

ASMSA Parents Association

As the Year Closes, PA Still At Full Pace

2012 CALENDAR

May 26st

(Saturday)
Graduation, 2 pm

August 4st

(Saturday)
Junior Move-in Day

August 6th-7th

(Monday, Tuesday)
Junior Orientation

August 8th

(Wednesday)
Senior Move-in Day

August 31st

(Friday)
Junior Student/Parent Day
Noon – 4 pm
7 pm Residence Halls close

Sept 1st – 2nd

(Saturday/Sunday)
Extended Weekend

Sept 3rd

(Monday)
Residence Halls open 2 pm

Once the dust had settled from Prom 2012, the PA was again interfacing with parents, this time with the incoming Class of 2014 at the Orientation session held Saturday, April 28th. The PA President was included on the list of speakers at the opening assembly. Martha Carlson warmly welcomed parents and students into the ASMSA family with remarks about her own experiences with ASMSA, as a parent and as a volunteer. She enthusiastically encouraged the families to uphold the mission of the school, stick with it when days were tough and enjoy the process of learning both academic skills and life skills.

During Orientation for the Class of 2014, several sets of parents facilitated sessions designated by region. These sessions were centered around slides with “voice-over” narration by Martha Carlson. Each regional group received a warm welcome from the President.

Parents were encouraged to participate as the new school year approaches. There are many opportunities for parents to become involved in campus life. There are also efforts underway

to keep parents more informed about campus life at ASMSA.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Martha Carlson at picksomedaisies@yahoo.com.



*Scenes from Orientation
Class of 2014 hosted by the
Admissions Department and the
Community Leaders.*

A Special Note of Thanks

Orientation Session Leaders:
*Danny Smith, Bill Royals,
Howard and Tracy Sublett,
Martha Carlson*

The PA Honors Richard and Sherry George



For nearly a decade now, 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!

How did you become familiar with ASMSA? We read an article about ASMS back in 1999 when our older son was around 13. It sounded like such an excellent opportunity, that we kept the information until he was in the 10th grade when he applied and was accepted. His brother followed 5 years later.

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

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 get 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. We continued doing the graduation photos and producing the student directory each year in order to stay in contact with everyone at the school, because we knew Drew would be attending the school also, and we hated to lose touch with the friends we had made among the faculty and administration. 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. We were in college together (1972-73) when he taught me to use a camera and how to use darkroom equipment. 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. A lot of the kids have thanked us later for that special photo just for them.

Which was your favorite graduation speaker and why? Of course it has to be former President Bill Clinton in 2006. He was a real pro at getting the kids to pose while he shook their hand as we took their photograph. It was a privilege to meet him; especially since he and Hillary were instrumental in establishing the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Science back in 1993.

What do you wish other folks knew about ASMSA? ASMSA is not for everyone, but for the student who wants to take advantage of the excellent instructors and strong academics and who wants to learn to be an independent thinker, it is an outstanding opportunity. If students challenge themselves with the difficult classes and succeed at ASMSA, the experience prepares them very well for the rigorous college coursework and the strong study habits required in the undergraduate environment.

The PA Honors Richard and Sherry George (Continued)

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.

Any final thoughts? The ASMSA family is truly going to miss Dr. Janet Hugo. She has been a phenomenal leader who has influenced and supported every kid who has ever attended ASMS and ASMSA over the years of her tenure. The new director has huge shoes to fill! We wish him or her the best of luck in taking ASMSA into the next phase of the school's development.



Class
of
2012

PA Recognized for Positive Impact

From the February Minutes of the Board of Visitors:

Director Hugo reported that the Parents Association has been tremendous this past year. She stated that for the first time in her eleven years at the school, the Parents Association is helping to make a difference in terms of retention.

Our Goals Met: Thanks for All the Dedicated Service This Year!

- ✓ Successful Logo sales with designated Logo Champion
- ✓ New portable cabinet for logo items
- ✓ President or Vice President attending each Board of Visitors meeting (quarterly)
- ✓ New Facebook page for communication
- ✓ Quarterly newsletters (up to 4 pages each quarter!)
- ✓ Move-in Day “Lemonade Stand” for parents
- ✓ Birthday flyers for students, faculty, staff
- ✓ Thank you flyers for faculty, staff
- ✓ Coffeehouse Door prizes donated
- ✓ Ample supplies at the Nurse’s station throughout the school year
- ✓ Full complement of volunteers to staff 2 Interview Days, the Open House and Orientation Day for Class of 2014
- ✓ Volunteers to chaperone Prom and many other functions
- ✓ Snacks for an evening in each semester’s final exam week
- ✓ More Regional meetings than ever before!
- ✓ End of Year “Appreciation” Slideshow for faculty, staff
- ✓ **Two brand-new initiatives:** Annual Student “Appreciation and Encouragement” Quarter, Annual “Welcome Back” Event for 2nd Semester

And a special “Thank You” for the many details you made happen this year: snacks, goodies, errands, supplies, cards/letters and moral support that parents gave throughout the year!





Senior Party,
 Friday, April 27, 2012
 Sponsored by the SGA,
 Hosted by Ted and Julie
 Mullinex
 Martha Carlson,
 Patty Rodenberry,
 Tracy Sublett
 Tom and Sandra Gilmore,
 Steve Faris

The students presented the Mullinex's
 with a special thank you gift.
 The original painting was created with their
 thumb prints!



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