

HUNT, BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Charging out front from the opening gun, the Barons raced to a second straight 4A State Championship in record fashion, setting both the SCISA state meet record and SCISA all-time meet record with a combined 1:20:14.48. They won by 31 points in school record time. *Trip Hunt '28* blazed to the individual state crown in a school record 15:26.20 and joined All-State honorees *Caulder Williamson '27* (3rd), *Abel Ayres '27* (4th), and *Gavin Getz '28* (10th). Depth sealed it with *Ben Rabon '26* (13th), *Cordin Finley '28* (14th), and *Aiden Bradford '28* (18th), and every runner finishing under 17 minutes. The team posted a 179-6 record under head coach *Mr. Reid Schwartz '09*, assisted by *Mr. Blane Russell '10*, *Mrs. Catherine Kelley Schwartz '16*, *Mr. Grier Schwartz '16*, *Mr. Dustin Smith*, and *Mrs. Kristine Smith*.

Keeping the momentum rolling, the girls raced to 3rd at state and closed the season 129-24. *Emmie Williamson '29* (7th) and *Jane Foley '30* (9th) made the All-State Team, with strong finishes from *Mary Ellen Thorne '26* (11th), *Mary Foley '28* (21st), *Cecelia Ayres '30* (30th), *Elisa Getz '30* (33rd), and *Sutton Shook '30* (46th). The team was also coached by *Mr. Schwartz*.



Members of the cross-country team celebrate with the State Championship trophy: *Wil Alexander '30*, *Ben Rabon '26*, *Abel Ayres '27*, *Cordin Finley '28*, *Trip Hunt '28*, *Gavin Getz '28*, *Caulder Williamson '27*, *Aiden Bradford '28*, *Bryce Hanson '26*, *Benjamin McIver '30*, *Cooper Melton '30* & *Ellis Hidalgo '32*.

THE ACCOLADE

WILSON HALL | DECEMBER 2025



Chess Club members *Torien Byrd '27* & *Jose Diaz '27* play a game of chess as *Michael Vipperman '28* watches.

Chess Club 4th in State; Sets Record

Placing fourth out of 30 teams, the Chess Club proudly represented Wilson Hall at the S.C. Independent School Association State Chess Tournament. The school set a SCISA record by bringing the largest team of students (30) to ever compete in the state tournament. Winning individual silver medals were *Noah Corrigan '28*, *Peyton Gilley '27* and *Tri Tran '26*. Sharpening tactics for the event, members of one of the most popular clubs on

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BARON FOOTBALL FINISHES STANDOUT SEASON

Charging through the fall with grit and heart, the Barons capped an exciting football season with an impressive 11-2 record and a state runner-up trophy. Each game on Spencer Field fueled school spirit, drawing fans of all ages together to cheer on a team that embodied determination and pride. Their success strengthened the indomitable Baron spirit and united the entire Wilson Hall community behind a common

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Members of the Class of '26 pose with the State Runner-Up trophy: (standing) *Stirling Tindal*, *Mateo Wagner*, *Harris Naylor*, *Sam Leard*, *Matthew Behmer*, *Banks Smith*, *Benson Elmore*, *Ford Wilder*, *Milling Galloway*, *Walker Wilson*, *Miguel Wagner*, *Ben McLaurin*, *Henry Jones*, *Luke Banar*, *Michael Thorne*, (front) *Cooper Hill* & *Andrew Howle*.



Bringing the Halloween spirit to life, members of the Class of '40 paraded in costume and trick-or-treated across campus, popping into offices and classrooms for sweet treats. The adventure doubled as a mini campus tour, giving our youngest Barons the chance to meet older students and greet faculty along the way. Posing with the class is Mr. Eddie Talley, Assistant Head of School.

CHESS CONTINUED

campus gathered after school for timed matches, openings practice, and friendly analysis. Led by **Mr. David Tuders**, the students refined strategy, studied endgames, and mentored newer players. Wilson Hall fosters involvement in a diverse array of activities, and that spirit shows here, where enthusiasm spills beyond official meetings as groups of students regularly play chess after school throughout the year.

BARON CONTINUED

cause. It was a fun season for fans and a memorable one for the school.

Mr. Adam Jarecki is the head coach, and he was assisted by **Mr. Robby Brown**, **Mr. Chuck McCord**, **Mr. Jake Meyers '18**, **Mr. Horace Lee Scott '13**, **Mr. Sam Watford '16**, and **Mr. Kurt Wilson**. **Mrs. Mary Peyton Zilch Clepper '14** is the athletic trainer, the student managers were **Carson Geddings '26**, **Maecy Hunt '26**, and **Kadence Newman '26**, and the assistants were **Jack Hoeltje '33** and **Field Horton '33**.



The Class of '36 poses for a photo with Speaker Murrell Smith '86 during a trip to the S.C. State House.

Civics in Action at the State House

By stepping into the South Carolina State House, the Class of '36 experienced first-hand the government concepts it has been studying in class. They learned about the history of the building and viewed the House and Senate chambers before meeting with Speaker of the South Carolina House of Repre-

sentatives **Murrell Smith '86**. Speaker Smith talked with the students about his job, explained how laws are made, and answered their many questions, creating a meaningful educational opportunity outside of the classroom. The teachers are **Mrs. Kathy Smith Coker '98**, **Mrs. Anne Gratz**, and **Mrs. Joy Hendrix**.

Grandfriends Day

A DAY FILLED WITH GRATITUDE & GENERATIONS



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Celebrating one of the warmest traditions of the year, Wilson Hall welcomed more than 750 grandparents and special guests to campus for the 36th Grandfriends Day on November 7.

Held in the Nash Student Center, the program opened with an invocation by **Charlie Sanders '33**, followed by **George Johnson '33** leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Students in grades 1-5 energized the audience with the upbeat "I Can't Stand Still Under Those Raindrops," complete with umbrella choreography, and later closed with a rousing performance of "Patriotic Festival," waving hundreds of American flags. Preschool and kindergarten students charmed the crowd with "Born to Make Music." The music was directed by **Mrs. Julia Sims-Owens**, accompanied on piano by **Mrs. Frankie Eldridge**, with **Mrs. Jen Alford Reimer '00** running the sound board to ensure a seamless performance.

Representing the student body, Class President **Bowen Zitzke '26** spoke about her positive experiences at Wilson Hall and how important grandparents have been to her school experience.

Mr. Ronny Lowder, a parent of alumni and current grandparent, offered heartfelt remarks on the blessing of giving and the essential role grandparents play in the Wilson Hall community. Head of School **Mr. Brent Kaneft '00** closed the program by thanking guests for their steadfast support, emphasizing the importance of the Future Fund, and reaffirming the school's mission: every student will be known, loved, challenged, and safe.

