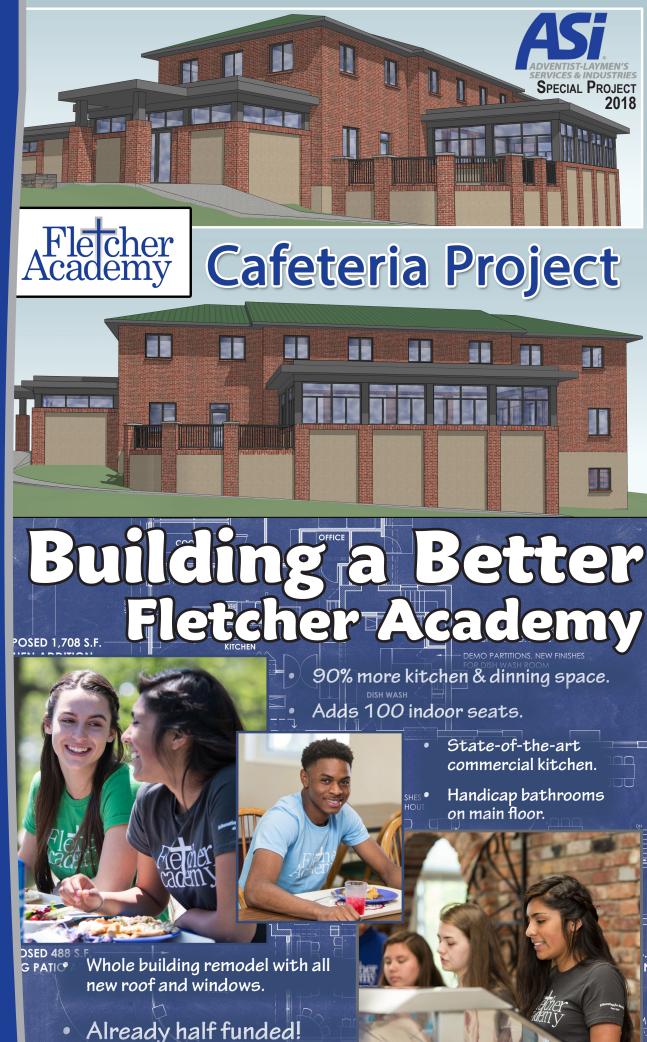
September **2018** 

# HERSDIFF





# FLETCHER Spirit

#### Alumni Officers

Shawn Collins '87, President Rosellen Brown '89, Vice President Melanie Yoon '11, Secretary Melissa Myers '91, Treasurer Stephanie Yager '82, Publicity Secretary

#### Academy Administration

Phil Wilhelm, Principal Brad Durby, Vice Principal Janet Novak, Registrar Andrew Rahm, Boy's Dean Danae Church, Girl's Dean Marcella Sampayan, Admin. Assistant Arthur Gibbs, Development & Alumni Relations

#### FAI Corporate Officers

Gary Carlson, President/CEO Stephen Learned, Treasurer/CFO Jon Smith, Corporate Secretary Phil Wilhelm, FA Principal/CAO

#### **Board of Directors**

Dale Twomley, Chairman Gary Carlson, President/CEO Ivan Blake Wendi Barber Sharon Campbell Shawn Collins Frank Costerisan Robert Hansen Mark Hyder Lynn Johnson David Kidder Don Lowe George Pendleton Stuart Yoon

You are welcome to contact us or make a donation to: Fletcher Academy PO Box 5440 Fletcher, NC 28732 828-209-6800 www.fletcheracademy.com





Tletcher Academy would not exist as it does today except for the support and prayers of our alumni and friends! Just this year alone, thanks to generous folks like you, we have made significant improvements to our campus including a new roof on the academy administration building.

Our thousands of alumni around the world serving as disciples of Jesus is a significant witness! It is a privi-

lege to be involved in something with such positive impact. To God be the glory, Fletcher Academy has become the largest independent Adventist Academy in North America and is one of the longest-running supporting ministries in the entire Adventist denomination.

