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Sophia Academy | Summer 2010



**Einstein Eagle** asked Georgia Mother of the Year, **Marie Corrigan**, about her parenting philosophy. Here's what she said:

The teachings of the Bible constitute my philosophy of parenting. I thank God that while the Bible gives me the guidelines for parenting, the Bible also gives me the encouragement and knowledge that I will receive forgiveness for all of the times that I fail as a parent. Parenting is an incredibly difficult challenge that requires patience, perseverance, forgiveness, acceptance and love. Parenting requires an understanding that fair is not always equal. Parenting affects the deepest pain and the greatest joy.

The foundation of my parenting has been to model obeying and worshipping our Lord. As God's plan for me was revealed, I understood that His plan was the only way that I could return to Him through eternal life. My role as a parent has been to teach my children about Jesus; I am confident that I have achieved this goal and I am sure that God will continue to parent me as I continue to parent my children (as part of the Mother of the Year application).



**Mark your calendars:**

- August 24:**  
First day of school
- October 6:**  
Open House 9am and 6pm  
Kirk Martin "Celebrate Calm"-  
7pm, guests welcome!
- October 29:**  
Second annual Golf Tournament  
at Heritage Golf
- February 26:**  
Masterpiece Gala

**We are servant leaders:**

*This year, we donated over 100 toys to Toys for Tots, 100 books, DVDS and videos to Dream House for Medically Fragile children...more than 100 coats and blankets to Atlanta Union Mission, 600 pounds of food to The Atlanta Community Food Bank...\$428 was raised in coins by students for Habitat for Humanity....and Middle School students served over 200 hours at Elaine Clark Center and Sheltering Arms.*

**Mrs. Corrigan led our annual Awards of Excellence with the following story about the character trait of courage:**

*Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle doesn't escape the storm. It simply uses it to lift higher. It rises on the wind that brings the storm. When storms of life come upon us, we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God. The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them.*

**Sophia named NASET School of Excellence**  
Mr. Bevington and Mrs. Rat also receive awards

The National Association of Special Education Teachers awarded Sophia Academy as one of its 2009/10 Schools of Excellence. This award for schools of at least ten years old is given to those who have demonstrated truly exceptional dedication, commitment and achievement in the field of special education. Criteria also include having professionals licensed in special education, small staff/student ratio and membership in professional organizations.



George Bevington with Sonny Perdue

NASET also awarded instructor **Mrs. Cami Rat** with Outstanding Special Education Teacher of the Year. The honoree must be a licensed special education teacher of at least three years. Mrs. Rat is an Orton-Gillingham associate and recent Master's degree recipient in Special Education from Brenau University: she clearly and genuinely promotes our belief that every student can learn - sometimes

in different ways. She was selected to pilot our Promethean board instruction and conducts hours of lessons using interactive board instruction, audio and video content. Math is more engaging in her class -who wouldn't want to draw "the gallon guy" on their desk to learn units? After school she is commonly found tutoring her students with math facts or reviewing phonics lessons. Not only is Cami an excellent teacher for her students, but she extends her love for education by mentoring new teachers at Sophia Academy.

**George Bevington** received the 2010 Georgia Distinguished Educator of the Year for Middle School by the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust. Presented for his demonstration of excellence and creativity in the development and presentation of lessons on the Holocaust, Mr. Bevington received his award at the State Capitol of Georgia. Georgia Power sponsors this with a cash award, and his name is placed on a plaque located at the *Anne Frank in the World* exhibit and the Thomas B. Murphy Holocaust Teacher Training and Resource Center. We were fortunate to have him speak at our Leadership Institute on Anne Frank with the homelessness perspective.

"These awards reflect some of the amazing work that our teachers do in the classrooms for their students," says Director Marie Corrigan.



## Letter from the Director

Dear friends and families of Sophia Academy,

I've often said that we get our best ideas from our parents, and we've taken one idea to heart as we have prayed and sought wisdom and guidance for the future of our school. This fall we will expand our program to kindergarten students who are traditional learners, students without diagnosed learning differences. Extensive research and even common sense tells us that a low student teacher ratio and multi-sensory teaching is the best experience for any child. Add to that the internationally recognized program for teaching spelling and reading, Orton-Gillingham, and you've got an amazing program for all! Furthermore, this expansion will allow those younger siblings to attend the same school as their big brother or sister. I am so excited to see our school grow in this way; I am sure that this will benefit all of our students.

