

APRIL  
2025  
WILSON HALL



# ACCOLADE

## *In Loving Memory of* Sarah "Sally" Witherspoon Nash Wilson February 10, 1924    March 3, 2025

With sadness, the Wilson Hall family announces the passing of Sarah "Sally" Witherspoon Nash Wilson, who recently celebrated her 101st birthday. As the widow of the school's namesake, John Snowden Wilson, Mrs. Wilson was a steadfast supporter whose quiet strength and unwavering devotion helped shape the very foundation of Wilson Hall. Her legacy is woven into every corner of our campus and every chapter of our school's story.

Mrs. Wilson embodied the values we hold dear - dedication, generosity, and a profound love for education. Her belief in the power of learning and community never wavered, and she offered her time, wisdom, and thoughtful gifts with a grace that inspired all who knew her. Perhaps no one has given more to Wilson Hall, and no one's impact has been more enduring.

Though we mourn her loss, we celebrate a life remarkably lived—a century marked by kindness, vision, and a commitment to some-



thing greater than herself. In her honor, our campus paused on March 7 for a moment of silence and prayer. Blue ribbons worn by faculty symbolized our collective mourning and gratitude. White floral crosses adorned the front doors, a quiet and elegant tribute to a woman whose presence will always be felt here.

To share our appreciation, a videographer captured heartfelt messages from students, faculty, and staff answering two simple yet powerful questions: "Why are you grateful for Wilson Hall?" and "Thank you, *Mrs. Wilson.*" These reflections were shared with her family as a token of the deep affection and gratitude felt across generations of the Wilson Hall community.

Mrs. Wilson's legacy is not measured in years alone, but in the lives enriched by her presence, her guidance, and her enduring belief in the mission of Wilson Hall. We are honored to carry her spirit forward.



Lottie Bynum '25 & Liz Singkhonket '26

## BYNUM & SINGKHONKET WIN ART COMPETITION

Lottie Bynum '25 and Liz Singkhonket '26 are the regional winners for their drawings that were selected for the Traveling Artfields Jr. Art Exhibit at Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet. They were presented with certificates and a \$75 gift card to Blick Art Supplies at the exhibit's closing reception. The January exhibit for the Pee Dee Region featured the 2024 Artfields Jr. winners' art and also regional art. Lottie is a student in the Advanced Placement Drawing class and Liz is in the Drawing III class, both taught by Ms. Tara Breslin-Schumacher.

ArtFields Jr., an art competition open to students throughout South Carolina, is held in Lake City and is one of the south's premier art competitions and festivals. The goal of the show is to honor the artists of the Southeast with a week's worth of celebration and competition in the heart of a traditional small southern town. This year's show will be April 23 - May 3.

# Schumacher Wins 1st Place in Art Exhibition

Logan Schumacher '25 won first place in the Sumter County Gallery of Art Senior Pathfinder Exhibition. His drawing, *Rec-Tangled Together*, showcases hyper-realistic shading and exceptional technical skill, earning top honors among entries from high school seniors throughout Sumter County. Logan is a student in the Advanced Placement Drawing class taught by Ms. Tara Breslin-Schumacher. Parker McLeod '25 earned second place in the same exhibition for his ceramic piece *Mounted Bass*, a lifelike sculpture that highlights his attention to detail and talent in three-dimensional art. Parker is a student in the Advanced Placement 3-D Art & Design class taught by Mrs. Rachel Jones Brown '00. The exhibition was juried by members of the Sumter Art Guild. Their work will be on display at the Sumter County Gallery of Art until April 11 along with the work of their classmates: Sarah



Logan Schumacher '25

Jane Bates, Annabelle Branham, Lottie Bynum, Tilan Byrd, Anna Kate Coker, Frances Mac Elmore, Emma Howle, Molly Jones, Owen Meyers, Patrick Norton, and Camryn Wilmes.



Anna Lynn Skinner '26, Grace McArthur '28, Lucy Mims '26, Cat Bowman '30, Harper Rivers '30 & Winnie Caughman '31

## SPORTING CLAYS STATE CHAMPIONS

Several members of the shotgun team earned top honors, bringing home trophies from recent state competitions. The team of Cat Bowman '30, Winnie Caughman '31, and Harper Rivers '30 claimed the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Ladies Middle School Sporting Clays State Championship, showcasing their exceptional skill and teamwork. Additionally, the team of Grace McArthur '28, Lucy

Mims '26, and Anna Lynn Skinner '26 delivered an impressive performance, securing second place in both the S.C. Independent School Assoc. State Sporting Clays Championship and the SCDNR Varsity Ladies Sporting Clays Championship. Under the expert guidance of Mr. Brent Hiott '89, the team continues to demonstrate outstanding marksmanship and dedication to the sport.

# Four Gold Medals at State Speed & Strength Meet

Wilson Hall hosted the S.C. Independent School Association Speed and Strength Meet, delivering an impressive performance that earned the Barons a runner-up finish across all classifications. The event showcased athleticism and power, with student-athletes competing in a series of physically demanding tests, including the 40-yard dash, shuttle run, broad jump, vertical jump, the bench press (185 lbs. for max reps), and the power clean lift.

The Barons were led by four gold medalists, each finishing first in their respective weight divisions: *Milling Galloway '26*, *Andrew Howle '26*, *Shawn Michael Matthews '25*, and *Shep Vincent '28*. These standout performances highlighted the depth of talent and preparation within the program.

In the 181-190 pound division, *Milling* earned top honors by winning the shuttle run (4.22 seconds) and bench press (24 reps), while placing 2nd in both the 40-yard dash and vertical leap, and 3rd in the power clean.

*Andrew* dominated the 236 pound and up division, winning four out of six events—40-yard dash (4.84), vertical



*Milling Galloway '26, Shawn Michael Matthews '25, Shep Vincent '28 & Andrew Howle '26*

leap (36"), bench press (29 reps), and power clean (280 lbs.)—and placing 2nd in the broad jump and shuttle run.

Competing in the 206-220 pound division, *Shawn Michael* secured gold by winning the broad jump (9'5") and shuttle run (4.31), while placing 2nd in the 40-yard dash and vertical jump, 3rd in the power clean, and 4th in the bench press.

