

GSAA LINK

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE
OF GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY

FALL-WINTER 2020/21

The GSAA Link is an alumni magazine of Gem State Adventist Academy that issues twice a year.

EDITORS:

TERESA SOULE TATYANA WAHLMAN

QUESTONS? FEEDBACK? Contact Teresa Soule, GSAA Alumni Director tsoule@gemstate.org, or (208) 459-1627



On the cover: GSAA Seniors 2021 Harli Tucker.

"I have been attending GSAA for 2 amazing years. I love the people, staff and friends that I have here. They all contribute to my love for GSAA. I honestly wish I could stay and be a student longer. It will be almost disturbing knowing I am not a part of GSAA's everyday life. I will miss GSAA dearly. But I do plan on coming to visit and come back to watch our Jaguars conquer! I have been considering Walla Walla University for my schooling to pursue a career in dentistry."

* Photo by Tatyana Wahlman

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Photo provided by Teresa Soule

Greetings from GSAA!

My name is John Soulé, and I am the new Principal here at Gem State Adventist Academy. My wife, Teresa and I are so happy to be serving here at this amazing school! Teresa was born here in Boise and her parents and our son have lived here for some time. It's so great to be here near family!

My wife and I have worked at various schools for the past thirty years. I have been an Athletic Director and Principal. My wife has been Girl's Dean, Registrar, Alumni Director and Administrative Assistant. You could say that we have a passion for Adventist Christian Education. During this time we have had many young people cross our paths. Many coming from very unfortunate situations and many coming from very loving homes. We are still in touch with many of them and often find them sleeping on our living room floor as they are passing through town! We have seen miracles happen at our schools. Students whose stories were changed because of caring staff and exceptional teachers.

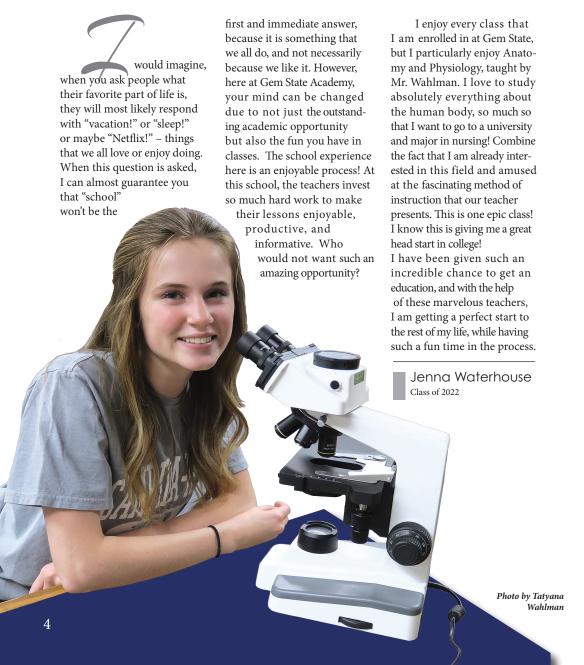
I'd like to tell you about another story. The story about a school that sits up on a hill. This school has gone through many changes throughout the years. Different administrators, teachers, curriculum, financial situations and even paint colors. But there are a few things that remain constant. Students that need a safe place to be educated and heal or maybe need to discover their own relationship with Jesus. They still find an exceptional education with top quality teachers and staff. They still find adults that want to spend time with them and help them develop into good people who will go out into our community and churches and share our message. These things have not changed. And the great part about this story is that it is not over yet!

The story of Gem State Adventist Academy is ongoing and student's lives are being impacted here daily. Good things are happening here! And I'd like to ask, as you think about your story at GSAA, that you will remember our students and this school in your prayers as we continue the legacy.

