This Week: AAA Considers Future Options; NAD Introduces Young Adult Website; and more.

AAA Considers Future Options

Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) in Auburn, Wash., is taking steps to define a successful future. It has flourished for years to serve both boarding and day students. But with boarding schools across the nation struggling due to decreased demand, academy and conference leaders are working proactively with a respected consultant to determine whether AAA can continue to provide boarding options. They have invited input from conference constituents who can review more information online.

NAD Introduces Young Adult Communication Hub

The North American Division (NAD) has launched a website, YoungAdultLife.com, that it hopes will serve as a communication hub for young adult ministry across the continent. The stated mission of Young Adult Life is: REACH young adult leadership with support and encouragement, CONNECT leaders to a growing community, help leaders EXPAND their influence, DISCOVER a ministry model that works for them, and together create a united Young Adult ministry effort to GLORIFY Jesus. Check out the website for yourself now.
**Review and Herald Closes to the Public**

The Review and Herald Publishing Association officially closed its public operations at the Hagerstown, Md., plant this month. Several employees will remain on site for the next few weeks to close out inventory and help prepare the facility for sale. Forty semi-truck loads of materials and equipment were shipped earlier to the Pacific Press in Nampa, Idaho, as it has now begun printing of products such as *Adventist World* and *Guide* magazines, and the Sabbath School quarterlies. When both printing houses were operating simultaneously, they were under the direction of the General Conference. The new one-printing-house plan ties the Pacific Press directly to the North American Division. [Read more about this transition online.](#)

**inSpire eNews**

If you are an Adventist who loves to use the creative arts to share the Good News, here's something new. inSpire eNews is a new portal designed to help you connect with other Adventist creatives, get news, event updates and more. inSpire eNews provides a place to share and examine issues and resources related to the creative process! It is a unique focus on creativity within the realm of spirituality and faith. Help share God's message of hope in ways that are colorful, compelling, and culturally relevant. [Join the conversation and contribute your ideas, songs, artwork, videos, poetry and more.](#)

**Filmmakers With A Mission**

Interested in how film can be used in the church? The 2015 SONscreen Film Festival will be at La Sierra University April 2–4, 2015. The festival gives up-and-coming Christian filmmakers a chance to network, share ideas and screen their productions to an audience of film and media professionals. And it's a great place to see the work of some of the best visual storytellers in our church. [Find more information about the festival at SONscreen.com.](#)

**Technology Conference Draws Visitors from 105 Countries**

Adventist communicators and technologists around the world gathered virtually for a five-day online conference.
The annual conference, Global Adventist Internet Network (GAiN), met for the first time online, with presenters sharing information that mapping, mobile and security, to cutting edge evangelism tools and cryptocurrency. Each presentation was followed by live question and answers with a panel of experts on that topic. Nearly 4000 people joined the conference from 105 countries, and the program was streamed in four languages. Adventist News Network has a summary of each days presentations ([Day 1](http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=08d79fe6ae01ad05827cf29bb&id=5674f7481e&e=b5a60611a1), [Day 2](http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=08d79fe6ae01ad05827cf29bb&id=5674f7481e&e=b5a60611a1), [Day 3](http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=08d79fe6ae01ad05827cf29bb&id=5674f7481e&e=b5a60611a1), [Day 5](http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=08d79fe6ae01ad05827cf29bb&id=5674f7481e&e=b5a60611a1)). If you missed the event or want to rewatch the presentations, videos will be available soon on the [GAiN website](http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=08d79fe6ae01ad05827cf29bb&id=5674f7481e&e=b5a60611a1).

**Do You Know About Guardianship?**

You may have already done your will, set up a living trust and created an advance directive in the event of your death. These are all good planning steps. But ... have you considered the possible need to define "guardianship?" A new video produced for the North Pacific Union Conference planned giving department, describes what this could mean for you and your extended family. [Watch it now online](http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=08d79fe6ae01ad05827cf29bb&id=5674f7481e&e=b5a60611a1).