I want to thank you, alumni and friends, for continuing to support the school that builds character. Thank you to Shawn Collins, alumni president, and all of our alumni officers for volunteering their time and energy in preparing each year for homecoming. And thank you to you for loving our students through ongoing financial contributions that are making a difference in the lives of our young people. Through your giving you are reaching untold numbers with the eternal gospel of Jesus Christ.

As you may have heard, I'm excited to report we are beginning construction this fall to transform Whitford Hall into a first-class academy cafeteria that will meet students' needs for many years to come. The Lord has already provided over \$900,000 in funds and we know even more of faithful alumni will now join in and help us finish this project debt-free! Adventist Health System, soon-to-be AdventHealth, has already committed to \$125,000 in matching funds! This summer ASI featured us as a special project at their national convention in Florida.

I know that you understand how important healthy food and a restful ambiance are to the well-being of a young student. Fletcher's outdated academy cafeteria facility can no longer accommodate this and something must be done. The cafeteria is literally the 'heart' of a boarding academy campus and is the place where everyone comes together multiple times a day to form lasting friendships and memories. Thank you for continuing to support your school where, together, we are building space that will help build healthy bodies, strong minds, and eternal character.

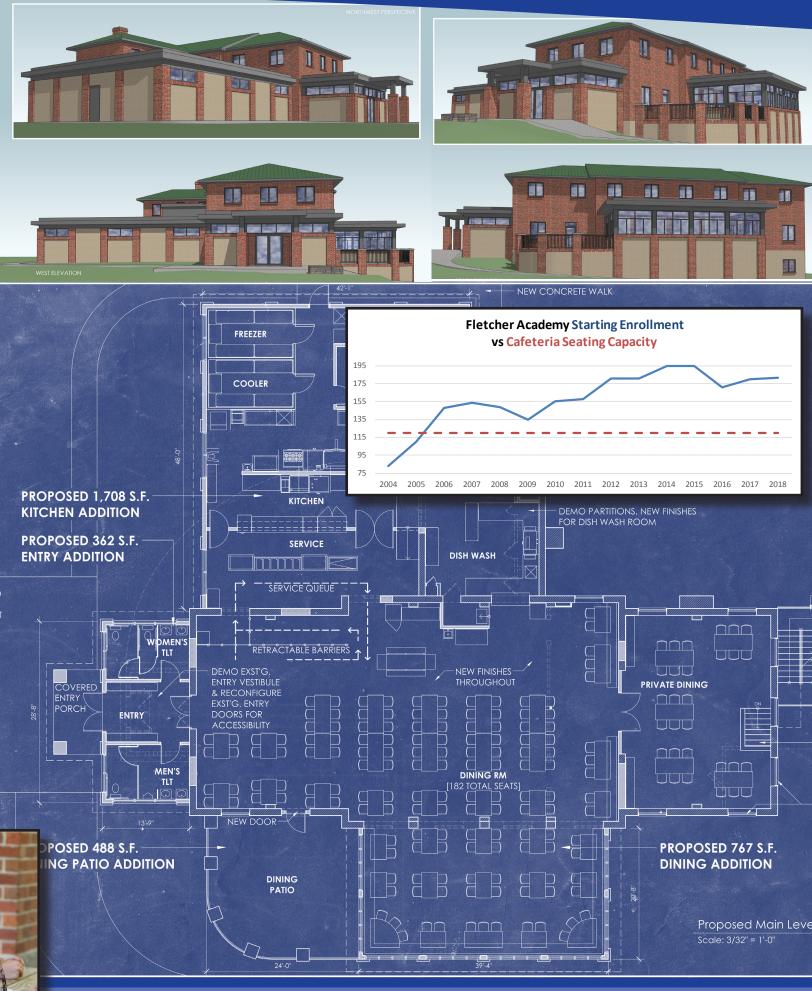
Our goal, to raise the final \$900,000 for the renovation, is achievable with the help of committed friends like you, and with God's leading and blessing. Your involvement today is so important and that's why our Board Chair, Dr. Dale Twomley and I are asking for your continued prayers and financial support.

