

# THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

Volume LV

Number 1

August 2022

## Paideia Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

As the fall semester begins, we are pleased to welcome new faculty and staff to Paideia. These new faces will join a number of departments and help enrich our campus through innovative approaches that connect and engage our community, keeping our students as well as their interests and learning styles at the forefront.

Paideia has always been a place where students, faculty and staff learn and grow together. This year is no different. Let's continue to strengthen our school by welcoming these new community members, whom you can get to know by visiting [www.paideiaschool.org](http://www.paideiaschool.org) or by scanning the QR code above. You can also go to Instagram [@thepaideiaschool](https://www.instagram.com/thepaideiaschool) to hear why they chose Paideia.

MEET  
THE  
NEW  
STAFF  
SCAN THE  
QR CODE



## WE DID IT! PAIDEIA@50

We are thrilled to announce that we exceeded our campaign goal of \$25 million, which will support Paideia's facilities, programs and endowment. Thank you to the hundreds of families, teachers and friends who stepped up to usher in Paideia's next chapter.

Paideia@50 was envisioned in 2015 as part of the Board of Trustees' strategic plan. Under the leadership of our campaign co-chairs, Allegra Lawrence-Hardy and Scott Schnell, we were able to celebrate 50 wonderful years and set the stage for years to come. The leadership and community demonstrated by the campaign leaders and supporters is particularly noteworthy. They adjusted to address other urgent priorities that warranted focus and commitment, including responding to the pandemic and raising \$300,000 for emergency tuition relief for families disproportionately affected by it. We were able to pick up where we left off to successfully close the campaign.

The support of hundreds of families will enable us to expand our facilities, build a new junior high building and create new learning spaces for every level of the school, including construction or ren-

ovation of seven buildings across campus and the completion of three playgrounds for the elementary and Half Day. The campaign also raised more than \$2.4 million for endowed funds, \$2 million of which is dedicated to financial aid.

Construction of the new junior high facility will finish in spring 2023, and the new building is scheduled to open for students at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. The relocation of the junior high will allow space in the current facility for arts, science and project-oriented learning spaces for students of all ages, alleviating crowding across campus.

"We have been humbled by the generosity of Paideians, those near and far," says Director of Development Claire Hegarty. "Thank you for supporting our students, teachers and the spaces that let them thrive. We look forward to sharing our progress during the next year as we work toward the new junior high building's grand opening and the renovation of other spaces on campus."

Visit [Paideia50.org](http://Paideia50.org) to learn more.

# Paideia Alumnus Working His Way to the Major League

*An Interview with Jordan Hollins '16, MLB affiliate center fielder and first baseman*

**Tell us a bit about your background. What have you been doing since you graduated from Paideia and where are you now?**

I was born and raised in Stone Mountain, Georgia, and graduated from Paideia in 2016. After high school, I pursued my dream of playing professional baseball by attending the best junior college in the country, Chipola College. While at Chipola, I was blessed enough to be a part of what is considered the best junior college team of all time and won two national championships back to back. After concluding my education at Chipola, I transferred to Texas Southern University (TSU) in Houston, Texas, to continue my dream. Through much consideration, I ended up leaving TSU and headed out west to finish my collegiate career and education in Arizona at Ottawa University. As soon as I finished at Ottawa, I proceeded to play in the inaugural Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft League that summer, where I had the luxury to play in front of all 30 Major League Baseball organizations every day. From that opportunity and many other helping hands, I received the call that would make my longtime dream come true.



Now, I am officially a Glacier Range Rider playing in the Pioneer League.

**With regard to your recent move to the team, tell us what that means to you.**

Even though I am very happy, I am not satisfied. A lot of work is ahead of me. It's great to be a pro ball player, but my ultimate goal is to make it on the highest stage. However, I will not overlook the opportunity that is in front of me. I can't wait to get into the new town and be able to interact with all of the wonderful fans I'm sure we will have. It's going to be a great season and fun to play my heart out for the flathead faithful.

