

ADVANCING *Development*

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Mission Statement

Athens Academy seeks excellence with honor in the educational and personal experience of each student.

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Athens Academy admits qualified students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies and other school-administered programs.



Step One: Annual Fund

Step Two: 21st Century Capital Campaign Phase II

March 1, 2009

Dear Parents,

If you have given to Step One, the 2008-2009 Annual Fund, and Step Two, 21st Century Capital Campaign Phase II, we thank you for contributing to this year's success.

If your name is not listed in the Parent Donor Proof enclosed in this issue of *Spirit*, please make your gift or three- to five-year pledge today. Your participation in both efforts is most important!

Sincerely,

Bob Marion
Annual Fund Chair
Life Trustee

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21st Century Campaign Co-Chairs
Parents of
Richard, Class of 2015
Lucy and John, Class of 2021

Denise and Jimbo LaBoon
21st Century Campaign Co-Chairs
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Caroline, Class of 2013
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PSO Officers

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THANK YOU.....

Spartan 5K and Sprint

Both events were a huge success! Many thanks to this year's chairs, Kim Pittard and Kelly Channell. We would also like to thank the many volunteers who helped make this event fun for all.

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day

Thanks to Bonnie Chambers, Myra Callaway, Kelly Johnson, and Cindy Crymes for coordinating yet another great lunch for our faculty and staff. Thanks also to all the parents who contributed.

Festival Day

Mark your calendars for Festival Day, Saturday, April 18. If you would like to help, please call Greta Covington at 706-548-0039 or Rebecca Chisolm at 706-614-1956.

This is going to be so much fun!

Have a safe and relaxing Spring Break!

Susie Malcom
PSO Chair

LOWER *School News*

PRIMARY Points

Re-Enrollment

Grades 2-12
Due March 2

Second Grade Performance

The Artful Dodgers
Friday, March 6
8:45 a.m.
Lower School Hall

Dress Rehearsal
Thursday, March 5
8:45 a.m.

Spring Break

Classes Dismiss
Friday, March 6
3:20 p.m.

Classes Resume
Monday, March 16
8:10 a.m.

Preschool & Lower School Conference Day

Wednesday, March 25

Grades 3 & 4 ERB Writing Assessment Test

March 30 & 31

Day 100!

Everything in the pre-first classes equaled 100 on Hundred Day. Pre-first students celebrate the 100th day of school in a grand way. The students donned glasses in the shape of 100's, wrote numbers to 100, read 100 words, counted 100 pennies, flipped a coin 100 times, rolled dice 100 times, made a 100-inch-long snake, sorted 100 m&m's, made a train with 100 uni f x cubes, counted by 2's, 5's, and 10's to 100, and did 100 toe touches, jumping jacks, and ball bounces. It was an exciting day and everyone had 100 tons of fun!

Melanie Hollis, Jane Inscoe, & Robin O'Rear
Pre-first Teachers

Third & Fourth Grade Writers Perform

Lower School students spend much of their Language Arts class time learning to write in a variety of styles and genres, including poetry, descriptive sentences, paragraphs, and reports, narratives and letter writing. On March 30 and 31, the third and fourth graders will use their acquired writing skills as they take the Writing Assessment (WRAP) test with their Language Arts teachers. Grades three through nine at Athens Academy take this timed writing test annually. On the first day, the students use the writing process they have used all year to create a rough draft of an essay. The second day they are given an hour to revise and edit this into a final piece of writing. The students may discuss their writing with parents after the first day, but bring only their ideas into the second day as they revise their work. The students' final drafts are evaluated by a trained group of readers from the Educational Testing Service according to a

rubric for each grade level which includes appropriate standards for mechanics of writing, overall development, organization, word choice, and sentence structure. This rubric is one of our most useful tools for helping students evaluate and improve their writing skills.

The most important component of the experience for the students is the conference and conversation between each student and the teacher when the essays are returned. Students celebrate concepts learned and continue to work on areas of difficulty for the rest of the year. At the end of each year students at every grade level choose their three favorite pieces of writing to be placed in a portfolio that is passed to their next year's writing teacher. Often their WRAP piece is the one they select!

Caroline Ridlehuber
Dean of Academics K3-6

Second Grade Performance

The second grade students will perform *The Artful Dodgers* on Friday, March 6. The theme of the play is teamwork and cooperation. A group of baseball players and bullies enter a contest. There is a new girl in town who has a hard time being accepted by the group of baseball players but ends up teaching all the children about teamwork. The parent performance is on Friday, March 6, at 8:45 a.m. in the Lower School Hall. Guests are invited to join the students for a cast party after the performance. A dress rehearsal will be held on Thursday at 8:45 a.m. for the Pre/Lower School students if you are unable to attend the Friday performance.

