



Photo provided by Pavel Constantinov

**THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SOFIA**

**ACS Alumni Fund Advisory Committee  
Accountability Report**

2017 Academic Year  
/September 2016 - August 2017/



## ACS Alumni Fund Report

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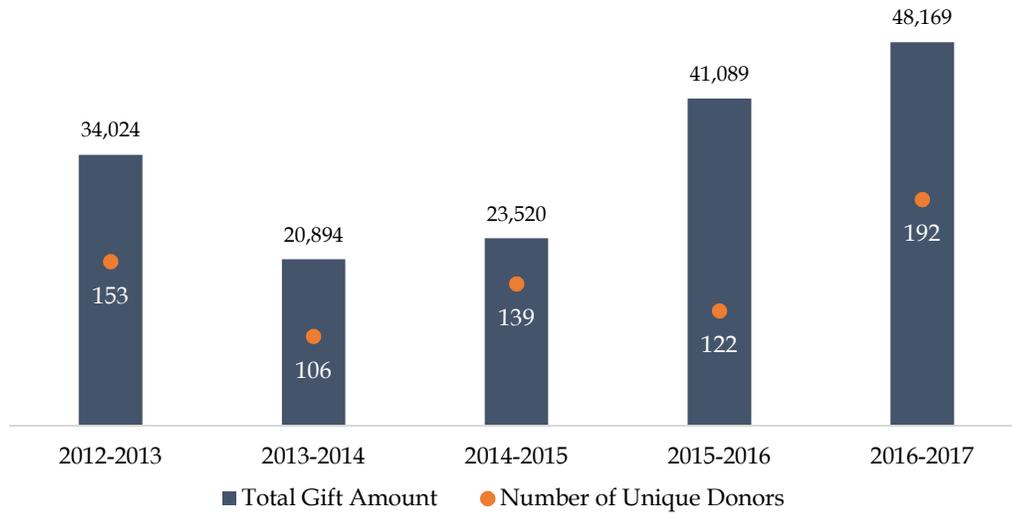
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# ACS Alumni Fund Report

## Quick Overview

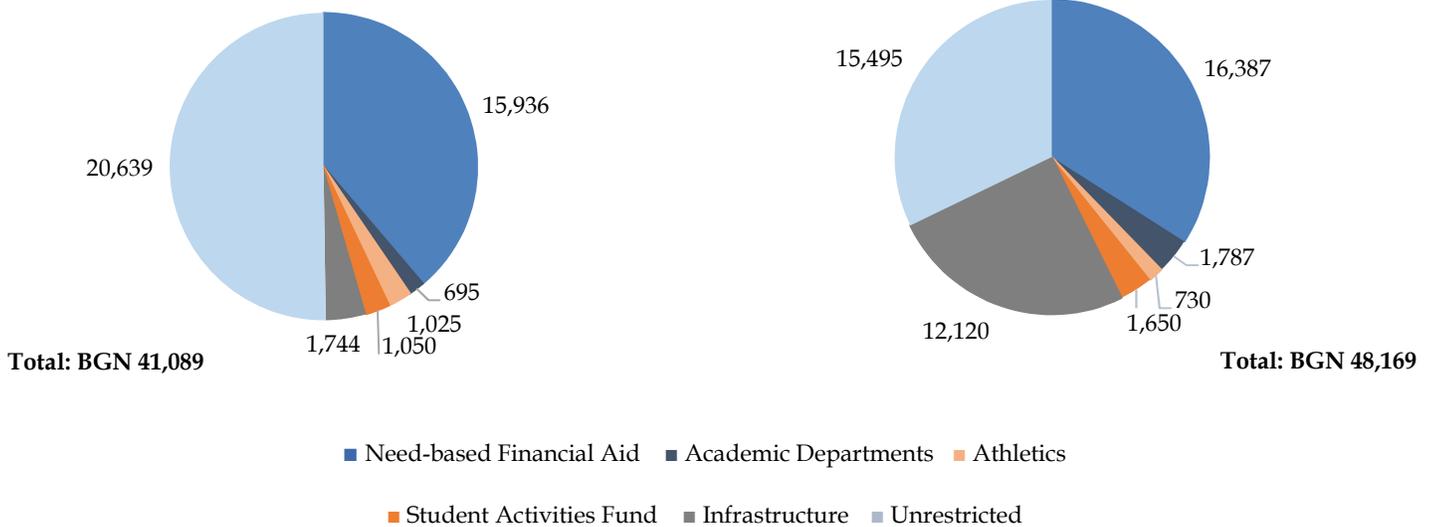
### Gifts Breakdown by Year (Bulgarian Leva)