Years ago, when I was searching for a school for my daughter my hope was to find a school to meet her needs but also one that could serve my other three children. Unfortunately that was not the case. Disappointing, frustrating, discouraging? Yes, all of that and more. The start of this new decade will bring new students to Sophia Academy and in some cases, complete families. It is a blessing for all of us!

Sincerely,  
Marie

## Assistive Technology Evaluation Center Opens



Sophia Academy is excited to announce the opening of our Assistive Technology Evaluation Center. In an outreach effort to expand awareness and services to students all across Atlanta, we have created the first-ever evaluation center for reading, writing, and math. Three focus groups were employed and determined that, while there is a strong need for such a place, none were in existence. As a leader in Assistive Technology for our own students, our highly skilled teachers train using programs such as Read and Write Gold, PDF Equalizer, Speech to Text, and many others. The mission of the center is to evaluate students in grades K-12 and determine if their academic performance could be improved by the use of Assistive Technology in their home or on their own school campus. The programs and devices that may be recommended can be purchased easily for individual use, and on-going training is available at Sophia Academy. The Assistive Technology Evaluation Center will open in July, 2010 on the campus of Sophia Academy.

*The mission of the center is to evaluate students in grades K-12 and determine if their academic performance could be improved by the use of Assistive Technology in their home or on their own school campus.*

## Sue Astley Joins As Admissions Director

A part of the independent school community in Atlanta for 34 years, Ms. Astley brings her experience to Sophia Academy as Admissions Director. Most recently Assistant Headmaster of St. Martin's Episcopal School and one of our trustees, she has been active in the Joint Admissions Testing group (JATP), AAAIS Principal's group and served on over a dozen visiting teams for the SAIS-SACS accreditation process. She won the School Bell award as Oglethorpe University's most outstanding Alumni in Education, where she gained her Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education. She also completed post-graduate work in Administration from West Georgia College.



*"Being a part of this unique and growing school is a blessing to me as a professional. I know that all the students who pass through its doors benefit from the Sophia experience."*

Sue and husband Bob are active members of Trinity Presbyterian Church where both have served as Elders; they have one son and two granddaughters. Sue's interests include traveling, cooking, reading and spending time with family. She has run dozens of marathons and half marathons. Sue says that "being a part of this unique and growing school is a blessing to me as a professional. I know that all the students who pass through its doors benefit from the Sophia experience."

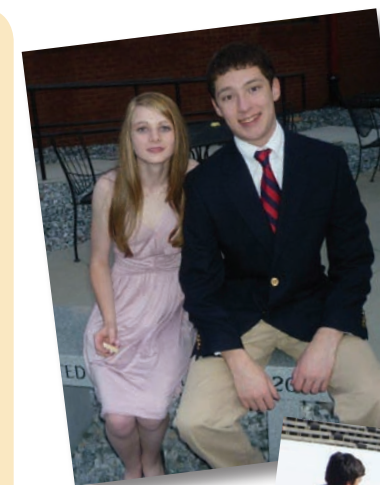
## SCHOOL LIFE



*Left: Graduating eighth grader Trent Cassidy receives the Middle School's Eagle Award, given for exemplification of Christian character, and includes a \$150 gift. Trent reports that he has seen the plaque in the lobby, and every year, he wondered if one day, he would receive it. Dream accomplished!*



*Right: Rising fourth grader Koale McKenzie wins the Corrigan Family Scholarship Fund Award. This honor includes \$500 toward tuition and was started by alumni parent and trustee Jane Brown.*



*Our graduating eighth graders will attend these high schools in the fall: Mt. Vernon Presbyterian, Lakeside High School, Ben Franklin Academy, Mill Springs, St. Francis Schools, The Howard School and Brandon Hall.*

*Our first track and field team took off running last Spring*



## Alumni Corner

Christopher Jones (Grady High School) designed an iphone game called "Brainzapp," and it has been ranked in the top 100 educational games by Apple... Katherine Boullain, Parker Bennett and Daniel Upton all made Honor Roll at The Howard School... Travis Baumberger won first place in the Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee last year... Ginia Taylor (Agnes Scott College) and Kate Pritchard (Columbus State University) will be sophomores this year... Jonathan Zalzman was nominated for the Governor Honors program in theater and is participating in drama at St Francis Schools...



*"Alice in Wonderland" was directed by Tracey Buot with assistance from Patricia McLaughlin with parts for all students.*

## 2009/2010 Annual Fund Shooting for the Moon

Donations this year supported 186 hours of teacher training, technology including Promethean boards and a portion went to financial aid.

