

Shen-Val-Lore

The Student Voice of Shenandoah Valley Academy

Shenandoah Valley Academy

May 19, 2017

Volume 86, Edition 4



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

- 1 Costa Rica Music Tour
- 3 AP English Test
- 4-9 New England History Tour
- 7 SAT
- 9 AP Calculus Test
- 13 Final Music Concerts
- 18-19 Senior Exams
- 19 Awards Chapel / Lake Arrowhead Vespers & Baptism
- 20 Goodbye Handshake
- 20-24 Senior Class Trip
- 22-24 Semester Exams
- 26 Consecration
- 27 Baccalaureate / Staff/Senior Breakfast / Parent Tribute / Class Night / Reception

28 Commencement

AUGUST

- 10 Early Registration
- 13 Registration
- 14 First Day of School
- 19 New Market Welcome Back / Hideaway Sabbath / Almost Anything Goes
- 20 Kings Dominion
- 25 Last Day to Add a Class
- 30-31 Senior Survival

NEW ENGLAND HISTORY TOUR: A TRIP TO REMEMBER

MIRANDA BENTON

The SVA Junior class just returned from five days of epic adventure in New England. The trip started bright and early at 4 AM on Thursday, May 4, and gave everyone a new, more-personal view of history. The class traveled to New York City, Mystic, Plymouth, Portland, Walden Pond, Boston, and more. Members of the class were asked for their favorite memories which are listed below:

The coast in Maine with its dramatic rocky outcroppings, dark waters, crash-

ing waves, and brisk winds was incredible or as Valerie Pichot simply said, "THE OCEAN!"

"Hiding in the battle-

ships so I could scare people!" exclaimed Bethany Edwards. Trisney Bocala's favorite memory was taking a survey of strangers in Times Square, asking, "Are you truly happy?"

In Mystic Seaport the class met a friendly gentleman who started off all of his programs with a sea chanty, becoming

Michael Iseminger's favorite memory.

The intense competition, adrenaline of running through Boston, and constant flood of history during the Amazing Race made Miranda Benton's list of top memories. "Especially since random strangers were so helpful in giving directions and information throughout the day," she says.

When asked for a favorite memory, Linsey Smith said, "Well, I loved New York! I loved the ferry ride past the

Statue of Liberty and I loved Times Square! Because I've never been to a city that big before. How tall the buildings were impressed me. I felt like a country girl going to the big city for the first time."

Josh, answering on behalf of Matthew Shelton said, "Boston, Boston, Boston, and maybe some more Boston."

The memory that Taylor Belleza shared holds more value than any other. She pointed out just how great it was to be with her class, to

bond, and get to know one another better.

Overall, the trip was extraordinary. More than just history was learned. The trip connected with music, as students snapped pictures of Alexander Hamilton's grave, English, as they visited Walden Pond, and even some PE, because it's not every day that a person walks over ten miles. It was a trip to remember.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 New England History Tour
- 2 Most Extreme Challenge / Spring Picnic
- 3 Jr/Sr Banquet
- 4 Senior Dedication / Class Parties
- 5 Senior Surveys and Dedication
- 6 Alumni Weekend / GHROW Luncheon / Week of Prayer
- 7 Guatemala Mission Trip / Academy Days
- 8 Birthdays / Shout-outs



MOST EXTREME CHALLENGE

ALLIE MAE MAGTANONG

Nothing is better than having whipped cream and cheese balls on your head, playing egg roulette, or chugging down a blend of sauerkraut, green beans, and chocolate syrup. SA sponsored its special Saturday night event, the Most Extreme Challenge, on April 1. Many students participated in this event and all were competing for the grand prize: twenty boxes of Domino’s cheese pizza. Extreme challenge meets extreme prize, right?

As soon as everyone gathered together in the gymnasium, SA sponsor Mr. Short called each participating group to sign up and line up against the stage. SA officers prepared for the evening’s activities and assembled the appropriate materials for each game. Before the first activity had started, Mr. Short called each team to the middle of the gym to do a creative, signature entrance. Some of the teams played it off well, while others needed a bit more time. The first game of the Challenge dealt with building Styrofoam towers in less than a minute.

After a starting countdown, teams raced to the other side of the gym and tried constructing the highest tower. The team with the lowest tower was immediately eliminated. Another game that SA organized involved shower caps, whipped cream, and cheese balls. One person from each team wore a shower cap covered with a generous serving of whipped cream. Those wearing the caps had to sit a certain distance across from their teammates. The goal was trying to land as many cheese balls as they could on their teammate’s head before time was called. I had to place lots of whipped cream on people’s heads, and some of the players had to deal with whipped cream dripping on their faces. So many cheese balls were flying everywhere, and I accidentally stepped on a few while cleaning them up. The game at first was difficult, though all but one team moved on to the next round.

After the cheeseball chaos, SA officers gathered the materials for the “House of Cards” game. The goal was to orga-

nize a scrambled deck of cards into complete suits of spades, hearts, diamonds, and clubs, starting from “ace” to “king.” One by one, players worked on rearranging cards in the appropriate order. Another game that we played was carrying a single M&M on a spoon while walking to a cup across the gym. Each player had to carefully place twenty M&Ms one at a time. If one person accidentally dropped it, he or she had to restart and let another person go.

Six teams remained when it was time for the “Egg Roulette” game. One player from each team sat at a table and had to pick an egg from a bowl, not knowing whether it was hardboiled or raw. Whenever SA President CJ counted down from three, all were to smash their chosen egg on their foreheads. Many were lucky, while some ended up with a raw egg and broken shells all over their faces. The teams that had picked two raw eggs were immediately eliminated from the challenge. The very last round of the roulette game was super intense. This

time, the one player who had the hardboiled egg was automatically eliminated. I have never seen that many people rejoice over having a raw egg smeared across their forehead.

