties, Mr. Clancy has visited over 100 college campuses across the country.

The addition of Mr. Clancy means GWA's guidance and counseling office will undergo a reorganization process. The restructure will accommodate a new working arrangement in which one counselor will be solely dedicated to college counseling while another takes the lead on student guidance.

According to Linda Smith, director of counseling services and middle school administration, the reorganization also means families can expect a more streamlined, collaborative approach to counseling at GWA.

"You can't separate academics from guidance," she said. "We're approaching the total student, and if you don't understand the total student, then it's going to be very difficult to make suggestions about college choices." As the guidance counselor, Mrs. Smith will focus on the areas of academic skill support, organization, interpersonal relationship skills, coping strategies, social skills, communication and problem solving – all which dovetail nicely with the college admissions process.

Other new initiatives from the guidance and counseling office this year included college campus visits for high school students, a Lunch Career Series for juniors and a planned internship program. College application season may indeed be daunting, but the goal is to make sure GWA families have the resources they need to make the process a little less scary.



Linda Smith helps parent Staci Scornik fill out forms during the rising senior parent meeting in May.

Michael Clancy joins GWA this August as the director of college counseling.



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### GWA College Visits: An Essential Part of the Admissions Process

Lower School Counselor Lindsey Bailey recaps last year's trips.

By Lindsey Bailey

As a high school student, I always knew I would go to college but never gave much thought to where until my senior year (gasp!). To say I felt overwhelmed is a massive understatement, but I quickly decided that I would attend a community college and later transfer to a four-year college. Problem solved... or so I thought. My loving mother had a different plan in mind.

"Why don't you apply to the University of Georgia? I bet you'll love it!" she would say.

"No, that school is *way* too big," I would protest. After a few rounds of this refrain, I finally agreed. "OK, fine!" I said with an eye roll. "I'll visit UGA, but I'm not going to change my mind."

My mom was right. From the moment I set foot on campus, I fell in love with UGA and realized that it wasn't the big, scary school I had imagined.

My point is not that every student should attend UGA or

"It was really nice to go ahead and get a head start on seeing what college would be like and what colleges expect from you, especially for students going into their sophomore and junior years. It was an amazing opportunity."

– **Melissa Gish**, GWA ninth grader



Students meet with an admissions representative at Mercer University.



Mercer University tour.



that parents are always right, but rather that college visits are incredibly important. Our students are as unique as the colleges to which they apply, and this fact makes the campus visit such an integral part of their college decisions.

With this overall picture in mind, I helped coordinate this year's college tours to take GWA freshmen, sophomores and juniors to visit Berry College, Mercer University, the University of North Georgia and Georgia Southern University. While on tour, students enjoyed lunch at the dining halls, walked and talked with current college students, and chatted with admissions staff.

One student summed up the tours well: "Having this experience to go on these college tours helps not only juniors but also freshmen know what they are looking at in the future and to know that schools are there to help."

I couldn't agree more.



Students enjoy the view at the University of North Georgia's Dahlonega campus.



Berry College tour.

## GWA Juniors Take a 'Working Lunch'

Lunch Career Series gives juniors a glimpse of daily life in a variety of career fields.

Lunch and a little career insight? Yes, please! Under the direction of the guidance and counseling office, GWA's Lunch Career Series for juniors kicked off last fall.

The goal was to provide an opportunity for students to gain a little face-to-face time with business and community professionals who are actually living out the careers many students dream of pursuing. With lunch as a backdrop, these invited speakers gave students tips on what to expect in college in a chosen major, educational pathways to a wide range of careers within a given field, how to be successful in the real world – and more.

"These kinds of opportunities are important because they give students a chance to see a real-world representation of what they might expect in college as well as in their careers," said Wanda Reagan. "Oftentimes students are exploring careers, but when they actually have someone come in who's serving in a profession they might be interested in, it helps them to have a better understanding of what happens on a day-to-day basis."

"It also helps kids see the overall diversity that's available in careers but also pin down what they're specifically interested in," added Mrs. Reagan.

This year three speakers visited campus to give students the nitty gritty on their chosen professions: Andrea Hill, a chemical engineer and GWA parent; Jordan Shumate '08, managing partner of Shuma Sports and a GWA alumna; and Judge Eugene Benton, a former GWA parent and superior court judge with Alcovy Judicial Circuit.

With hopes of inviting more career-oriented speakers to campus in the future, the guidance and counseling office is looking forward to the 2017-2018 school year.

"The plan is to pick the Lunch Career Series back up in the fall," said Mrs. Reagan. "We already have a working list of some possible speakers."

Judge Eugene Benton visits with GWA juniors on Jan. 25 as part of the Lunch Career Series.



# ACADEMY NEWS

## Life Without Borders

GWA's new Global Studies Program will begin international exchanges this year.

By Femke Côté

Have you heard the news? George Walton Academy is expanding its borders this year by introducing our first international school partnership with St. Paul's School in Barcelona, Spain. I'm so incredibly excited to begin this journey, not only with the school as a whole but also with each individual student who will get to travel to Spain and experience this exchange firsthand.

From the moment St. Paul's school was brought to my attention last fall, I knew it was special. Making partnerships with foreign schools can be tricky, and I wanted to be sure that any sister school we might choose to partner with would have the same academic standards and family culture that we foster with our kids every day at GWA.

I'm happy to report that St. Paul's School is the best fit in every way. It was founded in 1968, just one year before GWA, and the St. Paul's community approaches education as we do – by highlighting academic excellence, character development and lifelong learning. Although St. Paul's places its main emphasis on language (students graduate fluent in English, Spanish and Catalan), both schools cater to an almost identical demographic and have approximately the same number of students, making this partnership an ideal fit for our first venture into international education.

As we begin to develop this program, you might be wondering why an international program is important, or why we're prioritizing this experience for our students. As a history teacher, I cannot begin to outline all of the reasons why this opportunity is of paramount significance, but I do want to highlight just a few.

First, we live in an increasingly inter-reliant world, one where everything and everyone is connected, making foreign travel a key ingredient in developing students who are ready to participate in a life without borders. Gaining early experience with soft skills like intercultural communication will provide students with an edge in a future where employers are searching for globally adept applicants. With a high likelihood that many of our students will one day be working in a foreign country or for a business that partners with foreign companies, providing them with this experience early can be of great significance to their future success.



**1** GWA has established a partnership for international exchanges with St. Paul's School in Barcelona, Spain. **2** Some adventurous Bulldogs pause for a selfie on the infamous Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, Ireland. **3** Students pause for a lunch break amidst a lush backdrop this summer in Costa Rica. **4** Students spent time at Dublin College in Ireland as part of 2017 summer travel. **5** In addition to enjoying the country's beautiful natural landscapes, this summer's Costa Rica travel group also participated in several service projects.



As a side effect of interdependence, we also try, as a school, to foster greater empathy within our students – not superficially, but through experiences that make deep impressions on their lives, altering their behavior in ways that make them better citizens of the world. Having the opportunity not simply to travel but to live with another family and host someone in their own home will increase students' empathic capacity. It will also help them see the world through another lens, and, by extension, enhance their global perspective.

Finally, living in a 21<sup>st</sup>-century world requires a certain literacy that can only be properly learned through exposure to foreign cultures in an authentic experience, such as an exchange. Bringing students to other countries and pushing them to interact with their global counterparts will teach them invaluable lessons about cross-cultural competence, flexibility and adaptability that can never be fully nurtured in a classroom environment.

Do you find these reasons for international exchange too broad? Too non-specific? That's the point! To insert specifics into the reasons why exchanges are valuable would place limits on an experience that's inherently limitless! Studying abroad is about going on the biggest adventure of your life and gaining a deeper understanding of the world around you, both abroad and at home.

Having recently hosted foreign students in my classroom from different parts of Europe, I can say as a teacher that they all spoke about how their experience as a foreign exchange student completely altered their views not only of America but also of their home country. For them, having the opportunity to observe our lifestyle and ask questions about politics, social norms and cultural habits allowed them to understand America in a fresh way, and then be introspective about their own culture and habits.

Matthew Taylor, the chief executive of the Royal Society of the Arts in London, said it perfectly when he stated that we, as humans, need to “resist our tendencies to make right or true that which is merely familiar, and wrong or false that which is only strange.” *That* is why foreign exchange is so important. We want to develop more self-aware and empathic students, ones who are looking for ways to understand the world around them, not as simply “foreign” or “familiar,” but as pieces of a larger whole to which we all belong and contribute. By placing themselves in another's shoes, students can allow their own views to be shaped by experiences instead of assumptions.

So how soon can we get this exchange program going? This past January we hosted Hannah Margrett, the head of English at St.

Paul's, and solidified the partnerships between our schools. We now plan to host five students from St. Paul's School in October, and then we'll send the same five who hosted students at GWA to Barcelona in April 2018 to allow them to experience student life in Spain.

In the next three years, we hope to establish partnerships with more schools, aiming to have at least three official partner schools by the 2020-2021 school year. We're currently in talks with Dainfern College in Johannesburg, South Africa, about a possible partnership for summer 2018, and we're also hoping to make a connection in Australia by the end of this upcoming school year.

These are exciting times to be at George Walton Academy, and I hope each of you can find a way to become involved in our journey to become more empathic and cross-culturally literate – while seeing as much of the world as we can!



The Spanish city of Toledo was also on the summer 2017 travel itinerary.



A student travel group pauses for a photo in picturesque Barcelona.

### Collaboration Dream Team

Beth Moss and Johnny Griffin team up to offer an interdisciplinary approach to English and Georgia history.

Eighth-grade teachers Beth Moss and Johnny Griffin were the self-described “new kids on the block” last August. After a lengthy teaching career in Gwinnett County public schools, Mr. Griffin was starting fresh at GWA in the history department, while Mrs. Moss had just moved over to middle school English from third grade in GWA’s lower school. Like new students, new teachers often just hope to settle in, find their routines and get a good handle on their classes for the year.

Or they might team up and tackle a series of collaborative, interdisciplinary projects to reinforce student skills and content knowledge across subject areas.

Mrs. Moss and Mr. Griffin chose the latter option. “Being the new kids, we just developed a friendship,” said Mrs. Moss. “We would go to each other with questions, and through those conversations, we found out that many of the topics we were approaching with our students naturally overlapped.”

