

### **BROOKSTONE MAGAZINE SPRING 2024**

### **MAGAZINE STAFF**

**DESIGN**: Bianca Brown

Assoc. Director of Communications

**EDITING**: Meg Stewart, Connie Mansour, Mundy McQuinn, Anne Parker, Bonnie Smith, Avery Wolff, and Joe Mills

PHOTOGRAPHY: Alumni Submissions, Brookstone Yearbook Staff, Brookstone Social Media, BPA, Joy Bohn, Bennett Counts, Dotty Davis, Eliza Morrill Photography, Meg Stewart, SE Photography, & Avery Wolff

The Brookstone Magazine is produced by the Communications Office for alumni, parents, and friends of Brookstone School. Letters and suggestions for articles are welcomed.

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These donors have named Brookstone School as a beneficiary of a legacy gift. Such gifts might include a gift in their will and/or charitable income gifts such as charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder unitrusts, charitable remainder annuity trusts, or gifts of life insurance.

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The most important benefit you will receive from joining the Legacy Society is the satisfaction derived from making a lasting contribution to our long-term success and enhancing the educational experience of each of our students.

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Parents: If this issue is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer lives at home, please send the correct address to mstewart@brookstoneschool.org.

Thank you.



# WHERE TO FIND US?







We hope you enjoyed the newest issue of the Brookstone Magazine. To keep up with Brookstone School, make sure to check out and follow our official social media pages on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. For all up-to-date school information, please visit www.brookstoneschool.org.

### SPRING 2024

# **BROOKSTONE MAGAZINE**

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CLASS OF 2024 PROCESSION BY SOUTHERN EXPOSURE PHOTOGRAPHY, TRISH CALHOUN AND LANE CANNON

### A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Brookstone Family,

Happy Summer! I hope that you all are enjoying time with your families and friends. Here, at Brookstone School, we are resting and recovering while, at the same time, preparing for the start of another amazing year on Bradley Park Drive and River Road. We can't wait to get everyone back!

As we think about the upcoming school year, administration, faculty, and staff have to make certain decisions. For example, when will we celebrate Fall Festival? Who will come to speak about our Core Value of respect? Is it better to do that reading assignment in class or for homework?

for lunch impacts me and, you could argue, my family. Whether I cancel school because of impending weather has implications for a far greater number of people.

So, how do I ensure we are making the best decisions possible here at Brookstone?

To help me answer that, I turned to thought leader Shane Parrish and his newest book, Clear Thinking: Turning Ordinary Moments into Extraordinary Results. Parrish argues that the secret to great decision making, among other things, is to create space to reason in our thoughts and to, then, use that space very intentionally to avoid allowing circumstances to force a decision.

Simple, right? Of course not!

But, Parrish did affirm many of my beliefs in effective leadership. First, he reminded me that people unconsciously adopt the routines of those with whom they spend time. And, habits of body and mind are huge drivers of our behavior and our success. I am fortunate here at Brookstone to be surrounded by intelligent people who are experts in their field. I have yet to find myself in a room here on campus where I feel like the smartest person. The twelve member Executive Leadership Team is experienced, thoughtful, and studentcentered. We have a twenty-two member Board of Trustees who are bright, intellectually curious, and have demonstrated strong, effective leadership in a variety of endeavors. Finally, I have been the beneficiary of the newly formed Legacy Advisory Council, a fourteen Humans make decisions all the time. In fact, member group of former school trustees who research indicates we have to make as many meet twice a year to advise me on schoolas 35,000 in a single day. Some of those related matters. They have proven invaluable decisions are obviously more important for their institutional memory and wise counsel. than others. Whether I eat fries or a salad In short, I am hopefully adopting some positive

habits of mind, consciously or not, that will help me live out Brookstone's Core Value of wisdom.

When Coach McKillop visited Brookstone in March, he told a story about his recruitment of Steph Curry. What attracted him most to the scrawny high school player was his ability to move quickly past a mistake and focus on the ensuing moment. I have tried hard in my career to adopt that "next play" mentality, and Parrish reminds us of its importance. You can only control what lies ahead of you. How do you respond to adversity? Can you accept the hand you have been dealt? Parrish says that, "The path to being exceptional begins when you decide to be responsible for your actions no matter the situation." To align this idea to one of Brookstone's values, it takes courage to avoid blaming someone or something for a challenging situation. Instead, courageously own the reality and figure out the best course of action. Here at Brookstone, we have a cadre of people who fully believe in that next play mentality. Our teachers and coaches help students to see the perspective of mistakes and setbacks. Our students, particularly our younger ones, smile and find joy every day which helps our adults, especially me, keep a healthy perspective on what is most important about life.

Finally, Parrish reminds us that good decisions do not always result in good outcomes. Seattle Seahawks Head Coach, Pete Carroll, made a call late in Super Bowl XLIX that resulted in an interception at the goal line, preventing the Seahawks from winning the game. Based on his decision-making process, one that had resulted in many successes in his career, he made the right call. However, the result was devastating. In fact, the Seahawks have yet to return to a Super Bowl, and Carroll and the organization have since parted ways. Similarly,

when you have a choice about where your child will attend school, you should have a sound process to make that decision. Maybe it is solely about finances. Maybe it is about your child's experience. Maybe it is a combination of both and much more! Whatever it is, sticking to that process is what should be the focus.

At Brookstone, we are fiercely committed to excellent processes. We have established many and are working to solidify even more. While our outcomes might not always be optimal, I believe our loyalty to a superb process is a noteworthy strength and will result in success more often than not.

Brookstone School's Mission and Core Values are at the forefront of my mind most every day. Finding another way to consider their impact on our community is invigorating. This summer, the Executive Leadership Team and some members of the Board of Trustees are reading Daniel Coyle's *Culture Code: The Secrets of Highly Successful Groups*. I am hopeful it will shape the approach to our work as we finalize the school's next Strategic Plan. Feel free to join us in reading this book and see what ideas might percolate for you when considering a new perspective through which to see your work. See you all in a few weeks!

Sincerely,

727120

Henry Heil Head of School



Dear Brookstone Family,

There is often some confusion and even misunderstanding regarding what exactly a Board of Trustees does! At Brookstone, the board is not just a governing body but a driving force that ensures our Mission Statement is not just a statement but a living, breathing part of our school's DNA. We are dedicated to preparing our students for college, not just academically, but also by instilling our core values as they journey through Brookstone. Loyalty, Wisdom, Courage, Service, Honor, Respect, and Leadership are not just words but the pillars of a Brookstone education. Our students are equipped to thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

As part of our ongoing strategic planning process, the board has taken a proactive stance this year. We have not just been reactive to issues but have dedicated time

at each board meeting to delve into a specific aspect of our community that directly aligns with our mission. For instance, in the first board meeting of the year this past fall, we focused on campus safety. Subsequent meetings honed in on student health and wellness and college admissions and guidance. The board serves as a valuable resource and sounding board for our Head of School during these discussions, ensuring that our actions are in the best interest of our community.

Campus security is a prime focus and a critical component of a healthy education. The multiple tragic occurrences at schools across our country have caused us all to pause and consider what changes we need to consider, even if they impact the day-to-day culture of Brookstone. We have enjoyed an open campus over the years, which is still true. However, after considering feedback from parents, the board and administration agreed it was time to make some adjustments. These adjustments include the installation of protective film on windows, improvements to our security camera network, and the presence of additional Sheriffs on Perhaps most important was the decision to move to a badge entry system for all our buildings, further securing our students, teachers, and administrators. Security is an ongoing evaluation; I'm sure we will see future adjustments.

At Brookstone, we prioritize the social and emotional health of our students. Mr. Jacob Crowder leads a talented group of counselors focused on the mental health of our students and providing relevant information to parents and the larger Brookstone Community. Our students have continual access to a counselor if needed, and our counselors are always ready and able to assist in times of stress or tragedy. This year, a panel focused on mental

health, relationships, and leadership for young None of the discussions and decisions men. Brookstone parents annually receive made during our board meetings would information on the healthy use of social media. be possible without the strong leadership During our board meeting, Jacob highlighted of Henry Heil, our Head of School. As he areas of focus and concern in each of our school completes his first year, we would like to divisions. Brookstone is taking a proactive, express our gratitude and thanks to him. forward-thinking approach to the mental health Henry has made an immediate impact, and in of our students.

topics discussed by the board is college guidance and admissions. Frances Berry and Jeremy Mack lead an effort that truly makes Brookstone unique in our community. Every high school student at Brookstone receives individualized attention and guidance, helping them find the right place to continue their education. Students are assisted in evaluating college options, completing applications, and composing required essays. undoubtedly, at the very core of our mission. We are a college preparatory school committed to academic excellence. The Board of Directors is committed to ensuring doors are opened and opportunities plentiful for those earning a diploma from Brookstone.

a short period of time, we are seeing growth and positive change. He is a supportive One final area to highlight among the leader, empowering those who teach and work at Brookstone, and he seeks to ensure everyone is on a positive career track. There will be exciting changes upcoming for Brookstone, and Henry is the perfect leader to navigate the road ahead. Henry has the full support of the Board of Directors, and we are thankful to have Henry, Kerrin, and their family as part of our Brookstone family.

Travis Wade

Chairman of the Board

Transf. Wide

### STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS 2025

In January, Head of School - Henry Heil - addressed parents, grandparents, employees, and friends of the Brookstone community in the innagural state of the school address. This presentation and discussions that followed allowed for the Brookstone community to come together and engage in strategic conversations about the path forward for our students and current developments. Please join us for the next state of the school address in the upcoming school year!



## A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR CORE VALUES

AS WE CELEBRATE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CLASS OF 2024, WE ARE ALSO REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CORE VALUES THAT HAVE GUIDED BROOKSTONE SCHOOL THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

— Nelson Mandela

"Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction."

— John F. Kennedy

**COURAGE** IS TAKING ACTION IN THE FACE OF FEAR, BEING WILLING TO FAIL AND ALL THE GOOD THINGS YOU CAN LEARN FROM FAILING, THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE, AND NOT JUST BEING COURAGEOUS, BUT BEING COURAGEOUS FOR THE RIGHT REASONS - ACTING WITH INTEGRITY AND LIVING OUT YOUR VALUES.

BEGINNING WITH **COURAGE**, THROUGHOUT THIS ISSUE OF THE BROOKSTONE MAGAZINE, WE WILL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR GRADUATING CLASS BRAVELY LEADING THE WAY FORWARD AND OUR FACULTY LEADERS MAKING STRIDES TO ENHANCE THE BROOKSTONE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY BECAUSE *PEOPLE MATTER*. OUR *PERSONAL APPROACH* TO BUILDING OUR STUDENTS INTO LEADERS AND THE *INNOVATIVE PROCESS* THEY EXPERIENCE AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL STARTS WITH OUR CORE VALUES EMBEDDED INTO THE *ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES* BROOKSTONE OFFERS. *WHY BROOKSTONE?* BECAUSE VALUES MATTER, AND **IT'S WHO WE ARE**.



THE CLASS OF 2024

Comi



# mencement 2024

# BE A FLAMINGO

### MRS. B'S BACCALAUREATE SPEECH FOR THE CLASS OF 2024

Each year, the graduating class selects a faculty speaker who has special connections to members of the class. This year, the class of 2024 chose their grade chair, Dee Dee Branham. The following is Dee Dee Branham's address, delivered by Jacob Crowder, to the Class of 2024.



