

# THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

Volume LIII

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June-July 2020

## Class of 2020 Graduates

The Class of 2020 celebrated graduation with a drive through ceremony May 31. Students and their families slowly drove down South Ponce de Leon Avenue in decorated vehicles to the 1509 Building parking lot. There, students were greeted by head of school **Paul Bianchi** and high school principal **Brett Hardin** handed them their diplomas.

Seated along the street were members of the faculty and staff who waved and cheered as they drove by.

The senior gift—two benches engraved with original drawings in memory of 2020 classmate **Molly C. Wrede**—were on display in front of the Pi Building. See more photos on pages 2, 3 and 4.

*Photographs by Danny Lee Photography*



## Paideia Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

Paideia welcomes several new faculty and staff for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Jill Hanson** is joining the elementary staff as librarian. Jill is a graduate of Mercer University, USC- Columbia and Florida State University. Jill has been the librarian at Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School and Woodward Academy.

**Sallie Singleton** will teach with **India Stubbs** and **José Cordero** in their K/1 classroom. Sallie graduated from Spelman College and received her masters' degree from the University of Georgia. She most recently taught at Fernbank Elementary

**Kathy Washington** will teach with **Emily Orr** and **Emily Schreck** and **Alessandra Ribeiro** and **Britt Dunn** in the elementary. She has a B.S. from Florida A&M, and M.S. degrees from University



Jill Hanson



Sallie Singleton



Kathy Washington



Michelle Frost

of Florida and Florida State University. Kathy is returning to Paideia after a year in Gwinnett County Public Schools as a media specialist. She was a part of the ileap team in technology at Paideia from 2012-2019.

**Michelle Frost** will teach math in the junior high. She is a graduate of Agnes Scott College. Michell taught middle school math for over 20 years in public,

private, and international school settings. She started her teaching career while serving in the Peace Corps in Vanuatu.

**Eddie Johnson** will teach high school math and coach boys' varsity basketball. He has a B.S. Morehouse College and an M.S. from Troy University. Eddie has 15 years of experience both teaching and coaching basketball in Dekalb County

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# Lessons in Humility and Engagement

*Paul Bianchi was to give this speech at a Class of 2020 gathering Aug. 1, which was canceled due to COVID-19. It is part of the Graduation video for which a link can be found in the parent portal on the school website.*

I will be brief, uncharacteristically brief. I have been giving graduation speeches at Paideia for as long as we have had graduates. I have the drill down, but, as you know, this year is different. I usually begin my talks with humor, or what I think of as humor, but humor just doesn't fit the moment. We will laugh again, and I hope soon, and it's o.k. to enjoy each other, but there is too much distress and sadness to squeeze it in here.

Over the last three or four months we

have been blown about by the hurricane winds of a perfect storm, and the perfect storm has revealed the many cracks of our imperfection. As with any disaster, natural or otherwise, some people have been battered much more than others.

We all know the elements of this storm: the devastation of the worst pandemic in modern times, and our country, supposedly one of the more medically advanced, has fared the worst; incidents of brutal abuse that laid bare the racism that has never been far from the surface in America, including our own community; the failure of those leaders who could and should guide us through these perilous times to even acknowledge that the times are perilous, that people are in pain, or that changes are

essential.

Any one of these events or realizations would constitute a crisis. Taken together, they threaten the fabric of a society that for all its dark times also had rays of hope.

It would be easy here to do the quick step of a graduation speech and pivot with a series of "yes-buts." I tell my history classes to listen only to what comes after the "but," because that's often what people really mean. Let's not take that facile cop out. Better we should look reality in the eye, not deny it.

We have learned that systemic problems, such as systemic racism, are just that: part of the system and therefore, harder to get at, especially when embedded in years and years of history. And no



# GRADUATION



# GRADUATION

community is immune from these problems. This realization is not news for those who have suffered most under the system; it is also bad news for everyone else.

I think that the opportunity to learn and practice humility is one possibly beneficial thing that we can get from this battering storm. We need to be humble about our notions of invincibility; we need to be humble about the miracles of science and in our assessments about how we can keep ourselves medically safe; we need to be humble, at the very least, when we talk about the universality of equal opportunity and the American Dream; and we need to be humble in assuming that our democracy that has long been in the making cannot be unraveled.