Instead of assigning separate projects that just happened to be marginally related, the two teachers decided to take a more intentional approach. They would cover the same topics at the same time and assign one project for several grades in both classes. Often Mr. Griffin would cover historical contexts of notable events, people and movements, and Mrs. Moss would ask students to explore those issues through writing and oral presentations. Both teachers played a part in the planning, teaching and grading process.

Not only did this approach establish a consistency of expectations for students, but the teachers were also able to hold students to the same high standards, no matter which class they were in. “We’re working smarter, not harder,” said Mrs. Moss.

Students first completed a joint project on Native American myths in the fall, then moved on to a collaborative unit covering Jim Crow laws in the South. One of the more boisterous projects, dubbed Super 64 by the teachers, involved a March-madness style playoff bracket of “super star Georgians.” Bracket entrants had to have been born in Georgia, lived in the state or made major contributions to the state. Students researched potential nominations before submitting them in writing, making sure to provide clear explanations of how their entrants met the bracket requirements and to what extent.

Mrs. Moss and Mr. Griffin finished the year with a project in which the former made an appearance as the governor of Georgia and heard proposed bills from a student-led legislature. Students had to research, write and orally present their bills for a vote under the guidance of both teachers. Mrs. Moss and Mr. Griffin are still working on plans for 2017-2018, but they hope to implement a full nine-week unit on the city of Savannah.

“It just works,” said Mr. Griffin about his collaboration with Mrs. Moss. “Going interdisciplinary is a great way to take a different approach to things, and I think the kids have really enjoyed it. They get excited when they can connect the dots between our classes.”





## Pre-K or K4: What's the Difference?

A day in the life of a K4 student at GWA.

By Cari Bailey

As GWA's director of admissions, I'm often tasked with "showing off" everything that makes our school special. I spend my days leading tours for families who live down the street and across the country. Something I've noticed over the last several years is that all parents are looking to feel a connection to the place where their child will spend many waking hours – whether for a single school year or the next 14 years.

When I visit with middle and high school families, it's easy to distinguish the GWA difference. I discuss the school's challenging academics, AP class offerings, science labs, 1:1 technology initiative, GHSA-sanctioned athletic teams and our family-focused environment that's deeply rooted in tradition and pride.

But when it comes to the K4 program, many may wonder why a family would choose to invest nearly \$5,000 for a half-day of preschool. In order to better answer that question for our prospective families, I decided to experience the difference for myself. I signed up to spend the day as a K4 shadow student.

My day in K4 started with carpool. I found that each morning as these delightful young students arrive, they're greeted by

enthusiastic teachers and administrators who help them out of their cars and send them on their way with a smile, a hug and sometimes even a high five. After they arrive in the classroom, they "unpack" and prepare for the first tasks of the day. Whether taking attendance, discussing the weather or singing a song about the days of the week, these kiddos are challenged from the moment they walk in the door until they leave at noon.

On the day I visited, the whole class was present, and my fellow students welcomed me as their "new friend." We first headed to Spanish with Señora McElveen, where we danced a traditional Spanish favorite to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. During class, these 4- and 5-year-old students were engaged in conversational Spanish, telling the teacher their favorite color and how many members made up their *familia*. Using a white board, they each drew pictures of their *casa* and pets.

We wrapped up our lesson and headed back to class, where we selected a snack, said a prayer and shared a favorite memory from Rodeo Day earlier that week. We then finished our earlier discussion about the weather outside, the day of the week and the date. We also sang another song about coins that included details of the president on each one along with its worth.



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During this period of time, the teacher was able to incorporate math, social studies and science into a 4-year-old's version of play. Are you tired yet? I hope not, because it's only 10 a.m.!



Next we walked to music in a straight line with our arms out like airplanes and a bubble in our mouths to make sure we remained quiet through the hallways. Mrs. Dyer greeted us with her infectious smile and began class with a "Welcome to Music" song (she has another when it's time to leave). We spent the next few minutes talking about May Day and the various May Day celebrations and customs around the world. We watched a short video of festivities in Hawaii and in Europe, then gathered around a May Pole in her classroom and performed the customs ourselves.

When we returned to our classroom, it was time to get busy with a little hands-on learning. We colored, cut and pasted, worked on telling time using the small hand (hour) and big hand (minutes), and sang a song that helped us learn how to count by fives up to 100.

Finally, it was time for recess! We spent this downtime in the classroom due to the rainy weather outside, but students had no shortage of opportunities to put their creative and imaginative skills to work. Several wanted to practice answering the phone in the room's "dental office," others played with Legos, a few grabbed a pillow and a book in the cozy reading nook, and some played a highly competitive game of Simon Says. Before we knew it, the time had come to clean up and get ready for dismissal.

Many students left for the day, but several stayed to be lunch and camp-out buddies. I grabbed a lunch tray and joined them in the cafeteria, where they connected with their friends from the other K4 class. Smiles, laughter and chatting over a well-balanced meal led to a conversation about what each student remembered as his or her favorite activity from the school year. Once we were full and exhausted from our busy morning, camp-out buddies headed to the classroom for some rest, and I headed back to my office to consider the events of the day.

My experiences as a GWA K4 student taught me that our program is bursting with activity. Students aren't simply being taught; they're actually experiencing their learning each and every day. As they sing and dance their way through the days of the week, types of weather and cultural traditions, their teachers are loving and appreciating them as individuals. Students take joy in trying new things, and they learn from their mistakes.

Mrs. Sherre Cown told me many moons ago that GWA's K4 program is not just preschool; rather, it's structured more like kindergarten for 4-year-olds. After my day with these amazing youngsters, I undoubtedly agree. How many preschool programs offer the types of hands-on opportunities that I was able to experience in just one day?

So here's my answer to the \$5,000 question: If you're looking for a school for your child, put him anywhere. If you're looking for a place where your child can learn and grow, where he is loved, nurtured, appreciated, encouraged and challenged every single day, then GWA K4 is the place you want to be.



“First off, you have my dream job.”

That was the initial response Haley Hodges Reynolds '09 received after describing her work as a nurse at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to a group of GWA middle schoolers this past spring. Her presentation was a part of this year's sixth-grade career talks, which allowed students to learn about future careers and imagine the possibilities ahead of them. Haley was one of several alumni who returned to campus as guest speakers.

“Our alumni were very willing to come back to GWA and share about their careers and lives,” said sixth-grade math teacher Lori White. “I felt that by asking our alumni to come speak to our students, we were creating a connection for both groups. The alumni spoke about their days at GWA and what they studied in college as well as the jobs they have held since graduation. It was interesting for the students to see successful young adults and know that they sat exactly where these students are now.”

Other alumni who participated in the career talks included Andrew Williams '08 of Your Pie, Sarah Smith '10 with the First United Methodist Church Youth Ministries and Zach Shumate '10 of Shuma Sports.

Sixth-grade science teacher Chris Jones felt that asking alumni to come back and speak had even greater benefits than asking the same of a parent or professional.

“I truly believe that seeing former students return as professionals in their fields has opened the eyes of these sixth graders,” said Mr. Jones. “This experience has shown students that they can go anywhere and accomplish whatever they want once they graduate from GWA.”

These career talks are just one of many activities across campus through which alumni are connected to GWA students. Alumni involvement is vital to the success of the school's band and athletic programs, and alumni are also involved with the literary team and chorus productions. Some even volunteer in the classroom.

Additionally, over 50 GWA alumni who are now parents of current students return to campus throughout the year to help with athletic concessions, computer labs, classroom decorations, parties and field trips.

TOP PHOTO: Haley Williams '09 spoke to students about working as a nurse at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Andrew Williams '08 answers questions about his job as a Your Pie franchise owner.



# FROM STUDENTS TO SUCCESS STORIES

**GWA alumni return to campus to give career talks to sixth-grade classes.**

**By Jeanie Beach**





## Alumni by the Numbers for 2016-2017 School Year

7 alumni faculty and staff

51 alumni who are the parents of current students

38 young alumni involved on campus last year



## ALUMNI UPDATES

### CLASS OF 1976

**Jon Dial** became co-owner of a graphite exploration and mining company in Alabama.

### CLASS OF 1982

**Greg Waters** started volunteering with Kendore Cares Foundation, an organization that brings effective reading intervention to underserved schools through teacher training and one-on-one student instruction.

### CLASS OF 1992

**Josh Axelberd** is president and CEO of Displayit, a privately-held e-commerce company that provides products, services and strategies to the trade show industry. Displayit was recognized this past spring as one of the Top 150 Workplaces in Atlanta by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for the second year in a row. More than 2,500 companies were nominated or asked to participate in the evaluations.





**CLASS OF 1993**

**Melissa Machen Shannahan** joined the George Walton Academy Board of Trustees.

**CLASS OF 1994**

U.S. Navy Petty Officer, second class **Angelito Jimenez** participated in the USS Zumwalt DDG-1000 Sail Around Cruise, during which the crew sailed the ship from Maine to its new homeport at the San Diego Naval Base. The USS Zumwalt is the largest destroyer ever built for the U.S. Navy.

**Britton Woodruff** started a new business called POLITIME, which consists of a website and app designed to bring the power of the American people together with the reach of social media.

**CLASS OF 1997**

**Christy Casey McGill** was a Teacher of the Year finalist and serves as a commissioner on the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, representing kindergarten through second grade.

**CLASS OF 1998**

**Megan Mullis Green** was promoted to regional manager for Henry Schein Animal Health, the world's largest distributor of animal health products.

**CLASS OF 1999**

**Christy Olliff Booth** was promoted to vice president of Trevelino/Keller.

**Katherine Zrolka Eisner** was a two-time Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year.

**Greg Gray** was ordained to the office of pastor and teacher at the United Church of Christ in Connecticut.

**CLASS OF 2000**

**Jennifer Martin Squires** was hired as assistant principal at County Line Elementary School in Barrow County, Georgia.

**CLASS OF 2001**

**Cayce Myers** received a certificate of accreditation in public relations and published a book, *Mass Communication Law in Virginia*. He is an assistant professor at Virginia Tech.

**CLASS OF 2003**

**Michael Levy** was promoted to lead developer at EZ Prints Holdings, Inc., in Norcross.

**CLASS OF 2004**

**Laura Beth Palmer Caudell** was selected to be the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 community impact co-chairman for the Junior League of Athens. She oversees their Bookin' it All Summer project to encourage summer reading.