Dee Dee Branham and her husband of 39 years, Jeff, have one daughter, Ashley, one daughter-in-law, Kim, and one granddaughter, Demy. Affectionately known as Mrs. B or Coach B, Dee Dee grew up in Eustis, Florida, and attended Auburn University where she majored in PE, Health, and Recreation and minored in Biology, Chemistry, and Calculus. She worked in the education field for 38 years and coached for 32 years. During her time at Brookstone, she started the very popular Marine Biology and Forensics programs and coached Varsity Cheer, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Girls Varsity Basketball, Boys and Girls Track, and Girls Golf. A Memorial Service was held for Dee Dee on the Jordan Quadrangle on Sunday, May 19, 2024.

Thank you, Sam, for your kind introduction. It makes me tired just hearing all of that....I guess it's a good thing I am retiring! And Thank you Class of 2024 for that warm welcome. I am truly honored and humbled to be your faculty speaker today.

So, let's rewind to 4 years ago...Do you remember when I first met you in my office that summer of 2020? I gave you a tour of the Upper School, showed you where your classrooms and lockers were. I explained my job as your Grade Chair and that it was like being your school mom. Some of you were so scared and worried about being new to the Upper School! Well.... you made it!

You had a lot of support along the way. From your parents, the administration, coaches, teachers, and your advisors. They all helped you meet your goals along the way. I would love for you to let your advisors know how much you appreciate all of their support and all of the times they marked you present as you were running into their homerooms to avoid a tardy!

They also stayed up all night with you at the senior girls lock in and rode a long bus trip with you to go to Universal and stay up all night! We all love you! Now this is the part where you get to participate and be loud! So for all of Lumsden's Lizards, Highnote's Hippos, Parisi's Penguins, Todt's Goats, Sutton's Buttons, and Crowder's Chaos, defenders of the door, and Smith's Bunch. Let's give it up for your advisors! Thank you for showing your appreciation to your advisors!

I want to take the opportunity this morning

to let you know, the Class of 2024, what I see in you as a class and as individuals. There are 82 of you in this class, and you are going to 34 different colleges in 16 different states and one in another country. The classmate going the farthest away to Paris, France, is Sophia. Sophia..."Je suis tellement fier di toi!" Did I butcher it badly?? I am so proud of you.

Some of our other explorers going the distance are: Elle to California, Erin to New York City, and some of our athletes are taking their talents the distance, too. Holly will swim in Vermont; Tommy will swim near the shores of Lake Michigan; Holt will play football in Connecticut, and Caitlyn will play softball in Texas. We also have a classmate going into the United States Air Force; Daniel...I want to say right now, thank you for serving our country.

Remember back when you all started out in 2020 wearing masks because the pandemic was in full swing? It was an unusual and tough time. You learned to appreciate the outdoors and the freedom it gave you. Whether it was playing games in the garden like spikeball (and they were very competitive games), throwing the football, or throwing the frisbee. One of you even created Brookstone's first Frisbee Golf Course. Walker, thank you for doing that! That's awesome!

The Class of 2024 voted on the Brookstone core values that were the most meaningful to you. They are Loyalty and Respect. Well chosen! You have become very loyal to each other, your teachers, and this school over the past 4 years. I have seen you support each other at games, plays, and service projects, and when any of the teachers need help, you are there! That is awesome! I know if I called you and needed help, you would be there. That is loyalty!

The Class of 2024 is uniquely talented and uniquely gifted. You are very diverse with your gifts and talents and that is what makes you, as a class, so special. Most of you have seen the sign that sits on my office desk that says, "Be a flamingo in a flock of pigeons!" Well, life would be pretty boring if everyone had the same

talents and gifts and if we all thought alike! This is what I want to emphasize this morning...your gifts and talents. Both are invaluable, and one is not better than the other. Identifying your gifts and talents is the first step toward a life filled with purpose, fulfillment, and joy.

Some of you have the gift of being stewards of the outdoors and the animals that live there. We learned the importance of the outdoors during the pandemic. You respect the outdoors and hunt and fish with responsibility. Like Waits, Woods, Henry, Madden, Miller, Brooks, and Thomas Cline. I hope you will continue this stewardship for the outdoors!

There are those of you who are known for your kindness and always wanting to help others. I call you "The Encouragers." Like Lane Brown, Trish, Kenzie, Margaret, Sam, Callee, Sutton, Ben, and Charlie. I hope you will continue to support and uplift friends and classmates at college. This world can use more kind and thoughtful people.

Several of you have found your passion and developed your gifts here at Brookstone, like Maddy who wants to pursue Forensic Science, who will most likely be able to solve future crimes because of it. Or like Virginia who is already a pilot and wants to pursue flight. One day, I will board a plane to fly somewhere and Virginia will be my pilot. Or like Canyon who loves baking and wants to go into the culinary arts. Canyon, if you ever need a taste tester for your pastries, you have my number!

Eleven of you are going to continue using your athletic gifts to pursue your dream of playing a college sport. Swift and Chris are going to continue to play football; Lizzi Cowley is going to run track and cross country; Will is going to play golf; Graycen is going to play softball; Siri is going to play soccer, and Taft is going to play baseball. With your self-discipline and work ethic, I know you will be able to face the challenges of being a collegiate student-athlete.

Some of you have been very mischievous but creative with your gifts and talents. No names

# Promise me you will always remember... You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

will be used in these "incidents" to protect the innocent. Oh wait...there are really no innocents in these tales! However, you did learn valuable lessons and that your actions do have consequences. Freshman year there were "the jelly bean bandits" that took it upon themselves to tear into an unopened bag of Mrs. Lingo's jelly bellies. Not only did they eat them but then threw them at classmates. Then we have "a certain person" who chose to do a backflip off of the Cougar in the Rotunda and did, in fact, stick the landing. Yes, we have video footage.

My personal favorite for the most creativity was the incident where several of you decided that the yellow plastic "Caution Wet Floor" signs would make great skis. You all then proceeded to go to the parking lot and put the signs on your feet and skied behind a friend's vehicle while he was driving through the parking lot.

Some of you even demonstrated your loyalty and support for your friends by ambushing them when they were coming out of a late basketball practice one night. So much so that the sheriff's deputy had a conversation with you all.

Some of you possess the gift of a great sense of humor along with the innate ability to "Call it like it is." I so appreciate Kyle, Julia, Olivia, Charlotte, and Kaci. I do appreciate your gifts, as I, too, am a person of brutal honesty and candor. One piece of advice that I learned the hard way: when someone asks you for your opinion, always ask them, "Are you sure you want it?" That may save you some trouble!

We also have several classmates who have the gift of determination, whether it be on the athletic field or in the classroom. Like Taylor, Davis, Fuller, Lizzie Helton, Mary, Nate, Emily Bolen, Brett, Patrick, Elizabeth Pearce, and Cole. Your determination to succeed and be the best will serve you well at college!

There are those of you who possess an incredible work ethic in every aspect of your life. Like Marjorie, Audrey, Gabrielle, Addy, Hinton, and Maggie. Whatever you decide to do in college, you will succeed because of that work ethic. That is a tremendous gift and talent that will enable you to be successful!

Then we have the quiet hard workers who just go about their business. These guys just TCB, take care of business, and they do it quietly. But when they talk, people listen! Like Amid, Aiden, Thomas Henderson, Rhett, Ian, Austin, Manning, and Cliff.

The last two years, the Upper School themes were "Leaving a Legacy" and this year's, "Impact." To leave a legacy is to leave those you cross paths with a little more happiness and hope. It's not to get money or recognition. It is not about being remembered for your grades, popularity, or "likes on social media." Legacy is about how you have treated people, the relationships you build, and the kind of person you are. Each of you has left a Legacy here at Brookstone by sharing all of your very different gifts and talents. This class has had a lasting impact not only here at Brookstone but also in the community of Columbus, Georgia.

Let's start here at school. When you volunteered to go to the Lower School and participate in the "Seniors in the Classroom," you all made a significant impact on the little ones. They look up to you, cheer for you at games, and love waving and saying hello to you on campus. Seniors like Caleb, Emily Rice, and Lauren made a lasting legacy on Mrs. Sipling's 3rd grade class. They will remember the three of you forever because of your commitment to them and spending time with them.

Many more of you impacted the Brookstone community by sharing your gifts. Ava and AK were engaging and commanding on the theatre stage as well as in the classroom, and Lydia's ability to dance where she makes it look effortless.

We have very gifted tech gurus in this class, as well. I call them the Wizards! Like MC, Melanie, Beckett, and Allen, who have all helped me in class when my computer was misbehaving by sharing their gifts with me. By the way, it was never operator error!

Last but not least are you artists. You have shared your gifts with all of us here at Brookstone. Whether it be Lane Cannon designing the Fall Festival t-shirt sophomore year or his amazing photography; Mallory with her ability to create beautiful ceramics, Li Li and her ability to draw, Delaney with her ability to design, or Cailin and her ability to paint her friend's senior college skirts. You are amazing and talented classmates who have shared your gifts with all of us.

In our town of Columbus, a lot of you have made a difference in other' lives like when several of you volunteered at Fox Elementary with Mrs. Smith. Sara Frances and Remi, you impacted the kids' lives at Fox with your commitment to them. You helped them, gave them hope, and built relationships with them. You set great examples for them to follow and demonstrated leadership for them in everything you did. Those kids will remember you!

I think this is the most impressive gift of all and represents the entire class! I asked Mrs. Blackmon if she could tell me the total number of community service hours that all of you have done over the last four years. She also reminded me that many of you don't log your hours, so these numbers are most likely even larger!

As a class, you have served the Columbus community with over 10,800 hours. This equates to a community economic impact of over \$295,000! That is over a quarter of a million dollars for the city of Columbus. You all have made a tremendous impact on Brookstone AND the city of Columbus. Well done, Class of 2024.

As you approach the end of your high school

journey, please know that each of you has different gifts and talents. I have only touched the surface of your gifts. You have many more gifts to explore and develop for yourself! By nurturing your gifts and talents, you're investing in your most valuable asset...yourself.

We are now headed to the next phase in our lives. Notice that I said WE. You are off to new adventures, new adjustments, and new challenges. Yes, I am entering an unknown phase of my life, too...retirement. I will have new adventures, new adjustments, and new challenges. I hope that my new granddaughter will have your gifts and talents as she grows up. I want her to be just as diverse with her gifts as you all are with yours.

I want to share with your families the story of the little card that I gave you at the luncheon. Parents, I gave each senior a small card that they can keep in their wallet, car, nightstand, or use as a bookmark. I hope that it will serve as reassurance for them when challenges arise. When my daughter was going off to college and was playing soccer, I found a plaque that had a quote on it that she hung in all of her bedrooms in the different places she lived throughout college. It now hangs in my granddaughter's nursery. My daughter always loved Winnie the Pooh. Here is the quote from Christopher Robin to Pooh...

"Promise me you will always remember...

You are braver than you believe,

Stronger than you seem, and

Smarter than you think."

I hope all of you will remember this as you go off on this next adventure.

So, know that my door is always open and please don't hesitate to reach out to me anytime you'd like! I love you all dearly and wish all the best to you!

### EXCERPTS FROM BACCALAUREATE SPEAKER MAT SWIFT

Congratulations to you, the Brookstone class of 2024, your parents, your teachers, your coaches, the administration, and all the members of your Brookstone family! I feel sure every class thinks they are special, yet you really have some remarkable achievements that might set you apart. It is an honor and a blessing for me to be your Baccalaureate speaker. Being Swift's grandfather, I cherish the relationship I have with him, his friends, their parents and grandparents, as well as all the other Brookstone stakeholders associated with this class. I do have 3 grandchildren who recently graduated from high school... so I reached out to them to get their advice on what surprises or unexpected issues they encountered for two reasons: First, one would expect that 90% of you will be attending schools similar to one of these three. Two- I really respect their opinions and insights.

