



# ALUMNI SPIRIT

## Second Annual South Lancaster Academy Florida Chapter Meeting

*Jon Nosek '66, Director, SLA Development*



*L-R - ??????, June Whitney Reams '61 and her husband Rod*

The day started out cool, damp and rainy Sunday morning, February 6<sup>th</sup> in Apopka, Florida as Alumni began arriving and registering. Approximately 45 members were present to join in the fellowship activities despite the rain.

The program began with a welcome to all and recognition of the different honor classes. Then Howard and Roberta (Sprague) Fish '63 led a song service that included the SLA School Song, followed by a brief chapel talk. It was just like we were back at SLA sitting together again in chapel. It was inspiring and enjoyed by all.

Visiting with friends and former classmates continued while we enjoyed a delicious

Italian feast. Following dinner everyone had an opportunity to speak briefly about their experiences at SLA, including many uplifting reminders of how SLA shaped their lives. Several people related the many ways that their experiences at SLA made them the people they are today. Some noted that they still feel like they are part of a big family.

Once again we want to thank June Whitney Reams '61 and her



*caption needed*



*Caption needed*

husband Rod for orchestrating a great SLA family reunion for our Florida alumni. Sadly, Rod unexpectedly passed away a few weeks later. His help and SLA commitment will be greatly missed by all. Also, a special thanks to Dan Wright '61 for taking all the photos for this event.

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# SLA's 2011 Mission Trip to Peru

Compiled from articles by

*Kathleen Robidoux, Senior*

*Natalia Perez, Freshman*

*Sharlisse Rivas, Freshman*

From March 10-20, 45 students and chaperones from South Lancaster Academy departed on a heart lifting Mission Trip to Iquitos, Peru.

*[Picture of students in red shirts]*

*(Left to right) SLA students Daniel Daum, Ardrianna Howard, Tess Morris, Emily Hall, and Victor Fernandez pause for a picture after arriving at the city airport in Iquitos, Peru.*

It took two days of travel to finally reach the "People of Peru Project" organization.

Paul Opp, the organization director gave the group a warm welcome, followed by a tour of the working grounds, and to the church where they would hold a Vacation Bible School program for the children in the village.

The students worked on a number of projects at an orphanage during the day, including helping the nurses at a local clinic, leveling the playing field and setting up the field for playing soccer, painting railings, and four students pitched in to dig wells for a nearby village. The boys worked in the sweltering heat and completed three wells in four work days.

*[picture of flooding]*

*Taken in the district of Belen, this*

*area suffers from yearly flooding by the Amazon River, causing destruction of property, breakdowns in transportation, and widespread unsanitary conditions for residents.*

In the evening the students ran a Vacation Bible School for the local children. The first night the students passed out invitations throughout the village, motivating the children to come to the program. It was amazing to watch the children gather around and follow the students all the way back to the church, excited for the program to start. Each of the students applied themselves to their tasks throughout the week, making it their goal to bring the children closer to God, letting them enjoy themselves, and learning something new.

Each day SLA started the service with several interactive songs to get the children comfortable and excited about the program. Senior, Cory Keith, along with freshman, Pablo Huerfano as his interpreter, became more comfortable with their welcome speech each night. Senior, Victor Fernandez always followed with an opening prayer, and began relying less and less on an interpreter as the week progressed.

At first, the children were quiet since they weren't familiar with the songs, but they warmed up more each day and were very

enthusiastic.

Song service was followed by an educational "Nature Nugget" led by freshmen Jessica Batista and Isaac Valera. They shared interesting facts about exotic animals to Peru, such as the squirrel and beaver, were discussed.

Following the "Nature Nugget" Mrs. Murray presented a health information talk. Each day new topics were introduced, such as the importance of brushing teeth, drinking clean water, and eating fruits and vegetables.

In the evening Mrs. Malin introduced craft activities which tapped their creativity skills.

The children seemed to love making paper cups, visors, porcupines with model magic, thumb print cartoon bookmarks, origami paper dogs and cats, and model magic insects. "Our Vacation Bible School at the little Union church surpassed my wildest dreams," Mrs. Malin commented when the number of children soared to almost 300 by the end of the week.

