

THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

SPRING 2017



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Construction is well underway on Altamont's renovated and expanded athletics spaces, story on page 10.

ON THE COVER:

Seminar, sculpted by Brad Morton and a gift of Sam Barker, is one of the many works of art in The Altamont School's collection.

Photograph by A Bryan Photo

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4801 Altamont Road South | Birmingham, AL 35222
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THE MISSION OF THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL is

to improve the fabric of society by graduating compassionate, well-educated individuals capable of independent thinking and innovative ideas. To this end, the school attracts, nurtures, and challenges students whose commitment to truth, knowledge, and honor will prepare them not only for the most rigorous college programs, but also for productive lives.

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THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

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ecoPRINT™
ENVIRO-FRIENDLY PRINTING

The Altamont magazine was printed using environmentally safe UV ink and varnish and recycled paper.

40 Years Later



Little did Sarah Whiteside know when she came to interview for a part-time Latin teaching position in the spring of 1978 that she would become an integral part of the fabric of The Altamont School. After nearly 40 years of exemplary service, Mrs. Whiteside has announced her decision to retire at the end of the 2017-18 academic year.

For Mrs. Whiteside, the word “retirement” does not accurately describe her decision: “Anyone who knows me knows that I love etymology and keep nearby an unabridged dictionary given to me by a group of students in the late ’80s. When I looked up the word ‘retirement,’ I decided that it was not the right word to use because I do not plan to do any of those things listed in the meaning—withdraw, disappear, go away. Altamont is in my blood and in my soul. I hope to substitute in the Latin classes; you will see me in the bleachers and in the audience as I follow the

accomplishments of our talented students; and I will continue to do anything I can for our community as chief cheerleader.”

Mrs. Whiteside became interim Head of School in July 2007 and assumed the permanent position in November of that same year with the understanding that she would commit to it for 10 years. “In what seems like the blink of an eye, those ten years will turn into eleven by the time I step aside at the end of the 2017-18 school year,” said Whiteside. “I am excited at the possibilities that lie ahead for the Altamont community, which is poised for even greater excellence and achievement.”

Brantley Fry ’91, President of the Altamont Board of Trustees, noted that under Whiteside’s leadership, “The school has grown to full enrollment and annually places its graduates in the nation’s top colleges and universities.”

The search committee for Altamont’s next Head of School, chaired by Board of Trustees Vice President Mike Denniston, will be assisted in the search process by Carney Sandoe & Associates of Boston. “We expect to find a candidate that the committee can unanimously recommend to the Board, and Mrs. Whiteside has graciously given us the time to do just that,” said Denniston.

Visit altamontschool.org/about/head-of-school-search for updates on the search process.



Merci Beaucoup, Madame

"What we learn with pleasure we never forget."

- Alfred Mercier

Jeanne Classé
French Teacher and Foreign Language Chair
at Brooke Hill & Altamont from 1972 - 2016

When Madame Classé was knighted by the French government, the *adoubement* did not take place in a castle but in a classroom. This was appropriate since her service to the French language and culture has been and continues to be rendered on the battlefield of learning. Jeanne, who shares her name with the French warrior-saint, Jeanne d'Arc (Joan of Arc), has indefatigably upheld the standard of excellence for her students and colleagues for the past 44 years. She has enlightened, entertained, and inspired hosts of students, and she has buttressed the teaching of French in Alabama. Her recognition as *chevalier* only confirms what our community has long known: she is an Altamont Knight for whom the pursuit of Truth, Knowledge, and Honor occurs *en français*.

- Anne Wideman Barton '74

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COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU!

Celebrations honoring Mrs. Whiteside and Madame Classé will be taking place around the country. Contact Margaret Whiteside for more information or to host a gathering at mwhiteside@altamontschool.org.

Altamont is Birmingham's First Solar Powered School

Altamont brought its Global Initiative to a local level with the installation of a solar array that will provide approximately 20 percent of the school's daytime energy consumption. Eagle Solar and Light, a Birmingham, Alabama-based company, installed the multi-paneled array on the middle terrace between Altamont's track and the back of the school building. Construction was completed at the end of February, and the array went live in early March. Sam Yates, president of Eagle Solar and Light, estimates the solar array will generate approximately 22,110 kilowatt-hours a year, which will save the school thousands of dollars on electric bills. The solar array is the first of its kind at a Birmingham middle or high school. Altamont hopes to install more arrays in the future. Eagle Solar and Light will be furnishing Altamont with a learning kiosk that will show real-time energy generation metrics from the new solar array.

"The new solar array will help us reduce our monthly consumption of power; it will also provide many outstanding educational opportunities for our students. Altamont's Global Initiative theme for this academic year is 'Energy Resources and Climate Change.' The solar array is one more way we can express that theme and incorporate environmental stewardship into the culture, and practices, of our school," said Sarah Whiteside.





Altamont Foodies: FEEDING THE WORLD

For these Altamont foodies, cooking and food are passions. More than just recipes and individual ingredients, cooking is a way for them to bring people together, to form communities, and to share a bit of themselves with the rest of us. If you haven't had the pleasure of dining with these alums, make your plans now. You and your taste buds won't be disappointed.

Josh Haynes '04 Alloy Thai Birmingham, Alabama



Josh Haynes returned to Birmingham in early 2015 and hit the ground running with Alloy Thai. Intimate dinners and supper clubs bring together small groups of strangers to enjoy a succession of Thai dishes (a minimum of seven courses) and beverage pairings. Josh's mission is to handcraft authentic Thai flavors using the finest local and seasonal products available. One way he accomplishes this feat is by growing as much of his own produce as possible, vertically integrating the farm-to-table process. A bricks-and-mortar restaurant is in the works, but until then, you can follow Alloy's supper clubs, cooking classes, and pop-ups on his website (alloythai.com), Facebook (@[alloybirmingham](https://www.facebook.com/alloybirmingham)), and Instagram ([alloythai](https://www.instagram.com/alloythai)).

When and how did you become interested in food/cooking?

My mom worked long hours while I was growing up,

and I always had an interest in food, so by the time I was nine or ten I had grown into the role of family cook. I would check out cookbooks from the library after school, and I would spend my afternoons cooking rather than doing homework or chores.

Where did you study?

After Altamont, I received a B.A. in International Studies from The University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed a one-year certificate program in Thai Studies at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand. I attended Urasenke Gakuen Chado Senmon Gakko, or Urasenke Professional College of the Way of Tea, the world's only "tea ceremony" college in Kyoto, Japan, as a recipient of the Midorikai Scholarship for International Chado Students.

What's your favorite dish to prepare?

