

Shen-Val-Lore

The Student Voice of Shenandoah Valley Academy

Shenandoah Valley Academy

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Talent Show

Ajani Shaw

The Talent Show is a long-standing tradition at SVA, and this March’s event continued that legacy with an impressive variety of performances. This year featured 12 primarily musical acts, with a sprinkle of other talents — including poetry— that entertained the audience. The 2025 Talent Show was hosted by the ever-charismatic Mr. Leeper, who kept the crowd engaged with his comedic antics throughout the night.

The evening started with a powerful, crowd-pleasing performance of “Die with A Smile” by Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga, performed by Daniel Hernandez, Belmaris Mercado, and their band. The stage lit up with vibrant colors, and the band’s energy radiated through the crowd, setting an electric, feel-good tone for the night. Following this, Abigail Moore delivered the only poetry performance of the evening — a heartfelt spoken word piece she wrote herself. Known for her exceptional poetry, Abby once again impressed the audience.

Next, Grace Atama took the stage with a stunning rendition of “Blackbird” by The Beatles, showcasing both a beautiful song choice and a touching performance. Caleb Alefrez followed

with a mesmerizing piano solo, “Rush of Life,” which highlighted his incredible skill. His performance earned him second place from the judges.

Another prize-winning performance came from Nolynn Dahlberg, who sang the classic “I Will Always Love You.” She brought her unique style to the song, earning her third place. Before intermission, the night reached an exciting high point with a group performance of “KHE?” by Rauw Alejandro and Romeo Santos. The performance featured Alfred Ortega, Belmaris Mercado, Mychel Baron, Aleks Ullrich, and Guerdy Thomas on vocals, supported by Micah Molina, Michael Theodore, Steve Paz, and Alonso Sanchez on instruments. The act ended with a heartwarming surprise — Alfred jumped off the stage with flowers and a stuffed animal, surprising Daniela by asking her to banquet, leaving the audience cheering. Not only the song, but this memorable moment earned the group the Student Choice Award.

The second half of the show began with a lively performance by Shenandoah Swing, featuring Caley Smith and Daniel Hernandez on vocals, backed by a full

ensemble of piano, brass, woodwinds, and percussion. Their energetic performance of “Can’t Take My Eyes Off Of You,” complete with choreography, won first place from the judges.

Following that, Anaya Maynard performed an emotional rendition of “Good Days” by SZA, accompanied by Michael Theodore on piano — a heartfelt choice for those who appreciate a good heartbreak song. Jael Blackett then amazed the crowd with her violin performance of “The Boy Paganini,” accompanied by Mrs. Wiedemann-Jaen. Due to the spotlight, Jael couldn’t see her sheet music all that well (making that known to the crowd), yet she delivered an impressive performance that left the audience in awe.

Hannah Hunt followed with a touching performance of “What Was I Made For?” — a reflective, emotional piece about finding one’s purpose. It was a beautiful lead-in to the final two performances of the night. A group of senior guys then took the stage with a nostalgic and humorous rendition of “I Want It That Way” by the Backstreet Boys, surprising everyone when Dean Knight dramatically emerged from behind the curtains to join the group.

The night closed with “Senior Serenade,” a heartfelt tribute to Mr. Leeper. His laughter echoed through the room as he witnessed a flashback of his younger self, and by the end, he was visibly moved — a mix of laughter and nostalgia shining in his eyes. They performed “Fall For

You” by Secondhand Serenade — a nod to Mr. Leeper’s “emo era” as a teenager. The stage was decorated with pictures of a younger Leeper, and he was seated front and center to take it all in. The performance was both hilarious and touching, wrapping up the night on a high note.

Overall, the 2025 SVA Talent Show was another resounding success, showcasing a wide range of musical genres and poetry while creating unforgettable moments for the student body.



Upcoming Events

May

- 1-4 New England Tour
- 9 ROK Hayride
- 10 Spring Concerts
- 11 SA Picnic
- 15-16 Senior Exams
- 16 Awards Chapel
- Outdoor Vespers
- 17 Flower Eventide
- Video Yearbook
- 18-21 Senior Class Trip
- 19-21 Final Exams
- 23-25 Graduation Weekend

August

- 13 RA Arrival
- 14 SA Officer Arrival
- Early Registration
- 17 Registration
- 18-21 Orientation Week
- 23 Nature Sabbath
- Almost Anything Goes
- ROK Handshake
- 27-31 Senior Survival



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Alumni Weekend

Naomi Pakkianathan

Every year during the month of April, hundreds of alumni and their families come back to SVA to attend Alumni Weekend. This is a joyous occasion for many because they are able to reunite with classmates and old friends.

The first event of the weekend was the Alumni Golf Tournament at Bryce Resort on April 18. Over 100 alumni participated in the tournament. NHS officers volunteered, running scoring contests throughout the day and handing out prizes at the end of the event. There were also SVA students and staff members present playing in the tournament.

Following the tournament, alumni and their families were invited to the Welcome Reception held in SVA's cafeteria. Seniors were also invited to join with the other honor classes. They enjoyed haystacks along with baked goods and fruit juices. To end the night, everyone headed to the church for Vespers where a few alumni and SVA students led in praise and worship. After a beautiful flute solo, Pastor Reed Richardi presented the message of the evening. He shared that this year was his honor year, which made him a very fitting speaker. Even after the day's many events, the alumni continued to converse after the program.

