



letter from current student

My first day at Mesa Grande Academy was one of the most horrifying days of my life. I'd grown tired of changing schools, and having to find new friends. I guess you could say that I was tired of being an academic foster child. However, in spite of my frustration, a couple of months into my sophomore year, I realized that the staff and students of MGA were the close-knit family that I'd been searching for. The gratitude that I feel for this discovery -- and adoption into this family -- is due in large part to my sponsors. They served as both enablers and social workers. I thank God for the Student Assistance Fund, praise Him for the generosity of my sponsors, and look forward to another year at MGA.

- MGA Academy Student



Current faculty serving the Alumni lunch at Alumni Sabbath

If you have contact information or other updates on any alumni, please contact Judie Yakush, Alumni Coordinator, at (909) 795-1112 ext. 252, or email jyakush@hotmail.com.

Thanks for helping keep our alumni in touch with the school and each other!



MGA Alumni News

Alumni Sabbath 2004

Greetings to all MGA Alumni! On September 11, 2004, over 50 Mesa Grande Alumni returned to campus to relive and recall great memories with former classmates and teachers. It was good to see everyone again and catch up on your lives. Ten years goes by quickly and a more mature look starts to set in!

The morning began with registration, followed by the opening service. A group of men, all MGA



Alumni, sang "Swing Low," followed by Craig Marais ('94) giving a thought provoking presentation entitled

"Mission in Your Neighborhood."

The church service continued with skits performed by "Fresh Expressions", MGA's drama group. The featured speaker was Marty Miller, former MGA teacher ('90-'94). Marty's topic was "The Road Trip." He told some of his often humorous life experiences, including some from his time here at MGA. Everyone received a blessing from the morning services.

The Annual Campaign, which was started last year, brought in over \$19,000. This, along with money raised from various sponsors, brought the total to \$60,000 which enabled 38 students to attend MGA this

past year. The opening enrollment of 343 students was the largest MGA has had. The academy enrollment was 141, with the Freshman class being so large that it had to be split.

The Golf Tournament, which was held the first Sunday of March, brought out 76 golfers -- three of whom were alumni. The sum of \$10,000 was raised through



Class of 1999



Class of 1994

the Tournament, with half going to the varsity program, and half to the Student Assistance fund. Hopefully, each year will see more alumni participating in this event.

As many of you know, Bob Rice came out of retirement to return to MGA this past school year as principal. After much thought and prayer, Dr. Rice has decided to return to retirement. The Mesa Grande community greatly appreciated Dr. Rice's leadership

this past year. Alfred Riddle is transitioning from science teacher and high school coordinator to become Principal next year. The

faculty and school board members are excited about working with Mr. Riddle as principal.

You, the alumni, are a big part of Mesa Grande Academy and we want to have you as a continual part of the school family. We look forward to seeing you on Sabbath, September 10, 2005, at the next alumni reunion!

-Judie Yakush

**Plan now to attend Alumni Sabbath this fall
September 10, 2005
Guest Speaker: Alan Nielsen**



speaker Marty Miller



The Mesa Grande Academy Alumni at Alumni Sabbath, September 11, 2004

a l u m n i m a i l b a g

Hey everyone,

Since I graduated from Mesa Grande, my life has been busy. I went to SWAU were I met my wife Tanya. We got married and moved to Gentry, Arkansas. She works as a social worker, admissions director, and certified activities director while I own CNT Plastering and Construction Inc. We have average about 17 employees and work throughout Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Most of our work is custom homes and Hotels.

We have 2 awesome boys, Brayston, 9 and Grayson, 4. Both of them love sports and racing 4-wheelers and motorcycles. I also race, and Tanya is our pit crew and cheerleader. She is an awesome supporter. We also have spent a lot of time devoloping basketball programs for our elementary and academy. I have been coaching about 5 teams ranging from 2nd grade to 12th grade for the last 8 years. The Lord has really blessed the programs and taken such good care of our family. It seems overwhelming at times how awesome and wonderful He really is.

As you can see we stay very busy, but I honestly wouldn't want it any other way. I feel that a family that works, prays, and plays together stays stronger. I wish all of you well and it would be awesome to here from some of you. My email is cnt229988@yahoo.com. I hope that all of you are doing great. Keep praying and looking up. Rock on.

- Cassidy Gunneman ('91)

Hi Friends,

Well, what have I been up to after my days at MGA? I actually did not stay away from MGA for too long. After graduating in 1992, I attended Crafton Hills College for two years. I was planning on getting into the nursing program at Loma Linda University. After a couple years at Crafton I went to La Sierra University, where I changed my mind about going into the nursing program. I fell in love with the education classes there. I graduated with a B.A. in Liberal Studies/Elementary education in 1997. God sent me back to MGA, to teach this time. I am currently teaching fifth grade, which I love.

I am also a very proud mom of a 2 1/2 year old daughter, Isabelle. She is the "love of my life". I am having a great time learning about parenting.

Hope to see you all soon!

- Otilia (Rodriguez) White ('92)

Hello Everyone,

This last winter I decided that it was time to go back to school to pursue a Master's Degree in mechanical engineering. I have chosen to study at the European campus of Georgia Tech University in Metz, France! The program

I will be enrolled in will last for eighteen months and will include a summer internship at a European company. Half of the courses will be taught in English and half in French. Learning French will be the biggest challenge of the program, as my French is nonexistent.