I can think of hundreds of things I love to eat, but when it comes to preparation it really is all about the end game. There's something comforting about homemade basics and stocking a pantry: fresh chicken stock, homemade kimchi, Indian pickles, canning tomatoes from the garden, drying home-grown chiles, the aroma of freshly cooked rice, the feel of bread dough as you work it. Doing these things instills a kind of confidence that you'll always eat well.

What's your favorite restaurant?

You can't go wrong with Milo's. I'm also a fan of Bettola and Taqueria Dos Hermanos (the one at the Texaco on West Valley). 1000 Figs, Shaya, Dong Phuong, Pizza Delicious, and McKenzie's Chicken-In-A-Box.

Hunter Lowder '98

Holman Ranch

Will's Fargo Restaurant + Bar
Jarman Tasting Lounge & Patio
Carmel Valley, California



Photo courtesy of Hunter Lowder

Vineyard. Winery. Olive grove. Stables. Steak house. Event venue. Empire. When the Lowder family purchased Carmel Valley's storied Holman Ranch in 2006, they longed to return the property to its original grandeur while maintaining its character, charm, and charisma. Today, Hunter Lowder and her husband, Nick Elliott, oversee Holman Ranch and all of its offerings, including accommodations in guest cottages, stables, an olive grove, an award-winning vineyard, Will's Fargo Restaurant + Bar, and the Jarman Tasting Lounge & Patio. A destination in and of itself, Holman Ranch has become the location of choice in the area for weddings, meetings, parties, and other events.

When and how did you become interested in food/cooking?

I've always been interested in food. I've collected cookbooks and had a love affair with all foods for as long as I can remember. My parents always exposed us to different foods and would bring out cookbooks every weekend to try new recipes.

Where did you study?

I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology

and Spanish from Haverford College in Pennsylvania. I received an Associate of Applied Science degree in Restaurant Management from Walnut Hill College in Philadelphia.

Who's a chef that inspires you?

As a restaurateur and not a chef, I was always obsessed/inspired by Stephen Starr in Philadelphia for all his varied concepts that just always stuck and succeeded. I love Danny Meyer for his customer service model and company culture beliefs.

What's your favorite restaurant?

I've lived in a lot of places and have a lot of favorites. Some are for the food. Some are for experiences. Some are for memories created there. I'll take it back to a place that doesn't exist anymore, but fulfills all categories, especially nostalgia: Wanda June's formerly in Mountain Brook, Alabama.

Jonathan "Rusty" Tucker '03

Rusty's Bar-B-Q
Leeds, Alabama



Photo by Art Meripol

Rusty Tucker successfully mastered his grandfather's biscuits at age six. He first tried his hand at barbecue at the tender age of ten under the tutelage of his father. After his graduation from Altamont, Rusty enrolled at Johnson & Wales University where he received an associate's degree in Culinary Arts and a bachelor's degree in Food Services Management. In 2009, Rusty and his wife, Beth, opened Rusty's Bar-B-Q in Leeds. Rusty's has become a go-to spot, popular with drivers and pit crews racing at nearby Barber Motorsports Park. Since Rusty learned to cook from his family, it's only fitting that you can find his family's influence throughout the restaurant, from his granddaddy's biscuits, barbecue sauce, and coconut cream pie to his mother's banana pudding to his wife's peanut butter pie.

What's your restaurant's mission?

Rusty's Bar-B-Q is an approachable, family and community-oriented restaurant that provides authentic southern hospitality.

What are you known for?

Ribs are my favorite item on the menu, but we are probably more well known for our burgers.

Who's a chef that inspires you?

Altamont's own Jennifer Grissom

Would you share a favorite recipe?

Granddaddy's Biscuits

16 oz self-rising flour

4 oz cold butter

8 oz whole buttermilk

Preheat oven to 400°. In a large mixing bowl, use a pastry cutter to cut the butter into the flour until the butter is about the size of a pea. Add in buttermilk and stir together until a dough forms. On a floured counter, knead the dough about six times. Roll dough to be 1/2-inch thick. Cut to desired size and place on a sheet tray. Brush the tops with melted butter. Bake in oven for approximately ten minutes, until golden brown.

Laura Samford Smith '02

Rezaz | Baba Nahm

Asheville, North Carolina



Photo by Lynne Harty

From the age of eight, Laura Samford Smith has had a love for cooking. By the age of 11, she was able to get into the kitchen at Bottega. At 15 she found her way into making desserts at Bottega and

fell in love. That love and passion stuck with her through Altamont and college and led her to the world famous Le Cordon Bleu. She studied at their campuses in Australia, France, England, and Canada before earning her DUGGAT (Diplôme Universitaire du Goût, de la Gastronomie et des Arts de la Table) from Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne. Back in the United States, Laura settled in Asheville, North Carolina. In 2011 she became the pastry chef at the popular Mediterranean spot Rezaz. In 2015, she and her husband, Brian, who happened to be the executive chef at the restaurant, purchased Rezaz. They've never looked back. Known for innovative Mediterranean cuisine, Rezaz is thriving under Laura and Brian's leadership. This spring they opened Baba Nahm, a fun, Middle Eastern, quick-trip food place with vibrant, healthy salads, falafel, and spit-roasted lamb and chicken.

What are you known for?

Rezaz is known for great, innovative food. Our seafood that Brian prepares is just amazing. Our steak specials you can't go wrong with. Our shrimp and calamari or our Rezaz mezze are the two most popular appetizers that we sell. The most requested entree might be the paella or housemade raviolis.

What's your favorite dish to prepare?

I have many. Right now, bread is my favorite thing to do. I find it amazing that you can take about four to six ingredients and make so many different types of bread. Plus, I love eating bread!

Who's a chef that inspires you?

My husband, Brian, inspires me and challenges me in ways that I find aggravating and beneficial. He makes me keep digging to find what I am looking for. He is there to help me when I get stuck. I am also inspired by the 'fathers' of cooking—Careme and Escoffier. To achieve what they did, huge extravagant banquets for the heads of the world, without the equipment we have today, simply amazes me. But with today's chefs and entrepreneurs, there are so many to choose from: Joel Robuchon, Daniel Boulud, Johnny Iuzzini, Frank Stitt. There isn't just one.

What's your favorite restaurant?

I don't think I have a favorite restaurant. Honestly, my favorite place to eat is anywhere with good friends and food made with love. If someone has taken time to make me a meal, I am going to love it. A restaurant is not just about the food. It is the whole experience, from how you are greeted, to your server, to the first sip of your drink, to the bus person clearing plates, to the final "good-bye."



