

February
2018

FLETCHER Spirit



Character Education

Phil Wilhelm, Fletcher Academy Principal

What is it that makes people stand out as great in this world? We have seen many famous successful people fall from grace in recent months. It wasn't the lack of accomplishments that brought about their ruin, but rather the things they did when they thought no one else was looking. Think about the things you respect in people you know. Honesty, kindness, trustworthiness, loyalty, and love are among the things we cherish most in individuals who have our respect. Unfortunately, these are not things actively taught by our modern culture.

Character education is why Adventist Education exists. In the book *Education* pg. 225, it says: "Character building is the most important work ever entrusted to human beings; and never before was its diligent study so important as now. Never was any previous generation called to meet issues so momentous; never before were young men and young women confronted by perils so great as confront them today." We recognize our responsibility and this continues to be our focus at Fletcher Academy. Not only do we desire our students to perform academically and in the work place, but we desire them to develop traits of character that will carry them through this life and prepare them to hear the words of Jesus, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."



FLETCHER*Spirit*

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P.O. Box 5440

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Eyewitness: Hurricane Relief

Hannah Taylor, Freshman at Fletcher Academy



This whole week has been one of the most amazing and eye-opening experiences of my life. Never before have I seen such hunger, homelessness, and devastation all at once. I suppose that nobody should have to see what we saw, but I think that it was one of the best things for all of us and definitely for me.

Eating Taco Bell four times in four days was enough to remind me that we were here to serve and not to be served. Twelve hours of driving in a bus with forty-nine teenagers was much louder than even my big family of thirteen on the road. Little sleep was to be had. We arrived in Ft. Myers at about 11pm and went to sleep at about midnight with plans to start work immediately at 7am.

We split up Fletcher into two groups; one group went out into the community to start working on clearing people's homes and the other group stayed back at the church to help clear the parking lot. There were about three or four big trees that had fallen and all the branches and sticks needed to be cleared and picked up. The state only picked up debris when it was placed on the road side, so we had to drag all these limbs and branches, what seemed like a half a mile down the road. The heat was unbelievable! We were pouring with sweat and many of us felt sick because of the extreme sun and humidity. It was pretty fun too, especially when we found these branches that were stuck in a tree and we tried to jump on them and climb the tree to get them out. It was pretty amazing how hard everyone worked that first day, nobody could be accused of being lazy that day!!

Immokalee, the town of the refugees, was where I spent the rest of the week. On Wednesday, we headed to the main distribution center that was passing out tarps, clothes, water, and other necessary things that the people needed. Other relief groups partnered with us by making tons of food for us to take out to about 1,000 people in the community. When we went to the Farm Workers' Village (a refugee "town") I was in shock at what I saw. I felt a wide range of emotions observing probably the most poverty I have ever seen in one place. The whole village

was made of about a hundred little tiny homes set like a subdivision. Our job was to distribute boxes of microwaveable food and bottles of water to the people. We had all the supplies in the bays under the big bus. Mr. Bass kept these open and we would walk around the village carrying all the supplies we needed with us. When we ran out of supplies we would have to run back to the bus and get more. I got to see inside a few of these homes and what I saw made my heart break. These people had barely anything and their homes were filled with trash and smelled like a junk yard. The kids would just stare at us and many of the people were scared of us. I was shocked that America would allow people to live in such awful conditions. Some of the women were wrapped in towels because they didn't have clothes to wear. Many of the kids were only wearing rags.

While we were passing out food in the Village, we kept seeing a little ice cream truck circling the neighborhood. I hate to say this now, but many of us were filled with indignation at the sight, because we were upset that someone would try to make money in a place where people obviously had no money. We found out though that this man was not selling his ice cream and snow cones but he was giving it to the kids for free. We all agreed he showed us a vivid picture of Jesus. As a side note, he even gave all of us snow cones for the work that we were doing. It was a great way to end the day!!

Mr. Bass asked me if I would be willing to lead a group of about five people to a place on the Caribbean side of the town. We only had two adults and he needed to send some kids to this little church to distribute food. I chose Gabi, Aaliyah, Tannor, and Danny. To be truthfully honest, I was a little nervous. We set the food out and started to work. Several of us would serve food and the other ones would hold the Styrofoam containers so they could fill them with food. We had been serving for a while when two ladies drove up and picked up two containers. They were not really any different than any other people that I had seen, but I felt a huge impression



