WILSON HALL
OCTOBER 2026

THE ACCOLADE

Agno Wins Best in Show

Leading an impressive showing by Wilson Hall artists, ***Angela Agno '28*** earned Best of Show at the Sumter County Fair for her painting, the top honor among 32 ribbons won by Wilson Hall students across the high school, middle school and lower school divisions. In the high school division, competition is especially selective, with only one first-, second- and third-place ribbon awarded in each category.

Wilson Hall students earned numerous first-place awards. High school winners included ***Addison Carpenter '27*** in Pottery, ***Ceren Gemici '28*** in 2D Open Media, and ***Livie Pedersen '27*** in Painting. Middle school first-place honors in 3D Open Media went to ***Tripp Atkinson '33, Rory Brown '33***, and ***Brantley Weston '32***. In grades 3–5, ***Mike McArthur '36*** and ***James McMillan '38*** earned first place in Painting, while ***Brielle Oxendine '35*** earned first place in 2D Open Media. In the K–2 division, ***Isla Jane Avant '36*** earned first place in Open or Mixed Media.

Second-place honors went to high school student ***Kira Krueger '28*** in Drawing; middle school students ***Morgan Brunson '32*** and ***Liza Gooch '31*** in Drawing, ***Clare McArthur '32*** in 2D Open Media and ***Madelyn Royce '33*** in 3D Open Media; and grades 3–5 students ***William Coker '36*** and ***Christopher Lynch '38*** in Painting and ***Vaani Patel '35*** in 2D Open Media. In the K–2 division, ***Audrey Bell '37*** and ***Ford Edmunds '37*** earned second place in Drawing, while ***William James '36, Kathryn Norris '36***, and ***Sally Mac Shaw '38*** earned second place in Open or Mixed Media.

Third-place awards went to high school student ***Colton Edmundson*** in Painting; middle school students ***Lydia Blalock '32*** in Drawing, ***Heidi Michel '31*** in Painting and ***Emory Riviere '32*** in 3D Open Media; and grades 3–5 students ***Mary Pearl Aronson '35*** in 2D Open Media, ***Mary Grace Floyd '33*** in Drawing, and

CONTINUED



Angela Agno '28, Addison Carpenter '27, Ceren Gemici '28 & Livie Pedersen '27



Griffin Jones '27 & Livie Pedersen '27

Jones & Pedersen Named Mr. & Miss Wilson Hall

Congratulations to the students selected as this year's Mr. & Miss Wilson Hall and class representatives, an honor that reflects Wilson Hall's emphasis on educating and encouraging well-rounded students. Nominated by the faculty and selected by their classmates, these students exemplify the qualities we value across school life through above-average academic achievement, involvement in athletics and/or extracurricular activities, outstanding citizenship, and excellent character.

Mr. & Miss Wilson Hall
Griffin Jones** & **Livie Pedersen

Mr. & Miss Junior
Ethan Wilson** & **Ellis Coker

Mr. & Miss Sophomore
Joe Johnson** & **Grace Stewart

Mr. & Miss Freshman
Benjamin McIver** & **Jane Foley

AGNO…CONTINUED

Lorelei Kahn '35 in Painting. In the K–2 division, ***Price Alsbrooks '38*** earned third place in Open or Mixed Media.

The students are taught by ***Ms. Tara Breslin, Mrs. Rachel Jones Brown '00***, and ***Mrs. Renee Norton***. At Wilson Hall, the arts are an essential part of a well-rounded education, giving students opportunities to discover and develop their talents, think creatively, express themselves with confidence and contribute to the life of the school community.



Ethan Wilson '28, Lilly Grace Przybyla '28 & Caroline Moorman '27

KEY CLUB: SERVICE ABOVE AND BEYOND

Serving others gives Wilson Hall students meaningful opportunities to make a difference in the community, and the Kiwanis Club of Sumter recently recognized the school's Key Club for that commitment. The chapter was honored for its community service, particularly its volunteer work at the club's annual Pancake Breakfast. Representing Wilson Hall at the banquet were Co-President ***Caroline Moorman '27*** and Vice President ***Lilly Grace Przybyla '28***. Club member ***Ethan Wilson '28*** also received the Above & Beyond Award for the service, enthusiasm, and friendly attitude he displayed while volunteering at last year's breakfast. Advised by ***Mrs. Stacey Reaves***, Key Club gives students opportunities to develop leadership while putting service into action.

MISSION STATEMENT

Wilson Hall is a private college-preparatory school dedicated to providing a rigorous and well-balanced education in a safe Judeo-Christian environment.



Gigi Moore '15 & Owings Holler '21visit campus for Constitution Day.

Alumni Bring the Constitution to Life

Bringing the Constitution to life through discussion and hands-on learning, Wilson Hall welcomed two alumni back to campus as guest speakers for Constitution Day. ***Gulie Moore '15***, an attorney with Smith Robinson and a representative of the S.C. Bar Young Lawyers Education Committee, led students through the interactive "No Vehicles in the Park" exercise, demonstrating how laws can be interpreted in different ways and sparking lively discussions among the students. The activity also highlighted the important role each branch of government plays in applying and preserving the Constitution. ***Owings Holler '21***, a student at the University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law, also returned as a student volunteer and shared a presentation on the purpose and importance of the Constitution. The alumni spoke with students in AP Government, taught by ***Mr. Lee Gandy***, and Government, taught by ***Mr. Sean Hoskins***.