**What do you most enjoy about your time playing MLB?**

Everything about the game of baseball makes me feel like a kid again. That alone is the most rewarding thing the game could give me. Just being able to go out and do what I love, with a group of guys who have the same goal as me. I'm blessed beyond belief to still be able to ball, so every time I get a chance to play, it'll be the best time of my life.

**If you could go back in time and give the high-school version of yourself advice, what would it be?**

I would tell little J to stay the course. A lot of things in life will be difficult and hard to understand, but stay resilient. Consistency is key when it comes to progressing; don't become discouraged. Most important, continue to smile and enjoy the ride.

**Any favorite teacher(s) you want to give a thank-you or shout-out to?**

Marianne Hines was one of the only teachers who saw greatness in me, not just on the field but in the classroom. She helped me see my light when all those around me said I had none. Thank you, Marianne! You deserve your flowers.

*Let us know what you've been up to during the summer > [alumni@paideiaschool.org](mailto:alumni@paideiaschool.org)*

## Pi Bites Partners with Yay Lunch!

We are excited to announce that we will be partnering with Yay Lunch! this year to offer healthy on-campus meal options for the Paideia student body.

Yay Lunch! is a food-delivery service that sells directly to parents. Parents order online through the Yay Lunch! website: [www.yaylunch.com](http://www.yaylunch.com); local restaurant vendors prepare the lunches fresh every day, and Yay Lunch! delivers directly to Paideia.

Be on the lookout for more information from the Office of Parent Involvement.



## Photographer Danny Lee Retiring

Danny Lee, who served as Paideia's school photographer for many years, has retired, and his website will retire soon as well. Please visit the Parent Portal at [www.paideiaschool.org/parent-portal](http://www.paideiaschool.org/parent-portal) or visit Danny Lee Photography at [www.dannyleephotography.com](http://www.dannyleephotography.com) to purchase photos. We will be sending more information about the new Paideia photographer and school photography schedule in the coming weeks.

**STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Paideia Fencers Recognized for Academics and Athletics**

Two rising sophomores have recently been recognized by USA fencing for their academic achievements and fencing prowess. Sebastian Elwood has been named to the Second Team All-Academic team and Second Team All-American in foil. Griffin May has been named to the Second Team All-Academic Team and Honorable Mention All-American in saber. Congratulations to these two outstanding Paideia students.

**Family Fun Day at Python Park**

Please mark your calendar for the second-annual Family Fun Day at Python Park on Sunday, August 28, sponsored by the Python Booster Club. Students of all ages and their families are invited for fun and games at the park from 1 to 3 p.m. Paideia coaches and athletes will lead soccer, frisbee and baseball games. There will be activities, giveaways and ice cream for all. It's a great way to start the new school year.

**Mark Your Calendar**

**High School Parent Night**

Thursday, September 8

**Eat Lunch With Your Child**

Tuesday, September 20

**New Parent Dinner**

Wednesday, September 21

**Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day**

Friday, September 30

**Slither 5K**

Saturday, October 29

**Paideia Auction**

Saturday, March 11

**Check Out Updates from the Elementary Library**

Ah, summer in the library! Plenty of time to catch up on reading all of the great new books we've added to our collection. Well . . . sort of.

There's a lot that goes on in the library over the summer to help get ready for the new school year, and this year we tried something new by having the library open for summer browsing, reading and checkout. From mid-June to mid-July, the library has been open two mornings a week. We have welcomed many new families who stopped by to borrow books and check out the library, and we have helped summer camp counselors find great read-alouds for their Paideia summer campers. Many of the books borrowed and read are featured in our new summer reading guide. The guide includes books newly purchased for the library during the past two years, with recommendations divided by grade level (PK–2, 3rd–4th and 5th–6th) and genre (fiction, picture books, nonfiction and biographies). The summer hours have been a success, and we hope to expand the summer schedule next year.

Along with our summer hours for families, librarians have been busily organizing for a transition to a new circulation-and-catalog system. The new system, AccessIt, is used by many independent schools in the Atlanta area, and we are excited about the improved search features and customization options that the system will provide. Be on the lookout for a link to the new catalog at the beginning of the school year.

