



Blue Mountain Academy

COMMUNIQUE

SEPTEMBER 2009

“They Shall be all Taught of God”

For more than 50 years, Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) staff has prepared young people for Christian service. As society becomes more complex and disheveled, the need for Christian role models is vital. Our staff and board will continue to fulfill the challenge of offering a Christ-centered education and to fulfill the motto: “They shall be all taught of God.”

Besides modeling God’s grace to students, we need to update policies, systems, procedures, and facilities to meet our changing society and norms. The BMA Board and staff will be involved in an intensive appraisal process and planning during the 2009-10 school year, with a full report prepared for the April accreditation visit. We will be soliciting help from all BMA stakeholders.

Over the summer, some of these stakeholders have helped make numerous upgrades to our plant. Thanks to generous donors and diligent efforts by the staff, the gymnasium roof has been replaced and its floor refinished. Work continues on the dorm restrooms. We are also purchasing a tour bus and readying homes for new staff. Again, these projects would not be possible without committed parents, alumni, and friends of BMA who are willing to share their talents and resources. Thank you all for helping us follow God’s leading.



Craig Ziesmer
Principal

NEWS

Generous Donors and Volunteers Improve School

Even with students away, the summer months at Blue Mountain Academy were abuzz with activities as major repairs were made to the buildings. The repairs included a new roof for the gym. The roof (left) was funded by a \$6,000 gift from the Class of 2009, a matching gift of \$6,000, \$100,000 from an anonymous donor, and the support of the



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Pennsylvania Conference.

Phase 2 of the bathroom renovation project in the south wing of the girls’ dorm was started in

the summer. Thanks to a generous grant and other faithful financial support, workmen have started repairing 129 lintels and replacing 284 windows in the dormitories (above).



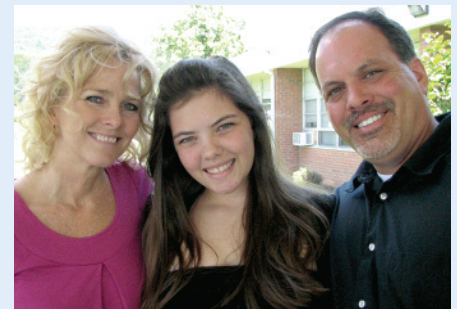
Staff member Eric Engen joined volunteers to begin demolition in the girls’ dormitory bathroom.



New principal Craig Ziesmer was among the first volunteers to work on the girls’ dorm bathroom.

New Staff Welcomed

David Darmody is the new computer instructor/network operator. He is pictured with his wife, Kim, and daughter, Bridget.



Graduate Excels in Scholarship and Service

Justin McAuliffe, president of the Class of 2009, recently joined the ranks of some of the nation's brightest minds when he was named a National Merit Scholarship finalist. He follows in the footsteps of 2003 BMA graduate Mary Christian.

National Merit Scholar (NMS) finalists must achieve high scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, maintain top academic records, exhibit leadership, and write an essay. As an NMS finalist, he is also eligible to receive full tuition

to the college or university of his choice.

McAuliffe excelled not only in academics, but also in service and caring. He received the Caring Heart Award presented by the North American Division. Criteria for the award include demonstrating "a personal commitment to active participatory service and witnessing activities and programs" and an "overall positive example on campus." This award carries with it a cash award of \$500 to be used by the recipient



toward a mission trip or to attend the school of his choice.
—Louise Corbin

Widow's Mite Inspires Fundraising

In 1953 Lydia Kester's silver dollar challenge helped to build Blue Mountain Academy. This year monies from the school's Sacagawea Dollar Challenge will help renovate bathrooms and repair window supports.

During the 1940s and 50s, Kester was a retired Bible worker in the Pennsylvania Conference who was widowed, in poor health, and dependent on the generosity of church members who opened their homes to her. She saved 100 silver dollars for surgery to restore her failing vision.

She was living in a Wescosville, Pa., camp meeting cabin in 1953, when the conference president challenged Pennsylvania constituents and friends to build the academy in Hamburg. Inspired by the youngsters thronging the front pews, Kester said, "I have been saving silver dollars, and I want to give them to help start a school."

Kester's silver dollars were distributed to volunteers who pledged to raise \$100 during the next year—an incredible sum at that time. One Norristown housewife hosted lasagna dinners to raise her \$100 pledge, while a church member in Wade braided rag rugs to earn hers. But there are many



Ed Cale, an alumnus and parent, continues in the footsteps of Blue Mountain Academy's pioneering supporters as a volunteer in a recent renovation project.

untold stories of how these silver dollars were invested.

Kester never had her eye surgery, but BMA has fulfilled her vision for 54 years. Today a new challenge is being issued in her memory. Five hundred Sacagawea dollars will be distributed to those who pledge, with the Lord's blessing, to raise \$1,000 toward the current bathroom, lintel, and other renovation projects at BMA.

Will you accept our challenge and support Christian education at Blue Mountain Academy? For information on how you can receive your coin, contact Kathleen Sutton at (610) 562-4214, kathys@bma.us, or on the Web at bma.us.

Want BMA News Fast?

We can email the *Communique* to you as soon as it is printed. Send your name and email address to Kathleen Sutton at kathys@bma.us.

Calendar

September

7-12 FOCUS Week
13-14 SportsFest

October

2-5 History Honors Tour

November

6-7 Senior Recognition

For a more detailed schedule and up-to-the-minute information on news and happenings, check out the calendar online at bma.us.

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