



Parents Association

Great Year on the Horizon

If the Parents Association activity this summer (normally the 'slow' time) is any indication of the 2012-2013 year, WOW!!! We are in for a great year of volunteerism, involvement, and support.

Yesterday evening, I participated on the first ever PA Facebook live "Chat Session." It went great. Sandra Gilmore, our Outreach Coordinator and last year's President, came up with using this innovative communication idea. The first one was entitled "Tips for Successful Academic and Residential Life." We had great dialogue. A few students

were on the chat and were very helpful. Please check Facebook for several chat sessions that have been set for the year.

Only a few more weeks and the students move into the new Student Center! We plan to sell Logo Items and provide refreshments that day – something to help beat the heat.

It is such an exciting time to be involved with the Parents Association. I have been so impressed with the new Junior parents who have gotten involved and offered to volunteer this coming year. I want to also thank the Senior parents



2012-13 President
Martha Carlson

who will help show them the way. And finally, some alumni parents who want to stay on and help – we need their presence and their wisdom.

Have a wonderful rest of the summer, and see you all soon!

Martha

Special Interest Articles:

- New Director (pg 2)
- PA Honors Richard & Sherry George (pg 4)
- PA On the Road (pg 6)

Inside This Edition:

Fun Facts about	
Dir. Alderdice	2
Tips and Advice	3
What's Next?	5
Meet the Leadership	
Team Members	6

There's Room for You!

Have you wondered how you can get involved as a parent with ASMSA while juggling all the other obligations, responsibilities and deadlines you have?

Your dilemma is solved! The ASMSA Parents Association leadership assumes that you are balancing your desire to stay involved with your student's campus life with the other demands on your time, as well as the distance and the cost associated with traveling

to campus. That's where the Parents Association Annual Plan comes in. Because the Annual Plan lays out opportunities for the full school year at a glance, you can give your involvement the careful consideration it deserves. There are opportunities to serve directly on campus, to send something to campus or to become involved "virtually" with projects that can be emailed easily. If you do not wish to participate on-line, there are several opportunities to contribute

via telephone or posted mail.

It's a proven fact that your students' chances for success increase when you are involved in campus life. We strive to give you those opportunities.

Won't you join us?

Contact Martha Carlson at picksomedaisies@yahoo.com or visit with her on Move-In Day. Don't let the opportunity pass you by. There's room for **you!**



"It is a great honor to become a part of the community of learning at ASMSA. Schools such as ours have the unique opportunity to engage talented young people, to experiment with methods of classroom innovation, and challenge students to rethink what school can be," said Alderdice. "I am proud to be a part of the rich heritage of this school and look forward to working with the students, faculty, and staff at ASMSA in this exciting new chapter."

New Director Comes to Campus: Corey Alderdice

This summer ushers in not only a new junior class, Class of 2014, but a new Student Center and a new Director as well. At the beginning of July, he came to the campus of ASMSA full time.

Director Alderdice was identified through a national search conducted by University of Arkansas President Bobbitt and an advisory committee of faculty, staff, parents, and other supporters of ASMSA.

"Corey Alderdice's experience and leadership skills stood out among a strong group of applicants," Bobbitt said. "His background in secondary mathematics and science education and administration of a residential high school is the right fit for ASMSA. I believe he can continue to build on the quality educational experience already provided by the school."

Alderdice is currently

completing his doctoral degree in postsecondary education leadership through Western Kentucky University. He holds a master's in English and a bachelor of arts in English and religious studies, both from Western Kentucky University.

The search committee welcomed parents in the search process through a question and answer forum with then, candidate Alderdice.

Fun Facts about Director Alderdice

He is a self-proclaimed "nerd enthusiast."

He has been the owner of SpeechGeek since 2003.

Prior to ASMSA, he served as the assistant director for admissions and public relations at the Gatton Academy of

Mathematics and Science in Bowling Green, Ky.