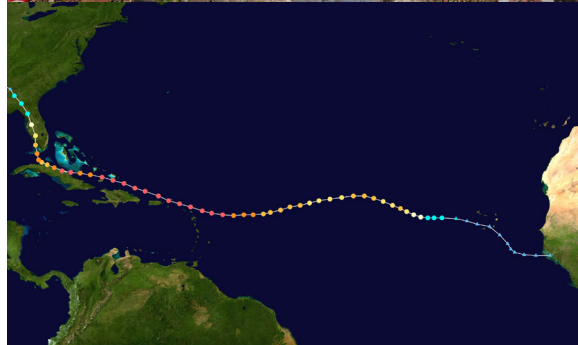
to go over to them and ask them about what they had been through. As soon as I asked, they started to cry. They told me that they thought they were forgotten by America already and that seeing Fletcher Academy here they knew that God had not forgotten them and that good people are helping them. We had prayer with the ladies and brought them more food for their trailer park. I was blessed so much by how much a little bit of love and kindness touched their lives so deeply.

I think my class came together like never before. God truly blessed our efforts, and even though we didn't get to see every little outcome for our efforts I know that people have been blessed. My outlook on my life has changed a lot. I realize that I am blessed beyond measure. I have food and water and school and family. Above all I can see that we have a God who has always been there for us and always will be.

I also discovered this week that I have a fire in me. A fire that I didn't realize I had been holding back and trying to stifle. This week helped me to let it all out, to inspire my classmates and light a fire in them. I know my purpose in life is to serve other people and this week was just more confirmation that I was made to serve not to be served. I won't pretend that this wasn't tiring and hot, but when I think about it, I know that we only accomplished the huge amount of work that we got done because God was a moving force in us. I will always remember this trip as being a bonding experience with my class and the trip that reminded me about my passion to serve others. ■

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Hurricane Irma became the second-strongest storm ever recorded in the Atlantic Ocean with sustained winds of over 185 mph. Tragically at least 90 people died in Florida, South Carolina, and Georgia. Storm damage in the US is estimated to be over \$50 billion. The widespread destruction has profoundly impacted millions of people. Just days after the hurricane, in September 2017, Fletcher Academy responded and sent the entire Freshman class to Fort Myers, Florida to join in the relief efforts.



Cafeteria Renovation

Building a Better Fletcher Academy

Arthur Gibbs, Director of Development & Alumni Relations

Since 1957, for over 60 years, Whitford Hall has served Fletcher Academy as the main campus kitchen and dining hall. At mealtimes this was the gathering spot where academy students, nurses and institutional workers alike regularly shared a table and conversed about the day's events. For many years the cafeteria was also the primary place to hold meetings, banquets and receptions of all types.

The gathering place for students on a boarding school campus is the cafeteria. Its importance is significant, and not just for physical nourishment and healthy living. Mealtimes in the cafeteria are used to promote healthy eating habits and encourage students to try new foods. It is a key part of our CREATION Health initiative that encourages the importance of a good diet on health, energy levels, and longevity. The cafeteria is also the place where students gather socially and for Christian fellowship. In so many ways, the cafeteria serves as the 'heart' of Fletcher's campus. Studies show a well designed modern cafeteria encourages students to eat more of their meal, do better in their academic work, and have fewer behavioral problems (Center for Ecoliteracy, 2010).

Now with exception of the Chapel, our cafeteria building is the oldest building in regular use by students. Due to enrollment growth, our current cafeteria building can no longer meet our basic food service needs. Mealtimes have become very crowded with staff, dorm, and community students all trying to eat during the short meal windows of the school day. We have barely 120 seats in our dining area and yet our student body has been between 170-200 for six straight years. Our cafeteria was overflowing this past April during Academy Days as we had an extra 91 prospective students on campus having a wonderful time experiencing a glimpse of life at Fletcher Academy. When guests are on campus, meals must be served in shifts to accommodate everyone - more dining space is really essential.

In addition, the current kitchen facilities are no longer adequate to efficiently prepare and present menu diversity with great food taste and high quality. All food service entities should be housed on the same level. We need a more efficient food preparation and service area that is easier to keep clean. Currently, there is only a single one-person restroom in the building, and everyone must access it by going through the kitchen and then downstairs into the basement. It is essential that we provide handicap accessible bathrooms on the main floor and this would also create a safer area to supervise.

Making these improvements will help Fletcher Academy provide students, staff, and guests an attractive, peaceful setting in which



to enjoy healthy food and fellowship. New facilities will provide improved food preparation and storage areas giving the experienced food service providers the opportunity to not only better serve students, but to also teach and train students in the culinary arts.

Fletcher Academy is committed to providing students with wholesome, balanced food choices in an atmosphere that encourages socialization, friendships and meaningful engagement. This commitment requires we expand and remodel our current cafeteria building to accommodate growing enrollment and the eating preferences of today's kids by providing socially friendly and comfortable dining areas both indoors and out. The Academy cafeteria and its food service quality plays an important role in determining overall student satisfaction. It is a key factor influencing enrollment preference and retention. The cafeteria is one of our most visible and frequented spaces.

