January 22, 2015

Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

Mark Finley Meets With Allegheny East, Chesapeake and Potomac Conference Pastors

Longtime evangelist Mark Finley recently met with pastors from the Allegheny
East, Chesapeake and Potomac conferences at the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., for fellowship and prayer, and to offer training for the upcoming April evangelism initiative.

Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development at the Columbia Union, and conference representatives planned the event to help “create a spirit of unity between our pastors that will supersede territorial lines,” he says.—V. Michelle Bernard

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Takoma Park Church Holds Funeral for Police Officer Killed After Crash

Potomac Conference’s Takoma Park (Md.) church recently held a funeral for Craig Chandler. Chandler was a Baltimore police officer who died from injuries sustained in a crash while on duty.—V. Michelle Bernard

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Ghanaian Churches Host African Heritage Day
More than 300 recently gathered at Trinity Temple Academy in Newark, N.J., to celebrate the first African Heritage Day. Pastor Amofah Asamoah, cultural coordinator of Allegheny East Conference’s African Ministerium, and volunteers from his two congregations—the New Jersey Ghana church in Hillside, N.J., and the Parlin Mission in Parlin, N.J.—planned the day that celebrated Ghanaian culture.—LaTasha Hewitt

Ohio Conference Welcomes New Youth Ministries Director
The Ohio Conference has selected Edward Marton as the new Youth Ministries director. Marton has been a pastor in Ohio for 14 years, the past six at the Mansfield church.—Heidi Shoemaker

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Blue Mountain Elementary Students Help Children in Liberia

Blue Mountain Elementary School (BME) students recently collected school supplies and clothes to send to children in Monrovia, Liberia, an area hit hard by the Ebola epidemic.

Principal Rachel Wardecke knew this project would be a good fit for the Hamburg, Pa., school’s year-round Helping Hands project, where students serve others.
—Caron Oswald

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Read the entire January Visitor online here!

More Adventist News
Burlington Members Walk for Lupus

Loma Linda University Hosts “Women’s Ordination: The Road to San Antonio”

Teenie Finley to Run First Marathon at 70

Union College Student Gymnast Injured in Practice

Washington Adventist University MLK Prayer Breakfast Focuses on “Deepening our Faith in Difficult Times”

Washington Adventist University Receives Million Dollar Gift for New Health Professions, Wellness Center
Longtime evangelist Mark Finley recently met with pastors from the Allegheny East, Chesapeake and Potomac conferences at the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., for fellowship and prayer, and to offer training for the upcoming April evangelism initiative.

Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development at the Columbia Union, and conference representatives
planned the event to help “create a spirit of unity between our pastors that will supersede territorial lines,” he says.

Finley says many people think traditional evangelism is irrelevant in today’s post-modern society, but shared research that found people are interested in prophecy. “People need the assurance that only prophecy can give them,” he adds.

Gary Gibbs, Ministries Development director for the Chesapeake Conference talks to the pastors. Photo by Frank Bondurant

Bondurant reports that the pastors left excited and hopes the meeting “will build bridges for future projects and set the tone for the future.”

*Feature photograph by Samantha Young.*

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Takoma Park Church Holds Funeral for Police Officer Killed After Crash

Michelle Bernard

_Takoma Park Church Holds Funeral for Police Officer Killed After Crash_

*Story by V. Michelle Bernard*

Potomac Conference’s Takoma Park (Md.) church recently hosted a funeral for Craig Chandler. **Chandler, 27, was a Baltimore police officer who died from injuries suffered from a crash while on duty in November.**

Chandler, 27, was the son of Takoma Park members Emmanuel and Beverly Chandler, a husband and father of two young children.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore mayor; Marilyn Mosby, State’s Attorney for Baltimore City; Brandon Scott, Baltimore City District 2 councilman; and Bruce Williams, Takoma Park mayor, attended the funeral.

