

THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL



2024

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THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

is one of the nation’s premiere coeducational independent schools for students in grades 5-12. For almost 50 years, its rigorous academic requirements, leadership education, athletic opportunities and personalized college search program have given students outstanding preparation for higher education and professional leadership.



Work Hard, Play Hard. Edwin Price joins in the May Day fun!

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Cover: 2024 graduates Lucine Carsen, Caitlin Cornelius and Kirstan Davie perform in Mama Mia!

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UV ink and varnish and recycled paper.

State of the School

Altamont Head of School Cecil Stodghill reflected on two years of progress and ongoing improvements for his State of the School address this spring.

Revitalized Middle School

Stodghill observed that Altamont is its own best feeder school, and “students who are here the longest are academically more successful”. But, he said, Altamont’s middle school students “are not just here waiting to come to high school.” They need unique opportunities in academics, arts and athletics, he said, as well as dedicated spaces and counseling services. A two-division, Upper School and Middle School system with separate administrators and a new, full-time Middle School counselor help maintain that focus.

Health and Safety

“Since health and safety has to be the first thing we consider when choosing schools, health and safety has to be the first thing we consider as we run the school,” Stodghill said. Toward that end, Altamont is implementing the recommendations of a comprehensive safety and security audit completed in consultation with a local emergency management agency and the Birmingham Police Department. In addition to the new counselor, ongoing improvements include upgraded risk mitigation for Fall Project Week, improved facility security, and a full-time Human Resources and Risk Management Officer. Starting this fall, Altamont also employs a full-time School Resource Officer.

Community Focus

Altamont has expanded the scope of the C. Kyser Miree Ethical Leadership Center and redesigned Fall Project Week to focus on expanding worldview, developing life skills, building community, and reinforcing curriculum. The changes make the most of unique local resources, emphasize learning-by-doing, and involve all Altamont students in their community.

Athletics

More than half of Altamont’s students compete on one or more athletic teams, and continue to bring home area and state titles in multiple sports. New on-campus

athletic facilities—which serve all students—include a new tennis complex that supports the players in a challenging new division, permanent soccer goals to supplement an off-campus field, and a new track to help theKnights defend titles in track and field. Stodghill said the school also is actively exploring possibilities for new team sports.

Academics

A challenging and innovative curriculum nurtures student achievement. Starting this fall, Altamont is increasing AP course options overall and offering a new interdisciplinary course—Honors American History—that is engaged with the living history of the city and region in addition to helping students develop analytical thinking, research and writing skills. Stodghill noted that Altamont is located at “ground zero of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States,” and will use that access to educate students in ways a standard AP course cannot.

Faculty Retention

Hiring and retaining outstanding teachers provides essential consistency for students and the school climate. To achieve this, Stodghill said, teachers must be recognized as professionals, paid appropriately and resourced “to help them hone their craft of helping children”. Already, Altamont has reduced faculty turnover from the 15-20 % per year that characterized the last decade, to 7-8 % now.

Looking beyond Altamont’s 50th anniversary in 2025, Stodghill said the school’s Board of Trustees is developing a new master site plan that will add classrooms and provide solutions for traffic and parking challenges. Securing that future far beyond the current generation of teachers and students and staff depends on the entire Altamont community, he said. “It’s not so much about my vision,” he said. “It’s about our evolution.”

WELCOME TO ALTAMONT!

Help us welcome outstanding new faculty and staff!

Paul Campbell

School Resource Officer

Paul Campbell comes to Altamont with four years of experience as an SRO, with previous posts at 13 Academy and Crestwood Day School.

Anna Darden

Latin Teacher

Ph.D., Classics. University of Chicago

B.A., Classics. Reed College

Anna Darden joins our Latin program after serving as Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics at Northwestern University and Birmingham-Southern College, and as an instructor at the University of Chicago.

Amanda Hardie

Assistant Director of College Counseling

M.B.A., Marketing and Business Strategy,

Rutgers University

B.A., American Studies, Rutgers University

Amanda Hardie joins our College Counseling Office after two decades of experience in higher education enrollment management, including service as Admissions Counselor, Director of Recruitment and Assistant Dean at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, and as Director of Admission and Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management at Birmingham-Southern College.

Katherine Mehaffey

Learning Specialist

M.E., Special Education, University of South Alabama

M.E., Kinesiology

B.S., Interdisciplinary Studies, Samford University

Katherine Mehaffey comes to Altamont with significant experience as a Special Education Resource Teacher, most recently for Clay and Pine Grove Elementary Schools.

