

Students Witness Through Music

Ellen White wrote, "True education ... prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (*Education*, p.13).

As declared in our mission statement, Blue Mountain Academy accepts the challenge of "leading students into lives of service for God." In today's fast-paced culture, our methods may be different, but our mission is the same.

Recently our bell choir, La Sonnette Ensemble, and the select choir, Bel Canto, went on tours that led both groups along similar paths. The groups spread the joy of music to Seventh-day Adventist congregations on Sabbath, then stayed overnight and presented sacred concerts at other churches on Sunday morning. The response was tremendous! The audiences were impressed with the quality of the music and the greater witness of the Christian behavior of the students as they interacted with each other and the congregants.

What an opportunity for Adventists to share with their neighbors! What a great way to build bridges with fellow Christians! We do have an army of youth who are amazing witnesses! Our prayer is that these young witnesses will lead others to a closer walk with God. Our hope is that these visits will give local churches an opportunity to share the gospel message with their neighbors. Not only were the congregations blessed, but the students returned to school with an awareness that God worked through them in a mighty way.

Similar experiences occurred with students who were involved in service and witnessing projects, such as the soup kitchen and the meals-on-wheels project. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless our witness.



Craig Ziesmer
Principal

Alumni Awarded for Outstanding Contributions

From the time that Daniel Cates ('98) was a student worker under John Edison in the computer lab, he was hands-on with the expanding computer technology at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA). Following his academy graduation, Cates continued to oversee the school's system from across the country and around the world.

Because of his dedicated work as BMA's volunteer remote network administrator, Cates was recently recognized with the Outstanding Contribution to Blue Mountain Academy award. He and his wife, Danielie, reside in Washington state, where he is the associate director of information technology at the North Pacific Union. His parents, Chuck and Kathy Cates, accepted the award on his behalf.



"Over the years, we never experienced a major system shutdown. He supported us via email with patience and kindness," shares Kathleen Sutton, advancement director. "Because he understood our financial situation, Daniel was always careful to help us find the best prices on equipment and software." Cates recently retired from his volunteer role at BMA.

Other alumni were also honored during the recognition dinner, including Tom Sitler ('67) as Outstanding Volunteer for his work installing runway lights and a rotating beacon at the airport; Ed Cale ('62), Outstanding Alumnus for his volunteer work on the grounds and in the girls' dormitory; and Elaine ('58) and Duane ('59) Ferguson as BMA's Outstanding Employees for their 31 years of dedicated service to the academy.

Daniel Cates, who served as BMA's remote network administrator, was among several alumni recognized for their volunteer work at the school.

NEWS

Alumni Gather in Tennessee

More than 47 alumni and friends gathered for the annual Blue Mountain Academy reunion in Tennessee. R.R. Adams, principal during the school's first year of operation, attended the gathering. Memories of the good old days and BMA updates were part of the program, along with lots of food and fellowship.



R.R. Adams (center) meets with old friends Betty Montgomery Dingle and Roy Dingle.

Sportsfest Attracts 11 Schools

BMA's annual Sportsfest drew 106 students from 11 Adventist elementary schools from Pennsylvania and New Jersey in a weekend of fun activities. BMA students mentored the visitors and shared their campus with them.



Students Minister at Churches

In-Reach Sabbath found BMA students presenting sermons, children's stories, special music and, in some cases, teaching the teen Sabbath School lesson and/or distributing literature at 12 local churches. Members reported that it was heart-warming to hear the youth share their love for God and how He is working in their lives. They wanted to know, "When can you come back?" And the response from students was, "When can we go again?"

During this school year, these students will visit more than 30 Pennsylvania Conference churches, and touring groups will continue to reach out to Pennsylvania and beyond.

Academy Physician Remembered

John F. Pifer, DO, passed to his rest in September. "Doc," as he was affectionately known, worked in



family medicine in the Hamburg area for 25 years and served as physician for Blue Mountain Academy, caring for sick or injured students and staff. But babies were his specialty; he delivered thousands of them, five of

Daniela Castillo ('14) shares a water break with Filmore Smith from Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist School in Whitehall, Pa.



Vicky Eldridge ('12) shared special music, Joanna Fils-Aime ('11) preached and Jackie Bohorquez ('13) presented the children's story at the Seneca (Pa.) church.

which were his own grandchildren!

Pifer believed in sharing God's love and encouraging and inspiring people. He never turned anyone away. Attending nurses spoke of "feeling the presence of God in the room" when he was caring for a patient.

As a boy, Pifer attended the Harrisburg (Pa.) church. In 1950 he graduated from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va., and attended Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md., and Southern Adventist University (Tenn.). He graduated from the Kansas City Osteopathic Medical College.

He is survived by Jackie, his wife of 15 years; his four children Sandy, Suzie, John and Shari; siblings Chalmer, Don and Darlene. Pifer's first wife, Lorraine, passed away in 1995.

Communiq   is published in the *Visitor* by Blue Mountain Academy
2363 Mountain Road, Hamburg, PA 19526
Phone: (610) 562-2291 ■ Fax: (610) 562-8050
bma.us ■ Editor, Kathleen Sutton
E-mail: kathys@bma.us ■ Copy Editor,
Louise Corbin