Just a few months ago, Adventist Health System heard about our need and has already committed \$125,000 towards our cafeteria needs. We were one of the first academies to be awarded a major grant from the Adventist Health System Secondary Education Fund. Adventist Health System is strongly connected to Fletcher Academy and is clearly investing in Adventist education to help strengthen vibrant and stable academies able to recruit highly-qualified Seventh-day Adventist



*The only one single-person restroom is
through the kitchen,
down stairs in the basement.*

leaders and other healthcare employees to their communities. This grant is a blessing to our educational work and allows us to improve the school that has adjoining campuses with Park Ridge Health in our combined outreach.

Beginning in 1910, the primary objective of our institution was a combined educational and medical work. Just a few years after the school was started, Mountain Sanitarium began providing treatments using the "Battle Creek methods" that were soon offered in downtown Asheville as well. It was on our campus that Drs. John and Ethel Brownsburger and other Fletcher pioneers expanded the Sanitarium into Fletcher Hospital. In 1984, AHS purchased Fletcher Hospital and opened Park Ridge Health on our adjoining campuses. In a very real sense, Fletcher Academy is an heir of Adventist Health System.

The Lord has already brought to our aid several major donors willing to contribute over \$800,000 towards improving the lives of students through an improved cafeteria space. We see God working in creating sizable momentum in funding this and other major projects in our master plan for campus-wide improvements.

We still need the help of committed donors as early estimates anticipate a total cost of \$1.5 million to fully expand and renovate Whitford Hall. We are at the very beginning of this project as plans are just now beginning to be drawn up. More details will be shared as things are formalized. Our goals include creating a new building entry including two ADA compliant restrooms. We plan to renovate and expand the dining room by several hundred square feet to create additional seating capacity. We plan to add around 50% to our main level food handling and storage area to create a more efficient food processing flow. We plan to install a new commercial kitchen with state-of-the-art appliances. We also are planning major exterior building upgrades, which includes replacing the windows on all floors.

At the end of the day Fletcher Academy will again be providing all students, staff, and guests an attractive, peaceful setting in which to enjoy healthy food and fellowship. ■



*Thanks to
Alumni!*

Over Christmas break, two new ovens were purchased and installed in the cafeteria. After many years of service the previous models were not always working correctly and were in need of replacement. At the homecoming Alumni breakfast donations were given and it was voted to apply the alumni endowment income for the year to these top quality commercial baking convection ovens which circulate hot air to maintain consistent temperatures and promote faster cooking. Thank you alumni for the tasty warm food!







School of Nursing



Class of 1967



Class of 1977



Class of 1987



Class of 1992



Class of 2007



2017 Alumna of the Year Award Evelyn Nicholaides

The recipient of this year's Alumna of the Year Award decided at a very young age what she wanted to do in life. Growing up in a home with a single mother and four siblings, positioned her to get plenty of practice in the field in which she desired to work. She was attracted as a young lady to teaching. God certainly has gifted her for her chosen profession. In addition to her professional achievements she supported her teaching husband in Rwanda, Africa for six years. While there she taught 9th graders English as a 3rd Language and home schooled her children. She has taught at Captain Gilmer Christian School for over 24 years and initiated the Kindergarten/Pre-First Program 20 years ago. Her teaching style has been hands-on through the use of felts, crafts, and observing nature. Her family has noted that she always made doing the right thing seem fun.

Though teaching has been her focus, she has generously shared her time and talents in many other areas including Pathfinders, Adventurers, Children's Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School, passing out Quiet Bags to small children during church, and the Foster Kids Christmas Party. She was also the leader and original initiator of the International Food Fair, a fundraising event for Captain Gilmer Christian School. Between 1983 and 2011 she was heavily involved (36 times) in leadership roles for Vacation Bible School. She has served as the Cradle-roll Sabbath School Demonstrator for the Carolina Conference and has been a member of the Carolina Conference Pathfinder Council. Because of her focused involvement with children she has never had time to attend an Adult SS Class. She has a ready smile and positive outlook on life.

Evelyn Nicholaides is leaving a legacy that has impacted the lives of hundreds of our precious children. We are so grateful that she has allowed God to use her to educate for time and eternity. ■

Scholarships & Endowments

Thanks to our alumni family and friends who have provided over 20 scholarships in honor of someone special. Because of your generosity many current students are able to afford an Adventist education who may otherwise not be able to do so. Below are a just a few thank you notes sent to scholarship donors.

God blessed your efforts and your willing heart to help others.

You have given me and unforgettable opportunity to learn and to grow in spirit and mind. I am forever thankful all you have done.

