



# Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

NOVEMBER 2010

## Senior Retreat Teaches Christian Leadership

Blue Mountain Academy's senior retreat takes students into the wilds of Pennsylvania for a time of worship, fun, food, and activity. It is intended to help them bond, to identify life lessons in leadership and to learn how to respond to unique situations. The Class of 2011 has chosen as its motto, "Separate Paths, Same Destination," and the weekend became a time to put these words into action. As the students were led to see how unintentionally we isolate and marginalize those who struggle to be seen, something began to change. Through the rotations, activities and down time, students who rarely spoke to each other started to discover the uniqueness of their classmates.



Samson Lin and Bradley Schweizer practice lessons of leadership and inclusivity at Blue Mountain Academy's senior retreat.

During one activity, a certain young lady remained on the outskirts. As the excitement of the challenge engulfed the group, I saw her holding back, not engaging. Her group beckoned her to join. The group realized, "If we do this activity and she is not with us, we fail."

For that activity, no one was invisible, silent or marginalized. The Class of 2011 had accepted the strength of their diversity, respecting the separate path upon which each was journeying, so the focus landed squarely on the destination. That's the point of senior retreat. And thanks to the staff and sponsors, lives have been touched and, in some cases, even changed.



David Morgan

Pennsylvania Conference Vice President for Education

## NEWS

### 50-Year Alumni Support Current Students

The 50's Club includes every Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) graduate of at least 50 years. Their mission is to pray for and encourage current students. At least once during the school year, every student receives a package from this alumni group. Without fail, students are delighted with the treats and school supplies they receive.



### Breakfast in Bed Tradition Continues

It was an early Sabbath morning, when faculty and staff gathered in the cafeteria to prepare and serve breakfast to the students. It was a time of fun, laughter and anticipation as they loaded the carts with breakfast goodies and rolled them to the dorms for delivery. Sleepy students were surprised and excited by this love and caring shown to them on the first Sabbath of the school year.



Some 50's Club members (left to right), including Marilyn Snyder, Don and Joyce Landis and Jeanne and Ron Achenbach, prepare goodies for current students.

## Volunteers Appreciated for Strong Commitment

Besides quality students, the Lord has blessed Blue Mountain Academy with quality staff members, some of whom are volunteers. Jon Larrabee (below), a healthcare management professional, teaches Christian leadership principles in his class Leadership in the Workplace. His perspectives from the business world build on concepts taught by



teachers in Bible and other classes. Pastor Duane Ferguson (above) has guided and taught BMA students for many years. He now volunteers his expertise and time to oversee the testing programs and to teach freshman religion. His sage advice benefits staff and students alike.

Diane Castle (right) utilizes her winning personality, expression and imagination to help students

to help students develop their artistic skills in her Creative Arts class.

These three volunteers enrich the lives of staff members and students. They exemplify BMA's mission "to provide a Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist education that leads students into lives of service for God."—Craig Ziesmer



## Chaplain Fosters Mentoring, Spiritual Growth

Students crowded around Chaplain Shawnessey Cargile (right), who passed out donut holes as they headed to class. This is normal for BMA's chaplain, as

he is often seen reaching out in different and fun ways.

Cargile reinvented "family groups," hosted by staff members who each mentor a small number of students. Group activities throughout the year may include spending time around a campfire, having worship in staff homes, reaching out to friends in need or sharing an agape meal. When asked how she likes her family group, Schalita Morgan, ('11) responded, "I think it's really cool! I really like my group."

He is encouraging staff, alumni and friends to volunteer to mentor students by sharing their testimonies,

leading vespers and dorm worships, taking students on a hike, having Bible studies, sharing a praise song service, leading a Sabbath afternoon program or even spending time in class sharing on-the-job experiences. To become a mentor, contact Cargile at shawnesc@bma.us or (610) 562-6516.



*Chaplain Shawnessey Cargile works with students in his drama class.*

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