Odyssey of the Mind Teams Advance to World Finals

Three Paideia teams of elementary and junior high students will compete in World Finals of the Odyssey of the Mind, an international creative problem solving competition. The three teams competed in the state finals to advance to World Finals for the first time in school history. In addition, one Paideia team won a Renatra Fusca award, the tournament’s highest honor, which awards exceptional creativity in problem solving. The World Finals will be held at Michigan State University in May.

Paideia’s Odyssey of the Mind team
Mika Hernacki          Porter Higgins
Sammie Estep          Jose Moreno
Rhea Patel            Alok Ahn
Konnor Seefried       Alice McIlvoy
Katie Paige Darling   Rodney McBride
Matthew Steps         Chandler Kirkland
Aida Pardo            Stella Gegax
Reginald Moorman      Charlotte Sommerfeld
Jesus Noe Reséndiz    Nora Critz
Ryan Liu              Saurav Subramanian
                        Henry Van Ness
                        Camille McIlvoy

Music Program Performs at Disney Springs

Faculty and students in the music program traveled to Orlando in March to perform at Disney Springs. The chorus, conducted by Kate Murray and Scott Morris, sang Cantique de Jean Racine by Faure, Kala, Kalla by Eric Whitacre and My Soul’s Been Anchored arrangement by Moses Hogan.

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Over 600 Attend Science Carnival

By David Fergemann, STEAM Coordinator

On Sunday, March 17, Paideia’s STEAM program hosted the second annual Family Science Carnival. The carnival is part of the Atlanta Science Festival, a series of over 100 events hosted by organizations around metro Atlanta to celebrate science. More than 600 people came to the campus green to play science-themed games. Our partner for the event, Science of Fun STEM Camp, provided about a dozen tried-and-true science games and activities, but most of the other games were created by Paideia students.

Diana Lockwood’s elementary STEAM classes created 19 of the games. Starting in January, the students worked in small groups to design a game based on a science topic of their choice. Some popular topics included senses, paper airplanes, rocks, and robots. Each group also made a poster advertising their game and explaining the science behind it. Amy Valk worked with students in Lina and Elisa’s upper elementary class to create science-themed video games for the carnival. They started with an introduction to game design with Google’s CS First program and used the Scratch programming language to code their games.

In the high school, students in Miranda Knowles’s anatomy and physiology class designed games to teach younger kids some of what they learned in their unit on the cardiovascular system. Several high school clubs also contributed. The Innovation Club created a ring toss game where the rings completed a circuit to power a light bulb. The GirlTech club made an adjustable catapult, and Spread Science led an activity involving binary numbers and UV-detecting beads.

Knowing that they would present their games at the carnival gave students some extra motivation. One of Diana’s students wrote that it was “FUN having different ideas in the building process. We got to experiment and think and try all the ideas before we decided what to do.” For many of the students, presenting their games at the carnival was the best part. Another student wrote, “It was fun to teach people that you think wouldn’t generally need to be taught like teachers and adults.”

Paideia Students Are Winners in International Haiku Contest

Paideia students are among the six international winners in this year’s Nicholas Virgilio Memorial Haiku Contest. The contest is for students enrolled in grades 7-12. The Nick Virgilio Haiku Association was founded in 1989 to promote the writing of haiku poetry, to provide encouragement and support to young people to write poetry, and to further the work of Camden, New Jersey haiku poet Nick Virgilio. This year over 3,000 entries were considered by the judges. More than eight countries were represented. Students receive $100 for each winning haiku and their work is published in The Haiku Society of America journal, frogpond.

Sliding home, the familiar taste of Georgia red clay
Lucas Tangpricha, grade 7

Mountain road, the high-pitched sounds of spring peepers

Twist by twist, knot by knot, mother braids my hair
Lilly Margolis, grade 7

Six Paideia Students Win Environmental Poetry and Art Awards

Six students in the junior high and high school received awards from the 2019 River of Words Environmental Art & Poetry Project. Junior high students Augusta Critz, (art) Mae Castro (poetry) and Emily Garrard (imagery) received awards. In the high school, Molly Fischbach, Colin Kennedy, and Tristan Ouweleen all received awards for imagery.

Elementary student Alex Huynh won one of four National Grand Prizes for the River of Words Art and Poetry Contest, which promotes conservation. The award ceremony was held in St. Mary’s college in San Francisco where Alex gave a one-minute speech.
High School Birding Club Competes in State Event

Competing in the high school division of the Georgia State Youth Birding Competition, the Paideia Bird club team of junior, Anna Zheng, freshman, Amit Kamma and eighth graders Kolby Seefried, Phillip Salzinger and Lulu Javelona finished a respectable second place with 138 species. This is the 14th year of the competition which challenges teams of student birders during the peak of spring migration to spend a day, 24-straight hours finding as many species as they can within the state of Georgia. This year’s team started on the Georgia coast and birded their way back to the Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center in Mansfield, Ga., where dinner was served and the awards ceremony commenced. By the time the team arrived at the center they had logged 750 miles in the mini-van, subsisted on snack food and functioned on just several hours of sleep.

