

## BACK FOR SECONDS

*Grant Graves, Class of 2001, GCA English Teacher*

**W**hat makes people come back for seconds? At potluck it's the dessert table. At home it's grandma's chocolate chip cookies. But at GCA it is something much richer than dinner roast or dessert. Established in 1965, Georgia-Cumberland Academy offered quality Seventh-day Adventist education. The goal was to provide a place where Adventist youth can not only learn academically but grow spiritually. Many of the young teenagers who came to the campus are now doctors, lawyers, mothers, and fathers. And now those successful graduates are coming back for seconds, not for themselves but for their



*Marc, Melanie (Wurl), and Nathan Dibiase proudly display their GCA class years.*

children. The second generation first arrived with Mark Stover, '89, son of Philip Stover, '66, and they have been coming ever since.

Now students point up at the faded pictures of senior classes from the 60s and 70s and say, "That's my dad," or, "Look at my mom's hair!" Styles change, but families are still choosing GCA as a quality school. Matthew and Michael Aitken will graduate this May, and in 1974 their mom, Kathy Oakley, walked the same halls. Kevin Block daydreams in my junior English class about wakeboarding. What did his mom, Lynette Leech, dream about in her U.S. Literature Class back



*Judy McGhee Fehlenberg, '77, enjoys watching her daughter Brooke, '12, play varsity basketball for GCA.*

in 1976? Jasmine Arellano, one of our peppy freshmen, is another second generation GCA student. Her dad, Chuck Arellano from the class of 1976, has already sent two of his children, Jacob '08 and Jordan '09, through school and plans on making sure that all four of his children graduate from GCA. Heather Leech, a sophomore, and Ashley Coffee, a senior, both have parents

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*Dalton Day, Class of 2012, son of Kim Day, '82, is following in his father's GCA footsteps.*



*Kathy Oakley Aitken, '74, and husband Bob will watch their twins Matthew and Michael graduate from GCA this coming May.*

who graduated from GCA in the early 80s. Lonnie Leech graduated in '81, and Ashley's mom, Diane Bottomley Coffey, graduated just a year later in '82. Charles Land, who graduated in 1969, will watch his daughter Chelsea graduate this spring. Jeff King, '76, father of J.J., class of '11 and Erica, class of '12, is "back for seconds," as well. The list could go on, for there are at least seventeen students attending GCA whose parents slept in the same dorms, ate in the same cafeteria, and made memories on the same campus.

For my family GCA is a Graves tradition with two generations and six graduates. Sometimes before class I point out my dad's senior picture in the hallway and say, "There he is. George Graves. '76. He looked just like John Denver." My students raise their eyebrows and say, "Who?"

"I remember silly times in the dorm with my girl friends," Melanie Wurl DiBiase of '79, our Biology teacher and the mother of two sons attending GCA, said. "I remember talking often about how things were going to be so much better when we got to college and away from GCA, but crying my eyes out the day of graduation because I realized that things would never be the same again as classmates went their different ways." Caryn Carman Payne, class of 1969, has two daughters in the current sophomore class. Her favorite memories from GCA were the fire department and being a part of the cookie brigade. Judy McGhee Fehlenberg, class of 1977, cherishes the friendships she

started at GCA. She hopes her daughter will take advantage of the same opportunities while at GCA. "These friendships have lasted a lifetime. In fact, I recently spent the day with a group of these friends. The brother of one of my classmates had died, and we came together to support and comfort her. We spent time remembering the good times at GCA! We always laugh and say that we are closer than family. These are my friends I can count on in rough times!"

What is it about GCA that makes people come back for seconds? For different people it is different things. I came because my family believed in Adventist education. Others send their children here because of the spiritual atmosphere. One aspect that stands out in the hearts and minds of our alumni is the people: teachers who made a difference, friends who were there in the good times and bad. Ultimately, it's the people that make GCA a great place to be. The purpose of GCA is to know, to love, and to serve. It's to become more like Jesus. When this happens, it is a little bit of heaven on earth, and who wouldn't want a second slice of that?



