

BMA Alumni News

Serving Lake Ariel, Philadelphia and Blue Mountain Academies

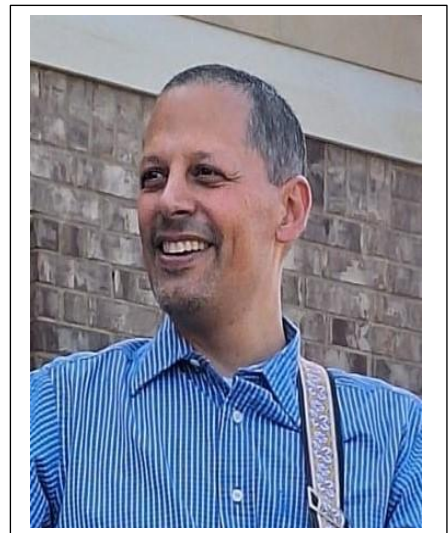


Alumni Spotlight

Tony Rodriguez, Jr., Dennis Lee and Bryan von Dorpowski

Tony Rodriguez Jr. is the Senior Pastor of the Olive Branch and Corinth churches in Mississippi. Sayuri (Ruiz) is his beautiful bride of 14 years, and they have one daughter Abigail (5 years old). Since 2016 Tony and Sayuri have had the privilege of fostering six children. Together they've seen God do miracles through the power of prayer, revival and evangelism.

Upon graduating from BMA in **1994** Tony was impressed to start his theological training by going back to his roots in Venezuela. After two years of theology, he transferred to Andrews University and double majored in Communication and Religion graduating in 1999. Pastoral ministry started as he was called to the Michigan Conference and served there eight years. During his time in Michigan Tony completed his Masters in Divinity (2003) with an emphasis on graduating :). Tony then served in the Central California Conference, the Oregon Conference and currently serves in the Gulf States Conference.



Tony's current churches were closed for over a year as they did not have a pastor during Covid. God made His call abundantly clear and Tony and Sayuri were willing to go where God wanted them to be and do what He wanted them to do. Both churches they currently serve are not only growing, but have buildings that are now too small as God does what no man can.

Tony's greatest joy is seeing lives that are not only changed by Him, but are then empowered by the Holy Spirit in helping others to be ready for Christ's soon return.

Pastor Rodriguez will be the guest speaker for Sabbath's church service during Alumni Weekend, 2024.

We hope you, the BMA Alumni and former staff, will be able to visit campus Alumni Weekend to hear Tony. If you are unable to visit in person, please tune in via the virtual access. Alumni Weekend 2024 will be held April 26-28.



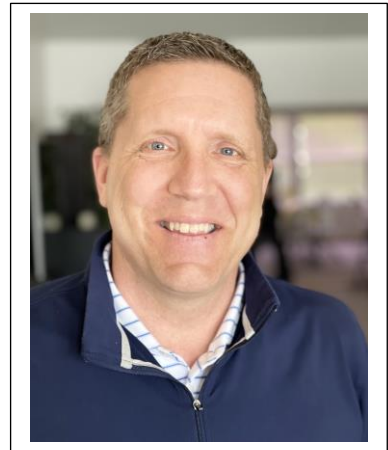
Dennis Lee was born in South Korea and moved to the U.S. at the age of 4. He is a 4th generation Seventh-day Adventist, where his great grandfather was one of the original founders of the Korean Adventist movement before the Korean War. He is a proud BMA Class of **1979** graduate where he participated in Bel Canto, and went on to receive his mechanical engineering degree from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. Dennis is married to Beverly Lee and has two daughters.

