

# GSA LINK

Engaging in service. Training for leadership. Preparing for eternity.

Spring 2016





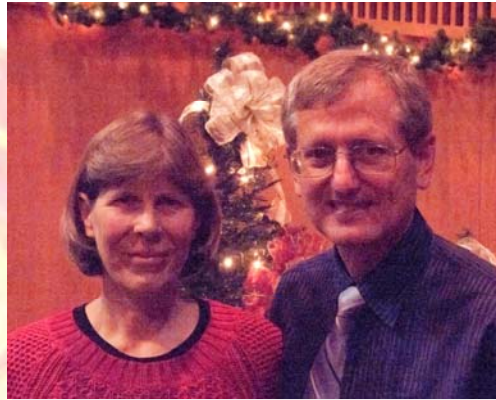
# GEM STATE'S NEW PRINCIPAL



Gem State Adventist Academy has a new principal! **Marvin E. Thorman** has accepted the invitation of the GSAA Operating Board and the Idaho Conference Board of Education

to serve as the next principal. He brings a rich experience of 33 years of teaching and has been a supervising teacher for several student teachers for the past nine years as part of Southern Adventist University's education program. With 20 years as a leader in the academy Senior Survival experience and a strong desire to nurture teachers and students, Marvin is uniquely suited to lead Gem State Adventist Academy into deeper spiritual and academic ministry to God's teens.

Marvin has worked in both boarding



*Marvin and Lisa Thorman*

and day academies, giving him background to help make GSAA, which has both boarding and day students, a premier Adventist Christian school. GSAA will continue its rich history of graduating students who are academically excellent and have learned the joy of serving God in every aspect of their lives.

Team is a concept with which Marvin is very familiar, having served as part of volunteer fire departments for 15 years, eight of them as the captain of a local fire station. Family vacations have centered around camping, canoeing, hiking, and backpacking.

Marvin and his wife, Lisa, have two sons. Their son Marlin and his wife Trisha live in Spokane, Washington. Son Russell and his wife Birgitta live in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Lisa is a musician with a Masters in piano performance and enjoys teaching piano. Marvin says that ministry gives him purpose and fulfillment. He will begin his work at GSAA effective July 1, 2015.

## **Eve Rusk**

*Communication Director, Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.*

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



A year ago I was wondering where I would be this year. I knew that I was ready for and in need of change. Well,

change is what I got! April 1<sup>st</sup> the change started with a phone call

from Patrick Frey, Idaho Conference Educational Superintendent. By May change kicked into high gear when I started working on my first hire, the music position, while still working to finish off my year at Collegedale Academy and take care of moving arrangements. God miraculously sold our house for us without even listing it or going through a realtor. Within a week after arriving in Idaho the sale was complete.

My job as Principal of GSAA has been the most challenging thing that I have ever done. It has driven me to my knees on a daily basis. I have spent the last thirty three years trying

to teach students how to think and problem solve through the subjects of Algebra, Geometry and Calculus. Now I get to spend most of my time actually problem solving. Please do not misinterpret that. It does not mean that GSAA is a bad place that is just a problem. What it means is that Gem State Adventist Academy is a place that is changing students' lives for eternity and we find ourselves locked into a battle with the forces of the enemy. By God's grace we are prevailing. The following paragraph from Desire of Ages page 62 has been my watchword.

"As activity increases and men become successful in doing any work for God, there is danger of trusting to human plans and methods. There is a tendency to pray less, and to have less faith. Like the disciples, we are in danger of losing sight of our dependence on God, and seeking to make a savior of our activity. We need to look constantly to Jesus, realizing that it is His power which does the

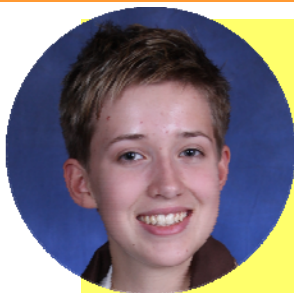


work. While we are to labor earnestly for the salvation of the lost, we must also take time for meditation, for prayer, and for the study of the word of God. Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good."

With that in mind, I honestly believe that the absolute best way that you can assist us at GSAA is through earnest prayer and supplication.

