

September
2017

FLETCHER Spirit



An Unexpected Visit

Jon Smith, FAI Executive Secretary

While serving some years ago as Principal for Fletcher Academy I was working in the Academy Office one Sunday morning when the door opened and a visitor stepped inside. It was a middle-aged woman I did not know, tastefully dressed, who was quickly looking around the room to see who she should communicate with.

I stepped forward and asked what I could do for her. She asked if I worked for the Academy. I assured her that I did. With that assurance she asked if I would promise to pass onto the Faculty a story she would like to tell me. Of course I said I would be happy to.

Thus she began to recount her personal experience at Fletcher Academy. She came to Fletcher not of her own choosing but I believe was sponsored by her grandparents. Her grandparents hoped that somehow the spiritual focus at Fletcher would rub off on this young and quite rebellious young lady.

(continued on next page)



FLETCHER Spirit

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You are welcome to contact us or make a donation to:

Fletcher Academy, Inc.
P.O. Box 5440
Fletcher, NC 28732
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www.fletcheracademy.com



(continuing cover story)

Determined not to endure the structured atmosphere on campus she did everything possible to force school administration to ask her to leave. It was her focused objective and she ultimately succeeded in her devious plan. Fletcher Academy regretfully had to ask her to leave school. So our Sunday morning visitor had spent less than a semester at Fletcher Academy.

Her plan had worked and now she was able to go back to the freedom that she valued so much. But God had a different plan for her life. After leaving Fletcher Academy God kept bringing back to her mind the Christ like and loving way in which the Faculty and Staff treated her during her short stay at the Academy. Even though she had been very disrespectful, rude, and uncooperative, our visitor told me that she could not remember one instance when the Faculty treated her with anything but Christian kindness and love. For years God continued to remind this lady of her experience during that partial semester at Fletcher Academy. As she thought more and more about it her heart began to soften, then break.

Thus it was that 30 years after leaving Fletcher Academy this lady finally succumbed to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and re-consecrated her life to serving God. She had just been re-baptized. And this experience was what had prompted her to drive all the way from her home in New Orleans to share with the Faculty and Staff of Fletcher Academy what a powerful influence for good they can have when they consistently represent Christ no matter what the actions and reactions of the students are.

When she had finished her story she pleaded with me to tell the staff not to ever give up on a young person. Tears were flowing down both of our cheeks as she concluded her thoughts.

And I've kept my promise. I tell her story at every opportunity. I want everyone to know that we serve an awesome God, who is mighty to save, and uses imperfect human beings to help lost souls find their way back to Him. And that is what we do at Fletcher Academy. We educate for eternity. ■



Payton & Ashlee White Hodges '91



Julie Nicholson Krishingner '90 & Tarah



Julie Wetmore Carter '96 & Dominique



Anastasia & Jane Teague '92



Noah & Shawn Collins '87



Hunter & Becky Pendleton Doudiken '96

Alumni Parents often choose to enroll their own children into Fletcher Academy. Here are just a few from this year's registration.



Russell Herman '93 & Hannah



Nya & Heidi Adams Pappas '95 & Nena



Crystal Zill Austin '90 & Kayla



Tonya Bremner Soukup '94 & Christina



Reagan & Rhonda Cox '88



Tony Edney '80 & Madeleine



Experiencing the Eclipse

by Phil Wilhelm, Fletcher Academy Principal





On Monday, August 21, 2017, at 5am we packed one of our buses full with students, including all of our physics students, and headed to Franklin, NC to watch the solar eclipse. Fletcher Academy was actually almost directly in the path of totality, the point during an eclipse when light from the sun is totally obscured by the moon. Even when the Sun is obscured 99%, you are still standing in bright sunshine! So we headed out early to avoid traffic and to join students from Mt. Pisgah Academy and members of the Franklin Seventh-day Adventist church to view the eclipse from the church parking lot. This placed us in the path of totality. We were able to see one of nature's most awe inspiring sights - a total solar eclipse.

This was a very special day as a total solar eclipse is a relatively rare phenomenon, offering educators a teachable moment like few others for us and our students. The next big total solar eclipse to cross the continental US from coast to coast again will not happen until 2045.

nuous atmosphere, the inner corona, visible as a crown of white flares streaming out from the surface. We were able to feel the coolness as the Moon slowly covered the Sun. In our location, the temperature dropped as much as 10 degrees. We sat in awe as the sky slowly darkened in the middle of the day. We listened to the quieting of the animals as the crickets started to chirp and the birds figured it was time to roost. The moon only completely blocked the sun for less than three minutes but it felt much longer.

