



CA Hallways

Fall 2017

"A publication for Alumni & Friends of Collegedale Academy"

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Dear CA Alumni and Friends,

I am so excited to be a part of the Greater Collegedale School System! I started as the Development and Alumni Relations Director on June 1, 2017. I look forward to getting to know you.

Allow me to briefly introduce myself. I have two children who attend A.W. Spalding Elementary. My son, Noah, is in pre-school, and my daughter, Sophia, is in 1st grade this year. I had the privilege to work as A.W. Spalding's Office Manager for the 2016-2017 school year.

During my high school and college summers, I was an intern for Kettering Medical Center Foundation office. I had a wonderful mentor, Russ Raker, who instilled in me the principles and love of fundraising. He nominated me as a candidate for Philanthropic Services for Institutions (PSI) Step-Up Internship program. I was accepted and was able to complete the grant requirements over two summers.

I graduated from Andrews University with a double major in French and International Business and most recently enjoyed working in The Netherlands as a Global Account Manager for a Payment Service Provider. This role took me to clients all over Europe, and I was blessed to be able to put my international degree to work. Prior to this, I spent ten years in sales, as a New Business Manager, for two different global healthcare companies which helped sharpen my consultative sales skills. I enjoyed helping companies solve their international healthcare needs.

This community has a special place in my heart as my late grandparents, K.R. and Jeanne Davis, committed their lives in service to young people and worked at Southern Adventist University for many years. I feel blessed to be here today and carrying on the torch of Christian service for our young people. My grandfather told me there is no higher calling and I couldn't agree more. Our students inspire me daily with their unwavering love and leadership for Christ! What a tremendous school we have!

I look forward to learning your story. Let's open up a conversation. I encourage you to stop by for a chat or email with the happenings in your life and your CA experience. Thank you for allowing me to share part of my story.

In His Service,

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What CA Means to Me

BY AC HYBL—CA JUNIOR



According to a recent study titled “Population by Gender, Age, Fertility, Rate, Immigration,” roughly one third of the world’s population, aged 7-24, is studying at schools and attending classes in pursuit of academics and a bright future. In the United States of America, one of the highlights of nearly every young person’s life is education. These departments, systems and institutions are paramount sections of their lives academically and socially.

The query, “Where should I go to school?” critically shapes a student’s experience. In fact, this is the precise thought I had when I was first told that my family was moving. I was willing to explore opportunities and visit academies, but my father was already bent on Collegedale Academy.

Although the thought of a new locality was frightening on its own, I immediately set out to glean what information I could find about my future school. I soon faced unpleasant generalizations and stereotypes, which depicted CA students as mean, Rock n’ Roll loving, secular, unfriendly and cliquish and hard teachers to boot. However, I soon observed, studied at and engaged in a school that invalidated my negative pretenses.

Before enrolling at Collegedale Academy, I had spent all nine grades at a minuscule, private elementary school where each day I merely attained my desired grades, played with others and obeyed adults. The entire day was spent in one stuffy, multi-grade classroom, learning a stagnant, scripted curriculum.

Immediately, after the first week of school at CA began, I was presented with opportunities that I formerly deemed preposterous. When I felt that I was advanced beyond a class, I was able to omit it. When I did not comprehend the principal’s directions, teachers would cheerfully explain them. Similarly, I immediately made a friend when I needed a ride home after volunteering at the local Ironman race.

After I settled in with the school’s engaging pace I prayed for a job; I was offered to work for CA that same week. Additionally, I had the privilege of joining one of several clubs and of creating my own. Above all, teachers were apt to work with each of their students individually to aid them in earning the highest grade possible. With a plethora of diverse academic, social, spiritual and athletic opportunities, I quickly discovered who I am and what I enjoy doing.

Rather than being alienated by various cliques, I eventually acquired multiple groups of confidants and friends. At Collegedale Academy I found that trust and acceptance are not instantaneous, but, once established, are well worth the effort. I discovered that these students supported me at all times, encouraged me when I wavered and made me laugh when I felt dejected.