*Kevin Block, son of Lynette Leech Block, '77, is a junior at GCA.*



*Renee Bottomley Coffey, '82, has come back to GCA for "seconds" with daughter, Ashley.*

# PRAYERS FOR NIKI

By Nicole Moore Knowlton, Class of 2000

*I've been here for five weeks?! It was like waking up in the middle of a nightmare and finding out it was real! Last I remembered, it was Labor Day and my husband, Tim, had taken me to the emergency room for the second time in a week. I was 25 ½ weeks pregnant with our first child and had been sick for more than a week. Now the chest pain and my cough were worse and my fever was 102. The X-ray showed pneumonia in both lungs now, so they decided to admit me.*

I don't recall my first three days in the intensive care unit, although awake. I was intubated on September 10, my 28<sup>th</sup> birthday, three days after being admitted. Though the tests came back negative, it is still believed that my pneumonia was caused by the H1N1 virus (swine flu). I was subsequently diagnosed with ARDS (Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome) and it soon became clear that my illness was not going away any time soon.

My family began a journal to write down their feelings and thoughts so I could read them later. They asked my countless visitors to write in it as well. My aunt, Melodie Reid, started a Facebook group called *Prayers for Niki* that grew to more than three and a half *thousand* members representing every continent in the world!

I'm told my hospital stay was a roller coaster ride of ups and downs. There were frightening days like when they switched me from the ventilator to the oscillator, a machine that sounded like a jack-hammer and made my lungs expand three to six hundred of times a minute. One day, I had a fever of 104 and they had to "put me on ice" (a cooling mattress). Another time, I developed a blood clot from the IV site in my arm and had to receive blood thinners. Soon after, I had a pneumothorax (a collapsed lung) which would normally necessitate putting in a chest tube. However, with the blood thinners I was receiving, the risks of a chest tube were too high. Praise God, within the next two days, it healed itself! At one point, after being administered so much fluid and, being

malnourished from weeks of being unable to eat, my body retained enough water that it actually began to seep through my skin! I became so swollen, that my Aunt Melodie lovingly called me the Michelin Man!

I was anointed three times during my ICU stay and there were many times urgent requests were made for prayers on my behalf. There were discussions of "priorities" if the time came to choose between my life and my son's. One of the worst days was when they moved me back from the oscillator, the best ventilator, to the regular ventilator (which I had previously failed on) because my lungs were failing again. The doctors did not hold out much hope and my siblings were called to come and be by my side. Neonatal intensive care equipment was brought down to the ICU in preparation for the possibility

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*Reid Alexander Knowlton, born nearly 3 months premature, is Niki and Tim's miracle baby.*

### PRAYERS FOR NIKI *Continued from page 3*

of an emergency delivery and the room was filled with medical personnel when the switch was made. My mom sent out a massive text message that simply said – “Pray now... pray hard”. I switched over to the other machine and God performed another miracle.

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, I had been visibly agitated all evening. My mother noticed my discomfort came in cycles and felt my abdomen suspecting contractions. It felt soft, so she disregarded it. My Aunt Melodie had flown in from Canada to be with the family and me, but when I was not improving she decided to extend her stay. That evening, Aunt Melodie had gone out to eat and was going to go shopping afterwards, but got an extremely strong feeling that she should come back to the hospital. When she arrived, the nurses were still trying to get me comfortable. They finally turned me and found my hospital gown wet. Upon further inspection, they found not only had I been in labor, but our son was already making his appearance! As wonderful as the ICU nurses are, they were stunned and unprepared. “We’ve never had a baby born in the ICU!” My aunt, a labor and delivery nurse, took a good look around, grabbed some gloves and proceeded to go to work. At first, the baby was limp and blue and my aunt said she was sure she had delivered her “niece’s dead baby.” But his little chest moved and she excitedly began rubbing and suctioning him and his color began to improve.

Reid Alexander Knowlton, born at 10:20 PM on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 28 weeks gestation, was 2 lbs. 8 oz., 14 inches long. Although, his lungs were still underdeveloped and he needed to be put on a ventilator, overall, he was healthy and perfect. The doctors had been contemplating doing a perilous emergency C-section on me. They thought delivering him would help me get better, but God made that decision unnecessary as he gave me a spontaneous delivery which was much less risky to me than a C-section. Everything needed for the delivery was there: the right equipment, the right woman and God’s power! God had performed a miracle.

Now that Reid was born, the doctors could treat my sickness more aggressively and I quickly

began to improve. On October 6, they performed a tracheotomy (a hole made in the neck), because I had outlived the healthy time limit for the endotracheal tube. It was then that I began to regain consciousness as they weaned me off sedatives.