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1 Jolene Jackson, Liza Rowell, Ellie Brown & Avery Bass, Class of '36, perform for the standing-room-only crowd.

2 Pastor Mark Yoder, Marin Yoder '36 & Mrs. Carmen Yoder

3 Les Bell '39 sings "Born to Make Music."

4 George Johnson '33 leads the crowd in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, joined by Mr. Brent Kaneft '00, Head of School.

5 Lower school students proudly wave American flags while singing a rousing "Patriotic Festival."

GRANDFRIENDS CONTINUED

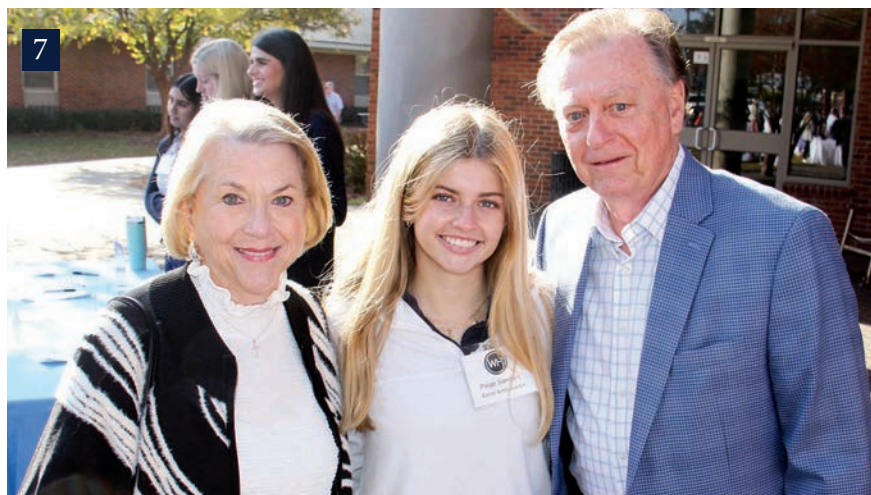
The Baron Ambassadors, chaired by **Sanders Warrick '26** and advised by **Mrs. Martha Jo Smith Johnson '99**, were stationed across campus to greet guests, provide directions, distribute welcome gifts, snap Polaroid photos, and keep the popcorn machine running. They also provided golf cart transportation for guests who needed assistance.

The PTO Hospitality Committee, led by **Mrs. Liz Gaughf**, prepared beautiful hospitality tables adorned with floral arrangements by **Mrs. Leigh Edmunds McLaurin '92** and served coffee and a generous assortment of pastries.

Sponsored by the Development Office, the event was coordinated by **Mrs. Martha Jo Smith Johnson '99**, Director of Development, and **Mrs. Caroline Zitzke**, Development Associate, ensuring a memorable and heartwarming day for the entire Baron community.



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6 Mrs. Kay Shugart with her granddaughter, Catherine Hidalgo '35.

7 Mrs. Harriet Lowder, Paige Sanders '26 (a Baron Ambassador and granddaughter) & Mr. Ronny Lowder.

8 Ruth Kinney '35 & Poppy Kinney '37 pose for a photo with their grandmother, Ms. Paula Stover '82.

9 Conner Tipton '34 & Coty Tran '34 perform a dance routine with umbrellas.

10 Joe McElveen '36, Mrs. Kathy Watson McElveen '72, Buck McElveen '40 & Mr. Joe McElveen

Harry Potter fans
Hannah Gray '34
(Hermoine Granger)
& Katherine Halley
'34 (Fleur Delacour).



Liza Skinner '39 enjoys the inflatable slide.



Easton Burchett '38 tries his luck at
the Pick the Pumpkin game.

RAIN CAN'T STOP FALL FESTIVAL FUN

Turning a rainy evening into a campus-wide celebration, the PTO Fall Festival transformed the Nash Student Center into a lively playground with two gyms packed full of activities, laughter, and school spirit. Chaired by **Mrs. Ashley Whittington** and co-chaired by **Mrs. Kristy Bass**, the event came together with an army of parent volunteers who helped pull off last-minute changes and keep the fun going strong. Families enjoyed games, six inflatables provided by Gibby's Inflatables, pony rides, festive treats, and plenty of chances for students to show off their creativity in the costume and pumpkin contests. The seniors sponsored a spooky haunted house, and faculty members bravely participated in the pie in the face booth.

Filled with fun and nonstop energy, the Fall Festival highlighted how the entire Wilson Hall community rallies together to create memorable moments for students. Parents, teachers, student officers, and volunteers worked side by side to welcome families of all ages, proving that even when the weather refuses to cooperate, Baron spirit and community involvement shine brighter than ever.



Members of the Class
of '26 man the haunted
house: Edna Lee
Harris, Sanders War-
rick, Lydia Leihsing,
Mary Carter Smith,
Stirling Tindal, Bryce
Hanson, Liz Singkhon-
ket, Paige Sanders &
Joey Robertson.

SUPERSONIC SPIRIT TAKES OVER THE GYM

Pumping up Baron pride for the state championship game, varsity football players and cheerleaders turned the SuperSonic Dance Challenge into a whirlwind of school spirit at the pep rally. Groups of 11 fired off five-second routines, which included stunts, in rapid-fire succession, keeping the crowd on its feet and roaring. The rally wrapped up with the entire gym joining together to sing the Alma Mater and fight song, filling the space with blue-and-white pride. The pep rally was coordinated by the varsity cheerleading squad advised by *Mrs. Frances James* and led by Captain *Bowen Zitzke '26* and Co-Captain *Madison Grace Hansen '26*.



Reese Wilson '27, Walker Wilson '26, Bowen Zitzke '26, Harris Naylor '26 & Nolan Gooch '28 perform a SuperSonic routine in the pep rally.

Powder Puff Under the Lights

Cheered on by nearly 300 fans, the Class of '28 defeated the Class of '29 with a score of 6-0 to claim the championship under the lights on Spencer Field. The spirited event brought out plenty of friendly competition and school pride as football players coached the four class teams, each sporting its own custom t-shirt. Coordinated by Student Body President *Walker Wilson '26* on behalf of the Student Council, advised by *Mrs. Rachel Jones Brown '00* and *Mr. Sean Hoskins*, the night captured the fun and energy of Baron spirit at its best.



