

# *Commencement Ceremony 2017*



## **Young Americans Christian School Board**

Perry Acuff, *Chairman*

Kirk Mahan

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 2017

Prelude .....	Missy Shelnutt
Processional .....	“Pomp and Circumstance” by Elgar
Welcome/ Invocation.....	..Dr. David Taylor, <i>Administrator</i>
The Star Spangled Banner .....	..Mandy Watts
Valedictorian Address .....	..Chase Latimer
Salutatorian Address .....	..Sharayah Davis
Senior Class Profile .....	..Debbie Heller, <i>Academic Advisor</i>
Loyalty Scholarship .....	..Kirk Mahan, <i>Board Member</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 .....	..Curt Zehner
Video Presentation of Graduates	
Awarding of Diplomas.....	Jan Taylor, <i>Director and Terry Shelnutt, Principal</i>
Special Music.....	Olivia Johnson (2017), Cullen Johnson (2013) ,Rhett Johnson (2012)
Tassel Ceremony .....	..Kathryn Porter
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*

***Curt Zehner***

***Biography***

Curt Zehner has lived in Conyers for more than half his life and started his family here. His oldest child, Mary (Zehner) Kelly, was 2 years old when she began attending the inaugural year of YACS. Since then all three of his children (Mary, Curtis, and JJ) are proud Eagle graduates. They have watched the school grow and invest in so many lives. Young Americans is woven into so many changes of his family's history. For most of those years he worked in broadcasting - stations like WPCH (then LITE FM), Newsradio WGST, WAGA (Channel 5) and most recently WFSH (104.7 The Fish). He still gets to play DJ on the weekends at The Fish, but 15 years ago he answered the call to ministry, finished seminary, and has now served as Senior Minister of Crosspoint Christian Church for the past 13 years. He is thankful and proud of his family's lifetime connection with YACS and looks forward to a future that continues to bring Glory to God.

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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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## Student Accolades

### Hunter James Anckersen

Soccer – 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer Captain – 12; Soccer Offensive Player of the Year – 10; Soccer Region Champs – 11; Basketball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball Coaches Award – 10, 11; Basketball Captain – 10, 11; Basketball YACS Award – 12; Mission Trip – 11, 12.

### Lexie Beth Bailey

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11; Spanish Club – 10, 11, 12; ACSI Art Festival – 9; Drama Tech – 10.

### Joel Christopher Barnes

Soccer – 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer All-Region/All-State – 11; Soccer Defensive Player of the Year – 10, 11; Soccer Region Champs – 11; Football – 9, 10, 11, 12; Football Defensive Player of the Year – 11; Football Offensive Player of the Year – 12; GICA Football All-Star – 12; Most Changed since Freshman Year Senior Superlative.

### Arianah Sophia Black

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 11; Student Government – 9; Drama – 9, 11; ACSI Creative Writing Festival – 10; Soccer – 9, 10; Soccer MVP – 9, 10; Soccer All-Region MVP – 9; Soccer Offensive Player of the Year – 9, 10; Soccer GISA Top Scorer – 10; Mission Trip – 12.

### Andrew Scott Blount

Academic Excellence Award – 11; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 11; Spanish Club – 10; One Act Play State Champs – 11, 12; One Act Play Regional Best Actor – 11, 12; Football – 9, 10, 11, 12; Football Captain – 10, 11, 12; Football MVP – 10, 11; Football Tackle Leader – 10, 11; Baseball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Most Likely to Return to YACS to Teach Senior Superlative.

### Kevin Joseph Clark, Jr.

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 12; National Science Award – 10; ACSI Art Festival – 10; ACSI Creative Writing Festival – 12; Soccer – 9, 10, 11; Mission Trip – 11, 12.

