

THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Volume LIV

Number 1

January-February 2021

PAIDEIA@50 Capital Campaign Update

With all of the changes we have been adjusting to this school year, the resilience of the faculty and students has been truly inspiring. In the background, many are steadily working on the campaign that we launched in January of 2020. The largest component of the *Paideia@50* Capital Campaign is providing new and improved space to allow the ingenuity of our faculty and our students to continue to thrive. We asked elementary teacher **David Millians** to share why he was an early and generous supporter of the *Paideia@50* Capital Campaign:

“I give to Paideia because I want future students and families to benefit in the many ways I and my immediate loved ones have done. Paideia has given me lessons in knowledge and skills, values and habits, mentors, life-long friendships, and a supportive and intelligent community in times good and bad.

“I give to Paideia because I am a teacher at Paideia, and the 10- and 11-year-olds I teach — past, present, and future — should have the space, tools, and programs that help them flourish in all of their best possible ways and be their best selves. A school is one of the greatest creations of civilization, and Paideia is an extraordinary school.”

Thank you to the parents, teachers, and friends who have supported the campaign so far. With your help, we have raised \$16.8 million and have reached 100 percent board participation. We are still working steadily to reach our \$25 million goal. Gifts have come from 42 of the 50 states, and over 1,044 faculty members, alumni and friends have participated. Across campus and across the country, people are paying it forward for the next generation of Paideia students. We will continue working toward the campaign goal and if you haven't made a pledge, we hope you will soon! If you'd like to know more, please contact one of the campaign co-chairs, **Louisa D'Antignac** and **Scott Schnell**, or **Melissa Walden** in the development office. For more information, visit paideia50.org.

Paideia Graduate Elected to U.S. Senate

Paideia alumnus **Jon Ossoff '05** was elected as a U.S. Senator from Georgia in the January 5, 2021 runoff race. Jon attended Paideia from seventh to twelfth grade. He attended Georgetown University and the London School of Economics. Jon previously ran for Congress in 2017, where he lost in the runoff. He is married to **Alisha Kramer '08**, an Emory gynecology and obstetrics physician.



John Ramsport/Flickr/creative commons



Jon Ossoff

Jon and his wife **Alisha Kramer '08** attended President Biden's inauguration before Jon was sworn into office.

New Faculty and Staff

Alexander Little has joined the urban agriculture staff as a farmer educator. Alexander is graduate of Fort Valley State University. He previously worked with the Food Well Alliance. He is the CEO of the Community Herd LLC. He also has served as the official farrier of the Georgia Steeple Chase.

Meghan Murphy has joined the morning half day teaching staff. She is a graduate of Emory University and has worked with children as an education coordinator at Zoo Atlanta and as a camp counselor.

High School Knitting Club Creates Items to Donate

What began as a short-term class in 2019 with the goal of knitting and crocheting for a purpose, now is a high school club that carries out this mission.

Aklima Ali, a high school science teacher, is the sponsor of the club, which has specialized in infinity scarves and hats and baby blankets and hats. The group itself received donated materials including yarns, knitting needles and crochet hooks after reaching out to the community. Last year, the short-term class worked on shawls, scarves and hats and donated 35 items to Lost & Found LGBTQ+ youths.

Currently, about four students are making baby blankets for donation to “Embrace” (A program promoting maternal health connected to Friends of Refugees in Clarkston). Another charity which Aklima hopes to help is Second Life, which benefits animal rescues.

With the club since it started are **Kaiya Ciho**, **Allie Schroeder**, **Sean Zheng**, and **Owen Vaccaro**. Club leaders are seniors **Mignonne Breaux** and **Catherine London**, who are working on baby blankets. Aklima said that being able to give someone a handmade product that can warm them in the winter offers a wonderful feeling of giving back. Also, any student who completes an item can submit a request for service hours towards their high school graduation credit.

Paideia Farms Sows Seeds of Service with Community Program

In January, the Paideia urban agriculture program hosted a small group of Burundi farmers from local non-profit Global Growers Network on the school farm as part of urban ag’s community seed sowing project. **Kelly Douglas**, a development associate, assisted the program with obtaining grants to cover the costs of seed sowing and transplant production in the heated greenhouse.

“This project provides our high school students opportunities to grow and learn along with diverse groups from local farms, community gardens and school gardens around Atlanta,” said **Tania Herbert**, urban agriculture coordinator.

In addition to the Burundi farmers, the urban ag program hosted trainees from Gangsters To Growers, an Atlanta group that provides work opportunities for at-risk and formerly incarcerated youth in underserved communities. The Paideia farm also hosted a group of student farmers from the Thomasville Heights farm, which Paideia students help farm.



Paideia Students Selected for Student Bar of Georgia

Three Paideia high school students have been admitted to the Student Bar of Georgia. **Anna Claire Shuman '21**, **Jacob Schnell '22** and **Rohan Chanani '23** were admitted after attending the competitive Georgia Bar Association’s High School Law Academy, whose faculty is made up of attorneys and judges from across Georgia. The Academy provides pre-Mock Trial season training for students. Jacob was admitted with honors. About 20 students are admitted annually.



Shuman



Chanani



Schnell

Science Olympiad Team First in A/AA Division

The Paideia high school Science Olympiad team finished first in A/AA at the Brookwood Invitational Tournament. The Paideia team finished 13th overall. This was the team's third team win this school year. Members of the team competing at the Brookwood tournament are: **Shelby Pullen, Sarah Schapiro, Javier Pardo, Rohan Chanani, Sarah Espinosa, Ethan Castellino, Sean Zheng, Rakibul Chowdhury, Phillip Salzinger, Cecilia Pardo, Shyam Tridandapani, Leo Sullivan and Catherine London.** This was the team's third win this school year. Congratulations to all.

