





The Official Newsletter for Dakota Adventist Academy Sheyenne River Academy and Plainview Academy

June 2020

Graduation 2020



Front Row: Natphicha Thungmanothum, Elena Goldsberry, Casey Waldner, Sierra Schlenker, DaYeong Ko

Back Row: Jaelyn Pickett, Savannah Ulery, HyeonSeon Yoon, Bethany Whitney, Rosalyn Ray



Caring Heart Award Sierra Schlenker

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 who will always remember their unique graduation from DAA. We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments. This years' class was awarded over \$887,000 from four universities—Andrews University, Southern Adventist University, Union College, and Walla Walla University.

Sierra Schlenker was honored with the **Caring Heart Award** from the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists recognizing her commitment to making the world a better place and sharing the love of God.

DAA, SRA, & PVA



WHEN

October 2 - 3, 2020

WHERE

Dakota Adventist Academy Bismarck, ND

HONOR CLASSES:

1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

DETAILS

Reservation forms, schedules, and more information are found on pages 8 & 9

See you in October!



Dakota Adventist Academy

Building Friendships for Eternity

We prepare our students for a lifetime of commitment to God, service to society, and citizenship in Heaven!

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Dakota Adventist Academy



Elena Goldsberry

Years at DAA

Future Plans Spend the summer at home in Iowa, visit North Dakota a few times, and then

attend either Union or Iowa State University majoring in Architecture

DAA Memories Vespers, Fall Festival, staying up late with my class for homework, SA Fall

party at the beach

Miss the Most The teachers, girls' dorm worships, walks up Water hill, laying in the dean's

office and asking for advice, camp week



DaYeong (Julie) Ko

Years at DAA 3 1/2

Future Plans Attend the University of North Dakota majoring in Nursing

DAA Memories All the good friends I made

Miss the Most My friends and the staff



Jaelyn Pickett

Years at DAA 4

Future Plans Work at camp then attend Union and major in Computer Sciences with a focus

on software engineering

DAA Memories Camp week, finals week study sessions, vespers

Miss the Most Definitely the people! The staff are incredibly kind. I will miss the students as

well



Rosalyn Ray

Years at DAA 3 1/2

Future Plans Attending Union College and major in International Rescue and Relief

DAA Memories The friends I made here

Miss the Most My friends



Sierra Schlenker

Years at DAA 4

Future Plans Attend Bismarck State College and major in social work or psychology

DAA Memories Studying with the senior girls, seeing DaYeong and HyeonSeon grow in their poetry

and English skills, girls' club retreats and banquets

Miss the Most The WHOLE student body, amazing staff, Sabbath School discussions, Mr. Gibson's

devotionals before class, bible studies with Jason Woll and many others

Class of 2020



Natphicha (Cherry) Thungmanothum

Years at DAA 4

Future Plans Attend Thai University and major in Fashion Design

DAA Memories Meeting new people

Miss the Most Friends



Savannah Ulery

Years at DAA 4

Future Plans Work at Camp and then attend North Dakota State University with a

major in Nursing or something in the medical field

DAA Memories DAA Intermurals, setting up Christmas decorations with the seniors in

the girls' dorm, handshakes, and parties

Miss the Most Mr. Way's teaching in English, making jokes with Mr. Gibson, hanging

out with Ms. Miller and Ms. Juhl, talking with Mrs. Way and Mrs. O at

lunch time and acro class with Mr. O



Casey Waldner

Years at DAA 4

Future Plans Working and finalizing plans for college and major

DAA Memories Auto class and hockey

Miss the Most Auto class



Bethany Whitney

Years at DAA

Future Plans Attending Bismarck State College and major in Nursing

DAA Memories Making new friends, growing closer to God, developing relationships

with teachers and staff members

Miss the Most The constant support of friends and staff, sports



HyeonSeon (Jessica) Yoon

Years at DAA 4

Future Plans Attend the University of North Dakota and major in Commercial Aviation

DAA Memories The Peru mission trip, watching movies in the dorm with friends

Miss the Most Spending time with the whole school and doing homework together

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Conference President's Message



Thinking of the 2020 school year at Dakota Adventist Academy brought to mind a book written in the late 1990s titled Who Moved My Cheese? The premise of the book is how to deal with change in a positive and sometimes humorous way. I'm not sure if our present generation of teachers and students have ever read the book, but change came this year, ready or not.

Plans for a senior trip and public graduation went out the proverbial window. Some of the senior class finished school at home while others stayed at DAA and attended classes like many of the underclass members. What a year! But through all the ups and downs of the pandemic, our teaching staff deserves to be commended for adapting, moving forward and finishing the year. We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to our North Dakota governor who believed that a residence school could stay open in the midst of all the commotion. In fact, it appears that DAA was the only academy open on campus in the United States.