**Marvin Thorman, Principal**

# SENIOR SURVIVAL



It's weird how sometimes people are less willing to face minor discomforts than they are to face major ones. Being splashed with cold water? Somebody take me home. Being engulfed by a monstrous wave, shaken around, and thrown in? Well why would you even go rafting if you didn't drown at least once?

At the start of the current school year the senior class of 2016 stayed at Camp Ida-haven three days longer than the rest of the school for Senior Survival. Senior Survival is a slurry of activities chosen to push limits and build teamwork. The first challenge, rafting the Salmon River, is a perfect metaphor for Senior Survival as a whole.

On the way to the river the bus was full of loud, off-key singing and adrenaline-shot laughter. We arrived, ate lunch, grabbed our paddles and got on the river.

As we started our voyage the raft was tensely silent as everyone eyed the cold water. Just a few drops were enough to cause panicked screeching and shivering. Then, the

first rapid appeared, a rolling mess of whitewater and smooth green waves. Paddles dipped into the water, and then the raft was swallowed in a dark, foamy trough, spewed out, and slapped around. We emerged from the rapid yelling and soaked, too cold to be cold and too wet to care. The tension was broken and everything settled into a relaxed rhythm as the first few rapids roared past.

Then came Cherry, a rapid our guide told us we could safely float, and a group from each raft took up the gauntlet. Right at the top of the rapid our raft's participants ignorantly grabbed onto each other's life vests in a vain attempt at camaraderie. We crested the top of the rapid, then dropped and were ripped painfully apart and thrust unprepared over many rocks and under many waves. We only caught glimpses of each other in between the waves. Philip Reeve, the one who suggested

the idea says, "We made a terrible mistake."

Later that night as the moon shone and the air grew cold Douglas Roe held worship. He asked each person to think of something they'd learned on the river that applied to life and their walk with God.

I remembered Cherry, and what I learned was this: everyone has a different path to take in life. You have to let go eventually, and sometimes holding on longer is more painful than letting go. I'll remember this for the rest of the year, and when graduation comes I'll let go of this family, but I won't stop looking for glimpses of them every time I come up for air.

**Hailey Voth, Senior**



As the year kicks off at GSAA, there are many new things being buzzed about around campus. New staff members, students, and even 17 Brazilian Exchange Students joining the school for the first semester! Being a new student myself, I have found Gem State to be incredibly welcoming, fun, and unique environment. I love the way

everyone at the school's main focus is God. I've gotten to know so many people, including Emma Fresk who said, "We were so excited when we heard you were coming to Gem State!" It felt amazing to know that people wanted me here!

having to fight against the odds. I knew in my heart God wanted me here, so I worked as hard as I could, praying and praying and praying. I found myself doubting whether or not God would help me get here, but in the end, He never fails.

This year, though it has only just begun, I have found myself to be so much more joyful! It is no longer a stretch for me to be close to God. All of my joy is thanks to this amazing school, the power of God, and the plan He has for me. God is so active in this place and I am so proud and thankful to call it my school! As Alexa Davidson says, "The people here are like a family and our school is like our home!"

It was not an easy journey for me to get to this school,

**Aurora Gault, Sophomore**



# NEW FACES...

## "A NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR IS IN TOWN..."

### **Cecilia Simmons**

Music Teacher

Born and raised in the sunniest state on the map, Florida native Cecilia Simmons comes to Gem State Adventist Academy by way of Tennessee. A sports enthusiast who emphatically supports her Florida Gators no matter where she lives, Ms. Simmons likes to say she was born bleeding Orange and Blue and she does not believe it is merely a coincidence that those are the same colors as Boise State University. Ms. Simmons firmly believes in God's leading in her life even when that leading means traveling out west and living far away from her twin sister. She takes even the smallest of coincidences (shared sports colors)

as a sign that Idaho is right where God wants her to be.