Blessings,

John Soule

The Fun in Learning



STEM trip

- Science
- Technology
- Engineering
- Mathematics

FUN TRIP FOR JUNIORS & SENIORS

UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

EXCITING ACTIVITIES

FUN DISCOVERIES

COMRADERIE

- SAN FRANCISCO
- MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM
- REDWOOD FOREST
 - COMPUTER MUSEUM
 - JELLY BELLY FACTORY
 - PUC
 - 6 FLAGS PARK
 - APPLE CAMPUS

2021 APRIL – MAY

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A STUDENTS FOR THIS TRIP,

PLEASE CONTACT THE GSAA OFFICE, (208) 459-1627



JOIN THE GSAA TEAM AND MULTIPLY THE BLESSINGS

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

- EPHESIANS 6:18

"... PRAYER is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heavens storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence."

- Steps to Christ, pg. 94

CONTACT GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY
AND FIND OUT HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM!

tsoule@gemstate. org, or (208) 459-1627



- "Prayer is a way to become closer with God and develop a relationship with Him. Prayer is very important, and I have been trying to start every day by praying and asking God to give me a positive outlook. Prayer and the Bible is your connection to God to Become closer with Him and to understand His purpose for your life." ~ Kayla Hastings, class of 2021
- "Prayer is a way to connect with our Heavenly Father, the One who created us and to feel comfort and safety. Prayer is very important to me, because it helps me each and every day to live the best life possible. Prayer for others is important, because praying for them can be an indirect way of connecting them with God." ~Gianna Davidson, class of 2023
- "Prayer is a very powerful thing. A community that comes together in prayer is powerful. Prayer is stronger when we come together. It is important to pray for others because it is a powerful thing. Prayer can be a part of the healing process. Also people can know that they are loved."

~ Navonntah Martin-Reum, class of 2024

• "Prayer is an amazing thing. It is a way to relieve daily stress. It provides a sense of peace and reassurance. It's important to pray for others, because when we do so we ask the Holy Spirit to guide and influence that specific person." ~ Javden Hood. class of 2023

 "Prayer is important, because I've seen its power. In my difficult times people prayed for me and God helped me through. Prayer is the reason I am here at GSAA.~ Lucas Drake, class of 2024

• "Prayer is a way to truly connect with God, a time to talk to Him in frustrating times or as a friend. He wants to hear from you. Also it is important to pray for others because it lets the people, you're praying for, know that you care for them. God truly listens when you are caring for others like God cares for you and I."

~ Kyle Sullivan, class of 2023

"Prayer is a way to talk with God. When I have a bad day a quick prayer helps me and gives me comfort. Prayer is important to me because I can explain all my problems without being judged. Prayer for other people is important because it helps and heals. When we pray for others it shows we care for them."

~ Gillian Raymond, class of 2024

- "Prayer is essential, therapeutic and relieving. It is highly important in our walk with God. Prayer for others helps to stay connected and can make an impact on the person who you praying for." ~ Drew Echelmier, class of 2024
- "Prayer is an important aspect of my life, but as I've gotten older I've learned to truly appreciate the peace that it brings me especially during these difficult times." ~ Chloe lwasa, class of 2021





"Lift His Name on high!" Music group of the Worship Leadership class at their practice.

Photo by Tatyana Wahlman

hen you ask a student what their favorite class is they quickly answer Math or English. That is not the case for me. I came to Gem State after going to a public school for two years. Being at Gem State and seeing how willing to help as well as what amazing Christians the teachers are, has made choosing just one class excruciating. When it comes down to it I would probably have to choose Bible.

I would pick Bible because I went to a Christian grade school my fifth through eight grade years and we had Bible class every day. Then I went to a public High school where they did not offer Bible class. I missed it so much. Coming here and being able to learn new Bible verses I have never read before has been incredible. Each day we walk into class and right after the bell rings we have prayer. Then we jump right into what we are learning. Mr. Perez doesn't baby us like some people do just because they think we are too young to understand. He teaches us stuff that we need to know as well as understand. All the stuff we learn is backed up

by tones of scripture that way if someone asks why we believe that way we can't say I don't know, I was just taught that way. We can get out our Bible and show them from scripture why we believe in going to church on Saturday.

