

# Fletcher spirit

A Newsletter for the Alumni and Friends of Fletcher Academy, Inc.

Summer 2013



CLASS OF  
**2013**

**FLETCHER ACADEMY**  
**EDUCATING**  
**FOR ETERNITY**

Graduation Weekend **2**

Senior Mission Trip **4**

New Construction Started **6**

New F.A. Staff for Fall **7**



# Fletcher spirit

## Fletcher Academy Administration

Terry Pottle, Principal  
Iva Armstrong, Vice Principal

## Alumni Officers

**President** - Shawn Collins, '87

**Vice President** - Kevin Osborne, '80

**Secretary** - Cathy Wilkie, '58

**Treasurer** - Becky Witt, '74

## Editor of Spirit

Jeannie Larrabee, '88

## Director of Advancement and Alumni

Jon Smith

## Board of Directors

Robert Hansen, Chairman

Dale Twomley, President

Ivan Blake

Shawn Collins

Bert Coolidge

Frank Costerisan

Lynn Johnson

John Krishinger

Don Lowe

George Pendleton

Karsten Randolph

Diane Sedgwick

Renee Senabria

Stuart Yoon

## Fletcher Academy, Inc.

P.O. Box 5440

Fletcher, NC 28732

Phone - 828-209-6800

Fax - 828-209-6809

[www.fletcheracademy.com](http://www.fletcheracademy.com)



# Congratulations to Our Graduates!



*Ceymone Armstrong, Fletcher Academy Student  
-Class of 2015*

This year as graduation approached there were many students who were unnerved by thoughts of the coming final exams. When the tests were through, then there was the realization the school year was ending. Graduation was thrilling, but the weekend would be their last time to share with their fellow school mates before they moved on to the next step in their lives.

This class started out small with only 17 students, but as they grew in size they grew into a close family. On graduation morning, Mr. Jimm Bunch, President of Park Ridge Health and father of a graduate, spoke to the 35 seniors about their futures and being reunited someday in heaven with Jesus Christ. The speaker brought a visual illustration of a long, long rope that stretched out across the gym stage. At one end of the rope there was a small 5 inch painted area of red. Mr. Bunch held the rope with the red end and said that the red end represented your life here on earth. The rest of the rope represented your life with Jesus in heaven. We are not to focus on the 5 inches of red, but rather eternity that is to come.



The Class of 2013 has set high standards for the future graduates of Fletcher Academy. Over half of the class of 2013 graduated with a GPA of over 3.25. Almost half of those seniors were also members of the National Honor Society. They have received scholarships from several different places with amounts spanning up to

\$40,000. Some graduates will attend schools in the Adventist school system such as Southern Adventist University, Oakwood University, Adventist University of Health Sciences, and more. Others will attend secular colleges such as Stetson University, Duke University, and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. They will be attending schools as close as Hendersonville, North Carolina, and as far as California. "We will risk going too far, and only then will we discover just how far we can go," their class aim says. Congratulations to the class of 2013 and we will be praying for our newest alumni members on their continuing journey.





## Senior Statements

Graduating Seniors were asked the question of what does Fletcher Academy mean to you...here is what they said.



"Everything. Fletcher showed me how to work, how to be a leader, and most importantly Fletcher showed me what it means to have a relationship with my Savior. I could not have been more blessed to have such an awesome high school experience."

*Christian Bunch*  
—Senior Class President



"Fletcher is a great school that taught me to be diligent and work hard in all I do, not only academically, but spiritually, and physically as well. Fletcher has helped prepare me for my future."

*Jamal Armstrong*  
—Senior Graduate



"Fletcher is a place where I learned to serve God and those around me. The friendships I have made there are priceless relationships that will last through eternity."

*Whitney Gallimore*  
—Class Treasurer and  
Class Valedictorian



"I had some of the best times of my life at Fletcher Academy. I felt like I learned so much about God during my time there. I also built my friendships that I am sure will last a lifetime while I was at Fletcher. I think that I received one of the best educations from Fletcher that will help me in college and throughout the rest of my life."

*Mitchell Hagan*  
—Student Association Representative



"Fletcher Academy was the best thing that happened to me. Transferring schools my senior year wasn't my ideal situation but this was the best place to end up. When I came in, my class was very accepting and non-judgmental. Over this year we have had some incredibly fun times and lots of great memories. Even though I wasn't here all four years, it doesn't matter because we're a family."

*Taylor Armstrong*  
—Student Association Representative



"I have really enjoyed being at Fletcher the past four years. It has been a place where I could grow spiritually and mentally with others that believe the same as I do. Also, I learned so much through the leadership opportunities Fletcher has given me. I am proud to be a Fletcher Academy Graduate!"