[H]ere are just a few practical tips that they shared with me: The first one I would categorize as time management. The second is best described as Career Planning. Another area that surprised my grandchildren was their living and relationship environments. So, you, too, may face these and other issues this fall. Yet, I BELIEVE you will meet these challenges, make the right choices, and thrive!! Why do I say this?

When you have had a problem in the past four years (whether it was in academics, athletics, or just in general) you CHOSE to TALK to your Brookstone teacher, coach, counselor, or another mentor to find help. When you felt you needed additional academic help, you CHOSE to go to the Learning Center to get specialized assistance. When you decided to take on leadership positions, you CHOSE to use leadership traits you learned from the Blanchard Servant Leadership Institute. When you developed a relationship problem with a classmate, a teammate, or even just a friend or family member, you CHOSE to apply some of the techniques you learned during your Developmental Sprint.

When you decided to try something new-art, music, theatre, sports-you CHOSE to rely on the



Mat Swift, Brookstone School Trustee, Parent, and Grandparent

talented Brookstone mentors to help you venture in this new area. I could go on and on about the various choices you have made over the past few years! So what is the common denominator in so many of these choices? In my mind, it is something that I would describe as the "Brookstone Family DNA".

First, just over 2 weeks ago, six of your classmates signed letters of intent to play collegiate sports at the next level. Four of those six (at one time or another during their high school career) seriously considered quitting their sport. Yet because of the Brookstone family community who guided them during those tough times, they CHOSE to remain with the team and continue playing, paving the way to huge success and future opportunities.

Second, let's never forget the choice your parents made. They CHOSE to send you to Brookstone. There were sacrifices: financial sacrifices, time sacrifices, commitment sacrifices. Yet because of their choice, you are here today celebrating your success. As you turn to the next chapter in your life, know that it will be filled with a lot of excitement but also many challenges that will require CHOICES.

As you encounter your opportunities, pull on the reserves of your Brookstone Family DNA; be proud of them; cherish them; and use them as the foundation for your future!





















### **BE THE ONE WITH ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES**

THE TIMOTHY BALDWIN TARPLEY AWARD (FOR FACULTY)

Mrs. Hope Boswell

HALLMARK AWARD

Caleb Graham

THE L. ASHLEY WALTERS
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Holly Mattson

MARTHA K. HEARD COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Sam Hinton

TROTTER LEADERSHIP AWARD

Remi Miller and Ben Jackson

**COUGAR SPIRIT AWARD** 

Elizabeth Cowley and Swift Branch

WALTER E. MEINZEN AWARD

Trish Calhoun

MCKENZIE- CHAPPELLE MATHEMATICS AWARD

Lane Brown

HERNDON MATHEMATICS AWARD

Sara Frances Adams

**ROTHSCHILD ENGLISH AWARD** 

Maggie Yancey

MARY AND JACK PASSAILAIGUE FOREIGN LANGUAGE AWARDS

for Spanish

Elizabeth Pearce

for French

Sophia Boyanchek

for Latin

Sara Frances Adams

KIRVEN HISTORY AWARD

Holly Mattson

HAZOURI SCIENCE AWARD

Sara Frances Adams

**DRAMATICS AWARD** 

**AK Jones** 

JORDAN MUSIC AWARD

Elizabeth Pearce

SARAH SMITH HART ART AWARD

LiLi Kalish

OUTSTANDING OVERALL SENIOR ARTIST AWARD

Ava Chhokar

KENNON COMPUTER SCIENCE AWARD

Melanie McElroy

**MCCONNELL** -TUCKER JOURNALISM

**AWARD** 

Trish Calhoun

COACHES' OUTSTANDING ATHLETE AWARD – FEMALE

Elizabeth Cowley

COACHES' OUTSTANDING

ATHLETE AWARD - MALE

Swift Branch

THE CHARLES J. CUMISKEY AWARD

Maggie Yancey and Lane Cannon

THE JOHNSTON-MCKENZIE AWARD

Remi Miller

THE SALUTATORY AWARD

Marjorie Elizabeth Pearce

THE JAMES P. MCCALLIE VALEDICTORY

**AWARD** 

Sara Frances Adams

THE DORIS AND TOM BLACK AWARD

Sara Frances Adams

### 



- 01 | Clayton ('94) and Sara Frances Adams
- 02 Brian ('87) and Henry Alford
- 03 | Bolts ('22) and Woods Arnold
- 04 | Arthur ('91) and Marjorie Bickerstaff
- 05 Jackie ('22) and Sophia Boyanchek
- 06 Mat Swift (Board), Jason ('91 and Board), Cile ('95), Marianna ('21), and Swift Branch
- 07 Lynn Averett ('95), Kathryn ('22), and Lane Brown
- 08 Shelly Borders (Faculty) and Emily Bolen
- 09 Helen ('92), Mary Helen ('21), and Virginia Brooks
- 10 Ruth ('91), Walter ('19), Rebecca ('21), and Trish Calhoun
- 11 Heather ('97) and Lane Cannon
- 12 Vikramjit ('90 and Board) and Ava Chhokar

### LASTING LEGACIES



- 13 Laura Einsel (Faculty), Carly ('19), Julia ('22), and Thomas Cline
- 14 | Caroline ('94) and Elizabeth Cowley
- 15 Sam ('84), Sara ('90), Sam ('17), Sally ('19), and Madden Dismuke
- 16 Cortney ('95), Jack ('23), and Mary Clarke Douglas
- 17 | Mint ('83) and Walker Flowers
- 18 Lindsey ('16) and Will Giglio
- 19 PJ ('21) and Charlie Halter
- 20 Laine ('22) and Davis Harris
- 21 Cydnee ('21), Canyon, and Callee Harrison
- 22 Riley ('20), Addison ('22), and Sutton Hastings
- 23 Anna Kate ('22) and Lizzie Helton
- 24 Joe ('22) and Nate Hilsman

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- 21 Cydnee ('21), Canyon, and Callee Harrison
- Riley ('20), Addison ('22) and Sutton Hastings 22
- 23 Anna Kate ('22) and Lizzie Helton
- 24 Joe ('22) and Nate Hilsman
- 25 Lilly Rae ('23) and Sam Hinton
- 26 Susan ('86) and Ben Jackson
- 27 Bradley ('97) and Fuller Jones
- 28 Kathy (Faculty) and AK Jones
- 29 Tyler ('11) and Graycen Jordan
- 30 Briggs ('19) and LiLi Kalish
- Mac ('22) and Mary Kinnebrew 31
- 32
- Kelly (Faculty) and Aiden Krump Joseph ('20), Julia ('21), and Lydia Loudermilk 33
- Hannah ('19) and Holly Mattson 34
- 35 Scott ('89) and Gabrielle McLaurin
- Vandy ('92), [M] Margaret ('21), and Taft Middleton

### LASTING LEGACIES



























- 37 Edwin Page ('83, Board), Allen ('08), Ben ('11), Miller ('14), Hugh ('17), Darby Elder, ('17), and Remi Miller
- Blakely ('19), Savannah ('20), Caroline Duggan ('14), Will Pearson ('13), and Patrick Parr
- 39 Harvey ('86) and Elizabeth Pearce
- 40 Katie ('20) and Emily Rice
- 41 Mia (Faculty) and Hinton Rice
- 42 Gerald ('89), Mary Margaret ('21), and Charlotte Saunders
- 43 Jeff ('90), Marshall ('22), and Manning Serff
- 44 Matt ('97) and Miller Stahl
- 45 Pate ('22) and Cole Stansell
- 46 Noah ('19), Jonas ('21), and Siri Stenslie
- 47 Clark ('97) and Delaney Turner
- 48 Zoe ('19), Gracie ('19), and Allen Vazquez
- 49 Brooks ('85), Jennifer ('85), Gigi ('18), Josie ('18), Emma ('19), Stella ('22), and Maggie Yancey

### 

### BE THE ONE WITH ENDLESS OPPORTUNI

MADISON ELIZABETH ADAMS

University of Georgia

SARA FRANCES ADAMS

Davidson College

HENRY CORBETT ALFORD

University of Mississippi

WOODFORD BULLOCK ARNOLD

Southern Union Community College

AHMAD BALOCH

Columbus State University

MARJORIE MURRAY BICKERSTAFF

University of Georgia

**EMILY GRACE BOLEN** 

University of North Georgia

SOPHIA ELIZABETH BOYANCHEK

Sciences Po Paris

EDWIN SWIFT BRANCH



Sewanee: University of the South

**AUDREY TAYLOR BRIDGES** 

University of Georgia

VIRGINIA MCMILLAN BROOKS

**Auburn University** 

LANE BOWERS BROWN

University of Georgia

PATRICIA ELIZABETH CALHOUN

Auburn University

STERLING LANE CANNON, JR.

Louisiana State University

KYLE DAVID CARILLON

University of Alabama

AVA PARKASH KAUR CHHOKAR

Georgia Institute of Technology

THOMAS MAXWELL CLINE

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

LAUREN ALEXA COREA

James Madison University

ELIZABETH ANSLEY COWLEY 🚳



University of Georgia

MADDEN HATCHER DISMUKE

Auburn University

MARY CLARKE DOUGLAS

Samford University

ROBERT WALKER FLOWERS, JR.

