









FINANCIAL REPORT

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear AGS Friends and Families,

The 2015-2016 school year was a remarkable and memorable year for Atlanta Girls' School. As we began the school year with our annual assembly, I revealed the theme for the year: **Unity in Diversity**.

As we celebrated our Sweet 16 year, your involvement and support allowed AGS to serve 247 students from over 60 zip codes. Your contributions supported over \$800,000 in financial aid, assisting 28% of our student body. The class of 2016 graduated 23 young women, who were offered more than 3.7 million dollars in scholarships and grants to over 81 colleges where they were accepted.

This year, we completed a five year Strategic Plan that provides the framework to lead us to the 20th anniversary celebration of the school. As one of our goals, the Board of Trustees voted on a new mission statement: Inspiring Girls to Lead Lives of Purpose. In addition, we were reaccredited by SAIS (Southern Association of Independent Schools) and commended for our exemplary Strategic Plan.

In total, the AGS community, including families, friends, alumnae, foundations, and corporations, came together to contribute \$1,200,000 to the success of the 2015-2016 school year. My charge to community members during this year was to challenge their perspectives as we celebrated diversity of viewpoints, thoughts, and experiences.

I thank you all for bringing your authentic selves to the work that we have before us in making Atlanta Girls' School a destination place for all girls in Atlanta.

Sincerely

April Hell Gell

Ayanna Hill-Gil Head of School

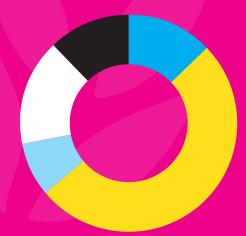
## ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

The AGS community has a strong tradition of supporting the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund is an essential component of the school's operating budget. Our Board of Trustees demonstrated its leadership by achieving 100% participation. In addition, our devoted faculty and staff reached 100% participation – a special thanks to English Department Chair Jenny Cockrill, who led the charge with her witty humor and compelling emails.

Thanks to the generosity of our parent community we are delighted to report that the 2015-16 parents annual fund campaign reached 92% participation. We couldn't have done it without our Annual Fund Parent Representatives: Elizabeth and Jeff Carr P'20, Jackie Chiusano P'22, Michael Edwards P'19, Carla Jackson P'16 & P'14, Sherri Johnson P'18 & P'16, Erika Sams P'21 & P'17, Alicia Schuster Weltner P'18, Jay Shaffer P'17, and Amy Wheeler P'19. Thank you for helping AGS keep its tradition of exceeding 90% participation.

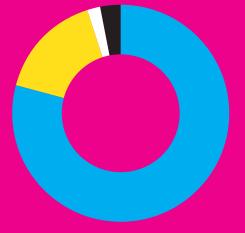
In 2015-2016, the annual fund allowed us to complete various campus improvement projects. These included additional bathroom facilities for the girls and faculty, updating carpet and tile in several of our classrooms, and installing a new security system at the front desk. The Annual Fund also supports AGS signature programs, co-curricular activities, faculty professional development, financial aid, and more.

## **STATS**



#### **EXPENSES**

- Lease & Facility: **13%**
- Instructional: 51%
- Admissions, Advancement, Marketing: 8%
- Administrative: **16%**
- Financial Aid and Scholarships: 12%



#### INCOME

- Tuition and Fees: **80%**
- Philanthropy: **16%**
- GA State Tax Credit: **2%**
- Other: **3%**

# THE GOIZUETA FOUNDATION AWARDS ATLANTA GIRLS' SCHOOL A \$350,000 GRANT TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN STEAM INITIATIVE



In December 2015, The Goizueta Foundation awarded Atlanta Girls' School a \$350,000 grant to support and sustain the school's established Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) Initiative.

Designated funds from the grant will support the STEAM Initiative over three years, including \$250,000 for STEAM integration consultation and professional development, the creation and implementation of a revised daily schedule to allow for maximum interdisciplinary learning opportunities, faculty stipends and resources that support STEAM courses and curriculum redesign, and the position of a new Design Thinking Curriculum Coordinator. \$100,000 was designated to establish The Goizueta Foundation Endowed Fund for STEAM.

"As we prepare our students for graduation, success in college, future careers that may not even exist yet, and global competency, this grant makes a significant impact on AGS's strategic focus on ensuring key STEAM principles are fully integrated throughout our curriculum," stated AGS Head of School Ayanna Hill-Gill. "It not only provides a solid foundation for the future of the school's STEAM Initiative, but also directly supports our mission to provide a learning environment designed to foster the full potential of each student and to enable her to become a vital contributor to our complex global society."

