



U.S.A. ^{Re} Echoes

Spring 2004

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President's Message

USA Alive and in Power on the West Coast

Janica Peppard '90

On January 10, 2004 approximately forty Union Springs Academy alumni and friends gathered together at the Loma Linda University Church for the annual West Coast Chapter Reunion. This year the event had some additional guests as USA joined efforts with Pine Tree Academy's chapter reunion for part of the program.

As a new idea, the PTA and USA Alumni Association's thought it would be a nice to bring the two schools together for fellowship and worship. It was surprising to see how many people knew each other from both schools and enjoyed reacquainting themselves throughout the evening. The theme for the event, "**Together for Adventist Education**",

was clearly felt by all who attended as alumni from both schools joined together in unity for a common cause.

The evening began with a delightful light supper put together by many helping hands. To celebrate the event, all enjoyed a beautifully decorated cake with pine trees and "snow" sprinkled all over the top. (We wanted to make our California alumni remember what a "real" winter looks like!)

After alumni finished eating and catching up with friends they had not seen

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Principal's Corner

Judy Hodder

Second semester is off to a busy start. Our focus now is on fundraising for next year which needs to be in place by June 20, and on recruitment. The entire school family is involved in the recruitment effort. On Sabbath, February 21, we went out to ten churches with student teams to provide worship and music. We will do this again on April 17 and May 22. March 2 we are scheduled to visit all of the New York Conference elementary and junior academy schools, our teachers teaching a formal lesson, students presenting a worship and playing with the students. March 6 the school will be in South Windsor, CT holding an all day and evening youth rally. Rest assured, we are

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Your alumni officers:

- **Janica Kaltsas Peppard '90**
Alumni President
- **Yvonne Cox Edison '56** *Vice President*
- **Joyce Clarke Cady '51** *Membership Secretary*
- **Laura Kelly Borne '92**
Executive Secretary
- **Shirley Breitsman Powley '47**
Member at Large
- **David Cady '82**
Member at Large
- **Dan Kelly '58** *Member at large*
- **Ed Roche '46**
Member at Large
- **Thomas Davis '50** *Member at Large*

Union Springs Academy: Beginning Again

Stan Rouse

Union Springs Academy will be in operation for the 2004/2005 school year. So, why is that statement so significant? Right now Union Springs Academy has a reputation for quality. Parents, constituents, students, and alumni have spoken to me about their high regard for the school's program. So, why has enrollment continued to decrease?

Two years ago the school's debt was high, enrollment was down, and more and more financial help was needed. The

New York Conference constituency looked carefully at whether to continue to operate the Academy. Two years of fund raising were accomplished in one, staffing cuts were made, a balanced budget was obtained, and guidelines were established seeking to insure secure and sound finances into the future. Over the ensuing months a portion of the debt load was removed. So why have financial problems continued?

We have not found all the an-

swers. But the New York Conference Executive Committee did set in motion a process to seek for alternative ways of providing secondary boarding academy education. Dr. Ralph Trecartin and Elder Stan Rouse were charged with the responsibility of forming a study group composed of educators from across the conference including staff from Union Springs

(Continued on Page 2) Academy.

Over the next five months

leadership of **Ralph McGann '39** who lead us out in a rousing song service using his own collection of the *Christ in Song* songbooks. He also shared special music with us by singing *The Holy City* and also *He Is Calling*, one of his all-time favorites.

Andrew Fish, business manager from Union Springs Academy, and **Janica Peppard '90** gave a joint talk on Adventist education and the impact it made in their lives and how wonderful it is to see it still changing the lives of the students at USA today! Students at USA have the awesome opportunity to come to know Jesus everyday and this is why their lives will never be the same. At the close of the talk several alumni spoke up and shared experiences how their time at USA has made a life-long impression on them. A few tears were shed and many laughs were shared as alumni enjoyed talking about schooldays. To close the vespers everyone present joined hands and sang the old familiar hymn, *Bless Be The Tie That Binds* and then bowed their heads as **Elder Reese Jenkins '37** closed with prayer.

Following the vespers the two schools separated and USA began its own business meeting. Andrew Fish led out the business meeting with a full report on USA and a look at the future plans for next year. A great deal of time was taken for Andrew to answer concerns and questions about the school. The evening closed with a special session of prayer for the school and God's guidance to its future. There was an enormous sense of pride and love for USA shown in the eyes and testimonies of all who came.

It wouldn't have been a reunion without singing the school song, which was sung with such power you could have heard it a mile away! Andrew Fish was really touched by all who he met and got to know that night. After the program he remarked, "I am so glad I came out this year. What an amazing group of people! I have never witnessed our school song sung like that before. They sang it with such incredible power, pride and enthusiasm and they knew every word!! I have to go back and get our kids to sing it more often and with *that* kind of excitement!"

All who came were blessed and renewed with the charge to continue to pray for Union Springs Academy in the coming months and recommit their dedication in supporting the school. We would like to express a special thank you to **Lois Turpel '48** and others who contacted classmates helping us have the wonderful turnout we had! If you missed it this year make sure you put **January 8, 2005** on your calendar for next year's reunion! See you again next year!

Several of our California Chapter Alumni in the chapel at Loma Linda University.