University of Alabama

JOHN WILLIAM GIGLIO, JR. 🕲



Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

**CALEB BARTON GRAHAM** 

High Point University

MCKENZIE BROOKE HALE

Columbus State University

CAITLYN ELISE HALL

Abilene Christian University

**CHARLES JOSEPH HALTER** 

University of Georgia

RYAN TAYLOR HANCOCK

Auburn University

**DAVIS GUNTER HARRIS** 

Auburn University

MARGARET ALEXANDER HARRIS

University of Georgia

**CALLEE FAITH HARRISON** 

Highlands College

**CANYON MATTHEW HARRISON** 

Columbus State University

**SUTTON REESE HASTINGS** 

Columbus State University

**ELIZABETH DEBORAH HELTON** 

University of Georgia

THOMAS MARTIN HENDERSON

Kennesaw State University

NATHAN CLAYBROOK HILSMAN

University of Georgia

SAMUEL SCOTT HINTON

Auburn University

KACI ANN HORTON

Columbus State University

BENJAMIN HAROLD JACKSON

Samford University

**AVARY KATHERINE JONES** 

University of Georgia

**FULLER STEVENSON JONES** 

University of North Georgia

GRAYCEN ELIZABETH JORDAN (🚳



University of Mississippi

### //////////// COLLEGE CHOICES

HATTON LUO LI KALISH

University of Georgia

MARY HALL KINNEBREW

University of Georgia

AIDEN JOSEPH KRUMP

**Butler University** 

RHETT KEITH LANE

Mississippi State University

LYDIA FAITH LOUDERMILK

University of Georgia

THOMAS WILLIAM MARSTIN

Lake Forest College

HOLLY JEAN MATTSON

Middlebury College

**MELANIE LYNN MCELROY** 

Mercer University

IAN MICHAEL MCGARRY

University of North Georgia

**GABRIELLE LYNN MCLAURIN** 

Berry College

JULIA ELIZABETH MCRAE

University of Mississippi

WILLIAM TAFT MIDDLETON, JR. 🚳

Auburn University

REMINGTON ELIZABETH THUONG MILLER

Wake Forest University

ADDALYN FAITH NEVILLE

University of Alabama

**BRETT AARON NOVLESKY** 

University of North Georgia

**CAILIN ELLE OBERT** 

Auburn University

PATRICK MICHAEL PARR II

University of Alabama

MARJORIE ELIZABETH PEARCE

University of Georgia

**AUSTIN TANNER PRICE** 

Columbus State University

**OLIVIA LAUREN RAINES** 

University of Alabama

**EMILY CAMILLE RICE** 

Columbus State University

LILLIAN HINTON RICE

University of Alabama

**ERIN KRISTINA ROBERTS** 

Barnard College

THOMAS BROOKS RONEY

University of North Georgia

LESLIE WAITS RUE III

University of Georgia

**CHARLOTTE ANN SAUNDERS** 

University of Mississippi

MANNING PAUL SERFF

Auburn University

**ELLE MARI SINGLETON** 

University of San Francisco

**HOWARD MILLER STAHL** 

Troy University

**COLEMAN TODD STANSELL** 

Auburn University

SIRI ROBIN STENSLIE

Lee University

CLIFFORD LANCE TANKERSLEY

Columbus State University

**BECKETT CHASE TAPLEY** 

Clemson University

DANIEL KEITH TOLBERT

United States Air Force

**MALLORY HAYES TUCKER** 

Auburn University

**DELANEY JANE TURNER** 

University of Alabama

**ROBERT ALLEN VAZQUEZ** 

Kennesaw State University

CHRISTOPHER KEVIN VICKERSON

Presbyterian College

MARGARET ROSE YANCEY

Georgia Institute of Technology

STEPHEN HOLT YOUNG

Wesleyan University





YEARBOOK CEREMONY FOR THE CLASS OF 2024



# PEOPLE MATTER

### ONE NIGHT. ONE COMMUNITY. BE THE ONE

# Bidding BROOKSTONE

### A TRIBUTE TO MITCHI WADE

WRITTEN BY: DORI JONES AND ELIZA BREWER, BPA EVENT CHAIRS

We are thrilled to announce the outstanding success of Bidding for Brookstone, A Tribute to Mitchi Wade, marking a significant milestone in Brookstone School's fundraising efforts. With the Brookstone community's invaluable support and our incredible committee's hard work, this year's auction surpassed all expectations, raising a record-breaking amount of \$167,018.17. The evening was a true testament to our collective commitment to excellence and generosity. From the elegant ambiance to the captivating auction items, every detail was meticulously planned to ensure an unforgettable experience for all attendees. We are immensely proud and grateful to everyone who, through their collective effort, contributed their time, resources, and enthusiasm to make this event a resounding success.

Mitchi Wade, a pillar of our community, played a pivotal role in driving our fundraising initiatives forward, bringing the entire Brookstone community together. The event celebrated our achievements and honored Mitchi's vision of One Night, One Community, Be the One. The funds raised will play a crucial role in further enhancing the quality of education and opportunities for our students. This achievement is a testament to what we can accomplish when we come together with a shared vision and passion for our school's success.

As we reflect on this milestone, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who played a part in making this event a triumph. Your continued support fuels the overall mission of BE THE ONE, and it is deeply appreciated.

















# HEMRYSWIFT ERVICE ) S(H()()| AMARD

In 2019, the Henry Swift Service Award was established in honor of loyal board member Henry Swift to recognize those employees who have made a significant career commitment to Brookstone School. Henry served as a Brookstone Trustee for over 50 years. The program is designed to recognize and express appreciation to faculty and staff at each five-year milestone of service to Brookstone School. This year, the program took place May 23rd.





### 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Christine Barrett, Dotty Davis, Robby Davis, Stephanie Fuerte, Michele Hughes, Ellen Lane, Lisa Presley, Richard Smith, and Javonne Stewart















### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Leigh Anne Floyd, DeeDee Gordon, John Harkey, Nate McConnell, Anne Parker, and Meg Stewart











15 YEARS OF SERVICE

B.

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Meghan Blackmon and Tiffany Grier

Jacob Crowder and Sharman Dryden





25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Jimmy Thompson















# LETTER PEOPLE SHOW



















# BE THE ONE WHO LEADS



HUNTER CHAPMAN

DIRECTOR OF 3K-12 STRATEGIC ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

You have been a teacher, a coach, a grade chair, and more, but you are

the very first person ever to assume this title at Brookstone. What are you most looking forward to about this job?

I'm most excited to be able to strive to create conditions for teachers and students across the entire campus to flourish. I have loved working in the Middle and Upper Schools and am eager to dive in and work alongside my colleagues in the younger grade levels. I am excited to come alongside the division heads to support them in matters related to curriculum mapping and teacher development, and I want to help create a schoolwide culture where all teachers feel like they have the support they need to expand their talents, experiment with new ideas, and collaborate with their peers. All in all, I'm excited to help bring our core mission, vision, and values to the forefront of all of our academic endeavors in order to maximize our academic potential.

### What will be some of the challenges you anticipate in this role?

First of all, I plan on being invested and present in all school divisions, so I will be covering a lot of ground. Therefore, adequately balancing time across 3K-12 is a challenge that I look forward to navigating. There is an endless list of projects, goals, and ideas, so I think another great challenge is discerning a timeline for all that we'd like to accomplish! I plan on investing lots of time and energy in researching and trying to gain as clear a picture as possible of our school's current academic state. I know that this process will yield a more accurate picture of what can be addressed and accomplished in the short- and long-term.

There are so many good things that we are already doing at Brookstone, and I want to help us as a school build on those strengths while constantly looking for areas of growth and innovation. Continuously raising the bar for the school's academic profile is in and of itself a major task, and I'm excited about all that we can accomplish in the coming months and years!

Why is it so important that Brookstone has one person dedicated to Strategic Academic Initiatives? What is an example of such an initiative that you might be tackling in your first year?

From its inception, Brookstone has always existed to provide the absolute best education for our students, and the beauty of this new role is that it allows the school to focus resources, time, and energy directly into enhancing our academic culture and profile. There are so many moving parts to the life of a 3K-12 school, so having the ability to focus efforts towards creating vertical alignment and academic synergy across all divisions is a massive opportunity to enhance the Brookstone experience for all of our current and future students. The strategic element of this role implies bringing the school's mission, vision, and values to the core of everything we do academically, using that framework to constantly refine and enhance current practices, and constantly keeping a research-based eye on the future. I hope to help foster a culture of connection and clarity of purpose among our faculty, students, and parents, and I believe that the fruit of all of this can be elevating Brookstone to one of the premier schools in the entire country. In light of these goals, some initiatives include revamping and strengthening our New Faculty Orientation and onboarding process at the start of this upcoming school year, as well as working with Department Chairs and other academic leaders in all grades and divisions to create cohesive and effective alignment from 3K-12th grade. I am looking forward to diving in!



**ED MARTIN**ASSIST. HEAD OF SCHOOL FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

You've been at Brookstone for a few months now, since January. What are

some of the things you've enjoyed most about being here at Brookstone?

My wife (Sarah), daughter (Aubrey '32), and I have been warmly welcomed on campus. We are so thankful for the caring Brookstone community. I've had so many 'first-time' favorites this semester, but I cannot list them all. Naming just a few, I would say my campus tour by Brookstone Ambassadors Marjorie Bickerstaff '24 and Charlie Halter '24 (a great first impression of Brookstone and our students), Homecoming week (an unparalleled salute to our graduates and an amazing launch into college and adulthood), High School Musical and Mystery Dinner Theatre, and the state track meet.

# What are some of the challenges you've found in your new role?

My position has been vacant for a couple of years. There's no shortage of opportunities to meet our many dedicated and generous Brookstone supporters. Director of the Annual Fund and Alumni Relations, Meg Stewart, has done an outstanding job as a solo operator but for too long. I am excited to offer support and leadership to Meg and our wonderful fundraising volunteers. We set a record in our Brookstone Annual Fund this year, surpassing \$800,000. We are just scratching the surface on the meaningful long-term relationships we can foster and the fundraising gifts we can secure in the years ahead. Brookstone is blessed with wonderful donors who are just waiting on us to call them, inspire them, listen and learn their giving interests, and partner with them to create a dynamic future at our school. The challenges ahead excite and motivate me!

You have met a lot of wonderful people while you've been here. What are some of the things you've learned about our school as you've met some of the people who are a part of it?

I have been fortunate to meet dozens of people my first few months in the chair- including nearly 50 scheduled personal visits (typically 60-90 minutes each). The most important takeaway is the love our current families, alumni, donors, and community supporters have for Brookstone. Their collective passion is tremendous. Nearly everyone I've visited with in conducting a feasibility study and introductory interviews has been candid in sharing strengths and opportunities for improvement. Because our constituents know the value of a Brookstone education they are willing to stay committed to us as we address issues including a multi-year vacation in advancement and fundraising leadership - and they want to be part of the solution. I've also witnessed first hand the tireless dedication by our faculty, staff, and Brookstone Parents' Association volunteers. They are the true embodiment of "it takes a village to raise a child." The actions of these selfless individuals have been inspiring.

# What is your vision going forward for the next school year?

Beginning in the 2024-25 academic year, the Office of Institutional Advancement will incorporate the enrollment, communications, and fundraising teams of Brookstone. Our vision is to deliver an exceptional experience to families through all stages of their Brookstone years. With an integrated approach to communication, fund development, and enrollment/on-boarding (including new strategies to serve families from Columbus and surrounding communities including East Alabama), we can ensure a stronger Brookstone community and one that is financially sustainable long term. This leadership shift will support the launch of a 2025-30 strategic plan that will roll out by year end 2024. I am encouraged by the foundational work of our strategic plan committee and excited about the future of Brookstone for my daughter Aubrey and all students.



CINDY TODT HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

Faculty to Director of hold onto? **Brookstone** Summer.

very demanding role as Head of the Upper School. What are you most excited about in taking on this new role?

I'm most excited about the teachers and the students! This is a fantastic community that has had such a tremendous impact on my family, and I'm most excited about coming alongside the students and teachers and serving them as we continue to grow in excellence.

### What are some of the challenges going to be in your newest role as Head of Upper School?

I came to Brookstone 12 years ago to teach and coach in the Upper School, and while I have worn many hats at Brookstone, my heart is in the US. That's where I began at Brookstone, and no matter what other things I have done along the way, all roads have led to the US. I get so excited when brainstorming and dreaming about possibilities for the future! I'm an idea person through and through, and a challenge will be prioritizing those ideas and honing in on those things that need to have priority. Along with that comes time management. No matter how hard I try, I can't be in two places at the same time!

### What is one of the first things you hope to accomplish?

An initial priority is getting to know the US team better and listen. Our faculty is amazing and they are in the trenches day in and day out serving our students. I have already started meeting 1:1 with US faculty members and plan to continue until I've had a chance to meet with each one of them. Their perspective is invaluable, and it's imperative that I understand the challenges they face.

You've worn many hats Since you have been a part of Brookstone for here at Brookstone over so long, you know the Upper School very well. the years, from Dean of What are some of the traditions you hope to

and now you are transitioning into a new and Brookstone loves a good dress up day - and by that I don't mean blazers and ties! Homecoming week is always fun with the various themes each day. The advisory games, senior-faculty cup, and Blue White Day are all activities that make our student life culture special.

### What are some new "traditions" you might want to put into place?

While we do a great job celebrating the accomplishments of our seniors, I would like to explore new ways of recognizing our underclassmen and all that they do each year, particularly with respect to academics. I'm certainly not of the mindset that everyone deserves a trophy, but I think we can do more to encourage and promote excellence.

### What will be your areas of focus for the next school year?

I am particularly interested in expanding the influence of our Prefect Leadership Team and exploring ways they can have a more felt, tangible impact in the Upper School. I am grateful for the leadership of Mr. Sullivan in bringing this system to Brookstone, and I am really excited to work with this outstanding group of students!