Furthermore, at CA, there were not only classrooms brimming with potential friends, but also teachers who continually attempted to understand my struggles and difficulties and cared about me on a personal level. Despite the fact that the various new relationships with classmates did not replace my rapport with old friends, they still





"...it has supported my languishing spiritual health and promoted a new, caring, thoughtful illustration of God."

made me superfluously glad on a day-to-day basis. Second Corinthians 3:18 suggests that "by beholding we become changed." This is especially important for pupils to realize of their surroundings because wherever and with whomever they are, they will be impacted either positively or negatively. Because classmates, acquaintances and faculty at CA are perpetually jubilant, I, too, unexpectedly found myself smiling many times while ambling home from school.

Throughout a teen's life, the emphasis that their administrators, mentors, peers and teachers put on God significantly influences an individual's intimate relationship with his/her Creator. Not only does this supernatural friendship support peace and gentleness in life, but it also ensures a great reward beyond imagination.

I was invited to delve into God's word at student-led Bible studies. Furthermore, I witnessed my peers' excitement when they returned from a variety of mission trips. At CA, I was astonished by the chapel talks delivered by CA students. Yes, my peers actually want to speak in front of 300 students because their love for God cannot be contained. What the vast majority of CA's students showed me was the spirit of Collegedale Academy: cooperation toward a divine purpose and the exploration of promising circumstances.

What CA means to me is a place that provides a myriad of constructive role models, teachers and classmates. It represents an ajar door that habitually welcomes creative thoughts and innovative ideas. Most importantly, it has supported my languishing spiritual health and promoted a new, caring, thoughtful illustration of God.

In the pursuit of a learning environment suitable for a student, rather than inspecting grandiose facilities and the school's wealth, the spiritual life and relative student unity should be investigated. Novel ideas, areas and friends may be frightening, but, as you've read, these uncertainties will be overcome by optimal opportunities and gratifying successes. All it takes is a little courage and determination. Therefore, I urge anyone searching for a quality academy to join the Spirit of Excellence at Collegedale Academy.

Works Cited

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It Only Takes a Spark

BY ANGI HOWELL, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND RECRUITING

While academics, social activities, and student-life experiences remain strong at Collegedale Academy (CA), an increased passion for spiritual life was the hallmark of the recently completed school year. The Student Association theme “It Only Takes a Spark” was interwoven into their presentations and activities throughout the year and became emblazoned on many hearts.

As a proud mom of two CA students and as a professional advocate for the school, I’ve been praying about how to share the excitement of a growing spiritual focus. As you read the following examples of how Jesus is becoming a good friend to so many of our youth, I hope their enthusiasm will become contagious!

Student-Led Chapels - The daily chapel program at CA welcomes and encourages student leadership, but giving a chapel talk has always been strictly voluntary. Yet this past school year, nearly half of the chapel programs featured well-planned and inspiring peer-to-peer talks.

“In the past some students have expressed interest in speaking, but this year the students have led out in strength,” said Chris Massengill, CA chaplain. “The students bring their thoughts and ideas to the chaplain’s office, and we discuss topics and tactics. I’ve been so inspired by the depth of the conversations these students want to have with their peers. We’ve had many students open up about their struggles in a faith-building way and on subjects where only peers can reach other peers. Praise God for what He is doing in the lives of our students!”



A Whole-Person Challenge - CA students often let the terms “SoulCon” and “Renew” roll off their tongues and forget that not everyone knows what they mean, so I’ll explain. Bible teacher Grant Graves challenged the guys to join him in a six-week spiritual/mental/physical challenge based on the Christian book *SoulCon*. Eighty guys from all grade levels accepted the challenge. When English and French teacher Lynne Macias developed *Renew*, a similar challenge for the girls, 80 young ladies responded. More than half of the student body was inspired to participate!

Typical challenges included regular daily devotions, intense prayer, exercise, diet accountability, and participation in weekly small groups. "The support the guys and girls had for one another in their challenges was amazing,"



remarked CA Principal Brent Baldwin. "It drew the students closer and even became a talking point with students among the other academies during the Southern Union Prayer Conference."

Another highlight of the year, was the powerful experience shared by a small group of guys who met together one Friday night. "I'm so proud of our faculty leaders, who were sensitive to the Spirit's moving when these gentlemen's discussion ran late into the night. Parents have shared with me that that night will be a landmark for their sons' spiritual life," said Baldwin.

