

Sill Crowned 54th Homecoming Queen



Homecoming Court: Charli Bonser, Morgan Aycock, Madison Grace Hansen, Ella Sill, Sanders Warrick, Bowen Zitzke & Paige Sanders, Class of '26.

In a night filled with tradition and excitement, **Ella Sill '26** was crowned the 54th Homecoming Queen during halftime of the varsity football game on Spencer Field. The Senior Class nominated seven girls for the court, and students in grades 9-12 cast their votes to select this year's queen. Joining **Ella** on the Homecoming Court were classmates **Morgan Aycock**, **Charli Bonser**, **Madison Grace Hansen**, **Paige Sanders**, **Sanders Warrick**, and **Bowen Zitzke**. The honor of crowning **Ella** went to Head of School **Mr. Brent Kaneft '00**, while 2024 Homecoming Queen **Sophie Sweatman '25** returned from the University of South Carolina to present her with a bouquet of white roses. They were joined by **Kinlyn Hoover '38** and **Sally Mac Shaw '38**, who served as flower girls, and **James McMillan '38**, who served as crown bearer. The Homecoming Court was organized by **Mrs. Rachel Jones Brown '00** and **Mr. Sean Hoskins** on behalf of the Student Council, ensuring the ceremony reflected both the spirit of the evening and the pride of the Wilson Hall community.

THE ACCOLADE

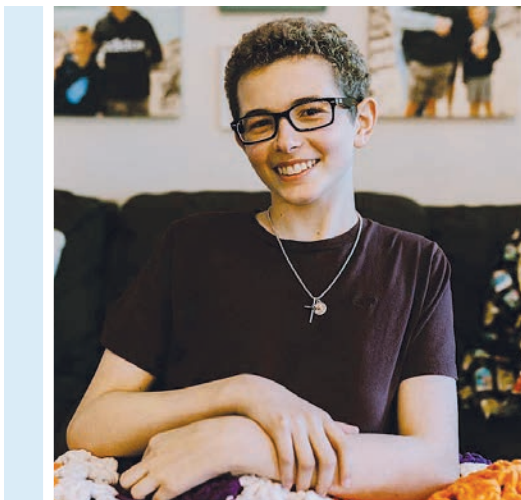
WILSON HALL | NOVEMBER 2025

Naylor & Zitzke Elected Mr. & Miss Wilson Hall

Chosen by their classmates from a faculty-nominated slate, **Harris Naylor** and **Bowen Zitzke** earned one of Wilson Hall's highest honors, Mr. and Miss Wilson Hall, recognizing above-average academics, meaningful involvement in athletics or extracurriculars, outstanding citizenship, and exemplary character. Underclass honorees were Mr. and Miss Junior: **Griffin Jones** and **Caroline Moorman**, Mr. and Miss Sophomore: **Eashan Patel** and **Lilly Grace Przybyla**, and Mr. and Miss Freshman: **Samuel Brown** and **Emmie Williamson**.



Mr. & Miss Wilson Hall:
Harris Naylor '26 & Bowen Zitzke '26.



In Loving Memory of
SAMMY WELCH
CLASS OF 2030

January 11, 2012 - October 10, 2025



Most Likely to Succeed:
Austin McLaurin '26 & Bowen Zitzke '26.

McLaurin & Zitzke Named Most Likely to Succeed

Congratulations to *Austin McLaurin* and *Bowen Zitzke*, elected by the Class of '26 as Most Likely to Succeed in the Senior Superlatives. Additional honors include Most Athletic - *Ella Sill* and *Ford Wilder*; Most Dependable - *Anna VanPatten* and *Walker Wilson*; Friendliest - *Paige Sanders* and *Stirling Tindal*; Most Intelligent - *Mary Ellen Thorne* and *Banks Smith*; Most School Spirit - *Olivia Russell* and *Bryce Hanson*; Most Talented - *Sanders Warrick* and *Harris Naylor*; and Wittiest - *Adalin Brown* and *Benson Elmore*. These students were chosen by their peers for exemplifying the qualities that make the Class of 2026 shine.