It wasn’t like they show in the movies, slowly blinking things into focus while loved ones peer over you wide-eyed and ecstatic that you have come back to them. Reality came together slowly as the numerous medications wore off and I became more aware of my surroundings. I began Physical and Occupational Therapy and was very surprised at how hard everything had become! Writing, texting, swallowing, holding utensils, brushing my hair, and just putting on socks had become *very* difficult! The hardest thing was relearning how to walk.

Reid was doing well, despite an initial cerebral bleed and underdeveloped lungs. Both conditions improved in time with no needed surgery. He had also developed a pneumothorax and had a chest tube put in. I hadn’t seen him yet and was aching to do so. On Monday, October 12, via wheelchair and escorted by a nurse, a respiratory therapist, an oxygen tank, my IV pole, my parents and my husband, I was *finally* able to see my beautiful baby boy! It was very hard to conceptualize he was mine since I had no recollection of his birth, but I was in so much awe at what God had created through me. He was so tiny and perfect. For the first time, I had a small inkling of the love God has for us.

The next day, I was moved from the ICU to a



*Tim and Niki Knowlton are amazed at the way God miraculously saved both Niki’s and baby Reid’s lives.*

beautiful, brand new room and I got a real *shower!* Hallelujah! I had my own bathroom and a *huge* window through which I watched the sunrise the next morning while drowning in tears. I had certainly learned to appreciate the little things, including my son, whom I was absolutely elated to finally hold on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Finally, after more than 7 weeks in the hospital, on the evening of Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, I slept in my own bed.

At home, I spent many weeks doing physical therapy, visiting Reid in the NICU every chance I got and experienced the humility and frustration of relying on others for most everything I needed. Reid finally came home on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5 lb. 5 oz. He will always be my best Christmas present ever!

I cannot begin to convey how much I've learned

from this experience. Reading through the many cards, journal entries and Facebook posts was one of the most amazing and humbling experiences of my life. I've learned that when you are at your weakest point, God becomes your strength. I've also realized the treasure that is our church family. Words cannot describe how much their support has meant to me. God extends His love through those around us and I used to take that for granted.

I still have some pain in my feet and ankles, I still can't sing like I want to, I still get tired too fast and lose patience with myself, but I know God is with me. He has taken me this far and I trust Him to carry me through whatever else Satan throws my way.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Facebook, My Space, texting, e-mail, snail-mail, pony express . . . what was the mode of communication when you attended GCA? The Class of 1975 remembers the pony express, the ever-looked-for communication between the boy's and girl's dormitories.

Communication keeps friends close. It helps you to be a cheerleader when things are going great, and an encourager when life gets tough. And, if you have not already experienced the celebrations and heartbreaks . . . you will. So, nurture your friendships, and they will always be there for you.

We are so fortunate to have instant communication. I'm not a Facebooker myself. However, I hear that it is the best way to locate classmates and long lost friends. And then, apparently, you can keep up with their every move after that—perhaps this is why I hesitate to sign up for this communication marvel. We have gotten so comfortable with the electronic communication, that in-person communication is almost a thing of the past.

I'm hoping that our class, along with other alumni, will feel the need to return to GCA this April to experience the in-person

handshakes and hugs from friends that we've not seen for years. We have history with classmates that current colleagues admire. Let's take advantage of this opportunity that GCA has created for us to reunite again. If you have never returned, you have been missed! For those of us who do return, especially on the honor years, we've noticed that you have not been there. We are not complete! We've all had a different journey since leaving GCA, but we all have experienced some of the same history. Plan to come back to make more history with your classmates.



*Cindi Whitehead Young, Class of 1975,  
Alumni President*

Each of us can be a part of helping to pass this bond of friendship and history on to the current GCA students. In 2010, instead of going to your favorite fast food restaurant, would you drive past it a couple of times and send that money to GCA for their worthy student fund instead? Wow, if we all did this, it would impact students wanting the same opportunity that we had. GCA has Christian education at a quality level. We can be proud of our alma mater! I'd like to challenge the GCA alumni to have 100% participation in giving to GCA in 2010.

See you at Alumni Weekend, April 2-4.