Linus Kim '93

Linus' Bama Style Barbecue Seoul, Korea

Growing up in Birmingham, Linus Kim discovered he preferred the southern food surrounding him over the traditional Korean dishes prepared by his parents. And he knew he had discovered something special when he had his first taste of barbecue, a taste that stayed with him long after that last bite of pulled pork. Fast forward 20 years and 7,000 miles, and Linus' Bama Style Barbecue was born. After leaving his jobs in TV production and event promotion, Linus decided to try his hand at smoking meat. What started as a monthly pop-up experiment is now one of the most popular American barbecue restaurants in Seoul. According to Linus, "It was pure insanity. People were starved for foreign food here." Want to see what all the buzz is about but can't make it to Korea? You're in luck. Each year Linus competes in the World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest, aka the "Super Bowl of Swine," during the Memphis in May International Festival.

When/how did you become interested in food/cooking?

When I was young, I would help my grandmother make Korean food entirely from scratch. There were so many ingredients that could not be purchased in Alabama at the time, and often we had to grow napa cabbage in the backyard. (My parents still do it!) It was so labor intensive. We always had pepper paste and kimchi fermenting and sliced eggplant drying in the sun on newspaper. Later, when I was out on my own, cooking and hosting dinners was a regular thing I loved to do. I learned a lot through cooking disasters. As I moved further away from the South I learned to cook barbecue out of necessity.

What are you known for?

American Barbecue! But it depends on who you're

asking. My early pop-up followers knew I was obsessed with the pursuit of the perfect bite of a pulled pork sandwich. The American soldiers stationed here will likely say I'm known for my Texas Brisket and deep-fried bacon jalapeno mac-n-cheese balls. Local Koreans, who are tasting American barbecue for the first time, literally point to Instagram photos of my combination platter because they want to taste everything.

Who's a chef that inspires you?

Skip Steele. He's a pitmaster and St. Louis restaurateur that I have befriended through my travels and regularly ask for advice.

What's your favorite restaurant?

Since I no longer live in the states, I'll name three that I miss dearly: Mamoun's Falafel in Greenwich Village, Golden Buddha in Atlanta, and Mancha's in Birmingham (R.I.P.).

Mauricio Papapietro '97

Brick & Tin Birmingham/ Mtn Brook, Alabama

After graduating from Sewanee with a degree in history, Mauricio realized that cooking just made sense. "Cooking was the intersection of many roads

that I was interested in: farming and horticulture, art, originality and creativity, finesse, technique, dexterity, training, passion." When he returned to Birmingham, Mauricio landed a job at Frank Stitt's Bottega Café while he continued to perfect his art in his home kitchen. Mauricio spent eight months studying and cooking in Italy. Following that journey, he found himself in the kitchen of another renowned Birmingham restaurant: Hot & Hot Fish Club. Soon Mauricio was ready to open his own restaurant, one that would fill a niche in town: a "dressed-up sandwich place" with reasonable prices that maintains "local character and culinary ingenuity." While Brick & Tin began as a lunch-only spot downtown, it now boasts two locations, lunch, brunch, dinner, and an inspired cocktail menu.



Photo by Rob Culpepper



One More Lap

Athletics & Wellness Campaign



Altamont has raised more than \$10 million in the past five academic years to support increased scholarship offerings; state-of-the-art academic and leadership programs; and much-needed new and renovated spaces, such as the library, the Cabaniss-Kaul Center for the Arts, the Pharo Art Studio, the Lacey-Day Photography Studio, and the Margaret Gresham Livingston Gallery. Altamont is now in the “final lap” of its campaign to bring the school’s athletic facilities, which have been virtually untouched for 40 years, up to the same level of excellence.

Altamont has partnered with Birmingham, Alabama-based architectural firm TurnerBatson for this important project. Architects Dave Reese and Jamie Collins '81 envision more for Altamont than just a renovated gymnasium. Their plan also improves circulation through the gym; offers more spaces to gather; takes advantage of Altamont’s bird’s-eye view of the city; and adds a Walk of Honor. “The redesigned athletics spaces emphasize Altamont’s commitment to fitness and wellness,” said Collins.

The plan calls for the renovation of 16,000+ square feet of existing space and the addition of 8,000 more. Construction is on pace to be completed in time for the 2017-18 school year. Director of Advancement Charlotte Russ is offering summer tours of the new Coach Ralph Patton Gym. Should you wish to schedule one, please contact her at cruss@altamontschool.org or 205-445-1225.



Deak Rushton, Chair of Building Committee, reviews plans.



Sarah Whiteside and Billy Hulsey tour construction progress.

ONE MORE LAP: Athletics & Wellness Campaign

We have raised \$2,300,000 toward our goal of \$2,500,000+!

You can help with a gift over three years:

\$10,000 pledge
\$5,000 pledge
\$2,500 pledge
\$1,000 pledge

Consider a gift in honor of a favorite past or present coach or student-athlete.

You'll be recognized on our donor wall AND be invited to the Grand Opening in September.

Contact Charlotte Russ at
cruss@altamontschool.org or 205-445-1225
for more information or to make a donation.



First floor plans include:

- New name for the gym: **Ralph Patton Gym**, see page 14
- Three new locker rooms
- Automated bleachers for 500 fans (Go Knights!)
- **Bruce Denson '68 Walk of Honor**, showcasing athletic accomplishments from B.U.S., Brooke Hill, and Altamont

A New Floor, A New Knight

Among the focal points of the new Patton Gym floor are fresh athletics marks that were created for Altamont by alumnus Dan Monroe '78 and his team at Cayenne Creative in Birmingham, Alabama. Monroe says, "As an alum, I didn't take the redesign of the Altamont knight lightly. I knew it had to represent all of the best qualities of knighthood: fierce loyalty, reverence for the arts, dogged competitiveness, and a love of tradition. We incorporated symbols from the Altamont seal - symbols that came from the two schools that merged to form Altamont - into the knight's shield, a nod to the rich history of this truly special school."



Second floor plans include:

- The **Margaret and James Livingston Athletic Training Room** for injury prevention and treatment and a classroom for Honors Sports Medicine
- Work out and watch court action at the same time in the **General Charles C. Krulak Wellness Center!**
- Mezzanine with floor to ceiling windows for natural light and the best view of the city
- New game day navigation! Grab your popcorn from the **Elmore Concession and Student Center** (named in memory of Dr. and Mrs. John Durr Elmore), and enter Patton Gym from the upper floor.
- Coaches offices in close proximity to athletic and wellness activities include the **Barbara and Stuart Royal Family Office**



Altamont's new
athletic wordmark

is set in the font
"NBA Hawks
Highlight Factory."

