

Fletcher spirit

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

Winter 2014



FLETCHER ACADEMY
EDUCATING
FOR ETERNITY

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Fletcher spirit

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Picture This

Courtney Gentry

Student at Fletcher Academy & Jessica Stout, Staff at Fletcher Academy



On October 4, 2013 Fletcher Academy's campus was abuzz with a flurry of activity as our alumni slowly began returning to the place they once called home. Smiling faces and warm words filled the rotunda of the Leila Patterson Center on Friday evening as current students as well as alumni greeted the returning family. While many alumni have never left Fletcher, others have not been back since their graduation. The theme for this year's weekend was "Picture This," and as visitors and students mingled in the rotunda, images from Fletcher's past and present were displayed on the screen. Starting with just a handful of students in worn black and white photos, Fletcher Academy has grown to a flourishing school



now educating 187 of our churches youth.



Visitors were able to enjoy a nice welcome dinner before settling in for the Friday evening vespers program. Sam Lenore graciously spoke for the occasion, reminiscing about his Fletcher days. He reminded all, young and old, of the great blessing that Fletcher Academy is and has always been.

Fletcher Academy students were also able to participate in the festivities. Friday evening the drama team was featured in

a skit reminding all of us of the importance of letting God take control over our lives. The music department also performed before the sermon on Sabbath morning. Choir, bells, piano, harp, and strings all joined forces for a powerful rendition of "You Raise Me Up." They struck chords not only in music, but in the hearts of the audience as well.



The speaker that morning was John Neff, an alumnus of Fletcher who began by remembering those in the Fletcher

family who are no longer with us. He reminded each in attendance of the blessings that flow from having attended Fletcher and encouraged us all to hold tight to God in these last days. All





left the service to enjoy a Sabbath lunch together blessed by his message.

Alumni spent the afternoon enjoying the beautiful campus as well as visiting Fletcher's Heritage Room. Here Fletcher houses over one hundred years of history in the form of letters, photographs, and other materials dating back to the school's founding in 1910.

As the sun sank beneath the hills that evening, students and alumni of Fletcher came together to enjoy their annual football, basketball, and softball games. The surprisingly warm October air added to a delightful evening. Though the alumni defeated the current students in each sport, fun was had by all.

This year's alumni weekend was a time of friendship, of memories, and of family. Students, staff, and alumni were reminded of the blessings that flow from Fletcher and look forward to the reunion that we will all have on the great sea of glass in Heaven.



The 2013 Alumni of the Year Award

Congratulations to Don and Pauline Lowe

Don and Pauline were attracted to Fletcher Academy because of the work program. They came from large families and were responsible for their own finances. They took advantage of what Fletcher had to offer by working hard in the work and academic programs.



Don became an Anesthesiologist and Pauline an Insurance Clerk and Computer Programmer. Don and Pauline met at Fletcher and just celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary.

Don and Pauline are deeply grateful for their rewarding experience at Fletcher Academy. They have been very generous to Fletcher Academy with their time, resources and financial support. Don and Pauline have served as Alumni officers and helped with fundraising efforts. Don has also served as President of the Century One Hundred Club, and continues to serve as an FAI Board Member. Pauline has been influential in promoting alumni scholarships for academy students.

Fletcher Academy is blessed to have Don and Pauline as involved and generous alumni.



HONOR CLASSES



Class of 1953- 60 Years



Class of 1963- 70 Years



Class of 1973- 80 Years



Class of 1988- 95 Years



Class of 2003- 10 Years

A New Look

New Expansions and Remodeling at The Fletcher Valley Market

Darcee Christensen
Junior at Fletcher Academy

It appears that God blesses those who take risks in order to glorify Him, because in the month of November Strawberry Hill Yogurt served over 864 people. Originally, the founders of Strawberry Hill Yogurt envisioned an industry to help support students. Having just opened January 1, 2013, they have done that and more. This café provides a contemporary, family friendly atmosphere where anyone can come and guiltlessly indulge in scrumptious and wholesome food. Everyone especially enjoys the delicious deli sandwiches and delectable frozen yogurt. The most popular among such are Dr. T's Grilled Cheese and Triple Chocolate Frozen Yogurt. The managers have announced that pizza will also be added to the menu in hopes that it will receive great amounts of enthusiasm as well.

Strawberry Hill isn't alone when it comes to making improvements. The Fletcher Valley Market has been remodeling their store since February, 2013. They aspire that by January, 2014, their facilities will be transformed with updated flooring, roofing, shelving, décor, and merchandise. This remodel will expand the selection of everything from the freshly baked breads to the already vast variety of natural supplements. They even have experts ready to offer guidance on supplements, vitamins, and herbs. In broadening the selection, they also hope to broaden their customer base.