In the 130 pounds and under division, *Shep* impressed with wins in the 40-yard dash (4.96), bench press (23 reps), and shuttle run (4.59), along with 2nd-place finishes in the broad and vertical jumps, and 3rd in the power clean.

Additional top finishers included *Walker Wilson '26*, who placed 2nd in his division, and *Cameron Wilsey '28*, who took 3rd. Contributing valuable points for the team were *Nehemiah Dinkins '28*, *Nolan Gooch '28*, *Michael Hunter '28*, *Alex Johnson '28*, and *Ford Wilder '26*.

The team is coached by *Mr. Sam Watford '16* and *Mr. Kurt Wilson*, whose leadership and training played a key role in the Barons' success. With strong performances across all weight classes and grade levels, Wilson Hall's showing at the SCISA Speed and Strength Meet reflects the hard work, discipline, and competitive spirit of its student-athletes.



*Josie Jackson '25*

## Jackson Wins Good Citizen Award

*Josie Jackson '25* is the Chapter Award Winner for the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Program in Sumter. She will represent Sumter in the state-level competition. The DAR Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest, created in 1934, recognizes and rewards individuals who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. Each school in Sumter County was invited to nominate one senior for the competition. The nominees submitted a resume and academic transcript, wrote an essay on patriotism, and participated in an interview with members of the DAR.

# Tommy Jones Field Dedication

A standing-room-only crowd gathered for the dedication of Tommy Jones Field, including many former players who returned to honor their beloved coach. With family members present, the school officially dedicated the field in memory of Dr. Tommy Jones prior to the start of the varsity baseball game. Dr. Jones was a longtime leader of the Barons' baseball program, guiding the team to five state championships and establishing a legacy of excellence both on and off the field. More than just a coach, he was a mentor, role model, and source of inspiration to generations of student-athletes. The naming of the field stands as a lasting tribute to his profound impact on the school and wider community.



Mr. Kevin Watford introduces members of Dr. Tommy Jones's family: Dr. Wallie Jones, Mr. Dickie Jones, Mrs. Millie Jones Pate '74, Mrs. Jeanne Jones, Rick Jones '92, Mike Jones '95, and Kell Jones '01, as well as Mr. Brent Kaneft '00, Head of School.



## Students Celebrate the Magic of Reading

During Dr. Seuss Week Pre-school 3, Preschool 4, and Kindergarten students had fun celebrating Dr. Seuss Week, a fun-filled event that brings stories to life while promoting literacy and a love for reading. Each day, they dove into a new Seuss classic, from *The Cat in the Hat* to *The Lorax*, engaging in hands-on crafts and activities that matched the theme of the book. They played exciting games like "Mix Up the Shoes" to practice matching pairs and giggled their way through *Fox in Socks*-inspired challenges. Special Seuss-themed snacks added a tasty touch to the festivities.

Mrs. Lisa Pinto, a kindergarten teaching assistant, and members of her class celebrate Dr. Seuss Week by wearing crazy socks.

# MAKING MEMORIES AT DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE



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The Nash Student Center was buzzing with excitement on February 28 as over 300 guests twirled, laughed, and made unforgettable memories at the third annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. Girls from Preschool 3 through fifth grade arrived hand-in-hand with their fathers, relatives, or special friends, ready to hit the dance floor. With music pumping from a professional DJ, the night was filled with high-energy dance-offs, sweet moments, and plenty of photo-worthy twirls. Thanks to the PTO's sponsorship, the evening was a dazzling success, filled with laughter, joy, and plenty of unforgettable moments that has everyone already looking forward to next year's dance.

1. The girls take over the dance floor in the Nash Student Center.

2. Lyla Caughman '32 dances with her father, Mr. Bryan Caughman '01.

3. Anna-Jane Owens '34 poses for a photo with her father, Mr. Howie Owens.

4. Tolley Richardson '36 with her father, Mr. Trey Richardson, before the dance.

5. Nada Davis '33 and her father, Mr. Jimmy Davis, share a dance.

# 65 Medals Earned at Music Festival

Congratulations to the talented Wilson Hall students who shined at the S.C. Independent School Association Music Festival at the University of South Carolina School of Music. A remarkable 65 students from grades 4-12 earned medals for their outstanding solo and ensemble performances, a testament to their hard work and dedication. Special recognition goes to the Instrumental Ensemble, directed by *Mr. Scott Warren*, and the Lower School Chorus, directed by *Mrs. Julia Sims-Owens*, for achieving Superior ratings and gold medals. Additionally, 14 students earned individual gold medals for their exceptional performances on cello, drum, piano, and voice. The festival provided a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their musical talents, receive valuable feedback, and grow as performers. Bravo to all participants for their courage and commitment to excellence—music is truly alive at Wilson Hall!

The Music Festival is an annual event that provides students from SCISA-affiliated schools with the opportunity to perform solo and ensemble pieces before adjudica-

tors. Participants can showcase their talents in various categories, including vocal and instrumental performances. Performances are evaluated by judges, often doctoral students from the University of South Carolina School of Music, who provide detailed feedback to help students improve their musical skills. Students receive ratings based on their performances, with distinctions such as Gold/Superior, Silver/Excellent, and Bronze/Good.

The following received individual gold medals for solo performances: *Liz Singkhonket '26* (cello), *Quentin Smith '29* (drums), *Andrew Brunk '27*, *Rutledge Cromer '32* & *Liza Gooch '31* (piano), and *Carson Burnette '31*, *Riley Coker '30*, *Abby Hodge '29*, *Lauren Kohl '30*, *Benjamin McIver '30*, *Sims Owens '31*, *Jack Ripley '32*, *Karisse Robinson '31* & *Emmy Trueblood '32* (voice). Earning silver medals were *Lucas DuBose '30* - (piano), *William McLeod '32* (voice), *Maxwell Smith '27* (guitar) and *Kayla Stanley-Linton '26* (violin), and earning a bronze medal was *Ian Robinson '28* (piano).



