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Issue 1



Spring Benefit 2009

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Individual Highlights:

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Welcome to the first 2009 Spring Benefit newsletter!

Since 1986, the AIS Spring Benefit has transported guests to various locations throughout the world and celebrates a destination symbolic of its diverse community and renowned for its unique cultural experience. This year we are pleased to announce that the **2009 Spring Benefit: Passport to Africa, *Discovery of a Continent*** will be held on **Saturday, April 4** on the AIS campus.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide insight into this

year's Spring Benefit: *Passport to Africa, Discovery of a Continent* while further educating the AIS community by highlighting several African countries.

It is YOUR source for all the up to date news and information about one of AIS's largest fundraising events.

1984 Club membership includes tickets to the Benefit, so joining the 1984 Club is a great way to experience the Benefit and support AIS.

Tuition at Atlanta International School covers much, but not

all, of the school's operations. Donations from parents, alumni, and friends allow us to fund programs and projects beyond what our basic budget could accommodate. The Spring Benefit is a component of AIS's Annual Giving that supports our students in ways we would not be able to do otherwise.

It Could Happen To You!

If winning up to a full tuition for one child sounds appealing to you, take a chance on winning just that. Allow the AIS Spring Benefit Committee to help you pay the way! Tickets will be available in the Development office. The winner is drawn at the Spring Benefit but you need not be present to win.

Ambassador and Mrs. Young



This year the Spring Benefit is blessed to have as its Honorary Co-Chairs, **Ambassador and Mrs. Andrew Young**. Ambassador Young's humanitarian efforts and

influence have spanned the globe. From his beginnings as an ordained minister and top aide to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement to his current position as founding principal and chair of GoodWorks International, an organization that embraces his long-held mission of facilitating economic development in the Caribbean and Africa, Ambassador Young has dedicated himself to improving the lives of all people.

Ambassador Young served in the United States Congress and as United States Ambassador to the United Nations during the Carter Administration and also

served two terms as mayor of Atlanta.

His wife, Carolyn McClain Young has shared his vision and passion for serving humanitarian causes and has served and continues to serve in multiple civic and community positions both national and international.

The 2009 Spring Benefit Committee is honored to welcome them to *Passport to Africa: Discovery of a Continent*, an event in support of Atlanta International School's Annual Giving.

The AIS Spring Benefit is a spectacular 500+ person seated dinner and dance with silent and live auctions. An evening not to be missed!



“Over the last few years the AIS Spring Benefit, one of the largest fundraisers of its kind, has consistently raised over \$200,000 toward AIS’s Annual Giving and that’s something we should all be proud of!”

Elizabeth Dobbs,
Event Chair
2009 Spring Benefit

Acquisitions Committee Needs YOU!

On October 10 we officially kicked off the acquisition of auction items. We have nearly 20 parents who have volunteered to assist us and we only need **4 more volunteers** to complete our committee. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, December 10** at the lovely home of Christina Whitney, 129 Brighton Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30309, after morning carpool. Please contact us informing us of your interest in this event.

Some of the great items we’ve already acquired... Close your eyes and imagine vacationing for a week in a lovely wooden chalet in full Western décor overlooking the Teton Mountain range and up top on the city of **Jackson Hole**. Close your eyes again and imagine a one week stay at an apartment in a romantic tower in **Sorrento, Italy** plus lunch or dinner with a private tour of the botanical gardens at the historical Villa Tritone. **You Can Runway, but You Can’t Hide!** We have secured two tickets to a fabulous world-famous designer’s fashion show at next September’s NYC Fashion Week!

Auction Acquisitions Contacts:

Linda Bruner (Park, Grade 1), lindapakbruner@yahoo.com;
Marcelle DeCuir (Arienne, Grade 1), marcelle_decuir@yahoo.com;
Christina Whitney (Luisa, Grade 2 and Oliver, 5K), Christina.whitney@comcast.net

Corporate Sponsorships

Corporate sponsorship accounts for much of the success of the Spring Benefit and we are honored to have some of Atlanta’s top companies as past and current supporters. We are also very happy to announce our first sponsor of the 2009 event. SunTrust Banks, Inc., has been a long time supporter of the Benefit and we are thankful for their support once again.

SunTrust is one of the nation’s largest and strongest financial holding companies providing deposit, credit, trust, and investment services to a broad range of retail, business, and institutional clients.



Spotlight on Ghana



The Republic of Ghana is named after the medieval Ghana Empire of West Africa. Ghana was the title of the kings who ruled the kingdom. Geographically, the old Ghana is 500 miles north of the present Ghana, and occupied the area between the Senegal and Niger rivers.

But the name was adopted when the country fought against its colonization and won freedom for its people; the first African nation to win independence from the United Kingdom.

Before winning independence in 1957 Ghana was called the Gold Coast. Over the hundreds of years of European occupation, Ghana was a source of trade for gold, ivory and slaves.

Since its independence, the country has seen political upheaval and turmoil as it struggled for a true democracy. In 1993 a Fourth Republic was inaugurated and under the leadership of President Jerry Rawlings Ghana became the most politically stable and prosperous nation in West Africa providing a model of development for the rest of sub-Saharan

Africa. Today, Ghana is consistently listed by the World Bank as one of the nine African countries that are currently making political and socio-economic progress and where it is safe and encouraging to do business... a country that African neighbors can look to emulate.

Tuition Raffle Tickets

1 chance \$25
3 chances \$65
8 chances \$170
16 chances \$300