

# *Commencement Ceremony 2012*



## **Young Americans Christian School Board**

Ed Durham, *Chairman*  
Kirk Mahan  
Perry Acuff

David Taylor  
Brenda Durham  
Jan Taylor

## **Young Americans Christian School Administrators**

Jan Taylor, *Director*

David Taylor, *Administrator*

Terry Shelnett, *Principal*

Angie Haynes, *Elementary Principal*

Debbie Heller, *Academic Advisor*

## Commencement Ceremony 2012

Prelude .....	Jantzen Knight
Processional .....	“Pomp and Circumstance” by Elgar...Bill Nicol
Welcome .....	..David Taylor, <i>Administrator</i>
Invocation .....	..David Grimm
The Star Spangled Banner .....	..Mary Zehner
Valedictorian Address .....	..Ellie Macchione
Salutatorian Address .....	..Colton Zierl
Special Music.....	..Emily Kitchens
Senior Class Profile .....	Debbie Heller, <i>Academic Advisor</i>
Presentation of The Loyalty Scholarship .....	..Ed Durham, <i>School Board Chairman</i>
Presentation of the Light and Eagle Award.....	..Jan Taylor, <i>Director</i>
Presentation of Senior Gift .....	..Alex Brown
Congratulatory Remarks .....	..Josh Abernathy
Video Presentation of Graduates	
Awarding of Diplomas .....	..Jan Taylor, <i>Director</i> Terry Shelnutt, <i>Principal</i> David Taylor, <i>Administrator</i>
Special Music.....	..Seniors
Tassel Ceremony .....	..David Grimm
Alma Mater(audience, please join us in song – <u>remain seated</u> )	
Postlude	

All are invited to join our seniors for  
the hall of memories and the reception.

**\*\*\*Audience, please refrain from inappropriate behavior (such as whistling, calling-out, etc.). Please show your enthusiasm through applause only. We wish this to be a sophisticated evening for our graduates and families. \*\*\***

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*We welcome our guest speaker*

***Josh Abernathy***  
***Biography***

*Josh Abernathy is the proud husband to his wife Loren and father to his daughters Adelynn and Lucy. After graduating from Taccoa Falls College, he was hired to be a teacher and basketball coach at Young Americans. He spent 4 years at YACS where he would move into the role of campus minister at the school. He is currently the student pastor at Momentum Christian Church in McDonough, GA where he has been for the last 2 years.*

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***Young Americans Christian School***

***Alma Mater***

*O, Young Americans Christian School,  
Our Alma Mater hail.  
Our loyalty to thee we pledge  
As we go on from here.  
United in our love for Christ  
And dedication too,  
Forever are we bound by love  
With dearest thoughts of you.  
O, may we stand for all you've taught  
And live a life that's true.  
Now ever will we think of you,  
Our Young Americans School.*

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## **Honor Graduates**

### **Summa Cum Laude**

Ellie Catherine Macchione  
Lucas Alexander Renz  
Colton Michael Zierl

### **Magna Cum Laude**

Joseph Alexander Brown  
Corely Elizabeth Davis  
Aimee Elizabeth De Peaza  
Holly Elizabeth Flake  
Danielle Sara Garrett  
Matthew Levi Hall  
Lauren Dawn Humphrey  
Bearhett Oliver Johnson

Nicholas Jantzen Knight  
Tyler Kirk Mahan  
Christophé Olivier Randall  
Megan Danielle Ringwall  
Emily Elizabeth Stanton  
Andrew Kenneth Straton  
Brandon Charles Thomas  
Hays Lerea Wilson

### **Beta Club Members**

Chioma Jessica Akaolisa  
Joseph Alexander Brown  
Corely Elizabeth Davis  
Holly Elizabeth Flake  
Lauren Dawn Humphrey  
Nicholas Jantzen Knight  
Ellie Catherine Macchione

Tyler Kirk Mahan  
Lucas Alexander Renz  
Emily Elizabeth Stanton  
Andrew Kenneth Straton  
Brandon Charles Thomas  
Hays Lerea Wilson  
Colton Michael Zierl

### **Cords**

Summa Cum Laude - *Red*  
Magna Cum Laude - *Gold*  
Beta - *Black*

**Medals** - Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Senior Beta Officers

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## **Student Accolades**

### **Chioma Jessica Akaolisa**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 12; Student Government Vice President – 12; Drama – 11; Dance Team Choreographer – 12; Basketball – 9, 10.