ALTAMONT

KNIGHTS

The Knights and Sword
is another powerful new
athletic mark.



The Attack Knight appears at
center court, shield emblazoned
with symbols from Altamont's seal.

KNIGHTS

ALTAMONT

Coach Ralph Patton Gym

Coach Ralph Patton began his career in an underserved community, teaching children with few resources who were often without the guidance of a significant father figure. Over the years, he honed his natural ability to coach, to train, to encourage, and to inspire. By the time Altamont was fortunate enough to have Coach Patton on its team, he had distinguished himself as a rare inspirational talent. “I don’t know of anyone who has had such a positive impact on so many lives,” said Head of School Sarah Whiteside.

In 1999, Coach Patton’s tenure at Altamont was cut short by a near fatal car accident, but he fought back from his serious injuries. He continues to be an inspirational, active presence at Altamont athletic events and on the hill. He can often be found offering encouragement to a new generation of students.

Reflecting on the significant influence he has had on both current students and Altamont alumni, Mrs. Whiteside thought naming the renovated competition gym in Coach Patton’s honor a fitting tribute to a man who has given so much to the school.

An Evening Honoring Coach Patton

On November 19, 2016, Altamont hosted a special evening at the school honoring Coach Patton and raising money to name the gym in his honor. The Patton Gym Fundraising Team, co-chaired by Brian Boehm ’98, Annie Bayer Goldberg ’98, and Kat Drennen Rogers ’98, set a goal of \$250,000—the evening far exceeded their expectations.

Between 350-400 guests enjoyed delicious hors d’oeuvres and drinks from Savoie catering. Special touches included personalized bidding panels, mini-basketballs emblazoned with the new Altamont Knight logo (see story on page 12), and a moving video tribute to Coach Patton with stories from alumni, parents of alumni, Mrs. Whiteside, and many others testifying to the influence Coach Patton has had on their lives.

The pledge portion of the evening was emceed by local celebrity Jeh Jeh Pruitt, Fox 6 reporter and Coach Patton’s brother-in-law. Pledging kicked off with a generous gift of \$100,000 from Gail and Jeffrey Bayer and their daughters, Annie Goldberg ’98 and Lindsay Shipp ’01. Other pledges followed and by the time the evening ended, over \$360,000 had been raised.



Coach Patton with wife, Kim, and Jeh Jeh Pruitt



Coach Patton with Gail and Jeffrey Bayer



Justin Strong '02, Brian Boehm '98, Kat Drennen Rogers '98, and Annie Bayer Goldberg '98.



From Altamont to Broadway

Elias Hendricks '05 brought Broadway to the hill with a riveting performance for the whole school and a mentoring session for two lucky Altamont students.

"I never thought when I was an eighth-grader that I would become a professional singer," Elias told a packed Cabaniss-Kaul Center. During his early years at Altamont he focused on sports: soccer, running track, and basketball in particular. As he progressed in Upper School, music became more and more important. Elias added orchestra, choir, and private piano instruction to his already full load.

Elias encouraged students to take advantage of the wide-range of curricular offerings and experiences at Altamont: "Whether you're a fifth grader or a senior, what you have at Altamont is a privilege. Use it. Don't take these opportunities for granted."

After Altamont, Elias received a scholarship to Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where he earned a B.F.A. (Honors) in dance and theatre performance with a minor in French. His education and career have taken him around the world. He attributes his ease with others and ability to acclimate to any environment to lessons he learned by attending Altamont with such a diverse group of peers. "One of the best, most important things Altamont has to offer is diversity," he said.

Elias performed a varied set at Altamont, which included songs from his London and touring shows: "Bring Him Home" —*Les Miserables*, "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" —*The Lion King*, "You Raise Me Up" by Josh Groban, and "Can I Close the Door on Love" —*Motown the Musical*. He closed the show with "Sandcastles" by Beyoncé, much to the delight of his audience.

Two Altamont students, eighth-grader Emma Lembke and senior Kiana Perkins, received valuable coaching from Elias on both vocal styling and technique. He hopes to return to the hill and continue mentoring, and inspiring, a new generation of singers.

ELIAS HENDRICKS' CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- London's West End production of *Motown the Musical*
- Member of Vox Fortura - semifinalists on *Britain's Got Talent*
- Touring Europe with his one-man soul show: "Ain't Too Proud to Beg"
- Simba in Disney's *The Lion King* in Hong Kong
- Touring United Kingdom with Vox Fortura - Summer 2017

Class of 2017 College Acceptances & Matriculations

Agnes Scott College
 The University of Alabama at Birmingham*
 The University of Alabama in Huntsville
The University of Alabama*
American University
Auburn University*
Barnard College
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 Franklin & Marshall College
 Furman University*
 George Mason University
 Georgia Institute of Technology*
 Gettysburg College
 Goucher College
 Grinnell College
Hampden-Sydney College*
Harvey Mudd College
 Hobart and William Smith Colleges
 Hollins University*
 Howard University*
 Huntingdon College
 Johns Hopkins University
 Lake Forest College
Loyola University Chicago
 Loyola University New Orleans*
 Middlebury College*
 Millsaps College
 University of Mississippi*
 University of New Hampshire at Durham
 New Jersey Institute of Technology
 New York University*
 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Northeastern University*



University of Notre Dame
Oglethorpe University*
University of Pennsylvania*
 University of Pittsburgh
Pomona College
Rhodes College*
 Rice University
 University of Richmond*
 Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College*
 Saint Mary's College
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 Seattle University (Honors School)
Sewanee: The University of the South*
 Skidmore College
 University of South Alabama
 University of Southern California
 Southern Methodist University*
 Southwestern University
Spring Hill College
 Texas Christian University
Trinity University*
Tulane University*
 Tuskegee University
Vassar College*
 University of Vermont
Virginia Tech
University of Virginia
 Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
 University of Washington
 Wellesley College
Wofford College*
 Xavier University
Yale University

Bold- Student will Matriculate
 *- More than one student accepted

Syrian Refugee Crisis

Motivated by parallels they saw between Aeneas' journey and current affairs, Buck Crowe's Latin IV class invited a panel of speakers on the Syrian refugee crisis to Altamont's campus. Altamont senior Zoe Zahariadis presented images and stories from her summer at a refugee camp on Lesbos, Greece.

Zoe's photographs, showing the close proximity of Turkey and Greece, helped students understand why many Syrian people are willing to risk strong water currents, treacherous rocky shores, and unreliable watercraft to escape war in their country.

