

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Unplug

Could your family survive a media fast?

Plus: Should your church be talking about sex?

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Unplugged!

Vicki Redden and Beth Michaels

With three teenagers still living in their West Virginia home, it's no surprise the Brostroms rely heavily on media. Could they "survive" a week without it? We asked them to find out.

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ON THE WEB

FAMILY CHRONICLES

Our featured family, the Brostroms, experienced a number of emotions and challenges during their week sans media. Parents Barbara and Bob



tracked their thoughts and discoveries along the way and hope you'll revel in their revelations. Peruse their diaries at columbiaunionvisitor.com/diaries.

SOCIAL SABBATH?

Are you on social media during the Sabbath? Share your why or why not on facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor and on Twitter at @visitornews.

SOURCES FOR SEX-TALK

Parents have a tough but very important job of helping their kids develop a healthy view and understanding of sex. But, bringing up "the birds and the bees" may not come easy for some. Not to worry—there are books for that. Get our list at columbiaunionvisitor.com/sexresources.



BLEND IT BETTER

D.E. Mangum, a member of Allegheny East Conference's Bladensburg (Md.) church, has a resource that might help the growing number of blended families

in the church. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/blendedfamilies to read our interview with him about his new book, *Blending to Make It: Ingredients for a Successful Blended Family*.

CROONIN' KIDS

Capture a video of church kids singing and share it on facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor. You could win an MP3 download from Chapel Music.

About the Cover: Jennifer Gustines photographed Eliana and Julianna Brostrom in Charles Town, W.Va.

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Plugging Kids Into Mission

Whether we're parents or church leaders, many of us have great concern regarding the excessive online use of our youth.

And, we have reason to be concerned. Solomon said, "For everything, there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven," (Eccl. 3:1, NLT). God offers the gift of time to everyone, and He expects us to use it in His mission for the church. In *Christ's Object Lessons*, Ellen White also said, "Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time" (p. 342).

We also need to accept that we live in a tech world, and technology is an essential part of our youths' lives. That's a fact. Period. The youth will use their gadgets. They will connect through social media. They will surf the Internet daily. They will check their Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts. Our goal shouldn't be to stop them because we won't totally succeed and we will get frustrated. Instead, our goal should be to teach them to use their online time in a way that will glorify God and bring the lost closer to Him.



NEW METHODS OF EVANGELISM

I believe our kids want to be involved in the church. They love Jesus and want to share Him with others, but we can't ignore the fact that the methods they use for sharing the gospel are different. I have found it hard to convince the youth to take time to distribute flyers or invite people to church. It is easier to train them to be involved in sharing the good news on their Facebook walls, through a picture, Bible verse or quote to proclaim the Lord's salvation with their thousands of virtual friends.



If you are getting frustrated by your youth spending time on the Internet, don't be. Take advantage of it. Ask them to help create videos, edit event promotions, share events on their wall, be in charge of the media department or make PowerPoint presentations. I'm sure they will have time for that.

I have two teenage daughters who are as connected as other teens. They know how to handle computer programs that I have no idea how to work. They love editing pictures and making videos on iMovie for YouTube. I cannot forbid them from being connected. That is part of their life. But, I can teach them how to use their online time to exalt God's name. One of my daughters now has an anti-bullying Facebook page, and another one has a page for girls on self-esteem. That's how they serve the Lord!

Teaching our youth to unplug (at least from time to time) and enjoy the real world is important, but involving them in Jesus' mission should be our real goal.

Paulo Macena is the Youth Ministries and communication director for the New Jersey Conference.

Newsline

WHAT DID YOU GAIN FROM ATTENDING THE INTERNATIONAL ASI CONVENTION?

Approximately 150 Columbia Union members traveled to Grand Rapids, Mich., last month to attend the annual international Adventist Laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) convention themed "Lift Him Up." Here are three responses:



ASI meetings always inspire me to hear how God is using dedicated lay people in ministry. This year it thrilled my heart as the leaders of Adventist World Radio shared with me some confidential stories of miraculous openings among Muslim leaders, especially in deeply Muslim countries, for the Adventist message. Some said angels have appeared to them and directed them to seek out the "people of the Book."—*Ray Hartwell is the Pennsylvania Conference president*



It was amazing to see how much good ASI has been doing and continues to do. It was nice to meet others from all over the world and to hear how God is using everyone in different ways to serve His purpose. To be able to share our blessings, obstacles and experiences with each other was both comforting and encouraging.—*Shalini David co-founded the nonprofit Chrystalis (chrystalis.org) and is a member of Potomac Conference's Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md.*



A lot of people grow up in the church, and they know that God has given us important truths as a denomination, but they wonder if their walk with Christ in the church really makes a difference. ASI offers Adventists a resounding, "Yes!" It was really encouraging to be with other Adventists who are really "all in" for the mission, and to share that passion with each other and with the youth that were there.—*Emanuel Pelote is the Columbia Union ASI president*

\$1,253,183

Amount of money Adventist business owners donated during the international ASI convention, which will provide financial support to 38 selected ministries around the world



PHOTO BY JENEAN JOHNSON

46,000 ATTEND INTERNATIONAL CAMPOREE

Frankie Paypa, a member of the Patterson Redeemers Pathfinder Club from Potomac Conference's Patterson Avenue church in Richmond, Va., performs a spirited medley of hymns on her violin at the "Forever Faithful" International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis. Read more about the camporee in the October *Visitor*.

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NAMES NEW COO

John Sackett, president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Md., since April 2013, recently added executive vice president and chief operating officer of Adventist HealthCare (AHC) to his responsibilities. As a result, Sackett oversees Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland, Adventist Behavioral Health and Adventist Home Care Services.



"John's years of experience as a healthcare leader and a team builder will help Adventist HealthCare and its entities provide even better coordinated care for our patients," says Terry Forde, AHC president and CEO.—*AHC staff*

Kermit Netteburg—Pastor, Teacher, Author—Retires

It was a hot day this past summer at Potomac Conference Camp Meeting. Kermit Netteburg, senior pastor of Potomac’s Beltsville (Md.) church, was overseeing the production team. After two grueling days of work, he announced to the team of about 15, “We’re all going to a staff meeting at the ice cream shop!” Soon after they arrived at the shop, Netteburg declared rounds of ice cream were on him!

“It’s fun to work for him,” says Will Johns, Beltsville’s associate pastor. “He’s always aware of the human side. ... He wants people to work hard but to enjoy themselves and have fun doing it, and he creates those opportunities for that to happen.”

Unfortunately, no one else will experience the joy of working for Netteburg because, after 47 years of church-employed ministry, he recently retired.

A MEMORABLE CAREER

Born in California but raised in Minnesota, Netteburg’s first employment was as an English teacher at Campion Academy (Col.). Later he became the business manager for Oak Park Academy (Iowa). Soon afterward he received his PhD from the University of Minnesota before teaching communication, journalism and public relations at Andrews University (Mich.).

Netteburg also worked for the Columbia Union Conference as communication director and *Visitor* editor,

and was assistant to the North American Division president for communication. He left administrative work to serve as a pastor at the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., before finishing his career at Beltsville.

Under Netteburg’s leadership, Beltsville’s attendance doubled to about 600 diverse people from around the world. “I think they will remember his grace-centered and Christ-centered preaching and his ability to create a culture that celebrates and treasures diversity in nationality and in thought,” says Johns.

When asked why he became a pastor, Netteburg says, “It is something that brought me incredible joy. I love being connected with people ... particularly about helping them grow spiritually and gain a sense of purpose and mission.”

A WIDE IMPACT

Netteburg’s impact has been far and wide. Maryland Sen. James Rosapepe and Councilwoman Mary Lehman attended his recent farewell ceremony at the Beltsville church. They paid tribute to Netteburg for using his political connections to garner support in founding the Beltsville Adventist Community Services Center in 2012, which has become a vital resource.

Dave Weigley, union president, has been acquainted with Netteburg for more than three decades and says of his ministry, “He’s creative in trying to express the gospel in



5 Netteburg Fun Facts



■ He likes to restore old furniture.



■ His undergraduate degree is in business administration and mathematics.



■ His dissertation was argued before the Supreme Court and used as evidence for both sides.



■ He has published at least 100 articles for the church and mainstream media.



■ Andrews University honored him multiple times with The President’s Award for Scholarly Publishing.

relevant terms. ... I think he follows his convictions in a way that’s admirable. There’s a real fire in Kermit’s belly for preaching and sharing the gospel.”

Bill Miller, Potomac president, adds, “I fully appreciate Kermit’s energy and how he builds relationships in ministry. Beltsville church has flourished under his spiritual leadership. I appreciate his experience and the insights he shares.”

Now that he’s retired, Netteburg can be found at home with his wife in Silver Spring, Md. He says he is ready for a change and will take six months to listen to what God wants him to do next.



Netteburg Clan: Charity, Ronnalee, Kristin, Kermit and Olen

PHOTOS BY A. KIIZA



FOTOGRAFÍA DE BRYANT TAYLOR

PROVISIONES PARA LOS CONQUISTADORES

Jayleen Peña y Nicole Trigura desempacan comestibles para su club de Conquistadores Angels Israel, de la iglesia Englewood Spanish, New Jersey Conference, en preparación para el camporí internacional de Conquistadores “Forever Faithful” en Oshkosh, Wis. Lea más acerca del camporí en el número de octubre de *Visitor*.

OHIO NOMBRA A UN COORDINADOR PARA EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

El comité ejecutivo de Ohio Conference recientemente nombró a Pedro Simpson, D.Min., como el coordinador para el ministerio hispano.



Simpson ha sido pastor de distrito en tres iglesias hispanas en el área de Cleveland desde el 2012.

“Los hispanos ya no son el futuro...Somos el presente, no solo en Ohio

Conference, ¡sino en el reino de Dios!”, dice Simpson.

Simpson reemplaza a Oswaldo Magaña, quien fue elegido como secretario de la asociación a principios de este año.

110 ASISTEN AL FESTIVAL DE JÓVENES EN OHIO

Más de 110 jóvenes de Ohio Conference se concentraron en Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center en Danville este verano para

celebrar el segundo festival juvenil anual bajo el lema “Somos la luz del mundo”. El festival es parte de un campamento juvenil hispano para jóvenes entre 14 y 35 años de edad. Los cuatro distritos hispanos estuvieron presentes: Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton-Hamilton y Findlay-Wauseon. Durante el fin de semana, los jóvenes se desafiaron unos a otros en seis áreas: predicación, escenas dramatizadas de la Biblia, versículos de memoria de la matutina, un concurso bíblico, y servicio a la comunidad.

“Me gustó que pudimos aprender acerca de los inicios de nuestra



FOTOGRAFÍA DE OLANY MAGAÑA

Grupos de jóvenes de cuatro distritos hispanos se concentraron para competir en el festival juvenil de Ohio.

iglesia. ...Ahora, individualmente, podemos difundir la luz a los demás sin temor de lo que pueda ocurrir”, dice Gabriela Acevedo de la iglesia Dayton Central Spanish. Lea más en inglés en la página 28.—Heidi Shoemaker

EL CAMPESTRE DE POTOMAC PRODUCE PLANTACIONES DE IGLESIAS

El campestre hispano de Potomac Conference—recientemente celebrado en Woodbridge, Va.—resultó en dos plantaciones de iglesia en Virginia: una en Merrifield, y otra en Landmark. Las iglesias locales realizaron más de 35 series de evangelismo antes del evento con la esperanza de que todos los visitantes asistieran al campestre, al igual que los que estaban listos para el bautismo. Más de 2,200 personas y por lo menos 12 miembros de cada grupo asistieron.

Carlo Durán, líder del grupo establecido en Chesterfield en el 2013, dice que es una bendición ver a miembros y a la asociación apoyar y abrir nuevas congregaciones. “Desde el campestre del año pasado, Dios nos ha bendecido con 12 miembros nuevos”, nos informa él.

Durán comenta que los miembros de Potomac esperan estar presentes en todas las comunidades con 20,000 personas o más para el 2020. Lea más en inglés en la página 32.