**Want to Work With Us?**

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC), based in Ridgefield, Wash., is seeking to fill the digital media coordinator position. This full-time salaried opportunity works as part of the NPUC Communication/Gleaner team to enhance the online and social media presence of the Northwest Adventist mission. Successful applicants should have at least three years of experience in online technology and digital media. [Read a more complete job description online](http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=08d79fe6ae01ad05827cf29bb&id=5674f7481e&e=b5a60611a1) and feel free to contact us for more information.

Do you enjoy GleanerWeekly? Don't keep it to yourself. [Forward it to a friend and share](http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=08d79fe6ae01ad05827cf29bb&id=5674f7481e&e=b5a60611a1)!
Currently at

AAA Considers Future Options

Currently at Auburn Students Experience Joy of Giving
Pass the Baton
ACS Supports Regional Distribution Center
Sauser Wins MGAES School Geographic Bee
Aerospace Engineers Help Launch Senior Projects

And More!

Looking Ahead

February

20: Dwayne Lemon, Portland, OR
21: Marriage Conversion Weekend, Vancouver, WA
22: FREE Cooking Class, Eugene, OR
25: The Gathering, Portland, OR
26: WWU Egg Drop Contest, College Place, WA

More Events Online

Want to advertise in GleanerWeekly?

InPrint

February

Worshipping a Creator God is a core belief and a core value of Scripture. This month’s Gleaner features photographs of the Northwest photographers submitted for our 2015 Gleaner Images of Creation photo contest. View the images and reflect on creation in the February issue of the Gleaner.

Visit: adventsource.org

http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=08d79fe6ae01ad05827cf29bb&id=5674f7481e&e=b5a60611a1[2/20/2015 12:52:27 PM]
Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Federal Way | WA

Your Education Homework

We Request Your Voice on Adventist Christian Education
by John C. Freedman, Washington Conference president

Our school enrollment numbers and conversations we hear from parents about Adventist Christian Education signal a need for a new approach, particularly at the high school level.

For generations, Adventist culture favored sending young people off to boarding academies. Many church members lived in wide-spread rural locations. Boarding academies provided common education centers for Adventist young people to learn reading, writing and arithmetic in a faith-based environment.

This picture has changed in recent decades. With society’s growth and changing parental attitudes toward boarding school education, church communities have increasingly established local academic institutions, or day academies, for faith-based high school education. These day academies allow students to live at home during high school years and still obtain an education with an Adventist biblical worldview. Still other families select to pursue a homeschool approach.

Adventist Education’s great strength through the years has been a willingness to respond to changing needs—not just as they were, but as they are and will be.

This is the challenge we face with Auburn Adventist Academy. How can we help it succeed, educationally, spiritually and financially, at a time when the demand for boarding student options has dramatically decreased?

As we look ahead, there is a mounting need to re-engineer the academy and position it to meet current needs of today’s parents and students. We believe the academy and all of its education partners can creatively reapply our mission with a fresh approach.

This is the reality: Auburn Adventist Academy needs to meet certain agreed-upon parameters for funding required capital and long-term operation of a boarding institution. If these plans are not in place by December 2015, Auburn will be transitioning to a day academy beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

Education leaders will be inviting parents and interested parties to participate in town hall sessions where plans for the best education solutions for our students will be discussed. Your prayers and thoughtful input will inform our leaders and help them to choose wisely for future generations to educate the most students possible.

We need your voice. Before the town hall sessions, we would like to hear by email from parents, current students, donors, alumni and other individuals passionate about Adventist Christian Education. What are your family’s education needs, desires and concerns for the future? Will a boarding academy best meet your needs? Will a strong system of day schools best meet your needs?

Please share your comments, suggestions and ideas by emailing education@washingtonconference.org.
Education Ministry Contacts

253-681-6008

Archie Harris
Vice President for Education

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Associate Superintendent

Shelley Schurch & Joyce Moore
Administrative Assistants
Review and Herald Shuts Down Hagerstown Operations

Rachel Cabose

The Review and Herald Publishing Association closed its Hagerstown, Maryland, facility to the public last Thursday, marking a significant milestone in the restructuring of Adventist publishing in North America.

Though the building is no longer open for business, several employees will remain on the job for the next few weeks to finish shipping out inventory, closing the financial books, and preparing the property for sale, according to officials at the Review and its sister company, Pacific Press Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

The publishing restructuring plan, voted last June, called for Pacific Press to take on much of the publishing and printing done by the Review. While the Review will cease to operate as a separate institution, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (GC) will adopt the Review and Herald name as the umbrella for several of its publications, including *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*.

