



**Alumni
Spotlight**
p.11

**Wish
List**
p.9

**Senior
Survival**
p.4

**Spiritual
Retreat**
p.6

GSAA LINK

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF
GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Fall - Winter 2021

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

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QUESTIONS? FEEDBACK?

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ON THE COVER



Lacy Huston
(Class of 2022)

working hard at Camp Ida-Haven.
Check out Spiritual Retreat on p.6 to
find out what she's working on!

Our School

Lying in the Boise valley
Surrounded by hills of Idaho,
Adjacent to the town of Caldwell
Is a place where youth should go.
'Tis a Christian institution
Just the school for you and me,
For the Rule of Life is "Golden"
At Gem State Academy.

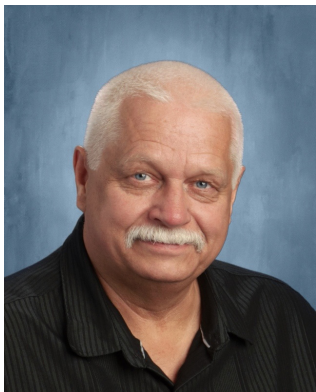
Leaving the Oregon Trail historic
Trim, neat buildings, come in view,
Bordered round by sentinel poplars
"Midst lawns of verdant hue;
'Tween two pillars a walk extending
Into stone steps gray and wide,
Leading to the doors of knowledge
Where right and honor guide.

Meeting there the teachers friendly,
Each one faithful to the Truth,
Daily led by the Divine Spirit
As they train the earnest youth;
Instilling firmly in their plastic lives
A spirit of Christlike kindness,
Implanting in both mind and soul
A deep desire for true success.

Thanking Thee - Thou God of wisdom
That Thy glorious ordained plan
Of the Heavenly school hereafter
Can be conducted on earth by man.
Praising Thee - Thou Master Teacher
That each lesson taught by Thee
Will reveal Thy love unchanging
Thru out ceaseless ages of eternity

William Gibson, Class of 1934

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



I recently received a package in the mail from a very dear friend of mine, Mr. Walt Meske. Walt was the Principal here from 1966-1969. Inside I found a yearbook from the year 1933. What a treasure! On page one of this issue is a poem from this yearbook written by a junior from that year. As I was reading it, I found that this message written eighty-eight years ago is still true today. Even though it's a different building we still have teachers that seek to instill Christian values into our young people. There are traditions still happening, and we remain dedicated to providing the best faith-based education possible.

Dear alumni, we need you! We need your prayers and your financial support. It takes all of us working together, past and present to ensure that there is a future for our dear school.

Young people today are being bombarded by evil and our education system is needed now more than ever. I hang out with these students everyday and trust me they are worth investing in!

Coming up on November 30 there is a nation-wide event called Giving Tuesday. I would like to invite you to consider investing in the Annual Fund at Gem State Adventist Academy. We thank God every day for giving us this place to educate students for success, and with your support we can continue to do so far into the future.

Blessings,

John Soulé

GSAA Principal



"WE HONOR YOU, DEAR GEM STATE"

The Key to Success

Senior survival was easily one of the highlights of my high school experience. Nothing brings you closer to your classmates than stressful, exhausting initiatives that put your trust in each other to the test. I can confidently say, however, that everything that was experienced, the good and the bad, was absolutely worth it. Not only have we all become such great friends, but we also now trust each other with our entire lives. A huge event that impacted this bond was something that checked both our physical and our emotional strength - the wall.

This was it, the moment we had all been anticipating. As we stood before one of our greatest challenges, both excitement and fear battled inside of us. Strategies were planned in advance, but the reality was, no one really had any idea what methods were and weren't going to work. We just needed trial and error, which is what inevitably happened. Once a semi-solid plan of action was established, our first man went up, with minimal struggles. That really boosted our confidence, and we quickly sent our next person up. But the more people that went over, the more we struggled. It became harder and harder for everyone.

