

FEBRUARY
2025
WILSON HALL



ACCOLADE

Coker & McDuffie Receive Teaching Awards



Mrs. Kathy Smith Coker '98

Mrs. Kathy Smith Coker '98 received the Margaret & Steve Bond Teaching Award and Mrs. Molly McDuffie received the Shepard Kollock Nash Endowment Fund for Teacher Advancement.

Mrs. Coker, a third-grade teacher, is in her 14th year at Wilson Hall. She also serves as the advisor for the Battle of the Books. Mrs. McDuffie, in her 13th year at Wilson Hall, teaches Advanced Placement Seminar, 8th Grade Pre-AP English Honors, and 7th Grade Literature. She also serves as the English Department Chair.

The Shepard Kollock Nash Endowment Fund for Teacher Advancement, established by an anonymous donor, rewards an upper school faculty member for his or her service and dedication to Wilson Hall. The recipient is awarded a financial gift, resulting from the gift's investment income, to be used as a stipend to enrich the knowledge of the recipient relative to his or her area of instruction and, in turn, share that knowledge with students.

To create the same gift for teachers in the lower school, the late Steve Bond and Margaret Segars Bond '80 created the Margaret & Steve Bond Teaching Award.

Each recipient of the award receives \$7,000 to be used for a trip, which is approved by the Committee. In August, the recipients will make a presentation about their trip to the faculty and to their students.



Mrs. Molly McDuffie

Each faculty member who has completed at least five years of teaching at Wilson Hall is eligible to receive the award. Eligible faculty members will have their name submitted one time for each year they have served as a full-time teacher at Wilson Hall. A faculty member who has taught on a part-time basis may be eligible proportionally to the years of service and the number of class periods taught.

A random drawing for the award, one for an upper school teacher and one for a lower school teacher, takes place during a faculty meeting. In any year, the Committee may elect to choose an individual to receive this award. Once selected, the recipient may not be eligible for consideration for a period of ten years.



2024 **AP[®] CSP**
Female Diversity Award



School Receives College Board Diversity Award

Wilson Hall has earned the College Board's Advanced Placement Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles. This award acknowledges schools for their work toward equal gender representation during the 2023-24 school year. The honor recognizes the outstanding work the school is doing to engage more female students in computer science; Wilson Hall is one of 23 schools in South Carolina and the only school in Sumter County to receive this recognition. Schools receiving the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have achieved either 50% or higher female exam taker representation in one of or both AP computer science courses, or a percentage of female computer science exam takers that meets or exceeds that of the school's female population. In addition to the AP Computer Science Principles class, Wilson Hall offers AP Computer Science (JAVA Programming) and 12 other technology classes to high school students.



Molly Jones, Sara Hayes Ridgeway & Josie Jackson, Class of '25.



Adelaide Eaddy, Cameron Kohl & Caroline Moorman, Class of '27, have fun on the dance floor.

WINTER CHILL SEMI-FORMAL

With the cold winter air outside, the 30th Winter Chill Semi-formal brought warmth and excitement to the Nash Student Center, kicking off the second semester on a high note. Over 150 students in grades 9-12 socialized and danced to the music provided by PartyTime DJs of Columbia. Sponsored by the Student Council, Student Body President Jane McAdams '25 and Senior Class President '25 organized the event with the help of Mr. Sean Hoskins, advisor. Mr. Brent Kaneft '00, Mrs. Stacey Reaves and Ms. Missy Stokes helped chaperone the event.

Henry Jones '26, Shawn Michael Matthews '25 & Harris Naylor '26



Kayla Stanley-Linton '26 & Tilan Byrd '25 lead the line dancing.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Lower school students fully embraced the Christmas spirit through a variety of delightful and engaging activities. Festive class parties buzzed with laughter and cheer as students exchanged gifts, shared treats, and sang holiday songs. Holiday crafts brought out their creativity, with glittering ornaments, hand-painted decorations, and colorful greeting cards coming to life. Dressed in creative costumes ranging from reindeer and elves to snowflakes and Santa hats, they added a playful and whimsical touch to the celebrations. Exciting games, such as holiday bingo, scavenger hunts, and themed relay races, kept the energy high and smiles wide. From storytelling sessions featuring classic Christmas tales to hands-on activities like cookie decorating and festive art projects, the students celebrated the season with unbridled joy, imagination, and a shared sense of community.