As we thank God for his protection during this time of the Coronavirus, we once again ask for continued prayers for Adventist secondary education in the Dakota Conference. Many academies across America are wondering if students will come back this fall. Will their schools be able to operate? What does the future hold for the Adventist dream of training young people to carry the gospel forward? Your prayers have made a huge difference in the past and we covet those prayers moving forward. This school exists because of you.

Elder Neil Biloff Dakota Conference President

Principal's Message



As we have spoken with colleagues around the country about the changes they have had to adjust to during this pandemic, our teachers have come to appreciate just how blessed we are to be out in the country and in a facility such as we are. While I cannot be certain as to the mindset of the benefactors of this land that we sit on or of the architects, planners and framers of this building, I do know this - it is precisely where this school is built and the way it is built that has enabled us to continue holding classes with our students in the classrooms during these last couple of months while all other schools in this country have been locked up. It has been difficult as not all of our students remained on campus since some were able to stay home with supportive families. We have had to create and provide an online education program just like everyone else did. But we also had the live-time with our students, the physical presence, the gym and the grounds to play in and on, the study opportunities – that have allowed our students to not only survive, but to also thrive during this time of crisis. And yes, we had to close our campus to people coming in, deliveries and such, but we were able to create a home-style environment where students and teachers could interact as a family might –

an excellent means to achieving our desire of building friendships for eternity.

It is not until one loses the opportunities to engage with other people on a daily basis that one can really appreciate all that he possesses here and now. I have been a part of an historic action – the only SDA school in the country to continue operations, at this same time refraining from putting students into a position where they will experience increased risk. It is not until these types of situations push us that we can appreciate anything; for instance, the right of the people to assemble. We owe thanks to our governor who saw that DAA can offer stability in times that sorely need stability, to parents who continue to support and believe in us, to faculty and staff who are willing to work together and to work harder, and finally to students who attempt to make the best of situations and difficulties that are thrown at them. We are very proud of our graduates who made it through this harrowing year, and our other students who also have done well to close out 2019-2020.

Thank you alumni and patrons of DAA for what you have made here. Even in times such as these, we remain blessed.

Anthony Oucharek Principal

Agape Feast Celebrated at DAA

by Tracy Peterson

Friday, the 6th of March, dawned as a beautiful morning across the Dakota prairie. This day was special. It was not just about classes and tests; it was about Jesus. Between each class students met in the circle to explore steps to Christ through short skits. They were attentive and open to what was presented throughout the day.

Pastor Jason Woll and teacher Pam Fenton orchestrated a beautiful evening of communion and friendship. The teachers served the students during foot washing and communion. Groups of students gathered to pray together before moving to tables where they served each other fresh fruit and breads. Beautiful music by student Jessica Winistorfer who sang "Jesus, It Is You", and girls' dean Mindy Juhl who sang "Oh The Blood" were interspersed with student testimonials of their experience meeting Jesus.

The students bundled up to head outside to light and release Chinese lanterns representing giving their sins over to God. Before returning to their dorms for the evening Ryan Peterson lit the night sky with fireworks. It was a bright and exciting way to end an evening of celebration and praise.











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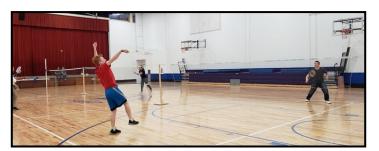
The New Normal

by Tracy Peterson

For the moment our world has been tossed upside down. Our school year ended with most students sitting in front of their computer to connect classmates and work with their teachers. It was a lonely time.

Here at DAA few students resided on campus, which meant their new normal was pretty close to what they have always known here as normal. Still, there were some changes. Our closed campus made it easier to stay at home, and we found ways for fun to still happen!

What can you think of for sports that would keep people at least 6 feet apart? Well, we set up the gym and started badminton tournaments. All of the students participated playing, laughing and enjoying the opportunity to whack the birdie! Many students took advantage of spring by spending time outside. We have the space to keep them busy exploring. The students with horses here found that keeping distance is simple when you are on the back of your horse. It makes the climb up Water Hill easier too!





One week was double duty busy time with Spirit Week and Week of Worship. We had students participating with both online. For Spirit Week, they just had to show up to class on Zoom all dressed up. For WOW each evening they were sent a link to the online series we were watching by Adventist Education entitled *Identity Check*. On Sabbath the students shared memories of each other on a video that is now up on our YouTube channel. So even though we were miles apart, we were still able to connect in some activities. Everyone is looking forward to a time when normal is normal and we can all be back together. Until then, stay safe!