Gatton Academy was named "America's Best High School" by *Newsweek* for 2012.

He and wife Stephanie have a two-year-old son named Elliott.



New Class, New Building: Residential Life Center Dedicated



The new Student Center was dedicated on May 24, 2012.

The new boys' residence hall is named in honor of Steve Faris who has been a friend to ASMSA for quite some time. Faris describes ASMSA as a "unique facility filled

with unique people" where students leave the school "uniquely better."

Here are some "unique" facts about the new Student Center:

- * 80,000 square feet
- * \$18 million to build

* Arkansas Governor, Mike Beebe, was on site for the dedication.

* The architects designed the tower as a beacon of education with the roof of the tower representing an open book.

Tips from Alumni: *The Folks Who Have Been There, Done That, & Got the Tassel*

- "Pump up the music. Tune down the drama." Don't take life too seriously and study hard.
Anna Huynh
- ALWAYS go out during "playtime" at 9. Even if you have more homework to do, it gives you a break and keeps you sane. Also, bring a fan. With the new building, I am sure the a/c is going to be working out a few bugs the first year. Get close with your floor mates. It serves almost like sororities/fraternities, and my floor mates will be some of my best true friends, for always.
Samm Davidson, Class of 2012
- "If you have a free minute, you're doing it wrong. Go to all the events. Get to know everyone who works there, because you don't know their connections yet.

Spend every waking moment working on some aspect of life, because you only get to live it once. Try new things, with new people. Don't judge anyone, because chances are, they've been through the same things you have.

Don't worry about straight A's. In fact, don't worry about anything. A wise person once said "if you can change it, there's no sense in worrying about it, and if you can't change it, there's no sense in worrying about it." Most of all, forgive yourself. If you fail a test, forgive yourself. If you're awful to someone, forgive yourself and go apologize. You will never meet people of this caliber again, and for your own happiness, you will never

You will never meet people of this caliber again, and for your own happiness, you will never want to regret how you spent your time."

**Diamond Shelman,
Class of 2008**

want to regret how you spent your time." **Diamond Shelman, Class of 2008**, HSU BS-Biology, double minors in Chemistry and Psychology.

- SLEEP! There are mattresses in the rooms for a reason. Always have something to snack on while you are doing late night study because you will get super hungry when you are up super late at night.
Brittany Page, Class of 2009
- Living in the dorms at ASMSA is a one- of- a- kind experience. The late night snacking with your friends while studying and the floor meetings are some of the activities that are different at ASMSA.

My advice to future students is to take advantage of what ASMSA and Hot Springs has to offer. ASMSA is in an amazing city so take advantage of living so close to downtown Hot Springs. Try new things at ASMSA and in Hot Springs like attending the monthly art gallery walk or going to the Valley of the Vapors. Attend every optional floor activity. Get to know your floormates and your RM. The community and dorm life is not like anything you will ever experience again. I am still friends and in touch with many of my ASMSA friends and classmates.

You will only regret the risks that you didn't take. Be creative even on the little things like snack food and remember to study hard, but play harder! Always take 2-3 hours out of your day to study (we all hated study hours, but it is a useful skill to be successful in college). Attending



Did I bring enough stuff?

ASMSA was one of the best decisions I've ever made, and I hope that current and future students truly appreciate and take advantage of what ASMSA and Hot Springs has to offer! And don't forget to take what you've learned at ASMSA and apply to your lives and college. Follow your passions!
Nicole Turnage, Class of 2008

Coming Soon in the August Newsletter:

- What Teachers Wish Parents Knew About ASMSA
- More Highlights from PA On the Road
- What are RTT & FIRM?

PA Honors the George's:

Thanks for Graduation Photos for Nearly a Decade

For nearly a decade, Richard and Sherry George have served ASMSA in a very special way. They have diligently taken graduation portraits each year and given them to the graduates and their families. Below is a special interview with them. Richard and Sherry, we salute you!



