

Stratford

M A G A Z I N E

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50th Anniversary
Celebration
Graduation 2010
2009-2010
Report of Giving

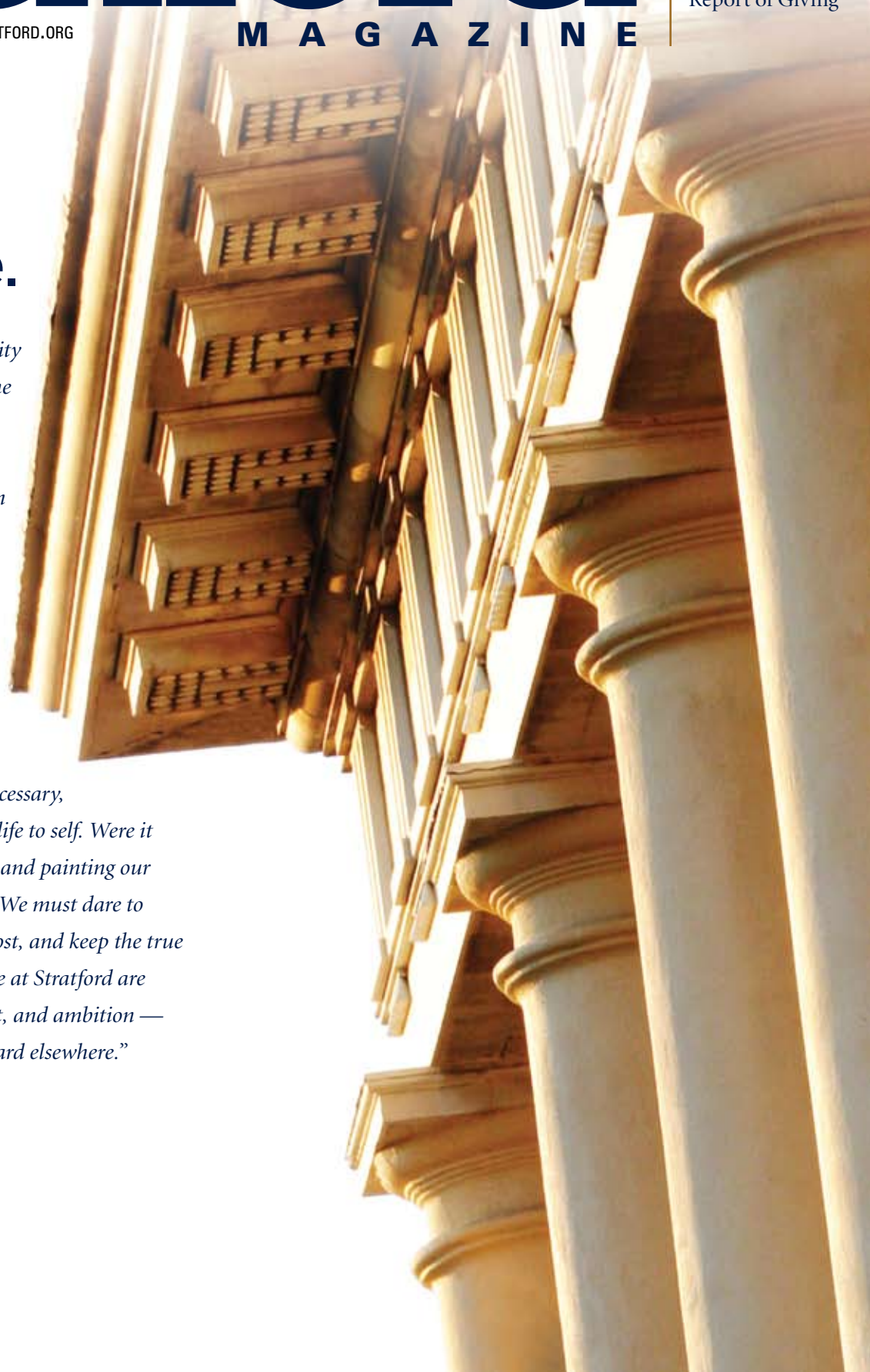
“Freedom for excellence.”

These are bold words in a world where the creeping paralysis of mass mediocrity threatens to engulf our civilization. The mantle of greatness is a cloak to fit the individual, not a blanket covering the masses. The greatness of this American Republic may be found in the free individual in a free society, and at Stratford we will stress individual achievement to the highest level of each student’s potential. The art of ‘getting just enough to get by’ will be thoroughly discouraged.

Some adjustment to life is naturally necessary, but true excellence comes in adjusting life to self. Were it not so, we would still be living in caves and painting our faces blue to frighten away evil spirits. We must dare to excel, respect knowledge, give our utmost, and keep the true humility of God-fearing men. Welcome at Stratford are the virtues of excellence, honesty, effort, and ambition — laziness and mediocrity must seek reward elsewhere.”

Dr. Joe Baker Hill, Jr.

First Headmaster



Congratulations! Stratford Class of 2010

Class of 2010: 73 students

12 Years Together: 42 students

College Acceptance Highlights: University of Alabama, Augustana College, Auburn University, Baylor University, Belmont University, Berry College, University of Cincinnati, The Citadel, Clemson University, College of Charleston, University of Colorado, Emory University, Georgia Tech, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, Louisiana State University, Mercer University, University of Miami, New York University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Oglethorpe University, Penn State, Pepperdine University, Reinhardt College, Samford University, Sewanee, Southern Methodist University, Vanderbilt University, University of Virginia, Wake Forest University, Wesleyan College

Class Highlights: Mack Hodges (Valedictorian), Hania Bisat (Salutatorian), Taylor Atkinson (University of Alabama Presidential, College of Engineering and Leadership Scholarships), Blake Christianson (Georgia Tech President's Scholar), Ethan Cole (Reinhardt College Academic Award), Katie Elliott (Outstanding Performer Award at Region One-Act Play Competition, Mercer University Scholarship), Carrie Ellen Ford (Mercer University Scholarship), Stephen Harris (Oglethorpe University Golf Letter of Intent), Anna Jones (Wesleyan College Findlay Scholarship, Will Play Soccer), Karena MacDonald (Samford University Founder's, Leadership and Dean Scholarships), Richard Min (Tournament of Champions Debate Participant, 1st Place State Literary for International Extemporaneous Speaking for 4th Consecutive Year, Will Debate at Wake Forest University), Annie Reeves (Auburn University Heritage and College of Sciences and Mathematics Freshman Scholarships), J.B. Strauss (Birmingham Southern Football Letter of Intent)

43 students were enrolled in AP courses in 2009-2010

11 students earned AP Scholar designations after their junior year

36% of students received academic, athletic, or fine arts scholarship offers



Stratford Academy



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g*ingreen

In an effort to go "green" and further do our part for the environment by reducing the amount of printed materials we produce, only one magazine was mailed to each address on file. If you would like to receive additional copies of this magazine, please contact Gina Christianson in the Advancement Office at gina.christianson@stratford.org or call (478)477-8073 x289 and we will gladly send you additional copies.



From the Head of School

A Dream Fulfilled

One of our founding Board members was asked last year if he had ever thought that Stratford Academy would develop into what it is today. His response was that he and the other founders had hopes and expectations about what the school could become, but it was only in their dreams that they foresaw anything like the Stratford Academy of today.

We've spent a good deal of time this year looking back on the 50-year history of Stratford Academy. We kicked off our anniversary activities on Alumni Weekend last fall. It was a terrific weekend, including a parade of former state championship teams and an array of reunion parties involving various alumni classes. Many of our returning visitors remarked upon the amazing transformation they had seen in their school. In April, we brought an official close to our year-long celebration of our 50th anniversary with an incredible gala celebration at the Overlook Mansion on Coleman Hill, the original site of Stratford Academy. As I moved through the crowd that evening, I sensed the delight felt by Stratford alums who were returning to their original campus for the first time in many

years. Lots of great stories were swapped: favorite classes and teachers, favorite hiding places, fun memories of all kinds. And again, many of those same alums commented upon how far we have come as a school.

I am very proud to be associated with this remarkable community of learners and teachers. The word "excellence" seems to be at the heart of everything we do — it is found in our motto ("Freedom for Excellence"), in our Capital Campaign slogan ("Excellence Never Rests"), in our Mission Statement, and even in our by-laws. A commitment to excellence permeates not only our approach to academics, but also the arts, athletics, and community interactions. It seems to me that this is exactly what the school's founders envisioned. I was privileged to have a short opportunity to get to know Dr. Bill Shirley before he passed away this year, and it was always clear, talking to Dr. Shirley, that he and the other founders wanted Stratford to be the very best school in the region, and on a par with the best schools in the nation.

There are exciting projects underway right now at Stratford Academy. Our new tennis courts were completed in early April, and our Varsity Tennis teams were

able to host their first true home matches in a number of years. Although the heavy rains of last fall and winter put the project behind schedule (we had hoped to have these courts ready in early March) the finished courts are beautiful, and we will have them available for our use for many, many years. Meanwhile, the new Science Building is just around the corner, both literally and figuratively. A visitor to campus today would see a sign right on the corner of the interior road which passes the Olson Library. That sign pictures the new building, with a "Coming Soon" note attached. Please see information elsewhere in this magazine about the



Robbo Hatcher '82 2010-2012 Chairman of the Board of Trustees

When Robbo Hatcher '82 was a senior at Stratford, he and his father Bob Hatcher set a never-before and never-since school precedent. Robbo was chair of the Student Leadership Board and Bob was Chairman for the Board of Trustees during the same year. Now nearly three decades later, father and son have once again made their marks in the Stratford history books. Robbo became the first second-generation Board Chair when he assumed the role for 2010-2012 term.

As an alumnus, Robbo can speak to the value of the Stratford experience in his own life, and sees that Stratford's strength lies in



the school's sense of community where learning is encouraged and excellence is sought. "The best thing about Stratford is we are a school where it is cool to be smart and to be good at what you are doing or studying," he comments.

While Stratford responsibilities keep Robbo busy, he is also involved in numerous local and state organizations. On March 26, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Georgia Lottery Corporation by Governor Sonny Perdue. He is currently chairman of the Macon Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Board

and Business and Industry Policy Committee in addition to other civic involvements.

Robbo has a new Stratford perspective now, being on the parent end and starting all over again. "Walking through the halls brings back a flood of memories for me. It is made even more surreal by the faces of the children here today, some of which look so much like their parents with whom I went to school," he says. "It provides me with a sense of sameness that is quite comforting, but I have to admit that studying Mr. Lawson's sixth-grade lessons the second time around is a lot easier."

Still for Robbo, there is a newness about Stratford with new families, new buildings, new teachers and new subjects, some like Genetics that did not even exist during his own school days. It is this fresh atmosphere that

Capital Campaign. There are still opportunities for pledges both large and small to the Science Building or to the Phase II goal of a new Lower School complex. The tennis courts, the Science Building, and ultimately the Lower School project will enhance our already beautiful campus, and of course further enhance our ability to provide an excellent education in all areas.

This year, as is true every year, our students have exhibited excellence in a variety of ways. Many of their accomplishments are detailed throughout this magazine, but allow me to mention only a few. More state championships have been added to our impressive list. Middle School Quiz Bowl, Upper School Debate, Girls' Fastpitch Softball, Girls' and Boys' Soccer, Golf, Girls' Tennis and Boys' Tennis have all brought home state championship trophies. The Debate Team, as they have done so many times before at Stratford, has brought home trophies at the national level.

Our students have also excelled in the Arts. Upper School drama performed *The Music Man* this year to excited audiences, and the Middle School troupe presented a terrific version of the musical *Annie*. Theatre is thriving at Stratford. Our Literary team tied for the championship in both regional competition and excelled at the state level. This

group of students participated in a variety of competitions which included public speaking and musical performance. In the visual arts, our students have not only won awards for their art, but have been asked to present their art away from campus. And here on campus, we were blessed for many weeks with a beautiful Alumni Art Show commemorating the school's 50th anniversary — some of that art was even auctioned off at the Gala.

In the classroom, our students are rising to the challenges presented to them by our excellent teaching staff on a daily basis. One of the joys of my present job is that I can take a walk around the campus each day and observe eager students enjoying meaningful and active learning experiences at every level from Pre-K to grade 12. Our students enjoy tough academic challenges, and they enjoy each other. This year we have expanded our offerings in the area of global studies in keeping with the challenges our young people will face in an increasingly complex and global environment. Next year we will be expanding our offerings in the area of Physical Education and Health, as well as adding a variety of additional elective courses including Environmental Science and Classical Greek. We are also adding a Beginner's Class in our Preschool Division for three-year-olds. And everywhere, from top to

bottom in every academic department, our teachers are placing a premium on the mastery of important academic skills such as analytical writing, critical thinking, the scientific method, note taking, and the use of technology to support learning.

We are immensely proud that Stratford Academy continues to meet and exceed the dreams of its founders, and we look forward to the next 50 years!

Robert E. Veto

Dr. Robert E. Veto
Head of School



gives Stratford a healthy mix of tradition and change, and establishes a foundation for the school with the same culture of community and excellence to exist and succeed during a more challenging time. This provides Robbo with the confidence that Stratford is providing today's students with an equally great start in an even more demanding era.

On his role as the school's new Board Chair, Robbo realizes that balance is the challenge for anyone serving in the Trustee role. "We wrestle with balance in so many things: distribution of resources, pace of change, performance and inclusivity," he comments. "Stratford sets the pace and direction for education in Middle Georgia; it is a difficult, relentless job with an immense reward that our students, our children, will set the pace for decades to come."

Robert F. Hatcher Jr. (Robbo)

Hometown: Macon
Education: Stratford Academy – 1982
University of Virginia, BA – Economics/MIS – 1986
University of Essex, Colchester, England - Winter/Spring Terms 1985
Spouse: Betsy Kaufman Hatcher
Children: Felton '16 and Janie '17

Stratford Service

2010-2012 Board of Trustees Chair; *Excellence Never Rests* Capital Campaign Co-Chair; Finance, Development and Education Committees

Professional Experience

Chairman - NanoMist Systems; President/CEO - H2 Consulting, H2 Capital, Inc.

Community Involvement

Macon Chamber of Commerce Board (Chairman), Mercer University Stetson School of Business & Economics Board of Visitors, Wesleyan College Board of Trustees, Macon State College Foundation Board, Georgia Lottery Corporation Board, Museum of Arts & Sciences Endowment Management Committee, Tubman Museum Board, Georgia Chamber of Commerce Board, Macon Economic Development Commission Board, Macon Military Affairs Committee, Riverside Cemetery Board, Grand Opera House Steering Committee, Macon Council of Foundations, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Georgia, Christ Episcopal Church Endowment Management Chair and Shield Club Member

Stratford Academy Celebrates '50 Years of Excellence'



FROM ITS BEGINNINGS IN 1960 ON COLEMAN HILL with 117 students and 35 faculty members, Stratford Academy has always focused its efforts on providing families with an independent, college prep education based on excellence. This year, Stratford celebrated "50 Years of Excellence" with the school's golden anniversary. The year-long celebration has included: a memorabilia exhibit in the Virginia Parker Buzzell Gallery, Alumni Weekend for nine classes celebrating reunions, Halftime of Champions recognition of all state championship teams/individuals, a 50th anniversary documentary DVD, former Homecoming Queen reception and recognition, Alumni Art Show and Reception, Former Booster Club President recognition and Grandparents' Day. Events culminated with the 50th Anniversary Gala.



Memorabilia Display: 1960-2009

Stratford kicked off the school's 50th year with an enrollment of 917 students and 135 faculty/staff members. On display from Sept. 25 through Nov. 20 in the Virginia Parker Buzzell Gallery was 50 years of memorabilia from the school's history. From the first school sweatshirt and baseball jersey to playbills from fine arts performances to photographs of past and present students and teachers, visitors enjoyed viewing the lobby full of Stratford relics.



Homecoming 2009

Stratford crowned its first Homecoming Queen in 1965, and since that time 44 ladies have received that honor. On



Oct. 2 during Homecoming 2009 festivities, Stratford welcomed back 23 former Homecoming Queens representing the past five decades. These ladies and their families attended a dinner in the Smisson Room of the Dr. John Paul Jones Field House prior to the pre-game presentation. The ladies were recognized on the track before the football game and were presented a rose by members of the second-grade Stratford Youth Cheerleading squads.

Stratford Academy: The Movie

The story of the founding of Stratford and its earliest days through the move to Peake Road and to its present campus are recounted by Stratford founding board members, parents, alumni, faculty and administration. This 30-minute DVD is a nostalgic walk down Stratford's memory lane. It was previewed on Friday, Oct. 23 at a kick-off "Happy Birthday, Stratford" celebration for the student body, parents and faculty. It was also shown in the Tift Auditorium on Friday, Oct. 23, and Sat., Oct. 24, for alumni and their families during the annual Alumni Weekend Barbecue and school tours. To purchase a copy, contact Elizabeth Avant at elizabeth.avant@stratford.org or (478) 477-8073. Cost is \$19.60.



Alumni Weekend 2009

Alumni from all decades came together for Stratford's annual Alumni Weekend celebration on Oct. 23 and 24.



Alumni and their families gathered for the annual Alumni Weekend Barbecue held prior to the football game and seven classes gathered for reunions.

Halftime of Champions

On Friday, Oct. 23, during halftime of the Stratford vs. Mount de Sales game, five decades of Stratford state champions were honored during our "Halftime of Champions" celebration. Hundreds of alumni who accumulated state titles in athletics, debate, one-act play, literary, academic bowl and math competitions gathered on the football field to be recognized for their achievements during their student days.

Booster Club Recognition of Former Presidents

On Friday, March 5, in celebration of Stratford's 50th birthday, past Booster Club presidents dating back to the club's inception were honored as well. Twenty-six presidents attended the Raffle Party as guests of the Booster



Club and were recognized by Athletic Director Grady Smith for their contributions to Stratford athletics.

Alumni and Parent Art Show

From March 8-26 works of art by alumni from every decade as well as current parents and grandparents were displayed in the Virginia Parker Buzzell Gallery. The exhibit featured photography, sculpture, oil on canvas, watercolor and more media from some of Stratford's most talented. Artists and their guests were honored at a March 21 reception attended by artists, their families, students, parents, faculty and staff.

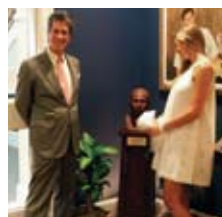
Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day 2010

Friday, March 26, was Stratford's 25th Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day celebration. Students from Pre-kindergarten through fifth grade invited grandparents and friends to join them for their annual art show, musical re-

vue and slideshow. This year "Happy 50th Birthday, Stratford" gave the guests and students a peek into musical favorites and Stratford trivia from the last five decades. The program concluded with a special finale of "We are the World" which featured the talents of alumni April Dorsey Crawley '97, Tracey Bloodworth Garner '90, Eric Hefner '83, Baxter James '98, Kevin Mann '95, Tom McAfee '86, Robin Lee Parker '83 and Karen Jarrard Snow '81. Wimberley McCook Rader '82 created the stage backdrop.

Dr. Joe B. Hill Bust Unveiling

In 1970 when Walter G. Elliott '71 was a Stratford high school student, he crafted an amazing, life-like bust of Stratford's first headmaster, Dr. Joe B. Hill. Recently, the bust was returned to the school by the Hill family and was unveiled in its new permanent location in Stratford's Olson Library. Elliott, who is a successful artist and photographer, was honored at a small ceremony in the library attended by members of the Hill family, the Elliott family, friends, and Stratford faculty and staff.



50th Anniversary Gala

For the 50th Anniversary Gala, friends of Stratford Academy spent a nostalgic evening at the former Overlook Mansion, the school's original location, which today is Mercer University's Woodruff House. Nearly 400 parents of current



and former students, alumni, past and present faculty/staff members joined together on April 16, 2010, to celebrate the school's half-century mark. Guests were entertained by J.C. McCullough '10, Hampton Vernon '07, and Taylor '05 and Coleman McLendon. The evening fare included a "Taste of Stratford" buffet celebrating the cultures of the diverse Stratford families, including Asian, African, Caribbean, Greek, Indian, and American ethnic dishes. The silent auction showcased original works of art, sports/music memorabilia, vacations and many other unique items. The year-long celebration was chaired by Cynde Martin Dickey '73.

March 1960	First meeting of parents interested in a private, college preparatory school
May 14, 1960	Macon Independent School Association D/B/A Stratford Academy incorporated
September 6, 1960	Stratford Academy opened with 117 students and 35 faculty/staff
1962	First class of 13 students graduated
1966	First math team state title
1970	Stratford departed GHSA to join newly formed SEALS (now GISA)
1972	First class to complete 12 grades graduated
1973	First kindergarten met at Vineville Presbyterian Church
1974	Grades 8-12 moved to Peake Road Marching band and debate programs debut
1975	Gym dedicated on January 25, 1975 Ralph Gillette named headmaster
1977	Henry Tift named headmaster
1978	Kindergarten and grades 1-7 joined the Peake Road campus Baseball field completed
1979	First AP courses offered

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Stratford Academy: Its Beginnings 1960-1962



Sue F. Hill, from *Charter Faculty Members, Stratford Academy 1960*

This is a short documentation of Stratford Academy's earliest beginnings written by Sue F. Hill, one of Stratford's founding faculty members and wife of Dr. Joe B. Hill, founding headmaster. From the beginning, enrollment grew every year and it is evident now that the new school survived although many people expressed doubts about its future.

