



  
**BETHESDA**  
ACADEMY

**2013-2014  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**BETHESDA-UNION SOCIETY OF SAVANNAH, INC.  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**2013-2014 Term**

Officers	Jamie Deen Maggie Gill Nancy Gooch Lee Hughes Michael Kaigler Cliff McCurry Paul Pressly Kathy Pacifici Swann Seiler Scott Snipes	Ex-officio Anne Coakley, President The Women's Board of Bethesda David Tribble, President Bethesda Academy
Mills Fleming, Chairman John Helmken, Vice-Chairman Trey Cook, Secretary Mike Viers, Treasurer		

**2014-2015 Term**

Officers	Jamie Deen Maggie Gill Lee Hughes Kevin Jackson Michael Kaigler Joe Marinelli Cliff McCurry Paul Pressly Kathy Pacifici Swann Seiler Scott Snipes	Ex-officio Anne Coakley, President The Women's Board of Bethesda David Tribble, President Bethesda Academy
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**BETHESDA ACADEMY PROVIDES YOUNG MEN  
A TRANSFORMATIVE SECOND CHANCE AT  
SUCCESS BY PROMOTING AND INSTILLING, A  
LOVE OF GOD, A LOVE OF LEARNING, AND A  
STRONG WORK ETHIC.**



## FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN



Dear Friends of Bethesda Academy,

Each year as we create a new annual report, we are given an opportunity to pause and reflect on Bethesda's many impressive successes and challenges faced along the way. I am especially pleased to highlight a few of the school's most proud moments.

During this fiscal year, Bethesda Academy successfully earned its AdvancEd accreditation, a rigorous review process that underscores our commitment to further advancing students' pursuit of academic excellence by ensuring that the school is continually improving.

In April, Bethesda's Chess Team competed in an intense three-day tournament with more than 900 of the nation's top student chess players at the 2014 National High School Championship in San Diego, Ca. The Chess Team earned top honors ranking 9th place in the nation in the Under 800 Division, 13th place in the Under 1200 Division and 28th place for individual play in the Under 1200 Division in the nation.

New this year was the inaugural Bethesda Academy Scholarship Gala which helped raise critical scholarship dollars to benefit the Gateway Scholarship Fund, an essential component of Bethesda's generous financial aid program, and featured Savannah visionary and philanthropist, Bob Jepson, as guest speaker.

Bethesda's students were treated to the Savannah VOICEExperience. This was incredible opportunity for Bethesda students to hear opera, musical theatre and popular song performances for the first time, exposing them to a broader base of classical performing arts.

Over the last year, my time spent as your chairman of the board has been one of the most rewarding and inspiring responsibilities I've had the privilege of fulfilling. As Bethesda nears its 275th anniversary, the staff, school administrators and board of governors will continue to promote honest and transparent communications to the patrons of Bethesda Academy and help foster a thriving educational environment for our students before sending them out into the world as men.

I invite you to enjoy this year's annual report and to learn more about the school's rich history and continued dedication to our young men.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Mills Fleming".

T. Mills Fleming  
Chairman, Board of Governors  
Bethesda-Union Society of Savannah, Inc.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



"So, what's going on at Bethesda?" "How many boys do you have now?" and "How many boys actually live out there?" The questions are offered with a sincere curiosity, and I go through my answers point by point. "Well, we have about 100 boys, in grades 6-12, and about 40 students live in our cottages." For some kind people, those answers are enough. But, I want to say so much more about the opportunities and resources being offered to our students, and how 85% of our graduates go on to college, and the success of the chess team, and our insistence on values based education. Oh...and just turn me loose on the work-study program, and over one half of our students compete athletically, and...and...and. My elevator speech just went from thirty seconds to sixty minutes.

So, what is going on at Bethesda? Here is what I know. Teachers get to know their students. Classrooms are small. It is hard to hide in a class of no more than twelve other learners. A few boys have just discovered that their reading problems are a product of dyslexia. Bethesda Academy can help them. They can stay in our school. Relationships are being built. Conversations are taking place daily about concerns, fears, hopes and desires. Cottage teachers, classroom teachers, coaches, chaplain, administrators and work mentors are addressing real life choices with our students. New trajectories are being proposed. College choices are being discussed, goals are being developed, and next steps after Bethesda Academy are becoming clearer. A brotherhood is being formed. Teammates, roommates, workmates are coming together in victory and defeat, negotiating shared space, delivering on a time sensitive job that needs to be done before heading back to class or cottage.

And on most days, Bethesda Academy is about joy. It is the kind of joy that a young boy expresses when he knows that for some reason, he finally fits. He fits in school, he fits with his peers, he fits on the farm, or in the wildlife program...he just simply and powerfully belongs. He belongs to a community devoted to helping him achieve and find success, regardless of past challenges. He fits, because at Bethesda, his family's ability to pay tuition does not limit his access to an outstanding education. He fits because he discovers a skill that only Bethesda has helped him identify. He fits, because school is no long drudgery. He fits because our culture has been helping young boys 'fit' for 274 years.

So, what is happening at Bethesda? As you look through this annual report, I trust the mission and current programs of this very special school will inspire you. We honor our traditions, recast them into the transformative power these values still hold today, and then we watch our young boys grow into men of purpose and character. "A love for God, a Love for Learning, and a Strong Work Ethic," still guides our thinking and our reason for being. To our supporters, volunteers and donors, thank you so much for honoring Bethesda Academy with your trust and your steadfast gifts. On behalf of our students, staff, and board, we truly could not keep this amazing mission moving forward without your faithfulness. God's Peace and Blessings,

T. David Tribble, D.Min.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING



When you choose to make an investment, it is typically because you want to make an impact. You expect positive results. Investing in a school is no different. When you choose to invest in Bethesda Academy, we take those expectations to heart. Not only do we want to express our appreciation for your investment; we are proud to share your impact.