Fourth Graders Meet King Tut

While exotic music echoed in the background, the doors to the King Tut exhibit slowly opened, welcoming the fourth graders to travel back in time. Armed with a list of over a dozen objects to hunt for, Mrs. Lilliston's art students scoured ancient artifacts in search of the golden sandals worn by King Tut, the Canopic Jar of Kiya (King Tut's mother), and the gold burial mask of Psuennes I. The fourth graders marveled over the Giant Head of Amenhotep IV and the gold coffinettes which held the remains of King Tut's stomach. Each room of the exhibit was greeted with a sense of awe at the sophistication of ancient Egyptian civilization. Students also enjoyed buying a cartouche of their own name written in hieroglyphics. The Tutankhamun: Olden King/ Great Pharaohs exhibit at the Atlanta Civic Center was a great experience for the fourth grade!

Mary Ann Naclerio
Fourth Grade Teacher

Spring Break, March 9-13

We hope everyone will enjoy some quality family time during the much deserved Spring Break. Classes will resume Monday, March 16.

Bob Urich & Melton Weekley

MIDDLE School News

TAKE Note

Re-Enrollment

Due March 2

Orchestra Concert

Tuesday, March 3

7:00 p.m.

Presentation Hall

National Foreign Language Exams

Wednesday, March 4

Eighth grade classes

Guest Author

Gail Carson Levine

Thursday, March 5

Spring Break

Classes Dismiss

Friday, March 6

3:20 p.m.

Classes Resume

Monday, March 16

8:10 a.m.

End of Third Grading period

Friday, March 20

ERBs

March 24-25

All Middle School students

Upcoming Trips:

April 6-8:

Sixth Grade to Savannah

April 6-8:

Eighth Grade to Camp

DeSoto

April 19-24:

Seventh Grade to

Washington, DC

Students Named to Honor Roll

Recently in Middle School we recognized students who were named to the Honor Roll for the second grading period. Congratulations to each student on a job well done!

Fifth grade: Adeline Archibald, Alex Billmeyer, JT Camp, Kayla Cherry, Rob Clements, Will Corry, Ellie Crymes, Kimberlyn Daniel, Nicholas Grubb, Isabelle Hale, Mara Hancock, Megan Hodgson, Kevin Kim, Foster Loftis, Elizabeth Malcom, Nick Manfredi, Matthew McArdle, Lawson McConnell, Christina Minor, Colin Murphy, Sean Murphy, Tesh Parris, Alisha Patel, Anshul Patel, Drew Richardson, Hayden Rymer, Riya Shah, Sarah Slocum, Gabriela Tejada, Grace Trimpe, and RaRa Williams.

Sixth grade: Saad Bashir, Anna Buchanan, Aurora Bunten, Rhea Chatterjee, Haidee Chen, Helen Chen, Caroline Colley, Mary Glenn Dillard, Caroline Doherty, Nathan Fehcheimer, Caroline Fenno, Morgan Ferguson, Richard Ferguson, Anna Kate Foshee, Morgan Grace, Adam Hearn, Suzanne Herrin, Hayden Hudson, Steven Jackson, Kathryn Johnson, Mason T. Jones, William Leverett, Hunter McWilliams, Jason Papadopoulos, Caroline Robinson, Charlie Duke Rymer, Evan Shirreffs, Fleming Smith, Alex Waugh, and Logan Williams.

Seventh grade: Prakash Agrawal, Alex Bernhardt, Natalie Busener, Alois Cerbu, Moiranyah Daniels-Melear, Katie Marie Davis, Ian Dawkins, Claudia Evaristo, Connor Guess, Shannon Hodgson, Joy Kim, Charles Lankau, Zander Mason, Celeste Minor, Madeleine Mullen, Anamaria Otalora-Garcia, Darshan G. Parikh, Rooshi Patel, Abbey Pylant, Nick Rorabaugh, Nilu Vyas, Holly Williams, and Oliver Woodruff.

Eighth grade: Ward Archibald, Carter Ball, Lucy Barsness, Sam Clements, MacKinsey Cole, Aaron Conley, Frank DuBose, Hailey Fohey,

Houston Gaines, Emily Anne Hansford, Jason Hatfeld, Mark Leonard, Forrest Liedberg, Jake Marrano, Bobby Marshburn, Katie McCormack, Aashni Patel, Emily Pee, Jimmy Robinson, Caroline Sanders, and Sarah Whatley.

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Jason Fern, school winner, and Max Ruston, school runner-up, for their outstanding performances in our recent spelling bee! Other students who qualified for the spelling bee finals held recently were Frank DuBose, Joshua Netter, Jimmy Robinson, Charles Lankau., Alois Cerbu, Claudia Evaristo, Anna Candler Kimsey, Alex Bernhardt, Zachary Kittrell, Jason Papadopoulos, Noah Barfeld, and Sean Murphy.

Jason and Max represented Athens Academy at the GISA middle school spelling bee at Woodward Academy on February 12.