One of the more powerful moments she experienced on Lesbos was the "life jacket graveyard," mountains of discarded life preservers and boats that have washed ashore on the island. "It's difficult to put into words the emotions I experienced seeing this place. The enormity of it all was overwhelming," said Zoe. Her experiences, including her photographs and Wordpress blog, were featured in the November 2016 issue of *B-metro* magazine.

Zoe hopes for greater understanding of the human element of the refugee crisis. "These are just ordinary people, fleeing horrible conditions," she said. She has partnered with Lesbos Solidarity, an open solidarity refugee camp providing shelter and hospitality but not registration. "There are so many opportunities for students to get involved. Anyone can make a difference."



Zoe Zahariadis

Sydney McKee and her rebuilt Spec Miata named Penny raced competitively for the first time at Barber Motorsports PBOC this past November. The Altamont senior spent the summer prior to the race at a garage in downtown Birmingham, where she stripped the interior of her car down to a metal box, installed a bucket seat and racing clutch, and modified the suspension and brakes to improve its handling. For Sydney, the thrill of speeding around a track goes hand-in-hand with the excitement of the science behind the racing.

Sydney is in her third year of physics at Altamont. She is currently taking both AP Physics II and an Independent Study course with physics teacher Katrina Dahlgren entitled “The Physics of Racing,” where she works in a downtown garage, Alabama Gearheads, and writes papers on topics like the physics of braking.

To get to a place where she could compete on a racetrack, Sydney has dedicated hours of time to practice on tracks such as Barber Motorsports Park, Road Atlanta, Sebring, and Bob Bondurant School of High Performance Racing in Arizona. She has given up a lot to race, including playing on the Altamont basketball team. She pays for half of all of her racing expenses—which can be significant—with money she earns on her own.

For Sydney the sacrifice is worth it. “Driving is addictive,” she says. “There isn’t another feeling like it. You’ve got the balance of this great machine but also the danger of it and the emotional connection you have.”



Photo by Beau Gustafson

Sydney experienced that danger first hand in the Barber race. Another driver known in track parlance as a “radical” ran into her driver’s side door, sending her into a gravel trap and causing significant damage to Penny. “Nearly all the glass was broken out of the windows,” said Sydney. “I watched tape of the crash that was filmed by the car behind me. It was scary to watch, but it showed that the crash was definitely not my fault!” Despite the setback, she can’t wait to get back on the track.

Sydney will take that competitive drive with her to Brown University in the fall, where she plans to pursue physics and mechanical engineering and to continue racing by flying back to tracks in the South as her schedule allows. **Help support her racing dream at [gofundme.com/3j4scy-sydneys-racing-endeavor](https://www.gofundme.com/3j4scy-sydneys-racing-endeavor).**

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Nomberg Signs Letter of Intent

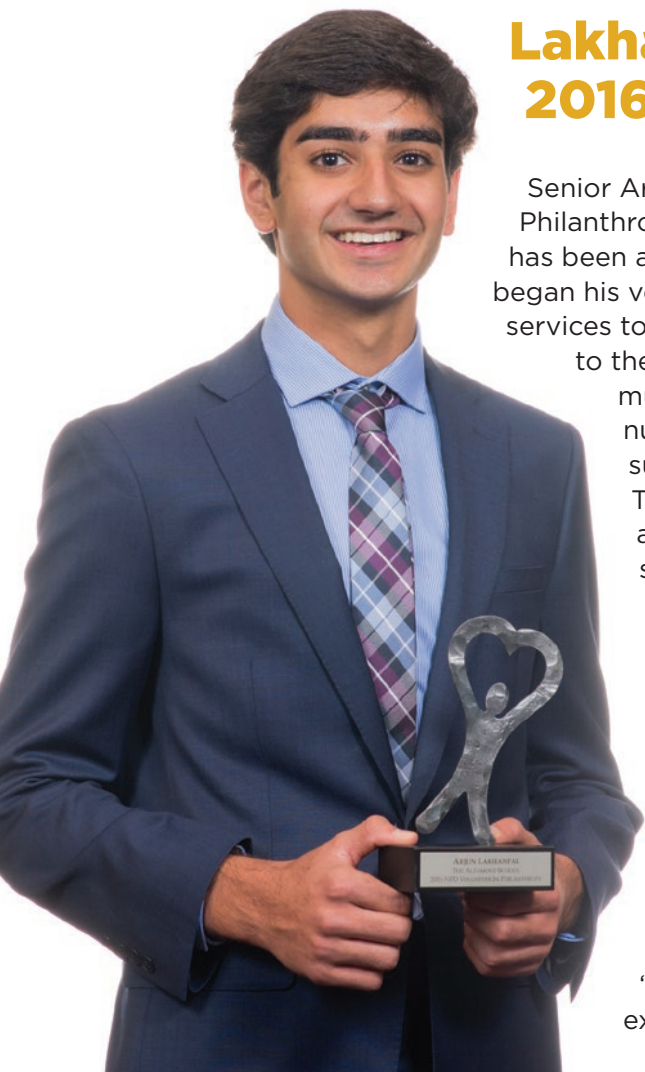
Emily Nomberg signed a Letter of Intent to play lacrosse with Division II Rollins College, marking the second year in a row that an Altamont senior girl has committed to play lacrosse at the college level. Last year, she played travel lacrosse for the national X-TEAM and with LB3, a program based in Atlanta. The Rollins College Tars, located in Winter Park, Florida, play in the Sunshine State Conference and were ranked No. 6 in the Final 2016 IWLC A DII Poll. Emily will play either defender or midfielder when she joins the team in fall 2017.



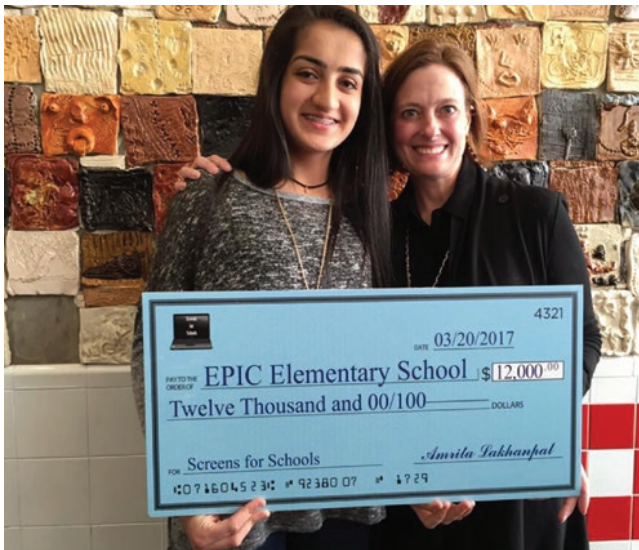
Lakhanpal Named Altamont's 2016 Volunteer in Philanthropy

Senior Arjun Lakhanpal was named Altamont's 2016 Volunteer in Philanthropy. Through the C. Kyser Miree Ethical Leadership Center, Arjun has been able to make a real difference in the Birmingham community. Arjun began his volunteerism in the eighth grade at Mitchell's Place, which provides services to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. He remains committed to their summer program. In the ninth grade, Arjun developed a monthly music program, organizing student volunteers to perform in area nursing homes like St. Martin's and Kirkwood. Once that was self-sustaining, he turned his attention to EPIC Elementary School. Through LETT (Learning Excellence Through Tennis), Arjun hosted a tennis racquet drive, collecting 100 racquets, and taught EPIC students how to play tennis.