_Photography:_

Photo credit: Jonathan Adjahoe / Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist church

Photo credit: Jonathan Adjahoe

Photo credit: Jonathan Adjahoe

Pastor Henry Wright Photo credit: Jonathan Adjahoe

Photo credit: Jonathan Adjahoe

Photo credit: Jonathan Adjahoe

Photo credit: Jonathan Adjahoe

Photo credit: Jonathan Adjahoe

Photo credit: Jonathan Adjahoe

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake greets the Chandlers

Photo credit: Jonathan Adjahoe

_Photos via Jonathan Adjahoe, Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist church_

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Takoma Park Church Holds Funeral for Police Officer Killed After Crash

http://www.columbiaunionvisitor.com/takoma-park-church-holds-funeral...
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Ghanaian Churches Host African Heritage Day

Michelle Bernard

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Story by LaTasha Hewitt

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Two traditional Ghanaian chiefs taught attendees the common Ashanti kingdom leadership, dress, etiquette and cultural dance practices. “We are immigrants, and although we have assimilated, we want to bring awareness to the culture of Ghana, especially for our children,” says Pastor Asamoah.

The celebration helped raise $10,000 for Hillside’s new church building, but the fundraising continues. The Hillside church is scheduled to move into their new church in May.

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Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Say hello to the Ohio Conference's new Youth Ministries Director! Edward Marton has been a
pastor in Ohio for 14 years, the past six in the Mansfield church. A parent of two small children, Edward has a passion for young people of all ages. "The hope and vision for the youth of Ohio is to mentor and disciple young people in learning to walk with Jesus, grow in a deeper relationship with Him, and to be the hands and feet of Jesus through service in the communities."

January 20 · Edited

Christiane Marshall, Carie Stewart, Deb Windbigler Snyder and 32 others like this.

3 shares

Ruth Ann Van Nostrand Welcome !!
1 · January 20 at 11:40am

Lou Toscano What an important ministry you've chosen. God bless in all your endeavors.
1 · January 25 at 11:45am
Blue Mountain Elementary Students Help Children in Liberia

Michelle Bernard

Blue Mountain Elementary Students Help Children in Liberia
Story by Caron Oswald

Blue Mountain Elementary School (BME) students recently collected school supplies and clothes to send to children in Monrovia, Liberia, an area hit hard by the Ebola epidemic.

Principal Rachel Wardecke knew this project would be a good fit for the Hamburg, Pa., school’s year-round Helping Hands project, where students serve others.

Wardecke says that projects like this teach the children how to be part of their world, make a difference and understand selflessness. “We want to help them grow in character as well as academically,” explains Wardecke.

The needs of these children stunned and then motivated the students to get involved. “They have no shoes, sleep on the floor and maybe have one meal a day,” says Michael Lutsel, a seventh-grader. “The schools have no desks or chairs. [Students] lay on the floor and share books.”

Zachary Leser explains their action plan. “We collected backpacks, school supplies, shoes, clothing, books and canned goods.”

“It gives them a chance to see what other children have. It gives them a chance to share,” adds teacher Kathy Goley.

It is not unusual for parents to sell the backpacks for food money. This didn't bother fourth-grader Kylie Oswald. “I believe that I would rather have food than a backpack.”

Pictured Above: Blue Mountain Elementary students collect backpacks, school supplies, shoes, clothing and canned food for children in Liberia.
Burlington Members Walk for Lupus

Michelle Bernard

*Burlington Members Walk for Lupus*  
*Story by Terrina Williams*

This past fall, members from New Jersey Conference’s Burlington church participated in the Lupus Foundation of America Philadelphia Tri-State Chapter’s 23rd annual Lupus Loop 5K Run & 2.5 Mile Walk. The church group, who call themselves Terrina’s Trailblazers, also collected monetary support for the important cause, and made the experience part of their church’s Make a Difference Day.

Lupus is a chronic and autoimmune disease that affects 1.5 million Americans and at least 5 million people worldwide, and there is no cure. The Burlington members say they took action to broaden lupus awareness and to inspire other Seventh-day Adventist churches to do the same.