While his family was on a mission assignment to Korea in the early 1970's, Dennis was involved in a childhood accident where he lost his left forearm. This traumatic event was the catalyst that sparked his 'never quit' attitude, and participation in the 1992 & 1996 Paralympic Games where he represented Men's Standing Volleyball for the United States in Barcelona Spain and in Atlanta GA. Dennis's career provided him the opportunities to live in various US states. He

currently resides in Charlotte, NC where he works for a high-tech industrial company called Honeywell International as the Principal Strategic Planning Leader and looks forward to retirement within two years. While in Charlotte he served as a volunteer lay pastor for the Mint Hill NC church plant within the Carolina Conference. He is currently a member of the Charlotte Korean SDA Church. Dennis loves God, loves others, and loves to share Jesus. His hobbies are spending family time, traveling, good food, hiking, golf, skiing, gardening and all outdoor activities.

Mr. Lee will be providing Friday evening vesper services as the guest speaker Alumni Weekend 2024. We invite you to hear Dennis on Friday evening immediately following the Meet and Greet.

Bryan von Dorpowski graduated from Blue Mt. Academy with the class of **1984**, and graduated from Andrews University in 1988 with a BBA in accounting and management. Mr. von Dorpowski worked at a CPA firm for seven years, and attained his CPA certificate. He then moved to the automation industry where he spent 28 years at JR Automation located in Michigan. Six months ago, Bryan took a new position as CFO of Eagle Technologies in Bridgman Michigan.



Marrying his Academy sweetheart, Becky Emery (1985 BMA graduate), in 1990, they raised two sons, Brandon and Michael, and include in their family daughter-in-law, Adriana, who is married to Brandon. Bryan mentions that Rick Emery, Becky's father, was the principal of Blue Mountain during their attendance there. Becky and Bryan serve as head elders of Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University. Bryan is also the head coach of Andrews University men's basketball team.

Upon hearing help was needed for Alumni Weekend, Bryan volunteered to serve in any way he could. Mr. von Dorpowski further stated he had participated in another special alumni reunion several years ago, leading out in the Sabbath School presentation and enjoyed it. Alumni Weekend 2024 will find Bryan as the moderator for the Sabbath School panel discussion. Other participants for the Sabbath School discussion include former V.P. of the Alumni Association Executive Committee, Joe Francisco (1984), Bob Bagwell (1974), Kyle Williams (1922), and future alumnus (2024) and current Senior Class President, Keila Chesney-Murray.

Remember to RSVP you will be attending Alumni Weekend 2024 through the BMA Alumni Weekend link:

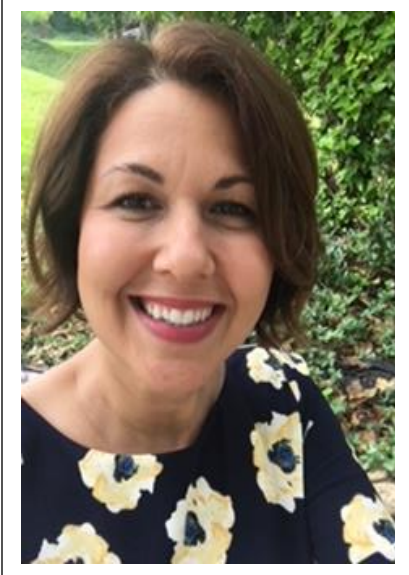
<https://forms.gle/ieLpv93XQYGYiKUt9>

By submitting your RSVP it helps us plan for the luncheon that will be held on Sabbath.

4.1 Winter / Spring 2024

Alumni Weekend 2024

April 26 – 28, 2024



Greetings Fellow Alumni!

On behalf of BMA's Alumni Executive Committee I would like to cordially invite you to BMA Alumni Weekend 2024 on April 26th thru the 28th. Whether you're celebrating your first year or your fiftieth, we want to see you there. Alumni weekend is an opportunity to recognize current students and catch up with old friends.

My time at BMA included highs and lows which prepared me to navigate the challenges that life would throw my way. What was your experience like? The buildings and our classmates may look slightly different, but the warmth and camaraderie we shared is still the same.

I hope to see you there.

Blessings,

Amy Ortiz Moretta '85
President, AAEC

P.S. Can't join us but would like to stay in touch? I'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to email me at amyortizmoretta@gmail.com to share your thoughts and suggestions for future events.