After disinfecting and cleaning up all the leftover egg shells and residue, SA president CJ and vice-president Justin Lee led out in the next game. They demonstrated a game where one player placed a pantyhose over his or her head, and then attempted to blow out three miniature candles from a certain distance while someone held them back with the pantyhose. Although the instructions may have sounded easy, playing it was way harder than it looked. Blowing out candles while being held back was actually extremely difficult. In addition to that, the participants had some funny-looking faces from the stretch of the pantyhose. We had four guys participating in this activity, whose lungs were nearly worn out by the end of it. The crowd was well-entertained by their distorted

faces, and cheered on the guys as they tried to blow out all of the candles. Following this was the next terrifying and disgusting challenge: drinking the Fear Factor shake. The remaining three teams had to roll a die, which was marked with six different labels of random, “fearful” ingredients, such as canned green beans, sauerkraut, chocolate syrup, hot sauce, and a surprising “mystery” ingredient. After the participants rolled three turns each, Mr. Short blended their chosen concoction and had two people from each team drink it completely. Shockingly, some contestants made it all the way through. One team, unfortunately, had a bit more trouble tolerating the drink. It was then time for the last two teams to go head-to-head in the final challenge.

SA officers prepared for the last activity of the night and laid out cones across the gym for a shopping cart obstacle course. One team member had to sit in a shopping cart, while another member had to steer the cart with a blindfold

on. The other three on each team were able to help navigate their teammate. The goal was to go across the gym back and forth without touching the orange cones. It took a lot of trust and good teamwork to become successful in this challenge. The game was very close, but ultimately, only one team won. The winning team “Water-Melone 5”, consisting of Minna Omwenga, Ben Adjei, Gustavo Brasil de Souza, Ricardo Paulino, and Kingsley Ackah, received the extreme, grand prize of twenty Domino’s cheese pizzas.

It was a fun-packed night, filled with laughter and entertainment. Everyone enjoyed watching and cheering on their own friends. Congratulations to those who had participated and made it through most of the crazy, random challenges, and thank you to the Student Association for hosting the event that night!



SPRING PICNIC

JACOB CALLAHAN

Walking into the gym on Sunday, May 14, students could easily sense the competition in the air. Everyone was geared up and looking to seize first place. Starting off the day, the Freshman and Junior classes went face to face in basketball. With things starting slow for the Junior class, Freshmen seemed to be hanging on by the skin of their teeth. Sadly, shortly after the first half horn, the Junior class began to sweep the scoreboard, making it look like the Cavaliers in the Eastern Conference. With the Juniors taking the dub, soon came the Sophomores and Seniors. The Senior class came into the game slow but

soon picked up the pace and came out on top. In the final game, Juniors and Seniors were taking turns scoring, both teams dominating the two ends of the court. With around two minutes left in the game, things really picked up and the scoring was close. Barry Armstrong and Luke Fogg both scored some clutch shots and the final buzzer went off: Seniors with the win.

Up next came speedball and Freshmen came in facing the Juniors; at the start the Freshmen destroyed, overwhelming the opposing team. When it came time for the Sophomore and Senior classes to get into the cage, the teams maintained a balanced score,

neither team gaining a lead of more than three. But that all changed when the Sophomores started to dominate on offense; the Seniors had no chance of coming back. After a rigorous game between the Sophomores and Seniors, the clear winners were the lower-classmen. Now came time for the two younger classes to face off. Going on and on, score after score, the Sophomores came out with yet another win, making the Seniors and the Sophomores tied for first place in picnic.

Volleyball was the next sport on the agenda and as is customary, the Juniors played the Freshmen first. With the first serve going toward the

Freshmen, soon came return after return. Both sets were really close in score but the better of the two teams was decided by the ringing of the horn; Juniors came out with the win, redeeming themselves from the last activity. Seniors and Sophomores quickly swarmed the court to battle it out to find who would reign victorious. After the first set the Senior class was crushing and then came the second. Again the reigning champions prevailed. Juniors came to face the Seniors yet again and the Seniors triumphed yet again.

While heading to the field, the sun shone down and the wind blew vigorously on the

students. All the players started to prepare and stretch and lace up their cleats. Principal Short came down bringing refreshments, including ice cream. After preparations and pregame hype, the two teams took to the field (Freshmen and Juniors). The Freshmen came into the game ready to win but despite their efforts, the Juniors took the win. When that game ended the Sophomores came in extra-prepared, stretching as a team and counting off. Meanwhile the Seniors were goofing off knowing they would win. The first possession of the game the two classes clashed for the ball. In spite of the valiant efforts of the Sopho-

more class, the Seniors came out with the W. Now came time for the very last game of the day and this was the most anticipated game of the year, possibly the century. The first half the Seniors scored the first goal then the Juniors replied, scoring a goal on all-star goalie Jake Callahan, but at the half the Class of 2017 bounced back and won the game 3-1.

As the day came to an end, everyone went back up to front campus to re-energize themselves. Thank you, SA, for putting on a great Picnic and another day of great competition!



JUNIOR/SENIOR BANQUET
ALLIE MAE MAGTANONG

On April 23, the Junior class officers hosted the annual Junior/Senior banquet. After numerous fundraisers and diligent planning, we were able to organize a beautiful, lovely banquet in the spring. Sunday morning, the girls in the dorm were getting their hair and makeup done before being picked up. Our attire for this occasion was a long-dress formal for the ladies and suits with ties for the gentlemen. At 12:30 P.M., the guys headed towards the Girls' Dorm in their best-looking formal attire. Some of the underclassmen girls were in charge of making the announcements that called each junior and senior lady down to the dorm lobby the minute her date had arrived. Hearing your name over the intercom is kind of exciting, yet nerve-wracking at the same time. I liked watching the people's reactions in the lobby once a group of girls appeared in their gorgeous, long dresses. After taking a couple of pictures, the ladies and their dates walked to the buses behind the dorm for departure.

