

# MPA SKYLINER



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

By Remy Guenin

There is always a sense of cozy anticipation at this time of the year. Fall colors, cooler weather, shorter days, the smell of a fire burning in the fireplace, and special foods being prepared in the kitchen make up some of my fondest memories. The thought of Thanksgiving Break and time with family and friends gives me something to look forward to and puts a spring in my step.

This year as we consider what we are most thankful for, I think one of the things on my list is that we have been able to have school live and in person. I know many around the country have not been having that experience. I feel for those students because having live interactions with our fellow human beings is something that just cannot be replaced. Do not misunderstand me, technology can be a wonderful thing and we have been thankful to use it to stay connected with others during this difficult time of the pandemic. However, it still pales in comparison to actual human interaction. We are, after all, social creatures and one of the most difficult and painful things that most of us can experience is separation from other people.

God never intended us to be alone. In fact, He created family and community to allow us to grow and flourish. In Genesis 2:18 He said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." With that in mind, I thank God for His protection, mercy, and grace, and for allowing us to congregate on the beautiful campus of MPA to provide in-person education for the majority of our students. Although we have had to postpone a few things like Junior History Trip and Senior Class Trip, and cancel some other events such as the iMPact Youth Rally and Fall Festival, we have truly been blessed by being here together as a school. *Continued on page 3.*

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828.667.2535



75 Academy Drive  
Candler, NC 28715

# LATE-NIGHT SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

By Alex Boughman, '24

Late-night softball is a fun event that MPA has every year. All of the teams that have played in the regular softball intramural season play against each other in a tournament. Each team plays through a bracket that is set up in advance. The tournament is double-elimination, which means that each team will play at least twice before being knocked out of the bracket.

This year for intramurals there were four teams who played during the regular season and during late-night softball. The first two teams that played against each other both moved on, however the losing team was moved to the losers' bracket. Once in the losers' bracket, a team can only lose one more game before being eliminated.

This year, the late-night softball tournament took place on Saturday, October 3. Many parents and students came out to watch and support those who were playing. All of the teams did really well, although not everyone could win the tournament. The tournament ended at 1:30 am with Team Green winning the championship. As winners, the students on Team Green will receive a championship T-shirt to commemorate their win.

Late-night softball is a favorite evening for many students where memories are made. Most Saturday evenings, the students have to be in the dormitory and checked into their rooms by midnight, so it is a special treat to stay out a bit later one night a year! Students are already looking forward to next year!



Student Life

# PARENT OPEN HOUSE

By Abby King, Marketing Director

On the weekend of October 9-11, MPA hosted their annual Parent Open House. We enjoyed having so many families on our campus to join us for this high weekend. Both choir and hand bells performed during the church service, along with involvement from a variety of parents and students. We were also blessed with an excellent guest speaker, Gary Moyer, Vice President for Administration at the Carolina Conference, and parent to one of our students.

Following church on Sabbath, all families were invited to join the MPA staff for a picnic lunch in the gymnasium where students and their families sat with their faculty families. This provided a wonderful opportunity for parents to get to know the staff at MPA. On Saturday evening, the Student Association planned a fun evening activity for parents and students to enjoy. Sunday allowed for Parent Teacher Conferences, which gave parents the opportunity to meet teachers and discuss their child's performance in each of their classes.

We are so grateful to each family that joined us for this incredible weekend! We hope to see you on our campus again soon.

**THIS SCHOOL YEAR WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD PLAYED SOFTBALL. I REALLY ENJOYED IT AND PERFORMED A LOT BETTER THAN I HAD FIRST IMAGINED.**

**- GABRIEL VARGAS, '24**





### Principal's Message Continued

We have amazing kids and amazing staff! Every Friday one of the classes (freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors) goes out into the community and provides some type of service. In past years, we have often gone to organizations that are focused on helping the downtrodden and financially challenged in our community. However, due to dynamics surrounding the COVID crisis, these organizations have limited the amount of people they are able to have in their buildings which has made it difficult for us to provide service in some of these areas. That has not stopped us though, because we know that God can use us anywhere and there is need everywhere.

Instead, we have been serving local churches by helping with clean up, maintenance and sanitation projects. We have found many of the pastors of non-SDA churches in our area to be very open and welcoming to our students. We are building bridges with people of other faiths in the Candler and Asheville area and that is a very good thing! No matter what obstacles are in our way, God always provides a way for us to help other people.

During the Thanksgiving season, I am especially grateful for all of the blessings that God has bestowed on us and for the students and staff of MPA who are doing all they can to be a blessing to others!