God Bless  -Loany Martinez C.

You have been a blessing when I most needed it; words cannot express how thankful I am.

I pray the Lord may bless your entire family. I hope one day we can meet each other.

Thanks again,

Evana Vivas

Thank you so so much for the scholarship! I'm very grateful for it and my parents are very proud of me! May God bless you and shower you continually with blessings!

With much appreciation,
Aida Barralento-perez

Fletcher Academy Alumni and Friends 2017 -2018 Scholarships

Curt Watkins Leadership Scholarship

\$1,700 is awarded to students (two/year) who are planning to pursue a future in business, who give back to the community, who are positive leaders in the school, especially in Christian endeavors, exemplifying an aptitude for future Christian leadership, and who are hard workers.



Brie Boyle is a 4-year Senior at Fletcher Academy from Afton, Tennessee.



Kevin Salas is a 4-year Senior at Fletcher Academy from Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Helen M. Jackson-Gibbs Memorial Scholarship

\$500 is awarded to students (one/year) who have financial need, and are known to be passionate and creative.



Zkya Romelus is a 4-year Senior at Fletcher Academy from Greensboro, North Carolina.

Kenneth Armstrong ('62) Memorial Scholarship

\$200 is awarded to students (one/year) who have most of the responsibility for their tuition, use their leadership skills, are willing to take a risk, and face life with humor and hope.



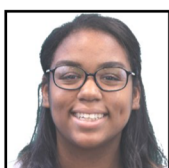
Abner Santiago is a Junior at Fletcher Academy from Rockingham, North Carolina.

Carlton & Genella Hunt Scholarship

\$500 is awarded to students (two/year) who are hard working and have shown improvement over the previous year.



Jordyn Tucker is a Sophomore at Fletcher Academy from Danville, Virginia



Tatianna West is a 4-Senior at Fletcher Academy from Hickory, North Carolina.

B. J. Kohler Memorial Scholarships

\$750 is awarded to students (four/year) who need financial assistance and are positive leaders in the school, especially in Christian endeavors, exemplifying an aptitude for future Christian leadership and are diligent in scholastics.



Tyler Edney is a Junior from Simpsonville, South Carolina.



Jonathan Cerino is a Junior at Fletcher Academy from Fletcher, North Carolina.



Ismaly Rodriguez is a Sophomore at Fletcher Academy from Summerville, South Carolina.



Reyes Miguel-Perez is a Junior at from Rogersville, Tennessee.

Gordon Brown Memorial Endowment Scholarship

\$350 is awarded to students (one/year) who are truly deserving of the gift, putting a great deal of effort into their scholastic work and who are musically inclined or are working towards a future that includes service in ministry.



Laura Gibbs is a Junior at Fletcher Academy from Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Class of 1970 Scholarship

\$325 is awarded to students (one/year) who have financial need, are good school citizens with a spiritual inclination and strong school spirit. This scholarship does not have a set GPA standard, but seeks a young person who is trying to achieve.



Sarah Velez is a Junior at Fletcher Academy from Greeneville, Tennessee

Dee Moore Memorial Scholarship

\$900 is awarded to students (one/year) who are hard workers, who strive to carry the responsibility of their own tuition, are diligent in scholastics, and have their work supervisor's recognition and recommendation as being dependable and diligent employees.



Bryce Bolek is a Junior at Fletcher Academy from Crossville, Tennessee.

Ray Hoffmann Memorial Scholarship

\$500 is awarded to students (one/year) who show leadership, are involved in the total school program, and are diligent workers in the scholastic and work areas.



Laura Strothman is a 4-year Senior at Fletcher Academy from Fletcher, North Carolina.

Class of 1963 Scholarship

\$600 is awarded to students (one/year) who have financial need, a strong work ethic, exhibit a strong community spirit, and have a minimum 2.0 GPA.



Wyatt Justus is a Sophomore at Fletcher Academy from McColl, South Carolina.

Sheri D. Coates Scholarship

\$500 is awarded to students (one/year) who have financial need.



Miya Hairston is a Sophomore at Fletcher Academy from Martinsville, Virginia.

Howard & Gwen Pendleton Memorial Scholarship

\$600 is awarded to students (two/year) who have financial need, exhibit a strong work ethic, are spiritually inclined, and have a positive influence on others.



Genesis Rivas is a 4-year Senior at Fletcher Academy from Rockingham, North Carolina.



Jordan Hawkins is a Junior at Fletcher Academy from Pfaffton, North Carolina.

Margie Brown Scholarship

\$500 is awarded to students (one/year) who are members of the Fletcher Academy Gymnastics Team, have a minimum 2.0 GPA, have exemplary conduct and attitude, and show evidence of a Christian orientation.