Amy Ortiz Moretta

Alumni Weekend 2024 will commence Friday evening with a **Meet and Greet** to be held in the Library from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. followed by **Evening Vespers** at 7:30 p.m. Sabbath has a full schedule beginning with the **Sabbath School Panel Discussion** at 9:30 a.m. held in the gymnasium, followed by Church services. In between both services there will be the March of the Banners. Each of the honor classes will need two persons to carry their class banner. Please connect with your class's class agent if you are interested in carrying your class banner. If your class does not have a class agent (classes 1969-?, 2004, 2009, 2023) and you are interested in carrying your class's banner, please contact the Alumni Association Executive Committee via bmaalumniassoc@gmail.com.

Immediately following church services the honor classes will have group photos taken near the stage of the gymnasium. Class photos will start with the Philadelphia Academy group and end with the class of 2023.

Sabbath afternoon will consist of a luncheon also immediately following church services. Honor classes will then have the opportunity to visit with each other in the areas assigned for their class. (**Honor Classes: Room assignments for you to visit with your fellow classmates will be posted on the website as soon as they are finalized.**)

Bel Canto will perform in the Sanctuary at 3:45 p.m. The students' performance is always delightful and we hope you will attend this extraordinary blessing.

Dinner/Supper is scheduled for 5:00 - Each class is responsible for their own class dinner.

Sabbath Evening Vespers will be held in the Sanctuary at 6:45 p.m.

Volleyball and Basketball will take place for the annual “students vs. alumni” games. **Saturday night activities** will start at 8:30 p.m. **Aerial Aires** will perform during intermission; and the Junior class will provide refreshments for purchase during the evening as their class fundraiser.

The **Annual Brunch and Business Meeting** will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 28 in the Appalachian Room (formerly known as the Home Ec room). This meeting will include discussion as to whether or not the annual business meeting should remain on Sunday mornings, or be moved to Saturday night following vespers. Your participation is needed and welcomed. If you are interested in attending the brunch proceeding the meeting, please be sure to complete a ticket at time of registration.

Members of Philadelphia Academy and Laurel Lake Academy alumni are Honor Classes, with the class of 1954 celebrating their 70th year!

■ Class Agents for the Upcoming Alumni Honor Year

- Philadelphia Academy – Daneen Achenbach, Class Agent; Margaret Merritt, President of P.A.’s Alumni Association

- 1959 – Duane Ferguson
- 1964 – Dwight Edris
- 1969 – Joan Fulmer*
- 1974 – Sylvia Garey
- 1979 – Shari Nash
- 1984 – Arnie Perkins
- 1989 – Rosa Hires

- 1994 – Beth Lemkelde**
- 1999 – Michele Krpalek Talbott**
- 2004 – Position Available*
- 2009 – Position Available*
- 2014 – Gabrielle Thurman**
- 2019 – Troy Sereno**
- 2023 – Position Available*

Annual Business Meeting: The annual business meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28, at 9:30 a.m. Discussion will be held as to whether the annual business meeting should be moved to Saturday evening immediately following vespers or remain as a Sunday morning event.

Alumni Information

Class Agents Needed: There are several classes who do not have a class agent. Classes needing a class agent(s) are listed below. Class agents help plan alumni weekend, and are a liaison between the Alumni Association and their former fellow classmates. If you are interested in becoming a class agent or a co-class agent for your class, even if it is only to help with alumni weekend(s), please contact the BMA Alumni Association via bmaalumniassoc@gmail.com.

1957	1990**	1998	2008	2016
1969 ?	1993	2004*	2009*	2023
1983	1997	2007**	2015**	

*2024 Alumni Weekend Honor Year Classes in need of a Class Agent.

**2025 Alumni Weekend Honor Year Classes in need of a Class Agent.

Please do not use linked in to contact alumni association, please use bmaalumniassoc@gmail.com . Thank you.