Wilson Hall Earns Top State Rankings

Rising to the top in statewide recognition, Wilson Hall was named by Niche as the #10 Best College Prep Private High School in South Carolina in its 2026 rankings. The school also placed #14 Best High School for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), public or private, and claimed the title of #1 Best High Schools for Athletes in Sumter County. These distinctions are based on a rigorous analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education, Niche users, and schools, along with student and parent reviews.



State Swimming Champions Cliff Bath '26, Jacob Hewett '29, Ryan Brown '29 & Banks Smith '26.

Swim Team Strikes Gold, Finishes Third at State

Clutch finishes and three school records propelled the boys swim team to third at the S.C. Independent School Assoc. 4A State Championships and three gold medals. *Jacob Hewett '29* won the 200 individual medley in a school-record 1:56.52 and added the 100 breaststroke title with a school-record 59.92, then teamed with *Cliff Bath '26*, *Ryan Brown '29*, and *Banks Smith '26* to win the 200 freestyle relay in a school-record 1:34.01. Adding crucial points: *Bath* 2nd in the 50 free and 2nd in the 100 free; *Brown* 5th in the 200 free and 9th in the 100 back; *Gentry Flowers '30* 9th in the 200 free; *Smith* 8th in the 50 free and 9th in the 100 breast; *Ethan Wilson '28* 7th in the 100 fly and 7th in the 500 free. On the girls side, *Lilly Schortmann '32* placed 8th in the 200 individual medley. The team finished the season with a 52-5 record and was led by *Mrs. Jeanna Mahr*, head coach, who was assisted by *Ms. Tara Breslin-Schumacher*, *Mrs. Amy Brown*, and *Mrs. Renee Norton*.



Rowe Weissenstein '40 and his classmates popped into their very own on-campus pumpkin patch, where every student found the perfect pumpkin. After a lively game of Pass the Pumpkin, they tasted and smelled all things pumpkin to explore their senses.



Millie Shaw '39 uses a fire hose during a class trip to the fire station. Experiencing real-world safety skills firsthand, students visited the Sumter Fire Department headquarters, where firefighters taught essential lessons on fire safety. Students practiced dialing 911 and took turns using a firehose, turning an exciting field trip into a memorable educational opportunity.

Key Club Serves with Purpose at Walk for Life

Answering the call to community service, the Key Club powered the Walk for Life by welcoming participants at check-in and handling both setup and cleanup for the event hosted on the Watson Family Track by the Prisma Health Tuomey Foundation. Their work helped the fundraiser run smoothly, advancing support for life-saving initiatives at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital and critical breast cancer services. Guided by advisor *Mrs. Stacey Reaves* and led by Co-Presidents *Andrew Howle '06* and *Bowen Zitzke '06*, the club showed how student leadership turns compassion into action.



Kira Krueger '28, Grace Stewart '29 & Kira Stelle '28, members of the Key Club, volunteer at the Walk for Life.



Michael Thorne, Banks Smith, Andrew Howle & Cooper Hill, Class of '26, sing Natasha Bedingfield's "Unwritten" in the Karaoke Pep Rally.

SPIRIT TAKES CENTER STAGE FOR KARAOKE PEP RALLY

Firing up the crowd in preparation for the night's football game, members of the Class of '26 on the football team took the mic for a spirited Karaoke Pep Rally. From Britney Spears to Taylor Swift, four groups delivered wildly entertaining performances, filling the gym with laughter, surprise solos, and school pride. Faculty judges scored each act, while classmates roared with every dramatic high note and dance move. The team of *Matthew Behmer*, *Henry Jones*, *Ben McLaurin* & *Harris Naylor* narrowly won the competition. Later, *Ben Rabon '26* spoke as a fan and *Ford Wilder '26* as a member of the team, urging classmates to turn up the spirit all game long. Organized by the varsity cheerleaders led by Captain *Bowen Zitzke '26* and Co-Captain *Madison Grace Hanson '26*, the event brought playful rivalry and unforgettable Baron spirit.