*Jeremy Holt*  
—Student Association President

## My Reflections on Academy Days 2013

*Christina Coston, Fletcher Academy Student*  
—Incoming Freshman - Class of 2017



On a warm day in April, my friends and I congregated outside of the ad building. We talked about Fletcher Academy and how we planned to attend. I was put into a group of students that I didn't know. My friends and

I were devastated. Even though I had been separated from my friends I soon met new people who became my friends.

I left the group for a few minutes to try out for choir, bells, and strings. After that I joined our group at the school to meet our sponsor teacher. Our group tried to earn points for our team. We had to answer a question about each of the listed places: LPC, Fletcher Church, FPI, Fletcher Valley, Strawberry Hill Yogurt, Learning Center, and I.T. When we were done with the tour we weren't feeling too bad about ourselves. We headed to the field to eat. After lunch, we got to hear a mini concert from the Fletcher Academy choir, bells and band. Then off to the LPC for thrilling show by the AcroKnights. After the performance, the team removed the safety pads and started setting up for the games that were soon to follow.

The games included mini golf, throwing Frisbees, using plungers to propel a skateboard across the floor, throwing hacky sacks, running through tires, shooting basketball hoops, and playing inside softball. It was so much fun! I was sad to leave for the night and head home.

The next morning it was off to school, okay not exactly. We had mini classes with some of the teachers. In History we identified pictures for more points. In Science we watched Mr. Carvill make different colors appear using different substances. Then in English we wrote a funny story with unheard of words. Later in Math we tried hard to master the problems. In Bible we answered questions about fascinating points from the Bible and last but not least, we drew with charcoal in Art.

When all the mini classes were done our group broke up and headed towards scholarship tryouts for History, Bible, English, and Math. I tried out for Bible and English. I was excited and hoped that my best was good enough to receive a scholarship. I was so happy when I received three awards and my friends all received awards too. I was super excited and couldn't wait to show my mom and dad. I didn't have to wait long because the Academy Days were over and it was time to head home. In all I had a fun time and made new friends, plus I got free yogurt at Strawberry Hill Yogurt!



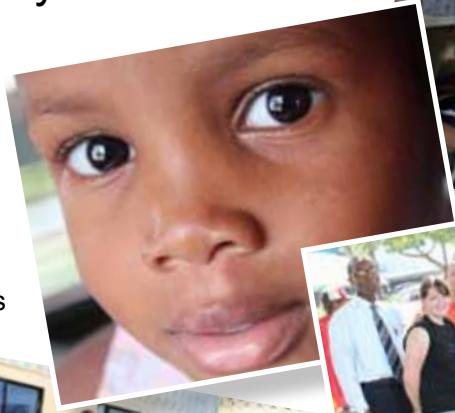


# Giving Back!

## Senior Class Trip to Guyana

*Craig Johnson, Fletcher Academy History Teacher and Senior Class 2013 Sponsor*

On January break the Senior class of 2013 decided to do a mission trip to the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Guyana, South America. The trip got off to a bumpy start when one of the students was denied entrance onto the plane because her passport expired in 5 ½ months instead of the minimum of 6. The class had to move on without her. With much prayer and the help of some Christian staff at Park Ridge Health, Bella Sarrano flew in 3 days later. After doing camp clean up at Bethany Missionary School, and conducting a Vacation Bible School two miles away, the final day brought digging for new outhouses. The journey in and out of Bethany included a boat ride, a walk, another boat ride, a tractor ride, and a tractor ride. The Seniors made it through the 4 days in the jungle and we headed to Georgetown for our next adventure. The days in Georgetown kept our group very busy. We made a concrete slab for the new dental office, painted, cleaned around the orphanage, filled in holes along the driveway, cleaned windows and made a concrete sitting area around the only tree that offered shade. We visited the orphanage, sang to the elderly, passed out food to the needy and conducted the church services for three churches. God blessed us over and over again on this trip. We had very little sickness, a couple minor injuries, and one answer to prayer of a student who almost had to have surgery. Trips like these really bring out the desire of students to get to know Jesus better. I encourage anybody who can to try out one of these adventures and feel the presence of God. Thank you to everyone who contributed or prayed for the students who made a mission trip their senior class trip.





# Mission Trip Reflections from Father and Son Team

## **Eric Collson- Senior 2013**

This last year, I had the privilege of going on a mission trip with my senior class to Guyana. Spreading God's love is one of my greatest joys in life. Serving others not only touched their lives, but it also brought me closer to my wonderful savior. I am very grateful that I had the chance to reach out to the people of Guyana. I was fortunate to have my dad come along as a nurse on the trip. Working side by side with my dad gave me a stronger relationship with him. The experiences that I had on this trip will stay with me forever, and I cannot wait till Jesus comes and all of us will unite as one big family.