Arjun's greatest leadership endeavor to-date was inspired by his uncle Sundee Caplash, who, while jogging, was struck by a motorist and died. As a tribute to his late uncle and as a service to all runners, Arjun raised \$6,000 to install a new water fountain for runners on Jemison Trail. He was the first one to make a donation to his own cause, understanding the importance of participating before asking others to do so. In addition to fundraising, he also had to appeal to City Planning Officials and communicate with Public Works. Arjun holds a sincere desire to improve our community. Head of School Sarah Whiteside says, "Arjun's leadership and service come naturally to him. He truly exemplifies the very best in servant leadership."



The C. Kyser Miree Ethical Leadership Center would like to expand mentorship and internship opportunities between Altamont students and alumni. Please contact Director Katherine Berdy '91 at kberdy@altamontschool.org if you are interested in partnering with the school in this endeavor.



Lakhanpal Raises \$12,000 for Laptops

Altamont sophomore Amrita Lakhanpal presented a check for \$12,000 to EPIC Elementary in Birmingham, Alabama, to purchase 60 Chromebooks. Amrita volunteers at the school, teaching coding and speech classes. She is a participant in Altamont's C. Kyser Miree Ethical Leadership Center, which helps students find their unique expression of leadership and empowers them to discover the strength and beauty of service. Upper School Miree Leaders develop and implement Miree Projects based on individual interests that serve a need in the greater Birmingham community, and complete more than 80 hours of community service.



Pless Perfect on ACT

Senior Lucy Pless earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36. Nationally, on average, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earns the top score. Lucy is a four-year starting member of the varsity volleyball team. She is an award-winning photographer and writer, and a member of the C. Kyser Miree Ethical Leadership Center, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, and Model United Nations. She is the founder and director of Zenith Enrichment, which provides after-school tutoring for 2nd graders at Tuggle Elementary School.



THE
ALTAMONT
SCHOOL



BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL

The Altamont School has been voted 2017 Best Private School in Birmingham by *Birmingham Magazine* readers. More than 4,000 people voted. Runners-up in this category were Indian Springs, Highlands School, Briarwood, and Advent Episcopal School. *Birmingham Magazine* is the state of Alabama's longest running lifestyle magazine with nearly 50,000 monthly readers.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



Afra Ashraf



Arjun Guru

Two Altamont Seniors Named National Merit Finalists

Two members of Altamont's Class of 2017 were named Finalists in this year's National Merit Scholarship Program: Afra Ashraf and Arjun Guru. These academically talented high school seniors will continue in the competition for some 7,500 Merit Scholarship awards worth \$33 million. About 1.5 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool represents less than one percent of high school seniors in the United States.

Chang Selected as a Reischauer Scholar

Junior Fion Chang is one of only 25 high school students in the U.S. accepted to Stanford University's Reischauer Scholars Program (RSP) this year. RSP provides students with a broad view of Japanese history, literature, religion, art, politics, economics, and contemporary society with a special focus on U.S.-Japanese relationships. This is an intensive five-month online study program.



Fion Chang



Altamont Seniors Participate in Equal Justice Initiative's Community Remembrance Project

At the end of July, a group of Altamont seniors, together with teachers JP Hemingway and Andrew Nelson, travelled to Montgomery to participate in the Equal Justice Initiative's (EJI) Community Remembrance Project. EJI's Community Remembrance Project is part of their campaign to recognize the victims of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites and creating a memorial that acknowledges the horrors of racial injustice. Community members from across the state have been invited to join EJI staff to collect soil from sites throughout Alabama.

The soil collection project is intended to bring community members closer to the legacy of lynching and to contribute to the effort to build a lasting and more visible memory of our history of racial injustice. Soil collected by Altamont's students will be part of an exhibit in Montgomery that will reflect the history of lynching and express our generation's resolve to confront the continuing challenges that racial inequality creates.

Through the seemingly simple act of collecting soil from an unnoticed and sometimes forgotten spot, these students felt a connection to our state's history and troubled past, racial injustice, and, most importantly, to the innocent victims whose stories and lives will not be forgotten. Altamont senior Imani Richardson says, "Participating in the lynching memorial with Equal Justice Initiative was so special to me because I had the opportunity to actively engage and honor a part of our country's history that is so rarely discussed. . . contributing to the lynching memorial with EJI was an experience I will remember for the rest of my life."

Altamont Boys Tennis Team

2017 Alabama High School Athletic Association Class 1A-3A State Champions

The Altamont Boys Tennis team dethroned Montgomery Academy, who had won the previous six straight 1A-3A titles, to claim the state championship at the tournament held in Mobile, Alabama, April 24-25, 2017. In singles play, Arjun Lakhanpal won at #3. Chris Mines and Mac Lidikay advanced to the finals at #2 and #6 respectively. Arjun Guru made it to the semifinals at #4. In doubles play, Chris Mines and Arjun Guru won at #2. Arjun Lakhanpal and Mac Lidikay won at #3. Sameer Sultan and Spencer Skidmore advanced to the finals at #1.

At the earlier sectional tournament, held at Birmingham-Southern College on April 18, the boys team of Chris Mines, Spencer Skidmore, Arjun Lakhanpal, Arjun Guru, Sameer Sultan, and Mac Lidikay made a clean sweep of the singles and doubles events.



Spencer Skidmore, Aaron Miller, Arjun Lakhanpal, Coach Barry Bearden, Arjun Guru, Chris Mines, Mac Lidikay



Back Row: Spencer Skidmore, Arjun Lakhanpal, Coach Barry Bearden, Chris Mines, Arjun Guru, Sameer Sultan
Front Row: William Coleman, Mac Lidikay, Shawn Goyal, Aaron Miller

Altamont Girls Tennis Team

The Altamont Girls Tennis team placed 5th at state in team scoring at the tournament in Mobile. In singles play, Amrita Lakhanpal and Archana Yarlagadda advanced to the semifinals at #3 and #6 respectively. In doubles play, Archana and Sydney Hill advanced to the finals at #3. Amrita Lakhanpal and Maya Guru advanced to the semifinals at #2.