*The Lower School Chorus poses for a photo in front of the Koger Center in Columbia.*



(Back) Kira Krueger '28, Kayla Stanley-Linton '26, Banks Smith '26, Benjamin Mclver '30, Ethan Wilson '28, (front) Sims Owens '31, Abby Hodge '29, Sanders Warrick '26, Sara Hayes Ridgeway '25, Ella Sill '26 & Sophie Sweatman '25

## SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE: THEATER SHINES BRIGHT

In recognition of their exceptional contributions to the theater program, actors and crew members were honored with the prestigious Star of Excellence. To earn the Star of Excellence, a student must demonstrate exceptional dedication, perseverance, reliability, and discipline. For their outstanding performances in the fall play, *Just as I Suspected* by Marc van Bulck '02, stars were awarded to Angela Agno '28, Frances Mac Elmore '25, Joey Robertson '26, Kayla Stanley-Linton '26, and Sophie Sweatman '25.

Celebrating their remarkable work in the spring musical, *Mary Poppins Jr.*, actors Abby Hodge '29, Benjamin Mclver '30, Sims Owens '31, Sara Hayes Ridgeway '25, Ella Sill '26, Banks Smith '26, Kayla Stanley-Linton '26, Sophie Sweatman '25, and Sanders Warrick '26 received stars for their performances. Additionally, crew members Kira Krueger '28 and Ethan Wilson '28 were recognized with stars for their invaluable contributions behind the scenes.



Angela Agno '28, Joey Robertson '26, Kayla Stanley-Linton '26, Sophie Sweatman '25 & Frances Mac Elmore '25



Harris Naylor '26 reads to a Preschool 3 class.

## Key Club Members Share the Joy of Reading with Young Students

Key Club members recently spent several weeks reading to our youngest students as part of a heartwarming service project—creating joyful moments, building connections across age groups, and setting a powerful example of service leadership. Key Club is a student-led school and community service organization sponsored by Kiwanis International, and it encourages high schoolers to lead by serving others. Under the guidance of advisor Mrs. Stacey Reaves, our members continue to make a positive impact—one story, one smile, and one act of kindness at a time!

# PTO Hosts Faculty Raffle to Show Appreciation

The faculty greatly appreciates the PTO for organizing the recent Faculty Raffle and for their ongoing support of our school community. The event was a meaningful way to celebrate and recognize our dedicated teachers and staff. Each of our 100+ faculty members received a thoughtful gift, generously donated by one of over 30 local vendors. The hard work and generosity of the PTO does not go unnoticed. Their efforts make a lasting impact and are deeply appreciated by all.



*Mrs. Caroline Zitzke, Mrs. Martha Jo Smith Johnson '99 & Mrs. Laura Barr of the Development Office enjoy the PTO Faculty Raffle.*

## Students Selected for ArtFields Jr.

The artwork of 17 students has been accepted for ArtFields Jr. 2025, an art competition open to students throughout South Carolina. The selection process was extremely competitive with more than 800 submissions from across the state. ArtFields, held in Lake City the week of April 25 - May 3, is one of the south's premier art competitions and festivals. The goal of the show is to honor the artists of the Southeast with a week's worth of celebration and competition in the heart of a traditional small southern town. Over \$100,000 in prizes will be awarded based on the input of every visitor to ArtFields and a panel of judges made up of acclaimed artists and educators.

The artwork of the following students was accepted for the exhibition: *Isla Jane Avant '36, Adalin Brown '26, Drew Carter '33, Mary Grace Floyd '33, Jenna Green '27, Edna Lee Harris '26, Kira Krueger '28, Brellynn Lee '36, Lydia Leihising '26, Mary Paige Melton '32, Steven Morris '33, Anna-Jane Owens '34, Madi Rose Riviere '34, Logan Schumacher '25, Liz Singkhonket '26, Caleb Thomas '36, and Mary Ellen Thorne '26.* The art teachers are Mrs. Rachel Jones Brown '00, Mrs. Renee Norton, and Ms. Tara Breslin-Schumacher.

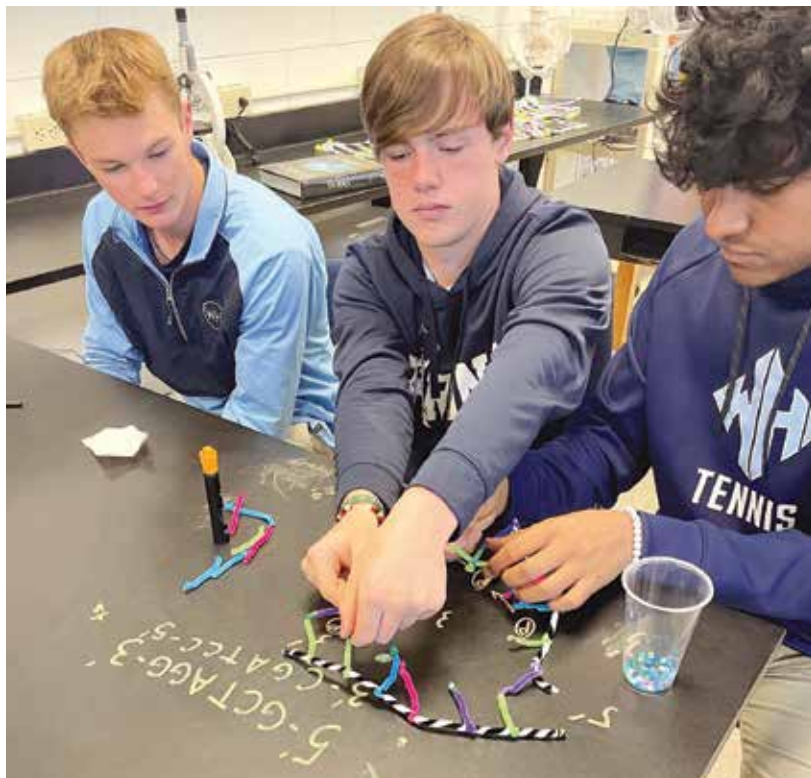


*Spanish 3 Honors students bring learning to life with a STEAM-inspired Snakes and Ladders game, practicing the subjunctive mood in a fun and interactive way in Mrs. Emily Jackson's class. Pictured are Madison Grace Hansen, Michael Thorne & Ella Dixon, Class of '26.*



# Biology Students Unlock the Secrets of DNA with Hands-On Activity

In *Mrs. Ashley Morris's* biology class, students recently dove into the fascinating world of genetics with a hands-on STEAM activity designed to explore the process of DNA replication. Using colorful pipe cleaners to represent the different components of DNA—such as nitrogenous bases, the sugar-phosphate backbone, and complementary base pairs—students worked in pairs and small groups to construct DNA strands and model the steps of replication, gaining a clearer, more tangible understanding of how genetic information is copied within cells. This fun and interactive lab not only reinforced key vocabulary and concepts but also encouraged collaboration, problem-solving, and critical thinking. By physically building and manipulating the DNA models, students were able to visualize abstract ideas and make meaningful connections to what they've learned in class, and *Mrs. Morris's* creative approach to teaching biology helps ensure that students stay engaged, curious, and confident in their understanding of foundational life science topics.