Millie Davis '31 & Olivia Cobbs '31 are the student managers for the varsity football team.

RAISING AWARENESS, SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Purple and teal ribbons greeted students and faculty as they arrived on campus, shared by Future Health Professionals Club members in recognition of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. More than a symbol of awareness, the ribbons offered a simple reminder that no one should feel alone and that caring for one another is an important part of the Wilson Hall community. Reflecting that commitment, the school has established a Wellness Team led by ***Mrs. Day Caughman***, School Counselor, and ***Mrs. Allyson Lowder Sanders '96***, School Nurse, to ensure students have caring adults, helpful resources, and a place to turn when they need support.



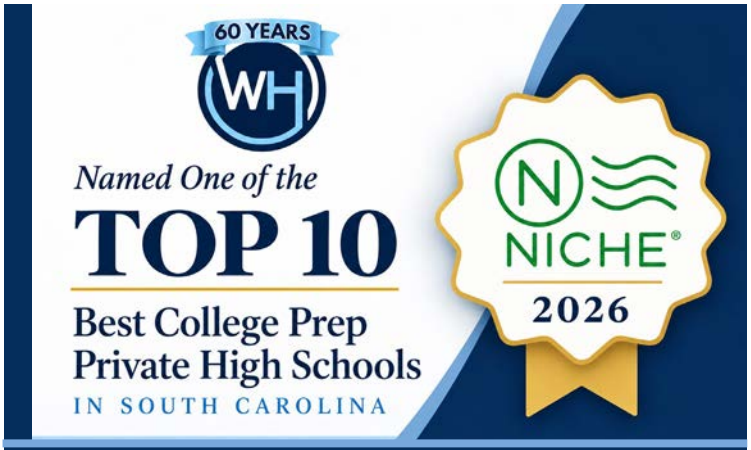
Casey Belinski '27 & Lauren Burchett '27 distribute ribbons to students and faculty for Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Month.

WILSON HALL
SEPTEMBER 2026

THE ACCOLADE

EDITOR & PRIMARY PHOTOGRAPHER
Mr. Sean Hoskins
Director of Admissions & Public Relations

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Mrs. Kelly Dodson
Sumter Printing Company



Wilson Hall has been named one of the Top 10 Best College Prep Private High Schools in South Carolina in Niche's 2026 rankings. Niche is a national school-search and ranking platform used by millions of families to research and compare schools and colleges. Its rankings combine data from sources including the U.S. Department of Education with college enrollment information, school statistics, and feedback from students and parents. For its College Prep Private High School rankings, Niche evaluates factors that reflect academic preparation and college-going culture, making Wilson Hall's placement among the state's Top 10 a meaningful recognition of the strength of its college-preparatory program.

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP: FCA LEADERSHIP TEAM

Creating meaningful opportunities for students to grow in their faith is an important part of life at Wilson Hall. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leadership Team meets before school once a month for breakfast, Bible study, prayer, and devotion led by Mr. Shawn Matthews, who is guiding students through the tenets of the devotional life. FCA meets on alternating Thursdays during lunch in the gym, giving all students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to gather in fellowship and strengthen their faith together. ***Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93*** serves as the club's advisor, and ***Cameron Kohl '27*** is president.

Members of the FCA Leadership Team, advised by Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93, join Mr. Shawn Matthews for a devotion before school.



HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BIBLE STUDY

Putting faith into practice before the school day begins, high school boys gathered in Founders Chapel for their student-led Bible study and welcomed alumnus ***Mr. Evans Boyle '17*** back home to Wilson Hall as guest speaker. Drawing from R.T. Kendall's Total Forgiveness, ***Evans*** shared how the book has shaped his own life and spoke about the importance of forgiveness in the Christian faith. Meeting on alternating Wednesday mornings before school, the Bible study is completely student initiated and coordinated by ***Clay Jones '29.*** Welcoming alumni back to campus is always meaningful, and opportunities like this reflect Wilson Hall's commitment to creating an environment where students are encouraged to grow in their faith, lead one another, and make their beliefs an active part of daily life.



Evans Boyle '17 speaks to the High School Boys Bible Study.



Landon Miller '27, Jose Diaz '27 & Ethan Bentley '28 speak with Mr. Zach Hicks during an AP Business mentorship meeting.

AP Business Students Meet with Community Mentors

Bringing classroom learning into the real world, our AP Business students participated in the first of five mentor meetings they will have throughout the year as they develop their own businesses from start to finish. Students shared their business ideas, target customers, market and competitor research, and possible competitive advantages before receiving valuable feedback on what they should test, research, refine, or consider next.

