

Summer 2017

ReEchoes



A Publication of the Union Springs Academy Alumni Association

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Alumni Weekend 2017

“Rebuild, Restore, Reconnect with God, Our School, Our Alumni”

Speaking engagements are often tricky affairs, both for the speaker and the listener. There may be apprehension regarding what to say and likely some trepidation as to what will be heard. Add three different speakers to the mix, along with a set theme, and you're undoubtedly going to have some reoccurring lines or a theme gone missing somewhere along the way. However, this was not the case at Alumni Weekend 2017. For those of you who were in attendance, the theme of our weekend-Rebuild, Restore, Reconnect-was beautifully delivered.

On Friday evening we were honored to have Elder Miguel Crespo, the New York Conference President and graduate of USA's class of '87, speak on our theme of Rebuilding. He discussed the events of the December 2016 fire which greatly damaged the administration building and the work being done to rebuild. Along with this he touched on his years as a student at the academy and how a typically rambunctious young man, prone to get into some rather sticky situations, was given the opportunity, latitude and even grace to grow and mature. Miguel spoke with love and admiration for staff members who guided him, educated him and introduced Jesus to him. Rebuilding at USA is more than blocks and mortar, but also about lives.



Saturday morning during our church service, Elder John Thomas, who is currently an associate secretary at Adventist Mission and a former faculty member at USA 1977-1989, offered a sermon on the theme of Restoration. The story of Adam and Eve's fall-their efforts to hide in shame and God's desire to seek them out so that He might show them a way that had been prepared to restore them-was brought to life for all who were present. Elder Thomas shared many memories of students, faculty and friends who have been given the opportunity of restoration through grace. It was a memorable and moving sermon that reminded us all why John Thomas is so loved by USA alumni. The restoration we need most is so readily available if we only accept what is offered.

Saturday evening our vespers program was held in the gymnasium which had recently been approved for occupancy. Robert Gebhard, class of '88, spoke about Reconnecting and shared some thoughts regarding ways that we reconnect with both human and animal friends. He talked of how evident it was that his dog Lady loved him by showing her teeth in a big smile and whining loudly when he arrived home from work. Yet if the arrival was done after dark she might treat him as a stranger until he spoke or showed his face. Once we are recognizable to each other, we can reconnect. The goal for each of our alumni weekend events is for old friends to reconnect with each other and restore the close bonds that mean so much to us.

Thoughts from Our Alumni President...

Alumni Association Future Goals

As the President, I plan to focus my first year of my term on these following points:

- To be more efficient and effective within the Association
- To increase Alumni involvement
- To increase communication across media, with use of the Alumni website, Re-Echoes and Facebook
- To improve our Association's finances -To be more responsible and to realize potential for more scholarships, such as the Brick Campaign.
- To have more chapter meetings on college campus and during camp meeting.

In addition, I will be asking you -the Alumni Association- to play a larger role in the coming year's events because, after all, you are such a large part of what makes Union Springs Academy great. Stay tuned as we roll out an exciting lineup of events: Alumni meeting/dessert on the second Sabbath of Camp Meeting, USA grand opening ceremony this fall and many more. I look forward to connecting with you at one of our events this year.

We hope that throughout 2017 you will connect virtually by sharing your stories and memories online, or in an article in the Reechoes.

Please reach out to me if I can help facilitate these interactions in any way, or if you have suggestions for how we can serve the needs of current and future alumni and USA. I would love to hear from you at nettab7@gmail.com

I am ready to work hard for this Association, as President, and look forward to serving the Alumni.

-Netta Smith-Blakes '82



(L) Steve Fraker shared how the fire was started. (R) Max Main '12, local firefighter gives insight to the pre-fire blessings and the battle to fight the blaze.



Alumni Weekend Candid



Elder John Thomas visiting in the church lobby with Pastor Richard Wright '64 and his wife Trudy



New street signs at the bottom of Spring Street



Registration has finally entered the electronic age



Enjoying Friday Vespers



Honor Class of '92 visiting with friends



Terry Schermerhorn '62 proudly holding the flag



The traditional Roll Call



Members of 2007, praying during service

Missions in Action!