Thursday evening the children were asked to stay for a little snack after the program. Pastor Nino and a few of the staff were concerned about the prospect of feeding almost 300 children. SLA students and staff prayed for God to bless the food and multiply it, so every child present would receive something. That night God

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showed us the power of prayer. The few snacks were enough to feed all of the children present, with some left over. “God is amazing!” Pastor Nino exclaimed that night in excitement.

A second Vacation Bible School was held at the state-run orphanage for two nights during the week, and was also a great success, and was very well received.

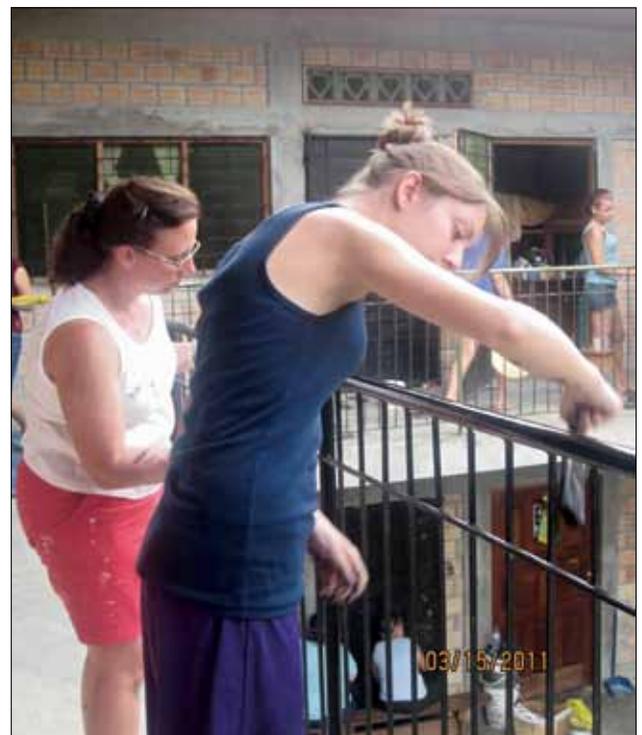
Many hugs were shared as the students left the children for the last time. Most students had become greatly attached to the children, and their hearts spoke out with tears as they said goodbye. It seemed like they were leaving a piece of their very souls, knowing they would not see the children for a very long time.

Vacation Bible School changed the lives of hundreds those ten days, including the members from SLA that ran it. Watching the children grow closer to God as the week went on, and seeing their expressions filled with happiness is an experience the student missionaries would never forget. “I learned to appreciate what God has given me and to thank Him,” freshman Sharisse Rivas commented.

***“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” Matthew 19:14***



*The SDA church in an outlying village of Iquitos where SLA students hosted nightly Vacation Bible School and adult vespers services*



*SLA chaperone Jamie Daum and student Tess Morris participate in fixing up one of the local orphanages.*

# Being Contrary

*Ron Huff, Principal*

We have great news!! South Lancaster Academy is operating contrary to the national trend for church schools! There have been several conference academies throughout the North American Division (NAD) that have closed due to lack of financial support and there are several that are in serious jeopardy for the upcoming school year. We however are different!! For the last three years during the recession, we have been fiscally sound with enrollment improvement annually. Why are we operating opposite of the NAD trend? Several reasons come to mind and they all are equally important.

**Contrary** to the national trend, we have experienced consistent unwavering financial support for education from our supporting churches and alumni. Financial support is important as we seek funds for tuition assistance and other needed upgrades. We are largely a tuition driven operation, meaning the majority of our operating budget is based upon tuition in some form, whether it is direct payment or financial assistance.

**Contrary** to the NAD trend, we have shown an increased in enrollment in the last few years due to the ability to provide tuition assistance and because of the increase in students, we were able to reduce the amount of subsidy from our constituent churches for the next school year. This is excellent news! It demonstrates that we have sound marketing and fiscal management which has allowed us to be “contrary”.