Basketball Tournament

The Middle School girls and boys basketball teams made an impressive showing at the Athens Area Middle School Basketball Tournament in early February. The girls reached the tournament semi-finals. The boys captured the tournament title by defeating George Walton Academy in the finals. Congratulations to Caroline Colby, Taylor Allen, Bryant Shirreffs, and Austin Schulte who were named to the All-Tournament Teams.

Both teams exhibited outstanding sportsmanship and represented Athens Academy in the best way! Way to go, Spartans!

GISA All-Select Band

Our school was recently represented at the GISA All-Select Band event in Macon, Georgia. Seven students participated in a Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Michael Robinson,

director of athletic bands and assistant director of bands at the University of Georgia. Performing in this group were Zoe Brewster, Rebecca Edison, Jessica Gross, Jason Fern, Max Ruston, Obaid Rahman, and Nick Rorabaugh. Thanks to Mrs. Jenny Taylor, band director, for coordinating this event!

ERBs

Each year students take the ERB Writing Assessment which gives us detailed feedback on each student's writing and allows us to reflect upon student progress and our curriculum. Students will complete this assessment in their language arts/English classes on March 24-25. Please make every effort to avoid scheduling appointments during school on these days.

Third Quarter Reports

Report cards will be mailed to families on Wednesday, March 25.

Family Trips

The school calendar is set up so that families have a long weekend or extended holiday each month. All of us value the opportunities that these holidays afford families. We urge you to plan trips on these holidays so that students do not miss valuable classroom instruction. While we make every effort to supply them with their work, nothing can adequately replace classroom discourse.

When we return from spring break, we have much work to do. Please help us to keep the students focused by making sure that they have adequate rest, arrive at school on time, and are prepared for class! Working together we can have a strong finish to the school year!

Brenda Klein

UPPER

School News

HIGH Lights

Re-Enrollment

Due by March 1

Course Requests for 2009-2010

Due on Tuesday, March 3

Conference Day

*Tuesday, March 3
No classes meet*

Spring Break

*Classes dismiss
Friday, March 6
3:10 p.m.*

*Classes resume
Monday, March 16
8:10 a.m.*

Red Cross Blood Drive

*Wednesday, March 25
8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Spartan Center*

Hands On Athens

*Friday April 3 through
Sunday, April 5*

Spring is Springing!

This is the time of year nature begins to wake from its winter slumbers. While one might think we too would have slowed down during the cold, dark months, we've stayed the course and maintained our efforts and commitments. We are entering the final months of the 2008-2009 school year with a determination to end the year with the same enthusiasm we had when it began in August.

SEEDS Club

This month the SEEDS club will be gearing up to continue its success with its on-campus garden. We are expecting to deer-proof it and to continue growing crops and donating them to the Athens Area Homeless Shelter. In order to fund our garden improvements, SEEDS has been hosting monthly vegetarian potluck lunches. These lunches have been highly successful, and we appreciate the support the event has received. Currently, SEEDS has been busy building a temporary, communication-oriented kiosk in which students and faculty can post information regarding schedule changes and upcoming events. SEEDS also has participated in an Adopt-a-Highway session in which students cleaned up the Milledge Extension area, and SEEDS has also hosted an on-campus movie night in which participants watched *Garbage Warrior*. As the semester continues, we will continue to organize and complete a myriad of other interactive and environmental projects. *Maddie Dahl*

Habitat for Humanity

The Habitat for Humanity club recently presented the subdivision model to the Gainesville State College Student Habitat for Humanity Chapter. Plans are being made to partner with them to promote a Habitat subdivision located somewhere in Oconee County. This subdivision will be modeled after the New Hope Drive Habitat subdivision off of Hawthorne Avenue in Clarke County. *Lawrence Stueck*

Hands on Athens

The Upper School will be participating in the Tenth Annual Hands on Athens. The project, sponsored by the Athens-Clarke

Heritage Foundation, allows our students to assist families in need in the Athens area by sponsoring and working on a historic home. Our Upper School students, under the guidance of faculty sponsors, will adopt a house again this year and are anticipating the work to include scraping, painting, minor carpentry repair as well as landscaping. If you are interested in being involved in these projects, please be in touch with Patrick Snead at psnead@athensacademy.org or 706-433-2419. We would love to have several parent volunteers to help in this restoration.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Class of 2009 will sponsor their final Red Cross blood drive on March 25 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Spartan Center. During the blood drive in January, 29 units of blood were collected, for a total of 68 units of blood collected so far this year. Please consider helping the seniors reach the 100-unit mark. The Red Cross is always in need of blood donors, so please consider helping the seniors end their yearly service project.

