



MGA

Alumni News

Alumni Sabbath 2005

Greetings to all MGA Alumni! On September 10, 2005, 50 plus Mesa Grande alumni returned to campus to relive some great memories with former classmates and teachers. We seem to stay at the 50 mark in attendance. Possibly this next alumni Sabbath we will break the record and more will come out. It is always good to see everyone and catch up on your lives. Ten years goes by quickly and a more mature look starts to set in!



It is hard to believe that the school year is finished, graduation is over, and the summer is here. We will miss the seniors, our newest alumni. We wish you the best as you begin the next phase of your life.

The 2005 Alumni service opened with Don Dudley, former MGA Principal. His focus was on Reflections & Changes. There are many great memories that will never be forgotten. Jill Hardesty Harlow showed slides of her recent mission trip to Galapagos. The church service followed with "Fresh Expression" which is comprised of current MGA students. The featured speaker was Alan Nielsen, former MGA student. His topic was "Death, Details & Dancing" saying that the details in life are important. When we don't follow God the way that he wants, death results. When we follow the details, it results in dancing. Many were blessed from the morning services.

The Annual Campaign last year brought in over \$20,000 which along with money raised from sponsors brought the total amount to \$80,000 which enabled 55 students to attend MGA. The academy enrollment last year was 142 with the



Class of 2000



Class of 1995

Freshman and Sophomore classes being split.

The Golf Tournament went forward in March even though it was a cold and rainy day. The number of golfers were down from previous years, but still \$9,500 was raised. Half of the money goes to the varsity program and half for the Student Assistance Fund. Hopefully, as the alumni starts to grow the golf tournament will be held on Alumni Weekend and more alumni can participate.

As many of you know, Alfred Riddle stepped down as the science teacher to take on the duties as Principal. It has been a good year and the school has



speaker Alan Nielsen

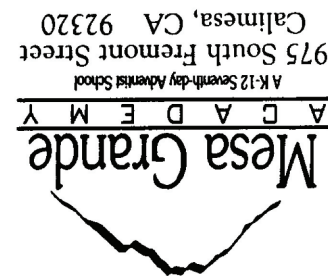
been blessed in many ways under his leadership.

You, the alumni, are a big part of Mesa Grande Academy and we want you as a continual part of the school family. Many thanks to those of you who have already responded to the Alumni giving. It all adds up to make a difference in someone's life.

-Judie Yakush



The Mesa Grande Academy Alumni at Alumni Sabbath, September 10, 2005



letter from the principal

Dear Alumni of Mesa Grande Academy,

It is an honor to have you as an alumnus of MGA. Your time here at school is one that has left a lasting memory in the collective conscience of the school. Your presence impacted Mesa Grande during your time here, and you continue that impact in ways you may not even realize. The culture and climate of MGA is a direct result of your ideas and input while you were here. The gifts that your classes have given to the school have been of benefit to many students. Many of the traditions that we enjoy were created by you. Some of you are helping other students to be able to attend MGA by your resources. We welcome you back to MGA at anytime. Just drop in and see some of your old teachers or see the changes that have taken place. We would love to see on Alumni weekend or at any time.



Alfred J. Riddle
Principal and Former Science Teacher

When alumni get together on alumni weekend for their 10th reunion, the school will pay \$10 per person towards food for Saturday night!

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!

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After graduation from college with a B.S in Psychology from SouthWestern Adventist University, I did middle school teaching for several years, teaching history for grades 6-8th. Looking to experience another level of interaction with youth in todays society, I decided to move into the Juvenile Detention Department here in San Antonio. I’m looking forward to hearing about the other graduates of the Big Table of 1991 and beyond.

I am currently living in San Antonio, Texas. I am married and we have two wonderful children. My oldest is 10, and my newborn son was born on June 1st, 2006 :) **- Adam Ward (‘91)**

After graduating from Mesa Grande, I earned my A.A. Degree from Crafton Hills College and then attended the University of Redlands, where I earned my Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology in May 1997. During my time at the University of Redlands, I met a wonderful man who would become my husband. We celebrated our nine year wedding anniversary this June. I began working as a prevention specialist with a non-profit agency, where I was employed for seven years. I earned my Master’s Degree in Education/School Counseling from the University of Redlands in May 2004 and began working as a Social Worker for a local agency shortly thereafter. My husband Donald is a truck driver with a local home improvement store and we have an adorable seven-year-old Basset Hound Bubba. We reside in Yucaipa, where we purchased a home nine years ago. We enjoy cruising on our Harley, attending San Diego Chargers Football games, and going to the movies in our spare time. Time has flown by and the years since graduating from Mesa Grande have been busy. I can hardly believe I graduated 14 years ago!