Our first event that afternoon took place at the JMU Forbes Theatre. The junior class officers had bought tickets for the Juniors and Seniors to a Symphony Honors Orchestra concert. As soon as we entered the theatre, students took their places in the balcony of the theatre. The lights dimmed, and all chatter turned into applause as the orchestra flooded the stage and the musicians took their positions. Another round of applause then followed for the orchestra's director, who then welcomed the audience and introduced the upcoming musical pieces. The pieces played that afternoon featured the winners from the prestigious School of Music Concerto Competition. The orchestra accompanied one song that was sung by a fantastic soprano opera singer, followed by an intense, fast-paced musical piece featuring an extraordinary female violinist. Each performance received a standing ovation from the thrilled audience. After intermission, the orchestra played a four-movement long musical number. It was

super long, but it was actually interesting listening to how the music progressed through each act. Towards the end of the concert, there was one last song played by the entire orchestra. The crowd gave one last round of applause to those who performed that afternoon. The Juniors and Seniors then left the concert hall and loaded the buses near the theatre entrance. They all went to stroll around a nice park just across from the university campus where everyone had the opportunity to take some decent pictures with friends and dates. Meanwhile, some of the Junior class officers had left the concert earlier and drove up to On Sunny Slope Farm to decorate the banquet venue. We made sure to get everything prepared just before the rest of the party arrived. At first, it seemed unlikely that all the decorations and tables would be set in place quickly enough. Thankfully, we were able to stall the large group from arriving too early by keeping them at the park for about forty-five minutes. We hurriedly ran from table to table, trying to put each decoration carefully in its place. There were many things to take care of, such as tying name tags to chairs, setting plates, cups, and silverware, lighting candles, and placing cupcakes on plates. There was so much to be done that some of our girl officers, including myself, had to remove our heels to help us move faster. Thanks to the Vergaras, Mr. Chirvasuta, and Dean Kelly, we were able to finish all the tables and chairs. Our lovely photo booth was nicely set up by Mr. Vergara and Mr. Chirvasuta, and the "welcome" sign was propped up and ready for display at the front of the entrance. As soon as we heard the buses rolling in, Hannah Sloan and Katherine Berrios stood by the entrance as greeters, welcoming everyone in. I was in charge of handing the couples their own name cards and directing them to their assigned tables. I loved seeing everyone's reactions the moment they entered the tent. Most were awed by the beautiful setup of the whole event, and were excited to see

what was planned for the rest of the evening. All the guests casually took their seats and helped themselves to a vanilla cupcake prepared by SVA parent, Mrs. Smith. When everyone had taken their seats, Hannah and I stood onstage to announce a warm welcome and the upcoming activities scheduled for the evening. After a brief prayer by our Junior class pastor, Hannah Sloan, I dismissed tables for the buffet. Everyone was definitely looking forward to the delicious meal, and were all eager to finally to eat some fantastic food. In the meantime, guests were able to get up and take pictures, while others sat in the dining area to eat and listened to music organized by some of the SVA students. The students showcased their own musical talents, such as playing the harp and violin, and even singing. The Junior class also led out in a trivia game based on facts from our own Junior and Senior classes. The winning table by the end of the activity won a prize of Oreos and sparkling juice. After that, we all gathered

together and talked amongst ourselves for the time we had left. People then made their way to load the buses, while some of the officers stayed back to help clean up. That night was a spectacular, exciting event, and probably one of the best events of the year. As class president, I had the privilege of working with amazing class officers and sponsors who all worked to put this banquet together. We were more than satisfied with the way everything turned out, and certain that those who attended had a memorable time. I also hope the senior class enjoyed their very last banquet at SVA. The Junior class officers especially would like to thank the class sponsors, the Vergaras, Mr. Chirvasuta, and Mrs. Smith for their tremendous amounts of effort. The banquet was a brilliant success, and has become a memory that I will never forget.



SENOIRS!!!



Thank you to the seniors who sent pictures in.

CLASS PARTIES

BETHANY EDWARDS

One of the main events that everyone looks forward to is class parties. Class parties are fun because you are able to be involved in several activities while bonding with your class. Having class parties is important because it brings you closer to the peers in your grade. The most recent class party was on March 11, 2017. It included all the freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and their respective class sponsors and a fun time together as a family.

The class of 2020 did several different things at its class party. The Freshmen got on the bus without a clue of what they would be doing that night. Every time the bus stopped, they would

get a new seat mate and learn things about their partner. Their first stop was McDonalds where the students got french fries, and then they headed to Taco Bell to eat more food. They also got nice warm doughnuts from Krispy Kreme and played some mini golf. They also ate some yummy pizza and ice cream from Dairy Queen. Josselyn Villatoro says that her favorite part of the party was being able to interact with her classmates, which opened her to new friendships. Besides the friends, she also enjoyed all the nice food she received that night. Andrea Huaytalla says, "My favorite part was buying my partner a gift from Dollar Tree. It was fun and I liked

my gift too!" The Freshmen had lots of fun throughout their mysterious party.

Meanwhile, the Sophomore class decided to bond on campus. They started the party by watching The Incredibles while eating pizza and ice cream. Afterwards, they went to the gym and played many different games. Some people played speedball, capture the flag, or steal-the-bacon while others sat around and talked to each other. Nelda Atuti says, "My favorite part of class parties was watching the movie. It is such a cute and funny movie. It honestly made the night even better." Meanwhile, Kendra Fairbank says, "The games were very fun. I was put in teams with

people I don't usually talk to, but I still had fun." The entire night was filled with laughter and excitement for the sophomores.

