

alumni magazine

GSAA

LINK

SPRING-
SUMMER
2021

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ALUMNI

weekend
GSAA 2021



Log onto
GEMSTATE.ORG/ALUMNI
to view
the 2021 VIRTUAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING.

gemstate.org/alumni/virtual-homecoming-2021

DID YOU MISS IT?



GSAA LINK

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE
OF GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY

SPRING - SUMMER 2021

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

ALUMNI DIRECTOR
TERESA SOULE

GSAA LINK EDITOR
TATYANA WAHLMAN

**QUESTIONS?
FEEDBACK?**

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

ON THE COVER



Lauren Kelley
(class of 2024)
& Conner Kelley
(class of 2021),
sister and brother are
a new generation
at GSAA.

Read Conner's story on p.6
Photo by Tatyana Wahlman

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Greetings, GSAA Family!

We just finished up the 2020/2021 school year, and what a year it was! Despite Covid, we managed to keep our students in the classroom for most of the school year. For this, we are praising God! Our world needs the great leaders that we are producing here at GSAA. We just graduated 14 outstanding seniors who are ready to take on this challenge. Our prayers go with them as they seek God's will for their future.

The school has been out for three weeks now, and I am ready to get things started again! This next school year, we are excited to add a new STEM class taught by our math teacher, Mark Waterhouse. Another project in the planning stages is the development of our new baseball field. Our athletic director, Jeremy Perkins, started up baseball this last school year, and it has added so much spirit to our student body.

Our volunteers are busy doing staff housing remodels, keeping our grounds looking so beautiful, and putting this publication together (thank you, Tatyana!). If you live in the area and have a few extra hours or are planning a visit and would like to help out, we need you! The help we receive from our volunteers is priceless!

A big heartfelt thank you to those of you that have supported our school this last year. Whether through donations, time, or prayers, these things are so appreciated as we educate these young people for eternity.

Blessings,

John Soule
GSAA Principal



GSAA graduating class of 2021

Photo by Mark Waterhouse



Photo by Tatyana Wahlman

Hello, my name is 何以昕 .

If you cannot read these characters, it's pronounced as Khlee-sin, but my friends at Gem State called me Lucy.

I came here from Chengdu, which is the capital of the Chinese province of Sichuan. I live there with my mom, dad, sister, and younger brother. After accomplishing nine years of school there, I searched the internet for a secondary education school in the United States, and I found GSAA, and in September of 2018 I arrived at Idaho.

Being out of my country for the first time, having a different language to speak and culture to adjust to wasn't very easy. I had to learn lots of new things. My GSAA family (students and staff) was always there for me and was very friendly and helpful in making my learning here much more accessible.

I like the educational program that Gem State provides for students, where I can express my thoughts on subjects and have friends all day around me. Although, after graduation, I want to pursue a career in medicine, I want to become a doctor. I like the challenge. I miss my country very much, but, unfortunately, I haven't had a chance to go back due to COVID-19. I hope the situation will get better and I can travel back home to see my family soon. But for now, I have my GSAA family and the host family who helps and supports me.

TUNE IN AND STAY CONNECTED LIVE TO GSAA EVENTS

GSAA
LIVE STREAMMING
ON MULTIPLE
PLATFORMS



What does it take to be a good mom or dad? How do you take care of an infant baby? And what are the baby needs? Why does the baby cry so much? Why is he awake in the night and sleepy in the daytime? And, finally, how much time will I have left for myself? All of these questions and many others were going through the minds of the students of the A&P class when they, for the first time, took home for 24 hours a cute little RealCare robotic baby.

“The robotic baby project is a part of the human body study at the GSAA Anatomy and Physiology class. The infant simulator is a unique learning aid that imitates the behavior of a real baby. It helps students to experience real baby care and to learn more about responsibility, parenting demands of a baby, and how it affects them as a teenage parent”, explains Glen Wahlman, GSAA Science teacher. Here are the students’ feedbacks about their robotic baby experience.