Abigail Cinquante is a 4-year Senior at Fletcher Academy from Nebo, North Carolina.

Kevin Hodges Memorial Scholarship

\$500 is awarded to students (two/year) who are Juniors or Seniors, have a minimum 3.5 GPA, are worthy of receiving this gift and have a desire to excel in school.



Evanna Vivas-Palacios is a Senior from Charlotte, North Carolina.



Danny Perez is a 4-Senior at Fletcher Academy from Monroe, North Carolina.

Prof Nestell Memorial Scholarship

\$400 is awarded to students (one/year) who have a strong work ethic and apply themselves academically.



Aide Barrientos-Perez is a 4-year Senior at Fletcher Academy from Indian Trail, North Carolina.

Alex & Margaret Clark Memorial Scholarship

\$300 is awarded to students (one/year) who need financial assistance and study music.



Joshua Myers is a Sophomore at Fletcher Academy from Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Anne & Andy Carey Memorial Scholarship

\$400 is awarded to students (one/year) who are outstanding workers, exhibit good citizenship qualities, and are in good standing with the school.



Dylan Johnson is a 4-year Senior at Fletcher Academy from Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Sidney Brownsberger Memorial Scholarship

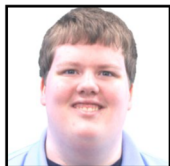
\$1000 is awarded to students (four/year) who show a desire to become involved in denominational work, have financial need, are diligent workers, and have a minimum 2.5 GPA.



Xavier Baca is a 4-year Senior at Fletcher Academy from Inman, South Carolina.



Vanessa Moreno is a Senior at Fletcher Academy from Hendersonville, North Carolina.



Hunter Doudiken is a Junior at Fletcher Academy from Roanoke, Virginia.



Loany Martinez is a Junior at Fletcher Academy from Costa Rica.

Brent Yingling Memorial Scholarship

\$600 is to be awarded to students (one/year) of proven academic excellence who participate in one of the school music groups.



Brittany Braister-Sturgis is a 4-year Senior at Fletcher Academy from Hendersonville, North Carolina.

William Clayton Hodges ('37) Memorial Scholarship

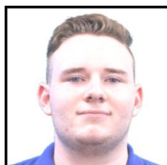
\$350 is awarded to students (one/year) who are outstanding workers, exhibit good citizenship, and are in good standing with the school.



Xavier Montgomery is a 4-year at Fletcher Academy. He lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Derrick Watkins ('78) Memorial Scholarship

\$250 is awarded students who need financial assistance and exhibit a good work ethic.



Patrick McGraw is a 4-year Senior at Fletcher Academy. He lives in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Bill Bass Mission Initiative Scholarship

\$400* is awarded to each senior student who has participated in four years of Fletcher Academy sponsored foreign mission trips.
(* awarded in spring)

"Educating for Eternity"

Scholarships are made possible by friends and alumni of Fletcher Academy for the benefit of the students at Fletcher Academy and, frequently, in memory or honor of a classmate, friend or spouse. Individuals interested in contributing towards a scholarship or starting a scholarship or an endowment should contact Arthur Gibbs (828-209-6704).

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

Bruce Kimball is Grounded in History

Our new academy history teacher comes to us with 38 years of educational experience, including teaching History, English, Band, Bible and even serving as a principal. His father was a theology student, soon-to-be pastor, who received devastating news after the startlingly early birth of Bruce. Bruce Kimball arrived into this world several weeks premature and weighing only 2 pounds and 12 ounces. Doctors gave him no chance of survival. Bruce's mom was also suffering from pre-eclampsia, formerly called toxemia, a very serious condition that could easily cause her death. Bruce's father went to the hospital chapel at Loma Linda and prayed. A peace came over him and he rose from his knees to the assurance that God would protect his wife and child. When Bruce's father first saw his son in the hospital nursery, the staff were surprised to find a little baby crying louder than thought possible for a premature baby of his age – a miracle and an answer to prayer!

Bruce grew and went on to graduate from Madison Academy and then Southern College with a major in history and secondary education. He also enjoys playing brass instruments. He has taught at several Adventist schools including over 20 years at Atlanta Adventist Academy. He comes to us most recently from Bass Academy where he met his wife Dixie. Bruce and Dixie are newlyweds, having only been married since September 2016. Dixie is also currently the girl's dean at Mt. Pisgah Academy, where Bruce also teaches economics. Bruce and his first wife were married for 33 years before she lost her fight with brain cancer. Together they had two sons who now live in Georgia and Tennessee. Dixie brought 3 daughters and a son to their marriage, so together they are blessed to have a large blended family, which includes 10 grandkids.