*"In a small class with multi-sensory instruction, each child is continually participating, and the new technologies have engaged students even more, allowing us to move through concepts faster. Students love using the remotes to answer the quizzes uploaded on the board, and then see and hear the answers. Thank you for these great resources!"*

Cami Rat, Classroom Instructor

### Annual Fund and Development Committee

Ulrich and Michelle Brechbuhl, Chairs

Cathi Athaide, Elizabeth Bresnahan, Marie Corrigan, Bonnie Hardage  
Karen Glatzer/Greg Hardwick, Beth Jarrard, Emily May, Ben McGuffey,  
Matt Mooney, Cindy and Ian Cindy Politz, Judi Ross, Brian Shelton



## CLASSROOM CORNER



Staff  
Feature:  
Camelia  
Rat

**Birthplace:** Baia Mare, Maramure, România

**Sophia Roles:** Fourth grade teacher, Curriculum, Assessment, and Parent Volunteer committees, assistant volleyball, basketball and track and field coach.

**Education and Affiliations:** M.A.T. Special Education Mild Disabilities, Brenau University; Bachelor Degree in Foreign Languages and Arts, Universitatea de Nord, Baia Mare; P.A.G.E., National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

**Personal:** Cami and her husband Gabriel have been married for five years. Together, they parent the "funniest cat in the world," Tiger. They are members of the Saints Constantine and Helen Romanian Orthodox Church.

**Hobbies & Interests:** Cami adores volleyball, which she played at a competitive level in Romnia. She enjoys reading a good book, learning about various languages and cultures, traveling, fashion, and perfumes.

**Claim to Fame:** Cami taught Romanian and English literature at her former high school before moving to the U.S., where her brother was in one of her classes.

**On SA:** My favorite quote about Sophia is: Respice, adspice, prospice - Examine the past, examine the present, and examine the future.

**Favorite Quote:** "Errare humanum est" - To err is human.

**Awards:** N.A.S.E.T. "Outstanding Special Education Teacher"

## Staff Awards

We feel character is so important that we nominate staff monthly for awards, who in turn award two students who represent that trait:

TRAIT	STAFF	STUDENTS	
Wisdom	Katie Boehme	Maxwell Shelton	Carlin Lathi
Forgiveness	Ashley Lang	Jay Mays	Mary Mitchell Tucker
Courage	Sue Peterson	Josh Brown	Annie Armstrong
Praise	Julie Noggle	Matthew Buckis	Audrey Peterson
Trustworthiness	Patricia McLaughlin	Clayton Patnode	Noelle Marchais
Endurance	Liz Price	Turner Bynum	Alicia Cantrell
Faithfulness	Adrienne Cottrell	Christian Banks	Brooke Ashby
Humor	Judi Ross	Ben Hicks	Bella Ardell
Wonder	Caroline Hurlbert	Hans Brechbuhl	Katie Anderson

### HONOR ROLL:

Alicia Cantrell, Sean Hastings, Andrew Hennessey, John Roche, Adam Russell

**Sophia Academy's Corrigan Scholarship Fund Fun Run** was held April 30th at the school with all students participating! An estimated \$10,000 will go to this endowment fund to support merit scholarships. The fifth student, Koale McKenzie, received this award.



Chair Marty Banks and son Christian Banks enjoy the day.

Our first **Middle School Leadership Institute** was extremely successful with 11 students attending for a week of learning about homelessness/poverty/ obesity and what makes a leader. The school's administrative team led by Mrs. Corrigan presented, and the participants learned that "love requires action." The "actions" performed included visiting the Atlanta Union Mission, Carrie Steele-Pitts House and the United Methodist Children's Home. They also donated clothes, flowers, food, and their own painted canvases of "home."



Safehouse speaker David Baird tells students of the needs of the homeless.

Darielle McCray, an eleven year old girl who started an awareness campaign about effect of foreclosure on children, spoke to the group from her state-winning social studies project presentation. She urges voters to voice their support of homeless children to remain in their schools through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act which funds these actions.

Brooke Ashby reported that "I learned that you can never be too young to be homeless...and that we can help by donating things that we don't need or want—even little things make a difference."

Will McInerney liked the leadership challenges, including the human knot and the trust walk, designed to promote team work and problem solving. Several students said, "I wish it had lasted longer!"

