

The United Nations at Greater New York Academy

by Rachele Swaby, Graduate 2012

On Thursday, May 17, 2012, The United Nations General Assembly decided to convene early, at the Greater New York Academy of Seventh-day Adventists in Woodside, Queens. The various nations from around the world were represented by the countries' flags and the native clothing worn by the student representatives.



Mr. Alexander, teacher poses with UN delegates



Delegates from Brazil, the United Kingdom and Argentina listen attentively as other delegates give their report

The Session began at about 10 a.m., and continued throughout the school day with an open invitation to all students, faculty and other members of the school staff to sit as spectators. Countries such as Canada, Argentina, England, and France discussed problems including pollution, child abuse, obesity, and poverty.

The countries presented to the General Assembly some of the problems they were experiencing and shared ways in which they had attempted to solve them. However their solutions failed. Therefore they sought help from the Security Council in an attempt to gain financial support, a resolution of

their problems, or just to gain the attention of the UN in an attempt to have their issues prioritized on the agenda.

At the end of each presentation, the Security Council represented by Mr. Patterson, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Alexander, had dialogue with the representatives from each country. This allowed the students to demonstrate knowledge of their country, show how familiar they were with the existing issues, and to develop their skill of persuasion as they used their skills of rhetoric to generate and maintain strong arguments and gain the support of the Council.

Through this mock session, students became familiar with problems facing countries around the world, how the United Nations Sessions are carried out, and with the determination of the UN to facilitate the resolution of those problems.

With thorough research, students were able to use different appeals to

captivate and persuade the Council for support; they used emotional appeal (pathos), and logical appeal, (logos), and credible appeal (ethos).

The experience was not only a learning experience for the students who participated, but for all students who attend the school. The students were able to attend a UN session and gain awareness of problems facing the world. This learning expo taught students how to bring awareness to important issues to world attention, and that every voice counts.

Will you be present at the next United Nations General Assembly to gain awareness, gather information, and help become part of a resolution?

The 10th grade Global Studies class, led by their teacher Ms. Ball, did a commendable job of recreating the UN General Assembly.



Mr. Patterson and Mrs. Walker, two of the three judges, listening as delegates present issues affecting their country.

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Greater New York Academy
A Seventh-day Adventist Institution

Spotlight

SPECIAL EDITION: A Year In Review

June 2012

Spring Week Of Prayer

by Paul Lim, Graduate 2012

What separates Greater New York Academy from the rest of the schools in New York City is the freedom to talk to, and about God whenever we want. A unique and life-changing event that demonstrates Greater's ability to stand out from other schools is the



Students taking time to pray during the spring week of prayer

Week of Prayer during which the students from the academy stand up and stand out and share their love for Jesus Christ.

As a senior in the academy, I have experienced my fair share of Weeks of Prayer. My walk with God and my relationship with him have grown tremendously between the time I was a freshman and now that I am in my senior year. This year's Week of Prayer showed me that my school is actively seeking God for who he is, and that my school can really stand up and stand out. The speakers from the different classes

really demonstrated spiritual leadership. Something that I have picked up on my spiritual walk as a Seventh-day Adventist is the ability to have a knowledge of the Bible as well as the ability to experience God and test him to show me who He really is. The speakers of this year's Spring Week of Prayer gave me courage to continue my walk with God.

This year's Week of Prayer showed me that my school is actively seeking God ... and that my school can really stand up and stand out.

They were right in line with our school's theme of "Godliness, Godlikeness...the goal to be reached."

My hope and prayer for my school is that students take God seriously. I pray that the students will genuinely want to seek God and His blessings, for God is real

and He loves us very much. I encourage those in our school, especially the upper classmen, to step up to the plate, lead more



Students surrendering their lives to God

chapel services and be positive role models for the younger students. I pray that this year's Week of Prayer ignited a fire in the school so that students will stand up for God and seek Him personally.

Greater New York Academy
A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN INSTITUTION
A Co-educational Day High School owned and operated by the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Fall Registration
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Principal's Remarks

-as presented at the 89th Commencement Ceremony on June 24, 2012

I would like to once more congratulate the graduates of the class of 2012 on their achievement. Your parents have worked hard and sacrificed a lot to get you to this point. We give the praise to God.

Parents, thank you for giving us the opportunity to influence your young men and young women. It is my hope that the experiences gained at Greater, will foster the future academic, social and spiritual growth of your children. You made a wise choice when you choose Greater New York Academy of Seventh-day Adventists as the high school for your children.