Can't make it to Alumni Weekend and its YOUR Honor Year? And would like a photo of your class? Group Photos can be ordered....

Honor Class Photo Order Form

Dear Alumni,

Each year we provide an official photographer to capture your class memories by taking a group photograph of each honor class following the church service on alumni weekend. These pictures will be available to you at the prices listed below.

All orders will be collected and given to the photographer the middle of May, and you can expect delivery of your pictures by the end of June. Please contact us via bmaalumniassoc@gmail.com if you have any questions.

See you Alumni Weekend!

Detach here and send bottom portion along with your payment.

✂ -----

Send order with payment to:

Blue Mountain Academy
 Attn: Alumni Association
 2363 Mountain Rd.
 Hamburg, PA 19526

BMA Alumni Weekend photographs are 8 x 10 color.

Cost: \$15.00 each if order is received by May 15.

\$18.00 each if order is received after May 15.

(Prices include tax and shipping & handling.)

Return Address Label
 (Please print legibly.)

Honor Class Year	Quantity	Price ea.	Total
			\$
			\$
Total Photos Ordered		Total Enclosed	\$

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Please make checks payable to **Blue Mountain Academy**.
 (Honor Class photos courtesy of Esther Hernandez.)

Did you accept the challenge?

Once during an interview Warren Buffet stopped walking, stooped down and picked up a penny. He was on national TV, and yet it wasn't beneath him to stop and pick up a penny. A man with his wealth, knowledge of finances, and knowing how people placed importance on him for these two areas of his life, Warren Buffet still stopped to pick up a penny while being interviewed on national TV. He referenced the importance of picking up the penny as a penny saved, explaining all finances start with a penny as a penny will build into a nickel then into a dime, a quarter, a half-dollar to a dollar so on and so forth as one continues to save. What surprised me most during the interview is that Warren Buffet also referenced what is written on the penny – "In God We Trust." He humbly spoke of the importance of this particular phrase, "In God we Trust," as a people, as a nation, and being on each type of U.S. coin and paper money and how it relates to our country being founded on religious freedom.

During Friday evening vespers at last year's alumni weekend, one of the speakers spoke about the power of spare change. We find spare change in pockets, tossed on a dresser, in a desk drawer, or in the washer or dryer when you take the clothes out. There is spare change on the floor of your car, or when you grab your winter coat you may find a twenty you forgot you had shoved in your pocket the winter before, you may find spare change on the ground when walking. Places for spare change are everywhere. We once had a neighbor who twice a day would walk the two blocks to the car wash to – you guessed it – pick up the spare change. When asked why, she responded this is how she helped put her grandchildren through college, by collecting and saving the spare change she found at the car wash. She said you would be surprised at how much coin is tossed on the ground when people are cleaning out their cars. Like our neighbor, instead of spending the money you found, the trick is to find a container and place the spare change as you find it into the container until the container is full. At last year's vespers, the speaker produced a large cup filled with coin and dollars that had been found. Now I don't know how much was in the cup, but I do know it was counted by the Academy's treasurer and deposited into the Academy's funds. It could have been five dollars, it could have been 25 dollars. The point is it was **something**.... The speaker then gave those in attendance a challenge to save their spare change and to bring it with them when they return this year to alumni weekend.

There are approximately 3,500 alumni on the current mailing list – this does not include those who have asked to be removed from the mailing list for whatever reason, or those whose address is unknown. The number of alumni climbs each time there is a graduating class from Blue Mountain. The fact is, if each of the 3,500 gave five dollars either through their container of spare change or just as a gift of giving, that's \$17,500 to the Academy. If each alumnus gave ten dollars the amount doubles to \$35,000. And so on and so forth, you get the picture – there is power in spare change if it is saved, and then given. Kind of paying it forward to those who will follow us through Academy, and continuing a gift of those who provided for us when we were in Academy. So I ask you, did you accept the challenge?