### Kathryn Leanna Corbett

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 11, 12; National Science Award – 11; Student Government – 10, 11, 12; ACSI Creative Writing Festival – 10, 11; Chapel Leadership – 11, 12; Drama – 12; Homecoming Court – 9, 10; Prom Committee – 11; Volleyball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Volleyball Captain – 12; Volleyball Region Champion – 10, 11, 12; Volleyball State Final Four – 11; Volleyball State Runner-Up – 12; Volleyball All-Star – 12; GICAA Volleyball All-State – 12; Volleyball All-Region – 9, 12; Volleyball Coaches Award – 11; Cheerleading – 12; Basketball Cheer Captain – 12; Mission Trip – 11, 12.

### Chadmen Nehemiah Crowner

Academic Excellence Award – 9; 10, 12; Band – 9, 10, 11, 12; Archery – 11, 12; Prom King – 12; Most Likely to Change the World Senior Superlative.

### Sharayah Renee Davis

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 11; 12; National Science Award – 9, 11; National Language Arts Award – 10; Literary – 9, 10; ACSI Creative Writing Festival – 12; Drama – 9, 10, 11, 12; One Act Play – 10, 11, 12; One Act Play State Champion – 11, 12; International Thespian Society – 11, 12; Thespian Officer – 12; Drama Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; Spanish Club 12; Student Government – 10, 11, 12; Homecoming Court – 12; Most Likely to Change the World Senior Superlative.

### Riley Michelle Dean

Academic Excellence Award – 10, 11; ACSI Art Festival – 9; Competition Cheerleading – 9, 10, 11, 12; Competition Cheerleading Captain – 12; Competition Cheer State Champs – 10; Competition Cheer Coach's Award – 12; Prom Court – 12.

### Darian Rosemary Anne Discenza

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 12; Drama – 9, 11, 12; Drama Club – 9, 10, 11, 12; One Act Play – 9, 12; One Act Play State Champion – 12; International Thespian Society – 11, 12; Thespian Officer – 12; Quiz Bowl – 11, 12; Quiz Bowl Captain – 11, 12; Law and Justice – 10; Yearbook – 10, 11; Digital Media – 9; Spanish Club – 12; Cheerleading – 10, 11; Competition Cheer State Champs – 10; Mission Trip – 12.

### Michael Eric Ellison

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10; National Science Award – 9; ACSI Creative Writing Festival – 10;

### Christian Hunter Gibbs

Academic Excellence Award – 12; Baseball – 9, 10, 11, 12; All-Region Baseball – 11; All-Star Baseball – 12; Basketball – 9; Football – 9, 11.

### **Michael Edwin Golden**

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10; Archery – 11, 12.

### **Justyna Grotkowska**

Academic Excellence Award – 10, 11, 12; ACSI Creative Writing Festival – 10, 11, 12; Art – 10; Drama – 11, 12; Softball – 10; Football Manager – 12; Cheerleading – 11; Cheer State Champions – 11; Prom Queen – 12.

### **Cole Robert Hall**

Academic Excellence Award – 12; Drama – 11, 12; One Act Play State Champs – 11, 12; Baseball – 9, 10, 11; Football – 10, 11, 12; Mr. YA – 11; Prom Prince – 11.

### **Katrina Victoria Hickein**

Academic Excellence Award – 10, 11; Drama – 12; Spanish Club – 9; Softball – 9, 10; Football Manager – 11, 12.

### **Maria de Fatima Hickein**

Academic Excellence Award – 10; Chapel Leadership – 11; Drama – 9, 10, 12; Spanish Club – 9; Softball – 9, 10; Football Manager – 11, 12; Prom Court – 11.

### **Anthony Reid Johnson, Jr.**

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 12; National Science Award – 10, 12; Quiz Bowl – 11; ACSI Art Festival – 10; Football – 12; Football Special Teams MVP – 12; Cross Country – 9, 10, 11, 12; Cross Country Top Runner – 12; Soccer – 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer Coaches Award – 9; Soccer Offensive MVP – 11; Soccer State Runner-Up – 12; Most Athletic Senior Superlative.