We are grateful to ***Mr. Tony Barwick, Mr. Ed Bynum '81, Mr. Cary Coker, Mr. Zach Hicks, Mr. Justin Kohl, Dr. Clay Lowder '85***, and ***Mr. Stephen Williamson***, successful businessmen with close ties to Wilson Hall, for sharing their time, experience, and insight with our students. Their willingness to invest in our students reflects the strong sense of community at Wilson Hall and the meaningful relationships that connect our school with alumni, parents, and friends.

These mentor meetings will continue throughout the year as students build, test, and refine their businesses, ultimately concluding with a Shark Tank-style pitch at the end of the year. We deeply appreciate the involvement of these mentors and the role they play in bringing classroom learning to life. AP Business is taught by *Mrs. Alex Judson*.



Margaret McMillan '41 finds the letter B during a classroom campus adventure.

Preschool 3 Goes on a Learning Adventure

Even the youngest Barons are always learning, and sometimes the best lessons come with a little adventure! While learning about the letter B, Preschool 3 students brought ***We're Going on a Bear Hunt*** to life by heading outdoors to search for Bs and bears. They swished, squished, stepped, and explored their way through an active lesson that combined literacy, movement, and plenty of fun. The teachers are ***Mrs. Christine*** Berry, ***Mrs. Meghan Hallman***, and ***Mrs. Valerie James***.

Fifth Grade Visits Nation's Capitol

Fifth grade students took learning beyond the classroom during their trip to Washington, D.C., an educational experience that complemented their U.S. History class taught by ***Mrs. Frances James,*** who also helped chaperone the trip alongside other faculty members and parents. Students visited Arlington National Cemetery and witnessed the Changing of the Guard, explored George Washington's Mount Vernon, and toured some of the nation's most significant landmarks, including the U.S. Capitol, National Archives, Washington Monument, White House, and Ford's Theatre. They also visited the Smithsonian museums of American History, Natural History, and Air and Space; the World War II and Vietnam Veterans memorials; the National Cathedral; and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. An illuminated tour of Washington offered another memorable perspective on the nation's capital.

Coordinated by ***Mrs. Kathy Smith Coker 98***, the trip gave students the chance to experience history firsthand while sharing meaningful moments with classmates, teachers, and parents. Traveling together brought their studies to life in a way no textbook could, creating memories and connections that will remain with them long after they returned home.



Watts Atkinson, James Schortmann, Ryker Wilson, Thomas Jones, Fielding Cogdill, Ben McLeod & Easton Bass, Class of '34, pose on the steps of the Capitol.



Peyton Przybyla, Grace Locklear, Tindal Kate Anderson, Sadie Thompson, Anna-Jane Owens, Mille James, Lottie Rowell, Carmen Thomas & Gracelyn Elia, Class of '34, pause for a photo during the illuminated tour of Washington, D.C.



JT Reimer '28 & Lexi Fox '27 paint a set piece during their Set Design & Construction class.

Building the World of Oklahoma!

Bringing creativity and craftsmanship together, students in the Set Design & Construction class are preparing sets for this spring's production of ***Oklahoma!*** by repurposing pieces from last year's ***Cinderella*** and building new elements from the ground up. Taught by ***Ms. Tara Breslin*** and ***Mr. Steve Hudson,*** the class gives students hands-on experience with design, creative problem-solving, construction, and the safe use of power tools. It is another example of the important role the arts play in providing a well-rounded education at Wilson Hall.

Anatomy Studies the Science of Touch Hands-on

STEAM learning brings anatomy to life as students in ***Mrs. Ashley Morris's*** class participate in a two-point discrimination lab exploring touch receptors and sensory perception. Experiments like this give students the opportunity to test scientific concepts for themselves while strengthening observation, analysis, and critical-thinking skills. This kind of active learning complements Wilson Hall's liberal arts education by connecting scientific inquiry with the broader skills students develop across disciplines.



Shawn Lasica '28 & Ryland McLeod '28 participate in an experiment in Anatomy.

First Grade Visits Pumpkin Patch

First graders enjoyed a fun fall outing to the Pumpkin Patch, spending time outdoors, exploring, and making seasonal memories with their classmates. With the patch located right across the street from Wilson Hall, even the short trip over added to the excitement. Simple excursions like this are an important part of the educational experience, giving students opportunities to learn, explore, and enjoy time together beyond the classroom. The teachers are ***Mrs. Brittany Huckeba, Mrs. Courtney Moore***, and ***Mrs. Angie Reid Sistare '92***.



McLendon Brown, Shuler Bostic & Sam Locklear, Class of '38, enjoy their visit to the Pumpkin Patch.

CORE VALUES AND SCHOOL MOTTO

DILIGENCE AND INTEGRITY

PERSISTENT, CAREFUL EFFORT IN ALL ENDEAVORS — HONEST CHARACTER GUIDED BY STRONG MORAL PRINCIPLES

Preschool 3 Pastries with Parents

Welcoming parents as an important part of our school community, Preschool 3 students hosted Pastries with Parents on the Bynum Rooftop Garden. The morning also included a special program in Founders Chapel featuring a blessing, the Pledge of Allegiance, songs, and the Alma Mater. A highlight for families was seeing the students' colorful art creations on display, making the event a warm celebration of school, family, and community. The teachers are ***Mrs. Christina Berry, Mrs. Meghan Hallman***, and ***Mrs. Valerie James.***



Graham LeBlanc '41 welcomes his parents, Katie Cunningham LeBlanc '10 & Adam LeBlanc, to Pastries with Parents.