Like Warren Buffett will you stoop down and pick up the penny on the ground? And ponder the phrase "In God We Trust" as he did? Will you realize the importance of saving to be able to give, and of religious freedom and the freedom of being able to attend a Christian school? Will you accept the challenge when you come to Alumni Weekend 2024 and bring your spare change container? I know I will!





*Have you ever thought what it would have been like to get up before dawn, prepare the spices for burial and walk to the tomb, only to find it empty? The gospels each have an emotion to share. Matt suggests fear for the angels say “fear Not, He has risen”. Mark shares the unbelievable miracle that Jesus is risen. Luke seems to be perplexed that the tomb is empty. And John shares fear. Yet every gospel shares the same good news **He is risen**. For me, that news is a lifesaving, life changing actuality. Each gospel shares that the women went to tell the disciples, who were fearful, perplexed, and in disbelief. What emotion do you most seem to fit when you hear the wonderful news that Jesus is risen? I can tell you, I’m excited! For Jesus did not only promise rise, and He did, but He promised to come back for you and me. It’s so simple, but some remain in disbelief. I pray you believe.*

Submitted by Barbara L. Rutt, '68

HOPE FOR TODAY

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” John 11: 25, 26 (KJV)

“Jesus has power over life and death as well as power to forgive sins. This is because He is the Creator of life (see John 14:6). He who *is* life can surely restore life. Whoever believes in Christ has a spiritual life that death cannot conquer or diminish in any way. When we realize His power and how wonderful His offer to us really is, how can we not commit our lives to Him? To those of us who believe, what wonderful assurance and certainty we have: “because I live, ye shall live also.” (John 14: 19). **Life Application Study Bible**



Academy News

BMA Scholars: Student Shines Bright on Campus

Have you ever met someone whose kindness is like a beacon, illuminating the lives of those around them? Lorian Korley, a junior at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), is that rare soul who leaves everyone pondering the profound impact of a simple act of kindness.

Faculty and staff at BMA have witnessed Lorian's kindness firsthand. Matthew White, a math teacher, notes, "I have noticed how cheerful she is and is often singing or humming an uplifting spiritual song." During a history class trip and various in-campus activities, Gay Tanamal, BMA's finance treasurer, observed Lorian's friendly nature and leadership talents. "She is a very friendly, amiable girl, with leadership talents. She goes out of her way to help, and she smiles a lot too." In the church service, Harry Benson, BMA Health Food Store manager, recalls Lorian's impactful scripture reading. He emphasizes, "Even if it was 'just' a scripture reading, it didn't matter; it was important. Lorian honestly cared about how she presented the Word of God to her peers." Jennifer Culpepper, head girls' dean, commends Lorian's Christlike spirit in the dorm, saying, "Lorian cares about others and their feelings. I have appreciated her leadership in and out of the dorm."

The advertisement is a yellow and blue graphic. On the left is a photo of Lorian Korley, a young Black woman with braids, wearing a dark blue polo shirt with 'Lorian Korley' and 'BMA' on it. To the right of the photo, the text reads 'SCHOOL ADMISSION OPEN FOR REGISTRATION'. Below this are seven blue buttons with white icons and text: 'Spiritual Growth' (prayer icon), 'College Preparation' (graduation cap icon), 'Academic Excellence' (book icon), 'Global Perspective' (globe icon), 'Values-Driven Community' (group of people icon), 'Diverse Extracurriculars' (book icon), and 'Tranquility' (candle icon). At the bottom right is a yellow 'Enroll Now' button and a QR code. In the bottom left corner, it says 'MORE INFORMATION www.bma.us'.

Lorian is featured on BMA's ad.

Rooted in a family deeply connected to prayer, Lorian's parents sought God's guidance for her education from a young age. "When I was 5 years old, I remember seeing my parents kneel constantly to pray in search of God's guidance for my plans in education," she shares. A turning point came when her uncle, Emmanuel Asiedu, Columbia Union Conference treasurer, proposed BMA as an option. Lorian reflects, "I know my uncle's proposal was a sign from God. Here I've been able to understand my

Adventist beliefs, develop my leadership skills and manage my time."

