

# *Commencement Ceremony 2016*



## **Young Americans Christian School Board**

Ed Durham, *Chairman*  
Kirk Mahan  
Perry Acuff  
Marlene McKay

Dr. David Taylor  
Brenda Durham  
Jan Taylor

## **Young Americans Christian School Administrators**

Dr. David Taylor, *Administrator*

Jan Taylor, *Director*

Terry Shelnett, *Principal*

Angie Haynes, *Elementary Principal*

Debbie Heller, *Academic Advisor*

## Commencement Ceremony 2016

Prelude .....	Missy Shelnutt
Processional .....	“Pomp and Circumstance” by Elgar
Welcome/ Invocation.....	..Dr. David Taylor, <i>Administrator</i>
The Star Spangled Banner .....	..Avani Lesane
Valedictorian Address .....	..Jared Williams
Salutatorian Address .....	..Sam Nicol
Senior Class Profile .....	..Debbie Heller, <i>Academic Advisor</i>
Loyalty Scholarship .....	..Ed Durham, <i>School Board Chairman</i>
Presentation of the Light Award and Eagle Award.....	..Terry Shelnutt, <i>Principal</i>
Presentation of the Wiley O’Neill Award .....	..Jan Taylor, <i>Director</i>
Congratulatory Remarks .....	..Josh Taylor
Video Presentation of Graduates	
Awarding of Diplomas .....	..Jan Taylor, <i>Director</i> Terry Shelnutt, <i>Principal</i>
Special Music.....	..Avani Lesane, Caroline Marathas Seth Nicol, Reagan Sapp
Tassel Ceremony .....	..Kaleb Senator
Alma Mater(audience, please join us in song – <u>remain seated</u> )	
Postlude	

Audience, please refrain from inappropriate behavior during the ceremony. Please show your enthusiasm through applause only. We wish this to be a dignified evening for our graduates and families.

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*We welcome our guest speaker*

***Josh Taylor***  
***Biography***

Josh Taylor serves as Associate Pastor of Outreach and Evangelism at Beaverdam Baptist Church in Williamston, SC. He married his beautiful wife, Mandy, a YACS graduate, almost five years ago. They are expecting their first baby girl in late July 2016. Mandy and Josh met at Toccoa Falls College in northeast Georgia where Josh earned a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministries. Afterward, he was mentored a year by evangelist Clayton King. Later, he earned a master's degree in Christian apologetics from Biola University. He is currently working on M.Div. equivalency from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Josh serves as a youth speaker and evangelist for college students and adults at apologetic, church, camp, revival, and recovery events in the southeast.

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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

Samuel Douglas Nicol  
Jared Matthew Williams

Seth Benjamin Nicol

### Magna Cum Laude

Peyton Lewis Bowker  
Alliyah Jonet Cuttino  
Kourtnei Nicole Exley  
Lindsay Morgan Gmerek  
Avani Jeanné Lesane  
Ellah Danielle Mahan  
Ross Edward Mahan  
Caroline Elizabeth Marathas  
Abigail Rae McCane  
Samantha Chiego McCurdy

Reagan Carolyn Sapp  
Jared Adam Schaeffer  
Kaleb Anthony Senator  
Shelby Lauren Vann  
Alexis Nicole Vinson  
William Joseph Ware  
Theuwan Eton White  
Morgan Danielle Wiese  
Brandon Alexander Williams

### Diploma with Distinction

Amanda Brooke Ashley  
Peyton Lewis Bowker  
Kourtnei Nicole Exley  
Lindsay Morgan Gmerek  
Avani Jeanné Lesane  
Yu Binn Lim  
Ellah Danielle Mahan  
Ross Edward Mahan  
Caroline Elizabeth Marathas  
Samantha Chiego McCurdy  
Samuel Douglas Nicol

Seth Benjamin Nicol  
Reagan Carolyn Sapp  
Jared Adam Schaeffer  
Kaleb Anthony Senator  
Kristin Cheré Strother  
Shelby Lauren Vann  
William Joseph Ware  
Morgan Danielle Wiese  
Brandon Alexander Williams  
Jared Matthew Williams

### Beta Club Members

Peyton Lewis Bowker  
Alliyah Jonet Cuttino  
Ellah Danielle Mahan  
Ross Edward Mahan  
Caroline Elizabeth Marathas  
Abigail Rae McCane  
Samantha Chiego McCurdy  
Samuel Douglas Nicol