Within about ten minutes, we had successfully sent three people over the wall. Progress! We soon decided that Michael would be our next person over, so we launched him up like we had done the previous people, but with less ease. After a bit of a scary struggle, he made it to the top. But that was only halfway. Exhausted, he still had to go all the way back down. The three of us that had already gotten over made a pyramid shape to grab and lower him down. I, being one of the three on the other side, was a base, along with Brandi; Ely

was on our shoulders. As Michael swung his feet over, Ely grabbed and started to lower him. Soon later I heard Ely announce that he was falling. Thinking nothing of it, I kept

focusing on keeping my shoulders straight. Within moments I felt the pressure on my shoulders leave... Then smack! Ely slipped and Michael fell directly on top of me as I crouched forward. Luckily no one was injured, and all that was left for us to do was laugh about it and move on.

Gradually we got more and more people over, some more easily than others, and each time we would celebrate our accomplishment. When the last one of us went over the wall, we felt a huge weight lifted off our shoulders and our faces beamed at our triumph. A relaxing and accomplished feeling went through our bodies as Ely remarked under his breath, "Guys. We did it." We had done it; we had beat our greatest competitor.

Nothing is more mentally exhausting than watching your friends struggle while being held ten feet off the ground, hoping and praying that someone doesn't slip up, drop them, and injure them. We experienced both sides of that, and yet we still had complete trust in each other and we thankfully all made it out alive, with just some epic cuts and bruises. Psalms 56: 3 says, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You." That Monday, in the complete middle of the woods, we, as a class, overcame our fears and took on a scary and thrilling challenge, and completed it. You need to put trust in other people, like we did that day. No other possible way had presented itself. Trusting was, and always is, the KEY to success





SENIOR SHOWCASE

JANUARY 8
6:00 PM

You Are Invited!

Come support our senior class!

Senior Talent

Spaghetti Dinner (Donation)

Dessert Auction

ON THE COVER

Giving Back



LACY HOUSTON
CLASS OF 2022

Lacy has been here since her junior year. When asked what she loves about Gem State, this is what she said: I love how you can be yourself and not have to try and be in the spotlight or be the stereotypical high school girl. Here you don't have to try and fit in so hard, there isn't a lot of bullying, and everyone is just so kind and accepting of who you are!

Gem state has this beautiful tradition of starting our school year with a little trip up the mountain to McCall, spending the better part of three days at Camp Ida-Haven, soaking up the sun, playing in the water, roasting marshmallows, bonding with old and new friends, and praising the One who gave it all to us.

Students enjoy a plethora of activities, including boating on Payette lake, zip-lining off Camp's tallest tower, and playing some fun ice breakers that the Student Association put together. They were able to not only have fun, but participate in a couple of service projects around the camp, cleaning it up and making such a beautiful place just that much better.

After we came home, we asked to students to write about their favorite parts of spiritual retreat. Featured here is an essay written by Gem State junior, Sean Rogers:

Spiritual Retreat at Camp Ida-Haven was a great opportunity for bonding with friends and making new ones. A great opportunity for getting out of my comfort zone and



trying new things. A great opportunity to grow closer and experience God in a new way. However, one opportunity really stood out to me; the opportunity to give back.

Camp Ida-Haven is such a fun place to be. It doesn't matter if it's the middle of winter or the middle of winter or the middle of summer, there's always something to do. The two trips that Gem State takes up to Camp Ida-Haven every school year are some of the best trips all year. Every year during spiritual retreat we get the opportunity to give back to the camp by doing a service project and help make the camp by doing a service project and help make the camp a better place for everyone.

This year we weeded and cut branches to make the waterfront look better. It was a great way to be with our friends, get some easy community service hours, and give back to a place we all love.