—Tiffany Doss

CAMPESTRE HISPANO DE CHESAPEAKE SE ENFOCA EN JESÚS

Bajo el lema “Jesús, Nuestra Identidad”, cientos se congregaron

recientemente en Highland View Academy, Hagerstown, Md., para el campestre anual hispano de Chesapeake Conference. El fin de semana abundó con bendiciones por medio de mensajes y música de inspiración, oración con enfoque, programas para los niños y una ceremonia de graduación de la Escuela de Teología para el Discipulado. Para ver los sermones en línea, visite ccosda.org y elija “Campestre en Vivo” bajo Quick Links.



Abner De Los Santos, vicepresidente de la División Interamericana, da un discurso de apertura en el campestre hispano de Chesapeake.

¿QUÉ BENEFICIO OBTUVO DE LA CONVENCION INTERNACIONAL ASI?

Aproximadamente 150 miembros de Columbia Union viajaron a Grand Rapids, Mich., el mes pasado para asistir a la convención anual internacional de Adventist Laymen's Services & Industries [servicios e industrias de laicos adventistas] bajo el lema “Lift Him Up” [Exaltadle]. A continuación una respuesta:

Este fue mi primer año de participación en ASI. [El evangelista] Mark Finley habló el Sábado por la mañana, y hacia el final compartió un mensaje que siento debo compartir: “Cuando el ministerio de otra persona tiene más éxito que el tuyo, ¿se goza por sus éxitos? ¿Siente que como familia adventista somos un equipo?”. Eso resume lo que siento. Debemos recordar que somos uno—un equipo con un mismo blanco. Una vez aceptemos esto, nuestro propósito llega a ser más poderoso.—Eduardo González es el fundador de Scene Alive (scenealive.com) en Washington, D.C., y miembro de la iglesia Reaching Hearts International de Allegheny East Conference en Spencerville, Md.



\$1,253,183

La cantidad de dinero que los propietarios adventistas donan durante la convención internacional

ASI, lo cual proporciona apoyo financiero a 38 ministerios en el mundo.

ARTÍCULO ESPECIAL DE VISITOR: ¡Desenchufado!

Bob y Barbara Brostrom, miembros de la iglesia Williamsport (Md.) de Chesapeake Conference, tienen siete hijos, incluyendo tres adolescentes que viven aún con ellos en su hogar en West Virginia. No ha de sorprendernos que los medios visuales juegan un papel importante en sus vidas. Cuando anunciaron que la familia ayunaría de los medios audio visuales por una semana—sin TV, internet, medios sociales, juegos de vídeos, textos, y aún llamadas innecesarias—esta fue la reacción que recibieron: “No hablan en serio, ¿no? ¿Quieres que hagamos *qué*? Pero mamáaaaa! ¿Una semana completa? ¡Eso es imposible!”.

Esto no le sorprendió a Barbara. De hecho, predijo que “uno aceptaría más o menos dispuesto, otro se quejaría un poco, y uno protestaría ruidosamente”.

Después de unos días, sin embargo, los tres adolescentes comenzaron a darse cuenta que tenían más tiempo para la adoración y la oración. También confesaron que comenzaron a darse cuenta que menos tiempo frente a la pantalla era beneficioso, ya que estaban menos distraídos. “Esperaba que el ayuno fuera difícil, y lo fue, pero pude pasar más tiempo con mi familia”, dice Julie. Aún Bob y Bárbara vieron beneficios sorprendentes. Hacia el final de la semana, Bárbara anotó en su diario: *Mi vida de oración se ha recargado indudablemente. Sobre todo, estoy muy contenta que aceptamos el desafío de este ayuno de los medios.* Lea más en inglés en la página 10.—Vicki Redden y Beth Michaels



FOTOGRAFÍA DE JENNIFER GUSTINES

When it Comes to Talking About Sex, Should the Church Lead the Conversation?

Are you sexually satisfied or thirsty? That's the frank question Paul Graham, pastor of Potomac Conference's Restoration Praise Center in Lanham, Md., asked earlier this year through Bible Boot Camp Unplugged, an online program on Blogtalkradio. Callers and panelists ended up discussing everything from married couples working with licensed sex therapists, to engaged couples being upfront about their physical desires in hopes

of having happy marriages.

"I think there should be more seminars [like this] given," Graham said during the broadcast. "Too many things are not expressed."

He's referring to the fact that, until more recently, few Seventh-day Adventist congregations have engaged in meaningful discussions about sex. His show clearly filled a need. More than 300 people tuned in for the live broadcast, and he says he still gets encouraging calls from people who have listened to the rebroadcast.

BREAKING TABOO

Celeste Holbrook, PhD, a sexual health educator and mentor who attends Ohio Conference's Worthington church, is another Seventh-day Adventist who would like to see churches create an environment where people can discuss sexual issues and get referrals when necessary. "The conversation is happening whether the church is having it or someone else is having it," she notes.

The topic of sex certainly dominates American culture, and opinions on the subject are prevalently conveyed through advertising, television programming and all forms of media. "In almost every ad you see, there are implications of sex, and I think the message portrayed is that if you're not doing A, B or C, there's something wrong with you," she says. "I think the church has an opportunity to say, 'No, you're perfectly normal.'"

Graham agrees and adds, "Because sex is a gift from God and is used for worship in the right context, the devil always takes something good and destroys it. We have

allowed the world to take it from us," he says. "[Sex] is a trusted gift that God gives us, and He expects us to be responsible with it."

Holbrook, who deals with "inspired intimacy" on her website drcelsteholbrook.com, says married couples often face challenges that manifest themselves in the bedroom. She says troubles arise when expectations aren't met or even clearly communicated. Through a private practice, she coaches couples on how to improve intimacy, raise sexually healthy children and other issues, in part, because people feel uncomfortable addressing such needs through the church.

"We don't really know how to talk about it because we haven't made a platform for it," Holbrook says. "I think it's a missed opportunity."

Mike Speegle, senior pastor of Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md., says it doesn't help that "most people come from homes where sex was never talked about, or it was talked about one time, instead of being an ongoing conversation." He adds, "We're either afraid to talk about it or it's don't, don't, don't, don't, don't."

SINGLES AND INTIMACY

Married adults aren't the only ones affected by the lack of conversation. So are singles and young adults. Graham says he decided to address sex on his online show after a six-month stint volunteering at an Adventist academy, where he came to the conclusion that the needs of young people aren't being adequately addressed. He also noted how much this age group discusses sex and other hot topics via social media.



Discussing “the Birds and the Bees”

Our experts offer pointers to parents on how to broach the subject with young people:

- Most parents wait too long to talk about it with their kids. Start early with the simple mechanics of sex, just like you would explain how flowers grow or how recycling works. Feel free to be brief but accurate the first time.
- Help your children realize that private body parts are powerful parts that are a symbol of God’s power.
- Don’t just have “the talk.” Make it a continuing conversation. Open dialogue helps make sure you are part of the process of setting up healthy boundaries.
- Discussing healthy sexuality and consequences gives young people a realistic view of sex and can help them make better, healthy decisions. This also reduces the chances of promiscuity.
- Confirm that what they are feeling is not only natural, but God-given.
- Help young people understand that a premarital sexual history will follow them and complicate life.
- Let young people know that it is more important to develop character and personal values than buy into the myth that the right person will “complete” them.



Speegle has addressed sexual issues with both the married and single members of his congregation. For the singles, he recently hosted a sermon series titled “Love, Lust, Dating and Relating.” “Our approach is that we’re not here to condemn you. We want you to know what Jesus said and follow what Jesus said,” he explains. “It’s not to take away your fun, but to increase your joy and happiness.”

Speegle says the singles talked about lust, the way the culture views women and even dealt briefly with pornography. “The Bible is very silent on the whole subject of sex,” he says. “It gives us warnings, but the one thing it’s very clear about is that sex outside of a marriage relationship is different from other sins. Physical sin affects us differently.”

SPREAD THE RESOURCES

Although many churches may not be talking about sex, Claudio Consuegra, director for Family Ministries for the North American Division, says his department provides a host of materials that address marriage, remarriage, sexual relations, parenting and other topics. Many of them can be found at adventistfamilyministries.com.

Consuegra can’t say for sure why the information isn’t better reaching the pews. “We provide pastors with training in a marriage preparation program called Prepare-Enrich, which includes the discussion about how and when to handle sexuality within the bounds of marriage—not before and certainly not outside of marriage,” he says. “The role of the church is to provide training and resources for the parents in the

church so they can be their children’s disciple-makers.”

He suggests that members who don’t believe sex is being addressed at their church enough—or at all—should get involved and assist their pastors in dealing with the issues. “Don’t expect your pastor to be everything to everyone,” Consuegra warns. “You can be your pastor’s helper in this area of ministry—to the parents and to the families in your church and community.”

How My Marriage Survived My Pornography Addiction

Randy Osi walked into his neighborhood store and bought his first pornographic magazine when he was 8 years old. That started the former Washington Adventist University student on a 30-year addiction to pornography that followed him all the way through his adult life and into his marriage.

“The best day of my life and the worst day of my life was my honeymoon because it was important for me to be pure for my wife,” Osi says. “It’s very rare for a pastor to bring (sex) up in marriage counseling. When I was growing up in the church, it was a taboo subject.”

Read more of Randy’s story at columbiaunionvisitor.com.

UNPLUGGED!

By Vicki Redden & Beth Michaels

Bob and Barbara Brostrom, members of Chesapeake Conference's Williamsport (Md.) church, have seven kids, including three teenagers that still live in their West Virginia home. It's no shock that media plays an important role in their lives. Could they "survive" an entire week without it—no TV, Internet, social media, video games, texts, even unnecessary phone calls? We asked them to find out.

"You can't be serious. You want us to do *what?*! But, Moom! A whole week?! That's *impossible!*"

That was the response Bob and Barbara got from their kids when they announced the family media fast. It didn't surprise Barbara. As a matter of fact, she predicted that "one would go along more or less willingly, one would fuss a bit and one would squawk loudly." She says, "I knew they were spending too much time online, but I dreaded telling them about it."

Bob says two words came to mind: hard sell.

"I was almost certain Barbara and I would face full-blown mutiny from the three kids," he chuckles. "When they instead gave grudging acceptance, it felt—by comparison—like an enthusiastic embrace."

On the second day, Barbara says the squawker was still proclaiming the absurdity of the whole project: "I'm falling behind in tweets. I'll *never* catch up with my friends!" She says, "We've been struggling to control the amount of time our kids spend with media. This told me the Internet addiction was more advanced than we'd thought and that this unplugging thing was definitely the right way to go."

HELPFUL—TO A FAULT

The Brostroms are far from unique in their media use. People in most developed countries are exposed to media all day long. After all, since the dawn of the digital age, there is 24-hour television, the Internet, gaming and e-books, and round-the-clock access to email and social networking through smartphones. Millions also now do online banking and can purchase anything from groceries to car tires from the comfort of home.

All of these things are helpful to a point, but many experts say the benefits stop when the time we commit to technology becomes excessive. And, far too many of us have crossed that line. According to some sources, Americans aged 18-64 spend an average of 3.2 hours a day on social media¹, and students aged 18-24 send an average of 109.5 text messages daily and check their phones an average of 60 times a day.²

"Our family is heavily involved in music, so there's a strong pull to connect with others online who enjoy certain performers and styles," shares Barbara. "Our 18-year-old son, Troy, enjoys spending time on Omegle, playing and singing his music for others and getting feedback from them. Julianna, 15, is a budding vocalist who follows artists like the Gaither Vocal Band and Hunter Hayes via Twitter, as well as developing online friendships with other teen girls who enjoy the same music. Eliana, 14, enjoys chatting with several of her girlfriends from church. Between the texting, tweeting, snapchat and video games, we had begun to feel the hours our kids spent with media were a little excessive."

Mali Mann, MD, adjunct clinical assistant and professor of psychiatry and behavioral science at Stanford University's School of Medicine reports that children with substantial media exposure begin to show behavior patterns similar to addiction. "Their brains get used to too much auditory and visual stimulation, and in the absence of these stimulations, they do not know what to do with themselves," she wrote in an online article.³ "They get anxious, restless, bored and aggressive."

The Brostrom teens all reported similar feelings when faced with a week away from screen time. Troy and Eliana say they "hated the idea of it" and Julianna, quite frankly, tried to find a way out of it. Considering seven days disconnected from "everything" filled them with dread.