Maybe the prospect of humility will make us stronger and more honest and more empathetic, better able to endure personally, to unite as a people, and make the

progress so necessary for growth.

I think there is another opportunity for long lasting learning that is particularly available to you in the Class of 2020 and others who are coming of age in this historic time: the lessons of engagement. The demonstrations that began following the killing of George Floyd are a renewal of the promise of self-government, the right and necessity of forcing change to correct injustices. The posts on Instagram are also powerful expressions of engagement.

Forcing change is a tradition as old as the country itself. It made us an independent nation, fueled the abolitionist movement in the nineteenth century, the workers' rights reforms of the early twentieth century, and, of course, the Civil Rights movement. Sometimes the tradition is symbolized by an event or a person: Montgomery and Rosa Parks, Stonewall and Harvey Milk, the 19th Amendment and

Betty Friedan, the United Farm Workers and Cesar Chavez.

I hope that the historic events of the past weeks inspire you to be engaged, to campaign for changes badly needed, and to use democracy to improve our democracy.

To the Class of 2020, you were standing on the beach ready to launch when the storm hit. You had been looking forward to simpler rites of passage, like shaving cream, a senior dinner and Symphony Hall; chances to cheer and party; and hugs for each other in the bright sunshine of your youth. Depending on the party, we wanted to be there with you. You no doubt would have preferred not to have the problems of society rain on your parade and be faced at this time with lessons of humility and engagement. But—remember, it's what comes after the "but"—if we know anything from the last few months, it's that we don't always get to choose.



# GRADUATION

## Where the Class of 2020 Will Be in the Fall

Christina Aaron	Duke University	Nyjah Lee	Colorado State University
Lucas Anderson	University of Georgia	Jordan Leslie	Emory University
Aidan Babuka-Black	Loyola University New Orleans	Aidyn Levin	Barnard College (Gap Year)
Lylah Bannister	University of Vermont	Dylan Levy	Tulane University
Lucas Barry	California Polytechnic State University	Charlotte Lewis	University of Chicago
Jay Bartelt	Georgia Tech	Nicholas Lin	Pitzer College
Ellie Bond	University of Georgia	Mary Lowance	Davidson College
Remy Bondurant	Georgia Tech	Grace MacIntyre	Mount Holyoke College
Camryn Bourne	University of Chicago	Lily Marzano	American University
Jordyn Bourne	University of Chicago	Elena Mavromatis	Emory University
Karma Bridges	Spelman College	Zadie McConaughy	Tulane University
Jane Brock	University of Georgia	Cole McCord	Georgetown University
Dagmawit Buckley	Georgia State University	Josie Miller	Brown University
Jesus Centellano Cortes	Case Western Reserve University	Olina Mohamed	Brown University
Taylor Clay	Kennesaw State University	Nathan Moore	Haverford College
Hunter Collins	Emory University	Chloe Morris	Bard College
Joshua Cotom	Oglethorpe University	Langston Morris	Morehouse College
Jacob Croskey	University of Georgia	Patrick Morris	Tulane University
Matthew DeMars	University of Indiana Bloomington	Lila Morrison	University of Georgia
Rose Dennis	College of Charleston	Maxim Mukherjee	Emory University at Oxford
August Draper	Occidental College	Natanya Norry	Georgia Tech
Hayes Edmond	Morehouse College	Tristan Ouweleen	Rhode Island School of Design
Casey Ellyson	Washington University in St. Louis	Philip Painting	Lafayette College
Aaren Evans	Barnard College	Lawson Paolini	Morehouse College
Zoya Fazal	Barnard College	Max Patterson	University of Wisconsin
Mitchell Felske	Emory University at Oxford	Sierra Petrash	University of Colorado Boulder
Leo Ford	University of California Santa Barbara	Regan Phelan	Fordham University
Ruby Forde	Bates College	Ian Poore	SCAD Atlanta
Amelia Gaines	The University of the South	Caroline Porkert	Pomona College
Jesse Garcia	Undecided	Sofia Pozzo	Bard College
Sophie Glenister	Middlebury College	Ellie Propp	Emerson College
Isabel Goico	Cornell University	Harrison Reeves	Purdue University
Olivia Graner	Brown University	Ivy Reynolds	Middlebury College
Liam Green	University of Miami	Bryn Robinson	University of Georgia
Omari Griffith	Georgia Tech	Taryn Robinson	University of Georgia
Ben Grooms	University of Arizona	Alondra Romero	Bowdoin College
Jason Guo	Stanford University	Lorenzo Sacchi	Oberlin College
Erik Guzman	Oglethorpe University	Macon Sandifer	Wake Forest University
Claire Hagan	University of Georgia	Emma Schwartz	Haverford College
Adrienne Harper	Wake Forest University	Lucy Seward	Hamilton College
Sagan Hartley	Brown University	Victoria Silva	Agnes Scott College
Claire Haskell	Georgia Tech	Jack Spencer	Georgia Tech
Mary He	Yale University	Marie Stiefel	Davidson College
Spencer Heaberlin	University of Georgia	Ethan Thomas	University of Georgia
Sarah Henn	Tulane University	Liana Valdes	Northwestern University
Sadie Holcomb	Skidmore College	Ike Veal	Loyola University New Orleans
Doug Horn	Wofford College	Erik Vitek	Purdue University
Will Hutchinson	Emory University	Christina Walker	Washington University in St. Louis
Bella Irlando	Davidson College	Mimi Wanamaker	Georgetown University
Jordan James	Pomona College	Spencer Waterbury	Lehigh University
Robin James	Case Western Reserve University	Charlotte Whelchel	Davidson College (Gap Year)
Eddie Keenan	Colorado State University at Fort Collins	Noah Wieland	Davidson College
Sophia Kennedy	Colby College	Emi Wu	University of Chicago
Addison Kerwin	Brown University	Eli Wurtzel	University of Vermont
Jack Kruglar	University of Georgia	Sophia Yang	Emory University at Oxford
Helen Latting	Columbia University	Anna Zheng	Stanford University