*Mrs. Emma Wynn Betchman Brown '12, a Preschool 4 teacher, has the full attention of her class as she reads *How to Catch a Reindeer*.*



LEFT: Mrs. Mandy Beasley, a Preschool 4 teacher, joins in the festive fun, letting her students transform her into a Christmas tree with creative decorations and plenty of laughter. CENTER: Scarlett Kaneft '39 enjoys the creativity of the Christmas cookie decorating activity. RIGHT: William James '36 savors the fun of the class Christmas party.

Daddy-Daughter Dance

February 27 🌹 6:00-8:00 PM

Nash Center Cafeteria

Sponsored by the Wilson Hall PTO for students in PS3-5th





AP Physics students got hands-on with an exciting lab, building mini trebuchets to explore potential and kinetic energy. Using a battery as a counterweight, the trebuchets converted gravitational potential energy into kinetic energy to launch projectiles. After constructing their designs, students modified them to maximize projectile distance. Many discovered that increasing the counterweight boosted the potential energy, resulting in farther launches. The class is taught by Mrs. Jessica Duke, and pictured are Levi Jiang, Logan Schumacher & Patrick Norton, Class of '25.



Proving that learning can be both interesting and delicious, Anna Blalock '36 and her classmates enjoyed using Oreo cookies to illustrate the phases of the moon they discussed in their science lesson.



Students in the AP Studio Art (Drawing) and Drawing I, II & III classes harness their creativity to bring their visions to life in one of the three art studios on our campus. Because art fosters imagination and provides a well-rounded education that nurtures critical thinking and expression, WH offers 17 visual art classes to high school students, including four AP classes. Pictured is Liz Singkhonket '26. The art teachers are Ms. Tara Breslin-Schumacher, Mrs. Rachel Jones Brown '00 and Mrs. Renee Norton.

WILSON HALL
THEATER DEPARTMENT
presents

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S

MARY POPPINS JR

MARCH 12 & 13, 6:30 PM | MARCH 14, 4:00 PM
SUMTER OPERA HOUSE
ADMISSION: \$18.00 - ADULTS, \$9.00 FACULTY & STUDENTS
TICKETS: SUMTEROPERAHOUSE.COM

ALUMNI NEWS

1991

Corky Anderson is the co-owner and a principal partner of Fieldwork Design and Architecture. The award-winning architecture firm and interiors studio was named to "America's Top 200 Residential Architects" by Forbes and "10 Architecture Firms to Watch" by Architectural Digest. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Architecture and the University of California-Berkeley with a Master of Architecture. *Corky* lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife and two children.



Betsy Johnson Sumner '97

1997

Betsy Johnson Sumner is the attending psychiatrist for the acute adult unit at Central Regional Hospital in Butner, North Carolina, and she is an assistant consulting professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at Duke University School of Medicine. *Betsy* earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the University of South Carolina Honors College, a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, and a Ph.D. in neurobiology from Duke University. She completed her residency in psychiatry at Duke University Medical Center. *Betsy* and her husband, David, live in Durham, North Carolina.

1996



Wade Kolb '96

Wade Kolb is an attorney with Wyche, a full-service law firm in Greenville, and his practice centers on advising educational institutions and employers of all types in navigating complex legal problems. He serves on the Board of Directors for Palmetto Project, a non-profit organization that

identifies innovative strategies to address the social and economic challenges facing our state, and he is a member of the South Carolina Youth Symphony Board of Directors. A past-president of Rotary Club of Greenville, he is serving as the Local Foundation Chair. *Wade* graduated from the University of South Carolina Honors College with a Bachelor of Arts in history and religious studies and from Duke University School of Law with a Juris Doctor, and he was an associate student of Keble College, Oxford University.