## Character Trait Awards

Our annual Awards of Excellence and Eighth Grade Graduation ceremonies honor each child with a character trait as part of our Christian Education.

English teacher and Middle School Chair George Bevington gave the valediction speech to the eighth graders, saying, "A strong feeling of faith and conviction can help you immensely in life challenges. John Patton, a 19th century Scottish missionary, traveled to a group of islands in the South-West Pacific, to tell the tribal people about Jesus. The islanders were cannibals and his life was in constant danger. Patton worked on a translation of John's gospel, but found that there was no word in their language for "belief" or "trust." Nobody trusted anybody else.

Eventually, Patton hit upon the way to find the word he was looking for. One day, when his native servant came in,

Patton raised both feet off the floor, sat back in his chair, and asked, "What am I doing now?" In reply, the servant used a word which means "to lean your whole weight upon." This was the expression Patton used. Faith is leaning our whole weight upon God and trusting in His plan for each of us.

Mr. Bevington continued, "Woody Allen paraphrased it quite adroitly when he said, '90% of life is just showing up'. That is true, and when you do show up, make sure you always do your best, try to block out the caterwauling and screaming of the critics from the sidelines, and just keep moving forward. 'Life is just a football field marked out in 100 yard increments,' as Coach Bill Curry reminded us last December."

Thanks for blessing US, students and families!

**Katie Anderson:** Wonder  
**Connor Anderton:** Joyfulness  
**Avery Antoniou:** Courage  
**Bella Ardell:** Endurance  
**Annie Armstrong:** Leadership  
**Brooke Ashby:** Determination  
**Emma Austin:** Diligence  
**Christian Banks:** Enthusiasm  
**Sam Barone:** Cooperation  
**Liza Beem:** Enthusiasm  
**Sarah Berkowitz:** Kindness  
**Hans Brechbuhl:** Grace  
**Josh Brown:** Creativity  
**Matthew Buckis:** Helpfulness  
**Jack Buck:** Loyalty  
**James Burgess:** Thankfulness  
**Turner Bynum:** Humor  
**Alicia Cantrell:** Integrity  
**Jackson Carter:** Curiosity  
**Annie Carter:** Peacefulness  
**Trent Cassidy:** Loyalty  
**Ben Cheatham:** Humor  
**Caroline Christy:** Humor  
**Cassidy Collins:** Wonder  
**Matthew Cowart:** Faithfulness  
**Catie Claire Coyle:** Charity  
**Katie Cuellar:** Encouragement  
**Clara Cullerton:** Peacefulness  
**Don Daugherty:** Gratitude  
**Peyton Evans:** Bravery  
**Charlie Ferrari:** Competitiveness  
**Cole Ferrari:** Compassion  
**Virginia Gwin Fortner:** Courage  
**Garrett Foster:** Justice  
**Jack Geary:** Kindness  
**Charlie Glenn:** Loyalty

**Josh Gordon:** Creativity  
**Carter Hall:** Perseverance  
**Drew Hans:** Humility  
**Sean Hastings:** Determination  
**Andrew Hennessey:** Enthusiasm  
**Ben Hicks:** Joyfulness  
**Aubrey Hickson-Smith:** Helpfulness  
**Alex Jarrard:** Diligence  
**Ashley Koch:** Cooperation  
**Ben Koch:** Wisdom  
**Jake Konieczka:** Ingenuity  
**Kathleen Landskroener:** Compassion  
**Carlin Lathi:** Loyalty  
**Sofia Lew:** Wonder  
**Nicholas Lew:** Wisdom  
**Robert Lipscomb:** Truthfulness  
**Nick Loggins:** Perseverance  
**Noelle Marchais:** Creativity  
**Jay Mays:** Kindness  
**Cale Meador:** Generosity  
**Jack Meehan:** Humor  
**Will McGee:** Determination  
**Scottie McCray:** Determination  
**Jordan McGuffey:** Industriousness  
**Will McInerney:** Responsibility  
**Austin McKinney:** Wonder  
**Koale McKenzie:** Appreciation  
**Michael McLochlin:** Consideration  
**Emma Mooney:** Enthusiasm  
**Max Mooney:** Humor  
**Will Mosier:** Dependability  
**Mary Najour:** Honesty  
**Eric Osgood:** Creativity  
**Clayton Patnode:** Patience  
**Stephanie Panos:** Perseverance  
**Yan Perez:** Courage