Implementing the overhaul has proved more complex and time-consuming than some expected. “The further you go in the process, the more complicated you realize it is,” said Kim Peckham, who handles corporate communications for the Review. “There are all these details that have to be settled.”

The Review completed its final book project in November, and the last print job came off the giant web press on December 17. Meanwhile, ongoing publications—including weekly magazines such as *Guide* and *Insight*, children’s Sabbath school quarterlies, and the 1.1 million copies of *Adventist World* printed monthly at the Review—had to be transferred to Pacific Press without any noticeable time gaps.

Forty semi-truckloads of equipment and inventory have been shipped from Maryland to Idaho, according to Peckham. Pacific Press now faces the task of integrating some 800 tons of material, ranging from high-tech machines for addressing and packaging periodicals to computers to pallets of books.

Minutiae can be just as overwhelming. Peckham, for instance, has spent hours changing contact information and updating links on every Web page operated by the Review.

Then there are questions such as: What to do with the wooden desk handmade by church pioneer and longtime Review editor Uriah Smith? How about the dozens of original oil paintings created by artists such as Harry Anderson and Russell Harlan for church publications decades ago?

Sorting out these details is a “massive project,” Peckham said. “It’s gone on longer than we expected because there’s more to it than we expected.”

**For Review Employees, the Pain of Loss Stays Fresh**
The Review’s lengthy demise has protracted the agony for its 140 full- and part-time staff members, most of whom have lost their jobs in a gradual process, a few people at a time.

So far 28 Review employees have joined the staff at Pacific Press, while another 12 to 15 will provide services as independent contractors, according to Jerry D. Thomas, vice president for product development at Pacific Press. Though the GC does not plan to hire new staff, a few former Review employees will support its publishing endeavors on a contract basis, Peckham said. Terminated employees are receiving severance benefits to tide them over the next few months.

Most Review employees expected the doors to be shut by last Thanksgiving, and certainly by the end of 2014, said Candy DeVore, editor of Kids’ Ministry Ideas magazine, who has worked at the Review for nine years. Instead some, including DeVore, are still on the job more than seven months after they learned of the Review’s fate.

In the meantime, the lack of a definitive timeframe for the institution to close has added to employees’ uncertainty over their future, DeVore said.

DeVore, who began serving as receptionist last fall after some of her other duties ended, took it upon herself to bring humor into an otherwise grim situation, sharing lighthearted and uplifting comments as she interacted with employees.

“I just want to make at least one person laugh every day,” she said.

Despite the pain of losing not only their incomes but what they view as their ministry and calling, DeVore said that Review employees have rallied to pray together and encourage one another to trust in God.

“It’s been a blessing to see everyone turn to their relationship with the Lord to get through all this,” she said.

Though many of the challenges of transition have yet to be resolved, Thomas said Pacific Press’s new relationship with the North American Division (NAD) will positively impact the work of the church. Previously, both the Review and Pacific Press were under GC supervision. The restructuring gives the NAD its own publishing house for the first time.

“Now the ministry of the publishing house’s magazines and books can be incorporated into the NAD’s programs,” Thomas said. “The result will be more and better resources to local churches and members and more coordinated and effective outreach programs into our communities.”

[Top photo of Review and Herald by Candy DeVore]

Edited 2-7-15 and 2-13-15 by Rachel Cabose
NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE
Digital Media Coordinator

POSITION SUMMARY: The Digital Media Coordinator is responsible for uploading, gathering, writing, producing, editing and distributing written and audio-visual information through all communication/GLEANER related digital media channels under the supervision of the Director.