There is a considerable amount of information involved when compiling the best blend of advancements of our school and enterprises, celebrating our students' successes, and reporting our fiscal position in a comprehensive and transparent manner. So, each year, while compiling this report is a bit daunting, it is also proves to be an exciting time of reflection. Pictures help us tell last year's story, but they cannot fully capture the essence of being on campus with such dynamic students, faculty, and staff. If you have not visited Bethesda Academy recently, I encourage you to schedule a time to see what we do - in living color.

Bethesda provides students the freedom to excel in new ways. Teachers often see potential and encourage students to stretch themselves. For instance, two teachers decided to try a Gaming Club. The teachers were not programmers, but they knew the students were interested in gaming. In May, the club presented the game they created - *they created*. These young men were writing code! The game had levels and they even designed a background that incorporated our athletic logo! After the presentation, people were invited to play the game. *Who knew our guys could do that?* Another group of teachers established a Drama Club. The group offered *two* productions during the year. They entertained us with a Christmas comedy titled "Santa Man", which included cameos of many classic characters - the Grinch, George Bailey, Charlie Brown, even Chuck Norris showed up to help Santa Man get in shape. In the spring, they performed a series of scenes from different plays, including a fight sequence from "Romeo and Juliet." Again, *who knew?!*

Marketing what we do is not a challenge; it is invigorating! Development, on the other hand, often has challenges. But 2014 saw an unexpected development challenge: the \$58 million in education tax credits (GOAL Scholarships) were all claimed within 3 weeks. We had budgeted \$400,000 in GOAL Scholarships, but when the credits ran out, we were only about halfway there. The credits were simply gone. We had to work hard in other development areas and push even harder on our enterprises. Thank you for helping us bridge the "GOAL gap". And if you haven't already, please apply for your 2015 tax credit today!

Because of your support, Bethesda Academy continues providing students a college preparatory education, enhanced with the uniqueness of formalized Work-Study/work ethic training, grounded in a commitment to spiritual formation, and punctuated by clubs, athletics, chess boards, and, yes, chickens, and goats. Today's Bethesda Academy proudly embodies "a love of God, a love of learning, and a strong work ethic" every day, in every way. As you look through this report, I hope you will see how your investment is utilized and valued. And when you meet our students, I believe your impact will be evident.

Andrea B. Dove







## ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS: STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Surrounded by his family and his football teammates, Eddie White III signed his commitment letter to attend Stetson University in Florida. Eddie earned both athletic and academic scholarships. It was a proud day for the White family as well as all of the Blazer Nation. Eddie was also the Valedictorian for the Class of 2014.



At the US Chess Federation National Championship in San Diego, Tyler Gregory placed 28th individually out of 221 opponents. Tyler demonstrated a gift for chess and his competitive nature - both during chess matches and on the football field where he helped anchor the offensive line.



Pictured with Savannah City Alderman Van Johnson, Nathan West (l) and Sean Carter (r) were inducted into the Chatham County Youth Commission. The CCYC is a civic engagement/governmental leadership organization for high school students. It has been recognized as one of the premier organizations in the country. Both Nathan and Sean represented Bethesda Academy well. We appreciate their service and commitment to CCYC.



As a 9th grader, Ian Carter, not only participated in the Enmark Bridge Run 5k in December, he came in 2nd in his age group! Ian shows great discipline as a runner. Along with being one of the distance runners for Track & Field, Ian was a member of the Blazer Baseball Team.



Starting very early was 7th grader Ryan Little. Ryan began competing in triathlons this year and this photo is from his first one, held on Tybee Island. Ryan is also a member of the Blazer Golf Team.

EDDIE  
WHITE  
CLASS OF '14

TYLER  
GREGORY  
CLASS OF '15

NATHAN  
WEST  
AND  
SEAN  
CARTER  
CLASS OF '16

IAN  
CARTER  
CLASS OF '17

RYAN  
LITTLE  
CLASS OF '19



## ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS: STUDENT RECOGNITIONS



In February, the Kiwanis Club recognized Rasheed Blake as one of 16 Star Students throughout Savannah's public and private schools. The STAR Student achievement is awarded to seniors who are in the top 10% of their class and earned the highest scores on the SAT. Rasheed was also the Student Council President, a Student Ambassador, and the Salutatorian for the Class of 2014.



**RASHEED  
BLAKE**  
CLASS OF '14



As a freshman, Nicholas Brown was awarded a BP-GOAL Scholarship for the 2013-14 academic year. BP-GOAL scholarship recipients are from areas in Georgia where BP and its subsidiary Castrol do business. The scholarship recipients demonstrate drive, motivation and strengths in math, science and technologies important to the energy industry. The certificate was presented to Nicholas at the 2013 President's Dinner by Hope Lanier, Director of Government and Public Affairs for Southeast BP America and Chuck Moore, President, Smith Service Oil in Savannah.

**NICHOLAS  
BROWN**  
CLASS OF '17

Senior Jabari Gaston took 1st place in Long Jump in the GISA State Track Meet - making him a 2-time State Champion. Jabari was also a formidable defensive end on the Blazer football team and a member of our nationally ranked Chess Team. Above all, Jabari is a great big brother, as demonstrated when he invited his little sister onto the award podium at the GISA State Track Meet!



**JABARI  
GASTON**  
CLASS OF '14



Senior Alex Casey also earned a proud spot at the GISA State Track Meet. Alex placed 3rd in the state in Shot Put. This was Alex's second year on the GISA State Track Meet award podium, as he placed in the 2013 meet. Like his friend and classmate, Jabari, Alex was also a standout on the football field and our nationally ranked Chess Team.