I moved out of my house on May 26th and will spend the months of June and July travelling in China and India, moving to France in early August. My current email address has disappeared, but I do have a couple of other email addresses at which I can be reached. They are: nathan@lookatmypage.com and mcnena@gmail.com. You can also check out my webpage for periodic photo updates: www.lookatmypage.com. You might also enjoy my Pathfinder website at: www.fraserview.org.

Please do keep in touch!

- Nathan McNeill ('93)

Hello Everyone,

It's been almost 11 years and I have been a little busy. I met my wife Victoria in college while finishing my A.S. degree in Criminal Justice. I have been working the past few years managing a Towing Company and an Auto Dismantling business. I am now back in school trying to finish my B.A. degree in Aviation.

I have two little girls; Holley is 4 and Summer is almost 1. We just moved to Amador County about a month ago. We live in a very small town. It is a 6 mile drive to the nearest store. Prior to that we lived in Sacrameto. We were attending the Carmichael Church and recently went to the El Dorado Adventist Church for the first time. The girls love Sabbath school.

Life is good and hope all is great for everyone else. God bless and best wishes from Gary, Victoria, Holley, and Summer

- Gary Noguchi ('94)

After graduating from PUC in the summer of 2000 with a degree in Music Education, I set off for Portland, Oregon. I got married that summer to Tami Synder ('97), and we set off for the great northwest. Three years ago we took the call to come back to California and landed in Fresno where I teach music, drama, and computers at Fresno Adventist Academy. Being one who loved bells in high school, I have wrangled up support for getting a handbell choir going here in Fresno. We currently have a four octave set of bells with two groups in the Junior High age group. This next year will see it grow into the academy. In addition to handbells, I also developed a Christian Drama outreach team, and am very proud of the choir here at FAA. We have had our share of songs I sang with Mr. Dennis at MGA, and we recently took a trip to Disneyland on tour.

a l u m n i m a i l b a g

Tami and I enjoy the area and being here in California closer to home. Being a hop, skip, and a jump away from Yosemite and Sequoia are not bad either. This summer we will be working at Camp Wawona, a Central California Conference summer camp. God has us here in Fresno for another year and we are happy to have jobs working with great kids. Their energy and spirit keeps us going most of the time and we are blessed to have the opportunities we have. And for all of you wondering if we have kids of our own yet, the answer is no.

God bless the classes of '95 and '97, and hope to see some of you this fall!

- Darren Belleau ('95)

After graduation, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do so I spent my first year at La Sierra University and roomed with Gretchen Giacona (Bethurum). I spent my second year at Newbold College in England and enjoyed traveling with my brother. After that, I went to Andrews University for a quarter and roomed with Erica Wise (Hippler). I then went to Sagunto Adventist College with Gretchen for a summer and enjoyed seeing more of the world by train. I graduated from La Sierra University with my Bachelor's of Social Work. Thank goodness my school days have finally come to an end! I graduated from Loma Linda University with my Master's in Social Work on the 12th of June, 2005. I am working for a social HMO with the Geriatric population.

My favorite person, Jonathan Ault, and I got married on the 3rd of October, 2004. He is the perfect fit for me and I am loving married life. I am the happy step mom to Savannah who is 9 and Seth who is 6. I get to act like a kid all the time! We are blessed with a beautiful home in Loma Linda that I am looking forward to working on, now that I will have some free time.

- Heidi (Simpson) Ault ('96)

I graduated from Loma Linda University School of Dentisitry in 2002 with a B.S. in Dental Hygiene. For the last three years I have been working as a Dental Hygienist in Redlands. Los Angeles has become my home away from home and I plan on moving out there this summer. I am taking advantage of this time in my life to travel and experience all that life has to offer.

- Heather Seheult ('96)

After graduating from Mesa Grande in 1997, I attended Southern Adventist University in Tennessee where I completed my BS in Nursing. It was there that I met my husband Brent Hardinge. We got married in July 2001, and moved to Spokane, Washington, where Brent got a job working as a web designer for Bibleinfo.com, and I got a job

in cardiac nursing. We bought our first home in the summer of 2003 and have spent lots of time remodeling. The list of home improvement projects is endless for a home built in 1912. However, we now have a new focus for our time and energy, our beautiful son Kyle who was born to us this past January. He is our pride and joy. I am only working a few days a month at this point so I can stay home with Kyle. I love being a mom.

- Lisa (Christiansen) Hardinge '97

Since I graduated from Mesa Grande Academy, I went to Walla Walla College for two years, Puerto Rico for three months, and bummed around for another three months while applying for admission to UC Riverside. I graduated from UC Riverside in March 2005 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. I then went on to apply for the MBA program at CSUSB. Presently, I am taking business classes at CSUSB and working as a totally hot lifeguard at the Drayson Center in Loma Linda with future plans for making millions of dollars.

- David Seheult ('99)

I graduated from Walla Walla College in 2003 with a B.S. in computer engineering. Several months after graduation, I began working as a software engineer for Misys Healthcare Systems in San Bernardino, CA. In the fall of 2004, I proposed to Karisa Kohler and she said "yes!" We were married in November of 2004 and have been living happily together in our Redlands home.

- Jason Chrispens ('99)

Hey Everyone!

Well, I'm just finishing up my first year in medical school, and I am having a great time. I got married to Faith Harter ('02) on July 9, 2004 and now we live right on the railroad tracks in the ghetto of Loma Linda. Overall, life is good.

- Tim Chinnock ('00)

ATTENTION ALUMNI!

Your classmates and friends would love to hear about you! Send your own "Alumni Mailbag" information to: jyakush@hotmail.com

Submissions may be edited for space and content.

Thanks for keeping in touch!