**Audrey Peterson:** Joyfulness  
**Ian Politz:** Helpfulness  
**Mary Pollock:** Honesty  
**Will Rankin:** Compassion  
**Aimee Pratt:** Cooperation  
**Josiah Quiroz:** Spiritualness  
**Max Pimentel:** Truthfulness  
**Gregory Riley:** Dependability  
**John Roche:** Ingenuity  
**Adam Russell:** Leadership  
**Zachary Scott:** Perseverance  
**Grace Shelton:** Consideration  
**Maxwell Shelton:** Thoughtfulness  
**Anna Slaton:** Dedication  
**Micah Smith:** Initiative  
**Christian Spier:** Compassion  
**Evan Soggs:** Generosity  
**Jake Soggs:** Gratitude  
**Anthony Stewart:** Cleverness  
**Connor Sullivan:** Imaginativeness  
**Kelsey Sullivan:** Perseverance  
**Jack Tansill:** Honesty  
**Cody Tawfik:** Patience  
**Mary Mitchell Tucker:** Gentleness  
**Jackson Tucker:** Respectfulness  
**Laura Turnbull:** Leadership  
**Ansley Vallely:** Cooperation  
**Guille Valls:** Ambition  
**Eric Vogel:** Courage  
**Tracy Walker:** Ambition  
**Aidan Wendler:** Responsibility  
**Jordan Williams:** Endurance  
**Julia Wolfman:** Humility  
**Talbot Young:** Curiosity

## "The Dream Continues" Campaign for our Gym/Theater/Chapel space

We're up for the Challenge! When we raise the remaining \$1.07 million, we will claim the challenge grant and move on to the next one. We started this "dream" when we imagined all that was possible in our own building with excellent learning space. We are "continuing the dream" with more of what our students need...space to play, compete, act, assemble and pray. Imagine being part of this dream with us—help us meet the challenge with your donation.

### Campaign Steering Committee

John and Julie Peterson (Campaign Chairs)  
 Vic and Marie Corrigan  
 Joe and Raena Evans  
 Steve and Emily May  
 Bill and Wendy McGee  
 Matt and Heidi Mooney

### Annual Fund and Capital Campaign Participation:

100% Board and Staff  
 74% Parents  
 85% contribute to one or both campaigns

### Capital Campaign donations since February 23, 2010

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Andrews  
 Dr. and Mrs. Fred Angulo  
 AON Foundation  
 Mr. and Mrs. Willis F. Armstrong  
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Ashby  
 Mr. Karl Beem/Dr. Cindy Stewart  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Berkowitz  
 Mr. Daniel Motter/  
 Boy Scout Troup 379  
 Mr. and Mrs. Phil Brown  
 Mrs. Tracey Buot  
 Cbeyond  
 Dr. and Mrs. Victor Corrigan  
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Cuellar  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Cullerton  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeMayo  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Eckstein  
 Senator and Mrs Michael Egan  
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Foster  
 The John and Mary Franklin  
 Foundation  
 Mr. and Mrs. Skid Freisem

Ms. Edith Gary  
 Dr. and Mrs. Peter H'Doubler  
 Mr. and Mrs. John and Jean Hatfield  
 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hennessey  
 Ignite  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jere Jarrard  
 Dr. and Mrs. William Knapp  
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Konieczka  
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Landskroener  
 Ms. Tyler Lang  
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric Marchais  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dan Marshburn  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill McInerney  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lynn McKee  
 Ms. Patricia McLaughlin  
 Mr. and Mrs. Walt Moeling  
 Mr. John Odom  
 Office Max Inc.  
 OneCause  
 Mr. and Mrs. Costa Panos  
 Parent Council  
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Patnode

Mr. and Mrs. John Peterson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Pete Peyton  
 Dr. and Mrs. Sean Preston  
 Propeller Design Inc.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ross Rankin  
 Mrs. Camelia Rat  
 Mr. and Mrs. Cary Russell  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Schaeffer  
 Mrs. Dorothy Smith  
 Alex and Betty Smith Foundation  
 Southstar Energy  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Stayer  
 Ms. Amy Sullivan  
 Ms. Mary Thurlow  
 Mr. John Turner  
 Wells Fargo Foundation Educational  
 Matching Gifts Program  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Williams  
 Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Ziesing

**OUR GOAL:  
2.4 MILLION**

The next \$500,000:  
Challenge Grant  
from a Friend of  
Sophia Academy

Up to \$893,000:  
Cash and pledges