### Gifts Breakdown by Category (Bulgarian Leva)

Academic 2015-2016

Academic 2016-2017



To learn more about the ACS Alumni Fund and share your suggestions, please reach out to us via email at [giving@acsbg.org](mailto:giving@acsbg.org) or visit us online at "Giving to the College" on the ACS website.



## ACS Alumni Fund Report

### Message from the Alumni Fund Advisory Committee

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I am beyond excited to be writing to you this year! Together, we have made history. 2016/2017 was the most successful year of the Alumni Fund to date. For that, and for all you do for ACS, **thank you!**

A record **192** of you made a gift, beating the original target of 157 alumni donors by a large margin. It is not just that we surpassed the Alumni Fund target for the first time, it is the extent to which you displayed enthusiasm, loyalty, and readiness to give back that made this year so special.

In the month of August, so many of you shared the link to the ACS giving page on Facebook! So many of you liked and commented on the “thermometer” infographic in the Alumni group, tracking the number of donors needed to reach the goal. So many of you tagged friends, reached out to classmates, and asked how you could help, even though you did not have to!

Your gift, regardless of its size, makes a real impact on ACS students. Collectively, you gave a record **BGN 48,000**, with the largest portion going to financial aid. Our contribution of over **BGN 16,000** for scholarships is unambiguously meaningful. You can think of it as 16 families for whom an extra BGN 1,000 in scholarship funding made the difference between choosing ACS or not. Or you can think of it as one full scholarship (BGN 12,000) plus one third of a scholarship (BGN 4,000). Either way, our contribution made an ACS education possible for several students, whose financial situation might have been similar to yours when you attended the College.

What is more, your gifts matter not only in their absolute value. They also make it more likely for third party donors to support ACS through large grants. Alumni giving rates are a factor which philanthropic organizations may consider when making a decision to support a school. So please keep this in mind, knowing that even small gifts matter greatly.

In the record year of 2016/2017, the 192 of us who supported ACS represented **8.8 percent** of the alumni body. Is this rate encouraging from a philanthropic organization perspective? Where should alumni participation ideally stand? As a comparison, close to half of all alumni give back at some of the leading U.S. private schools, such as Phillips Exeter and Andover. Even if ACS cannot jump to such a level in one year, we, as alumni, can play our part in building a strong base of support for ACS. The more of us who give back, the better! And perhaps, in five years’ time, twice or thrice as many of us will be giving back.

So, **how can you help today?** The best thing to do is to set up a recurring gift. In this way, you set a payment once and secure your regular contribution, without fear of forgetting. Notably, you become part of the base of permanent ACS donors. The wider this base, the easier it would be to build upon.

With all of this in mind, we have set a new ambitious goal: **225 alumni donors in 2017/2018!** The target builds on the impressive 192 donors from last year, pays a tribute to the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the reopening of ACS in 1992, and implies a 9.7 percent participation rate. When you make a gift, please share it on Facebook with **#ACS225**.

My fellow AFAC members and I love engaging with you, the alumni, so if you have questions or ideas for how to get involved, please contact us at [giving@acsbg.org](mailto:giving@acsbg.org).

With gratitude and warm regards,

Georgi Klissurski '10, AFAC Chair

On behalf of all AFAC members: Hristo Popov '01, Niki Kouzmanov '02, Kalina Kourdova '11, Alex Kanov '12, Yana Staneva '12, Zara Rancheva '14, and Nicole Levakova '16