Miguel Brown, one of the Trailblazer teammates says, “It’s great to see people come together to share in finding a cure for lupus. Many people who have loved ones and friends with lupus came together for the walk as a cohesive unit to initiate change.”

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Women's Ordination: The Road to San Antonio

Date

- January 23, 2015
- This event starts at 7:00 PM. It ends on January 23, 2015 at 9:00 PM.

Description

- A Brief History of Christian Ordination
  Darius Jankiewicz
  "Christian Ordination as it is practiced today has a long and complicated history. This presentation traces the main developments of this history from the second century to the present day."

What Does the New Testament Say About Women's Ordination?

John Brunt

The New Testament does not specifically talk about women's ordination, because it does not talk about ordination as we know it. It does, however, give both examples of women in ministry and principles of inclusiveness that speak to the issue. In addition, none of the texts used to oppose women's ordination speak to the issue in a way that would preclude women's ordination."

Location

- Sanctuary
- 11125 Campus Street
- Loma Linda, CA 92354
- US
  - Show Location Map
Teenie Finley to Run First Marathon at 70

Ernestine "Teenie" Finley training in San Diego, California. She runs every place the Finleys travel to preach. Photo courtesy of Mark Finley

Andrew McChesney News editor, Adventist Review

Mark Finley's wife hopes to raise $100,000 toward an evangelism center that the couple is building in Virginia.

Posted January 22, 2015

Ernestine Finley, wife of evangelist Mark Finley and author of the popular Natural Lifestyle Cooking cookbook, may have turned 70 last month, but she is preparing to run her first marathon in a few days.

Finley, known to many as “Teenie,” will run the full 26-mile (42-kilometer) marathon in the town of Celebration, Florida, next Sunday in a bid to raise $100,000 toward what she calls one of the most exciting projects she has ever tackled with her husband: a church and evangelistic training center in their hometown of Haymarket, Virginia.

“We have spent 47 years in ministry—preaching, teaching, and deeply involved in health ministry,” Finley said. “Therefore I am doing this to inspire others to be trained and equipped for involvement in the ministry of Christ. It is for God’s glory, not mine.”

The Finleys are on the last lap of a fundraising drive for the $4 million Life Hope Seventh-day Adventist Community Church and have already secured $3.5 million, mostly from private donors.

Construction is scheduled to begin in March, and the first group of 25-40 pastors and laypeople will start classes next year. The four- to eight-day intensive classes will be offered at no cost. Attendees will only be asked to pay for optional class materials, meals, and lodging.

Teenie Finley, who raised nearly half of her $100,000 goal from 32 donors on the GivingZone.com website by Thursday morning, said she decided to run after reading an Adventist Review article about an 82-year-old practicing physician from Loma Linda, California, who has run in 237 marathons since the age of 62.

“I thought if Moses Christian improved his health and ran 237 full marathons in the past 21 years, then I can certainly start running my first marathon at the age of 70,” said Finley, who turned 70 on Dec. 4. “I want to glorify God in my body.”

The article by Wilona Karimabadi is titled “Running on Faith” and was published on July 10, 2014. Mark Finley is editor-at-large for Adventist Review and Adventist World.
Inspiring People to Take Charge

In addition to improving her health, Teenie Finley said she hoped that the race would inspire others to take charge of their lives. She said she often hears people say at health classes that she teaches that it is difficult to muster enough self discipline to make healthy choices.

“I want to inspire them that they can do it,” she said. “Yes, it takes discipline. It takes discipline for me to walk and run every day to train for this marathon as well. However, we will all feel better and live longer, healthier, and happier lives.”

Finley conducts wellness seminars during her husband’s evangelistic meetings, most recently speaking to nightly crowds that topped 15,000 people in a stadium in the Dominican Republic this month, and she has used her cookbook to teach nutrition classes to thousands more.

The marathon is already inspiring some people.

“We applaud Teenie as she undertakes this marathon for this cause,” wrote an anonymous donor who pledged $25,000 on the fundraising website. “May God bless both as you continue to participate in so many ministries for Him.”

“For His glory, go Teenie!” wrote another donor. “You are an inspiration. I need to start running again!”