Baptism at Prayer Conference - At the annual Prayer Conference, students were taking a group picture and walking toward the cafeteria at Camp Kulaqua when word spread: "Brandon is getting baptized."

Kelly Schwarzer, a junior at CA, said that the next thing she saw was a sea of students running toward the spring, with Brandon Bell's academy peers in the lead. The backstory is that Brandon had been taking Bible studies prior to the Prayer Conference, and during that Sabbath morning's sermon, he felt ready to respond to a call for baptism. However, one wasn't given. Because Brandon's urge to be baptized at the Prayer Conference—with his peers—was so strong, he approached his academy chaplain, Pastor Chris. Brandon also called his mom to share his decision to be baptized there at the camp, and she was thrilled!

Regular Bible Studies - Retired pastor LeClaire Litchfield is one of several area pastors who help the chaplains at Collegedale Academy serve the growing number of students requesting Bible studies. "CA makes it a priority to give every student the opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus," said Pastor Litchfield. "I love getting to know these kids, during lunch or an open class. It is a privilege to learn about their lives as they work to know Jesus better and better."

In addition to worships, prayer, and conversations with teachers that are interwoven with course work, CA students have many opportunities to enhance their spiritual walks. They include the academy's biennial spring break mission trip to Costa Rica as well as ministry opportunities for the members of its music, art, and athletic teams. Of course, these are just a few examples of the ways CA students and faculty find support in their relationships with each other and Jesus.

"In the process of educating, equipping, and inspiring our students with a heart of service," said principal Baldwin, "it is our goal to give them the opportunity every day to grow in their relationship with Jesus."

"CA makes it a priority to give every student the opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus,"

Reprint of Georgia-Cumberland Conference publications: *Communiqué* article and from the GCC website <https://www.gccsda.com/news/724>

Fulfilling His Purpose: GCSS Partners Endowment

The Need is Great

As we consider the future of the GCSS, one of our greatest concerns is the financial needs of some of our families pursuing a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. Our financial aid is awarded by using our Worthy Student Fund (WSF). This fund is critical to our mission in furthering our ministry for every student, especially for those families that couldn't otherwise afford it. We spend close to \$320,000 annually on financial aid for Kindergarten through the Academy, and the needs keep increasing. You probably know that 100% of our funding for the WSF comes from gifts from passionate people like you, and without your generosity, we simply could not assist 164 students this year. Over the past 15 years, the financial needs for families have grown exponentially. Using past history, we can forecast that our WSF will be awarding nearly \$500,000 in the next 10-15 years to support all the families requesting assistance from the GCSS. **Without a plan, this amount is unsustainable year after year.**

Our Vision

We know that our youth ministry is possible because of our dedicated donors, people like you, who see that a strong Seventh-day Adventist education will impact our students **now and more importantly into eternity**. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could accept all students, irrespective of their financial situation, desiring to attend GCSS? And when there is a willingness to work hard and help pay for their tuition alongside our support with financial aid, wouldn't it be nice to have the resources available to make it happen for each one?

Our Prayerfully Sought Solution

After much discussion and prayer, we believe God is opening an opportunity for our school to continue our ministry. We have created two endowments: 1) CA Endowment and 2) GCSS Partners Endowment for K – 12 grades.

- 1. CA ENDOWMENT - \$2Million Goal - ACHIEVED:** The Georgia-Cumberland Conference (GCC) has generously donated \$1 million as a matching donation to the **CA Endowment** Fund (9th – 12 grades). A pool was created for the benefit of a number of Conference ministries and they will be managing more than \$20 million dollars to date, including the CA Endowment. The pool will generate a 4% draw off of the principal which is the interest that it will earn. We will use this interest to award financial aid to our students without touching the principal so it can continue to grow. This endowment will be operated, owned, and managed by the GCC. **Our goal was to match the Conference's gift and at this time, we have successfully matched the GCC's \$1 million gift! Thanks to generous donors in our community, the \$2 million CA Endowment goal has been achieved!**
- 2. GCSS PARTNERS ENDOWMENT - \$8Million Goal:** This is a school-wide endowment benefiting grades K – 12. Investments supporting this endowment will still be managed by the GCC, but the GCSS will own this fund. The Conference has agreed to include these funds in the Conference pool so we can benefit from the 4% draw for this endowment as well. **Our goal is \$8 million for the GCSS Partners Endowment. We have officially kicked off this campaign on August 31, 2017!**

Faithful Stewards

As the GCSS Partners Endowment grows, we anticipate enhanced returns by pooling our resources with our sister ministries. The diversified portfolio that the GCC is able to invest in eclipses what each institution can do individually. The spread of risk, as well as a seasoned rate of return, is our goal as good stewards of monies so generously provided by our donors.