PVA-Ron Purkapile Scholarship Awards 2020

Thanks to the generosity of Plainview alumni, the PVA-Ron Purkapile South Dakota Student Scholarship Fund continues to grow and to assist students from South Dakota with funds towards their school account.

Students must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or greater and maintain good citizenship standing. Two students met the criteria and were awarded \$750 each. Congratulations to Wesley Kayser, Junior, and PawLay Pway, Sophomore, on receiving the scholarships.





Currently the fund is close to \$15,000. More information on this scholarship fund and how you can donate is found on page 10 of this newsletter.

Challenge Day Held at DAA

by Tracy Peterson

When students are at school instead of on home leave as is on the schedule, we, as a school, have to be creative! Taking a day off from the rigors of class, students were able to get in touch with their creative and competitive sides.

There is a TV show called *Chopped*, which features contestants who have to come up with a dish featuring specific ingredients. The academy featured its own DAA Chopped Dessert Challenge. What can be made from puffed pastry, whole champagne mangos, chili powder and Hershey bars?

Esteemed judges, Pastor Brooke Melendez, teachers Jared Gibson and Ryan Peterson, sampled the creations and scored each student on presentation, creativity and taste.

- Third place went to Wesley Kayser with his S'more pastry,
- Second place to Jaelyn Pickett with her Mango and Pineapple Lattice Pie, and
- First place to Savannah Ulery with her Chocolate Gnash Puff with Mango and Chili Puree.

With warmer spring days, the staff and students took lunch to the pond to roast hotdogs over a fire. The students took advantage of the topography for their own challenge...Who could jump highest up the bank of the hill? The picnic was a very relaxing, fresh-air-filled fun adventure. Some students took the Petersons' canoe for a trip around the pond as well. The afternoon finale was a Wii tournament.

After having such a pleasant day, evening ended with a vespers service back at the pond. The rain held off until after vespers but a few were caught on their way back to the building. It was a rejuvenating and refreshing way to spend the day that was meant for home leave.







First Place

Second Place



Third Place



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A Message From Your Alumni President



Jeana Styron Eszler '05 Alumni President Last month, we welcomed a new group of young alumni into our association. These young people faced several challenges that made this year a difficult one with which to end their high school career. Most of us had the privilege of a senior year full of class activities, a senior class trip, and several events focused on recognizing us and our achievements. This year, the senior class traded their class trip for virtual farewells, in-class discussions for Zoom calls, and celebration weekends for virtual ceremonies. Less than ideal circumstances have proven difficult, but we welcome these young alumni and are proud of their determination and accomplishments.

Seniors of 2020, wherever you are today, we celebrate with you and hope you face the future God has in store for you with excitement and peace. Know you are loved and that your fellow alumni spread out over the whole world are immensely proud of you. Welcome to our family!

Alumni Weekend—October 2020

Alumni Weekend Schedule

(Events and times subject to change)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

2:30 - 7:00 pm Registration 4:00 pm Pioneer Reception

All classes are welcome

7:30 pm Vespers

SABBATH, OCTOBER 3

9:30 am Sabbath School 11:00 am Worship Service

Honor class pictures immediately following the worship service

12:30 pm Lunch

2:30 pm Music Program 3:00 pm DAA Showcase

3:30 pm Honor Class Recognition

5:30 pm Buffet Supper

Compliments of the Alumni Association - all are welcome

7:00 pm Vespers

7:30 pm Alumni Business Meeting - Choir Room

8:30 pm Basketball & Volleyball games

Alumni vs DAA

DAA, SRA, & PVA Alumni Weekend 2020

Honor Classes

1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976*
1981, 1986*, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

117 Years of Building Friendships for Eternity

*new honor years added

45 years (1976) 35 years (1986)

Alumni Officers

President: Jeana Styron Eszler '05

jeanaeszler@gmail.com

Vice President: To be filled

Secretary: Chelsea Flemmer Christensen '03

chflemmer@gmail.com

Assistant Secretary: To be filled

Treasurer: Mitch Merkel '98

Mitchell@merkelcpa.com

Assistant Treasurer: Brenda Rexin Klein '92

brendak@daktel.com

Area Lodging (partial listing)

AmericInn	1.800.634.3444
Comfort Inn/Suites	1.800.424.6423
Country Inn/Suites	1.800.456.4000
Doublewood Inn	1.800.554.7077
Fairfield Inn	1.800.228.2800
Holiday Inn	1.701.751.8240
LaQuinta	1.800.753.3757
MainStay Suites	1.701.223.9119
Radisson	1.800.223.8001
Staybridge Suites	1.800.939.4249

PLEASE NOTE there are 2 reservation forms - 1 for meal tickets and 1 for room reservations at DAA. We would appreciate it if you would send separate payment for each form. Meals are payable to the Alumni Association and rooms are payable to Dakota Adventist Academy. Thank you!