Easton Burchett '38 welcomes his mother, Whitney Daugherty Burchett '08, to his classroom for Donuts with Grownups.

DONUTS WITH GROWN-UPS

Because students thrive with family by their side, the Class of '38 and their grown-ups gathered in Founders Chapel for a prayerful opening and a joyful music performance directed by **Mrs. Julia Sims-Owens**. A reception outside the Nash Student Center followed, with donuts and fresh fruit, before classroom visits where students shared family portraits and donut writings. Events like this highlight how vital parental involvement is, filling little learners with confidence, joy, and belonging. The event was coordinated by kindergarten teachers **Mrs. Hope Alexander**, **Mrs. Amy Jones**, and **Mrs. Sarah Scott**.

Professional Development in Action: Five-Week Deep Dives on Late Start Wednesdays

Elevating teaching and campus operations by devoting five Late Start Wednesdays to a focused Professional Development Deep Dive, Wilson Hall gave educators and staff protected time to learn, plan, and collaborate with purpose. Led by **Mrs. Stacey Reaves**, Assistant Head of School for Teaching and Learning, cohorts explored research-based strategies such as linking emotion and cognition, applying the primacy-recency effect, and designing multimodal instruction to reach all learners. One group examined the role of artificial intelligence in teaching and productivity with an emphasis on responsible use, while another conducted action research to test ideas in real classrooms. New teachers built a shared foundation through Neuroteach.

Professional learning also extended beyond academics through Pinnacle Projects, bringing together cafeteria, maintenance, development, finance, HR, safety, technology, and academic teams to align policies, strengthen operations, and enrich campus culture. From nourishing meals to streamlined procedures, the five Late Start Wednesdays invested in people, practice, and purpose, elevating every aspect of school life.



Mrs. Hayes Edmunds, librarian, and Mrs. Mindy Busch, a middle school science and writing teacher, enjoy the Joy & Rigor in Action workshop during a Professional Development Deep Dive.



Buck McElveen '40 and his classmates welcomed Mrs. Allyson Lowder Sanders '96, school nurse, as part of October's study of community helpers, and she turned health care into hands-on learning. After unpacking her medical bag and sharing her passion for nursing, she read a story about germ prevention, modeled proper hand hygiene, and talked about healthy eating. Students practiced real-world skills by putting on latex gloves, "wrapping" pretend injuries, and bandaging themselves and stuffed "boobies," discovering how a school nurse helps them feel safe and well at school.



Paige Sanders '26 leads a devotion during a Sacred Steps picnic on Spencer Field.

Sacred Steps: Picnic with a Purpose

Grounded in faith and fellowship, Sacred Steps began with its first early-morning gathering at the serene Swan Lake gardens, where President **Paige Sanders '26** shared a devotion and presented each participant with a handcrafted wooden clutch cross as a reminder of their walk with God. **Mr. Lee Gandy**, the advisor, offered his own devotion, led the group in prayer, and the morning closed with breakfast and fellow-

ship. Building on that beginning, the club later hosted a Picnic with a Purpose on Spencer Field, inviting students to join in prayer and reflection. Founded on the belief that quiet walks in God's creation help us notice the small but meaningful "sacred steps" that draw us closer to Him, members explore the outdoors together, encourage one another in faith, and seek these moments as a community.



As the 12th Player for the varsity game, Olivia Russell '26 carries the school flag to lead the Barons onto Spencer Field.

Bringing History to Life: A 5th Grade Journey Through Washington, D.C.



