



WILSON HALL

JANUARY 2024

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Winter Chill

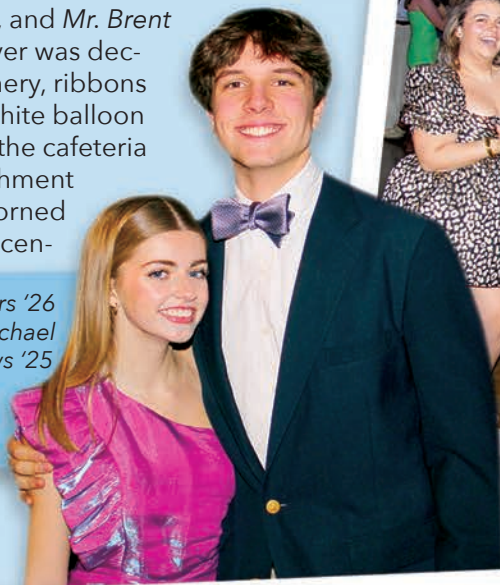
SEMI FORMAL

Hosted by the Student Council, the 29th Winter Chill Semi Formal was held in the Nash Student Center on December 15.

Over 180 students in grades 9-12 danced to the music provided by PartyTime DJs of Columbia, socialized, and enjoyed refreshments. Torches lined the walkway and lights were hung in the crepe myrtles, welcoming guests to the wreath adorned doors where they were greeted by *Mrs. Rachel Jones Brown '00*, Student Council Advisor, and *Mr. Brent Kaneft '00*, Head of School. The foyer was decorated with garlands of fresh greenery, ribbons and lights, and a festive red and white balloon archway marked the entrance to the cafeteria where the dance was held. Refreshment tables with fresh-baked cookies, adorned with votive candles and a greenery centerpiece, and a Christmas tree completed the decorations.

CONTINUED

*Paige Sanders '26
& Shawn Michael
Matthews '25*



*Anna Kate Coker
'25 & Sophie
Sweatman '25*



*Mary Claire Bearak, Ann Weathers
Blankenship, Rylee Bath &
Maggie Norris, Class of '24.*



Lottie Bynum '25 & Frances Mac Elmore '25



*Maggie Norris, Caroline McElveen, Maury Shuler, Olivia
Beasley, Sullivan Jarecki, Helen Fitzpatrick, Talan Griffin &
Marybeth VanPatten, Class of '24.*



London Boyd '37 makes special hot chocolate during the Polar Express enrichment activity.

Polar Express Enrichment Activity

Preschool 3 - first grade students participated in a Polar Express enrichment activity after school. Students used wrapping paper and ribbons to decorate boxes to create train cars before riding in a 23-car-long Baron Express. Some students wrote letters to Santa, made toys for Santa's workshop, and filled out elf applications, while others made ornaments, sang Christmas songs, and did the Christmas Freeze Dance. Students made marshmallows dipped in chocolate to take home, and they enjoyed sipping on hot chocolate and eating popcorn while watching the movie *The Polar Express*. Mrs. Emma Wynn Betchman Brown '12 & Mrs. Ashley Wake led the activity.

Offering students an opportunity to explore their interests, the Enrichment Activities Program is held after school for students in Preschool 3 - 5th grade. Each month has four week-long activities and participants may participate in any number of them. These hour-long hands-on activities have included art, cooking, robotics, and sports, with new activities added each month. The program is coordinated by Mrs. Brooke Tidwell, Director of Auxiliary Programs.

WINTER CHILL...CONTINUED

The Class of '24 officers, led by President *Davis Lee '24*, organized the decorations with the help of Mrs. Brown, and Student Body President *Slade Custer '24* and Vice President *Jane McAdams '25* assisted. Mr. Sean Hoskins, Student Council Advisor, organized and photographed the event.



Left: Lydia Leihasing, Muskaan Judge & Iris Gonzalez Gomez, Class of '26. TOP RIGHT: Walker Wilson '26 & Bowen Zitzke '26. Bottom Right: Andrew Howle '26, Milling Galloway '26 & Ben Reynolds '24.



AOK Club Project

Members of the Acts of Kindness (AOK) Club arrived at campus in the predawn hours after Thanksgiving break to inflate balloons for their latest promotion of kindness. Upon arriving at school, 9th-12th graders grabbed a balloon on their way to homeroom. After the morning devotion and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, each student popped his or her balloon to find a small piece of paper with instructions for an act of kindness to be completed throughout the week. Each faculty member in 6th-12th also had a balloon. The simple acts include saying good morning to 10 people, holding the door, eating lunch with someone different, or complimenting five people.