*Michael Hunter, Thomas Faust & Eashan Patel, Class of '28, work on a DNA activity in their biology class.*

## Three Recognized for History Essay Competition

Wilson Hall is proud to have three of the five students recognized in the Myrtis G. Osteen "Value of Local History to Me" Essay Contest, an annual competition sponsored by the Sumter Museum for high school students in Sumter County. Winning second place was *Anne McCrae Williams '27*, third place was *Madison Grace Hansen '26*, and fifth place was *Mary Katherine Dutcher '27*. This prestigious contest challenges participants to go beyond academic research, encouraging them to share personal insights and connections to local history. Through their thoughtful essays, these students demonstrated a deep appreciation for Sumter's rich heritage. The Sumter County Museum sponsors this contest as part of its mission to inspire students to explore and engage with their community's history. Winners were celebrated at the Sumter Museum Recognition Program, held in the Heritage Education Center, where their achievements were formally recognized.



*Fox Furse '39 practices brushing teeth with Ms. Jenny Thigpen, a registered dental hygienist with Carolina Children's Dentistry who visited classes during Dental Health Month.*

*Students learned how to keep their teeth clean by brushing away the "sugar bugs" and explored healthy eating habits through a variety of foods. Throughout the month, they created special crafts, discussed the importance of nutritious choices, and learned the benefits of good dental hygiene. They also learned how many teeth they have and why brushing at least twice a day is essential for maintaining a healthy smile.*

# Anatomy Students Explore the Mind with Brain Mapping Project

In an engaging and hands-on STEAM activity, students in Mrs. Ashley Morris's anatomy classes took a creative approach to mastering brain anatomy in preparation for an upcoming test by designing and crafting their own "brain hats," complete with detailed labels identifying the major regions of the brain and their corresponding functions. This artistic and educational exercise helped students visualize the brain's complex structure in a memorable and meaningful way. To reinforce their knowledge, each student proudly wore their brain hat throughout

the school day, turning the halls into a mobile anatomy classroom, while teachers from various departments participated by asking brain-related questions, giving students the chance to demonstrate their understanding on the spot. This fun, interactive project encouraged not only content mastery but also confidence in sharing knowledge with others, serving as a great example of how creativity and collaboration can transform traditional test prep into a dynamic learning opportunity that sticks with students long after the activity ends.



Members of the Class of '26 in the anatomy class participate in the "Brain Hat" activity: (front) Sophie Miller, Carlisle Segars, Ella Dixon, (back) Sam Leard, Ella Sill, Olivia Russell, Muskaan Judge & Carson Geddings.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE STUDENTS DIVE INTO LEARNING WITH WATER POLLUTION EXPERIMENT

The Environmental Science class, taught by Mrs. Jessica Duke, concluded its unit on water pollution with a hands-on lab simulating an oil spill. Students built model beachfronts and added vegetable oil to water to mimic the effects of a tanker spill. Working in teams, they tested various cleanup methods using materials like sponges, baking soda, vinegar, detergents, flour, and coffee filters to find the most effective approach. This interactive activity allowed students to explore the challenges and complexities of real-world oil spill response, and by experimenting with different techniques and collaborating on solutions, they deepened their understanding of pollution's impact on ecosystems while building critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



Sarah Jane Bates '25 & Alexis Dawkins '25 complete an experiment in Environmental Science.

# Engineering Students Put Designs to the Test in Egg Drop Challenge

Students in *Mr. David Tuders'* 7th Grade Engineering class recently put their design skills to the test with the classic Egg Drop Project—an exciting hands-on STEAM challenge that combines science, creativity, and a bit of suspense. Tasked with designing and building a protective structure to keep a raw egg intact when dropped from a significant height, students explored key engineering principles such as gravity, impact force, shock absorption, and structural integrity. Using everyday materials like straws, cotton balls, tape, cardboard, balloons, and plastic bags, students worked in teams to brainstorm, sketch, build, and test their designs. Along the way, they applied concepts from physics and engineering, learning how to distribute impact, cushion delicate objects, and improve their prototypes through trial and error. After testing their creations, students analyzed the results and made adjustments to strengthen their designs before final drops. The project encouraged collaboration, critical thinking, and perseverance as students learned that even failed drops were opportunities to improve, and by transforming the classroom into a creative problem-solving lab, *Mr. Tuders* provided students with an engaging, real-world experience that highlighted the fun and functionality of engineering in action.



*Caroline Andrews '30 & Connor Merchant '30 participate in the egg drop experiment.*



*LEFT: Gracie Finley '34 displays her sewing project. CENTER: Ben Adams '38 Hula-Hoops during the All-Sports Enrichment Activity. RIGHT: Dylan Patel '33 proudly displays his works made of resin.*

## Enrichment Activities Program Engages Minds After School

In March, students had fun in the Enrichment Activities Program, diving into all-sports, resin, and sewing. Whether they were scoring points, crafting colorful resin creations, or stitching up something fun, there was no shortage of creativity and excitement. Held after school for Preschool 3 - 5th grade, this program gives students the chance to explore their interests with four week-long activities each month. These hands-on, hour-long sessions include exciting options like 3-D printing, art, ceramics, and cooking, with new activities added regularly to keep things fresh. April's lineup promises even more fun with chess, LEGOs, and robotics. Coordinated by *Mrs. Brooke Tidwell*, Director of Auxiliary Programs, this program keeps young minds engaged and eager to learn.



Members of the Class of '27 celebrate "The Great Gatsby" in their English 10 class.