When did your sons graduate? Derek graduated in 2004 and Drew graduated in 2009.

Who was your favorite graduation speaker and why?

Of course it has to be former President Bill Clinton in 2007. He was a real pro at getting the kids to pose while he shook their hands as we took their photographs. It was a privilege to meet him; especially since he and Hillary were instrumental in establishing the school in 1993.

What are they doing now? Derek graduated in 2008 from LSU in Baton Rouge with a degree in Biochemistry. He is now beginning his 4th year of Pharmacy school at UAMS. He will graduate in May 2013 as a Doctor of Pharmacy and plans to do a Clinical Pharmacy residency. Drew had the opportunity at both his home school and ASMSA to earn more than 50 college & AP credit hours before his high school graduation, which allowed him to attend one year at UCA in Conway to complete his pre-pharmacy requirements, then follow his brother to UAMS College of Pharmacy. He has completed 2 years of Pharmacy School and will graduate with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in May 2014 at the age of 23! That accomplishment would not have been possible without the college level classes at ASMSA.

When did you start doing the pictures for graduation? We began doing the graduation photos in 2004, because Sherry was an officer in the Parents Association that year. She also served as an officer during one of the years that Drew attended ASMSA. It was a small contribution that we could make in return for the wonderful experiences our boys had at the school.

Do you have any help? Yes, we have a dear friend who helps out a great deal. He is Al Farmer. I used his camera equipment in 2004 and 2005. In 2006 we both converted to digital. I look forward to seeing friends at ASMSA each year, but working with a friend of 40 years is truly enjoyable.

Any funny stories through the years? Every year during the actual graduation practice, we have the graduates do a practice run on the graduation photos in their street clothes. We tell them to act as crazy as they want in their practice photo and actually take the picture for them to keep! It helps them shake off the nerves and makes a great memory of the day.

What do you wish parents of potential students knew about coming to ASMSA? All parents of prospective students must realize that it is their "job" to prepare their children for an independent, productive life. To do that, teenagers must be allowed to make mistakes so they can learn from them. We don't do our children any favors if we shelter them all of their lives. We must lay a good foundation when they are young and then trust that we have given them the tools to succeed and even excel. One of the biggest advantages of attending ASMSA is the opportunity and the freedom to form and express their own thoughts and opinions.



Richard George and Al Farmer snap photos of 2012 graduate, Auburn Trotter.

PA Annual Event Calendar

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH

Move-In Day: PA will host a Welcome Center for parents with refreshments. Logo items will be available for purchase and also for "pick up" for those who reserved or purchased over the summer.

2ND Quarter – Oct 11 to Christmas Break, Student Appreciation and Encouragement Quarter

Nov 10 – Fall Open House

Jan 6 – Welcome Back Event

Feb 9 – Interviews

March 2 – Spring Open House

April 6 – Interviews

TBD – Prom

May 25 – Graduation

Facebook Chat Schedule:

July 3rd, (6:30), July 10th (8:00)
Tips for successful academic/dorm life

July 9th, (8:00) July 16th (6:30)
PA Calendar: special events to support and how best to support them

July 23rd, (6:00) August 13th (7:00)
Dealing with them being away

Sept 12th, (8:15) Sept 24 (6:30)
Introducing/explaining Student Appreciation and Engagement Quarter

Oct 8th, (6:00) Oct 24th (7:15)
Study tips, prep for Dolphin Weekend & Open House (Nov 10th), college application/entry prep

Nov 5th,(7:30) Nov 8th (7:30) - -
RTT / FIRM description, preparing for Christmas break, college application /

entry prep

NONE in Dec

Jan 9th, (6:00) Jan 15th (8:30)
RTT/FIRM & Interview Prep (Feb 9) & Open House prep (March 2)

Feb 4th, (7:30) Feb 12th (6:15) Tips for Science Fair which is held on Feb 27,28,March 1

March 4th, (6:15) March 25th (8:30)
General Interview prep (April 6), Prom prep (no date posted yet)