Mr. Perez is an amazing teacher because he does a wonderful job explaining what could be really confusing to us. Each time I walk into his class room I know that whatever we learn it is going to be awesome. One of the things I have learned while going to school here is more about the Holy spirit. I have always grown up knowing that the Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead but I never studied specifically on Him. During Bible class we studied about how the Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead but he is his own being. He could speak to us without asking God what to tell us first but he doesn't. He only tells us what God wants him to tell us. I found this amazing because I never read the scriptures in the Bible that said that until I came here. All this is from one remarkably well taught class which I believe should be offered in every school. You don't make it mandatory for the people that don't want to go but that way it gives Christians the chance to learn something that they might not have found on their own. The Bible is my favorite class because it gives me the chance to learn something new about the Lord every Bible class. This class truly is a blessing from God.

> Lacy Haston Class of 2022

WORSHIP SERVICES
OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS
WEEKS OF PRAYER
BIBLE STUDIES
PRAYER GROUPS
MISSION TRIPS
VESPERS

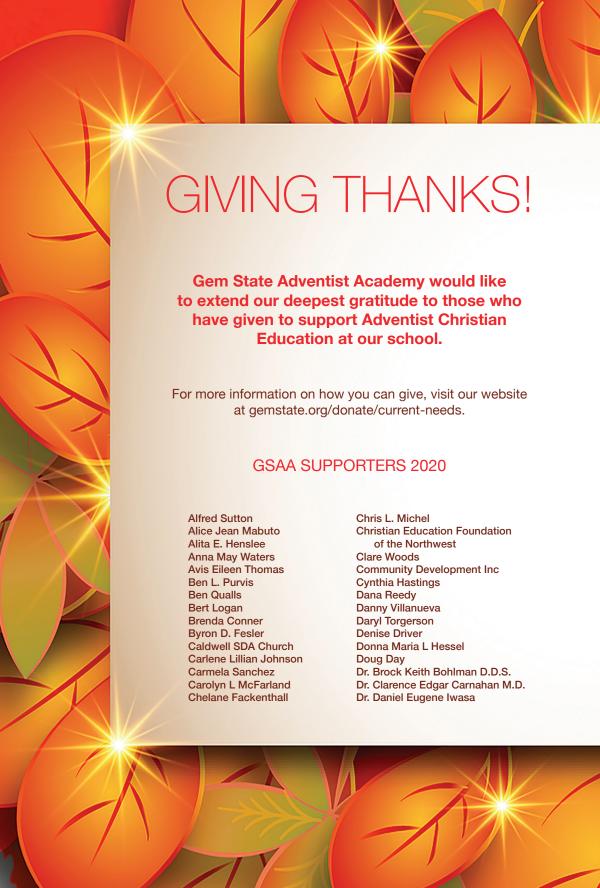


gsaa campus ministries

Various activities, both on and off campus, designed to engage students' religious faith through serving the needs of others in the surrounding community.

For more information, contact Pastor Ever Perez, gemstate.org

(208) 459-1627





Volunteer Program "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10

ision, dedication, commitment, and a joyful heart; that's the complete image of GSAA volunteers. Their enthusiasm, energy, and creativity shine from every project that they accomplish for the school. They are people who show great compassion for young people's ministry, they like to share God's love, and they want to be there where their help and experience is needed the most. "It is important to give of yourself for a mission or cause that is bigger than yourself," says Harold Becker, GSAA Volunteer Coordinator, "It's all about the young people. GSAA holds a strategic position in the Idaho conference to help preach the soon coming of Jesus. What better place to invest your funds and time?"

The Volunteer Program at Gem State restarted about three years ago when Harold and his wife Gloria started establishing their roots in Idaho after moving from California, where he was working at Adventist Health as a Senior IT leader. As a gradutage of the state of

ate from Andrews

University and having nearly half of his family associated with Adventist schools, Harold upholds Adventist education, and he believes that "GSAA has a mission to bring young people to Christ while providing top-tier educational opportunities." He



An enthusiastic GSAA team of volunteers Robert & Tammi Conglton and Harold & Gloria Backer. ~ Photo provided by Harold Backer

says, "When I see the administration, faculty, and staff working

"It is important

to give of

yourself for a

mission

that is bigger

than yourself.

so hard with limited resources, it inspires us, volunteers, to get in and help. We have amazing young people at this school."