### WRITTEN BY: BIANCA BROWN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Since November last year, the Communications department and our partner, Finalsite, have been diligently working to revamp the Brookstone website. This collaborative effort has led to a comprehensive update that significantly improves the site's functionality and user-friendliness for our current and prospective families. The invaluable feedback from our website and marketing committees, and the entire Brookstone community, has been instrumental in crafting a homepage that modernizes the website's look while maintaining the competitiveness of Brookstone's unique selling points with other private schools nationwide. With several new enhancements and features, we are confident that the revamped website will enable Brookstone families to navigate the site more efficiently and stay updated on all the exciting happenings on our campus. The website is set to launch mid-July, just in time for the new school year and promising a fresh and engaging experience for all.

As part of our marketing initiatives that align with the school's mission, the website's launch is a pivotal step in our ongoing efforts to attract new families. By showcasing our dedication to the education of our students and the strong relationships within our community, the website will help us maintain our legacy. With its enhanced features and user-friendly interface, the website will serve as a powerful tool for communicating our values and attracting families who resonate with our vision. We are optimistic that this new platform, a testament to the collective efforts of our community, will open doors to new families who share our commitment to excellence.

Amid all of these changes on our school website, the Communications team will also be undergoing a transition for the new school year. We want to acknowledge the immense contributions of our Director of Communications, Connie Mansour, and our Director of Social Media, Avery Wolff, who will retire this summer after over twenty years of serving the Brookstone community. Their dedication and hard work have been invaluable to us. Bennett Counts, our current digital content creator, will now be responsible for maintaining our social media presence across all platforms. We are excited to welcome Taylor Green, the new Director of Communications, who will begin leading our marketing and schoolwide communications starting August 1, 2024. With years of experience serving student-centered organizations, Taylor is well-equipped to navigate her new role at Brookstone. She is committed to amplifying the school's voice, strengthening its relationships, and championing its core values. We are confident in Taylor's abilities and look forward to the new direction she will bring to our team.



STUDENT TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA



# **ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES**



# **UPCOMING STUDENT**TRIPS 2024-2025

London, Paris, Rome (8th grade) June 8-16, 2025

with Mrs. Beth Leatherwood

England (ISCA) Middle School Students (6th, 7th, & 8th grades) July 2025

with Mrs. Karen Hearn

Crystal River, FL January 19-21, 2025 with Mrs. Leigh Smith

**Italy and Greece Spring Break 2025** 

with Mr. Robby Davis, Mrs. Dotty Davis, and Mr. Peter Parisi

**Ecuador Rainforest and Galapagos Islands Spring Break 2025** 

with Mrs. Jody Lumsden and Mr. Rusty Davis

**Spain Spring Break 2025** 

with Mrs. Dorsi Del Castillo and Mr. John Harkey













# WILDCATS IN THE HOUSE!

### **BROOKSTONE THEATRE PRESENTS HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL**

WRITTEN BY: ROBBY DAVIS, THEATRE ARTS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR



















The theatre at Brookstone's Turner Arts Center was bathed in an unusual hue in March as the bold blue of Brookstone's Cougars became the radiant red of East High's Wildcats when Disney's High School Musical took to the stage. Brookstone's Theatre Arts Program brought the stage version of the popular movie-musical to life with a cast of 37 students from grades 8-12. All the East High cliques were represented: Brainiacs, Skaters, Thespians, Rebels, Cheerleaders, and those basketball-playing Jocks. And faculty member Philip Farmer suited up with the Jocks, portraying East High's Coach Bolton. Theatre director Dotty Davis staged and choreographed the show. Technical Director Robby Davis designed and constructed the sets, aided by his technical theatre students. Brookstone music teacher Karen Hearn directed the vocal performances. All three performances of High School Musical played before sold-out houses.

























# TROUBLE AT THE TALENT SHOW

### WRITTEN BY: ROBBY DAVIS, THEATRE ARTS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

It's official! Brookstone's annual murder-mystery dinner theatre event is the arts social event of the year. The word spread after last year's rollicking debut of the fun-filled fundraising event, and the audience for the second year's production nearly doubled. This year's production, *Trouble at the Talent Show*, was staged in April at Columbus State University's stunning Bo Bartlett Center with a cast of 40, featuring talented students from grades 8-12 and an array of equally talented Brookstone faculty members. The event was coordinated and hosted by the Brookstone Arts Alliance, led by the event's chairperson, Anna Flournoy. Brookstone's theatre directors, Robby and Dotty Davis, staged the show. Trouble at the Talent Show, an audience-participation mystery by Elaine Moushey, immersed the audience in the school-wide talent show of Stoney Brook Poly Prep Country Day School, home of the fighting Nimrods. Acts for this talent show included musical performances from the Tiffanys (a group of popular blonde clones all named Tiffany), the Grungies (the counter-culture rebels), the Regs (the regular students), the Jocks (need we say more), the Maintenance Men, and the Lunch Ladies. A mystery developed during the evening when an ill-mannered, unpopular Lunch Lady fell victim to poisoning that left her frozen like a statue. The audience, many of whom were designated by name tags as faculty and staff of the fictional Stoney Brook, were called upon to solve the mystery. Sponsors of the 2024 dinner theatre included Flournoy Partners; Katie and Bo Bickerstaff; The Families of Iveta Boyanchek, Jodi Chhokar, and Dannell Marks; Aflac; The Medicine Cabinet; Amy and Tracy Spencer; Standard Concrete Products; Psychiatric Service at Brookstone; Elizabeth and Chad Cottrell; Gayla and Alan Arrington; Claire Berry Real Estate; Carolyn and Curtis Perry; Merrill and Nancy Rushin; Mavis Daniels and Tanisha Colbert; Uptown Life Group; Encore Magazine; Meghan and Dykes Blackmon; Eileen and Pace Halter; Kingfisher Woodworks; Jennifer and Clayton Adams; Sarah and Ed Martin; Cally and Bob Dixon; Lizzie and Hank Moore; Dr. Jill Ferdinands; Joan Redmond; Jenny and Daniel Hord; Travis Wade; and Stephanie and Roddy Hunter. The evening's production was dedicated to the loving memory of Mitchi Wade, a long-time supporter of the fine arts at Brookstone. The event proceeds will support all the fine arts—theatre, music, and the visual arts—at Brookstone. Next year's mystery dinner theatre event is set for Thursday night, April 17, 2025. The show will be moving to a new location next year, and there will be more details on that coming in the fall.

# **GMEA ALL-STATE CHORUS**

WRITTEN BY: KAREN HEARN, MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL MUSIC & PIANO TEACHER









GMEA (Georgia Music Educators Association) rhythms, and foreign language pronunciation. ALL-STATE CHORUS is the pinnacle of success for a student singer in the state of Georgia. To be a member of this prestigious group, a student and minor keys. Each year, the difficulty of must complete an intense and highly competitive audition process to win a spot in a choir. Well over ten thousand students compete for this honor every year. Elizabeth Pearce, Charles McPherson, and Ellie Ferdinands competed and won the honor to participate in the 2024 GMEA ALL-STATE CHORUS held in Athens, GA, on February 15-17, 2024.

Elizabeth Pearce's accomplishment is particularly noteworthy as she has auditioned and been selected every year of eligibility from 7th grade to 12th grade. She received special recognition for this accomplishment during the concert. Only 40 seniors in the entire state earned that privilege!

From August to November, Elizabeth came by the music room to work on singing major, minor, and chromatic scales without error in pitch, ascending and descending. She perfected her audition solo, working on breath support, tone quality, correct

On top of all that, she worked endlessly on sight-singing using solfege syllables in major rhythm and intervals to be tested increased. Finally, in November, the first round of auditions occurred in Perry GA. In the sight-singing room, Elizabeth had 30 seconds to look at a 4-measure sample and then sing it with correct pitches and rhythm; there were three samples. She had to sing the scales and her solo in the solo room. After leaving the auditions, Elizabeth had to wait again, wondering if she had performed well enough to overcome her competitors. While the actual cut-off scores are not released for several weeks, a near-perfect score lessens the anxiety for both Elizabeth and Mrs. Hearn.

From November to January, Elizabeth is back in the music room, regularly learning the six songs that her GMEA ALL-STATE CHOIR will perform in February. There is one more audition in January to test the students on their voice parts for the songs. In the second audition, Elizabeth

















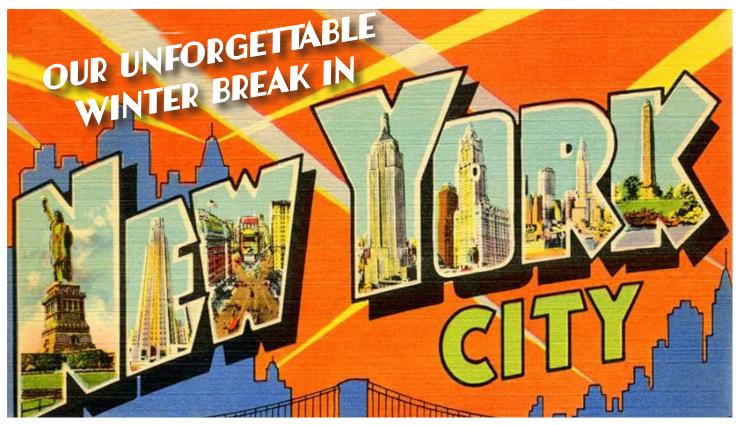
will have yet to determine which measures will be Charles McPherson is also to be celebrated! He tested, so she has to know all the songs perfectly. competed for the first time this year as a Junior, The second audition takes place closer to home having to sing the most challenging solo and on a Thursday afternoon at a local school. GMEA then sight-read at the highest level. Relying on has such a sterling reputation with highly successful his piano skills, solfege experience with Voices guest conductors that the second audition is meant of the Valley, and working with Mrs. Hearn to prevent students from showing up without during his Study Hall, he was able to successfully preparation. Elizabeth passes the second audition again with flying colors.

It is amazing to go through this process in 2024, 2023, 2022, 2020, and 2019, always beating the odds through hard work and determination to reach a goal! Elizabeth is also the first Brookstone student to accomplish the feat of being recognized as a Five-Year Winner!

Ellie Ferdinands is on track to have the same accomplishments as Elizabeth in her third year of selection for the GMEA ALL-STATE CHORUS. Let's keep rolling, Ellie! Congratulations on being selected to Solo Voce, the top choir in Voices of the Valley.

navigate the audition process and proclaim, "Mrs. Hearn, I think I have just sung with the best choir I will ever be a part of." There will be many outstanding and unique choral performances in the future, but I agree that the GMEA ALL-STATE HONOR CHOIR brings out the best in the best!

Finally, Joanna Wang went through a twoaudition process as well for the GMEA ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA. Following in her brother's footsteps (Alum Joseph Wang graduated in 2024 from Vanderbilt with a double major in Violin and Economics), Joanna placed as 1st Violin, 6th Chair, Full Orchestra. Joanna plays the violin beautifully, gracing many a Brookstone event with lovely melodies.



WRITTEN BY: PAUL HAMPTON, FINE ARTS DIRECTOR

Traveling with students is a joy. When a student travels, they make direct connections with people and cultures who are different from their current circles. They learn. Karen Hearn and I took eleven students to the classroom of New York City.

### DAY 1

As the first light of dawn appeared, our group of eager travelers gathered at the Brookstone School parking lot, ready to embark on an adventure to the Big Apple. Armed with anticipation and excitement, we boarded the bus that would transport us to the airport. By 7:45 AM, we were soaring through the skies bound for the bustling streets of NYC. We landed around 10:00 AM and were greeted by our van driver who whisked us away to our temporary abode. Though check-in wasn't available until 3:00 PM, we dropped off our bags, purchased our Metrocards for the subway, and immersed ourselves in the eclectic charm of Chinatown, Little Italy, and SoHo.

In Chinatown, the sights and sounds were a sensory overload. We strolled through streets adorned with colorful lanterns, their bright reds and golds contrasting against the cityscape. The air was filled with the enticing aromas of freshly cooked dumplings, roast duck, and exotic spices. Street vendors called out their wares, offering everything from delicate jade jewelry to intricately carved bamboo items. We wandered into



small shops stocked with traditional Chinese herbs and medicines and found a ramen shop for a quick lunch.