Academic Team

On Saturday, November 15, Margaret Heald, Malik Obeidin, Bridgette Duffield, Tavish Gantz, Shida Chen, and Aneet Patel, the Athens Academy Academic Team, participated in a Harvard-Mirror Tournament at the Rabun Gap Nacoochee School. This was the first tournament that the team participated in this year. They were competing with seven other independent schools in the area, and they won second place! This month, the Academic Team will be competing in the Georgia Academic Team Association Single A State Championship Tournament on March 7 at Hebron Christian Academy. We congratulate them on their earlier competition and wish them all the best this month.

Rotary Recognition

Senior Maddie Dahl and junior Katie Kalivoda will be honored by the Rotary International District 6910 at a dinner on March 5 for their outstanding leadership and service here at school and within the Greater Athens Community. Maddie is a

stalwart in environmental service and has been a driving force of the SEEDS club this year. Katie is one of the leaders of the Interact club and has been involved in several international projects benefiting students in Haiti as well as Project Pallam in India.

STAR Student

Eric Perkerson was recognized as Athens Academy's STAR Student for the 2008-2009 school year at a breakfast hosted by the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce on February 19. This recognition is based on Eric's academic achievement and SAT scores. Eric selected Mr. Ley Brown as his STAR Teacher. Congratulations to both of them for their continued excellence.

China Bound!

On March 3, ten students along with Headmaster Bob Chambers, world history teacher Beth Sensing, and Athens Academy parent Dr. Ming-Jun Lai will depart for an eleven-day cultural exchange with Hang Zhou High School in China. The group will spend several days in Beijing, where they will see the Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Olympic venues, and many other well-known sights before flying to Hang Zhou. This trip will be a bonding and growth experience for students and adults alike. Athens Academy, in turn, will host a delegation of students and faculty from Hang Zhou in August. Students will keep journals and conduct group discussions to record and reflect upon their travels, a Skype video conference is also in the works which will allow the China travelers the opportunity to speak with students here on campus from China, and an interactive blog will be set up on the Athens Academy website. A presentation to the school community will also take place once the group returns stateside. Please check online for updates prior to departure and during the trip. Trip participants include: Ella Douglas, Amy Bruckner, Ginny Pylant, Will Harris, Jeff Nordgren, David Millard, Ben Terry, Nelson Fleming, Christina Lapp, and Akash Agrawal.

GUIDE

To Higher Education

COLLEGE Bound

Colleges That Change Lives

Martha O'Connell is the Executive Director of Colleges that Change Lives, which is a "non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and support of a student-centered college search process." Their website, www.ctcl.org, has a wealth of free information.

Loren Pope is the author of one of our favorite books, Colleges That Change Lives, which encourages kids to think beyond brand name schools to find colleges that will be the best match.

Fat Envelope Frenzy

Fat Envelope Frenzy by Joie Jager-Hyman is our most recent find. While it reads like a novel it also provides a wealth of information about the admissions process from the perspectives of both the student and admissions office.

May We Suggest...

As seniors receive acceptances, juniors are just beginning the process. The successful start to any new endeavor includes understanding the philosophy shaping the situation, and those large picture concepts can be elusive. We offer the following excerpt from Martha O'Connell's NPR piece in an effort to help you choose the college that is right for you. In the sidebar are some further suggestions of authors who successfully depict the landscape of college admissions today.

1. Start with who you are and why you are going.

You need to examine yourself and your reasons for going to college before you start your search. Why, really, are you going? What are your abilities and strengths? What are your weaknesses? What do you want out of life — something tangible or intangible?

2. Size matters: Your college does not have to be bigger than your high school.

Most good liberal arts colleges have a population of fewer than 4,000 for a reason; college is a time to explore, and a smaller community is more conducive to internal exploration. It is not the number of people, but the people themselves and the kind of community in which you will learn that really matters. Many large universities have established "honors colleges" within the larger university for these same reasons.

3. A name-brand college will not guarantee your success.

Think about the people in your life who are happy and successful and find out where (and if) they went to college. Ask the same about "famous" people. You will likely find that success in life has less to do with the choice of college than with the experiences and opportunities encountered while in college, coupled with personal qualities and traits.

Employers and graduate schools are looking for outstanding skills and experience,

not college pedigree. As you search for colleges, ask about student outcomes; you will find many colleges that outperform the Ivies and "name brands," even though you may have never heard of them! Visit the [National Survey of Student Engagement \(NSSE\)](#) for help on sorting through the information and for great questions to ask when visiting and choosing a college.

4. You don't need to pick a major to pick a college.

Very few high-school students have enough information or experience to choose a major. You need the variety and depth of college coursework to determine your interest and aptitude. Most college students change their minds two or three times before they settle on a major, and they can still graduate in four years! Being undecided is a good thing and will leave you open to more academic experiences.

5. Don't be scared by the stories.

If you only pay attention to the headlines, you might start to believe that "no one is getting in anywhere!" The truth is that the majority of the colleges and universities in this country admit more students than they reject. If you're worried about your chances of getting admitted — and you're willing to investigate beyond the very narrow band of highly selective colleges — you'll find that you have many options that will lead to a great fit for you.