King Family Shares Experiences in King Day Conversation

The Paideia community got a very special kick off to the observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Members of the King family, **Martin Luther King III**, his spouse **Arndrea** and their daughter **Yolanda '26** took part in conversation hosted by **Oman Frame**, diversity, equity and inclusion coordinator, **Paul Bianchi**, head of school and **Nisha Simama**, multicultural coordinator. The Kings spoke about their involvement in human and civil rights movements and the role of service in the observance of the day honoring Martin's father Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A panel of Paideia students, **Kolette Pridgeon '28, Ryan Dong '25, Justin Griggs '23** and **Shelby Pullen '21**, asked the family questions.

Kolette asked how younger students can get engaged in social justice. Yolanda responded there are many ways to express involvement and urged younger students to use their talents in arts as a way to draw attention to issues. "If you are good at music sing a song, or write a poem. Sending a letter to a newspaper can be part of advocating," she said.

In response to Ryan's question about how biases can be changed, Martin responded that diversity training can play a part in bringing about change. "When we realize that every culture brings something to the table ... it enables us to see the dignity and worth of every human being."

Shelby asked what was the best way to be an ally in the fight for racial justice. Arndrea advised, "Be aware, reach out and educate those like yourself. Sometimes it's easier to hear a message from a familiar source."

*Alumni news compiled by
Sadie Burbank '08,
Alumni Relations Coordinator*

- **Bill King '03** was named president & CEO of the Downtown Raleigh Alliance in Raleigh, N.C. He has been on the forefront of helping small businesses manage through 2020 with nearly \$400,000 in direct grants, expanded outdoor dining programs, and public art projects to keep downtown afloat. After several years in D.C., he completed a master's degree in urban planning from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2014 and got married in 2018 with over a dozen Paideia alums present from the class of 2003. He and his wife, **Jenny**, are expecting their first child this spring.
- **Kyle Davis '08** married **Meredith Loretta** of McLean, Va., August 29 surrounded by their close family and wedding party in a micro-ceremony at the Carlyle House in Old Town Alexandria, Va. Meredith is a securities associate at WilmerHale in D.C. and Kyle is the head of corporate development at a software company. They reside in Washington, D.C., with their rescue Beagle-Chihuahua mix, Beaux.
- **Carly Berlin '14** began working as the Gulf Coast correspondent for *Southerly* magazine in April. She was recently awarded a grant from the Pulitzer Center to help continue her coverage of communities in southwest Louisiana who are recovering from multiple hurricanes during the pandemic.
- **Alex Gazmararian '15** says after a year working as the research director at the Policy Resolution Group in Washington, D.C., "I've started my Ph.D. in politics at Princeton University, where I will conduct research on international relations."
- **Ava Mohiuddin '15** is currently in her second year at UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Education Opportunity Fund Alumni Challenge!



Every gift you make supports financial aid at Paideia. The 2021 Alumni Fund, chaired by **Jermaine Smith '00**, kicked off January 10. As part of the Paideia@50 Capital Campaign, the 2021 Alumni Fund and a new endowed fund called the Education Opportunity Fund designed specifically to engage alumni through a challenge grant, are two great ways to continue your support of the school's financial aid program. Currently there are 156 students who receive financial aid at the school and a successful Alumni Fund helps to ensure that the school can continue to offer support next year. This new endowment fund helps to ensure that financial aid will remain a priority for generations to come. This challenge is only open to alumni, so help us reach the next \$50,000 round today! Please visit www.paideia50.org or contact burbank.sadie@paideiaschool.org for more information.

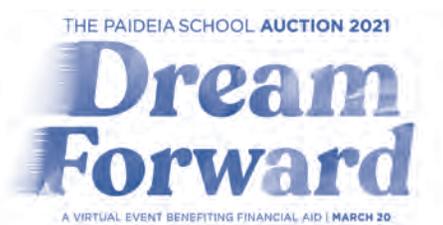
THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL

1509 Ponce de Leon Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Decatur, Georgia
Permit No. 281

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

Dream Forward and Support the Annual Auction



You're invited to the Paideia School **Auction 2021, March 13-20**, a benefit for financial aid that will inspire you to *Dream Forward!* We've all been dreaming of the better days that lay ahead, so let's come together to support our financial aid program. There are two ways to participate:

1 Register to bid in our annual **On-line Auction from March 13-20**. Bid online on amazing vacation homes, food, drink, weekend getaways, pampering and more from the comfort of home!

Join us virtually on **Saturday, March 20 at 7 p.m.**, as we host a **Live Stream Auction Party** with our very own head of school **Paul Bianchi** and celebrated auctioneer **Dean Crowover**. Take part in a pre-show cocktail lesson, bid on incredible Live Auction items, donate during our Fund-A-Need, be entertained by cameos from students and teachers. It's a night you won't want to miss!

It's more important than ever to come together as a community to celebrate our school, our teachers and staff, and each other. What better way than to host an On-line Auction and raise funds for our Financial Aid program!

Look for more information to come on how you can donate auction items. In the meantime, mark your calendars to get ready to celebrate with us in March!

Would you like to volunteer with the Auction Committee? We could use your help! Contact auction@paideiaschool.org