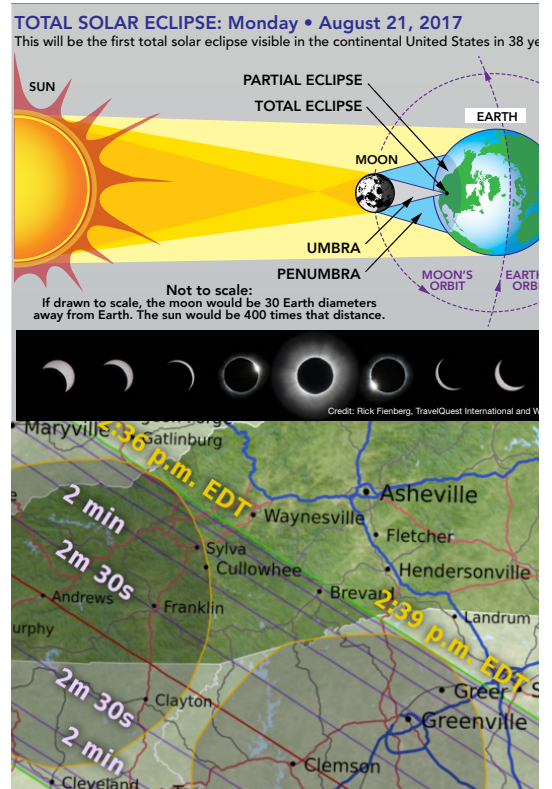
"I saw it all. I had a complete eclipse experience. It happened quicker than you'd think. All of a sudden, twilight envelopes everything. It's glorious. The best part was the people. The feeling of togetherness as everyone's eyes are glued to the sky. The joy when it just becomes totality and you know this is a once in a life time sight. And you get to share it with your friends." - Laura Gibbs '19.

"The sky grew dark, the way it is right after the sun disappears from view every night, and all the night sounds came with it. The moon completely covered the sun and we could take the special glasses off and see the whole moon. Slowly a small white ring appeared around it. It was surreal, and happened so fast. The birds started chirping like it was morning, and within minutes it was all over." - Dominique Evans '18.

Fletcher Academy seeks to help our students integrate science with their faith in God. ■

In conjunction with other Adventist schools across the US, Southern Adventist University's Physics department provided us with approved viewing glasses and created an app where we could upload data and photos of our viewing party. We were careful to ensure each student wore their "eclipse glasses" as special-purpose solar filters are really the only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun.

What makes a solar eclipse so exciting to scientists is that it provides the chance to observe the Sun's te-



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"The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known."
 - Psalm 19



LIFE OF SERVICE

Gary Lewis Retires After 40+ Years Of Service

First hired over 40 years ago in August of 1976 as the Cafeteria Assistant, Mr. Lewis soon became the Chief Cook, preparing and serving breakfast every morning (starting the shift at 5:30 a.m.) and continuing through the lunch meal. In time he became the Cafeteria Director with full management duties including scheduling, ordering, and menu planning.

During this era, he would occasionally help in the Bakery as needed, helping to slice and bag bread. He would also fill-in occasionally as Bread Delivery Route Driver, taking our tasty bread to stores, restaurants, and summer camps in Henderson, Polk, and Transylvania counties.

In the 80's Mr. Lewis began to take night classes at Blue Ridge Tech, with a focus in accounting. He began to assist the Fletcher Academy treasurer by doing the monthly bank reconciliations and other clerical tasks.

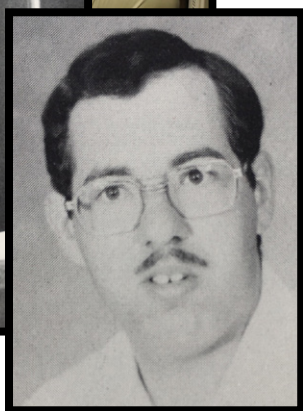
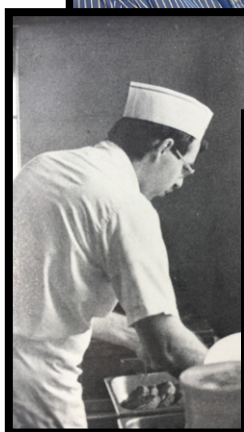
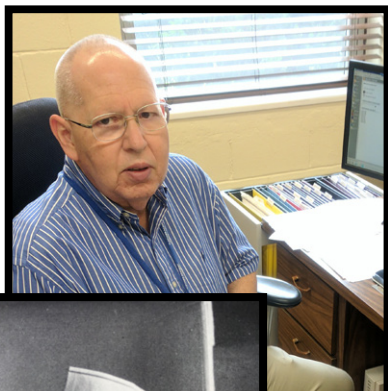
In 1990 Mr. Lewis started to work full-time in the accounting office as

Chief Accountant, while continuing his quest for a degree. He finally took a part-time leave-of-absence from Fletcher to allow him to take a full load of classes and finish his studies. He graduated magna cum laude in 1996 with a B.S. in Accounting from UNC Asheville. In April of 1997 he passed the CPA exam.

Mr. Lewis then served as Fletcher Academy treasurer/CFO for several years. In 2009 transitioned to the position of Senior Accountant and held that position until his retirement in June of 2017.

Gary enjoys traveling with his wife Sharon along with camping, baking bread, thrift-store bargain hunting, pickin' bluegrass music, and enjoying their rescued 'twin sister' cats, Gabby and Tabby.