## English Students Bring the Roaring Twenties to Life with Great Gatsby Celebration

At the conclusion of their study of *The Great Gatsby*, English 10 students stepped back into the Roaring Twenties for a unique and memorable celebration of Jay Gatsby's life. In a creative culminating activity, the classroom was transformed into a lively tribute to the novel's enigmatic central figure. Students donned 1920s-inspired accessories—think pearls, fedoras, suspenders, and feathered headbands—and took on the role of Gatsby's mourners, ensuring that, unlike in the novel, he received the grand farewell he had always dreamed of. Each student crafted and delivered a heartfelt toast in Gatsby's honor, thoughtfully reflecting on his relentless pursuit of the American Dream, the illusions he clung to, and the tragic consequences of his unwavering hope. In their speeches, students wove in the novel's rich symbolism—like the green light, the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg, and the valley of ashes—to highlight Gatsby's ambition, loneliness, and eventual downfall, demonstrating not only a deep understanding of the text but also strong public speaking and analytical skills. This imaginative literary experience gave the students of *Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93* the opportunity to connect emotionally and intellectually with Fitzgerald's characters and themes; by celebrating Gatsby's life through symbolic tributes and reflective speeches, they honored his story in a way that brought literature to life and left a lasting impression.



Michael Warrick '25 & Michael Lauzon '25

## Physics in Action at Carowinds Education Day

The AP Physics students, taught by Mrs. Jessica Duke, traded classroom desks for roller coasters and thrill rides during Carowinds Education Day, where textbook theories met real-world STEAM applications in the most exhilarating way possible. Carowinds is an amusement park located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

While soaring through loops on the Vortex, students explored Bernoulli's Principle, diving into the relationship between air pressure and velocity—at high speed. Then came the SlingShot, where they launched 300 feet into the air at 60 mph, using the adrenaline rush to analyze spring mechanics and Hooke's Law in action. On the Ripcord, a 165-foot free fall became a thrilling lesson on momentum and pendulum motion.

But the learning didn't stop with the rides. Students got hands-on with engaging experiments like building circuits, testing Bernoulli's Principle in a wind tunnel, and experimenting with magnetic propulsion. These activities brought STEAM concepts to life and reflected Wilson Hall's commitment to innovative, experience-based learning. From physics to fun, it was a day of unforgettable discoveries—proving that sometimes, the best classroom is one that flies, falls, and flips upside down.

# Special Athletic Awards

## BOYS BASKETBALL

- Knox Buxton '25 ..... All-Star Team  
 Thomas Creech '25 ..... Farm Bureau Heart of a Champion  
 Player of the Month  
 Braedon Curtis '25 ..... Farm Bureau Heart of a Champion  
 Player of the Month  
 Bryce Hanson '26 ..... Farm Bureau Heart of a Champion  
 Player of the Month  
 Hugh Humphries '25 ..... Region Player of the Year, All-Region Team  
 Shawn Michael Matthews '25 ..... All-Region Team, The Sumter Item  
 The Grind Featured Athlete of the Month,  
 The Sumter Item Athlete of the Week  
 Mr. Rip Ripley ..... Region Coach of the Year  
 Ford Wilder '26 ..... All-Star Team, All-Region Team

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Emma Howle '25 ..... Farm Bureau Heart of a Champion  
 Player of the Month  
 Grace McArthur '28 ..... Farm Bureau Heart of a Champion  
 Player of the Month  
 Logan Mims '25 ..... All-Region Team  
 Caroline Moorman '27 ..... All-Star Team  
 Lilly Grace Przybyla '28 ..... All-Star Team, All-Region Team  
 Ella Sill '26 ..... Farm Bureau Heart of a Champion  
 Player of the Month

## BOYS BOWLING

- Carson Geddings '26 ..... All-State Team

## GIRLS BOWLING

- Addie Geddings '31 ..... All-State Team

## FOOTBALL

- Jackson Bonser '25 ..... Sumter Touchdown Club All-Area Team,  
 The Sumter Item All-Independent Team  
 Thomas Creech '25 ..... Sumter Touchdown Club Merit Scholarship  
 Milling Galloway '26 ..... Sumter Touchdown Club All-Area Team,  
 The Sumter Item All-Independent Team  
 Andrew Howle '26 ..... The Sumter Item All-Independent Team  
 Ben McLaurin '26 ..... The Sumter Item All-Independent Team  
 Owen Meyers '25 ..... Sumter Touchdown Club All-Area Team,  
 Sumter Touchdown Club Merit Scholarship,  
 The Sumter Item All-Independent Team  
 Harris Naylor '26 ..... The Sumter Item All-Independent Team  
 Cooper Scott '25 ..... Sumter Touchdown Club All-Area Team, The Sumter Item

## ALL-INDEPENDENT TEAM

- Andrew Segars '25 ..... Sumter Touchdown Club Academic Scholar  
 Ford Wilder '26 ..... Sumter Touchdown Club All-Area Team,  
 The Sumter Item All-Independent Team  
 Carson Wilsey '25 ..... Sumter Touchdown Club All-Area Team,  
 Sumter Touchdown Club Merit Scholarship,  
 The Sumter Item All-Independent Team  
 Walker Wilson '26 ..... Sumter Touchdown Club All-Area Team,  
 The Sumter Item All-Independent Team

# Junior Class Retreat Celebrates 20 Years of Leadership, Loyalty & Legacy

As part of Wilson Hall's curriculum, members of the Class of 2026 experienced a defining moment in their high school journey during the 20th Junior Class Retreat, held March 23-25 at the scenic Kanuga Conference Center in the mountains near Hendersonville, North Carolina. With its breathtaking views and peaceful atmosphere, Kanuga provided the perfect backdrop for a weekend focused on leadership, loyalty, and legacy. Coordinated by *Mrs. Laura Barr*, *Mrs. Martha Jo Smith Johnson '99*, and *Mr. Glen Rector*, the retreat offered students a unique opportunity to step outside classroom walls and into a space designed for reflection, growth, and connection. From the moment the retreat began, students were challenged to consider the type of legacy they will leave as rising seniors.

*Mr. Rector* opened the retreat with a powerful message about servant leadership, setting the tone for the weekend. *Mr. Brent Kaneft '00*, Head of School, followed with a presentation that looked back at Wilson Hall's history through nostalgic photos and stories, while also prompting students to reflect on the school's future and their place in it. Leadership continued as a central theme with a talk by *Mr. Eddie Talley*, Assistant

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TOP: Paige Sanders, Sam Leard, Joseph Bauman, Charli Bonser, Madison Grace Hansen, Class of '26, and classmates use their cooperation skills in one of many team-bonding activities. CENTER: Liz Singkhonket '26 speaks on behalf of her group when presenting the iMovie it made describing traits it wants to display as seniors. BOTTOM: Accompanied by Ella Sill '26 on piano and Sam Leard '26 on guitar, members of the Class of '26 gather in the fireplace lounge for a sing-along.



