

Paideia Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

Paideia welcomes new faculty and staff throughout the school as we begin the 2021-2022 school year.

In the elementary **Elisa Harrison** is the elementary principal. Elisa is a graduate of Spelman College, has a master's from Columbia University, and is completing her doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies at the University of Kansas-Lawrence. She taught for several years in the Paideia elementary and was the elementary assistant principal in the 2016-2017 school year.



Elisa Harrison

Jonathan Petrash is the assistant principal in the elementary. A graduate of Guilford College, he has an M.P.A. degree from Georgia State. Jonathan has taught in the elementary for over 20 years. He has also worked in leadership positions in faculty mentoring programs and professional development efforts. He is presently the coordinator of Paideia's SAIS accreditation process. In addition, Jonathan has been



Jonathan Petrash

head coach of Paideia high school and junior high baseball teams.

Leena Bhatia is the director of human resources. She has a B.S. from Rutgers University and an M.A. from Georgetown. She previously worked at Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C.



Leena Bhatia

Claire Hegarty is the director of development. Claire was previously the director of advancement at Woodward Academy. Before Woodward, she worked in development for the Nature Conservancy of Georgia. She is a graduate of Rhodes College.



Claire Hegarty

Nicole Victor is the director of parent involvement. Nicole is a graduate of Union College and has a master's degree from Manhattanville College and Columbia University. A former teacher



Nicole Victor

and high school counselor, Nicole most recently was director of admissions and enrollment management at The Children's School.

Andrew Haworth '01 is an aide in the A.M. and P.M. half day. He has a B.A. from Tulane University, a J.D. from Georgia State University, and an M.B.A. from Universidad Europea de Madrid.



Andrew Haworth

Kristin Jacobsen is an assistant teacher in the half day. She attended Emory University and has a master's from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Kristin Jacobsen

Erin Trapaga is an aide in the half day. She is a graduate of Georgia State University.



Erin Trapaga

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Paideia Fundraising Updates

Last year we once again exceeded our Annual Fund goal of \$1 million with an overwhelming number of current families and past families participating. The Annual Fund supports financial aid, technology, and vital campus programs. Thank you to all who participated. We would also like to acknowledge the volunteers who worked tirelessly this past

year: our campaign co-chairs, **Louisa D'Antignac** and **Scott Schnell**, who have led the **Paideia@50** Capital Campaign effort thus far. If you would like to get involved in Paideia's 2021-22 fundraising efforts please contact **Liz Nesbit** at nesbit.liz@paideiaschool.org or 404-270-2662.

The steady support received by the

Annual Fund is testament to the generosity of our engaged community. Be on the lookout for our annual donor report for more details about how gifts to the Annual Fund and the **Paideia@50** Capital Campaign go to work for Paideia.

To learn more about Paideia@50, visit Paideia50.org

New Staff continued from page 1

Jillian Eugene is an assistant teacher in the elementary with **José Cordero**. Jillian is a graduate of Eckerd College.

Chidike Iromuanya is an assistant teacher in the lower elementary with **India Stubbs**. Chidike was an aide in the Paideia elementary in 2020-2021 and is a graduate of Georgia Tech.

Damon Sumner is an assistant elementary teacher with **Brooke Marty**. He was an aide in the Paideia elementary in 2020-2021 and has taught in elementary schools for 11 years. He is a graduate of the University of North Texas.

Chupzi Lema is an assistant teacher with **Dan Durrell** in the elementary. She was an aide in the Paideia elementary in 2020-2021 and is a graduate of Georgia Tech.

Anthony Contreras will teach modern language in the junior high. He is a gradu-

ate of the University of Georgia and has an M.A. from U.G.A. in French and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University.

Leslie Quigless is a junior high home-base teacher with **John Greene**. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has a master's from New York University Steiner School of Education and an Ed.M. from Harvard University.

Pam Ostrover is social studies teacher in the high school. She is a graduate of Emory University.

Rand Wise is a math teacher in the high school. He has taught at Marist, Dunwoody High School, and Ben Franklin. He is a graduate of Georgia Tech and did graduate studies at Emory University and Georgia State University.

Rosa Mendez will teach modern language in the high school. She has a

B.A. from Georgia State University. She was an aide in the Paideia elementary in 2020-2021 and taught at Atlanta Montessori Spanish immersion for three years.

Rudy Gilbert is the co-band director in the music program. He has a B.A. from Louisiana State University and an M.A. from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Brittany Jones will work in student support in the high school and is the girls' varsity soccer coach.

Jay Jones is a junior high substitute teacher, elementary recess aide, and a high school lab assistant.

Antonjo Agolli is a permanent substitute in the elementary.

Debutante Drew is a 1341 security guard.