**Erin Hall Churney** was certified as a licensed clinical social worker.

## International Connections: Media Makes the World Go Round

**Class of 1999 graduate Jessica Clary** is the assistant director of student media at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta. She is adviser to the student-produced daily online news source The Connector, the quarterly student feature magazine SCAN and the 24/7 online student radio station SCAD Atlanta Radio.

At any time approximately 150-200 students are involved in student media programs at SCAD Atlanta, and her position allows her to work with students from all over the world. This year she has the opportunity to advise students from Nigeria, the Bahamas, Indonesia, India, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. She holds a B.A. in journalism from the University of South Carolina and an M.F.A. in professional writing from Savannah College of Art and Design. She has worked for SCAD in both Savannah and Atlanta since 2003.



**Meredith Reagan** works on the communications team for the Center for Disease Control's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP). DHQP's mission is to improve the safety, quality and value of healthcare, both domestically and internationally. As the partnership coordinator for the Get Smart About Antibiotics Program, she collaborates with professional organizations, patient advocates and other key stakeholders. She educates patients and healthcare providers to promote the importance of appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use to help stop the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, or "superbugs." Reagan is also a member of the Atlanta chapter of The Pink Agenda, a nonprofit organization that raises funds and awareness for breast cancer research and care.

## Young Entrepreneurs: The Business of Vintage

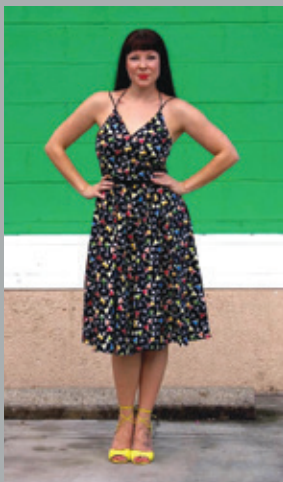
**Class of 2001 graduate Stacy Davidson** has turned a love of women's vintage clothing into a knack for design. After nine years of collecting and selling vintage clothing pieces, she decided to start creating her own retro-inspired dresses and skirts for others to enjoy.

"I started selling vintage clothing at local markets when I lived in New York City," she said. "Since then, it has been my goal to have my own vintage-inspired dress collection."

Davidson's business venture began in earnest when she moved back to the South and started selling her vintage finds under the company name of **My Vintage Look**. In August 2016, she began designing and making her own vintage-inspired collection, and the newly revamped My Vintage Look debuted at tradeshow in Atlanta and Las Vegas.

My Vintage Look is now carried in select retro and pin-up boutiques across the United States, and several of Davidson's pieces were even featured in Charleston Fashion Week 2017. The line is completely designed and manufactured in Nashville.

Davidson's business went digital with the launch of MyVintageLook.com this past May. The website features her retro-inspired dress and skirt line, plus a curated collection of fun and funky accessories.



Capt. **Ronald Rice** returned from a deployment to Afghanistan in February 2017. He received a scholarship from the U.S. Army to attend the Goizueta Business School at Emory University for an MBA beginning in fall 2017.

**Jeremy Southall** was promoted to vice president and branch manager at General Star Management and moved to Chicago, Illinois.

**Will Warren** opened Athens Trauma & Addiction Center in Athens. He is the owner and clinical director.

### CLASS OF 2005

**Tony Cann** was promoted to business development manager with HB NEXT.

### CLASS OF 2006

**Andrew Gross** received certification from the Catering Institute of America. He also volunteers for Downtown Ministries, a ministry in Athens that focuses on building relationships with inner-city children in an effort to change their lives and the lives of their parents through sports and education.

**Bethany Leggett** won a Folio Eddie award in New York City for a series of features in the 10th anniversary edition of Golden Isles magazine. She also received three additional nominations for Folio awards as well as a Georgia Press Association nomination.

**Ali John Madani** is a Ph.D. student in English literature at Brown University. His research and teaching interests explore 16th- and 17th-century writing and culture, with special emphasis on Shakespeare, Milton and baroque poetics. Before arriving at Brown, Madani was a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania and taught seminars there as well as at Bryn Mawr College. He spent the summer in London conducting research at the British Library and at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

### Christopher David McCoy

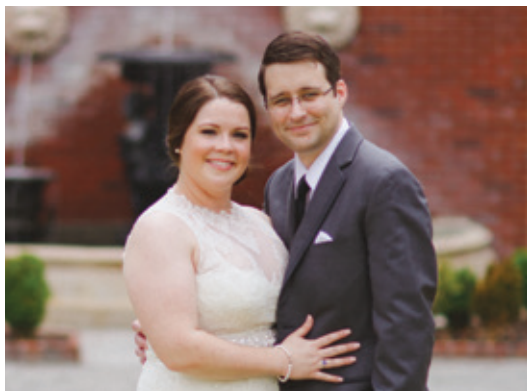
was ordained as associate pastor of youth and family services at Highland's Presbyterian Church in Grayson, Georgia. Reverend McCoy graduated from Erskine College with a bachelor's degree in Bible and religion and from the Erskine Associate Reformed Presbyterian Seminary in South Carolina with his Master of Divinity degree.



**Sara Moore** received her MBA from Georgia Tech in 2016. She is a senior consultant in enterprise optimization and project management at UHY Advisors, Inc.

**Katy Poole** received her M.S.N. for family practice in 2016. She is a family nurse practitioner at Dalton Ear, Nose & Throat Associates.





**Stephanie Leggett Reeves** received an Exceptional Supervisor Certificate in 2017. She is the program adviser and an adjunct professor for the college of aeronautics, college of science and college of business within the Department of Online Learning at the Florida Institute of Technology.

**Eric Steed** is opening a physical therapy clinic in Dahlonega, Georgia.

**Mark Terrelonge**, M.D., M.P.H., was awarded the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) TEACH Award. He is a second-year neurology physician resident at UCSF and received his M.D. from Stanford University, an M.P.H. from Columbia University and a B.A. in neuroscience from Harvard University.

### CLASS OF 2007

**Matt Burrows** received an M.S. in entomology in 2016 from Auburn University, where he also received the Outstanding Graduate Student award. He is a biologist with the Center for Disease Control and traveled to Haiti with CDC personnel as part of a Zika response team in March 2017.

**Hunter Holder** returned in April from a deployment in Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (Spartan Shield). He flies HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters for a medical evacuation company (C Co 1-111th MEDEVAC).



## Young Entrepreneurs: Providing a Platform for Pet Welfare



**Class of 2001 graduate Amanda Newsom** unveiled her new magazine **Classic City Paw Print** in May 2017. For someone who has been active with animal rescue since high school and throughout college, the venture has been a unique opportunity for Newsom to elevate her involvement in a cause that has been close to her heart for many years.

"I recently worked with a wild-life conservation nonprofit as

their communications specialist for three years," she said. "But I really wanted to get back into pet welfare for various reasons. I also wanted to take the next step into business ownership so I could be my own boss."

Inspired by the now-defunct Athens publication Critter Magazine, Classic City Paw Print incorporates editorial and media content alongside more practical information and columns on animal welfare. "I wanted to take that idea and expand on it using my background and skills," said Newsom. "Critter was wonderful, but it didn't have much content, so I wanted Classic City Paw Print to promote not only pet adoptions but also responsible pet ownership and compassion for all animals."

Features of the magazine include shelter pages with adoptable pets, a vegan recipe of the month, animal-related book reviews, information on wildlife species, an advice column and profiles of nonprofits working to help animals in unique ways.

Newsom also volunteers with the Humane Society of the United States in animal rescue. She was recently deployed on her 11<sup>th</sup> case to provide assistance at a temporary shelter in Habersham County that houses over 400 seized animals.

She describes animal rescue as both important and rewarding. "It's something I really love to do when I can," she said. "And it's one of the most rewarding things I've been able to do in my life."

In addition to a bachelor's degree in magazine journalism from the University of Georgia, Newsom also has a bachelor's in anthropology and a master's in nonprofit management. Classic City Paw Print allows her to combine her love of editing and designing magazines with a passion for pet welfare. (Photo credit: Morgan Soloman)

## International Connections: More Than an Education in South Africa

**Class of 2003 graduate Elyse Sims** graduated with an Executive MBA from Georgia State University in May 2017. As an EMBA cohort member from the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, Sims spent 14 days in South Africa last January learning about business, economics and charity. During her travels she visited Johannesburg, Entabeni and Cape Town, and the journey included trips to local schools, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and several South African-based businesses.

Working with professionals at local businesses put the knowledge Sims had acquired over her 17 months in the EMBA program to good use. She not only gained business and operations experience but also spent time with nonprofits, museums and schools.

Sims described her time in the country as very moving. "South Africa is a country of extremes: hope and despair, kindness and prejudice, natural beauty and a history of ugliness," she said. "Over 90 percent of the population was freed from political and cultural slavery only 27 years ago, and still so many are suffering from the economically crippling Apartheid-era administration and the current President Zuma. And yet it is the most magnificent country with such hospitable people, fascinating wildlife and economic potential. I would return in a heartbeat."



**Lindsey Bettis Jones** graduated in May with an M.P.A. from Valdosta State University.

**Jonathan Nwilo** received his J.D. from the Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law in 2016 and an LL.M. in taxation from the University of Florida in 2017. He is an associate at Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele, LLP.

**Sarah Walker Richardson** led Atlanta Habitat's first ever Global Village build trip to the Dominican Republic. She is a sponsorship manager at Atlanta Habitat for Humanity. She was also a member of the 2016 High Potential Diverse Leaders program through the Georgia Center for Nonprofits and joined the board of the Atlanta chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals as a volunteer coordinator.

**Brad Schambach** spent 2016 as the global microbiology contact for Coca-Cola at their corporate headquarters. He was a part of the team responsible for the safe production of all new beverages and processes globally. He worked in conjunction with several international markets, including Asian/Pacific, South American and European markets. Schambach is currently a research and development scientist in North America Product Development at The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta. He has a master's degree in food science with a microbiology focus from the University of Georgia.

**Trisha Cherie Stephens** was hired as director of advancement for Monsignor Donovan Catholic High School in 2016.

**Morgan Tannenbaum** accepted a position as a manager in television research and analytics with CNN.

**Brittany Thurmond** is an adoption social worker with Lifeline Children's Services Georgia office. Her job is to take families through the home study process for domestic and international adoptions and to provide support after they adopt. Thurmond has worked with several missionaries in Brazil and holds a master's degree in social work.