A recent graduate of Southern Adventist University, Ms. Simmons comes to Gem State Adventist Academy with teaching certifications in music and German. In addition to completing her necessary studies at SAU, Ms. Simmons also spent a year abroad studying German in Austria. An accomplished flutist Ms. Simmons' love of music is surpassed only by her love for God. Her greatest desire is to use music as a medium to reach the hearts of her students for Christ. Ms. Simmons seeks to be a mentor wherever she goes and has worked with the First Year Experience staff at SAU as a freshman mentor for three years. She brings her love of the outdoors and her own unique brand of enthusiasm to the Gem State Adventist Academy music department.



### **Glen Wahlman**

Science Teacher

Glen Wahlman is the science teacher at GSAA. He has a B.S. degree in Biology and a M.S. degree in Outdoor Education. He has taught internationally and he began teaching in 1984-85 as a student missionary in the Marshall Islands. Graduate of PUC with a degree in biology in 1987, he continued teaching overseas for 3 more years in the islands and a year in Russia. In Russia he met his wife, Tatyana and now he has 2 teenage sons, Dennis and Vadeem. His hobbies are nature exploration, working with animals, drawing, and building model kits.

In America he has been teaching for 19 years in California, Kansas, and Oregon. In addition to the sciences, he is endorsed to teach math, history, art, and English. In the states he has



taught at different levels, from upper elementary and high school to college. He enjoys teaching the natural sciences and uses art, technology, and animals to help students learn and succeed in school. His favorite time is being in the classroom working with students and living the Christian lifestyle. May the Lord bless him as he continues to minister to our young people.

## Jane Mills

Administrative Assistant

Jane joins the GSAA family this year as Administrative Assistant. Born in Texas but raised in Maryland, she considers herself an East Coast girl through and through. Steven, her husband, is a recent transfer from the Review & Herald Publishing to the Pacific Press Publishing. Prior to working at the Review, Jane and Steven owned and operated a business for 18 years which allowed for flexibility to homeschool their four children. Since moving to Idaho in June of this year, she has enjoyed the unique sights and feels of the West. A few notable things she has learned about the West since being here has been what a sugar beet looks and smells like, goat-heads vs. bicycle tires, what an inversion is, and how to dodge tumbleweeds. Jane has three daughters and one son ranging in age from 23 down



to 16, the youngest of which is a Junior this year at GSAA. She is a graduate of Shenandoah Valley Academy and attended Southern University. Some of her most enjoyable things to do are travel, hiking, reading, and just being with family.

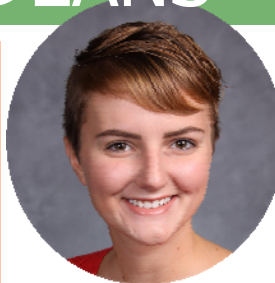
# STUDENT DEANS



## Amora Gordon

Assistant Girls' Dean

**Amora** is the youngest in a three sibling home. She is a proud graduate from Indiana Academy. While there, she was involved with basketball, gymnastics and their show choir—Keynotes. Amora is attending Ohio Valley University. It is there that she discovered and began her journey to become a social worker. During her summer months she works in youth ministry as the Programs Director at West Virginia's SDA summer camp, Valley Vista. Amora is passionate about interacting and working with others in environments that bring children closer to God. In her spare time she enjoys playing the violin, coordinating music for church, playing sports and endless snacking.



## Emily Hangartner

Assistant Girls' Dean

**Emily** has attended Southern Adventist University for the past two years studying Business Administration. She graduated from Wisconsin Academy in Wisconsin where she was born and raised. At Camp Wakonda, she enjoyed her opportunity to minister to youth while teaching swim lessons and life guarding. Working with and mentoring children/youth and life guarding are some of her favorite jobs. Some of her hobbies include: baking, arts and crafts, coupon-ing and hammock-ing! This is her first year at GSAA and she is so excited to be here.



## Micah Robinson

Assistant Boys' Dean

**Micah** Van Lyles Robinson is a 2014 graduate of Union College, with a degree in English and a Leadership minor. He enjoys sports, music, and writing. Along with his personal interests, he has a strong passion for children; providing them with the guidance they need to achieve their goals, as well as helping them acknowledge and willingly accept what God wants for them.



