

# THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL



2023

**Head of School**

Cecil F. Stodghill, Jr.

**Editor**

Sean Flynt

sflynt@altamontschool.org

**Designer**

Stephanie Douglas

**Send contact information corrections to:**

Amanda Pritchard, Executive Assistant to Head of School and Director of Advancement

The Altamont School • apritchard@altamontschool.org

**THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL** is one of the nation's premiere independent schools for students in grades 5-12. For 50 years, its rigorous academic requirements, leadership education, athletic opportunities and personalized college search program have given students outstanding preparation for higher education and professional leadership. One-hundred percent of graduates are accepted into four-year colleges and universities.



Claudia Williams baked a whale of a cake to help classmates celebrate finishing Moby Dick.

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**Cover:** Students created mixed media self-portraits as they learned how value and contrast of color create the illusion of depth on a flat surface.

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# Knight Moves

By Amanda E.H. Pritchard

Immersing himself in the culture, customs and traditions of The Altamont School was Cecil F. Stodghill, Jr.'s goal entering his first year as Head of School. Learning these key characteristics of Knight life allowed him the opportunity to achieve his goal and begin his Altamont experience.

"We're a very young school at 48 years old, but there are things that we do here, whether it's from a co-curricular or extra-curricular standpoint, that I would expect of a 120 year-old school," Stodghill said. "Gold and White is a great custom and tradition here, and how we treat and praise our senior class is a wonderful tradition. The culture of parent involvement is phenomenal. And the love displayed by the alumni is second to none." Choosing to listen more than he spoke in his first year, Stodghill said like any great infrastructure, Altamont has great bones in place for himself, the staff, faculty and students to stand upon and build towards the future. "You can go to school anywhere," said Stodghill. "You come to Altamont for an experience. We have to continue to educate the individual child and make sure that every child

we graduate from here has this unique Altamont experience. Their individual experiences may be different, but we want them to have the most positive experiences they can have here, both inside or outside of the classroom. My goal is to enhance all of those experiences to give students every opportunity to reach their life's potential." Eager to embark on his second year at the helm, Stodghill says the School will increase student support, offer more parent education, engage and amplify alumni interaction and make sure Altamont continue's to foster an environment that is not only physically safe, but emotionally safe.

"To me, Altamont is a community and a family. We don't admit and enroll a child, we admit and enroll a family," Stodghill said. "I want to continue to make sure we nurture that philosophy because that is what makes us successful."



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# NEW FACES, NEW ROLES

Join us in welcoming The Altamont School's new full-time teachers and staff!

## **Lindsay C. Aycock**

**Assistant College Counselor**

*Ed.D., Higher Education Administration.*

*University of Alabama*

*M.S.Ed., Higher Education and Student Affairs.*

*Indiana University*

*BBA, University of Georgia, Athens*

Lindsay Aycock will apply her extensive experience in higher education as she helps Altamont's students transition to college. She most recently served the University of Alabama at Birmingham as Senior Institutional Research Analyst and Assistant Director of High Ability Admissions. She also has served Birmingham-Southern College (admissions,) Samford University (career development,) the University of Florida (employer relations) and Indiana University (financial assistance).

## **Catherine Caridi**

**Latin Teacher**

*J.C.O.D., Eastern Canon Law. Pontifical Oriental Institute*

*M.A., Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies.*

*Georgetown University*

*J.C.L., Canon Law. Catholic University of America*

*B.A., Classical Languages. Saint Bonaventure University*

Catherine Caridi brings to Altamont's Latin program extensive teaching experience in the U.S. and abroad. In addition to various posts in the federal government, she has served Notre Dame Academy, St. John's University, The American Academy in Rome, and a host of other secondary and higher education institutions.

## **Paige Coker**

**Director of Human Resources**

*B.S., Socioeconomics. Mississippi State University*

Paige Coker brings extensive business expertise from her service as President and Owner of Transportation General, Chief Operating Officer of M.E.N. Holdings, and Senior Operations Consultant for HRM, Inc.

## **Teal Cuellar**

**English**

*M.Div. Beeson Divinity School*

*M.S.Ed., Instruction and Curriculum-Concentration/  
International Elementary Education.*

*George Mason University.*

*B.A., Spanish and English. Emory University*

Alumna Teal Cuellar '98 returns to Altamont after experience that includes service as a teacher and college counselor at The American International School of Bolivia and Cochabamba Cooperative School, as Chaplain Resident for UAB Medicine, and as a legal assistant specializing in Hispanic practice.

## **Kate DeFuniak**

**Spanish**

*M.A.Ed., ESL. University of Alabama*

*at Birmingham*

*B.A.Ed., Elementary Education and Teaching.*

*University of Mississippi*

Birmingham native Kate deFuniak joined Altamont's faculty last fall. She has 17 years of experience teaching, including Spanish and English as a second language in the U.S., Spain, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru and Honduras.

## **Sandreika Floyd**

**Assistant Athletic Director**

*M.A., Elementary Education, University of Alabama*

*at Birmingham (UAB)*

*B.A., Social Psychology, UAB*

*B.S., Health Education, UAB*

Sandreika Floyd has served Altamont in a variety of ways, including as an administrative assistant and coach. This year she will bring all that experience to her new role in our athletic department.