### CLASS OF 2008

**Abbey Ellison Fields** received her M.D. from the Medical College of Georgia in May 2017. She is a pediatric resident physician at the Children's Hospital of Georgia.

**Taylor Giles** celebrated five years in June as an analyst for Kimberly-Clark. He is currently a treasury analyst at Kimberly-Clark's world headquarters in Dallas, Texas.

**Ben Johnson** was recently sworn in to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He attended law school at the University of Richmond, where he graduated among the top 10 in his class in 2016.





## CLASS OF 2009

**Bartlett Benton** was sworn in as an attorney in the state of Georgia. Benton works for Webb & Taylor, LLC, in Atlanta.

**Joshua Gonzales** received a B.S. in public health in 2017 from Brigham Young University and is starting medical school. His wife is from South Korea, and the two often volunteer there by teaching English.

**Sarah Gregg** graduated cum laude with a J.D. from Mercer University School of Law in May 2017.

**Sam Hammond** traveled to Ukraine this spring to start his work with the Peace Corps in the city of Chernihiv. Hammond received his MBA from Kennesaw State in 2016.

**Allison Mahfuz** was promoted to junior media buyer at Omnicom Media Group.

**Anna Potter Money** received her M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction in May 2016. She and her husband **Jordan Money '09** are moving to Alabama.

**Matthew Salley** received his certification as a glider pilot.

## CLASS OF 2010

**Allison Doyle** was awarded the National Health Service Corps scholarship, which is a full-tuition scholarship to medical school. She is a medical student and laboratory researcher at Georgetown University.

**Jonathan Hill** started a new job as medical physicist with Mountain States Health Alliance in Tennessee.

**Keeli Laughinghouse** was a designated trainer for new hires for Hamilton State Bank in 2016.

**Caroline Poole** is a partner manager for Qualtrics and was selected to manage their corporate Women's Leadership Development series. She also received the Customer Obsession Award.

**Tyler Stokes** received his J.D. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in May 2017.

## Young Entrepreneurs: Realizing a Dream, One Cup at a Time

**Class of 2003 graduate Chris Barr** likes to help people connect through stories. Add in a cup of coffee, and he's found his perfect blend of happiness. This combined love of coffee and conversation became the catalyst he needed to start his own coffee roasting business, **Pounds Coffee**, two years ago.



"After I graduated from UGA in 2007 with a degree in psychology, I worked in marketing and helped start a coffee shop in Athens," he said.

"I was hired as a manager at Two Story Coffee, where I helped hire and train employees and manage coffee quality. After a while, I decided that I wanted to roast coffee my way and strike out on my own."

Barr purchases green coffee beans from buyers and importers around the world and processes each batch himself in his store in Watkinsville. Many of his customers subscribe to his coffee through his Pounds Coffee web site. What started out as a part-time passion has grown into a full-time business as he has built his subscription service and added new customers.

For Barr, the business is still about more than just coffee; it's about the people. "I'm interested in the people who drink my coffee and their stories," he said. "That is the heartbeat of my business."

As he pours green coffee beans into a pre-heated coffee drum, Barr's pride in his craft is clearly visible. Each batch is carefully monitored, and he works to unveil a unique expression of flavors and characteristics that suits the taste palate of the coffee drinker and roaster.

"If you're a coffee drinker, you desire to love your coffee experience," he said. "My passion is to bless people inside their homes, and I get to do this by encouraging them in their moments with coffee to be fully present, to slow down and enjoy their mornings more fully. My hope is that by reclaiming our mornings and slowing down to enjoy a few quiet moments, we may be putting ourselves in a position and posture to listen, serve, reflect and pray."



Barr himself has reflected on the recent growth of his business. "One opportunity can set you up for the next one," he said. "I don't think I would have been admitted to UGA if I had not attended GWA. My time in Athens gave me the opportunity to have my coffee experiences and provided the foundation for embarking on this adventure."

## International Connections: Exam Gloves Go Global

### Class of 2005 graduate Mary Rachel Taylor Henderson

works with both upstream and downstream medical exam glove marketing worldwide. She is responsible for new product development projects, working with global marketing teams to develop products to meet regional specific needs for both established markets such as North America and Japan as well as emerging markets like India.

She also works in a global capacity with Safeskin, the Halyard exam glove manufacturing plant in Hat Yai, Thailand, where Henderson lived for a year before going back to get her MBA. She also works with other outsource manufacturing partners located in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Henderson recently traveled to Asia as an associate product marketing manager for global exam gloves at Halyard Health. "While in Asia, we celebrated our record-breaking six new global product launches in 2016 with the leadership and workers at our Safeskin manufacturing plant in Thailand," she said. "We also met with outsource suppliers to discuss recent movement in raw material prices and begin contract negotiations for the next three years. I also visited hospitals in and around Kyoto, Japan, where customers are implementing our newest glove packaging innovation."

In addition to global product development and supply, Henderson is responsible for launching new products in North America and supporting the North American Sales Team on a day-to-day basis. This past year she had the opportunity to lead the development and commercialization of two new products: an improved dispenser box for exam gloves that reduces multiple dispensing and the risk of cross-contamination, and an extra-long protective glove specifically designed for decontaminating surgical trays and instruments after operations.

Henderson graduated from Georgia Tech's MBA program in 2015.



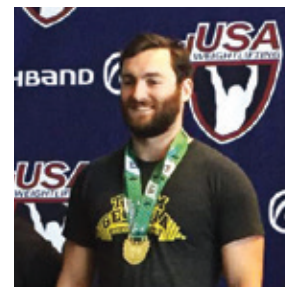
## CLASS OF 2011

**Alexis Carnes** received her master's degree in kinesiology with an emphasis in exercise physiology. She is moving to Chicago in August 2017.

**Molly Dunn** was officially named the Pickens County representative for the James E. Clyburn Political Fellowship Class of 2017.

**Alex Cole** moved to Seattle, Washington, to work in autism research.

**Cord Gunnin** won the gold medal at the 2017 USA Weightlifting National Under 25 Championships in the 94 kg weight class. He represented Team Georgia Weightlifting.



**Brett Eckles** received his M.S. in engineering in 2016.

**Jessica Epting** started the final year of her physician assistant program.

**Ilyssa Johnson Green** became a licensed real estate agent in Georgia and manages over 700 properties in the Statesboro area.

**Jenna Lamont** graduated from the University of Georgia in May with a M.S.W. with a focus in clinical counseling, and she also received her certificate in marriage and family therapy. She interned on a federally funded project through the University of Georgia called Project F.R.E.E. for the past year and will continue her work on this project after graduation. Project F.R.E.E. is a campus-community partnership that creates positive homes for children across Northeast Georgia by fostering relationships and economic enrichment. The organization provides evidence-informed programs and services that promote healthy relationships and financial capability for parents.

**David Porter** graduated from Auburn University and was accepted into the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Joe Powell** graduated from Georgia State University with master's degrees in actuarial science and mathematical risk management. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in statistics at the University of Georgia.

## CLASS OF 2012

**Ishaan Dave** graduated with his M.P.H from the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health with a concentration in biostatistics. He was the youngest graduate among 390 students. Dave has been accepted to the University of Georgia's doctoral program in biostatistics and will start in the fall of 2017.



**Logan Duncan** received the Sigma Nu Alpha Affiliate designation in 2016. This designation is awarded to only 10 graduating Sigma Nu seniors throughout the country who honorably uphold the ideals of Sigma Nu through leadership and positive influence on campus and in the community during their college tenure. He is an investment banking analyst at Raymond James.

**Madison Ingram** received an academic scholarship and a teaching assistantship at the University of Alabama to work on her master's degree in library and information science. This summer she interned at the Daughters of the American Revolution headquarters in Washington, D.C.

**Madison Odum** graduated from the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in finance and international business. She works for Ernst & Young's Advisory Practice.

**Zachary Stokes** graduated summa cum laude with majors in both mathematics and statistics from the University of Georgia in May 2016. He also received a certificate in actuarial sciences. Stokes is working on his Ph.D. in statistics at the University of California, Los Angeles.

## CLASS OF 2013

**Andrew Bullard** is a radio broadcaster for Victory 91.5 FM and moved to a new shift on Saturday nights from 6 to 9 p.m.

**Kelley Delchamps** is a student at Kennesaw State University and traveled this summer to Migori, Kenya, for an internship, where she worked at an orphanage.

**Madison Giles** graduated in May 2017 from Kennesaw State University with a B.S. in psychology. She will be attending Mercer University in the fall to pursue a M.S. degree in clinical mental health counseling.

**Dylan DeBoer** accepted an internship with GNTV Media. He also received recognition for his work with Go Baby Go, Habitat for Humanity and the Department of

## Young Entrepreneurs: Right On Track

**Class of 2006 graduate Amanda Duval Jeannette** discovered her love for videography while working on her emphasis in photo and video journalism at the University of Georgia. After she completed her internship at Petit Le Mans in 2010, one of her professors connected her with the American Le Mans Series, a sports car racing series based in the United States and Canada.



"I had never been to a race, and that was my first time shooting anything outside of class projects," said Jeannette. "It was definitely an eye opener, but I loved it. I graduated in December 2010, and the ALMS hired me in January 2011. I worked at ALMS for three years and honed my videography skills, but at the end of 2013, ALMS merged with NASCAR, so I knew I would either have to move to Charlotte or figure out something else."

Jeannette opted for the latter. She moved to Salt Lake City to be closer to her boyfriend at the time (the two are now married) and founded her own company, **Righteous Media**.

"I really wasn't 100 percent sure that I had made the right decision because I quit my job and had no leads," she said. "But I knew I wanted to keep shooting video, and I wanted to stay in the sports car racing industry."

Following her dreams paid off. Right before the 24 Hours of Daytona in 2014, her phone rang. Michelin was on the line. They contracted her on a trial basis for four races, and after Daytona, they booked her for the rest of the season. Four years later, Michelin is her biggest and most consistent client.

Jeannette has since picked up additional clients, including Mazda Motorsports, Michelin Guide, Dodge Viper, Nissan, Bentley and Porsche Design. What started out as a one-person business has evolved to incorporate four additional freelancers who collaborate with Jeannette on big assignments. Her primary focus is shooting and editing video in the sports car racing industry, but she also handles public relations for one team and a driver as well. This year she's partnering with Michelin to produce lifestyle pieces that include working with the Michelin Guide for a focus on culinary excellence.