AUTHORITY, ACCOUNTABILITY: Work is performed with minimal supervision. There are specific guidelines to follow, but the work requires the ability to carry out duties and meet deadlines independently while supervising others.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

• Maintains a working knowledge of the organization and positive personal commitment to its overall mission, goals and objectives.
• In consultation with the Director and other organizational stakeholders, creates and executes a social/digital media marketing strategy, including goals, objectives and strategies to advance the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) mission and engagement through these media.
• Develops or manages coding and content generation of the official NPUC and GLEANER websites, and any associated website operated under the direction of the communication department.
• Creates, manages and executes weekly e-newsletter distribution and audience development.
• Oversees the technical aspects of Web hosting and editing services, and liaison between communication department and the Web server/provider as requested.
• Manages the organization’s presence on Facebook, Twitter or other critical social media platforms, posting content and interacting with users.
• Coordinates the development of mobile platform applications to further the reach of NPUC/GLEANER content or services to Northwest members.
• Develops and coordinates webinars and other training presentations.
• Identifies emerging social media outlets and publics where the organization should and can have a presence, and manages the incorporation of these outlets into the existing social media marketing strategy.
• Works to include enhanced partnerships with NPUC IT and Innovation personnel in any or all of the assigned tasks.
• Supports the media endeavors of the NPUC with additional skills, either inherent or trained, in video, content design and photography.
• Attends seminars or training events as approved by Director to maintain technological edge.
• Engages with GLEANER print issue design or content process as assigned by Director.
• Provides support for administrative needs or special projects as assigned by Director.
EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE/CREDENTIALS: Bachelor's degree in the area of communication or related digital media field and minimum of three years of job-related experience in online technology and digital media or equivalent is recommended.

OVERVIEW: This is a full-time, exempt position compensated within a range of 87-101 percent of the NPUC remuneration factor. It includes medical benefits and retirement fund options.

EXPECTATIONS: The person filling this role should work well with other members of the team, be able to manage multiple concurrent tasks productively, set and meet realistic deadlines, and show an open attitude toward alternate opinions. He or she must demonstrate good general communication skills and an accurate working command of English spelling and grammar. The Digital Media Coordinator is expected to be highly available and dependable regarding the position's responsibilities. This position must be completely current and knowledgeable regarding laws governing copying and distribution of video, audio and print materials.

CONTACTS, ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS: Interacting frequently with church leaders and institution administrators, as well as non-church vendors, this person must exhibit exceptional skills in interpersonal relationships. The person who fills this position must project a professional Christian image, and exhibit loyalty to the ideals and mission of the Adventist organization.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Must be able to communicate both orally and in writing. Some local/long-distance travel may be required. Inasmuch as employee is an exempt employee it is expected that the individual will work the hours required to complete assignments (i.e. no less than 38 hours per week). Some standing, walking, bending, kneeling, carrying of light items, etc, required.

WORKING CONDITIONS: The responsibilities of the Digital Media Coordinator will require regular presence at the main office during normal hours on Mon-Thu, occasional travel for consultation or training, regular daily or weekly staff collaboration, 24/7 awareness and involvement with digital online content monitoring. Some evening and weekend work is required. Some work will require a high-speed Internet connection from the individual's home. Essential responsibilities at the office are performed in sedentary and comfortable manner. Normal tasks are usually performed under normal office conditions with little or no noticeable discomfort. While some remote media projects will involve outdoor photo/video production in varying conditions, normal office work area is well-lighted and ventilated.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: Send updated resume or additional queries to steve.vistaunet@nw.npuc.org. Position is open until filled—notice will be provided here when no further applications are being accepted.
Auburn Students Experience Joy of Giving

Northwest Adventists in Action

North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Auburn Adventist Academy students respond to a generosity challenge and find creative ways to make a difference in someone else's life. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

When you team up with friends to make a difference in the community, generosity efforts are multiplied. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

What would you do if someone gave you $20 with instructions to invest in a cause that enhances someone's life?

Victor Moore sat in Bible class at Auburn Adventist Academy and heard Jeff Carlson, chaplain, explain about a new generosity challenge for up to 25 participants. The class watched a video from the I Like Giving website to learn more about investing in someone else's life. Moore, a senior student from Snoqualmie, was one of the students who agreed to participate in this challenge.

The I Like Giving $20 generosity challenge originated after Washington Conference's stewardship department read a book, *I Like Giving* by Brad Formsm. It shares a series of stories about people who are changing the world by being generous in their personal interactions.
After class, Moore talked with his classmates Adrienne Reiswig and Alicia Carlton, both seniors from Chehalis, about what cause they could invest in.