Thomas McElveen '96

Thomas McElveen is an attorney and partner in the Bryan Law Firm. He represented District 35 in the South Carolina Senate from 2012-2024 and chose to not run for re-election. While in the Senate he served on the following committees: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Corrections and Penology; Finance; Fish, Game and Forestry; Judiciary; and Family and Veterans' Services for which he was the chairman of the Veterans' Services Subcommittee. *Thomas* graduated from Davidson College with a Bachelor of Arts in history and from the University of South Carolina School of Law with a Juris Doctor. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon, and he is a member of The LINK (Sumter-Lee economic development alliance) Board of Directors. *Thomas* is a member of the Shaw-Sumter Community Council, the Sumter Sertoma Club, and the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce for which he served on the Board of Directors. *Thomas* lives in Sumter and has three children, *Adelaide '32* and *Joe '36*, who attend Wilson Hall, and Buck.



Save the Date!

03.31.25

WHERE:



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Contact **Caroline Zitzke, Development**

carolinezitzke@wilsonhall.org
803-469-3475 ext.141



Robert Boykin '98



David Hill '98

1998

Robert Boykin is an orthopedic surgeon with EmergeOrtho, Blue Ridge Bone Division in Asheville, North Carolina. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Science in biology and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine with a Doctor of Medicine. *Robert* completed his residency in the Harvard Combined Orthopedic Surgery Program in Boston, serving as the Chief Resident of Massachusetts General Hospital. He completed fellowship training in shoulder, knee, hip and sports medicine at The Steadman Clinic in Vail, Colorado, and he completed subspecialty training in advanced shoulder surgery at the Alps Surgery Institute in Annecy, France. *Robert* and his wife, Emily, have three children: Heyward, Graham and Grace.

David Hill lives in New York City where he is a vice president at J.P. Morgan Private Bank. He graduated from the University of South Carolina Honors College with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler Business School with a Master of Business Administration.

1999

Robert Wilson and his wife, Annie, announce the birth of their son, Theodore Shaw Wilson

2002

Lowell Atkinson works for the Florida Housing Coalition, a statewide nonprofit that provides training and technical assistance and policy advocacy on all aspects of affordable housing. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and from the College of Charleston with a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Science in environmental science. *Lowell* and his daughter, Caroline, live in St. Petersburg, Florida.



Matt Wright '04

2004

Matt Wright is a Senior Investment Manager and Vice President with The Eveland Group at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in Leesburg, Virginia. His group was selected for the 2025 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams for the state. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in economics. *Matt* and his wife, Allison, live in Ashburn with their children, Howard, Ellis and Lakely.

2006

Brianna Fletcher Gibson was named the Teacher of the Year at Charles Pinckney Elementary School in Charleston County School District. She graduated from the College of Charleston with a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education. *Brianna* and her husband, Michael, live in Mount Pleasant with their children, Hope and Luke.



University of South Carolina Sumter professor of English and Interim Dean of Academics Ray McManus visited the Advanced Placement English Literature class, taught by Mr. Brent Kaneft '00, to lead a two-day poetry workshop. Students worked on an original poem and shared their work with their peers. Dr. McManus, an active poet and author of four books of poetry, is an incredible resource for WH students. Exposure to college-level instruction + shared expertise + purpose and creativity = the Wilson Hall experience.

2009



Thomas White '09

Mary Beth Staggs Hodges and her husband, Conner, announce the birth of their son, Banks Stephen Hodges, on January 19. They have three other children, Hayes, Mary Claire and Summer.

Thomas White is the Vice President of Business Development for Nu-Idea, a school, church and office furniture distributor based in Sumter. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in business management. Thomas and his wife, *Taylor Munn White '10*, live in Columbia with their son, Mac.

2010

Jordan Cannon and *Oliwia Dukowska* were married on December 28 at Hampton Lake in Bluffton with a reception following. He is the son of Emma Lee White Cannon '79. *Jordan* is the Director of Europe, Middle East and Africa Presales 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.



Jordan Cannon '10 with his wife, *Oliwia*.

2012

Gibson Klapthor is completing a diagnostic radiology residency at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He graduated from Furman University with a Bachelor of Science in health sciences and the Medical University of South Carolina with a Doctor of Medicine, and he completed a transitional year residency program with Intermountain Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Gibson Klapthor '12

2013

LeAnne Amick lives in Simpsonville and works as a travel advisor for MorningStar Luxury Travel. She graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Arts in communications.

2014

Christian Albertsen is the Associate Pastor of New Life Community Church in Irmo. He graduated from Columbia International University with a Bachelor of Science in youth ministry and from Southeastern University with a Master of Arts in ministerial leadership. *Christian* and his wife, *Rachel*, live in Lexington with their son, *Baylor*.