Jose Diaz '27, Trip Hunt '28, Ethan Bentley '28, Gavin Getz '28, Abel Ayres '27, Mary Katherine Dutcher '27, Angela Agno '28 & Kaitlyn Walker '30 at the DECA Leadership Conference.

DECA Leaders Build Skills at Conference

Sharpening their leadership skills and bringing new ideas back to campus, members of the leadership team of Wilson Hall's chapter of DECA spent the day at the South Carolina DECA Fall Leadership Conference in Columbia. Chapter officers and emerging leaders participated in workshops focused on leadership, teamwork, communication, professionalism, pitching, and social media. Students returned with valuable lessons about the importance of confidence, initiative, effective communication, teamwork, and making a positive impression on others. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, management, and other business-related fields through competitions, leadership activities, and real-world projects. Advised by ***Mrs. Ashley Cook*** and ***Mrs. Alex Judson***, the Wilson Hall chapter will use ideas from the conference to strengthen its program throughout the year.

NEW WELLNESS TEAM ESTABLISHED

Caring for students at Wilson Hall means caring for more than their academic success. It means knowing them well, supporting them when they struggle, celebrating their growth, and helping them feel secure and valued each day. That commitment is reflected in the school's Vision Statement: "Every child shall be known, loved, challenged, and safe."

With that vision in mind, Wilson Hall has established a new Wellness Team to support the emotional, social, and mental well-being of students and staff. Coordinated by ***Mrs. Day Caughman***, School Counselor, and ***Mrs. Allyson Lowder Sanders '96***, School Nurse, the team provides a caring and accessible way for concerns to be shared and addressed.

Through an open referral process, the Wellness Team can respond when a student or staff member may need additional support and help develop an appropriate plan for moving forward. The team also checks in regularly with teachers, creating opportunities for faculty members to share concerns they may have about students or themselves. When needed, parents and additional staff members are included so that support can be thoughtful, coordinated, and personal.

The goal is not simply to respond when concerns arise, but to build a school culture in which people feel comfortable asking for help and looking out for one another. By encouraging open communication, increasing awareness, and strengthening connections among students, families, faculty, and staff, the Wellness Team helps ensure that every member of the Wilson Hall community has someone ready to listen and help.

The new team is another way Wilson Hall is putting its vision into practice each day, creating an environment where students can grow academically, socially, emotionally, and personally because they know they are cared for.



Cameron Kohl '27, Adelaide Eaddy '27, Caroline Andrews '30 & Riley Coker '30 pose for a photo at the FCA Pickleball Night.

FCA Pickleball Night

Paddles were swinging and laughter filled the courts as nearly 40 students gathered at the Palmetto Tennis Center for a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Pickleball Night. The evening offered plenty of friendly competition along with time for students to relax, connect with friends, and enjoy refreshments together. More than just a night of pickleball, the gathering gave students an opportunity to strengthen friendships and their faith through fellowship and prayer, reflecting FCA's focus on encouraging students in their relationship with Christ and with one another. ***Cameron Kohl '27*** is the club's president and ***Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93*** is the advisor.

Pringle Physics

No glue. No tape. Just physics! AP Physics students in ***Mrs. Jessica Duke's*** class took on the Pringle Ring Challenge, using only a can of Pringles and their problem-solving skills to build a free-standing ring measuring 12 centimeters in diameter. Along the way, students put geometry, static friction, gravity, and structural equilibrium to the test, turning a familiar snack into a hands-on lesson in physics, engineering, and creative thinking.



Braelen Lewis '27 & Landon Young '27 complete the Pringle Ring Challenge in AP Physics.

See You at the Pole Prayer Event

Gathering around the flagpole before school, students, faculty, and parents joined together in prayer for See You at the Pole, a global day of prayer observed on school campuses each September. Members of the Wilson Hall community prayed for their friends, families, teachers, school, nation, and world. Begun as a student-led movement in 1990, See You at the Pole continues to give students an opportunity to come together openly in faith and prayer. Events such as this reflect Wilson Hall's commitment to encouraging students and faculty to practice their faith and make it an active part of school life. The event was sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, advised by ***Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93***, and First Priority Christian Club, advised by ***Ms. Heather Eldridge '93***.



Students, faculty & staff gather in prayer at the See You at the Pole event.



First Priority members join in prayer before hearing an encouraging message from Ms. Sarah Anne Lenoir.

FIRST PRIORITY STARTS THE DAY WITH FAITH

What a great way to start the day! Middle school students gathered for First Priority and were encouraged by a powerful message from ***Ms. Sarah Anne Lenoir***. A longtime Wilson Hall substitute, Sunday School teacher at Christ Community Church, and volunteer at Croswell Home for Children, she challenged our students to think about how the Holy Spirit propels, steers, and powers us closer to Jesus. We're grateful for mornings like these that give our students an opportunity to pause, listen, grow in their faith, and encourage one another. ***Ms. Heather Eldridge '93*** is the club's advisor.