April 8th, (6:00) April 15th (8:15)
New Jr Orientation prep (May 4)

May 6th, (6:30) May 16th (7:30)
Graduation prep (May 25)

- July 7th Hot Springs, hosted by the Sublett family



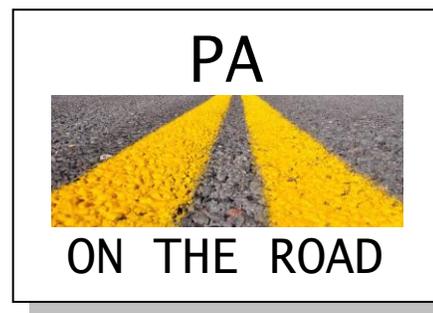
- June 30th Monticello, hosted by the Nall family



- June 21st Helena at Phillips Community College (UofA System), hosted by the Bloesch family



- June 23rd Magnolia at Southern Arkansas University, Sarah Jennings, Director of Enrollment, special guest hosted by Tom Gilmore



- June 19th - Institutional Advancement Best Practices Conference, hosted by Greg Reed & Vicki Hinz



PA on the Road: On the Radio in Helena, AR

Regional Meetings

July 29 –
JONESBORO
Jonesboro Library,
Round Room, 2-4 pm
Pam Carver

July 24 – BATESVILLE
First Community Bank
6pm Dawn Clark

July 21 – FORT SMITH
2 pm BlueCross/Blue
Shield Office, Carl and
Martha Carlson

July 18 – LONOKE The
Weaver's home 1016
Lincoln Street, Lonoke
6 pm

July 10 –
BENTONVILLE
Special Thanks to
Violet Hooks

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.asmsa.org

see the Parents
Association section listed
in orange print toward the
bottom of the page
or join our Facebook group
[www.facebook.com/groups/
ASMSAParentsAll/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ASMSAParentsAll/)



By Sandra Gilmore, PA
Outreach Coordinator

Helena, Arkansas is known for singing the Blues. It's home to some of the greats in music and home to the longest running Blues radio program in the United States. We weren't singing the blues in Helena this trip. In fact, we were excited to share with parents and students in the Southeast region.

Thursday, June 21st, we were in the area to visit with parents and students at the Phillips Community College (University of

Arkansas System). Dana Bloesch was the local meeting leader. She welcomed attendees with refreshments, centered by a crystal dolphin. She also served blue punch, a nod to our dolphin mascot!

Attendees were also served some hot tips and cool facts about ASMSA. The group included rising juniors, a rising senior and recent graduate, Shelby Gilmore. An energetic discussion flowed about Move-In Day tips, academic success pointers, schedules and calendar dates, campus routines as well as tips for parents on dealing with

Sonny Payne and ASMSA graduate, Shelby Gilmore prepare for the 16,515th King Biscuit Time Radio Show in Helena, Arkansas. Shelby presented Sonny with ASMSA mugs, shown in the foreground.

students being away for the first time.

The next day, Shelby and I were guests on the King Biscuit Time program with Sonny Payne. The radio program is broadcast from a satellite facility designed especially for the show and housed in the Delta Cultural Center. Across from the Center is the Depot Museum which features historical exhibits about the Helena area, the River and the Blues.

Look for more regional meeting highlights in our next newsletter. Regional meetings are taking place all over the state. If you'd like to host one for your area, contact Sandra Gilmore, at tandsgilmore@yahoo.com

MEET YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

2012-13 Presidents

Carl and Martha Carlson

Carl and Martha Carlson currently reside in Alma, Arkansas and are originally from Hot Springs. Martha has held leadership positions in a variety of business and community organizations. Carl is a forester with the military and a carpenter extraordinaire: he designed and built a rolling cabinet for the logo sale items! They are excited about the possibilities for this year, especially regarding the annual plan and engaging project champions. Their student is a Senior.