Seth Benjamin Nicol  
Reagan Carolyn Sapp  
Kaleb Anthony Senator  
Alexis Nicole Vinson  
William Joseph Ware  
Morgan Danielle Wiese  
Brandon Alexander Williams  
Jared Matthew Williams

### Zell Miller Scholarship

Samuel Douglas Nicol  
Seth Benjamin Nicol  
Reagan Carolyn Sapp

Kaleb Anthony Senator  
Jared Matthew Williams

### Cords

Summa Cum Laude - *Red*  
Magna Cum Laude - *Gold*  
Diploma with Distinction - *Green*  
**Medals** - Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Senior Beta Officers

Beta - *Black*  
Zell Miller Scholarship - *Silver*

## Student Accolades

### Amanda Brooke Ashley

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; National Science Award- 11; Literary- 11, 12; Creative Writing Club- 11, 12; Spanish Club- 10, 11; Drama- 9, 10, 11; Cheerleading- 9; Men's Soccer Manager- 9; Women's Soccer- 10, 11; Homecoming Court- 11; Mission Trip- 11.

### Peyton Lewis Bowker

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; National Science Award- 9; National Language Arts Award- 11; Art Festival- 10; Chapel Crew- 11, 12.

**Kaylah Richale Bumpers**

Academic Excellence Award- 12; Literary- 9; Creative Writing Festival - 9, 10; Spanish Club- 9, 10, 11; Drama- 9, 10, 11, 12; Cheerleading- 9, 10, 11; Softball- 10, 11; Prom Committee- 11; Mission Trip- 12.

**Clint Lucas Burke**

Academic Excellence Award- 9; Band- 9, 10; District Honor Band- 9; Football- 10.

**Christian Michael Camp**

Academic Excellence Award- 9; Football- 11, 12.

**Sydney Brooke Cooper**

Academic Excellence Award- 9; Beta Club- 9; Baseball Manager- 9; Football Manager - 9, 10, 11.

**Alliyah Jonet Cuttino**

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; Art Festival- 10; Creative Writing Festival- 9,10; Spanish Club- 10, 11; Cheerleading- 9; Drama- 12; Homecoming Court- 12; Mission Trip- 11, 12.

**Kourtnei Nicole Exley**

Academic Excellence Award- 10, 12; Beta Club- 9; Cheerleading- 9, 10, 11; Baseball Manager- 11; Homecoming Court- 12.

**Lindsay Morgan Gmerek**

Academic Excellence Award- 12; Drama- 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer- 11; Archery- 12; Mission Trip- 11, 12.

**Claire Senora Hardee**

Spanish Club- 11; Drama- 12; One-Act Play State Champion- 12; Softball- 10, 11, 12.

**Daniel Scott Alexander Hardeman**

Academic Excellence Award- 11; Basketball- 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball Captain-11, 12; All Region Basketball- 11, 12; Football- 9, 10, 11, 12; Football Captain- 10, 11, 12; All Region Football- 12; Baseball- 12; Drama- 12; Most Unforgettable Senior Superlative.

**Jai Wisdom Harris**

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; National Science Award- 10; Literary- 9; Quiz Bowl- 12; Pep and Concert Band- 9, 10; Student Government- 11; Art Festival- 11; Mission Trip- 12.

**Nicole Diana Henry**

Academic Excellence Award- 10, 11, 12; Technical Theatre/Drama - 12; Softball- 10, 11; Spanish Club- 10, 11, 12.

**Taylor Marie King**

Academic Excellence Award- 12; Literary- 10; Spanish Club- 10, 11; Drama- 9, 10, 11, 12; Softball- 9, 10, 11, 12; Volleyball- 9, 10, 11; Cheerleading- 9; Archery- 12; Archery Captain- 12; Mission Trip- 11.

**Aubri Lynn Ledford**

Creative Writing Festival- 12; Cheerleading- 9; Softball- 9, 10, 11, 12; All-Star Softball- 12.

**Avani Jeanné Lesane**

ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student- 12; Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta- 9, 10; Creative Writing Festival- 11; Drama- 9, 10, 11, 12; Literary- 10, 12; Spanish Club- 11, 12; Softball- 12; Archery- 12; Archery Captain- 12; Most Talented and Most Unforgettable Senior Superlative; Mission Trip- 11, 12.

**Yu Binn Lim**

Academic Excellence Award- 12; National Language Arts Award- 12; Quiz Bowl- 12; Art Festival- 9; Drama- 11, 12; Cross Country- 12; Golf- 12; Archery- 12; Mission Trip- 11.