Gary's dedication and hard work will be missed at Fletcher Academy. Gary's attention to detail, his faithful and dependable service, and his consistent Christ-like example have been a blessing to all who have had the privilege of working with him. We wish him much happiness in his retirement years. ■



Frank Costerisan Retires a Second Time

Frank Costerisan is retiring this year after working part time in the finance office for almost 10 years. He graduated from Southern Missionary College in 1968 with a BS degree in accounting and from Western Carolina University in 1978 with an MBA degree. 1968 was at the height of the Vietnam War and Frank was drafted into the US Army, serving in the 4th Army Finance Office in San Antonio, TX and 7th Army Finance Office in Heidelberg, Germany. Frank, a CPA, moved to Hendersonville, NC in December of 1970 upon returning from his service in Germany. He was employed by the public accounting firm of Hanson and Pearson, CPAs. In 1975 he and a partner would venture out and start their own public accounting firm, Costerisan and Engel, PA. In 1999 his company would merge into Hanson, Johnson & Associates, PA which later merged with Dixon Hughes Goodman, the largest certified public accounting firm headquartered in the Southern United States.

Frank retired from public accounting in 2009 and started working at Fletcher Academy. He was no stranger to us as he was already on our board of trustees. He has now served over 25 years on our board. He enjoys volunteering with various non-profits over the years. He is a member of the Hendersonville Lions Clubs which provides resources to the visually impaired and has served as president, treasurer and board member.

Frank is married to Joan Waggonner Costerisan, a retired RN, who is both a graduate of Fletcher Academy in 1970 and the School of Nursing in 1973.

Gary Carlson says, "Frank has been a blessing at Fletcher because he brings strength and expertise to our finance and accounting team due to his vast knowledge as a CPA and his long history at FAI. Additionally, he listens well and when he speaks his insights are appreciated and valued. Frank will be missed and we are glad that he will continue to serve on the FAI Board of Directors." ■



STAFF CHANGES

Kathy Hadley Keeps Fletcher on Solid Financial Ground

For years, Kathy Hadley was the accountant for the window and door business she managed with her late husband, Bud. Mrs. Hadley started volunteering for Fletcher as an involved parent of two sons who would graduate from the academy. She has always wanted to be a positive influence on the campus. Mrs. Hadley says, “where my children are — that is where my mission is. Fletcher Academy is my mission!”

In 2008, the Lord opened the door for her to become the full-time treasurer/CFO for Fletcher Academy, Inc. After much prayer, she accepted the position here while continuing to work with her husband until they sold their business some five years later.

Mrs. Hadley is known for being a very hard worker and doing her work on time and accurately. She has directed a strong financial team that has obtained ‘clean audits’ and has worked to keep student accounts current over 99% of the time. And this has happened while Fletcher Academy has

kept the policy that NO qualified students will be turned away because of finances. Kathy is known to have a skill of working with parents with love and compassion.

In the winter months sometimes a drafty window would blow papers off of her desk. When asked why she hadn’t replaced it she would say, “Fletcher can’t really afford it now. Besides, someone would think I was spending money on myself when they need the money spent on them more.” Kathy was always making sure others were being taken care of rather than herself. Kathy loves knowing that she has made a way for students to afford a Christian education. “I have seen students lives changed by attending Fletcher Academy,” she says. Kathy will continue to be involved with our students. Perhaps you will hear of her joining in one of our mission trips to Norway in the future. ■



Lynn Ortega, Sr. Accountant

When Lynn graduated from Academy, she assumed she would return soon as a Food Service Director, but her life took a different path. She now holds a BS degree in Accounting and Management from UNC – Asheville. She has worked in the Accounting field for more than 35 years, serving in many different industries. She has now returned to her first goal of working at an academy. She attended Seventh-day Adventist schools for the majority of her education and is a graduate of Mount Pisgah Academy. Lynn firmly believes that Christian education for our children is an investment in the future and cannot be taken lightly.

Lynn is a native North Carolinian, growing up in Wilson, but she lived in California for 20 years. She has been in the Fletcher area for 11 years now, enjoying the beautiful mountains where the weather is so wonderful. She enjoys hiking, playing with her two cats, cooking with her sister, and playing games on her iPad. ■



Stephen Learned, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

Stephen Learned started working as our new CFO/Treasurer in July. Stephen comes to us most recently from Thunderbird Academy where he was working with Terry Pottle. He has a wealth of financial leadership experience previously serving at the Western Adventist Foundation, Southern California Conference and several Adventist academies. He has also worked in the private business world. With his wife, Evelyn, he has two boys: Stephen Jr. and Samuel.

After much prayer, it was with great pleasure he accepted the call to Fletcher Academy, Inc. He is now trying to learn everyone’s name as he gets more acquainted with the Fletcher Family. His family feels so blessed and is also excited to be in such a great location to live and serve. Stephen says it was a “family de-

cision” to come to North Carolina. Every family member came to a place of being comfortable with the move before the final call was made to Mr. Carlson.