**ALEX  
CASEY**  
CLASS OF '14



## ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS: 2014 REFLECTION WALK

During this last campus walk as students of Bethesda Academy, the young men, along with faculty and staff, reflect on lessons learned, experiences shared, and relationships established.

WHITEFIELD  
CHAPEL



WORK STUDY



ECKBURG  
EDUCATION  
BUILDING



GYMNASIUM

ALUMNI  
COTTAGE



PROCESSION TO  
LADY  
HUNTINGDON  
AMPHITHEATER



## ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS: 2014 GRADUATION



“ I could not have asked for a better group of guys...Thank you all again for coming out and helping us celebrate this milestone in our lives. We appreciate your presence.  
*Rasheed Blake, Salutatorian  
Class of 2014* ”

“ A love of God, a love of learning, and a strong work ethic is what they taught us here at Bethesda - and once we learn to apply it in our lives, there is nothing that can stop us from succeeding.  
*Eddie White III, Valedictorian  
Class of 2014* ”

The highlight of each academic year is the Commencement Ceremony. The Class of 2014 was comprised of 12 young men - each unique and each dynamic with the gifts developed and shared while attending Bethesda Academy. This class helped formalize and implement a Student Council. They were eager to embrace traditions and help create new ones. They were all hard-working, focused young men who we know will be successful as they enter life beyond the historic arch of Bethesda Academy.





## ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS: 2014 SPECIAL GUESTS & PRESENTATIONS



In March 2014, The **Savannah VOICE Festival** began a wonderful relationship with the Bethesda Academy. The Savannah VOICE Festival received a grant from Gulfstream and was able to extend its community outreach program to work with the students of Bethesda. Community outreach is also supported by grants from the Savannah Friends of Music, Schneider Logistics and VOICE Society members. The two Festival artists who ran the two-day workshop at Bethesda, which culminated in a wonderful performance, shared their experiences with our school.



Mezzo-Soprano Jessica Ann Best has been an artist with VOICEexperience for seven years. As an artist, teacher and Education and Outreach Coordinator, Jessica was thrilled to work at Bethesda. She says, "I am always so eager to bring music to Savannah with my outreach team! We can't wait to spread the joy of singing and it is always a privilege to be with the Bethesda Academy whose work I have long admired. At the beginning of the workshop some of the boys were shy but as they soon overcame that and their natural vocal and acting ability as well as exuberant enthusiasm soon shone through."

Paulo Lapa is a Portuguese lyric tenor who, after completing his studies in Music and Singing Performance in Portugal, moved to Boston where he developed a successful relationship with the VOICEexperience Foundation and Savannah Voice Festival singing in concerts, opera and musical scenes, private performances and outreach events throughout the USA. Paulo says, "I developed a

great bond with the young men of Bethesda during the workshop. From the beginning of our time together, I felt the responsibility of being a good male role model to show them that singing and expressing talent through music is appropriate for young men and am delighted that I was able to encourage them to really express themselves through our work together."

Bethesda is always grateful for the support of individuals and companies in our region who fund our mission and our students truly embraced the introduction to the inspirational music and training offered by The Savannah VOICE Festival.



“I was so proud of them as they joined me in performing *O Sole Mio* at our final performance for other students, family members and friends.

Paulo Lapa  
VOICEexperience Foundation  
Savannah VOICE Festival



## ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS: 2014 SPECIAL GUESTS & PRESENTATIONS

It was an exciting day on campus when we were joined by **Stedman Graham** and a few of his friends. The student body had the opportunity to listen to some powerful messages. Mr. Graham gave each student a copy of his book, *Teens Can Make It Happen*, and then patiently autographed them. Following the book signing, Mr. Graham joined the students for lunch in the Dining Hall, where he was hosted by the Student Council officers.



**STEDMAN  
GRAHAM**

Our **PIKE** friends from Armstrong State University were on campus in December for their annual PIKES vs Blazers basketball game and dinner. Afterwards, the PIKES made a donation to the Blazer Athletic program.

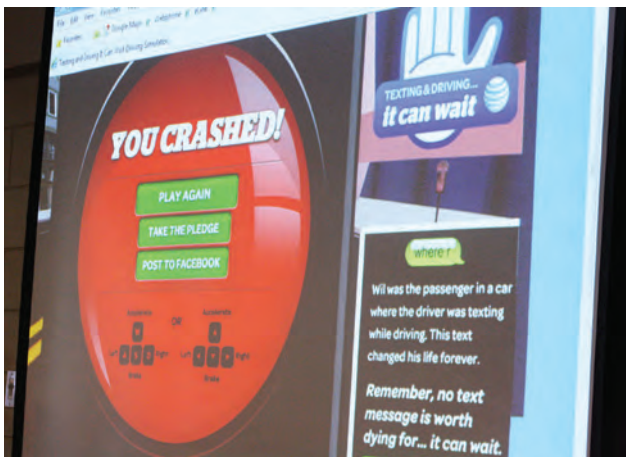


**PI KAPPA  
ALPHA  
ARMSTRONG  
CHAPTER**



Thanks to Gary Sanchez with **AT&T**, our students had an opportunity to learn more about the dangers of texting while driving. The "It Can Wait" presentation included a driving simulator that required students to either send or respond to text messages while operating a vehicle. It was an eye-opening experience how quickly accidents can happen. Afterwards, Representative Buddy Carter joined Mr. Sanchez for a check presentation.