Louise “Lulu” Null

Front Office Administrator

B.A., English Literature, The University of Alabama

Lulu Null brings to Altamont’s front office extensive business experience. Her professional service includes daily retail operations and management, most recently as an Assistant Store Manager for J. Jill Inc.

Sheri Salmon

Director of Athletics

B.A., Business Administration, Birmingham

Southern College

Sheri Salmon comes to Altamont as Director of Athletics after more than forty years at Birmingham-Southern College, including service as Dean of Enrollment Management, Vice President for Admissions and, most recently, as Associate Athletic Director for Academic Services. As an NAIA All American student athlete, she led BSC Tennis to a ranking of seventh in the nation, four consecutive District 27 Championships and four NAIA National Tournaments. She is a member of the Birmingham-Southern College Sports Hall of Fame.

HomeWork

Experiential
Learning Reaches
*Every Altamont
Student*





Altamont's C. Kyser Miree Ethical Leadership Center drives the school's community engagement and cultivates a local-to-global leadership ethos in every aspect of school life. Since the center's founding in 2010, Upper School students have developed more than 120 initiatives to meet needs as close as the school's neighborhood and as far away as war-torn Ukraine. Center Director Beth Dille developed Altamont's Middle School program specifically to introduce participating Middle School students to this work and help them feel that they are valued members of the school and broader community.

Now that the center reaches select students at every level, its work is expanding to reach every student through grade-level experiential learning. "If a student goes here between fifth and twelfth grade, they will have had eight different partnerships with organizations within the Birmingham community," Dille said. They might not participate in the Middle School program or develop their passions into long-term initiatives through the Miree Center, but they will carry those

experiences with them and understand that they have opportunities and responsibilities to affect change in the world.

Experiential learning with community partners introduces students to a range of complex challenges and helps them thrive in the discomfort those competencies can bring. Dille cites the Middle School partnership with Founders Place as an example of how these experiences go beyond simple field trips. By spending time with participants in the program for adults with memory challenges, students help provide caregiver respite, make meaningful connections across generations and begin to see a bigger picture about how society cares for people. Likewise, Upper School students who visit Jones Valley Teaching Farm aren't simply lending a hand for a day, Dille said. They are "authentically and organically building this relationship with Jones Valley" that can grow into a long-term partnership with the school and help students understand how they can help address food scarcity and eliminate food deserts.



Challenging leadership experiences are found on-campus, too. Each year, students studying nonprofit marketing in Joanna Laney's sixth-grade math classes hear proposals from Upper School Miree Center students, choose those they think will be most impactful, and work to raise thousands of dollars in support of the work. Student-led work such as Johnny Stumpff's Knights Fighting Hunger initiative inspire volunteers from all grades and use the campus as the center of operations.

A growing program of guest speakers also helps inform students about critically important community issues and highlights unique approaches to addressing them. Last fall the Miree Center organized a leadership conference for its Upper School students, bringing to school a mix of elected officials and community-minded businesspeople and nonprofit leaders. The students then met these partners in their own spaces in Birmingham to learn more about their daily work. Students returned with new ideas about professional and community opportunities, and noted the power of being included and treated with respect by people who could have used their time and business resources otherwise. The partners were impressed, too. "Every single one

of these community leaders has told us that they would love to continue a relationship with our students," Dille said. "That is really impressive to me, and it says a lot about our students—that they were engaged, that they were asking the right questions, that they were genuine in wanting to learn more."

Relationships that began at the conference grew to include internships for Altamont students this summer, with the Miree Center organizing immersive, formally guided opportunities with The Centers for Disease Control and Southern Research, Birmingham Legion Football Club, CRC Insurance, Birmingham Hand & Plastic Surgery, and the Office of the Mayor of Birmingham. One student was so inspired by an on-campus talk by education innovator Donna Dukes and students from Maranathan Academy that she worked on her own to set up an internship with the school for critically at-risk students. That is the picture of how this is meant to work for students, Dille said. "We want to be giving them all of these opportunities so that they learn that it is exciting and worthwhile, for the community and themselves, to seek out those things on their own."



As part of taking on responsibility for their experiences, students must self-evaluate changes in their cultural perspective or worldview. When they do that, Dille said, they recognize the transformative power of their experiences, and express them as a unique value of their Altamont education as they transition to college. “What our kids talk about in their interviews or their personal essays are not their grades—they’re these personal experiences,” she said.

Beyond Altamont and beyond college, Dille said Altamont graduates carry with them the deep experience and intellectual tools to lead in whatever area sparks their passion. “The more opportunities that we can give students to exercise the muscle of community engagement, the more they will understand how to do it, where they can then do it themselves, without us.”