A blindfolded Kyrston Newman '26 is assisted by classmates Logan Pauly, Ford Wilder & Kayla Stanley-Linton in a group activity that promotes trust and cooperation.

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Head of School, who used a poignant scene from *Remember the Titans* to underscore the power of influence and unity. The keynote address, "Defining Success," was delivered by Dr. Milt Lowder '90, a licensed counseling psychologist from Greenville, who encouraged students to look inward and embrace their individual paths to meaningful success. The retreat concluded with a thoughtful presentation on legacy from Mr. Chuck McCord in the cozy fireplace lounge of the inn.

Throughout the weekend, students engaged in a variety of structured and recreational activities. Each morning began with a devotion and prayer led by Mr. Lee Gandy, and students took turns offering blessings before meals. Outdoor adventures included a mountain hike with Mr. McCord and a serene night hike around Kanuga Lake with Mr. Gandy. Team-building games led by the Mountain Outdoor Trail School encouraged collaboration and trust. One of the retreat's hallmark elements was the iMovie project, organized by Mrs. Molly McDuffie. Students were divided into five faculty-led groups and tasked with identifying values they admired and wished to emulate. Their creative short films - each three to five minutes long - were the product of thoughtful discussion, teamwork, and reflection. Laughter and connection filled the days and evenings with lighthearted activities such as

an autograph search, improvisational games led by Mr. George Carruth '06, and a "Got Your Back" exercise in which students penned affirming messages taped to the backs of classmates. Social hours at the lodge featured comforting favorites like McDonald's Happy Meals, Zaxby's, and Dunkin' Donuts. On the final evening, students gathered for a heartfelt sing-along with Sam Leard on guitar and Ella Sill on piano—a fitting close to a weekend full of bonding and shared memories.

With no phones allowed, students embraced the chance to unplug and truly connect, whether through playing pickleball and basketball with faculty, running trails, enjoying board games, or simply relaxing in nature. Students were housed in Kanuga's historic cottages, each supervised by a faculty chaperone. In addition to the retreat's coordinators, other faculty participants included Mr. Sean Hoskins, Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93, Mrs. Liza Lowder Meyers '18, Mrs. Sarah Smith, and Mr. Sam Watford '16. The 20th Junior Class Retreat was more than a milestone—it was a meaningful investment in the personal growth and unity of the Class of 2026. With lessons in leadership, strengthened friendships, and memories that will last a lifetime, the retreat helped prepare these students not only for their senior year but for life beyond Wilson Hall.

# MARY POPPINS JR. WOWS SOLD OUT AUDIENCES



*Mary Poppins herself, Sophie Sweatman '25, poses for a photo before the Sumter Opera House opens its doors for opening night.*

*Banks Smith '26 & Sara Hayes Ridge-way '25, as George & Winnifred Banks, dance in celebration of the positive changes in their family facilitated by Mary Poppins at the show's conclusion.*



*Benjamin McIver '30 captivates the audience as Bert, a chimney sweep and friend of Mary Poppins who narrates the story.*



The WH Theater Department soared to new heights with its enchanting production of *Mary Poppins Jr.*, earning a rousing standing ovation each night. A talented cast of 41 students from 6th to 12th grade, supported by a hardworking 12-member crew, brought this magical tale to life on the historic stage of the Sumter Opera House. With three sold-out performances and over 1,600 tickets sold, the production was nothing short of "practically perfect."

Under the brilliant direction of Mr. George Carruth '06, the musical expertise of Mrs. Lori Brown, the production leadership of Mr. Sean Hoskins, and the dazzling choreography of Mrs. Jen Alford Reimer '00 of Miss Libby's School of Dance, the show transported audiences to Edwardian London, where Mary Poppins worked her magic on the Banks family.

The set, constructed under the leadership of Mr. Steve Hudson and featuring scenic design and props by Ms. Tara Schumacher, added to the immersive

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experience, bringing rooftops, Cherry Tree Lane, and kite-flying skies to life.

With toe-tapping numbers like Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious and Step in Time, the show left audiences singing, smiling, and believing that "anything can happen if you let it!" In the lead roles were *Sophie Sweatman '25* as Mary Poppins and *Benjamin McIver '30* as Bert the chimney sweep, who also narrated the show. Also, in lead roles playing the Banks family were *Banks Smith '26* (George), *Sara Hayes Ridgeway '25* (Winifred), *Abby Hodge '29* (Jane), and *Sims Owens '31* (Michael).

In featured roles were *Ella Sill '26* (Bird Woman) and *Sanders Warrick '26* (Miss Andrew). Supporting actors included *Angela Agno '28*, *Samuel Brown '29*, *Frances Mac Elmore '25*, *Harris Naylor '26*, *Joey Robertson '26*, *Paige Sanders '26*, and *Stirling Tindal '26*. In cameo roles were *Anna Kate Coker '25*, *Jane McAdams '25*, *Keighan Norton '28*, and *Owen Meyers '25*. Rounding out the cast were the following: *Anna Kate Aronson '29*, *Cecilia Ayres '30*, *Joslynn Barrick '28*, *Annabelle Branham '25*, *Parks Brown '31*, *Riley Coker '30*, *Ceren Gemici '28*, *Liza Gooch '31*, *Madison Grace Hansen '26*, *Emma Howle '25*, *Wyatt Meyers '27*, *Harley Natrass '30*, *Livie Pedersen '27*,

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TOP: Sophie Sweatman '26 sings "Practically Perfect" shortly after arriving in the nursery of Michael Banks (Sims Owens '31) & Jane Banks (Abby Hodge '29). LEFT CENTER: Ella Sill '26 gives a heartwarming performance of the Bird Lady during "Feed the Birds." RIGHT CENTER: Harris Naylor '26 sings a small, but very memorable, solo as businessman John Northbrook. BOTTOM: As Neleus, the statue that Mary Poppins magically brings to life during a walk in the park, Angela Agno '28 leads the cast in singing "Jolly Holliday."