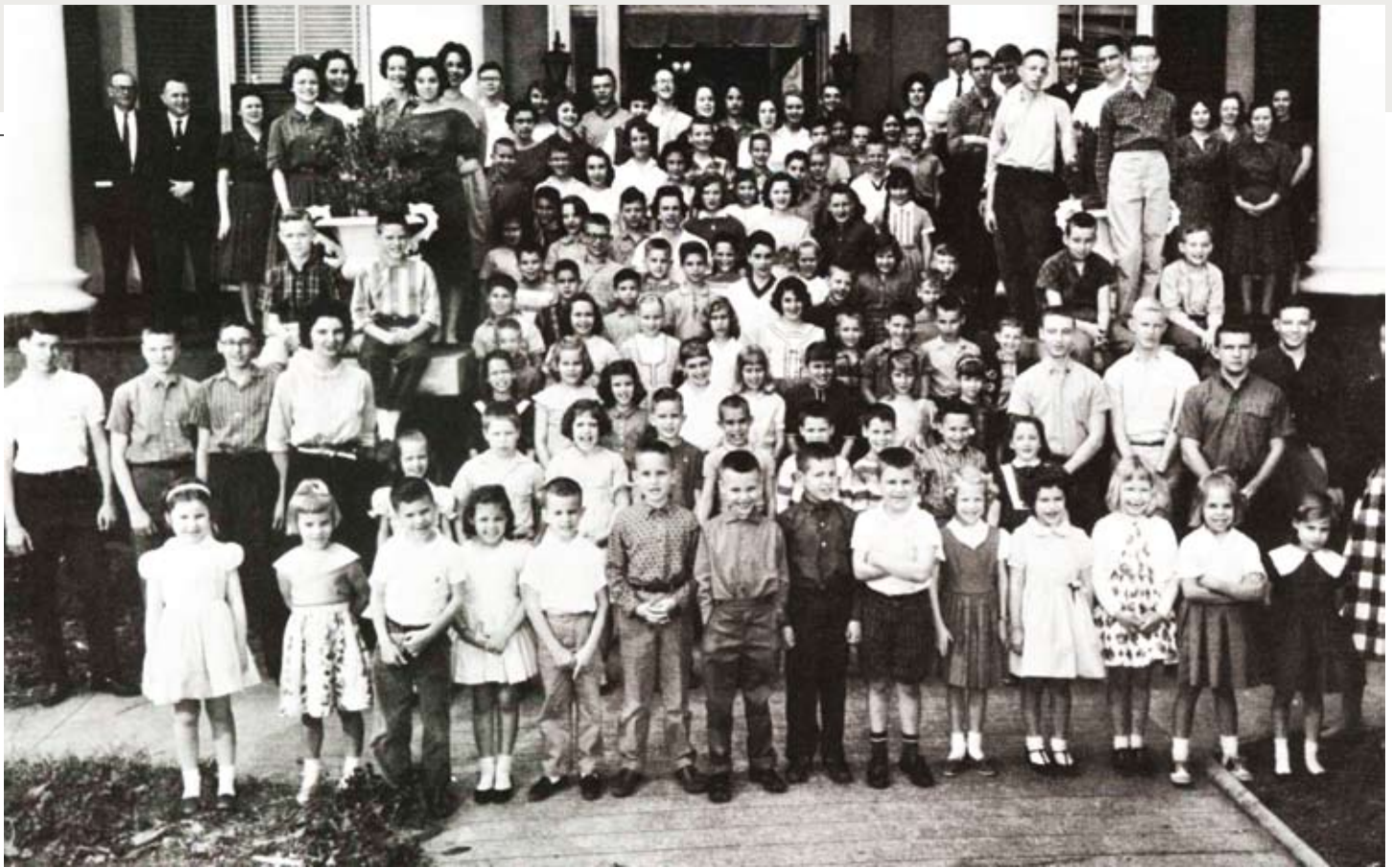
Students who attended the school from 1960 to 1974 very often refer to those years as Old Stratford. The high school moved to the new location on Peake Road in September of 1974. The new school was ready for occupancy in March of 1974 and the seniors were allowed to vote on whether they would be the last ones to graduate from Bond Street or the first to graduate from Peake Road. They voted to stay on Bond Street, as they felt much affection for the old school.

Organization and Philosophy

In March of 1960, a group of parents, becoming concerned about the plight of the public schools, met at the Elks Club to discuss how they could be assured that their children would be prepared for college work. Derry Burns, Sr. had asked Joe Baker Hill, Jr., principal of Joseph N. Neel Elementary School, to help the group decide on the best course to follow. It was decided that this group should establish a private, non-profit academy, dedicated specifically to college preparation, and Mr. Hill was asked to be headmaster.

On May 14, 1960, the Macon Independent School Association was incorporated and an office was opened in Hotel Lanier. Next on the agenda was finding an appropriate building. Several locations were considered, but finally the Board decided to buy the beautiful colonial mansion from Mrs. B.P. O'Neal. It was located at the top of Coleman Hill and had been called Overlook. When administrators moved in





July 1960, there were 14 students enrolled. The Board asked Mr. Hill if he would consider delaying the opening for one year, spending that time in promotion. He responded, "I am no promotion man. If you want to postpone the opening, you'll have to replace me."

The Board voted to open as originally planned in September of 1960, and initiated an all-out recruitment program. The members invited prospective parents to their homes, sometimes several gatherings in a week, and did a magnificent job of selling the school.

While the Board worked on enrollment, much work had to be done to transform a lovely home into an efficient school. Marvin Davis, Joe and Sue Hill worked at the school every day. Mr. Hill and Mr. Davis did painting, carpentry, paving of the parking lot, and whatever maintenance was necessary. They continued that practice for a number of years. One day a man approached them as they worked after school hours. He asked to be directed to the headmaster's office, and Mr. Hill said, "I am the headmaster." The man replied that he would come back at another time. When he entered Mr. Hill's office the next morning, he said, "You really are the headmaster." Mr. Hill responded,

"Does the suit make a difference?"

Dr. Ed Brannen suggested Stratford as the name of the school. It was taken from Shakespeare's home to reflect our literary heritage and from Robert E. Lee's home to reflect our Southern heritage.

This pregnancy was probably one of the shortest on record, as within four months a school had been conceived, brought to term, delivered, and the growing pains had begun. This seemingly impossible task was accomplished through hard work, cooperation, and faith of all concerned — the Board of Governors, the administration, the faculty, the staff, the parents, and the students.

Chapter 2: 1960-61

The school opened on Sept. 6, 1960, with 117 students in grades 1-6 and 8-11. There was no seventh grade, as the students in that grade wanted to remain in public school and graduate with their classmates of the past six years. There was no twelfth grade,



as Mr. Hill felt that a student should be at Stratford for at least two years before being sent to college with Stratford's name.

The first year academic scholarships were given to two students in each of grades 8-11. The students competed for those scholarships and that policy helped the school attract outstanding students. Those students, in turn, assured the favorable reputation among colleges.

All classes were taught in the main house except first grade which was taught in a wing. The first floor housed grades 2-5. The high school classes were taught on the second floor. Sixth grade homeroom was in a wing on the opposite side from the first grade. >>

1981

Drama Club received the first perfect score ever awarded in SEAIS competition for "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown"

1982

First Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Accreditation

1985

Football field house built
First Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day

1986

Softball field completed

1992

Henry H. Tift IV Auditorium dedicated and *The Music Man* is the first production presented

1998

Hank Battle named headmaster
Learning Support Center opened

2000

Olson Library dedicated

2003

Dave Wahl named headmaster

2008

Bob Veto named head of school
Loop road completed

2010

Tennis complex completed



The room had a crystal chandelier and two matching sconces. When the fixtures had to be removed, they were carefully packed and stored. Although there were many offers to buy them, Mr. Hill insisted that some day they might be used if the house were restored. The house has been restored and is now owned by Mercer University. It is called the Woodruff House and is one of Macon's show places.

With the small classes, teachers could accomplish miracles. High school students were required to write a research paper each year. The paper was done for two subjects, receiving one grade in English for structure and mechanics, and another grade in the subject field. Students were carried to Athens to do research in the library at the University of Georgia.

The motto of the school was "Libertas Excellentiae" (Freedom for Excellence) and was suggested by Mr. Joseph M. Todd, who also designed the emblem. The colors of gray and gold were suggested by Dr. E.C. McMillan.

The symbol, the golden eagle, had an interesting history. Barbara Brubaker, an elev-

enth-grade student, found a feather in Mr. Hill's history classroom and told him that her classmates had observed an eagle flying around the campus. Mr. Hill laughingly said, "Let's make it our mascot." It stuck.

From the beginning Stratford was planning for expansion. It should be noted that Stratford met all the requirements for accreditation by the State of Georgia with the exception of one. A school had to have a specific number of acres per 100 children to be accredited, and that requirement could never be met in that location. Future plans were to move to the suburbs.

The first year was one for development. The school was dedicated to the highest possible academic standards, and the students were challenged to reach their full potential. Under the direction of Mr. Hill, Mr. Davis, and the faculty, attitudes of respect for others and pride in others' achievements as well as one's own, were being developed. School loyalty was paramount to the success of the school, and it was promoted in every way possible.

Since there were no gym or facilities for physical education, the boys were taken to the YMCA during the last period of the school day to play basketball. The girls were taught square dancing and first-aid, and in the spring they had an archery tournament on the side yard.

"Stratford Academy represents an ideal, agreed upon by people who have been willing to go to some trouble to accomplish a common objective. Its Board of Governors is made up of people who tended to rely upon themselves when inertia cried out for action. Its patrons are people who think in terms of community progress; those who have seen fit to support an untried venture because they believe in cultural values. Its faculty consists of individuals of superior competence who would risk economic security in order to enter a realm of educational excellence. Its students are possessed of objectives and capabilities that make their future careers worthy of special effort. And Stratford's many friends and supporters feel, each according to his own experience, that a community need is being fulfilled. Your Board of Governors seeks to keep the faith with all who have given such an inspiring vote of confidence."

Dr. Edmund Brannen, *First Chairman of the Board of Directors*



Chapter 3: 1961-1962

At the beginning of the second year, the enrollment had increased to 210 and six new faculty members were added: Bill Avirett – English, Boys’ Physical Education; Anne Grace – Second Grade; Mary Eva Harper – Science; Ann Park – English, French, Annual Staff Advisor, Library Supervisor; and Berkly Minor – Social Sciences. Ruby Jo Argo moved to high school to teach math and girls’ physical education; and Ann Parkins replaced Sue Hill in some English classes. Sue then became director of

guidance and taught senior English and psychology. Margaret Davis, in addition to her duties as business manager and secretary, taught one class in typing and notehand.

There were many activities for upper classmen and the seniors were kept busy providing leadership for the clubs and organization. A Beta Club was organized and the annual was named *The Warff*

and a literary magazine called *Strata-Gems* was published. A student council governed the student body and the Macon Kiwanis Club organized a Key Club to carry out projects which would be beneficial to the school and community. There was an American Junior Red Cross and Dramatics Club.

Since Stratford was primarily academic and at that time had not developed a sports program, it was decided that letters would be awarded for academic achievement. The student with the highest average in each subject in high school received a large “S”

with the subject on it. The top scholar in each grade received a letter with Top Scholar on it as well as a sweater.

The first senior class, lovingly referred to as the “original thirteen,” have been a source of great pride to the school over the years. They were: Loyd “Buster” Black, Barbara Brubaker, Catharine Burns, John Dahin, Nancy Domingos, Emily Gober, Kathleen “Kam” Hatcher, Wally Little, Ray Markwalter, Elaine Massey, Raymond Moody, Roe Stamps and Benham Stewart, Jr. The first honor graduates were Buster Black, Barbara Brubaker, Nancy Domingos, Emily Gober, Kam Hatcher, Elaine Massey, Raymond Moody, and Roe Stamps. Elaine Massey was Valedictorian and Buster Black was Salutatorian. Roe Stamps was STAR student and selected Mary Eva Harper as his STAR teacher.

The graduation exercises were held in the social hall of Vineville Methodist Church, and, in character with their independent spirit, they replaced “Pomp and Circumstance” with “Dixie.” It was played in subdued cadence and did not have a Rebel yell.

Epilogue

This gives a glimpse of the people who put their hearts in the creation of Stratford Academy. Did these people dream of the school that exists now? What do you think?

First Faculty

Joe B. Hill, Sr. – Headmaster
Marvin Davis – Assistant Headmaster, Social Studies
Margaret Davis – Secretary
Elaine Massey – Elementary Supervisor, 4th Grade
Sue Hill – Guidance Counselor, English
Mary Elizabeth Burdette – 1st Grade
Margaret Davis (not the secretary) – 2nd Grade
Kathryn Parmalee – 3rd Grade
Ruby Jo Argo – 5th Grade
Paul Hutcherson – Math for 6th-12th Grades
Marvin Davis and Joe Hill – Social Studies for 6th-12th Grades

Roberta James – Science for 6th-12th Grades
Marie Heller – French, Latin and Reading for 6th-12th Grades
Blossom Burgamy – Music
Helen Popejoy – Speech
Ann Tutt – Art
Jerry Stone – Boys’ P.E.
Bernard Murdoch, Ph.D. – Psychologist
Lemuel D. Truesdel – Commercial Artist
Shelby Mercer – Traffic Safety
Eula Watts, Alonzo Bryant, Willie Mae Bell and Willie – Cleaning Staff

First Board of Governors

Edmund A. Brannen, M.D., Chairman
E.C. McMillan, M.D., Vice Chairman
William K. Buffington, Secretary
R.C. Souder, Jr., Treasurer
Henry K. Burns, Jr.
F.R. Childs, D.D.S.
Robert G. Ferrell, M.D.
William Herin
Annie Jones
John Paul Jones, M.D.
D.F. Lee, D.D.S.
Clifford Ray, D.D.S.
T. Ed Rogers, M.D.
William C. Shirley, M.D.
Neil A. Stokes
W.P. Thompson, Jr.
W.A. Walker

Academics Then and...

In 1960 Georgia Governor Ernest Vandiver rose to office on the campaign slogan “No, Not One” on the integration of classrooms, yet there was a federal mandate threatening to close all schools if they did not desegregate. In March, parents of students in Middle Georgia gathered because of their concern for the future of the public education system in the state. These were parents who had a long-term vision of education for their children. Regardless of the political environment, they wanted an institution which prepared their children for college and life. So on May 14, 1960, the Macon Independent School Association D/B/A Stratford Academy was incorporated.

Starting from an empty slate gave parents the opportunity to form an educational environment suited to their highest goal — excellence. Respected and tenured educator Joe B. Hill Jr. was hired as headmaster and

assembled a staff of the most highly credentialed and experienced teachers.

To recruit the most serious students, academic scholarships were awarded to two students in grades 8-11. Already school officials were thinking which students would fare well in college and represent Stratford Academy to their best potential. With small classrooms, teachers focused their efforts on studies and college preparedness. By 1961, the school's second year, activities and student interest groups blossomed. Some of the first organizations were the Beta Club, Student Council, *Strata-Gems* (a literary magazine), *The Warff* (the yearbook), Key Club, Junior Red Cross and Dramatics Club. There were also roles for younger students as school helpers such as fire marshals, flag raisers, and safety patrol.

Since Stratford was primarily an academic institution, letters were awarded for academic achievement. The student with

the highest average in each subject in high school received a sweater with a large “S” with the subject on it. The top scholar in each grade received a letter as well.

It did not take long for students to begin excelling at Stratford. The first National Merit Semifinalists were recognized in 1964 and the first Finalists in 1965. The Math Team took its first state title in 1966. In 1970, Bill Wright '65 was the first alumnus to receive the Rhodes Scholarship. 1974 marked the year that Stratford was elected to its first five-year term on the College Entrance Examination Board. In 1976, the Debate program brought home the first of now 31 state titles and in 1978 three Stratford students brought home awards in the first city-wide Golden Eagle Awards presented by *The Macon Telegraph*.

As Stratford entered into its third decade, the first AP courses in English, math, chemistry and biology were offered and in 1982 the school received its first Southeastern As-



Forty-five Stratford seventh graders were selected for the 2009-2010 Duke TIP program. Seventh-grade students who received state-level recognition on either the SAT or ACT taken in the fall were: Christina Alibozek, Alex Christianson, Morgan Herman, Mary Carolyn Hulgán, Sam Jenkins, Dori Kacsoh, Sarin Khurana, Vijay Pillai and Joshua Wangerin. Hulgán also qualified for Grand/National Honors.

Stratford seventh grader Mary Carolyn Hulgán scored the top score in the state on the 2010 National French Exam. Mary Carolyn's score also landed her in 6th place in the nation.



Fourth grader Mark Barrow surpassed the 1,000 Accelerated Reader point mark in early February of the 2009-10 school year. This is the first time a Stratford student has ever achieved this goal so early in the year.



Stratford recently held its first Merit Scholarship Recognition Program. The 25 students who were recognized were offered one or more merit scholarships by one or more colleges to which they were accepted.

Stratford Academy's Middle School Academic Bowl Team coached by Kathleen Peterson and Susan Hanberry-Martin won the 2010 PAGE (Professional Association of Georgia Educators) Academic Bowl State Championship in March at Georgia College and State University. Team members are: Vijay Pillai, Team Captain Hemanth Sanjeev, Asfar Rehan, Morgan Sowell Jimmy Hernandez and Saqib Qadir.





sociation of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation and was most recently reaccredited in 2008. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the number of academic offerings increased and today 17 AP courses are taught. In 1989, community service hours became a graduation requirement and today over 116,000 hours have been volunteered by Stratford students since that time.

While Stratford's initial 20 years were marked by many "firsts," the second two decades were a time for growth and expansion. Each year students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by the National Merit Scholarship Program and today 24 percent of Stratford students receive AP Scholar designation versus the national average of 18 percent. Now, over 50 years later, one ideal has remained true — excellence — and has carried Stratford and the education it provides to its current status as one of the finest college preparatory institutions in the Southeast.



Stratford Sophomore Casey Wanna won the school-wide, local and regional competitions of the Poetry Out Loud competition by reciting the poem *My Last Duchess*, by Robert Browning. Poetry Out Loud is a program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation to encourage the nation's youth to learn poetry through memorization and recitation. Pictured is Wanna with her English teacher, Dr. Frank Katz.

Stratford's Novice Team of Andrew Jones and Hemanth Sanjeev won their division at the Vestavia Hills Debate Tournament in March.



They won all of their preliminary debates and were named champions with no elimination debates. Ninth grader Jones, right, was named Top Speaker and eighth grader Sanjeev was named 2nd Speaker at the tournament.

What They Say About A Stratford Education

Brenda Lumley

Mother of Lauren Hollman '03 and Caroline Lumley '08

"We just received our daughter Caroline's semester grades from college. We were thrilled to learn that she had made the Dean's List. We, as parents, all hold our breath and hope for the best when we send our teenagers off to college. You can only hope the years of providing the best education possible will pay off. I can now speak from experience when I say our Stratford tuition was worth every penny! We are extremely grateful to Stratford for the education our daughter received. It is so rewarding to look back and realize we provided all the necessary tools for our daughter to succeed. Hopefully, we will continue to watch her succeed throughout her college years and in life."

Donna Kay McGoldrick

Mother of Katherine Eubanks '02, Anna Kay '07 and Elizabeth McGoldrick '09

"Elizabeth took her first college English class during the first semester of her freshman year. During one particular class, the professor distributed an article to the students with the assignment of reading the article in class and getting prepared for a graded class discussion. Elizabeth was handed the article and began reading it as she had been taught at Stratford. With highlighter in one hand and pen in the other, she read the article highlighting important parts and writing notes in the margin as she went. After several minutes, the teacher interrupted the class and said, 'I can see that there is only one student in this class who has been taught the proper way to read and prepare for this discussion. Elizabeth McGoldrick, will you tell us where you learned to do this?' Elizabeth was proud to say that she had been taught to do this in her English classes at Stratford Academy."