Over these three years, after reopening the GSAA Volunteer Program, there have "been many projects of

general maintenance, landscaping,

decorating and cleaning, it is hard to mention them all," says Harold. Here are a few of them:

• Remodeling of the GSAA church with paint and a new background

at the front of the church.

- The church balcony remodeled into three rooms: a worship leadership classroom, a teacher's office, and a staff copy room.
- Remodeling of the Fitness Center and installing new weight and cardio equipment, spin videos and so much more for community access.
- The Fitness Center's climbing wall installation finally completed.
- The Hall of Fame on the Administration building's second floor painted and updated, so all the graduating class pictures are on a timeline.
- The Gym floor stripped, repainted, and refinished.
- Maintenance projects of electric and mechanical support completed.

- Several GSAA houses remodeled.
- The Coaches room (at the front of the gym) remodeled.
- Creation murral on the second floor.
- The main entrances and hallway of the Administration building's lower level painted, and new interior decorating added.
- New digital signage program with two new TV screens installed at the main entrances for easy advertisements.
- Many of the classrooms have also been painted.
- A GSAA Strategic Plan has been developed with accreditation support.
- Establishment of the GSAA YouTube channel, and production of digital and printed marketing materials for the school's outreach.
- Finally, landscaping improvements around campus which include purchasing plants and landscaping materials, mowing the grass, and removing 35 tree stumps around the school.

Volunteers and GSAA staff generously support the school by donating their time, skills, talents, equipment, materials, items, and considerable funds. "Right now, we have a few individuals that volunteer at GSAA regularly. Robert Congleton, Ted Gilbert, and Harold Becker do maintenance and landscaping; Gloria Becker and Tammy Congleton worked this summer on beautifying the campus and the interior design of the buildings, and Tatyana Wahlman helps with media and web design. "Don't forget our teachers donate countless hours of their own time remodeling and personalizing various school places," says Harold Becker, "and many of these projects have been self-funded by dollars donated by the volunteers and generous GSAA supporters: the alumni, donors, and the churches and our Great Inspirer the Lord Jesus."

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Eph. 2:10

The volunteers of GSAA invite all enthusiastic people to join this program. Let our ministry for the young people open the windows of heaven for them, and they would glorify God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Savior.

Find how to become a volunteer or supporter of Gem State Adventist Academy on our website - gemstate.org.





A HEART DRIVEN MISSION



Photo by Tatyana Wahlman



Photo provided by Karen Davies

s the 2019-2020 school year drew to a close, staff and students bid a fond farewell with many thanks and best wishes to our beloved Mrs. Davies, who had been the GSAA Registrar for 31 years! At various points during that time, she had also served as Administrative Assistant and Librarian, as well as teaching Living Skills. Mrs. Davies richly blessed our campus with her calm, caring, and compassionate presence, and kept all of us on track with her organization, attention to detail, and unending patience. Mr. and Mrs. Davies moved to GSAA 32 years ago when he was hired as boys' dean, later also holding the positions of PE teacher, Vice-Principal, Athletic Director, and Recruiter. Although Mr. Davies concluded his career by teaching at another school, he coached for the Jaquars basketball program, and both of them were very active in the Gem State Academy Church. Over the summer the Davies moved to the Portland area where they are very much enjoying retirement.

As a more tangible tribute to Mrs. Davies, whose heart has always been to see students attend GSAA and to have the opportunity to experience our mission of engaging in service, training for leadership, and preparing for eternity, there are several alumni who would like to establish a scholarship in her name. If you are interested in helping with this project please contact: **Sharon Presley**,

(208) 887-0259, or sharonhanna3216@gmail.com





Would you like to be a Santa and make a wish come true for GSAA staff to enhance their ministry?

Please look over the Staff Wish List prayerfully. If you see one that you are inspired to take on, please indicate the item on your check or contact the business office, (208) 459-1627 Ext. 144

Thank you!