### Student Life

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAMPUS JOB

By Abby King, Marketing Director & Alex Boughman, '24



### ANDREW MOYER, '21

**WHERE DO YOU WORK?** I work in the Boys' Dorm as a Resident Assistant for the freshmen boys.

**WHAT IS YOUR JOB?** As an RA, I ensure that the residents on my hall are where they need to be when they need to be there. There are various events throughout the week, such as dorm worships, vespers, and church services that the dorm students are required to attend. I help take check at those events, and also make sure all of the guys are in their rooms at night studying and getting ready for the evening.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?** My favorite part about my job is the flexibility. I am able to sleep late in the mornings since I work at night, which is a really nice benefit.

### LAUREN ELLIOTT, '23

**WHERE DO YOU WORK?** In the morning, I work for Dr. Markoff as a grader and in the afternoons I work in the library.

**WHAT IS YOUR JOB?** When working for Dr. Markoff I typically grade papers, but I sometimes also help with setting up for classes in the lab. In the library, I help with sorting and labeling books, and putting away books that have been returned. I also help keep the library clean.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?** When grading papers for Dr. Markoff, I enjoy seeing how everyone has a different way of explaining the answer to a specific question. While working in the library, I enjoy having the opportunity to catch up on homework.



### NATE LEBRUN, '24

**WHERE DO YOU WORK?** I work in the cafeteria.

**WHAT IS YOUR JOB?** For my job, I help to clean up the cafeteria after supper. Every day is a bit different but I sometimes help in the dish room, clean tables, put away leftovers, or clean up the deck where we serve food.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?** I really enjoy the evenings that I get to work in the dish room because that is a lot of fun. I also appreciate the perks of being a cafeteria worker like eating leftovers from other meals.

# SABBATH AFTERNOON OUTINGS

By Kevin Worth, Vice Principal of Finance

"I think I might vomit" or "I just want to sleep" are responses you might hear when inviting a teenager to go on a hike. At the very least your request might be met with groans. Such is the notion that teens and hiking do not mix. Whether it is too much exertion with too little payoff, or lack of thrilling excitement, teenagers may see hiking as an adult activity. Perhaps earning the Pathfinder Hiking 1 and 2 honors cured them of any outdoor desire they once had. Even efforts to convince them of seeing the beautiful outdoors may simply be met with, "I've got lots of nature photos on my phone."

MPA students, however, do not necessarily fit that narrative. The out of doors is actually appealing to them. Getting off campus is a huge plus, let's face it. It does not matter what the off-campus activity is, it is just "off." Coping with being stuck day after day, week after week at a boarding school – even one with a beautiful campus – can be quite similar to coping with being cooped up at home in the lock-down year of 2020.

Each year the students discover they actually enjoy being outdoors with their peers. Experiencing beautiful Western North Carolina (WNC), land of waterfalls and sweeping views, certainly helps. There are so many great areas to explore nearby. Much of WNC is just as much a "national park" as is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. All the water and all the vistas seem unending.

And yet, something deeper happens. Seeing new surroundings, looking up and out, and smelling the wild



outdoors renews the sense of being alive. John Muir wrote of the need to "break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean." Students innately know and experience this. They sense less stress and anxiousness after adventuring outside. They feel refreshed, reset, rejuvenated.

MPA students and staff are often out hiking somewhere on Sabbath afternoons. They are experiencing how enlivening it is to physically be in the wilderness, as opposed to simply looking at pictures of it. When asked why she liked hiking so much, sophomore student Nicole Rivera immediately replied, "I see God out there." She continued, "I enjoy seeing trees. I even enjoy seeing dirt. I know that seems weird, seeing dirt." Then she said, "I see the insects too, but I don't pay attention to them, like I would if I was indoors, or if they were on me." She ended by saying, "It's so therapeutic to be outside."

She had no idea why she was being asked. The words just came right out. And, I knew exactly what she meant about dirt.



Feature Piece - Student Poem

## TO LET GO

By Seth Wait, '24

To let go doesn't mean to stop caring;  
It means I can't do it for someone else.

To let go is not to cut myself off...  
It's the realization that I can't control another.

To let go is not to enable,  
but to allow learning from natural consequences.

To let go is to admit powerlessness,  
which means the outcome is not in my hands.

To let go is not to try and change or blame another  
I can only change myself.

To let go is not to care for, but to care about.

To let go is not to fix, but to be supportive.

To let go is not to judge,  
but to allow another to be a human being.