Mary Kate Corley '08, University of Kentucky

For one of the assignments in her freshman English course, Mary Kate turned in an essay that she began writing in high school and added to for the assignment. The essay titled "When You're Here, You're Family" started as a funny story about her family that she wanted to write for herself. It then morphed into the one she used for college applications and Ms. Hutto's English class before becoming a five-page paper for English 104 at University of Kentucky. At the end of the semester, Mary Kate's professor asked if she would submit an essay from class for possible publication in a text book called "Award Winning Essays." She was unaware that her submission entered her in a contest until she received a phone call a few months later. To her surprise, not only was she the author of one of the essays to be published, Mary Kate had won first place and a monetary reward. She was given the opportunity to read her essay before an audience of students and other English professors at the Undergraduate Writing Symposium and received recognition and a certificate at the English department's award ceremony.

Carl Sullivan '08, Southern Methodist University

Carl was one of 15 students chosen to have their writing displayed as "model papers." His parents, Isabelle and Blake Sullivan, give kudos to Michelle Blaney and the English department.

Laura Larsen '08, Auburn University

Laura's first paper at Auburn was selected as the "model" paper for her class and her teacher posted it on her website as an example to follow. This says so much about the quality of English teachers we have at Stratford. What a blessing to be able to write! Congrats to our English department.

Brown Dennis '09, University of Georgia

A teaching assistant in Brown's U.S. history class called his paper out as one of the best written and gave it to other students as an example to model.

From Michelle Blaney, Upper School English

"Everyone at Stratford has the students writing all the time. When students see everyone valuing the importance of writing well, it makes a big difference. Plus 'good writing' is being reinforced everywhere. That makes my job very easy."

Fine Arts Then and...

When Stratford's founders assimilated the first curriculum and teaching staff, art and music were on the list of enrichments administrators deemed necessary for an institution committed to the highest level of education. The Dramatics Club was organized as one of the first student clubs and presented the school's first full-length production of *Sleeping Beauty* featuring students from the elementary grades to high school.

The first school talent show occurred in 1964, and later in 1972 it became the Junior Class-sponsored talent show. Stratford's drama program entered its first state competition in 1972 and Randy Clark brought

home the Best Actor award. The late 1970s and early 1980s was a time of tremendous growth for the school's theatre and literary programs with many students who received first-in-state and best performer titles. Stratford twirlers, predecessor to the Color Guard, made their first performance in 1973 and the marching band debuted in 1974.

In the late 1970s, the Stratford Drama Team soared by winning consecutive first place in region and state one-act play competition, then took a top spot in the Georgia Theatre Competition which merited an invitation to the Southern Conference. There, two cast members were named "All Stars." The literary team swept the state competition in 1980, and Stratford made SEAIS history by receiving the first perfect score ever awarded in state competition for its production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Literary and one-act play continued the tradition of excellence, winning at the region and state levels throughout the mid-1980s. Laura Voss came to Stratford in 1983 and began her nearly three-decade association with the school's music and theatre departments.

The Henry Harding Tift IV Fine Arts Building opened in 1992 and included a 400-seat auditorium, a stage and the Virginia Parker Buzzell Gallery. The first production presented was *The Music Man* featuring the theatrical talents of students, faculty and alumni including three of the four Tift brothers — Henry, Bill and Jerry.

The crop of young performers and artists continued to grow each year in the 1990s and each school year three produc-

tions were performed: one-act play in the fall, a winter musical and a spring production which included elementary age students. Older students carried on the tradition in literary, debate, theatre and music while amassing dozens of region and state titles in one-act play and literary and best performances in oral interpretation, girls/boys solo, girls trio, boys quartet, extemporaneous speaking, and essay writing. The 1998 production of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* earned a rarely received "Outstanding Performance" for the entire cast at region one-act play competition.

In the first decade of the new millennium, Stratford artists and performers placed in state and region competition in eight of the 10 years in literary. In 2004, father-son duo Robert and Aiden Stallworth brought home both Best Actor and Best Director honors at state competition for the one-act play *Tom Jones*. The Spirit of Stratford Marching Band, now a program of 60 musicians, has built a tradition of superior ratings at competitions and entertains guests during halftime of football games. More than 50 teams in the school's history have brought home state one-act play and literary titles. Coupled with the success of the music and art





programs this demonstrates that fine arts are alive and thriving at Stratford.

The tradition at Stratford lives on today with a Fine Arts program more vibrant than ever.

In the past several years, Stratford has encouraged students to push themselves artistically beyond the boundaries. Students are not only excelling within the walls of Stratford, but contributing and taking their talents out into the community. Stratford students of all ages have performed in local productions such as *Traditions*, *Nutcracker of Middle Georgia*, *Swan Lake*, *Once Upon a Mattress* and *Shakespeare Alive!* In 2009, then senior Rachel Schlesinger won the Macon Symphony Concerto Competition, a feat

never before accomplished by a Stratford student, and was chosen to perform an oboe concerto with the Macon Symphony at its May concert. She is now continuing her musical training at Ithaca College.

Middle School and Upper School Chorus perform throughout the year at special events both on and off campus. The introduction of music classes in Lower School and theater and music appreciation enrichments in Middle School allow students to discover and nurture their gifts at an early age. Advanced Placement Music Theory is offered at the Upper School level, enabling students to study music at a college level while at Stratford.

Stratford's band program continues to thrive with many Stratford musicians being selected to perform each year with the GISA All-Select Band and Chorus and District Honor Band, and attend University of Georgia's clinic for exceptional high school musicians. Our "Spirit of Stratford" Marching Band, Symphonic Band and Pep Band continue to receive superior ratings at festivals throughout the state and beyond.



Today Stratford Upper School students are also offered college-level art classes with an average of eight students per year enrolled in Advanced Placement Art. Stratford students have received top awards and recognition for their work at the Kiwanis Art Show each year, many taking their love of art to the next level in college. Stagecraft classes conceptualize, design and build sets for the three school theater productions produced by Stratford each year. This year Stratford students performed *Competition Piece* for One-Act, *The Music Man* for the winter musical, and *Annie Jr.* with a cast of 70 students in grades four through eight in the spring. *The Music Man* was the first play performed in the Tift Auditorium when it opened in 1992. What a fitting way to commemorate Stratford's 50th anniversary and continued excellence in fine arts.



Athletics THEN

Stratford's First State Title

In 1964, there were three athletic teams at the young Stratford Academy: golf, tennis and basketball. Each of the programs was organized under the premise that only a few students were required for competition, so the student body of just a few hundred could easily support and maintain the programs.

When the time came to enlist players for the golf team, there were no tryouts necessary. The boys interested in representing Stratford had played golf together for years, so everyone knew who the strongest players were. A challenge ladder was established in lieu of tryouts, and players could "challenge" each other to see

who would represent Stratford as the "top 4" for each tournament. Idle Hour Country Club's Director of Golf Dan Nymicz acted as the team's instructor and Stratford coach Bill Averitt served as a team advisor.

There were no team uniforms or equipment; everyone was responsible for providing his own. Stratford was a small school so they played in the "C" class division and competed against schools from much more rural communities, for many of which golf was a non-sport.

"One of my vivid memories of those early days playing for Stratford was a tournament held on a golf course in South Georgia, where there were literally cows out to pasture in the right rough of the fairway," remembers John Houser '66. "It was so small that we had to play nine holes twice to get in a full 18."

From the moment Stratford fielded a team, it was a powerhouse. Stratford golfers easily rose in the state ranks because many of them had been successful on the Junior Golf circuit for years. Golf was as popular a sport in Middle Georgia as it is now, so getting in enough practice was not an issue. Team members were practicing daily at Idle Hour and they quickly mounted a winning record.

"I don't recall us ever losing a match," says Houser. "Looking back, nothing has really changed from those days to today, other than the size of the School and competition in a stronger division."

In the spring of 1964, four young men represented the Stratford Golf Team in the School's first state competition; senior Lee Barfield, sophomores John Houser and Tommy Harper, and freshman Alfred Sams became Stratford's first team to bring home the state championship title when they dominated state tournament play.

Lee Barfield '64, who provided leadership as the golf team's only senior, had already achieved athletic success on the

basketball courts. He remembers that even in its infancy, Stratford and the school's administrators were committed to establishing a quality athletic program with the school's physical education and organized sports. "We took our lumps as any new school would, but Dr. Hill and Mr. Davis were pro-sports and dedicated to having the best coaches and instructors for us. The commitment to excellence was there at the beginning," Lee recalls.

Barfield not only has his name on the record books as a member of Stratford's first state championship team, he also was the first athlete to have his athletic jersey retired. His No. 5 basketball jersey was retired in the 1960s and hangs in the school's Athletic Hall of Fame.

"Playing sports at Stratford was a wonderful experience," says Barfield. "Not only did I have a great time, but looking back I realize it was important to my own growth and development."

In the last 50 years, Stratford's golf program has amassed the largest number of state titles of any of the school's athletic programs. Seventeen of the now 172 School state titles have been won on the links. In addition, Stratford's golf team has earned 10 state runner-up titles. The school's golf program is one of the most heralded in the GISA, and it is not uncommon for students to go on to play at the college level.

Alfred Sams '67 was the lone freshman on the first state championship team. As an alumnus and later a parent of Stratford athletes, he now recognizes the groundwork they were laying for future School programs. Sams' children, Alfred '97 and Hollis '99, both played on the golf team and found success on the basketball courts as well.

"I was fortunate to play on the Stratford golf team with guys I had grown up playing with and against," says Sams. "It was a unique experience to be able to compete with that group both individually and as a team."



...AND **NSW**

When his son and daughter began their Stratford athletic careers, he was quick to notice the increased structure and higher level of competition that his children were experiencing. Son Alfred competed against current professional golfer Charles Howell, III, who attended an Augusta school at the time, and now is No. 64 on the 2010 PGA money list and has an Official World Golf Ranking of 130.

"It is exciting to see future world-class players like Russell Henley coming out of Stratford's program and realize I was there at its humblest beginnings," says Sams. "I have to admit, though, that as much fun as it was to play for Stratford, I really enjoyed living vicariously through my children when they participated in sports, and I'm looking forward to doing the same with my grandchildren."

Stratford's commitment to an athletic program built on excellence was evident in the earliest days and continues to be the catalyst for more state championship titles each year.

Eagles Add Eight State Titles in 2009-2010

During the 2009-2010 school year, Stratford grew its athletic state championships from 164 to 172. The 2009 Eaglettes won the school's first-ever fastpitch softball state championship and the first softball state

championship since 1997, by defeating cross-town rival FPD twice in one day. The 2009 varsity fastpitch team, which consisted of one junior, four sophomores, seven freshmen and one 8th grader, won the state championship game by a score of 2-1 and were region champions as well. Ashley Kate McPherson, Lexi Rouse, Caroline Avant, Julie Anne Bradley, Sloan Sibley, Morgan Long, and Andi Schilling were named to the GISA Class-AAA Fastpitch Softball All-Region Team. Rouse, Bradley, Sibley and Long

were named to the GISA All-State team. Coach Jeff Treadway was named GISA Class-AAA Coach of the Year.

Fall 2009 also brought the second boys' soccer state championship in two years. Led by senior captains Mack Hodges, Stuart Firth, and junior captain Bo Stroup, the Eagles achieved a season record of 17-5-1. The Eagles were also crowned Viking Cup champions and Region 2AAA runners-up. The Eagles captured the GISA state title with a 3-2 win over rival MDS. The Eagle players selected to the All-Region Team were: Obi Ekeledo, Mack Hodges, Ryan Ridley, Bo Stroup, and Kyle Webb. Ekeledo, Hodges and Stroup were also selected for the All-State team. Head Coach James Jordan was named the GISA Class-

AAA Coach of the Year for the second year in a row. In addition, the Eagles were awarded a post-season NSCAA Adidas Region IV Ranking (No. 8), which included teams from all over the East Coast.

In the spring of 2010, Stratford athletes continued to find great success on the fields, courts and courses. Not since the 1992 and 1993 campaigns have there been back-to-back titles for both tennis teams, and not since 1991, 1992, and 1993 has the boys' team won three state championships in a row. In addition to those team feats, Becker O'Shaughnessey stands out as the only player in Stratford's history to win three singles titles in a row along with three team titles in a row. Hayden Bashinski and Thomas Watson join an elite club as they are one of only two doubles pairings to win the individual state title back-to-back and the team title three years in a row. The boys posted their third straight undefeated season, while the girls finished their 2010 season with only >>



one loss. The boys took the semis of state 4-0 over Augusta Prep and the title with a 4-0 victory over Deerfield-Windsor. The girls defeated Augusta Prep 3-2 before grabbing a 3-0 championship score over Pinecrest. Stratford also took home several honors to go with its two state team titles. Liza Klyachkin, Hania Bisat, Holly Stephens, Caroline Hill, Peterson Jones, Allison Walthall and Sarah Anne Patton made history by being the first entire girls' team to make All-Region, a feat the boys accomplished last year. O'Shaughnessey, Ryan Baker, Bashinski, and Watson took home All-Region honors for the boys. Coach Jaime Kaplan

was named GISA Coach of the Year for capturing four state tennis titles in 2010.

On May 3, 2010, the Varsity Golf Team captured the GISA-AAA state championship. The team shot a combined score of 299 at the Doublegate Country Club in Albany, helping the Eagles to win back-to-back state championships. Low medalist for the Eagles was freshman Henry Persons with a one-over-par 73. This was Stratford's 17th state title and 10th consecutive region 2-AAA title. Making the All-State team this year were Henry Persons, Brian Beringer and Matthew Beringer, and Coach Cater Pierce was named the 2010 GISA Coach of the Year.

The Stratford Varsity Soccer Eaglettes



(15-6-1) made history when they won their first GISA Class-AAA state championship since 2006 and 12th program title. The Eaglettes dominated in the State Championship game winning 5-1 and defeating a Westminster of Augusta team which was previously undefeated in the state for the season. The Eaglettes also finished as the Viking Cup runners-up, as well as Region 2-AAA runners-up. The five players selected to the GISA 2-AAA All-Region team and GISA Class-AAA All-State team were Kendall Cowart, Lauren Hale, Allie Hale, Malone Slappey and Haley Tidwell. Coach James Jordan was named the 2010 GISA Class-AAA Girls' Soccer Coach of the Year.

First State Champions

1964 — Golf	1971 — Boys Basketball	1989 — Girls Tennis Team
1968 — Boys Doubles Tennis	1972 — Baseball	1990 — Boys Soccer
1969 — Girls Singles Tennis	1972 — Girls Basketball	1992 — Girls Track
1969 — Girls Doubles Tennis	1987 — Boys Track	1996 — Girls Soccer
1970 — Football	1988 — Slowpitch Softball	1997 — Girls Cross Country
1970 — Boys Singles Tennis	1988 — Boys Tennis Team	2009 — Fastpitch Softball

Did you know that a Stratford letter winner has ...

- ... played in the Super Bowl?
- ... played in the Masters?
- ... earned low Amateur honors at the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links?
- ... played at Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and Australian Open?
- ... been a member of an NCAA Final Four Men's Basketball Team?
- ... been a member of an NCAA Final Four Women's Basketball Team?
- ... been a member of an NCAA Football National Championship Game Team?
- ... been a member of an NCAA National Championship Golf Team?
- ... been a member of a National Championship Equestrian Team?
- ... been a member of a team that competed in the NCAA Men's Soccer Tournament?
- ... been a member of a team that competed in the NCAA Women's Soccer Tournament?
- ... been a member of a team that competed in the NCAA Baseball Tournament?
- ... been named SEC Freshman of the Year in Women's Soccer?
- ... been named the South Atlantic Conference Freshman Golfer of the Year?
- ... been named the South Atlantic Conference Golfer of the Year?
- ... been named SEC Golfer of the Year?
- ... been named First Team NCAA All-American in golf?
- ... been named Academic All-Conference in the ACC, Atlantic Sun, Big 12 and SEC?
- ... been a member of a SEC Championship Football Team?
- ... been a member of a SEC Championship Golf Team?
- ... been a member of a SEC Championship Tennis Team?
- ... been named to the All-SEC teams in Golf, Tennis, Baseball and Women's Basketball?
- ... been a member of a Metro Conference Championship Tennis Team?
- ... been a member of an ACC Championship Basketball Team?
- ... been a member of teams that have played in the Alamo, Aloha, Cotton, Gator Bowl, Humanitarian, Independence, Motor City, Poinsettia, Rose, Sugar and Tangerine bowls?
- ... been the runner-up in the U.S. Amateur Golf Tournament?
- ... been the Georgia State Amateur Golf Champion in consecutive years setting scoring records in each year?
- ... been a cheerleader at the University of Georgia, University of North Carolina and Florida State University?
- ... been nominated for the Rudy Award honoring student-athletes who demonstrate exemplary character, courage, contribution and commitment as members of their collegiate football teams?
- ... won the Haskins Award as the nation's top collegiate golfer?
- ... been one of three finalists for the Ben Hogan Award?
- ... participated in the Palmer Cup?
- ... hit three homeruns in a Major League Baseball game?
- ... hit over 175 homeruns in his major league career?
- ... led the NCAA in three point field goal shooting?
- ... played football at Austin Peay, Davidson, Furman, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Middle Tennessee, Nebraska, North Carolina State University, University of the South, Utah and Western Carolina?
- ... made it to sectional qualifying for the Men's U.S. Open in golf as a 16-year-old sophomore?
- ... been drafted in Major League Baseball's Amateur Draft eight times?

GRADUATION 2010

ON FRIDAY, MAY 28, at the Macon City Auditorium, Stratford Academy graduated its 49th class. Seventy-one students received their high school diplomas and 23 graduated with honors. Senior Class President Annie Reeves began the ceremony with the invocation followed by an address to the class by Asra Rehan, a musical tribute by John Byron Strauss and Taylor Atkinson, and addresses by Salutatorian Hania Bisat, and Valedictorian Mack Hodges. Head of School Dr. Bob Veto, along with Board of Trustees Chair Kathryn Dennis, presented the 2010 graduates with their diplomas. Student Body President and senior Pierce Persons led the faculty, students and alumni in the singing of the Stratford Alma Mater and gave the closing benediction.



Alumni Awards

INCLUDED IN THE GRADUATION ceremony was the presentation of the Distinguished Alumnus Award and the

Alumni Service Award both established in 1986. The Distinguished Alumnus Award for Outstanding Career Achievement has been presented to alumni in the fields of law, medicine, education, business, ministry and the arts recognizing them for their career achievements — excelling in their chosen fields and making a difference in the world around them. The Alumni Service Award recognizes service to Stratford Academy by its alumni. Volunteer service to the school has always been an important part of our growth and success here at Stratford, and our alumni have always been a critical source of this kind of volunteer service.

The 2010 Alumni Service Award was presented to **MRS. SUMMER SMISSON NEEL**, a Class of 1979 graduate and longtime Stratford volunteer and supporter. Summer Neel attended Stratford Academy for 12 years, and has two siblings and six nieces and nephews who have also graduated from Stratford. Summer and John Neel's four children attend Stratford, and their oldest, Ford, is a member of the Class of 2010. Summer attended Agnes Scott College and Augusta College before coming home to Macon to become a mainstay of the Stratford family. Summer was a cheerleader while she was a student at Stratford, but in the years since she has been a "cheerleader" in so many other ways.

It is literally impossible to enumerate all of the ways that Summer

Neel has worked in service to her alma mater. She has been on the Alumni Council since the group's inception. She has been a SIP Board member and volunteer. She is the Booster Club's Spirit Coordinator. She has coordinated or worked on, at one time or another, the Lower School Fine Arts Day, the Holiday Buffet, Grandparents Day, Field Day, Fall Festival, Faculty Appreciation Day, Spring Fling Committee, Middle School Winter Dance, the Magazine Sale and the Daddy's Breakfast. Summer has served as "team mom" for several different teams including the 2009-2010 Varsity Football team, she has been a room mom in several classrooms, has been a speaker at Eagle Night, has coordinated Class Reunions, and she has recently reintroduced the Stratford Victory Chant to our Cheerleading Squads.



The 2010 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award is **K. ROGER HOLLIDAY**, Stratford Class of 1976. Roger Holliday is vice president of strategic planning and business development for Russell Lands Inc. of Alexander City, Ala. In this role, he is responsible for exploring new business and development opportunities as well as leading all of the company's marketing efforts. Roger's duties also include operational oversight of Willow Point Golf and Country Club, The Ridge Club, Catherine's Market and SpringHouse Restaurant.

Prior to joining Russell Lands in 2006, Roger worked for 20 years with Russell Corporation where he served in various senior management positions including president of the Jerzees division, president of the Russell Athletic Licensed Products division and most recently vice president for investor relations.

Roger serves or has served on the Boards of Directors of the Alexander City Chamber of Commerce (past president), the Lake Martin Area United Way (past president), the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as senior warden and member of the vestry at St. James Episcopal Church in Alexander City.

After graduating from Stratford in 1976, Roger received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Emory University and an MBA from Georgia State University. Roger and his wife Cindy have three children: Hamilton, 24, a graduate of Vanderbilt University who lives in Huntsville, Ala.; Henry, 22, who graduated this spring from the University of Alabama; and Hayes, 20, a nursing student at the University of Alabama.



