Enjoy this Winter 2015 Edition of Appalachian.

In this Issue...
NHS Induction
“The Exodus Story”
Maranatha Visits
Mission Trips
Graduation
Aerial Aires Homeshow
Alumni Weekend
Ten Students Inducted into National Honor Society

FIVE SOPHOMORES, THREE JUNIORS AND TWO SENIORS were inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) on April 4, 2015 bringing the membership to 22. Qualification includes a cumulative grade of 3.67 or higher for three consecutive semesters.

It’s not just about scholastics. There are four tiers of criteria: leadership, citizenship, character, and service. “An attitude of a servant heart,” explains Victoria Acosta, a junior and current president. Members keep a portfolio of activities and meet monthly with a committee of five faculties to review.

Doug Stewart, teacher of United States History, Western Civilization and Psychology, started the Academy’s NHS in 1995. “NHS improves the school by exemplifying students who show scholarship and integrity and encourage others.”

Member Victoria Acosta, a junior, was a finalist for the Ben Carson Scholarship Program and senior Bridget Baksa received a $1,000 scholarship from the Federal Express Scholarship Program.
Students Perform “The Exodus Story”

The Exodus Story, an original opera by Lawrence Galera, director of music at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), was performed on May 8 and 9, 2015. The cast numbered 88—soloists, choir, orchestra, gymnasts, and actors, plus stage, lighting, and sound crews.

For the composer and lyricist, this was the crown of his two-year journey. “As I first began this project, it was difficult to imagine the epic journey from hundreds of years of slavery to a mental and physical state of freedom,” he says. Music of prevalent composers are intertwined throughout the story with his own lyrics, compositions and orchestrations.

“I prayed and said, ‘God you have to help me. It is about the message so use me,’” says Nolan Seidel, a senior from Hegins, Pennsylvania, who played Aaron. He had joined the choir his freshman year because he needed the credits.

Courtney Doyle, a senior from Princeton, New Jersey, felt the same. “I thought that maybe this would touch people where a normal church service wouldn’t.” She was the Princess, Pharaoh’s daughter.

Karyl Kramer, English and French teacher, was the director and dialogue author. Ever Perez, chaplain and Bible teacher, designed the set. Christy Link, a Hamburg resident, was in charge of costumes. And a crowd of volunteers of faculty and their families, students, and community supporters, tirelessly worked to make it all possible.

Esther Reese, a staff member and professional musician, played first violin. “I was completely blown away,” she says. “The level the kids were playing came out of their instruments.”

Dr. Jeff Bovee, vice president of education for the Pennsylvania Conference, says, “I am so proud of the students, faculty, staff, and volunteers who have worked to put together this amazing theatrical production. It is a glimpse of the powerful and wonderful God who loves us and claims us for His own.”
Maranatha Volunteers International Comes to Blue Mountain Academy

Forty Eight Volunteers
from 10 states and two countries, gifted their time and skills from March 29-April 12. They completed eight projects including installing new windows in the cafeteria which included a new design for the exterior.

Tom Siltzer, project coordinator, says "I am a volunteer and like to make a difference." This was his fifth project as coordinator but has volunteered for too many to remember.

"A beautiful blessing," is how Dave Hardinger from Erie, Pennsylvania, described his experience. Volunteers describe their experiences: "It is life-changing. You learn a lot about yourself."

"It's a different perceptive of teamwork. Everybody works together—Christian stewardship."

Roger Hatch, team leader, says he was hooked after his first trip in 1976. He has volunteered in Africa, India, South American and stateside.

Melanie Scabone took vacation to come. And Verna Fraser traveled from Belize. In additional to construction and remodeling, jobs included painting, cleaning and doing laundry.

"We could not have so many plant upgrades without Maranatha. The major project was new cafeteria windows but they were all over the place—dorms, staff housing, administration building, and gymnasium. The future of our school is volunteers," says Stephen Reese, V.P. of Finance for Blue Mountain Academy.
Students Participate in Mission Trips During Spring Break

The staff and students of Blue Mountain Academy who visited Bolivia on a mission trip during spring break pose with their ministry banner.

Students and staff traveled to Bolivia and the Dominican Republic during spring break. In Bolivia, there was a new project each day. They painted the interior of an Adventist church, visited a school talking to classes, teaching gymnastics, playing games, a community project in the town square, and adopted a family in dire need. A mother with four children was living in one room with no bathroom. Students completed two new rooms and built a bathroom. And purchased mattresses and household goods with their spending money.

In the Dominican Republic, students helped with the renovation of a church during the day and preached evangelism meetings at night. The preachers were trained by Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania conference president. Thirteen new members were baptized.

La Sonnette (the bell choir) went along playing 22 concerts in Adventist and community churches and schools and played for the evangelistic meetings, drawing crowds wherever they went.

Exhausting is how the missionaries describe their trips. Seeing real poverty life-changing. “They are happier than we are even thought they have very little,” says Michael Smith, sophomore.
BMA Graduates 37 Seniors

Thirty Seven Seniors graduated from Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) on Sunday, May 24, 2015. Commencement services began Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. with the Consecration Service. Seniors, escorted by juniors, marched in cap and gown for the first time at the beginning of the service. John Musselman, BMA math teacher, gave the address. The three-day event includes Sabbath school and worship, Tribute to Parents, Candlelighting Ceremony, and a reception for seniors and their families.

At the Candlelighting Ceremony students received awards, certificates and scholarships. Awards included the Caring Heart Award and The President's Award sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and President Barak Obama.

Four students graduated Summa Cum Laude, three Magna Cum Laude and seven Cum Laude. Twenty students received scholarships ranging from $42,380 to $16,000 from various universities.

Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. the seniors march for the last time as the Commencement service. The address was given by Mrs. Renee Paddock, former English teacher and the gymnasium was filled with parents, family members, visitors, faculty and school board members.

By noon, the Class of 2015 had graduated to the next chapter of their lives.
In Pictures — Aerial Aires Homeshow
Upcoming Events

June 6-7
Hispanic Campmeeting

June 12-20
Campmeeting

August 16
Registration Day

Alumni Weekend

April 24-26, 2015
Honor Classes:

On April 24-26, 2015, BMA’s halls, classrooms and gymnasium were filled with sounds of laughter and excitement from former students and staff on Alumni Weekend. Fifteen graduating classes were honored. Catching up with friends, retelling stories and experiences, visiting the dorms, classrooms and other memorable places, seeing what is new and what is the same, singing at church with the BMA choir, and lunch with classmates made for a full weekend. Saturday night was game on! The annual, highly anticipated basketball game between rivals Alumni VS BMA. From the sidelines, fans heartedly cheered their teams. According to students, the “old guys” won!