MEAL TICKETS
Please order and pay before Sabbath.
Make checks payable to DAA Alumni Association
<u>Mail to</u> : Mitch Merkel, PO Box 70, Ellendale, ND 58436
NAME:PHONE:
ADDRESS:
Pioneer Reception tickets x \$8.00 = \$ PLEASE NOTE: The Pioneer Reception is a full meal
Sabbath Breakfast tickets x \$5.00 = \$ Sabbath Lunch tickets x \$8.00 = \$
Sabbath Supper - Free to all; Donations accepted during the meal Total for meals \$
Thank you for your support!
DORM ROOM RESERVATIONS
Make checks payable to Dakota Adventist Academy
<u>Mail to</u> : Dakota Adventist Academy, Attn: David Chapman, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND 58503
Or call: $701.258.9000 \text{ ext } 212$
NAME: PHONE:
ADDRESS:
DORM ROOM \$25.00 x rooms x nights = \$ Arriving on Leaving on NOTE: Please bring your own linens for dorm rooms.
OFFICE USE: Room(s) Assigned
Support Your Alumni Association
Every year your alumni officers and DAA work diligently to provide an inspirational alumni weekend as well as assisting with the quarterly newsletter that keeps us all informed of what is happening with alumni and on campus. We encourage you to support your alumni association with these costs by paying your yearly dues. Donations are also encouraged to assist with the costs of the newsletter. We appreciate your support and look forward to continuing to serve you. At the 2013 Alumni Business Meeting held alumni weekend, it was voted to set the annual dues at \$20.
Please make checks payable to DAA Alumni Association
Mail to: Mitch Merkel, PO Box 70, Ellendale, ND 58436
NAME:PHONE:
ADDRESS:
DUES: \$20/alumni \$ ACADEMY/ALUMNI NEWSLETTER \$

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In Remembrance

Loucille Van Allen Abelmann

Dakota Conference Church

March 3, 2020

Norma Davis

Bowman SDA Church April 15, 2020

Arthur Fischer

Harvey SDA Church March 2, 2020

Darlene Davis Hansen

SRA Class of 1951 *April 19, 2020*

Elsie Schneider Hauck

Dakota Conference Church December 21, 2019

Edna Huber

Mobridge SDA Church January 12, 2019

Laura Krause

Dakota Conference Church *March 8, 2019*

Merel Perekrestenko (Perkins)

SRA Class of 1968 *May 19, 2020*

Delores Schroeder Pohle

SRA Class of 1950 February 20, 2020

Donald Schroeder

SRA Class of 1953 *May 15, 2020*

Everett Snyder

SRA Class of 1958 March 9, 2020

Marjorie Stotz

PVA Alumnus November 12, 2018

Estelle Lang Tachenko

SRA Class of 1941 March 26, 2020

Agnes Reed Witt

Jamestown SDA Church $March~7,\,2020$

"And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.

There shall be no more pain, for the former things

have passed away."

Revelation 21:4

FRIENDS

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

PVA-Ron Purkapile Scholarship Fund

About two weeks prior to passing away (May 4, 2016) Ron Purkapile had a conversation with Everett Schlisner about possible uses for the funds in the PVA alumni account. His suggestion was to set up a fund that would benefit students from South Dakota who wanted to attend DAA. Donors would also be able to donate to this fund so that it would continue to grow and benefit South Dakota students.

At their last official business meeting June 2016, Plainview Academy alumni wholeheartedly embraced the idea and established the *PVA-Ron Purkapile South Dakota Student Scholarship*. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide scholarship grants to benefit students whose home church is located in South Dakota and who are enrolled in and attending Dakota Adventist Academy. Students must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or greater and maintain good citizenship standing. These students will be selected on a yearly basis by the scholarship committee.