**Jack Fitch** *Director of College Counseling*  
*Ed.D., Educational Leadership and Policy. The Florida State University*

*M.A., Teacher Education. University of South Florida*  
*B.A., Religion/Religious Studies. The Florida State University*

Jack Fitch brings to Altamont extensive experience in college admission, counseling and teaching, most recently as Assistant Director of College Counseling at The Bolles School. His career in education also includes service as Assistant Dean of Admission at Hamilton College, AVID Coordinator at Freedom High School, and teacher of multiple subjects at Saddlebrook Preparatory School and Admiral Farragut Academy.

**Haley Gajewski**  
*Science*

*B.S., Biology. University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Haley Gajewski's teaching experience includes Birmingham's Ramsay High School and Booker T. Washington K-8, where she was honored as Teacher of the Year.

**Leeth Grissom**  
*Assistant Food Director*

*B.A., Philosophy. Birmingham-Southern College*

Leeth Grissom brings to Altamont his experience with award-winning local restaurants, including Slice and Saw's Juke Joint. Most recently, he was Manager at AdventureKEEN publisher.

**Joie Hoke**  
*Office Administrator/Substitute Coordinator*  
*B.F.A., Fashion Marketing. American College*

Longtime friend of Altamont Joie Hoke previously served as the In-House Substitute Teacher. This year she will be our Front Office Administrator, bringing a decade of experience in children's and youth formation, and a deep knowledge of Altamont's culture and traditions.

**David Maddox**  
*Geography*  
*B.A., Philosophy, Political Science, and Psychology. Rockhurst University*

David Maddox has served as a teacher at the Independent School in Wichita, Kansas, Campus Director for Camp Winadu, and Peace Corp Youth Development Volunteer in Morocco in addition to his work on the national staff of multiple U.S. presidential campaigns.

**Lynn Pate**  
*Bookkeeper*  
*B.A., Interior Design. Southern Institute*

Lynn Pate joined Altamont's business staff this spring, bringing extensive experience in bookkeeping for the construction industry.

**Amanda Pritchard**  
*Executive Assistant to Head of School and Director of Advancement*  
*B.A., Communication Management. University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Amanda Pritchard brings to Altamont 20 years of experience in journalism and public relations, including service as public relations specialist for Pell City School System and Leeds City Schools, and as a writer for UAB School of Nursing and multiple newspapers and magazines.

**Kate Smith**  
*Middle School Assistance Guidance Counselor*  
*M.S.W. University of Kentucky*  
*B.S.W. Troy University*

*Licensed Master Social Worker*

Kate Smith comes to Altamont from Metro Nashville Public Schools, where she provided mental health and crisis prevention support for more than 600 students as Advocacy Coach.

**Anna Vice**  
*Math*  
*M.A., Secondary Education Mathematics. The University of Alabama*

*B.S., Mathematics. The University of Alabama*  
Anna Vice comes to Altamont from The Landon School, where she taught, and re-developed curriculum for, algebra II and precalculus.

# Celebrating a Decade of Service

## ***The C. Kyser Miree Center for Ethical Leadership***

C. Kyser Miree '05 appreciated a complex prank or adventure, and was often a pathfinder for fun. The qualities that endeared him to friends also shaped his education and profession. "He was great at seeing a big problem or task and breaking it down into the simplest parts," classmate Adam Frye '05 recalled at a February celebration of The Altamont School's C. Kyser Miree Center for Ethical Leadership. "It was no big shock to any of us that he became an engineer. While others debated, he would be active. It wasn't brash or callous—he would just see the simple solution and he would move forward. The funny thing was, people followed. They trusted his judgement and his instincts, and most people would just find themselves naturally inclined to join in."

When Kyser Miree died in 2010, parents Kathryn and Ben Miree and his family entrusted The Altamont School to cultivate in new generations the qualities they and his friends prized in him. For more than 10 years, The C. Kyser Miree Center for Ethical Leadership has guided students through more than 100 long-term initiatives in Birmingham and beyond. "Students in the program are asked to look at big societal problems and search for ways to break them down into simple issues that people can act on," Frye observed. Like Kyser Miree, he said, "at some point they have to take this action. They need to trust their judgement, they need to see the solution, and they just need to push forward through the crowd to execute the mission."



Anne Brisendine '05 helped organize the anniversary gathering, long delayed by COVID-19. She praised the Miree Center's emphasis on empowering students to take on challenges that match their passions, and to persevere in the spirit of her friend. "Leadership can take many forms, but the best projects and best teams always have a Kyser," she said, "and nothing makes me happier than seeing how this program is raising up a bunch of Kysers."

Those students led a rich variety of Miree Center initiatives in the 2022-23 school year. Zoe Browning enlisted the school community to help fill local food pantries. Savitri Sasse organized a teen mental health fair that showcased local support services. Nivedha Goli organized a dance festival that highlighted Birmingham's cultural diversity. In the new year, students in the Miree Center will lead work on issues including animal welfare, dance education, environmental protection, refugees and immigrants, hunger, orphans and illness awareness. The pages that follow explore just a few of the other ways Kyser Miree continues to inspire young leaders.