God has blessed me with the talent of playing the guitar. It's fun playing for church and for worship team got the opportunity to play for the evening worships. It was so incredibly fun making music with my friends and watching



everyone singing, clapping, and praising God. I like how Jayden Hood, the pianist for our team, put it; "It was so cool to see everyone active and just vibing to the music with us." It was such a fun opportunity to give back to God with the talents that He gave to me like the good servants in the parable of the Talents found in Matthew 25:14.

Giving back is an amazing opportunity to make the world a better place for others and to thank others for what they've done. Spiritual retreat let me give back to camp and to God. I will always remember these opportunities and they will help remind me to always give back. I hope we all can find some way to give back to those around us, or to our incredible Creator who has blessed each and every one of us.

Introducing: STEM Class

Gem State Academy is blessed this year to be able to offer a new class called STEM - which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Right now it is only offered to juniors and seniors, but ideally, it'll open up with a basics for underclassmen and an Advanced class for the uppers. Instead of trying to explain ourselves what goes on in this elective class, we thought we'd ask the students and the teacher himself.

From Mr. Waterhouse, the teacher and founder of the class:

Why does Gem State need this class?

In our ever-changing world, I think it is important that our students not only excel academically, but they excel in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Along with this, I believe a kinesthetic approach is necessary. Many of our children have no idea how to use their hands anymore. It is important that we teach our students how to Analyze a need or problem, Design a solution, Create and Build your design, and then Evaluate your Design against the requirements and needs. I believe these skills are lacking in today's environment. And I believe these skills will become more and more necessary.

What are the students learning?

Our class is split up by quarters. Semester 1 is split up into two sections; Robotics, and basic computer programming and electronics via Arduino controllers. Semester 2 is still dependent on how much money we can raise. The options are as follows; 3D programming and designing, 3D printing, into to materials and construction, and design and construction of Bass and Electric Guitars.

What do you see as the future STEM?

I see this class being taught in different sections covering different topics. Ultimately, I'd like the

advanced STEM class to design, build, test, market, and sell Bass and Electric Guitars. I would also like to give them the opportunity to make one for themselves to use in the Worship Leadership Class.

And then we talked with some of the students:

STEM class is an elective class; Why did you choose to take it?

I chose this class because I wanted a break from other extra curricular classes. And when I heard what we were going to be doing, I was so excited! I am doing things that I am actually in to! *Michael Maricio, class of 2022*

What are you hoping to learn?

I am hoping to increase my fine motor skills through building things such as robots

and other projects. I also would like to learn more about how technology works. I am hoping to be able to solve a problem involving some kind of technology in my everyday life. *Andrew Hogaboam, class of 2023*

What is your favorite thing about STEM?

The hands-on application to school and learning really helps me and is really fun. The class is full of all guys who love physics, so the class is pretty enjoyable. We all have a knack for working with our hands and learning new ways of doing things. *Mason Russell, class of 2022*

How do you think this class will help you with your future education/career?

The basis of this class is giving me a new mindset in life; A mindset that is more creative and open to learning and creating new things. With all the variety of ideas and technology that we go over and learn about in STEM class it will really help me in narrowing down on and finding what specific type of STEM I want to focus my education, career, life, and future on. It will help with finding a college I want to go to and a major that I want to focus my college career on. *Sean Rogers, class of 2023*





OUR WISH LIST

Administration

Commercial Outdoor Mailbox: \$500

Varidesk Pro Plus Sit to Stand Desk: \$450

Music Department

Student Model Clarinet: \$300

Table Foam for Handbells: \$115 each (need 8)

English Department

New Literature Sets: \$300 would buy 20-30 new books

Student Residence Hall

HP Neverstop 1202w Laser Printer: \$370

PRO 130 MPH 610 CFM 60V Battery Cordless Handheld Leaf Blower: \$170

Languages Department

Senor Wooly subscription - online Spanish learning resources (1 year): \$150

La Maestra Loca subscription - professional learning community (1 year): \$120

El Mundo En Tus Manos (6 issues) - authentic news and resources for beginning language learners: \$48