**Contrary** to the national trend our school board has realized that the demographics of Adventist Education in North America is changing and is being proactive in adapting to the change. More ethnic groups are dedicating their children to Adventist Education than ever before. Routinely we have parents seeking to place their children in our education system because of the environment of public schools. Repeatedly the statement is they will keep their children with us at all costs. Dedication such as this is important to the success of SLA and to the future of the Adventist Church. Consequently, we adjusted our focus and have been richly rewarded with students. These current students have dedication to the school and will be the alumni of the future for SLA.

Finally, **contrary** to most of the rest of the NAD schools, we are about to embark on a mission to plan our facility needs for the next two generations. As we start this process, it is important to understand that while we are consistent in caring for our facilities, at some point systems and structures become outdated and require substantial expense to be maintained in a serviceable condition. We are not in crisis yet, however we want to be proactive and be able to make decisions before problems arise, so South Lancaster Academy is beginning a capital campaign to review our infrastructure and plan for the future. Our goal is to quickly raise monies to develop a master facilities plan, a roadmap for the future. Your help in this area is greatly appreciated.

## 2011 Honor Classes

2006--5 yr.--needed  
 2001--10 yr.--needed  
 1996--15 yr.--Ralph Gifford IV and Danielle Chaffee Krivda  
 1991--20 yr.--needed  
 1986--25 yr.--Karen Mustard Larsen  
 1981--30 yr.-- needed  
 1976--35 yr.-- Sandra Jenssen Merriman  
 1971--40 yr.--Patti Price Lambert, Chris Rennard Jetter,  
 and Diane Wilcox  
 1966--45 yr.--Linnea Johnson Mesaric-Davis and Janice  
 Blood Kendrick  
 1961--50 yr.--Donna Burke Edmondson  
 1956--55 yr.--Frank Howes and Millie Medeiros Wolford  
 1951--60 yr.--Duane Cady  
 1946--65 yr.

# Looking Forward

*Janice Kendrick*

Plans for the 2011 SLA Alumni Weekend are now well underway. The SLA Alumni Association officers have been busy getting class representatives, program sponsors, speakers, presenters, and plan the various activities for the weekend. There are a number of articles in this issue about what to expect for Alumni Weekend, but the most important thing that you can do to make the weekend a success is show up.

Year after year we see friends and classmates reuniting during the weekend, and it convinces us that YOU, the alumni of this school are the most important part of the weekend. I have thought many times about the reasons that people decide to come for the weekend, or not to come, and I want each of you to know that whether you come or not, there is someone who would like to see you. Each year names are mentioned and stories

are recalled about academy days, and inevitably the final thoughts include, "I sure would like to see [someone] again. Maybe he/she will show up at the next reunion."

The best way to make the most of the weekend is to show up, encourage your classmates to meet you here, and the rest becomes your next best story. I can assure you that *we* would love to see you, and we hope we do.

## Note to Class Representatives

*Linnea (Johnson Mesario) Davis '66*

This year is moving by rapidly. The job you perform, as class representatives, is so very important to the success of Alumni Weekend! We really appreciate what you do! As I've communicated to you, the MOST important is contacting your classmates to get them thinking about and excited about coming back! It is also important to get the updated information to Jon at SLA so they get the newsletter.

Again, a synopsis of the weekend, tentatively:

- Check in and Sr. Benefit supper at SLA on Friday afternoon
- Friday night program at the College Church
- Sabbath School and Church at the College Church
- Sabbath Lunch at Chan Shun Dining Commons
- Class pictures there
- Class get-togethers at SLA classrooms in the afternoon
- Vespers at the Village Church
- Catered Dinner at Thayer in the evening—a perfect venue for classes to eat and linger—a fund-raiser for SLA
- Pancake breakfast at College Church function room

It's a full and fun weekend! Let us know if there's anything we can do to help you!