Staff Christmas Wish List

Classrooms & Office

10 Art Display Easels - \$265
MacBook Air Laptop 13" - \$1200
2 HP monitors 23" - \$300
Engenious Designs ORK light (UV light) - \$500
Classroom library of Spanish readers - \$300
Senor Wooly Teacher's Subscription - \$150/year
La Maestra Loca Teacher's Subscription - \$120/year
Microsoft Surface Pro 7 - \$1300
Bluetooth Speaker for PC - \$50
Bus Logo Wrap - \$2500
Projector Epson Pro EX9210 - \$730
Kensington Surface Pro Docking Station - \$420
GoPro 9 - \$350

Dorm

2 Cellular Energy Shield Blinds 45"x80" - \$750 Blu Ray Player - \$125 Office Storage Cabinet - \$300 Weatherproof wireless doorbell system - \$120 Paint for dorm room doors - \$1,500 2 Sanitaire Commercial Vacuums - \$500 35 Bulletin boards - \$575 Room Number Plaques - \$500 35 Towel Racks - \$125 New Beds - \$30,000

Cafeteria

24 Culinary Baseball Caps for Cafeteria Crew - \$145 8 Commercial Angel Food Cake Pans - \$72

6 Commercial Springform Cake Page \$ 109

4 Commercial Panini Grills - \$ 500

6 Commercial Springform Cake Pans - \$ 108

Smooth "S" Blade for Commercial Robot Coupe - \$117

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights." James 1:17

PRICELESS MEMORIES

Raul Castanon

herever Raul Castanon was serving, he welcomed and valued people. He appreciated authenticity, honesty, humor, and beauty. He went well beyond the mere title of Christian, to the "being" of one – in all actions, every day, big or small. Raul made you feel that you mattered, taking time for family, friends and or even a stranger. He knew Jesus is coming soon. Hebrews 6:11 could sum up his philosophy of life: "Our great desire is that you will keep right on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true."

Raul entered his rest on Monday, August 31, 2020, in his home surrounded by his family. He was born on August 24, 1954, in El Paso, Texas, the son of Aristeo and Rebecca (Velo) Castanon. He is





Photo above: Raul and his wife Charon.

Photo on the right: Raul Castanon' graduation picture 1973.

survived by his wife, Charon (Terrell) Castanon, daughter Mandy, his father Aristeo, brothers



Carlos and Hugo, sisters Patty and Becky (Mario) Hernandez, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother Rebecca, his brother Ari, and his son Nathan.

Raul spent his childhood in Cd Jaurez, Chih., Mexico, and Southern California. He moved to Idaho before it was popular and attended high school at Gem State Adventist Academy, graduating in 1973. While attending GSAA he excelled in sports, made lifelong friends, and met his future wife, Charon Terrell. He repeatedly returned to his Alma Mater supporting his children and serving as a coach, alumni president, volunteer, sponsor, and donor. He simply showed up time and time again. One of his many "adopted kids," Jesse Zappia, shared the following: "If Raul was present, you just knew you were in the right place and that everything was going to be okay. He became a father figure to many of



Walla Walla College Friendship tournament 2002. Men's basketball. 1st place.

us; you could just feel his love." You could always find Raul humbly serving young people in various positions of leadership within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Boise Valley Adventist School, Pathfinders, Bible Study, and Camp Ida-Haven were a few of his favorites.

Raul learned the plumbing trade from is future father-in-law, Wavne Terrell. He also worked for another relative, Milford Terrell, before opening his own plumbing business, PC Plumbing - contributing to the positive commercial growth of the Treasure Valley. He was in business to make a living, but he would regularly assist friends with their plumbing needs. In his free time he would golf, ride mountain bikes, ski, and snowshoe. He made time for his friends and helped host innumerable celebrations. He and Charon spent endless amounts of time and money giving all their friends and family priceless memories and the opportunity to live better lives. They genuinely love people. Anyone can feel it; it is all consuming. Charon was the love of his life and his final concerns were not about himself, but about her. Raul was a great dad to their children, Nathan and Amanda "Mandy." They knew

they were genuinely loved and supported in all their life choices and endeavors.