From Chinatown, we meandered into Little Italy, where the atmosphere shifted to a quaint, old-world charm. The narrow streets were lined with family-owned restaurants and cafes, each boasting its own version of the best pasta or cannoli in the city. We couldn't resist stopping for a cappuccino, a cannoli, and a slice of tiramisu at a cozy corner café, where the warm hospitality made us feel right at home.

Our journey then took us to SoHo, an area known for its trendy boutiques and art galleries. The cobblestone streets and cast-iron buildings gave the neighborhood a distinctive, historic feel. We



browsed through chic clothing stores admiring the latest fashion trends and visited contemporary art galleries showcasing works by up-and-coming artists.

As the clock struck 4:30 PM, we returned to the Hampton Inn Times Square ready to freshen up for the evening's festivities. With a quick change of attire, we headed to Ellen's Stardust Diner, a New York City institution famous for its singing waitstaff and retro 1950s decor. Located at 1650 Broadway, just steps away from Times Square, Ellen's Stardust Diner is renowned for its unique dining experience where the waitstaff, many of whom are aspiring Broadway performers, entertain guests with live musical performances.

After our delightful meal, we walked over to the Winter Garden Theatre for a magical experience with the timeless classic, *Back to the Future*. The production stayed true to the spirit of the original film while adding new dimensions to the beloved story of Marty McFly and Doc Brown's time-traveling adventures. The musical featured an ensemble cast of talented actors who breathed new life into the iconic characters. Marty McFly was portrayed by JJ Niemann, capturing the character's youthful energy and indomitable spirit. Opposite him, Tony nominated Roger Bart took on the role of the eccentric inventor, Doc Brown, infusing the character with humor and eccentricity. One of the highlights

of Back to the Future: The Musical was its innovative use of special effects to recreate the timetraveling sequences and iconic moments from the film. From the dazzling capacitor flux to breathtaking the



DeLorean time machine, the production spared no expense in bringing the fantastical elements of the story to life on stage. After the show, it was a quick walk through Times Square to our hotel.

### DAY 2

Saturday, January 13th, greeted us with a misty haze and a brisk chill in the air, a guintessential New York winter day. Bundled up in our warmest attire, we began our day with a hearty breakfast, fueling up for a day of exploration. The sun cast a golden glow over the city as we made our way to Lower Manhattan, where our first stop was the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. The atmosphere at the memorial was solemn and reflective. The two massive reflecting pools, set in the footprints of the original Twin Towers, were surrounded by the names of the victims inscribed in bronze. The sound of cascading water provided a poignant backdrop as we paused to pay our respects. Inside the museum, we were guided through a powerful and emotional journey that recounted the events of September 11, 2001. Exhibits included artifacts recovered from the site, personal stories of those affected, and multimedia displays that brought the history to life. It was a moving experience that highlighted the

resilience and strength of the human spirit.

After leaving the museum, we took a ferry ride to Staten Island, which offered spectacular views of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The ride was a welcome respite from the urban hustle and bustle, with the fresh sea breeze invigorating our senses. The sight of Lady Liberty

standing tall against the backdrop of the city skyline was awe-inspiring, a symbol of freedom and hope. We took countless photos, capturing the moment to remember our journey.

That evening, we immersed ourselves in the cultural tapestry of Broadway at the Music Box Theatre, where Purlie Victorious awaited. Purlie Victorious is a comedy play that had its first Broadway revival in 2023. The play tells the fictional story of Reverend Purlie Victorious Judson, a dynamic traveling preacher returning to his hometown in rural Georgia to save his small hometown church. Critics and audiences praised the production, describing it as "blazing and hilarious" and "the funniest show on Broadway." The revival received widespread acclaim, earning several Tony Award nominations, including Best Revival of a Play, Best Leading Actor in a

Play for Leslie Odom Jr., and Best Featured Actress in a Play for Kara Young, and Best Direction of a Play for Kenny Leon. After the show, we headed to Junior's Restaurant for their famous cheesecakes.

### DAY 3

Sunday morning, we ventured to Central Park, basking in the serenity of nature amidst the bustle of a metropolis. We stopped at the John Lennon memorial known as Strawberry Fields, walked to Bethesda Terrace and Fountain, viewed The Mall, and admired the Alice in Wonderland sculpture. Next we embarked on a journey



through the hallowed halls of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where masterpieces awaited at every turn. The Met's vast collection spanned millennia, featuring everything from ancient Egyptian artifacts to modern masterpieces. We marveled at works by Van Gogh, Rembrandt, and Monet, each piece telling its own story and adding to the richness of our experience. We met up with Brookstone alum Mia Vongsavang, class of 2021. Mia is a student at Pace University and spent some time sharing the city with us.

From the Met, we took a city bus back to the hotel to drop off our souvenirs and grab a slice of pizza before heading to our matinee. As we were walking to the theater, the dusting of snow could not damper our excitement to see the Tony Winner for Best Musical *Hadestown*. *Hadestown* is a captivating musical that intertwines two mythic tales: that of young dreamers, Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife, Persephone. Set in a hellish industrial version of the Greek underworld, the show invites audiences on an epic journey to the underworld and back. It pits nature against industry, faith against doubt, and love against fear. The students were eager to see the multi-talented young star, Jordan Fisher, who recently took over the role of Orpheus.

During intermission, I inquired with the head usher if Mr. Fisher was going to be at the stage door after the show to sign playbills. I explained how excited our students would be to have that experience. She explained he had

not done that recently due to overly zealous crowds but that she would check with him backstage. During the curtain call, she tapped me on the shoulder and asked if we could stay after the show to meet with Jordan. The reactions from the students ranged from disbelief to tears of joy. Jordan talked to the students for twenty minutes, but his impact on our



students will last a lifetime.

In the evening, we strolled through Rockefeller Plaza admiring the grandeur of the surrounding buildings and the iconic ice skating rink, which was teeming with skaters gliding across the ice. We then ascended to the Top of the Rock observation deck, where the city unfolded before us in a breathtaking panorama. The lights of the skyscrapers and the vast expanse of Central Park stretched out below us, creating a magical view that felt like the perfect conclusion to our day.

### DAY 4

As the final day of our getaway started, we ate a quick breakfast and spent the morning shopping in Times Square. Students looked for those last minute souvenirs and took some final pictures. With one last lunch at a local taco place, we savored the flavors of the city before hustling back to our hotel to meet our driver. Due to a winter storm approaching the city, our flight was delayed a few hours, but our travelers made the most of the time by checking out the massive Laguardia airport and the snow. We breathed a sigh of relief as we boarded the plane bound for Atlanta.

Arriving at Brookstone later than we originally planned, we were greeted by the welcoming arms of parents and friends. Karen and I smiled at each other as we heard the students telling their stories while they were loading in their cars. Though our adventure had come to an end, the memories we had created and the lessons we had learned would linger on for years to come.

# SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL

















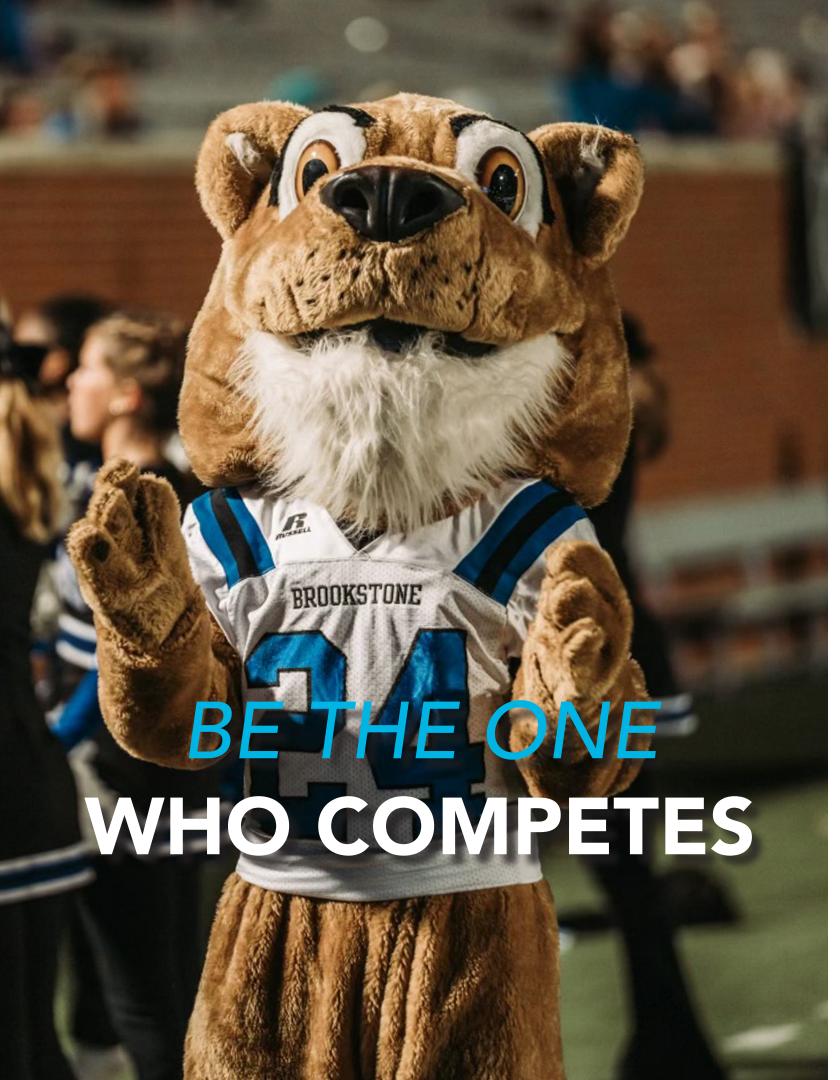










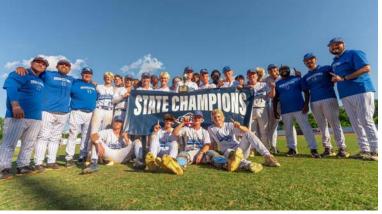






The Girls Swim Team won their second consecutive state championship this season. The girls outscored Rivers Academy 132-67. The boys were 8th with only 4 swimmers and combined Brookstone was 2nd. Congrats to all members of the Varsity Swim team for an incredible season. Brookstone hosted its first GIAA state track meet this year! Not only did we host an amazing event, the Brookstone Varsity Girls Track team came out on top winning their second GIAA AAA State Championship.





Our Varsity Girls' Soccer team secured a state championship against long-time rival, St. Anne Pacelli. The girls have made the Final Four for the past three years in a row, and this year's win took us to the championship game. This marks the team's first state championship win in school history. The Brookstone Varsity Baseball Team ended their 2024 season by sweeping First Presbyterian Day out of Macon 7-3 in game 1 and 9-5 in game 2 to win the GIAA 4A State Championship. It was the school's first state championship in 43 years. The Cougars set a school record for wins by going 28-5 on the season. The Cougars went undefeated during the playoffs by outscoring their opponents 41-16 on their 6-0 run.



The success of all of our state championship teams is a testament to the power of perseverance under the diligent leadership of our coaches. As they bask in the glory of their latest triumphs, the teams remain grounded, setting their sights on even greater achievements in the seasons to come. Their victory not only inspires their peers but also ignites a sense of pride and unity within the entire Brookstone community. Go Cougars! Here's to another year of unforgettable moments and endless possibilities!