A big thank you goes to the members of the School Board for their support throughout the school year.

To the faculty and staff for your dedication and Christian commitment to duty, I thank you. To **Ms. Ball, Ms. Boston, Mrs. Dos Santos, Mrs. Valcin, Mrs. Walker, our guidance counselor, Ms. Bobenhausen, Mrs. Nicoleau, Ms. McAlpine, Mr. Cyprien, Mr. dosSantos, Mr. Stephens, Mr. Alexander, Mr. dosSantos, Mr. Grant, Mr. LaBorde, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Szoboszlai, and Mr. Valcin** thank you.

As always, during the school year, there was very strong focus on the social, academic, physical and spiritual life of the school.

Spiritual

On the Spiritual level, there were two weeks of prayer held at the school this academic year. At the close of our spring week of prayer several students requested Bible studies. This was conducted by Pastor Boston. Five students were baptized in their home churches this year. One student will be baptized this coming Sabbath. Congratulations Antonio Pinto-Lima on your up-coming baptism. Weekly chapels continue to highlight the spiritual values expected from the school family.

Service

Students continue to be involved in service oriented projects in the community through the following vehicles; ministering through prayer, donating to the needy, through the shoe box project. This year 98 shoe boxes were packed and submitted for distribution to needy children. Two blood drives are conducted each year, spearheaded by the National Honor Society under the sponsorship of Mr. Walix Valcin. This year 57 units of blood was donated by our students, faculty and friends.

The student association under their sponsor, Mr. Szoboszlai, and president Daniel Edmond spearheaded an Agape Day. A day on which the entire student body came together to complete a day of service by doing a detailed cleaning of the entire building. Areas that are sometimes overlooked were taken care of. Great job Mr. S and Daniel. (These are just a few of the activities completed this year).

Academic

On the Academic level, along with the day to day teaching and learning activities, students from grades 9-12 sat and were successful in various New York State Regents examinations. Our graduates continue to excel in colleges and universities. I must pause to congratulate Michael Knight, MD who graduated from Greater in 2003, from Oakwood University in 2007 and from Cleveland Medical Center in May 2012 and has begun his residency at Cornell University Hospital.

This year a new class, Film Production was added to the curriculum offerings as an elective for seniors.

Instructional Material Acquired

During the 2011-2012 school year, Greater New York Academy acquired an additional nineteen computers to facilitate the teaching of Film Production.

Our teachers continue to prepare themselves academically to better instruct the students each day. They are enrolled in colleges and universities to be better trained for their career. They attend one and two day work-

shops to become familiar with new trends in education.

Physical Plant

Beginning July 2, 2012, the process of renovation and addition will take place at Greater New York Academy. At its completion, we will have a new gymnasium and a state of the art science complex.

Registration for the 2012-2013 is now taking place. Please be sure to register or re-register your young people if you have not yet done so. The date for testing of incoming freshmen is Wednesday June 27, 2012.

Graduates, I leave you with these quotations

- (I have used this one before but it bears repeating) If you run you might lose. If you don't run, you are guaranteed to lose.
- Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great ones make you feel that you too, can become great. - Mark Twain
- Always leave the places you go better than you found them.
- Maintain your trust in God
- Never give up
- It was Winston Churchill who said; "Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It is courage that counts."

Graduates, I challenge you to allow God to guide in your choices. If you do that, you will achieve excellence. Congratulations once more, and may God bless you. As you continue on to college and university, "Let the choices you make be choices you can live with". God bless you. And remember "Godliness, godlikeness is the goal to be reached" You have been given much, so much is expected. Surrender, Determine, Achieve and Congratulations graduating class of 2012.

- Lillian Mitchell, Principal

Giving Back To Our Community

by Danielle Cornwall, Graduate 2012, & David Perez, Class of 2013

The true definition of *community service* is helping and giving back to people in need. As young people, we have a responsibility to give back to the community and as Christians we have a duty to be our brother's



Danielle smiles as she donates

keeper. Greater New York Academy (GNYA) is a prime example of students doing great things for other people. On May 2nd, 2012, Greater New York Academy held their annual Blood Drive sponsored by the National Honor Society. This society is based on four principles: *scholarship, service, leadership, and character*, and on that day, *service* was the primary focus.

The students here at GNYA were motivated to donate their blood for a good cause. A representative from New York Blood

Center came to the school to highlight the details and requirements of giving blood. He explained that giving blood is a humbling experience that gives back to people who need help but never ask. After hearing this, the students began the process

to prepare to give blood.