**AT&T  
"IT CAN WAIT"**





## ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS: 2014 SPECIAL GUESTS & PRESENTATIONS

The **Stuart F. Sligh, Jr. Memorial Foundation** made its first award donation to the Blazer football team. Stuart F. Sligh, Jr. (Stu) was a Savannah Country Day honor roll student and star quarterback who tragically died after a car accident in 2012. During the presentation, Stuart and Mary Brook Sligh shared a powerful video about Stu. The Blazers are proud to be a part of Stu's ongoing legacy.



The **Bethesda Alumni Association** organized a chicken dinner fund raiser to help support the Bethesda Chess Team's travel expenses to the US Chess Federation National Competition in San Diego, CA, where the Blazers improved on their impressive national ranking.



As part of the Grand-reopening of a renovated location, Nina Gompels of **McDonald's - NTG Enterprises** asked local business leaders to come work "On the Line" during lunch to raise money for their chosen non-profit organization. Bethesda Board members Trey Cook and Swann Seiler took the challenge on behalf of Bethesda Academy!



**St. John's Episcopal Church** held its annual Oyster Roast and BBQ Dinner at the Bethesda Pavilion. Following the event, Scott Howard and Alex Jarman presented the proceeds to Dr. David Tribble on behalf of the St. John's Episcopal Church.



## ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS: 274TH ANNIVERSARY



### ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

As part of Anniversary Day, students were presented various awards, ranging from college scholarships, to character, to academic improvement. **The Women's Board of Bethesda** also announced the winners of their annual essay contest. A representative from the **George K. Gannam American Legion Post #184** attended with an award which recognized the student who best exemplified Americanism and a love of God and Country.



### WILLIAM BARTRAM TRAIL DEDICATION



The **Bartram Trail Conference's** research revealed that William Bartram, noted botanist, artist, and explorer, visited Bethesda in 1765 as part of his southeast journey. Bartram made a special note of Bethesda's mulberry trees. The BTC, along with **The Women's Board of Bethesda**, erected an historical marker on campus for the William Bartram Trail.



### ALUMNI- STUDENT BASEBALL GAME & LUNCHEON

After a highly competitive softball game, Bethesda's Alumni and students all gathered in the Diamond Dining Hall for the traditional fried chicken lunch.



## UNIQUELY BETHESDA: FOCUS ON VALUES



Teaching students in the classroom has provided definitive, measurable data of our students' progress. As we looked toward the 2013-14 school year, Bethesda reflected on how we measure the progress of our students' **"Love of God."** How could we determine Bethesda's impact on the spiritual formation of our students? How do we support and nourish a young man's spirit so his natural behaviors routinely reflected a love of God?

The picture became much larger when we considered routine behaviors and reactions. We introduced the student body to the STAR method: which is Stop Think & Act Responsibly. Developing the habit of "stopping" to think before "acting", leads to more responsible behavior. The students were reminded to STAR during the course of the school year and it made for thoughtful reactions.

The students studied Henry Blackaby's book, *The Seven Steps to Knowing, Being, and Doing the Will of God*, and we focused on one step for each month of the school year. Steps included "God is always at work around us" and "God pursues a love relationship with us that is real and personal."

Bethesda's Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) membership continued to thrive, with great participation from our student-athletes. One of the annual highlights is the FCA Football Camp held during the summer. This has been a way for the Blazer football team to both develop athletic skills through scrimmages and explore and develop spiritual skills during the off-field FCA group activities and presentations.



We further developed and encouraged our students' volunteer efforts. Students made weekly visits to Hesse Elementary School to serve as Book Buddies to 1st graders and bi-weekly visits to the Humane Society of Greater Savannah. They raised money for Breast Cancer Awareness and served as "Bell Ringers" for The Salvation Army. They volunteered for special events on campus – from our own President's Dinner to Super Museum Sunday, to The Savannah Food & Wine Festival and the Historic Savannah Foundation Gala.



We recognized that another year of instilling a **"Love of Learning,"** meant embarking on another year where we stretched ourselves - creatively and academically. We continued to build upon visionaries, much like Reverend Whitefield, while guiding young men in their studies for their next academic venture – whether that be moving into the 7th grade, 10th grade, or on to higher education beyond the arch of Bethesda Academy.





Preparing young men to be productive citizens in the future challenges educators to know how to reach them now. We continued to study young men, so we can teach them in the best way possible. Our focus on “boy-friendly” instruction has a proven advantage. The Australian Council for Educational Research reported that students in single gender classrooms scored between 15%-22% higher in academic performance than their co-ed counterparts.

At Bethesda Academy, we continued to create classrooms that allow young men to thrive, learn and continue to be risk-takers. We continued to challenge our students to take academic risks with confidence, just as they take risks on the athletic fields.



We remained true to our charge to instill **“A Strong Work Ethic”** as we enhanced our Work-Study curriculum to include some of the measurements used by our friends at Berea College, a work-study university in Kentucky. Students were evaluated daily on attendance, accountability, teamwork, initiative, and respect.

Bethesda students grew better acquainted with the many jobs available on our 650 acre campus. During the 2013-14 school year, these Work-Study areas included the Farm & Garden, Wildlife Sanctuary & Preserve, Cafeteria, Ford Museum, Maintenance, Campus Rentals, School Office, and a few others.

Occasionally, students had to be reminded that work is not punitive; it is a way of life! A strong work ethic is critical in college and sought after in the workplace. Our friends

in the business community have repeatedly echoed that sentiment and their support of this specific component of our curriculum began to take root.

Work-Study served multiple purposes. It supported our campus enterprises and their critical annual revenue and continued to showcase Bethesda as a unique educational opportunity in Savannah. But more importantly were the student benefits: hands-on work ethic development, enhanced mentor/mentee relationships, real-life business perspective, and an appreciation for how their involvement in Work-Study provided financial aid for their families.