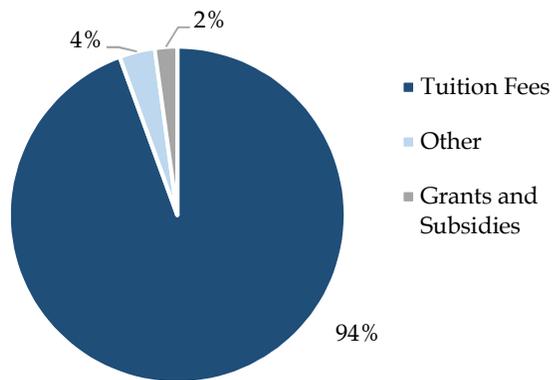
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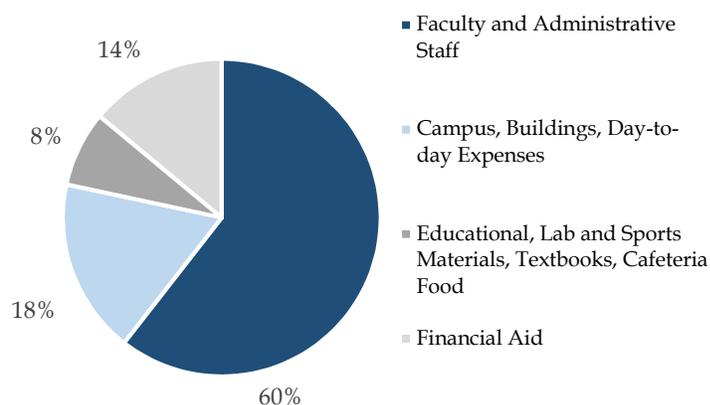
# ACS Alumni Fund Report

## ACS Budget Info and Financial Summary<sup>1</sup>

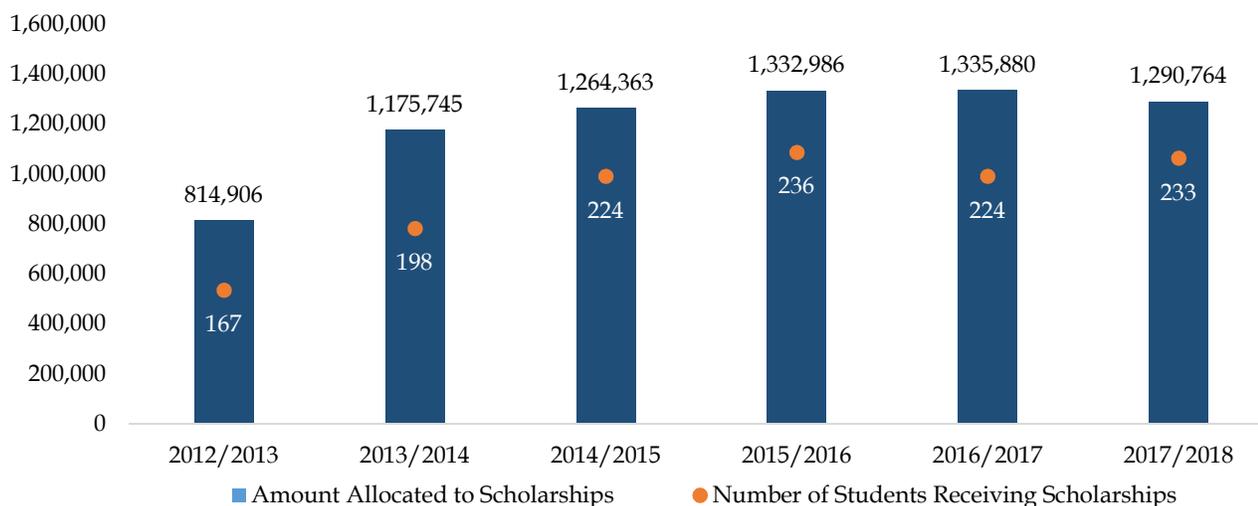
*Breakdown of ACS's sources of funds 2016<sup>2</sup>*



*Breakdown of ACS's uses of funds 2016<sup>3</sup>*



*Amount and Number of Scholarships Allocated in Academic Years (Bulgarian Leva)<sup>4</sup>*



In the academic year 2017/2018, the number of ACS students receiving scholarships is 233. The total amount allocated to scholarships stands at BGN 1,290,764.