**Learn More about The
C. Kyser Miree Center
for Ethical Leadership**

Global Competencies

Altamont’s leadership education is guided by a set of Global Competencies, developed with the Global Educator Benchmarking Group to give validity to what our school community is already doing, establish a common language for discussion, and provide educators with a guide for extending their classrooms.

Mission: We encourage students to view themselves as integral contributors to society who actively seek to effect social, cultural, and global change in an ethical manner. Through experiential learning and action, we emphasize the development of collaborative and responsible leadership skills in a complex and diverse world.

Social Responsibility and Global Citizenship

- Students understand and respect the varied customs and beliefs of individuals in a world community.
- Students seek to improve society for people and planet through civic engagement and ongoing partnerships.

Personal Growth and Self-Awareness

- Students have the courage to take risks and embrace mistakes with humility, grace and a willingness to learn.
- Students are mindful of their own identity and understand how their worldview, motives and emotions influence their interactions with others.

Communication and Collaboration

- Students communicate effectively using strategies such as constructive dialogue, active listening, and compromise.
- Students collaborate with individuals of diverse perspectives, applying an understanding of intercultural differences to work effectively in complex environments.

In every grade, Altamont students explore diverse opportunities in the visual arts, music and theatre. With active artists as teachers, outstanding facilities and rich local arts resources, student creativity is exceptionally well supported. This year's performances and exhibits earned students top honors.

Best-In-Show Among New Theatre Honors

Altamont Theatre continues to amaze audiences with the quality of performances and production. Students earned more than 50 individual and group honors in district and state competition at the Walter Trumbauer High School Theatre Festivals this year. The school's production of A Chorus Line led with Best in Show, Best Ensemble, Best Group Musical Number of the Day, Best Performer in a Supporting Role, and All-Star Cast awards. Many of those students returned to the stage for Mama Mia! Middle School students supported the Upper School cast in that production, and also persevered through a winter storm to bring Annie! To Altamont's stage.

Altamont Students Earn Top Honors in Printmaking, Mixed Media

Cecilia Weinert earned 1st Place in the Middle School Printmaking Division of the Alabama State Council of the Arts (ASCA) Exhibition of Regional Winners, selected from artists around the entire

state. She earned the same award at district-level competition, while Calli Hontzas earned 1st Place in High School Printmaking and Marie Cox earned 1st Place in High School Mixed Media.

Musicians Debut New Work, Impress Festival Judges

The Altamont School Orchestra premiered a new contemporary work at its Winter concert, representing Alabama in the 50-school consortium that commissioned "Four Future Memories" by contemporary composer Stephanie Ann Boyd. Boyd developed the The 50 State String Orchestra Project to give youth ensembles an affordable experience of classical music commissioning. Altamont music teacher Landon Rogan specifically requested arrangement of the resulting work for full orchestra in addition to Boyd's arrangement for string orchestra. So, in addition to premiering the work in Alabama, Altamont's musicians were the only ensemble in the nation performing that arrangement.



Altamont's Jazz Band scored two "Excellent" marks and a "Superior" mark at the Smoky Mountain Music Festival, while the Orchestra scored all "Excellent" marks and was within three points of "Superior" with all three judges. Music production students are exploring studio recording thanks to new technology additions that include professional Digital Audio Workstations (DAW,) an audio interface, studio headphones, a MIDI keyboard, and interconnectivity with our vocal booth and Band room.

Group Sculpture Highlighted in Local Exhibition

Student artists George Benson, Jack Boehm, Tyler Daniels, Robert Flynn, Alex Gettinger, Carl Grahs, Eric Grahs, Carolyn Johnson, Josie Knorr, Twinkle Kukreja, Jon Michael Mugavero, Cesar Raymundo-Vega, Will Sawyer and Katie Soong earned 2nd Place in the Magic City Art Connection's high school sculpture competition. The group

created "Turmoil of the Mind" in response to the competition's theme of lightning, and exhibited the work at Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark.

Two Ways of Seeing

The Altamont School was honored to hear from our own photography teacher, Amber Quinn (above), as part of our X Period Speaker Series this year. She presented her ongoing "Two Ways of Seeing" scholarship, photography and recordings, and students explored the work's themes in class. "Two Ways of Seeing" is an archive documenting a variety of perspectives of very specific moments or experiences of another person's life. It also engages wider concerns about race and identity in America today, and attempts to reconcile the lack of photographic documentation within a larger cultural condition.