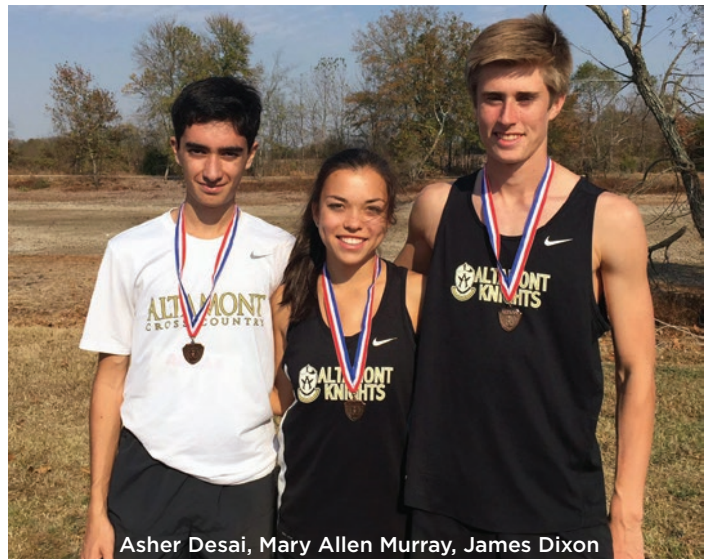
The Altamont Girls Tennis team dominated the sectional tournament, held at Birmingham-Southern College on April 18. Winners for the girls team at Sectionals were: Mae Baird #1 singles, Uzma Issa #2 singles, Amrita Lakhanpal #3 singles, Maya Guru #4 singles, Archana Yarlagadda #6 singles, Amrita and Maya #2 doubles, Archana and Sydney Hill #3 doubles.



Back Row: Uzma Issa, Jhilam Dasgupta, Nivedita Rao, Zoya Bashir, Sydney Hill, Mae Baird, Amrita Lakhanpal, Coach Susan Keith
Front Row: Maya Guru, Archana Yarlagadda

Cross Country

Altamont's Cross Country teams excelled at the Alabama High School Athletic Association State Championships, held at Oakville Indian Mounds Cross Country Course November 12, 2016. The boys team finished fourth in state; the girls team finished fifth. Sophomore Mary Allen Murray, an All-State runner, placed 3rd overall at the meet. Eighth grader Bay Stackpole and seventh grader Bijou Phillips finished in the top 25, with ninth grader Liz Patterson and eighth grader Mary Carolyn Sink rounding out Altamont's top five scorers. Sophomore Asher Desai placed 4th overall and sophomore James Dixon placed 8th overall, earning All-State honors. Sophomore Spencer Skidmore, junior Darian Sanders, and senior Robert Luke completed Altamont's top five.



Asher Desai, Mary Allen Murray, James Dixon

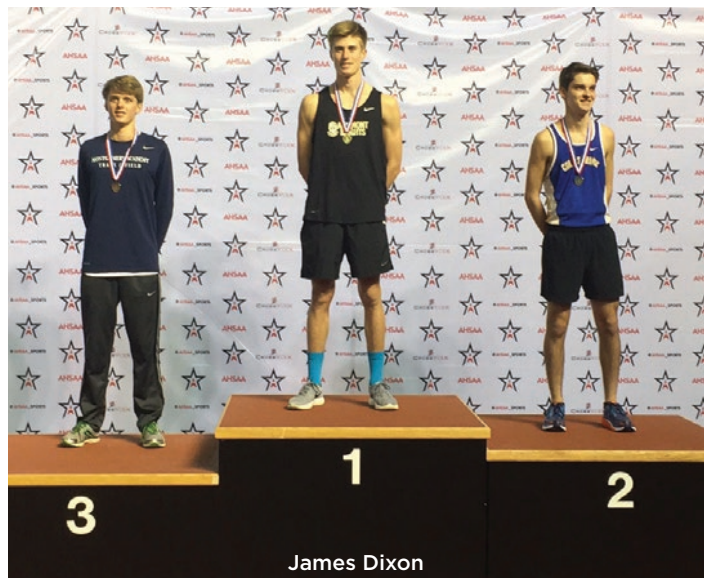


Standing: Sophie Eckert, Ashley Sharff, Abby Sharff, Cat Harris, Kendall Smoke, Amelia Pak, Marinna Dorolek. Kneeling: Lucy Pless, Evan Singleton, Ellie Guyader

Volleyball

After an incredible season, the Altamont Varsity Volleyball team made it to the Final Four in the State Tournament for the first time since 1978. After winning the Class 2A Area 10 Tournament, the team went into Super Regionals ranked #4 in the state. The Knights notched victories over Ider and Winston County in Super Regionals and defeated New Brockton in the first round at State. In a nail-biting match, Altamont lost by the closest of margins to St. Luke's, the team that would eventually win the state title.

Volleyball players Lucy Pless and Abby Sharff earned Birmingham All-Region Honorable Mention honors and Ashley Sharff earned Birmingham All-Region 1st Team honors. Ashley Sharff was also named to the 2016 Class 2A All-State Tournament Team.



James Dixon

Indoor Track

At the state championships, held at Birmingham CrossPlex February 4-5, 2017, the Altamont boys team finished 7th and the girls team finished 9th in a deep field of 1A-3A schools. James Dixon won the state championship in the 800 meter run; Buddy Gardner placed 3rd in the pole vault; and in a spectacular finish, the 4x400 relay of Gardner, Cole Hall, Matan Abrams, and Dixon edged out Montgomery Academy by .05 seconds for the silver medal. New school records were set by Asher Desai in the 3200 and by the boys 4x200 relay team. The girls team also had a strong showing with points scored by Abby Sharff, Lillie Parks, Mary Allen Murray, and the 4x200 and 4x800 relay teams.



E.B. Hornak

Basketball

The Varsity Boys Basketball team advanced to the semifinals of the Alabama High School Athletic Association Regional Tournament at Wallace State University Arena in Hanceville, losing to Sheffield in a game that went down to the wire. Five seniors played on the team, Arjun Lakhanpal, Will Rosenstiel, Sri Ponnazhagan, James Patterson, and Miles Underwood (pictured at right).



The Girls Varsity Basketball team advanced to the sub-regional playoffs this year and are returning all of their starters for next year.