- Monica Montez-Stine (‘92)

Since leaving Mesa Grande in 1993... I’ve had the great opportunity to live in some really beautiful places both on the East and West coast. I moved back to the Inland Empire in 2002 where I had the crazy idea to change careers from Real Estate to Nursing. Early on I knew that this was just not for me and I happily returned back to my Career in Real Estate. My husband and I bought our second home in Murrieta where we plan to reside for quite some time. My best accomplishment thus far is my beautiful daughter Holly who is now 8 years old. I love spending time with my family either out on the lake or simply taking my daughter to soccer practice, Ice skating lessons or shopping!

- Carrie (Cravens) Morini (‘93)

In June ‘05 we purchased land and moved to Naches, WA and are currently living with Mike and Caroline (Nicola) Clark until our house is built. Ryan is working in construction and I (Jennifer) am working with parents and their children with behavioral problems. Ryan graduated from Walla Walla with a degree in Theology and I received my Master’s degree in Social Work from Walla in Wall in ‘02. Hopefully, we can come back some year for a reunion. **- Ryan & Jennifer Potterton (‘94)**

This past summer my husband J.C. Urban and I returned to the States from Guam where we worked at the Guam SDA Clinic. We are currently living in Tennessee where I work at

Southern Adventist University as a nurse practitioner. My husband is the treasurer for the Greater Collegedale School System. We are enjoying being closer to family, but miss the diving and our friends on Guam. **- Lori (Christensen) Urban (‘95)**

After high school, I went to Pacific Union College and graduated with an English Lit. degree. After college, I lived and taught high school with my wife Anita in three countries (Pohnpei, the Bahamas, and South Korea). After teaching, I decided to become a lawyer and I just graduated from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, OR and took the Washington State Bar at the end of July. I hope all of you are doing well, letting Jesus Christ control your life. My phone number is (971) 570-2046 and e-mail is jepetersonus@yahoo.com. **- Jack Peterson (‘95)**

Upon graduation from Mesa Grande I spent a year at Walla Walla College where I then travelled to Sagunto, Spain to try my luck at a second language. I travelled as often as I could through out central and eastern Europe while abroad and was somewhat saddened to return to the States where I finished up my degrees in both Spanish and Nursing at Andrews University. The first weekend at Andrews I met Jason Hippler, a handsome and charming man, to whom I would marry three years later. Jason works with Exquistie Homes of Michigan as a General Contractor and I’ve been working for Memorial Hospital of South Bend as a Pediatric Intensive Care Nurse - a job which I love, but I had no regrets cutting my hours back considerably when our daughters were born. Nevaeh is now 2 years old and Hevanna a year old. I have truly been enjoying my role as their mother. As a family we enjoy the involvement with church activiities, friends, and most of all traveling. Jason and I will be celebrating out 5th wedding anniversary this Dec. and plan to see as many of you as possible at the class of 1996 reunion in Sept. 06.

- Erica (Wise) Hippler (‘96)

After graduating from Mesa Grande in 1996 I attended a few different schools before settling at Walla Walla College. I completed my undergraduate degree there in 2000 and immediately began studies at Loma Linda University in the doctoral clinical psychology program. After five years of taking classes and conducting research at LLU, I began an internship at the VA in downtown Los Angeles and moved to San Gabriel.

The next few months of my life will include several huge changes. I will complete my doctorate in September and will be relocating to the Central Coast to become a staff psychologist at Atascadero State Hospital. For the past two years I have been dating Robyn DePauw, a graduate of Azusa Pacific University and Fuller Theological Seminary. She has her marriage and family therapy degree and is currently working in an adolescent female emergency shelter in South Central LA. Robyn and I have been engaged since late April and are getting married in November.