Members of the AOK Club inflate balloons for their latest project: Talan Griffin, Helen Fitzpatrick, Davis Lee, Olivia Beasley, Marybeth VanPatten, Mary Claire Bearak & Maggie Norris, Class of '24.

The AOK Club, a completely student-run organization, was founded by the following members of the Class of '24: Talon Griffin, Sullivan Jarecki, Emmi Leard, Caroline McElveen, Maggie Norris and Marybeth VanPatten. The intention of the club is to offer acts of kindness to their peers throughout the school year. So far, AOK has called new students & families and cleaned up after lunch, and the club continues to deliver handmade birthday cards with a special treat to every student.



Aubrey Payne '24, Sara Hayes Ridge-way '25 & Thomas Creech '25 perform a routine in the Super Sonic Dance-off Pep Rally. The pep rally featured 12 groups, composed of at least one varsity cheerleader and one varsity boys and girls basketball player, performing 10-second routines in quick succession. The event was organized by the varsity cheerleaders, led by Mary Margaret Griffin '24, captain, and Mary Parish Williams '24, co-captain.



Charlotte Moore '33 & Sam Henry Zimpleman '33 wait to deliver their humorous lines.

Christmas Music Program

With a mix of traditional hymns, including Angels We Have Heard on High and Joy to the World, to contemporary songs such as If I Were a Reindeer and Here Comes the Snow, students in 1st-5th grades performed for a standing-room-only crowd of nearly 700 in the Nash Student Center during the Christmas program. The program included a nativity scene and the story of Christ's birth while students sang Silent Night in its original German and in English, and the Afternoon Chorus was highlighted for two numbers. The show concluded with an appearance by Santa as the students sang a Jingle All the Way medley. Mrs. Julia Sims-Owens, lower school music teacher, directed the program. Christmas and winter-themed art, created by lower school students taught by Mrs. Renee Norton, adorned the foyer and greeted guests as they arrived for the program.



Mrs. Julia Sims-Owens directs Campbell Wylie, Ellie Smith & Lexi Bowen, Class of '32.



Students recreate the Nativity scene while singing "Silent Night."



Members of the Class of '35 perform for the standing-room-only audience.

Wiggins Speaks at Chapel

Mr. Ben Wiggins was the guest speaker at both the high school and middle school chapel programs, speaking to students about the importance of his faith in God as illustrated by his harrowing recount of being stranded at sea. He and three others, who were on a dive trip 60 miles off the coast of South Carolina, were stranded in the Atlantic Ocean for over 12 hours. The men had been spearfishing and, through a series of events, were unable to board their boat when resurfacing. Mr. Wiggins, a retired Navy diver, used his training to keep them alive in the darkness of the ocean.

"Don't let any negative thoughts come into your head," Mr. Wiggins said he told them before they drifted off. "We are going to be rescued. Keep telling



Mr. Ben Wiggins speaks during a chapel program.

yourself that because a negative, fearful thought will be the undoing of you."

The ordeal coincided with a summer meteor shower which Mr. Wiggins considered a sign. Clinging to his friends drifting in the ocean, he sensed they would be rescued. "It was like God's majesty on full display. God, I know you've got this," he said.

His message of encouragement to the students was to pray without ceasing and to have faith in God in even the most desperate circumstances.

Middle and high school students attend a chapel program in the Founders Chapel every-other week, and elementary students have chapel once a month. The program is coordinated by Mr. Lee Gandy, Head of Middle School.



CPR KIT DONATION

To equip staff members and select students with CPR training, Craig and Mary Simmons donated 10 CPR kits to the school. CPR, or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. Immediate CPR can double or triple chances of survival after cardiac arrest, according to the American Heart Association's website. The kits will be distributed across the school, fostering a safer and more prepared educational environment. The kit includes life-saving mannequins to use for training, demonstration videos, practice AEDS defibrillators, and booklets about CPR.

Mr. Craig Simmons presents Mr. Brent Kaneft '00, Head of School, with one of 10 donated CPR kits.

SPECIAL ATHLETIC RECOGNITION

Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week:
Daniel Burton '24 (basketball).