## Where to Stay

Lodging	Miles	Phone
Chocksett Inn 59 Laurelwood Road Sterling, MA 01564	4.5	978-422-5291
Four Points Sheraton 99 Erdman Way Leominster, MA	10.6	978-466-6013
Springhill Suite by Marriott 27 Andrews Parkway Devens, MA	11.5	978-772-3030
Super 8 Motel 482 North Main Street Leominster, MA	10.3	978-537-2800
Charlotte's House B&B 5 Bolton Road Bolton, MA	9	978-669-5005
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites 121 Coolidge Street Hudson, MA	10	866-678-6350

AUC may also have some dorm rooms available.  
978-368-2000

# SLA Alumni, Family & Friends Cruise

**“Carnival Legend”  
January 22-29, 2012 • Tampa, Florida**



*June Hilbert Harris '65*

If you are looking for a nice getaway after the busy Holiday Season, why not join us as we Cruise on the Carnival Legend for seven days in the beautiful Caribbean?

Our journey begins on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> as we board the “Legend” in Tampa, Fl. The ship sets sail at 4:00 pm. Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> we will spend a day at sea and will have a time and place where we will have a chance to meet with our other cruise mates. On Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> we arrive at Grand Cayman in the Cayman Islands. We will be docked from

7:00 am to 4 pm.

Then it’s off to Cozumel, Mexico, arriving on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup> we arrive in Belize, and have time to explore the island for the day before we are off for our final stop, Isla Roatan arriving on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Our final day Sabbath, January 28<sup>th</sup> we will spend at sea as we enjoy a day of warmth and sunshine on our way to our home port of Tampa on Sunday morning, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

We would love to have you join us. Cabins are already being booked and you won’t want to miss the boat! If you would like more

information about the cruise and the cost, please contact our travel agent, Twin City Travel. Their toll free number is: 800-698-6015 and ask for Ruth Landanno who is working with us. She will be glad to answer your questions, give you rates for the various categories of cabins, and book your reservation.

I do encourage you to contact Ruth as soon as possible if you are interested. The ship is filling up fast and we want you to join us and enjoy the cruise! Hope you will join us.

## To the Class of '66:

*Linnea (Johnson Mesaric) Davis '66*

It’s hard to believe it’s been 45 years since we graduated from SLA! Oh, my, those were the days! We were young, idealistic and energetic—just beginning our journey called “life” and finding ourselves. But the friendships formed then and the memories from those days become more precious with each passing year. So much of the influences from our friends and faculty made us who we are now.

We were the first class standing on our own without a dorm. Lots of readjusting to do but we prevailed and had a great year! I had such a wonderful time talking to so many of you five years ago—many of whom I hadn’t talked to in a very long time. We had many come then and had a wonderful weekend. We certainly hope those of you who didn’t make it, missed us as much as we missed you all! Every one of us is precious in the eyes of God, and precious to each other. We all have our own unique contributions to make to this world and each other.

Please put Columbus Day Weekend, October 7, 8, and 9, 2011, in your calendars now and plan to join us for a fun-filled, memory making weekend in gorgeous New England in the fall!

If you have any questions, contact Linnea (Johnson) Mesaric [linneamesaric@yahoo.com](mailto:linneamesaric@yahoo.com), phone 207-717-6318 or Janice (Blood) Kendrick [jankendrick@hotmail.com](mailto:jankendrick@hotmail.com) phone 207-665-2233.

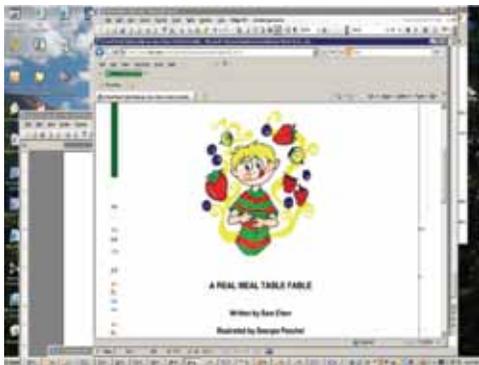
## Life Sketch: Sam Chen, MD '58



Sam Chen was born and raised in New England. Writing, including verse, and health matters, has been some of his longstanding interests. During hay fever season, he wonders if the plant kingdom knows he is an herbivore and is telling him it's payback time. He lives

in CA. He has written two children's books that can be found at the links below.