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Pierce, Williams Named National Merit Scholars

Class of '24 graduates Claudia Williams and Riley Pierce were among only 2,500 Merit Scholar designees in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Pierce also earned a National African American Recognition Award (NAARA) from the College Board National Recognition Programs, and was Salutatorian for Altamont's Class of 2024, U.S. Lacrosse All Academic American, All-State Lacrosse First Team and a team captain for the State Champion Vestavia Hills Lacrosse Organization. He is continuing both his lacrosse career and academic achievement at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) this fall.



The National Merit Indiana University Bloomington Scholarship took Williams to Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where she is studying Oboe Performance in the studio of Linda Strommen, and double-majoring in political science. The accomplished multi-instrumentalist has earned many other extracurricular and school honors, including All-State Orchestra, Altamont's Sophia Mize Clifford Music Award, and the honor for most outstanding Upper School Mandarin student.



Vance Earns College Board Honors

Ryan Vance joined Riley Pierce in earning a National African American Recognition Award from the College Board National Recognition Programs. The honors celebrate students' hard work in high school and showcase their strong academic performance.

Vanlandingham Earns Valedictorian Honor

Olivia Vanlandingham earned Altamont's top academic honor in recognition of the highest academic achievement among the graduating seniors. The Class of '24 Valedictorian's other achievements include a perfect ACT score, Altamont's Clarice Locke Award for the outstanding Upper School math student, the Global Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish, and multiple regional and state honors as part of Altamont Theatre productions.



Writing Honors

Altamont's annual Poetry Competition is its oldest tradition. The 2024 winners, chosen by an external judge, were Maya Davis (overall festival winner), Claudia Williams (1st US), Landon Dowe (2nd US), Liyah Keahey (3rd US), Elizabeth Taylor (1st MS), Rama Al-Balas (1st MS), Safi Salvary (2nd MS). Altamont students earned 18 of the top awards and 15 Honorable Mentions in the regional level of the prestigious Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Aaditya Raval earned a Silver Medal in the national Scholastic competition. Altamont students also earned seven of the nine middle school awards presented in this year's University of Mississippi Writing Competition. Altamont's Acta Diurna newspaper earned Second Place and Most Improved Online Newspaper honors from the American Scholastic Press Association.

Language Honors

Altamont Latin students returned from the Alabama Junior Classical League convention with top-three honors in individual and team categories for Pentathlon, Mythology, Grammar, History, Vocabulary and Athletic Olympiad. AJ Gallitz, James Henrich, Aadi Raval and Guy Thrower joined the Alabama delegation at the National Junior Classical League convention at the University of Tennessee this summer. French students earned top individual and group honors for their work at the sport-themed convention of the Alabama Federation of French Clubs, with Bien, Très Bien and Supérieur awards in categories including Dictation, Choral, Interpersonal Speaking, Skit, Video and Oral and Written Communication.



Math Kangaroo

Altamont Middle School students made an impressive showing in the national Math Kangaroo competition. Jagguth Gutti ranked 1st in Alabama and 8th in the nation. Manasvini Chava ranked 3rd in the state and 40th in the nation. Jaishnay Gutti, Miles Armstrong and Bea Marcus all ranked in the top 10 in Alabama. All of the Altamont competitors were in the top 25 in Alabama.

Peter Defends Chess Title

Sarah Peter earned first place in the 2024 All Girls State Chess Championship, and represented Alabama for the second consecutive year at the 12th Annual Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Chess Champions.



ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Debaters Excel on National Stage

Altamont Debate Teams had another impressive year of competition, capped by serious contention for a national title. Serena Blutter and Johnny Stumpff qualified for the June National Speech and Debate Association Tournament. They posted a 9-3 record in Policy Division preliminaries, and Stumpff earned 11th place speaker honors out of all of the qualified debaters in the division. Stumpff and Parker Denson qualified for the Tournament of Champions at the University of Kentucky in April. In February, Will McLain was named First Speaker and champion of the Middle School Lincoln-Douglas division of the 39th Annual Stanford University Debate Invitational.



Robotics Team Returns to State Competition

Both Altamont Upper School Robotics Teams returned to the Alabama High School State Vex Robotics Tournament this year, and qualification for the World Championship is in reach for 2025. A growing Middle School Robotics Team signals long-term success for the program.



Au Revoir et Merci!

Beloved French singer-songwriter Eric Vincent presented his last Altamont concert in November after entertaining and helping educate French students for 40 years. He presented his farewell concert to an audience that included alumni, friends, and students and teachers from Altamont and other community schools. He sang his popular favorites and invited his audience to sing along on several, including *Il n'y a plus de crocodiles à Cocody*, complete with the traditional crowd-surfing inflatable crocodile.

Learn More!