The guiding thought for their family is found in the Bible which says: “for I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11). Stephen says, “Our family has been on a journey of growth and trust to understand what God has planned. We trust in

what God does and we know that our thoughts are not His thoughts. We realize we serve a powerful and mighty God who knows all things, sees all things, and has always been and will always be. When we let that thought resonant in our minds we are at peace.” ■



Building Excellence in Christian education

Arthur Gibbs, Director of Development & Alumni Relations

Our aging Pearson Hall Gymnasium is our main indoor space to provide physical education during inclement and cold weather. Construction on Pearson Hall first began in 1954. Outside of our historic chapel, this building is probably our oldest structure still in active educational use. The space has served well over the years as a place for physical activity, academy graduations and even church services. The gym was originally built as a recreation center and continues to serve as the main gymnasium for all of our K-8 students. Since the walls are built from uninsulated concrete blocks we have been unable to heat or cool the building efficiently. The original doors are leaking during rain and snow. The outdated metal halide and high pressure sodium lighting is very susceptible to flickering, loud buzzing, and is very inefficient.



The Captain Gilmer Christian School committee has approved renovating the Pearson Hall Gymnasium and recognizes it is time to invest in updating our facilities for physical and health education. Our school has successfully focused on maintaining technology in the classroom and in having the space needed for teaching our core subjects of math, reading, writing, and Bible. This allows us to now concentrate on improving our recreation and fitness facilities. Our very

active and involved home and school program has made this their top priority through several fundraisers. Several major donors have come forward and have even established matching funds. Additional funds from the Archie Tonge Education Fund would now create sizeable momentum to fund and finish this major project.



The thin carpet which leads to active students experiencing fiery red rug burns will be replaced with a much safer new sport court high gloss maple gym floor. This modular flooring provides durability and multi-sport playability at an affordable price. A shock and sound attenuating rubber layer will be added to build safer and better places for our children to play and learn.

New weatherproof security doors will be installed to provide safety to both the facility and our students. Insulation will be added to decrease operating costs by significantly reducing radiant heat transfer through the building envelope. A properly sized Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) system will help maintain good indoor air quality through adequate ventilation with filtration and provide

thermal comfort for year-round student use. This leads to increased safety as cooler temperatures can allow student athletes to train harder without suffering as much from the fatigue and headaches that can come from overexertion in a hot environment.

The problem of overweight and obesity has become a national public health concern. Conditions associated with physical inactivity and unhealthy lifestyles may soon overtake tobacco as the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. These conditions include high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease to name a few. As the rate of overweight and obesity soars, American children have not been spared. In general, children in the United States are heavier than ever before. Since the 1970s, the percentage of children and adolescents who are considered overweight has more than doubled. The long-term health consequences associated with being overweight puts children and adolescents at increased risk for various chronic diseases earlier in life. Overweight and obesity can also impact a child's social competence, emotional well-being, and self-esteem. Since inactive children are more likely to become overweight and then progress to battle obesity as adults, it is key to help children develop healthy habits while young.

Student Test Scores Reported — We have just been informed that we have students who scored in the 99th percentile on the ACT and PSAT. This means they are in the top 1% of all test takers across the United States.

Full Accreditation Received — Another 5-year term of accreditation has been granted to Fletcher Academy by AdvancED, a national accrediting organization that gives credibility to our academic program. Having their endorsement ensures our transcripts will be accepted by other schools and universities across the nation. It is extremely important we keep this accreditation so we can continue providing each student with limitless opportunities to continue their education and fulfill what God has called them to do.

\$3,022,150 in university and college scholarships were awarded collectively to Fletcher Academy Seniors this past graduation weekend. We give God the praise for evidence of a solid return on investment with Adventist education.