On Saturday evening alumni gathered in the cafeteria to enjoy a delicious finger-food supper while listening to some insightful updates on the Academy from staff and board of education members. A progress report was shared by Elder Miguel Crespo '87, on how the school is taking action on exploring industries that will help sustain the school for a stronger future. It is the goal for USA to partner with local businesses who are experts in their fields. We want to utilize our land, without selling it, and incorporate our students for opportunities for labor and valuable skills. Elder Crespo shared three areas in which the school has been actively discussing and moving forward:

- USA's land have been leased for many years from a local farmer. Upon review, it was realized we were being underpaid for the value of the land today. Upon renegotiation with a professional farmer representative for USA, the school secured a new long term contract for *four times* more revenue per acre! Praise God!
- Expanding Finger Lakes Estates (currently we have six apartments on campus providing senior housing).
- Restarting USA's silk screen printing business with new on-campus management. The grand opening of USA Eagle Prints will be in September 2017.
- Actively looking for businesses the school can partner with to help employ our students and bring revenue to the school.

The program continued with presentations of ways for alumni to get involved with the school. Kelsey Hamm-Hayes, '01, the coordinator of the USA Eagle Run 5K, shared how alumni can participate as a sponsor or runners/walkers at the 8th annual event on June 25th during camp meeting. Proceeds go toward student scholarships for the USA



ANNOUNCING
THE FOURTH ANNUAL
RENOVATION
WEEKS

JULY 2ND - 16TH

We Will Rise **OPERATION USA 2017**

WHERE: UNION SPRINGS ACADEMY
WHEN: JULY 2-16, 2017
WHO: VOLUNTEERS, WILLING HEARTS AND HANDS
REGISTER AT WWW.MARANATHA.ORG

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TO MAKE A COMPLETION OF EACH PROJECT
A REALITY! TO MAKE A GIFT ONLINE VISIT
WWW.UNIONSPRINGSACADEMY.ORG AND
SELECT 2017 CAMPUS RENOVATION WEEK.
THANK YOU!

FOR UPDATES ON OPERATION USA 2017
VISIT WWW.UNIONSPRINGSACADEMY.ORG.
#USARENOVATIONWEEKS

Student Aid Fund.

John Cardinell, '78, has been helping to improve the school's aging campus, having started the Campus Renovation Weeks four years ago. John discussed the 4th "Operation USA", Annual Campus Renovation Weeks taking place from July 2 - 16, 2017. John reported that Maranatha Volunteers International is partnering with our event, bringing volunteers from all over the country as well as Brazil to help with our projects. This year both dormitories will be the focus of the renovation projects. John shared ways to volunteer and how to give gifts.

The principal, Jere Clayburn, shared an update on the current situation and progress for the Ad Building. Updates on staff changes for next year and plans for the future were shared.

A special thank you was expressed by the principal for all the alumni have done over the past school year helping to support the school through the many prayers, financial support, and active volunteering at the school.

-Janica Kaltsas-Caster '90



The Caster bothers quartet singing special music for Sabbath school. Marty '82, Darrin '89, Robin '75, and Alan '77

Class of 2017 Induction Ceremony

On Friday, May 5, 2017, 10 Seniors from the Class of 2017 were inducted into the Alumni Association. What an exciting evening as Breanna Cenecharles, Tha Dah, Hsar Hser Doe Paw, Abigail Ingersoll, Lindsay Franke, Alister Lockiby, Jew Luis, Mackenzie Pitcher, and Too Say each heard their names called as they went up to receive their certificate. This new class of inductees heralds from all over the conference. Seven of them were proud to say that they attended USA for four years. They all shared with me how being at USA has changed their lives spiritually because they have grown closer to God. Now, as they were about to graduate and leave USA, I asked them about their plans for the future. This is what they shared with me:



Breanna - Attend Southern Adventist University to study culinary arts.

Tha Dah - Attend Monroe Community College in Rochester, New York

Hsar Hser - Attend college - major undecided

Abigail - Take a gap year to work and then go to a University

Lindsay - Attend college to become an ultra sound technician

Alister - Attend Walla Walla University to study Engineering

Jew - Take a gap year to work

Mackenzie - Attend SUNY Brockport

Courtney Gilbert - Go as a Missionary to South Africa and then attend the University of Vermont.