Members of the Class of '28 pose for a photo after winning the Powder Puff Football Championship: Kate Skinner, Lilly Grace Przybyla, Ellis Coker, Amelie Lucas, Abrielle Naylor, Bailey Flemming, Harper Burke, Kira Stelle, Mary Foley, Grace McArthur & Ella Hodge.

Fields of Faith Brings Students Together in Worship

By fostering a campus where faith is actively lived, Wilson Hall brought over 100 students in grades 8-12 to Spencer Field for Fields of Faith, sharing a message, prayer, and worship music before gathering for roasting marshmallows and fellowship around the fire pits. **Mr. Jake Meyers '18** spoke about David & Goliath and Peter and how God worked through their struggles and imperfect journeys to draw them into a deeper

relationship with Him, while Mr. Caleb Yoder, the teaching and missions pastor of Christ Community Church, spoke about the mustard seed of faith and how even a small amount of faith has the potential for great growth. During the final song, students, if they felt led, signed a white board with something that may have been holding them back from committing to a stronger relationship with God. The evening was organized by **Paige Sanders '26** and sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Sacred Steps clubs.



Mr. Lee Gandy, Paige Sanders '26, Mary Ellen Thorne '26, Olivia Russell '26, Lauren Kohl '30, Sutton Shook '30, Harper Rivers '30 & Riley Coker '30 roast marshmallows around one of several fire pits around Spencer Field for Fields of Faith.



Mr. Grainger McKoy, renowned sculptor and artist, hosted art students for a field trip to his studio.

Inside McKoy's Studio & On Campus: Learning from a Master Sculptor

Experiencing professional artistry up close and on campus, Wilson Hall art students had two unique opportunities to learn directly from renowned Sumter sculptor Grainger McKoy. Students in AP Sculpture and Sculpture I and II, taught by **Mrs. Rachel Jones Brown '00**, visited McKoy's studio to observe his creative process firsthand. Known nationally for his intricate bird sculptures that capture movement and biological detail, he shared insights into his current projects and techniques, demonstrating how careful study and craftsmanship bring his work to life. Later, nearly 40 Middle and High School Art Club members packed the 3D art studio during lunch to hear McKoy speak on campus. He discussed his artistic journey, explained his process, showcased current work, and generously answered students' questions, encouraging them to think more creatively about their own art. Guided by **Mrs. Brown** for the high school and **Mrs. Renee Norton** for middle school, these experiences reinforce the importance of art education at Wilson Hall by inspiring young artists and connecting classroom learning to real-world craftsmanship.

Key Club Serves Others This Season

Meeting community needs with purpose, members of the Key Club collected over 35 frozen hams and turkeys as well as more than 100 non-perishable items to support Sumter United Ministries and its food pantry. Their service project will help provide well-stocked holiday meals for deserving families, reinforcing the club's commitment to compassion and leadership. Through generosity and teamwork, students made a meaningful difference during a season when support matters most. The club is advised by *Mrs. Stacey Reaves*.



Members of the Key Club pose by the many items collected for the Sumter United Ministries food pantry: Eashan Patel '28, Kira Stelle '28, Andrew Howle '26, Paige Sanders '26, Bowen Zitzke '26 & Walker Wilson '26.



Starting the holiday on a fun note, preschool and kindergarten students celebrated Thanksgiving with lively programs for their parents featuring the Pledge of Allegiance, a blessing, and spirited patriotic and seasonal songs. After the show, the students capped off the celebration with a festive feast of their own. Pictured are Cooper Farley '38 & Emerson Adams '38.



Millie James '34 enjoys a cup of tea during an etiquette class on Colonial Day.

Stepping Into History at Colonial Day

Stepping out of the classroom and into the past, the Class of '34 brought its U.S. History unit to life during Colonial Day at the Carolina Backcountry Homestead at the Sumter County Museum. Dressed in period costume, students rotated through hands-on stations such as colonial cooking at the hearth and a militia drill while exploring the recreated log cabin, settler's house, and blacksmith shop. Parent volunteers and teachers, also in costume, partnered with museum staff and volunteers to guide each activity, showcasing the strong tradition of parental involvement that enriches learning at Wilson Hall. The teachers are *Mrs. Tammy Amick*, *Mrs. Laura Brogdon*, and *Mrs. Megan Zimmerman*.



Tripp Smoak '34 churns butter, one of the many skills students learned about at Colonial Day.



FUTURE FUND

INVESTING IN WILSON HALL'S FUTURE, TODAY

Year two of the Future Fund is here, and your support will completely redo our parking lot (eliminating those pesky pot-holes for good) while continuing to fund the upgrades that make Wilson Hall exceptional. Every gift matters and directly impacts our students, teachers, and campus.

The Future Fund helps Wilson Hall do more: more for our stu-dents, more for our teachers, and more for our campus envi-ronment. It is designed to meet needs that are too large for the operating budget and too small for a dedicated capital campaign, providing resources that immediately and mean-ingly improve the student and faculty experience. Tuition covers the core operations of the school; the Future Fund cov-ers the extra enhancements that help Wilson Hall move from operational to excellent.

Although the Future Fund is relatively new, it has already made a major difference. It has funded the Wise Drive wall alongside our playground, purchased a new bus, provided smart boards for classrooms, and supported other important initiatives. Our students and faculty feel the impact of these investments every day.

Participation is the heart of the Future Fund. Regardless of the

size of your gift, your support matters. This year's goal is to have 75% of parents, 25% of alumni, and as many friends of Wilson Hall as possible participate.

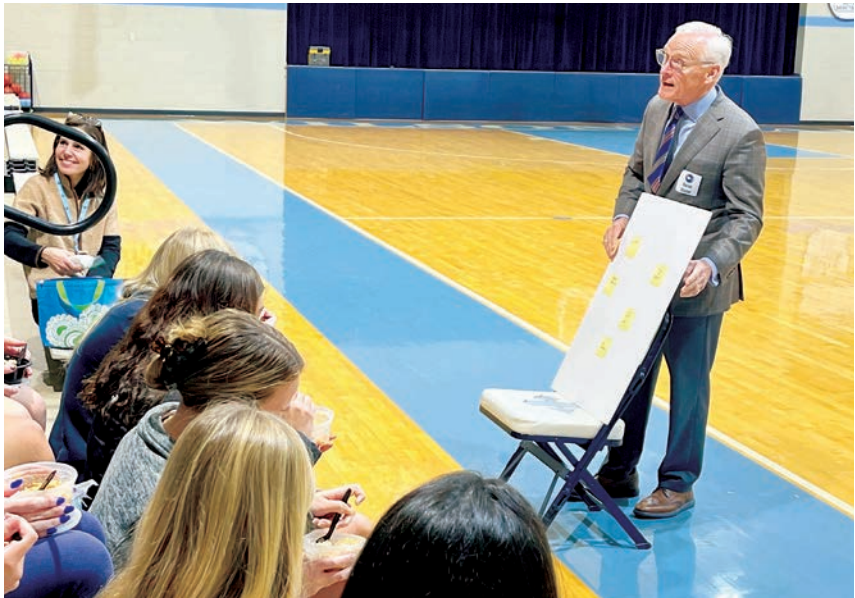
Give online at wilsonhall.org/giving, or mail checks payable to Wilson Hall to: Wilson Hall, Attn: Development, 520 Wilson Hall Rd., Sumter, SC 29150. Future Fund Giving Societies