Jennifer Jackson is a member of the maintenance staff.



Jillian Eugene



Chidike Iromuanya



Damon Sumner



Chupzi Lema



Anthony Contreras



Leslie Quigless



Pam Ostrover



Rand Wise



Rosa Mendez



Rudy Gilbert



Brittany Jones



Jay Jones



Antonjo Agolli



Debutante Drew

High School Awards Assembly

In the June/July newsletter the photo of the Environmental Citizenship award was mislabeled. The photo was actually of the winners of the Community Service award **Kaiya Patel** and **Anne Hanes**.

The winners of the Environmental Citizenship award were **Audrey Maxim-Rumley** and **Kaiya Patel**.



Photographs of School Events Available Online

Photographs of students and school events taken by the school photographer, Danny Lee, are available for purchase at his website at Danny Lee Photography. com. Links are on the school website www.paideiaschool.org in the Parent Portal and on the Arts and Athletics pages.

Elisa Harrison Is “Back Home” and Ready for New Challenges

Among the new faces in administration will be one familiar to many families. **Elisa Harrison (Reddick)** is back at Paideia. She is the new elementary principal. Elisa left Paideia four years ago to pursue a doctorate in education at the University of Kansas and to be closer to family. While pursuing her doctorate she taught in the elementary at an independent school and a Catholic school. She also worked as the coordinator for student services at a Charter School.

While she was living in Kansas she lost both parents to terminal illnesses. Elisa said while the dual loss was deeply grieving, it tempered her spirit. Recalling how she and her sister cared for her mother until she died, she said, “It was hard, but it was a blessing. I was able to spend time with her and care for her and my children, (**Jay and Madison**) got to spend that time with their grandmother.” Her father passed shortly after her mother.

When she got a second call about the position at Paideia after the death of her parents, the timing seemed right for a new beginning. Having worked as Paideia before in several capacities—elementary teacher, assistant principal and summer camp director—she knew the elementary from multiple vantage points. “I feel like I have the right background, the right experience, the right personality that are the right fit to do what’s needed. There are lots of layers to the school. My back-

ground knowledge of the school and the community will help me do the job,” she said. “Having worked with **Mary Lynn** as assistant principal was a great experience. I think working as director summer camp helped prepare me as well. You get to meet people and develop relationships outside of the classroom.”

While in Kansas, she built on her teaching experiences working at different types of schools. “I’ve taught at private, public, Catholic and charter schools. I have a range of teaching experiences that give me a deep appreciation for Paideia. This is a such a special place. I can recognize and see the jewel that the school is, especially the elementary. The autonomy that that teachers have means teachers get to love teaching. This is rare. The intention at Paideia is that we want you to love teaching and we will support you. We are trying to help everyone—students and teachers—be their best selves. We get to make mistakes and improve.”

When she stepped on campus on her first day this summer, “I felt like I was home even though it had been four years,” Elisa said. “I just believe that is where I am supposed to be.” The past year has identified important issues and challenges at the school that must be met, she

said. “As an African-American woman, I recognize the need for change at Paideia. I consider it an honor to be a part of creating that change. My hope is that we can move forward and work together as a community to make Paideia an even better place. It’s important for us to recognize the shoulders we are standing on as we change. We have to be respectful and mindful of the people who came before us. I remember talking with **Paul Hayward** [retired high school principal] one day in the teacher’s lounge. I asked him, ‘Why haven’t more Paideia’s been created?’ His answer was, ‘Some things you just can’t recreate.’”

Coming out of a school year under pandemic conditions, she said, “I think we all have a greater appreciation for the little things and we are all anxious to get back into our classrooms.”

One thing she is looking forward to is students at play on renovated elementary playground. “I was on the original planning committee for the playground, so it’s been amazing to see it coming into fruition over the summer.”

When the year starts, don’t be surprised to see her actively engaged out on that transformed playground. “I play a mean game of 4 Square,” she said with a grin.



Two New Members Join the Board of Trustees

The board of trustees is adding two new members, **Allegra Lawrence-Hardy** and **Wendell Reilly**.

Allegra is an attorney and a co-founding partner of Lawrence & Bundy LLC. She is member of the Paideia board of trustees’ DEI Committee and served as an Annual Fund co-chair and as a class parent. She serves on several education and civic boards in metro Atlanta. She and her

spouse **Timothy** are parents of **Maddie ’29** and **Patrick, Alexandra, Aaron and Avery**.

Wendell is a former chief financial officer and investor and currently is chairman of Berman Capital Advisors. This is Wendell’s second term on the board. He previously served from 2006-2012. He is a member of Paideia’s Endowment Board and the Succession Committee. He and his



Allegra Lawrence-Hardy



Wendell Reilly

spouse **Mary** are the parents of **Gray ’04, Jamie ’07, and Molly ’10**.