The Juniors had a blast at their pool party at Westover Recreation Center in Harrisonburg. As soon as they entered the building, they all went straight to the bathrooms to put on their bathing suits. Valery Vergara says, "It was the best pool party ever! I had lots of fun. We arrived and we quickly got into the pool. You could see everyone having fun. There were a lot of things to do like racing each other or jumping off the diving board." Meanwhile, Hannah Sloan said, "My favorite part was the pizza

and ice cream. There were many types of pizza like a vegan one, plain cheese, olives and even pineapple. We also had vanilla and chocolate ice cream sandwiches." As soon as everybody finished eating, they went back to swimming until time was up. Once they got out, they quickly changed because they didn't want to get left behind by Mr. McNeilus. Once everyone was on the bus, he drove them over to the Walmart center and gave them thirty minutes to go wherever they wanted as long as they were back on the bus by 10:00 PM. They made it back to campus safely with new stories to share.

Finally, the Seniors went to an arcade called Ruby's in Harrisonburg where they played many games such as bowling and foosball. Others played pool or a game of darts. They ate ice cream and some pizza. It was lots of fun according most seniors. Finally, they came back to campus and had open gym for their class to enjoy together.

In the end, everyone had a great time, whether it was going swimming or staying at the gym. Class parties created memories for everyone to have and fun stories to tell. These activities are one of the best things about SVA.



SENIOR SURVEY

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO MISS THE MOST FROM SVA?

Picnics, Saturday night activities, class parties – Elizabeth Schuen
The people and the family atmosphere that this school has – Heidi Davis
I’ll miss my friends – Iverson Kester-Calvin, Madysen Thrall, Damilka Joaquin
I’m gonna miss all of us being in one class together. Like you end up missing jokes or phrases that people would say during class or lunch or whenever. This is also the last year that everyone in the class will know each other. So I’ll kinda miss that too – Mabel Mabena
The people, the sports, the free time, and Allie Mae Magtanong – Eric Eiselstein
I will miss the orange chicken provided to us in partnership by Mrs. Short and MiMi. But also being able to sneak onto honor hall to have dance parties. – Amaia Belgrave

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR SENIOR YEAR IN 1 WORD?

Trying – Elizabeth Schuen
Maturing – Heidi Davis
Legendary – Justin Lee
Why?! – Mabel Mabena
Humbling – Eric Eiselstein
Hectic – Madysen Thrall
Sentimental – Amaia Belgrave
Nostalgic – Madeleine Ndahayo
Perseverance – Salima Omwenga

HOW HAVE YOU CHANGED SINCE YOU FIRST CAME TO SVA?

Figuring out my own identity and realizing the importance of good decisions and true friends – Elizabeth Schuen
Learning more about myself and becoming a better person that is more connected to God, I have learned so much about life, relationships, and trials while I have been here. I have learned how to relate to others and how to push myself out of my comfort zone to do great things – Heidi Davis
I can manage my anger better than I could before – Damilka Joaquin
I’ve learned to try and maximize my opportunities – Iverson Kester-Calvin
I look older – Justin Lee
I no longer wear colors – Salima Omwenga
My interests have changed – Mabel Mabena
At first I was a very shy person, I was scared of making new friends, but now I have come out my shell and have made amazing friendships and relationships – Taty Vega, Noe Grady
Well, first of all, I dress a lot differently than I did when I first came. I’m a lot older, and hopefully a lot wiser. I have about a hundred more friends and a lot more experiences. Also, my hair’s a lot shorter – Eric Eiselstein
I learned what eyebrows are – Amaia Belgrave
I have become more decisive and cynical – Madeleine Ndahayo

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE NEXT YEAR’S SENIORS?

View you attendance points as money and choose how to spend them wisely. – Amaia Belgrave
Buckle up and have patience – Elizabeth Schuen
Enjoy your senior year. Embrace your class and look for the good points in your classmates instead of spending the year arguing. Also, don’t save everything until the last moment, but be kind to yourself and work ahead on things – Heidi Davis
Savor the good times, forget the bad times – Madeleine Ndahayo
Laminate your notes so your tears roll off – Elizabeth Reedy
Hang on to your hats – Noe Grady
Don’t get senioritis, it’s actually the one thing that will turn you into a 5-year senior – Iverson Kester-Calvin
You’re too blessed to be stressed – Salima Omwenga
The year will go by faster than you think. So keep your head up. Before you know it, you’ll be accepting your diploma – Mabel Mabena

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

The fact that I am a designed creature who has the potential to grow and succeed in life in my own individual way – Elizabeth Schuen
My parents’ effort to give me a good life – Damilka Joaquin
My mom and Dominique – Iverson Kester-Calvin
Knowing that graduation is soon – Elizabeth Reedy

The fact that I have less than a month left before I’m gone with the wind – Mabel Mabena
The little voice in my head that continues to tell me repeatedly to do whatever I have to do – Taty Vega
The obligation to better myself as a person for my friends and family – Eric Eiselstein
I motivated by my desire to become one or all of the following three: 1) President of the United States, 2) Secretary of State, 3) Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court – Amaia Belgrave
Freedom – Madeleine Ndahayo

WHAT’S THE MOST USEFUL THING YOU LEARNED AT SVA?

Be “SVA proud” and to remember your ID card – Elizabeth Schuen
How to know what’s worth fighting for – Damilka Joaquin
Time management – Noe Grady
How to refill milk – Mabel Mabena
How to hide your phone in class – Eric Eiselstein
How important it is to network – Amaia Belgrave
To be kind to others because one day I may need them – Madeleine Ndahayo

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE ITEM FROM YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLIES?