Making money, supporting students, and promoting God are the mottos shared by both the Fletcher Valley Market and Strawberry Hill Yogurt and Café. Both businesses pride themselves in providing excellent products and services to the community while contributing a portion of their profit to Fletcher Academy, a school committed to giving its students an excellent, Christ-centered education.

Not only do both industries support Fletcher Academy financially, but they also provide employment opportunities for students attending school there. Currently there are seven students working at Strawberry Hill Yogurt and eleven students employed at Fletcher Valley Market. Having student workers appears to benefit all involved. The students assist in paying their school fees while obtaining applicable life skills such as handling money, preparing food, serving customers, and following directions. The managers greatly appreciate the students' trainability and eager energy. Although it's not common to see such young employees, customers immensely enjoy the youth and find the customer service outstanding.

Boys Dorm Project Update

By Dean Rahm

I would like to thank everyone involved in the addition and renovations at the boy's dorm. It is very exciting to see that the project has begun. God has truly blessed Fletcher Academy with so many outstanding young men. The projected date of completion for the renovations is before the start of next school year so we can again have a worship room, no more than two students per room, and my family situated in our new home.

Thanks again and keep us in your prayers.



Seniors Achieve National Merit Status

Fletcher Academy Honored by Outstanding Students

Terry Pottle
FA Principal

This school year two of our seniors have been selected to be National Merit Scholars. Less than 3% of students in the United States meet the qualifications to receive this honor. Robyn Marshall, left, a 4-year senior, reached the Commended status as a National Merit Scholar.

A sub category of the National Merit Scholarship is called the National Achievement Scholarship. Gideon Moyo, right, received the finalist status in this prestigious scholarship program.

The Lord has been blessing the academic program here at Fletcher Academy. For a school our size it is exciting to be recognized in the National Merit program, but to have 2 students achieve this status is outstanding.



Christ's Ambassadors

Students Share a Picture of God with Others

Eileen States

Chaplain at Fletcher Academy

At the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year Fletcher Academy began an Ambassadors class. This is a class geared for training in leadership and witnessing for Jesus. The ambassadors group had the opportunity again this past December to help out with the Foster Child Christmas Program put on by the Fletcher Adventist Church.

There were various ways for the students to help out. Some signed up to adopt a certain child and shop for the gifts on their list. These students enjoyed going above and beyond in their generosity for these foster children. They were so excited to meet with the child on the day of the party and share the excitement as the gifts were opened.

We also had students volunteer to dress up as elves and assist in the line to meet Santa to get their picture taken. Other students were able to just mingle and play with the foster children and their families and help them celebrate this special event planned for them.

There were many of our ambassadors who participated as part of the Acroknights gymnastics team performance. The foster children not only

enjoyed a front row performance by the team but were invited to participate and do some gymnastics with the team.

It was a beautiful experience bringing joy to children who are going through a tough time in their life right now. Ambassadors take their mission seriously from 2 Corinthians 5:20, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us." It was fun to share a picture of God with these children.





2013 – A Banner Year for Gifts



Jon Smith

Director of Advancement and Alumni Affairs

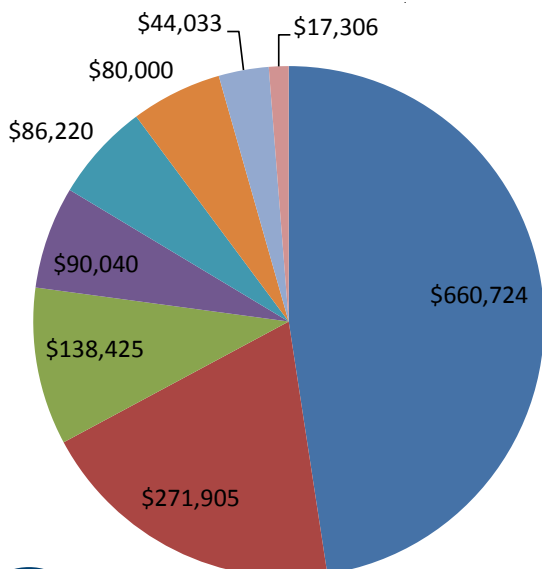
2013 was a banner year for gifts to Fletcher Academy. The strong spiritual presence on campus, the emphasis on the student labor program, the academic strength, and the improvements in facilities and financial stability have transformed

Fletcher into a Flagship Adventist school. This remarkable transformation has resulted in a growing number of donors who have decided to share their resources with Fletcher Academy. Because of their generosity Fletcher Academy was blessed to receive 1499 gifts valued at \$1,388,653 during calendar 2013.