Her business requires extensive travel and long hours. "I've traveled to the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France three different times for the Automobile Club de l'Ouest (ACO), Nissan and Michelin," she said. "My primary job there has been to capture on-track action at one of the oldest and most prestigious races in the world and to capture the grandeur of being at Le Mans. It's hard because you have to stay up for 36 hours or longer if you really want to tell the full story of what's happening on the track, in the pits and in the grandstands."

"It's a tough job," she said, "but it's also very rewarding when you see the finished product."

Jeannette traveled to Switzerland this July to scout locations in preparation for a Michelin video shoot. She'll return in September for a month-long ride and drive with Michelin's biggest influencers and dealers. Through this project, she'll create a video tour through Switzerland, stopping at historic or scenic destinations along the way and finishing each day with a dinner created by a Michelin-starred chef.

## ALUMNI NEWS

Transportation Media Lab at the spring National Engineering Advisory Board meeting on April 11, 2017.

**Emily Duey** is participating in the COST program from October through December 2017 with the University of Georgia. Through this program she'll complete her student teaching for her bachelor's degree in Europe.

**Kaitlyn Fellows** returned from her second course studying abroad in Cortona, Italy, through the University of Georgia.

**Sarah Elizabeth Myers** studied abroad this summer in Seville, Spain, through Mercer University. She works at Georgia Dermatology in Macon as a medical assistant and volunteers at the All About Animals no kill shelter.



**Halie Sorrow** was selected for the Peach Belt Conference's 2017 Softball All-Academic Team, representing Lander University.

*Halie Sorrow, left, pictured with Autumn Parrish '14, who plays softball for Armstrong State University.*

**Jacob Weinstein** received the UGA Ruth Kiney Memorial Scholarship (presented at halftime in Sanford Stadium), the UGA School of Music Director's Excellence Award, the Harold Heckman Scholarship, the UGA School of Music Outstanding Sophomore Award, the Redcoat Band History Preservation Award and Mr. Redcoat Band 2016 (and 2015). He also received the Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Instrumental Music Education Award for 2017. Weinstein is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society. This year he designed an exhibit at the UGA Richard B. Russell Special Collections Library on the history of the UGA Redcoat Marching Band, compiling hundreds of pages of research that will be turned into a book to be presented with an award at halftime in Sanford Stadium during a UGA football game this fall.

**Makayla Zammett** helped start Camp Kesem at the University of Alabama, a nonprofit on campus for children whose parents have cancer.

### CLASS OF 2015

**Mackenzie Britt** was elected vice president of membership of the honorary service fraternity Kappa Kappa Psi at the University of Georgia. She will be traveling to Cortona, Italy, this summer to study viticulture and enology.

**Justin Cohen** and **Murphy Pulliam**, along with **Jason Dokes '17**, competed in Drum Corps International over the summer. All three alumni were selected after a competitive audition process involving musicians from across the United States, Canada and Japan, followed by five weeks of intensive rehearsals.

**Nick Carruth** was elected as vice present of the University of North Georgia's Student Activities Board for Nighthawk

Entertainment. He is also a mentor with Nighthawk Network, a mentorship program for first-year students.

**Maridith Grimsley** was selected as a University Ambassador for Valdosta State University, a designation that includes both job duties and scholarship funds. Her responsibilities entail recruitment and open house programs for prospective students, donor events with the president's office, and other special events as needed. Grimsley is majoring in dance and business management. She's a member of the Valdosta State Honors College and is the team captain of the Honors Student Association Relay for Life team.



**Ashley Hammonds** was selected by the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association for the Women's Soccer All-Region First Team in the position of defender. Hammonds is attending Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and is a soccer scholarship recipient.

**Dilys Osei** became a three-time All-American this March when she and her Emory University 4x400m relay teammates finished sixth overall in the event at the 2017 NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships. Osei would go on to win the outdoor conference runner-up title in the 400m hurdles later that spring.

**Lauren Rutledge** was selected to be an ambassador for the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. She recently returned from a semester abroad in Uruguay, where she studied sustainable beef and grain production along with marketing systems.

**Kevin Strohschein** garnered recognition for having one of the most prolific seasons in Tennessee Tech baseball history last year, starting all 55 games in the outfield while becoming the first player in the 67-year history of the OVC to claim both Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year awards. Strohschein was invited to play summer baseball in the prestigious Cape Cod League this year.

### CLASS OF 2016

**Erica Webb** was selected to appear on the cover of Elysian magazine. Webb is a model with Ursula Weidmann Models and spent last summer in Milan, Italy, on assignment.

**Mackenzie Wright** received second place in the Emerging Writers Contest hosted by Kennesaw State University in the creative non-fiction category. Her essay will be published in the 2017 edition of the Emerging Writers text, which is required reading for incoming 2017 Kennesaw State freshmen taking English 1101.

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**Have news to share, or need to change your contact information? Email Jeanie Beach at [jbeach@gua.com](mailto:jbeach@gua.com)!**

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# ANNUAL LOYALTY FUND



George Walton Academy

## 2016-2017 Annual Loyalty Fund Report

**Annual Loyalty Fund Donations: \$493,599.49**

**(43% Parent Participation)**

**Additional Fundraisers:**

**Dawgs Unleashed Event: \$33,594.23**

**Lucky Dawg Gala & Benefit Auction: \$92,605.00**

**Total Raised for 2016-2017: \$ 619,798.72**

George Walton Academy

## 2016-2017 Loyalty Fund Leadership Committee

### Annual Loyalty Fund Parent Committee Members

Wayne Pugh  
Tanya Rainford  
Meg Wilmesherr  
Lee Waldo  
Nicole Fleming  
Teri Stanley  
Shyron Ivey

### Annual Loyalty Fund Call-a-Thon Student Captains and Teams

#### Ben Howard

Kolby Dunn  
Walker May  
Bailey Croker  
Russell Pope  
Caroline Vansant  
Jacob Dally  
Jenna Lo  
Lauren Holley  
Emma Boyer

#### Stevi Lee Manning

Rachel Eady  
Kaitlyn Rutledge  
Ben Carter  
Neal Dave  
Grayson Eady  
Susanna Grimsley  
Haynes Waldo  
Tori Chapman  
Sydney Jerman

#### Collin Shiver

Team Members  
Caroline Hart  
Eliza Malcom  
Grace Anne Hanson  
Ayden Middlebrooks  
Jack Harvey  
Dawson Rutledge  
Jack Power  
Bailey Greer  
Ivy Turner

#### Reese Howard

Hannah Arnold  
Kate Hester  
Emily MacDonald  
Lexi Coleman  
Perry Rogers  
Taylor Wolf  
Georgia LaPann  
Kennedy Heard  
Ally Hardison  
Ian Malcom  
Kate Hester

# ANNUAL LOYALTY FUND



## ANNUAL LOYALTY FUND

The Annual Loyalty Fund plays a vital role in the life and mission of George Walton Academy. Money raised beyond tuition through this important program provides the solid financial support necessary to continue the exciting and innovative programs we want every GWA student to experience. Opportunities that are made available to our students through this fund lie at the heart of what makes a GWA education exceptional.

### **BENEFACTOR'S CIRCLE** (Gifts of \$10,000 and over)

Anonymous  
Scott & Christie Briscoe  
Wayne & Ashley Briscoe  
Frank & Katie Downey  
Steve & Cassie Felton  
Stevie & Cecilia Garcia  
Brad & Anne Jacoby  
Reggie & Linda McFarland  
Darrell McWaters  
Dan & Darla Pennington  
Jay & Fei Rawl  
Melissa Machen ('93) Shannahan  
Lee & Kelly Waldo

### **FOUNDER'S COUNCIL** (Gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999)

Aubrey & Marianne Akin  
Michael ('94) & Tara McFarland ('95)  
Geoffroy  
Mark & Lisa Hanson  
Herbert & Marian Haley Foundation  
Trey & Jennifer Long  
Grib & Patti Murphy  
Kenneth & Jean Murray  
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### **SUSTAINER'S COUNCIL** (Gifts of \$2,500 to \$4,999)

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Kelly Jesel  
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Harold & Faye Machen  
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Jimi & Heather Martin  
Richard & Karen Maxson  
Michael & Dessa Morris  
Bart & Vicky Peppers  
Lee & Amy Preston  
Nathan & Mary Purvis  
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Roy Roberts, Jr. ('86)  
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Brad Smith & Jae Harrison

Chris Snell  
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Williamson  
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Arthur & Jeanne Bowick  
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Billy & Amy Butler  
Dan & Kerry Chapman  
Joe & Kelly Cowan  
Jeffrey & Cathy Craven  
Daniel & Debbie Digby  
Dan & Erin Dolan  
Jim & Kimberly Dolvin  
Jonathan & Theresa Eady  
Mark & Claudia Engelbracht  
Christopher & Lindsay Eubank  
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Archie & Becky Fleeman



Hardy Fortson ('95)  
 Eddie & Rita George  
 Rob & Jill Green  
 Clifford & Scarlett Grossman  
 GWA Youth Basketball  
 GWA Youth Football  
 James & Kellee Hammond  
 David Harcourt  
 Becky Harris  
 Adam & Stephanie Henderson  
 Richard ('84) & Laurie Hester  
 Douglas Hicks & Catherine Bagwell  
 Richard Howard & Angela Hutchins-  
   Howard  
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Anonymous  
 Kirby & Marty Atkinson  
 John & Cynthia Bateman  
 Sue Briscoe  
 Chris Britt  
 Rebecca Burkett  
 Kenneth & Wrynn Carson  
 John & Andrea Carter  
 Pete & Gail Carter  
 Stephen & Kimberly Carter  
 Chris & TinaMarie Cooper  
 Todd & Courtney Croker  
 Clay ('87) & Melinda Murray ('87)  
   Dally  
 Ben ('82) & Ann Doster  
 Kevin & Rebecca Duey  
 Clint, Katrina, & JT Ferenbee  
 Chip & Libby Ferguson  
 Lee & Lisa Garrett  
 Fred & Kathleen Gosman  
 Eric & Heather Gravitt  
 Alan & Angel Grimsley  
 Matt & Kim Bowden ('86) Gunning  
 Bob Hill

Bob & Marsha Houck  
 Barney & Sally Howard  
 Rob ('86) & Barbara Howard  
 Bruce & Jere Lin Hutter  
 Ellis & Amy Sorrells ('89) Kirby  
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 Mike & Lisa Lynam  
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 Mark & Teri Stanley