## Core Values

The Miree Center led a Core Values Week in August to emphasize how the school's values of respect, balance, integrity, curiosity and leadership inform every aspect of school life.

Center Director Beth Dille noted that COVID mitigation efforts left some students with a sense of loss because their experience of Altamont has otherwise been like family. "We're seeing disconnect throughout the country—students missed out on years of learning how to function with other people," Dille said. "There has to be a deliberate effort to help them bridge that gap." Each day of that effort at Altamont began with a schoolwide assembly, followed by student-led small group discussions and class time. Each afternoon during Core Values Week, fun team events sent students home energized and reminded them of how they support each other, even in games.

Students said they especially appreciated conversations in the mixed-age small groups that gave older students an opportunity to practice the leadership skills Altamont emphasizes at all levels. Sixty-four Upper School students also led extended sessions on their own during the week. That was a significant leadership experience, and it helped the school emphasize the student role in maintaining the community's core values.

## Light For A Dark Winter

Alexander Skowronski kept a spotlight on young Ukrainian refugees as part of his ongoing work with the Miree Center. At the beginning of the war, he and his parents, Jan and Bozena, developed an aid program through the family's Fortuna Clinical Foundation. At school, he organized virtual meetings between his Altamont peers and the displaced students. When Ukrainian physician Katia Zaharodnia proposed an idea to help Ukrainian children at Christmas, Skowronski and classmate Akshay Gaddamanugu accepted the new challenge.

Gaddamanugu observed that although "you can just send gifts to a war zone and call it a day," he and Skowronski wanted to make a more significant commitment by addressing the specific Christmas wishes of individual children. The pair solicited refugee children's letters to Saint Nicholas, found translators, worked with Altamont Director of Advancement Stephanie Brooks to raise more than \$4,000, bought the items the children requested, organized wrapping events with other Altamont students, and ensured that the gifts were delivered on time to refugee centers at Yazlovets and Tlumach. Knowing that a letter from Saint Nicholas is also a beloved tradition, Skowronski and Gaddamanugu even worked with calligrapher Ira Mokrytska to create personalized notes for the children.



Thanks to the efforts of all the donors and volunteers, 70 children experienced an extra measure of kindness after their horrific experiences of war. “You brought our children not only the presents, but also you brought back their hope and childhood,” Ukrainian volunteer Daryna Viktorova wrote to Skowronski.

## A Heart for Community

Ethan Hill entered The Altamont School’s seventh grade last fall already in perfect alignment with the school’s emphasis on service leadership. For seven years, he has distributed supplies to people in Birmingham who have no homes and little defense against weather, thirst and hunger. What began as the simple, compassionate reaction of buying supplies with money he got for Christmas has grown to become Ethan’s Heart, a non-profit organization that serves much of Birmingham with the help of volunteers and donors.

Already celebrated in local and national media, Hill was in the spotlight again in September when he earned a Barron Prize, which honors outstanding young leaders nationwide who have made a significant positive impact on people, their communities and the environment. The \$10,000 Barron Prize allowed Hill to outfit a trailer as a mobile store that carries cots and tents, individual items and duffels packed with standard supplies. The mobile store has helped Hill increase service within Birmingham, and geography class at Altamont has inspired him to think about

how Ethan’s Heart might grow into neighboring communities. Participating in the Miree Center’s LEAD program for Middle School students is also giving him new perspectives about how service organizations operate and thrive. “From being here I see that there’s a whole lot more community I can tap into to get some more of these big projects done,” he said.

One of the exceptional aspects of Hill’s story is that it isn’t only about one young person’s service. Like Kyser Miree, his energy and clear view of both problem and solution inspire others to join him. His family, volunteers from his church, other Altamont students and supportive strangers now join him for his packing parties. There is no season without need, so Hill typically works three hours per day, seven days per week, all year. The reward, he says, is that he gets to see the reactions of those he helps, and he gets to introduce others to that experience. Part of the joy, he said, is “opening the doors and unlocking opportunities for me and my peers around me to do bigger and greater things in the community.”

Hill and other students volunteer for these challenges, bringing their own unique abilities, interests and experiences. Thanks to those who are devoted to the memory of a friend, son and brother, they are united with Kyser Miree’s powerful desire not only to understand and to act for the common good, but to bring others with them.



# ON ANY GIVEN DAY,

visitors to The Altamont School might see students launching rockets, filming adaptations of Shakespeare plays, creating art, leading service initiatives or otherwise actively practicing what they learn in class. Here are just a few highlights from the 2022-23 school year.

AP environmental science students learned techniques of biology fieldwork at the Alabama Nature Center.



Civics students researched important issues, prepared speeches and presented their positions to their peers in Altamont's outdoor classroom.

Sixth-grade students designed their own perfect worlds in response to Lois Lowry's *The Giver*.





Mandarin students had Kungfu lessons with guest Luyao Ren and created a fashion show featuring historical Chinese costumes.



Students toured Birmingham's Civil Rights District before attending a production of the play *Anne and Emmett*, which explores themes of memory, hope and resistance via an imagined conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till.



Seventh-grade students prepared and performed press conferences based on the trial verdict in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.



Spanish students recorded Spanish language advertisements at La Jefa 98.3 FM.



Science students tested designs for bridges, roller coasters, landers and rovers.