**Ellah Danielle Mahan**

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; National Science Award- 10; Student Government- 12; Art Festival- 9, 10; Drama- 11, 12; Chapel Crew- 11, 12; Prom Committee- 11; Prom Court- 12; Volleyball- 9, 10; Most Encouraging Senior Superlative; Mission Trip- 11, 12.

**Ross Edward Mahan**

ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student- 12; Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; National Language Arts Award- 9; HOBY Leadership Award- 10; Eagle Silver Award- 11; Drama- 10, 11, 12; Chapel Crew- 10, 11, 12; Student Government- 11, 12;

Creative Writing Festival- 10; Football- 9, 10, 11, 12; Football Captain- 11, 12; Football MVP- 11, 12; GICAA Football All-Star- 12; GICAA Football All-Region- 12; Baseball- 9, 10, 11, 12; Baseball Captain- 10, 11, 12; Baseball MVP- 10, 11, 12; GISA Baseball All-Region- 11, 12; GICAA Baseball All-Star- 12; Wendy's High School Heisman- 12; Most Athletic Senior Superlative- 12; Mission Trip- 11, 12.

**Caroline Elizabeth Marathas**

Academic Excellence Award- 10, 11, 12; Beta Club- 12; National Language Arts Award- 11; Chapel Band- 11, 12; Chapel Crew- 11, 12; Soccer- 11; Spanish Club- 11, 12; Homecoming Court/Queen- 12; Most All-Around Senior Superlative.

**Abigail Rae McCane**

Academic Excellence Award- 10, 12; Beta Club- 10, 11, 12; National Science Award- 10; Chapel Crew- 11,12; Softball- 10, 11, 12; All-State Softball- 12; Volleyball- 10, 11, 12; Drama- 11, 12; One-Act Play Competition- 12; One-Act Play State Champion - 12; Homecoming Court- 11; Mission Trip- 11.

**Samantha Chiego McCurdy**

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; National Language Arts Award- 9, 11; Student Government- 9, 10; Drama- 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; International Thespian Society Member- 12; One-Act Play Competition – 10, 11, 12; One-Act Play State Champion- 12; Student Government- 9, 10; Cheerleading- 9, 10, 11, 12; Elementary Cheerleading Assistant Coach- 9, 10, 11, 12; Cheer Captain- 12; Homecoming Court- 9, 10; Mission Trip- 12.

**Christina Lorré Murray**

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; Art- 9, 10, 11; Art Festival- 10; Drama Tech- 12; Homecoming Court- 12.

**Samuel Douglas Nicol**

STAR Student- 12; GA Certificate of Merit- 11; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student- 12; Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; National Science Award- 11, 12; National Language Arts Award- 12; Quiz Bowl- 12; Student Government- 9, 10, 11, 12; Chapel Band- 12; Concert Band- 9, 10, 11, 12; Pep Band- 9, 10, 11, 12; Jazz Combo Band- 12; Basketball- 9, 10; Cross Country- 12; Mission Trip- 11, 12.

**Seth Benjamin Nicol**

ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student- 12; Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; National Language Arts Award- 9, 10, 12; National Science Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; Quiz Bowl- 12; Student Government- 10, 11, 12; Concert Band- 9, 10; Pep Band- 9, 10, 11, 12; Chapel Band- 12; Drama- 11, 12; Creative Writing Festival- 10, 11; Spanish Club- 10, 11, 12; Spanish Club Officer- 12; Basketball- 9, 10; Chess Club- 9, 10, 11; Cross Country- 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; Cross Country Captain- 11, 12; GISA All-State Cross Country- 11; GICAA Cross Country State Champion- 12; Mission Trip- 11, 12.

**Kelley Danielle Pearson**

ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student- 12; Soccer- 8, 10, 11; Soccer Region Champion- 8; Soccer State Champion- 8; Volleyball- 9, 10, 11, 12; Volleyball Region Champion- 9, 11, 12; Volleyball State Champion- 9; Volleyball All-Star Team- 9, 12; Volleyball Region Runner-Up- 10; Volleyball State Final-Four- 10, 12; Volleyball Captain- 11, 12; Volleyball Assistant Middle School Coach- 11, 12; Volleyball All-Region and All-State Player- 11,12; Volleyball MVP- 12; Most Athletic Senior Superlative.

**Reagan Carolyn Sapp**

Academic Excellence Award- 11, 12; Beta Club- 11, 12; Literary- 11, 12; Drama- 9, 10, 11, 12; International Thespian Society Member- 12; Baseball Manager- 12; Color Guard- 9, 10; Most Likely to Succeed Senior Superlative.