## UNIQUELY BETHESDA: CAMPUS ENTERPRISES

Bethesda's growing campus enterprises provide a Work-Study curriculum for our high school students, as well as a stream of revenue that directly benefits our financial aid program. During the 2013-14 fiscal year, sales, rentals, and enterprises contributed more than \$271,000 in revenue. Finding ways to creatively utilize our campus resources has inspired our staff and students to venture into programming that truly is "uniquely Bethesda."



From milking our dwarf Nigerian goats for specialty goat milk soaps, to gathering free range chicken eggs, and working with cattle, to harvesting produce and even wildflowers, **Bethesda Farm & Gardens** continued to provide a wide array of learning opportunities for the Farm & Garden work study students.

Bethesda is proud of the new relationship formed with Fort Stewart's 82nd Civil Affairs Battalion. These soldiers made multiple trips to campus for Veterinary Readiness and Training Exercises. These hands-on training workshops for soldiers also served as training opportunities for our students.



During the 2013-14 academic year, the **William H. Ford, Sr., Museum & Visitor's Center**, in conjunction with campus tours, became a focus for outreach and education. As needed and as permitted by academic schedules, students helped as greeters and occasionally helped facilitate tours.

Encouraging student involvement served multiple purposes. Students became better engaged with Bethesda's history and began to develop public speaking and presentation skills.



For museum information, visit [www.BethesdaMuseum.org](http://www.BethesdaMuseum.org)



## UNIQUELY BETHESDA: CAMPUS ENTERPRISES



In an effort to better manage staff and student time, as well as an active hunting season, the **Wildlife Sanctuary & Preserve** transitioned into a private membership organization. Within three weeks of announcing the memberships, all had been claimed and a waiting list was established.

Students again took an active role in the Wildlife Sanctuary & Preserve, not only in preparing the preserve area for hunting season, but in preparing for hunts, serving as guides, and even leading the pre- and post- prayers for the hunters. The WS&P members enjoyed working with the students. Some members even became additional mentors to our students.



**Campus Rentals** also became a more concentrated focus for revenue. Bethesda's campus served as the venue for the Historic Savannah Foundation Gala and we partnered with the Savannah Food & Wine Festival as their venue for the 2013 festival kick-off. The Scottish Games were held in a newly opened area, named Bynuh's Field, along the marsh-side of the campus.

In addition to weddings, receptions and other corporate events, many people were able to enjoy the picturesque setting while knowing their rental fees contributed to student scholarships. Once word spread, Bethesda also became a popular field trip destination for other schools and summer camp programs, as well as many adult groups.



For Campus Rental and Tour information, visit [www.BethesdaRentals.org](http://www.BethesdaRentals.org)





## SPECIAL EVENTS: 5TH ANNUAL SPORTING CLAYS



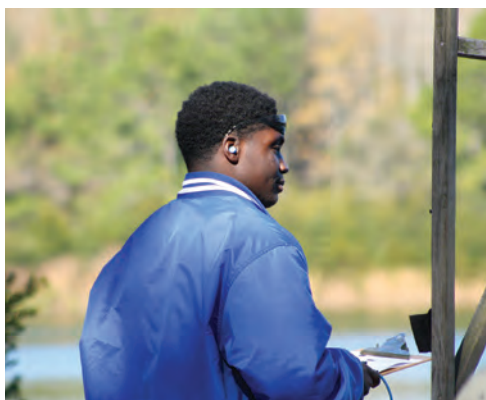
Bethesda continued to look for creative ways to maintain and expand upon our generous financial aid program; therefore, special events took place throughout the year. These events have proven to be of great benefit to our fundraising efforts and our “friend-raising” efforts as well. They provide our students an opportunity to interact with and thank local and regional business and community leaders. Time spent with Bethesda’s students proves to be an impactful return on investment for the participants.

The **5th Annual Bethesda Sporting Clays Tournament** took place in January at Forest City Gun Club. The tournament continued to grow and some of Bethesda’s students worked as trappers for the event. While the students missed their classes for the day, it was a full day of work - and fantastic food! The event included a wild game lunch as well as a post-shoot cocktail reception featuring wild game hors d’oeuvres. We would like to thank **Blanchard & Calhoun Commercial** and **Kroger** for their presenting sponsorship of the tournament.

In an effort to maximize the fundraising events, staff and volunteers evaluated many options. The first step was to create more time between our two main special events. The decision was made to hold Sporting Clays in the fall and the Scholarship Gala in the spring. Moving forward, the Bethesda Sporting Clays will be held in November.



“ The Bethesda Sporting Clays event gives the shooting community a day of fun and an opportunity to support a great cause; Bethesda Boys! That’s a win-win. ”  
**Dale Bouchillon**  
 Bethesda Sporting Clays  
 Participant & Committee Member





## SPECIAL EVENTS: 2014 SCHOLARSHIP GALA



The **2014 Scholarship Gala** came to fruition largely because of an anonymous family who stepped forward to help establish a fundraising event that would also reinforce our brand as a college preparatory school for young men. Bethesda needed something that would appeal to a broader audience than other sport-themed events. In May of 2014, Bethesda Academy was proud to host its inaugural Scholarship Gala. Incorporating the Scholarship Gala on the eve of our Commencement Ceremony made for a magical experience. Approximately 175 guests joined the Class of 2014 and their parents for an evening of fine dining and a keynote address, followed by live music and dancing.

Bethesda was honored to have Mr. Robert S. Jepson, Jr., a longtime supporter and advocate, serve as the keynote speaker for the evening. Highlights from Mr. Jepson's address to the soon-to-be graduates included: to dream and be creative; commit to excellence, live with integrity; and to genuinely care for the people around them. Mr. Jepson acknowledged the students' hard work and gave a final charge for them to enjoy life and make a difference.