If you ask Bruce why he teaches, he will tell you about his "love for the kids, love



for history, and a love of stories." He especially enjoys seeing what we can learn from the Middle Ages, the American Colonial era and the Old West. Bruce has several real-life cowboys in his family tree and thinks we can gain a lot from a study of our early Adventist pioneers. How does the study of history benefit our students, you ask? "Every individual matters. Anyone, with the right motivation can literally change the world," says Mr. Kimball. We are blessed to have someone with his experience and passion here teaching. Thank you Mr. Kimball for joining the FA team! ■

Josh Wilkins is Coaching AcroKnights, Fixing Computers and more...



Starting in January, Josh Wilkins is our new full-time coach of the Fletcher Academy AcroKnights gymnastics team. Our team travels to schools throughout the South and performs acrobatic routines demonstrating principles of trust, healthy risk taking, cooperation and physical fitness. We especially enjoy being invited to perform each year at the half-time show for the NBA Charlotte Hornets.

Gymnastics has been a part of Josh's life for over 20 years. In that time, he has come to see some of the many different ways God is able to work through gymnastics for His

honor and glory. Josh says, "I am blessed to have the opportunity to coach Fletcher's AcroKnights and I pray that He will use us for His work in the years to come."

Josh grew up in the city of Leominster, Massachusetts and attended Wachusett Hill Christian school – a church school with less than 40 students. As a youth, Josh also took gymnastics lessons at a local gym down the street from his house. His dad owned a small business computer company, so naturally he grew to have a passion for technology and how things worked as well.

In his small school, his teacher once gave him an assignment that would come back to seriously impact his life. "Write about how you can use your talents for God," the teacher had said. Up to this time, Josh had never heard of a Christian gymnastics team, and his answer to that question was less than profound. That assignment stuck with him as he continued his Adventist education through Blue Mountain Academy in Pennsylvania and Southern Adventist University.

Josh would often find himself praying for God to let him know His will for his life, and how he could better use his gifts for His glory. Before he had even finished his first year at Southern, he had an answer to prayer. He felt impressed to work at an academy, both in information technology and as a gymnastics coach. Providentially Fletcher Academy had an opening this year for a person with just those talents.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Josh says, "an AcroKnights team isn't about the hype, it isn't about the applause, and it certainly isn't about showing off. A Christian gymnastics team is about using the gifts and talents that God has given us to bring people closer to Him."

We look forward to Josh joining our team and bringing his experience, coaching and technical knowledge to his new dual role. ■

Still Tumbling for Jesus

Brad Durby, Fletcher Academy Vice Principal

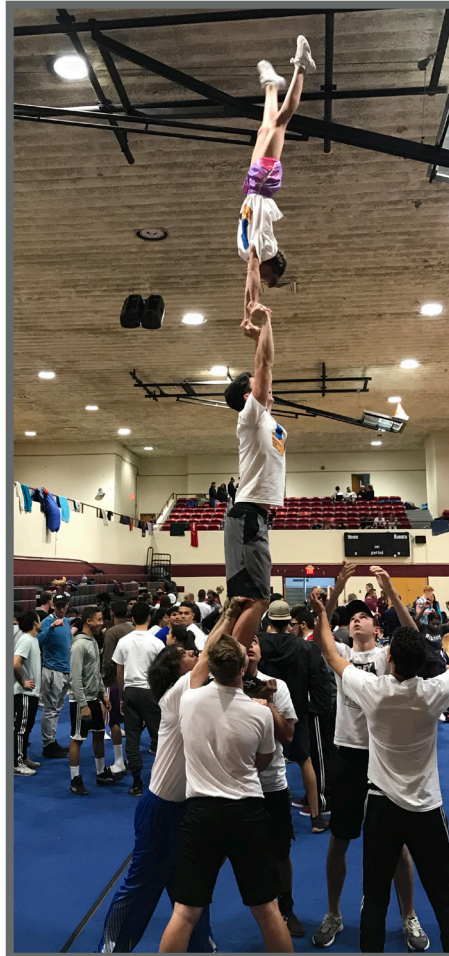
Almost 50 years ago it was simply called the "Tumbling Team." Today the AcroKnights are Fletcher Academy's main gymnastic student outreach ministry. The AcroKnights perform tumbling and acrobatic routines which demonstrate principles of trust, cooperation and physical fitness. We want our Fletcher students to have healthy exercise to positively impact their health and wellness for life. Each year they especially enjoy performing at the half-time show for the NBA Charlotte Hornets, the national Acro-Fest clinic held at various Adventist college locations across the United States, and traveling to share Christ with schools and to other groups throughout the South. Captain Gilmer Christian School also offers Mini-Knights and Junior AcroKnights which provides gymnastics classes for Kindergarten through 8th Grade after school.

