



Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

SEPTEMBER 2010

Christian Education Can Make Dreams Come True

Tearful parents said goodbye to their daughter, Irina, when she left the Ukraine in 1996 to attend Blue Mountain Academy (BMA). As a Christian teenager in the Ukraine, life had been difficult for Irina. Teachers and classmates harassed her for her beliefs. It took a great leap of faith, with her limited English, to come to America.

Immediately Irina experienced a different world. On her trip from the airport, Kathleen Sutton, advancement director, asked what food she would like to eat. Everything sounded strange to Irina. Kathleen figured she knew what teenagers liked, so when they stopped for supper, an excited Irina ate her first pizza!

Dorm life, with the friendliness of students and staff, won Irina's heart as she experienced Christian fellowship. Class work was challenging as she expanded her limited English. To complete her assignments, she translated her school work, did the assignments, then translated the work back into English. Four years later, Irina completed her high school studies and continued her education at Southwestern Adventist University in Texas.

Irina visited BMA the other day and thanked those who had so lovingly cared for her. She gives praise and credit to God and BMA for her success. She and her husband, Daniel Mego, are both nurses and live in Texas.

Irina's story is only one example of how Christian education meets young peoples' needs. There are countless others like Irina who struggle with living in a secular, sin-filled environment. Please continue to pray for BMA as we minister to young people.



Craig Ziesmer
Principal

Work/Study Program Prepares Students for Life

Blue Mountain Academy considers work a vital part of the school's learning program. That is why the school offers students the opportunity to help pay for their education through a work/study program. Every student is required to work. Available jobs include BMA Industry, readers who assist teachers, office workers, janitors, maintenance and groundskeepers, and cafeteria and dorm workers.



Amanda Ashburn ('11) works in the administrative offices during the summer months and as a teacher's helper during the school year.



Cory Hodge ('12) works grounds for the maintenance department.

Each spring teachers and staff create want ads with their worker needs for the coming year. Students then apply for the job they want and go through an interview process. These campus jobs have a lasting effect. Students gain opportunities for on-the-job training and build résumés that help them find summer work and jobs following graduation.

NEWS

Work on Bathrooms to Continue

Thanks to the generous support of alumni, constituents and friends, BMA's dorm bathroom renovation project is halfway complete! The south wing bathrooms of the boys' and girls' dorms (Phase I and II) are now in use. The school is raising funds to begin work on the



Marie Wells ('12) is excited about the new bathroom facilities in the girls' dorm.



north wing of the girls' dorm (Phase III). "We need your help to make continued renovations a reality," said Kathleen Sutton, advancement director.

The Commonwealth Foundation has offered to match all donations to BMA's renovation project dollar for dollar up to \$100,000. To take advantage of this offer, contact Sutton at (610) 562-4214, kathys@bma.us or online at bma.us.

Alumni Return to Serve

Jerome Edmeade and Rebekka Marschner, both BMA alumni, will be serving as taskforce workers this year.

Edmeade (right), a Class of 2005 graduate, will serve as boys' taskforce dean. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Oakwood University (Ala.). He is the youngest of three brothers. Edmeade's goal in life is to fulfill the purpose that God has chosen for him.



Marschner (left), a Class of 2008 graduate, has been enrolled at Andrews University (Mich.) for two years, and is taking this year off to serve as girls' taskforce dean. She wants to give back to BMA and thought this would be a good way to do that. She has three siblings who are currently enrolled at BMA: Bridget and Sabrina, who are seniors, and Max, a sophomore.

69 Students Graduate

Sixty-nine students made up BMA's Class of 2010. Of those, 13 graduated with high honors, 13 with honors, 23 were four-year seniors, nine received the president's award, 13 were members of the National Honor Society and four received a music certificate. "We are proud of our newest alumni and pray God's leading in their endeavors," said Kathleen Sutton, advancement director.



Graduates include (back, from left) Faisal Mohammed, Orlando Diaz, Tauana Santos, Nicole Samuel and (front) Margaret Seipt.