My Sharpie – Elizabeth Reedy
My pens; I love to have pens that are lots of different colors, because it is fun writing with different ones – Heidi Davis
My binder – Damilka Joaquin
Calculator – Noe Grady
Pre-Calculus book – Iverson Kester-Calvin
Highlighters – Madysen Thrall
Ramen cooker – Justin Lee
My lovely Lands’ End fleece – Mabel Mabena
My Staedtler pen set – Amaia Belgrave
Backpack – Madeleine Ndahayo, Taty Vega
My 0.5mm mechanical pencil – Eric Eiselstein

WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR?

Senior Survival and banquets – Elizabeth Schuen
Going to Oakwood and listening to their amazing music department – Damilka Joaquin
Senior Survival – Noe Grady, Iverson Kester-Calvin, Elizabeth Reedy, Madeleine Ndahayo
Making memes – Justin Lee
The fact that it’s my last year of high school – Mabel Mabena
The places we’ve been together, and the memories we’ve made – Taty Vega
Singing at Senior Extravaganza – Eric Eiselstein
Becoming closer with my classmates – Madysen Thrall
Tailgating in Dean Jessica’s truck or the first Thursday I had no afternoon classes so I spent all of my time off campus – Amaia Belgrave
Rekindling my friendship with Dewell, dorm time with Madeleine Ware, Raisy, Becky and DJ, Praise Team outing with recruits Raisy and Amaia – Salima Omwenga

WHEN DID YOUR “SENIORITIS” FIRST KICK IN?

Around February – Heidi, Taty Vega
Whenever I get annoyed – Noe Grady
August 16, 1999 – Iverson Kester-Calvin
Freshman year – Justin Lee, Madysen Thrall, Elizabeth Reedy
Junior year, increasing as graduation nears – Mabel Mabena, Elizabeth Schuen, Amaia Belgrave, Damilka Joaquin
First month of school – Madeleine Ndahayo

WHO IN YOUR CLASS DO YOU LOOK UP TO?

Michael Sewell because he cares about everyone and is always willing to help and listen. I think friends like him are rare, and there isn’t anyone who has something against him, which is also very rare. – Elizabeth Schuen
Justin and Noe – Heidi Davis
Brenda Ngetich; she’s truly one of the least judgmental people I’ve met. No matter how different you are or how messed up you are, you can always go and talk to her about anything. You don’t feel like less of a person when you tell her stuff that you’re going through. She’ll always see the best in you. – Damilka Joaquin, Heidi Davis, Noe Grady, Mabel Mabena
Madeleine Ndahayo – Iverson Kester-Calvin
Trystan Gammon – Eric Eiselstein, Madeleine Ndahayo
I look up to everyone in my class except for Becky because they’re all taller than me – Amaia Belgrave



ALUMNI WEEKEND

MESHACH PEREZ

One of the most exciting parts of every school year is Alumni Weekend. Former students are welcomed by staff, students are ecstatic to see their friends that have graduated, and alumni are joyful to see their old classmates and relive their high school experience for a short time. On Friday, April 14, a golf tournament kicked off this amazing weekend. Many students got to spend the day helping with registration, driving food carts, and playing a few rounds of golf with the alumni.

Friday evening after the golf tournament, a reception was held in the cafeteria for all current seniors and alumni. It was nice opportunity to formally welcome back all our returning guests. Following this reception was the Senior class tree planting. “I will always remember our class leaving something behind that we can all be happy to come back to,” said Davel Parker after this important event. We then had vespers in the church to end the night with some fellowship. Phillip Rego, Class of 1967, presented a touching message about his mission trip to Haiti. He shared his message with us

about how God moved him to go and provide for the victims of the 2010 earthquake.

Sabbath morning, the gymnasium began to fill up with people as we started our worship service. As always, it got crowded, so many people overflowed into the lobby or remained outside. To start off, roll was taken for all the honor classes, read by a representative from each class. Next, Janel Haas Ware, Development and Alumni Director, had the chance to speak about how crucial donations are to students’ attending SVA. Soon after, alumnus of the Class of 1997, Joshua Jetter, had a strong message on “Living Legacies.” Finally, both Shenandoans and orchestra joined with alumni to sing the annual Handel’s Messiah “Hallelujah Chorus.”

Following the program, lunch was held at the cafeteria where many enjoyed a good meal together. After lunch, open campus allowed alumni and students to socialize and catch up with each other. They also had the time to get together and have a jam session on front campus.

The event everyone looks forwards to is the Alumni versus SVA Stars basket-

ball game held on Saturday night. Lady Stars played against Alumni at 9:00 and the enthusiasm was incredible. Everyone cheered for their Stars and it was great. The game was intense, but the alumni stayed ahead of the rest of the girls and won the game. This gave a moment for people to get snacks from the Junior class-sponsored concession stand. They sold lots of chips, soda, candy, and good ol’ Domino’s pizza.

The guys’ game started at a little after 10:00 and the excitement started up once again. The ball was tipped off and the crowd was roaring. SVA Stars caught the lead and stayed with the rest of the game. Never once did they let the Alumni pull ahead and they ended up winning. It was a very close game, but an amazing victory for our team.

In the end, everyone had a blast, whether it was playing/cheering for the game, reconnecting, or enjoying the food. Altogether, Alumni Weekend was fantastic. Everyone loved spending the weekend doing different things with their life-long friends.



WEEK OF PRAYER

HEIDI DAVIS

During SVA’s Spring Week of Prayer that began on April 10, Pastor Jeff Akenberger came from Traverse City, Michigan, to be our speaker. Pastor Jeff is thirty-five and has been in the ministry for thirteen years. He is married to his wife, Stephanie, and they have three children: Judah, Noella, and Phillipa Grace (Pippa). Pastor Jeff’s theme for this week was about discovering our identity.

The first meeting we had was on Monday evening and it was very interesting. Pastor Jeff worked hard to get the students engaged as he told and acted out the story of Jesus healing a deaf and mute man. The main points that Pastor Jeff brought out in this meeting were that everyone has people-problems and we must tell our sins to God and not to others. He stated that if we fall at the feet of Jesus and confess our sins, He will never reject us. Also, he told us that God is bigger than a person’s habits. God can overcome our tendencies and completely heal us of any illnesses. At the close of this exciting evening, Pastor Jeff challenged us to be open to God throughout the following week.