## Saluting Paideia Alumni Health Care Workers

Laura Brachman '76  
 Adam Carney '86  
 Kim Serravezza '86  
 Mark Napier '87  
 Field Willingham '88  
 Leigh Anne Kao '88  
 William Bradley '88  
 Jennifer Matthews '89  
 Polly Watson '92  
 Mary Heath '92  
 Elyse Bryson '93  
 Justin Baker '93  
 Maggie Hatcher '94  
 Jeffrey Hutchings '95  
 Emily Mason Beard '96  
 Kim Serravezza '86  
 Sarah Doernberg '97  
 Anand Shah '97  
 James Galloway '97  
 Mary Bess Mahaffey '98  
 Daniel Lollar '99  
 Rebecca Sawyer '99  
 Caleb Sayre '99  
 Nina Glass '99  
 Rashidah Brown White '00  
 Jane Lowe '00  
 Michael Bryant '00  
 Tamar Saxe '00  
 Emma Abramson Adams '00  
 Elly Patterson '00

Megan Ference '00  
 Constance Harrell Shreckengost '01  
 Blake Wilson '01  
 Ally Wright '01  
 Olivia Kaufman '01  
 Michael Kingsley '01  
 Jessie Alexander '01  
 Andy Saxon '02  
 Alex Dretler '02  
 Kennesaw Richards '02  
 Erin (McFarling) Eggebrecht '02  
 Lauren A Wagner '02  
 Jolian Dahl '03  
 Brittany (Brown) Blue '03  
 Amy (Levin) Lauer '03  
 Erin Smith '03  
 Langdon DiMaggio '03  
 Stephanie Levi '03  
 Kamica Ross '03  
 Jeffrey Holzberg '03  
 Kiersten Derby '03  
 Jono Berry '03  
 Sam Berry '03  
 Jessie Kaplan '03  
 Katie Carssow '03  
 Evan Calabrese '04  
 Allie (McFarling) Horne '04  
 Haley Thun '04  
 Lauren (Saxe) Walker '04  
 Kelci Flowers '04