MEDIA TRANSFORMATION

As the week drew on, the Brostroms couldn't help but notice some fluxes in their attitudes. "On Sunday, the first day of the fast, I came home from work and heard, as usual, music coming from Julianna's room," says Bob. "I thought, 'Well, that didn't last long!' As I ... approached her closed door, I realized that the music

was not from a recording; she was playing her guitar and singing a beautiful song!" He later caught her practicing her violin, something she hadn't done in a long time.

He also found Troy reading a book ... with headphones on. "The expression on my face told him I was sure I had caught him breaking the fast," says Bob. "Turns out he was listening to a recording of the book he was reading for school."

All three teens started to notice they had more time for worship and prayer. They also admitted they started to see where less screen time was beneficial, as they were less distracted. "I expected the fast to be difficult, and it was, but I was able to spend a lot more time with my family," says Julianna.

Bob and Barbara knew the fast would be good for the kids. What they didn't expect were their own reactions. "I spent the first day in my car running errands for hours. Without music. Without radio talk shows or news. Without anything," recalls Barbara. "As I went from bank to grocery store to library ... the car seemed so stiflingly quiet, and I was antsy and bored. Over and over, I'd find myself reaching for the stereo."

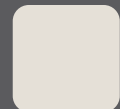
Brostrom Bunch: Julianna, Glenn, Eliana, James, Barbara, Bob, David and Troy (not pictured, Jeff)



The Brostroms' Ideas for an Unplugged Week

The family says they learned to choose activities that require interaction and cooperation toward a common goal, like these:

- Family game night
- Mini hikes in the neighborhood
- A musical jam session
- A cookout or campfire in the backyard
- Evening story time
- An evening by candlelight
- A family photo shoot in nature
- An after-supper scavenger hunt, with dessert as the prize
- Planning a family vespers program for church
- Making birthday cards for friends and family
- Designing a simple family newsletter then mailing/emailing it to older relatives
- Making up a family trivia game ("What was Grandpa Bob's nickname?")



Desperate for anything to pass the time as she drove, Barbara says she finally resorted to praying. "At first, I sheepishly apologized to God for only turning to Him because of being bored out of my mind," she admits. "I got the impression He was still happy to hear from me, so I forged on."

Three days in, Barbara noted in her fasting diary that things were getting easier: *Although I feel a little disconnected from the world, I'm not experiencing such a strong pull to automatically turn on the radio or my iPhone tunes now. More introspection and praying is going on when I'm out driving alone. And tonight, when I took Ellie to VBS, where she's a group leader, we actually spent the entire ride talking!*

Bob, also noted some positive changes. During one evening, he says, "I did some honey-do type work that has been calling my name for some time." Another evening, "I was able to have a lengthy conversation with Julie." And, one afternoon, "I had a nice, long chat at home with Ellie, which was made possible in part because she wasn't in her room in front of a screen."

CONNECTION CONUNDRUM

It's ironic that all this "connection" and accessibility to everything, anywhere, at any time, has actually resulted in our being *less* connected, says Pamela

Consuegra, associate director of Family Ministries for the North American Division. She puts it this way: "As families, we must make a conscious decision to disconnect in order to connect. Strong family bonds are formed when screen time is, indeed, screened. The strongest family connections are made when disconnection with technology occurs."

She adds, "Most important, screen time is robbing you of valuable time to introduce your child to Jesus. Consider the difference it would make wandering outdoors in nature to learn about God as Creator, playing Bible games as a family or participating in a service project. The options are endless when you take the time to consider how the many hours in front of screens could better be utilized to fulfill God's calling to you as a parent."

Jason Decena, associate pastor at the New Hope church in Fulton, Md., says, "Unplugging from technology occasionally is crucial because it helps us engage the present moment, the people who are right in front of us. The virtual world is incredibly important, but it shouldn't be regarded as a viable replacement for the physical world."

While there are many great spiritual resources online, Decena says we can't forget the great spiritual resources offline: God's first and second books—nature and the Bible, respectively—spiritual books and, of course, people. "As a literal Sabbath rest helps us recalibrate, providing a space for us to focus on God and allow Him to be our 'all in all,' a virtual or online 'Sabbath' can give us space to rethink how we display our heavenly citizenship as digital citizens," he says.

With that said, he believes technology has the potential to be incredibly useful to our spiritual journey. "There are more resources than ever at our fingertips. ... Folks have instant access to their Bibles through apps on their smartphones," he notes. "And, we can read



Media Brain

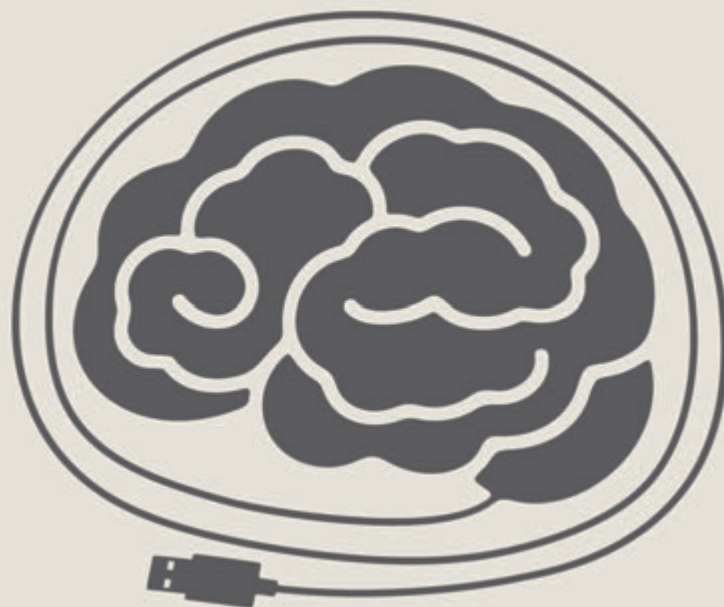
Rose Gamblin, principal at the Baltimore White Marsh Adventist School in Baltimore, has done extensive research and authored three books about the media's effect on children, including *Is the Media Hurting My Child?* She says we should be concerned about these five major areas of the brain:

Pleasure System—It helps us appreciate the simple things in life (i.e., a good meal). When overloaded, our perception of pleasure is diminished, creating a need for higher levels of simulation. This is called the addictive process.

Tranquility System—When constantly stimulated by digital media, it can increase the stress hormone cortisol. Excessive cortisol can block important tranquility receptors, causing the brain to shut down its production of natural tranquilizers and leading to more serious anxiety disorders.

Memory System—According to many experts, the human brain may have a very limited memory system. New findings indicate that much of how we process the influx of information—with its distractions, demands for multi-tasking and simultaneous processing—may actually reduce our ability to retain information.

Learning System—Just as the organs and muscles of the body can become fatigued, so can the brain. The



digital world offers an abundance of information at a very fast pace. When our brains are busy with digital input, we forfeit downtime, which it needs between learning tasks to process and consolidate information. Lack of downtime also disrupts creativity.

Attachment System—Researchers have found that a parent's sensitivity to their infant's signals establishes a positive and secure attachment. Later, this attachment is transferred to others and God. Damage is done when the parent is unresponsive to the child's signals. It is often easier to hand that toddler a cell phone or tablet than to try and understand what they are trying to communicate.

Source: Help! I'm a Parent video series, Managing Media segment, by the Family Ministries Department of the North American Division



firsthand accounts of others' processes as they follow God. We can encourage and edify friends with the click of a button. We can know quickly what's happening in others' lives and lift them up in prayer."

He says we need to set good boundaries and filter content, but to engage in an authentic way. "In the age of Google, Facebook and Twitter, it is even more important for us to be 'sermons in shoes,'" he says.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF "FEAST"

The Brostrom family considers their media fast an "unqualified success." They report a deeper appreciation for music and less of a pull from media. "I think our kids learned that they *can* survive without media—for a time anyway. I believe all of us are more able to take a deliberate approach to the media we choose to access," says Bob.

Eliana admits she learned, "I can't just take everything for granted and should be thankful for what I have."

Near the end of the week, Barbara documented: "My prayer life has definitely been recharged. Overall, I'm really glad we accepted the challenge of the media fast. And surprisingly, my teens seem to agree. The challenge that faces our family now is how to re-integrate our favorite pastimes back into our lives without letting them take over. The break has allowed each of us to step back and consider how much time we've been spending zoned out in 'media land.'"

Vicki Redden is a member of the Williamsport (Md.) church.

1. "Social Networking Eats Up 3+ Hours Per Day for the Average American User," Jan. 9, 2013, marketingcharts.com.

2. Kate Bratskeir, "Unplug From Technology: 19 Ways to Spend Time Off the Grid," *The Huffington Post*, Feb. 27, 2013, huffingtonpost.com.

3. Jennifer LeClaire, "Kids and Tech: How Much is Too Much?" Sept. 6, 2006, technewsworld.com/story/52677.html.

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PHOTO BY ROBERT BOOKER

Pine Forge Gets New Principal

The Pine Forge Academy and Allegheny East Conference K-12 boards recently elected Nicole A. Falconer as the academy's next leader, who is in place for the 2014-15 school year.

Falconer has nine years of teaching and school administration experience. She is a doctoral candidate at Columbia University (N.Y.), and has a master's degree from Columbia University's Teacher College and a master's in the science of teaching from Pace University (N.Y.). She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Yale University (Conn.).

Falconer is a founding leader of Foundation Collegiate Academy High School (N.Y.), where 100 percent of the graduating seniors were accepted into one or more colleges with scholarships.

She succeeds Delmas Campbell, who left the post at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

Fit 4 You Retreat Inspires

The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) held its 36th annual Fit 4 You Retreat this summer. The two-week health camp took place at Pine Forge Academy in Boyertown, Pa. This year campers and staff attended from as close as Pottstown, Pa., and as far away as South Korea.

The retreat kicked off with a fun night of festivities, but campers quickly got serious after waking up at 5:30 a.m. the first full day to take health assessments to measure their progress during the retreat.



PHOTOS BY NOELLE E. REID

Fitness instructors Faye Gregory, Ronda Rose and Valerie Roach entertain campers during the first night of camp.

Attendees' days were infused with a buffet of exercise choices, beginning with a morning walk. As said many years ago by Geneva McCleary, one of the retreat's founders, "Exercise is not an option!"

A menu of healthy, plant-based meals complimented all of the attendees' hard work. They also got massages, went swimming, spent time in the prayer garden, and enjoyed hands-on cooking demonstrations, off-campus excursions and time to relax.

A. Leah Scott, camp executive director, says, "The camp turns out to be a place where friendships and support systems are developed and last for years. Each attendee comes seeking optimal health. Judging by the number of campers that return year after year, and the praise given by first-time campers, Fit 4 You Retreat is apparently one place to find it."



Conference Leader, East Landsdowne Pastor Retires



East Landsdowne (Pa.) church members recently said goodbye to S. Peter Campbell, their interim pastor for nearly five years, when he retired this summer. During his time there, church leaders say he developed a profound bond with his members and helped the church grow in ways that would probably not have happened without him. Under his guidance, the Overbrook Company and the United Missionary church joined forces to become the East Lansdowne church.

Campbell is a leader with more than 45 years of ministry service. No task was beneath him, and he approached each duty with enthusiasm and energy, say Allegheny East Conference leaders. He often drove a tractor-trailer to transport disaster relief supplies for ADRA—even while leading the conference’s largest church, Dupont Park in Washington, D.C.

Campbell also served as a member of the AEC Executive Committee, Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee, and the General Conference Executive and Sexual Ethics committees. He was later appointed ministerial director and special assistant to the AEC vice president and president during his time as East Landsdowne pastor.

PHOTO BY RONALD REEVES

Allegheny East, West Host Joint Teachers Convention

This summer Allegheny East and Allegheny West conference superintendents, Judy B. Chiles-Dent and Yvette Cooper, respectively, brought together educators from both territories for a four-day teacher in-service to prepare them for the 2014-15 school year. Teachers from Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and the District of Columbia convened on the AEC grounds in Pine Forge, Pa.

“It is vitally important that we operate as a system, offering continuity in our practices conference-wide,” says Dent. Backing this up, the theme for the conference was, “United to Make a Difference. Consensus is Desirable, Cooperation is Necessary.”