# ANNUAL LOYALTY FUND

Lena Sydnor  
Ronnie Tillman ('79)  
Dexter & Janet Whaley

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Carson & Linda Keller  
Jim & Lynn Killman  
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Kroger  
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Richard & Alvida Lingner  
Joseph & Cindy McGoldrick  
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Mary Carmichael ('76) McMorrow  
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Kellie Snipes ('86)  
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Barry & Kalen Vanderhorst  
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Joyce Abernathy  
Al & Connie Adcock  
Robert & Jennifer Akin  
Stacy & Julia Akins  
Benny & Paula Allen  
Anonymous  
Rogelio & Martha Aguirre  
Dennis & Diane Allen  
Thomas & Susan Atkins  
Jane Martin Atkinson  
John Martin Atkinson ('98)  
Porter ('92) & Lorin Atkinson  
Freddie & Bettie Baker  
Howard & Norma Baker  
Kevin & Karen Barrett

Walker & Elizabeth Beeson  
Kevin & Lynne Behnke  
Chris & Angela Bilik  
Donald & Frankie Britt  
Georgiana Britt  
Van & Frankie Britt  
Debra Broome  
J. Winston & Linda Brown  
Winn & Andi Brown  
Gene & Patsy Brunson  
Christopher & Kelly Bryan  
Kevin Bunch & Kellie Harrison  
Robert & Judy Burrow  
Stephanie Calabrese  
Damon Camp  
Mark Carnes  
David & Brittany Carter  
Douglas & Rita Cason  
Jeffrey ('88) & Maggie Rivers ('88)  
Cato  
Chae & Alicia Chandler  
Amanda McCarthy ('04) Colbert  
Victor & Denise Colson  
Jean Courson  
Jimmy & Sherre Cown  
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Mary Ford  
Wyn ('91) & Jana Allen ('94) Fuller  
Zhimin Gao & Jie Li  
Bob & Julie Gasaway  
John & Esta Geoffroy  
Doug & Shirley Glenn





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 Johnny Griffin  
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 Ellen Hester  
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 Geoffrey & Ursula Kirk  
 Bob & Barbara Kutchback  
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 Brian & Maria MacDonald  
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 Rusty & Kim Maddox  
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 Barry & Kim McLendon  
 Michael McMain  
 Laura McNulty  
 Greg & Cathy Meadows  
 Katherine Meeks  
 Tim & Nancy Mersereau  
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 Messig  
 Rex & Barbara Mitchell  
 Gabriel & Maria Mitrulescu  
 Russell & Bonny Moore  
 John & Faye Morgan  
 Steve & Pam Morris  
 Michael & Beth Moss  
 Sheila Nation-Turk  
 Jack & Janie Nebl  
 Walt & Beth Nix  
 Ryan ('01) & Corrie Beth Noll  
 Donald Norman  
 Justin & Judy O'Donnell  
 John & Jessica Otts  
 Bill & Patricia Owens  
 Nancy Owens  
 Larry & Sharon Pearson  
 Carolyn Phillips  
 Terrance Phillips & Cheryl Manning  
 Robin & Jaime Pledger  
 Russell & Jeanie Pope  
 Dottie Porter  
 Walter & Carolynne Prevatte  
 Mike & Debbie Purvis  
 Devon & Tanya Rainford  
 Glen & Melissa Ralston  
 Pete & Evelyn Ratliff  
 Greg ('86) & Lyn Rawlins  
 Daniel & Allison Rees  
 Matt ('09) & Haley Hodges ('09)  
 Reynolds  
 Nick & Emily Roediger  
 Vickie Rollins  
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 Megan Sims  
 Christian & Mary Smith  
 David & Sue Smith  
 Don & Gail Smith  
 Travis & Carolyn Smith  
 Billy & Jane Snipes  
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 George & Mary Speidel  
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 David Taylor & Leslie Lackey  
 Carolyn Templeton  
 John & Susan Thomason  
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 David & Scarlett Vansant  
 Peter Van Wyk  
 Janice Warren  
 Steven Whitley  
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Rebecca Adcock  
 Anonymous  
 Jacob & Ora Bailey  
 Joe & Joyce Bailey  
 Lindsey Bailey  
 Russ & Pat Bailey  
 Vivian Barnes  
 Camille Beach ('14)  
 Kyle Beach ('08)  
 Sally Beeson  
 Allison Boyer  
 Don & Wanda Bristol  
 Eddie & Tanya Brown  
 Gene Bryant  
 Trisha Campbell  
 Rebecca Cardin  
 Luke Carter  
 Mr. Francisco Casallas  
 Gus & Mary Castle  
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# ANNUAL LOYALTY FUND

Brenda Coe  
Tommy & Sandra Conner  
Jonathan Cooper ('14)  
Richard & Joan Coppingner  
Joyce Cordell-Huff  
David & Fenke Cote  
Marc & Tiffanie Couch  
Tommy & Lois Cowan  
David & Brenda Cruce  
Amit & Rupal Dave  
Royce & Sheila Davis  
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David & Lynne Deaton  
Monteen DeVore  
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Kathryn Echols  
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Cliff & Joanne Hammond  
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Will & Lori Hines  
Jean Holley  
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Cynthia Misterka  
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Josh Mitchell ('06)  
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Barbara Morris  
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Blaine ('93) & Leigh Ann Sorrow  
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Gail Waldo  
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Anne Wilson  
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The Kula Foundation

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AMB Group, LLC  
AT&T Matching Gift Program  
Bank of America  
Cisco  
Coca-Cola Company  
Halyard Health  
Shell Oil Company Foundation  
The Benefit Company  
Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Foundation

## CORPORATE DONATIONS

Box Tops for Education  
Extra Credit Inc.  
Ginn Motor Company  
Great American Opportunities  
Kroger  
Lands' End  
New London School of Driving  
PeachState Federal Credit Union  
Publix Super Markets Inc.  
Southstar Energy Services LLC  
Target







## Grandparent Donors

GWA grandparents are an invaluable source of support for the school. Their financial contributions enhance the learning experience for all GWA students. Grandparents who have contributed to the 2016-2017 Annual Loyalty Fund are listed below.

Joyce Abernathy  
 Al & Connie Adcock  
 Rebecca Adcock  
 Marvin & Pam Akin  
 Stacy & Julia Akins  
 Dennis & Diane Allen  
 Jane Martin Atkinson  
 Kirby & Marty Atkinson  
 Joe & Joyce Bailey  
 Russ & Pat Bailey  
 Freddie & Bettie Baker  
 George & Brenda Baker  
 Chris & Mindy Barber  
 Vivian Barnes  
 Sally Beeson  
 Walker & Elizabeth Beeson  
 Arthur & Jeanne Bowick  
 Allison Boyer  
 Sue Briscoe  
 Don & Wanda Bristol  
 Donald & Frankie Britt  
 Van & Frankie Britt  
 Debra Broome  
 Eddie & Tanya Brown  
 J. Winston & Linda Brown  
 Gene & Patsy Brunson  
 Gene Bryant  
 Bill & Sandy Bryson  
 Rebecca Burkett

Robert & Judy Burrow  
 Damon Camp  
 Trisha Campbell  
 Rebecca Cardin  
 John & Andrea Carter  
 Mr. & Mrs. Merrill Carter  
 Mr. Francisco Casallas  
 Gus & Mary Castle  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Cato  
 Steve & Debbie Chandler  
 Michael Cicco  
 Brenda Coe  
 Tommy & Sandra Conner  
 Richard & Joan Coppinger  
 Jean Courson  
 Ed Cowan  
 Tommy & Lois Cowan  
 Jimmy & Sherre Cown  
 Dotty Croker  
 David & Brenda Cruce  
 Doris Davis  
 Royce & Sheila Davis  
 Michael & Patricia Dean  
 Monteen DeVore  
 Kathy Dopp  
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 Mr. Melvin Dye  
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 Lamar & Diane Ewing  
 Ron & Catherine Fagin  
 Gene & Lynda Felton  
 Archie & Becky Fleeman  
 Don & Marcia Floyd  
 Mary Ford  
 Bob & Julie Gasaway  
 John & Esta Geoffroy  
 Eddie & Rita George  
 Doug & Shirley Glenn  
 Phillip Greer  
 Alan & Linda Grimsley  
 Cliff & Joanne Hammond  
 Harry & Pat Hanson  
 David Harcourt  
 Becky Harris  
 Mitch & Sue Harris  
 Angela Hayes  
 Anita Helmsadam  
 Preston & Linda Herren  
 Dick Hester  
 Wanda Hickman  
 Harry & Susan Hicks  
 Robert & Deborah Hillegonds  
 Jean Holley  
 Jack & Carrie Horner  
 Bob & Marsha Houck  
 Robert & Ola House

## ANNUAL LOYALTY FUND

Barney & Sally Howard  
Bob & Patsy Hunt  
Louis & Jeanette Jimenez  
Russell & Karen Johns  
Gus & Pat Johnson  
Raines & Sally Jordan  
Joe & Donna Kehoe  
Carson & Linda Keller  
Ron & Ann Kessler  
Jim & Lynn Killman  
Clarence King  
Dennis Kiriwin  
Dalton Knox  
Don & Emily Lane  
John & Linda Langer  
Buddy & Peggy Lawrence  
Bill & Lynda Lewis  
Richard & Alvida Lingner  
Lee & Brett Lord  
Mary Lynam  
Harold & Faye Machen  
Jamie & Carolyn Maddox  
Bob & Barbara Malcom  
Horace & Sherrie Malcom  
Lamar & Lell Marsh  
Larry & Beckie Martin  
Vicki McCoy  
Reggie & Linda McFarland  
Frank & Lynda McGoldrick  
Michael McMain  
Greg & Cathy Meadows  
Kip & June Mercer  
Tim & Nancy Mersereau

Scott & Elaine Millians  
Cynthia Misterka  
Rex & Barbara Mitchell  
Wayne & Glenda Molton  
John & Faye Morgan  
Barbara Morris  
Jane Morris  
Kenneth & Jean Murray  
Helen Muse  
Doyle & Terry Music  
Michael & Maxine Nabors  
Gerald & Nina Nash  
Sheila Nation-Turk  
Jack & Janie Nebl  
Billy & Vicki Nicholson  
Walt & Beth Nix  
James & Wanda Norris  
Justin & Judy O'Donnell  
Tony & Alice O'Lenick  
Jack & Ilene O'Shanic  
Bill & Patricia Owens  
Nancy Owens  
Larry & Sharon Pearson  
Jacquelyn Pennington  
John & Martha Pierce  
Dottie Porter  
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Nathan & Janet Pulliam  
Mike & Debbie Purvis  
Nina Raine  
Glen & Melissa Ralston