Each student had to be at least 16 years old and have parental permission. On the day of the Blood Drive the students who were participating were eager and ready to do this good deed. The

New York Blood Center began setting up in the gymnasium at 6:30 a.m. The blood drive started at approximately 9 a.m. and lasted into the later part of the school day. At 1 in the afternoon, several students were still filling out forms and waiting in line to donate.

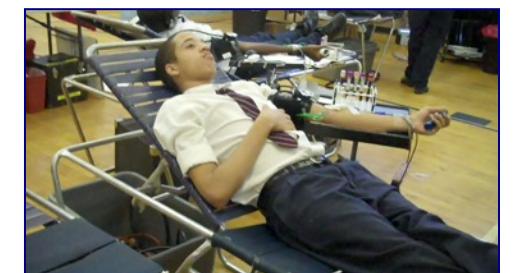
Students had to sign papers on which they answered questions about their health habits and lifestyle, as doctors had to ensure that the students were eligible to give blood.

As the day came to a close, each individual returned to class

happy and proud of having given back to his or her community. Someone out there had their life saved because of the good deed of many students and other individuals. When we willingly help others, we are able to make this world a better place for all.

The number of students who donated on this day is truly commendable. Overall, the Blood Drive at Greater New York Academy was a great success. The New York Blood Center received 38 units of blood from Greater New York Academy. Donors got to proudly display their blood pin or sticker as well as the band on their arms. May 2, 2012 was a day in which Greater New York Academy truly displayed a willingness to save other lives. It really goes to show the things this small school in Woodside is capable of doing when we really come together.

The two blood drives for this school year yielded 57 units of blood.



Elias donating blood

Battle of The Classes (Academics)

by Julissa Suah & Karim Hutton

“Factor $x^2 + 5x + 6$.” “What is the chemical formula for sodium phosphate?” “What is the current form of government in America?” “What are the three levels of diction?” These are only a few of the many types of questions that were asked during the Battle of the Classes: Academics.

The annual competition known as *Battle of the Classes: Academics (BOC)* was held at Greater New York Academy of Seventh-day Adventists from May 7-11 of 2012. During this event four students from each grade level took a position on the



Students waiting to start BOTC

podium as they were asked a series of questions based on the various courses offered at the Academy. They were English, Computers, Mathematics, Science, Language, History & Economics, General Knowledge, and of course Religion questions. The class with most points at the end of a round of four questions won

that subject. In case of a tie, the classes entered a speed round. In this round whichever class answered a question incorrectly was eliminated and the class that correctly answered all their questions won.

The spirit of competition was very evident among the direct competitors as well as their supporting classmates. Certain subjects were filled with intensity because the various students who went up to be questioned had retained a lot of knowledge over the school year. History was by far my favorite subject to watch because the freshmen and sophomores



The sophomores waiting to answer their question



The Juniors happily answering their question

proved to be exemplary in this course. It is often said that competition brings out the worst in people, but at Greater New York Academy, the BOC competition proved to bring out the best in individuals. Each competing class demonstrated cooperation, team work, and an unquenchable zeal to win.

The students who competed, got their chance to show their talents to the entire student body and faculty. We were pleased to see different



The Seniors encouraging the Juniors

students on the teams in each subject area; there was no single student who “featured”. No class won every round, but every class had their fair share of first place. Students left this competition with standing ovations as well as motivation for next year’s competition. This annual event never gets old because the enthusiasm and sportsmanship of the students keep it alive.

SPIRIT WEEK 2012

by Nathalia Skinner, Graduate 2012

The month was March, the days were 12,13,14,15 and 16, the year was 2012 and the place was the chapel. IT WAS OUR ANNUAL SPIRIT WEEK! On these days students were granted the opportunity to celebrate Sports Day, Twin Day, Retro Day, Culture Day, and Spirit Day.

On Sports Day, students dressed in the best sports wear they could find. They were adorned in clothing like: Mets Outfits; Yankee Jerseys; knee-high baseball socks; and sweat bands, and carried accessories such as baseball bats and tennis rackets. Some even appeared to be playing defense for their favorite NBA teams. At the end of the event, Jennifer Delgado won first place for her well put together baseball outfit.

We continued the week with Twins Day, when friends



Spirit Week- Twins Day

and classmates united together to

dress alike. They showed off their similar styles while still having fun. Outfits ranged from casual to church wear. I am glad to announce that the Senior President- Stephanie Smith and Vice President- Danielle Cornwall won this day for their beautiful banquet black dresses and gorgeous heels.