Share in the Leadership

I made my personal, proud gift to the GCSS Partners Endowment. We are in the midst of a faculty, staff, and board member campaign and expect to have 100% participation. We invite you to share in this vision and in the leadership! **We are asking that you make your proud, personal gift by December 31st, 2017. We have enclosed an envelope for your ease or you may go online: <http://www.gcss.org/alumni/get-involved/>.** At a time when we are nearly overwhelmed with requests for financial assistance, your gift, great or small, will make an eternal difference.

Lastly, a friend recently stopped by to offer some words of encouragement and shared this verse with me: **“If you give, you WILL receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more running over...” Luke 6:38.** I hope you will walk out in faith, as I have done. He will provide. Please contact me directly with any questions that you may have: 423.396.2124 x 5426 or msilverstein@gccsda.com. Thank you!





Zackery Akins



Diana Alvarez



Paul Attle Jr.



Noah Banks



Brandon Bell



Haley Bethune



Alexa Birch



Val Cristian Brahms



Sophie Chung



McKenzie Covrig



Josh Dean



Claire Edens



Amund Fleming



Lillian Gensolin



Seth Graham



Hayley Greer



Alexandra Griffin



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William Hayes



Liam Hidalgo



Christa Horton



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Tatyana Toro



Braxton Tracy



Kyle VanDenburg



Erin van Zyl



Devin Vaudreuil



Josh Vollberg



Jessica Williams

Congratulations, Class of 2017



Hello, Dolly!



Cast of Hello, Dolly! prepares for opening night

reprinted from Echolier. By, Abby Hansen

The cast of this year's musical production, *Hello, Dolly!* has been hard at work since August to prepare for opening night on April 8, 2017.

Produced by Roberta Bishop, directed by Holly Greer, and choreographed by Rebecca Benedict, *Hello, Dolly!* is set in 1890s New York and tells the story of Dolly Levi, a meddling matchmaker who decides to matchmaker herself.

Hayley Greer, senior, and Jamie Henderson, junior, take turns portraying Dolly as she sets herself up with the wealthy Horace Vandergelder, played by Senior Josiah Madrigal.

"[Dolly] is very mischievous," says Hauley Greer. "She knows what she wants and gets it by any means," describes Henderson, "but she's not malicious and wouldn't do anything to hurt anyone." Greer describes Dolly as having "multiple personalities" and being "quite funny."

*"I'm looking forward to hearing the audience laugh," says Henderson.
"We've been laughing at this play for months, and I want to share that."*

In contrast to Dolly's large personality, Madrigal describes Horace Vandergelder as "a get down to business kind of guy" who "doesn't like people wasting time."

The musical is full of colorful sets, lively songs, and entertaining relationships as Dolly negotiates relationships in an attempt to leave everybody happily in love.

Over all, some of the cast's favorite scenes include "Dancing," "Harmonia Gardens," and "Sunday Clothes." Junior Christian Beasley, who plays the artist Ambrose Kemper, says his personal favorite scene is "probably 'It Takes a Woman' because it's awesome having a bunch of men singing about masculinity."

Townsperson and waiter Sophomore Justin Moore enjoys the "Waiters' Gallop" scene because there are "a lot of fun moves and some gymnastics."

Director Holly Greer likes the scenes where the full cast is involved, and she is looking forward to opening night. "I want to see the kids excited and full of energy," she says.

Senior Tatyana Toro, who plays Irene Malloy, voices the cast's feelings: "[I'm looking forward to] seeing it all come together and seeing [our] hard work pay off."

"We've been working hard," says accompanist and junior Brandon Wilcox, "It's going to be a great production."