Christian Albertsen '14

2015

Thomas McGinnis, who graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in packaging science, is the Operations Process Lead for Hood Container Corporation, one of the ten largest paper and packaging companies in the United States. He and his wife, *Sallie Spencer McGinnis '17*, live in Columbia.

2016

Brayden Fidler, who graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in computer science, works as a senior full stack engineer for Fidelity Investments. *Brayden* and his wife, *Kelsey*, live in Durham, North Carolina.



One of Wilson Hall's oldest and most cherished traditions, lower school students gathered for Singing in the Hall, joyfully sharing traditional hymns and Christmas

2017

Ashley Brunson attends Harvard Medical School where she is pursuing a Doctor of Medicine degree. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry and molecular biology, and from the University of Southampton in England, where she was a Fulbright Scholar, with a Master of Science in genomic medicine.

2019

Langston Cooper graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in computer engineering.

Cameron Duffy, who graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in nursing, works as a registered nurse at Wesmark Ambulatory Surgery Center in Sumter. She volunteers as an assistant coach for Wilson Hall's varsity girls basketball team.

2020

Alex Blum works in Washington, D.C., for U.S. Representative Michael Guest of Mississippi's 3rd Congressional District. He graduated from the College of William and Mary with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and government.

Sarah Jekel lives in Westmoreland, New York, where she works as a physics teacher at Westmoreland Central School. She earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Utica University Honors College in New York.

Bynum Kelley lives in Sumter where he is a territory sales manager for Jet-Vac Equipment Company, a provider of vacuum truck and hydro-excavation services for the utilities industry, serving clients across the Southeast and Midwest. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in business marketing.

Nick Miller works as a conservation engagement instructor for Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia. He graduated from Davidson College with a Bachelor of Arts in biology and narrative arts.

Conner Tash graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in computer science.

Noah Tavarez, who graduated from Clemson University Honors College with a Bachelor of Science in computer science, works for the U.S. Department of Defense as a computer scientist.



Alex Blum '20

2022



Madi Smith '22

Brandon Davey is pursuing a Basic Air Conditioning & Heating Certificate at Central Carolina Technical College. He lives in Sumter where he works for Sifco Mechanical, a commercial and industrial HVAC maintenance company.

Ivey Edwards is an ornithology teaching assistant at the University of Vermont School of Environment and Natural Resources. A wildlife biology major, she is a member of the Birding Club, Herpetology Club, and Wildlife and Fisheries Club.

Douglas McAdams is an economics major at Clemson University where he serves as the Alumni Relations Chairman for Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Madi Smith, an English major at Clemson University Honors College, is serving as the Assistant Attorney General of Service for the Student Judicial Board (SJB). The SJB is a peer adjudication process run by the Office of Community and Ethical Standards in partnership with the Judicial Branch of Clemson University Student Government.

2023

John Morgan Bates, a civil engineering major at Clemson University, is a member of the Student Alumni Council, the 35 member leadership council that governs the Student Alumni Association. He volunteers as a head counselor for Camp Kemo, a week-long summer camp experience for children with cancer and their siblings.

Emma Bradley, an early childhood education major at Clemson University, is a member of the College of Education Student Advisory Board, serving on the Communications Committee. She is a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Caleb Howle, a political science major at the University of South Carolina, is completing an internship with the campaign office of United States Senator Lindsey Graham.

Dhruva Patel, a biological sciences major at the University of South Carolina, volunteers for MedElem, a student-led organization that collaborates with elementary schools and other groups to promote career exploration and healthy habits.

Boykin Wilder is spending the spring semester studying at The American College of Greece. He is a business management major at The Citadel.



Dhruva Patel '23

2024

Bella Grudzinski, a retail and retail management major at the University of South Carolina, is completing an internship as the Coordinator of Volunteers for the United Way of the Midlands. She is a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority, the Carolina Sales Institute, and the USC Dance Marathon, the largest student-run philanthropic organization in the state. *Bella* is also involved with Delight Ministries, a Christ-centered community for college women, and Shandon Ministries.

Clark Kinney is a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity and the baseball team at Washington & Lee University.

Mary Parish Williams is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority at Washington & Lee University.