James Hoyt and Anna-Julia Kutsch

Swimming

Under the leadership of sophomore Anna-Julia Kutsch and senior James Hoyt, Altamont's swimming teams had strong showings at the Alabama High School Athletic Association state swimming and diving championship, held at Auburn University's Martin Aquatic Center December 9-10, 2016. Competing in the Class 1A-5A division, the girls team finished ninth overall, and the boys team finished 11th. In earlier regional competition at Birmingham's CrossPlex, the girls team finished second overall and the boys finished third. Kutsch placed first in the 100-yard freestyle event and second in the 50-yard freestyle. Hoyt placed second in the 50-yard freestyle event and second in the 500-yard freestyle.

Georgeann Zohar Grant

This teacher grant celebrates Mrs. Zohar's passion for lifelong learning through opportunities to take mini-sabbaticals as a time for individual research and to be a student again. Altamont teachers are encouraged to pursue research interests and passions that lead to rejuvenation and innovation in the classroom. Photography teacher **Marygray Hunter**



and fifth/sixth grade history teacher **Robbie Ballard '03** are recipients of 2017 Zohar Grants. Hunter was awarded a grant to visit Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia, to research and develop a video and



audio production class at Altamont, which will be offered this fall. Ballard was awarded a grant for travel to Germany to meet with elementary and secondary teachers to discuss how the Holocaust and other pertinent issues from 1933–45 are introduced and taught to German students.

E. E. Ford Grant

Edward E. Ford faculty grants are awarded to inspire teachers to further develop the Global Initiative as a school-wide program, to take advantage of professional development opportunities during breaks or summer months, and to encourage sharing and collaboration with other schools.

Elizabeth Coleman '77, seventh grade English teacher and Dean of seventh and eighth grade girls, was awarded a Ford Grant to participate in Columbia University's National Council for



Teaching about Asia (NCTA) program with field study in China and Vietnam. Her participation will lead to direct benefits in the classroom as she learns how other educators integrate Asian Studies into the courses that they teach. Upper school history teacher **Adam Frye '05** was awarded a grant to visit Japan with a group of Altamont students during the 2017 spring break.



Lynn Clark Grant for Creativity in the Teaching of Writing

Andrew Nelson, upper school American history teacher and director of the Heritage Panel, received funding for History of the New South students to have two place-based writing experiences: Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham, Alabama, and the Wayne-O-Rama in Chattanooga, Tennessee, exploring ways that southern history is reflected by and can be understood through culture.



French teacher **Allison Ramey** received the Promising New Foreign Language Teacher award at the Alabama World Languages Association Conference at Auburn University on February 4, 2017.

ALTAMONT FUND UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that we have a **100% participation** rate from the Board of Trustees and Faculty and Staff.

Our **June 30 deadline** is fast approaching, and every gift is important to the continued success of this great school.

Can we count on your support today?

Please visit
altamontschool.org/giving
to make your gift.



Alums Search your scrapbooks and storage spaces!

Altamont's Athletic Walk of Honor will showcase athletic accomplishments and memorabilia. What do you have from your B.U.S., Brooke Hill, or Altamont days? Athletic uniforms, newspaper clippings, and gym bags are just a few examples. Please contact Charlotte Russ, Director of Advancement, at **205-445-1225** or **cruss@altamontschool.org**.



SAVE THE DATE

Altamont's Gala Honoring
Sarah Whiteside

April 21, 2018

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Facebook @thealtamontschool

Alumni Weekend

May 19-20



Sponsored by the Altamont Alumni Association
A weekend full of fun for the whole family. Hope to see you on the hill!
Schedule of events at altamontschool.org/alumni/alumniweekend

ALTAMONT ALUMNI

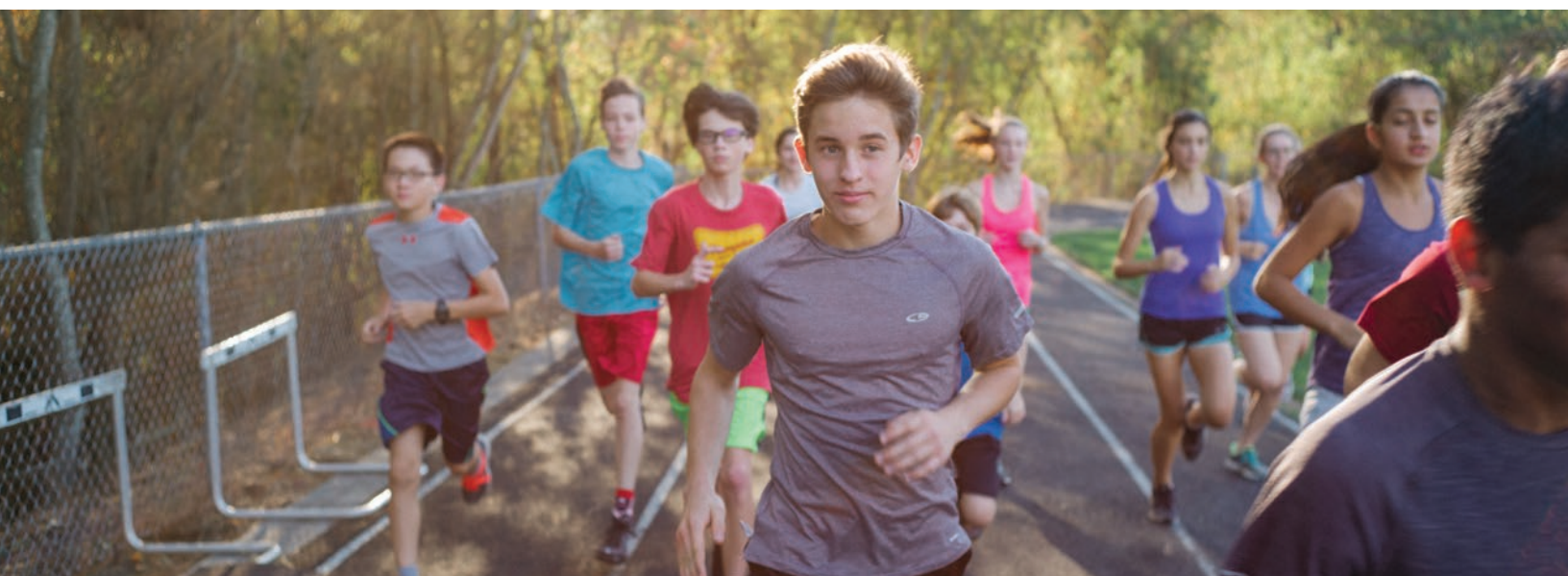
Holiday PARTY

SAVE THE DATE!

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