Bethesda is incredibly thankful to the many sponsors who stepped in to ensure the success of the Scholarship Gala. Word has spread and we look forward to hosting this annual event in celebration of Bethesda Academy and each graduating class, while raising funds that will allow Bethesda to continue offering uncommonly generous financial aid and tuition assistance to young men and their families.



Gala guests enjoyed a video introduction to the Class of 2014. This video was created and produced by Bethesda and truly captured the seniors' spirits. Scan the code with your smart phone to watch the video!



“ It was indeed an evening of joy and celebration of accomplishment on the part of the students and their tutors. I was proud to meet your fine students and their families, particularly proud of their hard work and the level of success they have attained, and as always, happy to observe that Bethesda Academy is continuing to fulfill its mission of forging in the minds and hearts of its students a keen sense of self and the desire for a purposeful future.

*Robert S. Jepson  
Keynote Speaker*

”



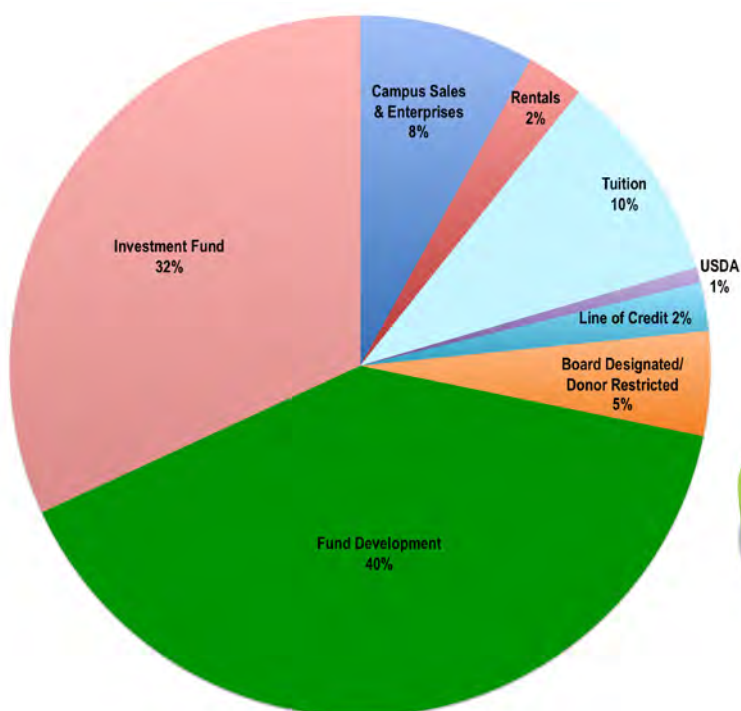
# FINANCIAL REPORT: 2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR

The Board of Governors, Finance Committee, Endowment Trust Committee, and staff spent considerable time preparing and reviewing the 2013-14 budget. With aggressive fundraising efforts, careful spending, and prudent use of our line of credit, Bethesda Academy continued to deliver organizational excellence with accountability and efficiency. Bethesda also received an annual independent audit, which has consistently been given an unqualified audit opinion.

Even with a balanced budget, it is important to remember that *tuition revenues represented only 10% of the operating budget* of the school. Bethesda Academy offers a generous financial aid program and, as a result, every student receives tuition support through financial aid. The majority of these awards are made possible through our annual endowment disbursement and contributions received through Annual Giving, which includes: Annual Fund/Gateway Scholarship, Georgia GOAL Scholarship, and Special Events. Supporting those development efforts continues to be essential in bridging the gap between tuition revenues and the full cost of a Bethesda Academy education. As we move forward, Bethesda's staff and Board of Governors will remain committed to being good stewards of the resources invested in us, committed to our mission, and committed to making decisions which positively impact the lives of the young men of Bethesda Academy.

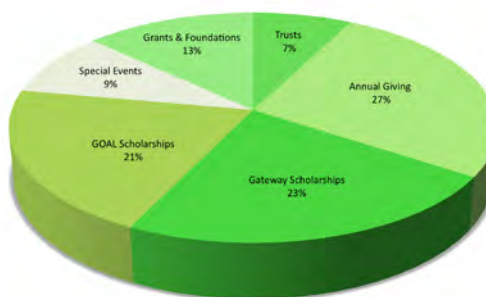
## Financial Summary June 30, 2014 (Unaudited)

### Revenue



Campus Sales & Enterprises	\$271,229
Rentals	\$89,308
Tuition	\$326,911
USDA	\$23,795
Line of Credit Advance	\$75,000
Board Designated/Donor Restricted	\$161,846
Investment Fund	\$1,070,589
Fund Development	\$1,340,159

**Total Revenue: \$3,358,837**

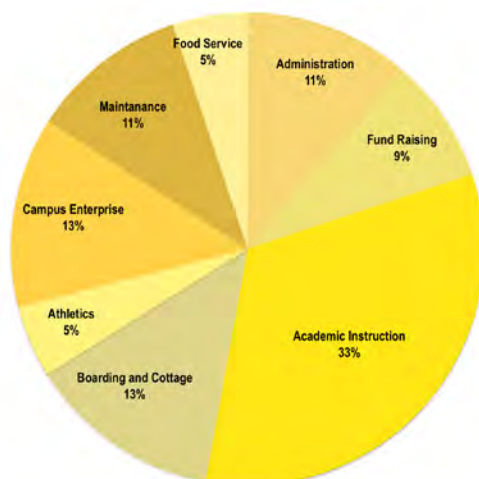


### Fund Development Detail

Trusts	\$101,712
Annual Giving	\$356,994
Gateway Scholarships	\$308,015
GOAL Scholarships *	\$276,366
Grants/Foundations	\$175,426
Special Events	\$121,426

**Fund Development total: \$1,340,159**

### Expenses



Administration	\$370,354
Fund Raising	\$283,177
Academic Instruction	\$1,083,628
Boarding and Cottage	\$435,825
Athletics	\$162,490
Campus Enterprise	\$428,954
Maintenance	\$354,486
Food Service	\$168,927

**Total Expense: \$3,287,841**

Salaries and Benefits are included in the respective cost center.  
Salaries and Benefits totaled \$2,062,573 (63%) of the expense budget.