# Arts Highlights





**Altamont's Theatre program earned accolades throughout the state for the quality of its students and productions.**

The school's production of Legally Blonde led the honors with Best In Show awards at district and state levels of the Walter Trumbauer High School Theatre Festivals. Students earned dozens of individual honors at the festivals, including:

Kirstan Davie - All Star-Cast in the State of Alabama for her performance as Elle Woods in Legally Blonde the Musical Jr.

Parker Denson - All-Star Cast in the State of Alabama for her portrayal of Pilar in Legally Blonde the Musical Jr.

Mary Hanson Borders and Meghana Hiremagalore - First Place in the State of Alabama (Directed by Isabelle Taylor)

Maddy Grier Hinds - Second Place in the State of Alabama (Directed by Dima Reem Gambino)

Lucine Carsen and Johnny Stumpff - Second Place in the State of Alabama (Directed by Maddox McRae).

Seussical and Moon Over Buffalo also showcased the talent and dedication of Altamont's actors and crew.

Students explored arts including sculpture, drawing, painting, mixed media, printmaking and photography. A visit to a local exhibit of Thornton Dial's artwork took advantage of Birmingham's rich cultural resources. Acclaimed artist and Altamont parent Amy Pleasant placed in the school's extensive collection of art a new work—The Journey II—to join The Journey I in Hames Gallery, both donated in honor of her graduates, Marci Henderson and Ellis Henderson. Artwork by students Simone Daniels, Mia Dunlap, Merritt Fulmer and Phoebe McClain was included in the 6th District Congressional Digital Art Show. Artwork by Zoe Winslett (2nd Place, High School Painting) and Mayri Carsen (2nd Place, Middle School Printmaking) was honored in the 4A District Visual Arts Achievement Program's art competition.

Altamont's musical talent was on stage at concerts on and off campus, with performances by the After School Band, Fifth/Sixth Strings, Seventh/Eighth Jazz Band, Upper School Jazz Band and The Altamont Orchestra. Student musicians Dara Jindapon, Aaradhya Vedre-Kyanam and Claudia Williams earned Alabama All-State Orchestra honors.





## ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Sid Doppalapudi, Pranav Goli, Lila Mitchell and Wesley Sudarshan were National Merit Finalists, and Sudarshan was one of only 35 students in Alabama to earn a National Merit Scholarship.



Olivia Vanlandingham earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT



Savitri Sasse studied Arabic for seven weeks in Jordan after earning a prestigious National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship.



The Robotics Team— including Camille Eberle, Olivier Maloney, Ivan Riley and Keegan Thrasher—was the champion of the Vex Robotics tournament. Riley and Maloney then won the Pike Road Tournament.

Altamont students represented Bulgaria, Columbia and Thailand at the Junior United Nations Assembly (JUNA) of Alabama. Their awards included Outstanding Boy Delegate (Vivaan Dudeja,) Outstanding Boy Delegate Honorable Mention (Will McLain) and Outstanding Display Boards (Colombia and Thailand).



Pranav Goli and Wesley Sudarshan concluded a fantastic team career at the National Speech and Debate Association Tournament. The team ranked in the top of preliminary rounds and was the only Alabama team to advance to elimination rounds in a high school debate division.

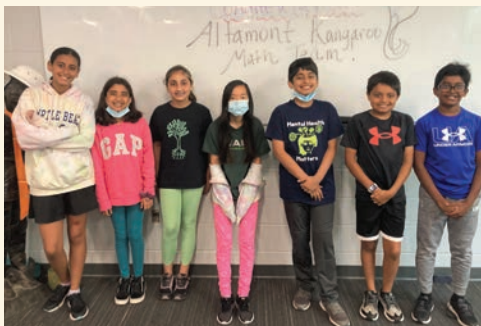
## ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Latin students earned top honors in 18 categories at the annual Alabama Junior Classical League (AJCL) Latin Convention, including the state championships in Pentathlon (AJ Gallitz,) Mythology Level 2 (Emma McLain) and Mythology 1 (Aadi Raval). The organization also presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to Altamont Head of School Emerita Sarah Whiteside, a classics scholar who taught Latin at Altamont through her 40 years of service.



The National French Contest honored Madeleine Beckwith (Silver Medal,) Natalia Jimenez-Arellano (Silver Medal,) Olivier Maloney (Silver Medal,) and Raju Sudarshan (Bronze Medal). They and their classmates also had an outstanding showing at the Alabama Federation of French Clubs Convention, with honors including a \$500 scholarship for Beckwith and more than 40 Supérieur, Très Bien and Bien awards.

This year's Upper School and Middle School Poetry Competition winners were Maya Davis (1st US,) Maddie Winslett (2nd US,) Johnny Stumpff (3rd US,) Searcy Colvin (1st MS,) Serena Blutter (2nd MS) and Lottie Kanter (3rd MS). Altamont students also earned 25 regional honors—including 11 Gold Key awards—in the prestigious Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, and 9 of the 16 regional awards presented in The University of Mississippi Writing Competition.



Jagguth Gutti ranked first in Alabama and 16th nationally in the international Math Kangaroo competition. Aubrey Sanders ranked in the top 60 nationally. Rama Al-Balas, Vanya Dudeja, Vivaan Dudeja, Jaishnav Gutti, Adeev Panwar, Kaylyn Sun and Shreya Wajapeyee also ranked in the top 100.