Then next, we took a trip back in time to the “good old days.” This spectacular day was what I like to call “Retro Day.” Students took time to dig up



Spirit Week- Retro Day

their parents’ old clothes -- well “vintage attire,” as we now call it, and model for the school. There were outfits that imitated old time singers such as Marilyn Monroe and Michael Jackson, and others that reminded us of old sit-coms such as “A Different World” and “The Bill Cosby Show.” On this day Seniors Nathalia Skinner and Janeva Gaddist won first place.

Day Four was our personal International Fair. The student body was bombarded left and right with beautiful flags, homemade outfits, national anthems, and songs from the many different countries of the world represented at the academy. The atmosphere was tremendous, as one and all joined together to celebrate their nationalities. Surprisingly, Japan (represented well by non-Japanese) won first place.

Finally came School Spirit Day. The academy was filled with joy as students showed their love and appreciation for their classes and the impact the school had and still has on them. The classes competed for the “Best Class/School Spirit” title. They presented class shirts and sang class songs. In the end the class that composed the best school song, and the class that presented the best school shirts won the title. This year, the senior class won first place for the greatest school shirts and the sophomores won for the greatest school song.

This was a memorable week in Greater New York Academy’s 2011-2012 school year!

Graduates Received Over One Million Dollars in Scholarships

At its annual graduation commencement ceremony held at the Dunamis Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn on Sunday June 24, 2012, graduates of Greater New York Academy of Seventh-day Adventists were awarded in excess of one million dollars in scholarships to enter colleges and universities in various parts of the

colleges and universities as a result of the scholarships received.

The 44 graduates are a diverse group, representing Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Manhattan, and Long Island. Some of the countries they represent include Angola, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Jamaica, England, Phillipines, Trinidad, and Barbados. All graduates will

receive the New York State Regents Diploma. Several will receive college credits as a result of their success in the Advanced Placement examinations and the courses completed at Queens College. All of the graduates plan to attend colleges and universities spreading from the United States

to Poland to the Phillipines.



Dr. H. Russell, Dr. G. Earl Knight, Ms. B. Bucknor, Mrs. L. Mitchell, Ms. C Bobenhausen, and Mr. D. Cadavero

country. Oakwood University awarded a total of \$350,500. The valedictorian, Julissa Suah received an award of \$30,000.00 from Andrews University. Parents and graduates alike were overjoyed at the prospect of the reduction in payments to be made to these



Principal Mitchell giving the principal's remarks



Ms. B. Bucknor, Commencement Speaker

At the ceremony, the speaker, Beverley Bucknor, associate superintendent of schools in the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists used the Arctic Tern's attitude as a point of reference for the graduates. She pointed out that the Arctic Tern's life is a great



Mr. D. Cadavero addressing the honor students

example of determining how to achieve the ultimate goal by achieving small goals. This bird is just fifteen and a half inches in length, yet it inhabits the most inhospitable areas along the ocean coastlines. It is a delicate looking bird that is able to travel



Edison Alvarez wows the audience

tremendously long distances. In the autumn this tern leaves its home in the Arctic Circle to travel to the Antarctic. Some scientists think it flies about 22,000 miles. Bucknor admonished the students



Valedictorian- Ms. Julissa Suah



Class President, Stephanie Smith gives her response

to "always determine to daily get your source of strength from God. He will sustain you through the challenges in your life. Communication with him will help you determine your short and long term goals, your conduct, your ability to process moral and ethical challenges".

In her response, the class president, Stephanie Smith accepted Bucknor's challenge on behalf of the class of 2012.

The valedictorian, Julissa Suah reminisced about her four years spent at Greater. She reminded her fellow classmates of some of the concepts learned from teachers like Mrs. Walker, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Patterson. Suah told the graduates that "the possibilities of what we can accomplish are endless" as long as



Dr. G. Earl Knight, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, gives remarks

they are Surrendered to Christ, and Determined they will Achieve their goals in life. In the end she gave the glory to God for the accomplishments thus far.

In her remarks Principal Mitchell informed the parents that the building and renovation of the science complex, gymnasium and the main building will commence on July



Donnieval Walker II accepts his diploma

2, 2012. There will be some "growing pains" but the dream will soon become a reality. She later presented various awards to the graduates on behalf of Andrews University, Southwestern Adventist University, the New York State Department of Education, the New York State Attorney General, the President of the Borough of Queens, and the Presidential awards for Academic Excellence and Academic Achievement.



Mrs. Mitchell confers the diplomas



Ms. Chantelle Levy-Salutatorian



Danielle Samuel accepts her diploma