Robert Banks, pastor of the Finleys’ home church in Warrenton, Virginia, said he also was encouraged by the initiative.

“It’s an inspiration to me that our age doesn’t have to slow us down,” Banks said by phone.

Banks, 60, will serve as pastor of the new church in Haymarket and join the Finleys as a regular speaker at its evangelism center. The Warrenton church, which has 60 members and around 95 regular attendees, will be sold in the coming months and its proceeds used to finance the new church, Banks said.

Mark Finley to Cheer From Sidelines

Mark Finley said he was excited about his wife’s participation in the marathon and planned to cheer her on from the sidelines.

“Her discipline to exercise vigorously each day really inspires me,” he said. “She has been interested in and teaching health for years, and we believe this will be a powerful testimony for the Adventist health message.”
Finley, 69, does not run on the recommendation of doctors after undergoing two sports-related knee operations. But he said he walks and bikes extensively, and he and his wife go for at least an hourlong walk every day.

“Even in our international travel we have disciplined ourselves to exercise each day,” he said. “Exercise is an integral part of both of our lives.”

Turning to the planned evangelism center, Finley said he hoped it would enable people to use Christ’s methods of multi-faceted outreach to reach their communities.

“My wife and I realize that the most significant contribution we can make for Christ and His church at this age of our lives is to share the practical lessons God has taught us,” he said. “Our goal is to spend our lives equipping others to effectively share the Adventist message with a world in desperate need.”

He called the entire project “an adventure in faith” that began about two years ago with nothing but an idea.

“During this time we have been amazed as God has worked some incredible miracles,” he said. “He has miraculously provided funding from many different sources. We are confident that He will enable us to see the project through to completion.”

Teenie Finley, meanwhile, said she was praying that God would give her the strength each step of the way throughout the race. She said she intended to reach the finish line through a combination of running and walking. To qualify for a medal, she needs to finish in seven hours. She is aiming for six and a half.

Supporters are invited to guess exactly how long it will take her to finish. The Finleys are offering to visit the winner’s home church and present a health-focused spiritual weekend.

“I pray most of all that God will be glorified by me running the race,” Teenie Finley said. “I have a lot of people who are cheering me on. Therefore, by the grace of God, I will glorify Him and finish the race.”

Mark Finley speaking about the Life Hope church project and his wife’s marathon run in a 5:34-minute video.

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Editor’s note: The Adventist Review will be closely following developments at the Finleys’ evangelistic training center in Haymarket, Virginia, from the start of construction in March through its opening next year.
Related links

Mark and Ernestine Finley's fundraising page on the GivingZone.com website

The *Adventist Review* article that inspired Ernestine Finley to run the marathon: “Running on Faith,” July 10, 2014

We reserve the right to approve and disapprove comments accordingly and will not be able to respond to inquiries regarding that. Please keep all comments respectful and courteous to authors and fellow readers.
Student gymnast injured during practice [UPDATED 3:30 p.m. Jan. 27]

January 27, 2015

[UPDATE 3:30 p.m. - Jan. 27] Terry and Cheryl Boulais have setup a CaringBridge.org site to share information and updates about Heather and her recovery. New updates have been posted this afternoon at www.caringbridge.org/visit/heatherboulais.

You'll need to create a free login to access Heather's site, but the login will also allow you to receive notifications when a new update is posted and leave notes for Heather's family.

If you would like to give a gift to Heather and her family, there are three ways to do so:

- Visit any Union Bank location (Southeast Nebraska and the Kansas City area) and asked to make a gift to “Heather Boulais.”
- Make a gift online through Union College at rockpile.ucollege.edu/boulais. Union College will absorb the transaction fees so the family receives the full gift.
- Send a check to Union College marked “Boulais Fund.” Address to Union College, 3800 S. 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506

[2:00 p.m. - Jan. 21] Terry and Cheryl Boulais, parents of injured Union College gymnast Heather Boulais, released the following statement this afternoon.