Alonzo Wagner, a pastor in the North American Division’s Center for Creative Ministry, gets passionate in his seminar.



The event kicked off on Sunday with a meet-and-greet, where the educators got to know each other and participate in seminars on RenWeb, crisis management, differentiated instruction in the K-12 classroom, and the benefits of a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) enrichment program. Facilitators included Celeste Ryan Blyden, Columbia Union Conference vice president for communication; Alina Mitchell, program director of ESMART Summer Academy; and Alonzo Wagner, a pastor in the North American Division’s Center for Creative Ministry.

Audrey Booker, Pine Forge Academy’s nurse, and James Jackson, a first-aid instructor, also provided CPR and first-aid training to help staff become compliant with the North American Division.

The event was a qualified success, based on the responses and comments—“innovative, informative and highly professional”—of those in attendance, says Dent.—*Shayla-René Little*

PHOTOS BY RONALD REEVES AND SHAYLA-RENÉ LITTLE

Glenville Church, Community Race for Kenace

Members of the Glenville church in Cleveland and the local community recently raised more than \$18,000 to help pay medical costs for Kenace Hunt, a 2-year-old born with a rare medical condition.

At birth, Hunt was diagnosed with progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis, type II, an inherited condition in which children are unable to drain bile from the liver even though the large bile ducts are open. This disorder meant Hunt was in imminent danger of liver failure and/or liver cancer.

Despite the outlook, parents Shelley and Sean's faith never wavered. After failing to find a suitable liver transplant donor, they persisted and convinced the physicians and insurance company to test them. Shelley matched her daughter and gave part of her liver

to the girl. At first, Kenace's body threatened to reject her mom's liver lobe, but the prayers of the saints, family and community, and Shelley and Sean's unflinching faith prevailed, says their extended family.

As with any organ transplant, the cost of medications to prevent rejection was astronomical and the Hunt family needed help. Shelley's father, Walter Tresville, a runner, jumped into action and organized the Kare for Kenace 5K Run/Walk. More than 150 people from the church, community and local businesses registered for the event. Some ran a 5k for the first time, but all echoed the sentiment that they wanted to do whatever they could for Kenace and her family.

To date, proceeds from the race and private donations total more than \$18,000.

"We are very humbled by the participation and donations we received from the race participants," says Shelley. "We have really felt supported by our church family, biological family and friends alike. They all came out and showed out with great enthusiasm on race day and we are so grateful."

For more information about the event, visit cotaforkenaceh.com



As a volunteer pushes Kenace Hunt through the race, she waves to the crowd.



Hunt Family: Kenace, Shelley, Aris, Sean and Erin



Glenville members James Whitehead and Paul Farrington lead the runners in the Kare for Kenace race.

27 Choose Baptism at Central Church's VBS

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is usually synonymous with fun. However, Central church VBS organizers in Columbus took the program to new heights this year. Angela Green, VBS director, started planning activities and building her staff months before the program, and John Boston, pastor, orchestrated Tract Attack, a plan to ensure the community knew about the program.

As part of Tract Attack, members distributed invitational postcards to the surrounding community. These postcards promoted VBS and the church's Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs. Volunteers connected with and collected contact information for more than 40 people that day. Boston and his staff followed up with home visits and phone calls to personally invite and encourage parents to send their children to the church for VBS.

The Lord immensely blessed the planning efforts—more than 100 children attended the “Weird Animals” themed event, reports Pastor Boston. Captive Born Reptiles, a local animal retailer, showed the children an alligator, giant python and other fascinating animals. Boston also brought his tortoise, Lewis, and his Great Dane, Diesel, to make sure there were animals to see each night.

The main focus, however, was on reaching the children spiritually. On the final evening, Pastor Boston made an appeal and 27 children made a decision to be baptized! “We will continue to work with these families through the new connections made and endeavor to reach the parents as well,” he says. “The Lord be praised for His wonderful works!”




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COMMUNIQUE

SEPTEMBER 2014

Students get Academic Boost at Summer Camp

For 20 seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders from five states, including Pennsylvania, summer included something new—Boost Camp at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA). In partnership with Southern Adventist University (SAU), the six-week pilot program’s focus was academic improvement as well as math and reading advancement. Students also benefitted from the help of seven SAU college student mentors.

“I have been thrilled with the results,” says Esther Reese, Boost Camp director. “Overall, the students improved at least one-half grade level, some even more! They have accomplished academically and have also gained spiritually.”

Parents agreed, and one shared, “My son had a great time and has matured in his outlook on life and his relationship with God. He is praising God for what he learned and experienced at Boost Camp.”

The weekly themes included culture and community; civil rights; leadership and integrity; health and wellness; and commitment to God, family and academic excellence. Daily worship, community service activities, guest speakers, afternoon activities



Boost Camp attendees prepare to serve lunch to downtown Hamburg business owners and employees.

and a weekly fieldtrip supported each theme.

During the camp, Our Town Foundation in Hamburg hosted an international food festival. Twenty Boost Camp chefs—with a little help from their mentors—prepared the feast. They invited downtown business owners and employees to help them enjoy it.

Other community outreach events included preparing and serving breakfast at a homeless shelter in Reading, and picking up trash in Hamburg and on an access trail to the Appalachian Trail. Campers also visited Gettysburg, the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia and the local library, where each selected a book and then wrote a book report.

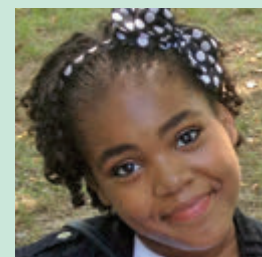
“BMA is searching for ways to positively impact the lives of future students,” says Dave Morgan, principal. “We do this on campus with the Robotics Challenge, MusicFest and SportsFest. Workshops for bells, singing and gymnastics are held at our elementary church schools. Now we offer a summer program intended to boost students academically and spiritually. And, next summer will be our first Global Leadership Camp for enrichment of students from around the globe.”



Lysander Mitsouras takes a test during Boost Camp.

Boost Camp Changed Me

Boost Camp was awesome. We sang songs for worship, went on weekly field trips and met new people. We especially learned more about God. Usually camps seem to be all about fun. This camp is different. What this camp does is encourage you to learn more for the following year. So, by the time you start the school year, you already know more than your classmates. I can say that this camp has truly helped me, and I will definitely recommend it for next summer.—Naomi Habib, an eighth-grader from the Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School in Piscataway Township, N.J.



New Staff Joins BMA Team

Eight new staff members joined the BMA team for the 2014-15 school year. Four are introduced below. Look for additional introductions in the November Communique:

Ever and Dixie Perez relocated to BMA from Reading, Pa., where Ever served as pastor of the Reading Kenhorst and Pottsville churches and as one of two chaplains for Reading Junior Academy. Ever is the new school chaplain and pastor of the Blue Mountain



Academy church. Prior to full-time ministry, he was self-employed in residential construction and design.

Dixie serves as the girls head dean. At Fletcher Academy (N.C.), she worked as the fitness and programs director, where she oversaw health and wellness programs for students, staff and the community.

She is a nationally certified personal trainer and certified sports nutritionist and brings more than 15 years of supervisory and management experience to the

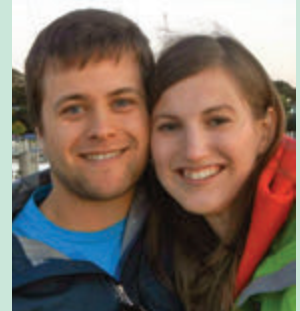
position. They have two children, Kaylie, a junior at the academy, and Topher, an eighth-grader at Blue Mountain Elementary School in Hamburg.

John and Ellen

Musselman are both Andrews University (Mich.) graduates. John is teaching Algebra I and II and Pre-calculus. "I have a passion for mathematics and the opportunities it affords to explore logic, critical thinking and decision-making skills," John shares. His college degree is in mathematics education with minors in English and chemistry.

Ellen teaches a class in graphic arts, which coincides with her college degree. She has worked for Adventist Frontier Missions designing and maintaining newsletters and the website.

"Ellen and I are excited to get to know the student body and staff. We hope that we can add something special to the campus life of BMA, and are excited to see what God has in store," says John.



Discovery Saves School \$100,000 on Dorm Furniture



For years the BMA dorms have desperately needed new furniture, but the school couldn't handle the costs involved: at least \$3,500 per room and \$128,000 to furnish both dorms. That changed when Chris Kramer, maintenance director, and Stephen Reese, vice principal for finance, found a listing at govdeals.com. Someone was selling an entire dormitory of furniture from the University of Indiana.

BMA won the bid for \$3,000 and acquired bunk beds with springs, desks, chairs and bookcases for every dorm room, including an extra 20 sets of furniture.

"We had gotten several quotes from several companies. The cost of each room would be approximately \$3,500," reports Corey Enochs, boys dean. The school paid \$3,000 total for the furniture and even sold scrap metal from the old furniture for \$1,500, reducing the cost in half. This deal saved the school more than \$100,000."

Senior Denisse Izquierdo-Polo is all smiles about the "new" furniture in her dorm room.



Very used furniture sits outside the girls dorm.

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2014

Participants Explore Grace at The Gathering

Attendees of The Gathering, Chesapeake Conference's camp meeting at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., including some 350 who joined via Skype and Livestream, say it was a dynamic experience. With a focus on God's incredible grace, worship experiences featured biblical preaching, interactive devotional experiences and a camp meeting choir.

Visit ccosda.org or [facebook.com/chesapeakeconference](https://www.facebook.com/chesapeakeconference) to view photos and listen to sermons and seminars from The Gathering. Here's a glimpse of the experience:



PHOTOS BY ANDRE HASTICK

Top row: The sunset watermelon feast kicks off the week with opportunity for fellowship. Ann Reynolds, conference Children's Ministries director, enjoys an outdoor program. The slippery slide is a popular way to cool off. Middle row: Diego Boquer, pastor of the Brooklyn/Glen Burnie district near Baltimore, congratulates newly baptized Brooklyn member Vernon Bibb. Singers practice for a choir performance. Mitchell Greenbaum, of the Hagerstown (Md.) church, contributes to the morning Bible study. Bottom row: Friends Melynie Tooley, of the Smithsburg Valley company in Smithsburg, Md.; Jackie Smith, of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md.; and Lori Peckham, of the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md., gather at the Sabbath morning women's breakfast. Ann Roda, associate pastor at the New Hope church in Fulton, Md., guides a morning worship activity.

THE CHALLENGE

Hispanic Camp Meeting Attendees Focus on Jesus

Under the theme “Jesús, Nuestra Identidad (Jesus, Our Identity)” hundreds convened at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., recently for the conference’s annual Hispanic camp meeting. The weekend was rich with blessings through inspiring messages and music, prayer, programs for children and a School of Theology and Discipleship graduation ceremony. To view the sermons online, visit Chesapeake Conference’s website, ccosda.org, and select “Campestre en Vivo” under Quick Links.



1. Francisco Julca, pastor of the Cambridge/Salisbury/Seaford Spanish district in Maryland, baptizes Marlene Villegas, a new member of the Salisbury Spanish church. 2. Abner De Los Santos, Inter-American Division vice president, points people to Jesus during the Sabbath morning message. 3. Rosa Lopez of Mexico visits with Teresa Roman of the Reisterstown Spanish church in Reisterstown, Md. 4. Mayra Guillén, of the Glenn Dale Spanish church in Glenn Dale, Md., collects offering.



The Challenge is published in the *Visitor* by the Chesapeake Conference ■ 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044
Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org ■ President, Rick Remmers ■ Communication Director, Samantha Young

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

SEPTEMBER 2014

Toll Gate Church Stretches Vacation Bible School

Thinking it would encourage more children to attend and be easier on the volunteer staff, Vacation Bible School (VBS) leaders at the Toll Gate (W.Va.) church chose to divide their program into five, one-night sessions throughout the fall and call them Kids Night Out.

“With our previous [weeklong] VBS programs, the children were weary and worn out by the third night. Having the program spread out over a longer period, the children’s interest and energy level will be better,” says Art Calhoun, who directs games during VBS.