Bert, Mary Poppins and the chimney sweeps perform the high energy crowd pleaser "Step in Time."



Riley Coker '30, Liza Gooch '31, Parks Brown '31, Harley Nattrass '30 & Sutton Shook '30 are magic honeybees in the famous "Spoonful of Sugar."



Sara Hayes Ridgeway '25 shines as she sings "Anything Can Happen" as Mrs. Banks.

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Emma Power '28, Ben Rabon '26, Kinslee Reimer '31, Sutton Shook '30, Liz Singkhonket '26, Mae Smith '28, Kayla Stanley-Linton '26, Marcos Wagner '30, and Bowen Zitzke '26.

Production assistants were Kira Krueger '28, who also operated the sound board, and Ethan Wilson '28, who also ran the light board. The crew consisted of Adalin Brown '26, Torien Byrd '27, Bryce Dodson '25, Edmunds DuBose '27, Carson Geddings '26, Andrew Howle '26, Anika Lill '28, Patrick Norton '25, Grayce Osgood '26, and Olivia Russell '26. Mrs. Renee Norton assisted with costumes and props, while Mrs. Rachel Jones Brown '00 helped with props and organized the cast party.

The Set Design & Construction class taught by Mr. Hudson and Ms. Schumacher built the sets, and members of the Art Club,

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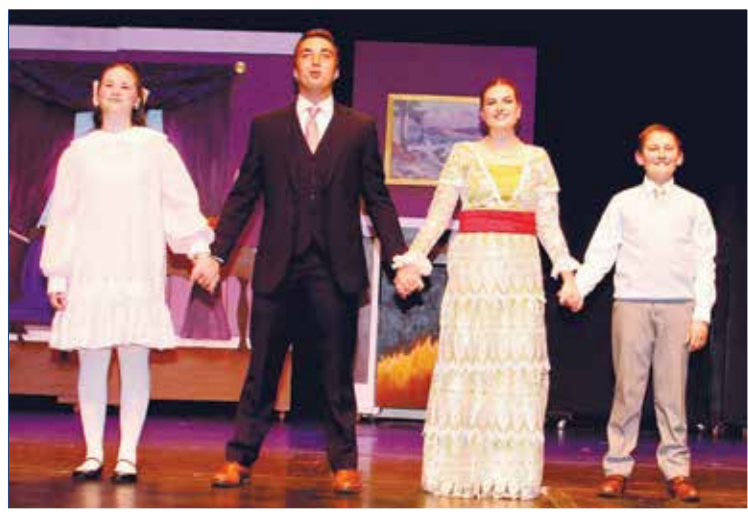


As a featured chimney sweep, Owen Meyers '25 reaches new heights.

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advised by Ms. Schumacher, assisted with the scenic art. Mr. Hoskins was the costume director and was in charge of marketing, the Playbill, and promotional materials. Planning for the show began in March of 2024, with the production team reviewing many YouTube videos of school productions, listening to soundtracks, and reading scripts with the goal of choosing the best production. After it was announced to students in May, the production team began working on ideas for staging, costuming, and set design. Once auditions were held in September, choreography and music rehearsals began in October. Staging and acting followed in Decem-

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**TOP:** The Banks family (Abby Hodge '29, Banks Smith '26, Sara Hayes Ridgeway '25 & Sims Owens '31) sing the anthem "Anything Can Happen." **LEFT CENTER:** Production assistants Ethan Wilson '28, operating the light board, and Kira Krueger '28 who was responsible for all sound during the show. Attending every rehearsal since October, they were indispensable members of the crew. **RIGHT CENTER:** Paige Sanders '26 as Mrs. Correy, who owns the letter shop where words are created, sings "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." **BOTTOM:** As bankers, members of the cast perform and dance to "Precision and Order."

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ber on the multipurpose room stage. Finally, in late February, the production moved to rehearsal on the Nash Center Stage before transitioning to the Sumter Opera House the week of the show. With its talented cast, dedicated crew, and an outstanding production team, *Mary Poppins Jr.* was a resounding success, cementing the WH Theater Department's reputation for excellence in the performing arts.

*Emma Howle '25, a maid, Samuel Brown '29, who played the houseboy Robertson Ay, and Frances Mac Elmore '25 as the housekeeper Mrs. Brill, comprised the Banks' household staff.*



**CENTER:** Members of the cast perform the well-known "Let's Go Fly a Kite" in a park scene. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The featured choral ensemble of Joslynn Barrick '28, Angela Agno '28, Kayla Stanley-Linton '26, Livie Pedersen '27 & Ella Sill '26 perform one of several transitional songs. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Sanders Warrick '26 convincly plays the terrible nanny Miss Andrew in "Brimstone and Treacle."

# Junior Honor Marshals Named

Wilson Hall proudly announces the selection of its Junior Honor Marshals for the Class of 2026: *Muskaan Judge, Austin McLaurin, Olivia Russell, Banks Smith, Mary Ellen Thorne, and Bowen Zitzke*. These distinguished students have earned this prestigious honor by maintaining the highest grade point averages in their class and attending Wilson Hall since the tenth grade. The announcement was made by *Mr. Brent Kaneft '00*, Head of School, during a special ceremony held for students, faculty, and parents. Each student was presented with a blue sash by *Mrs. Susan Barfield*, Director of Academics, symbolizing their academic excellence and leadership. This year's honorees represent one of the most academically competitive classes in recent memory. Their accomplishments go far beyond the



*Bowen Zitzke, Mary Ellen Thorne, Banks Smith, Olivia Russell, Austin McLaurin & Muskaan Judge, Class of '26*

classroom, as they each balance demanding coursework with leadership roles, extracurricular pursuits, and meaningful service commitments. Their unwavering dedication, intellectual curiosity, and strong work ethic reflect the rigorous and enriching academic environment Wilson Hall fosters. As Junior Honor Marshals, they will proudly represent the Class of 2026 during both the Senior Awards Program and Graduation Ceremony, standing as shining examples of the values and excellence Wilson Hall upholds.

## Inaugural Golf Invitational Raises Support for Wilson Hall Future Fund



The inaugural Wilson Hall Invitational at Quixote Club marked a significant milestone for the school, bringing together community members in support of the Wilson Hall Future Fund. The golf tournament drew an impressive 23 teams and 92 golfers, with an extensive waiting list—a testament to the enthusiasm surrounding the event.