Our first chapel was different from any I have experienced from guest speakers at SVA. Instead of preaching at us Tuesday morning, Pastor Jeff handed us a Bible study sheet with questions and had us study together with our faculty families. I thoroughly enjoyed this because it gave me an opportunity to be active and to learn something on my own. After we had discussed the questions in our groups, he passed around a microphone and people shared their answers. In this chapel, we studied Joseph and focused on the question: How does what you believe about yourself influence the way you treat and interact with others? We answered: the way you think about yourself influences the way you treat people. If you value yourself highly, you will also value and lift up

others. Conversely, if you do not think you have value, you will put down others to try to make yourself feel better.

During the Wednesday morning chapel, we talked about Daniel and his life. We discussed two questions to dig deeper into the lesson. One question was: Does the way you start determine the end? Many people agreed that although you start something one way you can always change before you get to the end. But it is harder to change once you have started out a certain way. The second question we discussed was: How can you stop living as the effect of circumstances and begin to live as the cause? Many agreed that when you control the way you react, you can change the circumstances in your life.

Wednesday evening Pastor Jeff continued with a story in the book of Daniel, but this time he focused on Daniel’s three friends and a trial that they went through. First, he went into chapter two of Daniel where King Nebuchadnezzar is praising Daniel for interpreting his dream. Pastor Jeff said that the lesson we can learn from this is to not take credit for what God does for us. Then he transferred to the story of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the fiery furnace. First, he pointed out that the king was setting up the image to enforce a world religion by having all of his leaders come worship it. Pastor Jeff warned us that Satan tries to control people by creating a national religion. In the end, he said that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego overcame their trial with Jesus by their sides. He pointed out that sometimes what the devil means for evil, God turns around and uses it to His glory. At the close of the meeting, Pastor Jeff challenged us to not dodge the furnaces that God has put in our life, because they are there to make us stronger and bring us closer to Him.



During the Thursday chapel, Pastor Jeff had the school review Moses’s life and purpose. We discussed what Moses would have defined his purpose to be at different stages in his life. Then we discussed the question: How does knowing your purpose influence the way you set priorities? Many agreed that when you know your purpose in life, you will set goals and priorities that help you achieve that purpose. At the end, Pastor Jeff challenged us to ponder the question: If you knew that Jesus would come a year from today, what would be different about your life? The reason he asked us this question was to help us dig deeper into the purposes behind what we do in our lives now.

On the final night, Pastor Jeff talked about the story of Abraham rescuing Lot. He first talked about how we need to make sure we do not put ourselves in Satan’s way to be tempted by him. He related this to how Lot chose to pitch his tent near Sodom and therefore put himself in danger. Next, he discussed how Abraham was faithful, ready and eager to rescue his kidnapped nephew. Pastor Jeff ended by telling us that we need to be careful to beware of Satan’s tribute and that we should commit our life to God and His final work.

At our final chapel, Pastor Jeff talked about the importance of putting thought into action. He emphasized that it is important that when you know what God’s call is, step out and do it. He talked about the story of Samuel having to pick a new king, and David passing on wisdom to his son Solomon as he lay on his deathbed. At the end we were challenged us to take on the trials in our life and to not fear the outcome of stepping out in God’s direction. We appreciate Pastor Jeff’s taking time to come and speak to and with us; the students and staff definitely received a blessing from this Week of Prayer.



GHRoW LUNCHEON

TRYSTAN GAMMON

On Sunday, March 12, the GHRoW scholars were treated to some pizza and ice cream. Around 11:30 A.M. we all loaded up the bus and drove to Harrisonburg where we met with Ms. Emely Umaña, Mr. Tony Williams, and Mr. David Reile, all three of them graduates of SVA—Ms. Umaña in 2011, and Mr. Reile and Mr. Williams in 1982. It was awesome because they had already ordered us a gourmet meal at Franco’s Pizza by the time we arrived. We walked to the back of the restaurant into a huge a room that was reserved for all 30, or so, of us. We sat down right as the waitresses brought in the steaming, hot pans of pizza. The pizza toppings varied: olives, onions and pepper, all veggies, mushrooms, pineapple, and cheese. For beverages we delighted ourselves with Sprite, Orange Fanta, and root beer. After prayer, we all lined up and loaded our plates with stacks of pizza slices. The room became absolutely quiet while all the students stuffed their mouths with cheesy bites of pizza and gulped down the soft drinks.

Once most of us started to slow down eating, Mr. Reile and Mr. Williams asked us to go around the table and tell them our name, the grade we are in, why we are attending SVA, and why we love SVA. It was very intriguing because when everyone said where they came from, I realized the all the different states and cities that we all come from. Many said they came to SVA because either their parents wanted them to,

or they themselves desired a Seventh-day Adventist education. The reasons for why we loved SVA varied. Some of the answers were, “I have so many great friends here,” “I love the music program,” “I love the sports program,” or “I am just happy to be at SVA instead of at home.” After we all shared our answers, Mr. Williams began to tell about his experience at SVA. He told us he came from a family that did not have very much money, but his parents worked hard and did everything they could so that he could be at SVA. His experience at SVA made a huge positive impact on him because he grew closer to God while he was here. He felt convicted to give back to a school that had invested in him and taught him so much. In 1991, almost 10 years after he graduated from SVA, Mr. Williams, Mr. Reile, and two friends of theirs sat down and talked about their blessed SVA experience. At that point, the four of them were starting their careers and families, and all of them had lives. They concluded that they would give back to the school where they had gained so much. None of them had much, but each of them donated \$10 to the school for three years. As the years went on more people began to donate to their cause, and little by little their donations to students at SVA increased. This year is the 25th Anniversary of the GHRoW Foundation. Since it began, GHRoW has helped 121 students and awarded over \$400,000 in scholarships. He finished his

story and we headed outside, with our bellies full, for a group picture in front of the bus. Once Mr. Williams got all the pictures he needed we headed over to Dairy Queen for dessert.