S.C. Independent School Association All-State Swim Team:
Cliff Bath '26, Logan Schumacher '25 & Stirling Tindal '26

The Sumter Item All-Independent Football Team:
*Grayson Alexander '24, Jackson Bonser '25,
 Landon Gilley '24, Dylan Jones '24,
 Cooper Scott '25 & Blake VanPatten '24.*

Sumter Touchdown Club All-Area Football Team:
*Grayson Alexander '24, Jackson Bonser '25,
 Landon Gilley '24, Dylan Jones '24 & Blake VanPatten '24.*

FRERICHS & JACKSON RECEIVE BRITTON AWARD

The Dr. and Mrs. John J. Britton Academic Award medals are presented to one female and one male athlete who maintain the highest grade point average during an athletic season. The fall recipients were *Jennings Frerichs '24* (cross country) and *Josie Jackson '25* (cheerleading).

GILLEY RECEIVES BUDDY STRANGE AWARD

Landon Gilley '24 received the Buddy Strange Baron Award, which was established by the members of the Class of 1973 in memory of their classmate. The honor is bestowed upon the varsity football player, who demonstrates through enthusiasm, dedication and leadership, a true love of the game of football.

Fall Athletic Awards

Boys Cross Country

Aiden Bradford '28 Most Improved Runner
Jennings Frerichs '24 Coaches Award
Caulder Williamson '27..... Most Valuable Runner

Girls Cross Country

Mary Foley '28 Coaches Award
Mary Ellen Thorne '26 Most Improved Runner
Emmie Williamson '29 Most Valuable Runner

JV Football

Peyton Gilley '27 Most Outstanding Player
 Shep Vincent '28 Most Improved Player
 Cameron Wilsey '28 Most Dependable Player

Varsity Football

Grayson Alexander '24 Iron Baron Award
Jackson Bonser '25 Best Special Teams Player
Slade Custer '24 Best Lineman
Landon Gilley '24 Best Defensive Player
 & Buddy Strange Baron Award
Dylan Jones '24 Best Offensive Back
Clark Kinney '24 Baron Family Award
Blake VanPatten '24 Best Receiver

Golf

Mary Katherine Dutcher '27 Lowest Scoring Average
Bella Grudzinski '24 Most Improved Player

Boys & Girls Swimming

Cliff Bath '26..... High Point Male
 Joscelin Tarpen High Point Female
 Mary Ellen Thorne '26 Spirit of the Team Award

JV Tennis

Muskaan Judge '26..... Most Improved Player
Grace McArthur '28..... Most Valuable Player



Blake VanPatten, Landon Gilley & Grayson Alexander, Class of '24, represented Wilson Hall in the S.C. Independent School Assoc. All-Star Football Game. Dylan Jones '24 & Clark Kinney '24 were also invited to play in the game.

Varsity Tennis

Talan Griffin '24 Highest Win Percentage
Jane McAdams '25 Coach's Award
Claudia Rhodus '27 Most Valuable Player

JV Volleyball

Mary Todd Champion '27.....Best Offensive Player
Natalie Hawkey '27Most Valuable Player
Savannah Wells '27 Best Defensive Player

Varsity Volleyball

<i>Rylee Bath '24</i>	Baron Award
<i>Olivia Cogswell '25</i>	Most Improved Player
<i>Sullivan Jarecki '24</i>	Baron Award
<i>McKenzie Gray Mills '25</i>	Captain's Award
<i>Maggie Norris '24</i>	Baron Award
<i>Aubrey Payne '24</i>	Baron Award

ALUMNI

1999



Jenny-Lee Dennis Maxwell '99

Jenny-Lee Dennis Maxwell is an account director for Jack Porter, Inc., a multidisciplinary design group. She graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in graphic design. *Jenny-Lee* and her husband, Matthew, live in Greenville and have three sons: Drayton, Davis and Oliver.

2000



Minashia Lews Haynes '00

Minashia Lewis Haynes lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she is the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for Ever-Green Linen Solutions, Inc., a company that provides customized linen solutions for the healthcare and hospitality industries throughout the Southeast. She graduated from Rutgers University with a Bachelor of Science in marketing.

2003

Paul Fata is a Kentucky Assistant Attorney General working with the Office of Consumer Protection. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in oceanography and from Belmont University College of Law with a Juris Doctor. *Paul* and his wife, Cynthia, live in Louisville with their children: Diana, Celina and Colt.

Members of the Key Club volunteer at the American Legion Post 15's Christmas dinner and party: Eddie Donald, Davis Lee, Olivia Beasley, Maury Shuler, Ann Weathers Blankenship & Mary Claire Bearak, Class of '24. Davis, the club president, organized the students for the event.



2015



Carrie Martin Blanchard '05

Carrie Martin Blanchard is the Director of the Immunization Branch of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. She graduated from Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry, the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Public Health with a Master of Public Health in health policy and management, and the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy with a Doctor of Pharmacy. Carrie and her husband, Zach, live in Pittsboro with their sons, Miles and Finn.