Again, thank you for making Fletcher Academy a priority in prayer and in giving. I value your ongoing support deeply.

Sincerely,

Hays & Carlon

Gary P. Carlson, President/CEO





# Another Campus Improvement!



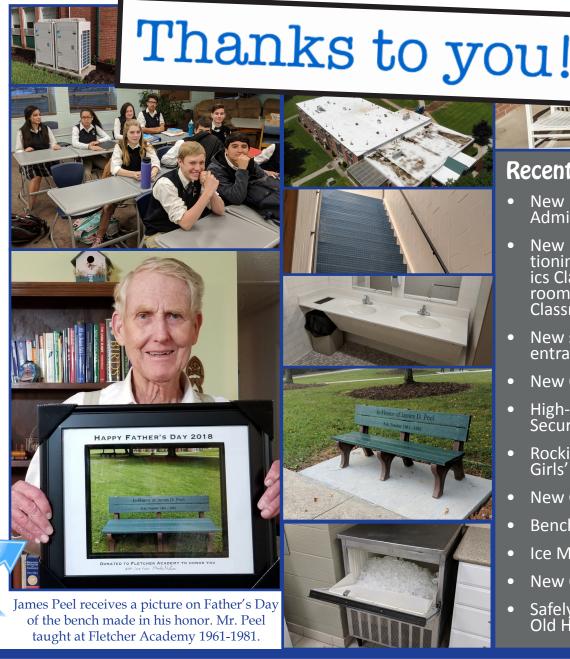
## IT'S GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME

Arthur Gibbs, Development & Alumni Relations



Too much good news to share! Our Principal and President went down again to Southern Adventist University this spring to have pizza and ice cream with our almost 200 alumni currently enrolled there! We must give all praise to Jesus for the major improvements seen on our campus through the \$1,791,369 in acknowledged gifts that happened this fiscal year! **This includes 100% in faculty and department directors giving!** Over \$200,000 was given directly by our board members. Over \$700,000 was donated through planned gifts. Over \$30,000 was given to build up our scholarship award funds. Last fall we had not one, but two, matching grants offered. Thanks to generous alumni and friends like you both grants were met. Every gift directly trans-

lates into students assistance, repairs and improvements that allows us to continue to combine Adventist Christian education and work to build Christ's character in our young people. **Thank you for making an eternal difference!** 



#### Recent Campus Upgrades

- New Roof on Academy Administration Building
- New Heating and Air-conditioning in the Life Skills/Physics Classroom, History Classroom, Computer Lab, and Art Classroom.
- New stair treads in the south entrance to the Ad building
- New Ovens for Café
- High-Resolution Security Cameras
- Rocking Chairs for Girls' Dorm
- New Girl's Bathroom Sinks
- Benches & Concrete Pads
- Ice Maker in LPC
- New Classroom Desks
- Safely Removed Old Hospital East Wing

# Honduras Absolutely Stole My Heart Sydney Fritz '20

Going on my first mission trip outside of the United States, I must say I didn't know what to expect. With the language barrier in the way, I felt nervous, thinking that would limit my impact and experience. I knew the trip I was about to go on would be an experience I couldn't miss out on, so I simply pushed those thoughts aside. As soon as we arrived at the compound, the boys came running out to us with excitement painting their smiling faces. Before I knew it, I was involved in about 3 games of landa and a huge game of soccer. Just by looking at them, I knew those boys were filled with unimaginable joy and excited about life. My fears about coming to this country melted away as I immersed myself in their games.