**Jared Adam Schaeffer**

Academic Excellence Award- 10, 11; Beta Club- 9, 10; Soccer-10.

**Kaleb Anthony Senator**

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student- 12; National Language Arts Award- 10; National Science Award- 11, 12; Quiz Bowl- 12; Student Government- 9, 10, 11, 12; Chapel Band- 11, 12; Drama- 9, 10, 11, 12; International Thespian Society Member- 12; Soccer- 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer Captain- 12; Cross Country- 9, 10, 11; Most Talented and Most All-Around Senior Superlative; Mission Trip- 12.

**Emilee Suzanne Southern**

**Kristin Cheré Strother**

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 12; Beta Club- 10; Yearbook -10; Spanish Club- 10; Basketball- 9; Softball- 9; Soccer- 11; Drama- 12.

**Shelby Lauren Vann**

Academic Excellence Award- 11, 12; Drama- 12; Volleyball- 9; Softball- 9, 10; Cheerleading- 9, 10; Soccer- 11; Basketball Manager- 11, 12; Baseball Manager- 12; Football Manager- 12.

**Alexis Nicole Vinson**

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 11; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; Art Festival- 10; Archery- 12.

**Aubree Madison Walker**

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 11; Cheerleading- 9, 10; Homecoming Court- 9, 10.

**William Joseph Ware**

Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club Secretary- 11, 12; Creative Writing Festival- 10; Quiz Bowl- 12; Drama- 9; Spanish Club- 10, 11, 12; Spanish Club President- 12; Cross Country- 9, 10, 11, 12; Cross Country Captain- 12; Most Encouraging Senior Superlative.

**Theuwan Eton White**

Academic Excellence Award- 10, 11, 12; Beta Club- 9, 10; Soccer- 9, 10; Basketball- 9, 10, 11, 12.

**Morgan Danielle Wiese**

Academic Excellence Award- 12; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; Yearbook- 10, 11, 12; Yearbook Editor- 12; Drama- 10, 12.

**Brandon Alexander Williams**

Academic Excellence Award- 10, 11, 12; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; Creative Writing Festival- 10; Yearbook- 11, 12; Baseball- 11.

**Jared Matthew Williams**

GA Certificate of Merit- 11; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student- 12; Academic Excellence Award- 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club- 9, 10, 11, 12; Beta Club Vice-President- 11; Beta Club President- 12; National Language Arts Award- 9, 12; National Science Award- 9, 11; Student Government- 9, 10, 11, 12; Quiz Bowl- 12; Creative Writing Festival- 9, 10, 11, 12; Art Festival- 9; Golf- 9; Concert Band- 10; Pep Band- 11; Cross Country- 12; Most Likely to Succeed Senior Superlative.

*Colleges Attended  
by Young Americans Christian School Graduates*

Young Americans Christian School has provided educational excellence for 26 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	Georgia Perimeter College	Mississippi State University
Athens Technical College	Georgia Regents University	Oxford College of Emory
Auburn University	Georgia Southwestern State Univ.	Piedmont College
Berry College	Georgia Southern University	Point University
Brewton Parker College	Georgia State University	Reinhart University
Clayton State University	Gordon College	Savannah College of Art and Design
Clemson University	Harding University	Shorter College
Coastal Carolina University	High Point University	Southern Polytechnic State Univ.
Columbus State University	Johnson Bible College	Spelman College
Covenant College	Johnson & Wales Univ., NC	Stamford University
DeKalb Technical College	Kennesaw State University	Toccoa Falls College
DeVry University	Kentucky Christian College	Trevecca Nazarene University
Emmanuel College	Lee University	Tuskegee University
Emory University	Liberty University	Union University
Faulkner University	Luther Rice College	University of Florida
Florida Atlantic University	Mercer University	University of Georgia
Gainesville State College	Mercer School of Medicine	University of North Georgia
Georgia College & State Univ.	Mercer School of Nursing	University of West Georgia
Georgia Gwinnett College	Middle Georgia College	Valdosta State University
Georgia Institute of Technology	Milligan College	Wake Forest Sch. of Medicine
Georgia Military College	Mississippi College	Young Harris College



## *Mission Statement*

*Young Americans Christian School is a college preparatory school working hand in hand with the family to cultivate students who will be academically successful and will grow to be a light in the world for Christ.*

*Young Americans Christian School is fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).*



## **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