As part of their studies in U.S. History, the Class of '33 embarked on a five-day educational journey to Washington, D.C., coordinated by **Mrs. Kathy Smith Coker '98**. This immersive experience brought their classroom learning to life through hands-on exploration of the nation's capital. From the interactive exhibits at the International Spy Museum and the Museum of the Bible to the powerful storytelling of "Daniel's Story" at the Holocaust Museum, students engaged with history in meaningful ways. Highlights of the trip included visits to the Franklin Roosevelt Memorial, the 9/11

Pentagon Memorial, and a walking tour of Old Alexandria. At Mt. Vernon, students stepped into the world of George Washington, while stops at Arlington National Cemetery and the Vietnam and World War II Memorials offered solemn reminders of the cost of freedom. They also visited the National Cathedral and the Marine and Air Force Memorials, concluding their days with a stunning illuminated tour of the city. This trip served as a dynamic extension of their U.S. History curriculum, offering unforgettable lessons that could never be captured in a textbook.

1. Kate Kuhlman '33 poses by the Eleanor Roosevelt statue at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial. 2. Sam Henry Zimpleman '33 pauses in Arlington National Cemetery. 3. Annalise Griffin '33 in front of the U.S. Capitol Building. 4. Clayton Barnette '33 & Kate Rivers '33 pose in front of the World War II Memorial with the Lincoln Memorial in the background.

Mad Scientist Morning Ignites STEAM

By turning curiosity into experiments and teamwork into discovery, middle school students dove into Mad Scientist Morning. Led by faculty teams, students rotated through three grade-level tailored stations selected from nine total labs, building skills in observation, measurement, and clear communication. Examples included Hot Wheels ramps to study friction, balloon rockets to feel Newton's third law in action, Bendy Veggie to explore osmosis, Feeding the Fungi to decide if yeast is living, and Germ Gel to see how bacteria spread. Collaboration kept chemistry, physics, and biology buzzing throughout the morning. **Mrs. Mindy Busch** and **Mrs. Cecelia Edmunds Ormond '11**, science teachers, and **Mrs. Teresa O'Hare Alexander '98**, Assistant Director of Academics, coordinated the STEAM event.



With the assistance of Mrs. Erin Trueblood, Gray Edmunds, Murrell Smith & David Duke, Class of '32, conduct an experiment during Mad Scientist Morning.



Bringing color and creativity to campus, students in the Set Design class pose with the vibrant signs they designed for the PTO Fall Festival. With that project complete, they are now channeling their skills into creating the set and props for the spring musical, *Cinderella*, under the guidance of Ms. Tara Breslin-Schumacher & Mr. Steve Hudson. Pictured: (front) Edna Lee Harris '26, Hannah-Grace Hagood '27, Liz Singkhonket '26, Campbell Cromer '26 & Peyton Gilley '27; (back) Anna VanPatten '26, Keighan Norton '27, Edmunds DuBose '27, Shep Vincent '28 & Logan Pauly '26.



Members of the Class of '35 enjoy hands-on learning during the class trip to the Sumter County Museum.

STUDENTS STEP INTO SUMTER'S PAST

Exploring local history through hands-on learning, the Class of '35 visited the Sumter County Museum to deepen their understanding of our community's past. A puppet show presented by the Sumter Junior Welfare League introduced key historical figures and events in an engaging, age-appropriate format. Students then toured the backcountry homestead, where authentic structures such as a settler's house, commissary, blacksmith shop, and loom house brought early 19th-century life to life, reinforcing classroom lessons through immersive, real-world experience. The third grade teachers are **Mrs. Kathy Smith Coker '98**, **Mrs. Anne Gratz**, and **Mrs. Joy Hendrix**.

A Sea of Pink on Spencer Field for Mini-Cheer

Cheering filled Spencer Field as 155 girls in pink shirts brought the crowd to its feet with a halftime performance bursting with Baron spirit. A sea of pink waved and shouted, shaking the stands with energy as the mini-cheerleaders showed off the moves they had practiced all week. The showcase was the highlight of a weeklong after-school mini-cheerleading clinic organized by the varsity squad, advised by **Mrs. Frances James** and led by captain **Bowen Zitzke '26** and co-captain **Madison Grace Hanson '26**, with spirited support from the JV cheerleaders. It was loud, fun, and a perfect celebration of Wilson Hall pride.