A voluntary component of the Youth Birding Competition is fundraising for conservation efforts in Georgia. This year’s team raised an impressive $870. While each of our student birders may have a favorite from among the many rare and unusual species they identified, all agreed that the female Baltimore Oriole guarding her nest was among the favorites. A special thanks to Paideia sustainability coordinator, Korri Ellis, who chaperoned the trip. The Paideia bird club will resume regular monthly activities in the fall. Students of all ages welcome to participate. Get in touch with Tom Painting in the junior high if you are interested. On a final note, the winning team tallied a mind boggling 171 species.

Educated is the Community Summer Read

I first heard of Tara Westover’s memoir Educated when I had the good fortune to attend a writing workshop this past summer (thanks, Paul!) and work with the award-winning author Tayari Jones. She recommended Educated to me, but since the school year began shortly after I returned, all the (thrilling!) responsibilities of course-planning took over, and I didn’t get a chance to read it. Soon, fall term fully occupied my time, and the book just became one more on my ever-growing bedside-table pile, which, I am convinced, will one day be the death of me. It wasn’t until the Community Read Committee, a group of around twenty Paideia faculty and staff members, had met and several members recommended Westover’s memoir, that I finally picked it up. I’ll admit I was a little reluctant; memoirs aren’t usually my jam. I’m more of a fiction gal. But after reading it, and after much thoughtful discussion among the committee and the faculty and administration more largely, we have decided to recommend Educated as the community read for the 2019-2020 school year. (Cue the confetti!) The story of a young woman raised by Mormon survivalists in Idaho, the memoir takes on important and relevant topics ranging from family and relationships, patriarchal power and abuse, poverty, mental illness, gaslighting, and, above all, the value of an education. In a time when university systems are wrestling with admissions controversies, when so many people in our nation and world don’t have equal access to education, and yet when much of our society views higher education as a prerequisite to adulthood, if not a God-given right, this book feels especially urgent.

Some of the experiences Westover relates could lead to emotional and intense reactions. But, as Joyce Carol Oates puts it, that is in many ways the very purpose of literature, the important work that it does: “My belief is that art should not be comforting; for comfort, we have mass entertainment and one another. Art should provoke, disturb, arouse our emotions, expand our sympathies in direc-
tions we may not anticipate and may not even wish.” This discomfort is an important and perhaps necessary part of the learning process.

The Community Read committee has spent much time discussing how to best prepare students for this book. Educated does include some violent scenes. Westover narrates specific accounts of some of the physical abuse she experienced in her family. However, because her experience of violence is told in a rather objective way, and because it is her personal story, it does not resonate on a systemic level—although it is definitely wrapped up in patriarchal power. Her accounts of violence are not gratuitous or for entertainment purposes. They are her truth, and they are instructive. Secondly, there is a chapter in which she uses racist language to recount the way one of her brothers attempted to shame her. Westover wrestles with her whiteness and white privilege in thoughtful, honest, and highly relevant ways, but we wanted to prepare our younger readers especially for this brief but intense moment of the book. Additionally, as Westover herself puts it, this book “is not about Mormonism. Neither is it about my family. It is about so many people in our nation and world don’t have equal access to education, and yet when much of our society views higher education as a prerequisite to adulthood, if not a God-given right, this book feels especially urgent.

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High School Awards Assembly 2019

High school students were recognized for academic and fine arts achievements, community service, school leadership and citizenship at the high school awards assembly on April 19. The following students received awards:

**Governor’s Honors:** Anna Zheng, Communicative Arts; Ben Grooms, Dance

**Internship Commendation:** Mitch Aschmeyer, John Bruce, Laney Castle, Jenna Delgado, Olive Duncan, Anna Farber, Sarah Jordak, Ian Lippincott, Alana Mermin-Bunnell, Ahalya Ramgopal, Ben Samuels, Kendall Seefried, Julian Shrader and Thuan Tran

**Award for Community Service:** Sarah Jordak and Thuan Tran

**University of Georgia Certificate of Merit:** Christina Aaron, Ellie Bond, Jordan Leslie, Charlotte Lewis, Mimi Wanamaker and Anna Zheng

**National Merit Scholarship Finalists:** Alana Mermin-Bunnell and Kendall Seefried

**Robotics:** Sisay Tadesse and Chip Miller

**Junior Book Awards:** Brown – Christina Walker; University of Chicago – Jack Spencer; Columbia – Jason Guo; Dartmouth – Addison Kerwin; Georgia Tech – Mary He; Harvard – Anna Zheng; Phi Beta Kappa – Amelia Wanamaker; Sewanee – Olivia Graner; Smith – Charlotte Lewis; Wellesley – Liana Valdes; Wesleyan – Jordan Leslie; Yale – Christina Aaron

