On the 28th of January, students and faculty had the wonderful opportunity to listen to the US House of Representatives Congressman Fred Upton. He began by telling how he grew up in Southwest Michigan and was able to attend high school and later go on to the University of Michigan in pursuit of a journalism degree. At that time he had visions of being a sports announcer, perhaps for the Chicago Cubs or some other club. As fate would have it, he ended up serving in the White House as an intern working with budget management. From that small beginning he learned the ropes of politics. He actually entered the political arena by invitation and has served every year since 1986 for a total of 24 years. He has local offices in both St. Joseph and Kalamazoo. He now holds the prestigious position of chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee composed of 31 Republicans and 20 Democrats. He believes that before the end of the present decade we will need an additional 30% to 40% more energy and gasoline will be selling at around $4 per gallon.

Representative Upton does get to come home nearly every week, but has a very busy schedule in trying to personally answer the 400 to 500 e-mails that he gets every week. After his brief presentation, the students had the opportunity to ask a few questions. Some of the questions regarded the following:

- the use of the incandescent light bulb, to which he responded that the new light bulb design will save energy costs in excess of $15 billion and furthermore will not contain mercury contaminants
- his contribution to the United States because of his elected position as a House Representative when he suggested that he listens to problems of his constituents and attempts to solve them as in the case of a person who had just been injured in war and was about to have both of his legs amputated prior to Upton’s efforts to reverse that process
- what some of his proudest memories of service has been when he noted that he reserved international travel for only the most important occasions and that he has not missed many congressional votes in his last 24 years of service
- reasons why a resident of southwest Michigan should endorse him at his next election when he responded that there is seldom an issue that comes up that does not affect your life. He noted that it is extremely important to have a strong educational background and that his car and his door is always open to everybody who has a concern or a suggestion on how to better things. His URL is www.upton.house.gov and he would be happy to have you visit that site.

On Monday, the 31st of January, Karla Mulzac had the opening prayer followed by the sophomore musicians who led us in a couple of songs. Mrs. Butler, Yuna

Seo, Alex Gaytan, and his mother Gracie Gaytan gave a very unique devotions regarding events at the Mexico City International Airport which is sometimes referred to as the Benito Juarez International Airport. The group had to go through customs and during that process Yuna placed her carry-on bag on the wrong conveyor belt and it became lost. They looked and looked for it but to no avail. That is when other members of SOW became involved. At one point not only was the bag lost, but Yuna became separated from the rest of the group which was horrific since Yuna does not speak Spanish. What a relief for Yuna once she was able to see Ms. Gracie and they were reunited.

Mrs. Butler realizing that she had to get on the next plane departing for their final flight, went to the gate and told the attendant that she had 4 additional passengers that still needed to board the plane. The attendant was not interested in her problem and said that you need to board now because the plane is leaving. And so the official and Mrs. Butler had a tug of war with the ticket and finally the ticket was released into the official’s hand as Mrs. Butler went aboard praying every step of the way. This was repeated over and over again in much the same manner with Alex and his mother. However, in the case of Alex, he simply was coerced into the aircraft because unbeknown to him, he ended up talking to the pilot who told him that the plane would not leave without his mother on board. In the case of Ms. Gracie who was the last to enter and did not know if her son was on the plane or not, she was assured by a calm individual standing all alone in the waiting area that it was all right, that she could board the plane now. When she turned around to thank him, he was gone. Ms. Gracie and the SOW group believe that she was assured by her guardian angel.

On the 1st of February, we had a very important presentation by the Class of 2011. President Rachel Brantley, Vice President Michael VanderWaal, Treasurer Annika Seibold, and Adam Mondak brought the class banner onto the stage. They indicated that the Narnia theme was a result of Pastor Glassford’s consistent references during class. The Lion represents God, nobility and strength. Their Latin motto is non sibi which means Not for Self. They are thankful to Mrs. Karen Atkins who made the banner which now hangs above the door leading into the chapel. Drake Dowell, one of the representatives of the senior class had the closing prayer. Special thanks to Ray Ulrich, Cody Wales, Elaine Kamvazaana, Lydia Quaye, Joyce Yoon, Simone Weithers, Givan Hinds, Laura Miller, Livvy Knott, Ingrid Dumitrescu, and Brock Vance who were accompanied by Joses Ngugi and Michael Thompson as they led us in a several songs before the banner presentation.
shared with us the history of Andrews Academy. This group of readers was led by Dr. Meredith Jones Gray who carefully designed and crafted the program. It was very well done and because it was so inspirational and historic, the students seemed to enjoy and learn from the presentation as well. During the presentation Elaine Kamvazaana had a vocal solo.