At Dairy Queen, students ordered their choice of dessert. Many of us ordered Dairy Queen’s famous Blizzard. It tastes exquisite and the physics of the dessert itself is unbelievable to look at and fun to play with. The waiter flips the cup upside down and then hands it to you without any of the ice cream falling out. Others picked either a smoothie, a milkshake, or an ice cream cone. While we ate our ice cream, Mr. Williams told us some funny stories from living in the boys’ dorm. He revealed to us his secrets of buying pizza, when he was not supposed to and without the dean knowing. He also encouraged us not to sneak off campus for any reason because the dean will find out eventually. We finally thanked our supporters for their generosity and taking time out their schedule to be with us, then said our goodbyes and departed for SVA.

It touched our hearts to hear the story about the founding of GHRoW because they are part of the reason why most of the GHRoW scholars can attend SVA. Their donations and care for the students at SVA are selfless and a great act of love that none of us deserve. I hope and pray God blesses the leaders and donors of GHRoW twice as much as they have blessed the students at SVA.



GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP 2017

HANNAH SLOAN

On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, we left SVA's campus to embark on mission trip 2017. We arrived at Washington Dulles International Airport and got through the check in area, security, and to our gate before time to leave. Many students from SVA were on their first journey out of the country. Everything went well on the flight, and when we got to Atlanta we had to board yet another plane. This plane ride was about three-and-a-half hours long, but at least there were movies, music, and games to entertain the fifty of us throughout the ride. On this flight we experienced amazing views of the Mexican coastline, and, once we got closer, Guatemalan mountains. The view was incredibly breathtaking and was a great way to start our trip.

We entered the Guatemalan airport, grabbed our luggage, and were delightfully surprised by the mariachi band that met us by the immigration area of the airport. It was our first taste of the Guatemalan culture. We went through immigration

and proceeded outside to wait for our chicken bus to appear. "The chicken bus was one of my favorite parts of this trip," said Jurnee Nealy. Our new bus would quickly develop a rather harsh nickname, "the asthma bus," because as we climbed over the mountains that day, it let out some rather breathy sounds. The men who brought the bus climbed up and packed our suitcases on top of the bus. We were all amazed at their climbing skills. As we entered the bus, we realized that the chicken bus was not at all like a regular school bus. The seats were very close together to the point where you had to squeeze through the seats sideways. It was a scorchingly hot day and we were all tired and sweaty. Unfortunately we had to sit three to a seat.

The drive from the airport to the restaurant was five hours. Upon arrival, we were all very hungry. We ate tortillas, pan-fried vegetables, beans, queso fresco, and horchata. We then started on our two (turned into four) hour drive. We were stuck in

traffic for over an hour in a bus that barely had brakes. The bus drivers in Guatemala drive with an assistant, to help them turn sharp corners, like a second pair of eyes. But that night our assistant driver became our brakes. He jumped out of the bus, ran to the back wheels, and put a large rock behind the wheels to stop us from rolling off the mountain cliff. After a long wait, we were relieved of our stress and on our way to the hotel.

Hostal Villa Vanesa was a very warm and inviting place to stay. The staff were very nice and accommodating of all the people. They had lots of space and very beautiful plants. The pool became a favorite hangout spot for the students. When we got to the hotel, we unpacked our stuff and went straight to bed, some in cabins, others in hammocks, and the rest in tents.

The rest of the week consisted of bumpy roads, building walls, making mortar, cutting wire, and much more. On the first Sabbath, we all

split up and went to different churches around Guatemala. We worked every day, non-stop from 9:00-6:00, unless it was your lucky day and you had VBS. Many people from the area gathered around to watch us work; they came with their whole families and sat there the entire day. It was interesting to see how many people were amazed by us. I approached a little girl by the worksite and initiated a conversation with her. I asked her about the people watching us and she told me that they had never seen a building in the area come up so fast, but to us it seemed so slow. We worked on the church the entire week, from Sunday to Friday sunset and, praise God, we completed it.

On Sabbath we got to worship in the church we built. This was probably the most emotional part of the trip. Genesis Quintanilla stated, "I walked up to the red ribbon and immediately tears filled my eyes, because for the first time I looked at our project as the house of God and not just a square of

blocks, hard work, and labor." We walked from the place where they worshiped before. We all began to feel the emotions when we marched to the old "church site." This was no church. This was the porch of a generous lady's house. Seeing what a difference we made for them was very emotional for all. When we got to the church that we built, there were a lot of people surrounding it, anxiously waiting for the ribbon cutting. They had all come to worship at our church. Everyone was so amazed that all these people had heard about the church and came to worship. We enjoyed a good service and at the end, all who went on the trip went in front of the church to receive a gift for gratitude of our work.

We packed up all our stuff on Saturday night and on Sunday morning made our way to Lake Atitlán. The five-hour drive was made worth the wait when we saw the beautiful lake and surrounding volcanoes, all made better by a zipline. We hiked up the mountain for thirty-five

minutes till we got to our first zipline. The view was breathtaking and the ride was breezy and relaxing as we all soaked up the view of volcanoes and nice blue water beneath us. There were five other ziplines. The next two were very long and high and went over the cliff and water. We ended the day by going to a very nice restaurant on the beach, then went boats across the lake, and finally landed on a black sand beach, ending our day on a high note.