A lot of popular sports today have become highly commercialized, ultra-competitive activities that science is just now beginning to learn can cause long-term brain, physical, and social health issues. Fletcher Academy has decided to encourage healthy activities that develop self-discipline and emotional control, while still protecting the Christian character of our students. We provide proper physical experiences and healthy recognition of achievement while teaching cooperation, and that success comes from a willingness to learn new things at the risk of making mistakes. Confidence doesn't just come from natural abilities, but can also come from reaching personal goals with God's strength. It is said that "if you set your goals low, you will reach them every time." Perseverance and hard work can lead to success throughout life and we challenge our student-athletes to set their goals high, and then strive to reach them.

Our Acro team is especially dedicated to enhancing and enriching the lives of young people physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially in a safe, positive, and nurturing family envi-

ronment. This is accomplished by focusing on dependence on God, respect for oneself and others, time management skills, self-discipline, strong work habits, goal-setting ability, love of exercise, and an overall sense of accomplishment in the team's endeavors. While all physical activity contains a risk of injury, safety is paramount in importance and our staff work hard to assure that the student-athletes practice and learn carefully and safely. Fletcher Academy students find different ways to share God's love with others. Some of our missionaries are disguised as gymnasts.

As coaches we gauge our success based on the level of performance that our student-athletes achieve, but even more importantly, by the level of growth emotionally and spiritually. We strive to be the best team we can be on the mats, in the classroom, and in our daily lives. ■



AcroKnights has taught me...

"It pushes you to do more than you think you're capable of. It shows that with a little courage and perseverance you can accomplish anything you set your mind to." – Alyssa Christian '18

"It has been one of the best experiences at my time at Fletcher. Not only the friends that I've made but I've learned how to be determined and dig deep to get things done and to not give up when things get hard." – Will Marshall '18

"I enjoy exercising and learning new skills, and it's a time where I can do both!" – Benjamin Olivier '18

"It challenges me to do the best that I can do. And pushes me to limits that I didn't know were possible." – Zkya Romelus '18

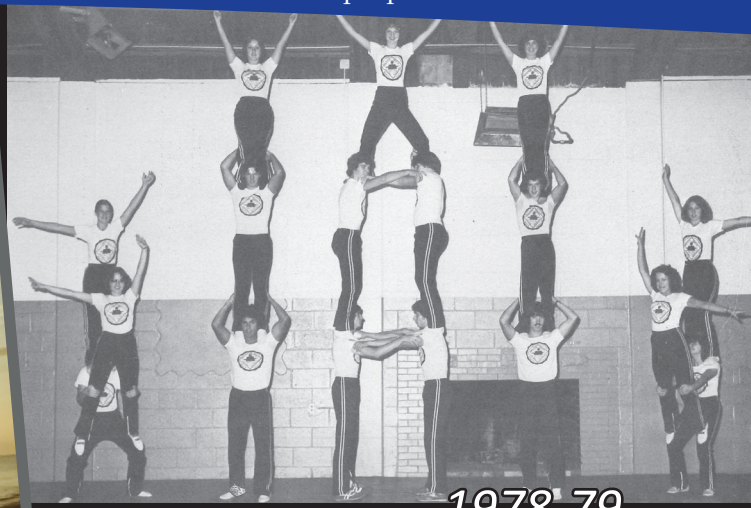
"I've learned to have more focus and I enjoy all the teamwork and being with all my amigos." – Bryce Bolek '19

"If you want to become good at something you have to fail in order to succeed." – Lexi Gillard '19

It "helps me work towards something greater, it helps me learn patience and discipline and I will use this more than most things I learn in school." – Anastasia Harris '19

"It's hard, but I come out of it feeling accomplished." – Tyler States '19

"Acro has taught me a lot about trusting my teammates, and how to conquer fear head-on!" – Emily Meadows '19



1978-79



"We came to Fletcher in 1980. My wife and I did the team together and our first year we had 19 students try out. We put all 19 on the team. After that year we always had so many try out that we would have to cut, which is always hard to do. We would pick as many as the bus would hold. We had so many wonderful times together becoming family. They are still our kids and we were blessed to be a part of it. One memory that does stick out in my mind, we were on tour and the starter on our bus was burned out so we had to push the bus and then pop the clutch in order to start it. We were on I-40 and traffic came to halt and I stalled the bus and the whole team jumped off the bus, got behind it and pushed the bus so we could start the engine again."

Don Mathis
Facility Manager
Hulsey Wellness Center
Southern Adventist University

Thank you, Fletcher
Acroknights!

THANK YOU
FLETCHER
ACROKNIGHT

When the girl did the hoola+hoop. I almost
cried, it was so beautiful. And when
I get in High School I am coming to
Fletcher Acamdey! And I will
Good job. And a



Thank you, Fletcher
Acroknights!
What an amazing show
My favorite part was
Bible charades ... ve

WOW!