# SIGNING DAY

# **SPRING 2024**



**SWIFT BRANCH** 

Sewanee

Football



Will Giglio
Abraham Baldwin
Agricultural College
Golf



Tommy Marstin

Lake Forest College

Swim



**Holly Mattson** 

Middlebury College

**Swim** 



**Chris Vickerson** 

Presbyterian College

Football



**Holt Young** 

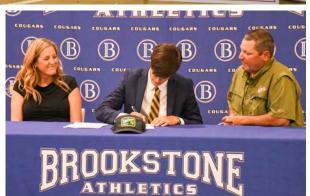
Wesleyan University

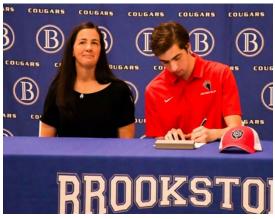
Football





















### **SOCCER**













**GOLF** 

















### **BASEBALL**





### **SWIM**













### **TENNIS**





















### **BASKETBALL**















**WRESTLING** 























LOWER SCHOOL STUDENTS DURING BOB McKILLOP'S VISIT TO BROOKSTONE SCHOOL



# **INNOVATIVE PROCESS**



UPPER SCHOOL

College admissions is a dynamic industry which has and Spelman University. While all of these institutions seen many changes, especially in the past few years. Terms like test-optional, test-flexible, and holistic review have joined the seemingly endless jargon of higher education.

At Brookstone, we still believe in connecting students with their best fit college. Best fit, to us, is an institution where the student is challenged academically and provided opportunities to grow towards their personal goals, but also where they can contribute to that institution's community and be a leader. We believe that, by graduation, all of our students are equipped with the tools to lead. While we love sending our students to Ivy League schools, we believe success is better measured by the impact those students will have.

In finding the best fit, we discuss geographic setting and location; students may prefer to study in a big city or a small college town. They may want to be close to home, thousands of miles away, or even enroll in institutions abroad. We talk about majors, the quality of programs at various schools, and also potential graduate and professional school options that may be necessary to help a student reach their ultimate goal. Visits to college campuses and meeting with admissions officers provide the best judgment of whether a school is the right fit for a student. Because so many institutions provide similar services, it can be more beneficial to know what a student DOESN'T want instead of what they do like and want. In the 2023-2024 school year, we were able to take students on day trips to Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University, and we also reinstated the Brookstone College Tour over winter break to visit Georgia Southern University, Mercer University, Georgia College and State University, University of Georgia, University of North Georgia, and Kennesaw State University. In addition, the Black Student Union, led by Erin Roberts ('24) and Amaya Colbert ('26) initiated a day trip to Morehouse College

are within the state of Georgia, they allowed students to experience very different types of schools (public/private, large/medium/small, urban/rural, etc.) which will be helpful even if they decide to enroll out of state.

A key advantage of our office is our abiltiy to cultivate relationships with admissions leaders across the country. In September, I was able to meet privately with admissions officers from Brown, Georgetown, and Howard to discuss the admissions trends they were seeing within their schools and what they are looking for as they evaluate applications. Though Columbus is not in her assigned territory, an admissions officer from Georgia Tech visited with our students while passing through Columbus solely because of the relationship she developed nearly a decade ago with Frances Berry. Connections like these allow us to go straight to the source as things change so that our students are always in the best position possible for admissions.

Our office seeks to go above and beyond; whether it's meeting with students and parents 1:1, writing a personal letter of recommendation for every senior based on their particular gifts and talents, directly communicating with admissions representatives on behalf of a student, assisting with resume creation, or cheering with a family when a student receives that long-awaited acceptance letter, we are there. I am especially proud of our essay writing program in the spring of junior year when students meet individually with our essay writing coach, Anna Flournoy, to craft the best admissions essay possible. Our work doesn't end when a student is admitted either. We can assist with every step along the way including housing applications, orientation registration, and reviewing financial aid and scholarship

Along with every teacher and administrator at Brookstone, the College Counseling Office seeks to help students find their highest potential for success throughout their time at Brookstone, in college, and beyond.















### WRITTEN BY: GRETCHEN BRAND, UPPER SCHOOL ART TEACHER

Brookstone was approached by the Columbus Museum to create a sculpture inspired by a piece in the museum's collection that would integrate math and be used by CSU's Math Collaborative. Here is the innovative Design Thinking Process in action! Stage 1: Empathy and Define - In this phase, the practitioner narrows down the focus of the design thinking process. They identify the problem that will be explored to ensure the best possible outcome. Our students played a pivotal role in the design process. They engaged with the museum, explored various sculptures for inspiration, and sketched different shapes. Their aim was to promote math as a visual interest. The class used "Slanted #3" by Ida Kohlmeyer as their initial reference point. With the assistance of our Theatre Tech students, who applied their classroom knowledge and skills, the initial design for Stage 2 was constructed.

Stage 2: Ideate - In this phase, the practitioner generates ideas for solutions. They should regularly challenge their assumptions to overcome biases and think of truly unique and innovative ideas. We looked at artists for inspiration, specifically MC Escher and his use of tessellations and math in his art. We learned that he was inspired by the geometric designs he saw in Islamic tile work when traveling. Students learned to create optical illusions, tessellations, and Islamic Geometric tile designs.

Stage 3: Develop - In this phase, the practitioner experiments with the solutions they conceived in the ideate phase. Prototypes should not be expensive or considered "final," but rather as tools to test and learn from. Brookstone Alumni, George Schley ('09), has made a career in woodworking (Kingfisher Woodworking) and came to speak to the students about incorporating geometrical principles into their design. We then chose designs to be painted onto the sculpture. Our math classes added string math art, taking a grid of nails and string patterns to create parabolas, adding yet another dimension and cross-curricular connection.

**Stage 4: Create/ Prototype** - Finally, the practitioner must test each prototype. The goal is to learn and collect as much data as possible and use it to further iterate on potential solutions.

# WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

### LANE CANNON RECEIVES GOLD KEY AWARD FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

### WRITTEN BY: GRETCHEN BRAND, UPPER SCHOOL ART TEACHER

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, founded in 1923, have inspired bold ideas in creative teens throughout the country for more than a century. They celebrate creative teens regionally and nationally with awards, exhibitions, publications, and scholarships. All entries are first considered regionally for Gold Key, Silver Key, Honorable Mention, American Voices Nominee, and American Visions Nominee awards. These are presented to students along with celebration ceremonies and exhibitions in each region. Gold Key-awarded entries are automatically considered for national awards, including Gold Medal, Silver Medal, and scholarship awards. A list of all of the National Medalists is published on our website each spring.

Jurors look for works that exemplify the Awards' core values: originality, skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. They want to celebrate work that is unique and blurs boundaries. They want work that challenges your assumptions. Is it new? Does it surprise you? An original work is different from what others have created. This means the work is not copied from someone else's original art or writing. They understand that artists and writers sometimes make work that references other creators and popular culture in original and meaningful ways, but every work that wins an award must be substantially different from any source material. They interpret the word "skill" broadly. This may refer to craftsmanship and the way the work was made, but it may also refer to other types of skill. Consider critical thinking, problemsolving, or the way an idea is developed over time. Empathy can be a skill. Creativity is a skill! The judges look for work that expresses an authentic perspective and stands out from classroom assignments and social media trends. Lane Cannon ('24) was awarded the Gold Key regionally for his portfolio of photography

he submitted entitled, "Where the Wild Things Are". He is passionate about nature conservation and even spent the summer with National Geographic learning new photography skills. His portfolio consisted of work about nature and the impact it has had on his life. This body of work will now advance to the national level, where he will be judged for scholarships.

National Medalists are eligible for scholarships of up to \$12,500. The American Visions Award for art and the American Voices Award for writing are prestigious honors that represent each region of the Scholastic Awards. The Awards' core values of originality, skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision are key factors in the selection process. Additionally, regional jurors may consider various elements that showcase talent and diversity, such as different mediums, viewpoints, and backgrounds. Jurors from each region can select up to five works to be American Visions or Voices Award Nominees. To be nominated for the American Visions or Voices Award, participants must first earn a Gold Key in their region. These nominated works are then reviewed by national judges to receive American Visions or Voices Medals. One nominee from each region will be selected to receive a National American Visions or Voices Medal. Affiliate Partners that manage both art and writing regions will have two participants selected for this award: one for the American Visions Medal and one for the American Voices Medal. National Medalists and their educators are honored with a star-studded ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Regional, national, and traveling exhibitions showcase selections of award-winning student work each year. Selections of student work are highlighted in the annual art catalog and writing anthology publications, and a list of all National Medalists is included in the Yearbook.













# IVEY LEAGUE BASKETBALL

WRITTEN BY: KARL IVEY, VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL COACH

In its inaugural year at Brookstone, students in the Lower and Intermediate Schools had the opportunity to experience a co-ed, winter basketball season presented and organized by Ivey League Basketball. Head Boys Basketball Coach, Karl Ivey II, established the league to provide an in-house opportunity for the Brookstone Community to learn basketball skills in a competitive and fun environment.

Ivey League Basketball provides a fundamental foundation for its participants while emphasizing sportsmanship, teamwork, and character. This past season, Ivey League had several Brookstone faculty, staff, and students volunteer in various capacities. Clinics were run by the Head of School, Henry Heil; Adam Anthony, LJ Billingsley, and Dr. John Harkey. Team practices were led by parent volunteers, which helped build a more cohesive and stronger community. Most importantly, the Ivey League ensured every child participant had a fun and enjoyable experience learning and playing the game of basketball. The joy and excitement on their faces were truly infectious. Ivey League looks forward to developing young athletes next winter season, and we can't wait to see the same enthusiasm from all of you.



# ARTWORK MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS THE GLOBE



### WRITTEN BY: GRETCHEN BRAND, UPPER SCHOOL ART TEACHER

Drawing and Advanced Placement Art Students participated in the Memory Project - A youth arts organization that promotes intercultural understanding and kindness between children throughout the world. Students proposed funding for the project to the Student Philanthropy Fund Committee, and The Memory Project provided portraits of Syrian refugee children. Accompanying these photos were information about each child's favorite things and three words to describe themselves. The Brookstone students then recreated the portraits for the children, who received them in April. Brookstone School is proud to have been part of this project, which was begun in 2004 at the University of Wisconsin by the project's founder, Ben Schumaker.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE A VIDEO OF THE SYRIAN CHILDREN RECEIVING THE ARTWORK DONE BY BROOKSTONE STUDENTS



### WRITTEN BY: CELEBRATING CULTURES PLANNING COMMITTEE

During Brookstone School's 2nd annual Celebrating Cultures: One School, Many Stories week in March, 3K-12 students joined together to create the Sparking Kindness All School Art Project, visited a Pop-Up Museum to explore places, countries, and cultures, and enjoyed an All School Assembly featuring Caribbean Dancers of Atlanta.

### All School Artwork:

Inspired by Laila Lindsey's ('28) artwork, 3K-12 students shared how they felt they could spark kindness in their communities. They tied these colorful ideas and actions together to create a beautiful reminder of our shared efforts and experiences. Laila explained, "If you zoom in [on the B], you will see tiny lit matches. If you trace back to where it started, you will see a more visible match. The bigger match represents whoever may be reading the mural. They may only be one person, but they can still make a difference."



### Pop-Up Museum of Cultural Displays:

As an addition to this year's celebration, students had the opportunity to learn about the places and cultures important to families in their school community. Students visited a pop-up museum

displays of pictures, clothing items, flags, textiles, art, music, musical instruments, books, toys, dolls, cultural decor, and family heirlooms representing Chile, Egypt, Jamaica, Jordan, Puru, Pakistan, Paraguay, Scotland, African-American culture and Kwanzaa, the History & Importance of The Black Church, Iran and Persian culture, United Kingdom and British culture, New Orleans and Mardi Gras, and Netherlands and Dutch culture. A special thank you to our families who curated these impressive and thoughtful table displays: Borr, Chambers, Cluverius, Cole, Del Castillo, Farmer, Foster, Hancock-Verweij, Hunter, create Jamani-Syed, Kalish, Miley, Pinkerton, Smith, Suragh, Uweh, Valadi, Wehrhahn, Westguard, and Young.