“We had a hard time deciding on what we should do with the $20,” says Moore. “All we knew was that we simply wanted to make someone’s day better. The world can be a very cynical place, so we felt like we should just bring a little optimism and happiness into someone’s life.”

They joined their funds together to purchase gloves and beanie hats for the homeless. With the remaining money, they purchased a couple burrito meals for people.

“We know it's not much, but with it being the middle of winter we figured it would do them some good,” Moore says. “It was nice to see the look of surprised gladness on the people's faces. We hope to continue to bring happiness to others, even in small ways, whenever we can.”

Jillian Hightower, a senior from Puyallup, had a similar approach in giving. She partnered with classmates Stephanie Martinez, a senior from Lynnwood, and Jealeah Settlemier, a senior from Richland, to purchase three 6-inch sub sandwiches and 14 chicken sandwiches to give to homeless people near the Auburn library. They also bought balloons and get-well cards to distribute to patients at the local hospital.

“This experience was so much fun, and I loved seeing the faces on the people when we gave it to them,” says Hightower, who said the experience changed her perspective on giving.

“We send our students to our schools not only for a good education, but also so that they will catch the joy of being with Jesus and living a life of service,” says Bruce Koch, Washington Conference stewardship director. “When students learn about service and sharing, they become contributors to the needs of the community. These academy students caught this spirit of generosity in this activity.”

February 18, 2015 / Washington Conference
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Coming in the March 2015 issue

Heidi Baumgartner

Washington Conference communication director

Follow

Heidi Baumgartner serves as communication director for Washington Conference.

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The very air in the stadium feels electric with anticipation. Fans, 100,000 of them, sit forward, awaiting the starting gun, as you and the other athletes prepare to run the race. Ahead of you, the track has been carefully leveled and compacted, the running lanes marked with chalk.

Although you've rehearsed this a thousand times, the reality hits home. It's time. You firmly set your feet in the starting blocks and place your fingers right on the line. There is a moment of intense focus, and then … the crack of the starting gun.

Your mission is to sprint just one lap, for the key to the race is the baton in your hand. This is not just YOUR race. It's your TEAM'S race, a relay in which each athlete must run one lap with every ounce of his energy. And yet, to a large degree, the race will be won or lost at the point where the baton is passed from one runner to the other. A fumbled handoff will jeopardize any chance of victory.

As we look to the future of the church, how much attention have we given to the “baton”? The baton we have is not just formed in words or good intentions. We must have an action plan that helps us transfer the vision for our church to succeeding generations. Will our young adults be ready and willing to join the leadership of this team? Will they be passionate about and involved with the unique Adventist calling within the gospel commission? How can we be sure not to drop the baton?

Here are a few questions for which I hope we can define better answers here in the Northwest and in each of our local churches.

1. Do we have an intentional strategy to integrate young people into the life and ministry of the church?
2. Are youth appropriately represented in our boards and committees and constituency meetings?
3. Do we trust them to be loyal to the church while at the same time thinking creatively beyond the status quo?
4. Are we willing to risk failure when every new idea does not prove successful?
5. Are we delegating real responsibility or just tokenism?
6. Do we remember that the Adventist movement began with very young leaders?

Scripture points to a significant role for young adults in the final days. The book of Joel reminds us the work will close when our “sons and our daughters prophesy” and “young men see visions” and the Spirit “is poured out upon the handmaids” (Joel 2:28, 29).

Ellen White had some good counsel in regard to the multigenerational thrust of the Advent message. “Let not the youth be ignored,” she wrote. “Let them share in the labor and responsibility. Let them feel that they have a part to act in helping and blessing others. Let the overseers of the church devise plans whereby young men and women may be trained to put to use their entrusted talents” (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 6, p. 435).

So we are truly in a relay race. The writer of Hebrews observes that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who have given their lives for this race. Jesus is coming soon. There is work to be done. We need all hands on deck. We need the wisdom and experience that come with age but also the creativity and energy of youth and young adults.

Value them, encourage them, give them meaningful responsibilities.

Pass the baton.

February 18, 2015 / Editorial
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**Max Torkelsen**

North Pacific Union Conference president

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ACS Supports Regional Distribution Center

Northwest Adventists in Action

North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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UCC volunteers along with the Oregon chainsaw team under the leadership of Sam Pellecer (third from left).