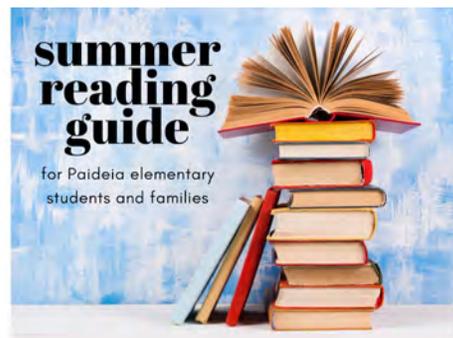
We have also been busy ordering more new books for the library. Our Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day library book sale returns this year for the first time since 2019. We hope all of the grandparents and special friends who visit the school on this day will stop by the book sale to donate a book to the library in honor of their grandchild or special friend.

Speaking of book orders, the library received a grant of \$1,500 from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) team to purchase books with a DEI focus. These funds help us continue to build a high-quality collection that focuses on providing readers with books that reflect who they are and give them the opportunity to see the world from different perspectives.

As the summer speeds by, we are also preparing for the new school year. This fall, we look forward to welcoming parents to an elementary library open house to find out more about how to support your child as they become lifelong readers and learners. Be on the lookout for the open-house date and learn more about library events and happenings by reading the library's monthly newsletter for families. The newsletter is distributed through the school's weekly memo and is also available on the library website (scan the QR code for a link).

If you would like more information about Paideia's elementary library, please contact us at [elemlibrary@paideiaschool.org](mailto:elemlibrary@paideiaschool.org).

— Jill Hanson, Elementary Librarian



**PAIDEIA  
ELEMENTARY  
LIBRARY**

# 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 Caroline Driebe, Editor, at Paideia School, 1509 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30307. Phone number is 404/377-3491, ext. 339; e-mail address is [driebe.caroline@paideiaschool.org](mailto:driebe.caroline@paideiaschool.org). For information about sports schedules and upcoming events visit our web site at [www.paideiaschool.org](http://www.paideiaschool.org)

## ALUMNI NEWS

*Compiled by Sadie Burbank '08, Director of Alumni Relations*

- **Zerita Buchanan '06** says: "I am excited to announce I have been awarded the 2022 Tory Burch Foundation Fearless Fund Women of Color Grant! The grant is awarded to minority women who are small-business owners. I am deeply humbled to be included in the ranks of such remarkable and diverse female entrepreneurs. With the funds awarded by the foundation, I will launch a #DentalDreamsLLC Dental Assisting School for pre-dental students at #HBCU schools in Georgia. I plan to bring value to the #FearlessFund by offering insight on health equity, oral health education and mentorship innovation.
- **Dean Farris '16** — NCAA and American record holder, two-time NCAA champion, 23-time All-American, 27-time Ivy League champion, two-time Academic All-American and two-time gold medalist for the U.S. National Team — retired from competitive swimming at the conclusion of the 2022 Men's NCAA Championships in March. Farris, who took a year off (which turned into two years because of COVID-19) to train for Olympic trials, finished his career earning the William J. Bingham '16 Award as Harvard's top male student-athlete during graduation week this past May.
- **Fetsum Tadesse '18** writes: "About a month ago, I graduated from Boston University with a bachelor's of science degree in biomedical engineering and a concentration in technology innovation. I am very excited to announce that, following my recent graduation, I will begin working as an associate scientist at Pfizer."

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

The Alumni Affinity Groups Program, launched last year, aimed at creating opportunities for alumni from all over the country to advance networking opportunities, plan events and implement diversity initiatives. We are excited to announce the new LGBTQAI+ Alumni Organization led by **Elizabeth Weaver '00** and **Aaron Schwartz '00**, who are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join as members or leaders. Want to get involved? Email [lgbtqaialumni@paideiaschool.org](mailto:lgbtqaialumni@paideiaschool.org).