Sela

I was looking forward to doing the baby project. It was interesting to feel myself in the shoes of a parent of an infant. This experience was challenging and rewarding. It shocked me how much time of my day

it took! It was a lot of responsibility to take care of the baby. The most challenging part about this project was carrying the baby around the school and taking care of it during class. People around me were curious, kind, and supportive, but it was challenging to listen and participate in class while helping the baby stop crying. In public, I got stares because, at first glance, I looked like a teen mom with a real baby. People had questions. And when I brought my robotic baby home, my family was shocked, but later they were cool about it. I had to spend the night taking care of this baby. I couldn’t imagine how little time I would have for sleep. But I survived.

Even though it was for a day, it was an eye-opening experience of commitment and responsibility of becoming a parent, even if it was just for a day.

Destiny

I found this project to be very rewarding because it shined light onto the reality of a baby. I had to go out of my way to do things for the baby I would do, such as making sure my car wasn’t too hot. I also learned how a baby is very demanding and follows their schedule. It seemed as if the baby would cry at the worst times or



Photo by Tatyana Wahlman

Sela Estep: “It was interesting to feel myself in the shoes of a parent of an infant.”

that it cried often. It was also challenging to take care of the baby during the night because I wouldn’t say I like to wake up many times.

I found the Real Life Baby Project to be very educational. Because of this, I would recommend that any student planning on possibly having kids in their future take part in the project because it shows you the reality of a baby. I believe this project opens up an opportunity for people to see what taking care of a baby can mean and how it can affect every aspect of your life, from going out in public, finding time for the baby, and even simply getting sleep.

“I came home with a robotic baby...”

Sierra Davis and
Destiny Lawson
on the break
between
classes.



Editorial

Compiled by:
Sela Estep, class of 2022
Destiny Lawson, class of 2021



Photo by Tatyana Wahlman

GSAA Seniors:
Conner Kelley
 CLASS OF 2021

“I have been at GSAA for three years. I enjoy the fantastic friends that I have here in this family-like environment. I know that I will miss the many great conversations and experiences I’ve had with my classmates.

I plan to go to Boise State University to study criminal justice and pursue a career as a law enforcement officer.”

We Are Fam



Did you know that Gem State Adventist Academy consists of six generations of alumni? The first graduates of this school left their alma mater over 100 years ago. And through the years, families have been sending their children: brothers and sisters, cousins, nephews and nieces, and then grandchildren, and friends of the families, and church members, and their relatives to GSAA. Gem State is not just a school, but it’s a big family where students and staff are united in the love of Jesus. It is the heart-centered mission of Christian education for our young people.

Walking the GSAA Hall of Fame and seeing the graduates’ faces tell many stories of the life that happened here in over 100 years period of the school’s history. Names like States, Dennis, Botimer, Drake, and others alternate with a constant frequency throughout the class portraits. They tell us about their dedication and belonging, success and tradition.

“In our immediate family,” shared Yvonne Iwasa, “Steve Iwasa (Class of 1971), the oldest of five brothers, was the first attendee at GSAA. Here he met his future wife, Sue Colson (class of 1972). And then Steve’s brothers, Bruce (class of 1977), Doug (class of 1979), Dan (class of 1981), and David (class of 1984), also attended and graduated from Gem State Academy. After graduation, they made their careers in optometry, nursing, social work, Eastern Medicine, and sales. And when their children grew up, and they also came to GSAA - Ben Iwasa (class of 2003), Aubrienne Iwasa (class of 2008), Andralyn Iwasa (class of 2010), Carly Iwasa (class of 2013), Makoto Iwasa (class of 2017), Joben Iwasa (class of 2017), Jillana Iwasa (class of 2020), and Chloe’ Iwasa (class of 2021). We also had some older cousins who came from Reed Island, BC Canada to attend GSAA.”- continued Yvonne Iwasa, “So our family began its association with GSAA several years before our oldest brother

nily

had attended this school. Several members of the family continued to keep a close connection to the school. They served as task force workers, staff and board members at Gem State. And many of us like to attend GSAA sport and social events. Even though the last Iwasa, Chloe, graduated this year from Gem State, we as a family will always be friends and supporters of this great school!"



Graduation day at GSAA. Class of 2021.