<sup>1</sup> Information is based on the 2016 Financial Report and information provided by ACS and refers to the 2016 calendar year

<sup>2</sup> The "Tuition Fees" category represents tuition fees gross of financial aid granted to students. The "Other" category includes revenue from Cafeteria, the student dormitory, external programs, and uncategorized revenue

<sup>3</sup> The "Campus, Buildings, Day-to-day Expenses" category includes all hired services (heating, electricity, etc.) and daily maintenance costs

<sup>4</sup> Information on allocated scholarships is based on data for the academic year and includes need-based financial aid gifts provided by alumni through the Alumni Fund

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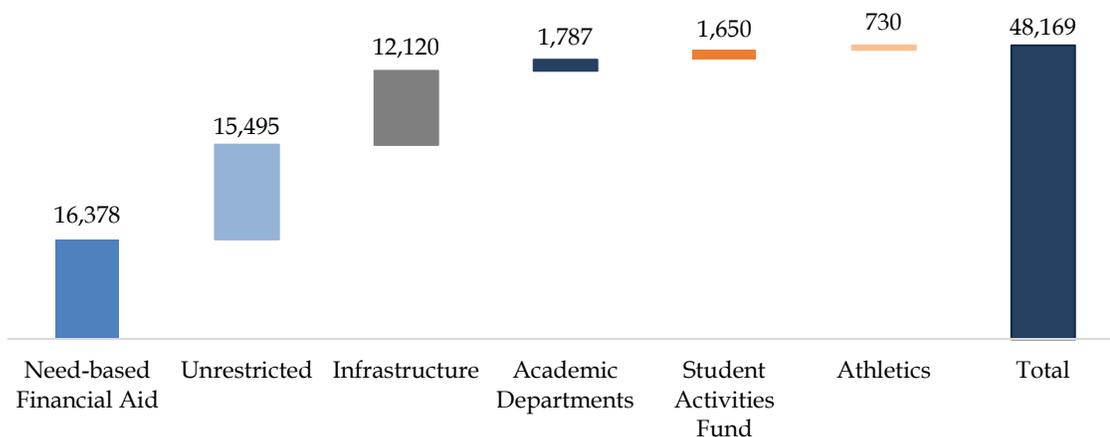


# ACS Alumni Fund Report

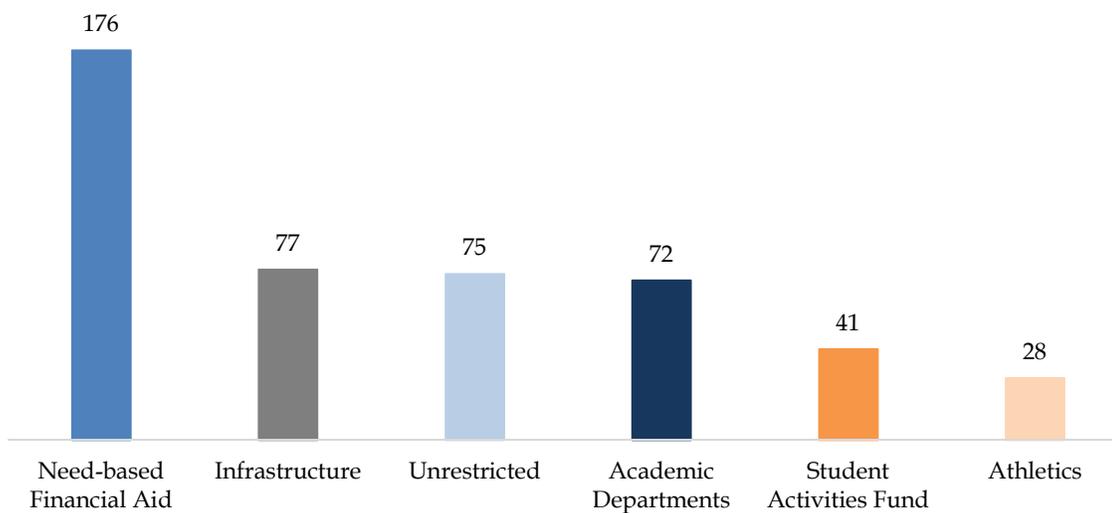
## The Alumni Fund over the Past 12 Months

- ☑ 192 alumni contributed to the ACS Alumni Fund making 252 gifts
- ☑ BGN 48,169 raised and put to work to help ACS and its students
- ☑ Top 3 Classes by Participation Rate: 2002, 2010, 1997
- ☑ Top 3 Classes by Gift Amount: 1997, 2000, 2002

*Breakdown of Gift Amount by Category (Bulgarian Leva)*



*Breakdown of Gifts by Category<sup>5</sup>*



<sup>5</sup> The total is more than the number of individual gifts (252) as those are often allocated among several categories.