# Triple Crown

## Tops Varsity Achievements

Altamont's legendary running program had an especially incredible year, with a historic triple crown topping the students' achievements. The Girls Outdoor Track, Cross Country and Indoor Track teams were the Alabama 2023 state champions in their class. Indoor Track Palmer Award winner Merrit Fulmer, who set a new school record in April, was the individual state champion in pole vault. Outdoor Track Palmer Award Winner Talia Floyd was section triple jump champion and 2nd in the state. Indoor Track Coach's Award winner Frances Overton was 2nd place in 800m and 1600m. The team of Abbey Sellers, Kate Nichols, Elle Sellers and Outdoor Track Coach's Award winner Mary Spann was 2nd in 4x800 relay. The team of Abbey Sellers, Arden Campbell, Elle Sellers and Frances Overton was 2nd in 4x400 relay. Laura Spann, Abbey Sellers, Elle Sellers, and Mary Spann earned Cross Country All State honors. "This was an incredible feat for our girls to accomplish," said Coach Jamie Rediker. "Our veteran runners and leaders were joined this year by some new athletes who made an immediate impact," Rediker said. "Cross country set the tone with a strong core of distance runners. Indoor track incorporated several key field and mid-distance athletes. Outdoor track brought everything together to culminate in this amazing achievement by our girls team." Girls Outdoor Outstanding Middle Schooler: Tricia Maddux. Cross Country Coaches' Award: Arden Campbell and Savitri Sasse. Cross Country Most Valuable Runner: Leslie Mitchell: Cross Country Palmer Award: Laura Spann.



**The Boys Outdoor Track Team** finished 3rd in section and 12th in state. Individual state honors included Palmer Award winner Harris Strang's 2nd place in 3200m and 3rd place in 1600m, Walker Wilson's 3rd place in pole vault and Finn Pak's 4th place in javelin. Outstanding Middle schooler: Aubrey Deneke. Coach's Award: Parker Neiman.

**The Boys Indoor Track Team** won its section championship and placed 9th in its division at the state championship. Boys brought home bronze medals from state. Coach's Award: Raju Sudarshan. Palmer Award: Nadeem Johnson.

**The Boys Cross Country Team** finished second in section and third in the state championship, with Harris Strang and Raju Sudarshan earning All-State honors. Rookie of the Year: Zahid Issa. Coaches' Award: Michael Neiman. Palmer Award: Raju Sudarshan.

**The Girls Basketball Team** got a boost from younger players mid-season,...Best Players: Abbey Sellers (offense) and Elle Sellers (defense). MVP: Payton Daniels. **The Boys Basketball Team** finished 12-14 on some tough courts, but is preparing for a strong 2023-24 season. Knight Award: Alex Kirksey. MVP: Grayson Horton





**The Volleyball Team** overcame injuries to finish as area champion and advanced to the Super Regional competition. Coach's Award: Maya Davis. MVP: Maya DeValk.

**The Girls Soccer Team** was 10-5-1 for the season, 2nd in area and advanced to state competition, losing only to the team that won the championship. **The Boys Soccer Team's** season included a strong fight against the state playoff champion. MVPs: Kate Nichols, Clayton Hemingway (offensive) and Frances Overton, Richard Terrell (defensive).

**The Baseball Team** featured a group of strong senior leaders who helped an otherwise young team grow through the season to finish 6-10, with a promising performance trend for 2024. MVPs: Aiden Owens (offensive) and Sam Linde (defensive). Teammate of the Year: Watts Yancey.

**The Boys Golf Team** was undefeated (9-0) in the regular season, won the section championship for the third year in a row, advanced to the sub-state tournament, and was only three strokes short of advancing to the state tournament. **The Girls Golf Team** finished 6-1 in the regular season, was second in section, and advanced to the sub-state tournament for the eighth year in a row. MVPs: Merrit Fulmer and Vinay Yerramesetti. Rookie of the Year: Ben Wetta



New tennis facilities supported Altamont's always-strong program. Teams were unexpectedly moved up from 2A to 6A to compete against the state's regional powerhouses, but the **Girls Tennis Team** still finished 2nd in section and returned to the state tournament for the 35th straight year. **The Boys Tennis Team** beat strong rivals to finish in the middle of its new field. Teammate of the Year Award: Eastman Tong. Most Dedicated: Sarah Miller. Coaches Award: Sophia Sultan. Player of the Year: William Kaiser. MVPs: Sidney Porter and Wesley Sudarshan.

**Altamont students also excelled outside of the school's sports.** Riley Pierce was named to the Alabama Boys All-State Lacrosse Second Team and earned the USA Lacrosse All-Academic honor. Sarah Marshall capped an impressive year of cycling with a second place finish in the Alabama State Championship mountain bike race. Asher Rotenstreich finished in eighth place in the state race.