Sadly, we got up the next morning, went to the airport, got on our first flight, and we were back in the U.S. Just one plane flight and a bus ride later, we were back at SVA. Jurnee Nealy summarized the trip, saying, "I am so grateful for the opportunity to go to Guatemala and meet these amazing people. I am thankful for the chance to change someone's life. Not only have I changed people's lives but this experience has changed mine, too. I have learned to be more thankful for the things I do have."



ACADEMY DAYS

VALERY VERGARA

Academy Days is always a great time for prospective students to come and get a feel for what it's like to be a student at SVA. It's divided into two days, the first consisting of tryouts and getting to tour the campus. The second day consists of having some in-class time and getting to know the teachers better. Academy Days this year was April 2-3.

The first day started with all the schools arriving and checking-in at the lobby. As soon as the kids were divided into their color groups, auditions and tryouts began. Of course the kids are always pretty nervous to do the tryouts but they're always encouraged by their ambassadors to do their very best. As an ambassador, you always

want to make sure you make your group feel comfortable with you and have a great time.

As soon as the tryouts were done, the visitors headed over to lunch and really got to know each group member better. After lunch the whole group proceeded to take a full tour of the campus and talked to the people in charge of each respective building. I remember my group's favorite places were the cafeteria and student center because the potential students got to enjoy some yummy treats. Each tour stop consisted of our answering a question, earning points according to how accurate our answer was. It was entertaining to see how the kids in the group discussed which answer to put

down and really got to know each other better. When the tours were done, we headed over to the cafe to get some dinner and enjoy Pastor Buz and Mr. Rivera as they came by each table and played some music for us!

Worship followed dinner, and then it was game time. All the groups gathered in the gym to play some games and eventually win the prize for their groups, getting a bunch of snacks. Some of the games we played were sack racing, putt-putt golf, and jump rope. The champion of game night ended up being the orange team and they were all extremely excited to be crowned the winners. Hannah Sloan, one of the orange team ambassadors said, "It felt great to win! My

team really deserved it. They put in so much work and I'm so glad they got to enjoy themselves with a bunch of snacks." After game night everyone headed to the dorms and got to see what a night in the dorm is like. Many dorm students were kind enough to open up their rooms and let Academy Days kids sleep in their rooms!

With a good night's rest, all the kids were ready to continue having fun on day two. Everyone met in the auditorium for morning worship and enjoyed a performance by the SVA bell choir. After worship, all the groups divided up to tour the classes. Just as the previous day, the groups were asked questions or played games to earn points so that at the end of Academy

Days one group could earn the grand prize. It was so cool to see the kids really enjoying themselves in the classrooms and having nice interactions with the teachers.

As soon as the tours were done, it was time to start wrapping up. The kids were sent to the dorms to pack up their things and then meet in the gym for the final program. Orchestra, band, strings, choir, and Shenandoans all performed to really show the visitors what the music department was like. When the concert was over, all the students flowed into the auditorium to receive their scholarships. It was so nice to see their happiness about earning something they worked hard for. To wrap everything up, the video yearbook crew pre-

sented a video about everything that had happened over the span of Academy Days. It's always so much fun to see the visitors get excited and laugh when they see themselves on the screen.

When it is finally time to say goodbye to your group, it's always a bittersweet moment. Over the past two days we really got close to our groups and it is always sad to see them leave. Academy Days this year was such a great experience for both the kids and the ambassadors. It's always great to see our school make these kids feel comfortable and feel like they could see themselves attending here. It's always a very fun experience.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY		JULY	
MAY			
		1	Laura Westberg
3	<i>Madysan Thrall / Edifania Antonio / Manuel Rodriguez</i>	2	Janice Pakkianathan
7	<i>Ana Cassange</i>	7	Daniel Chirvasuta / Ana Escobar
8	<i>Madeleine Ware</i>	13	Ajah Perry
10	<i>Gabrielle Patrick / Asher Ardon / Angie Edwards</i>	15	Benjamin Adjei
13	<i>Adrianna Torres</i>	16	Isamuel Aquino
15	<i>Eliezer Melendez</i>	18	Haianny Carvalho
		19	Kelly Ramirez / Julia Rivera
20	<i>Sierra Anderson / Abigail Thomas</i>	22	Jonathan Villatoro
24	<i>Gideon Nyambiya</i>	23	Joseph Tembo / Loraine Serrano
25	<i>Lorenza Savegnago</i>		
		30	Shayla Coronel
26	<i>Trystan Gammon</i>		

AUGUST		
28	Chris Baires	
		1 Safiyya Phillip
30	Minna Omwenga	
		2 Leah Charles
31	Juliana Greaver	

JUNE		
3	Marco Lopez / Murillo Brittany	
4	Jamel Northover	
5	Chantel Palmer / Matthew Shelton	
6	Damilka Joaquin	
10	Christopher Reedy	
13	Coby Odate	
16	Haley Wolters	
19	Natalia Nino / Brooks Langford / Kyle Thompson	
24	Krissia Kersey / Andrea Huaytalla	
25	Paige Schuen	
28	Darnell Devadass	

SHOUT-OUTS!

To AZARIAH ANDERSON: I'll miss you Big Bro. - *Dora aka "kid"*

To BOB: You've always been a great boss. I'll miss you. - *Valerie Pichot aka The Best Cafe Worker Ever*

To THE CLASS OF 2018: I love you guys! – *Jurnee Nealy*

To BARRY ARMSTRONG: Thanks for the thumbs up at the end of every edition this year! - *Trisney Bocala and Valerie Pichot*

If YOU are trying to sell something you can have it advertised in the Shen-Val-Lore! Send the prices for your merchandise to trisney.bocala@student.sva-va.org, and get the word out about your sale! [YOURAD HERE!]

DON'T FORGET: Look for the little green & white box in the library to submit your questions for our advice column, the shout-outs for your friends, and your tips for us, editors!



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