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## ACS Alumni Fund Report

### Quality of Education Report

#### Selected Qualitative Indicators

- ✓ In November, seniors Ivan Ivanov and Milen Ferev won the *Cyber Games: Warm-Up*, an information security contest where they were part of the youngest team in the competition, defeating university students, PhD candidates, and cyber security professionals.
- ✓ At the end of October, the girls (Grades 8-10) of the ACS soccer team took the second place in the City Soccer Tournament for Girls, organized by the Bulgarian Soccer Union.
- ✓ ACS ninth-grader Todor Kyurkchiev won bronze at the 22nd International Astronomy Olympiad in Weihai, China (Oct. 27 – Nov. 4, 2017). Todor became a member of the national team by ranking first in the National Astronomy Olympiad.
- ✓ In October, ACS's brilliant senior Ivan Ivanov was awarded the John Atanasoff Presidential Prize, for a second time (the first was last year). This year, he was rewarded for excellence in the category "Debut breakthrough in computer science" which is awarded for high-level scientific work.
- ✓ In September, the ACS Musical performance Fame Jr. won the Artistic Performance Award and the Audience Award at the STAGE International Youth Festival in Cluj Napoca, Romania.
- ✓ In July, at the 58th International Mathematical Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro (July 12-23), ACS recent graduates Ivan Ganev and Hristo Papazov, made up a third of the Bulgarian National Math Team (remaining four team members coming all from math schools). Bulgaria placed fourth in Europe and 18th in the world. Ivan Ganev earned the highest number of points on the team and won a silver medal. Hristo Papazov won a bronze medal.
- ✓ In May, the ACS girls' table tennis team won the Sofia championship for a 6th consecutive year!
- ✓ ACS seniors once again demonstrated their excellence, scoring great on standardized matriculation tests. The Class of 2017's average SAT I score is 1360 on the 1600 scale.
- ✓ Although no official AP courses are offered at ACS, every year a number of ACS students take AP tests. In 2017, 63 students from grades 9-12 sat for 83 AP tests in 12 subject areas and the results were impressive: 70% earned a 3 or better, and 50% scored a 4 or 5.

Please be sure to check the Education Quality section on the ACS website ([www.acs.bg/Home/Giving\\_to\\_the\\_College/Education\\_Quality.aspx](http://www.acs.bg/Home/Giving_to_the_College/Education_Quality.aspx)) for a more comprehensive overview of how the College monitors teaching and learning.

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## ACS Alumni Fund Report

### Your Gifts at Work

A total of BGN 48,169 were donated to the school community by ACS Alumni in 2016/2017. The largest amount – BGN 16,387 – was dedicated to providing need-based financial aid to ACS students, followed by the donations for the Unrestricted (ACS Admin priorities) and Infrastructure categories.

In 2017/2018, ACS is supporting 233 students, providing financial aid for a total of EUR 659,640. In this way, the College is continuing its policy of offering quality education to an expanding number of talented students.

Aiming at the continuous development of the faculty, ACS invested donations from the Admin Priorities (Unrestricted) and Academic Departments categories in providing even more opportunities to teachers. Two ACS teachers will be attending a maker-space education in Zurich in January 2018. Development and international cooperation are present on every level of the school administration. Dr. Ewing, for instance, recently visited the International College in Beirut, Lebanon where he and his colleagues from this and other kindred schools to ACS from the area (i.e. Turkey and Greece) started planning an international (most likely arts-related) competition to take place in March 2018 in Turkey.

The College also focused on creating an interactive atmosphere in school. ACS received recognition from the Ministry of Education and Science and was acclaimed as an “innovative school” for its project integrating technology into the learning environment through the use of Chromebooks and the Google Classroom platform. Supplying high-tech classroom equipment is still a priority very high on the school’s list, working among other things on the plans of the College’s own maker-space within the new Campus Center.

Finally, the end of February 2018 is the new deadline for the construction part of the Campus Center and moving in is expected to happen in April or May 2018. The reasons for the move-in wait are partially weather-related, and partially connected to necessary changes to the construction: for instance, the Whitaker Auditorium turned out to be in a much worse shape than anticipated, so both roof and foundations had to be replaced. Additionally, having retractable seating in the new auditorium necessitated extra floor reinforcement. The roof of Ostrander Hall was replaced, as well. A dramatically improved final result is expected.