Pete & Evelyn Ratliff  
Thomas & Cathy Reardon  
John & Levon Redding  
Bill & Pat Rogers  
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Richard & Marilyn Schneider  
Kay Shepherd  
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Otis Smith  
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George & Mary Speidel  
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Becky Stephens  
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Frank & Mary Lillian Thomason  
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Raymond Todd  
Frank & Kay Turner  
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Gail Waldo  
Gail Wallin  
Janice Warren  
Dennis & Lorri Whitaker  
Jack & Ann Williams  
Anne Wilson  
Emilie Wingfield  
Charles & Anne Young  
James & Edna Young





## HONOR & MEMORIAL GIFTS

### In Memory of Jon Abel

Chris Britt

### In Memory of Rosemary Dixon

Chris Britt

James & Tina Jordan

### In Memory of Buddy Howard

Barry & Jeanie Beach

Hal & Deborah Breedlove

Chris Britt

Billy & Stephanie Fortson

Richard ('84) & Laurie Hester

James & Tina Jordan

John & Lisa Ott

Lee & Amy Preston

Getra Thomason ('85) Sanders

Jody & Linda Smith

Phil & Ivy Stone

Henry & Linda Wall

Art & Angela Williams

Virgil & Patty Williams

### In Memory of Barbara Short

Chris Britt

James & Tina Jordan

Mark & Donna Sisk

### In Memory of Bill Cloud

James & Tina Jordan

Mark & Donna Sisk

Jody & Linda Smith

### In Memory of Jerry & Jeannette Tillman

Chuck & Carolyn Tillman ('81) Steele

### In Memory of Randy Weaver

Chuck & Carolyn Tillman ('81) Steele

### In Memory of George Hearn

Chuck & Carolyn Tillman ('81) Steele



### In Memory of Jean McDonald

Chuck & Carolyn Tillman ('81) Steele

### In Memory of Neddie Eitel

Chris Britt

### In Memory of Charles M. & Ruth Sanders Walker

Charles M. Walker Foundation

### In Memory of Jenny Dobbs

Chris Britt

### In Honor of Billy Nicholson

John & Lisa Lingner ('82) Ott

### In Honor of Steven Whitley

John & Lisa Lingner ('82) Ott

### In Honor of Preston Breedlove

Chuck & Carolyn Tillman ('81) Steele

### In Honor of Dick Hester

Chuck & Carolyn Tillman ('81) Steele

### In Honor of John Sorrells

Chuck & Carolyn Tillman ('81) Steele

### In Honor of A. D. Howard, Jr.

Dr. & Mrs. A. Emerson Johnson, III

# ANNUAL LOYALTY FUND

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### The Lavinia Wood Scholarship

Pete & Gail Carter

## ALUMNI CHALLENGE

### Class of 1976

Mary Carmichael McMorro

### Class of 1977

Billy Mitchell

### Class of 1979

Ronnie Tillman

### Class of 1980

Vickie Hearn Williamson

### Class of 1981

Carolyn Tillman Steele

### Class of 1982

Ben Doster  
Lisa Lingner Ott

### Class of 1983

Jeanie Sorrells Beach

### Class of 1984

Mike Malcom  
Richard Hester



### Class of 1985

Getra Thomason Sanders

### Class of 1986

Kim Bowden Gunnin  
Rob Howard  
Greg Rawlins  
Roy Roberts, Jr.  
Kellie Snipes

### Class of 1987

Clay Dally  
Melinda Murray Dally  
Ken Kilgore

### Class of 1988

Jeffrey Cato  
Maggie Rivers Cato  
John Howard

### Class of 1989

Amy Sorrells Kirby

### Class of 1991

Wyn Fuller  
Cham Stone

### Class of 1992

Porter Atkinson

### Class of 1993

Melissa Machen Shannahan  
Blaine Sorrow  
Mark Stancil

### Class of 1994

Jana Allen Fuller  
Michael Geoffroy

### Class of 1995

Chris Atkinson  
Holly Moore Atkinson  
Hardy Fortson  
Tara McFarland Geoffroy  
Chris Ralston

### Class of 1998

John Martin Atkinson

### Class of 2001

Ryan Noll

### Class of 2004

Amanda McCarthy Colbert

### Class of 2006

Josh Mitchell

### Class of 2008

Kyle Beach

### Class of 2009

Haley Hodges Reynolds  
Matt Reynolds

### Class of 2010

Zoie Mitchell

### Class of 2014

Camille Beach  
Jonathan Cooper

## GIFTS IN KIND

Loader Rental for Grounds and Cross  
Country Course  
Jimi & Heather Martin  
Turface Products, Lime and Fertilizer  
for Athletic Fields  
Dan & Darla Pennington  
Weights for Weight Room  
Keith & Beth Ann Fisher  
Band for Top Donor Party (2016)  
Russell & Susan Boyer  
Paint and Repairs to the Front  
Entrance of the School  
Raymond & Jeana Arthur  
Bart & Vicky Peppers  
School Work Truck  
Ginn Motor Company  
Signage for Athletic Fields  
William & Kristi Coleman

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Please contact the Development  
Office when making an in-kind  
donation to the school so that proper  
documentation and tax receipts can  
be sent to you.

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## PARENT DONORS

Support from parents is essential to George Walton Academy. Our parents contribute the bulk of funds raised through the Annual Loyalty Fund. Loyal and consistent support from our families enhances the classroom experience for our students and teachers. Listed below are parents who have made contributions this year. Parents are listed in each class where they have children.

### K4

#### (32% Participation Rate)

David & Brittany Carter  
Chae & Alicia Chandler  
Dan & Kerry Chapman  
Michael ('94) & Tara McFarland ('95) Geoffroy  
Thomas & Julie Litteral  
John & Jessica Otts  
Donnell & Michelle Washington

### K5

#### (30% Participation Rate)

Jacob & Ora Bailey  
Kevin Cloud  
Christopher & Lindsay Eubank  
Will & Lori Hines  
Richard Howard & Angela Hutchins-Howard  
Nick & Heather Knapp  
Todd & Janice Maddox  
Colleen O'Shanic  
Robin & Jaime Pledger  
Devon & Tanya Rainford  
Marc & Courtney Simon  
Mark ('93) & Jennifer Stancil  
Donnell & Michelle Washington

### FIRST GRADE

#### (42% Participation Rate)

Chris ('95) & Holly Moore ('95) Atkinson  
Scott & Christie Briscoe  
Wayne & Ashley Briscoe  
Billy & Amy Butler  
Luke Carter  
Dan & Kerry Chapman  
Todd & Courtney Croker  
Chip & Libby Ferguson  
Adam & Stephanie Henderson  
Jason & Melissa McCarthy  
Joseph & Cindy McGoldrick  
Michael & Beth Moss  
Nelson & Juliana Puello  
Melissa Machen ('93) Shannahan  
David Taylor & Leslie Lackey

### SECOND GRADE

#### (40% Participation Rate)

Aubrey & Marianne Akin  
Jacob & Ora Bailey  
John & Irma Baldwin  
Chris & TinaMarie Cooper  
Steve & Cassie Felton  
Eric & Heather Gravitt  
Michael & Jacqueline Harmon

Jason & Ashley Inman

Richard & Karen Maxson

Mike & Teal McKinney

Paul & Carrie Plyler

Lisa Pulliam

Devon & Tanya Rainford

Jay & Fei Rawl

Dustin & Jeanne Sieg

Mark ('93) & Jennifer Stancil

### THIRD GRADE

#### (43% Participation Rate)

Benny & Paula Allen  
Mark & Shannon Allen  
Chris ('95) & Holly Moore ('95) Atkinson  
Steve & Cari Bailey  
Wayne & Ashley Briscoe  
Dan & Kerry Chapman  
Daniel & Debbie Digby  
Will & Leah Ferguson  
Zhimin Gao & Jie Li  
James & Kellee Hammond  
James & Sherry King  
Jason & Michelle Longley  
Jason & Melissa McCarthy  
Randy & Ling McGahee  
Michael & Wanda Menard

# ANNUAL LOYALTY FUND

Michael & Beth Moss  
Bart & Vicky Peppers  
Robin & Jaime Pledger  
Lisa Pulliam  
Devon & Tanya Rainford  
Stefan & Nicole Sydnor  
John & Susan Thomason  
Bill & Marie Wolf

## FOURTH GRADE (40% Participation Rate)

Wes & Mandy Bond  
Scott & Christie Briscoe  
Frank & Janet Byers  
Luke Carter  
Victor & Denise Colson  
Kevin & Rebecca Duey  
Chip & Libby Ferguson  
Wyn ('91) & Jana Allen ('94) Fuller  
Kelly Jesel  
Zhimin Gao & Jie Li  
Michael ('94) & Tara McFarland ('95)  
Geoffroy  
Brian & Brittany Gordon  
Rob & Jill Green  
Clifford & Scarlett Grossman  
Douglas Hicks & Catherine Bagwell  
Jason & Andrea Hill  
Ken ('87) & Amy Kilgore  
Nathan & Mary Purvis

Mark & Diana Schroeder  
Melissa Machen ('93) Shannahan  
Mark & April Staples  
Barry & Kalen Vanderhorst

## FIFTH GRADE (43% Participation Rate)

Porter ('92) & Lorin Atkinson  
Steve & Cari Bailey  
Kevin & Lynne Behnke  
David & Lynne Deaton  
Daniel & Debbie Digby  
Dan & Erin Dolan  
Steve & Cassie Felton  
Jonathan & Toni Hill  
Adam & Stephanie Henderson  
James & Nelda Holley  
Rodney & Sadie Huene  
Jason & Ashley Inman  
Kelly Jesel  
Austin & Elizabeth Jones  
Mark & Allison Mleczko  
John & Faye Morgan  
Christian & Mary Smith  
Mark ('93) & Jennifer Stancil  
Mark & Teri Stanley  
Cham ('91) & Kelly Stone  
Bobby & Mandy Stout  
Logan & Rebecca Thornton