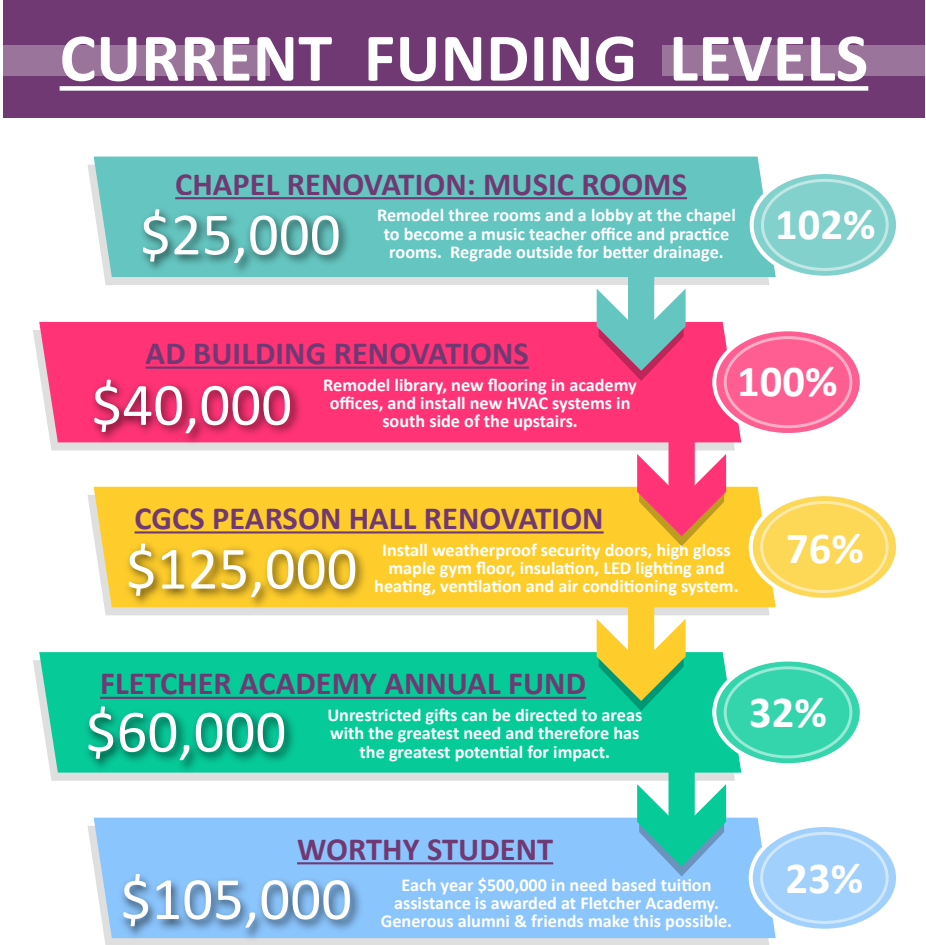
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 "We make a living by what we get.
 We make a life by what we give."
 — Winston S. Churchill

All of these improvements will help Captain Gilmer Christian School provide students a safe inviting place for exercise and activity. Along with regular use during the school day, our gymnasium is used for after-school activities when our staff and volunteers play organized team sports with the students. The Pearson Hall Gymnasium renovation project will literally shape the future of wellness and wellbeing on our campus by inspiring active healthy lifestyles.

Thanks to generous donors, funds were quickly raised this spring and summer to remodel part of our historic chapel to become a music teacher's office and practice rooms. Each room has been finished with natural oak wainscoting stained to match the character of the building. All walls have been properly insulated and given new sheetrock, including acoustic panels for sound dampening purposes. As of this writing these rooms are almost finished, as we are only awaiting new custom windows to be delivered. Outside of the chapel the driveway and rear parking have been regraded and paved to channel water away from the building.

The main ad building has received needed updates by adding new HVAC systems in classes and offices on the south side of the upstairs. New flooring was installed in the academy administration offices and our library was recarpeted and remodeled. Recently three new apartments were created behind the store at Fletcher Park Inn to provide an increased income stream for our schools. Previously these spaces were partially used by Park Ridge Health as office space.

Fletcher Academy, Inc. is one of the longest-running supporting ministries in the Adventist denomination, partly because of its commitment to excellence in Adventist Christian education. We are a charter member of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) when that organization was established in 1947. It appears the Lord has blessed us to become the largest independent academy operated by Seventh-day Adventist members in North America. We continue to actively support and participate in the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ■



Our Very Own Ironwoman

Mitsue Garmon, Lelia Patterson Center Manager

Mitsue Garmon, senior manager of the Lelia Patterson Center, finished 4th in her age and gender category in the Ironman 70.3 triathlon in Raleigh North Carolina on June 4, 2017. She was among 1,749 Athletes that participated in this grueling event, widely considered to be one of the most difficult one-day sporting events in the world. Participants began their day with a 1.2-mile swim in Jordan Lake. Then a 56-mile bike course took the athletes through rural Chatham and Wake Counties before entering the city to transition into a half-marathon run of 13.1-miles winding through downtown Raleigh, around the Capital Building and through NC State University. Fletcher grad, Kristina Weis Woesner '01 also raced and finished in under 6 hours on the beautiful but hot day.

Mitsue had completed several triathlons in her 20's and 30's and enjoyed the discipline but then life happened. She became a parent and is somehow 51 years of age now. It has been quite some time since she last crossed the finish line in something like this. Recently Mitsue's close friend lost her husband, who had been such a positive influence to both of them. Her friend completed the Chattanooga Ironman in honor of her late husband which inspired Mitsue to give it a try. Sometimes personal tragedy can remind us to live in the moment and make every day count.

To achieve a major fitness goal like this, Mitsue knew she needed dedicated training and a buddy for encouragement. So she decided to ask her brother to join her, fully expecting him to think she was crazy. He actually agreed to train with her and even though they mostly worked-out separately since he was in South Carolina, they give each other much needed support. Everything was looking up until he blew out his knee and had to quit training for the race.