Beginning Again, Continued

small groups, subcommittees, the K-12 Board of Education, and the Executive Committee processed a plan that included several alternative modes of providing education. The plan was narrowed, revised, questioned, explored, and finally adopted to guide Union Springs Academy into the future. We sought to recognize the limits we face, but more importantly to utilize the opportunities we have been given. We tried to limit our pre-conceived ideas, work within the parameters of our Seventh-day Adventist Educational system, and in essence begin again to build a program God can use until His work for us is finished.

So what is this "new" plan? We seek to provide the highest level of quality educa-

tion by combining concepts from cutting edge research with time-tested approaches to learning. There is a realization that the "bigger is better" mass production educational approach falls short of what students need. Many believe we should return to an educational approach that inspires the individual student to take more responsibility for his/her learning and to reap the benefits from smaller, more flexible classroom settings. We will expect to have a teaching staff that will demonstrate such creativity on into the future, providing the quality God expects: "Higher than the highest human thought can reach!"

We will have a staff size that will be supported by a smaller student body without asking alumni, constituency, and the

Conference for funds beyond the amounts already set. We are actually hoping to be able to reduce the amount of funding support needed. In this way any additional funding support can be channeled to building for the future rather than spending for survival operations.

With reduced staff will come the need for creatively providing the academic experience in a manner that does not reduce, but enhances the academic curriculum. The immediate impact will be that

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two classes, say Religion I and Religion II, will meet in the same classroom with the same teacher during the same period. Junior academies have been doing this successfully for years!

Approval from Griggs University to offer college credit classes to our students has already been obtained. We will expect to enhance the opportunity for students to graduate with college credit.

Renewed efforts have already begun to bring in cash producing industries. We are looking beyond finding the one large industry to pursuing ideas that may work on a smaller scale.

Our Academy will be a spiritual center whose influence will be felt in ever-greater measures throughout the conference. We must give this "army of youth" an ever increasingly powerful Christ centered education and more and more opportunity to learn how to share Him with their world!

Oh, we had fun brainstorming! But in the end this program will become what the next administration and staff make it with God's help. Yes, Judy Hodder has decided that she does not want to stay and "start over again." Thank you, Mrs. Hodder and U.S.A. staff for the quality program you have established. All present staff have been given the opportunity to become a part of the transition, but we

know there must be some reorganization. We trust that God will give us a principal soon who will allow God to lead as plans are made with the appropriate committees to put together next year's staff.

Many of us are excited because we believe God has led us through this process. Now, God must help us do the following:

*We must have a strong broad based alumni and constituency financial support. There have been those who have supported much over the years. If more of us gave systematically (even \$10 per month) we would meet the needs without over burdening any.

*We must send our students to U.S.A. Yes, there are sacrifices in sending students to boarding schools. But there is a level of learning and maturing available in this setting that cannot be obtained in any other environment in spite of what Satan may do to disrupt it.

*We must continue to faithfully give God's tithe and our offerings to His work. As God blesses and tithe and offerings increase all of our ministries benefit!

"Opposing circumstances should create a firm determination to overcome them.

One barrier broken down will give greater ability and courage to go forward. Press in the right direction, and make a change, solidly, intelligently. Then circumstances will be your helpers and not your hindrances. Make a beginning. The oak is in the acorn." {6T 145.2}

There are so many of us that believe what lies ahead is more than a way to survive, but an opportunity to set new, higher standards for Seventh-day Adventist education. Why shouldn't Union Springs Academy become a model for a new approach for Adventist academies?

Yes, we are beginning again. Let's allow God to show us the magnificent oak He has placed in His acorn called Union Springs Academy!



We want to apologize for overlooking the fifty year honor class in our last issue. We want to especially thank Elizabeth Losey who worked hard to contact her classmates and encourage their attendance to the weekend and also brought this oversight to our attention. Many who came traveled from great distances showing their unending love and support to their school. We know that it's not possible for some to travel for the 50 year class so we want to especially recognize those who do come out each year for this very special honor year.

Principal's Corner, Continued

we are hitting the books in between all our traveling! But, it is so important to get the word out about the good things happening at Union Springs Academy.

For those who do not know, I notified the K-12 board in November that I would be leaving at the end of the year. It has been a satisfying, challenging, faith building seven years. But it is time to return to my family. I am happy to report that the K-12 board already has a new principal in place. John Baker, our current math teacher, has been named to take over as of July 1. John has a rich background in education which includes sixteen years at Garden State Academy, four years as principal of Weimar Academy and nine years teaching in the Northern New England Conference. Choosing a principal from inside the school makes for a very smooth transition for staff and students. John is already working on his program for next year.

We need you, our beloved alumni, to continue praying, financially supporting and sending your children to USA. It really is God's school!



Ralph McGann '39 blessing us with his powerful voice at the West Coast Reunion.

Alumni Weekend Information and Local Hotel and Inn Numbers For Your Convenience

UNION SPRINGS ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND

April 30 – May 2, 2004

Honoring the Following Classes:

1924, 1929, 1934, 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1994

Guest Speaker: Pastor Richard Wright '64

Area Lodging Information

Holiday Inn, Auburn 315-253-4531

Days Inn, Auburn 315-252-7567

Aurora Inn, Aurora 315-364-8888

www.aurora-inn.com

Microtel Inn, Auburn 315-253-5000

Super 8 Motel, Auburn 315-253-8886

Meal Ticket Information

Breakfast \$3.50

Lunch \$4.50

Supper \$4.00

Brunch \$4.00

Friday Supper, Sabbath Breakfast and Lunch, Sunday Brunch

Sabbath Supper provided for alumni, donation requested