Altamont **Basketball** is breaking away, with outstanding performances at all levels. The **Varsity Boys** were area champions, and undefeated in area play for the first time in a decade. Robert Flynn was named area tournament MVP, while Greyson Horton and Ryan Vance earned all-tournament honors. The team played deep into the AHSAA Regional tournament, and finished as runner-up.

The **Middle School Girls** also had a perfect season, pointing to a bright future for the growing varsity team.

First-year **Varsity Girls** player Madison Goldberg was selected for the All Area Team.

The **Grades 5/6 Boys White** and **Gold** teams provided a strong foundation for coming years of Middle School and Varsity play, with the Gold team finishing only one game short of the championship.

Altamont continued to grow in its reputation as a track and field powerhouse last year, with athletes posting personal records and championship performances in every category. **Cross Country** led the way in the fall, with boys and girls teams earning section champion honors—the third consecutive section title for the girls. Harris Strang was section champion, joined by multiple Knights in the All-Section/Top 10 honors. Both teams finished second in competition for the AHSAA state title. Harris Strang and Laura Spann were selected for the AHSAA All-Star North Cross Country teams, and Spann's team won the state competition in July.

Many of the same athletes pushed on into the **Indoor Track and Field** season, earning more individual and team honors. The girls finished third in state competition, with performances that included a third state title in pole vault for Merritt

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



Fulmer, the title in triple jump for Talia Floyd, and the second consecutive title in 4x800 relay for Claire Nichols, Frances Overton, Mary Spann and Elle Sellers.

The **Outdoor Track** season wrapped with the girls retaining their crown as Alabama 3A champions and the boys meeting their goal of a top-10 finish. Merrit Fulmer retained her state title in pole vault, Knights were in the top-3 in five other individual and team events, and had an additional 13 top-8 finishes.

Team runners and all other students are enjoying the new track installed on campus this summer.

Altamont girls posted a winning **Tennis** season in spite of the school's promotion to a tougher division this year. Kaavya Karthikeyan was selected for the AHSAA All-Star North Team. The Knights have outstanding new facilities this year thanks to the donors who made possible the Susan W. Keith '79 Tennis Complex (see sidebar).

Middle School White and **Gold Volleyball** teams both had winning seasons, and the White team finished as division runner up in the BRIAA tournament. The performances offer great promise for the future of the Varsity team.

The **Boys Golf** team was undefeated in the regular season, qualified for its 17th consecutive sub-state tournament, and fell just 13-strokes short of a trip to the state tournament. Ben Wetta shot the sub-state tournament low score (76) to earn a spot at the State Tournament. Overall, three Knights posted leading scores in matches or tournaments.

The **Girls Golf** team had a winning season, too, qualified for the sub-state tournament for the ninth consecutive year, and had four Knights post leading scores in matches or tournaments.

Altamont Baseball wrapped its season as first in area.



Boys and Girls Soccer teams both finished second in the region, and Eliza Riley '24 signed to play soccer for Centre College. In addition to soccer facilities at Altamont's Comer Sports Complex, permanent new soccer goals on campus create new options for practice and competition.

Riley Pierce '24— U.S. **Lacrosse** All Academic American, All-State Lacrosse First Team and a team captain for the State Champion Vestavia Hills Lacrosse Organization—signed to play Lacrosse for Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Altamont has a growing community of competitive **cyclists** riding for local teams, and they're finding great success. In addition to other honors last year, Sarah Marshall won the ACA Mountain Bike State Championship, Madison Comer finished in the top 20, and Asher Rotenstreich finished with another strong performance.

Tennis Complex Honors Susan Keith

More than 100 guests assembled March 17 as The Altamont School dedicated the Susan W. Keith '79 Tennis Complex. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, school officials, alumni, students and friends noted the powerful influence of the longtime teacher and coach, who joined the faculty of her Alma Mater in 1988. Keith, in turn, recalled the mentorship of coach Melinda Whitt, who introduced her to tennis in the seventh grade at Brooke Hill School, which merged with Birmingham University School to create The Altamont School in 1975. Love for the game grew in Keith and she joined the school's tennis team as a sophomore. Keith's love of physical education grew, too, thanks to Whitt. "She put something on my heart right then that made me want to teach PE," Keith said. "The reason I'm still at Altamont has to do with that PE teacher". Through almost forty years of service at the Altamont School, Keith maintains that passion, dedication and recognition of the importance of play, not only for generations of tennis players, but for all students. "I don't go to a job every day," she said. "I come to school to play."