## CLASS OF 2023 ACCEPTANCES

<b>Appalachian State University</b> (4)	<b>Howard University</b> (2)	Spelman College	<b>University of Mississippi</b> (8)
<b>Auburn University</b> (24)	Indiana State University	St. John's College (Annapolis)	University of Montevallo
<b>Bates College</b>	Lafayette College (2)	St. Olaf College	Univ. of North Carolina, Asheville
Baylor University (5)	Louisiana State University (3)	SUNY College of Environmental Science	<b>Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill</b> (2)
Belmont University	Loyola University Chicago	Temple University (3)	<b>University of Notre Dame</b> (2)
Birmingham-Southern College (3)	Loyola University New Orleans	<b>Texas Christian University</b> (5)	<b>University of Pennsylvania</b> (2)
<b>Boston College</b>	Marquette University	Thomas Jefferson University	University of San Diego
Brandeis University	Methodist University	<b>Tufts University</b> (2)	<b>University of South Alabama</b> (2)
<b>Bryn Mawr College</b>	Miami University	<b>Tulane University</b>	University of Tennessee, Knoxville (2)
Carleton College	Millsaps College	Union College	University of Virginia (2)
<b>Case Western Reserve University</b> (2)	New York University	<b>University of Alabama</b> (14)	<b>University of Washington</b>
<b>Centre College</b>	Northeastern University	<b>University of Alabama at Birmingham</b> (12)	University of Wisconsin (2)
Colgate University	Oberlin College	<b>University of Alabama in Huntsville</b> (5)	<b>Virginia Military Institute</b>
College of Charleston (3)	Occidental College	<b>University of California, Irvine</b>	<b>Wake Forest University</b> (3)
College of William and Mary	<b>Ohio State University</b>	<b>University of California, Los Angeles</b> (2)	<b>Washington University in St. Louis</b> (2)
Connecticut College	Penn State University	University of California, San Diego (2)	Wesleyan University
<b>Dartmouth College</b>	Purdue University	University of Central Arkansas	Western Washington University
Davidson College (2)	Rhodes College (6)	<b>University of Chicago</b>	Wofford College
Drew University	<b>Rice University</b>	<b>University of Colorado Boulder</b> (4)	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
<b>Drexel University</b> (4)	Roanoke College	University of Connecticut	
Eckerd College	Rose-Hulman Institute of Tech. (2)	University of Florida	
<b>Elon University</b> (5)	Saint Louis University	University of Georgia (2)	
<b>Fordham University</b> (3)	Samford University (5)	University of Kansas	
<b>Franklin &amp; Marshall College</b>	<b>Savannah College of Art &amp; Design</b> (2)	University of Kentucky	
Furman University (2)	<b>Scripps College</b>	University of Maine	
George Washington University	<b>Sewanee: University of the South</b> (5)	University of Maryland, Baltimore Co.	<b>Bold = matriculation</b>
Georgia Institute of Technology	<b>Skidmore College</b>	University of Maryland, College Park (3)	<b>Number of acceptances in parenthesis</b>
Hampton University	Southern Methodist University (4)	University of Michigan (4)	



# OH, THE PLACES THEY'RE GOING!





# Annual Honors

**Alex Anders** – Most Outstanding Middle School Mandarin Student

**Arthur Anders** – Most Outstanding Mandarin Student Award

**Hector Blanco Barajas** – Global Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish

**Madeleine Beckwith** – Susan M. Hulsey French Prize, Global Seal of Biliteracy in French

**Serena Blutter** – Francina Benejam Spanish Language Award

**Zoe Browning** – Margaret Gresham Livingston Leadership Award, Bronze Service Award

**Arden Campbell** – Brooke Hill Cup, Hallie Porter Shook Cup, Mignon Comer Smith Book Award

**Lucine Carsen** – Lynn Clark Creative Writing Scholarship, Allene Benners Martin Cup

**Temple Coleman** – Jeanne Classé Armes de Paris Medal, Global Seal of Biliteracy in French, Gainey Arts & Humanities Award