Sponsored by the Development Office, the tournament was coordinated by *Mrs. Caroline Zitzke*, with support from *Mrs. Laura Barr* and *Mrs. Martha Jo Smith Johnson '99*. From tee-off to the final putt, the energy on the course was high as players, sponsors, and volunteers came to-

gether for a day that combined sport, fellowship, and purpose.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Wilson Hall Future Fund, which supports the school's long-term growth and strategic initiatives. With strong participation and community engagement, the tournament set a promising precedent for future events. Plans are already underway for next year, with organizers aiming to build on the success and excitement of this year's debut. The Wilson Hall Invitational is poised to become a valued tradition that celebrates community while advancing the school's mission.

# Learning Beyond the Classroom: Sixth Grade's Whitewater Adventure

Sixth grade students and faculty, led by Mrs. Laura Burleson, set out on an unforgettable adventure to the U.S. National Whitewater Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. The day was packed with adrenaline and excitement as students tackled roaring whitewater rapids, climbed towering rock walls, and zipped through the air on high-flying zip lines.

But this field trip was more than just a thrill ride, it was a powerful learning experience. As they faced each challenge, students bonded with classmates, built confidence, and cheered one another on, creating memories and friendships that will last long after the trip. Experiences like this go beyond the classroom, teaching valuable life lessons about teamwork, resilience, and stepping outside of comfort zones. It was a day of growth, adventure, and plenty of laughter—proof that some of the best learning happens when you're splashing, climbing, and soaring.



The Scholastic Book Fair was a big hit with our Lower School students. From discovering new favorites to enjoying the excitement of Family Night, it was a week full of reading fun. A special thank you to Mrs. Anna James for chairing the event on behalf of the PTO and to our librarian, Mrs. Hayes Jones, for helping bring the joy of books to life.

# ALUMIN



David Minto '03

## 2003

David Minto is an oral surgeon with his own practice, Minto Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, in Fairhope, Alabama. He was voted Best Oral Surgeon for the fifth year by the readers of Gulf Coast Media in the Best of Baldwin County competition. He earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Mississippi, a Doctor of Dental Medicine from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and a Doctor of Medicine from Louisiana State University School of Medicine. David and his wife, Lori, have a daughter, Hallie.

## 2005

Katie Welch Shaw and her husband, Burns, announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Burns Shaw, on February 25. They have two other children, George '37 and Millie '39. Katie is the daughter of Millie Jones Pate '74.

## 2009

Dixon Montague and his wife, Kristie, announce the birth of their son, Graham Lee Montague, on March 27. They have a daughter, Kennedy. Dixon is the son of Larry Montague '71.

## 2012

Kayden Reilly and her husband, Alan Browder, announce the birth of their daughter, Alaina Marie Browder, on February 5.

## 2013

Mary Francis Newman Linderman and her husband, Garrett, announce the birth of their daughter, Laine Louise Linderman, on March 28.



Mary Francis Newman Linderman '13 and family.

## 2014

Claire Estep will complete a residency in internal medicine at the University of Alabama Birmingham Heersink School of Medicine. She graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences and from the University of Alabama Birmingham with a Master of Arts in developmental psychology, and she will graduate from the Edward Via



Claire Estep '14

College of Osteopathic Medicine - Carolinas with a Doctor of Medicine. Claire and her wife, Monica, will live in Huntsville.

## 2016

Maggie Watts works as an outpatient psychotherapist at Three Oaks Behavioral Health and Wellness in Raleigh,

North Carolina. She graduated from Appalachian State University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Master of Social Work, and she studied at Christ University in Bangalore, India.



In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, Sloan Tidwell '37 and her classmates engaged in a fun STEAM activity by designing and building their own "leprechaun traps," sparking creativity and problem-solving skills.

## 2017

*James Munford* will complete a residency in radiology at the University of Stony Brook's Renaissance School of Medicine in New York. He graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in bioengineering and will graduate from the Medical University of South Carolina with a Doctor of Medicine.



*James Munford '17*

*McLendon Sears* is the Southeast Region Vice President for Rent-a-Container, a digital marketplace for the sale, lease and shipment of modular buildings and shipping containers. He graduated from the College of Charleston with a Bachelor of Science in public health and a Master of Arts in communications. *McLendon* and his wife, *Parker Anne*, live in Charleston.

## 2018

*Graeson Smith* lives in Pendleton where he works as an industrial engineer for Arthrex, a global medical device company that specializes in new product development and medical education in orthopedics. He graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering.

## 2019

*Cameron Duffy*, who graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in nursing, will enter the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in the fall.



## 2020

*Madeline Owens*, who graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in English, works as a real estate agent for Carolina One Real Estate Services in Mount Pleasant.

*Madeline Owens '20*

## 2021

*Abbie Beatson* is a hairstylist and owner of AB Salon in Sumter. A licensed cosmetologist, she graduated from the Upstate College of Cosmetology and received certification from the Board of Cosmetology of South Carolina.

*Hunter Ives* is the Tennessee Area Director for Perfect Game, an organization that promotes baseball by hosting amateur events. He is also the owner of Top Dawg Sports, a company that provides athletic team apparel. *Hunter* graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in business administration.

## 2022

*Vivian Bryant*, a member of the track and field team at Erskine College, set a school record in the 3K with a time of 12:54.02. She is a chemical engineering major.

*Ashlyn Goode*, an economics and political science major at the University of Georgia Honors College, is enrolling in the university's Double Dawgs program which allows students to earn both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in five years or less. She will pursue a Master of Arts in international affairs and political science.



*Vivian Bryant '22*

*Madi Smith*, who will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of South Carolina Honors College, will enter the Wake Forest University School of Law in the fall.

## 2023

*Amberly Way*, a member of the softball team at Southern Wesleyan University, set a school record for number of home runs (15) in a single season.



*Andrew Brown '24*



*Daniel Burton '24*

## 2024

*Andrew Brown* is serving in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft armament systems specialist, ensuring the F-22 Raptor's weapons are functional and ready for deployment, including maintaining, inspecting and loading munitions. He is stationed at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, Nevada.

*Daniel Burton* is a member of the track and field team at Coker College.