Mini-cheerleaders Caroline Plowden, Saylor Freeman & Harper James, Class of '39, cheer for the crowd on Spencer Field.



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Grandfriends Day 2025

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 | 9:00 AM - 11:15 AM

NASH STUDENT CENTER | WILSON HALL

Muffins and Coffee

9:00-9:30 AM

Program

9:30-10:00 AM

Visit & Activities

10:15-11:15 AM

PLEASE REGISTER BY RETURNING ENCLOSED CARD OR ONLINE AT WILSONHALL.ORG CLICK "GRANDFRIENDS DAY REGISTRATION"

ALUMNI

1993 *Kim Newman Saunders* is a retirement income specialist with her own firm, Retirement Ready with Kim Saunders. She graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in business administration. *Kim* lives in Sumter and has two children, Marshall and Georgia.

2001

Anna Edens Hurst, a medical geneticist, is a professor at the University of Alabama Birmingham. She is a pediatric clinician at the UAB Undiagnosed Disease Program, and she sees clinic patients at the Smith Family Clinic for Genomic Medicine in Huntsville. *Anna* is also the program director of the medical genetics residency programs at UAB, the medical director of the UAB Genetic Counseling Training Program, and she assists with the genetics education of pediatric residents at Children's Hospital of Alabama and medical students at UAB. Additionally, she is the President of the Association of Professors in Human Medical Genetics Board of Directors. She graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences, the University of South Carolina with a Master of Science in genetic counseling, and the Medical University of South Carolina with a Doctor of Medicine. *Anna* completed a pediatric residency at Wake Forest Baptist Health and a medical genetics residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She and her husband, Garrett, live in Birmingham.

2009

Whitney Townes Lewis and her husband, Elliot, announce the birth of their daughter, Lucy Eleanor Lewis, on October 10.

2010

Jordan Cannon is the Director of Accounts for Africa and Europe for InEight, Inc., a company that provides computer software solutions for construction and capital projects. He graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. *Jordan* and his wife, Oliwia, live in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

2011

Mary-Catherine Patton Stoney and her husband, Laurence, announce the birth of their son, John Gaillard Stoney, on October 10.



Emma Corrigan '26 and the varsity cheerleaders perform a stunt during half time of the football game on Spencer Field.



Param Shah '38 and his classmates spent a fun-filled day at Dorr Farms in Gable. Students picked their own pumpkins, rode a hayride, learned how butter is made, played on the farm playground, and fed and petted the animals, creating an ideal blend of outdoor learning and fall fun. The visit also included an educational session on pollinators and how to grow pumpkins and other fall crops.

2014

Adam Jennings and his wife, Kelsey, announce the birth of their daughter, Collins Elise Jennings, on October 9. They have two other children, Thomas and Charlee.

2016

Caroline Clark is an assistant solicitor with the 5th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office in Columbia. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in finance and marketing and the University of South Carolina Rice School of Law with a Juris Doctor.

Wells Gaymon lives in Columbia and works as a quality assurance engineer for ID Plans, a national firm that specializes in property management solutions for the commercial real estate industry. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in integrated information technology.

2018

Trent Elmore attends the University of Florida Levin College of Law. He is a U.S. Army veteran and a graduate of Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in political science. **Trent** and his wife, **Madison Reaves Elmore '18**, live in Gainesville, Florida.

Abby Zilch is the press secretary for the reelection campaign of U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in broadcast journalism.

2019

Ingrid Singleton lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where is employed by a Montessori school. After completing Peace Corp service as a teacher of literacy in Dominica (an island in the Eastern Caribbean), she is obtaining her certification in Montessori education through the Southwest Institute of Montessori Education. **Ingrid** graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of South Carolina Honors College.



Molly Moss Reaves '20 and her husband, Kodie.

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**, **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**.

2021

Catharine Busch lives in Sumter where she is the Assistant Director of CCC Kids at Christ Community Church. In addition to assisting with many activities, she coordinates the church's child-care programs and she manages the new mid-week program, which she developed, for kindergarten through fifth grade students. **Catharine** graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in hospitality management.