No matter the amount, every gift makes a difference. Donors are recognized in the following giving societies:

Baron Society. \$1-\$999
Young Alumni Society. \$250+
Legacy Society \$1,000-\$1,999*
Head of School Society \$2,000-\$4,999*
Founders Society \$5,000-\$7,499*
John S. Wilson Society \$7,500+*

*Donors who support at these levels are invited to attend our annual donor recognition party.

By supporting the Future Fund, you help ensure that Wilson Hall continues to grow, improve, and provide an outstanding experience for every student.



Mr. Dickie Jones addresses students during an FCA gathering.

Jones Discusses Faith & Fellowship at FCA

Bringing students together in Christian fellowship, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes welcomed Mr. Dickie Jones, a local attorney and a Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Sumter, as the guest speaker for the lunch gathering. Drawing from personal experiences, he shared meaningful analogies about the importance of fellowship and discipleship, emphasizing both the joy and the challenges of living a Christian life. Mr. Jones is a Wilson Hall grandparent and parent of alumni, highlighting the importance of generational involvement in our school community. Open to all students in grades 9-12, FCA meets every other week during lunch to encourage faith, connection, and growth among peers. The club is advised by *Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93*.



Jacob Reddick '37 & Grayson Mitchum '38 with their mothers, Mrs. Ashley Reddick and Mrs. Sterling Winn Mitchum '07, enjoy the PTO Mother/Son Bowling event.

Strikes and Smiles at Mother/Son Bowling

Rolling and cheering at Gamecock Lanes, families packed the lanes for the PTO Mother and Son Bowling event. At Wilson Hall, parents are essential partners in our students' education, and events like this reflect how much we value their involvement. A total of 130 attendees, including boys in Preschool 3 through 5th grade and their mothers or special guests, teamed up for the fun. Laughter, high-fives, and friendly competition filled the lanes as families cheered on every spare and strike, capping a spirited community gathering with snacks and smiles. The event was chaired by **Mrs. Stacy Montgomery**.

AOK Club Chalk Thankful Messages

Spreading thankfulness this holiday season, members of the Acts of Kindness Club used sidewalk chalk to cover the front walk with words of gratitude, creating a colorful welcome for high school students on the last day before Thanksgiving break. From simple joys to meaningful moments, their messages reminded everyone to pause, reflect, and appreciate the many blessings of the season. The AOK Club co-chairs are **Ad-die Griffin**, **Paige Sanders**, and **Anna Lynn Skinner**, Class of '26.



Morgan Aycock '26 & Paige Sanders '26, members of the AOK Club, chalk their gratitude.



Faith on the Water: Sacred Steps Kayak Trip

Seeking fellowship and reflection in God's creation, members of the Sacred Steps Outdoor Club kayaked down the Lynch River after launching from RiverRat's Kayaking & Canoes in Scranton. The peaceful trip included prayer and devotion amid the beauty of nature. Founded on the belief that quiet time outdoors helps us notice the "sacred steps" that bring us closer to Him, the club encourages faith, friendship, and reflection under the leadership of President **Paige Sanders '26** and advisor **Mr. Lee Gandy**.

Eli Smith '29 paddles during a Sacred Steps Club kayaking trip.

PYRAMID PEP RALLY SHOWDOWN

Firing up school spirit ahead of the state quarterfinal game, 80 students in grades 9-12 faced off in a fun Pyramid Competition Pep Rally. Grade-level teams, organized by class presidents, raced to build the strongest stacks, with the Class of '27 girls and the Class of '26 boys taking the crowns and sending everyone into game night with smiles and momentum. The pep rally was coordinated by the varsity cheerleading squad advised by **Mrs. Frances James** and led by **Captain Bowen Zitzke '26** and Co-Captain **Madison Grace Hansen '26**.



Matthew Behmer '26 climbs to the top as his class wins the Pyramid Competition Pep Rally.

First Chapters: Reading to Inspire Deeper Thinking

Promoting a love of literature, students in grades 6-12 are diving deeper into reading through First Chapters, our new monthly book clubs held in the library. Students gather to read the opening chapter of a selected book, relax on bean bags, enjoy snacks, and engage in thoughtful conversation with their peers. In November, middle school students explored Tolkien's *The Hobbit* while high school students discussed Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*.



*Middle school students listen to Mrs. Hayes Jones, librarian, read from *The Hobbit* during a First Chapters meeting in the library.*

Coordinated by **Mrs. Hayes Jones**, librarian, First Chapters is part of the school's Renaissance Reading Scholar Program, which encourages students to read rigorous, meaningful literature that prepares them for high school, college, and beyond. Students who participate choose from faculty-selected titles informed by award-winning literature, AP reading selections, and works considered essential for an educated life, then engage in discussion with a faculty sponsor to demonstrate understanding. At Wilson Hall, reading is intentionally cultivated, encouraged, and celebrated as a signature program aligned with our mission to challenge students academically and intellectually.



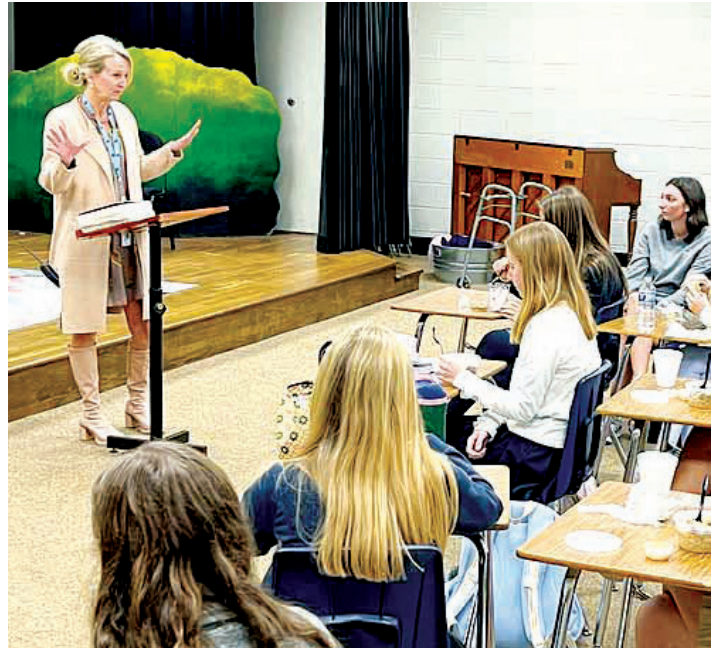
Charli Bonser '26, a Baron Care staff member, admires the gratitude chain made by Fox Furse '39.