6. You can afford to go to college.

If you make the assumption that you cannot afford college based on the "sticker price" of tuition, you will miss out. It is difficult to talk about money, but if you investigate all the options and ask for help and advice, you will find affordable choices. Online resources, as well as financial aid workshops sponsored by high schools in local communities, are widely available to get you started. College and university financial aid Web sites offer useful

information and links as well. Investigate early and ask for help.

7. You don't have to go to college right away, and it's never too late.

There is no such thing as the perfect time to start college. Some students benefit from a year off to work, study or travel, and these experiences allow them to be better, more engaged students. Some students choose to apply to college and gain admission and then defer their entrance, while others wait to apply until after they have had an alternative experience.

8. The most important factor in choosing a college is fit.

Choosing a college because your friends are going there or because of where it ranks on a list does not take into account who you are and who you will become. College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won. Finding a good fit requires time and thoughtfulness.

Visiting college Web sites and learning about what events take place, who visits as guest speakers, and how to get in touch with current students and faculty is a good way to supplement a campus visit — or to decide if you want to spend the time and money on a visit. Check a school's Web site to find the admissions officer assigned to your region of the country. Send them an e-mail to ask about getting in touch with students from your area or identifying a few with interests similar to yours.

When you visit, try to build in time to sit in on classes, eat in the dining hall and hang around in the student center or other high-traffic areas. That will help you imagine yourself as part of the community. Talk to a few students and ask if they would make the same college choice if they had to do it again. Go back to the first item in this list as you consider the information you've collected about the colleges. You will have great options!

ARTS

On Stage and in the Studio

COMING
Soon

Exhibits

Myers Gallery

Through April 3
Steve Penley, paintings

Bertelsmann Gallery

Through April 3
Lee Reed, abstract photos
Eric Edner, glass

Reception

Sunday, March 1
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Bertelsmann Gallery

Senior Portfolio Class Show

High Museum of Art, Green Family Education Center
Atlanta
Through March 29

US Winter Pops Orchestra Concert

Monday, March 2
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Winter Orchestra Concert

Grades 4-8
Tuesday, March 3
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Guest Artist Concert

UGA Percussion Ensemble
Monday, March 23
7:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Spring Band Concert

Grades 5-12
Thursday, April 2
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

What's the Buzz...

Last semester the advanced acting class performed scenes and monologues from the works of William Shakespeare. On February 21 these students took their show on the road to compete in the Georgia Shakespeare Festival's Second Annual High School Competition. There, Academy students competed against other Georgia high school students. Last year senior Houston Mahoney placed first in the male monologue division. This year our competitors were CJ Brown, Mary Katherine Malone, Billy Pate, Cate Jackson, Sofe Wasserman-Smith, Christine Shaw, Libby Hansen, Ansley McAlister, Anne Lanier Gilbert, and Drew Jacoby.

The Drama Club sponsored an improvisation workshop on February 28. Students worked with an instructor from Rose of Athens Theatre Company. This workshop was organized by club member Emma Templeman. The Drama Club will also be hosting a showing of the Academy Award-nominated documentary short *Rehearsing a Dream*. This documentary "captures the artistic passion of a new generation of ambitious, idealistic performers and visual artists as they participate in the demanding youngARTS Week. Often feeling like outsiders in their hometowns and high schools, these eager teenagers experience the joy of transforming into confident, outgoing artists during this week-long program." The showing will be held at the end of March in the Presentation Hall. All local educational performing and fine arts departments are invited to attend. Canned good donations will be accepted at the door.

CJ Brown has been busy organizing another workshop for the Drama Club on March 29. This workshop will be held at Canopy Studios in Athens and will focus on the basics of the trapeze. The club took a similar workshop at Canopy last year and enjoyed it so much they decided to do it again!

The Athens Academy Players, our very own children's touring troupe, will be hitting the road later this month! The aim of our touring troupe is to spread the joy of live theatre to children in our community. We perform for churches, childcare centers, and schools. Our show, *Aesop Alive*, is a wonderful audience participation play that is sure to please audiences of all ages. This year's troupe consists of Emma Templeman, Bethany Varnado, Dominick Jattuso, Cate Jackson, Elizabeth Newcomer, Caroline Peck, Christopher McGahee, and Nick Adams. For more information contact Lorraine Thompson at ltompson@athensacademy.org.

Lorraine Thompson

Art News

The SEEDS club has redesigned the *Peak Oil* sculpture (previously on the bridge on campus) in the ATHICA gallery in Athens. The show *Running on Empty* will be up until March 22.

The Upper, Middle, and Lower Schools will have student art work exhibited in the Youth Art Month show at OCAF through March 25.