Class of 2010 and College Choices

Caleb Ackermann* Georgia Institute of Technology
 Tindal Anderson Mercer University
 Taylor Atkinson* University of Alabama
 Hayden Bashinski University of Mississippi
 Allie Becker* University of Georgia
 Hania Bisat* University of Georgia
 Parker Bolt Auburn University
 Mary Adger Bowen Southern Methodist University
 Kerri Campbell* University of Georgia
 Blake Christianson* . . . Georgia Institute of Technology
 Ethan Cole Reinhardt College
 Brannon Combs Georgia Southern University
 Kendall Cowart Mercer University
 Obi Ekeledo University of Georgia
 Katie Elliott Mercer University
 Stuart Firth University of Georgia
 Carrie Ellen Ford Mercer University
 Karolina Gargala Georgia Institute of Technology
 Christopher Geeslin . . . Georgia Southern University
 Mallory Gibbons* University of Georgia
 Rachael Godlewski* . . . University of Georgia
 Sydney Graham* University of Georgia
 Sam Harper Georgia Southern University
 Caroline Harrell Auburn University
 Stephen Harris Oglethorpe University

Caroline Hill* University of Georgia
 Mack Hodges* University of Virginia
 Sims Holmes University of Georgia
 Hope Hutchins University of Alabama
 Anna B. Jones* Wesleyan College
 Peterson Jones University of Georgia
 Catherine Kehl Georgia Southern University
 Stuart Kent University of Alabama
 Shreeya Khurana* University of Georgia
 Skip Lazenby James Madison University
 Corine Lindley University of Alabama
 Lee Lineberger Clemson University
 Karena MacDonald Samford University
 Spencer Maxwell The Citadel
 Osii Mbata* University of Georgia
 Kayla McCuen Georgia Southern University
 J.C. McCullough Georgia Southern University
 Whitley McEachern . . . University of Alabama
 Richard Min* Wake Forest University
 Ford Neel University of Georgia
 Meredith Nelson Pepperdine University
 Craig O'Neal Georgia Southern University
 Hayes Parker Georgia Institute of Technology
 Pierce Persons* University of Georgia
 Lee Pierson Georgia Southern University

Nancy Kate Pippin University of Alabama
 Siraj Qadir* Emory University
 Annie Reeves* Auburn University
 Asra Rehan* Georgia Institute of Technology
 Callie Reynolds* University of Georgia
 Amy Sanda Auburn University
 Lexi Seagler* University of Georgia
 Ben Shaw* Belmont University
 Spencer Simmons University of Mississippi
 Courtlyn Smith* University of Georgia
 Maggie Sowell Valdosta State University
 Kirsty Spivey Kennesaw State University
 John Byron Strauss . . . Birmingham Southern College
 Emmy Stroup Georgia Southern University
 Kelly Thomas Georgia Southern University
 John Treadwell Auburn University
 Matthew Waldorf Georgia Southern University
 Bryant Walker University of Alabama
 Allison Walthall Georgia Southern University
 Thomas Watson Georgia Southern University
 John White University of Georgia
 Brandon Wood Auburn University

* Honor Graduate

College Acceptances and Enrollments

Class of 2010

Members of the Stratford Academy Class of 2010 were accepted to the following colleges and universities

(* = a student will enroll, † = multiple students will enroll)

University of Alabama †
 University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Armstrong Atlantic State University
 Auburn University †
 Augustana College
 Austin Peay State University
 Baylor University
 Belmont University*
 Berry College
 Birmingham Southern College*
 Brewton-Parker College
 The Citadel*
 University of Cincinnati
 Clemson University*
 College of Charleston

University of Colorado at Boulder
 Columbus State University
 Eckerd College
 Emory University*
 Gainesville State College
 Georgia College and State University
 Georgia Institute of Technology †
 Georgia Southern University †
 University of Georgia †
 High Point University
 James Madison University*
 Kennesaw State University*
 University of Kentucky
 Louisiana State University
 Macon State College

Mercer University †
 University of Miami
 Mississippi State University
 University of Mississippi †
 University of North Carolina at Asheville
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 Oglethorpe University*
 Oxford College of Emory University
 University of the Pacific
 Pennsylvania State University
 Pepperdine University*
 Reinhardt College*
 Rhodes College
 Rochester Institute of Technology

Samford University*
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 Sewanee
 Shorter College
 University of South Carolina
 Southern Methodist University*
 University of Tennessee
 Trinity University
 Valdosta State University*
 Vanderbilt University
 University of Virginia*
 Wake Forest University*
 Wesleyan College*
 Young Harris College

Twelve Years Together

Caleb Ackermann
 Tindal Anderson
 Hania Bisat
 Parker Bolt
 Mary Adger Bowen
 Obi Ekeledo
 Katie Elliott

Stuart Firth
 Christopher Geeslin
 Mallory Gibbons
 Rachael Godlewski
 Sam Harper
 Caroline Harrell
 Stephen Harris

Mack Hodges
 Sims Holmes
 Peterson Jones
 Catherine Kehl
 Stuart Kent
 Shreeya Khurana
 Corine Lindley

Lee Lineberger
 Spencer Maxwell
 Whitley McEachern
 Ford Neel
 Meredith Nelson
 Craig O'Neal
 Hayes Parker

Pierce Persons
 Lee Pierson
 Annie Reeves
 Callie Reynolds
 Amy Sanda
 Lexi Seagler
 Spencer Simmons

Courtlyn Smith
 John Byron Strauss
 Kelly Thomas
 Allison Walthall
 Thomas Watson
 John White
 Brandon Wood

Class Notes

1962

Barbara Brubaker Hightower has moved to Tyrone, next door to her son's family with two granddaughters. The Hightowers have not yet sold their home of 40 years in Atlanta.

Becky and **Wally Little** welcomed their second grandchild, Tanner Mason Herring, in March. He joins cousin Claire Bowen, who is a fifth grader at Stratford. (See Li'l Eagles page 28.)

Roe Stamps was named the American Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year, the American Red Cross's highest distinction, at an April 30 banquet in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for his work in establishing the National Intrepid Center of Excellence in Bethesda, Md., for service men and women with traumatic brain injury and psychological health issues.

1963

Marie and **Hoyt Bailey** live in Macon, where he works as an appraiser for Wilcher-Gates and Associates Inc. Their daughter, Bess, works in Houston, Texas.

1964

Nancy Louise Knapp has her doctorate in education and since 2006 has resided in Carmel, Calif.

Andy Lawson and longtime co-worker Jackie Poole led a tour group of 25 Stratford friends and students to Italy this summer to see Rome, Naples and the Amalfi coast area.

1965

Lisa Felton attends and audits applied piano and chorus at Macon State College.

1966

Janie Smith Fink lives in Albany, where she and her late husband, Ed, raised their three children. She has four grandchildren and is retired from the state DFACS office. She enjoys teaching one course each semester as adjunct faculty at Valdosta State University and volunteering her time in the community.

1967

Sherrie Souder Hanks and husband Doug are new

grandparents. Their daughter, Mary Neil, and son-in-law, Matt, live in Columbia, S.C., and have a nine-month-old baby boy named Mac. Their son, Henry, and his wife, Jennifer, live in Cumming and are expecting a baby in August.

1968

After 30 years, **Fran Jones Hardeman** retired from Delta Airlines in 2003. Her daughter, Laura '01, received a degree in Animal Sciences from Auburn University in 2005 and now works for a veterinarian in Atlanta. Son Claiborne '04 attended Clemson University and earned a degree in industrial engineering and now works for General Electric in Charlotte, N.C.

1969

Nat Harris writes, "Immediately after graduation in 1969, they tried to draft me, but I became a conscientious objector, hippie, protester, demonstrator and everything that implies. My crowd was The Allman Brothers Band, Wet Willie, Cowboy, Lynyrd Skynyrd, etc., and I lived that life to the extreme. That summer I went to the first Atlanta Pop Festival, New Orleans Pop, and Woodstock. I like to tell people that I went off to Woodstock and didn't come back for 20 wild and crazy years. I married way too young and stupid at about 21, and that lasted two or three years and produced a great son. I am very proud of him and about seven months ago his marriage produced a grandson — J. Emerson Harris. I was divorced for 21 years between wife No. 1 and wife No. 2, who is a wonderful lady named Tina Jean. I got clean and sober 20 years ago and have remained that way. I have been married to Tina for 15 years. We live on St. Simons Island and have a great life. My hobbies are fast, noisy motorcycles, fast cars, fishing, SCUBA, shooting, camping, old Southern rock and roll, and all of those kinds of things. I am still a wild, reckless teenager who refuses to ever grow up. I have been selling high-end, ocean-front properties on St. Simons for 20 years now and have

Sisters Inducted into Sports Hall of Fame

TWIN SISTERS Miriam Lowe Hatcher '89 and Camille Lowe '89 were inducted into the Macon Sports Hall of Fame for their high school and college basketball careers. Along with seven other inductees, the Stratford alumnae were recognized at a ceremony on May 15 at the Macon Coliseum.

"It was such an honor being inducted into the Macon Sports Hall of Fame this year along with Miriam, and I was fortunate during my entire sports career to be supported by great family, coaches, teammates and friends," says Camille. "Sports all started at Stratford simply as something we enjoyed, and it made for a great part of our lives."

In the late 1980s Miriam and Camille were Eagle standouts on the basketball court and softball field. From 1985-1989, they were a part of three region titles, two state titles and one state runner-up title in basketball and one region and state title in softball. They are both in the Stratford record books numerous times for their achievements in basketball and softball. The Lowes were named the 1989 Best Female Athletes and had their Eagle basketball jerseys retired into the Stratford Athletic Hall of Fame.

Following graduation from Stratford, Miriam and Camille played basketball for the University of Georgia from 1989-1993. Both had outstanding careers for the Lady Bulldogs and are among the few freshmen starters in the history of the school. Miriam earned basketball letters in 1990, 1992 and 1993 and was named to the All-SEC Academic Honor Roll in 1993. Camille earned letters from 1990-1993 and was named to the All-SEC Academic Honor Roll in 1991, 1992 and 1993. She also was named to the All-SEC Team in 1991, the All-SEC Second Team in 1993 and received All-SEC Freshman of the Year honors in 1991.

They both graduated from UGA in 1993 with degrees in Risk Management and Insurance. Camille headed west for 16 years and lived in the San Francisco, Calif., area working for several biotech sales companies. In 2009, she returned to Georgia and now lives in Atlanta and works for United Therapeutics covering Georgia and Tennessee for the company. "It was too many years away from Georgia, so I have loved being back home," she says.

On the other hand, Miriam headed south to Ponte Vedra, Fla., to work for the Professional Golf Association initially as their risk management specialist and later as a coordinator for the Nationwide Tour Tournament in business and sponsor development and player relations. In 2005, she and husband Chris moved to Statesboro, and currently she works in sales with Apogee Logistics. "I still enjoy competition and find it playing golf and holding onto my four-year title as Ladies Club Champion at Forest Heights Country Club in Statesboro, but my true passion is turkey hunting," says Miriam.

"The Hall of Fame induction was a special day. I was humbled to be recognized along with our fellow inductees," she says. "We were first introduced to basketball at Stratford and throughout our career were encouraged and supported by not only our coaches and teammates, but also our teachers and fellow students. I am so grateful for the opportunity provided to us at Stratford, and consequently the positive impact sports made in our lives."

Camille Lowe speaks to the audience at the Macon Sports Hall of Fame Induction ceremony while sister Miriam looks on.



JASON VORHEES PHOTO

Class Notes

done very well. During this lull in the economy and real estate, I am back at school to become certified as a crisis intervention specialist and addiction counselor – which is to get paid for what I have been doing for free for the past 20 years. It's a tough life living a dream and loving every minute of it, but I guess somebody has to do it. I was 59 in June. Ain't that a hoot!"

Diane Hencoley Shank is the chief operating officer for Sage Hill School in Newport Coast, Calif. She and her husband, John, live in Laguna Niguel.

1970

Anne Souder Gilbert lives in Winter Park, Fla., and has three children – a daughter, who is a junior at Mercer University, and two sons.

Steve and Helen Clark Stewart '74 are proud first-time grandparents of Ella Stewart, born in October 2009 (see Li'l Eagles page 28), and are excited about the expected arrival of grandchild No. 2 in November.

1971

Dr. Ron Elliott was named the 2009 SEC Team Physician of the Year. He has been the team physician for the University of Georgia since 1988 and is the lead physician for the sports medicine clinic at UGA.

1972

Steve Peterson is in Houston, Texas, preparing to move to Cartagena, Colombia, to work as part of the Project Management Team on a multi-billion-dollar refinery expansion for a Colombian petroleum company.

1973

Jacqueline Souder Cates has three sons and lives in Augusta. Her youngest will be a freshman at UGA this fall.

Jan Jones Marsh lives in Atmore, Ala., with husband Shep. Their daughter, Laura, lives in Gulf Breeze, Fla., and son Rob lives with his wife, Jennifer, in Atlanta. Jan proudly reports that she is "healthy and doing well" after battling multiple myeloma in 2008.

1974

Theodore Feitshans was named president of the American Agricultural Law Association at the annual meeting in September 2009 in Williamsburg, Va.

1975

Brant Frost writes, "Krista, my beautiful trophy wife (and only wife) of 21 years, and I welcomed our fifth child last September. Little Abigail Hope is a father's joy, all cooing and smiles, and is so precious. Family, homeschooling and business keep us busy here in 'Mayberry,' otherwise known as Newnan. Drop by if you are in the area and I will treat you to world famous Sprayberry's BBQ. Blessings to all."

Vic Jones writes, "Rumor has it that after Dr. Zoe Jones '67 brought Vic back to life, following several major coronary events, he became reluctantly famous for his narrative, satirical, real-life writing. After five generations in Macon and Bibb County, he still calls it home. He has remained relatively sober and on the right side of the law since graduating with the Class of 1975, by the skin of his teeth. His mid-life crisis is almost over, so it may be safe to come out and play with him now. His neighbor, Mayor Robert Reichert '66, can elaborate more on the current, missing marbles issue. He sends everyone at Stratford his warmest and fondest regards. If you have any complaints, please send them to Dr. Zoe Jones."

1976

JoAlice Patterson Welton lives in Lawrenceville with her husband, Steven, and 12-year-old son, Patrick. JoAlice shares that her family is still coping with the loss of her father, Judge William Joseph Patterson Jr., who passed away on Feb. 26, 2010, at the age of 93.

1977

(See **Hugh Sosebee**, photo left)

1978

Lee Kinman Bailey is married and has lived in Atlanta for the last 23 years. Her twin sons are seniors at Lovett School, where her daughter is also a sophomore.

Donna Kay Miller McGoldrick

— photo top — welcomed her first grandchild, Jack Eubanks, on March 3. Jack is the son of John '02 and



Katherine McGoldrick Eubanks '02 (see Li'l Eagles page 28). Her daughter, Anna Kay '07, is a senior at University of Georgia studying child and family development, and daughter Elizabeth '08 just finished her freshman year at Georgia Southern.

C. Blake Powers ended his work with biomedical engineering and became a strategic marketing consultant for Purdue. He was also selected twice to be a Fellow at the Knight Center for Specialized Journalism, first for *U.S. Military: New President, New Outlook?* and then for *Digital Life: Policy & Privacy Online*. Blake writes, "I finally got the chance to go visit France (was amazed how much French I did remember, thank you, Sue Coggins! Who knew those classes on Bond Street would stick around as much as they did), and then cooked a steak dinner for more than 120 wounded/injured/ill soldiers and caregivers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. I was the track leader for military blogging at this year's Blog World and New Media Expo, and it was a good start to what we want to do there. My little dinner at Landstuhl ended up becoming a formal program, 'Cooking with the Wounded,' via the charity Soldiers' Angels — *soldiersangels.org/cooking-with-the-wounded*. Also, I got to ride once again with my

friend Major Chuck Ziegenfuss in the Face of America bicycle ride, which brings together wounded military with regular riders for a trip from D.C. to Gettysburg. Jenny, the wonder dog, continues to enrich my life, and I am still amazed what it has meant to have her thrown out of a car and into my life. Find me on Facebook and Twitter (*Laughingwolf*), on my web site *blakepowers.net*, as well as on the blogs *laughingwolf.net* and *www.blackfive.net*."

1979

Duward Benson — photo bottom right — is a critical care nurse now after a long career as a chiropractor, which is now continued by his brother, Dwayne '89. His wife, Alleyne, works in the Stratford library, and three sons attend. Joshua, 10th grade, is doing very well with varsity baseball. Matthew, eighth grade, enjoys being a member of the Spirit of Stratford Marching Band and acting in plays with the theater. Youngest son Nicholas, fifth grade, is waiting to find what sport he will participate in when he enters middle school. For now, he is happy to participate in baseball at Vine Ingle and SISL Soccer at Stratford.

Bobby Cleveland was elected a life director of the National Association of Home Builders at their annual meeting on Jan. 21, 2010, in Las Vegas, Nev.

Jim Merck shares that his son Daniel plays second base at Gardner-Webb University, has led his team in hitting, and this past season had the second highest batting average in the Big South Conference. The Mercks live in Cumming.

1980

DeeAnn Miller Geeslin is executive administrator to the CEO for the Cherry Blossom Festival in Macon.



Judge Hugh Sosebee Sr. joined son Hugh Sosebee Jr. '77 and grandson Hugh Sosebee III '21 on Oct. 9, 2009, for a lunch to celebrate his 93rd birthday.



Class Notes

She also coordinates the Street Party and the VIP program, which includes featured nations, visiting festivals, elected officials and international sister city visits. Her daughter, Whitney '07, is a senior in the honors program at Georgia Southern University, where she is a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, a senator for the Student Government Association, and a peer mentor. She hopes to attend physician's assistant school after graduating from GSU. Her son, Christopher '10, graduated this year and will attend Georgia Southern in the fall. Daughter Mary Cole will be a senior at Stratford next year.

1981

In March, **Peter Persons** partnered with UGA junior golf standout Russell Henley '07 in the Honors Championship held at Healy Point Country Club in Macon. The duo shot a second-round 64 for a two-day score of 130, easily outdistancing the field and taking first place in the tournament.

1982

Chip Koplin is serving as the 2010-11 president of the Macon Rotary Club. He is vice president of Macon Iron, and he and wife Jennifer have two children at Stratford, Alex '15 and Sarah '18.

1983

Margaret Keen Grubb and her husband, Matt, live in Macon with their three sons, Keli '11, Marshall '13 and Stephen '19. Margaret enjoys cooking and caring for her family as well as volunteering at Stratford. She also enjoys serving in the Bible Study Fellowship preschool program. She and Matt are active at Ingleside Baptist Church. Matt

has earned the rank of Lt. Col. in the United States Air Force Reserves and works for Boeing Aircraft Company. They love the Stratford football season with the fun and fellowship of the Spirit of Stratford Marching Band. Keli joined his dad this summer for the Vex Reunion at Bragg Jam.

1984

Robert Jarrard is the president of Cherokee Culvert Company. He lives in Macon with his wife, Robin, and three daughters, all of whom attend Stratford. Mary Beth, age 15, is a sophomore, Bonnie, age 13, is an eighth grader and youngest daughter Karen, age 10, is in the fourth grade.

1985

Joe LaBanz is first vice president of investments with Wells Fargo Advisors in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. He manages investment portfolios. Joe and wife LeeAnne have four children: Hunter, age 13, Payton, age 11, Will, age 5, and Wesley, age 3. He writes, "As you can imagine there's never a dull moment. I try to stay active with veteran's groups and ancillary sports."

Derek Watkins is senior vice president for Park Avenue Bank. He and wife Debby live in Cumming.

1986

In 2006 **Tom McAfee** — *photo below* — co-drafted a proposal with two staff members at the Mercer University's Townsend-McAfee Institute for Graduate Church Music Studies for the creation of a new church hymnal. From this humble beginning, the concept grew from a way for congregations to worship to a non-profit

Alums Assist Stratford with Donation to Mississippi Teachers Corps

AFTER SOME SUMMER CLEANING IN 2009, Stratford had accumulated boxes of textbooks no longer being utilized by the school. Then newly-hired Middle School Principal, Andrew Myler, suggested that the Mississippi Teachers Corps might have use of the books for the underserved areas in rural Mississippi. The Mississippi Teachers Corps is a two-year program, similar to the Peace Corps, that recruits college graduates to teach in the Mississippi Delta. The program is designed for non-education majors and offers a host of benefits, including teacher training and certification, full scholarship for a master's degree in education, job placement that includes full pay and benefits and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students in one of the poorest areas of the country.

Myler spent two-and-a-half years as a teacher for the organization in the Cleveland and Hollandale communities in Mississippi; therefore, he knew of their need for textbooks. With the assistance of Class of 2007 alumni Will Burton, Katy Slocumb and Betsy Jones, who are all students at Ole Miss in Oxford, the books were transported to the Mississippi Teachers Corps and distributed to areas of critical need.