Baron Care's Colorful Creations of Gratitude

Sparking creativity and thankfulness, Baron Care students filled an afternoon with hands-on projects that celebrated the season. They wrote what they were thankful for on strips of construction paper to build a bright gratitude chain, crafted "I Am Thankful For" wheels from paper plates, and designed colorful, delicious-looking pretend pizzas. Baron Care, which serves students in Preschool 3 through 5th grade, is directed by *Mrs. Brooke Tidwell*, Director of Auxiliary Programs.

Spencer Speaks of Finding Joy at FCA

FCA welcomed *Mrs. Adelaide Spencer*, Director of Administration, as the guest speaker for its bi-weekly lunch meeting. Drawing from Deuteronomy 28:47 and Nehemiah 8:10, she shared that real joy and strength come when we fix our eyes on God, not ourselves, and refuel daily in His Word. *Mrs. Spencer* reminded students that Jesus is our friend who offers abundant joy even in struggle, and she invited everyone to keep the conversation going about finding lasting joy in everyday life. The club is advised by *Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93*.



Mrs. Adelaide Spencer is the guest speaker at a First Priority morning gathering.



Edmunds DuBose '27 pitches as government students took their review outdoors with Government Kickball. Before each kick, players fielded a question spanning topics from the Constitution to case law; a correct answer earned a kick, while a miss required a quick task before first base such as pirouettes or a crab walk. The activity was a fun way to study and be outside while reviewing material taught by Mr. Sean Hoskins.



Madison Grace Hansen, Morgan Aycock, McClain Segars, Paige Sanders & Carlisle Segars, Class of '26, and Adelaide Eaddy '27, deliver Halloween treats to the high school students as members of the AOK Club.

Sweet Surprises from Acts of Kindness

Meeting on campus before school so every student would find a treat at morning arrival, Acts of Kindness Club members spread Halloween cheer one locker at a time by placing candy and a handwritten card in each upper school locker. The student-led club is dedicated to promoting positivity and thoughtfulness, organizing small gestures throughout the year to brighten the Wilson Hall community. The AOK Club co-chairs are **Addie Griffin, Paige Sanders, and Anna Lynn Skinner**, Class of '26.



Angela Agno '28 creates a work of art for Sumter Green's Fall Feast.

Art in Action at Fall Feast

Showcasing creativity and artistic talent at Wilson Hall, students in AP Studio Art, Drawing II, or Set Design painted one-of-a-kind ironing boards which were used as tables for the Fall Feast held at USC Sumter to benefit Sumter Green. These original works of functional art will continue to serve the community at future events. The students are taught by **Ms. Tara Breslin-Schumacher**.

Talking Turkeys Take the Podium in AP English Language

Turning Thanksgiving tradition into a fun way to learn, AP English Language students took on named turkey personas to craft speeches arguing for a presidential pardon. Without costumes but fully in character, they chose strategic rhetorical moves and matching tones to persuade the audience their turkey should be spared, blending creativity, voice, and argument. The class is taught by **Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93**.



Johnny Lauzon '27 pleads for a pardon during an AP English Language activity.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: BUILDING BETTER WETLANDS



Joseph Bauman '26 & Henry Jones '26 conduct an experiment in Environmental Science.

Exploring how wetlands naturally filter our water, Environmental Science students wrapped up their unit on terrestrial & aquatic biomes with a hands-on wetland lab. After learning how vital wetlands are to healthy ecosystems, students built their own miniature wetlands using layered models of filter, gravel, sand, soil, and moss. They then tested how effectively wetlands clean water by measuring the pH of dirty water before and after running it through their filtration models. *Mrs. Jessica Duke* is the teacher.



Mrs. Carmen Yoder, Mrs. Terri Sestokas & Mrs. Leigh Edmunds McLaurin '92

Serving with Heart at Wilson Hall

Wilson Hall is grateful for *Mrs. Leigh Edmunds McLaurin '92*, Director of Food Service, and her wonderful team, *Mrs. Terri Sestokas* and *Mrs. Carmen Yoder*, who serve breakfast, lunch, and mid-morning snacks with unfailing warmth and a smile. Their welcoming cafeteria offers students a cheerful, inviting respite from the hustle and bustle of the school day, making it a cherished place of comfort and connection. Their work represents the spirit of all Wilson Hall support staff, whose dedication behind the scenes plays an essential role in helping our school thrive each day.

Honoring a President: U.S. History



Kira Krueger '28 delivers a eulogy for President Lincoln.

Stepping into the shoes of historical figures, students in U.S. History prepared for a solemn classroom memorial service honoring President Abraham Lincoln. Each student selected an influential individual from Lincoln's era or from earlier American history and delivered a brief, one-page eulogy expressing why Lincoln mattered to that person, whether in admiration or disagreement. Wearing black attire and encouraged to bring framed photos of the president, students wove at least four accurate historical details into their reflections, capturing the somber mood of the nation in 1865 while gaining a deeper understanding of Lincoln's impact on the country he led through its most turbulent years. The class is taught by *Mrs. Lori Brown*.



In AP English Language, Lucy Mims '26 & Morgan Aycock '26 participate in a peer-editing session, which was followed by a timed argumentative essay on the prompt, "To what extent is competition valuable?" By reviewing their classmates' work, offering constructive feedback, and engaging in discussion, students refined their analytical and writing skills. The process encouraged critical thinking and revision, allowing each student to strengthen their essay before final submission. The class is taught by Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93.



Col. Tom Gordon, USMC (Ret.), delivers a message about leadership in Founders Chapel.

Leadership Lessons in Chapel

Opening with prayer set a reverent tone for chapel as Col. Tom Gordon, USMC (Ret.), Commandant of Cadets at The Citadel, shared three core leadership skills with our students. Drawing from his book *Marine Maxims*, he emphasized turning principles into practice through knowing yourself, remembering that leadership is not about you, and understanding that people don't care how much you know but will remember how much you care. The powerful message connected faith, character, and purpose. **Mr. Lee Gandy** is the coordinator of the Chapel program.