# MY FIRST GCA ALUMNI EVENT

By Cassia Gallimore, Class of 2009

I am fortunate enough to be able to look back on my high school years at Georgia-Cumberland Academy with positive memories of fun times and friends made. Though I thought those moments would come to a screeching halt on graduation day, GCA's staff proved me wrong with a great alumni pizza party held recently at Southern Adventist University! I was thrilled when I noticed the party was coming to us, making it an effortless task to show up and have a good time despite crowded schedules. On November 5, 2009, the point in the semester when college students need a pick-me-up, several GCA staff arrived on campus with pizza and pictures for a perfect party.

As one of GCA's most recently graduated alumni, I had never attended an alumni event. I honestly had no idea what exactly went on at those gatherings. A few of my GCA classmates asked me if I planned to go, and I assured them I did. After a few months away from the staff and friends who had become a huge part of my heart during high school, it would be refreshing to see and spend time with those people. I was the first to arrive, eager to see friends and cram as much into the hour of social time as possible. As over 60 SAU students and local GCA alumni poured into the room, I realized, and heard many others voice the same realization, that I was extremely blessed to be a part of the GCA family. The night's menu was pizza, salad, Little Debbies, and drinks. We ate, visited, and hugged in the conference room, which, from start to finish, swarmed with stories and laughter. The atmosphere was so contagious that even non-alumni stopped by with curiosity.

It was sad to have to leave the party and get back to the stresses of a tightly-scheduled life. Sometimes you truly "don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." Georgia-Cumberland Academy gave so much while I was at school. I not only received a wonderful education, but I also received a family that will last forever. I look forward to the next alumni event from the school that keeps giving...even after graduation.



*:Girl's dean, Janet Naus, got some love from her girls.*

*Aimee Burchard and Jenessa King, both '07, enjoyed visiting with staff member Laura Short and baby Anna.*



*...and a good time was had by all!*



*Having fun with the principal? Hardly seems possible!*

*Woody Davis, asst. boy's dean, enjoyed a lighthearted moment with some of the guys.*



*Cassia, '09, Hannah, '07, and Rochelle, '09 enjoyed the time to re-connect with friends.*

# CENTRAL FLORIDA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS GATHER

Alumni, former staff and friends of Georgia-Cumberland Academy gathered for lunch and a chance to reconnect on Saturday, January 23. A group of just over 25 met at the Florida Hospital College SDA Church for a luncheon following the church service, where Andy McDonald, '73, preached that day.

Among the group was one of our youngest alumni, Melessia Adams, Class of 2009 and also a member of GCA's very first graduating class, Jan Spivey Campbell, Class of 1966. Alumni and friends enjoyed good food, a slide show of GCA campus shots and activities, an update from principal, Greg Gerard, and also participated in a GCA history trivia quiz.

We would like to thank everyone who came out to this event! We especially want to say "thank you" to Alison Wurl Prusia, Class of 1980, for her help with food preparation.



*Ruth Thompson, '99, with daughter Lorelai and fiancé Sean Hendrix, attended the Florida event.*



*Jan Spivey Campbell, '66, and Nancy Gerard, alumni director, enjoyed looking at old GCA photos.*



*Kim Davis, '88, Melessia Adams, '09, and David Bartholomew, '94, enjoyed looking at yearbooks.*



*L. to R.: Jan Spivey Campbell, Alison Wurl Prusia, Ellen Cunningham Bergherm, Bruce Bergherm, David Bartholomew, Melessia Adams, Kim David, Stuart Crook, Ruth Thomas, Deanna Thomas, Alan Ashcraft, Paula Thompson, Greg and Nancy Gerard.*



*Greg Gerard, principal, gave a report on news from GCA.*



*A nice turnout of Florida alumni and friends enjoyed lunch together.*

# Alumni Weekend

## “Journeys”

### April 2-4, 2010



Come golf with friends in the GCA Golf Tournament.

## Friday, April 2

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament -**  
11 a.m. at Field's Ferry Golf Club. Call Nancy Gerard at 706-625-7166 or email to nagerard@gcasda.org for more information.

**Vespers -**  
7:30 p.m. in the GCA Church. Danny Harris, Class of 1975, will be speaking along with music provided by alumni and GCA students.



Danny Harris, Class of 1975, will speak for Vespers.