### **Meredith Jordan Benedict**

Academic Excellence Award – 10, 11, 12; Student Government Representative – 9; Drama – 9, 10, 11; Volleyball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball – 11; Literary Competition – 11; Science Fair 1<sup>st</sup> Place – 11; Most Talented Senior Superlative.

### **Maria Nicole Brannon**

Academic Excellence Award – 10; Cross Country – 12; Golf – 12; Mission Trip – 11.

**Darryl Lamar Brimidge**

Soccer – 9; Track – 9; Cross Country – 11,12.

**Joseph Alexander Brown**

Beta Club – 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; Student Government Representative – 12; Class Secretary / Treasurer -11; Class Vice-President – 12; Drama – 9, 10, 11, 12; Varsity Basketball Manager – 11, 12; Cross Country - 12; Mission Trip – 11, 12.

**Corley Elizabeth Davis**

Beta Club – 10, 11, 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 11; Student Government Representative – 12; Cheerleading – 9, 10, 12; UCA All-American Cheerleader – 12 ; Chapel Crew – 12; Cross Country – 11; Softball – 12; Mission Trip – 11.

**Aimee Elizabeth De Peaza**

Academic Excellence Award – 11, 12; Principal’s List – 9; Christian Character Award – 9; Literary Club – 9; Drama – 9, 12; Chorus – 9; Tennis – 11; Softball – 9.

**John Hunter Faircloth**

Academic Excellence Award – 10, 11, 12; Student Government Vice-President – 10; Student Government Representative – 11; Christian Character Award – 9, 10, 11; Homecoming Representative – 10.

**Holly Elizabeth Flake**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 12; Student Government Representative – 12; Chaplain – 12; Drama – 11; Soccer – 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer Captain – 10, 11; Soccer Outstanding Defensive Player – 9; Soccer Best All Around – 10; Soccer All-Region 1AAA Player Award – 10; Soccer YACS Award – 11; Soccer Best Offensive Player – 12; Basketball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball Captain – 11, 12; Basketball Outstanding Player Award – 9; Basketball Outstanding Offensive Player Award – 9; Basketball Desire Award – 10; Basketball Pride Award – 11; Basketball Offensive MVP – 12; Basketball All-Tournament Team Player – 10, 11, 12; Cheerleading – 12; Football Water Girl – 9, 10; Homecoming Court – 9, 10, 11, 12; Most Athletic Senior Superlative; Mission Trip – 11, 12.

**India Nicole Freeman**

Academic Excellence Award – 11; Band – 9, 10; Foreign Language Club – 10; Drama – 12.

**Jeremy Douglas Freeman**

Academic Excellence Award – 12; Football -12; Basketball – 10, 11, 12; Basketball Captain – 12; Baseball – 10; Beach Retreat Leader – 11; Class Chaplain – 12; Mission Trip – 11, 12.

**Danielle Sara Garrett**

Beta Club - 9, 10; Academic Excellence Award – 11; National Honor Society – 9, 10; Honor Roll – 9, 10; Beach Retreat Leader – 11; Foreign Language Club Vice-President – 9, 10; Volleyball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball Captain – 11; Drama – 11; Track – 9; Tennis – 10; Soccer – 11; Mission Trip – 9, 12.

**Vincent Lawson Gordy**

**David Frederick Grimm**

Academic Excellence Award – 11, 12; Class Vice-President – 9, 10; Senior Class President; Chapel Crew – 12; Band – 9; Basketball 9, 10, 11; Basketball Captain – 10; Cross Country – 11; Art Club – 9, 10; Spanish Club – 9; Mission Trip – 11.

**Stephen Shawn Guinn**

Band – 9, 10, 11.