Bethesda Academy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





Bethesda Academy is extremely grateful for the financial support we receive each year. Whether donors contribute through the Annual Fund, Gateway Scholarship, memorial/honorarium gifts, or participate in our special events, the students of Bethesda are the beneficiaries. Our students, staff, and Board of Governors are thankful for the ongoing support of the following companies and individuals whose contributions were received during the 2013-14 fiscal year (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014).

## HABERSHAM SOCIETY

Named for James Habersham, a life-long friend of Rev. George Whitefield. Habersham chose Bethesda's picturesque site along the Moon River where construction began in 1740. Habersham also served as the acting governor of Georgia in the early 1770s.

### *\$50,000 and above*

Anonymous  
Louise Bowels Cunningham Trust  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hepper

### *\$25,000 - \$49,999*

Gulfstream Aerospace Corp.  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Jepson, Jr.  
Mrs. Charles L. Sparkman  
United Way of the Coastal Empire

### *\$10,000 - \$24,999*

Anderson Family Foundation  
The Echlin Foundation  
Felton Farrar Trust  
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Mr. and Mrs. Tom Webster  
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### *\$5,000 - \$9,999*

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Savannah Benevolent Association  
Skidaway Island United Methodist Church  
Dr. and Mrs. T. David Tribble  
The Donald E. Ward Family Trust



# PHILANTHROPY: 2013-2014

## MILLEDGE SOCIETY

\$2,500 - \$4,999

*Named for Richard Milledge, one of the three named founding members of the Bethesda-Union Society.*

Abbott Fund  
AT&T  
Bethesda Alumni Association, Inc.  
Brasseler USA  
The Cartledge Foundation, Inc.  
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Mr. and Mrs. Trey Cook  
Mr. James Eldon Davidson  
Mr. Cliff W. Draughn  
Mrs. William H. Ford, Sr.  
Ms. Joan P. Forrestel  
Georgia Power Company  
Glad To Be Here Foundation  
Dr. Melanie Helmken and  
Mr. John C. Helmken II  
Historic Savannah Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Cliff McCurry  
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Monroe  
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at Armstrong  
Mrs. IB Raee  
The Savannah Community Foundation  
Seacrest Partners Inc.  
Society of Colonial Wars in the States  
St. John's Men's Club



## SHEFTALL SOCIETY

\$1,000 - \$2,499

*Named for Benjamin Sheftall, co-founder of the Bethesda-Union Society. Sheftall was involved with the establishment of Congregation Mickve Israel, and actively supported Revolutionary War efforts.*

Anderson Family Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Balloun  
SunTrust Banks  
Ms. Lisa J. Barry  
Bernie's Too, Inc.  
Blue Force Gear, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Everette Boan  
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Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Bradley, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Browning  
Colonial Foundation, Inc.



Mr. and Mrs. Dale Critz, Sr.  
Mr. William Donahue  
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Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Eagle  
Dr. Marianne Fleming and  
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The Gardner Family Foundation, Inc.  
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Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Hepper, Jr.  
Hunter Maclean  
Isle of Hope United Methodist Church  
J.C. Lewis Foundation, Inc.  
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The Rotary Club of Skidaway Island  
Savannah Adult Baseball League  
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Mr. and Mrs. Philip Solomons, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Veazey, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Viers  
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony V. Wilson  
Wymberley Garden Club

## TONDEE SOCIETY

\$500 - \$999

*Named for Richard Tondee, co-founder of the Bethesda-Union Society. Tondee is also known for his place in Revolutionary War history. Tondee's Tavern was a famous meeting place for the Sons of Liberty.*

Atlantic Waste Services  
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## FRANKLIN SOCIETY

up to \$499

*Named for Benjamin Franklin, who famously emptied his pockets to support Bethesda upon witnessing a Whitefield sermon.*

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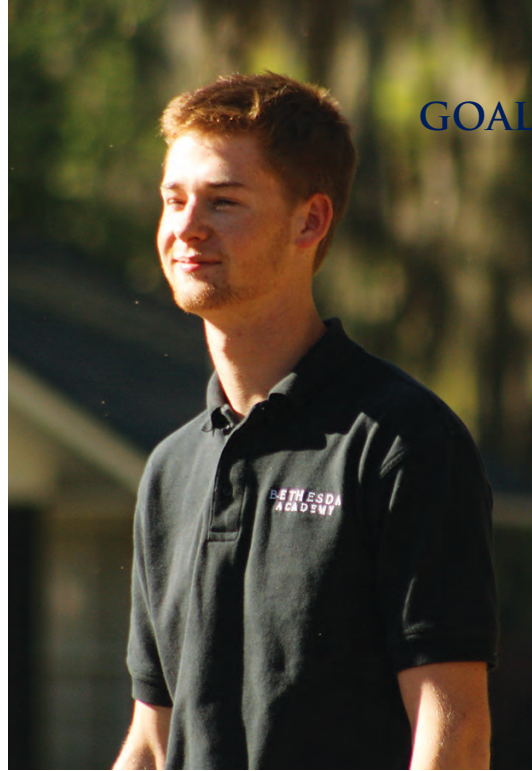
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\* denotes in-kind donation





## PHILANTHROPY: GOAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



In the spring of 2014, our partners at Georgia GOAL Scholarship traveled the state to conduct interviews with students who have benefited from school choice opportunities offered as a result of scholarships generated through the education tax credit. Three of Bethesda's GOAL Scholarship recipients participated: Eric Brack, Caleb Overstreet, and Marquis Elam. It was a fun morning of filming and these young men were wonderful representatives of Bethesda Academy.