Mitsue was about to give up herself because she knew events like this usually took months, even years, of

solid training. Then she thought about how she worked at a fitness center, surely she could find another training buddy. She talked around the LPC about her desire to race, when Steven Wilson, an employee at Park Ridge Health heard about it in SPIN class and signed up. Steven had an interest but he lacked a professional bike with which to train. The Lord then provided one that was once owned by the late alumnus, Brent Yingling to aid in the effort. So they began a 16-week "Super Simple" Ironman internet training plan, meeting every Wednesday to practice swimming and biking, and taking long runs on the weekends.

According to Mitsue, the race is really the icing on the cake compared to the hard work of training. It is both difficult and wonderful. You feel your body and mind getting stronger. The race gives you a goal to reach, gives you a reason to keep working out, but the training process builds you up.

There was a point during the training when Mitsue felt it was just impossible putting it all together. "I can't do this" she thought, then she choose to tell herself, "Ok I am going to do this." She says, "Training really is about helping you overcome fear." We all need to learn to be patient, trust God, and learn to live in the moment.

Keeping scripture in mind that the Lord is our strength encouraged her that we can't do this life well by ourselves but with Jesus all things are possible. In the end, Mitsue had pushed herself to a point physically and mentally that she had never been to before. But she finished the race. Mitsue says, "If I could do this, anyone can do this." ■



Kristina Weis Woesner '01 & Mitsue Garmon

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"Scripture kept running through my head, 'the Lord is my strength,'... if I can do this, anyone can." - Mitsue Garmon



Mitsue's Family



Mitsue Garmon & Steven Wilson

New Year – New Blessings

Wanda Lee, Captain Gilmer Christian School Principal



After graduating 15 students last year, we didn't know what God had planned for this year at Captain Gilmer Christian School. We soon found out. At registration, 98 students enrolled. Within the first two weeks of school, two more students had joined our ranks, bringing our current enrollment to 100. We are thankful that we have a very dedicated team of teachers and support staff who prayed all summer for these students, even before we knew what their names were.

Deere Company and is disbursed by an organization called CyberKids Robotics. Students in grades 5-8 will be involved with building and programming robots. At the end of the year, they will be demonstrating what they have learned to our school families and the community.

Grades 1-4 will again be involved in an art program run by a few of our parents. They will be able to use a wide-spectrum of art media and methods to learn more about art from a very personal viewpoint.



A lot of great things are planned for this school year. Along with the usual after-school sports program, we have a new after-school activity called "Girls on the Run". This nation-wide organization is being offered at our school by one of our own church members and is a learning program for 8 to 13 year-old girls who will be taught life skills through dynamic, conversation-based lessons and through running. Girls in this program will not only be involved in running, but they will be doing community service projects as well.

Learning to do Bible Journaling is already a classroom favorite for our older students. In this class, they learn to write about and illustrate favorite texts on the pages of their special journaling Bibles. This helps them remember the verses better as well as to apply them in their personal lives.

Our school is evangelism in the truest sense of the word. God sent us several families this year that are really sacrificing a lot to give their children a Christian education. We have dedicated ourselves, along with our constituent churches, to making this possible for any family that desires to give this opportunity to their children. We believe that God cares about His kids more than any of us ever will, and that He will place the needs of these families on the hearts of His people so that, together, we can make this possible. ■

This month, our new robotics STEM class will begin with the help of a grant from the John



ALUMNI TODAY

Chattanooga Alumni at Southern Adventist University
April 2017



STUDENTS TODAY

School Handshake & Sabbath in the Mountains
August 2017



Dorothy Graves Salhany '46 will be 90 in a few weeks. She and her husband have spent 15+ years working for the Lord in Africa, Malawi and Zimbabwe, which gave them many years of traveling and visiting other countries which she loved. She believes there are only two of her class still living, the rest awaiting in their graves for the coming of our wonderful Lord. She says, "we had a wonderful class of friends and I look forward to seeing them again one day."

David McCarty '62 only spent his freshman year at Fletcher, and yet at 73 he says it was the best year of his life.

Sherrie Tramblye LaTourette '63 lives in San Diego, CA and La Conner, WA. She is a retired Social Worker, busy with Red Cross volunteering, 3 grandchildren, traveling and her family genealogy.

Deborah Johnson Harden '67 now married to Russell Harden, living in Banks, AL. She has a son, Rusty Hamilton living in Ocala, FL, and a daughter Leigh Ann Lapinski living in McDonough, GA. Her husband is a Poultry Farmer and she drives a Special Needs school bus. She plans to retire after this school year. She says, "God has blessed us beyond measure and we give Him all the Praise and Glory!"

Donna Freeman Holland '77 is currently the Senior Pastor of the White Memorial SDA Church in Portland, ME. She married Glenn Holland, an alumni of Pisgah, which some people refer to as a mixed marriage, but it is working well. They have been happily married for 37 years. They have two grown children, a son and a daughter.

Mark Hyder '78 is starting his fifth year as Dean of the School of Business at Southern Adventist University, where he also happily serves as the site coordinator of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and teaches Business Law. He has the opportunity and privilege to live out the greatest joy of his life which is the teaching and mentoring of students.