Inside view of the Pateros Distribution Center.

Patty Marsh with Cindy Cook in the Pateros Distribution Center and Warehouse.

An outside view of the Pateros Distribution Center.

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A speaker defined a shocking reality: “Imagine a burn the size of the state of Connecticut — then you can begin to realize the loss from the Carlton Complex Fire in Okanogan County last July. This fire destroyed 256 primary homes, 55 percent uninsured.” And the speaker
continued with more heartrending facts:

- More than 500 tons of scrap metal have been hauled truckload by truckload from burned-out homes.
- Mudslides threaten.
- Because of bitterbrush loss, two-thirds of the deer herd will be lost.
- Hungry deer threaten apple orchards.
- Recovery time is anticipated to take five to six years.
- Millions of dollars are needed in the recovery.
- FEMA has denied individual aid to people impacted.

This meeting in January was attended by more than 50 participants, including three representing Adventist Disaster Response (ADR), who listened in a chilly room as county leaders vividly described realities of this fiery holocaust caused by the worst fire event ever in the state of Washington. But how can Adventists make a difference?

The most effective response especially in disasters is working together — churches and conferences, churches and other faith-based organizations, and churches in collaboration with government agencies. In disaster response where the landscape changes daily, individuals or churches working alone rarely bring as positive an impact.

A great example of this teamwork was seen in September in Alta Lake, where 52 homes were lost. A plan was organized by the Brewster Adventist Community Services (ACS) leader, Lola Mae Worth, to assist a local resident who lost not only his home but his business, a golf course. Ed Burns, local tree faller, began falling trees that had burned. Then the Oregon ACS chainsaw crew, under the leadership of Sam Pellecer, assisted a large group of volunteers throughout Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) in a large tree- and brush-removal effort in the mountain community.

The Oregon team also taught an on-site safety class. With the chainsaw trailer, the Oregon crew joined forces for...
three days and added strength to the endeavor. In the words of Pellecer, “If you were to ask us to come back again to help, we will gladly do it.” Byron Dulan, Washington Conference ADR director, earlier sent leadership assistance in the Okanogan ADR Warehouse and is in regular communication with UCC concerning this recovery effort.

National Adventist Disaster Response is supporting the Pateros Distribution Center and Warehouse, which was set up November 2014 at the request of Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group. Leading the center is Cindy Cook, a Brewster (Wash.) Church member, who has helped in the area since July and is much appreciated by county entities. Of course, many local members have worked in various endeavors as well.

The Okanogan County leadership has been in conversation with UCC ADR, floating the idea of a large warehouse this spring as structures are rebuilt, but whether this will become a reality is too early to tell. What is known is with so much to do and little dollars and manpower, a combined and coordinated effort works powerfully.

1. WAVOAD, Washington Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, brings voluntary, nongovernmental organizations together within the State of Washington to foster effective service to people affected by disasters, through communication and collaboration.

2. Larry Mays, North Pacific Union Conference Adventist Disaster Response coordinator; Patty Marsh, UCC Adventist Disaster Response director; and Cindy Cook, Pateros Distribution Center and Warehouse director.

February 18, 2015 / Upper Columbia Conference
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Patty Marsh

Upper Columbia Conference Sabbath School and community service director

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Sauser Wins MGAES School Geographic Bee

Northwest Adventists in Action

North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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Ric Peinado, Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School principal, congratulates Abby Sauser on her accomplishment.

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Abby Sauser, a sixth-grade student at Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School (MGAES) in Battle Ground, Wash., won the school competition of the National Geographic Bee on Jan. 9. The school bee, during which students answered questions on geography, was the first round of the 27th annual National Geographic Bee. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and community members attended the bee at MGAES to cheer on the contestants.

Madi Carlton, geography bee runner-up, says, “I was a little nervous at first, but then I got used to being up front.”

Thousands of schools around the United States and in the U.S. territories are participating in the 2015 bee. The school champions, including Sauser, will take a written test. Up to 100 of the top scorers on that test in each state will then be eligible to compete in their state bee on March 27.

Of the experience, Sauser says, “I was very nervous, but I’m glad I did it.”