Butler Automotive Recognized by *Georgia Trend* as one of the Top Family Businesses

IN THE MAY 2010 ISSUE OF *Georgia Trend* magazine, Butler Automotive Group of Macon was named one of the Top Family Businesses of the Year in the large business category. In addition to Butler Automotive's founder Marshall Butler Sr., the company is run by the four Butler children — Bonnie Butler Gibson '85, Dixie Butler Clark '87, Marsh Butler '89 and Morris Butler '93 — and their spouses. Butler Automotive Group started as a Chevrolet dealership in Alma in the 1960s and has grown over the last four decades to 12 car dealerships and repair shops in Georgia and South Carolina. Each of the Butler children has a role in the family business: Marsh and Morris are co-presidents, Dixie manages company accounting, and Bonnie is a former dealership general manager and currently serves on the Board of Directors.

In addition to the achievements Butler Automotive Group has attained in the car industry, they are also leaders in the civic arena with support for local organizations like Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Clubs, United Way, American Cancer Society, University of Georgia and Mercer University. When asked by *Georgia Trend* about managing a family business, family members credited constant communication as one of the keys to their success. Marsh says, "You've got to make sure the business is what you are passionate about and something you truly want to do. You can never take a family business for granted. It takes hard work like any business you are in. You just have to get in there and work closely and work hard and not take it for granted."

In addition to the four Butler children who are Stratford alumni, eight Butler family grandchildren are currently Stratford students — Jane '14, Will '16, Claudia '17, Kevin '18, Sam '19, Jenny Belle '20, Mary Blue and Marshall III '23.



MERCER UNIVERSITY PHOTO



LEE MCDAVID PHOTOGRAPHY

Class Notes

company closely partnered with the Townsend-McAfee Institute. Four years later, *Celebrating Grace* was premiered on Sunday, March 7, at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta. In addition to his work with the Townsend-McAfee Institute, Tom is President of Hallmark Systems Inc. and a member of the Mercer University Board of Trustees. He and wife Julie live in Macon and have two daughters, Zoe, age 3, and Malin, age 1. Tom is pictured, left, with the editors of the *Celebrating Grace Hymnal*.

1987

Sylvia Boykin serves as a board member for the Macon Film Festival. She recently worked as a stand-in for the new action film, *Five Killers*, featuring Tom Selleck, Ashton Kutcher and Katherine Heigl.



Catherine Rives O'Connell — photo above — lives in Marietta with her husband, Pat, an international Delta pilot. They are the proud parents of Sean William, age 7, whom Catherine home-schools. She also operates a children's clothing business. They are active members at Church of the Apostles, where Pat teaches an adult Sunday School class.

1988

Austin Carter, a partner at Stone & Baxter LLP in Macon, was selected as a Georgia Super Lawyer Rising Star for 2010 by *Law & Politics* and *Atlanta* magazines. Austin focuses his practice on financial restructuring, business bankruptcy, commercial litigation and business transactions. He joined the firm in 2001 after practicing several years with a firm in Atlanta. He is a graduate of Tulane University and University of Georgia School of Law. He and wife

Karen have three sons: Austin, Jack and Henry.

Richard and **Lori Tift Palmer** live in Macon, where Richard works for Mitchell International, a San Diego-based software company, and Lori works as a college counselor at Stratford. Their daughter, Tift, seventh grade, spends her afternoons at the dance studio, and son Andrew, fifth grade, can usually be found on the baseball or football field or basketball court — photo below.



1989

Heatheranne Ferro Neal lives in Macon and has four children: Georgia (11th grade), Hadley (fourth grade), Guy (second grade) and Tallulah (preschool).

Kate Dodson Strain practices copyright law in Savannah and has authored an online book titled *Secrets to Success in Law School*, which can be found at www.birdielawschool.com.

1990

Jonathan McCants is a 1997 graduate of Harvard Law School and is a partner in the Atlanta-based firm of Bird, Loechl, Brittain and McCants LLC. Jonathan concentrates his legal practice in the area of non-profit and tax-exempt organizations. He also serves as the Religious Organizations columnist for *Taxation of Exempts*, a publication of Thomas Reuters which focuses on laws affecting exempt organizations. He was recently featured as a keynote speaker at the Focus on the Family FoundationWise conference held in October 2009 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

1991

Jennifer and **John Kelly** are the proud parents of two sons, Drew, age 8, and Ben, age 3. Drew is a third grader at Stratford this year.

1992

Paige Pilcher Alford and her husband, Ben, live in Macon with their daughter, Anna Kate, who is a fifth grader at Stratford.

Caroline Plowden Daly and husband Matt are living in Ann Arbor, Mich., where she is an assistant professor of radiology for University of Michigan Medical School specializing in women's imaging, particularly mammography. Matt is a senior analyst specializing in operations research at Altarum, a local non-profit, which specializes in health care consulting.

Kevin Watson works for a consulting firm in Atlanta. He and wife Robin have a daughter, Audrey.

1993

Stebin Horne has been named executive vice president for corporate growth strategies and legislative affairs for CareSouth Homecare Professionals.

1994

Lindsay Taylor Mabry moved to Austin, Texas, last year from Washington, D.C., where she worked on Capitol Hill in various capacities over the last 10 years. She served as a spokeswoman for U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss and former U.S. Senators Elizabeth Dole and Fred Thompson, as well as for the Republican National Committee during the 2004 presidential election.

1995

Christopher Parker lives in Douglasville with his wife, Christy. He formerly was a pharmacist at Tanner Medical Center in Carrollton, and Christy formerly a pharmacist at Wellstar Cobb Hospital in Austell. The Parkers opened their own pharmacy in July in Douglasville called Village Pharmacy, specializing in compounded prescription products for humans and animals. They perform vaccinations and make their own line of cosmeceuticals. The Parkers have two children: Camille, age 5, who attends King's Way Christian School in Douglasville, and Colton, age 1, who was born on Christopher's 32nd birthday.

1996

Butler and Hazel Struby Caldwell live in Forsyth, where Butler practices veterinary medicine and Hazel is an artist. They have two daughters: Blain, a Stratford kindergartener, and Catharine, who will enter Stratford's new 3-K in the fall.

Brandon Hayslip is operations manager and director of sales for Compass Supply in Atlanta. He lives in Tucker with wife Nicole and daughter Mackenzie, age 4.

Kristin Smith Jones lives in Charlotte, N.C., with her husband, Andrew, and three-year-old son, Jack — photo below.



1997

After attending the University of Alabama, **Mary Ellen Bush** relocated to Asheville, N.C., to pursue a career as "a rock star." She formed a band called "Menage," and the group enjoyed local and regional success. The band transformed over the years and grew to a national level, playing as far as New York and Wyoming. They even had a song about "tomatoes" to be picked up by Hunt's. After seven years of playing music and waitressing to support that dream, Mary Ellen decided to stop "chasing the neon rainbow" and started a graphic design firm called Pawprint (thepawprint.biz). She also works for Bob Thomas Books (hoganbook.com), a leading golf book business. She is their production manager and creative director and plans to take up golf in the near future.

She writes, "Whitney Christie was the only girl golfer I ever knew. I was always encouraged to play tennis. Times have changed. I can't tell you how much I appreciate Stratford and everything it offers. I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to attend such a fine school."

1998

Michael Gibson has two children: a new baby daughter, Riley Paige, and a son, Brantley Joseph, age 6.

Margery Maxwell Kreider has taught sixth grade for the past eight years in the northern Virginia area. She writes, "The daily challenges in working with the youth of America make me appreciate my Stratford education everyday."

1999

Walker Stewart is an associate attorney practicing in the litigation section for Burr and Foreman LLP in Birmingham, Ala. He earned his J.D. *magna cum laude* in 2007 from Cumberland School of Law, where he served as managing editor of the *Cumberland Law Review* and a Judge Abraham Caruthers Teaching Fellow. While in law school he was named a Scholar of Merit for Professional Responsibility, Legislation and Real Property. Prior to becoming an associate with Burr and Foreman, Walker worked as a law clerk for The Honorable Inge P. Johnson. He is president of the Birmingham Area Georgia Tech Club and has become friends with Stratford



Pictured above are Class of 1999 salutatorian, Scott Tift, a lawyer in Nashville, Tenn.; Justin Pitts '99, a staffer for Dubose Porter's gubernatorial campaign; Jennifer Webster Berkowitz '99, a K-2 special education teacher in Athens; Lawson Grice '99, who works at The Grit Restaurant in Athens; and Class of 1999 co-valedictorian, Sam Gunn, who has finished his first year of law school at Duke University.

Class Notes

alum Marc Corsini '76 through this group. In 2009 he was named Young Alumnus of the Year for the Tech Club. Wife Tori was an electrical engineer but has "retired" to stay home with their daughter, Ella. They are members of The Cathedral Church of the Advent Episcopal Church.

2000

Jane Caldwell Koorts pursues her career as a classically trained dancer currently with Rebecca Davis Dance in Philadelphia. She is married to Casper Koorts, an engineer originally from Cape Town, South Africa, whom she met at a dance studio in London.

Kelley Watson Larsson and husband Jesper live in Atlanta, where she is currently working on a second degree in nursing.

Chase Stribling received the CFP certification from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards. Chase lives in Macon and works for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

2001

David and **Elizabeth Stewart McCain** are expecting their first child in November. Elizabeth is a third-grade teacher at Centerville Elementary School in Houston County, and David has just opened his own law firm, Adams, Childers and McCain. Elizabeth plans to temporarily leave teaching to stay home with the baby.

2002

Robbie and Christie Shurling Sovie reside in Cumming. Christie is a fourth-grade teacher at Midway Elementary in Forsyth County and graduated with a masters in early childhood education from Piedmont College this past June. Robbie is an office engineer for Holder Construction. They have been married for four years.

2003

Lee Caldwell currently volunteers with the eco-tourism department of the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center in Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Costa Rica.

Elizabeth and Bobby Schorr live in Savannah, where Elizabeth is a graphic designer with Smack Dab Studios and Bobby is with the Savannah Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Jessica Spradley – photo below – graduated from the University of Georgia in May with a Ph.D. in neuroscience. She holds a bachelor's degree in biological science and avian biology and a master's degree in poultry science. She has accepted a postdoctoral position with the University of California at Davis and will be doing research on the mechanisms of and treatments for pain.



After graduating from the University of Georgia, **Brad Stevens** spent a year teaching eighth-grade algebra at Stratford. He just finished his second year as a medical student at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta.

Logan White received her BFA in photography from the Rhode Island School of Design and attended the European Honors Program in Rome, Italy. She has worked as a freelance photographer in Italy and the Czech Republic. She has shown her work at the Spencer Brownstone Gallery in New York City, The Piazza Cenci in Rome and at galleries in Providence and Philadelphia. Logan's work "Divinity Lessons" was recently exhibited at Wesleyan College in November and December. Also, in December she was hired by Urban Outfitters to photograph an upcoming catalog at a photo shoot in Miami, Fla.

Carmen Trammell Skaggs '94: A Literary Opera Lover

AS A COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE, CARMEN SKAGGS WAS torn between her love of music and literature. Now, as a college professor, she embraces both. Carmen grew up in a creative family. Her mother was a musician and her father, an English professor, was passionate about opera. "As soon as I was old enough to go to live performances, they took me," she recalls. "I credit them with teaching me about both books and music."

Carmen started college pursuing a double major in English and music at Mercer University, where she studied voice, piano and literature. After deciding she wanted to teach religion in literature, she earned a master's degree in theological studies at Duke University. She later received a doctorate in English from the University of Georgia.

One of her first seminars at UGA was on the works of Henry James and Willa Cather. She discovered that opera was a recurring theme in the novels of American authors during the late-1800s and early-1900s. Carmen's fascination with the topic led to her master's thesis and dissertation on the significance of opera in the American novels of that period.

Overtones of Opera in American Literature from Whitman to Wharton, Carmen's just-released book, was published by LSU Press and is available on *Amazon.com*. Based on her college research, she describes the work as being "accessible to people, not just literary folks."

Today, Carmen is a Columbus State University assistant professor of English who also uses opera in the classroom. She points out it is a hybrid form that is useful in teaching poetry, drama and fiction. "The libretto is a poetic form," she says. "The production is drama, and a lot (of operas) are based on works of fiction." She agrees with her favorite author, Willa Cather, who is quoted as saying, "Novelists, opera singers, even doctors have in common the unique and marvelous experience of entering into the very skin of another human being. What can compare with it?"

Carmen, who also teaches an interdisciplinary comparative arts course, is particularly gratified when students shed their preconceived notion of opera as the oversized woman with the horned helmet belting out an aria.

Outside the classroom, Carmen's love of music is expressed when she sings in her church choir. She says she also enjoys exposing her sons, four-year-old Nathan and four-month-old Logan, to the art form.

Although she was not named after the French opera by Georges Bizet, Carmen calls it "a nice coincidence."

This article originally appeared in the March 2010 issue of her Magazine in Columbus, Ga., "Women in the Arts" by Borden Black, Photo by Seth Grant, Article Reprinted by Permission from Publisher.



Jenny Carter '06 Named Soccer All-American

JENNY CARTER '06 WAS NAMED an NCCAA All-American for the 2009 women's soccer season at Covenant College. Jenny is a senior mid-fielder who led the Lady Scots in points with 14 (4 goals and 6 assists). Included in her 14 points during her final season at Covenant were two game-winning goals (against Bryan College on Sept. 30 and Tennessee Wesleyan College on Oct. 7) and three game-winning assists (Maryville College on Sept. 1, Campbellsville University on Nov. 21, and Roberts Wesleyan College on Dec. 2). Her assist of teammate Lauren Probst's goal in the Campbellsville match sent the Lady Scots to the NCCAA national tournament, and her assist in the Roberts Wesleyan match boosted them into the semifinals.

While Jenny was at Stratford, she played on four region- and state-championship soccer teams, which were named in NCCAA national rankings. She also earned recognitions as an All-State player in 2006, and her name can be found in the Stratford record books on the top 10 list for: Most Career Goals (38), Most Assists in One Game (5), Most Assists in One Season (18), Most Career Assists (35) and Most Career Points (111).



Class Notes

2004

Emeka Ekeledo is in his second year of law school at Wake Forest School of Law in Winston-Salem, N.C. He enjoys designing web pages in his spare time.

Kelly Faircloth has worked for *INK* magazine since her graduation from Harvard. Through *INK*'s editor, Kelly met movie producer Amy Robinson, who recently hired Kelly to be her personal assistant on an upcoming Meryl Streep movie and is involving Kelly in future script development projects.

In March, **Elizabeth Fortson** performed along with Stratford senior Skip Lazenby in the Griffin Choral Arts presentation of "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace."

Clint Sovie graduated from the Naval Academy in December. He was co-captain for the Navy football team and was recognized by President Barack Obama when Navy received the Commander in Chief's Trophy after defeating Army in the 110th Army vs. Navy meeting.

2005

Luke Caldwell has been teaching English as a Second Language at Huazhong Normal University in Wuhan, China. He suffered a brain hemorrhage as a result of an AVM (arterial venous malformation) and is back at home recovering. He plans to return to China and his teaching next spring.

Stephen Peterson is a fourth-year student in the school of architecture at Southern Polytechnic State University. There are only some 30 students remaining out of the 250 students that started in his class.

This summer, he was in Rimini, Italy, working as a beach manager.

McKenzie Stevens graduated from Furman University in May 2009 and works for Erwin-Penland Inc., an advertising firm in Greenville, S.C.

2006

Adanna Ekeledo graduated in May with a B.S. in biology from Harvard University. She continues a weekly jazz radio show for Harvard from 9-11 a.m. on Thursdays for WHRP in Cambridge, Mass., and plays the guitar and writes music.

Marianna Faircloth attends Brown University and is music director for station WBRU in Boston. She plans to attend law school and specialize in entertainment litigation.

Jencie McDavid was one of three speech pathology students in the nation selected to attend the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions in Boston. She received a \$30,000 grant for a two-year graduate program in speech-language pathology beginning in September. Jencie also graduated this year from the University of Georgia.

Dr. George McCommon '83 Honored by UGA College of Veterinary Medicine

DR. GEORGE W. McCOMMON '83, associate professor of veterinary science at Fort Valley State University, was honored by the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine as its Distinguished Alumnus of 2010 during a luncheon on March 27, 2010, in Athens. The award was based on his contributions and service to the community, state and nation through numerous initiatives and organizations.

"We're very excited, very pleased. You know, it's really quite an honor to be recognized not only by your peers, but by your alma mater, and to be nominated by the faculty at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. We're just very pleased with the whole event," George said.

George says that he has wanted to be a veterinarian since he was young. "This is what I've wanted to do. I particularly like spending a lot of time with horses as well as dogs and cats and other animals. I enjoy the combination of art and science in veterinary medicine and the interaction with animals and people. It's a unique personal experience when you spend time with people and their pets and animals. You see a different side of them at their most intimate moments sometimes," he said.

George has served as veterinarian to some of our state's premiere equine athletes, but he is also a mixed-animal veterinarian, an educator

and one of Georgia's leading veterinarians in the field of public health. As the city veterinarian for Macon, he advises city and county officials, law enforcement agencies and the public health department on all aspects of animal care and public health; he also provides veterinary care to all members of the police department's K-9 unit. He has served as a veterinary adviser to the North Central Georgia Public Health Department, which oversees public health for 13 counties.

For nearly a decade he has served as an associate professor at Fort Valley State University, where he teaches undergraduate classes on preventative medicine, animal care and all aspects of the veterinary profession. He is the university's veterinarian and is the veterinarian for the Animal Care and Use

Committee. He serves by appointment on both the state's Companion Animal Advisory Board and the Department of Agriculture Homeland Security and Food Safety Board. He is also an International Equestrian Federation Event Veterinarian, director of the State Animal Facility for Emergencies, and serves in the Army National Guard as a Senior Preventive Medicine Officer with the rank of Major.

"Dr. McCommon's devotion to the veterinary profession, his community and his nation make him an outstanding representative of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary

Medicine, the veterinary profession and his community," said a nominator for this award.

For nearly 20 years, George has also been an integral community leader in Middle Georgia. He has served and chaired the boards of local organizations, such as the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Goodwill Industries of Central Georgia and the Central Savannah River Area, Historic Macon Foundation, Central Georgia C.A.R.E.S., Heartbeats and Hoofbeats Foundation/The Healing Center Foundation, and Anderson-Barnes Nurturing Center. Most recently, he became a founding member of a Central Georgia C.A.R.E.S. committee to promote animal welfare in the Central Georgia area and a member of the sub-group SNIP-PERS which promotes spaying/neutering in the Central Georgia area.

George is also a Major in the Medical Service Corps for the U.S. Army Georgia National Guard. He began his National Guard service in 1994 and currently is the Preventive Medicine Officer for the Medical Command of the State of Georgia. He oversees all aspects of preventive medicine and public safety and is routinely involved at the highest levels in matters such as pandemic diseases and natural disasters that might affect Georgia as well as the rest of the U.S. and other countries. George and wife Disa have one son William, who is a sophomore studying architecture at Georgia Tech.

George said embracing people can go a long way in helping one become successful as a veterinarian. "Some people are easier to deal with than others, but learning that there are a lot of different people out there and everyone has good and positive things about them. You have to respect the dignity of every person and the dignity of every animal."



WINGATE DOWNS PHOTOGRAPHY

Class Notes

Jennifer Spradley – photo below – graduated from Shorter College in May with a bachelor of fine arts degree in theatre. During her college years, she has worked professionally doing summer stock theatre at Stephen Foster Productions in Bardstown, Ky. She will be working as an event specialist for Advantage Sales and Marketing.



2007

Mary Parker Davis is a junior at the University of Georgia. She is a food and nutrition science major specializing in dietetics. She enjoys her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, the Dietetics Association and being a Hoops Girl for the UGA men's basketball team.

2008

Brian Cole won the Idaho State University debate tournament. He and his partner went 5-1 and then knocked off their quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals opponents on successive 3-0 decisions. Brian was also named a Top 10 Speaker.

Ngozi Ekeledo completed her second year at Northwestern University majoring in journalism with a minor in marketing. She has made a few appearances on the 'Sports Show' of the college newscast and interviewed players from various teams. She did a brief internship with Macon's WMAZ last summer.

2009

Merry Hunter Hipp attends Georgia Tech and is involved with her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, campus ministry small groups and was just selected as an Outstanding Public Policy Student with a feature on the school's website. She was also chosen as the sophomore speaker for New Student Convocation for fall 2010.

Molly Jones is studying Early Childhood Education at Kennesaw State University. She is a member of Phi Mu Sorority.

William McCommon is a busy Georgia Tech student in the school of architecture. Weekends are spent pouring countless hours into work in the studio. He has joined the Special Events Committee that brings speakers, comedians, etc., to the school, and he has also been instrumental in starting a juggling club.