**Bea Connell** – Most Outstanding Theatre Student

**Ariel Dean** – John Wallace Johnston History Award

**Sid Doppalapudi** – Clarice Locke Award, Global Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish

**Vanya Dudeja** – Bronze Service Award

**Vivaan Dudeja** – Bronze Service Award

**Claude Dumas** – Robert L. Johnson Math Award

**Mimi Frei** – Ann Robinson Vrocher Scholarship

**Sanjana Gaddamanugu** – Warren R. Splitt Award, Sarah Ward Whiteside Cup

**A.J. Gallitz** – Donovan Award

**Bud Gidiere** – The Speech Arts Club Award

**Nivedha Goli** – Bronze Service Award

**Pranav Goli** – Carver-Gorgas Senior Science Book Award

**Clayton Hemingway** – The Joseph Wheeler Sewell Award

**Meghana Hiremagalore** – Katharine Ireland Mitchell Award

**Braden Hoke** – The Sophia Mize Clifford Music Award

**Callen Hoke** – Bronze Service Award

**Lottie Kanter** – Mignon Comer Smith Award

**Karrington Manley** – Nancy Perrin Bailey Award

**Lizzie Maxey** – Global Seal of Biliteracy in French

**Sarah Miller** – Outstanding Upper School Musician

**Bennett Mitchell** – Silver Service Award

**Finn Pak** – Paul Nii-Amar Amamoo Award, Global Seal of Biliteracy in French

**Camden Pierce** – Gold Service Award

**Riley Pierce** – Bronze Service Award

**Jaision Perkins** – Faculty Cup, Lily Cup

**Ben Poctazek** – Most Outstanding Music Student

**Joe Porter** – Joyce Ackerman Scholarship

**Sydney Porter** – Joseph Wheeler Sewell Award

**Caroline Prince** – The David Hart White Spanish, Global Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish

**Eliza Riley** – Bronze Service Award

**Lauren Rogers** – Bronze Service Award

**Savitri Sasse** – Susan M. Hulsey French Prize, Global Seal of Biliteracy in French

**Will Sawyer** – Most Outstanding Middle School Mandarin Student

**Margaret Schedler** – Gold Service Award

**Chloe Shaffield** – Silver Service Award

**Sebastian Skidmore** – Most Outstanding Photography Student

**Wesley Sudarshan** – The J. Frank Rushton Cup, Global Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish, Bronze Service Award

**Sophia Sultan** – Global Seal of Biliteracy in French

**Johnny Stumpff** – Smiley Award

**Gabriel Tsivourakis** – Most Outstanding Art Student

**Ryan Vance** – Margaret Matthews Gage Prize in American History

**Olivia Vanlandingham** – Bausch and Lomb Junior Class Science Award, Bronze Service Award

**Andrew Watson** – Joyce Ackerman Scholarship

**Claudia Williams** – Gold Service Award

**Iman Zuberi** – Altamont Citizenship Award



## Gerety, Watson Honored for Service, Teaching

***The Altamont School honored two exceptional teachers during its annual awards assembly this spring.***

Chris Nicholson '99, President of Altamont's Board of Trustees, presented the James C. Barton, Jr. Faculty/Staff Leadership Award to science teacher Lia Gerety in recognition of her three decades of leadership in innovation, community service and advancement of mission. In addition to her teaching, she has served as dean, fall project week coordinator, advisor and member of the Student Support Team. "Throughout her career she has unceasingly given of herself for the benefit of the students, always looking to elevate their experience through her kindness innovation and expertise," Nicholson said. "She is a key figure in those all-important first years at Altamont, as students and families find their way in a new, sometimes challenging, environment."

Assistant Head of School JP Hemingway '91 presented the Edna Earle Mullins Endowed Teaching Prize to theatre teacher Reid Watson. The award—given in honor of the dedication and devotion to education of a former head of the Brooke Hill School—recognizes outstanding achievement in teaching and leadership.

Hemingway noted that in the short time Watson has been at Altamont, he has taught a full load of classes, advised the Thespian Club and produced popular shows including Fame! Clue, Jungle Book, Legally Blonde, Seussical and Moon Over Buffalo. He has led Altamont to the Walter Trumbauer High School Theatre Festivals twice, resulting in multiple individual and group top honors, including Best In Show for Legally Blonde in the 2022 competitions. "He is the ultimate team player, quick to volunteer whenever a colleague or a student needs a helping hand," Hemingway said.



# Dear Altamont Family,

***What a wonderful school year 2022-23 was!  
Thank you for your generosity and support!***

Because of your commitment to The Altamont School, we were able to:

- Celebrate our B.U.S. alumni and establish the B.U.S. Centennial Scholarship;
- Conduct a very successful Annual Fund Drive, with gifts and pledges of over \$325,000 from parents, alumni, grandparents and friends;
- Party in person at the Altamont Great Gatsby Gala while raising \$250,000;
- Support our students' efforts to fund their projects through the Kayser Miree Center for Leadership;
- Receive commitments and donations through dedicated supporters' estate plans totaling almost \$200,000;
- Launch a new Alumni Online Directory platform with AlmaBase;
- Share our latest news and happenings to our Altamont family through the publication of the 2022 Magazine and up-to-date email communications; and,
- Set goals for the 2023-24 school year with great momentum as we approach our 50th Anniversary in 2025.

***We couldn't achieve such success without each of you, and we are most grateful.***

*Stephanie Brooks, CFRE  
Director of Advancement*



We loved catching up with alumni in New York! L-R: Stephanie Brooks, Nii-Amar Amamoo '97, Paige Reddinger '02, Cecil Stodghill, Jessica James '02, Erika Woods '02, and Claude Johnston '70



Great times with our Nashville alumni! L-R: Stephanie Brooks, Francie Likis '89, Jennifer Black Cunningham, JP Hemingway '91, Cecil Stodghill, Kim Stodghill and Trip Herefor '94.

Our alumni winter party was a time of great food and fellowship! Follow The Altamont Alumni Association on Facebook for continuous updates on our outstanding alumni!

## Congratulations, Knights!

**Davis Browne '15** is an actor and screenwriter in Brooklyn, New York. His latest award-winning film, *Capsules*, opened in March.

**Tim Callahan '66** was honored as a Volunteer in Philanthropy at the National Philanthropy Day Celebration of the Association of Fundraising Professionals Alabama Chapter.

**Anna Chiles '07** created Includ(Ed), a San Diego-based nonprofit that addresses the need for inclusive early childhood education and childcare. Chiles and Wilson Taylor '06 are the proud parents of Theo, the organization's inspiration.

**Daniel Elston '19** is a neuroscience and philosophy double-major in the Honors College of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He recently earned a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant appointment to the Czech Republic.