## All School Assembly Featuring Caribbean Dancers of Atlanta:

The week culminated with a 3K-12 Assembly during which students enjoyed performances by Caribbean Dancers of Atlanta. The joy and fun spilled onto the gym floor as students of all ages joined with some dancing of their own!

### Celebrating Cultures Planning Committee:

Meghan Blackmon, Director of Servant Leadership & Blanchard Leadership Institute

Leigh Anne Floyd, Servant Leadership

Bonnie Smith, Assistant Head of School & Director of the Learning Center

Javonne Stewart, Head of the Lower and Intermediate Schools



































# **BROOKSTONE CAREER DAY**

WRITTEN BY: MEG STEWART, DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING & ALUMNI RELATIONS

On Friday, March 29th, the senior class of 2024 attended the Alumni Career Day presentation. This year, we were excited to have Alumnus Christopher Woodruff '97, President of The Cotton Companies and Alumni, Avery Hudson '13, Delta, join us to discuss their career paths.



**CHRISTOPHER WOODRUFF '97 President of The Cotton Companies** 

With 25 years of real estate experience, Christopher Woodruff has worked in every facet of both residential and commercial real estate, from property management and marketing to business development, investment, and asset acquisition. He is the founder and CEO of The Cotton Companies, an independent real estate development and investment firm in Columbus, Georgia. Established in 2015, The Cotton Company's mission is to create positive growth in the community through the built environment. Their most recent transformative developments Highside Market and Midcity Yards. His cumulative career and development, construction, management, sales, leasing, and investment is associated with over \$190 million in developmental investments in the Columbus, Georgia region. Chris has substantially impacted his hometown and region through development and community service and has been recognized repeatedly with numerous awards recognitions. Chris has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Colorado-Boulder, Master's in Real Estate Development from Auburn University, and a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis on Entrepreneurship and Innovation from Clemson University.



**AVERY HUDSON MONTHERO** ('13)

Delta Airlines

After graduating from Brookstone School in 2013, Avery majored in Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Georgia. She began training to become a Delta Flight Attendant in her final semester. During her four years of flying out of Minnesota and New York, she began volunteering with Delta's flight attendant mental health program, loving it so much that she pursued it fulltime. However, her curiosity about how data could impact flight attendants' well-being led her to a new path. Last year, she graduated from a 9-month course in analytics with Delta. Since September, she has been working full-time as a data engineer supporting the In-Flight Field and Catering teams by designing, maintaining, and optimizing data infrastructure to improve flight attendant schedules, trip assignments, and quality of life.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW MORE CAREER DAY PRESENTATIONS



# SWEETHEART DANCE



















AERIAL VIEW OF BROOKSTONE SCHOOL CAMPUS



# PERSONAL APPROACH

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP 2024

WRITTEN BY: MEGHAN BLACKMON, DIRECTOR OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP & BLANCHARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Servant Leadership is central to the Brookstone experience. We strive to help students serve others while developing as leaders. We encourage students to be engaged and active citizens who are poised to make a positive difference in the world. The best part about Servant Leadership is that it is not a class or club for a select few; it is, instead, for all students, faculty, and family members. Service is one of our Brookstone core values, and it is evident every day at Brookstone.

This Spring, our students have been busy taking part in a variety of service projects to benefit our community. Our youngest students served in monthly after school service opportunities, and many re-connected with their partner organizations from their Weeks of Service in the fall. The Intermediate School students also hosted the students from Truth Spring Academy for an annual Easter Egg Hunt on our campus, while the Middle School students continued to visit Fox Elementary and serve as Reading Buddies to PreK and Kindergarten students. Our annual Upper School Day of Service occurred in March when all Upper School students participated in one of fifteen simultaneous service projects. These photographs capture our students in action this Spring.

58

STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-12 WHO EARNED A PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD DURING THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

10,500+

SERVICE HOURS LOGGED BY UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM MAY 1, 2023-APRIL 30, 2024

\$286,000+

ECONOMIC IMPACT EQUIVALENT OF SERVICE HOURS LOGGED BY UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM MAY 1, 2023 - APRIL 30, 2024































Brookstone's Head Chef, Mrs. Annie Grover, retired on April 14, 2024. Annie leaves behind a 47 year legacy of service to generations of people in the Brookstone community. She has nourished both body and soul, creating over 8,000 meals and serving them, to "her children" since she began her career with Brookstone School as a teenager. In celebration of her retirement, the Brookstone faculty, staff, and Annie's family gathered together to commemorate her years of service for "Annie Day."

# GO BLUE! GO WHITE! GO BLUE! GO WHITE! GO BL





























# BLUE! GO WHITE! GO BLUE! GO WHITE! GO BLUE!





























# CLASS NOTES



1980 —

**#1** The class is honored to remember fellow classmate Mona Crawford. They came together to contribute toward a memorial gift to the school in Mona's honor. This gift was given "In memory of our sweet Mona Crawford, a girl who always greeted you with a cheerful smile and a clear hello that included your name!" It has become a class tradition to remember those who have passed away.

1997 ———



Henley Elizabeth Woodruff was born on April 16, 2024, at 9:48 AM weighing 6lbs 3oz and measuring 19" long. Henley is the daughter of alumni Chris Woodruff ('97) and his wife

*2001* —

#2 David King ('01) and wife Meghan welcomed their first child, Maxwell David King on March 15, 2024, in Atlanta, GA.

2002 ———



#3 Meg Stewart ('02) and husband her Matt welcomed a baby girl, Tyler Katharine Stewart on Saturday, June 15th, 2024, weighing 8lbs 2 oz. Tyler's sisters (Helen, Lizzie, and Allie) are over the moon!



**#4 Charity (Calhoun) Wagenti ('05)** opened Columbus Custom Rx Pharmacy Compounding and Wellness on Williams Road in January of this year. It is a customized compounding pharmacy for vet, pediatrics, and adult medications while also filling regular prescriptions. The pharmacy also has high-quality supplements and vitamins.

#5 Adele Stone ('05) and her husband Hofer welcomed their son, Turner Knight Stone, on June 3, 2024. Della, Jack, and CeCe are the proud big siblings and adore their new baby brother.

2006 -



Rhodes Berry ('06) finished nine years of Active Duty service as a Judge Advocate, leaving the US Air Force with the rank of Major. Rhodes began his civilian attorney career as General Counsel for the US Department of Energy at the Berkeley National Laboratory.

*2009* —



#6 Evelyn Henson ('09) married Johnny Kyger at Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus, GA. The wedding party featured several Brookstone alums: the bride's siblings Jackie Henson ('09), Kenny Henson ('09), Nell Henson Bailey ('10), and Ted Henson; the bride's sister-in-law Catherine Hudson Henson ('13), and classmates Paige Janke Wilgus ('09) and Sarah Slaughter ('09). The couple currently resides in Charlotte, NC.

2010 —

**#7** William Farley Merchant was born on May 19, 2024, in Columbus, Georgia. He weighed in at 6lbs 8oz and 19 inches. Parents are Carson Farley Merchant ('10) and William (Bill) Randolph Merchant.















### 2013 -

**#8 Jeremy Mack ('13)** was selected as a faculty member for the Southern Association for College Admissions Counseling's (SACAC) Dry Run Program. Dry Run is a program designed to educate new college admissions professionals on the best practices in our industry and best serve the students and families that they recruit. Jeremy will be presenting with admissions counselors or directors of admissions from Sewanee (TN), Vanderbilt (TN), Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University (LA), and University School of Nashville (TN), and The Walker School (GA). He will be leading three sessions at the conference on financial aid, managing student workers, and navigating the admissions counselor - college counselor relationship.

### 2015 -

**Lucas Wolff ('15)** graduated from Samford University with his MBA and JD from Cumberland School of Law this past May. He and his wife, Mary, and their one-year-old son, Luke, will be relocating to Washington, DC, this summer, so he can start his LLM in Taxation at Georgetown University School of Law.

### 2016 -

**#9** Elizabeth Mayher Hamrick was born on May 16, 2024, at 10:14 AM weighing 5 lbs 13 oz and measuring 19.75 inches long. "Eliza" is the daughter of alumni **Andrew ('15) & Shannon ('16) Hamrick** and granddaughter of alumni and teacher **Joy Bohn ('86)**. Alumni **Laura Snyder ('06)** delivered baby Eliza.

### **2018 –**

**#10 James Russell Blanchard ('18),** 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force, married Sarah Gordy on May 24, 2024.

### 2021 -

**#11 Jordan Brown ('21),** is currently the Senior Class President at Spelman College. Over the summer, she has interned for Disney under the Marketing and Advertising Sales Team.

### 2023 —

**#12 DJ Brown ('23)** was selected for the 2024 Goldman Sachs Market Madness Program. Throughout the program, DJ gained experience directly from Goldman Sachs professionals about finance and economics in the current business landscape. He also had the opportunity to participate in a case study competition with Nike. When asked about his experience, DJ stated, "This experience has truly broadened my perspective and equipped me with many skills that will benefit me with my future career goals in the business field.

### 2024-2025 ALUMNI BOARD

The purpose of the Alumni Board is to provide an organized group of alumni who support, promote, and encourage the school, and these individuals will inspire other alumni to be more active in the school. They will also serve as a sounding board for the Brookstone Alumni Department and help determine its focus.

If you are interested in learning more about the Alumni Board and getting involved in Alumni activities, please contact Meg G. Stewart, Alumni and Annual Fund Director, at mstewart@brookstoneschool.org.

Clayton Adams '94 Alice Cellino '98 Ivey Evans '02 Caroline Kennon '13 Rachael Peek '88 Andy Philips '73 Kim Rozycki '83 Cathryn Smitherman '02 Harrison Wallace '03 Lane White '06 Katie Waldrep '98

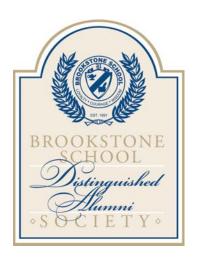


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# SAVE THE DATE SPRING 2025

The Brookstone Distinguished Alumni Society Award honors Brookstone graduates who have made significant contributions to society and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the legacy for Brookstone.

We look forward to honoring our newest inductees this Spring! Be on the lookout for more information regarding this event.

# SAVE THE DATE!



# ALUMNI HOMECOMING AND REUNIONS









# **JOIN US OCTOBER 18TH - 19TH**

**OCTOBER 18TH** 

ALL ALUMNI PICNIC 5:30PM

BROOKSTONE VS. WESTFIELD 7:30PM

MACK STRONG STADIUM

### **OCTOBER 19TH**

### **REUNIONS & CLASS CELEBRATIONS**

1974,1979\*,1984\*, 1989\*,1994,1999, 2004, 2009, 2014

\*PLEASE CONTACT THE ALUMNI OFFICE TO START PLANNING YOUR CLASS REUNION



## THE BROOKSTONE FUND WORK?

All members of the Brookstone family including parents, alumni, grandparents, parents of alumni, trustees, faculty and staff, and friends are asked to make a contribution to The Brookstone Fund.

### THE HEAD OF SCHOOL SOCIETY

Join The Head of School Society! Donors at the Head of School Circle level and above will now be considered part of this special society of supporters. We hope you will consider a gift and celebrate the 2023-2024 campaign with us in the fall of 2024 at a special event!

### **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Meg Stewart at mstewart@brookstoneschool.org