Former Faculty

In March, **Richard Reid** was honored at Tattnell Square Academy, when the school's gymnasium floor was named for the longtime head basketball coach. Reid coached at Stratford for 11 years from 1964-1975.

In Memoriam

Alumni

Bobby Bishop '76
Jan Bridges '89
Sewell Elliott '67
Steve Garrett '73
Jeanne Jones Holliday '72

Former Faculty/Staff

Reba Lanier
Marjorie Lovein
Remelle Young

Former Trustees

Earl Fariba
Judge Wilbur Owens
Dr. Bill Shirley, Sr.

Russell Henley '07 Has Year that 'Dreams Are Made Of'

TO SAY RUSSELL Henley has had a "dream" year would be a massive understatement. He won the Georgia Amateur Championship for the second year in a row, multiple collegiate tournament championships, was chosen as the SEC Golfer-of-the-Year, was named to the All-SEC first team, and was "low-medalist" in both the SEC and NCAA regional tournaments. Henley was most recently named to the 2010 NCAA All-American first team. The Stratford alumnus and UGA golfer also finished the 2009-2010 season as the No. 1-ranked college golfer in the country, based on the Golfweek/Sagarin points system which is considered the gold measuring standard. Henley was also the recipient of the 2010 Fred Haskins Award, presented each year to the nation's most outstanding collegiate golfer by the Country Club of Columbus, and a finalist for the Ben Hogan Award also given to the nation's top collegiate golfer. Recently, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews ranked Henley as one of the top five amateur golfers in the world.

The 21-year-old golfer has just completed his junior year at the University of Georgia and recently experienced the biggest and most exciting challenge of his young career — playing in the 2010 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach Golf Course. With a two-day total of five-over-par, Henley became one of only two amateurs to make the cut at the tournament. On Friday, Henley's "chip in" for birdie on the on the par-five 14th hole, which is notorious for challenging even the most seasoned of golfers, was shown on live television. Henley finished the tournament with an incredible eight-over-par, which positioned him in a tie for low-amateur honors with Scott Langley, and tied for 16th place overall for the tournament.

"If I never play another round of golf, then this is enough," Henley told the media. "This was just the most amazing experience."

After the U.S. Open, Henley immediately flew to Northern Ireland to play for the U.S. collegiate team in the Palmer Cup golf tournament before returning for his final season as a Bulldog.

Brian Gunter '79 Awarded Army Bronze Star

ON FEB. 23, 2010, BRIAN GUNTER '79 received the U.S. Army's prestigious recognition of the Bronze Star Medal for his service and courage contributing to the success of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brian is the Chief Warrant Officer Three for the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team serving at Camp Phoenix in Afghanistan. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States, distinguishes himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force. Brian is the first Stratford alumnus to receive this honor, and sent his alma mater a U.S. flag flown at Camp Phoenix as a recognition of his award.



UGA ATHLETICS PHOTO



Li'l Eagles

1 – Susanna (age 11) with sister Estelle “Ellie” Stevens Adams (born on Sept. 2, 2009) to Dennis and **Sara Cartwright Adams '98** of Macon

2 – Oliver Patrick Daly (born Sept. 5, 2009) to Matt and **Caroline Plowden Daly '92** of Ann Arbor, Mich.

3 – Laura (age 3) and James Newton Wilson (born Nov. 16, 2009) to Jim and **Candi Newton Wilson '93** of Macon

4 – Tanner Mason Herring (born March 10, 2010) to Chase and **Sandy Little-Herring '89** of Macon

5 – Kathryn Simmons Dupuy (born Jan. 10, 2010) to Benjamin and **Ginny Sweet Simmons Dupuy '95** of Washington, D.C.

6 – John David “Jack” Eubanks, Jr. (born March 3, 2010) to **John '02** and **Katherine McGoldrick Eubanks '02** of Macon

7 – Lily Kate Wilkins (born Jan. 25, 2010) and William Bishop Wilkins Jr. (born Dec. 31, 2008) to **William '95** and **Molly McWilliams Wilkins '01** of Macon

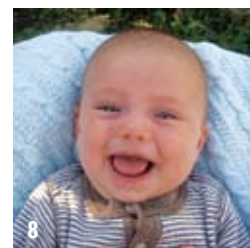
8 – Amos Mann (born Feb. 2, 2010) **Kevin '95** and Mandy Mann of Nashville, Tenn.

9 – Ella Katherine Stewart (born Oct. 21, 2009) to **Walker '99** and Tori Stewart of Birmingham, Ala.

10 – Carmen Rose Mann (born Nov. 16, 2009) to Christiana and **Kyle Mann '98** of Santa Ana, Calif.

11 – Don Riley Chandler III (born March 8, 2010) to Don and **Julie Williams Chandler '92** of Macon

12 – Henry Shaw Stover (born March 11, 2010) to John and **Bess Leverett Stover '94** of Griffin



Weddings

1 – **Roxana Dehnad '92** married Dr. John Mark Tatman on March 28, 2009, at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church in Macon. Wedding attendants were Shannon Benson Cullens '91, Betsy Rivers '92, Ryan Dehnad '94 and Dr. Marc Kalish '88. The couple currently resides in Atlanta.

2 – **Laura Emily Kellum '01** married Andrew John Rhicard on May 16, 2009, in the Founders Memorial Garden on the University of Georgia campus in Athens. They currently reside in Athens. Maids of honor were Nancy Caroline Kellum '06 and Rebecca Lee Kellum '04.

3 – **Liz Thomas '02** and Jody DellaDonna were married on March 5, 2010, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. They currently reside in Macon. (Courtesy of Lee McDavid Photography)

4 – **Elizabeth Solomon '03** married **Bobby Schorr '03** on Oct. 10, 2009, at Christ Episcopal Church in Macon. Classmates Catherine Buxton, Summer Sterling Lipfert, Brooke Evans and George Myers served as wedding attendants. They currently reside in Savannah.

5 – Laramie Dinkins married **Matthew Nicholson '03** on May 15, 2010, at First Baptist Church in Cairo. They currently reside in Valdosta.

6 – **Tiffany Taylor '95** married Edward B. Smith on Sept. 26, 2009, at the Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta. They currently reside in Atlanta.

7 – Anne Prather married **Hays McQueen '02** on June 5, 2010, at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Augusta. They currently reside in Macon. (Courtesy of Joe Willis Photography)

8 – Parrish Smotherman married **Andrew William Jenkins '01** on May 29, 2010, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Macon. They currently reside in Macon.

9 – Sonya Jones married **Jason Walker '93** on Aug. 22, 2009, at Lake Oconee. They currently reside in Ocala, Fla. Also pictured are Mother of the Groom Marilyn Walker (Stratford Registrar), Wade Williamson '92, Brian Clements '92 and Scott Bailey '93.

10 – Tiffany Davis married **Charles Olson '03** on April 17, 2010, at Sea Island. They currently reside in Macon.



WE WILL REMEMBER ...



Reba Lanier

FOR 27 YEARS REBA LANIER was the face visitors saw before they met with Stratford's headmaster. She was hired as a school secretary in 1966 and retired in 1991. Known for her always smiling face and cheerful disposition, Mrs. Lanier teased that the students she knew best were the ones who were really good or really bad because they were the ones who spent the most time in the headmaster's office. She had a genuine interest in everyone from faculty and staff members and their families to the students and parents. "She took me under her wing when I first began my career at Stratford," remembers Marsha Creter, Assistant to the Head of School. "It is an honor that I hold the position she held for so many years." She never missed the opportunity visit with former co-workers and attended the Retired Faculty Valentine's Luncheon every year. Mrs. Lanier passed away on May 21, 2010, at the age of 86.



Marjorie Lovein

STUDENTS KNEW MARJORIE LOVEIN as a challenging teacher, but she was respected for the self-discipline she taught and the love of learning and science she instilled in her students. Beginning in 1967, Mrs. Lovein taught science for the next 12 years to Stratford Middle and Upper School students and formed the school's first Ecology Club — an organization which is still going strong today. "Mrs. Lovein was one of the toughest teachers I had while at Stratford, but I loved her to death," remembers Jan Jones Marsh '73 of Atmore, Ala. "Although she made you work hard, I respected her and learned a great deal from her in ninth-grade science class." Family, friends and former students recall that she was a master gardener and ahead of time in her efforts to recycle and reuse. Mrs. Lovein passed away on May 20, 2010, at the age of 94.



Remelle Young

FOURTH GRADERS AT STRATFORD during the 1970s knew Remelle Young for her compassion and kindness toward students. She was a twenty-year veteran of teaching and had a gift for helping students through difficult transitions. Katherine Ann Drake Webster '85 of Boulder, Colo., fondly remembers Mrs. Young as one of her favorite teachers at Stratford. When she discovered that young Katherine Ann was having difficulty reading the chalkboard and perhaps needed glasses, she handled the situation without embarrassing her. "She was gentle and compassionate and always made me feel special," recalls Katherine Ann. "I still remember that kindness even today." Mrs. Young passed away on Nov. 30, 2009, at the age of 90.



Preschool News

Million Minute Read Week

Governor Sonny Perdue declared the week of Feb. 21-27 the Junior Leagues of Georgia Million Minute Read Week. The Million Minute Read is a partnership with the 12 Leagues in Georgia and the Bright from the Start organization which oversees the Georgia Pre-K program. The Junior Leagues of Georgia committed to reading 1,000,000 minutes to Georgia's children to promote literacy and the love of reading. Junior League of Macon members read to Preschool classes at Stratford throughout the week as a part of the Million Minute Read.



Petals and the Princess Visit the Preschool

On March 23, two special guests gave Stratford Preschoolers the "royal" treatment. Cherry Blossom Princess and Stratford senior, Allison Walthall, and Cherry Blossom mascot, Petals the Pink Poodle, greeted Stratford's youngest learners to tell them about Macon's Cherry Blossom Festival. Students also were treated to delicious pink ice cream from Chick-Fil-A.



Preschool Pow Wow: An Annual Favorite

Preschool Indians and Kindergarten Pilgrims filled the stage in the Henry Tift Auditorium on Nov. 20 at the annual Preschool Pow Wow. It has become a treasured tradition for the Preschool to host parents, grandparents, and friends for this special event. Shanon Gross, Preschool music teacher, directed the program with assistance of all the Preschool teachers. Upper School Fine Arts Instructor Toni Stallworth accompanied and the program was narrated by Registrar Marilyn Walker.

Stratford Students Send Holiday Greetings Overseas

Preschool and Lower School students created more than 300 holiday greeting cards for the American Red Cross's Holiday Mail for Heroes Campaign. Nationally, the ARC and Pitney-Bowes sent one million cards to servicemen and women overseas. The story was covered on WMGT 41 and Fox 24 on Dec. 4. This is the second year that Stratford students have participated in this campaign.



Lower School News

Fifth-Grade Students Publish Books

Fifth-grade language arts teacher, Wendy Woodcock, worked with each of her three classes to publish their own books in the spring. Lower School librarian Kaye Wansley hosted a “book signing” in the Olson Library in March to honor the talented young authors for their work.

Students Raise \$\$ to Support Leukemia Awareness

In May, four Stratford students sold lemonade and sugar cookies to raise money and awareness for a disease that has affected a special member of the Stratford family. First grader Caroline Sutherland, second grader Josie Lamb and third graders Maimee Henderson and Emory Sutherland came up with



the idea on their own to have a lemonade stand to honor tennis coach Jaime Kaplan and her fight against leukemia.

Stratford Lower School Students “Light Up” the Stage

For the annual Holiday Program, Lower School students presented “Stratford’s Seasons of Light” directed by music teacher Shanon Gross on Dec. 18. The children shared songs about the various holidays celebrated by Stratford students, but also focused on the school’s 50th birthday. The theme of light, which is common among all holidays, was woven throughout the program in various songs and venues. The Middle School Chorus, under the direction of Toni Stallworth, joined the fourth and fifth grade students for the finale, “When the Lights All Shine.”

Fourth-Grade Students Author Biographies

In the spring, fourth-grade students researched and presented biographies of a notable figure to their classmates. After reading books about their chosen person and completing a book report and timeline, the students dressed as their character and spoke



in first person to relay details about the life of the person.

Mayor Reichert Visits Stratford to Celebrate A Special Birthday

March 2 marks the birthday of one of the most beloved children’s authors — Theodor Seuss Geisel, or Dr. Seuss. At Stratford, Preschool and Lower School students celebrated Dr. Seuss’s 97th birthday in many ways. First-grade students listened as Maccon’s mayor and Stratford alumnus Robert Reichert ’66 read two Dr. Seuss books. Mayor Reichert read the classic books in the voices of the characters and spoke to the students about using their imaginations like the character in *And To Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street*.



Fifth graders took their annual field trip to Space Camp in November.

Lower School News



Fifth Grade Council Members Spearhead Volunteer Efforts

After attending a leadership training session last summer, the 2009-2010 Stratford Fifth Grade Council hit the ground running. They planned and sponsored a school-wide coat drive to benefit Macon Outreach in the fall. Students organized the drive, set up collection bins, advertised to the student body, and delivered the coats with the assistance of sponsor Bill Reynolds, Lower School Principal Redonda Mann, and Director of Counseling Tina Wootan. In February, the Fifth Grade Council visited Macon Outreach again to volunteer their time to feed approximately 110 people. In April, the Fifth-Grade Council along with two members of the Middle School Council, as well as, seniors Pierce Per-

sons and Blake Christianson made a trip to the Atlanta Airport. The purpose of the trip was to visit the U.S.O. and help feed U.S. servicemen and women traveling to and from their posts overseas. Students distributed care packages to the soldiers before taking part in the daily moving of the troops through the rotunda, where they were met by thunderous applause of airport passengers.

Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day 2010

Each year, Lower and Preschool students anticipate an event months in the making — Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day. On March 26, students performed to an audience of more than 1,000 family and friends. The musical tribute, celebrating Stratford through the years, was coordinated by music director Shanon Gross with assistance from fifth-grade music instructor Ashley Childers



and fifth-grade band instructor Laura Voss. The program was led by Master of Ceremonies Andy Lawson. Students at each grade level sang songs while accompanied by a live orchestra. The program concluded with a special finale of "We Are The World" which featured the talents of April Dorsey Crawley '97, Tracey Bloodworth Garner '90, Eric Hefner '83, Baxter James '98, Kevin Mann '95, Tom McAfee '86, Robin Lee Parker '83 and Karen Jarrard Snow '81. Prior to the performance, guests viewed a display of students' artwork, and following the program they visited with students in their classrooms.

2010 Lower School Awards

Virginia Parker Buzzell Memorial Scholarship Uswa Khan

Given annually to a second-grade student by the family and friends of Parker Buzzell, the award recognizes a child who exemplifies Parker's qualities of being a diligent student with a kind and curious nature.

Howard Ingley Award Josie Coleman

Given annually to a third-grade student who has an interest in fine arts, the award honors former music teacher and Lower School Principal Howard Ingley.

Lois Irby Award Tejas Athni, Sydnie Rouleau

Given annually to two fourth-grade students who excel academically, the award was endowed from an anonymous friend to honor Mrs. Lois Irby, longtime and greatly loved first-grade teacher at Stratford.

Elaine P. Massey Award Riley Grossnickle

Given annually in honor of Elaine Massey, who was a member of Stratford's founding faculty in 1960, the award goes each year to an outstanding fifth grader who has been at Stratford since the first grade. Massey was named the school's first Lower School Principal in 1977 and served in that capacity until her retirement.

Fine Arts Award Meredith Fuchs, Carly Wanna

Given annually, the award recognizes fifth-grade students who have shown an exceptional interest in and excelled in fine arts by participating in art and music classes, band, or the spring drama production.

Georgia Math League Awards

FOURTH GRADE	1st Place	Nischal Bandi, Tripp Vaughn
	2nd Place	Amy Kathryn Heard
	3rd Place	Mark Barrow, Amelia Foulkes, Sarah Morrow, Manasa Vemuri
FIFTH GRADE	1st Place	Carly Wanna
	2nd Place	Justin Griffin
	3rd Place	Sarah Kate Sellers, Judson Williams
	4th Place	Robert Stone

Fourth Grade Invention Awards

Jack Kelly, Preston Kennedy, Sydnie Rouleau, Carson Green, Tejas Athni

Fifth Grade Science Fair Awards

1st Place	Safi Rahman
2nd Place	Finn Anderson
3rd Place	Meredith Fuchs

Middle School News

New Members Inducted into Junior Beta Club

Sixty-two Middle School students were inducted into the 2009-2010 Junior Beta Club at a breakfast sponsored by Stratford. Students qualified for membership by achieving an all "A" year-end average in every subject last year. Parents and students acknowledged the new members' official induction with applause as each student received a Beta Club certificate, pin and decal. Stratford's Middle School principal, Andrew Myler, spoke about the qualities of character and perseverance that students must possess to remain in Beta, followed by the distribution of certificates by club sponsors and Middle School teachers, Jennifer Sweat and Tommy Fletcher.

Chess Champions

On April 23, eight sixth-grade Chess Club members traveled to St. Joseph's Catholic



School in Macon to play in their first chess tournament. The students played well and went to the finals, which were held at Stratford on May 5. In a tough battle, sixth grader Eric Hua emerged victorious over his classmate Sachin Khurana.



Eighth Grader Has Great Success At State Spelling Bee

Eighth grader Hemanth Sanjeev represented Stratford in the private school spelling competition held at Tattnell Square Academy in February. Sanjeev made it to the "Final Four" — battling students from Marist, Woodward Academy and Lakeview Academy. He came in second

New members of the Junior Beta Club



Middle School News

place and earned a berth to the final state competition. On March 19, in this final level of competition before Nationals, Sanjeev was one of only 20 spellers from public and private schools to compete, and was actually one of only two private school spellers eligible to participate. Sanjeev lasted 14 rounds in this oral spelling bee before being eliminated. Hemanth was coached by Andy Lawson. Sixth grader Ally Parker was also recognized at Middle School Honors Day with Sanjeev for being selected to train for the spelling competition as well.

Students Excel at Regional Math Counts Competition

The Stratford Middle School Math Eagles traveled to Macon State College on Feb. 19 for the Regional Math Counts competition. Middle School team members were Alex Christianson, Stacey Dorogy, Jimmy Hernandez, Layne Johnson, Nathan Lis-



cher, Vijay Pillai, Margaret Ann Rowe, and Morgan Sowell. Stratford finished in fifth place, while individually, Alex Christianson placed 18th and Morgan Sowell placed sixth. Morgan qualified for the state competition which was held at Georgia Tech in March.

Spirit Week 2010

The Middle School celebrated Spirit Week the week of Feb. 1-5 in preparation for the Boys' and Girls' C-Team Basketball Tournaments. Students and teachers participated in themed "dress-up" days and spirit activities. This year's dress-up days were Extreme Spirit Day, Camo/Pajama Day, Character Day, Decade Day, and "Rocker" Day. The week kicked off with a spirited Middle School Pep Rally complete with a student/faculty basketball match-up. Students also decorated their homeroom doors and halls to show their school spirit.



Students Finish Top in the State on National French Exam

Nine students had top-10 rankings on the National French Exam, and 23 finished with top-20 rankings. State rankings were: 1st – Mary Carolyn Hulan; 2nd – Hamilton Hirsh; 5th – Taylor Mathis; 6th – Sean Grossnickle and Tolu Sogade; 8th – Dori Kacsoh and Clayton Montgomery; 10th – Morgan Herman and Asfar Rehan. Seventh grader Hulan scored a 6th place ranking in the nation on her level test, and eighth grader Mathis ranked 8th nationally on her level exam.



Middle School News

2009-2010 Middle School Council Elected

In October, Stratford Middle School students elected their Middle School Council to help plan activities for the 2009-2010 school year. The following students served in leadership positions: president – Montgomery Jones; vice president – Abigail Pierce; secretary – Katherine Harris; treasurer – Eric Hua; sixth grade representatives – Riley Anderson, Miles Anderson and Robert Clark; seventh grade representatives – Spencer Williams, Drew Daws and Huntley Cowart; eighth grade representatives – Douglas Bradley, Stacey Dorogy and Kate Thomas. The council helped organize the two annual Middle School dances, coordinated Spirit Week and led philanthropic endeavors for the Middle School throughout the year.



2010 Middle School Honors and Awards

Outstanding Student Awards

Helen B. Comer Memorial Award Wehbe Lee
Named in memory of Helen B. Comer, a former outstanding Stratford sixth grader, this award recognizes the outstanding sixth-grade student.

Outstanding Seventh-Grade Student Vijay Pillai

Charles Kendall Ross Memorial Scholarship Taylor Mathis
Given in honor and memory of Charlie Ross, a wonderful, courageous young man who was Stratford's top eighth-grade student for the 1986-1987 school year, this award annually recognizes the top eighth-grade student.