Michael Hunter '28 receives a piggy-back ride from Connor Jurgensen '28 in the Scavenger Hunt Pep Rally.

Scavenger Hunt Pep Rally

Baron spirit filled the gym as students cheered, laughed, and competed in the Scavenger Hunt Pep Rally sponsored by the varsity cheerleaders. From finding a blue shoe to gathering classmates for a line dance or a chorus of dog barks, the challenges kept the crowd energized, with the Class of '27 coming out on top. Cheer captain ***Anne McCrea Williams '27***, co-captains ***Peyton Naylor '27*** and ***Livie Pedersen '27***, and advisor ***Mrs. Frances James*** helped lead the rally, while ***Mary Katherine Dutcher '27*** delivered a rousing speech encouraging fans to come out and support the Barons. ***Edmunds DuBose '27*** spoke on behalf of the team, and ***Mr. Steve Hudson*** also addressed the crowd. The rally ended with everyone joining together for the Alma Mater and school fight song, closing out an afternoon full of Baron pride.

BILL OF RIGHTS COMES TO LIFE

Acting, guessing, and learning made for a lively Bill of Rights review in U.S. Government. Working in groups, students created pantomime skits depicting 12 different rights protected by the Bill of Rights while their classmates tried to identify the amendment being represented. The activity combined creativity, collaboration, and a little friendly competition for a fun way to reinforce what they had learned. The class is taught by ***Mr. Sean Hoskins***.



Bailey Flemming, Mary Paisley Geddings, Silas Brown & Ian Robbins, Class of '28, act out a Constitutional right during Government Charades.

SENIOR MINI-RETREAT BUILDS CLASS BONDS

Laughing, reflecting, and making memories together, the Class of '27 enjoyed a mini-retreat at Camp Bob Cooper on Lake Marion. The day included an autograph hunt, group activities, prayer and devotion, and conversations that built on the class's Junior Retreat experience. ***Mr. Brent Kaneft '00, Mrs. Stacey Reaves***, and ***Mr. Glen Rector*** led activities and spoke with the seniors about leadership, service, and their role as leaders of the Wilson Hall community. After lunch, the seniors headed to the waterfront for an afternoon of fun, adventure, and plenty of camaraderie. Coordinated by ***Mrs. Martha Jo Smith Johnson '99*** and ***Mr. Rector***, the retreat gave classmates a chance to reconnect, strengthen friendships, and enjoy time together during their final year at Wilson Hall.



Members of the Class of '31 enjoy a spirited Rock, Paper, Scissors Relay during Connect: Emmaline Przybyla, Erin Bentley, Penny Judson, Ryann Jones, Clara Zimpleman, Parkers Sistare & Kinslee Reimer.

Rock, Paper, Connect!

Eighth-grade girls and faculty jumped into a lively Rock, Paper, Scissors relay during a recent Connect session focused on movement, combining teamwork, activity, and friendly competition. Connect brings students together in grade-level-specific small groups on alternating Wednesday mornings to focus on character development, relationships, and real-world skills through learning, movement, service, and reflection activities. The Connect program is coordinated by ***Mr. Lee Gandy***.

BARON MEDIA DAY: BIG SMILES, BIG SPIRIT

Big smiles and plenty of Baron pride filled the halls during Baron Media Day as senior athletes visited students in grades 1–5. The younger Barons were excited to meet the seniors, collect autographed photos, ask questions, and talk with athletes they look up to. More than just a fun visit, the day gave senior athletes a special opportunity to serve as role models and build connections with younger students who may one day follow in their footsteps. The excitement went both ways, making Baron Media Day a fun celebration of the relationships, encouragement, and school spirit that connect Barons of all ages. The event was coordinated by ***Mr. Rip Ripley***, Assistant Athletic Director.



Peyton Gilley '27 visits with Rowan Logan '38 during Baron Media Day.



Sofia Sheldrake '36 & Caleb Thomas '36 are excited to get an autograph from Caroline Moorman '27 on Baron Media Day.



As a surprise to his daughter Ada Yoder '39, Mr. Caleb Yoder is the week's Mystery Reader.

Mystery Reader Brings Stories to Life

Reading is always more fun with a little surprise! Mr. Caleb Yoder recently visited his daughter Ada's kindergarten class as the Mystery Reader, sharing PAW Patrol: Mighty Pup Power with the students. The identity of each Mystery Reader is kept secret until the guest walks into the classroom, making the program a much-anticipated kindergarten tradition. Throughout the year, every student has a parent, relative, or special friend serve as the surprise reader, building excitement for books while strengthening the connections that make the Wilson Hall community so special.

On the Road to Oklahoma!



The cast of Oklahoma! does a theater warm-up exercise before their first rehearsal.