Sally Keller Moss '85 graduated with her Master's degree in Nursing from Southern Adventist University in 2016. She now works as a Family Nurse Practitioner in a Primary Care Practice in Athens, TN.

Omar Miranda '90 is a community mental health counselor in private practice. He also works in local Christian and public primary, elementary, middle, and high schools. Omar was the editor of Insight magazine for Christian teens and has written numerous articles and authored 8 books. His webpage is at: omarmiranda4.wixsite.com/mirandawrites

Christina Coston '16 enjoys being at Andrews University. She has a job in the physics department even though her major is still being decided. There are baby cows being born weekly and it makes her so happy to see something so precious.



Planned Giving Preserves Fletcher's Future

By making a planned gift, you can address the world's most pressing issue by providing young people with spiritual development bolstered with academic rigor, work skills, and character development. Fletcher graduates have a transforming influence in their world as disciples of Jesus.

Every gift, whether large or small, sends a message that you believe in Fletcher Academy and our students. A charitable bequest is actually one of the easiest and most flexible ways that you can leave a gift that will make a lasting impact. You can name Fletcher Academy as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement account. With the help of an attorney, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to family, friends and Fletcher Academy as part of your estate plan.

With careful planning you can even receive an immediate income tax deduction, provide yourself or someone else with an annual income, and support Fletcher Academy in a meaningful way which a charitable gift annuity or special trust.

If you have included Fletcher Academy in your estate plans, please let us know. We would like to thank you for your generosity, make sure the purpose of your gift is fully understood.

Remembering Fletcher Academy with a bequest from your estate will help sustain and strengthen your school in years to come. The Office of Development is happy to help you explore options for designating a bequest. I invite you to speak with us about creative strategies to put your assets to work for you, your family, and Fletcher. As always, we look forward to hearing from you.

With sincere thanks,

Arthur Gibbs, Development & Alumni Relations
828-209-6704 • agibbs@fletcheracademy.com



Affirming Creation through both Faith and Science

Arthur Gibbs, Development & Alumni Relations

This summer Fletcher Academy was invited to send several of our faculty to the Faith and Science Conference in St. George, Utah, where around 300 educators, scientists, and theologians gathered for eight full days of lectures, field trips, networking, and inspiration. The conference, themed “Affirming Creation,” was coordinated by the North American Division Office of Education and the Geoscience Research Institute, and hosted by the Faith & Science Council of the General Conference.

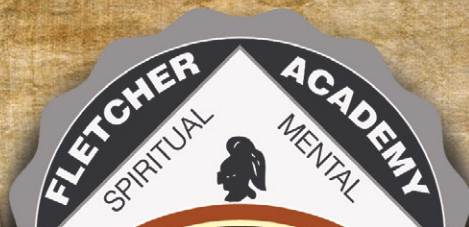
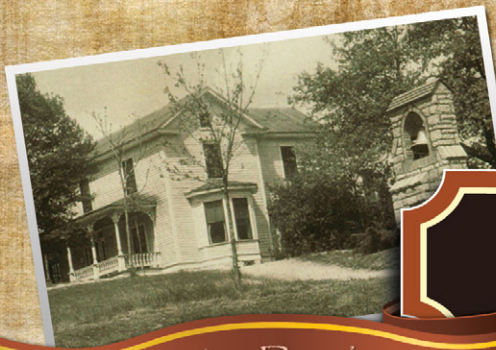
The various presenters explored the biblical, theological, and philosophical issues that shape our understanding of origins, as well as to shared answers and questions that specific scientific disciplines present to a biblical understanding of earth history. Leading scientists and theologians talked on topics

such as radiometric dating, plate tectonics, creation in the New Testament, etc. Resources were then shared to help disseminate the successes and challenges Christians face in the creation/evolution debate.

Adventist paleontologist, Professor Raul Esperante, shared his research on fossil whales and sediments that provides some solid evidence for the Genesis Flood account. He discussed his personal reasons for believing in a worldwide, rapid catastrophe. Biology Professor Leonard Brand explained how faith is really a part of both worldviews. We can choose to accept the Biblical story of a recent literal creation, or we can assume evolutionary periods of millions of years. Conference participants were able to take time to rededicate themselves to their Creator God, and to the con-

tinued study of nature using the tools of science and using a foundation based on a biblical worldview.

At Fletcher Academy we teach our students that God has made our world with brilliant creativity and tender care. God created humanity to take care of and take joy in the planet, with rest and recreation in perfect balance. We believe God has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity. God created the universe, and in a recent six-day creation the Lord made “the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them” and rested on the seventh day. Genesis tells us that a loving God split light from darkness and land from water, setting life in motion and sculpting the first human from clay. We owe our very breath to God, yet He gave us freedom to choose. ■



Pioneer

Martha Rumbough

1867-1941

Martha was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to John G. and Mary Baker. Her father was an ingenious distinguished inventor, rising up from a carpenter's apprentice to become vice-president of a major cast-iron equipment manufacturer. Mr. Baker became independently wealthy and is credited with over 60 patented inventions. His machines were sold throughout the country and some are on display at the Smithsonian. His family would often spend winter in Western North Carolina where Martha would meet her future husband, James E. Rumbough, the son of Colonel Rumbough, the owner of the Mountain Park Hotel in Hot Springs.