### **Olivia Elizabeth Johnson**

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 11, 12; Student Government – 10, 11, 12; Student Government President – 12; Drama – 9, 10, 11, 12; Chapel Band/ Leadership – 11, 12; Art – 12; Cheerleading – 9, 10, 11, 12; Cheerleading Captain – 11, 12; Cheerleading State Champs – 10; Softball – 9, 11; Softball State Runner-Up – 11; Prom Committee – 11; Homecoming Court/Queen – 12; Most All Around Senior Superlative.

### **Matthew Anthony Landers**

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 11, 12; Chapel Leadership – 11; Drama – 9, 10, 11; Soccer – 9, 10, 11; Cross Country – 9; Mission Trip – 12.

### **Chase Samuel Latimer**

STAR Student – 12; Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 11, 12; National Science Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; Student Government – 9, 10, 11, 12; Chapel Leadership – 11, 12; Drama – 9, 10, 11, 12; One-Act Play – 11, 12; One-Act Play State Champion – 11, 12; Football – 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball – 9, 10, 11, 12; ACSI Desktop Publishing Award – 9; ACSI Creative Writing Festival – 10, 11, 12; Most All Around Senior Superlative; Mission Trip – 11, 12.

### **Madison Christine Lee**

Academic Excellence Award – 10, 12; Spanish Club – 9, 10.

### **Audrey Nicole Manning**

Academic Excellence Award – 11, 12; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 12; Chapel Leadership – 11, 12; Drama – 9, 10, 11, 12; One Act Play – 10; International Thespian Society – 11, 12; Literary – 9; ACSI Creative Writing Festival – 10; Yearbook – 12; Archery – 12; Cheerleading – 9, 10, 11, 12; Competition Cheerleading – 9, 10, 11; Competition Cheerleading State Champions – 9, 11; Cheer Captain – 11; Cheer Co-Captain – 12; Prom Committee – 11; Prom Court – 11; Homecoming Court – 12; Most Changed since Freshman Year Senior Superlative; Mission Trip – 11, 12.

### **Noel Charles Matthias**

Academic Excellence Award – 9; Art – 9, 11; Yearbook Photographer – 11; Soccer – 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer Region Champs – 11; Basketball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball Most Improved – 9; Basketball Coach's Award – 10; Basketball Captain – 10, 11, 12; Basketball Best Offensive Player – 11; Elementary Basketball Coach – 11, 12.

### **Audrey Elizabeth McNew**

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 12; Beta Club President – 12; Beta Club Vice-President – 11; Student Government – 11, 12; Chapel Leadership – 11, 12; Drama Tech – 11, 12; Softball – 9; Basketball – 10; Elementary Basketball Coach – 11, 12; Prom Committee – 11; Prom Court – 11; Mission Trip – 12.

### **Briana Nichole Porter**

Academic Excellence Award – 10, 11; Drama – 10, 12; ACSI Art Festival – 9; ACSI Creative Writing Festival – 10; Cheer – 10, 11, 12; Cheer State Champs – 11; Cheer Coaches Award – 11.

### **Kathryn Carlisle Porter**

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 12; Student Government – 9, 10, 11, 12; Chapel Leadership – 11, 12; ACSI Creating Writing Festival – 10, 11; Class President – 12; Drama – 11, 12; Prom Committee – 11; Homecoming Court – 11, 12; Volleyball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Volleyball Region Champion – 11; Volleyball State Final Four – 11, 12; Volleyball Captain – 12; Volleyball State Runner-Up – 12; Basketball Cheerleading – 12; Most Likely to Return to YACS to Teach Senior Superlative; Mission Trip – 12.

### **Blake Harrison Rhineheart**

Academic Excellence Award – 11, 12; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 11, 12; Chapel Leadership – 12; Drama – 11, 12; One-Act Play State Champion – 12; Spanish Club – 11; Football – 9, 10, 11, 12; Baseball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball – 10; Most Unforgettable Senior Superlative.

### **Kimberlee Alexis Smith**

Photography Club – 12; ACSI Arts Festival – 12; Yearbook – 10, 12; Band – 9; Basketball – 10; School Mascot – 10, 11, 12; Prom Court – 12.