To let go is not to be in the middle arranging all the outcomes,  
but to allow others to affect their own outcomes.

To let go is not to be protective,  
It is to permit another to face reality.

To let go is not to deny, but to accept.

To let go is not to nag, scold, or argue,  
but to search out my own shortcomings and correct them.

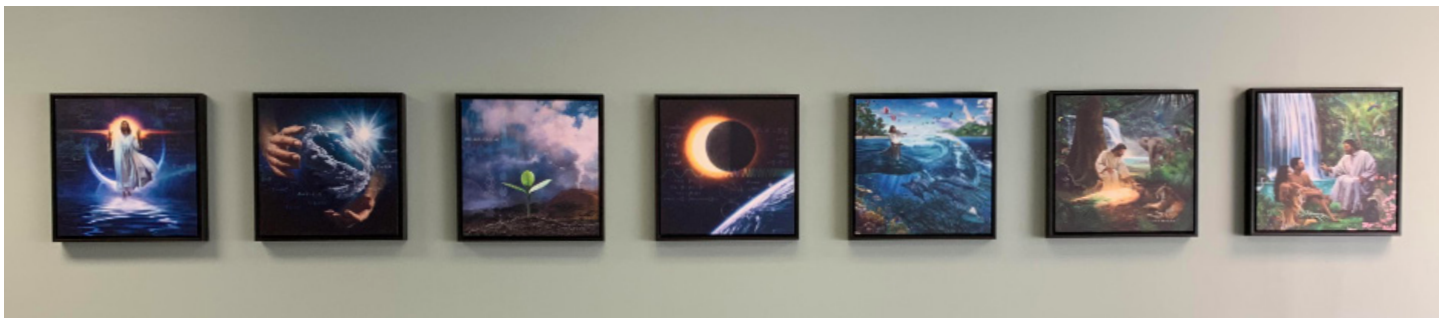
To let go is not to do everything to my desires,  
but to take each day as it comes and cherish the moment.

To let go is not to criticize and regulate anyone,  
but to try to become what I dream I can be.

To let go is not to adjust the past,  
but to grow and live for the future.

To let go is to fear less and love more.





Academic Life

## GENEROUS DONOR PROVIDES CREATION PIECES

By Abby King, Marketing Director

Over the summer, our principal, Remy Guenin, received a notice that a generous donor was offering to provide Seventh-day Adventist high schools with a set of Nathan Greene giclees to display in their school building. The set is composed of seven prints depicting the seven days of creation from Genesis 1. Guenin was excited about this opportunity and wrote a thoughtful proposal, promising that these paintings, if donated, would be put to good use and appreciated by the school. In September, we received the paintings, unsure of the best location to display them. Considerations were made for placing them in the library or in the hallway. However, the best location was found when Dr. Tricia Markoff, our science teacher, discovered that these paintings had been donated.

Markoff went to school with Nathan Greene, the artist, and had been contemplating purchasing these exact pieces to display in her classroom. The creation story has science woven throughout, perfectly displayed by the subtle additions of equations and symbols interwoven into the paintings. What a blessing when Markoff learned that these pictures had been donated and she would be allowed to utilize them in her recently painted and redecorated classroom.

The seven Nathan Greene giclees are now proudly hanging in room 101, the designated science classroom in the MPA administration building. These paintings serve as a daily reminder to our students of our creative, gracious, and loving Heavenly Father.

Academic Life

## REVAMPING OUR STUDY HALL PROGRAM

By Shane Bedwell, Registrar

The academic program at MPA can be rigorous for some students. While the expectations are high, multiple methods of helping and encouraging the students to meet the academic demands are in place. MASH (Making Academic Success Happen) is available school nights in the dorms, teachers are available during office hours and by appointment, NHS members are available to tutor, and study hall is available Sunday morning, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoon. MASH and Study Hall provide specific times during the day for students to work independently or receive help from a teacher or tutor. Attendance for MASH and study hall is required for students on restricted list.

This school year, the study hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays has been redesigned to further meet student needs by including individualized help from a teacher in a specific subject area. Students attend one of three sections, specializing in English, Math,

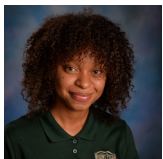
or Science. The section attended is determined by which area the student needs help in that week. Teachers with expertise in each of those areas are available. The time in study hall can be spent receiving individualized help from the teacher, reviewing the concepts taught in class, studying for an upcoming test, or completing assignments in a location where the teacher is immediately available to answer questions. Study hall is attended not only by those on restricted list, but also by many other students taking advantage of the opportunity to work with the teachers outside of class.