# LETTER TO THE ALUMNI



"THERE'S A SCHOOL THAT WE LOVE IN THE HILLS OF IDAHO, DEAR OLE' GEM STATE, OUR PRIDE AND OUR SCHOOL."

## Dear GSAA Alumni

The GSAA Alumni Committee is busy working on creating another memorable Alumni Weekend, and we hope you are already planning to come. We are kicking off the weekend beginning Friday, April 1, 2016, at 7 pm with Vespers and ending Sunday morning, April 3, with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk.

Our Friday evening Vespers has been organized by the 50-year honor class of 1966 with class member Robert Munsey, Jr. presenting the devotional entitled "The Lord's Greatest Symbols." Robert worked in law enforcement for 24 years as a policeman and Canyon County Sheriff. He is a retired S.W.A.T Commander and has his own business in practical basic training for weapon safety and protection and teaches concealed carry classes. He has also worked as a gunsmith and in retail sporting goods. His father, Robert Munsey, Sr., was the GSAA Farm Manager for more than 20 years.

On Sabbath morning beginning at 9:30 am, we will have two options for you. In the gymnasium, we will have a "Meet & Greet" time with light refreshments, provided by the Class of 1976. At the same time in the GSAA Church, the GSAA students, under the direction of Pastor Geoff Starr & Cecilia Simmons, GSAA Music Teacher, will share a Sabbath School program. At 10:30 am, our School Family Moments will begin with the Storey sisters leading us in the school song, followed by Roll Call.

Max Mace, a member of the class of 1956, will be the main speaker for our Worship Service on Sabbath. Max started the Heritage Singers 45 years ago and continues to record, tour, and spread the gospel. We will get the privilege of hearing Max, Terry, and Perry sing during the service. As a bonus, Her-

ers will be performing a concert for our Sabbath evening program beginning at 7 pm. We will be closing out the night with Varsity vs Alumni, Volleyball and Basketball games beginning at 8:30 pm.

On Sunday morning at 10 am we will be continuing with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5K/1K Fun Run/Walk followed by brunch to include some awesome awards and drawings for 5K participants. Last year, Sheri (Culver) LaMott '81, organized this exciting event for the first time. Two \$50 REI gift cards went to the male and female first place winners and a drawing for a two-night stay at Sheri's condo in Ketchum, Idaho, within walking distance to downtown, was just one of many great prizes given out. Sheri has graciously offered her condo again this year for a two-night stay that all adult 5K participants will have a chance to win in a drawing.

This event is for the whole family and not limited to GSAA Alumni! We will have two distances: 5K and 1K. 5K is open to anyone age 8 and above. The 1K is for ages 8-12. The race will start and finish at Gem State Adventist Academy. For a guaranteed t-shirt, you must register by March 17. Online registration will close on March 31 @ 11:59 pm. We accept on-campus registration and packet pick up April 1 from 4 to 6 pm, April 2 from 8:30 to 10 pm and race day, April 3, from 8:30 to 9:30 am. There will be a brunch following; use your bib number as a meal ticket. Non-participants can buy meal tickets the morning of the race for \$7.00. Awards and prizes are at 11:00 am. You can sign up by going to the gemstate.org website at

<http://www.gemstate.org/#/alumni/5k-fun-runwalk>  
or  
[bluecirclesports.com](http://bluecirclesports.com)

and find the event GSAA Soles for Heaven Fun Run/Walk and click on the appropriate age group for the person you are signing up. Cost for ages 8-12 is \$10, ages 13-18 is \$15, and ages 19 and up is \$25.

This year's Soles for Heaven proceeds will be going to help with the purchase of much-needed updated computers for students. If you wish to donate towards this project directly, please go to [gemstate.org/donations](http://gemstate.org/donations) and select **Computer Department** under **Location** to make an online donation.

In closing, I would like to remind you that GSAA has an Alumni Endowment Fund that is currently around \$928,000. Leon Cornforth set this up many years ago and with his death we have not seen any growth, which is due to a stall in promoting it. GSAA receives 3% each year for student scholarships, so it is imperative we continuously grow this fund to ensure this scholarship continues to help students. To donate to this fund, go to [gemstate.org/donations](http://gemstate.org/donations) and select **GSAA Endowment** under **Location**.