## Saturday, April 3

**Continental Breakfast -**  
Served from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. Come visit with friends and begin the day with a delicious breakfast.

**Church service -**  
10:45 a.m. in the GCA Church. Dr. Roger Bothwell, former GCA chaplain, will be the speaker. Come be inspired by the beautiful music and spoken word.

**Honor Class Photos -**  
In the GCA Church immediately following the church service.

**Lunch -**  
Everyone will be served in the GCA gymnasium following the church service and honor class photos.

**Honor Class Reunions -**  
2:00 p.m., will be held in various locations on the GCA campus.

**Afternoon activities -**  
For non-honor class guests, 3:00 p.m. Join a hike around the GCA property, view an inspirational video, or tour the campus.

**Alumni Sports Night -**  
8:30 p.m. Softball and basketball games between GCA varsity teams and alumni teams.



Roger Bothwell, former GCA Chaplain, will speak for the Alumni Weekend church service.

## Sunday, April 4

**Ride for GCA Motorcycle Event -**  
10:00 a.m. registration begins at 9:30 at the GCA Church. The ride will leave from the church parking lot at 10 a.m. and will take riders through the beautiful mountains of Northwest Georgia, returning around 1 p.m. Call Nancy Gerard at 706-625-7166 or email to nagerard@gcasda.org for more information

### HONOR CLASS REUNION ORGANIZERS

Class of 1970	Robert Ambler	270-627-3328	ambler42041@yahoo.com
Class of 1975	Kathy McGhee Schleier	706-278-4442	schleier@optilink.us
Class of 1980	Connie Cobie Starkey	706-629-3649	conniecoblestarkey@gmail.com
Class of 1985	Monique Smith	912-376-3155	smithmoniquea@msn.com
Class of 1990	Raylene Denton Miles	828-719-5943	rayraysmiles@gmail.com
Class of 1995	Joy Mashak Reeves	706-625-1555	joymreeves@comcast.net
Class of 2000	Joel Willis	678-989-4273	joelwillis@att.net
Class of 2005	Sherri Edgmon Bakland	770-547-4043	sherrie@southern.edu



Join us for the Ride for GCA motorcycle event on Sunday, April 4.

Journeys: Where have you been? Where are you going?



# CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR ALUMNI AWARD

The alumni office at GCA is seeking nominations for the **Alumnus of the Year** award. Each year up to three alumni or attendees are honored at Alumni Weekend. Outstanding individuals may be nominated following the criteria listed below. The deadline for nominating candidates for this year is **March 8, 2010**.

A candidate for **Alumnus of the Year** may be nominated by any graduate, current faculty member, or former faculty member of Georgia Cumberland Academy. Candidates for this award may include any graduate or attendee of GCA.

**The criteria for this award** are that the individual's life exemplifies the GCA motto—"To Know, To Love, To Serve." As adapted for this purpose;

**To Know:** The individual has achieved outstanding success in his or her profession.

**To Love:** The individual has shown exemplary acts of sacrifice or philanthropy.

**To Serve:** The individual has given outstanding service to society and/or the church.



*Chris Robinson, Class of 1979, was honored as Alumnus of the Year for his work with troubled teens.*

To be considered for this award, a candidate must meet the criteria in at least one of the three areas.

In the evaluation process of a candidate, a broad interpretation of the motto will be considered. Evidence of successful personal application of the motto in one's relationship to God is impossible to truly ascertain. However, evidences of outstanding contributions to one's environment, family, church, community, or workplace can be more readily assessed and will be considered. In keeping with Christ's story of the widow and the mite, it will be remembered that at times one who lives a quiet, steadfast, life may be the most worthy recipient of this award.

Nominations will be received until **March 8**. Selection of Alumni of the Year will be determined by the Alumni Advisory Council, and the Director of Alumni and Development. To nominate an individual, contact Nancy Gerard (706) 625-7166, [nagerard@gcasda.org](mailto:nagerard@gcasda.org) or Cindi Young (423) 314-1404, [cindiyoung@southern.edu](mailto:cindiyoung@southern.edu).



*Joel Henderson, Class of 1989, was honored as Alumnus of the Year for his efforts to provide health services for the poor in Central Florida.*

# ALUMNI UPDATES

**Stewart Crook, Former Staff**, is retired and living in Central Florida with his wife. The Crooks are looking forward to becoming great-grandparents in March.