More than 12% of girls from single-sex schools go on to study in the STEM fields compared to roughly 2% percent of girls from traditional coed schools. STEAM curriculum has been a hallmark of AGS teaching and learning for years, and STEAM skills in their purest forms—design thinking, problem solving, resiliency, creativity—have been shown through numerous studies to have enormous effect on the way girls learn best.

## ▶ AGS SWEET 16! AUCTION



Thank you for your support of the AGS Sweet 16! Auction. We are grateful to the many generous individuals and businesses who contributed items for the silent and live auctions and for our sponsors – thanks to you we raised more than \$190,000. Through the Paddle Raise, we raised \$46,500 to convert a boys' bathroom to a girls' bathroom. The Wishing Tree was almost plucked bare, as a significant number of guests purchased countless items such as new chairs for classrooms, new titles for the library, beakers for the science lab, supplies for the infirmary, and even a Peter Pan costume!

During the Auction, the inaugural AGS Alumnae Awards were presented to young women who demonstrate a commitment to service, a passion for strengthening their communities, and a love for AGS. Anna Pless Peel C'04 received the Alumnae Achievement Award, Afiya Williams C'04 earned the Spirit Award,

Mary Shoemaker C'10 received the Young Alumnae Award, and Jordan R. Schwartz C'11 earned the Service to the Community Award. In addition, Sally McDaniel received the Friend of AGS Award.

Our deepest thanks go out to our auction committee superstars who spent months behind the scenes planning the event, thank you to Robin King P'20 and Jennifer Rinck P'17, P'20 our amazing co-chairs, Joycelyn Bergeron P'19, Francoise Everett P'21, Joanne FitzGerald P'17, Pride Forney P'17, Sonia Griffiths P'19, Nancy Kabat P'17, Allison Jones P'20, and Corliss Muhammad P'17.



Anna Pless Peele 'O4 and Afiya Williams 'O4.

## ► EMILY'S WALK FOR AGS

AGS co-founder Emily Ellison completed a 200-mile walk on the Wainwright Coast to Coast Walk Across England, from the Irish Sea to the North Sea, in May 2016. This walk celebrated two landmark events for Emily—a milestone birthday and almost 20 years since envisioning Atlanta Girls' School. Thanks to your generous support, Emily's celebratory walk raised more than \$25.000 for AGS.



### ► CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2016!

In May 2016, we celebrated the achievements of 23 amazing seniors. These young women received 121 acceptances to 81 different colleges in 24 states and the District of Columbia and were offered more than \$3.7M in scholarships and grants (not including HOPE) from the colleges where they were accepted. During commencement, Head of School Ayanna Hill-Gill encouraged the Class of 2016 "to enjoy the magic of your next chapter as you have done at AGS." She reminded the graduates that the experiences that they have had at AGS shaped them into confident, courageous, caring, creative, and clever leaders who will go on to change the world. Our keynote speaker, Shan Cooper, Chief Supply Chain and Technology Officer of WestRock said, "···Class of 2016, today you stand at the pinnacle of an extraordinary achievement. But I want to challenge you not to rest just yet, but to reach higher. There is so much more you have to offer the world!"

## ▶ THE AGS ALUMNAE COUNCIL

The Atlanta Girls' School Alumnae Council keeps alumnae connected to each other and to AGS. Along with class reunions, our Winter Social is one of our largest annual events. With over 50 alumnae, faculty, and staff members gathered, the 2016 Winter Social was filled with laughter - remembering good times and making new memories. There are many ways to keep in touch with the school and fellow alumnae. In addition to supporting the Annual Fund, you can join us on Facebook, attend the Winter Social and Commencement. As our alumnae network continues to grow, it is important that we remain a resource for girls following in our footsteps.

#### 2015 -2016 ALUMNAE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Anna Pless Peel '04, President Brittany Flood '07 Elizabeth Mashburn '08 Ferra Pinnock '13 Shaina McGahee '05 Hannah Salwen '11 Stephanie Whipple '05

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# 2015-2016 THANK YOU TO OUR **GENEROUS DONORS**

>>> November 5th Society: Honoring and recognizing individual donors who support the Atlanta Girls' School Annual fund at the \$5,000 level and above. In addition to their generous level of giving to the Annual Fund, many members are sponsors of the auction and participate in the Georgia Tax Credit Program. The Society was named in the honor of the first gift made to AGS by a non-founder – on November 5, 1998.

Note: Names below appear with additional symbols representing participation in the November 5th Society (^) and the Georgia Tax Private School Tax Credit Program (+). All gifts listed were made to AGS between July 1, 2015 – June 15, 2016. If we need to make a correction to your listing, please call us at 404–604–2817.

#### Legend: **November 5th Society^ Georgia Tax Credit+**

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