I look forward to seeing you all at Alumni Weekend!

Sincerely,

**Valerie (Moore) Trees '81**

## Honor Class Agents:

- 1946 Irwin Rogers**  
(208) 375-0731  
[irwin@irwinrogers.com](mailto:irwin@irwinrogers.com)
- 1956 Wilma (Gustafson) Lorenz**  
(909) 363-6674  
[wilma.lorenz@gmail.com](mailto:wilma.lorenz@gmail.com)
- 1966 Gloria (Witherspoon) Robinson**  
(208) 478-6953 or (208) 221-6943  
[warnglory@gmail.com](mailto:warnglory@gmail.com)  
9224 N. Sunset Dr., Pocatello, ID 83201
- 1976 Ed Shultz**  
(208) 861- 8517  
[EdMShultz57@gmail.com](mailto:EdMShultz57@gmail.com)  
7250 Modoc St., Boise, ID 83709
- 1986 TBD**
- 1991 Therese (Nagel) Oneill**  
[thereseoneill1978@yahoo.com](mailto:thereseoneill1978@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: Gem State Reunion 96
- 2006 Jazmine (Martin) Ringering**  
(208) 720-5933  
[jazminemartin@nnu.edu](mailto:jazminemartin@nnu.edu)



SAVE THE DATE!

**HOMECOMING**

w e e k e n d

# GSAA GARDENS



## GSAA Alumni Officers:

**Valerie (Moore) Trees '81,**  
President  
[valerietrees@yahoo.com](mailto:valerietrees@yahoo.com)

**Terry Mace '71,**  
Vice-President  
[macy53@hotmail.com](mailto:macy53@hotmail.com)

**Myrna Ferguson,** Spouse/Parent of Alumni,  
Secretary  
[myfer40@msn.com](mailto:myfer40@msn.com)

**Sheri (Culver) LaMott '81,**  
Marketing/5K Co-coordinator  
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**Dan Moore '78,**  
Historian/5K Co-coordinator  
[moore2say@yahoo.com](mailto:moore2say@yahoo.com)

**Kimberley (Peters) Mitchell '82,**  
Faculty Liaison  
[kmitchell@gemstate.org](mailto:kmitchell@gemstate.org)

**Marvin Thorman,**  
GSAA Principal  
[mthorman@gemstate.org](mailto:mthorman@gemstate.org)



Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole

earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food." (Genesis 1:29 NIV) This fall was the conclusion of the second summer that students spent working on the fledgling gardens project that was initiated by former principal Wayne Wentland. The project contained many purposes. The first goal of the gardens project was to provide a small source of income for the Academy. The second goal was to provide students with a job over the summer to alleviate the pains of paying tuition. The final goal, and the most important goal, was to teach the students how to be the stewards of the earth.



better for most, returning students received more benefits and more responsibilities, and new students were slowly brought up to speed. However new problems arose with the sudden increase of freshmen workers trying to pay off their tuition in advance. Though the new manager Tom Sherwood worked hard to emulate omniscience, he could not be everywhere at once, and new and old workers were not always faithful to their duties without supervision. However, despite these setbacks the gardens project continues to operate on divine intervention and hard work.

## Dominick Christiansen, *Senior*

The first year had more downs than ups, but nothing unexpected for a first year. Though it certainly had its rough parts, or perhaps was completely rough in its entirety, by the end of the second summer a more polished stone was in the works. The first year accomplished two of the three goals, most of the students through diligent labor and hard work learned the values of caring for the earth and being a good steward unto others and students received scholarships which were a great relief to parents who struggle to keep up with the bills. Though the first year was technically a financial loss, this was considered to be a long-term investment that will soon prove its worth.

The second summer was considerably







16115 S. Montana Ave.  
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Idaho boarding academy of the  
Seventh-day Adventist Church



- C - Municipal Swimming Pool
- A - Main Street
- L - Gem State Academy
- D - U. S. Post Office
- W - Air View Campus College of Idaho.
- E - Idaho Meat Packers
- L - Caldwell High School