The new format—still using the Investigation Station VBS program—has been a hit with attendees and staff. Abbe Ackman, age 10, says she enjoyed “learning about



space and making my own solar system” at the first event. Everyone made “galaxy roll-ups” in the mess hall and explored the

Cameron waits for instructions on how to create a solar system with paint.



Carol Bearce, art teacher at Kid’s Night Out, and children proudly display their completed art projects.

dress, games and customs of the Myanmar people. “Cadets” experimented with gravity in the space lab, and then had fun playing a game called shooting stars and participating in a relay race. All this excitement and more took place within two-and-a-half hours.

The children will continue to explore the rest of the Investigation Station this fall when the program continues.—*Jean Martin*

Charleston Member Receives Statewide Honor for Service

At a special ceremony this summer, Katherine McCormick, a member of the Charleston (W.Va.) church, received recognition and an award for her years of service to others. McCormick is the long-time caregiver of a married couple who are also members of the Charleston church. “When I discovered the award was not just a local award, but was a statewide caregivers award, it blew my mind!” she says.



As part of the honor, McCormick received a congratulatory letter from Rep. Shelley Moore Capito that contained a copy of the May 28 Congressional Record for the West Virginia State House of Representative, in which Capito said: “I rise today to recognize the American Network of Community Options and Resources recipient of the 2014 Direct Support Professional of the Year [award] for the state of West Virginia, Katherine McCormick. This decoration is truly an honor to receive, as it has been awarded annually for the past seven years to individuals in each state [who] exemplify the values of the organization. ... Katherine was recognized for her outstanding leadership, which set her apart from her peers in supporting those with disabilities in all aspects of life.”

Capito also said, “Without Katherine’s commitment to enriching the lives of others, many West Virginians would be unable to function effectively in society.”

—*Kathy Pepper*

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SEPTEMBER 2014

Good News for Families

We often hear that the rate of divorce inside the church is the same as outside. For many of us, this popular belief is demoralizing and depressing. How can we encourage couples to worship together if it makes no difference in their relationship? How can we invite couples and families to have family worship if it doesn't make an impact? Does church really matter when it comes to marriage and families?

Fortunately, new research by Shaunti Feldhahn, published in *The Good News About Marriage*, challenges that popular thought. Feldhahn found that the rate of divorce in the church is not the same as among those who don't attend worship services. Other studies have found that those who act on their faith are happier in their marriages. The Heritage Foundation also states that regular attendance at religious services is linked to a healthier, more stable family life, stronger marriages and well-behaved children. It is time to start believing what Ellen White said long ago: "When religion is a practical thing in the home, great good is accomplished" (*Adventist Home*, p. 318).

White also writes, "The presence of Christ alone can make men and women happy. All the common waters of life Christ can turn into the wine of heaven. The home then becomes as an Eden of bliss; the family, a beautiful symbol of the family in heaven" (*Adventist Home*, p. 28).

The religion of Christ can make a big difference in our marriages and families. Let's live and spread this message.



Jorge Aguero
*Family and Personal
Ministries Director*

254 Honored for Evangelism at Camp Meetings

Thousands of people visited the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility this summer for the conference's annual English and Spanish camp meetings. Attendees spent time with God and each other, and enjoyed good sermons, music and time in nature. Attendees also celebrated the work pastors and lay members have accomplished together over the past year.

The conference recognized 254 members for conducting the Impact 2014 evangelistic meetings. Conference leaders say they were the warriors of God who preached in their churches or in small groups and brought dozens of people to Jesus. Each person/volunteer received a beautiful certificate and a customized travel mug.



José Cortés and Jorge Aguero recognize the Spanish lay preachers.



Lay preachers from the Laurelwood and Wayne churches receive their certificates.

Robbinsville VBS Inspires Business Owner to Donate

The Robbinsville church is one of dozens of churches in New Jersey that promoted Vacation Bible School (VBS) in their community and got results beyond what they expected and prayed for, say conference leaders. Sixty-five children, including 20 visitors, attended the church's VBS themed "God's Yard."

The impact of Robbinsville's VBS went beyond the attendees. One local business owner was so moved after seeing the children play outside that she offered free passes to every child for her business, Pump It Up, an indoor play center.



Children participate in one of the stations during VBS.



PHOTOS BY SARAH POLLOM

Victoria Blasig and Keira Kreig learn about "God's Yard."

"What a reminder that our community does watch what we do, that our neighbors look forward to coming and that prayer is truly needed all year round," says Joey Pollom, senior pastor. "We at the Robbinsville church praise God for the children we received, many of whom brought their families to church for the first time for our VBS finale. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

Plainfield Baptizes 26 After Evangelistic Campaign

The North Plainfield Spanish church truly understands Jesus' mission left to His followers: "Go and preach the gospel." According to their pastor, Abdiel S. Hernandez, "Their mission spirit is strong and can be seen in their recent outreach activities."

More than 300 people, including 70 visitors, recently attended the church's evangelistic campaign, which featured Clayton Cecilio, an evangelist from Costa Rica. The Holy Spirit impressed many people to pursue a saving relationship with Jesus, resulting in 26 baptisms.

Before the recent evangelistic campaign, the church used the New Jersey Conference's Mission Caleb and



New members wait to be baptized.



Impact 2014 evangelism campaigns to host eight small groups. Two hundred and fifty people gathered weekly in these groups to prepare to give Bible studies, worship and reach out to members of the community.

Leaders credit the success of the recent series to the power of the Holy Spirit through Scripture, music and the friendly work of the church's members and leaders of the church. They say the Holy Spirit is still working in the lives of 30 other people who want to study the Bible and get baptized soon.

Ghanaian Churches Do Outreach, Gets Results

The Ghanaian congregations in Cincinnati and Cleveland reached out to their respective communities with tangible results this summer. First, the youth in the Cincinnati Ghanaian church challenged their church to conduct a public evangelism campaign in one month.

“Just as the youth in my generation were trained and allowed active participation in the church and outreach programs, it is my fervent desire to do the same with the youth in my church,” says Emmanuel Kusi Yeboah, associate pastor of the Cincinnati congregation. “I strongly believe in what the youth can do when given the right training and opportunity.”

The Cincinnati youth coordinated with the senior pastor, Isaac Boateng, and church board, organizing

PHOTOS BY EMMANUEL KUSI YEBOAH



Ernest Owusu; Emmanuel Kusi Yeboah, associate pastor of the Cincinnati Ghanaian church; Joyce Donkor and Joseph Donkor, first elder of the church; rejoice after Owusu and Joyce's baptism.



The Ghanaian youth group in Cincinnati celebrates after planning an evangelistic series.



Guest speaker Sue Bell (fourth from the left) relaxes with attendees at the Greater Cleveland Ghanaian church's Women's Ministries day.

everything from marketing materials to subcommittees for the event. Samuel Boateng, church treasurer, and Paul Ofori Yentumi, church youth leader, presented the messages each weekend at the church. As a result of the meetings, two people decided to get baptized.

A few weeks later, the Greater Cleveland Ghanaian church held a Women's Ministries day with the theme “You are the Light of the World.” Sue Bell, an elder at the First church in Chesterland and Women's Ministries associate for the northern part of Ohio, spoke at the event. She focused on Matthew 5 “to draw attention to the fact that Christians, especially Adventists, are the light of the world,” reports Yeboah. “As representatives of Christ we are to allow the light of Christ's character to shine in us for the world tottering in darkness to behold Christ as its only hope.”

Bell says, “They are a small congregation, but have lots of enthusiasm for what they do, and are willing to reach out to their community as evidenced by the health fair they held the week after I was there.”

Kim Russell, a pastor from a nearby Baptist church, and a few of her members attended the event. Church leaders say Russell has “fallen in love with the church” and is studying with Yeboah. This congregation “works tirelessly to get the gospel message into the community at large,” says Yeboah.

Conference Appoints New Hispanic Ministries Coordinator



The Ohio Conference Executive Committee recently appointed Pedro Simpson, DMin, Hispanic Ministries coordinator. Simpson (pictured with his wife, Carolina) takes the position after serving as district pastor of the First Cleveland, Ebenezer and Williard Spanish churches since 2012.

Simpson has been an Adventist pastor for 24 years in different countries all around Central America and served as president of the Atlantic Honduras Conference for six years. He is well known for his strong dedication and passion for evangelism and church growth.

“Hispanics are not the future anymore ... We are the present, not just for the Ohio Conference, but for the kingdom of God!” says Simpson.

Simpson replaces Oswaldo Magaña, who was elected secretary at the constituency meeting earlier this year.

Hispanic Youth Challenge Each Other at Youth Festival

More than 110 young people from across the conference converged at the Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center in Danville this summer for the second annual youth festival. The festival is part of an Hispanic youth camp for people aged 14 to 35. All four of the Hispanic districts were represented: Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton-Hamilton and Findlay-Wauseon. During the weekend festival, young people challenged each other for points in six areas: preaching, drama scenes from the Bible, devotional memory verses, singing, a Bible Bowl and community service.

Adhering to their theme “We are the Light of the World,” youth demonstrated their knowledge of denominational history, shared musical performances and showed videos and photos of the community service projects conducted in their districts. Although the Dayton-Hamilton district emerged victorious with an



Four Hispanic church district youth groups compete during the festival.

overall score of 130 points, all agreed that winning was secondary to what they took away from the event.

“I liked that we were able to learn about our church beginnings. ... Now, individually, we can spread our light to others without fear of what may happen,” says Gabriela Acevedo of the Dayton Central Spanish church. “I think the theme had an impact because it made us realize that time is really running out and that we should spread the good news that Jesus is coming very soon—sooner than we think.”

Pedro Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the conference, says, “Our youth left the camp feeling inspired and motivated to share the light. We are confident that ‘with such an army of workers,’ it won’t be difficult.”

Plans are already underway for 2015, when youth will be encouraged to conduct a “reaping” evangelistic series, where they will preach the message.



The Dayton-Hamilton Group scores the most points in the competition.

PHOTOS BY OLANY MAGAÑA

Pennsylvania Pen

SEPTEMBER 2014

Members Feel Transformation During Mission Trip

God wasn't just preaching to the people at the church where I was, He was also preaching to me," says Celica Galeano (right), a member of the Harrisburg church. Galeano was one of nine participants in the conference's ShareHim Mission Trip to Mexico this summer.



"And now, I know why I believe what I believe. It's not because my parents raised me a Christian. It's because God showed me that

He can do wonders over and over again. He did them the whole time on this mission trip. I know why I am a Seventh-day Adventist now, and I want to tell others about it," she says.



Emely Cruz (left), a member of the Reading Shalom Hispanic church, reports, "While on this trip, I learned so much [from] preaching

these sermons. Many were things that I already knew, but now I know how to support so many truths. This trip has really inspired me to work when I return home, and to encourage the youth to give Bible studies so that our church may also see growth."

These are just two of the many stories from this year's mission trip, each one a tale of transformation. Many of these young people return home and preach the same series in their local church as evangelistic outreach. "It is this personal spiritual transformation and growing desire to become more involved in sharing the gospel with others that leads the Pennsylvania Conference to take young adults on these summer mission trips," says Ray Hartwell, conference president.



Jason Kadash (middle, back row), a member of Mon Valley church in Belle Vernon, shares the gospel with people he met during a mission trip to Mexico.

PYC Canvasser is Answer to Stranger's Prayer

God, I want to be just what someone needs when they need it," prayed Jonathan Dasilva, one of the Pennsylvania Youth Challenge (PYC) students selling Christian books door to door this summer.

Dasilva then approached a door and met a woman who looked at the books with sincere interest.

"What religion are you?" she asked.

"I'm a Seventh-day Adventist," he replied.

With amazement, the lady explained that she had been watching 3ABN and asking God what to do next. Dasilva had knocked on her door just as she finished that prayer. He shared devotional books like *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Controversy*, and also shared how to connect with other believers at a nearby church. God's timing is always incredible. Dasilva was one of 20 canvassers that ministered to people during the eight-week program. To learn more about PYC, visit payoutchallenge.org.—Tiffany Brown



Cool Camps Connect Families With Adventist Churches

Each morning Bryan Laue, pastor of the Hanover church, greeted parents when they dropped their children off for Cool Camp, a weeklong day camp held at the church. Those conversations often led to the question: What does your church believe? In response, Laue shared the booklet *Your Friends, the Seventh-day Adventists* and offered Bible studies. Those conversations, along with the way the church cared for their children, resulted in two families taking Bible studies and another parent wanting to attend the church.