Lee Reed's abstract photos *Reflections* and Eric Edner's *Glasswork* will be on exhibit in the Bertelsmann Gallery from February 23-April 3. Lee Reed is a professor in the Terry College of Business at UGA. He has his photos printed on canvas and mounted on stretchers. Eric Edner is a glass artist from Coulterville, California. He works glass rods and tubes to create flowers, vases, and goblets. Lawrence Stueck

Artwatch

March is here, which means it's time for the Robert Osborne Classic Film Festival! This is its fifth year at the Classic Center and the line up of movies and special guests is fantastic. Opening night on March 19 features the quintessential Bond movie *GoldFinger* with the director, Guy Hamilton, in the house! Friday has *King Kong*, *Rear Window* as the free matinee

(my favorite Hitchcock film), and *Funny Girl*. Saturday we start off with *Sunset Boulevard* and the Robert Osborne Brunch. In the afternoon our guest host, Fred Willard, arrives. Mr. Willard is a great comedian well known for his roles in the Christopher Guest movies. He was even the president in *Wall-e* this past year!

The Saturday afternoon film is *For Your Consideration* in which Mr. Willard stars. *The Godfather* will be shown Saturday evening and Sunday features a wonderful movie - *E.T.* All movies will be fabulous to watch on the giant screen in the luxury of the Classic Center. See you at the movies! Complete schedule - <http://www.robertosborneflmfestival.com/> Tickets: 800-864-4160.

Didi Dunphy

Congratulations

Academy musician Daniel Masciadri, double bass, was selected for the GMEA's 2009 9-10 All-State Orchestra. Daniel auditioned in October and January and was chosen for this great honor from outstanding musicians across the state of Georgia! He will travel to Savannah, Georgia to rehearse on March 5 and 6 and will perform a concert on March 7.

Guest Artist Concert

Our final performance of the Guest Artist Concert Series will feature Thomas McCutchen and the UGA Percussion Ensemble on March 23 at 7:30 p.m. Under Dr. McCutchen's leadership, the UGA Percussion Ensemble has gained notoriety in the collegiate percussion community. This ensemble's performances include concerts throughout the Southeast, numerous appearances at Georgia Music Educator's Association state conventions, appearances at Day of Percussion programs, and the Second Thursday Concert Series, the subscription concert series of the University of Georgia.

Debbie Schab

Curriculum *and Instruction*

CLASS Notes

Twilight Book Clubs

Vampire mania rages on... The Twilight Book Clubs (we have an Upper School club and one for seventh and eighth graders as well) have met twice and will get together again in March and April for discussion, trivia contests, music, food, and prizes!

Guest Author Gail Carson Levine

Author Gail Carson Levine will spend Thursday, March 5 at Athens Academy. Please contact Dr. Mandyck in the MS/US Media Center if you are interested in attending any of the events.

Teachers & Administrators Spend a Day with Ron Clark

Teachers and administrators at Athens Academy have always recognized the value of visiting other schools in the area as a way to gain a better perspective, to learn about and observe a variety of instructional methods, to share ideas with other teachers, and to reflect with their colleagues on how we can use these ideas to enhance our students' learning and experiences. It isn't every day, however, that Athens Academy teachers have an opportunity to visit a place like The Ron Clark Academy, a school that has earned worldwide attention for its innovative and highly energetic approaches to teaching and learning.

Clark and co-founder Kim Bearden, both winners of national awards for teaching excellence, opened the independent middle school in 2007 to serve as many as 120 students in Grades 5-8 from the greater Atlanta area. Since that time, Clark and his students have traveled the globe (thanks to generous corporate sponsorship), met Nelson Mandela, been featured on several national news programs, received a check for \$365,000 from Oprah Winfrey, enjoyed celebrity status on YouTube with their election hit "You Can Vote However You Like," and were even invited by President Obama to perform at January's inauguration ceremonies—all while posting significant gains (as many as 40 percentile points, in some cases) on all areas of standardized tests since enrolling at the school.

The Ron Clark Academy was also intended to serve as a model middle school for the nation, a place where teachers and student teachers could learn a variety of methods to help their students reach their potential. To this end, the school welcomes a limited number of educators from throughout the country and the world to observe instruction, interact with the faculty and students, and attend workshops. On January 22 (just hours hours after students and faculty from The Ron Clark Academy had returned from Washington, DC, where they performed their new song "Dear Obama" at four inaugural events), eight Athens Academy teachers and administrators—Jacqueline Land, Jennifer Rorabaugh, Stefan Billmeyer, Ginna Ezernack, Caroline Riddlehuber, Brenda Klein, Bob Sears, and Pat Cuneo—got an exciting first-hand look at the school in action.

While each school's mission is unique, the fundamental goal of providing the best possible education for each student is shared by all good schools. It quickly became clear to those who visited that what makes The Ron Clark Academy special is also what makes Athens Academy special: a unwavering commitment to students and to instruction of the highest quality. For the Athens Academy visitors, the excitement and creative ideas that the experience generated about teaching and motivating students to be active learners was palpable, and will undoubtedly result in even more creative and dynamic approaches to learning for Athens Academy's students. We are already looking into arranging a return trip for more teachers in the near future.