Classroom furniture/storage: \$180

PE / Athletics Department

Badminton Racquets- \$250

Pickleball Racquets- \$250

Pickleballs/Badminton Birdies- \$100

Volleyball net \$200

Jag Den Nacho Cheese warmer \$150

Practice Jerseys- \$200

Math / Stem / Physics Department

Variable Power Supplies (AC & DC) - 6 x \$250

Arduino Systems - 10 x \$50

Cafeteria

2.5 gallon Electric mini tank water heater. \$229.00

4.0 gallon Electric mini tank water heater. \$239.00

10.0 gallon point of use electric water heater \$369.00

Food service cart Grey Utility 45x25x33. \$320

Three shelf busser cart polycarbonate #300 capacity. \$250

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

November 30, 2021

Every act of generosity counts and each means even more when we give together.

We have two days for getting deals—Black Friday and Cyber Monday. On #GivingTuesday, we have a day for giving back. #GivingTuesday is the opening day of the giving season:
a reminder of the “reason for the season.”

One of the many ways you can celebrate #GivingTuesday is to make a donation to a good cause, like Adventist education. Gem State Adventist Academy is in need of \$75,000 to complete our Annual Fund. This fund helps with all aspects of our school's needs. These are unrestricted funds to be used to complete our budget. Please consider supporting Gem State Adventist Academy on #GivingTuesday.

Go to our website at gemstate.org to make an online donation!

Gem State Adventist Academy
invites you to:

"TOGETHER
AGAIN"

Alumni Homecoming Weekend, April 1-3, 2022

All alumni are invited to come and celebrate!

Our honor classes will be:

2010, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1980, 1970, 1960, 1950, 1940

2011, 2001, 1996, 1991, 1981, 1971, 1961, 1951, 1941

2012, 2002, 1997, 1992, 1982, 1972, 1962, 1952, 1942

SPOTLIGHT

Travis Wageman, Class of 2009

High school.

A place of education, social status and hormones. I, like many, couldn't wait for it to end by the time my senior year rolled around. I was ready to move on, but looking back at my time at Gem State Academy, I see it as a place full of lasting friendships, cherished memories and individual growth. I wouldn't change a thing, well, maybe a few hair styles or clothing choices.

Gem State Academy is where I developed a love for sports and the bond shared among teammates. It's where my knack for mathematics led me down the path towards engineering. It's where school events felt more like parties with all my friends. Gem State is where I found a relationship with God and studied in preparation for my baptism.

Yes, I may have been able to take additional AP classes, had more elective options, or participated in a larger variety of extra curricular activities in a public high school, but I would have missed out on so much more. I feel that having individual attention in classes from caring and supportive teachers was much more valuable to my education. I would have made friends, but they wouldn't be the same as the lifelong bonds I have with people who hold similar values and religious beliefs.

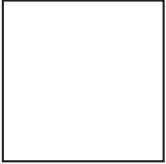
My four years of schooling in the fundamentals of math, science, social studies, and language arts set me up for success during my time at Walla Walla University and into my professional career. I live in the Puget Sound, Washington area with my wife, Nicki, our Australian Shepherd, and our cat. I work for an engineering firm that provides land development consulting



to individuals or developers who wish to build anything from a single-family house to a new subdivision. My primary focus revolves around storm water design to provide detention and treatment of storm water before it is released back into the natural environment. If there weren't laws in place that require developments to

take actions to help preserve and enhance the environment, the natural beauty of the Puget Sound would eventually degrade and disappear.

I believe there is a similar connection with our Adventist schools. If we do nothing to support our schools they may eventually have to close their doors and the next generation wouldn't be able to experience the meaningful education and spiritual environment our schools have to offer.



Gem State Adventist Academy
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Caldwell, ID 83607
www.gemstate.org



Gem State Adventist Academy

**ALUMNI & FRIENDS
SCHOLARSHIP
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**TIMBERSTONE
GOLF COURSE**



SAVE THE DATE! MAY 15, 2022