Oklahoma! is officially underway! Forty-one cast members, three production assistants, and the five-member production team spent a Sunday afternoon beginning rehearsals with refreshments, theater games, acting exercises, a full script read-through, and their first time singing the score together. The lively afternoon marked the start of a months-long creative process that will carry the cast from those first pages and notes all the way to opening night. Wilson Hall will present Rodgers & Hammerstein's ***Oklahoma!*** (Youth Edition) April 15-17 at Patriot Hall. The production team includes ***Mrs. Lori Brown,*** director and music director; ***Mr. Sean Hoskins***, producer; ***Mrs. Jen Alford Reimer '00***, choreographer; ***Mrs. Rainey Barrineau***, vocal coach; and ***Mr. George Carruth '06***, production consultant. Together, the team will guide students through the many stages of bringing the classic American musical to life on stage.

MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT: HONORING SERVICE, SACRIFICE & COUNTRY

Red, white, and blue filled Spencer Field as Wilson Hall honored the courage, sacrifice, and service of our nation's military during Military Appreciation Night. Held on September 11, the evening also marked the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks with a moving remembrance led by faculty member and retired U.S. Army Lt. Colonel ***James Wilson***. A color guard from Shaw Air Force Base presented the colors, ***Wyatt Moore '31*** offered the invocation in honor of his father, Lt. Col. Keith Moore of the S.C. Air National Guard, who is currently deployed, and retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant John F. Kennedy sang the National Anthem.



Avery Bass '36 has the honor of participating in the coin toss for the football game on Military Appreciation Night.

The family of deployed S.C. Air National Guard Lt. Col. Jake Bass participated in the coin toss, while veterans and active-duty service members in attendance were recognized with a standing round of applause. Thirty American flags on loan from the Sumter Museum surrounded the field, red, white, and blue balloon arches welcomed fans, and the crowd embraced the U.S.A. spirit theme by filling the stands in patriotic colors. With approximately 20% of Wilson Hall students connected to the military, the evening was especially meaningful to our school community. Coordinated by ***Mrs. Keegan Wilson***, the patriotic celebration ended on another high note as the Barons defeated Thomas Sumter Academy 33-12.

THE BARON GAMES

Cheers shook the gym as students went all-in for the 25th Baron Games Pep Rally, a loud, fast-paced celebration of competition and school spirit. Decked out in their own class T-shirts, students battled through Biggest Fan - Rock, Paper, Scissors Edition, Baron Caterpillar, Football Toss, and Baron Drag, with the Classes of '27 and '33 claiming the victories. Sponsored by the Student Council, the rally was organized and emceed by Student Body President ***Abel Ayres '27***, who kept the energy high from start to finish. Pep rallies are an important part of student life at Wilson Hall, where sharing laughs, cheering on classmates, and making memories together help strengthen the sense of community and Baron pride that makes our school special. The Student Council is advised by ***Mrs. Rachel Jones Brown '00, Ms. Heather Eldridge '93***, and ***Mr. Sean Hoskins***.



Gray Edmunds '32 & Mary Paige Melton '32 pull a classmate in the Baron Drag.



Johnny Lauzon '27 & Ava Bukauskas '27 participate in the Baron Caterpillar.

MINI-CHEERLEADING



Cheering, dancing, and showing off plenty of Baron spirit, more than 150 mini-cheerleaders dressed in red, white, and blue brought Spencer Field to life during a high-energy halftime performance. The showcase capped off a weeklong after-school mini-cheerleading clinic organized by the varsity squad, advised by ***Mrs. Frances James*** and led by captain ***Anne McCrea Williams '27*** and co-captains ***Peyton Naylor '27*** and ***Livie Pedersen '27***, with enthusiastic support from the JV cheerleaders. From practiced routines to big smiles, the performance was a fun-filled celebration of school spirit and Wilson Hall pride.

Mini cheerleaders are prepared to perform a dance routine for the crowd at Spencer Field.



Mrs. Julie Beynor delivers a message during an FCA meeting held during lunch.

FCA: Keeping Christ at the Center

A strong message and great fellowship gave students plenty to think about at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes gathering during lunch. ***Mrs. Julia Beynor***, varsity girls tennis coach, used the image of a compass to show how easily distractions can pull us off course. She explained that, just as nearby magnetic forces can affect a compass, outside influences can cause us to lose our focus on Christ. ***Mrs. Beynor*** challenged students to keep Christ at the center of their lives, be mindful of the things competing for their attention, and stay grounded in their relationship with Him. The meeting offered students a meaningful opportunity to connect, reflect, and encourage one another. The FCA, open to all high school students, is advised by ***Mrs. Molly Simpson Matthews '93*** and meets during lunch on alternating Thursdays.

Chapel Brings Message of Unity

Bringing a message of unity to Founders Chapel, Mr. Michael Grubbs, Student Director and Teaching Pastor at Alice Drive Baptist Church, reminded high school students that while we are all different, we are one under God. Opening with an activity that highlighted the many ways people differ, Mr. Grubbs explained that the Body of Christ is strongest when its members work together in unity. He encouraged students to recognize that everyone has different skills, talents, and gifts, and that each person has something valuable to contribute. By seeking unity under Christ and using those gifts together, he shared, Christians can more effectively serve others and share the gospel. The Chapel Program is coordinated by ***Mr. Lee Gandy***.