Battle Creek College, the forerunner of Emmanuel Missionary College and the academy opened its doors 137 years ago in 1874. Supporters had pledged a sum of $54,000 to the enterprise. Battle Creek College opened in August 1874 with 110 students and 7 teachers. Classes began at 8:45 a.m. and concluded by 4:30 p.m. The school was not an easy choice for parents since students came from long distances to attend and then needed to pay room and board. There were also many strict guidelines laid down by the faculty as they set the parameters in preparation for some quality education at the elementary, secondary and higher education levels. But for all of the faculty and students, Sabbath was the center piece of the week. “In Sabbath school every member had to be able to give a detailed synopsis, not only of the lesson of the day, but of every lesson studied from the beginning of the book, and do it promptly and vigorously, whenever called upon in class or in general review. It was a real Sabbath school in Bible study.” Thank you, Dr. Gray, for that presentation!

We did not meet on Wednesday because of the blizzard of 2011, but on Thursday, the freshman musicians led in a few songs prior to the talk by Jessica Yoong who started by saying that we depend on a number of things in life. We depend foremost on our alarm clocks. Once we awakened refreshed, but late and so it was the entire day. She was alert, but always behind attempting to catch up. She said there are a number of different people that we place our trust in day by day. We trust the one who drives us to school; we trust the dentist; we trust the doctor; we trust the airplane pilot.

She told how the custom of toasting began. It began by people who did not trust each other. There was a time when a king had servants who tested his drink just before he drank to see if the drink had been poisoned. Of course, if it had been poisoned, the servant would die and the king would live. Then the practice of pouring drink into the glass of the other took place which showed a greater practice of trust. Eventually, the practice of poisoning the royalty lessened and a new practice took its place where the server and the royalty would “toast” each other as they drank together. Jessica stated that she learned to trust the experience of older people when she on one occasion disobeyed her parents by sticking her tongue to metal and had to leave a portion of it on the metal as she yanked her tongue away. She then went on to say how she and her father were walking home late at night and she was very fearful of the environment and requested that her father hold her hand during the walk. We, too, need to hold the hand of our heavenly Father as he helps us journey along life’s path.

The freshman whose GPA was at least 3.00 last semester were as follows: Brandon Allen, Lydia Applewhite, Lauren Bacchiochi, Sarah Baxter, Robert Benjamin, Lauren Bitterman, Eun Jeong Choi, David Church, Chelicie Coleman, Jessica Condon, Lauren Dalton, Bethany Goodwin, Jason Grellmann, Yong Jeong, Aaron Keiser, Yewon Kim, Samantha Kissinger, Avia Lowe, Kundani Makimu, Kayli Mattson, Gerred Metzger, Cavan Miller, Brenden Mutz, Kimberly Park, Anna Rorabeck, Daniella Saint-Phard, Jiwoo Seo, Emily Sherman, Zichao Su, Zachariah Swerdlow, William Tee, Sofia Tsatalbasidis, Callahan Wales, Jacqueline Weiss, Julia Westfall, and Jessica Yoong. Our congratulations go to this energetic class of 51 students as over 70% begin their 4-year journey with a 3.00 GPA or higher.

“Opportunity always looks bigger going than coming” – Anonymous

We are in the midst of the annual Black History Week with Pastor Dan Carmona leading out. We are very blessed with his ministry to our young people.

The final dress rehearsal for Talent Nite takes place on Thursday afternoon, February 10, beginning at 3:30 pm in the chapel. Those having a part in the program need to be there for rehearsal at the appointed time.

The deadline for SAT registration is this coming Friday, February 11. Any having the desire to take that test on March 13, 2011, at AU must register for it soon. If you need additional detail, please see Mrs. Sari Butler.

The recently returned SOW Safari student missionaries to Chiapas, Mexico, will present the adult Sabbath, February 12. For a report that trip, please plan to be there at 10:00 am.

The Talent Nite program will take place this coming Sunday evening, February 13, at 7:00 pm in the academy chapel. Tickets are available at the door for $3 each or $5 per family.

The last date to order citrus fruit for the 2010-2011 school year is Sunday, February 13. The only fruit available is temple oranges in the ½ boxes at $17 each or pink grapefruit in the ½ box at $17 or full box at $32. Last year because of insufficient orders, we were unable to have a truck delivery. Please support this project through your orders for the last time this year.

The annual Chicago Auto Tech Show is to occur on Tuesday, February 15. The group of students will leave with Mr. Anderson from the campus after morning devotions and attend the show in Chicago with plans to return to campus by 7:00 pm that evening.

The annual Health Education Week (2/14 - 2/18) is under the direction of Mr. John Reichert who will have our devotions each day and engage us in an educational assembly program on Tuesday morning.