Reflecting on the supportive community, Lorian expresses gratitude. "Ever since I set foot on this place, I've experienced a supportive family through the staff." She acknowledges the staff's dedication, sharing, "There was a time when I was falling behind with work, and my teachers looked for ways to help me, putting extra time into their busy day." As Lorian contemplates her future, she has enjoyed assisting the dean and discovering her passion for working with people. While her aspirations are still taking shape, she envisions working with small children, possibly as a teacher or a pediatrician.

Lorian's educational journey at BMA has not only been academic but also spiritual. Let's join in prayer for students like Lorian as they embark on a journey to discover the purpose God has for them in this BMA experience.

Article submitted by Esther Hernandez, BMA Staff / Technology

BMA EXPERIENCE



BMA Experience, Is An Annual Event On Our Campus To Give Potential Students The Experience Of All BMA Has To Offer, Coming April 22-23, 2024!



If you have a student interested in attending Blue Mountain Academy, who would like to attend BMA Experience (formerly known as Academy Days), please contact the Academy <https://www.bma.us/calendar/bma-experience> .

News You Can Use



Music Fest is a Fun Learning Experience

"I learned so much at music fest," shares Johann, one of the more than 130 students who came to Blue Mountain Academy for the event. "I learned how to play hand chimes, ukulele, and I learned how to sing better and express myself."

Students in grades 5-8 from our Pennsylvania Conference Adventist schools along with several homeschoolers arrived on campus Wednesday evening and began singing, playing, learning, and making new friends Thursday morning. They spent two days learning to play the hand chimes and ukulele. Had classes that taught them to read music and to sing. They also practiced songs together as a mass choir.

Music wasn't the only thing on the agenda. There was time for sports and recreation. Plus the Aerial Aires demonstrated gymnastic skills and performed an evening show.

"I liked watching the Aerial Aires doing their gymnastics," says Braedon, a York Adventist School student. "I would like to be part of Aerial Aires when I go to BMA. I really like the night show!"

Students enjoyed meals in the cafeteria and nights in the dorm.

Sabbath morning they nervously filed on stage for the worship service--and did a great job singing the songs they learned, all with the theme of heaven. The largest music fest crowd attending in person with more people watching online. Missed it? You can watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6OOCaZ9Xeo&ab_channel=BlueMountainAcademy

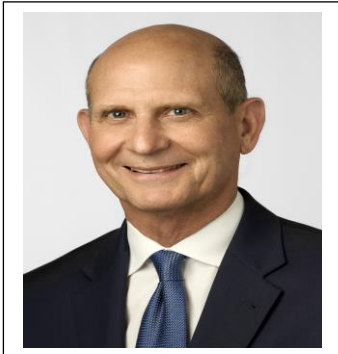
Article submitted by Tami Horst, PA Conference

Camp Meeting 2024

Are you ready for camp meeting?

This powerful time of worship, seminars, music, and fellowship for children, youth, and adults will be held at **Blue Mountain Academy**, Hamburg, Pa., **June 7-15, 2024**, as we invite people to reinvigorate their relationship with Jesus and come “Back to the Altar.”

Featured speakers this year will include:



Ted Wilson, President of the Seventh-Day Adventist General Conference, will speak **June 7-8**. Ted has served as conference president for the terms of 2010 – 15 and 2015-2020. Re-elected June 6, 2022 to serve as Conference President until the next General Conference Session in 2025. Mr. Wilson has served in administrative and executive roles in the Mid-Atlantic United States, Africa, and Russia during his 36 years of denominational service.

Dwain Neilson Esmond, associate director/editor of the E.G. White estate, helps to lead strategic planning and development for the White estate. His work with the estate has encompassed the preparation and publication of White Estate-related content, such as *The Gift of Prophecy in Scripture and History*, an academic text on the work of the Holy Spirit through the gift of prophecy. Elder Esmond has served in ministry for 25 plus years, and also helps to lead the Back to the Altar worship initiative for the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. He will be speaking at camp meeting on **June 9, 2024**.