After I began playing with those boys, I quickly forgot about my fears concerning the language barrier and how I looked so out of place as an American. They all welcomed me as if we had been friends forever, not even caring about how I acted or looked. I quickly fell in love. To make things even better, the girls were just as sweet - if not more - than the boys! The house where the girls lived was about half a mile from where we were staying and we had the opportunity to go there for our meals. The girls showed just as much love, compassion, and energy as those boys, making me fall in love with them even more.



One of the little boys, Carlos, absolutely stole my heart. One day, he asked me to teach him some words in English. Soon, he asked me to just keep talking to him in English while

he listened. I went along with his wishes and continued speaking on in English. Soon, his face lit up with fascination as he stared in amazed wonder as I spoke English to him. This really was a touching moment, helping me realize there are many things that we take

for granted here in the States that these people consider amazing or luxurious. Whether it be English, toilet paper, meals without beans, and houses with running water, these are all examples of the many things we don't really think much of that these people could only dream of having.

Later on, I got to go with the group to two high schools, experience pulling a tooth in our traveling mini dental clinic, and paint the girls rooms with bright colors. To add on, we were able to give all the kids new mattresses, gaze upon the beautiful mountains, and give food to the people in poverty. It was all amazing, surprising, and fun in

each of their own ways. However, the biggest takeaway of the trip for me was making relationships with the kids. I felt like we really did establish strong relationships with these wonderful bundles of joy and energy. For me at least, it really felt like I had known some of these kids forever. They honestly took a piece of my heart and left me with something I could never forget.

You always hear stories about people who go on mission trips and how their lives were completely transformed afterwards. To be honest, I never felt that "complete transforming" moment during my experience. However, it certainly left a fire lighting in my heart. Leaving the kids and saying goodbye was a very hard moment for me and something I wish never had to happen. I really hope with all my heart I will be able to come back and visit them someday. Now, I have this desire to take every opportunity to minister and think about others more often rather than worry about my own selfish aspirations. I want to love others just like those children loved me, and most importantly - just like how God loved us.





# **Expedition: Honduras**

Amanda Blake '20

never thought heaven would be so hot. Or humid. Despite the high temperatures of San-

ta Barbara, Honduras, our group of 40 missionaries was not only blessed by the generous spirit of the people we came to serve, but each one of us was eternally transformed by our experiences.

Our adventure began at 3 a.m. in front of the Ad building. It was amusing to watch as my fellow students piled into the bus with their blankets and pillows. Some were quite literally jumping with joy while others struggled to simply climb into the bus. After a 3 and a half hour drive, a 3 hour flight, and another 3 hour drive across the occasionally bumpy roads of the countryside, we were there. A flood of young boys came to welcome us as we exited our rental vans. I felt immediately at home as I walked into the impressively large house where we would be sleeping, and later as we strode hungrily into the Hogar de Niños, Children's Home, for supper. I was one of the few students who had traveled to this same location last year, and returning to the Hogar brought back both fond memories of playing with kids and a feeling of spiritual restoration.

My first day was one of teaching English at the Adventist Elementary School, playing soccer, and struggling to understand a classroom of 3rd graders as they unmer-



thought cilessly stuck an infinite amount of stickould be ers on me. Other students taught English classes and played with the kids at the Adventist High School and Christian School. Our first Sabbath was certainly a highlight for me. Multiple Fletcher students took part in the church service by singing, reading scripture, praying, and telling a children's story about dog poop. After lunch we hiked with the kids to a modest but beautiful church hidden deep in the jungle-like mountains. The views were extraordinary, and I coveted the homes resting atop the mountains regardless of their poor state.

Sunday had arrived, and I was both thrilled and worried. Our first Vacation Bible School would be held that night at the Hogar, and I was in charge. Choosing to let God take care of my concerns, I focused on the day's events. A small group had already departed for the Hogar to help Dr. Yoon and Dr. VanBeukering with dentistry, but those of us remaining would be responsible for picking up trash and teaching the local Pathfinder club the First Aid honor. I will never forget the fun my group had as we sang "Staying Alive" to teach the Pathfinders how to properly perform chest compressions.

