

alumni news

GASTON DAY SCHOOL

*The last two weeks have brought unprecedented changes to Gaston Day, our community and our world. Our campus has moved to a virtual learning and working environment, and our community has responded in innovative ways. To read more about all of these changes, check out Dr. Rankin's most recent blog and find out how Gaston Day and our community is responding, including Parkdale Mills' **Andy Warlick '75**.*

[Dr. Rankin's Blog](#)

2019

Madalyn Howard was named to Fall 2019 Dean's List at Elon University; **Anna Claire Rhyne** was named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at Wofford College; and **Annabelle Fulghum** was ranked No. 1 in the freshman class of 4,095 students at NC State for the Fall semester. Annabelle is majoring in genetics and human biology with a minor in Spanish. Well done, **Madalyn, Anna Claire and Annabelle!**

2018

Congratulations to **Ashley Beaty**, who was a walk-on for the women's soccer team at Queens University in Charlotte in March 2019. Ashley will begin nursing school this Fall.

Grace Wynkoop is spending the Spring semester abroad at Linnaeus University in Vaxjo, Sweden. Grace and **Ashley Jamison**, both sophomores at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, were recently accepted into the nursing program at UNC-G, and expect to graduate with their BS/RN degree in May 2022. (Grace has returned home from Sweden.)

2017

James Anthony, a junior at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, visited Gaston Day on November 25 for a chance to talk to students like **Thomas Ras**, right, about his experiences at the Academy and summer opportunities there for younger students. James expects to receive his BS in Robotic Engineering in 2021 and will join the Marine Corps.



Ilayda Wilson was named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at The College of Charleston. Congratulations, Ilayda!

2016

Anna Taylor Harbin graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Sciences with Honors on December 19, 2019. Congratulations, Anna Taylor!

Tabitha Ray was named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at The College of Charleston. Congratulations, Tabitha!

2006

Brandis Raley-Ross is in his 10th season playing professional basketball overseas, currently as a point guard for the Hong Kong Eastern Lions in Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong. "I've been fortunate enough to play all over Europe, in the Middle East and now Asia. I am also co-owner of Immaculate Training, a sports training service in Charlotte that assists and guides prospective student athletes of all ages globally to reach their full potential." Brandis' wife, Ashley, is the women's varsity basketball coach at Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte. Brandis played college ball at the University of South Carolina, graduating in 2010. (Brandis has returned to N.C.)



2004

Ben Biles is the co-founder of American Veterans Group (AVG), an

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investment bank and broker-dealer in Melville, New York that Ben says has “a social impact focus.” Registered as a Public Benefit Corporation (PBC), AVG directs 25% of its profits annually to military veterans programs and charities chosen by AVG clients. Ben is a 2008 graduate of the



US Naval Academy where he played Division 1 basketball and earned a degree in Economics. He served six years in the Navy before earning his MBA from the UVA Darden School of Business in 2014. While in the Navy, Ben spent eight months aboard the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier stationed in the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. “I’m grateful for my experience at Gaston Day, where I was pushed to think that I could do more than I imagined,” he said in recalling his time as a Morrow Scholar and member of the varsity basketball team. Ben serves as the treasurer of the New York City chapter of the US Naval Academy Alumni Associ-

ation, and said he would welcome the chance to talk to current students about his experiences with the academy and military service. Learn more about AVG at www.americanvetgroup.com.

Davis Warlick is scheduled to give the Gaston Day School commencement address during ceremonies on Saturday, May 30, 2020.

SPARTAN ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS



Vann Matthews, left, and Archer Price

Congratulations to **Vann Matthews** '80 and **Archer Price** '14, who were inducted into the **Spartan Athletic Hall of Fame** on Friday, Jan. 24, during the school's Homecoming celebration. **Vann** was a

three-sport star in his time at Gaston Day playing basketball, football, and track & field. He was the consummate team player who put team success above all else. Vann's teammates and coaches remember him as the hardest working team member who was relentless in his effort both at practices and games. Every spring, one well-rounded Gaston Day School graduate is recognized with the **Vann Matthews Spirit Award** in honor of his perseverance and passion for life.

Archer Price is the finest golfer to ever graduate from Gaston Day School. He began playing varsity golf in the 7th grade and an 8th grader won the NCISAA 2A individual state championship, following up by winning the Gaston County Amateur as a freshman, making him the youngest winner in the event's history. At the time of his commitment to play for Georgia Southern University, Archer was ranked as one of the top-75 junior golfers in the nation. He completed his college career with the 6th lowest stroke average in school history, and made the Sun Belt All-Conference Team twice and was a two-time Academic All-American.

Endowed Scholarship Luncheon



Mrs. Ernestine “Bootie” Morrow was delighted to have lunch recently with three of her former Gaston Day first grade students, from left, Davis Warlick

'04, Mrs. Morrow, Pam Dills*, and Julia Singh*. The four were reunited in February for the Gaston Day School Scholarship Luncheon, which recognized the four endowed scholarship recipient students and the donors who make the scholarships possible. The Fred R. Morrow Scholarship was established in 1998 by Mrs. Morrow and her family in memory of her son, Fred, a 1977 GDS graduate who died unexpectedly in 1997. Other named scholarships are the Judith M. Miller Endowed Scholarship and the Duke Endowed Scholarships, named in memory of W. Duke Kimbrell.

IN MEMORIAM

Gaston Day School extends condolences to the family of **Charlene Kiser**, Class of 1976, who died March 14, 2020.

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The Alumni News welcomes and includes news from all alumni, not just those who are GDS graduates. Non-graduating alumni are marked with an asterisk.*