**Jan Spivey Campbell, Class of 1966**, recently retired and is looking forward to her husband's retirement in February when they can do more traveling. Last summer they enjoyed a trip to Hawaii in celebration of their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Alan Ashcraft, Class of 1973**, has been married to wife, Donna, for 30 years, has lived in Florida for the past 20 years where he has been working for Meadowbrook Golf since 2000.

**Adam Hoke, Class of 1980 (attended)**, passed away in S. Carolina January 14, 2010. A memorial service was held for him on January 23 in Marietta, GA. Adam was a self-employed painter and is survived by his wife Pamela, two grown sons, his parents, two sisters (Ronni Hoke Owens, '70 and Elva Hoke Bowman, '77), and his brother.

**Kim Davis, Class of 1988**, truly has a new lease on life! In July, 2009, just a few weeks shy of finishing nursing school, Kim became critically ill. The doctors told her family she would die, but after several surgeries, many weeks in the hospital, and the prayers of her friends and family, God healed her. Kim is now praising God for every breath He gives her!

**Sherry McNeil Boettcher, Class of 1990**, is a working portrait artist who paints mostly on commission. Sherry currently has a show at the McKee Library on the campus of Southern Adventist University. The collection of paintings will be on display through the month of May. Sherry's work can be viewed at her website: [www.sherrybgallery.com](http://www.sherrybgallery.com).

**Tangellia Cooper Moore, Class of 1990**, works as Project Manager for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. at the Home Office Campus in Bentonville, AR. Tangellia recently completed her MBA and enjoys wedding planning as a hobby and sideline work. She has 3 grown step-children, one grandchild, and a miniature schnauzer. Her husband is the founder of the Arkansas Gospel Choir, which released their first recording a year ago and have a second recording in the works.

**Amy Davis Terry, Class of 1990**, is enjoying her new career as a baker and cake decorator. Her wedding cakes and other special occasion cakes are in demand and her sensational creations can be viewed at her website, [www.cakecreationsbyamy.net](http://www.cakecreationsbyamy.net).

**David Bartholomew, Class of 1994**, is living in Avon Park, FL where he is working as a pharmacist.

**Holly Witt Payne, Class of 1996**, graduated from the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist program at Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia and passed her qualifying boards this past December. Holly is married to **Nick Payne, Class of 2000 (att.)** and living in the Nashville area, where they are both working.

**Quanny Carter Ard, Class of 1998**, and husband, Donny, welcomed baby Quentin James Ard to their family on December 24, 2009. Quentin was born prematurely, weighing in at 4 lbs. 8 oz. but is healthy and strong. Quanny and Donny are juggling parenting with Ph.D. studies in Health Psychology and Public Health.

**Chris Latham, Class of 1998 and Emily Richardson Latham, Class of 2001**, welcomed baby Makenzie to their family on December 21, 2009. Makenzie weighed 7 lbs at birth and measured 19.5 inches long.

**Brooke Naus Tatum, Class of 1998**, and husband Jeremy welcomed baby Colson William Tatum to their family on October 2, 2009. At birth, Colson weighed in at 7 lbs. 5 oz.

**Ruth Thomas, Class of 1999**, is working as an occupational therapist at the Academy for Autism and supervising and training OTA students from Florida Hospital College and Keiser University. Ruth's big news is that she is engaged to be married to Sean Hendrix later this year. Her daughter Lorelai will turn 6 in February.

**Paul Hoover, Class of 2000**, and wife Andrea gave birth to second child Autumn Cherie on December 1, 2009. The unusual aspect of the birth was that Autumn was born in the car while Paul was running into the hospital get a stretcher for Andrea. When he turned around, he was surprised to see Andrea holding the baby in her arms. In addition to the new baby, Paul has accepted a new job as Associate Vice President and Administrator of Florida Hospital Oceanside.

**Nicole Moore Knowlton, Class of 2000**, became ill with pneumonia and was admitted to the ICU on September 3, while 25 ½ weeks pregnant. She was in a drug-induced coma for 5 weeks while battling what was believed to be Swine Flu. She developed ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome) and, miraculously, while in this comatose state, gave birth to her baby. Read Niki's story on page 3 of this publication.