During 2013 donations came in all forms. Gifts from estates, trust funds, land donations, and individuals all contributed to the remarkable year. Individual donations were the biggest source of support for mission trips. An amazing \$138,000 was gifted toward mission trips in 2013. The \$271,000 received for Capital improvements helped to jump start the Boys Dorm Expansion Project and other needed improvements on campus. The \$86,000 received for Student Scholarships is a huge blessing to the Academy that is committed to accepting any student regardless of financial need provided they do what they can to meet that need. The \$90,000 in General Donations helped to fund many improvements including the purchasing of needed science and classroom equipment.

Fletcher Academy is blessed to have so many donors who share of their resources to help Fletcher continue in a strong position as it fulfills its mission to educate young people for eternity. 2014 represents a new opportunity to help with Fletcher Academy's needs. I hope you will consider what you can do to help. The investment made in the form of gifts to support what Fletcher Academy is doing represents an investment in the salvation and training of our young people.

As time grows shorter I can't think of a better place to put our resources.



- Bequest from Nola F Yeakel E.
- Capital Donations
- Mission Trips
- General Donations
- Student Scholarships
- Schuleman Land Donation **
- Cantrell Charitable Lead Trust
- Captain Gilmer Christian School



Mission in Action

Students Actively Serving the Lord

Jeannie Larrabee,
Editor of the Fletcher Spirit and Graduate 1988

One of the most exciting things happening at Fletcher Academy is the amazing mission trip opportunities that the students have each year at our school. I see photos and hear stories from their trips and I know that these exciting experiences are making life changing impressions on them.

Just this last February the Senior Class took their Class Trip to Belize in South America. Going on a Mission Trip for Class Trip? That is fantastic! Samantha Yoon, Class of 2014, expressed, "We felt called to do something for the Lord." Their trip was incredible. They spent their time helping at a children's home. Sara Collson, a Senior who went, shared these thoughts with me:

"Going to Belize on a mission trip was such a life changing experience! We stayed at the King's Children's Home and had a chance to connect with each child. They were so accepting and full of love. We were able to conduct a VBS for the little ones and teen meetings for the older ones. We started building a fence around their orphanage and we made a beach volleyball court for them. For our fun activities, we were able to go snorkeling and cave tubing in the crystal clear water. We went down to Belize with the mindset to serve and love, but we came back with far more than we left. All of us were extremely blessed! As the old saying goes, "you have to see it to 'Belize' it!"

Can you imagine what character and sense of purpose the young people are gaining from these adventures? Ellen White talks about an Army of Youth, rightly trained, who could carry the message of a crucified, risen and soon-coming Saviour (The Youth's Instructor, 1908). I get goose bumps and start to feel emotional when I see Fletcher Academy encouraging the students to have a different worldview of their lives. Mission work is everywhere. One seems to gain a crash course when traveling to other countries, but the mission-minded person sees opportunity for mission every day in their own homes, neighborhoods and communities.

There is another trip coming up this Spring. Bill Bass, teacher at Fletcher Academy, shared that there are 47 students who desire to go and are actively writing letters and raising money. They will be working with Maranatha International in the area of Conception, David, Panama. Some of the projects will include: painting a church; assembling 5 One-Day Churches; and conducting a Vacation Bible School and Soccer Camp for almost 100 kids. "God has opened so many doors. I'm always excited to see how God is going to use these students and see the joy in their hearts as they serve Him. We always go with the intention of being a blessing to others, yet we always return feeling as if we received the greater blessing," expressed Bill Bass.

Many generous donors make these trips possible. You have probably received a letter from a young person at Fletcher Academy or your church. Perhaps you have even had the chance to go on one of these trips. Thank you for your support. Thank you for seeing the potential of these experiences for the students. We want to be involved. We want to have a part. We love to see Mission in Action!



Photos of Senior Class
Trip 2014 to Belize,
Todd Collson '89



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JOIN US FOR

Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2014

“Reflections”

October 3,4,5

Events and Highlights

Annual Golf Tournament

Friday Evening Reception and Refreshments

Inspiring Vespers Program

Alumni of Year Award 2014

Mission Features from Fletcher Academy Students

Fabulous Performing Arts by Fletcher Academy

Uplifting Church Service

Special Reunion and Reflections of “Dorm Life” of Fletcher Academy

Alumni Verses Students Saturday Night Games

Sunday Morning Brunch and Business Meeting

....and more!

HONOR CLASSES

1954, 1964, 1974, 1989, 2004

For more information visit www.fletcheracademy.com
or call 828-209-6800