2006

Hughes Schwartz and his wife, Jessica, announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Wells Schwartz, on December 26. They have another daughter, Ellis. Hughes is the son of Caren Gullede Schwartz '81 and Milton Schwartz '79.

Carin Shuler Warren and her husband, Drew, announce the birth of their son, Cooper Franklin Warren, on December 13. They have another son, Otto.



A long-standing tradition, lower school students gather for the "Singing in the Hall" on the last day of class before Christmas break. Led by Mrs. Julia Sims-Owens, music teacher, students and faculty joined in singing traditional Christmas hymns and popular Christmas songs.

2007

Emily Hoefler lives in Washington, D.C., where she is a senior manager of technology and standards for the Consumer Technology Association, North America's largest technology trade association. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in mass communications.

Matt Talley and his wife, Laura, announce the birth of their son, John Matthew Talley, on December 5. They have a daughter, Anne Thomas.



Emily Hoefler '07

2008

Louis Hill is the Vice President of Quality for DeGen Medical, Inc., a medical device development company specializing in products for complex spinal disorders. He graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in biological and biosystems engineering. Louis and his wife, Whitney Blue Fraser Hill '09, live in Florence with their son, Conrad.

2009

Nancy Hayes Cromer Owens and her husband, Ansel Owens '08, announce the birth of their son, Ansel Cromer Owens, on December 6. They have two other children, Pruitt and Parker Hayes. Nancy Hayes is the daughter of Nancy Montague Cromer '84 and Perron Cromer '84, and Ansel is the son of Laura Russell Skey '87.



Michael Smith-Adcock '38 and his classmates celebrated a day of Merry Grinchmas. After reading Dr. Seuss's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," students participated in a variety of related activities such as making Grinch dust and Grinch ornaments, and playing Pin the Heart on the Grinch. Students also enjoyed a Grinchy snack and watched the original TV program based on the book.

2010

Alex Latham Sojourner and her husband, Walker, announce the birth of their daughter, Leland Paige Sojourner, on December 7. They have another daughter, Millie.

2012

Maddie Varn Dailey and her husband, Jay Dailey '06, announce the birth of their son, Bowen McBride Dailey, on December 11.

2014

Seth Hubbard works as a mechanical design engineer at Agilis Engineering, a company that specializes in gas turbine engine design and development. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. Seth and his wife, Kelly, live in Columbia.

JP Sears and Aileen Twohig were married on December 9 at The Citadel's Summerall Chapel in Charleston with a reception at the Historic Rice Mill House. The groomsmen included Jay Goodson '14, Andrew Kinney '14, William Kinney '14, Parker McDuffie '14 and McLendon Sears '17. JP is a Major League Baseball pitcher with the Oakland Athletics in California. He graduated from The Citadel with a Bachelor of Science in business administration.

2015

Chase Belk lives in Huntsville, Alabama, where he works as an investment analyst for Twickenham Advisors, a registered investment advisor firm. He graduated from Furman University with a Bachelor of Science in business administration and from the Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management with a Master of Accountancy.

Anna Louise Segars and Jake Hentz were married on December 9 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Sumter with a reception at The O'Donnell House. The bridal party included Madison Beasley '15, Hannah Jordan '15 and Maggie Segars '17, and Charles Segars '21 was a groomsman. Anna Louise is the daughter of Barbara Gore Segars '86 and Charles Segars '81. Anna Louise, who graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural education, is a fourth grade teacher for the Charleston County School District at Stiles Point Elementary School on James Island.

Lindsey Tisdale works as a compliance officer for Monroe Biomedical Research, a pharmaceutical manufacturing company in Monroe, North Carolina. She graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Arts in communication studies.



Chase Belk '15



Gracie Shook '35 & Millie Huckeba '35 proudly display their Santas during the Potato Santa Parade. A Christmas tradition, the fun project encourages creativity and craftsmanship as each student makes a unique Santa Claus by using a potato as a base. Students parade throughout campus to visit other classrooms to share their festive creations, posing for photos with siblings.

2016

Catherine Kelly Schwartz works as a benefits executive for AssuredPartners, one of the nation's largest brokers of personal insurance, employee benefits, and individual and business property and casualty insurance. She graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in marketing. *Catherine* and her husband, *Grier Schwartz '16*, live in Sumter.

2017

Danielle deHoll works as a technical recruiter 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.