Effort Awards

Sixth Grade Laren Durkee
Seventh Grade Alexis Adams
Eighth Grade Kate Fehr

Citizenship Awards

Sixth Grade Felton Hatcher
Seventh Grade Sean Grossnickle
Eighth Grade Will Bowdoin, Claire Kelly

Ann Brown Tift Scholarship K.J. Spears

DAR Awards

American History Hamilton Hirsch
DAR Citizenship Award 6th Grade Ann Thompson
DAR Citizenship Award 7th Grade Joseph Slappey
DAR Citizenship Award 8th Grade Margaret Anne Rowe

Sixth Grade Content Awards

Outstanding Performance in English Aiza Shabbir
Outstanding Performance in Math George Lind
Outstanding Performance in Pre-Algebra Shishir Bandi
Outstanding Performance in History Michelle Tang
Outstanding Performance in Science Colyar McCord

Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Art Victoria Brown
Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Theatre Ally Raymond
Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Band Laura Mitchell
Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Chorus Tanisha Ghosh, Raine Foulkes

Seventh Grade Content Awards

Outstanding Performance in English Sydney Brewer
Outstanding Performance in Algebra Mary Kathryn Hightower
Outstanding Performance in Pre-Algebra Mary Kate Brown
Outstanding Performance in History Chandler Banks
Outstanding Performance in Science Mary Carolyn Hulgán
Outstanding Performance in Reading Sarin Khurana
Outstanding Performance in Spanish Lucy Bobbitt
Outstanding Performance in Latin Robbie Hulsey
Outstanding Performance in French Dori Kacsoh
Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Art Shelby Walker
Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Band Laurel Ferrari
Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Chorus Zoya Qazi
Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Theatre Joshua Wangerin

Eighth Grade Content Awards

Outstanding Performance in English Johnny Cohen
Outstanding Performance in Algebra 8 Katie Stone
Jackie C. Poole Award for Outstanding Performance in Algebra Layne Johnson
Outstanding Performance in Physics Morgan Sowell
Outstanding Performance in Chemistry Holly Hanse
Outstanding Performance in History Tyler Evans
Outstanding Performance in Civics Katherine Harris
Outstanding Performance in Latin Matthew Beringer
Outstanding Performance in French Asfar Rehan
Outstanding Performance in Spanish Alexandria Power
Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Art Paul Young, Emily Schlottman
Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Theatre Emmy Thornsberry
Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Band Margaret Anne Rowe
Outstanding Performance in Fine Arts-Chorus Madelyn Pyles

Upper School News

Second Annual Key Club McJeans Day A Great Success

The Stratford Key Club sponsored the second annual school-wide McJeans Day in the fall. Students could pay \$3 to dress in jeans and school spirit attire. The Key Club raised over \$3,500, twice the amount of money collected the previous year, to benefit The Ronald McDonald House in Macon. Lynn Hutto is the sponsor for this community-minded group of students. 2009-2010 Key Club Officers were: co-presidents – Courtlyn Smith and Hayes Parker; vice president – Sarah Anne Patton; secretary – Asra Rehan; treasurer – John White; co-project managers – Caroline Harrell and Anna Jones.



Beta Club Inducts New Members

Twenty-seven students were inducted into the Beta Club during this year. They were Seniors Obi Ekeledo, Stuart Firth, Karolina Gargala, Karena MacDonald, Ben Shaw; Junior Kyle Webb; Sophomores Hannah Ackermann, Rohin Aggarwal, Cody Atkinson, Meredith Christianson, Emmie Culclasure, Mary Bennett Easterlin, Austin Etheridge, Eliza Ferrari, Samy Gabriel, Skylar Graham, Matthew Jukes, Emery Longan, Madison Maier, Jay Moss, Sarah Nelson, Sam Smith, Lade Sogade, Holly Stephens, Bert Thompson, Casey Wanna and Kate Welsh. To be eligible for membership in the Beta Club students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.60 through the first semester of their sophomore year, and this GPA must be maintained to retain membership.

Stratford Seniors Honored by Phi Beta Kappa Society

Eleven Stratford seniors were honored by the Middle Georgia Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association for their outstanding academic achievements. Students recognized at the ceremony



This spring, the Stratford Varsity Baseball Eagles joined Miracle League baseball players on the field for a day of fun and friendship. This is the second year the Eagles have been a part of the Miracle League program.

emony held at Mercer University were: Caleb Ackermann, Cody Atkinson, Allie Becker, Hania Bisat, Kerri Campbell, Blake Christianson, Rachael Godlewski, Caroline Hill, Mack Hodges, Siraj Qadir and Annie Reeves.

2009 Adopt-A-Child

Stratford's Upper School Student Activities Board coordinated this long-time tradi-



2009 Homecoming Queen Pierce Persons (above center) with her court.
Matthew Waldorf was named the 2009 Homecoming King at the Saturday night soccer game.

Upper School News

tion for children in foster care to have a “merrier” Christmas. Each Stratford homeroom was given a special child to shop for during the holiday season. Ten cars and trucks full of gifts caravanned to deliver the gifts to DFACS and Elam Alexander during the week of Christmas. The Adopt-A-Child program has been a Stratford tradition since 1982.



Senior John Byron Strauss signed a letter of intent to play football at Birmingham Southern College.

Stratford Inducts New Mu Alpha Theta Members

Mu Alpha Theta is a National High School and Two-Year College Mathematics Honor Society with more than 75,000 student members in more than 1,500 schools. Students participating in the already-active Math Team, who have at least a 3.0 GPA and have taken at

least four semesters of college preparatory mathematics, may join. In March, Stratford inducted its first class of Mu Alpha Theta members. Stratford's Mu Alpha Theta chapter received their charter in December 2009, and Upper School math teachers Theresa Ferrari and Bobby Stecher are advising.

Quiz Bowl Team Finishes Runner-Up in 2010 Tournament

Stratford's Upper School Quiz Bowl Team finished in second place at the Macon State Academic Quiz Bowl Tournament in February. The team members were: Rohin Aggarwal, Connor Bashinski (co-captain), Josh Cohen, Katie Elliott, Doug Evans (co-captain), John Ryan Fehr, Ben Ford, Keli Grubb, Andrew Jones, Arhum Qazi, Sam Smith, and Bert Thompson. Coaches were Carol Lanier and Manning Weir. The 2009 champion of the tournament, Stratford has won 12 times in the last 14 years.

Palfrey Has Words of Wisdom for Students and Parents

On Feb. 9, Harvard University professor and author John Palfrey addressed the Stratford parent community and student body. Mr. Palfrey discussed the wonderful opportunities available for children in

Stratford Scholarships

Andy Anderson Memorial Scholarship

Austin Simmons

Halstead Tindal “Andy” Anderson II was an outstanding athlete and student leader in the Stratford Class of 1984. As president of his senior class and a significant presence on the 1983 state championship football team, Andy was a prominent figure on campus during his high school years. After attending the University of Georgia and graduating from Mercer University, he became a successful businessman and active community volunteer in Macon. After his death in 2003, family, friends, classmates and business associates endowed a full scholarship in his name. Each year the scholarship goes to an Upper School student or students who have demonstrated leadership and athleticism as members of the football team and personal qualities of integrity, character, and school spirit.

William M. Brake Memorial Scholarship

Brian Beringer

William M. Brake was already a legend in Macon when he came to Stratford in the late years of a long career as school administrator and teacher of mathematics before teaching geometry at Stratford from 1973 to 1986. His blunt manner and rumpled style could not disguise his affection and concern for the young people in his care. Students smiled at his eccentric ways and high-pitched voice, but they admired him extravagantly and learned enthusiastically under his leadership. This scholarship goes each year to a rising senior who has demonstrated by exceptional mathematical ability, intellectual curiosity, and superior achievement, a commitment to meeting the challenges and complexities of higher mathematics.

Arthur and Jane Brook Scholarship

Ruhi Rahman

Jane and Arthur Brook educated their five children at Stratford. With five children as graduates of Stratford, they invested much of their lives and family time at the school for more than two decades. Following the graduation of their youngest son Freeman in 1987, they began a plan to provide a scholarship for future Stratford students. The scholarship is given in honor of the five Brook children, Steve '72, Debra '74, Dean '77, Laurie '80 and Freeman '87. Following graduation from Stratford, four of the five Brook children graduated from Furman University. Thus the Brook family has chosen to honor and link their children's experience with a university well known and loved by the family. This scholarship is awarded to a rising senior who is a Furman Scholar.

Virginia Parker Buzzell Memorial Scholarship

Uswa Khan

Virginia Parker Buzzell was a bright and shining Stratford student in the 1980s. Fellow students and teachers knew Parker for her intellectual curiosity and the genuine kindness she showed to everyone. Wise beyond her years, Parker's brave and courageous spirit brought joy to her family and friends. The Virginia Parker Buzzell Memorial Scholarship goes annually to a second grader who exemplifies the qualities of the wonderful Parker Buzzell. Parker's family and friends provide the scholarship through the Parker Buzzell Foundation.

Otis Walton Gunn Memorial Scholarship

Morgan Long

The Otis Walton Gunn Memorial Scholarship is given by the family of Otis Walton Gunn. Mr. Gunn graduated from Stratford in 1968 and is remembered for his passion for life and the energy he brought to all of his interests and activities. This scholarship is awarded to a student who has excelled at Stratford, exhibited leadership ability, and contributed to several areas of school life: academic, athletic and extracurricular.

Thomas Whitley Harper Memorial Scholarship

Joshua Cohen

Thomas Whitley Harper '66 was an outstanding student, leader, and athlete whose positive energy, diverse abilities, and exemplary character contributed significantly to the early establishment of Stratford as a strong college-preparatory school in the state of Georgia. Outgoing and affable, Tommy counted all students and teachers his friends, even as he cut a forbidding figure on the basketball court and golf course. He went from Stratford to the University of Georgia for undergraduate study and to the University of Virginia School of Medicine, where he led his class academically. He died in his late 20s before he could complete his training in orthopedic surgery. Each year, in his honor, the school awards this scholarship to a rising senior whose exceptional intellect, leadership and character set an inspiring standard for the members of the Stratford community.

Joel Plant Hatcher Memorial Scholarship

Ben Bowdoin, Anna Mae Kersey

Joel Plant Hatcher '84 brought joy to the members of his school community with his love of life, bright smile, and warm personality. A capable student, good citizen, and engaging performer in dance and theater,

Upper School News

technology but stated that these opportunities should be balanced with addressing digital safety concerns and time spent with electronic devices. The challenge for parents and teachers is to provide young people the skills and tools they need to use the digital environment in productive and positive ways.

Elam Alexander Field Day

For the eighth year, Stratford celebrated its continued partnership with Elam Alex-



ander Elementary with their annual joint Field Day. Stratford Foreign Language Department Head Tracy Rucker was the coordinator for this event which was the culmination of a year of working together. Stratford students and coaches ran the field events and SIP volunteers provided lunches for the Elam Alexander students and teachers.

Global and Community Awareness Club Welcomes Guest Speaker

In May, Brenda Sutton, director of Alternative Dispute Resolution for Houston and Macdon Judicial Circuits, spoke to Stratford Global



Senior Stephen Harris signed a letter of intent to play golf at Oglethorpe College.

and Community Awareness Club members on cultural diversity. Students performed different awareness activities to help them understand that diversity can encompass anything regarding race, religion, ethnicity, gender, etc.

he was the quintessential well-rounded student who thrives in Stratford's flexible, open educational environment. Joel's happy-go-lucky, friendly manner made him a favorite with the faculty and students of all ages, and his enthusiastic willingness to try a new dance step or act an unconventional theater part inspired his peers to explore their own gifts and talents. After graduating from Stratford, he attended Auburn University for a year until his death in 1985. Each year this scholarship goes to a worthy Upper School student(s) who, like Joel, has made significant contributions to several areas of school life.

Lois Irby Memorial Scholarship Tejas Athni, Sydnie Rouleau

The Lois Irby Memorial Scholarships were endowed by a gift from an anonymous friend to honor Mrs. Lois Irby, a longtime and greatly loved first-grade teacher at Stratford Academy. The award goes annually to two outstanding rising fifth graders.

Josephine Barker Lamb Memorial Scholarship Kayla Avant

Josephine Barker Lamb '64 was a beloved Stratford alumna, who devoted her time and talents to the school for many years. Warm and welcoming, she served as Alumni Director from 1984 to 1990. Unofficially, she lent her considerable organizational skills, personal charm and positive energy to causes across the spectrum of school life from the time she entered Stratford as a student until her untimely death. Never too busy to take on a project or too tired to turn a cheerful smile on a visitor, Josephine was a person of great civility and decency. Each year this scholarship is awarded to a rising senior who is the child of an alumna or alumnus and who exhibits the qualities Stratford seeks to foster in students: character, integrity, academic achievement and active leadership in several areas of school life.

Tommy Robinson Memorial Band Scholarship Keli Grubb

Tommy Robinson was a delightful and kind young man who exhibited a zest for life and for the Stratford Band Program. His friends, teachers and band director knew him for his loyalty to others, enthusiasm for learning and music, and ability to find humor and the positive side of any situation. He expressed exuberance for life and school in the band room and in the classroom as he explored his creativity and shared his upbeat nature and sense of humor with others. Now in its inaugural year, the Tommy Robinson Memorial Band Scholarship will go annually to a rising upper school band student who exemplifies the qualities of Tommy Robinson. The award is given by the family of Tommy Robinson.

Charles Kendall Ross Memorial Scholarship Taylor Mathis

The Charles Kendall Ross Memorial Scholarship is given in honor and memory of Charlie Ross (May 20, 1973 - Nov. 20, 1987), a wonderful, courageous young man who was Stratford Academy's top eighth-grade academic student for the 1986-1987 school year. The scholarship goes annually to the top eighth-grade student and is provided by the family and friends of Charlie Ross.

Ann Brown Tift Scholarship Ken Spears, Jr.

Ann Brown Tift wore many hats in her long, rich tenure at Stratford Academy. A Stratford parent, wife of former headmaster Henry Tift, Spanish teacher, English teacher, chair of the English department, sponsor of myriad of clubs and organizations, and college counselor, Ann's gifts to Stratford are innumerable. From the time she began working at Stratford in 1977 until she left in 2005, Ann's skills as an educator, her love of learning, and her desire to see students engage in the world outside Stratford Academy helped shape the lives of students as well as multiple areas of school life. Her students remember her love for literature and the intellectual energy she inspired in her classroom. The students and parents she counseled through the college admissions process remember her encouragement to "reach for Pluto," but to "secure a spot on Mars, just in case." The scholarship is given to a student with intellectual curiosity, integrity, and deep engagement in some particular area of school life or significant contributions in several areas of school life. Ann committed herself to encouraging a more diverse environment at Stratford Academy. The Ann Brown Tift scholarship is established in her honor by friends and family members in pursuit of a more diverse student body.

Henry Harding Tift, IV, Memorial Scholarship Doug Evans

Henry Harding Tift IV, headmaster of Stratford Academy for 20 years until his death in 1997, was a man of personal balance. He enjoyed the exercise of his mind in projects ranging from the study of English literature at Yale University to his daily crossword puzzles and Scrabble games. He enjoyed the exercise of his body in athletics and such outdoor activities as fishing, canoeing and arrowhead-hunting. He enjoyed the exercise of his imagination through an enthusiastic appreciation of the fine arts, especially instrumental music, choral music, theater and film. Under his leadership, Stratford developed its commitment to institutional balance in academics, athletics and the arts. Each year, in recognition of distinguished dedication to that balance, the school awards the scholarship to a rising senior demonstrating excellence and leadership in the fine arts who has made significant contributions to other areas of school life: academics, athletics and activities.

Upper School News

2010 Upper School Honors and Awards

Citizenship Awards

Best Citizens	Mack Hodges, Courtlyn Smith
DAR Best Citizen	Courtlyn Smith
DAR American History Award	Joshua Cohen
American Legion Citizenship Award	John Byron Strauss

Scholarship Awards

Thomas Whitley Harper Memorial Scholarship	Joshua Cohen
William M. Brake Memorial Scholarship	Brian Beringer
Josephine Barker Lamb Memorial Scholarship	Kayla Avant
Joel Plant Hatcher Memorial Scholarship	Anna Mae Kersey, Ben Bowdoin
Arthur and Jane Brook Scholarship	Ruhi Rahman
Otis Walton Gunn Memorial Scholarship	Morgan Long
Tommy Robinson Memorial Band Scholarship	Keli Grubb
Andy Anderson Memorial Scholarship	Austin Simmons
Henry Harding Tift, IV, Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship	Doug Evans

Departmental Awards

Joe B. Hill History Award	Richard Min
William M. Brake Mathematics Award	Caleb Ackermann
Mary Eva Harper Chemistry Award	Doug Evans
Faye R. Holliday English Award	Anna Jones
Excellence in Spanish	Stuart Firth
Excellence in French	Hania Bisat
Excellence in Latin	Joshua Cohen
Excellence in Science	Rachael Godlewski
Excellence in Art	Karena MacDonald
Excellence in Theatre	Katie Elliott
Excellence in Music	Allie Becker
Rising Star	Ben Shaw
Socrates Award	Hania Bisat

Community Service Awards

Senior with the Most Hours Earned	Hania Bisat
Most Service Hours for Year	Jackie Lineberger
Seniors with 100+ Hours	Tindal Anderson, Hania Bisat, Parker Bolt, Kerri Campbell, Blake Christianson, Ethan Cole, Katie Elliott, Stuart Firth, Rachael Godlewski, Caroline Harrell, Mack Hodges, Hope Hutchins, Anna Jones, Peterson Jones, Catherine Kehl, Shreeya Khurana, Lee Lineberger, Karena MacDonald, Whitley McEachern, Meredith Nelson, Hayes Parker, Pierce Persons, Annie Reeves, Asra Rehan, Lexi Seagler, Ben Shaw, Spencer Simmons, Courtlyn Smith, Maggie Sowell, Emmy Stroup, Kelly Thomas, John Treadwell, Allison Walthall

Achievement Awards

Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Award	Lade Sogade
United States Senate Youth Program	Mack Hodges
American Legion Boys' State	Stuart Firth
American Legion Girls' State	Courtlyn Smith
Rotary Youth Leadership Award	Caroline Hill
Governor's Honors Program Finalist	Mary Katherine Kersey (Dance)
Governor's Honors Program Alternates	Emily Durden (Social Studies) Doug Evans (Chemistry)
STAR Student	Hania Bisat
STAR Teacher	Dr. Frank Katz
National Merit Finalist	Caleb Ackermann

National Merit Special Scholarship Winner	Blake Christianson
<i>The Telegraph</i> Golden Eagle Nominees	Allie Becker (Music), Skip Lazenby (Drama), Richard Min (Debate), Courtlyn Smith (Citizenship)
Georgia Certificate of Merit	Brian Beringer, Joshua Cohen
Robert C. Byrd Scholarship Nominee	Mack Hodges
Jefferson Scholarship Nominee	Mack Hodges
Morehead-Cain Scholarship Nominee	Caleb Ackermann
Furman Scholars	Brian Beringer, Chidi Ekeledo, Doug Evans, Kishan Patel, Ruhi Rahman
Wofford Scholars	Brian Beringer, Joshua Cohen, Doug Evans
Presbyterian Scholars	Brian Beringer, Ben Bowdoin, Joshua Cohen, Emily Durden, Doug Evans, Anna Mae Kersey, Ruhi Rahman
Harvard Book Award	Joshua Cohen
Jefferson Book Award	Emily Durden
Sewanee Book Award	Brian Beringer
Mu Alpha Theta Seniors	Hania Bisat, Katie Elliott, Siraj Qadir, Asra Rehan
Varsity Debate Awards	John Ryan Fehr, Andrew Jones, Richard Min

Academic Achievement Awards

9th Grade	Bailey Hicks
10th Grade	Rohin Aggarwal
11th Grade	Doug Evans

John William Herin, Jr., Effort Awards

9th Grade	Tommy Lind
10th Grade	Bert Thompson
11th Grade	Bo Stroup
12th Grade	Kelly Thomas

Bee Binner Spirit Award	Courtlyn Smith
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Scholar/Athlete Awards

Band	Allie Becker
Football	Osi Mbata
Softball	Caroline Avant
Boys' Soccer	Thomas Watson
Boys' Cross Country	Taylor Atkinson
Girls' Cross Country	Lexi Seagler
Boys' Basketball	Sims Holmes
Girls' Basketball	Catherine Pierson
Wrestling	Caleb Ackermann
Cheerleading	Annie Reeves
Boys' Swimming	Stuart Firth
Girls' Swimming	Callie Reynolds
Boys' Tennis	Blake Christianson
Girls' Tennis	Hania Bisat
Golf	Brian Beringer
Baseball	Brandon Wood
Boys' Track	Mack Hodges
Girls' Track	Kate Welsh
Girls' Soccer	Jasmine Pratts
Dr. John Paul Jones Best Senior Male Athlete	John Byron Strauss
Best Senior Female Athlete	Kendall Cowart
Senior Three-Sport Award	Blake Christianson, Stuart Firth, John Byron Strauss, John White
Morris C. Johnson Scholar-Athlete Award	Mack Hodges
Wendy's High School Heisman Nominees	Hania Bisat, Mack Hodges

Faculty News

Retired and Former Faculty Luncheon

Stratford held its 11th annual Retired and Former Faculty Valentine's Luncheon in the Smisson Room of the Dr. John Paul Jones Field House on Feb. 18. Director of Alumni Affairs Bubber Adams and Head of School Dr. Bob Veto welcomed guests and thanked the group for their years of service to the school. The 24 teachers in attendance were entertained by the talent of the Upper School Chorus under the direction of Toni Stallworth. A wonderful meal was catered by FLIK and guests enjoyed viewing *Stratford Academy: The Movie* during dessert. This luncheon continues to be one of our school's favorite ways to honor those who have given so much to Stratford.