Athens Academy Represented at Science Conference

In early January, Dr. Anna Scott, Upper School science teacher and part-time assistant professor at the University of Georgia, presented two papers at the International Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE) Meeting in Hartford, Connecticut. Dr. J. Steve Oliver from the University of Georgia was a coauthor on both papers. ASTE promotes support and leadership for anyone involved in the professional development of science teachers and provides a forum for the dissemination of the latest research available in the effective teaching of science from elementary to the college level.

Dr. Scott presented one research paper describing how teaching experiences in science foster the development of intellectual independence and metacognition in students. The paper was titled "Science Majors Teaching Science in Elementary School: Understanding College Science Students' Learning Outcomes of a K-12, Classroom-Based Service-Learning Experience" and reported on outcomes related to Dr. Scott's dissertation work. This research has led Dr. Scott to include teaching lessons and service learning in her teaching at Athens Academy.

The second research paper entitled, "Coming through Customs: One PhD with two jobs shares her experiences at the crossroads between the science classroom and academia," provided the findings from her current study. This study was designed to explore the theory practice gap often referenced by in-service teachers and teacher educators alike. In this work, Dr. Scott seeks to help teachers and teacher educators reconnect around the common goal of producing a generation of critical, independent thinkers.

Media & Technology Club Chosen to Cover SAIS-NAIS Event

In January, four students from the Upper School Media and Technology Club were invited by Dr. Steve Robinson, president of the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) to attend their annual Winter Retreat, co-sponsored by the National Association of Independent School (NAIS) at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta. The students operated cameras and a sound board to capture video of six presentations by nationally recognized speakers. Sarah Yoder, Drew Jacoby, Jordan Richardson, and Torie Owers, along with their advisor Mike Callinan, had the opportunity to film presentations dealing with educational trends and issues facing independent schools in the region and across the nation and also met with Mr. Pat Bassett, NAIS president, and Mr. Abdul Yaro, NAIS regional director for the southern United States.

Pat Cuneo

SPORTS

Commitment to Excellence

Spartans Playing Sports in College

- **Baseball**
Charles Matthews
Georgia Southern
- **Crew**
Riva Denny
Boston University
- **Cross Country & Track**
Josh Deaton
Rhodes College

Dorothy Todd
Washington and Lee
- **Football**
Tyler Brantley, Andy Jarrett, Evans Wellborn
University of the South (Sewanee)

Derek Chuboff
Centre College

Chris Rogers
Georgia Southern

Thad Padgett
Shorter College

Brett Satterfield
Air Force

Jeff Turner
Maryville College
- **Golf**
Kent Crymes
Presbyterian College

Ryan Peters
Mercer University
- **Soccer**
Maggie Robinson
Harvard University
- **Swimming**
Karin Mullendore
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
- **Track**
Josh Deaton
Rhodes College
- **Volleyball**
Sammie Maddox
University of the South (Sewanee)

College Athletics Recruiting: Developing a Personal Inventory

The college recruiting process has not only developed into a highly competitive arena, it has become an intricate process that requires good planning, the development of an accurate information base and the willingness to take a proactive approach in carefully executing the recruiting plan.

Each prospect is unique in their goals, timing and student-athlete abilities, but there is one common thread that should run through every well planned college search: The development of a personal recruiting inventory.

Developing a personal inventory is a great exercise that can serve families well in organizing for the college quest, but it can also act as a tool that will develop a confident level of self awareness as the prospect moves forward in navigating a potentially daunting path. I suggest prospects develop their personal inventory based on information in the following areas:

Academic Goals: Goals give meaning to any worthy effort and personally, I feel the academic experience should be at the top of the priority list when it comes to the college quest. Roughly 75% of prospective college students are undecided about declaring a specific academic major and most colleges and universities do not require students to declare until after the sophomore year.

This is a great time for a “team discussion” where the prospect, parents and the high school guidance counselor can sit down and discuss the many options available to the prospect. You may not know the exact academic direction you plan to choose, but this is a great time to determine your strengths and areas of personal passion that will provide partial clarity to future possibilities.

Athletic Level of Play: Knowing your true level of athletic ability will help you narrow down your potential college choices. The important component here is being honest in the evaluation of your raw athletic talent and again, I suggest utilizing the team approach; this time bring in your high school and/or club coach to the family meeting!

By executing a fair and impartial assessment about your current and potential talent as an athlete, you can help avoid “spinning your wheels” when searching college options that are well above your talent level. There is nothing wrong with “reaching” toward college programs that are a level above your current ability, but you want to set realistic goals, especially as it pertains to being a potential impact player in the program.