Gavyn Mathes, who graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in computer engineering and electrical engineering, is pursuing a Master of Science in electrical and electronics engineering at Clemson.



Continuing a long-standing tradition, varsity football players, cheerleaders, and coaches come together in Room 113 before school on game day for fellowship, prayer, and breakfast, closing their time in a circle of prayer.



Ellie Spencer '22

2022

Ellie Spencer, a food science and human nutrition major at Clemson University, was the Student of the Game on October 18. This honor is awarded to a student at each home football game in recognition of academic and leadership achievements. **Ellie** is a member of the University Guide Association, Student Alumni Council, and Student Government, as well as Delta Delta Delta sorority, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Nutrition Club. She works in the office of the Vice President of Student Affairs.

2023

Dhruva Patel is the founder and Secretary of the University of South Carolina chapter of UNICEF, an organization that works to protect the rights, health, and well-being of children around the world through humanitarian aid and development programs. A biology major, she works as a research assistant in the neurodevelopmental disorders lab in the Department of Psychology.

2025

Shawn Michael Matthews, who attends Wofford College, is a Freshman Delegate for the Campus Union, the college's student government organization.



Ace Ripley '40 welcomes his mother, Mrs. Corey Ripley, to Pastries with Parents. Spreading joy through song and smiles, students welcomed their parents by performing the Pledge of Allegiance, the Alma Mater, poems & several songs. Families enjoyed pastries together and parents received handmade gifts created by their children. The event was coordinated by teachers Mrs. Brandy Geddings and Mrs. Valerie James.



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Focusing on how to create realistic expectations for children, honing your parenting style, and shepherding your child to be who God created them to be.

December 2nd

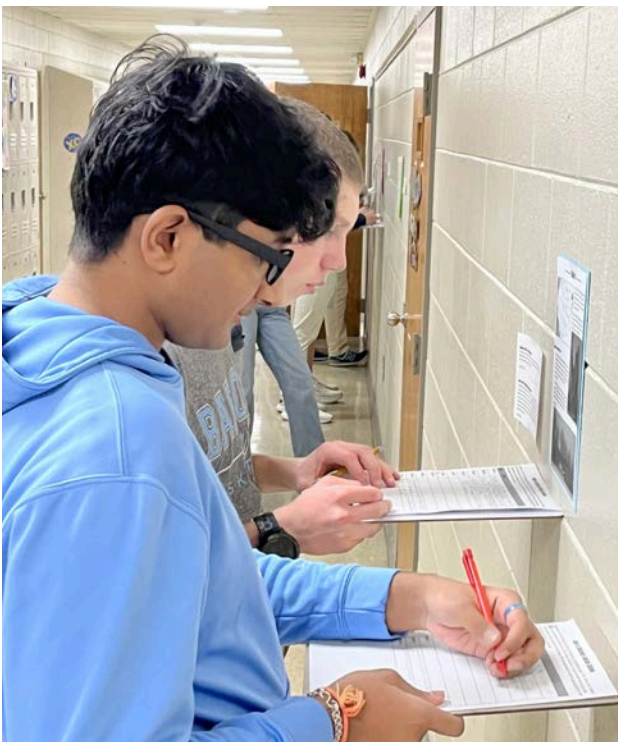
Founders Chapel

6:00 PM \$10.00

The second in a three-part parenting series



In AP Language & Composition, Lucy Mims '26 & Morgan Aycock '26 collaborate to strengthen their writing by peer-editing timed essays on the value of competition, exchanging feedback to refine analysis and clarity under the guidance of Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93.



Exploring westward expansion, U.S. History students Prit Patel '28 & Trip Hunt '28 trace the Lewis & Clark expedition through ten interactive timeline stations, recording key observations before sharing their findings in class. The class is taught by Mrs. Lori Brown.

POWDERPUFF FOOTBALL

OCT 30 **7PM**

\$5 ADMISSION
Grade 9 - 12
Spencer Field