## **Todd Collson- FA Graduate 1989**

The trip to Guyana South America was an incredible adventure in seeing how the Lord works in miraculous ways. I had the awesome privilege to be one of



the trip nurses and photographer for the 2013 senior class trip.

What made this trip extra special was my son Eric being a senior was part of this trip. Seeing first hand the next generation taking up the baton and forging ahead, showing the gospel of Jesus in a real and meaningful way to others is truly amazing.

Eric and I were walking back from a distant village on a narrow jungle trail. The group was ahead and created a quiet time for the two of us to experience a special time together. The sun was setting fast and the trail was growing darker by the minute. Eric turned on his flashlight but I decided to trust my son and follow closely behind him putting my steps into his freshly made footsteps in the sandy trail. At first it was easy but as the minutes quickly passed the darker the trail became and the more I needed to concentrate on putting my steps into his steps. As the jungle noises increased so did the temptation to look away from the trail. I committed to trusting fully on my son and where he would be taking us. In no time we emerged from the jungle to the compound where we were staying safe and sound. As I walked on that jungle trail I reflected on how this senior class could be trusted to do amazing things in transforming lives and leading others to the kingdom of heaven.

## Amazing Ministries by the Fletcher Academy Ambassadors

*Taylor Armstrong , Graduate 2013*

This past year was the beginning of the Ambassadors at Fletcher Academy. The Ambassadors were upperclassmen students who came together once a week to learn how to be leaders for God and how to go out and lead people to the cross. One of our big hits was when we went to a park in Hendersonville and ministered to the children there. We called it Outreach in the Park. I loved going to the park and playing with the kids and teaching them new songs and doing skits for and with them sometimes. When we went back the second time, it was so awesome seeing that some of the kids remembered the songs we did the first time. The best part was that we could teach those kids about Jesus while they did something they love to do.

Ambassadors also helped put together a nutrition seminar that lasted for eight weeks. Each week people would come to the meetings held in the Life Enrichment Center of the Leila Patterson Center and watch a video on a how to have a healthy lifestyle, learn how to cook healthy meals, how to eat healthier when going out, and they were also able to eat

a meal at the beginning of each meeting. Many people came each week and some weeks all the tables were full and there was standing room only! I liked that with this we could minister to people in such an easy way: through food!





## Breaking Ground!

### Adding more room to the Boy's Dorm

*Terry Pottle,  
Fletcher Academy Principal*

With the growth in the number of dormitory students, the need for more beds in the Boys' Dormitory has become essential. The 2012 Alumni Weekend began the fundraising effort to expand the capacity of the Boys Dorm. The project concept was to build a new Dean's Residence behind the dormitory and to convert the existing residence into dorm rooms. After nine months of fundraising and an outpouring of financial support from alumni and friends of Fletcher Academy, this project is becoming a reality. Roughly \$250,000 was raised towards the project, while the Fletcher Academy Corporation raised the remaining \$100,000 to complete code requirements for upgrading the dorm. Construction is scheduled to begin in July and is expected to take approximately nine months to complete.

"It is an amazing experience to witness the overwhelming financial support for

this project," said Andrew Rahm, the Boys Dean. "I love my job, but now to feel the support from so many people for what we are working towards in this school is humbling."

Upon completion of the project, the dorm capacity will expand 13 beds making 63 the total capacity. This expansion will also give back to the dorm the use of the Worship Room which has been converted into temporary housing until the construction is complete. Along with the construction the dorm will be fitted for a sprinkler system and fire-rated doors to improve the safety of the facility.

This project underscores the success that Fletcher Academy is experiencing. In a time when academies are suffering with declining enrollment, Fletcher Academy has been blessed with an increasing enrollment necessitating this type of project. It is an awesome experience to watch the Lord continuing to bless this School.



## Alumni Weekend and the Laundry Reunion

*Jeannie Larrabee, Class of 1988*

Hope you are making plans on joining us for Alumni Weekend 2013! The dates are October 4,5,6 and they are coming up soon. We are having wonderful speakers like Sam Leonor from LaSierra University and Pastor John Neff, Class of 1963. Phil Draper will also be blessing us with some of his wonderful music, and the current Fletcher Academy Students never disappoint with their amazing talents as well.

Fletcher Academy has always been known to have a fine work program that helped so many students attend our school. This year the special re-union is for all those who worked at the Fletcher Academy Laundry. That's right the laundry! Remember folding countless sheets and towels? Come share stories and old times at 3:30 pm on Sabbath afternoon at our favorite spot, the laundry building! Cake and punch will be provided!