Bethesda is grateful for those who "reserved" their 2014 GA education tax credit in the fall of 2013. The popularity of this tax credit has grown to the point that the \$58 million of tax credits for the state of Georgia for 2014 were claimed by January 22, 2014. Many of Bethesda's faithful GOAL Scholarship contributors were unable to redirect their GA tax liability into scholarships for Bethesda simply because time ran out.

To watch the GOAL Scholarship video, simply use your smart phone to scan the code!



GOAL Scholarships are a critical component of Bethesda Academy's overall financial aid program. Approximately 60% of Bethesda's students qualify for this funding. As we look forward to the 2015 tax year, we hope that all of the GOAL contributors who missed their opportunity in 2014 will apply as soon as possible for their 2015 tax credits. Simply visit [www.BethesdaAcademy.org](http://www.BethesdaAcademy.org) or [www.goalscholarship.org](http://www.goalscholarship.org) to learn how.

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For more information about the GOAL Scholarship Program, please contact Andrea Dove at 912.644.4376 or [andrea.dove@bethesdaacademy.org](mailto:andrea.dove@bethesdaacademy.org).

**GEORGIA GOAL**  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, INC.





Thank you for supporting Bethesda Academy!

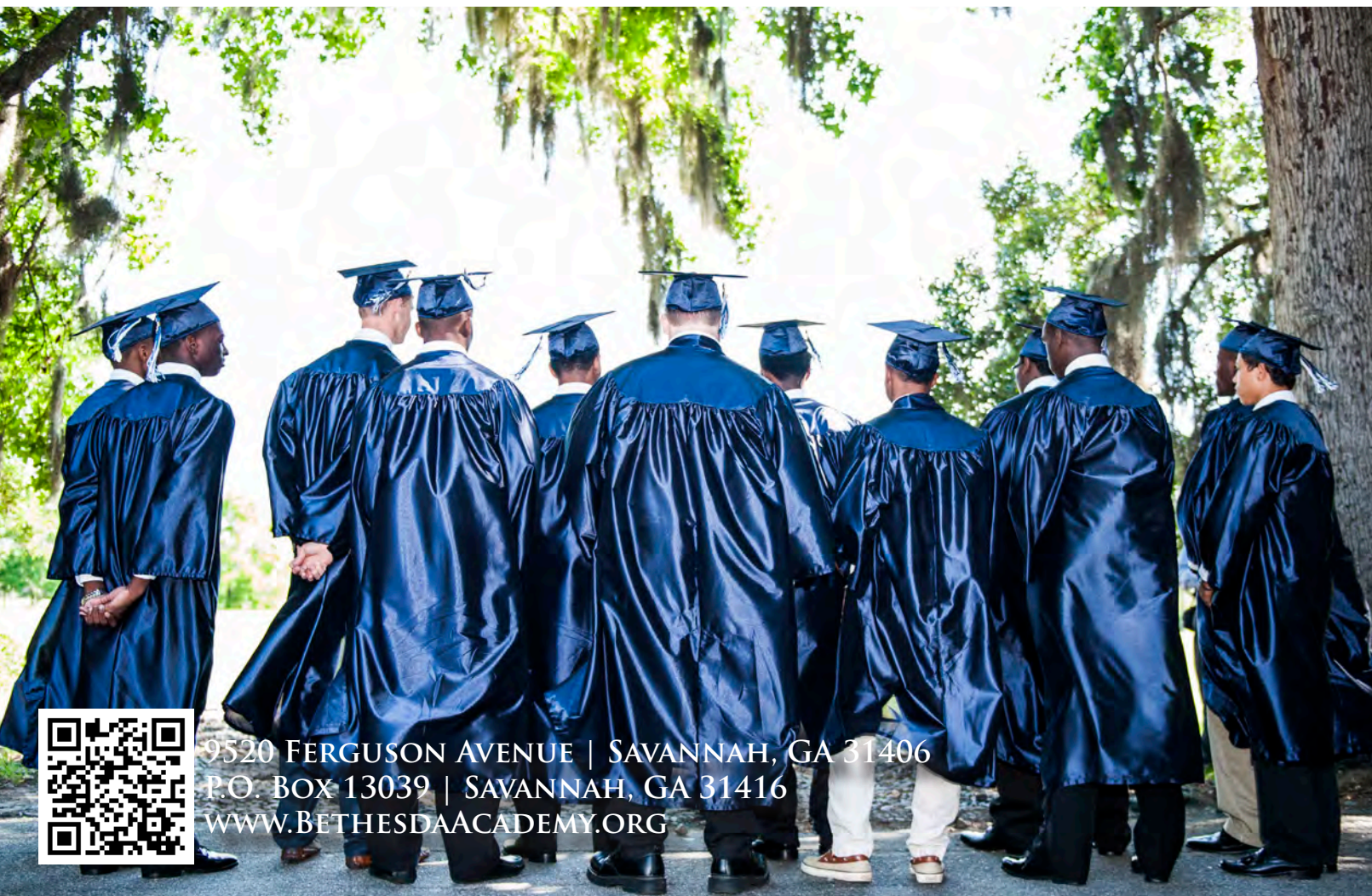




School Office	912.351.2055
Admissions	912.351.2068
President's Office	912.351.2061
Development Office	912.644.4376

[www.BethesdaAcademy.org](http://www.BethesdaAcademy.org)





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