“We want to let all of you know the procedure this morning went very well. Now they are able to do an MRI. This will be at 2:00 p.m. today and we once again ask for prayers at that time. We specifically ask you to pray that nothing new appears on the MRI that we do not already know.

“Thank you for your continued prayers.”

[8:00 p.m. - Jan 20] Terry and Cheryl Boulais, parents of injured Union College gymnast Heather Boulais, released the following statement this evening.
“Once again, we must humbly begin with thanking everyone around the world who has been praying for our little Heather. We knew the army of prayer warriors would be there at 11:00 p.m., but we did not know that Heather's body would react sooner.

“Earlier in the evening, we were by Heather's side when her body began to react to the warming, and these signs continue to give us hope. The medical team is still closely monitoring for infections. This is one small baby step in this long marathon we must endure.

“This evening before 7:00 p.m., the doctors will be taking another critical step in monitoring her progress. We ask once again for prayers beginning before 7:00 p.m. Pray specifically that this step goes as expected and that there continues to be no signs of infection. Thank you for your continued prayers.”

#PrayersforHeather

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[4:00 p.m. - Jan. 18:] Last night people around the world joined together in prayer for Heather Boulais at 11:00 p.m. In Lincoln, the Gymnaires gathered in the hospital lobby to pray while Union College paused a student association event in the gymnasium to hold a prayer service.

“We are so overwhelmed by the global outpouring of prayers and support,” said Terry and Cheryl Boulais, Heather's parents. “We thank you all for your prayers last night at 11:00 p.m.”

Heather Boulais, a member of the Union College Gymnaires acrobatic gymnastic team, suffered a traumatic brain injury and skull fracture when she fell 23 feet while hanging her aerial silks on the gymnasium ceiling during practice on Jan. 14.

According to her parents, Boulais remains in a medically induced coma with a reduced body temperature. “She is still in extremely critical condition, but the events of last night have given us our first ray of hope,” they said. “The follow-up CT scans we received last night were the best we could hope for, and the medical staff has begun raising her body temperature back to normal—a process that will take a couple of days.”

Her parents were quick to thank everyone involved in caring for their daughter. “We’ve seen many miracles, including the quick actions of Heather’s coach and teammates, the immediate transportation to the top trauma care unit in the tri-state area, and her surgeons’ excellent care,” they said. “We ask for your continued prayers over the
next 48 hours. Our God is an awesome God!”

The family has requested no visitors, food or flowers at the hospital at this time. Cards or snack-type food items (nothing with nuts) can be dropped off at the Ortner Center on the Union College campus.

Cards can also be mailed to:

Union College  
ATTN: Prayers for Heather  
3800 S. 48th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506

Contributions to the family’s expenses can be made by check or online.

Please make checks payable to Union College and mark them “Boulais Fund.” Mail to:

Union College  
Boulais Fund  
3800 S 48th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506

To give online, click here. In the “designation” pull down, select “Other—Please specify” and type “Boulais fund.”

[Originally posted Thursday, Jan. 15]

A member of the Gymnaires, Union College’s acrobatic gymnastics team, was seriously injured Wednesday night when she fell while setting up an apparatus during the team’s regular practice.

Heather Boulais, a 23-year-old senior elementary education major from Laguna Niguel, Calif., remains hospitalized in Lincoln. According to a family spokesperson, the medical team has seen small improvements, but she remains in critical condition.

Boulais was in a safety harness while attaching her aerial silks to the ceiling of the gymnasium when she fell approximately 23 feet.

“Student safety is our highest priority and we are in the process of reviewing what happened to determine the cause of the fall,” said Vinita Sauder, president of Union College. “We will do everything possible to ensure something like this doesn’t happen again.”

“We are doing everything we can to support Heather’s family, friends and teammates,” said Pastor Rich Carlson,
vice president for spiritual life. “We have made counselors available for those who need it.”

“Our thoughts and prayers are with Heather’s family and friends,” said Carlson. “Please join us in prayer for her recovery.”

“Right now we are surrounding the Boulais family with the support they need during this difficult time,” said Sauder.