The first is about a young boy who learns the benefits of being a vegetarian in a mysterious way. After being sent to his room without dinner, he is transported to an island where he encounters a genie and animal friends. Written in verse, with color illustrations.



<http://www.lulu.com/product/ebook/a-real-meal-table-fable/15113343>



The second is a color illustrated short book in verse form, describing different reasons (selfishness, differences in appearance and religion) for conflict and disagreement. Encourages children to be tolerant and get along.

<https://www.lulu.com/product/ebook/world-peace/15150305>

## WHERE IS HE NOW?

by Phyllis Fales Sabol '65

When Dale Kongorski graduated from SLA in 1961, he went to Atlantic Union College to study Religion. His college life was interrupted, however, when he was asked to teach school at the Riverview Adventist Junior Academy in Maine due to a shortage of teachers at the time. In December of 1964, he married his sweetheart, Janean Moe, and then earned BAs in both Religion and History in 1969. He has worked 45 years for the Seventh Day Adventist Church as Pastor, Youth Director, and in departmental positions in conference offices, and in church administration. He has worked in Virginia, North Dakota, New York, Canada and from Alaska to Peru. Along the way he found time to earn a Master of Education degree at Columbia Pacific University. His most current jobs have been for the Washington Conference where he pastored churches in the San Juan Islands, using flying skills he acquired as a student at AUC. He now lives in Sequim, Washington and is getting used to retirement and enjoying his wife, four grown children, and five grandchildren. Where will he be in October? He will be back in South Lancaster as our keynote speaker for the Alumni Weekend Church service. Plan to come to meet and greet Pastor Kongorski yourself. With the interesting life he's lived, his sermon should prove enlightening.

## Special Book Available, Edited by Joan Holden Dudley '54

Jon Nosek '66, Director, SLA Development

Joan M. (Holden) Dudley '54 has worked diligently for several years to produce a beautiful book titled "God is Love." The book is a collection of her own photographs that she positioned with magnificent quotations of Ellen G. White regarding God's gifts of nature. The cover of this magnificent book was designed by Bill Tymeson '62.

Joan is proud to be an alumna of South Lancaster Academy and the parent of two alumnae. She has dedicated this book to benefit her favorite school, South Lancaster Academy. She will donate and sign her book for anyone who donates \$100 to SLA or you may purchase this book for \$15 plus \$3.50 S&H (US destinations)

All of the income from this book will go directly to South Lancaster Academy.

You can contact the SLA Development office (978-365-5225) to make a donation or purchase the book. "God is Love" is a perfect gift idea as well. Drop by the Development Office at SLA or Browning Elementary to view this book.

SLA Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 864  
South Lancaster, MA 01561

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### Weekend at a Glance – October 7-9, 2010

#### Friday, October 7

3:00	Registration .....	SLA School Lobby
3:00	Car Wash .....	SLA Building
4:30	Supper – Benefit SLA Senior Class .....	SLA Building
7:30	Musical Meditations with Artwork by Wayne Hazen '65 .....	College Church Sanctuary

#### Sabbath, October 8

8:30	Registration continues .....	College Church Lobby
9:20	Sabbath School .....	College Church
11:00	Worship Service – Class of '61 .....	College Church

#### **Sabbath afternoon:**

1:00	Alumni Luncheon .....	AUC Chan Shun Dining Commons
3:00	Class Meetings .....	SLA Building
5:30	Sabbath Vespers, Class of '71 .....	Village Church
7:00	Evening Dinner at Thayer .....	Thayer Conservatory
7:30	Women's Basketball .....	SLA Gymnasium
8:30	Men's Basketball .....	SLA Gymnasium

#### Sunday, October 9

9:00	Pancake Breakfast .....	Fellowship Hall, College Church
11:00	SLA Alumni Business Meeting .....	Fellowship Hall, Village Church

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