Too Say - Attend a community college and then transfer into an Engineer program.

On behalf of the Union Springs Academy Alumni Executive Committee, I would like to welcome each new inductee and encourage them to stay in touch with each other, become active alumni, and continue to support our USA.

- Netta Blakes, '82, Alumni Association President

Announcing...

1st Annual

USA Alumni

Strawberry

Shortcake Feed!

Saturday, July 1, 2017

6:00 – 6:45 pm USA Cafeteria

**Sign up in Alumni camp meeting booth
or email your RSVP to**

development@unionspringsacademy.org



Look who found each other!



Joyce Clarke-Cady, '51, with her 7th grade teacher Mary (Marguerite) Ross, '41, both proud alumni of Union Springs Academy, having a sweet moment at the Andrews University graduation.

-Photo Courtesy: Daughter, Jann Cady '77



Class of 1967: Darlene Aldenderfer, Shirley Shattuck-LaFleur, Donald Teeter, David Weber, Carolyn Fox-McClellan, and David Roberts



Class of 1977: Chary Cook-Hicks, Alan Caster, and Brenda Whitens-Caster



Class of 1962: Terry Schermerhorn, Lula Alnutt-Ellis, and Robert Caster



Class of 1992: (back) Arlin Cochran, Mike Robbins, Eric Roshak, Joe Foote, Jeff Morgan, Penny Gebhard-Adams (front) Jeff Walter, Mark Cerreta, Kimberly Closson-Solberg, and Alene Suriner-Walter

The Honor Years



Class of 1987: Don Mayer (not pictured) Miguel Crespo



Class of 2007: (back) Megan Wilkinson-Kelly, Elliot Taylor, Andrew Whitlow, Amber Matthewson, Layna Moreira (front) Sheila Peck-Taylor, Amy Pitcher, and Michael Kirkby



Class of 1957: Sharon Black-Perry, Graham Cassano, Alex Norzow, and Marjorie Weber-Howes



Class of 2002: Demetria Jones-Fletcher, Andrew Trecartin, and Diana Dick



Class of 1972: Gerry Lewis and Marilee Robinson-Allen



Class of 2012: (back) Max Main, William Acevedo, Cory Pletcher, Enock Ntekereze, Preston Mezetin, (front) Shawna Thomas-Drurey, Kyle Raymond, and Amy Knowlton-Timoll

Class of 1997: Kristy Kline-Burt and Nick Plumley



Class of 1982: Marty Caster, Netta Smith-Blakes, Malcolm Proctor, and Carl Foote

“VIP” Alumni, Formally known as “The Golden Years”



Front Row: Carolyn Fox-McClellan '67, Shirley Shattuck-LaFleur '67, Darlene Aldenderfer '67, Lula Alnutt-Ellis '62, Sandra Gadway-Caster '64, Jackie Fuller-Caster '54, Chirstine Harrington-Mayer '64, Joyce Duly-Cassano '49, Dottie Smith-Frank '55. 2nd Row left side: Ann Beard-Fuller '61, Joyce Chisholm-Pound '52, Conrad Demsky '55 2nd Row right side: Marjorie Weber-Howes '57, Sharon Black-Perry '57, Ed Roche '46, Linda Pratt-Everhart '64 3rd Row: Jackie Gibson-Dolan '55, Helen Scott-Houghtaling '55, Alex Norzow '57, Marie Rupracht-Putman '65, John Fodus '55, Edna Rider-Bradt '55, Janet Quaile-Caster '63, Brian Caster '64, Mike Little '64, Donald Teeter '67, Judi Bentz-Eells '65, Wayne Eells '66 Back Row: Graham Cassano '57, David Roberts '67, Rick Nudd '64, Richard Wright '64, David Weber '67, Thomas Davis '50, Terry Schermerhorn '62, Herb Cox '66, Gordon Caster '54, Dennis Nord '44, Lloyd Harrington '66, Harold Washburn '64, Dick Raymond '56, and Robert Caster '62

Many thanks to the family of Ann Bainbridge-Leubner, '48, for the donation of many decorative trees planted around the school's campus this spring. One of the trees, a beautiful yellow Ginko, was donated in memory of Ann and dedicated at Alumni Weekend. The family also donated a minivan to the school which has been a great blessing to our students.