Grants will be awarded one time during the school year during second semester. Individual grants shall not exceed \$750 and total grants within the school year shall not exceed \$1,500 or 15% of total scholarship assets at the time the grants are awarded. Grants will be paid to Dakota Adventist Academy for the benefit of the recipients. The funds are held by the Dakota Conference Corporation.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the fund should make their check out to Dakota Conference Corporation, mark it for the PVA-Purkapile Scholarship and mail it to Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 7200 N. Washington St, Bismarck, ND 58503-6301

Giving to DAA

Many who give to DAA experience the satisfaction of knowing their gift makes a real difference in the life of a young person. You help "Build Friendships for Eternity." Your gifts will help us serve this generation and beyond. Working together we can help our youth build friendships for eternity and a home in heaven. **Fiscal year ends June 30.**

Annual Fund Goal: \$275,000/yr

Gifts to the Annual Fund are unrestricted donations that are valuable to the operation of the school. They contribute to the stability and security of the school program and are applied where the need is greatest.

Worthy Student Fund Goal: \$125,000/yr

These gifts go to work immediately in assisting students with financial needs. Currently approximately half of our students receive assistance from this fund. Support is needed annually, especially in these financially difficult times.

<u>Dorm Renovation</u> Goal: \$80,000/yr

Our students spend many hours in their dorm rooms throughout the school year. It is their home away from home. Here they study, sleep, relax, and spend personal time in worship. In addition, the dorms are used during alumni weekends, camp meetings, and other special events.

Gifts-in-kind

Gifts of a non-monetary nature will benefit the school. They enrich programs and capital improvement. Examples could include furniture, landscape materials, library books, or musical instruments.

Special Funds

Donors may give to a variety of programs including music, mission trips, art, basketball, or special projects. These also enrich the quality of the programs offered to our students.

PVA-Ron Purkapile Student Scholarship Fund

Established by the Alumni of PVA, these funds provide scholarship assistance to students from South Dakota. Donations to this fund should be sent to the Dakota Conference and marked for the PVA-Purkapile Scholarship.

Gifts of Time & Talent

Do you have time or expertise in an area that might benefit DAA? Contact us to see what projects we may need assistance with and how we might work together.

Memorial Gifts

Gifts may also be made in memory of a loved one or a classmate.

Non-cash gifts

Donations of shares of stock, land, and crops are just a few ideas for non-cash donations.

Legacy Gifts

Annual gifts such as those above play a vital part in the operation of our academy. Vital, too, are those gifts that are left in the form of a legacy through your estate plans. As you determine how your estate will be handled after your death, you can plan to give a portion to DAA. These gifts have tax implications and are often transmitted through a legal document such as a Will or Trust.

Endowment gifts are a major contribution to the school's future stability and are often considered a legacy gift. These gifts, held by the Dakota Conference Corporation, include permanent funds that provide lasting financial resources to DAA and its programs. Invested in interest-earning accounts, the income is used annually for the designated purpose of the endowment. They are a gift that "keeps on giving," a "lasting legacy." Dakota Conference currently holds three endowments and a Board-designated endowment which benefit DAA. Each year a portion of the earnings are sent to DAA to help with operating costs or scholarships.

As you consider this type of gift we encourage you to consult your CPA or your attorney, You may also want to speak with Conference or DAA Administration to understand the areas of need at the academy. Undesignated gifts that are received through estates are unrestricted and their use will be determined by the K-12 Board.

"The greatest use of life is to spend it on something that will outlast it." William James

A candle loses nothing of its light by lighting another candle.

Thank you for sharing what God has given you.

Dakota Adventist Academy Development Department 15905 Sheyenne Circle Bismarck, ND 58503

Email: daadevelop@aol.com www.dakotaadventistacademy.org

Building Friendships for Eternity.

Address Service Requested

Calendar of Events

July 2020

29-Aug 1 Camp Meeting at DAA

August 2020

16 Registration

19-23 Camp Week at NLC

September 2020

10-12 MAUC Leadership Conference

17-21 Home Leave

October 2020

2-3 Alumni Weekend

12-16 Fall Week of Worship - DAA

17 Aberdeen Regional

21-25 Home Leave

Volleyball/Soccer Tournament at

Union College

31 Secondary Endowment Sabbath

PLEASE STAY CONNECTED:

We love to hear from you and your classmates love to keep up with you. Please send us your news, photos, and changes of address, marriages, births, etc.

For those of you who spend the winter months away from home, please send us your winter address and the time frame you will be gone. We will mail your newsletter to your winter address. Thank You.

Email: daadevelop@aol.com

Mail: Dakota Adventist Academy Development Office

15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck,ND 58503

Website: www.dakotaadventistacademy.org

Leave a Legacy

Annual gifts play a vital part in the operation of our academy. Vital, too, are those gifts that are left in the form of a legacy through your estate plans. Please consider adding Dakota Adventist Academy as a beneficiary in your estate plan. We thank you, and our students and future students thank you as well.