Mr. Michael Grubbs speaks at High School Chapel.

ALUMNI

1998

Dave Reames was selected for the 2026 list of Best of Savannah Doctors-Neurosurgeon by ***Savannah Magazine.*** A neurosurgeon with The Neurological Institute of Savannah, Georgia, he earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from The Citadel and a Doctor of Medicine from the Medical University of South Carolina. ***Dave*** completed his general surgery internship and neurosurgery residency through the University of Virginia, spent a year participating in specialized training in Auckland, New Zealand, and completed a fellowship in complex and minimally invasive spine surgery at Semmes-Murphey Clinic with the University of Tennessee in Memphis. He and his wife, Alexa, live in Savannah with their children, Rowan and Cort.

2002

Marc van Bulck is the Associate Pastor for Family Ministries at Fairmont Presbyterian Church in Kettering, Ohio. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in media arts from Emerson College in Massachusetts and a Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Georgia.

2006

George Carruth and his wife, Lydia, announce the birth of their daughter, Hester Anne Carruth, on September 20.

Hughes Schwartz is a 2026 SCBIZ Emerging Leaders Under 40 honoree, recognizing exceptional professionals under 40 who are making an impact through business success, innovation, and community involvement. A graduate of Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in business management, he is a partner and wealth management advisor at Two 3 Four Wealth Partners. ***Hughes*** and his wife, Jessica, live in Greenville with their daughters, Wells and Ellis.

2007

Grant Fordham works as an outside sales representative for Mayer, a national wholesaler and distributor of electrical products, in West Columbia. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in finance. Grant and his wife, Sara, live in Chapin.

2011

Timmy Gibson is a dentist with Bloom Endodontics in Summerville. He graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry with a Doctor of Dental Surgery. He completed a general practice residency at UNC before earning both a Master of Science in endodontics and a certificate in endodontics from the university.



Timmy Gibson '11

Victoria Thomas Schwerdt and her husband, Dillon, announce the birth of their daughter, Opal Suzie Schwerdt, on September 19. They have four other children: Juniper, Pierce, Waylon, and Vidalia.

2007

Emma Catoe Ayres and her husband, Jonathan, announce the birth of their son, Carl John Ayres, on September 25. They have a daughter, Anna Blanche.

Savannah Palm and Will Smith were married on October 10 in a private ceremony with a reception following at her parents' home in Rembert. ***Coker Cutler '23*** was the Maid of Honor and Curtis-Lynne ***Edens Carraway '13*** was among the bridal party.

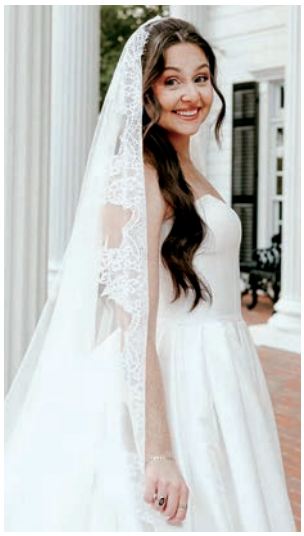
2014

Bailey Connor Perinon and her husband, Dion, announce the birth of their son, Shepherd Allan Perinon, on September 9. They have a daughter, Selah.

2016

Sara Landstrom and Cameron Schnabel were married on October 3 at Grand Holland Estate in Simpsonville with a reception following. ***Madison Landstrom '20*** was the Maid of Honor and the bridal party included ***Wells Osteen '16*** and ***Kate Whaley '16. Sara*** is a senior IT recruiter lead for TEKSystems in Greenville, a global provider of IT services, consulting, and business transformation solutions. She graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in psychology.

Edward McMillan and Jessica Mellin were married on October 2 at St. Luke's Chapel in Charleston with a reception at Alhambra Hall in Mount Pleasant. The groomsmen included ***Brent Carraway '16, Robert James '16, Hugh McMillan '09, Matthew McMillan '12, Grier Schwartz '16, Chandler Stone '16,*** and ***Sam Watford '16,*** and ***Mollie Kinney McMillan '09*** was a member of the bridal party. ***Edward*** graduated from Wofford College with a Bachelor of Science in biology, earned a Doctor of Dental Medicine from the Medical University of South Carolina College of Dental Medicine, and completed a residency at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia. A captain in the U.S. Air Force, he is a dentist at Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico.



Sara Landstrom Schnabel '16



Kendall Brogdon Watford '15 & Sam Watford '16 with their daughter Winnie on Spencer Field before a varsity football game. Sam, an assistant coach for the varsity football team and the fitness center director, teaches Physical Education and Brain, Body & Balance.

2017

Diamond Crawford Bowman and her husband, Brett, announce the birth of their daughter, Meilani Joann Bowman.

Taylor Heath and his wife, Jenna, announce the birth of their daughter, Harriett Copeland Heath, on September 25. ***Taylor*** is the son of ***Jim Heath '85***.