Ann's son, Jason Leubner '88 planting one of the trees in front of Newmyer Hall (Ad Building).



Grateful students in front of the Honda Odyssey minivan donated by the Leubner family.

Talent Night at Alumni Weekend

What a great night of fun and laughs alumni shared at the Talent Night on Saturday night in the gymnasium. The turnout was awesome, the talent was tremendous, and the emcee hosts were outstanding! Hosts Jeff Morgan '92 and Joe Foote '92 kept everyone



actively involved, getting the audience to participate in several games including "Alumni or Celebrity". Questions were asked of alumni in the audience of all ages on topics such as getting on social, favorite/worst café food,



dress code, favorite memories, etc. It was interesting to hear alumni with over 50 years' in class differences have similar, yet at times different, answers and experiences! While playing "Order the Alumni Around" Qaadir Singleparry '18 tried to put Nate Hamm '96, Brent Runnals '99, Dustin Wright '93, Dan Eppel '90, and Mike Robbins '92 in the correct class order.



There were several talent acts including Robert Caster's '62 witty monologue, a funny skit called "7-Up," from the Senior Class of 2017, a quartet of USA students singing *Lolipop*, Darrin '89 and Janica '90 Caster performing "There's a Hole in the Bucket," and a men's quintet with Enock Ntekereze '12, Preston Mezetin '12, Kevin Canas '12, Erick Ntekereze '14, and Adam Boyd '10. This young alumni group did a tremendous job singing a melody of spiritual acapella songs including "God is Standing By" and "What if God is Unhappy."



During the show taking place in the back of the gym, there were several alumni vendors selling items including food concessions - Senior Class of 2017, USA alumni tee shirts - *USA Eagle Prints* with manager Sarah Rodriguez-Crespo '13, *The Phyllis Flair* selling many crafts with owners Phyllis Peck '59 and Keryn Peck-Cordon '85, *This and That by Sherry* - Sherry Saxman-Franke '80, and Mac Nudd '80 with his beautiful handmade crystals. A large portion from the proceeds from the sales went to student scholarships for USA students which is provided by the Alumni Association. Thank you for all your support to these alumni and their handiwork.

Congratulations to Our Alumni Scholarship recipients: Melanie Llanto '18 and Hsaw Law Hsar '18. We acknowledge both for being good academic students and positive leaders on USA's campus. Each received \$250 towards their '16-'17 school year.

Please help support our scholarship fund. Donations may be made online or sent to the school. Please indicate you would like the funds to go to the Alumni Scholarship.

Class Representative (CR) & Faculty Representative (FR) Have the Most Important Role in Our Alumni Association

Important facts about CR/FRs:

- ◆ CRs are the hub of information and communication with a class or faculty group.
- ◆ They gather contact information about the classmates and pass along to Jenni, Membership Secretary.
- ◆ One person is asked, or volunteers, to be the CR. Four-year students do best as they know everyone attending the class for all years. Some larger classes have assistants to the main CR person.
- ◆ Information gets passed to the class/faculty group via the CR and information comes back to the Association through this network. So it is vital.
- ◆ Information the Association gathers is name, address, email, ph numbers, military service and if permission is given to receive Reechoes through your email.
- ◆ We can find many classmates on Facebook, but we strive to have direct contact which is better, more direct communication.
- ◆ CRs really get busy around an honor year reunion, but they are busy all year and every year to keep the information as updated as possible. If done only every few years, it gets very outdated quickly. As you can imagine, our group is too large for just a Membership Sec. to do all this work! We depend on CRs and FRs!
- ◆ Our database is not shared or posted on Facebook or the like. We respect your privacy and there are not a lot of emails, per year, you would get from the Association. Your class might have regular spurts of activity though, that is fun.
- ◆ Your Classmates benefit the most by this connection to the Association and to each other through this network of CRs and FRs. Many classes send cards of encouragement or sympathy when someone in their group has situations that they want to help or support. You can get class news out this way too, but not for personal business stuff.
- ◆ We have about 5, 500 current alumni and students (graduates and attendees!). There are about 83 slots for CR/FRs and there are a few vacancies at this time.