In addition to providing multiple avenues of assistance, we also want to recognize those who are excelling. An honor roll will be run each quarter, recognizing students who have maintained an 83% or above average for Recognition, an 88% or above average for honors, and a 93% or above average for Principal's List. Those students on honor roll will receive a small reward for their achievements.



**"BEING IN MASH HELPED ME TO START THE YEAR OFF GOOD AND GET USED TO THE NEW SCHOOL SCHEDULE AND CLASSES."**

- JONATHAN WOLFF, '24



**"I THINK STUDY HALL IS A GOOD TIME TO GET AWAY FROM ALL THE DISTRACTIONS IN LIFE AND TO FOCUS ON SCHOOL AND CLASSES."**

- MARKALAH TELEMAQUE, '23



**"HERE AT MPA, I HAVE LEARNED THAT IF YOU GAIN A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TEACHERS, YOU WILL DO BETTER IN YOUR CLASSES."**

- AIDEN DITTMAN, '23

# CONNECTING WITH JESUS ON CAMPUS

By Abby King, Marketing Director

This school year, our students have continued to find ways to connect with Jesus on a regular basis in a variety of ways. Every evening in the dorm, the deans hold worship to begin the evening. Typically, the deans will either lead out in a worship thought themselves, or they will have a student share their Christian experience. Once a week, the students have hall worship in the dorm where the resident assistants share a worship talk.

On Friday evenings, the students have a special vespers program in the auditorium. This program is often looked forward to by students as they get to dress up and worship together. Students lead out in contemporary praise music. Pastor Jo then gives students the chance to share H.O.G. (Hand of God) awards where they share how they have seen the Hand of God during the past week. A special speaker will then share a thought-provoking talk for the students to enjoy. Speakers, this year, have included local pastors and various staff members. In addition to regular vespers, the students enjoy several faculty family vespers throughout the year. On November 13 the students experienced their first faculty family vespers of the school year where they got to visit staff member's homes and worship together with friends in a more intimate setting.

Church is also a special time for the students, especially when they have the opportunity to participate in the service. On October 31, the freshman and sophomore classes were in charge of the entire service. Students led out in singing, prayers, and even the sermon portion of the church service. These types of Sabbaths are always special as students learn from one another and the experiences their peers have gone through. Additionally, the students were able to travel earlier this school year to local churches in North and South Carolina to assist in the services there.

The students at MPA are so blessed to have a variety of opportunities to connect with God through the week. We invite you to join us! Follow our Facebook page to watch our LIVE vespers and Sabbath School programs each week.



SA President's Message

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SA PRESIDENT

By Gavin Perez, '21

Hello! I hope everyone is having a great school year so far. This year has been a little crazy, but it is so nice that we have our community to rely on during these times.

Autumn is finally here! Autumn on campus is one of the most exciting times of the school year for several reasons. The views on campus become even more beautiful as the leaves change color. Autumn is also the time of the year when SA prepares for many of the events that we hold throughout the year! We have a few things coming in the next few weeks for you guys, so be sure to watch your calendars! One of the most exciting events that is coming up is our school-wide Thanksgiving Dinner when everyone gets together to give thanks and spend time together as a school family. Thanksgiving dinner is an event many people look forward to each year and I am super stoked to be helping out with this! I know you guys will love it!

Again, if you have any suggestions or comments for the year, please let us know! I love hearing feedback from you guys, and I want to make this school year the best that it can be for each and every one of you! Please feel free to reach out to me! Remember, rise up!

## CALENDAR

November 16-19	Week of Prayer
November 22-29	Thanksgiving Break
November 30	Light Up Campus
December 2	Faculty Family Christmas Parties
December 4	Candlelight Vespers
December 6	Christmas Banquet
December 11-12	Christmas Programs
December 14-17	Final Exams
December 17	Christmas Break Begins
January 3	Christmas Break Ends

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

**We want to invite all parents, family members, and friends to join us for our annual Christmas program weekend, happening December 11-12.** We will have a sacred Christmas concert on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. Sabbath morning will include a Sabbath School lesson by Pastor Jo, along with more musical performances from our vocal and hand bell choirs during the church service at 10:50 a.m. On Saturday evening, we will host our annual Christmas program at 7:30 p.m. with performances by various organizations and groups. We hope that you will join us for this very special weekend where we remember the true meaning of Christmas! Please remember to review our Covid-19 protocols before coming to campus.