Dr. Eric Walsh will lead early morning worships Monday thru Friday during camp meeting in addition to speaking **June 10 – 11**. Serving two U.S. Presidents as an advisor on HIV/AIDs in addition to other various high-profile public service capacities, he has also served as associate pastor for several churches. A practicing physician and health care administrator, he is a highly sought-after speaker, traveling the globe speaking to international audiences about authentic Christian living, health and protecting the mind.

John Bradshaw is the speaker/director of **It Is Written** television ministry. He succeeds Shawn Boonstra, who stepped aside due to health concerns. Mr. Boonstra describes John as “a man with a deep commitment to the cause of Christ and an obvious passion for soul-winning.” Mr. Bradshaw has served as an Adventist pastor for 15 years and has held 80 plus evangelistic series. He is the pastor of the Village Church in College Place, Washington. Mr. Bradshaw will speak **June 12-15, 2024**.



Learn more and register for lodging while space is still available at paconference.org/camp-meeting.

Tami Horst, PA Conference, contributed to this article.

4.1 Winter / Spring 2024

Blue Mountain Academy Area Hotels / Motels

(Please contact hotels/motels directly)

MIDWAY

Quality Inn

Phone: (717) 933-8888
Rt. 78 & exit 16, Bethel, PA

HAMBURG Area

Holiday Day Inn Express

Phone: (610) 373-4444
405 N. Park Road
Wyomissing
(May show as Reading, PA
when using GPS)

Days Inn

Phone: (610) 374-1500
910 Woodland Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610
(May show as Reading, PA
when using GPS)

Microtel

Phone: (610) 562-4234
50 Industrial Drive, Hamburg, PA

NEW SMITHVILLE / ALLENTOWN

Super 8 Motel

Phone: (610) 285-4880
2160 Golden Key Road
Kutztown, PA 19530

Delta Hotel (Marriott ownership)

Phone: (610) 391-1000 / Fax: (610) 391-1664
Lehigh Valley; I-78 and Route 100 S.

Staybridge Suites – Allentown

Phone: (610) 443-5000 or (877) 238-8889
1787-A Airport Road, Allentown

Days Hotel

Phone: (610) 266-1000
3400 Airport Road, Allentown

READING

Red Roof Inn

Phone: (610) 929-4741
2545 5th St. Highway N. (Rt. 222)

Kings Inn

Phone: (610) 378-1145 **or 1-800 553-2666**
2310 Fraver Drive
5th Street Highway North

Hampton Inn

Phone: (610) 374-8100 / HAMPTON
1800 Paper Mill Road—near Berkshire Mall
Reading

Homewood Suites

Phone: (610) 736-3100
2801 Paper Mill Road
Exit 13 off Interstate 78
Reading, PA 19610

Holiday Inn Express

Phone: (610) 372-0700
2389 Bernville Road, Route 183
Next to Reading Airport

Reading Radisson

Phone: (610) 376-3811
1741 Papermill Road
(422 & Papermill Rd, – across from Berkshire Mall)

POTTSVILLE

Country Square

Phone: (570) 385-3559
300 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven

To reserve a room at BMA: <https://www.bma.us/dorm-request>

To request a meal: <https://www.bma.us/meal-request>

Girl's Dorm: 484-373-9430 - Head Dean, Jennifer Culpepper:

jculpepper@bma.us

Boy's Dorm: 484-373-9449 - Head Dean, Chris Busche

cbusche@bma.us

Blue Mountain Academy Alumni Association
2363 Mountain Road
Hamburg, PA 19526



BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND 2024 – APRIL 26, 27 & 28

HONOR YEARS: 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004,
2009, 2014, 2019, 2023, AND LAKE ARIEL & PHILADELPHIA ACADEMIES