Photo by Martha States

GSAA graduates cherish many fun memories. At alumni weekends, stories, hugs, and laughter fill up the air of the old school. People reminisce about the banquets, concerts, fall festivals, trips, jokes, vespers, sports, friendships, classes, and many other GSAA moments. They are priceless! Please share your stories with us, help keep the spirit of Gem State Adventist Academy inspiring our young generations.

To share your story and photos, please contact Teresa Soule, alumni director:
email- tsoule@gemstate.org,
phone – 208.459.1627
Mark your emails as GSAA HISTORIAN.
We are excited to hear from you!

*Chloe
Iwasa.
Class
of 2021*

Editorial

Compiled by:
Yvonne Iwasa
Chloe Iwasa, class of 2021

Photo by Tatyana Wahlman



**GSAA GOLF
TOURNAMENT
RAISES
\$6,800
FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

On May 16, 2021, Gem State Adventist Academy hosted its annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at the TimberStone golf course. God blessed us with a beautiful, sunny, 85-degree day. Eighteen teams enjoyed a great day of golf, fellowship, and lunch together. At our awards luncheon, one of our GSAA seniors, Gaby Liebelt, was presented with a \$1000 cash scholarship from the Treasure Valley Links Players. Congratulations to our winning team Josh Felt, Allen Botimer, Ryan Bell & Terry Day. Please plan to join us next year and support our amazing students!

Our sincere gratitude goes out to our major sponsors:

- Community Development Inc.
- Idaho SDA Conference
- Caldwell Family Dentistry
- Iwasa Eye Center
- North Pacific Union Conference
- Pacific Press Publishing Association
- Healthcare with Heart
- HighPoint-IT
- Outdoor Wilderness fabrics
- Treasure Valley Links Players

Teresa Soule
Alumni Director

PHOTOS:

- 1- *Winning team: Josh Felt, Allen Botimer, Ryan Bell & Terry Day.*
- 2- *Gaby Liebelt at presentation of the scholarship from the Treasure Valley Links Players.*
- 3- *Brock & Laura Bohlman*



Save the DATE!
MAY 15, 2022

Photos by Tatyana Wahlman & Teresa Soule

GSAA BASEBALL

FUNDRAISING



CALLING ALL GSAA SPORT LOVERS!

WE NEED YOUR HELP
FOR A RENOVATION
OF THE BASEBALL FIELD:

- fencing around the entire field,
- irrigation (sprinklers for grass outfield),
- sod for the infield diamond around the pitcher's mound,
- dugout and storage to be building,
- truckload of clay infield dirt.

YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS
WILL HELP TO IMPROVE THE BASEBALL
PROGRAM FOR GSAA STUDENTS!

For donations and volunteer opportunities for this project, please contact GSAA office.

TEL. 208.459.1627

GEMSTATE.ORG

GSAA STAFF CHRISTMAS WISH LIST 2020

THANK YOU!

**ALL our donors
of the Christmas Wish List!**

Because of your generosity,
we are able to enhance
our ministry to the young people
of GSAA

BLESSINGS:

- The GSAA Art program received 10 display easels for the art show.
- The Spanish classroom was able to subscribe to educational materials in the Spanish language and to update its computer to Pro 7.
 - The Bible classroom received a bluetooth speaker.
 - The Dorm was blessed to receive 2 Cellular Energy Blinds, a Blue Ray Player, an Office Storage Cabinet, a Weatherproof wireless doorbell system, 2 commercial vacuums and multipletowel racks.
 - The Cafeteria received funds for a commercial grill, culinary caps, cake pans and a smooth "S" blade.
 - A logo wrap for the new GSAA van.

2 Corinthians 9:10-15

"You will be enriched in every way., and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God... In their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"







**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

**BE A PART
OF THE GSAA
VOLUNTEER TEAM!**

**SUPPORT THE
MINISTRY FOR
OUR YOUTH!**

**MULTIPLY
BLESSINGS FOR
OUR SCHOOL!**

For more information,
please contact GSAA
office, or visit GSAA
website.

16115 S MONTANA AVE
CALDWELL, ID 83607
PH: 208.459.1627
GEMSTATE.ORG