We will continue to release more information as it is available.
This Year’s Washington Adventist University MLK Prayer Breakfast Focused on “Deepening our Faith in Difficult Times”

Honoring the life and accomplishments of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Takoma Park, MD (January 19, 2015) Washington Adventist University (WAU) this morning held its annual prayer breakfast in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., Ph.D. The topic was “Deepening our Faith in Difficult Times,” and the event was attended by WAU faculty, staff and students on a day when the university is closed for the national holiday in honor of King.

Welcoming remarks were provided by Patrick Williams, Ph.D., associate provost and dean of WAU’s School of Arts and Social Sciences. The keynote speaker for the morning prayer breakfast was Charles A. Tapp, senior pastor at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, who addressed the theme of “Deepening our Faith in Difficult Times.”
"For this university, which is proud to be considered a gateway to service, it is especially important to reflect on the accomplishments of a man who lived a life of service to others and changed the world for the better through peaceful means," said Adrienne Matthews, Interim Vice President of Student Life, who organized this year’s prayer breakfast.

The event also featured Rev. Rawle King of the Congressional Research Service delivering “Reflections on the Past” and Timothy Nelson, director of the WAU Men’s Residence Life, leading a “Test Your Knowledge Of...” feature. In addition, Evenn Gill, RN, 50+ Association, Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist Church, addressed “A Litany of Faith.” Also included in the event were prayers for peace, justice and faith -- delivered by WAU faculty -- and musical selections performed by Jeffery Wilson, a sophomore biology major, and Wendell Phipps, a senior computer science major.

Adjunct Professor of African American History Derrick Green provided reflections and delivered the benediction for the event, which was held on campus in the Wilkinson Hall Dining Room, 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912.
Washington Adventist University is Montgomery County's only four-year private college. Part of the Seventh-day Adventist system of higher education, Washington Adventist University has been educating college students since 1904 on a 19-acre campus in suburban Takoma Park, close to the nation's capital. A total of 1,080 students of all faiths participate in the university's eight graduate and 32 undergraduate programs. The 2014 edition of U.S. News & World Report ranked Washington Adventist University among the best regional colleges in the north.

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Washington Adventist University Receives Million Dollar Gift for New Health Professions, Science and Wellness Center

Takoma Park, MD (January 21, 2014) Plans for a new Washington Adventist University (WAU) Health Professions, Science and Wellness Center in Takoma Park, Md. were advanced recently when health care executive and board member Bruce Boyer presented a $1 million check for the project at a meeting of the WAU Board of Trustees.

“This generous gift will go a long way toward making the vision for a new Health Professions, Science and Wellness Center a reality,” said WAU President Weymouth Spence, Ed.D., R.T. “The center will offer exciting and endless possibilities for this university as we find new ways to enhance the education of our students in the health and science professions, promote healthy living, and improve community wellness.”

The center will be built as a $10.3 million renovation and addition to the existing Health Professions Building on campus. When completed, the 50,000-square-foot center will accommodate WAU’s health professions and science programs, as well as community programs to enhance wellness. It will provide opportunities for the university to partner with the city and county in offering healthy cooking and exercise classes, among other wellness activities. The architect for the project is Hord, Coplan and Macht.

Boyer, who is president and chairman of Sloan Management, Inc. and Premier HealthCare, Inc., has a unique perspective on Washington Adventist University. He spent time on campus as a child in the 1950s when his parents attended the university, then known as Washington Missionary College; in the 1960s when he was a psychology major at the school, then known as Columbia Union College; and in the 1970s, when he joined the university’s board of trustees, then known as the Columbia Union College Board of Trustees.
In addition to Boyer’s recent gift, the new center is being funded through the university’s annual Visionaries Gala, along with support from the state of Maryland through a $4 million matching grant from the Governor’s Office. The grant application is being completed and funding approval is expected this year.

Individuals interested in contributing to the new facility are encouraged to email alumni@wau.edu or call 301-891-4151. Online donations can be made at http://www.wau.edu/alumni/give-to-wau.

# # #

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