Caryn Robertson '04  
 Susi Smith '04  
 Ajani Mason '05  
 Natalie Justicz '05  
 Naomii Anderson '05  
 Sam Kaplan '05  
 Klara Klein '05  
 Mia DeSimone '06  
 Ari DeSimone '06  
 Ansley Riedel '06  
 Zerita Buchanan '06  
 KaTerri Kelly '06  
 Emily Grossniklaus '06  
 Julia Schiff '06  
 Philip Bene '07  
 Claire (Hardy) Fink '07

Alisha Kramer '08  
 Sara Prince '08  
 Julia Adcock (Helmick) '08  
 Jack Barrow '09  
 Annie Austin '09  
 Hailey Alm '09  
 Julia Fuster '09  
 Caroline Pearson '11  
 Hannah Williams '10  
 Michelle Chang '10  
 Ella Radcliffe '11  
 Cleo Roachat '11  
 Liz Carr '12  
 Grace Wheeler '14  
 Alison Setili '14  
 Kate Athanassiades '16

### Words of encouragement from your fellow Pythons

"You are the greatest hero in this story. Your intelligence, bravery and compassion are the saving grace of this nation during this dark episode. Thank you for your service to humanity. I am so grateful for you."

"Thank you so much for all of your hard work during this difficult time. Your humil-

ity, kindness, and strength are greatly appreciated. Thank you for being our nation's guiding light in the face of this adversity."

"What would the world look like without you? You have such an important job to do. I so admire what you do to make this a better world for all of us. I cannot express

my gratitude and admiration in just a few words!"

"You are saving lives, making the world a better place and we are with you!"

If you'd like to be added to this list, email [burbank.sadie@paideiaschool.org](mailto:burbank.sadie@paideiaschool.org)

## Paideia Alumna Shivani Beall Honored by NCAA

Paideia alumna **Shivani Beall, '16**, who played soccer at Emory University for four years, has been selected as the University Athletic Association's representative for the 2020 NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

As one of two players selected, Shivani distinguished herself in academics, athletics, service and leadership throughout her collegiate career to be considered for the award.

While playing for the Emory Eagles, Shivani appeared in 69 contests and started 63 times.

In addition, she was a student leader, part of a campus ministry and achieved a 3.96 grade point average. The NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics will choose the 2020 NCAA Woman of the Year, who will be named this fall.

The NCAA Woman of the Year Award was established in 1991 to recognize graduating female student-athletes who have completed their eligibility and distinguished themselves in academics, athletics, service and leadership throughout their college careers.

## Alumni Salute Newest Grads

*Congratulations to the Class of 2020 and welcome to our newest alumni! We hope you enjoy these words of encouragement from your fellow pythons.*

- **Daniel Platzman '05** says “Congratulations everyone and hang in there! I know this pandemic is an unforeseen circumstance, but I also know that you are a crafty, resilient bunch. I want to congratulate you on finishing your school year none the less and to remind you that there are incredible times around the corner.”
- **Jon Ossoff '05** says “I want to give you all a shout out, some encouragement, strength and love. I hope you recognize that to be at a moment of transition in life such as you are, finishing high school and perhaps heading to college or a professional opportunity, at a moment like this of adversity and change will help forge you into the person you are becoming. Life is a continuous process of change and adaption and I hope you all feel that in a way there is something extraordinary and powerful about finishing your high school journey at this moment in history. With all of that said, congratulations and I will see you all out there!”
- **Clark Moore '09** writes “I want to congratulate you on the immense accomplishment of finishing high school. Whether or not it feels like a big deal to you right now, I want to let you know that it very much is. At times the weight of this can be hard to process, but I realize that it’s the lessons from Paideia that are getting me through. Donna taught me how to look at the world with a critical eye and Paul taught me how to spot patterns throughout American history. I take comfort in the fact that we’ve been here before and we’ll get through it again. Joseph taught me how to take solace in literature and the profound catharsis of writing poems. Overall, Paideia taught me the importance of community and as you graduate and join the vast alumni network, I hope that you find the community you had at Paideia will only get stronger.”
- **Tommy Dorfman '10** says “Congratulations to you on graduating high school! I realize that you’re getting put out into a world that feels uncertain and full of new experiences that none of us could’ve prepared for, but I am confident that with the education that you all have and with the community that Paideia has built, you will be okay. You are going to thrive in this new version of the world that we are stepping into.”
- **Alexandra Waldon '11** says “I am so proud and happy for each and every one of you. Well done on graduating in one of the craziest times in history! This is just one moment of many that you’ll be able to take stock of and celebrate your accomplishments in life.”