Paideia Will Carry the Music of Marty Always

A few days ago Marty and I exchanged letters about his announcement that the prognosis for his cancer had taken a turn for the worse. Marty had written friends and family that he would be leaving us soon and he wanted to be clear that he did not want memorial services or any public events to follow his passing. I wrote back that while we would, of course, honor his wishes, silence seemed so wrong for a person who for all these years had been such an important part of our lives. Marty relented a little: he said I could write something, maybe for the newsletter, as long as I did not go overboard. Since the newsletter is weeks away, I write now. With his family by his side, Marty died on Friday, July 2.

Marty Hays came to Paideia in the fall of 1982. The previous spring he called me from Wisconsin on a Friday out of the blue to say that he wanted to apply for the teaching opening we had posted, and that he could also coach, and what's more, he would be glad to sign a contract sight unseen. I hesitated, suggesting a visit and that an interview might be in order. Not one to let a good opportunity pass, Marty and Brenda put the four children in the van and drove to Atlanta over the weekend. He decided that we were to meet that Monday.

We did, Marty came, and he stayed for almost 40 years. His energy, talents, and passions animated the school. Marty had grown up and was teaching in a small Wisconsin town. In high school, he was the quarterback, the point guard, the captain of the baseball team, and the lead singer in his rock and roll band. At some time during high school, he developed a lifelong commitment to social justice for Native Americans. A few years later, he designed his own master's degree in Native American studies at a time when not many people in Wisconsin or elsewhere had taken up the cause.

Atlanta was different than Tomah, Wis-



Marty with Alex Clark and Greyson Wyatt, first winners of the Marty Hays Athletic Award

consin, and Paideia was different than the high schools Marty knew. Paideia played soccer, not football or baseball; Paideia was too small to even consider football, but baseball, if you can find a pitcher, only takes a dozen or so. Even before the school decided to have a team, students in the fall of 1982 were seen around campus pounding their new gloves. I think we took to the diamond the following spring.

Marty became athletic director as soon as he arrived, plus varsity girls' basketball coach, and the following year in the dug-out for girls' softball. These were the years before the Frisbees flew, but he probably would have made the cultural leap to Ultimate if the school had needed him to.

While Marty coached most seasons, he defined himself first and foremost as a teacher. He taught two generations of ninth graders world history with welcoming care. Marty's classes were fun and joyful. Students did well because there was never a doubt that he believed they could do well and, importantly, he genuinely liked them. (One can never overestimate the importance of students feeling that their teacher likes them.) Marty did well in high school and one got the impression that he had loved every minute of it. He was passing it on.

Besides ninth grade world history, Marty taught a full year course in Native

American studies. Part of the Native American curriculum was a 10-day trip to the upper Midwest with visits to the Lakota Sioux on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, a Western Conference pow wow in Denver, and a spiritual climb of the sacred mountain, Bear Butte. Over the years, Marty had become increasingly active in the Native American civil rights movement. He modeled social activism, which for some of his students became an important part of their identity.

Marty's musical preferences seem to freeze with the rock and roll classics of the 1950s and 1960s. He knew every lyric, dee-jayed sock hops for the adult community, and played in "the house band" at Monday Morning Meeting with Steve Sigur, John Capute, and Thrower Starr. As Don McLean wrote in *Bye, Bye Miss American Pie*, the day the music died was when Buddy Holly died in a plane crash on February 3, 1959. Marty revered Buddy Holly, and February 3 was Marty Hays' personal Memorial Day.

Marty's death leaves a gigantic hole in the Paideia community. His sunshine warmed us for four decades, and his delight in teaching, coaching, and social activism inspired students and colleagues. His was a class you were glad to walk into, a team you wanted to play on, and a faculty you were even more proud to be part of. We sang together songs about growing up and about important things. With Marty, these were love songs.

Some of the music has died at Paideia, but we shall carry it with us and Marty Hays with us for the rest of our days.

— Paul Bianchi

If you would like to write a memory of Marty or a note to his family, Sadie Burbank in the alumni office will receive them.

Stay Informed Through School Communications

Weekly Memo

Weekly Memo is the name of the electronic communications bulletin the school uses to inform parents about important meetings, deadlines, activities, events and announcements. Weekly Memo is posted every Thursday on the school’s website in the Parent Portal and contains a wealth of timely information for all levels of the school. Parents are notified by emails when it has been posted. The emails are sent to the address provided on your emergency contact form.

Parent Portal Primer

Our portal offers you calendars, news, parent volunteering opportunities and much, much more.

All the school news and events are at the top of the portal page, plus important messages.