**Camesha Tate, Class of 2001**, graduated from Columbus State University with a Master of Public Administration in Health Services on December 8, 2009. The interesting twist on Camesha's story is that her mother, Cynthia Wright, went through the same program and graduated at the same time. The mother-daughter duo sailed through the program as study partners and both earned 4.0 GPAs. You can read their story at the Columbus State University website: [www.colstate.edu/news/viewnews.asp?ItemNum=1248](http://www.colstate.edu/news/viewnews.asp?ItemNum=1248).

**Kristi Cook West, Class of 2002**, has recently relocated to Loma Linda, CA with her husband, Kenny. Kristi is working in the admissions office in the School of Pharmacy.

**Jessica Johnston Harrington, Class of 2003**, was married to Wes Harrington on May 17, 2009 in a ceremony on Lookout Mountain. Jessica is teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Woodmore Elementary School in Chattanooga, TN.

**Nate Dubs, Class of 2004**, was recently awarded sponsorship as a pastor in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Nate will finish his undergraduate work

at Southern Adventist University in May. Following graduation, Nate will serve as Associate Director at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp this summer then, in August, head to the Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, MI to begin his graduate training.

**Shereen Davis Brown, Class of 2005**, was married to Wayne Brown in Chattanooga, TN on November 1, 2009. The couple is living in Ringgold, GA and working in the Chattanooga area where Shereen is a respiratory therapist and Wayne is a building contractor.

**Kimberly Camp Campbell, Class of 2006**, was married to Matthew Campbell on December 20, 2009 in the GCA Church. Matthew and Kim are currently living in Macon where Matthew is in medical school and Kim is completing a nursing degree.

*We'd love to hear from you!  
Please send your news and information to:  
Nancy Gerard at [nagerard@gcasda.org](mailto:nagerard@gcasda.org) or  
GCA, 397 Academy Drive SW,  
Calhoun, GA 30701*

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## WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION!

An important indicator of a school of excellence is involvement by alumni in giving to their alma mater. Many SDA academies have an alumni giving participation rate of about 10-15%. (This is defined as the number of alumni who donate out of the total number of alumni for whom the school has accurate mailing addresses.)

Georgia-Cumberland Academy is loved and appreciated by her alumni - of that we are certain! You attend alumni weekends and other alumni events. You give us good feedback on how you perceive things to be going here at GCA. You send your children to us as students. But unfortunately, you don't always think to say "thanks" through a donation.

Last year our alumni giving participation rate was about 7%. That means that out of the approximately 1800 alumni for whom we have good addresses, only 127 made a donation to GCA.

While we understand that the current economy is taking a toll on our alumni, we also know that this 7% giving rate could be greatly improved. Cindi Whitehead Young, our alumni president, makes the point in her article on page 5 that if each alumnus passed up fast food a couple of times per year, everyone could give something. Good point, Cindi!

It would be great to have 100% giving rate, but we know that probably isn't realistic. But would a 25% participation rate be achievable? Could 1 out of every 4 of our alumni make a gift of some size each year?

Your giving keeps GCA strong, not only in the dollars raised, but in the sense of involvement and support that is generated through your gifts.

We hope you will consider a gift to GCA during this current fiscal year. Why don't you take a minute to find that handy little envelope, tucked between the pages of this publication and make your gift now. Help keep GCA strong!

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courtesy of respective families.

## Need Inspiration?

Check out the GCA Church  
website:

[www.gcachurch.org](http://www.gcachurch.org)  
Listen to sermons and  
access lots of great information!

## Georgia-Cumberland Academy

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 12 & 13: Academy Days.** All interested 8th – 11th graders and their parents are welcome to come enjoy a weekend of programming and information planned to help you check out Georgia-Cumberland Academy. Visit the GCA website for more information or call Dawn LeMaitre at 706.629.4591, ext. 4027 or 706.618.4969.

**April 2-4: Alumni Weekend.** Join us for golf, worship services, connecting with friends, sports and a motorcycle ride. Honor Classes are 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2005. See page 8 for more details.

**May 21 & 22: GCA's Graduation Weekend.**

**May 29: GCA Alumni Supper.** Join us for the annual Campmeeting alumni and friends event in Collegedale, TN. More details to come.

**August 9: GCA's 2010-2011 School Year begins.**