The Susan W. Keith '79 Tennis Complex- was made possible by a host of generous donors, including:

Deshazo Foundation

Mrs. Shannon '96 and Mr. Bret '93 Connor

Lyons Family Foundation

Mr. James L. North, Jr. '92

Altec/Styslinger Foundation

Kat '98 and Eric Rogers

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Haskell

Mr. and Mrs. Drayton Nabers, Jr.

Jimmy '45, Jim '83 and James '20 Shepherd

ANNUAL HONORS



Serena Blutter - Donovan Award

Lucine Carsen - Altamont Citizenship Award, David Hart White Spanish Award, Global Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish, Bronze Service Award

Kirstan Davie - Global Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish

Maya Davis - Gold Service Award

Parker Wynn Denson - Margaret Gresham Livingston Leadership Award, Jeanne Classé Armes de Paris Medal

Lillian Beatrice Dyson - Hallie Porter Shook Cup
Travis Franklin - Arts & Humanities Award, Gold Service Award

A.J. Gallitz - Smiley Award

Nivedha Goli - Allene Benners Martin Cup, The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

Andrew Herrin - Margaret Matthews Gage Prize in American History

Sariah Elizabeth Honeycutt - Paul Nii-Amar Amamoo Award

Reese Jeffery - Nancy Perrin Bailey Award, Global Seal of Biliteracy in French

Mary Carter Laney - Gold Service Award

Maggie Langloh - Mignon Comer Smith Book Award, Global Seal of Biliteracy in French

Kate Lowe - Bronze Service Award

Mia Mayo - Lynn Clark Creative Writing Scholarship

Emma McLain - The Katharine Ireland Mitchell Award

Bain Wendell Morris - The Lily Cup

Gregory Scott Melville - The Speech Arts Club of Birmingham Book Award

Frances Overton - Susan M. Hulsey French Prize, Joseph Wheeler Sewell Award, Global Seal of Biliteracy in French

Ashlyn Reynolds - Joyce Ackermann Scholarship

Ivan Riley - Bausch and Lomb Junior Class Science Award, U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

Chloe Shaffield - Global Seal of Biliteracy in French, Gold Service Award

James Milton Stephens - The Faculty Cup

Raju Sudarshan - The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

Richard Trenton Terrell - Joseph Wheeler Sewell Award

Olivia Vanlandingham - Clarice Locke Award, Global Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish

Andrew Watson - Most Outstanding Visual Artist Award, John Wallace Johnston History Award

Cecilia Weinert - Joyce Ackermann Scholarship

Sarah Ruth Whitley - Carver-Gorgas Senior Science Book Award

Claudia Williams - Outstanding Mandarin Student, Sophia Mize Clifford Music Award

Katharine Grace Whatley - Global Seal of Biliteracy in French

Sarah Whitley - Global Seal of Biliteracy in French



Rediker Honored for Teaching, Leadership

Altamont alumnus, Latin teacher and track and field coach Jamie Rediker '00 was honored with the 2024 Edna Earle Mullins Teaching Prize, which recognizes one faculty member who has excelled in teaching and has also demonstrated leadership abilities in The Altamont School and the educational community.

JP Hemingway, Assistant Head of School for Academics, praised Rediker's broad influence when she announced the honor. His passion for classics is infectious, she said, and when he joined the faculty in 2014 "he instantly became a student favorite because of his engaging lessons, his understated scholarship, and his tremendous work ethic."

"Maybe because [former Head of School and Latin teacher] Sarah Whiteside was his mentor," Hemingway continued, "or maybe it's just his teaching intuition, but he knows that much of what students learn and remember happens outside the classroom." Rediker has led students far afield, from state and regional Latin conventions all the way to Rome. He also has led Altamont student athletes to an astonishing nine State Championships in Track and Field, Indoor



Stodghill Chosen for SAIS Board

Altamont Head of School Cecil Stodghill has been chosen to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). The organization provides industry-leading accreditation, resources and professional programs for 390 member schools, representing a quarter-million students in the U.S., Caribbean and Latin America. "SAIS has a unique and essential mission in supporting the work of independent schools in this region—many in the Birmingham area," Stodghill said. "I am honored and humbled to join such great peers and colleagues in service."

Stodghill joined The Altamont School in 2022, after extensive experience in independent schools as a teacher, coach and administrator. The three-year SAIS board term, starting this year, is an exceptional opportunity for him to share that experience, which includes service to The Doane Stuart School, Providence Day School, Academy Prep Foundation, Berkeley Preparatory School and the McCallie School in his native Chattanooga, Tennessee.