### **Nicholas Rodrigues Ta**

Academic Excellence Award – 12; National Science Award – 9, 10, 11; Art – 9; Band – 10, 11; Drama – 12; Archery – 11, 12.

### **Seth Avery Wallace**

Academic Excellence Award – 11; National Science Award – 9; Soccer – 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer MVP – 10, 11; Soccer Captain – 11, 12; Soccer All-Region Player – 11; Soccer All-State Player – 11; Soccer Region Champion – 11.

### **Serena Natalie White**

Academic Excellence Award – 9, 10, 11, 12; ACSI Creative Writing Festival – 10; ACSI Art Festival – 10; Chess Club – 9, 10; Spanish Club – 12; Drama – 12; One Act Play State Champion – 12; Basketball – 11; Library Volunteer – 11, 12.

### **Elizabeth Grace Wiemann**

Academic Excellence Award – 10, 11; National Science Award – 10, 11; Student Government – 12; ACSI Creative Writing Festival – 10; Drama – 11, 12; One Act Play State Champion – 12; Soccer – 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer State Champs – 12; Soccer All-Star – 12; Most Unforgettable Senior Superlative.

### **Rachel Simone Wilcox**

Academic Excellence Award – 11; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student – 12; Volleyball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Volleyball Captain – 11, 12; Volleyball MVP – 10, 11, 12; Volleyball All-Region – 9, 10, 11, 12; Volleyball All-State – 12; Volleyball All-Star – 12; Volleyball State Final Four – 9, 11; Volleyball State Runner-Up – 12; Softball – 9, 10, 11; Softball Golden Glove – 9; Softball Best Defensive Player – 10; Softball MVP – 11; Softball State Runner-Up – 11; Softball Captain – 11; Basketball – 10; Most Athletic Senior Superlative.

### **Graham William Wildmon**

Academic Excellence Award – 12; National Science Award – 10, 11, 12; Quiz Bowl – 12; Quiz Bowl Regional Runner-Up – 12; Soccer – 9, 10, 11, 12; Archery – 12; Cross Country – 12; Cross Country Most Improved – 12.

### **Jarret Todd Young**

Academic Excellence Award – 9; Creative Writing Festival – 12; Football – 9, 11, 12; Football All-Region – 12; Football All-State – 12.

### **Harrison Visisimbom Yuh**

Academic Excellence Award – 12; Student Government – 12; Basketball – 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball Captain – 11, 12; Basketball All-Star Team – 12; Elementary Basketball Coach – 11, 12; Mission Trip – 11, 12.

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

Young Americans Christian School has provided educational excellence for 28 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 University
Armstrong State University	Lee University
Athens Technical College	Liberty University
Auburn University	Luther Rice College
Augusta University	Mercer University
Berry College	Mercer School of Medicine
Brewton Parker College	Mercer School of Nursing
Clayton State University	Middle Georgia State University
Clemson University	Milligan College
Coastal Carolina University	Mississippi College
College of Coastal Georgia	Mississippi State University
Columbus State University	Oxford College of Emory
Covenant College	Piedmont College
DeKalb Technical College	Point University
DeVry University	Reinhart University
Emmanuel College	Savannah College of Art and Design
Emory University	Shorter University
Faulkner University	Southern Polytechnic – Kennesaw State
Florida Atlantic University	Spelman College
Georgia College	Stamford University
Georgia Gwinnett College	Stetson University
Georgia Institute of Technology	Toccoa Falls College
Georgia Military College	Trevecca Nazarene University
Georgia State Univ.- Perimeter College	Tuskegee University
Georgia Southwestern State University	Union University
Georgia Southern University	University of Florida
Georgia State University	University of Georgia
Gordon State College	University of North Georgia
Harding University	University of West Georgia
High Point University	Valdosta State University
Johnson University	Wake Forest Sch. of Medicine
Johnson & Wales Univ., NC	Young Harris College
Kennesaw State University	





## 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



### *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).*