**Matthew Levi Hall**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 11; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10; Student Government Representative – 10, 11; Student Government President – 12; Band – 9; Drama – 11; Chapel Crew – 12; Football – 9, 10, 11; Football Captain – 11; Football MVP Defense –

11; Football Spartan Defender Award – 10, 11; Soccer – 10, 11, 12; Most Improved in Soccer – 11; Soccer YACS Award – 12; Baseball – 9.

**Jake Donald Holley**

Football – 10, 11, 12; Football Captain – 12; Basketball – 12; Baseball – 12.

**Lauren Dawn Humphrey**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club Secretary – 11; Beta Club President – 12; Academic Excellence Award – 10; Student Government Representative – 10, 11; Drama – 9, 10, 11, 12; Drama – One Act Play Competition – 10; Cheerleading – 10, 11, 12; Competition Cheer Captain – 11; All American Competition Cheer Award – 10, 11, 12; Homecoming Court – 10, 11, 12; Most Encouraging Senior Superlative.

**Bearhett Oliver Johnson**

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 11, 12; Student Government Representative – 11; Chapel Crew – 10, 11, 12; Drama Tech Crew – 10; Football – 9, 11, 12; Football Captain – 11, 12; Football Eagle Pride Award – 11, 12; Football Spartan Defender Award – 11, 12; Baseball – 10, 11; Baseball Outstanding Performer – 11; Basketball – 10; Most Talented Senior Superlative.

**Emily Gail Kitchens**

Academic Excellence Award – 12; Student Government Representative – 10; Chapel Crew – 11, 12; Literary Team – 10, 11; Football Trainer/Manager – 10, 11, 12; Volleyball – 9; Drama – 9, 10, 11; Mission Trip – 11.

**Nicholas Jantzen Knight**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; Chapel Crew Leader – 11, 12; Baseball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Baseball Outstanding Performer – 10, 11; Baseball Co-MVP – 11; Baseball MVP – 11, 12; Basketball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball Captain – 12; Basketball Coaches Award – 12; Football – 12; Football Eagle Pride Award – 12; Class Treasurer – 12; Homecoming King – 12; Most Encouraging Senior Superlative; Most All-Around Senior Superlative; Mission Trip – 11, 12.

**Jet Nelson Largo**

Soccer – 9; Football – 11.

**Ellie Catherine Macchione**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; Georgia Certificate of Merit – 11; National Science League Award – 10; National Language Arts Award – 9; Student Government – 9, 10, 11, 12; Class Secretary – 12; Drama – 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer – 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer Team Captain – 12; Homecoming Court – 12; Most Likely to Succeed Senior Superlative; Most All-Around Senior Superlative; Mission Trip – 11.

**Tyler Kirk Mahan**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; Academic Excellence Award – 10, 11, 12; Student Government Representative – 12; Sophomore Leadership Conference – 10; Beach Retreat Leader – 11; Chapel Crew – 12; Baseball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Baseball MVP – 10, 11; Football – 9, 10, 11, 12; Football Captain – 11, 12; Eagle Pride Player – 11, 12; Football MVP – 12; Most Athletic Senior Superlative; Mission Trip – 11.

**Samuel Andrew Moore**

Drama – 12; Football – 11, 12; Soccer – 11, 12.

**Christophé Olivier Randall**

Academic Excellence Award – 10, 11, 12; National Science League Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; Creative Writing Poetry Award – 12; Drama – 9, 10, 11.

**Kathryn Elisabeth Reed**

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 12; National Language Arts Award – 9; ACSI Art Festival Award – 10, 12.

**Lucas Alexander Renz**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; National Science League Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; Football – 11; Golf – 12; Chapel Crew – 11, 12.

**Megan Danielle Ringwall**

Academic Excellence Award – 11; Dean’s List – 9, 10; Volleyball – 9, 10; Basketball – 9, 10; Most Unforgettable Senior Superlative.

**Devona Ranesha Smikle**

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11; Published Poem – 12.