A team of 10 young people planned daily songs, games, Bible stories and crafts for the 50 campers. During outings to the community pool, Laue and church members made more connections when parents asked about the church and camp. Also, the pool director was so impressed by the team that he gave free snow cones to all the kids and staff on their last day and offered to advertise the camp next year.

Across the state this summer, a team of 21 young people held Cool Camps at 10 churches, during which more than 400 learned about Jesus. The participating churches continue to build relationships with the



Nathalia Cruz, a member of the Reading Hispanic church in Reading, tells the campers a story.

campers. In Easton, children are invited to be part of the local Pathfinder club. The church plant in Shamokin invites their 73 campers to monthly activities planned just for them. Hanover will continue to connect with families through their Parents Night Out program.

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Potomac People

SEPTEMBER 2014

Southern Virginia Members Awaken Spiritually Dead Area

Many Seventh-day Adventists in the southern part of Virginia claimed the area was spiritually dead and evangelism was a lost cause. However, Darry Campbell, a pastor in the area, wasn't convinced.

"My members in South Boston, Chase City and Galax felt limited in their opportunities to share the gospel," he says. "Successful evangelism can be difficult in a rural area like this."

After learning about the successes Daniel Royo, the previous pastor of the South Boston church, had with a mass Bible study mailing, Campbell suggested they try something similar. "I think most of us anticipated about 20 to 30 responses, but soon we were up to 70, then 80 and now we're at 179," he reports.

He says this number has created a contagious interest in the project. "When I originally asked for volunteers, only two or three hands went up, but as the cards came in, people started to get more excited," says Campbell. "And, since we started to personally deliver the materials, we've been hearing wonderful stories each week, which inspires even more."

Initially, cards were sent from Hamblins Hope (Mich.), an outreach publishing enterprise. After 10 lessons, the



Darry Campbell (far left) and members of the Galax church pause after distributing Bible lesson studies to the community.

churches mailed the materials personally and included a letter explaining that future lessons would be hand delivered. More than 18 Bible studies are taking place because of this one-on-one contact, says Campbell.

Powell Valley Career Fair Helps Residents Find Jobs

After a local Kmart recently shut down and left hundreds of people unemployed, members of the Powell Valley church in Dryden, Va., stepped into action to help their economically struggling area.

"Several of our members lost their jobs," says Pastor Shawn Kelley. "John McFarland, one of our deacons, said he would like to preach an encouraging sermon of



finding peace in the midst of a struggle. But, we decided we wanted to do more than preach a sermon; we wanted to find a way to really help."

Kelley and McFarland then organized a job fair. "We started the day with a job-searching seminar, practiced interviewing skills and each person set personal goals," says Kelley. "In all, four companies were onsite for the five-hour fair, and 20 additional companies sent applications for attendees to fill out."

An estimated 80 people attended, including more than 20 community members, who filled out 600 applications. Several people have already started new jobs. Fifteen people also requested Bible studies and eight expressed an interest in attending Powell's upcoming prophecy seminar.

"We truly want to be a resource for each person and will continue to build relationships and provide services that make a difference," says Kelley.

Shawn Kelley and John McFarland coordinated a career fair for Powell Valley residents.

Potomac People

Hispanic Camp Meeting Results in Church Plants

This year two Virginia church plants resulted from Hispanic camp meeting: one in Merrifield, the other in Landmark. Like last year, evangelism series were held in nearby churches prior to the event. More than 35 speakers from around the world were invited to participate in this movement, reports Jacqueline Sanchez-Ventouris, administrative assistant to the director for Hispanic Ministries. “The hope was that all the visitors attending these series would attend camp meeting, and those who were prepared for baptism would do so,” she says. More than 2,200 people attended and at least 12 charter members for each plant were present.

The concept of planting a church at camp meeting is not new. “Camp meeting was actually designed for this purpose,” explains Karen Cress, Potomac’s vice president for strategic initiatives. “In her books *Evangelism* and *Pastoral Ministries*, Ellen White said the after work is more valuable than the preparatory work. White was also pleased with another aspect of camp meeting, which Potomac does well, and that is using the event as a way to gain knowledge of practical methods of personal missionary work. In this event, our brothers and sisters are leading us back to basics—establishing mission churches after camp meeting is over.”

Carlo Durán, leader of the Chesterfield plant established in 2013, says it’s a blessing to see members and the conference support and open new congregations. “It’s a privilege to be part of this project that is being led by God. Since camp meeting last year, God has blessed us with 12 new members. Our mission continues to be focused on spreading the gospel to all people. We have four active small groups [and] do regular social activities. We are holding our first Vacation Bible School, which we expect 40 kids from the community to attend.”

Durán says there are challenges in fulfilling God’s call to spread the gospel and Potomac’s 2020 goal of



Eighty-three students graduate from the School of Theology for Discipleship, which focuses on Bible instruction, home churches and evangelism.

having a presence in communities of 20,000 people or more. “We are the first and only Hispanic Adventist church in Chesterfield. Our goal is to have many churches in this area. It is also difficult to win souls and keep them active and strong in our church since we are preaching to people who are totally new to these ideas.”

Eighty-three students also graduated from the School of Theology for Discipleship during camp meeting, which will further the mission even more. Graduates will use their skills to plant more small groups and home churches. “Our work on Earth is to further the mission of the gospel,” says Sanchez-Ventouris. “We all can play a part in leading people to become disciples of Jesus.”

PHOTO BY TONY VENTOURIS



More than two dozen charter members of the Merrifield and Landmark church plants represent their new, growing congregations at camp meeting in Woodbridge, Va.

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Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller ■ Communication Assistant, Tiffany Doss

Spotlight on Spencerville

SEPTEMBER 2014

New School Year Brings New Staff

Each school year brings new classes, new expectations and new friends, but the 2014-15 school year at Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) also brings new teachers.



Jason Strack transferred from Berrien Springs, Mich., to become the new technology instructor. He and his wife, Jolene, have three children: Sean, Joshua and Marcus.

“While students will benefit from his extensive experience in teaching computer applications, hardware, publications and Web design, Jason acknowledges the need we all have to guard our hearts in what we choose to consume online,” says Brian Kittleson, principal.



Rachel Fuentes is a new second-grade teacher. She previously taught in Florida, and most recently at the Sligo Adventist School in Takoma Park, Md. Fuentes has worked primarily with second-graders during her 19 years in Adventist education. She and her husband, José, an assistant professor at Washington Adventist University, have two children who will also be joining the Spencerville family.

Lynette Sigh is the school’s new Kindergarten teacher. Sigh taught most recently at the Baltimore White Marsh Adventist School in Baltimore, and is a reading specialist with more than 15 years of teaching experience.



“Reading and literacy are my passions. I feel blessed that God has provided me with a solid academic foundation to meet the literate and spiritual needs of children. I look forward to working with the Spencerville staff and parents as we work together to lay a solid literate foundation, a foundation that includes God and His word,” she says.

Tim Soper joined the high school staff as a Bible instructor and campus chaplain. Soper is dedicated to upholding Seventh-day Adventist values and beliefs, and has a new master’s in religion and ethical leadership from Washington Adventist University. He has 15 years’ experience as an academy Bible teacher and loves to involve students in service to others. Soper and his wife, Amy, have two young daughters, Grace and Hanna (all pictured).

“I am excited to be joining the Spencerville team. It is a privilege to be involved in pointing young people toward Jesus, and I look forward to the new experiences that God has in store for these students,” he says.



Spotlight

School Gets Big Improvements Over Summer

People may think that not much happens around a school in the summer months, but that is far from true at Spencerville Adventist Academy. During the summer months, Ken Roe, maintenance director, and

a crew of students and alumni worked to paint, clean carpets, power wash and assemble new equipment. They also added soundproofing, among other things, to the gym. Roe and his crew worked long hours to make the facility ready to welcome back students for the current school year.

Darryl Thompson, IT director, made additional upkeep and upgrades to SAA's technology infrastructure. The school added six new servers, more cloud space for students, new cameras to the security system, 26 Asus T100 hybrid laptops, four new

Jordan Roe ('09) and Devon Kittleson ('09) install new security system cameras.



Ken Roe (center, with dog), maintenance director, and his summer crew pause from their hard work making improvements to Spencerville Adventist Academy.

staff computers and electronic tablets for student use. SAA also fully migrated to Office 365.

Additionally, the school purchased more playground equipment, classroom tables, chairs and desks, shelving, an additional choral riser and a Flinn Scientific Spectrophotometer. "These items were acquired to enhance the facility so that students will have the best possible environment to achieve success in their educational experience!" says Brian Kittleson, principal.

Academy Day Planned for October

Don't miss Spencerville Adventist Academy's annual Academy Day Wednesday, October 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All interested eighth-graders and incoming high school students are invited to visit SAA and learn more about our academic offerings, get to know the teachers and students, and tour the facility. Lunch will be provided.

Potential students can also compete for academy day scholarships in English, Bible, math, history, science, choir, orchestra, bells, band, gymnastics and art. Last year more than \$16,000 in scholarships was awarded at Academy Day. This is just a portion of the more than \$200,000 in scholarships and financial aid available to students.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Heidi Wetmore at (240) 883-3504, or email hwetmore@spencerville.org.

Calendar

September

- 10-12 High School Spiritual Retreat
- 14 ACTs
- 18-21 SALT
- 22 Prospective Student Open House, 9:30 a.m.
- 28 "Let's Move!" Day

October

- 13 No School—*Columbus Day*
- 15 PSATs
- 19 Fall Festival
- 22 Academy Day

Spotlight is published in the *Visitor* by the Spencerville Adventist Academy ■ 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD 20868
Phone: (301) 421-9101 ■ spencervilleacademy.org ■ Principal, Brian Kittleson ■ Editor, Heidi Wetmore

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



SEPTEMBER 2014

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

New Principal Sky Dives to Open a Door

This summer John Wagner became Shenandoah Valley Academy's (SVA) first alumni principal since George Akers. And, it was Akers who handed Wagner his diploma!

Wagner's vast experience in Seventh-day Adventist education has distinguished him as a servant leader, educator and administrator. The school board believes that this, combined with a firm knowledge of the unique value of SVA's life-transforming Adventist education, will help solidify the academy's educational ministry moving forward.

"What a blessing to serve the incredible young men and women God has brought to Shenandoah Valley Academy! They overflow with exuberance, talent and potential. I am excited to see God work in their lives this year—and beyond," says Wagner.

When Wagner arrived on campus he asked himself: "How can I help more young people afford to enroll at SVA?" He and his wife, Lilya, say they want these students to get the same blessings he received when attending the school years ago. In turn, the Wagners are enthusiastic supporters of the alumni Open a Door [OAD] student financial aid campaign, which uses 100 percent of donations to help pay the tuition of students unable to afford a caring, safe and quality SVA education.

To help further this goal, and in celebration of his October 21 birthday, Wagner—along with Bill Miller, SVA board chairman and Potomac Conference president—will strap on a parachute, board a plane at the local airport, sky dive and land on campus in support of SVA students and the OAD! The day will be a milestone birthday celebration for Wagner and a celebration of the blessings God has provided students throughout SVA's history.

As momentum for the OAD and Wagner's giant leap for SVA students grows, he proclaims with confidence, "God has sustained SVA and provided for thousands of



At the 2014 graduation ceremony, the school body welcomes John Wagner as principal.

young people to be extended the love and mercy of Jesus in the form of an SVA education, and He's not going to stop now! As Bill and I have the opportunity to view the campus as God does each day—from above—our prayers will be for God's continued rich blessings on SVA and the SVA family."

To learn more about Wagner's birthday sky dive and to support the cause, call (540) 740-2202 or visit shenandoahvalleyacademy.org.—*Janel Ware*



A young Wagner works at SVA's dairy to help pay his tuition.



John and Lilya Wagner are dedicated to helping SVA's students.