Stratford Lower School Teachers Attend Conference

Stratford Preschool and Lower School teachers Kathy Larsen, Sara Reeves, Terry Sowell, and Della Young visited Chicago the last week in April for the International Reading Conference. The conference featured keynote speaker Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan who recently published *The Sandwich Swap*, a book which focuses on learning to appreciate other's differences. Highlights of the convention included meeting and hearing children's authors Kevin Henkes, David Adler, Mike Lupica along with several others. Some of the hot "reading" topics discussed were implementing more non-fiction and poetry into reading instruction as well as identifying key components of boys' motivational strategies for comprehension. These teachers will share learnings with colleagues and students in preparation for the 2010-2011 school year.

Faculty Service Recognition

The following Stratford faculty and staff members were recognized for their years



of service to the school at an annual luncheon sponsored by the Board of Trustees in June: *5-Year Awards* – Lynn Hutto, Rene Iglesias, Kenna Jones, Lindsey Stevens, Wendy Woodcock and Ethel Zuniga; *10-Year Awards* – Frank Katz, Janet Pierson, Ginny Reeves and Ed Smith; *20-Year Awards* – John Paul Gaddy, Glenda Haygood, Gena McWilliams and Walt Mays; *35-Year Awards* – Pat Horne and Jane Williams; *40-Year Award* – Grady Smith.



Fine Arts

THEATRE

Stratford Theatrical Productions 'Wow' Audiences

In the fall, the one-act play cast presented *Competition Piece* to audiences on Nov. 2-3, as well as performing the piece at region One-Act Play competition. The play, directed by Robert Stallworth with sound design by new Stratford student Ben Shaw, included a cast of 22 actors and 20 technicians. The group placed third in the GISA Region 2-AAA One-Act competition at Mt. De Sales Academy on Nov. 4. Senior Katie Elliott was selected for an Outstanding Performance Award at Region competition.

The Stratford Fine Arts Department presented its winter musical *The Music Man* to large, cheering audiences March 1-3. The cast of 57 was comprised of students in grades six through twelve with guest appearances by faculty members Dr. Bob Veto, Andrew Myler, Manning Weir, John Baum and Brian Mascia. The play was directed by Robert Stallworth, with musical direction by Toni Stallworth. Head librarian J.J. Fredrick-

son provided scene design and the Stagecraft class constructed the sets. *The Music Man* was the first play performed in the Tift Auditorium when it opened in 1992.

Stratford's spring play, *Annie Jr.*, was presented on May 7-8 and featured a cast of 70 students in grades four through eight. Audiences were delighted with the beautiful sets, period costumes, and lively choreography.

2010 FINE ARTS DAY

Lower School Fine Arts Day, A Great Success

In celebration of Stratford's 50th anniversary, Lower School art instructor Gena McWilliams and music instructor Shanon Gross organized a day of activities featuring Stratford alums who are professionals in the area of fine arts. Students learned about music with Jeremy Roberts '04, dance with Jane Caldwell Koorts '00, drama with J.P. Haynie '02, art with Wimberley McCook Rader '82 and Zumba with instructor Heather Higgins, the only non-alumni presenter. Performers encouraged the children to pursue

their passions and to put forth the efforts needed to attain their goals.

MUSIC

Stratford Band Program Excels

Stratford's Band Program continues to grow and flourish and the 2009-2010 school year was no exception. The school year began with the Spirit of Stratford Marching Band and Color Guard receiving the Sweepstakes Award for earning Superior ratings from each of the judges at the Hawkinsville Invitational Marching Band Festival. Next, 10 Stratford students were chosen to perform with the GISA All-Select Band and Chorus, including Rohin Aggarwal, Dylan Cole, Katie Elliott, Benjamin Ford, Carrie Ellen Ford, Marshall Grubb, Merritt Jones, Karena MacDonald, Matthew Mitchell, Arhum Qazi, Bert Thompson and Casey Wanna. Then, three students were chosen to attend the University of Georgia weekend band clinic for exceptional high school musicians. Hannah Ackermann, Rohin Aggarwal and Katie El-



liott attended the clinic and performed in the UGA Hodgson Concert Hall.

Band students from a 20-county area anticipate the auditions each year for the District Honor Band. Hundreds of musicians compete for the opportunity to participate in this band under the direction of some of the finest conductors in the southeast. Stratford students Rohin Aggarwal and Carrie Ellen Ford were chosen as members of this ensemble and performed in the Peach County Performing Arts Center this spring. Rohin Aggarwal scored so highly on his audition that he sat first-chair euphonium in the prestigious Region Honor Band, which is comprised of the top musicians in the southern half of the state.

In early April, the band traveled to Orlando for an exciting and educational experience at Walt Disney World. The students participated in a film score workshop, where they had the opportunity to play several of the well-known Disney soundtracks. They learned about the process of synchronizing the score with the action on the screen, and

they recorded a section of the music that was set to the animated film *Tarzan*.

In addition, band students were chosen to perform individually or in small groups at the recent Solo and Ensemble Festival. Stratford musicians received a total of 39 medals at this event, which was an outstanding accomplishment. The year came to a close with a Spring Concert featuring the Literary Team vocalists and the Symphonic Band followed by the presentation of annual Band Awards. Junior Arhum Qazi was chosen as the recipient of the "Tommy Award," named for beloved band member Tommy Robinson, and the "Outstanding Band Member" and "John Phillip Sousa" awards were given to senior Allie Becker. A "Director's Award" was given to senior Ethan Cole for his outstanding service to the overall band program.



LITERARY

Stratford Literary Team Named Region Champions

Stratford students performed well in the GISA 2-AAA Region Literary competition bringing home a championship trophy on March 11. The following students advanced to the GISA State competition, with a first or second place region finish: Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, Andrew Jones, ninth grade; International Extemporaneous Speaking, Richard Min, 12th grade; Humorous Oral Interpretation, Johnny Cohen, eighth grade; Argumentative Essay, Emily Durden, 11th grade; Rhetorical Analysis Essay, Sam Smith, 10th grade; Spelling, Hemanth Sanjeev, eighth grade; Girls Trio, Allie Becker, 12th grade, Casey Wanna and Merritt Jones, 10th grade; Boy's Solo, Doug Evans, 11th grade; Girl's Solo, Katie Elliott, 12th grade; and Boys' Quartet, Skip Lazenby, 12th grade, Doug Evans and Arhum Qazi, 11th grade, and Bert Thompson, 10th grade.

The Literary Eagles also performed well at the State competition on March 18 in Valdosta. Individual state champions were senior Richard Min (International Extemporaneous Speaking) for the fourth consecutive individual state title and eighth grader Hemanth Sanjeev for Spelling. Second place winners were ninth grader Andrew Jones (Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking) and eighth grader Johnny Cohen (Humorous Oral Interpretation).





Stratford Support

2010-2011 Booster Club Officers

President

John Peterson

President-Elect and

Raffle Chair
Brannon Hicks

Treasurer

Donna Kay McGoldrick

Secretary

Lori Palmer

Athletic Director

Grady Smith

Concessions

Elizabeth Cleveland

Team Parents

Elizabeth Avant

Membership

Robin Parker

Spirit Coordinator

Summer Neel

Sports' Programs

Karen Smith
Terry Sowell

Booster Club

Stratford Honors Past Booster Club Leaders

In celebration of Stratford's 50th anniversary, past Booster Club presidents, dating back to the club's inception as the "100 Club" in 1975, were honored at the annual Jeep Raffle Party. Twenty-six past presidents attended the Raffle Party as guests of the Booster Club and were recognized by Grady Smith for their contributions to Stratford athletics. Smith praised these men and women for their commitment to Stratford over the years and thanked them for helping to make the Stratford Athletic program what it is today.

Booster Club Honors Athletic Director and Long-Time Supporter Grady Smith

After the annual Golf Tournament on March 5, Athletic Director Grady Smith was honored for his 40 years of ser-



vice to the Booster Club and Stratford athletics at the annual Jeep Raffle Party held at Idle Hour Country Club. The 18-year-old golf tournament was renamed the Grady Smith Booster Club Golf Tournament after the beloved coach, supporter and friend. The honor was a complete surprise to Grady and others at the event. Booster Club President Peter Persons praised Grady for four decades of commitment and tireless devotion to Stratford and the Booster Club. Surrounded by his family, Grady was presented with a framed letter jacket complete with patches and pins representing sports he has coached and state and region championships won by the school during his tenure.

Jeep Raffle Continues as a Favorite Stratford Tradition

The ninth annual reverse draw Jeep Raffle was again a great success in 2010. Walking away with the grand prize, a 2010 Jeep Wrangler, was new Stratford parent Garry Fox. The Jeep can now be seen in the Stratford parking lot as his son, Mike Fox, is now the lucky owner of the vehicle.



Thanks to the incredible perseverance of Raffle Chairman John Peterson, all 400 of the available tickets were sold prior to the event. The Jeep Raffle is one of the Booster Club's biggest fundraisers of the year, and makes it possible for the organization to continue purchasing equipment and upgrading athletic facilities for the School.

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SIP Stratford's Interested Parents, or SIP, is the School's parent volunteer organization. Its purpose is to enhance each student's school experience and support the school, faculty and administration through a variety of planned events. Some of the annual events sponsored by SIP are the New Families Ice Cream Social, Open Houses, Spirit of Stratford Fall Festival, Middle School Dances, Holiday Buffet, Daddies' and Special Friends' Breakfast, Preschool/Lower School/Middle School Field Days, Upper School Spring Fling, Elam Alexander Field Day and Uniform Resale. In addition, committees such as the Stratford Sunshine and Faculty Sunshine Committees, Ticket Depot, Faculty Administration Appreciation, Holiday Decorating, and Grade Level Parent Representatives for beginner's through 12th grade operate to enrich the experience of every member of the Stratford family.



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**Gifts to the
2009-2010
Loyalty Fund**

*Loyalty Fund
Unrestricted Gifts*
\$218,541

*Loyalty Fund
Restricted Gifts*
\$55,063

*Loyalty Fund
In-Kind Gifts*
\$28,817

*Total Loyalty
Fund Gifts*
\$302,421

The Stratford 2009-2010 Report of Giving



is an acknowledgment of the generosity of Stratford Academy trustees, parents, alumni, grandparents, former parents, faculty, staff, friends and corporations. These donors gave significantly in the past year to the Loyalty Fund, endowment fund, planned giving and to our capital programs. It is a reflection of their commitment and belief in Stratford Academy. It is also a reflection of the wonderful and dedicated volunteers who devote hours of time and energy to support the giving programs. This continued support by our family of donors and volunteers is sincerely appreciated.

The Loyalty Fund

The Loyalty Fund provides for three percent of the annual operating budget. It helps to bridge the gap between tuition that our families pay each year and the actual cost of educating our students. Loyalty Fund gifts provide for a vast array of support — professional development for our teachers, technology acquisitions, curriculum improvements and additions, band uniforms, athletic equipment and more. Every single gift is important to the continued success of our school. Thank you for giving to the Loyalty Fund and for your part in making Stratford a great school!

For 2009-2010, the “Golden Eagle” level of giving recognizes those supporters who contributed gifts ending in \$50 in celebration of Stratford’s 50th anniversary. The “†” symbol denotes these contributors.

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The Future is Now – Stratford Science Building

AFTER NEARLY 20 YEARS of thought and discussion, the new science building has made its way to the top of Stratford's priority list. The current focus of the *Excellence Never Rests* capital campaign, which began in 2006 and has included the addition of the Dr. John Paul Jones Field House, Maurice Barnett Golf Pavilion, loop road, and tennis complex to the school campus, is a new Upper and Middle School Science Building.

Currently, 15 percent of Stratford alumni in college, graduate school and post-graduate training programs are studying and preparing for science-related careers. This number will only continue to grow with the ongoing shift to a science- and technology-based economy. Many students get their first tastes of scientific areas of interest in Stratford classes.

Annie Katz '02 can pinpoint exactly when she chose her future career path. "As a junior in AP Biology with Mrs. McDavid, during the genetics block, I became so intrigued by the idea that one single, tiny base error in a gene could result in large-scale phenotypical syndromes that adversely affect not only a person's health, but their whole quality of life," she remembers. "That AP Biology course opened my eyes to how our bodies are really made up of a compilation of minuscule processes that culminate in a moving, thinking, feeling being. After that course, I pretty much knew I wanted to go into a medical field."

After Stratford, Annie attended and graduated from the University of Virginia with a self-designed bachelor's degree in Medical Ethics and Humanities in 2007, and now she is a fourth-year medical student at Tulane University in New Orleans. She knows well the value of a strong background in science and credits Stratford for teaching her the critical skill of 'how' to study science material for true understanding



of the concepts rather than just memorization of the facts for exams. That skill set has served her well as she tackled the tough science classes in college and medical school, and will carry her throughout her career as an internal medicine physician as she continues to learn.

"In retrospect, I would have liked more exposure to a laboratory setting in high school, considering how laboratory sciences are an important part of a pre-medical curriculum," Annie reflects. "I believe that the addition of a science building that provides more laboratory space for science classes would give Stratford graduates the advantage they need to succeed in a competitive pre-medical college environment."

Not only will the new building eliminate the scheduling and logistical challenges of the science faculty, it will allow for future AP offerings, such as Physics and Environmental Science, and the opportunities for more advanced lab capabilities and independent research for interested students.

"With the ever-expanding science and technology fields, preparation in new laboratory techniques is crucial. This facility will allow us to continue improving the quality of existing programs, to implement new programs, and to expand our curriculum," says Eleanor McDavid, Upper School Biology teacher. "This building will allow our students exposure to new laboratory techniques and provide opportunities

for ongoing, independent research."

While over \$5.3 million has been raised for the *Excellence Never Rests* campaign, there is still a shortfall of pledges needed to begin construction. To support Stratford's dream of providing students today and in the future with state-of-the-art science facilities, please contact the Advancement Office at (478) 477-8073 ext. 210 or visit www.stratford.org/capitalpledge to learn more and pledge online.

Also, consider recognizing a Stratford alumni or supporter with a brick in our Science Building Recognition Walk. Personalized bricks are available beginning at the \$1,000+ level, and gifts can be made over five years. Learn more at www.stratford.org/bricks.

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PROFILE:

Lloyd "Buster" Black '62

EACH YEAR STRATFORD ninth graders are taken to "Old Stratford" for Immersion Day, a morning with scheduled tours of Stratford's original campus, group discussions with school founders and teachers, and panel discussions with alumni. Ninth graders learn about how and why Stratford was founded and what student life was like when the school was located in the historic Overlook Mansion, which is now the Woodruff House owned by Mercer University.

Class of 1962 alumnus Buster Black is a regular guest speaker at Immersion Day. Black was Stratford's first graduate and salutatorian. Each year, he describes how he became a Stratford student. It was the summer of 1960, and he had finished his sophomore year at Lanier High School. His family was in turmoil due to his father's terminal illness. He read in the newspaper that candidates were being interviewed for scholarships for a new school in Macon for those serious students who were interested in a quality college preparatory environment.

Unbeknownst to his parents, Buster would walk, hitch hike and take a bus for several consecutive days to be interviewed and later awarded an academic scholarship for Stratford's first junior class. School administrators Joe and Sue Hill and Marvin Davis took the young man under their wings and gave him summer jobs assisting with remodeling projects at the mansion being converted to a school.

When school began in the fall, it did not take Black long to rise in the leadership and academic ranks of Stratford life with achievements such as senior class and student council president, Beta Club member, honor graduate and class salutatorian. Following graduation, he studied English

literature at Duke University with later study in a combined law and MBA program at the University of Georgia.

Black says, "My Father died just days after Stratford opened its doors for its first classes. Understandably, my mother was devastated by the loss of my father. Without the guidance and motivation of Dr. Joe and Sue Hill and Marvin and Margaret Davis at such a critical time in my life, I surely would have been without so much of the direction which has led me to many of the achievements in my life."

Black went on to practice law in Atlanta with his own firm specializing in the regulation of the financial planning industry. He developed and popularized the legal and business framework used by most financial planning firms in the United States in the 1970s and 1980s. Moving from the office towers of Peachtree Street to his home office on his farm in Brooks, today he specializes in equine law with a nationwide involvement in the equine industry. He enjoys continuing the family avocation of showing Tennessee Walking horses and is active as a trustee for the Methodist Church retreat, Epworth by the Sea, at St. Simon's Island.

He credits a single act of kindness by Dr. Joe Hill following the death of his father with being the initial stimulus for family estate planning for Stratford's benefit. Black says, "Dr. Hill wrote a very kind condolence letter to my mother at a time when our family was literally shattered and he really didn't know us. His thoughtfulness has never been forgotten. When you combine the quality of character



demonstrated by Dr. Hill and the extraordinarily beneficial impact Stratford's faculty had on my development with the simple fact that Dr. Hill's dedication to that spirit of quality to benefit promising, young people has endured as a constant at Stratford for 50 years, how can you not support it?"

Both Buster and his late mother have made significant testamentary provisions for Stratford with estate planning over two generations put in place starting 16 years ago. "We are very pleased," he says, "to try to help see that Stratford is able to continue to provide horizons for young people in the future so that they may be exceptionally prepared to find their own excellence wherever they may go and whatever they may do."

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Target
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Organizations

Macon Tracks Running Club
The Carlyle Place
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Abbott Fund Matching Grant Plan
Bella Cavalla Farms
Capital City Bank Group Foundation

City Barber Shop
Genentech
IKON Office Solutions Foundation

Merck Company Foundation
Merrill Lynch Matching Gift Program
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Mr. Emmitt H. Griggs
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Mr. H. Scott Singletary
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Mrs. Wimberly Dennis Treadwell
Mr. Thomas H. Williams III

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Mrs. Janet Young Battcher
Mrs. Leslie Bowen Bean
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Calling All Alumni Join Us for Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2010

Friday, October 1 - Saturday, October 2

Friday, October 1

Alumni BBQ — 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Alumni and their families are our guests at a picnic on the Spencer Frank Hays Soccer Field. Come enjoy dinner, music and children's activities. In case of rain, picnic will be held in the cafeteria.

Stratford vs. Griffin Christian Academy — 7:30 p.m.

Alumni and their families receive complimentary admission to the Homecoming football game.

**Alumni Homecoming &
2010 Hall of Fame Recognition — 8:30 p.m.**

During halftime, join us for the crowning of the 2010 Homecoming Queen and the recognition of alumni and the Stratford Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2010.

Saturday, October 2

Campus Tours — 10:30 a.m.

Meet your fellow Eagles in the front lobby of the school for tours of the campus.

Reunion Year Classes

1965 • 1970 • 1975 • 1980 • 1980 • 1985 • 1990 • 1995 • 2000 • 2005

See www.stratford.org/reunions for class reunion details.

For more information about Alumni Weekend 2010, contact Bubber Adams, Director of Alumni Relations, at bubber.adams@stratford.org or (478)477-8073 ext. 229.



Formally established in 2010, the Stratford Athletic Hall of Fame strives to maintain the rich heritage and tradition of the successful athletic programs of Stratford Academy. It serves as a means of recognizing, preserving and honoring the athletes, coaches, teams and individuals who have made significant contributions to the school's athletic programs. The Hall of Fame honors the contributions and accomplishments of these individuals and teams who are worthy of recognition and serve as examples for others to emulate. The inaugural class of inductees will be honored at an all-school assembly during Alumni Weekend.

**STRATFORD ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2010 INDUCTION**

Friday, October 1 • 10 a.m. • Stratford Gym

HONOREES

1970, 1971, 1972 Football Teams
1976, 1977, 1978 Girls' Basketball Teams
1964 Golf Team
Coach Bobby Brown*
Mr. Tim Clifton
Mr. Mark Farriba
Dr. John Paul Jones, Sr.*
Mrs. Susan Peake Jones
Mrs. Jan Jones Marsh
Mrs. Summer Smisson Neel
Dr. William Shirley, Sr.*

* Deceased



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