**Emily Elizabeth Stanton**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; Student Government Representative – 9, 10; ACSI Creative Writing Award – 12; Drama – 9, 10; Soccer – 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer Co-Captain – 12; Basketball – 9, 10, 12; Cross Country – 11, 12; Homecoming Court – 9, 12.

**Andrew Kenneth Straton**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 11, 12; Drama – 10, 11; Chapel Crew – 11; Soccer – 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer Captain – 11; Football – 9, 11;

**Brandon Charles Thomas**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 11, 12; National Science League Award – 9; National Literary Award – 9; Drama – 9, 10, 11, 12; Cross Country – 11, 12.

**Dalton Lee Wallace**

Football – 9, 10, 11, 12; Football Captain – 12; Football Defensive Player of the Year – 12; Eagle Pride Player – 11, 12; Baseball – 10, 11, 12.

**Hays Lerea Wilson**

Beta Club – 11, 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; Junior Class President; Drama – 10, 11; Drama Choreographer – 11; Cheerleading – 9, 10, 11, 12; Cheerleading Captain – 11, 12; UCA All-American – 9, 10, 11, 12; All-State ICSGA 12; Mission Trip – 11, 12.

**Andrew Tyler Young**

Academic Excellence Award – 10; Chapel Crew – 11; Football – 9, 12; Basketball – 11; Baseball – 9, 10, 11; Golf – 12.

**Jacob Thomas Zanetti**

Academic Excellence Award – 10; Most Unforgettable Senior Superlative.

**Colton Michael Zierl**

Beta Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club Vice-President – 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; Georgia Certificate of Merit – 11; National Science League Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; Most Likely to Succeed Senior Superlative.



## **Description of Scholarships and Awards**

### **Loyalty Scholarship**

The purpose of this scholarship is to reward one or more graduating seniors who have demonstrated, throughout their longevity in attendance, outstanding loyalty and support to Young Americans Christian School. The recipients are selected by the Board of Directors and must have attended Young Americans Christian School from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Light Award**

The criteria for the recipients of the Light Award are the students who best exemplify Christ in their daily walks. Students are selected by the high school teachers, who evaluate students' involvement in spiritual activities during their years here at YACS. Teachers look for students who have attended three or more years and exemplify Christ-like behavior in their classrooms, school activities, and outside the school.

## **Eagle Award**

The significance of this award is in the area of service to Young Americans Christian School. The staff looks for one or more students that have greatly impacted Young Americans Christian School and have attended three or more years. These students are chosen for outstanding service to the school. The recipients of the Eagle Award are chosen by the high school staff. These students made a difference at Young Americans Christian School through involvement and leadership roles in activities such as:

Strong Spiritual Stance

Student Government

Drama

Sports

School Sponsored Bible Studies

School Trips

Chapel Involvement

School Assistance

Discipleship Leader

Mission Trip Leader

Christian Walk

A-B Academic Average

A student that has gone above and beyond in service for YACS





*Colleges Attended*  
*by Young Americans Christian School Graduates*

Young Americans Christian School has provided educational excellence for over 20 years. Graduates of the school have attended and graduated from numerous and various colleges and universities, both public and private. These schools include:

Abraham Baldwin Agri. College	Kentucky Christian College
Athens Technical College	Lee University
Atlanta Christian College	Liberty University
Auburn University	Luther Rice College
Berry College	Mercer University
Brewton Parker College	Mercer School of Nursing
Clayton State University	Middle Georgia College
Columbus State University	Milligan College
Covenant College	Mississippi College
Dekalb Technical College	Mississippi State University
Emmanuel College	North Georgia College
Emory University	Oxford College of Emory
Faulkner University	Shorter College
Gainesville State College	So. Polytechnic State Univ.
Georgia College & State Univ.	Spelman College
Georgia Tech	Stamford University
Georgia Southern University	Toccoa Falls College
Georgia State University	Trevecca Nazarene University
Gordon College	Tuskegee University
Harding University	Union University
High Point University	University of Georgia
Johnson Bible College	University of West Georgia
Johnson & Wales Univ., NC	Valdosta State University
Kennesaw State University	Young Harris College