Martha's father paid for and supervised the construction of a new home in Asheville North Carolina for his only child as a wedding present. Now listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Rumbough House was finished in 1895 and at over 9,000 square feet is considered one of the finest residences in the historic Montford District. Residing majestically on a grassy hilltop, this magnificent manor house features a combination of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Neoclassical elements. Her husband, James E. Rumbough, became the first and only mayor of Montford before it was annexed by Asheville.

In time, Mrs. Rumbough became a part of the Adventist movement as evidenced when she provided funding to build the first Seventh-day Adventist churches in Asheville, and a parsonage, while regularly supporting the Asheville Adventist pastor. Ellen White would stay in her home while on the way to the General Conference session of 1909. During the visit Mrs. Rumbough asked, "what more can I do with my share of my family's wealth to further the cause of God locally?" Mrs. White answered in the familiar and oft quoted words, "the Lord would be pleased if you would start a medical and educational work in the vicinity of Asheville." Mrs. Rumbough was later baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist

church in November of 1909. In early 1910, she arranged to purchase the old Byers Farm including over 400 acres that would become part of Fletcher Academy and Park Ridge Health. The existing plantation house, became known as the "Big House", or "Rumbough Hall". At two stories high, with ten rooms and a large basement, it served in almost every way over the years as kitchen, dormitory, and classrooms. It was the very first meeting place for the Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist church. It stood next to the existing Academy cafeteria and was used continuously until severely damaged by fire in 1953.

Ellen White would write that "Sister Rumbough is a woman upon whom you can depend... Sister Rumbough has donated this property because she has seen the truth, because she believes the truth, and because she desires to help the cause that she believes to be of God... Sister Rumbough is a woman of good judgment. She understands the truth. She has purity of motive, and she wants the work in this place to be carried on a high level. She wants the property she has donated to the cause to be treated as if it were God's property... Sister Rumbough desires that it shall be used for the glory of God, that souls right around here may be brought to a knowledge of the truth." (Letter 76, 1909).

For 31 years Mrs. Rumbough maintained an interest in the school and hospital sanitarium that came into existence as a result of her gift. Failing health in her last years prevented active participation, however she was a charter member of the board of incorporators and served on the board of directors to the end of her life. When word of the passing of Mrs. Rumbough came to the school in November of 1941, the telegram she sent to authorize the purchase of property was read at chapel and the students and faculty stood in silent tribute. Thousands upon thousands of lives have been blessed over the years by the medical and educational work started here. What a difference one soul can make!



Fletcher Academy

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Change Service Requested

Seeking to put your passion for service to work? We are Christian businesses supporting the mission of Christian education. Working for Fletcher Academy, Inc. means being a valued part of a corporate family. Visit our new Human Resources page www.fletcheracademy.com/careers to learn about current opportunities!

JOIN US FOR

Fletcher Academy Homecoming Weekend

“Apple of His Eye”

October 6-8, 2017

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 10:00 am Annual Alumni Golf Classic Tournament
Register at: www.fletcheracademy.com/alumni/golf
- 5:00 pm Register in the Main Lobby of the Lelia Patterson Center.
Come and get your name tag and your Weekend Program of Events.
- 6:00 pm Reception that features a delicious supper and apple themed refreshments.
- 7:30 pm Vespers in the Lelia Patterson Center - by the 10 Year Honor Class - 2007

SABBATH, OCTOBER 7

- 8:15 am Prayer Breakfast at the Lelia Patterson Center
- 9:30 am Sabbath School in the Lelia Patterson Center - by the 25 Year Honor Class - 1992
- 10:45 am Church Service in the Lelia Patterson Center - by the 50 Year Honor Class - 1967
- 12:30 pm Honor Class Photos and Fellowship Dinner Potluck in the Lelia Patterson Center
(Please remember to bring a favorite dish to share with all)
- 2:00 pm Honor Class Reunions around campus: 1967, 1977, 1992, School of Nursing
- 3:00 pm Fletcher Academy Special Alumni Concert in the Lelia Patterson Center
- 4:30 pm Heritage Hall & Administration Building Self-guided Tours
- 6:30 pm Candlelight Vespers in our Historic Chapel - by the 40 Year Honor Class - 1977
- 8:00 pm Traditional Alumni Games: Football, Basketball & Co-ed Softball Games

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

- 9:00 am Alumni Breakfast and Business Meeting at Lelia Patterson Center
(Get the latest news on Fletcher Academy and enjoy a fabulous meal with music.)

HONOR CLASSES

1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962,
1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012
Special Recognition to above classes in bold print.

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