Exploring Surface Tension Through Hands-On Science

Putting STEAM learning into action, 5th-grade students conducted a hands-on lab to explore the concept of surface tension in **Mrs. Frances James'** science class. Through interactive experiments and observation, students discovered how cohesive forces in water create tension strong enough to support light objects, deepening their understanding of scientific inquiry and real-world phenomena.



Reid Williamson '33 & John Austin Smith '33 experiment with surface tension in science.



For a Chapel program, Mrs. Liza Lowder Meyers '18 gives a message of faith.

FAITH THROUGH THE FIRE

Mrs. Liza Lowder Meyers '18, an English teacher, led Chapel with a heartfelt message titled "But Even If." Sharing her family's experience of losing their home in a 2019 house fire, she connected the story to Daniel 3 and the example of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who chose to trust God even when He might not deliver them from the furnace. Her message encouraged students to develop "even-if" faith, trusting in God's goodness not only when He answers prayers as hoped but even when He doesn't. **Mr. Lee Gandy** is the coordinator of the Chapel program.



Students Tap into Learning at Water Treatment Plant

Highlighting how Wilson Hall uses local places as valuable educational resources, the Class of '36 visited the Pocotaligo Water Treatment Plant to deepen their understanding of Community Helpers. Students saw firsthand how clean, reliable water is produced for Sumter, connecting classroom lessons to real community operations. The experience offered meaningful, real-world learning guided by *Mrs. Lynn Davis, Mrs. Jordan Logan, and Mrs. Carla Talley.*

Conlee Galloway, Tolley Richardson & Charlotte Anne Wells, Class of '36, pause for a photo while on their class trip to the water treatment plant.

STUDYING BONES IN ANATOMY



Engaging in hands-on learning, students in Honors Anatomy used real cow bones to study the structure and function of a long bone. Through direct observation, they explored features such as the bone marrow, medullary cavity, endosteum, and periosteum, deepening their understanding of skeletal anatomy. The interactive lab, taught by *Mrs. Ashley Morris*, brought textbook concepts to life in a memorable and practical way.

Logan Pauly, Andrew Howle, Bowen Zitzke, Mary Ellen Thorne, McClain Segars, Charli Bonser & Mattalyn Shirey, Class of '26, investigate a cow thigh bone in anatomy.



Led by Sanders Warrick '26 as the stepsister Charlotte, cast members rehearse "Stepsisters Lament" on the multipurpose room stage.

A FAIRYTALE IN THE MAKING: BEHIND THE SCENES OF *Cinderella*

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella is coming to life at Wilson Hall, thanks to months of energy, artistry, and teamwork from a cast of 43 students in grades 7-12. After auditions in September and a Sunday afternoon table read for the main cast in early October, students jumped into learning choreography and music, setting the foundation for a truly magical spring musical. Choreography sessions, held on Sundays at Miss Libby's School of Dance and led by **Mrs. Jen Alford Reimer '00**, bring elegance and movement to the production, while the beloved Rodgers and Hammerstein score is being taught by director **Mrs. Lori Brown** with support from vocal coach **Mrs. Rainey Barrineau**.

Rehearsals are held almost daily on the multipurpose room stage as students polish scenes, songs, and choreography for the production at Patriot Hall. At the same time, the Set Construction and Design class, taught by **Mrs. Tara Bres-**

lin-Schumacher and **Mr. Steve Hudson**, has been busy on campus designing and building a magical fairytale set. **Mr. Sean Hoskins** serves as the producer of the musical, which will be performed March 19-21 at Patriot Hall.

A recent Saturday workshop infused extra excitement into the process. After breakfast from Eggs Up Grill and a prayer, students dove into a high-energy session led by assistant director **Mr. George Carruth '06**. Cast members bonded through improv, acting drills, stage direction exercises, and vocal warm-ups before rehearsing a musical number with **Mrs. Brown**. The boys' first dedicated music rehearsal further showcased how well-rounded Barons balance academics, athletics, and the arts as they stepped from classrooms and practice fields into the chorus room to build musicianship and confidence.

Cast bonding has extended beyond rehearsals as well. A group of 35 students, parents, and

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Mrs. Lori Brown, director, leads some of the male members of the cast for their first music rehearsal.



Cast members rehearse "Cinderella's Waltz" during a choreography session at Miss Libby's School of Dance.



Led by Mr. George Carruth '06, cast members participate in one of many group activities held during a Saturday morning workshop.

CONTINUED

faculty members traveled together to see Lexington High School's production of *Cinderella*, followed by a dinner outing that strengthened friendships and sparked inspiration. Meanwhile, the girls have enjoyed experiencing the magic firsthand during fittings for their rainbow of elegant gowns.

Productions like *Cinderella* highlight how essential the arts are to a Wilson Hall education, giving students meaningful opportunities to grow as performers, creators, and collaborators. From theater and music to visual arts and stagecraft, the school actively encourages and supports creative expression, helping students discover their gifts and share them with the community. With creativity, collaboration, and strong support for the arts fueling every step, *Cinderella* is shaping up to be a truly enchanting production this spring.

1979

Will Haynie was elected to his third term as mayor of Mount Pleasant, the fourth largest city in South Carolina, in November. **Will** is also the owner of HarborPR, a media, marketing, and public relations advisory firm. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in business from The Citadel. **Will** and his wife, Suzette, have four children.



Will Haynie '79

ALUMNI

1986

Meg Price Creech shared a Christ-centered message as the guest speaker for First Priority, a Christian club advised by **Ms. Heather Eldridge '93** that holds bi-weekly meetings before school. Speaking of Zaccheus from Luke 19, she urged students to see others the way Jesus sees them, to lay aside judgment, and to keep their hearts open to hearing from Him just as Zaccheus did. Alumni like **Meg** remain an important part of nurturing faith and community at Wilson Hall. She and her husband, **Roy Creech '83**, have three sons who graduated from Wilson Hall: **William '14**, **Layton '18** and **Thomas '25**.



Meg Price Creech '86



Milt Lowder '90

1990

Milt Lowder, a sport psychologist for the Clemson Athletic Department and a licensed counseling psychologist with AMPLOS, was on campus for the second session of our Parent Series. He shared Biblically grounded, scientifically supported strategies to help parents lead with clarity and confidence. **Milt** focused on "changing the lens" using Romans 12:2 as a scriptural basis to shepherd children into who God intended them to be. The final session will be February 2nd.

