

Alumni Homecoming 2021

For the past few years, we have had more cancellations surround us than we can count. Traditions have had to be put aside, and our patience has been put to the test. Fear, sickness, death, violence, and anger have penetrated our consciousness whether we wanted them to or not. It becomes clearer and clearer that the promise found in John 14:1-3 approaches quickly -- what a homecoming that will be!

For the first time since April 2019, we were able to host another Alumni Homecoming Weekend, and what a blessing it was! In these past few years, it has become very clear that we cannot count on gatherings such as this and that it is becoming harder and harder to see loved ones old and new, making the gatherings that can happen be all that more meaningful. Despite many reasons to cancel for a fourth time, the Alumni Committee and staff at Wisconsin Academy pushed forward to have a gathering on our campus once again. Nearly 160 alumni ranging from the class of 1948 through 2021 graced our halls once again, whether it be for the first time in years or just a matter of months. Laughter and reminiscing filled the rooms, and campus was ringing with the history and stories of days gone by.

Friday evening, we heard from a variety of alumni and current Wisconsin Academy students with beautiful musical selections, followed by delectable refreshments in the lobby of the ad building provided by our hospitable cafeteria director Mrs. Leny Plank.

Sabbath morning, we reconvened for Sabbath School where we heard from current students who shared about a recent mission project to Iowa after the Derecho storm that hit state, as well as plans for an upcoming mission trip in April 2022 for the current senior class. Many were blessed to hear a Sabbath school lesson presented by Aaron King '80. After a short break, we regathered in the chapel for church. Because of having had to miss two years of alumni weekends, we presented *Alumnus of the Year* to two deserving ladies – Alice (Cedzo) Priser '60 and Sally (Herwick) Johnson '71. A lovely tribute was given to former Dean of Men, Mr. Jim Nash '61-'70, our *Educator of the Year* award recipient. Many voiced how touching and remarkable the message Gary Hixon '71 presented as we finished our morning service.

After enjoying lunch and taking some reunion photos, another service took place in the afternoon where we were once again blessed by the message and songs Susan (Champion) Jen '71 presented. A much beloved tradition, Hallowed Moments, closed out our Sabbath hours, where much esteemed former staff member Mr. Carl Sigler '69-'10, read a passage dear Ms. Mildred Summerton '42-'83, had written regarding coming home. Hallowed Moments concluded with singing *Father Lead Me Day by Day*, perhaps many feeling as if just yesterday they had sung it all together as students.

The evening was spread out among different rooms and locations where our honor classes gathered while the school opened the gymnasium for those interested in playing a friendly game or two of basketball. The next chilly morning, the school hosted a 5K on campus to raise funds for the Lake Union of SDA's Micronesian adopted island, Kosrae. The weather was beautiful all weekend, adding to the warmth felt in many visiting hearts.

After the 5K wrapped up, those interested and available joined together in the cafeteria for an Alumni Business Meeting brunch. The Alumni Association includes anyone who has graduated from Wisconsin Academy as well as any of those who are or have been faculty and staff, whether they have been active in the school's community or not. At our business meeting, it was discussed how important it is to reorganize the Alumni Association officers and to get back to the practices that have slipped away.

Alumni Association Business

The purposes of the Alumni Association are to support Wisconsin Academy, promote the mission of the school, secure unity among the alumni, as well as to help the school raise funds for scholarships, various special projects, and general school spirit and loyalty. The Alumni Association takes charge of planning reunion weekends to help encourage other alumni to participate.

Because of time constraints before our next gathering on April 15-17, 2022, we do not have intentions of having association offices designated and planning for the next alumni weekend. However, we would like to have officers chosen by this coming April Homecoming Weekend so that they can have an entire year to plan for the next Homecoming Weekend in April 2023. There are typically 6 people on the board/planning committee: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and three other board members. The committee also invites the current Principal of Wisconsin Academy as well as the current Treasurer and Development Coordinator.

We request that you consider yourself or consider someone else you think would be interested in one of these roles. We will be placing the Alumni Association Constitution on the 'Alumni' portion of the school's website on the link for 'Wisconsin Academy Alumni Association' along with different position descriptions to help you become aware of what the responsibilities would be. We ask you to complete the nomination ballot found on our website. We will be accepting nominations through January 31. Beginning February 7, we will open a vote on our website to vote for officers so that we have time to announce who our new association officers will be in April 2022. As discussed at our alumni brunch, we also ask you to consider donating toward our Alumni Weekend fund as often the financial burden falls upon the school as it welcomes and hosts the alumni reunions.

Current Wisconsin Academy News

Wisconsin Academy has survived the numerous hurdles thrown at it over the past few years. We currently have 73 students registered, our freshman class being the largest at 23 students and our senior class tied with the sophomore class having 16 in the class. We have been able to purchase a new-to-us limousine bus that made it Virginia and back with the Class of 2021 on their mission trip to Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Virginia, where they helped with cleanup of the camp. We were also able to procure a 12-passenger van and a truck that we can use for plowing – a necessary tool in windy and snowy Columbus! Construction is completed on a lean-to garage for the limousine bus to protect it from the many weather elements of Wisconsin. There have been many technological upgrades around our campus as well as we procured many new computers, new security cameras for both dormitories, and security entrances that require a key fob for entry to our buildings.

We would be remiss if we forgot to thank our faithful donors who have helped support our students and school. No words can properly express the gratitude we feel for the gifts our extended family shares with us! No amount goes unnoticed or without gratitude; we are still here thanks to our supporters, and we are truly thankful.

Above all else, we thank God for continuing to bless our school.

Until we can meet again,



G. Rosalie Rasmussen
Principal
rosalie.rasmussen@wisacad.org
(920) 626-4013



Johanna (Stotz) Serna '09
Assist. to the Business Manager/Development
johanna.serna@wisacad.org
(920) 626-4022