Happenings is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844
Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, John Wagner ■ Editor, Chris Simons

www.ta.edu TATODAY

SEPTEMBER 2014

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Bright Stars Add to Academic Galaxy

After completing one of its greatest school terms, Takoma Academy (TA) continues to add to its teaching talent with new hires for the 2014-15 school year. School administrators believe their commitment to Christian education is a strong indication that the current renaissance taking place at the school will continue:

Luis M. Camps (below) has had a distinguished career as a youth and senior pastor that stretches from Miami to Honolulu. Some highlights of his ministry include developing a discipleship process and conducting evangelistic campaigns that led to baptisms.

As TA's new chaplain, he looks forward to the opportunity to minister in the classroom and one on one. "Many have asked me why am I leaving ministry to go work at an Adventist school, and I remind them that 50 percent of Seventh-day Adventist youth are leaving the church after they graduate from high school," he says. "I'm not leaving ministry but doing real ministry now by engaging with our youth, showing them the love and good news of the

gospel so they ... will stay and help to hasten the soon coming of Christ."

Because Spanish is the second most spoken language in the United States, and TA's language program is exploding at the seams, it is only fitting to have **Ruth M. Camps** provide additional Spanish classes to a student population eager to be



bilingual. Camps has more than nine years of experience teaching Spanish in diverse communities and at various grade levels. She has enhanced the foreign language programs at some of Adventist education's best academies. She says her main objective at TA is to motivate the students to fall in love with another language and culture.

Louis R. Preston III (right), the new English 1, Critical Thinking and English Writing teacher, is enthusiastic about joining the TA team. "I'm excited about the awesome reputation TA students have maintained, and I hope to continue bolstering that reality. As an Adventist educator, I'm thrilled at the opportunity of weaving Christ into my pedagogy," he says. One of his main goals in the classroom will be



"to help develop kind, Christ-following thinkers who will continue the tradition of discussing and infusing a thoughtful Adventist world view within whichever career field they choose," he adds.

Lonnie Woods (above), the art and graphic design teacher, completes the accomplished faculty. Woods states that he is "looking forward to having the opportunity to expand each students' knowledge base and familiarity and interest in art and design." He adds, "I hope to inspire, challenge and support TA students as they prepare for the future."



Autumn Brings Joy, Vibrancy, Gala

With summer nearly over, we are approaching the joy and vibrancy that comes with autumn. Students have returned to our campus, and the fall semester has begun. One of our scheduled activities includes the second annual Visionaries Gala September 21 that will feature award presentations to five extraordinary individuals. This event will also help fund two new facilities on campus: a health professions and wellness center that will enhance community health, and a performance hall addition to the Leroy & Lois Peters Music Center.

For information about the gala, visit wau.edu/gala.
This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence
President

NEWS

Alumni Ice Cream Social Attracts Five Generations

Approximately 80 alumni and their family members recently attended the university's second annual alumni ice cream social on campus. Attendees represented five decades of graduates, from those belonging to classes in the 1960s to those in the most recent Class of 2014.

PHOTO BY RANDOLPH ROBIN



"The big hit for the next generation of future WAU alumni—also known as "the kids"—was the ice cream cone piñata," says Ellie Barker, director of alumni relations. "We look forward to hosting the event again next year."

Barker encourages alumni to mark their calendars for alumni weekend, scheduled for April 9-12.

Program Offers Free Semester to Four-Year Graduates

This fall a new 8th Semester Free Program will work to motivate new students at Washington Adventist University to stay on track to earn their degree in four years. First-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen who participate in the program and graduate on time

will benefit from free tuition in their last semester.

"We take very seriously our responsibility to help make sure our students reach their goals," says Cheryl Harris Kisunzu, PhD, WAU provost. "This program will go a long way toward motivating them to stay focused on earning their degree in a more efficient and timely way, and it will enable them to save costs so that they are better prepared for their future."

Patrick Farley (below), executive vice president of finance, says, "A student who participates in this new program and graduates within four years will not only benefit from a free semester of tuition, they will also pay considerably less for their education than the student who takes six years to earn an undergraduate degree." He adds, "The unfortunate reality is that the student who lives on campus and attends full-time undergraduate classes for two additional years will pay as much as \$60,000 more to earn the same degree."

For more information about the 8th Semester Free Program, call (301) 891-4000 and ask for the director of admissions or vice president for enrollment, or email ddixon@wau.edu.



Nursing Grads Find Meaningful Work

Darryl Staten and Melissa Morgan graduated from Washington Adventist University last December, each with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Soon after both passed their board exams and began working as nurses at MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C.

Staten works in the neurology department at the hospital, and Morgan works in a medical/surgical unit that specializes in geriatrics. Both credit their education at WAU for preparing them for their new jobs, and for helping them better interact with and provide comfort and support to patients and their families.

Staten chose both WAU and nursing because his mother graduated from the school as a nurse 30 years earlier. He liked the small school environment where he wouldn't be just a number, and he wanted to be where he could make lifelong friends.

Staten says that when a patient in one of his clinical rotations told him, "You are going to be a great nurse. God has great things in store of you," he suddenly real-



ized, "I am not doing this on my own. It's not a coincidence that I'm here. I am here by God's grace."

Morgan transferred to WAU in her sophomore year, attracted by the opportunity to participate with the school's Acro-Airs sports exhibition team. Morgan says she enjoyed the feeling of family with the team. She also liked the physical exercise she got in their regular practice sessions and performances, which offered a nice break from her busy academic schedule.

Morgan says she appreciates her education and experiences at WAU. She points to the faith-based community and the way that professors support and guide their students as reasons why the school is special. She also cites the advantages that WAU's new medical simulation lab offers to nursing students. The lab is set up like a hospital emergency room with dummies that react to various treatments. It gives students an opportunity to practice and enhance their skills without harming patients.

Watch a video interview with the nursing graduates at wau.edu/washington-adventist-university-videos.



OSA Program Gets Boost From \$60,000 Grant

The university's One Step Away (OSA) Program, which helps returning students complete their undergraduate degrees, has just received a new \$60,000 grant from the State of Maryland Higher Education Commission to ensure that the program continues.

OSA assists former WAU students who have already completed at least 75 percent of their degree program. The grant enables WAU to meet the diverse needs of an adult learning community. Classes are available on campus, online, in hybrid format and as independent study. In addition, students can receive credit for life experience. Financial assistance is also available to eligible students in the form of reduced fees, fee waivers and scholarship funds.



your healing
MINISTRY

Building Community Relationships

Kettering Medical Center celebrated its 30th Anniversary in 1994, shortly before I was appointed its fourth president. I was excited about the opportunity to lead this remarkable health care institution. A canceled contract with the area's largest managed care provider had caused significant reduction in revenue for the hospital. It was critical that we rebuild the relationship with the community and get the organization back on track.

In spite of the challenges, I was optimistic. This organization had a unique history, blessed by God in so many ways. A favorite quotation became my motto: "We have nothing to fear for the future except we forget how God has led us in the past." (E. G. White, paraphrased).

Soon after we arrived, my wife Carmen and I met Virginia Kettering, who with her late husband, Eugene, had invited the Adventist Church to come and operate the hospital they were building in honor of family patriarch, Charles F. Kettering. We became fast friends and, in time, her enthusiasm and confidence in the medical center returned. Over the years we often sought her counsel regarding plans for the hospital's future. I believe my most important achievement at Kettering Medical Center was renewing the relationship with Mrs. Kettering, and I treasure the friendship we shared until her death in 2003.

Major expansion initiatives began in the fall of 1994. Working with an incredible group of loyal employees, we developed our mission, vision and values statements, and we established goals and objectives. We found ways to work with the managed care organizations and build relationships for the future. With God's guidance, we learned how to collaborate and partner with the community, and once more the community rallied around the organization as in the early years.

The Kettering Adventist HealthCare ministry has now grown from two to eight hospitals, serving 10 counties with world class health care. God continues to lead at Kettering!

Frank & Carmen Perez live in Kettering, OH and attend the Kettering Adventist Church.



Frank J. Perez

Kettering Medical Center
 President 1994 – 2000

Kettering Health Network
 CEO 2001 – 2011

"This organization had a unique history, blessed by God in so many ways."



your healing MINISTRY

Connecting with the Community

By Christina Keresoma

1994-2000

Ideas and plans were well underway to grow and strengthen the communities support to Kettering Medical Center and Sycamore Medical Center. One of the ways was to build a facility that could assist patients with rehabilitation after acquiring an injury. Construction began on a 100 bed nursing and rehabilitation center on the Sycamore Medical Center campus. Sycamore Medical Center had plenty of land for expansion with easy freeway access making it an ideal location. Putting the facility on a campus with a hospital allowed for quick

and easy access to additional medical care in the event a patient's situation turned worse. The nursing and patient rehabilitation was not the only way Kettering Medical Center and Sycamore Medical Center reached out to the community. They created a program called "Years Ahead" which focuses on improving the quality of life for the people in the communities that they serve. The program includes support groups, health education programs and screenings. A Sports Medicine program was also launched on both hospital campuses.

1994 1995 1996 1997

1994

1995

1996

1997



Construction begins on 100-bed Sycamore Glen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on the Sycamore Medical Center campus



Construction begins on \$23 million surgery expansion and physician office building on the Kettering campus.



Wellness on Wheels, a 42-foot state-of-the-art mobile unit funded by the Levin Family Foundation, begins providing services for the underserved in the community.



On the Kettering Medical Center campus they were creating a first-of-its-kind in the nation, computer network system that would allow all area hospitals to share medical records among physicians. Doors were also opening at the first Center of Excellence which housed the best and brightest teams of physicians, nurses and scientists using innovative technology and advanced approaches to diagnose and treat brain and spine abnormalities.

Kettering Medical Center was also starting construction on a \$23 million dollar surgery department expansion

and a physician office building creating a full service campus. In 1999, plans were finalized to purchase and merge Grandview Medical Center, a downtown Dayton Ohio hospital. This merger created Kettering Adventist HealthCare, a four hospital system including: Kettering Medical Center, Sycamore Medical Center, Grandview Medical Center, and Southview Medical Center. Southview Medical Center was a part of Grandview Medical Center.

Without the support of the surrounding communities and God's blessings, our hospitals would not continue to grow and expand.

97 1998 1999 2000



A new Sports Medicine program launches at Kettering and Sycamore Medical Centers.



Kettering dedicates the Oscar Boonshoft Center for Neuroscience, recognizing the Dayton philanthropist for his support of the Wallace-Kettering Neuroscience Institute.



The first Gamma Knife Center in the region to treat lesions in the brain opens at Kettering.

NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2014

4 Stars for Nursing & Rehabilitation Center!

From short-term rehabilitation stays, skilled nursing, to long-term care, Sycamore Glen Health Center offers the perfect combination of affordable quality, security and companionship. They have recently achieved a 4-star status from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services Nursing Home Compare website. The significant achievement is reflective of superior quality.



Community Gathers for Gospel Fest

People came from all over the Dayton area to hear a free concert with musical guests Sanctus Real and 10 local Christian artists/bands that performed at the Frazee Pavilion in Kettering, Ohio. This event was part of Kettering Medical Centers 50th celebration. Attendees could listen to music, fellowship, worship, or enjoy some good food.

"It was a nice way to bring the community together to celebrate with us," said Roy Chew, president of Kettering Medical Center.

Two More Free Standing Emergency Departments

Kettering Adventist HealthCare recently announced plans to build two freestanding emergency rooms that will open in early 2015. The Eaton emergency room will be added to the Preble County Medical Center, and the other will be built in the community of Springboro/Franklin providing access to care located adjacent to one of the busiest interstates in Ohio.

"We see a need to offer emergency services in the Eaton and Springboro/Franklin communities," Fred Manchur, chief executive officer of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. "With these freestanding emergency rooms, residents will have better and faster access to quality emergency care closer to home."