## Students’ Covid-19 Haiku Published

During the pandemic quarantine several student poets turned to haiku to convey their feelings about the state of affairs. The results were haiku expressing bewilderment about virtual learning and the isolation it causes.

Junior high teacher **Tom Painting** sent the haiku off to the publication *Cattails: the journal of the United Haiku and Tanka Society*. *Cattails* publishes new and unpublished works of English haiku, senryu, tanka and haibun with translations in the poets’ original language. It aims to showcase emerging voices alongside the works of established poets.

In response to Tom’s submissions, the editor of the publication, Kala Ramesh, wrote: “Thank you so much for these brilliant senryu from your young students. I loved reading and mulling over what lies in those minds—and how this Covid-19 has affected them.”

The students included: **Camille McIlvoy, Russell Hardin, Catherine Dwyer, Andrew Reveno, Eliza Haverstick, Ashima Gandhi** and **Callaghan Finnegan**.

Below are the student haiku that were published.

six feet away  
the feeling of forever  
apart

— Camille McIlvoy

virtual learning  
solitary confinement  
in my darkened room

— Andrew Reveno

crisscrossing  
the sidewalk  
social distancing

— Russell Hardin

virtual learning  
the computer’s  
upper hand

— Elisa Haverstick

virtual learning  
the call disconnects  
my train of thought

— Catherine Dwyer

virtual learning  
the glow of my iPad  
lights me up

— Ashima Gandhi

self-isolation  
I miss the sound  
of someone else’s opinion

— Catherine Dwyer

virtual learning  
time for school  
downstairs

— Russell Hardin

stormy night  
the power cuts off  
my virtual learning

— Catherine Dwyer

virtual learning  
are we still together  
in reality?

— Callaghan Finnegan

# THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL

1509 Ponce de Leon Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

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THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL is nonsectarian, serving families with children ages three through 18. Paideia does not discriminate in employment or in admissions. It actively seeks racial, cultural, and economic diversity in its student body. The ancient Greek word *Paideia* conveys the concept of a child's total education: intellectual, artistic, and social. The Paideia School Newsletter is published 10 times a year. The deadline for the newsletter is the 1st of the preceding month. Send all correspondence to Jennifer Hill, Editor, at Paideia School, 1509 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30307. Phone number is 404/377-3491, ext. 339; e-mail address is hill.jennifer@paideiaschool.org. For information about sports schedules and upcoming events visit our web site at [www.paideiaschool.org](http://www.paideiaschool.org)

## New Staff

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schools, most recently at Therrell High School.

**Shannon Thibodeau** graduated with a B.S. in education from Miami University of Ohio and her MEd from Xavier University in Ohio. She previously taught junior high life science and was an associate principal in Ohio public schools. She will be teaching seventh grade life science with Che Calix.

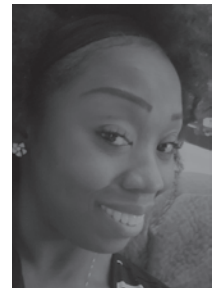
**Rachel Whilby** will be a learning specialist in the high school. She has a B.A. Emory University, M. Ed. from The Lynch School of Education, Boston College, and M. Ed. from, Teachers College, Columbia University. She previously taught and worked in student



Eddie Johnson



Shannon Thibodeau



Rachel Whilby

support at the Swift School, the Windward School in New York, and New Canaan School in Connecticut. Most recently she was the assistant director and dean of the Fusion School.