1997

Sam Cromer works as the Assistant Facility Manager for Armor Limited, Inc., an industrial and surface protection company in Sumter. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice. **Sam** and his wife, Heather, have two children who attend Wilson Hall: **Stella '29** and **Rutledge '32**.

2000

John Patton Ford is an award-winning film director and writer who lives in Los Angeles, California. His newest film which he wrote and directed, the black comedy thriller **How to Make a Killing**, stars Glen Powell and Margaret Qualley and will be released in theaters by A24 Studios in February. This is his second major feature film, following the success of **Emily the Criminal** starring Aubrey Plaza. **John** graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in media arts and the American Film Institute with a Master of Fine Arts in directing.



John Patton Ford '00

2001

Patrick Galphin is the Vice President of Strategic Project and Facilities for Orion Financial, one of the largest credit unions in the Mid-South. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in business administration and Christian Brothers University with a Master of Business in project management.

Patrick lives in Memphis, Tennessee, with his wife, Carrie, and their daughters, Millie and Crosby.

2003

Patrick Townes and his wife, Caitlin, announce the birth of their son, Thomas Ross Townes, on November 19. They have two other children, Annalee and Jack.

2009

Lauren Bordeaux and Hayden Fletcher were married on November 7 at a private residence on the Intracoastal Waterway in McClellanville with a reception following. The bridal party included **Lisa Crabbe Furse '09**, **Stephanie James Gould '09** and **Batey Self Rourke '09**. **Lauren**, who graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in business administration, works for the Gray Man Gallery. They live in Georgetown.

Reid Schwartz and his wife, Katherine, announce the birth of their son, George Clarke Schwartz, on November 28. They have three other children: **Preston '39**, **Tribble '40**, and Helen. **Reid** is the son of **Caren Gulleddge Schwartz '81** and **Milton Schwartz '79**.

2011

Courtney Kight Duffy and her husband, **Will Duffy '11**, announce the birth of their daughter, Virginia Grace Duffy, on November 24.

Greg McLeod lives in Sumter and works as a financial services representative for Verizon. He graduated from the University of South Carolina Aiken with a Bachelor of Science in business administration and Strayer University with a Master of Business Administration.

2012

Maddie Varn Dailey and her husband, **Jay Dailey '06**, announce the birth of their daughter, Frances Sullivan Dailey. They have a son, Bowie.

Dayton Ward lives in Charleston where he is the Project Coordinator for Charleston County Economic Development. He was selected for the Charleston Business Magazine's prestigious Best & Brightest 35 and Under list for 2025. The annual recognition celebrates outstanding young professionals across South Carolina who demonstrate significant professional achievement and make a substantial impact on their communities. **Dayton** graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in government and political science.

2013

Shane King and Emma Eveld were married on November 1 at St. Thomas More Church in Kansas City, Missouri, with a reception held at The Everly. **Cody King '15** was a groomsman. **Shane** is a postdoctoral researcher for the mechatronics and haptic interfaces lab at Rice University in Houston, Texas. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering and Vanderbilt University with a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering.



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1. Savannah Wells '27 serves an ace in a varsity match in the Nash Student Center. Coached by Mr. Rip Ripley, the team advanced to the State Quarterfinals and finished the season with a 28-11 record. 2. Jane Foley '30 bumps the ball over the net in an 8th grade match. Coached by Ms. Brittany Thrower, the team earned a 12-7 record. 3. Makaela Bolton '29 hits the ball over the net in a JV match. Coached by Mr. Rip Ripley, the team finished the season with a 13-5 record. 4. Gray Edmunds '32 receives the serve in a 6th grade match. Ms. Brittany Thrower was the coach of the team which earned a record of 8-7.

2014

Bennett Graves and Hannah Byers were married on November 29 in Saluda, North Carolina.

2016

Hunter Hawkins Corbett and her husband, Matthew, announce the birth of their daughter, Emerson Faith Corbett, on November 19.

Jacob Cox lives in Columbia and works as a sales support associate for Republic National Distributing Company, a national beverage manufacturer. He graduated from the

University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in sport and entertainment management.

Catherine Kelley Schwartz was the guest speaker for First Priority when she shared a message on Zacchaeus from Luke 19, highlighting how Jesus welcomes everyone. She reminded students that with God there are no outsiders, Jesus excludes no one, and he notices you even when no one else seems to. The Christian club for middle school students meets before school on alternating Tuesday mornings and is advised by *Ms. Heather Eldridge '93*. The continued involvement of alumni like *Catherine*, who also served as an assistant cross-country coach, gives our students a relatable role model who has walked the same halls they do now. She and her husband, *Grier Schwartz '16*, live in Sumter.



Catherine Kelley Schwartz '16



Campbell Mims '17 and his wife, Abbott.

2017 | *Danielle deHoll* is the Manager of Technical Recruiting for Flock Safety, a public safety operating system used by cities to eliminate crime, in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts in consumer journalism.

Campbell Mims and Abbott Hutto were married on November 15 at Wavering Place in Eastover with a reception following. *Lee Mims '23* was a groomsman. *Campbell* works as a government relations advisor with Sweatman Strategies, LLC, an association management and government affairs firm based in Columbia. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and mass communications and a Master of Mass Communications from the University of South Carolina.

Launching learning into the open air, AP Physics students took their lesson outdoors to investigate how potential energy converts into kinetic energy. Working in teams, they designed and built mini catapults to launch marshmallows, tested and refined their prototypes, then competed to see whose design sent a marshmallow the farthest. The hands-on challenge blended collaboration, iteration, and real-world physics, guided by Mrs. Jessica Duke. Pictured are Henry Jones, Matthew Behmer, Luke Banar & Banks Smith, Class of '26, and Maxwell Smith '27.





Perrin Marie Cromer Wells '18 and her husband, Noah.



Jake Meyers '18

2018

Perrin Marie Cromer and Noah Wells were married at Symmes Chapel on Stone Mountain in Cleveland on November 5. *Perrin Marie* is the daughter of *Nancy Montague Cromer '84* and *Perron Cromer '84*.

Ragin Lee is an attorney with the firm of Hedrick Gardner Kincheloe & Garofalo in Columbia, working primarily with business and construction cases. She graduated from Wofford College with a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology and sociology and the University of South Carolina Rice School of Law with a Juris Doctor.

Jake Meyers was a featured speaker at the Fields of Faith event held on Spencer Field at Wilson Hall. An assistant project manager for Hawkins & Kolb General Contractors, he graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in construction science and management. He lives in Sumter with his wife, *Liza Lowder Meyers '18*.