### Student Activities Fund

Throughout the 2016/2017 school year, the Student Activities Fund (SAF) continued providing both financial support and advice to ACS students, aiming to realize a variety of intriguing projects. In this school year, SAF held two funding rounds and managed to support 10 projects with a total of BGN 2,530.

In its funding rounds for the 2016/2017 school year, the Student Activities Fund provided support for a range of clubs, extracurricular activities and senior independent projects. The great variety of exciting ideas proposed by ACS students once again proved the diversity in their talents and the powerful purpose behind SAF and alumni support in general.

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## ACS Alumni Fund Report

	Fall 2016	Spring 2017
Number of supported projects	9	1
Total SAF commitment	BGN 2,030	BGN 500
Average grant per project	BGN 255	BGN 500
Beneficiaries	Medical Club Friends of UNICEF Club Career Orientation Club Animal Protection Club Restoration of the Forrest Alley Project Entrepreneurship Club TEDxYout@ACSOsfia Volleyball Intarmural HospitART Project	Medical Club

A number of senior projects in service to the community were realized with the help of SAF. The HospitART Project featured ACS students redecorating the Ivan Rilski orphanage for children with special needs. Using their imagination and thoughtfulness, ACS seniors created beautiful illustrations of popular cartoons for the walls of the home and thus added a spark of color and joy in the lives of the children there.

Another TEDx event was organized by the ACS TED club in April. The conference lasted a whole day and featured a wide variety of speakers, including businesspeople, economic experts, life coaches, an architect, a doctor, a PR specialist, a showman, and many others. The event attracted considerable attention not only from the ACS community but from the general public as well. Most importantly, it provided an example of sharing great ideas and communicating them effectively, and it served as inspiration for every member of the audience.

Students also worked to improve our beloved campus. The Forrest Alley Project renovated forgotten parts of the park on campus, creating easier access to buildings and suggesting ways of further exploiting the space – including restoration of the old swimming pool, creation of a new yard, and opening additional cozy spots for relaxation when the sun is out.

Throughout the 2016/2017 school year, the Student Activities Fund had the privilege of supporting and advising a number of exceptional student projects in the arts, debates and oratory, social service, and sports. SAF is continuing its work and is looking forward to supporting new ideas in the 2017/2018 school year with the upcoming funding round this December.

If you would like to learn more about SAF and the associated student projects, please contact Trayan Trayanov '01 at [t.trayanov@zaednovchas.bg](mailto:t.trayanov@zaednovchas.bg) or Nicole Levakova'16 at [nicole.levakova@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.levakova@gmail.com).

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## ACS Alumni Fund Report

### Save the Date! Upcoming events at ACS

Alumni Panel with the College Counseling Office at ACS - December 20, 2017, 4pm

Alumni Christmas Reception at ACS - December 20, 2017, 6:30pm

ACS Christmas Concert downtown - December 21, 2017, 7pm @ Lumiere Hall

Classical Concert - March 22, 2018

Bulgarian Drama Production - April 14, 2018, 5&7pm @ The House of Science and Technology, 108 Rakovski St.

ACS Science Fair - April 20, 2018 (during the day)

FISSION (International Science Fair) - April 21, 2018 (during the day)

English Drama Production - April 21, 2018, 5&7pm @ The House of Science and Technology, 108 Rakovski St.

Musical Production - May 8, 9, 10, 2018, 7pm @ Salza & Smyah Theater

Commencement Ceremonies for the ACS Class of 2018 - May 18, 2018

Arts Fest - June 9, 2018

Alumni Reunions for Classes 1998, 2003, 2008, and 2013 - June 29, 2018

### Want to give? Have questions?

You can give online at "Giving to the College" on the ACS website or in person at the Alumni Office located on the ACS campus.

If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to any AFAC member ([www.acs.bg/Home/Giving\\_to\\_the\\_College/About\\_the\\_Alumni\\_Fund.aspx](http://www.acs.bg/Home/Giving_to_the_College/About_the_Alumni_Fund.aspx)) or email [giving@acsbg.org](mailto:giving@acsbg.org).