VBS was a success all week! We sang both English and Spanish songs and made unique crafts that tied in with each night's story. We read and sometimes acted out the stories of creation, Noah and the flood, Daniel and the lion's den, the crucifixion, and the glory of heaven. The children and even a few teenagers were eager to sing, learn, and play. I was blessed by their astounding joy, but I was shocked by their awe-inspiring generosity. The kids would excitedly create the crafts that I had prepared, but then, with even more enthusiasm, they would give their creations back to us as gifts.

Our Student Association decided earlier this school year to raise money for mattresses for the children staying at the Hogar de Niños. God faithfully made sure that the required amount was met, and we



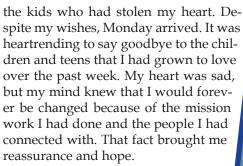
were able to give each child a new mattress. On Tuesday night we held a ceremony to commemorate the significant event. Each Fletcher student would go to a child's room, remove their old mattresses, and then put a new, clean mattress on their beds. I was heartbroken at the sometimes wretched state of the children's old mattresses, but their looks of pure joy and delight at their new beds filled me with exuberance.

We spent the rest of the week visiting schools and painting bedrooms at the Hogar. On Thursday and Friday, I had the opportunity to assist our dentists in a men's prison nearby. The experience was not what I expected it to be. Many of the prisoners were extremely kind and even comical, and both Dr. Yoon and Dr. Van-Beukering laughed with them as they extracted their teeth. I felt purposeful and content to know that my help in the prison those days not only helped relieve pain but may have changed lives.

Our second Sabbath was a day spent doing what Jesus Himself might have done on the Lord's day. We traveled in our rental vans for three hours to a village in desperate need of food. Though it was broiling outside, we walked throughout the village passing out bags of food and soap. Afterwards we held a small church service after eating plenty of fresh coconut. Observing the poverty present in that village was eye-opening for me; however, it was the act of giving that impacted me the most.

Sunday was a fun day. We traveled to Copán, an ancient Mayan city, where one group toured the ruins and another ziplined and toured a bird sanctuary. It was difficult for me to let loose and have fun knowing that tomorrow morning I would say goodbye to

"Honduras gave me a glimpse of heaven... brought me closer to Jesus."



Honduras gave me a glimpse of heaven. I have gone to this extraordinary country twice now, yet each trip has changed my character and brought me closer to Jesus. I never

expected to be blessed by children so young, nor did I expect to learn so much from their generosity and joy. Now that we have returned, I pray and hope that people will see our transformed characters, and that they too might get a glimpse of heaven.





a vay of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever...It remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything."

Jared Kay and his wife Sonia were high school sweethearts at Fletcher Academy and graduated together in 2003. While Jared's academic grades were not always impressive he says his dedication, passion and work ethics were greatly defined at Fletcher. Jared worked all over campus including in maintenance, Fletcher Park Inn, the greenhouse and the market. He was often taking pictures and videos while in

Academy and even helped with the audio visual needs at the Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist church.

Right out of college Jared and Sostarted Amplified Media, a commercial videography and photography studio when a local TV station shut down and the clientele had nowhere to go. Now their business has grown to several employees and their work can be seen in promotional marketing for Asheville NC tourism, via the Convention & Visitor Bureau, the Biltmore Estate, Asheville Regional Airport as well as throughout the entire Western North Carolina region. Jared inspires his team as he leads by example; he pushes himself every day to be the best he can possibly be, while whole-heartedly encouraging those around him to live up to their potential and aspirations. Jared Kay is friendly, easy going, and a real down-to-earth guy. However he is willing to wake up very early to start a journey out into the wilderness to get that perfectly timed shot of a sunrise. Having grown up in WNC Jared has a strong attachment and loyalty to the people, landscape and community of Asheville. Jared has always been a bit of a technology geek loving gadgets, cameras, and computers. He also enjoys mountain biking, snowboarding, and cars.