2018

Madison Reaves Elmore works as an enrollment counselor for Capella University, an accredited online university offering Ph.D., professional doctorate, master's and bachelor's programs. She assists new students interested in the schools of business, psychology, and social work. *Madison* graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Arts in English. She and her husband, *Trent Elmore '18*, live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Trent Elmore is in the United States Army, working as an Intelligence analyst for the 3rd Armored Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson. He graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in political science. Trent and his wife, *Madison Reaves Elmore '18*, live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Jarett King works as a special agent for the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, assigned to a threat analysis cell within the South Carolina Information and Intelligence Center, in Columbia. He graduated from The Citadel with a Bachelor of Arts in intelligence and security and from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

Crystal Moore works as a junior information system security officer for Obsidian Global, an advanced technology company specializing in cybersecurity for the federal government. She graduated from Winthrop University with a Bachelor of Science in computer science.

Grace Towery and *Daniel McAvoy* were married on December 17 at M Garden in Columbia with a reception following. *Abby Thigpen '18* was a bridesmaid. Grace is the daughter of *Lance Towery '88*. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences, and she attends the Medical University of South Carolina Edwards College of Dental Medicine.



Grace Towery McAvoy '18

2019



Cameron Duffy '19

Cameron Duffy graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in nursing.

Luke Kinney graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science in computer science and received a commission as a Second Lieutenant.

Callie McAdams graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Arts in communications and a Bachelor of Arts in political science and government. She is completing a communications and public affairs spring internship with Invariant, a government relations and public affairs firm in Washington, D.C.



Callie McAdams '19

2020

Emily Banghart graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in nursing.

Madison Landstrom graduated from Charleston Southern University with a Bachelor of Science in criminology.

Livian Mai, a marketing major at Wingate University, works as a marketing student assistant for both the Office of International Programs and the Marketing Department, and she is the social media manager for the Byrum School of Business. She serves as the president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and she is a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society.



Emily Banghart '20

2021

Wade Payne is serving as the president of Theta Chi fraternity at the University of South Carolina where he is majoring in biological sciences.

2022

Ashlyn Goode is an economics and political science major at the University of Georgia Honors College where she serves as the academic coordinator for Delta Phi Epsilon sorority. She is completing an internship with the Athens-Clarke County Office of the District Attorney.

Annie Lauzon is a finance major at Villanova University where she is a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and Villanova Finance Group. She volunteers for Special Olympics Pennsylvania, as well as the Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation which raises funds for childhood cancer patients.



Madison Landstrom '20



Livian Mai '20

Watts Atkinson, Ben Engstrom, Aliyah Do & Easton Bass, Class of '34, enjoy their computer-designed Christmas cookies. As a STEAM project students in the lower school computer science classes, taught by Mrs. Emma Catoe Ayres '13, designed sugar cookies on Google Jamboard. Mrs. Ayres baked sugar cookies so the students could then create their computer-created designs on an actual cookie. When they finished, they used their Chromebooks to take a cookie selfie before enjoying eating their creations.





Mary Carter Smith '26 & Addie Griffin '26 pose by their Christmas trees. Students in the 3D Art and Sculpture I classes used their knowledge of the elements and principles of design to build a 24-inch Christmas tree. In the class taught by Mrs. Rachel Jones Brown '00, the students had to show experimentation and precision as well as challenge themselves in their creations which are on display in the hallway.



Kayla Stanley-Linton '26 & Sydney Rinkleff '25

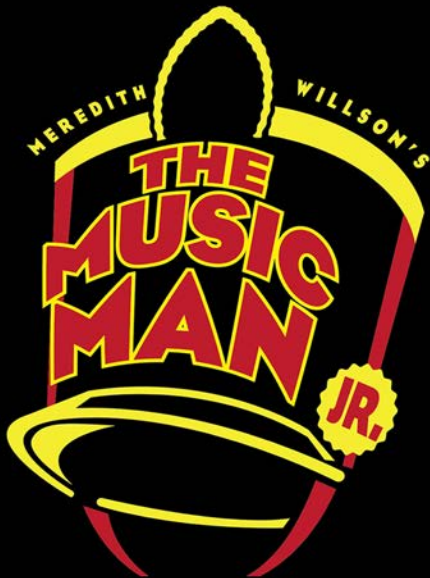


Levi Jiang '25 & Logan Mims '25



Slade Custer '24, Jeremiah Jones '24 & Jane McAdams '25

WILSON HALL THEATER DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



**MARCH 13 & 14
6:30 PM
NASH CENTER STAGE**

For the last day of classes before midterm exams begin, upper school students & faculty celebrated the season by wearing Christmas and holiday sweaters.