**Environmental Citizenship Award:** Lilah Krugman
Musical Theatre Award: Nanseera Wolff and Hannah Zeldin
Golden Tin Can Award: Sophie Adler
Musician’s Award: Matthew Davidorf
Yearbook Award: Abigail Shuman and Kate Hunley
Dooly Jacket: Lylah Bannister
Journalism Award: Jack Colton, Drew Nickels, and Amelia Wannamaker
Drama Award: Naiya McCalla and Giovanni Padovano

Marty Hays Athletics Award: Alejandra Hardin and Jaylan Troutman
Positive Athlete Georgia: Jason Gua for golf and Kendall Seefried for swimming
Headmaster’s Awards / Juniors: Camryn Bourne, Taylor Clay, Robin James, Langston Morris and Philip Painting
Headmaster’s Awards / Seniors: Jack Colton, Jacobi Copeland, Joanie Dorfman, Isaac Gazmararian, Hector Gonzalez, Johnny Klein, Lilah Krugman, Oscar Mayorga, Sadd Sadd, Jack Stiefel and Olivia Willingham
Leadership and Service Awards: Alejandra Hardin, Bibi Muse, Giovanni Padovana, Ahalya Ramgopal, Carson Sanford and Casey Serrano

Susan Ehrhardt Citizenship Award: Josh Beskin
Journal Cup: Alana Mermin-Bunnell

National Merit/Achievement Scholarship Finalists
Robotics
Musician’s
Drama
Golden Tin Can
Yearbook
Ehrhardt Award
Musical Theater
Leadership and Service
**Community**

**Student Artwork Selected for Dogwood Festival**

The art work of seniors Ian Lippincott, Alana Mermin-Bunnell, and Kendall Seefried was selected for the Atlanta High School Art Exhibition. The Exhibition took place at the Dogwood Festival in Piedmont Park, April 12-14 in the Piedmont Park Community Center. In addition, Kendall’s work was also selected for an exhibition at the Art Institute of Atlanta.

**High School Students Win Photography Show Awards**

Paideia students won awards at the 28th Annual Georgia Photography Awards and Exhibition presented by Pace Academy and Atlanta Celebrates Photography (ACP). Bibi Muse was awarded first place and Zadie McConaughy was awarded second place. Juliana Margolis received an honorable mention. The exhibition ran through April 17 at the Fine Arts Center at Pace Academy.

**Paideia Chess Team Places at State Championship**

Elementary and junior high chess teams participated in the Georgia Chess Association 2019 Georgia K-8 State Chess Championship in Suwanee, Georgia. The Pi-Chess K-1st team placed first among DeKalb County Schools and third overall in the state. The teams are coached by international chess master Carlos Perdomo Paideia parent and student coaches.

Pi Chess 2019 Tournament Participants include:

- **K-1st Grade Team**
  - Naomi Haller
  - Niko Nginyo-LaTore
  - Shreyas Tejani
  - William Park

- **K-3rd Grade Team**
  - Arjun Gandhi
  - Caleb Connor
  - David Johnson
  - Kolette Pridgeon
  - Nishka Nagpal
  - Rion Park
  - Wyatt DeWoskin

- **K-5th Grade Team**
  - Biel Gili Harik

- **6-8th Grade Team**
  - Alex Graham
  - Kai Diez
  - Kenan Kadragic

- **Boys’ Varsity Ultimate Team**
  - Coach: Miranda Knowles ’02
  - The team advanced to finals after defeating Woodward 13-0. In the finals the team claimed victory with 13-4 win over rival Grady High School.

  The game was live streamed and can be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDN7c5WN8_g.

  “We’re so glad this game has been immortalized, particularly the first half, in which we had zero turnovers,” said coach Miranda Knowles ’02.

- **Boys’ Varsity Tennis Team**
  - The team reached the finals against Grady High School in a game described by varsity coach Michael Bacarini as “an intense and spirited match against a fierce but friendly rival, with both teams displaying tremendous skill and awe-inspiring athletic plays. The score was close throughout until the end of the game, when Grady forced two breaks to close it out.” The team ended the season ranked ninth nationally.

- **Boys’ Varsity Golf Team**
  - The team qualified for the state tournament for the first time and will compete in the tournament in Columbus.
• Jessica Handler ’77 recently published her debut novel entitled The Magnetic Girl. The novel, loosely based on real-life events, tells the story of a young girl from Georgia who is gifted with preternatural powers of precognition in the 1880s.