Anyone needing more information about Alumni Weekend, check out the back ad in this issue and/or visit the NEW Alumni Website link at [www.fletcheracademy.com](http://www.fletcheracademy.com). You can always call us at 828-209-6800. Plan on coming to this memorable weekend!





# New Staff for the 2013-2014 School Year



## **William Armstrong**

Hello, my name is William Armstrong. Even though this is my first year at Fletcher Academy my first academy experience was at Monterey Bay Academy as the dean of boys. I spent eight wonderful years working with students, faculty and staff on their campus and enjoyed it very much.

In 2003, I went back to school to get my degree in social work. During this time, I had the opportunity to work in public and private schools in many different capacities. I also ran and won a seat on the College Place School Board. I have worked as a mentor in two different aspects. One for children between the ages of 7 and 17, where one hour a week was

spent doing different activities with them, and the other as a mentor to incoming freshmen at Walla Walla University. I graduated in 2007 with my BSW and finished my masters in 2008.

The last three years I have worked as a center director for an alternative school in Georgia helping high school and middle school students get help with subjects that they were failing. Most of my students were sent to me because of some kind of discipline problems, failing classes, or both.

I am married to Iva Armstrong, the vice-principal and academic dean of Fletcher Academy, and have three wonderful children. Two of our children graduated last year from Fletcher Academy and our youngest daughter will be a junior this coming school year.

At Fletcher Academy my duties will include work coordinator, attendance officer, and career counselor. I'm excited to be here and look forward to working with all the parents, students, faculty, staff, and supervisors. If there is anything that I can do to help, please get in contact with me.



## **Sheila Shafer**

My name is Sheila Shafer and I am currently the Head Dean of Women at Fletcher Academy. I was born in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. I have a wonderful supporting husband Joe and three beautiful daughters, Samantha, Ashley, and Heidi.

In the last 30 years I have been working with our youth in the capacity of Adventurer Club/Pathfinder leader, mission trip coordinator, VBS, Food Service Director, Home Ec teacher and for the past 18 years as Head Dean of Women.

For 16 years I have held a certification in Deaning through ASPA (Adventist Student Personnel Association).



## **Jeff Morris**

I have been teaching for nine years now, six at Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio and three before that at Spalding Elementary in Collegedale, TN. I grew up in Apison, TN, attended Spalding Elementary, Collegedale Academy and Southern Adventist University. I spent a wonderful year in Spain where I learned Spanish and ultimately changed my major to be able to teach other people about the culture and language that I enjoyed so much. I love to travel, read, play golf and pretty much any other sport out there. My wife Ashley (Shafer) graduated from Fletcher Academy in 2002 and we were married in 2006. We are both very

excited to move here and be a part of this school and community and see what God has in store for us. I will be teaching high school level Spanish at Fletcher Academy as well as elementary level Spanish at Captain Gilmer Christian School.



## **Jessica Stout**

Jessica Stout, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, is joining the Fletcher Academy team for the 2013-2014 school year. Jessica attended Southern Adventist University where she first earned her Associate's degree in nursing in 2004. After working in the pediatric emergency room, Jessica realized that the nursing profession was not what God had called her to do. In 2005 she and her husband Jacob followed God's call to serve as missionaries in Guayaramerin, Bolivia. While there, Jessica began teaching and realized God's true call in her life. Upon returning to the United States Jessica returned to Southern Adventist University to earn her bachelor's degree in English. After graduating she accepted a call to work at Sunnysdale Adventist Academy, where she has taught English & World History for the last four years. Jessica & Jacob have 3 daughters, Layla who is 4 years old and twin girls, Sophie and Zoe, 21 months. Jessica will be teaching English III, World History, Yearbook, & Drama at Fletcher through the upcoming school year.



FLETCHER ACADEMY, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5440  
Fletcher, NC 28732

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 438  
Zanesville, OH

**Change Service Requested**

**JOIN US FOR**

**Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2013**

*"Picture This"*  
**October 4,5,6**

**Highlights and Features**

Annual Golf Tournament

Friday Evening Reception and Refreshments

Vespers Message by Pastor Sam Leonor '88

Alumni of Year Award 2013

Mission Trip Features from the Academy

Fabulous Performing Arts by Fletcher Academy

Church Sermon by John E. Neff '63

Special Reunion of all Fletcher Academy Laundry Workers

Alumni Verses Students Saturday Night Games

Sunday Morning Brunch and Business Meeting

Sunday Morning Motorcycle Rally

....and more!

**HONOR CLASSES**

**1953, 1963, 1973, 1988, 2003**

For more information visit [www.fletcheracademy.com](http://www.fletcheracademy.com)  
or call 828-209-6800