The bee is open to students across the nation in grades four to eight. At MGAES, all students in those grades participated in a grade-level competition. From that competition, the top two scores participated in the school bee. The competitors at MGAES included fourth-graders Calahan Patchin and Micah Payne; fifth-graders Sarah Kimitsuka and Amanda Mathey; sixth-grader Ryan Mowrey; seventh-graders Madi Carlton and Alexandra Tyler; and eighth-graders Hope Bollin and Alyssa Mayhew.

"With nearly a third of American young adults not being able to identify the Amazon rain forest — or for that matter, half of this same age group surveyed couldn't locate New York and two-thirds could not locate Ohio on a map of the United States — I can say without reservation how proud I am of our boys and girls that participated in MGAES geography bee," says Ric Peinado, MGAES principal. "Many of the questions were extremely difficult, yet our students stayed focused and persevered. I would like to thank Malaika Childers, geography bee coordinator, and her team for their dedication to the geography bee. All the teachers involved provided a meaningful learning experience
for our young people. I think it is important in this day and age to raise awareness of geographic literacy and prepare our kids for the world in which we live in — we must understand our past to see how far we have all come. Understanding the relationships of continents, oceans and other countries helps our students grasp this concept."

February 18, 2015 / Oregon Conference

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Malaika Childers

Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School fifth- and sixth-grade teacher

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Aerospace Engineers Help Launch Senior Projects

Northwest Adventists in Action

North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

(Clockwise, from left) Michael Slusser, Bryce Hill, Dane Purkeypile, Victor Wang, Ian Cooke, Ashley Wragg, Travis Crumley, Garrett Wilson and Jeremy Gaines (front) form this year's engineering project team.

The Walla Walla University School of Engineering is collaborating with local and national companies to create opportunities for internships, senior projects and career paths for engineering students. Brian Roth, associate professor of engineering, and Ralph Stirling, project engineer, are two of the catalysts.

Roth and Stirling launched a partnership in 2012 with Leo Wilson, Jason Douglas and Michael Allen, aerospace engineers who volunteered to guide WWU engineering students on projects. Wilson is founder and president of Solution Engineering Inc., which develops vision-based navigation products for autonomous systems. Douglas is the founder and president of Latitude Engineering, the company that developed the Hybrid Quadrotor technology used by the students for their projects. Allen is a senior software engineer for CloudCap Technology, which specializes in state-of-the-art autopilot systems and gimbals.

During the 2012–2013 academic year, one project focused on aerial mapping for agriculture. Nathan Curry and Michael Kudla, 2013 mechanical engineering graduates, and Jonathan Anderson, 2013 computer engineering graduate, designed, built and flew a 1-foot wingspan autonomous airplane that photographed the land and created one giant picture from the images. This project was featured at the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International 2013 trade show. Today, Kudla is a practicing mechanical engineer, Curry designs UAVs as part of his graduate work at the University of Colorado Boulder, and Anderson is a software developer for General Atomics Aeronautical Systems.

During the 2013–2014 academic year, Andrew Bylard, a 2014 mechanical and electrical engineering graduate, worked with Brian Clark, a 2014 electrical engineering graduate, on quadcopter autopilot augmentation. Bylard investigated an adaptive control algorithm, while Clark developed an optical position hold. Clark now works on aerospace projects as a graduate student at University of California, Riverside. Bylard is pursuing a doctorate in aeronautical engineering from Stanford University. Two mechanical engineering juniors, Bryce Hill and Michael...
Slusser, also joined the project. Hill used the experience to obtain a 2014 summer internship with NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Hill and Slusser now lead the 2014–2015 team. They are joined by Travis Crumley and Dane Purkeypile, two computer engineering seniors. The team's objective is to develop a long-endurance hybrid quadcopter. The team has actively recruited underclassmen, and each senior is responsible for mentoring two. The team includes juniors Ashley Wragg, Garrett Wilson, Ian Cooke, Zachary Arnott, and Jeremy Gaines; sophomores Jeremy Rood and Victor Wang; and freshman Korollos Abdelmalak. The expanded team gives the more junior students an opportunity to apply their coursework, and it gives the seniors great experience in mentoring more junior teammates.

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