Jared has received multiple awards for his high-quality work, business success, and for being an active member of the community. "I want to portray all the amazing things that are happening," Jared says. "To capture and to share these beautiful moments and experiences through imagery is the ultimate reward." You can see more at his company's website: amplified-media.com

Next time a sunset steals your breath or a meadow of flowers leaves you speechless, remain that way. Say nothing, and listen as Heaven whispers, "Do you like it? I did it just for you."

— Max Lucado ASHEVILLE

#### Tim Browning, Band Teacher & Work Coordinator

Tim Browning comes to us from Houston, Texas, as a product of the city's prestigious High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. He also continued his music studies at Walla Walla University. For the past 13 years, he has taught private lessons, while serving as music director for several churches. He has been the director of the Men of Houston Boychoir which has earned its place representing the Houston arts community while giving concert tours across North America, throughout Europe and Asia. Mr. Browning also served seven seasons as associate director of VOX-The Rob Seible Singers, and four years on staff at At First Sight summer sight-reading workshop in Collegedale, TN. Mr. Browning's appreciation for music is well rounded, having experience with trumpet, percussion, violin, viola, piano, voice, pipe organ, harmonica, and a few other instruments along the way. As a mentor once taught him, he tries to expand his comfort zone by learning a new instrument

every few years so he always remembers what being a student feels like. Music in particular is a great way to grow in understanding of our Creator, and also to deepen relationships with each other. It helps develop sensitivity to others,



creates a habit of listening to each other, and strengthens the connection between the cognitive, linguistic, and creative parts of the brain. As a husband and father of 6, Mr. Browning is dedicated to bringing up children to love and serve the Lord. He feels music is a powerful vehicle for evangelism and he is looking forward to extending his influence for the Kingdom to include the students of Fletcher and Captain Gilmer, and all the lives that will be touched by their music while sharing the love of Christ.

# NEW STAFF, WELCOME TO FILE TICHER

#### Caleb McQuistan, FA History Teacher Kimberly McQuistan, CGCS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

Kim and Caleb McQuistan have come to Fletcher from Collegedale, Tennessee. Together, they have one dog named Mila, an only child. They enjoy the outdoors, camping and hiking together. Caleb likes to play basketball and dabbles in amateur woodworking. Kim loves gardening and watercolor painting. Caleb and Kim got to know each other while they were both serving as student missionary teachers on the island of Pohnpei in Micronesia. They both see teaching as a huge responsibility and honor. They are very excited to be here at Fletcher and would love to meet you.



#### Meredith McKenzie, CGCS Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs. McKenzie is so excited to be a part of the Captain Gilmer Christian School faculty family. And she is thrilled to be a teacher in kindergarten. She is friendly, outgoing, and talkative. She loves building a child's confidence and inspiring them to learn. She gives credit to God for the gift of teaching. She is originally from Olanta, South Carolina and she is married to Eddie, her high school sweetheart. Together they have two kiddos, Addison and Carson.

She is a Fletcher Academy alumna '99 and attended Southern Adventist University. She first received an Associates Degree in Portrait Studio Management in 2005 and then later in life she decided to pursue her love of teaching. In 2017 she received a Bachelors of Science in Early Childhood Education from Francis

Marion University. Her favorite food is anything made of chocolate or brownie sundaes. Her favorite book is "Love You Forever", the childrens' book that tells the story of the deepening relationship between a boy and his mother. She loves to vacation with her family. Her favorite flower is any flower that is given in love!

#### WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

#### Danae Church, FA Girls' Dean

Our new Head Girls' Dean enjoys traveling and missions since her grandparents were missionaries across Africa and Haiti for over 20 years and she grew up listening to their stories and the stories of her uncles who went back overseas as missionaries with their

families. Her personal ministry for young people has led her across the globe including long-term substitute teaching in Kenya; developing curriculum, teaching classes, and counseling at camp for the past ten years; and having the privilege to chaperone or lead various teen-centered trips in India, Guatemala, Belize, Kenya, through the Upper Peninsula, and down the Au Sable River. This summer she crossed the US East/West three times in her car and then crossed North/South three times clocking over 8,500 miles while visiting five National Parks. She has traveled to

39 states and 8 countries and would love to talk with you about her many adventures along the way.

With a Master of Social Work with dual emphases in "international social work" and "trauma and emergency management", her education experiences have been geared toward working with children and teens in various capacities. Although nothing fully prepares you for the adventure of deaning, she has been privileged to work with Maasai girls who have been rescued from young child marriages and with an anti-human-trafficking organization in Chattanooga. The integration of creativity, nature, and the Great Comission into education is a passion of hers as we work to challenge our young people to explore their beliefs, claim them as their own and see where God leads in their life. Over the last two years, she has been able to adventure with God into the mission field of deaning and she has been excited to grow and learn in this ministry as she has taken on the many roles that "dean" encompasses for our students.

# One Door Closes, and Another Opens

been a retail store and bakery on our campus as a service to students, faculty and the community. The store has been an integral part of "Who Fletcher Academy Is." Exactly when the store started seems uncertain. We know in 1934, Genevieve Spalding, the daughter of one of our founders, Professor A.W. Spalding, was sell baked goods, surplus produce, along with natural and vegetarian groceries. In time, it also sold ceramics, hand-crafted items, greeting cards, books, and glassware, and other novelties.

Over the years the store and bakery have been in several locations on campus and has gone by several names, including Homestead Farms and most recently Fletcher Valley Market & Bakery. Some of the most popular baked items were sprouted wheat bread and the cinnamon rolls.

Scores of students have gained valuable skills over these many years working alongside our many dedicated store employees. Most cently and over the history of FAI, recently our staff has been: Perry Pratt, Dixie Padgett, Nancy Carter, Joni Henderson, and Linda Kuist. We thank them again for their service and contribution to God's work here and wish them well in the future. So many good memories are connected to the store and bakery. Linda Kuist says, "we worked hard but we made it fun. Including the occasional dough fight."

In April our store closed its retail location as we began transitioning to a special-order business model called, "Captain's Cupboard." This allows customers to continue to purchase some of their favorite vegetarian meat alternatives and all of the proceeds goes to support the mission of Adventist Christian education at Captain Gilmer.

or many years there has This decision was made by the FAI Board of Directors after repeated years of financial losses at the store and several attempts to improve the bottom line. The store received a major renovation investment about six years ago with the belief that a new "look" and an enhanced customer experience would help to draw in customers. "Instead," reports Gary Carlson, FAI president, we have experienced declining in charge of the bakery and flow-revenues. There are many reasons er garden. It would seem early on for the decline in sales and profthere was a need to have a place to itability which include location, store size, increasing natural foods competition, changes in supplier policies, and an overall diminishing demand for FAI's primary product line of meat alternatives. In short, we are not a destination business for a family's grocery needs."

> Principal Phil Wilhelm says, "we want to assure you that Fletcher Academy Incorporated remains a stable corporation dedicated to its educational mission."

> "As difficult as these decisions are we believe they are the best decisions for the overall financial health of FAI," says Gary Carlson, "As I see how God has led, both reand as I look to the future, I am very encouraged. God continues to bless FAI."













# Unexpected Encouragement Phil Wilhelm, FA Principal/CAO

walked into the main bathroom a few weeks ago and found this on the mirror. 11 of the most encouraging notes all neatly stuck for all to read. I was impressed to take a picture.

If that wasn't enough, today a staff member's wife showed me a picture of the girls restroom and it had similar encouraging notes on the mirror. She was touched and wanted to share. I don't know who is responsible for these notes, but they sure are encouraging and much appreciated. I know Jesus is touching hearts on this campus and I was reminded how fortunate I am to be working in such a warm environment. Thank you, Fletcher Academy mystery person, for showing us all what Matthew 6:1 is all about.