This is a quick overview of why the CR/FR job is the most important position to your Alumni Association. To those who are CR/FRs, THANK YOU very much for your time and efforts. We couldn't do what we do without YOU !

Make sure we have YOUR current information by contacting us, or your CR/FR. Soon this list, by class/group, will be available to look up on the USA Web site under the Alumni Tab to find your CR/FR.

-Jenni Austin-Carr and Linda Nord-Ulrich



Alumni were invited to join Les Chanteurs during church for the Battle Hymn of Republic.



A special thanks goes out to our weekend photographers Ed Runnals '73 and Sierra Cox.



Conrad Dempsey '55 proudly helps Janica display his class photo that he restored to replace the one destroyed in the fire



Samantha Runnals '16 with her namesake Sami, daughter of Shawna Thomas-Drurey '12

Upcoming Events:

- Camp Meeting—June 23-July 1
- USA Eagle Run 5K—Sunday, June 25
- Strawberry Shortcake Feed—Saturday, July 1
- Campus Renovations Weeks—July 2-16
- Ad Building Grand Opening Dedication—TBD Fall 2017

Circle of Friends Brick Campaign

Buy a Brick!

We encourage all alumni to buy a brick for our growing Circle of Friends walkway. This is a great way to support the USA Alumni Association. These funds are used towards; Alumni expenses (25%) like the Reechoes and Alumni weekend, our Alumni Scholarship (20%), Special Projects (32%) and Campus Beatification (23%). Engraving available for a class member, loved one, a memory, celebrate your class year.

The next order deadline is July 30th. Bricks cost \$75 each and can be ordered on the school website under the alumni tab or call the Development Office at USA to place an order at [315-889-7314](tel:315-889-7314).

Alumni Weekend 'Date Change' Poll

This past spring we had an opinion poll to explore changing the dates for the annual Alumni Weekend due to many conflicts for our current weekend. (Please refer to the Spring ReEchoes for further explanation.) We listed several options in the Spring ReEchoes, at Alumni Weekend, on Facebook, and on the website for emailing your opinions in. Thank you for a great response. With your voices being heard the majority stated they would like to move Alumni Weekend to the fall. This works well with the school calendar to have it the last full weekend in September. With all the votes we now have narrowed it down to the Fall date of September 28-30, 2018 or leaving it the first full weekend in May. Please make your final selection as to which date you would prefer. Here are ways you can communicate your decision by July 30, 2017:

- 1) On our Facebook Poll.
- 2) Emailing our Executive Secretary, Debi Everhart, at deborah@andrew.edu with your name, class year, and preference.
- 3) At our Alumni booth at NY Camp Meeting.
- 4) At our Strawberry Shortcake feed, July 1st as NY Camp Meeting.
- 5) By mailing this paper ballot to the school. (See page 10 for address)

ALUMNI POLL PAPER BALLOT

Please check your preference for USA Alumni Weekend Calendar for 2018 and the future:

Last Full Weekend in September (Sept. 28-30, 2018) Keep the Same (May 4-6, 2018)

Your Name: _____ Class of: _____

Alumni Association Executive Officers

President-Netta Smith-Blakes '82
Vice President-Larry Hayes '98
Past President-Robert Gebhard '88
Executive Secretary-Debi Everhart '90
Treasurer-Amy M. Foote '96
Membership Secretary-Jenni Austin-Carr '78
Communications Director-Vacant *
Projects Coordinator-John Cardinell '78
Member-at-Large-Judi Bentz-Eells '65
Member-at-Large- Linda Nord-Ulrich '75
Academy Liaison-Janica Kaltsas-Caster '90

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jabeells55@gmail.com
joenlindau@yahoo.com
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Officers pose for a group photo at the close of the Annual Business meeting. (L to R) Principal Jere, Linda, Larry, Netta, Amy, Jenni, Robert, Janica, and Debi (not pictured John and Judi)



Alumni Banquet Luncheon



Union Springs Academy
Alumni Association
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