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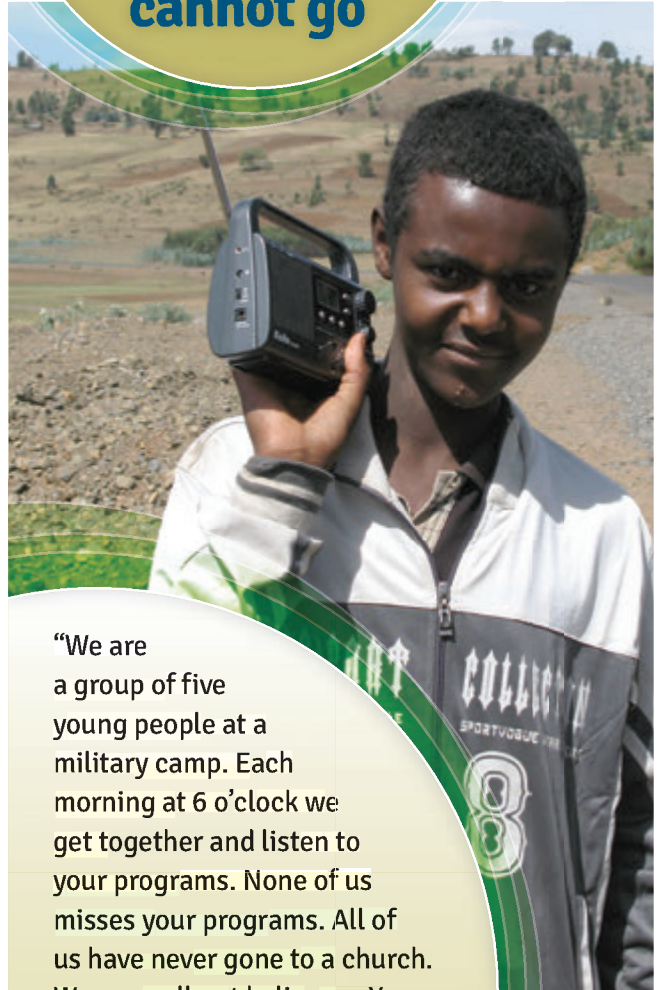
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EMPLOYMENT

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES in Orlando, Fla., is seeking full-time faculty members for its developing Doctor of Physical Therapy program. The ideal candidate will have an advanced level doctorate or DPT with clinical specialty certification, expertise in assigned teaching areas, effective teaching and student evaluation skills, a scholarly agenda, a record of professional and community service and eligibility for PT licensure in Florida. For more information, email DPTinfo@adu.edu, visit adu.edu/pt, or go to floridahospitalcareers.com and search job number 182527.

BED AND BREAKFAST

HOST/HOESST: Seeking a single or a couple to host year round but infrequent B&B guests at country site in North Carolina (9457 US Highway 117, Willard, NC 28478). Exact location is at exit 390, intersection of I-40 and 117, 40 miles north of Wilmington, N.C., and Wrightsville Beach, two hours south of Raleigh. Free RV parking site with hookups or bedroom in house. Or, live close by and drive to B&B to host by appointment for set fee. Nice adventure opportunity. Terms negotiable. Visit HHbedandbreakfast.com; email harellhousecirca1897@gmail.com.

WEB PRESS OPERATORS

WANTED: Pacific Press Publishing Association seeks Seventh-day Adventist web press operators for head press operator and 2nd press operator, full-time positions. Applicants should have four years of experience, showing mechanical aptitude and the proven ability to lead employees in a production process. Hourly rate based on experience. Contact Ms. Alix

Mansker, HR Director, POB 5353 Nampa, ID 83653. Phone (208) 465-2567; fax (208) 465-2531, email aliman@pacificpress.com.

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (ADU) in Orlando, Fla., seeks a director of alumni relations who will be responsible for building and maintaining an alumni database, alumni newsletter and alumni Web page. The director will develop and chair all internal and external alumni committees and will be responsible for the development of an alumni-giving program. The director will also produce scheduled communications with university alumni and plan and execute alumni events, as well as serve as the compliance and records officer for all service learning projects performed by ADU students. Reply to fred.stephens@adu.edu.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE

is seeking a full-time faculty in the Nursing and Health Sciences Department-Emergency Services/Nursing to begin during the 2014-15 academic year. Ideal candidate will possess a master's degree in nursing or related field, a current RN license, and a current National Registry EMT certification and/or Paramedic license with at least two years of pre-hospital experience. For more information or to apply, call (707) 965-7062, or visit puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

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ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

in Orlando, Fla., seeks a vice president for marketing/PR/enrollment. The position has overall responsibility for the image and brand of Adventist University of Health Sciences. He/she will oversee all advertising and publications, which seek to educate both the local community and the wider national and international audience to whom the university appeals. He/she will also oversee the functions of the Enrollment Services Department and provide direction to the team that performs new student prospecting, using the Goldmine Software. Reply to fred.stephens@adu.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

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MISCELLANEOUS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SABBATH SUNDOWN SERENADE CONCERTS at the Hagerstown Adventist church are designed to lift the heart of every listener. Everyone is welcome. October 11 at 6 p.m., Victor Clairmont, from Princeton's Westminster Choir College, will perform; Oct. 18 at 6 p.m., Moses and A'Lisa Andrade, plus their four daughters, will present an interactive, multigenerational musical sundown concert; and, Nov. 29 at 4 p.m., Karla Rivera Bucklew will introduce the special Christmas season with a collection of Bethlehem story favorites.

Sunset Calendar

	Sept 5	Sept 12	Sept 19	Sept 26	Oct 3
Baltimore	7:32	7:21	7:10	6:59	6:47
Cincinnati	8:04	7:53	7:42	7:30	7:19
Cleveland	7:55	7:43	7:31	7:19	7:07
Columbus	7:59	7:47	7:36	7:24	7:13
Jersey City	7:24	7:12	7:00	6:48	6:37
Norfolk	7:29	7:19	7:08	6:57	6:47
Parkersburg	7:52	7:41	7:30	7:18	7:07
Philadelphia	7:27	7:16	7:04	6:53	6:41
Pittsburgh	7:47	7:35	7:24	7:12	7:00
Reading	7:31	7:19	7:07	6:56	6:44
Richmond	7:34	7:24	7:13	7:02	6:51
Roanoke	7:44	7:34	7:23	7:12	7:01
Toledo	8:03	7:51	7:38	7:26	7:14
Trenton	7:26	7:14	7:03	6:51	6:40
Wash., D.C.	7:34	7:23	7:12	7:00	6:49

Maryland Men of Faith 2014 Conference

What Does it Profit a Man?

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Ministerial Assn. Secy.,
General Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists

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David Franklin
Volodymyr Grinchenko
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Gerald Klingbeil
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SUNNYDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, October 2-5. Honor classes are 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009. Activities begin Thursday evening with the Silver Showcase Banquet, continues on Friday with a career day. Sunday is the alumni golf tournament. For additional information, call (573) 682-2164, or visit sunnydale.org.

OBITUARIES

BROWN, Robert L., born October 3, 1929, in Linthicum Heights, Md.; died peacefully at home January 18, 2014, in Hermitage, Pa. He was a member of the Shenango Valley church in Middlesex, Pa. A graduate of Linthicum Heights

Bulletin Board

schools, he was drafted into the Army in 1951 and sent to Panama on a tour of duty. He also joined the Adventist Church about that time. In their 60 years of marriage, Bob and Helen lived in Maryland, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Bob taught Sabbath School throughout his life wherever he lived. His daughter called him a "jack of all trades," as he had numerous jobs through the years, just to name a few: mail carrier, laboratory technician, literature evangelist, builder and repairer of printing equipment and an employee of the Sears Auto Center. Bob also enjoyed spreading the word about healthy living, which bore the fruit of his natural food store, Wholesome Fare, in 1995. In 2008 he took over Clune's Natural Vitamin Center. Then together with Helen and his granddaughter, Jessica, they ran the two businesses. Bob had such energy and joy for life, and had a smile, a ready ear and a story for everyone. In addition to his wife, Helen Louise Brown of Wyomissing, Pa., he is survived by their four children: David Lester (Brenda) Brown of Greenville, Pa.; and William "Bud" Brown of Pensacola, Fla.; his daughters, Darlene Louise (Will) Peterson of Wyomissing, and Margot Elizabeth (Rick) Vallejo of Mission Viejo, Calif.; his six grandchildren: Army Maj. Richard Witwer of Kansas, Andrea Ngo and Tanya Arcilla both of Calif., Jessica

Cavalier of Garrettsville, Ohio, Meghan Brown of Greenville, and Baileigh Brown of Pensacola; his five great-grandsons; one great-granddaughter; and a brother, George W. Brown of Salisbury, Md. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Roy; and sister Ruth.

JOHNSON, Robert "Bob" L., born October 1, 1944, in Columbus, Ohio; died June 19, 2014, in Pataskala, Ohio. He was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1978, and was a member of the Lancaster (Ohio) church. Bob was the son of the late Hazel Dell Rife and Murrill Emerson Johnson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister Myrna Burke. Surviving is his loving wife and best friend, Linda, of Pataskala; his children: Lori Lynn (Marty) Milligan, Robin Lee (Don) Harrell, Robert L. Johnson, Jr., Wendy Renee Wilson, Michael L. (Rebecca) Joslin, Jessica Renee Johnson; his brother, Murrill "Bud" E. (Maryann) Johnson; special cousins: Linda (Tye) DeMass, Tex (Monica) Hysell, and Karen (Mike) Keefe. He was blessed with 15 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, cousins and their families, and many friends that Bob loved and cherished.



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MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

Columbia Union Revolving Fund

IN THE LATE 1960s, the Seventh-day Adventist Church inside the Columbia Union territory was growing, but there was little space to house new believers and school their children. Without funding, building and renovating worship and educational facilities would essentially come to a standstill.

Union leaders created a program whereby members could invest in a "revolving fund." The funds raised from these investments were then loaned to conferences, churches, schools and other Adventist institutions. Members responded, and within a year invested more than \$200,000 in what became known as the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF). CURF, in turn, provided a valuable source of funds to help keep the work of the church growing within the union.

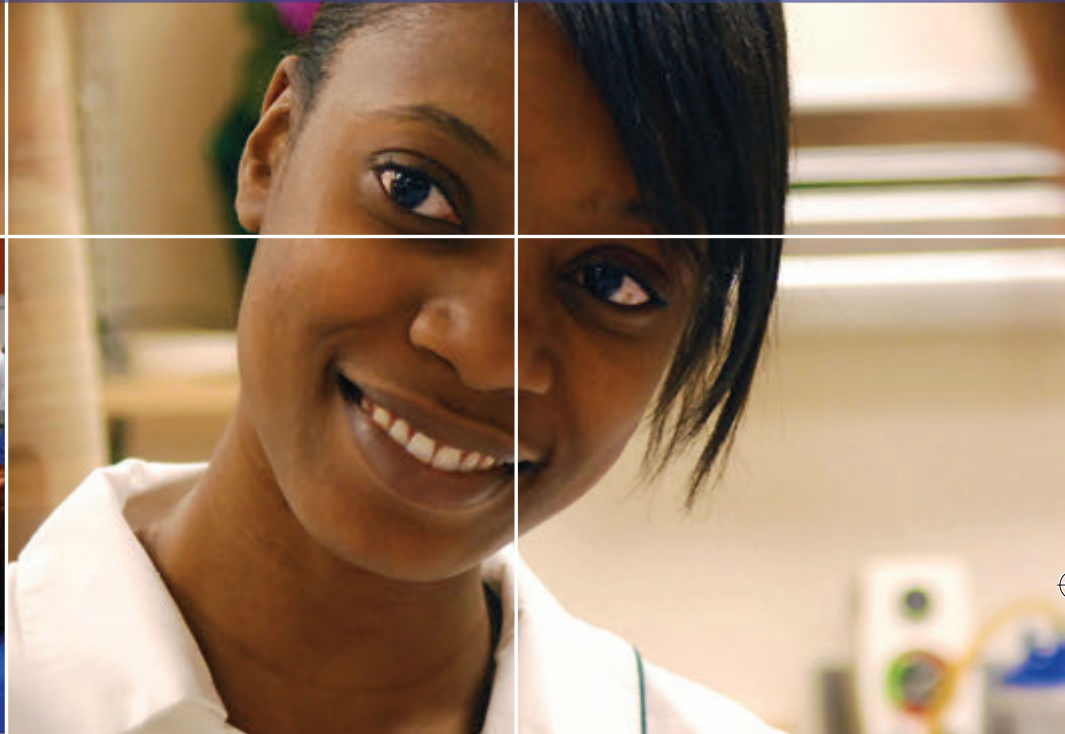
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