Community Spotlight

Princeton Prize Honors Goli's Multicultural Dance Festival

Altamont senior Nivedha Goli has earned a Certificate of Merit from the Alabama Committee of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations. The honor recognizes the important work she has done to advance racial equity and foster positive race relations within our community, particularly through her development of an annual Multicultural Dance Festival, which showcases a variety of dance styles, including Salsa, belly dancing, ballet, Kathak, Bharatanatyam and other Indian classical dance forms. The event also included informational booths and traditional foods representing almost a dozen cultures.

Goli organized the first Multicultural Dance Festival as part of her work in The Altamont School's C. Kyser Miree Ethical Leadership Center, which guides students in long-term, community-focused initiatives of their own design. "The Miree Center has been a crucial part in the creation of this festival; it has granted me resources, connections, and valuable knowledge needed for the festival to happen," Goli said.

Goli's work with the Miree Center is inspired by a decade of experience dancing in the classical Indian Bharatanatyam form. She typically performs with the Nrityanjali studio, but for the 2024 festival in February she danced a duet with Altamont classmate Meghana Hiremagalore. The choice highlights the community emphasis of both the festival and the Miree Center. "My hopes for having

a multicultural dance festival were to create not only a sense of representation but also a sense of cultural inclusivity, learn more about the history and importance of dance in these different cultures, discover talent in our student body, and bring people together," Goli said.

Philanthropy Honorees Represent Best of Birmingham

Ninth-grade Altamont student Ethan Hill was among the nine individuals and organizations honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Alabama Chapter at its National Philanthropy Day event in November. Altamont's Advancement Office nominated Hill for the Bill Moran Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award in recognition of his exceptional service to homeless people in Birmingham.

Altamont alumni parent and benefactor Kathryn W. Miree joined Hill among the AFP honorees as the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham Outstanding Professional Advisor. In addition to service that includes board chair for the foundation, United Way and The Altamont School, she and Ben Miree created the C. Kyser Miree Center for Ethical Leadership to honor the memory of their son.

Hill— who also earned the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Citizen Honors Award this year— is one of hundreds of students who have benefited from the Center's immersive leadership education.

THANK YOU!



We have enjoyed an amazing year of Altamont advancement and alumni programs thanks to your participation! Our Knights Nation online community continues to grow, and we're also getting to meet you in person at alumni events.

The **Alumni Weekend** in December combined our annual holiday party with a soccer match and a moving evening of musical performances dedicated to former Altamont music teacher Nick Lacanski. Mark your calendars for Dec. 20-21, watch for details, and plan to join us for Alumni Weekend 2024!

This summer we welcomed all of our Brooke Hill School (BHS) and Birmingham University School (BUS) alumni for a special **50th anniversary celebration** of the classes of 1974. We were especially pleased that senior alumni Joanne Dunn

Blyde '47 and Sharp Gillespy '47 could join us for the celebration.

We welcomed our BHS family at a separate Brooke Hill Tea in June.

We restored **Grandparents Day** this year, and enjoyed a wonderful, multi-generational day on campus at Thanksgiving.

We also loved seeing you at our Sparkles & Spurs fundraiser in April, on the field and in the bleachers as you support Altamont athletics, and in the CKC as you share in outstanding music, theatre and dance performances.

We are grateful for your faithfulness to the next generation of Altamont alumni!

SPARKLES AND SPURS

Sparkles and Spurs had us in our hats and boots, trying hard to hang onto a mechanical bull, and bidding for fabulous donated items in a live auction led by auctioneer Christie King. You two-stepped up to help us close the gap between tuition and the actual cost of educating every Altamont student, and made it possible to replace a bus that was beyond its useful life. Some of you were not able to join us in person, but took part in our \$10,000 Drawdown and showed your love for Altamont on Alumni Giving Day in May. Special thanks to our generous sponsors!



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Servis 1st Bank**

Honky Tonk- **Harini & Harish Doppalapudi,
Carla & Joey Dumontier, Mila & Joseph Hirsch,
Katherine & Adam Thrower, Andrea & Peter
Winslett, Sarah & Penny Whiteside**

In-Kind-**Rusty's Bar-B-Q**

Live Music- **Bo Butler and friends**

Cocktails and catering- **Happy Catering**







KNIGHTS NATION

Remembrances

Please keep our Altamont family in mind as we mark the passing of alumni, faculty and longtime friends.



Lillis Taylor '98 co-founded Birmingham nonprofit Bibb & Tucker Sew-Op, a hub for sewing activities that promote empowerment, education, and economic opportunity. The active fiber artist and surface pattern designer currently runs the Bibb & Tucker offshoot organization The March Quilts, a collection of 16 quilts that shed light on themes of racial, gender and environmental justice. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of that initiative in 2025, Taylor will lead sewing workshops in all 67 counties of Alabama. She discussed the work with Altamont students on their visit to the University of Alabama at Birmingham's new Department of Art & Art History building this year.