Raul's belief that Jesus is real and makes a daily difference is embodied Hebrews 6:19 - "This confidence is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls." He dealt with all life's blows with the certainty in mind, giving others hope through his attitude, actions, kind heart, and quick wit. One

of his good friends stated it this way, "Raul was deeply spiritual in a very casual and down-to-earth way. He could put people at ease by his calm presence. Raul liked to "dig in" to a Biblical topic or subject to understand the why and how for a situation. And he loved to teach, and to be taught. Raul was ground-

ed in Jesus, and certain of his life, and his future. He was at peace." Raul knew that God ..."will bring salvation to all those who are eagerly waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:28.) Rest well Raul; come soon Lord Jesus.

To honor Raul's life and share in his passion for a strong future for our youth, please consider supporting Adventist

education, Pathfinders, or contributing to the Nathan Castanon Scholarship Fund at Camp Ida-Haven, PO Box 4330, McCall, Idaho 83638.

This confidence is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.

Hebrews 6:19

Kimberley Mitchell,

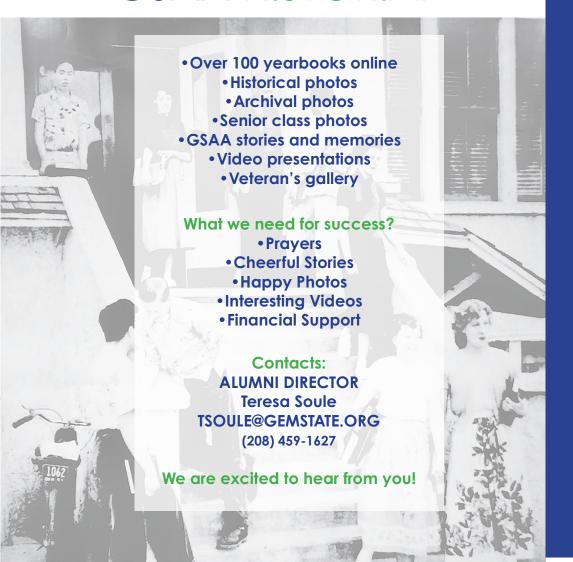
Class of 1982, GSAA Staff

Compiled by: Jesse Zappia, class of 2001 Tristi Hendrick, class of 1999 Ed Schultz, class of 1976

Photos provided by GSAA and private archives.



GSAA HISTORIAN



DID YOU KNOW?

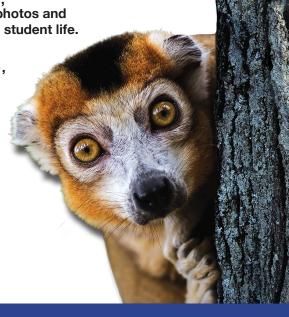
GSAA has a channel on YouTube, where you can find the latest and archived videos from the school events and sport games.

GSAA has a page on facebook where you can find the latest news, photos and videos of different school events and student life.

GSAA has a page on Instagram, where you can find the latest photos and videos of different school events and student life.

TUNE UP!

LIKE,
SUBSCRIBE,
& STAY CONNECTED!



weekend

GSAA 2021

It is our greatest desire to be able to welcome you back to our campus on Alumni Weekend. April 2-4, 2021.

Unfortunately, because of Covid-19 we are not sure at this time if that will be a possibility. As we get closer to the event we will post updates on our website, so please check it regularly.

We are praying that we will be together again soon!



Gem State Adventist Academy 16115 S Montana Ave, Caldwell, ID 83607-8365 www.gemstate.org

IS ULTIMATELY COMMITTED TO REFLECTING JESUS

His Teaching
His Compassion
His Intellectual Acuity
His Creativity
His Leadership
His Example

His Sacrifice His Grace



A long-lasting tradition at Gem State Adventist Academy that consolidates enthusiastic supporters: GSAA alumni and friends.

Bring your visions!

Be involved in GSAA projects!

Become a C of 100 member!