NCAA Division Options: This is a great time to learn about the differences between NCAA Division 1, 2 and 3 athletics as well as investigating The NAIA and Junior College programs. Go to www.ncaa.org to learn about D-1, 2 and 3 options. For the NAIA, visit www.naia.cstv.com and to learn about Junior College athletics you can visit www.NJCAA.org.

“Options” is the operative word here and whether you would like to play at a big time Division 1 school or for a smaller division 3 program depends on many factors. For instance, if gaining an athletics scholarship is a critical element in your decision to attend college, the Division 3 option will need to be eliminated since these institutions do not offer athletics aid. On the other hand, if you are looking for a well balanced student-athlete experience, Division 3 schools are outstanding choices and should be at the top of your list!

Geographic Location: How far are you willing to move away from home and still enjoy your college experience? This might sound like a marginal area of concern, but for 19 years as a division 1 college coach, I witnessed my fair share of homesick athletes!

Once again, this is a great time for self reflection. Determine first if you are more of a “home body” or an “explorer.” Some kids can’t wait to shuffle cross country to enjoy their college experience, while others are very content in attending a school that is only a few hours drive from home. Either way, I suggest taking some time to determine your geographic “comfort level.”

Size of School: When I was an undergraduate student-athlete, I shared a campus with 35,000 other students. It was an urban environment that was invigorating, exciting and sometimes overwhelming, but it was a very busy environment that was the right fit for me.

Do you wonder if the grass is greener on the other side of the road? I suggest you get out there and take a look! Begin by visiting 3 local colleges that consist of 3 different populations: (Small (up to 5,000 students), Medium (up to 15,000 students) and Large (over 20,000 students). Spend a half day on each campus and try to get a general feel for the environment. Talk to 3-5 students at each institution and get their opinion. At the end of each visit you will sense a “gut” feeling for each institution that will serve as a good reference point.

By developing a college quest inventory the prospect will begin to grow a basic awareness about the college recruiting quest. Firstly, he will have a greater appreciation for the multitude of college options that are available to him and secondly, he will begin to develop a stronger sense of self awareness and self confidence as he begins to execute his plan that will lead to a very important life decision.

The college recruiting process is competitive, grueling and sometimes frustrating. It can be tempered with disappointment and filled with answers the prospect may not want to hear. That being said, the college search should be an exhilarating time in the lives of our children and the more concrete information they gather and the better prepared they are to successfully execute their individual plans, the greater the chance for a more positive the experience.

--Tom Kovic, Director
Victory Collegiate Consulting

Quote of the Month: Make it Happen

“Greatness is not in where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it--but sail we must and not drift, nor lie at anchor.”

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

NOTES *From the Headmaster*



“Change has the potential to bring us closer together and to help us respect each other, regardless of our particular beliefs or views.”

The Climate of Change

On January 20, students, faculty, administrators, and even parents gathered together all over the Athens Academy campus to watch the inauguration of Barack Obama. No one can deny the historical importance of that day, and it is exciting that as a community we were able to share that moment. Historian George B. Tindall observed that “to change is not necessarily to lose one’s identity; to change sometimes is to find it.” Change has the potential to bring us closer together and to help us respect each other, regardless of our particular beliefs or views.

This year, changes in technology enabled us to do things we weren’t previously able to do. In the Lower School, students from pre-first through fourth grades were able to watch the inauguration live on a giant screen in the Lower School Hall. Students from the Middle and Upper Schools gathered in the Presentation Hall to watch. Many students were able to view the inauguration on the internet from their laptops. And no doubt, across the country and the world, people of all different colors, religions, and beliefs tuned in to see the new American president.

In addition to viewing the inauguration, students have studied this election in classrooms all over our campus, with teachers underscoring the historical significance. In political science classrooms, students read the inaugural address. In European history classes, they compared the politics of today with those of the Enlightenment. In Middle School chapel programs, students and teachers discussed the magnitude of the freedom to vote and the responsibilities of that freedom. In addition, eighth grader Morgan Anderson and her father, Neville, had the opportunity to attend the inauguration, and they graciously shared their experiences with the Middle School.

In a democratic republic, schools must provide a forum for the full and fair discussion of the great complexities of American politics. Through our studies of history and government, we prepare ourselves to become responsible citizens of a republic. Teachers and students alike must strive to avoid rhetorical excess and intolerant expression, which damage both the mission of education and the ideals of our nation. While rhetoric and intolerance may be prevalent in the media, they have no place at Athens Academy. The wise exercise of free speech in a school allows for the free exchange and critical examination of the American political tradition and contemporary politics, strengthens our system, and teaches us respect for the views of others.

We are fortunate to come together as a school community to celebrate these great American traditions. Let’s continue to strive to foster an environment that promotes respect and civic virtue while always reserving the right to be members of the loyal opposition. All of us will benefit.

Robert Chamber, Jr.



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