## SIXTH GRADE (52% Participation Rate)

Porter ('92) & Lorin Atkinson  
Chris & Mindy Barber  
Brian & Jessica Blackburn  
Russell & Susan Boyer  
Christopher & Kelly Bryan  
Matthew & Rachel Carter  
Marc & Tiffanie Couch  
Todd & Courtney Croker  
Ben ('82) & Ann Doster  
Kevin & Rebecca Duey  
Wyn ('91) & Jana Allen ('94) Fuller  
Stevie & Cecilia Garcia  
Brian & Brittany Gordon  
Eric & Heather Gravitt  
Rob & Jill Green  
Alan & Angel Grimsley  
Ron & Michelle Herren  
Jason & Andrea Hill  
Russell & Stacy Holland  
Brad & Anne Jacoby  
Britt & Sherri Jennings  
Clay & Deanna Lewis  
Jimi & Heather Martin  
Richard & Karen Maxson  
Douglas & Darlene Miller  
Robert & Amy Mims  
Derek & Mary Ann Parker  
Dwayne & Rebecca Ratliff  
Megan Sims  
Logan & Rebecca Thornton  
David & Scarlett Vasant  
Dexter & Janet Whaley  
Robert & Lori White

## SEVENTH GRADE (46% Participation Rate)

John & Cynthia Bateman  
Winn & Andi Brown  
Stephen & Kimberly Carter  
Kevin Cloud  
Joyce Cordell-Huff  
Jim & Kimberly Dolvin  
David & Sara Gasaway





Michael ('94) & Tara McFarland ('95)

Geoffroy

Clifford & Scarlett Grossman

Ron & Michelle Herren

Douglas Hicks & Catherine Bagwell

Chris & Jennifer Houck

Kelly Jesel

Ellis & Amy Sorrells ('89) Kirby

Mike ('84) & Meredith Malcom

Stacy May

Jim & Elizabeth McDonel

Tim & Angela McElveen

Wendy Meinert

Jason & Lisa Moore

Bart & Vicky Peppers

Russell & Jeanie Pope

Nathan & Mary Purvis

Terrance Phillips & Cheryl Manning

Jay & Fei Rawl

Kevin & Shelly Rockmore

Miles & Dinna Rosenthal

Megan Sims

Blaine ('93) & Leigh Ann Sorrow

Mark & April Staples

Bobby & Mandy Stout

Keith & Denise Tinsley

Roger & Marilyn Williams

## EIGHTH GRADE

(52% Participation Rate)

Jacob & Ora Bailey

Steve & Cari Bailey

Jay & Karen Brown

Kevin Bunch & Kellie Harrison

Stephanie Calabrese

Kenneth & Wrynn Carson

Douglas & Rita Cason

Jeffrey ('88) & Maggie Rivers ('88)

Cato

Bruce & Stacia Chirrey

Marc & Tiffanie Couch

Clay ('87) & Melinda Murray ('87)

Dally

Frank & Katie Downey

Jeffrey & Stephanie Fennell



Josh Hart

Heather Hansen

Brad & Anne Jacoby

Bhavin & Cynthia Jani

Geoffrey & Ursula Kirk

Thu Lam & Tram Nguyen

Vic Lazich

Jeremy & Laura Lee

Clay & Deanna Lewis

Tony & Fran Lucas

Mike & Lisa Lynam

Alan & Shannon Maddox

Michael & Diane McGoldrick

Marc & Liliana McMain

Laura McNulty

Michael & Wanda Menard

Brian & Roxanne Misterka

Russell & Bonny Moore

Chris ('95) & Corey Ralston

Greg ('86) & Lyn Rawlins

Roy Roberts, Jr. ('86)

Hugo & Staci Scornik

Christian & Mary Smith

Chuck & Carolyn Tillman ('81) Steele

Cham ('91) & Kelly Stone

Stefan & Nicole Sydnor

Skip Tayler & Pascale Bolle-Tayler

Lee & Kelly Waldo

Benjamin & Holly Whitlow

## NINTH GRADE

(42% Participation Rate)

Russell & Susan Boyer

Winn & Andi Brown

Matthew & Rachel Carter

Joe & Kelly Cowan

Todd & Courtney Croker

Clay ('87) & Melinda Murray ('87)

Dally

Ben ('82) & Ann Doster

James & Nelda Holley

Rob ('86) & Barbara Howard

Brad & Anne Jacoby

Mr. & Mrs. Lou Jerman

Kenneth & Janet Johnson

Trey & Jennifer Long

Stacy May

Gabriel & Maria Mitrulescu

Michael & Dessia Morris

Terrance Phillips & Cheryl Manning

Russell & Jeanie Pope

Wayne & Lisa Pugh

Dwayne & Rebecca Ratliff

Jay & Fei Rawl

David & Scarlett Vansant

## TENTH GRADE

(45% Participation Rate)

Robert & Jennifer Akin

Benny & Paula Allen

## ANNUAL LOYALTY FUND

Larry & Allyson Aull  
Stephanie Calabrese  
Mark Carnes  
Jim & Kimberly Dolvin  
Mark & Claudia Engelbracht  
Lee & Lisa Garrett  
Joe & Ginny Gregg  
Mark & Lisa Hanson  
Josh Hart  
Joy Harvey  
Richard ('84) & Laurie Hester  
John ('88) & Julie Howard  
Ken ('87) & Amy Kilgore  
Ellis & Amy Sorrells ('89) Kirby  
Trey & Jennifer Long  
Rusty & Kim Maddox  
Mike ('84) & Meredith Malcom  
Willis & Melina Mast  
Stacy May  
Marc & Liliana McMain  
Tony & Edie Middlebrooks  
Ben & Doretta Power  
Greg ('86) & Lyn Rawlins  
Roy Roberts, Jr. ('86)  
Kevin & Shelly Rockmore  
Scott & Karen Schorr  
Todd & Beth Shelnett  
Mike & Michele Short  
Brad Smith & Jae Harrison  
Mark & Teri Stanley  
Chuck & Carolyn Tillman ('81) Steele  
Stan & Donna Whitmire  
Bill & Marie Wolf

### ELEVENTH GRADE (48% Participation Rate)

Rogelio & Martha Aguirre  
John & Cynthia Bateman  
Chris & Angela Bilik  
Tom & Kelley Bradley  
Stephen & Kimberly Carter  
Dan & Kerry Chapman  
Jeffrey & Cathy Craven  
Amit & Rupal Dave  
Frank & Katie Downey  
David & Vicki Eady  
Jonathan & Theresa Eady  
Jeffrey & Stephanie Fennell  
Clint & Katrina Ferenbee  
Fred & Kathleen Gosman  
Alan & Angel Grimsley  
Chris & Jennifer Houck  
Bruce & Jere Lin Hutter  
Mr. & Mrs. Lou Jerman  
Slade & Shannon Johnson  
David & Anne LaMalva  
Scott & Beth Mappes  
Brett & Amy Martin  
Scott & Sheila Mathewson  
Larry & Lisa McDaniel  
Jim & Elizabeth McDonel  
Michael & Diane McGoldrick  
Greg & DeNita McGuinn  
Grib & Patti Murphy  
John & Lisa Lingner ('82) Ott  
Robbie & Laura Reid  
Les & Christina Russell

Hugo & Staci Scornik  
William Shaw  
Sean & Edie Sutton  
Lee & Kelly Waldo  
Tom & Cynthia Walker  
Robert & Lori White

### TWELFTH GRADE (34% Participation Rate)

Christopher & Joy Bender  
Georgiana Britt  
Bhavin & Cynthia Jani  
Greg Chapman & Lisa Johnson  
Kenneth Dombrowski &  
Linda Casteel  
Frank & Katie Downey  
Mark & Claudia Engelbracht  
Mark & Lisa Hanson  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Hardison  
Richard ('84) & Laurie Hester  
John ('88) & Julie Howard  
Rob ('86) & Barbara Howard  
Shane & Linda LaPann  
Brian & Maria MacDonald  
Alan & Shannon Maddox  
John Maddox  
Jimi & Heather Martin  
Dan & Darla Pennington  
Daniel & Allison Rees  
Carter & Julie Rogers  
Scott & Karen Schorr  
Robert & Lori White  
Bill & Marie Wolf



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The Annual Report includes all gifts and pledge payments to the Annual Loyalty Fund received by George Walton Academy between August 1, 2016, through July 18, 2017. Every attempt was made to ensure accuracy in this publication. However, errors do occur, and we apologize for any inconvenience they may cause. Please contact the development office at (678) 635-3812 with any corrections.

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## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

While other schools teach kids how to fit in, GWA teaches your child how to stand out. That's the GWA difference, one that goes well beyond academic rigor and a wide array of enrichment opportunities. Those aspects of an education are indeed important, but they're only the beginning. Ultimately, GWA instills the character, confidence, a depth of knowledge and the skills necessary for students not only to find their passions but to thrive in the pursuit of them.

The best way to learn more about George Walton Academy is to experience it for yourself. Come for a campus visit, speak with one of our student ambassadors or attend an open house event. We look forward to hearing from you and getting to know your family throughout the admissions process.



## 2018-2019 ADMISSIONS EVENTS

### Lunch & Learn About GWA

Join us in the Alumni Commons for an informal lunch with current parents, students and teachers to learn a little more about GWA. Lunch will be followed by a short campus tour. Space is limited; reservations are required.

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

### Open House

During an Open House event, prospective families will get an in-depth look at GWA's approach to academics as well as the full student experience – and more. A presentation by our administration will be followed by a campus tour and a Q&A session with a panel of current parents.

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Sunday, January 20, 2018

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

**For more information about GWA admissions or any of the events listed above, please contact Director of Admissions Cari Bailey at [cbailey@gwa.com](mailto:cbailey@gwa.com).**



GEORGIA **GOAL**  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, INC.

PLEASE PENCIL US IN

Start the new school year off right, and  
apply for your 2018 GOAL tax credit!



George Walton Academy

One Bulldog Drive

Monroe, GA 30655



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George Walton Academy



Follow us on Twitter  
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ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MONROE, GA  
PERMIT NO.9



Make plans to join us for  
Dawgs Unleashed 2017!

**Golf Tournament**

Monday, October 16  
Monroe Golf and Country Club

**Tennis Tournament**

Tuesday, October 17  
Summit Chase Country Club

**5K, Fun Run & Fall Festival**

Saturday, October 21  
GWA Campus

Go to [GWA.com](http://GWA.com) for details  
and signup forms.