# Fletcher Academy Music



At graduation
Southern Adventist
University awarded
Fletcher Academy
graduates nearly
\$1 million in
scholarships.

Total scholarships from all colleges was over \$4 million!

Adventist education is a good investment!

GRADUATION

CLASS OF 2018







# Servant Leadership Jon Smith, FAI Corporate Secretary

bath of a new school finds Fletcher Academy students loading up

on school busses for a trip into the mountains. The day is spent enjoying Bible Study, Worship, good food, and hiking or hanging out in the beautiful atmosphere of the Western North Carolina Mountains.

But this "high" event for the students presents a challenge for one of the businesses on the Fletcher Academy campus. The Fletcher Park Inn Retirement Center relies heavily on student labor to provide food service and other amenities to its residents. In order for the students who normally work in the food service area to spend the day in the mountains, outside help has to be recruited to replace them. And this is where we get a glimpse of servant leadership in action.

first Sab- This year, as they have for the past several years, Fletcher Academy, Inc. year CEO/President Gary Carlson and his wife Jan teamed up with Blake Beerbower (FAI Employee) and his wife Diane (Park Ridge Health Employee) to serve food and provide clean-up in place of the students. They were joined by Fletcher Academy's new Band Director/Work Coordinator, Tim Browning, and his family. Everyone who filled in for the students had a very enjoyable experience as they served and interacted with the FPI residents. Their payment was getting to eat some of the delicious food they had served and the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts allowed some of the Academy students to be with their friends during a special event at the beginning of the school year.

> Fletcher Academy is privileged to have leadership and staff who emulate Christ as they support the work of educating young people for eternity.



# Special End-Year Tradition

t the end of the school year, after graduation, after all the students have gone home for the summer, the faculty meet in post-session meetings to review the year. School policy details are examined and improvements are discussed for the future. Excellent schools are not produced by accident, but through prayer, hard work, and dedication to our God-given mission. Only with God's blessing and with renewed purpose, effective plans for improvement, and innovative practices, will Fletcher Academy continue to thrive in these last days of earth's history.

For the last agenda item, on the last day, all the faculty walk up to Heritage Hall and take a moment to reflect on the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history. The teachers offer a special prayer for every student that has ever been on our campus. Then the current completed yearbook is placed on a special shelf containing all the past yearbooks - one year closer to the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.





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 means being a valued part of a corporate family. Visit today our Human Resources page at: www.fletcheracademy.com/careers



### "In the Garden with Him"

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2018

10:00 am Annual Alumni Golf Classic Tournament Sign-up at: www.fletcheracademy.com/alumni/golf 5:00 pm Register at the Lelia Patterson Center

6:00 pm Delicious Supper Reception

7:30 pm Vespers by the 10 Year Honor Class - 2008

#### SABBATH, OCTOBER 6, 2018

8:15 am Prayer Breakfast

9:30 am Sabbath School by the 25 Year Honor Class - 1993 10:45 am Worship Service by the 50 Year Honor Class-1968

12:30 pm Class Photos and Fellowship Potluck Dinner (Local alumni please bring a favorite dish to share)

2:00 pm Nursing Alumni & Honor Class Reunions

3:00 pm Fletcher Academy Music Concert

4:30 pm Heritage Hall & Admin. Building Self-guided Tours 6:30 pm Candlelight Chapel Vespers by 40 Year Class-1978

8:00 pm Traditional Alumni Games: Football, Basketball

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2018

9:00 am Alumni Breakfast and Business Meeting

#### **HONOR CLASSES**

**1943**, **1948**, 1953, **1958**, 1963, **1968**, 1973, **1978**, 1983, 1988, **1993**, 1998, 2003, **2008**, 2013