Kathryn Sistare, who lives in Charleston, is an attorney and works as a judicial law clerk for South Carolina's 14th Judicial Circuit. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in business and from Charleston School of Law with a Juris Doctor.

2020

Molly Moss and Kodie Reaves were married on October 4 at the home of Molly's parents in Rembert. The bridal party included *Emily Anne Beasley '20*, *Taylor Smith Horton '16*, *Caroline McElveen '24* and *Madeline Owens '20*, and *Haile McElveen '20* was a groomsman. Molly is the daughter of *Amy Hatfield Moss '92* and *Tony Moss '93*.

Noah Tavarez lives in St. Louis, Missouri, where he works as a software engineer for Boeing Defense, Space & Security. He graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in computer science.

2021

Gracyn Coker works as a real estate finance and asset manager analyst at GMJ Partners in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. A graduate of Wofford College with a Bachelor of Arts in English and history, she is pursuing a Master of Science in management at Wake Forest University School of Business.



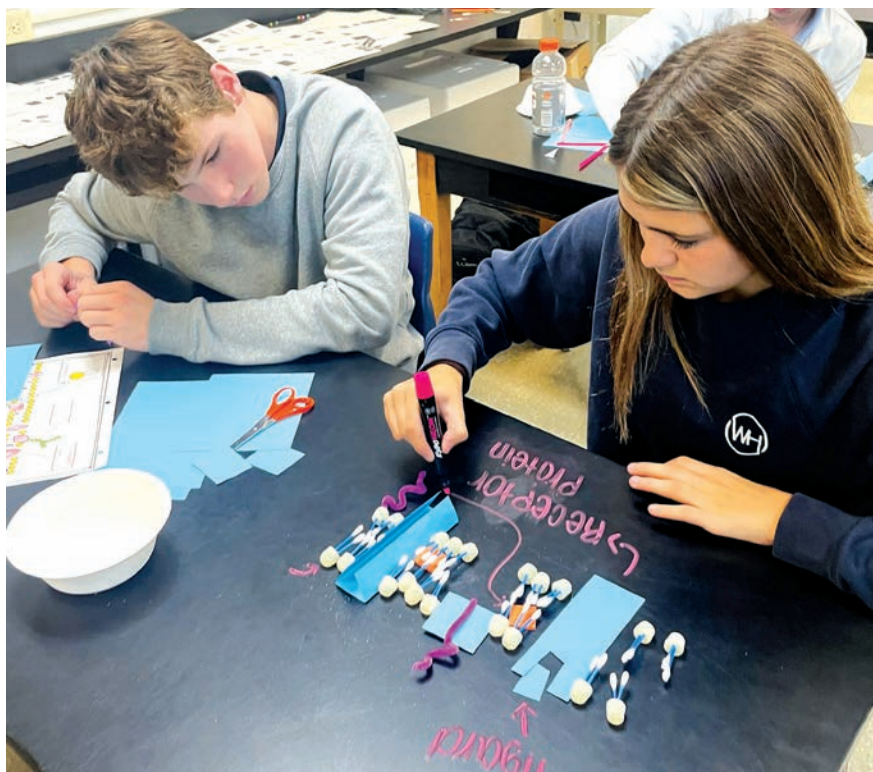
Prit Patel '28 reads a history brief during a class activity. Tracing the famous Lewis & Clark expedition, students in U.S. History followed a detailed time line through ten interactive hallway stations featuring maps, photos, and key facts from each stop. Working in small groups, they recorded their main observations from every leg of the journey before presenting their findings to the class. The engaging activity, taught by Mrs. Lori Brown, promoted collaboration, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of westward expansion.

2022

Chanson Bullard, who is majoring in biology and psychology with a concentration in neuroscience at Wofford College, visited the AP Psychology classes taught by **Mrs. Allyson Lowder Sanders '96**. Having recently completed a unit on sleep and the brain, students connected her outreach presentation for her Neuroscience of Sleep class, in which she explained the effects of alcohol and stimulant use on sleep, to what they had just studied.



Chanson Bullard '22



How do students grasp cell membranes? By building them. In Mrs. Ashley Morris's biology class, a STEAM-focused, hands-on activity used gumdrops, pipe cleaners & construction paper to model membrane structure and function, turning simple materials into a clear understanding of complex biology. Pictured are JT Reimer '28 & Tatiana Erichsen '29.

2023

John Morgan Bates, a civil engineering major at Clemson University, completed a co-op with the site design team of Goodwyn Mills Cawood in Greenville, one of the Southeast's largest architecture and engineering firms. As a member of the Engineers for Developing Countries Colombia Ram Pump Team, he helped design sustainable, no-electricity water systems to support rural communities near Cali, Colombia. **John Morgan** is the recipient of the GE John Lammas Annual Scholarship at Clemson University, an engineering award funded by GE Vernova that recognizes outstanding students pursuing degrees in STEM fields. For the second



Hampton Watson '23

year, he worked as a counselor for Camp KEMO, a summer camp program through Prisma Health Children's Hospital for children who are being treated for cancer or have survived cancer.

Rebekah Patel, a biosystems engineering major at Clemson University Honors College, completed the FRESH Sustainability Leadership Program which cultivates student leaders committed to environmental stewardship and sustainability initiatives on campus and beyond.

Hampton Watson, who is pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy, is completing a pharmacy internship at Publix in Irmo.



John Morgan Bates '23

2024

Bella Grudzinski, a retailing and retail operations major at the University of South Carolina, will complete a wedding planning internship with Hamilton Events this summer.

2025

Logan Schumacher is a mechanical engineering major at Florida Polytechnic University where he is a member of the club swim team and the esports team.



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GO BARONS!

1. Kinslee Reimer '31, a member of the B-team cheerleading squad advised by Mrs. Courtney Moore, cheers at Spencer Field.
2. Jack Hoeltje '33 runs for a first down in a B-team football game. The team (4-3) was coached by Mr. Brad Scott.
3. Lauren Kohl '30 returns the serve in a JV tennis match. Coached by Mrs. Hanna Rivers Sprott '04, the team earned a record of 11-1.

4. Claudia Rhodus '27 scores with a forehand shot in a varsity match at Palmetto Tennis Center. Coached by Ms. Julia Sorrells, the team advanced to the State Quarterfinals and earned a record of 9-4.
5. Anna Kate Aronson '29 performs a half time routine with the JV cheerleading squad which is advised by Mrs. Anne Gratz & Mrs. Ashley Melton.
6. Mary Katherine Dutcher '27 competes in a match at Beechcreek Golf Course. The team, coached by Mr. Ryan Dutcher, finished 5th in the state tournament and earned a record of 48-24.