• Dr. Katharine Wilkinson ’01 was honored this month as a “Legend in the Making” by Planned Parenthood Southeast. Katharine is the vice president of communication and engagement at Project Drawdown, and was a senior writer for the New York Times bestseller Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming.

• Katherine Goldstein ’02 was interviewed on NPR this month about her new podcast “The Double Shift” which explores what it means to be a working mother in America. Katherine is an award-winning journalist; a 2017 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and runs her own independent journalism company.

• Alex Glustrom ’04 won the Human Rights Award at the Full Frame Documentary film festival for his film “Mossville: When Great Trees Fall”. The film centers on the town of Mossville, Louisiana, and examines the effects of deforestation on the once lush farmland.

• Congratulations to Paideia alums Evelina Pierce ’06, Paula Seville ’08, India Stubbs ’11 and Ollie Peterson ’16 on being a part of the first professional Ultimate Frisbee team “The Atlanta Soul”. Congratulations as well to Miranda Knowles ’00 who is the coaching consultant for the team.

• Dean Farris ’16 broke the American, NCAA and US open record last month when he swam a 200 freestyle in the first race of the men’s Division 1 NCAA championship. Dean swam this race faster than any other human being in history, including Michael Phelps!

Express Yourself Funds Financial Aid

Paideia’s 2019 Express Yourself Auction welcomed hundreds of generous attendees to the Stave Room on March 9 to celebrate self-expression. The Auction raised over $300,000 for financial aid, helping secure the economic diversity that helps enrich our Paideia community. Auction chairs Beth Barry and Tracey Miller are grateful for the vast number of bidders, donors and volunteers who made the auction a success and to Stivers Decatur Subaru for donating the bright orange CrossTrek that had the campus all abuzz!

Robotics Team Has Good Showing at National Competition

The robotics team had a good trip to the National VEX Robotics tournament over spring break. For the last four days of spring break, Chip Miller, Sisay Tadesse, and Rakibul Chowdhury went to Omaha to compete in the US Open Robotics tournament. Out of 254 teams from around the country and several from China, they earned the 10th highest score in the Programming Skills competition. In their division of 58 teams, they were chosen for the 12th-seed alliance and made it to the second round of the playoffs. This is the best our robotics team has ever done at a national tournament. It’s the result of hundreds of hours of work put in by these three, with additional help from Max Stein.

Read of the Summer continued from page 3

• believers, some not; some kind, some not. The author disputes any correlation, positive or negative, between the two.” Finally, we consider Educated appropriate for high school age readers and adults; for younger readers, we encourage parent-discretion and guidance.

Educated is required summer reading for all Paideia high school students. If rising ninth grade students feel nervous about tackling the book over the summer, we’d encourage them to wait until near the beginning of fall term to read it. That way, they’ll be able to process their reactions to the books within the environment of the classroom.

The book is available at local independent bookstores; MBS (our online bookstore); your public library; and in Paideia’s OverDrive ebook collection. You are welcome to listen to the audiobook if you prefer that format.

If you have any questions, please contact me at schiff.sarah@paideiaschool.org.

We hope you get a lot out of the book and will join us in the fall for an event that brings our community together over a shared book and rich discussion. We will be hearing from members of our own community and the educational fields more broadly about their experiences. Stay tuned for details about that. In the meantime, let’s read!

On behalf of the Paideia Community Read Committee, Sarah Schiff
THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL
1509 Ponce de Leon Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL is nonsectarian, serving families with children ages three through 18. Paideia does not discriminate in employment or in admissions. It actively seeks racial, cultural, and economic diversity in its student body. The ancient Greek word Paideia conveys the concept of a child’s total education: intellectual, artistic, and social. The Paideia School Newsletter is published 10 times a year. The deadline for the newsletter is the 1st of the preceding month. Send all correspondence to Jennifer Hill, Editor, at Paideia School, 1509 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30307. Phone number is 404/377-3491, ext. 339; e-mail address is hill.jennifer@paideiaschool.org. For information about sports schedules and upcoming events visit our web site at www.paideiaschool.org

Music Program at Disney
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The Paideia Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Pete Ciascini and Elisabeth Copeland, played Music from Aladdin arrangement by John Moss;

Ice Sculptures by Brian Balmages featuring Jordan Leslie on the cello and Amari Carpenter on the harp; and Emerald Falcon by Richard Meyer featuring Abby Moore on violin, Jordan Leslie on cello, and Leo Sullivan on bass. The orchestra also played music from The Lion King by Elton John, Tim Rice and Hans Zimmer; arrangement by Calvin Custer.

The Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble led by John Abert and Amy Ensel joined talents and played Symbol of Honor by Ted Mesang, arrangement by Quincy C. Hilliard, And Hold in Memory by Johnnie Vinson and Symphonic Dance No. 3 - “Fiesta” by Clifton Williams.