Bishop (producer Roberta) agrees, "[I'm looking forward to] seeing my students shine."

"You're in for a real treat," says Benedict, "It's really a good show."

"Come to the musical," Ciarah Clark, junior casted as Minnie Fay, encourages, "and if you have the chance, try out for the next one."

"I know that everyone has put a whole lot of work into this," says Henderson. "I just hope it's as magical for those watching as it is for us performing."



2017 COLLEGEDALE ACADEMY MISSION TRIP

BY HANNAH MOODY, CA JUNIOR



As the small bus bumped down the sliver of a road, the students with wide eyes took in the views from the dust-covered windows. Then, after hours and hours of traveling, the students and staff of Collegedale Academy arrived at the small village of Monteverde, Costa Rica.

Over Spring break, thirty-one students and seven staff members, traveled to Costa Rica on a mission trip. The trip, led by Michael Peel and David Djernes, was a two-week trip where students did construction work, led a vacation Bible school, and explored Costa Rica's rainforest.

Each morning the students hiked up the gravel road to the small Adventist school in Monteverde to begin work on the brick wall and metal roofing projects. Greg Phillips and David James directed the cement mixing, brick laying, welding, and sheet metal work.

Each evening, the students prepared a song service, Bible story, puppet show, game time, and a craft for the local children. Although there was a language barrier, just spending time with the children created meaningful relationships.

After two weeks of hard work, the group was rewarded. On Sabbath, the group took turns zip lining through the rainforest canopy. They also went on a guided night hike to spot wildlife.

Through this mission trip, the students of Collegedale Academy spread God's character to the Costa Rican people through acts of service. The students built their personal relationship with God and acquired new skills and learned valuable lessons.





ICEBREAKER!

School is back in session

The tradition of the Icebreaker continues!

BY MARILEE SILVERSTEIN

On the evening of August 8, 2017, the first day of the 2017-18 school year, the Collegedale Academy gymnasium crackled with excitement as CA students, faculty, and parents came together to attend CA's first SA event: Icebreaker. This is a great opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and re-connect with old friends. This was my first Icebreaker, and I was so happy to see how everyone participated in the games and gave it their all! What a tremendous tradition and one I hope we will carry on!



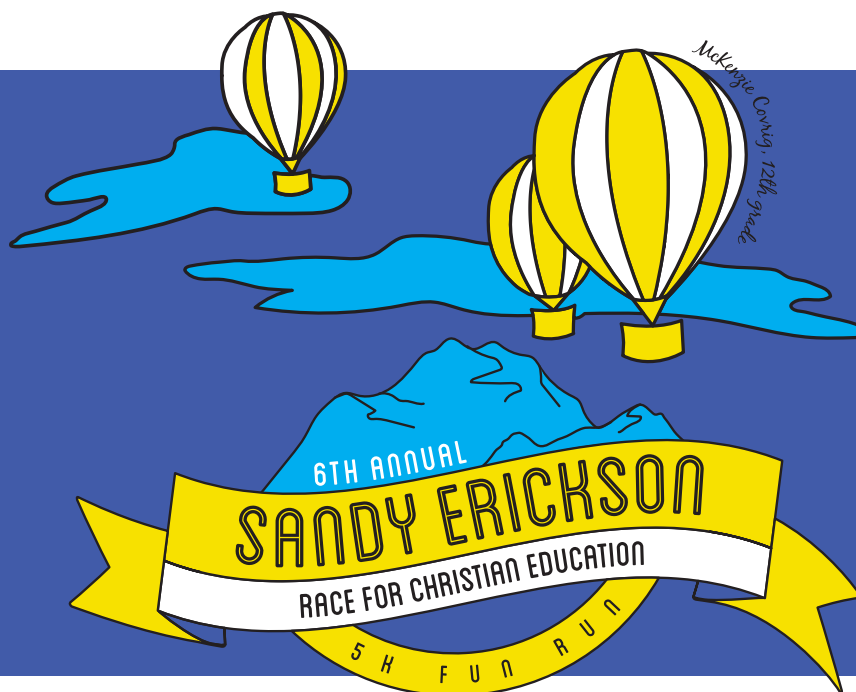
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