**Daniel Wallace '77** returned to Altamont to discuss his writing process and his acclaimed latest novel, *This Isn't Going to End Well: The True Story of a Man I Thought I Knew*.

## Remembrances

Please keep our Altamont friends and family in mind as we mark the passing of former teachers and alumni:

**Joyce Ackermann**— A Brooke Hill and Altamont English teacher of 25 years, and author of Altamont's Alma Mater.

**Feras Awad '12**— A rising Birmingham accountant and Altamont champion runner.

**Sidney Bagby**— An active Birmingham volunteer and mother of Court Bagby, honored by an Altamont memorial scholarship.

**David Brown**— A Birmingham University School and Altamont teacher, astronomer and avid photographer.

**Virginia "Cricket" Davis '22**— A University of Alabama Student and talented Altamont athlete, actor and musician.

**Phil Mulkey**— The Olympic athlete and legendary Birmingham University School and Altamont coach.

**Adrienne O'Brien '51** — A Brook Hill School alumna and parent who endowed Altamont's Lynn Clark Creative Writing Award and was honored with the school's 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award.

**Mary Nell Sloan '12**— An active Altamont theatre student and innovative educator of special needs students.





## *A Year of Celebration!*

**Birmingham University School (B.U.S.) was formed in 1922 to provide college preparation for the sons of the families driving Birmingham's rapid physical, financial and cultural growth.** In 1975 it was joined with the Brooke Hill School to form The Altamont School, which hosted a year-long B.U.S. centennial celebration in 2022- 23.

More than 200 alumni, faculty and friends gathered for the year's main event in September. The evening included a vintage car exhibit, and addresses by Altamont Head of School Cecil Stodghill, dinner host Bruce Denson '68, and B.U.S. Centennial Chairperson Tim Callahan '66. "We had an overwhelmingly positive response from all who attended," Callahan said.

In addition to the dinner, the school commissioned a historical marker at the second B.U.S. campus (see sidebar) and developed a website with volunteer and Brooke Hill School alumna Amanda Davis '66, who provided extensive research and

writing for that project. Historian Chris Thomas created a film— *Legacy: A Century of B.U.S.*— that he premiered at the dinner.

Dinner guests included Frank Marshall, who joined the school's English faculty in 1957 and served as Headmaster 1963-68. "The whole thing was an absolute joy to me from the time I started," he said. Marshall recalled that the school grew significantly in those years, in reputation as well as enrollment, partly as a result of a renewed emphasis on academic challenge. "We had some wonderful students at B.U.S. in those years," he said.

Mort Jordan '62 recalled the school's emphasis on physical fitness as part of a focus on the whole person. Students were athletes also because everybody was needed. "The most I ever had in my class, in any given class year, was 13," Jordan said. So, he laughed, he was a 145-pound tackle on the football team, and a 190-pound classmate was viewed as "Godzilla."





“We tried our best,” Jordan said, echoing other alumni at the dinner. “We weren’t very good, but we put everything into it.”

With such a small population, it was easy for the students to become close. “I looked at the school as family,” Jordan said. Even after he graduated, he often returned to cheer on that family as the school made a name for itself in track and basketball. “I was proud of them,” he said, “and it’s a pride that has carried on, a pride for both the kids who went there and for the school itself.”

That pride led Jordan and hundreds of others to attend the centennial celebration, and to raise more than \$200,000 for a B.U.S. Scholarship fund at The Altamont School. Almost 50 years after B.U.S. became part of Altamont, they honor its legacy by helping new generations of students find a school community that feels like family.

## Historical Marker

The new B.U.S. historical marker stands at 1211 28th St. S., home to the school from 1925 until the completion of a new Montclair Road campus in 1954. Guests at the marker dedication toured the building courtesy of current owners Beverly and Robert Shaffer, and found many original features remaining from its school days. Literally following in the footsteps of students and teachers offered a poignant way to end the B.U.S. centennial.

Merrill Bradley ’45 recalled his days on the campus, when the school was still known for rigid military discipline. He described his horror as Headmaster Robert Johnson sought to speak to Bradley’s mother after the boy’s first grade report. Bradley followed “Cap’m Johnson” expecting the worst, but found his mother happy. Johnson had informed her that Bradley was first in his class and third in the school. “It didn’t last,” Bradley quipped. But Bradley did go on to earn an M.D. at Columbia University before service as a U.S. Navy surgeon and, ultimately, as Chief of Surgery at St. Vincent’s Hospital, less than a mile from the site of his early education. Bradley also recalled making lifelong friends as a B.U.S. student, and those bonds were the prominent theme among alumni through the school’s centennial year.

Altamont Head of School Cecil Stodghill recognized Bradley and his fellow B.U.S. alumni as “the original Knights” who gave The Altamont School not only its mascot, but also many of its values. “The standards of success you all set are very much part of the Altamont tradition that continues today,” Stodghill said.











## Altamont Gala 2023

Family and friends made the annual Altamont Gala a roaring (20s) success—dressing for the theme, enjoying wonderful company and raising more than \$260,000 for our school through live and silent auctions! Thanks to all!





The Altamont School  
4801 Altamont Road South  
Birmingham, AL  
35222

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