Portal Highlights

- Online directories of parents, students, and faculty and staff
- School news and calendars (both can be customized)
- Weekly Memo, Paideia’s must-read weekly news/events bulletin
- Access to the Parent Sign Up Center – where parents can volunteer for school and class activities and sports events, sign up for parent conferences and more
- Teacher pages and Library pages
- After school care and after school enrichment and clubs information
- Portal help

Important school-wide information is also included in the “**Quicklinks**” section in the right column of the portal.

Quicklinks Highlights

- Directory Update
- Magnus

- Aftercare/After school classes
- Financial Aid Info
- Pi Bites

Each school level—elementary/half-day, junior high and high school—has its own area in the **resources** section. Within those tabs are links, news, an email archive and calendars for that specific level of school.

Customize Calendars

You can add entire calendars to your online calendar of choice (or cell phone) by clicking the grey “feeds” button at the top of most calendars on our site, as well as add individual event by clicking the orange bell on each calendar item. For alerts, you will have to verify your text-enabled phone. Just follow the instruction and ask to verify.

Athletics

All athletic schedules and practices can be added just like any other calendar on the site, alerts as well.

Your Profile

Look yourself up in the directory and click on your name. You will get a pop up that lists relationships and their association with the school. You will also see your contact information. Please check that it is accurate. If you need to make any changes, use the “view and update your profile” link in the Quicklinks section of the portal to notify us. The change will be reflected within 24 hours.

If you would like to gain access, change your password or if you have any questions, please contact webadministrator@paideiaschool.org.

School Photographs Schedule

Most group and student photographs for the yearbook will be taken the week of **August 29**. Elementary teachers will let their students know exactly which day they are scheduled. Photos will be taken on the following days:

Monday, Aug. 30
Half day and Elementary

Tuesday, Aug. 31
Half day and Elementary

Wednesday, Sep 1
Grade 11

Thursday, Sep. 2
Junior High

Friday, Sep 3
Grade 12

Microsoft 365 Available to Students

Did you know that Paideia has a Microsoft 365 license for all students age 13 and up? Families can install Microsoft Office on up to five computers or iPads with a valid student email address. Click here for more information: <https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education>

Mark Your Calendar

Art Visions
Friday, Nov. 11-Sunday, Nov. 13

Auction
Saturday, March 12

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

SPOTLIGHT

New Alumni Advisory Council Co-Chairs Announced

We are so grateful for the hard work and dedication **Christina Cadrecha '03** has shown over the past two years as chair of the AAC! Kicking off the 2021-22 school year, she will be passing the baton to **Andrew Lorber '00**. A committed member who has been working on professional networking with alumni, Andrew looks forward leading such a talented committee. He intends to focus on deepening the relationship between the AAC, the wider alumni community, and Paideia. He will be accompanied by **Jimmy Lowe '04** as co-chair who is excited to continue fostering volunteer opportunities and current engagement with the school. Want to learn more about the AAC? Visit <https://www.paideiaschool.org/alumni/alumni-advisory-council>.

Alumni News

Compiled Sadie Burbank '08, Director of Alumni Relations

- **Meredith Dowling '02** writes "My husband, **Michael Lemon**, and I moved back to Asheville, N.C. a few years ago with our son, **Chandler** (age 3). After 13 years serving the organization, I'm now the executive director of SouthWings, a volunteer pilot organization that supports environmental justice and ecosystem protection here in the Southeast. Michael teaches history, debate, and economics at Carolina Day School and is the chair of the social studies department. If there are any Paideia alums in the WNC area with kids of similar age, we'd love to meet up whenever the pandemic is finally over!"
- **Rachael Baird Rosen '04** writes "I've recently moved back to Minneapolis after five years of living in Seattle and working for Amazon. During our time in Seattle, our family grew to include **Jonah** (age 4) and **Margo** (age 2). Part of Minneapolis's appeal is how much closer it is to Atlanta than Seattle, and we hope to visit Atlanta more frequently and spend more time with **Abby Baird Major '07** and **Zane Major '06** after COVID is over!"
- **Kim Lee '06** writes "I currently live in SW Atlanta with my 5-year-old daughter, **Harlem** (hopefully class of 2034). I work for McKinsey and Company and am an active member of the McKinsey Black Network as well as various other Atlanta civic and social organizations. I am working on a few entrepreneurial efforts but focusing on a concept for a performing arts Studio. I look forward to attending PEN and PYPlane events in person after COVID."
- **Jalen Essick '18** earned all-conference recognition from the Southern Athletics Association in the 2021 Men's Basketball All-Conference honors. A sophomore at Rhodes College, he averaged 10.3 points per game and 5.3 rebounds per game this season while going 12-of-19 from the free throw line. Congrats Jalen!