- Brandon Yakush (‘96)

Hello MGA Friends,

I hope that you’re all doing well. Things are going well in my life. After graduating from Walla Walla College in ‘02, I

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moved to Texas for work. Now I’m back in California, living in the Bay area. I am a pilot for Ameriflight, flying cargo throughout the western U.S. In my free time, I still enjoy hiking, camping, skiing; pretty much anything outdoors. I look forward to seeing you all next year at...wow...our 10 year reunion. Take care, & see you soon. **- Michael Ketcherside (‘97)**

What have I been up to since graduation from MGA? I spent a year at Andrews University, becoming possibly the first female student to shave all her hair off in the middle of the school year. After that I came home and attended Crafton for awhile. I met my husband in 2002 and we married in 2003. We lived in San Diego for about a year and a half. He is in the Marine Corps and after a few deployments, we decided we needed a change so we transferred to North Carolina last year. We just finished building a house, and I now attend school here in town, with hopes to eventually finish my degree at the University of NC, Wilmington. I also work part time running a small construction company.

- Chrissy (Hoffman) Becker (‘98)

Hiya guys. The short of my life: I’ve been married for two years to Michael, a former Marine. I now live in Salem, OR, which is near where he grew up. I work at the Red Cross Blood Services, which is very cool but sadly has nothing to do with my degree. No kids, but one cat, who we’ve started to call Fatty McFatness, though her name is actually BadCat (really). Now to debunk a few myths: Beautiful green landscape is not so pretty when you’re allergic to everything you see. Oregon is not full of tree-hugging granola people; I married into a family of loggers. People really are nicer in small towns. For the long version of my life write me: rachelr86@hotmail.com. I’d love to hear from you!

- Rachel (Reeves) Kite (‘98)

Since I graduated from Mesa Grade I have been very busy with school. I graduated from Walla Walla College with a B.A. in Business Administration, and this June I graduated from La Sierra University with My Masters of Arts in Teaching. I have accepted a position at San Diego Academy teaching 3rd and 4th grade this coming school year. I am very excited about my job and moving down to San Diego later in the summer!

- Heather Hill (‘99)

I recently finished my second year of medical school at Loma Linda University and am now studying for my basic sciences board exam. So if all goes according to plan (I pass the test) I will be moving from the textbooks to the hospital in July. In more interesting news, I got married to Erika Mansell on the 25th of June. We met at Walla Walla College, and she is currently working as a nurse at the childrens hospital. I am blessed to be able to share my life with her. Our new address is: 11036 Campus St., Loma Linda, CA 92354.

I hope all of my MGA comrades are doing well, and hang in there in those sad moments when you wish you were still in highschool. God bless! **- Michael Lloyd (‘99)**

2005 was a very exciting year for me — I graduated

from Southern Adventist University with a B.A. in Intercultural Communication, and got married to Matt Harlow in June! Matt is originally from Maine, and we met at Southern. We have settled in our first house with our labradoodle, Baxter, in Loma Linda. Matt is an ICU nurse at LLUMC, and I am working part time for the First 5 Dental Grant, working with low income children. I am also a full time student at University of Southern California and am halfway through a Master’s degree in Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages. We have enjoyed being close to my family and many friends, but we look forward to living overseas when we finish our education. In the mean time we are just enjoying being married, snowboarding, backpacking, road-biking, wakeboarding, etc. whenever we have free time!

- Jill (Hardesty) Harlow (‘00)

After relocating to northern California after high school graduation, I am returning to “the southland” after six years to teach 7th grade English at Curtis Middle School in San Bernardino. I’m excited to be near my family, and look forward to consulting my brother, Brent, on his S.A. presidency at MGA, and helping my sister, Cheri, plan her upcoming wedding to Nathan Blue. I graduated from PUC with a degree in English, and also earned dual teaching credentials, allowing me to teach grades K-12. I took a year off to teach in Bangkok, Thailand, and miss the “traveling nomad lifestyle” dearly. While I feel lucky to have been a resident of the Napa Valley and will miss gallivanting about SF and Berkley, I’m happy to be close to home and near classmates of ’00, who continue to inspire me with the dreams that they have fulfilled in their own lives.

- Lauryn Wild (‘00)

My life after high school truly began when I went to Cooranbong, New South Wales, Australia to “study” at Avondale College. My choice of Australia was a simple one based on the fact that the Great Barrier Reef is located off of the eastern coast of Australia. My goal was to dive on the outer reef, which I did with one of my best friends, Lauren Wright. Our escort was a large fish called Wally, who - incidentally - loved to be pet.

Though I thought the Great Barrier Reef would be the highlight of my trip to Australia, the best turned out to be meeting A.J., a fellow Californian, who is now my husband of nearly two years. We are happily married and living in Michigan while he is attending law school. We hope one day to move back to Australia, a beautiful country in nearly every way.

- Tammy (Hill) Paza (‘01)

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!