Dan Eggers Rice '19 earned a B.M. in Music Theatre at Baldwin Wallace University's Conservatory of Music, and recently originated a lead in the Off-Broadway musical SCOUTS. He also continues the social justice and nonprofit work he began as a student at Altamont. The former Trans Youth Ambassador to the Alabama chapter of the Human Rights Campaign now leads transgender equity trainings in addition to his work in TV development, freelance writing and theatre.

Betty Alby
Tom R. Brannon
Kristina A. Callahan '59
Hall Cantrell '03
Mary-Bestor B. Grant '94
Lewis B. Hickman, Jr.
Regina O. Featheringill
Margaret Fleenor
Katherine L. Garth '99
Barbara Ann S. Gaines
Philip M. Grover '49
Thomas E. Huey III '68
Mitchell J. Kahn
Ruth A. Long Karpeles '64
Crystal Corcoran King '78
Margaret G. Livingston
Herbert B. Luria IV '65
Julie Hill Meehan '85
Robert E. Minor '67
Charlotte S. Murdock '56
Eugene E. Rozelle
Andrew C. Scott Jr. '69
Margaret B. Shaw '47
Frances Sheppard Strahley '54
Niko Tsivourakis
Emily "Mimi" Wilson Tynes '57
David W. Ullrich
H. T. "Tommy" Wells
Florence "Bitsy" Williams
John N. Wrinkle



Add your profile to the Knights Nation alumni site to help us build a vibrant alumni network!

Elias Hendricks '05

has come home to Birmingham, and he is dedicated to making sure other artists find a personally and professionally rewarding home here, too. "I've been away long enough to really appreciate it and want to stay here," he says, reflecting on extensive international experience that includes touring as Simba in Disney's "The Lion King," touring solo in his "Aint' To Proud To Beg" show, and performing in "Motown: The Musical" on London's West End. He continues to tour solo and with Vox Fortura, the classical/soul crossover vocal group he founded, but his base in Birmingham brings exciting new off-stage opportunities.

This year Hendricks held a concert of Disney music at Birmingham Museum of Art, composed music for Southern Danceworks, and developed the BCS Idol and Vox Academy music education programs for Birmingham City Schools, working with 50 Birmingham middle school students to develop a concert featuring a choir, band and African drums. He also composed an anthem for BCS, which debuted in a video this fall, and which includes a musical Easter egg for Altamont family. The music education will continue next year for six weeks and expand to include high school students.

"My parents owned daycares, so I've always been invested in kids," Hendricks says. He also recalls the importance of The Altamont School's investment in him as a student. He studied piano, musical theory and advanced French, performed in Altamont's orchestra and jazz band, and, of course, prepared his voice for what has become an exceptional career. "Altamont had opera, not choir, so that's a whole different level of musical experience". This was his professional foundation, he says, and it helped him earn the role of Romeo in an Italian production of Romeo y Julieta only



a year after graduating. "I was prepared for an actual career in music, believe it or not, when I left Altamont." He lists the names who brought him and generations of other Altamont students into the world of music—Nick Lacanski, Dewin Tibbs, Joyce Jennings, and longtime French teacher Jeanne Schaub Classe, who he says still attends his Birmingham concerts. "It was a bunch of professionals who could be anywhere," he says. They chose Altamont, and Birmingham and him. Hendricks chooses Birmingham, too. In addition to mentoring young musicians here, he supports adult performers as President / CEO of Definitive Productions LLC/Vox Fortura music production company. His fine-arts district event space—Harambe—also showcases artists who might have to make their homes elsewhere if they were crowded off the local stage by entertainment conglomerates.

For all that work locally, Hendricks isn't neglecting the international stage. He will tour Iceland this year in addition to his other performances and ventures, and will continue to bring home to Birmingham the riches of those experiences to share with local students and emerging professionals. "It's where my family is," he says. "It's where my community is."



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The Altamont School's mission is to improve the fabric of society by graduating compassionate, well-educated individuals capable of independent thinking and innovative ideas. We accomplish that by offering big-school opportunities in an attentive and welcoming small-school environment.

Through our core values, curriculum and activities, we emphasize the importance of respecting and understanding the cultural, religious, intellectual and social differences that enrich our community.

Our vibrant community welcomes and values students for who they are and guides them toward the best they can be.

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**Start exploring The Altamont School today,
and plan to join us for our Admissions Open House in October!**

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