2018



Kathryn Sistare '18

Caroline Campbell Hickman and her husband, Josh, announce the birth of their son, Grant Benjamin Hickman, on September 28. ***Caroline*** is the daughter of ***Johnny Campbell '83***.

Walker Jones works as a benefit consultant, specializing in group benefits, for Indigo Partners Insurance in Greenville. He graduated from Wofford College with a Bachelor of Science in finance.

Megan Piasecki, who attends the University of South Carolina School of Law, has accepted a summer associate position with Marshall Denehy in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she will focus on civil litigation. She graduated from St. Joseph's University in Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in international political relations and French and spent a year teaching high school English in Criteil, France.

Kathryn Sistare is an associate attorney with Rogers Townsend in Charleston. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in entrepreneurship management and marketing and Charleston Law School with a Juris Doctor.

2021

Hutch Johnson works as a maintenance sales representative for Carolina Chillers, a commercial HVAC contractor in Florence. He graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in agribusiness. ***Hutch*** and his wife, Lanie, live in Mayesville.

Kaitlyn Smith is pursuing a Master of Architecture from the North Carolina State University College of Design where she works as a graduate teaching assistant. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in architecture from Clemson University Honors College.



Kate Thigpen Joye '21

Kate Thigpen and Tripp Joye were married on September 19 at Southern Celebrations at Collins Grove in Florence with a reception following. ***Abby Thigpen Baker '1***8 was the Matron of Honor and the bridesmaids included ***Camryn Bateman '21*** and ***Kyndal Waynick Pillsbury '20***. ***Kate*** works as a nurse in the emergency department at Prisma Health Tuomey. She graduated from Central Carolina Technical College with an Associate Degree in Applied Science in nursing.

Graham Van Patten and Emily Livesay were married on October 10 at Willow Brook Country Club in Tyler, Texas, with a reception following. ***Landon Van Patten '19*** was the Best Man, ***Miles Van Patten '24*** and ***Parker Van Patten '21*** were groomsmen, and ***Marybeth Van Patten '24*** was a bridesmaid. ***Graham***, who graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in business administration, works for Pine Cove as the Men's Director at Ranch Camp in Flint, Texas. Pine Cove is a Christian summer camp organization that operates overnight, day, and family camps in Georgia, South Carolina, and Texas.

Andi Grae Wingate is serving as the Social Events Chair for the Physical Therapy Students Association at Charleston Southern University where she is pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy. She graduated from Southern Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Science in exercise science.



Mary Katherine Dutcher '27, the game's 12th Player, and Peyton Naylor '27, cheerleading co-captain, are ready to lead the Barons onto Spencer Field.

2022

William Cooper lives in DeKalb, Illinois, where he works as an implementation engineer for Daifuku North America, a global leader in designing, manufacturing, installing, and servicing automated material handling and intralogistics systems. He graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in computer science.

Will Croft, who earned a Bachelor of Science in business management and real estate from the University of South Carolina, attends the Charleston School of Law.

Douglas McAdams, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in economics from Clemson University, attends the Charleston School of Law.

William Reese works as an associate spine specialist for Globus Medical, an international medical device company, in Columbia. He graduated from The Citadel with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry.

2024

Katie Croft, who attends Wofford College, is spending the fall semester studying in Barcelona, Spain.

Luke Pedersen, an exercise science major at the University of South Carolina, completed an internship with MUSC Health Columbia Medical Center, helping care for patients following surgery and shadowed physicians in their clinics.

Ben Reynolds, a construction science and management major at Clemson University, was accepted to the J. Daniel and Nancy Garrison Sales Innovation Program Ascent Track. This program is a selective sales development initiative designed to help students build professional sales, communication, and relationship-building skills while gaining hands-on industry experience.

Blake VanPatten, a communications major at Clemson University, was accepted to the J. Daniel and Nancy Garrison Sales Innovation Program Ascent Track. This program is a selective sales development initiative designed to help students build professional sales, communication, and relationship-building skills while gaining hands-on industry experience.

2025

Knox Buxton is a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity at the University of South Carolina.

Emma Howle is a biological sciences major at Clemson University where she is a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority.

Molly Jones works as a committee page for ***Murrell Smith '86***, Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives. She is a biological sciences major at the University of South Carolina where she is a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

2026

Benson Elmore is a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity at the University of South Carolina.

Mary Ellen Thorne, who is a biochemistry major at Clemson University Honors College, is a member of the Clemson Running Club which competes as a member of the National Intercollegiate Running Club Association.

Michael Thorne, an engineering major at Clemson University, is a member of the Clemson Shotgun Team which competes through the Scholastic Clay Target Program.

Stirling Tindal is a member of Beta Upsilon Chi, a Christian social fraternity, at Clemson University where he is majoring in engineering.

Ford Wilder is a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity at the University of South Carolina where he is also a member of the men's basketball team.

Students enjoy the nice weather to have lunch outside. We are thankful for a beautiful campus that gives our students space to enjoy the outdoors, spend time with friends, and simply be together.