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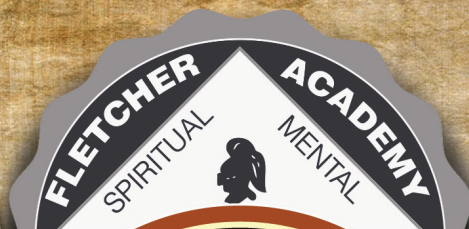
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Pioneer

Arthur W. Spalding

1877-1953

Arthur W. Spalding would be just 14 years-old when he first started working as a secretary in Graysville, Tennessee, for the first leader of what would become the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Through the greater part of the 1890's, Arthur was a resident in Battle Creek, and while attending college he was also a stenographer for the manager of the Review and Herald, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, and the president of Battle Creek College. He later became the private secretary of W. K. Kellogg, the American industrialist best known as the founder of the food manufacturing company bearing his name. You have to listen carefully and type very fast to be good at turning the spoken word into text.

Arthur Spalding also taught school in Battle Creek, and later back in Graysville. He was head of the English department of Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) from 1903 to 1906, and served as a principal at various schools across the United States.

In response to Mrs. Ellen White's appeal for people to enter the work in the Southern United States, in 1909, Arthur Spalding and his wife's family moved from Michigan to Western North Carolina with a hope to start a self-supporting school patterned after the Madison Institute near Nashville. Spalding soon began going door-to-door selling Christian literature to make ends meet. During his visits, he would also glean information about the mountain people to compile into two books. Throughout his life he was a prolific writer, authoring more than thirty volumes, as well as numerous poems, short stories, and articles. His best-known work today is the four volumes entitled "Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists."

Martha Rumbough, a lady of some means and prominence, had provided the money for the purchase of the first Adventist churches in Asheville. She was also looking for land in the area to start a

sanitarium health ministry. She soon became aware of the Spaldings' aspirations for a self-supporting school. She would offer to invest \$5,000 in founding a school once the Brownsbergers consented to also have a part in the school's administration. Sydney Brownsberger had been the president of the first Seventh-day Adventist College and had recently retired to North Carolina for health reasons. Sydney and Arthur soon agreed to work together and joined the effort to find suitable land.

While Arthur Spalding was selling literature in the Horse Shoe area, traversing the countryside on foot, he heard about 416 acres for sale: the ole' Byers plantation, an abandoned farm one mile east of Naples. He then walked to the site to see it for himself. There was not much here that would impress him: one medium-sized farmhouse (greatly in need of repair), and some old dilapidated barns with slave quarters. The topsoil had eroded, and deep clay-red gullies ribboned the area. However, the site had all the basics needed at the time for the self-supporting work: access to water, and land for both farm and forest.

Spalding reported his "discovery" to the Asheville search committee, and within a few days a delegation arrived to look things over. They were impressed with its potential as the site for a medical-educational unit. In November of 1910, Arthur Spalding would later write Mrs. White and her son and say, "we have with us now ten students ... ranging in age from 13 to 28." Sadly, differences between Spalding and Brownsberger soon surfaced, and Arthur Spalding went on to work for a time for Ellen White herself to write books about the work in the South. As early as 1919 he formed a Mission Scouts organization which would become the beginnings of Pathfinders in the Adventist church. From 1922 to 1941, he was the founder and secretary of the Home Commission of the General Conference. Arthur Spalding became a key leader in Adventist ministry for youth and children. ■



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Fletcher Academy Invites You!

Come visit us in 2018 for these great events!

April 6-7 – Creation Weekend

Come learn with our students the complex issues in the origins debate while hearing evidence supporting the Biblical young-earth creation story, presented by the Geoscience Research Institute.

April 8-9 – Academy Days

A great time for any potential students wanting to visit and learn about the Academy. Check our website to register and get more details.

April 16 – Chattanooga Alumni Event

Pizza Feed at Southern Adventist University for all FA alumni in the Chattanooga area.

April 28 – Acroknights Home Show

An exciting exhibition done by the Fletcher Academy Gym Team. You don't want to miss this!

May 12, 2018 – Spring Concert

This music extravaganza is a must see. Featuring Fletcher Academy's Band, Bells, Choir and Strings. Beautiful music for a beautiful spring evening.

May 18-20 – Graduation Weekend

Friday's Consecration – Saturday's Class Night
Saturday's Baccalaureate – Sunday's Commencement

October 5-7 – Homecoming Weekend

Everyone is invited, especially the Honor classes ending in 3 or 8, most notably: 1968, 1978, 1993, 2008.

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