The next morning, during the church service, everyone had a chance to come together and worship. The orchestra and

the choir started the program performing an arrangement of "The Battle Hymn of The Republic." Next, a representative from each honor class was invited to the stage to read the names of his or her classmates from each graduating class. After all the names were read, the orchestra started to play SVA's school song and all were invited to sing along with the choir. The sermon presented that morning was by Simon Liversidge from the class of 1985, a pastor from Lincoln, Nebraska. He shared some of his memories from SVA as well as some life advice to current students. The service ended with Mrs. Wiedemann-Jaen calling any alumni who were willing to join the choir in singing the "Hallelujah Chorus." This tradition is celebrated every year and is long awaited by many alumni.

Directly after the service, each honor class went to its respective lunch location around campus to share a meal and fellowship with classmates. Shortly after, the Shenandoans sing-along took place. Alumni who had previously been in the select choir during their time at SVA had the opportunity to learn a few songs with current Shenandoans. After everyone became familiar with the sections and the music, it was time for the annual Easter program. This program featured a small group of strings, the handbell choir, and current and former Shenandoans. Some alumni even had solos, such as Alle Jackson ('23), who sang, "Via Dolorosa." Many

expressed their gratitude to the music department for putting on a meaningful and blessed program. The last sacred event of the weekend was the farm dedication eventide. Alumni had the chance to learn what SVA's farm is doing for the school and the community, and the agriculture education the students are receiving.

After sunset, the most anticipated event among younger alumni took place. The basketball games started off with the girls' game first. Although there were only three female alumni playing, the game continued on, as SVAE students and some staff filled in the empty positions. At the end of the game, the scores were incredibly close. However, the Stars, the current SVA students, took the win. Immediately following the girls' game final, the boys' varsity and All-Stars began to warm up. This game was intense, as many of the alumni playing were much older than the SVA

Stars. The final score was not as close as the girls' game, but both teams put up a good fight. The boys' Stars eventually won (88-71).

The next morning, Mr. Short hosted a Principal's View Breakfast for any alumni who were interested in attending. The cafeteria staff and student workers prepared a beautiful and delicious breakfast for all those in attendance. As people started shuffling in, a string quartet featuring a harp played

familiar tunes in the background. After everyone got their food, Mr. Short and Mrs. Ware shared their plans for SVA and its students and answered any questions the curious alumni had.

The last official event of the weekend was the Alumni Soccer game. The Stars started out strong, scoring three in the first half. The All-Stars caught up and eventually tied at the end of the second half (4-4). The game continued into overtime two times before going into penalties. After a stressful set of penalties from each team, SVA Stars won after Ajani Shaw blocked the last goal. After a long weekend of golf, basketball, and soccer, the SVA All-Stars and Stars still showed their school spirit.

SVA students continue to put in hard work every year for Alumni Weekend. Through the music, sports, and hospitality that the students and staff provide, alumni are able to enjoy their time revisiting SVA.





The Seniors’ First Step into the World of Politics

Tori Zimmerman

On March 6, the Seniors in government classes A and B made the first step into their political career. The Seniors all year have been learning how the government works and at the time of this field trip were talking about all the important buildings, so they visited two of the buildings they were focusing on: the Capitol and the Library of Congress. These are two separate buildings with outstanding architecture and very important roles in our government.

To get inside the Capitol, the Seniors had to meet up with Virginia’s senator Ben Cline, though they had to wait outside the court because apparently the senators were called in for a session and it went long. To be honest it was kind of awkward just standing there on the sidewalk while all the security guards were watching us from the corner of their eyes. To add to this, while we were waiting a whole group of important looking people all dressed in suits and ready for business walked by us and we just all stared at them.

Once Ben Cline was able to meet us, he took us to the front steps of the Capital where we took a group picture and were able to ask Senator Cline questions. Surprisingly we did have one or two intelligent questions, especially from Sam Girven, the future best journalist (hats off to him). We

even got to say hello to the senator from Texas. We then needed to head off to security.

To go through security, we had to line up in alphabetical order by class section, which was a lot harder than it needed to be. Fortunately, everyone checked out through security with no problem. Surprisingly there wasn’t as much security as I thought there would be, but it still felt protected. Once the Seniors walked through the doors, we were given name tags and then shooed off to meet with Chaplain Black. Chaplain Black is a Seventh-day Adventist, so it is extremely impressive that he has risen to such a role. Hearing his story was inspiring and interesting. He told us about how grew up and his time as a chaplain in the military. He continued to tell us about his love life and how he balances being an Adventist in a role of

government. We asked many questions which were thoughtfully answered. We ended with a group picture with Chaplain Black.

The next thing we did was go down the elevators to eat at the Capitol’s cafeteria, which was bustling with people, especially students from other schools on a field trip just like ours. The kids were all different ages. It was kind of overwhelming,

definitely not like SVA’s cafeteria. There were all varieties of food and so many delicious looking desserts it was hard to have self-control, especially since we had to pay for it ourselves and all the food was expensive.

After we ate, we split into groups to go through a tour of the Capitol building. We first went into a large movie theater room and watched a video about the history of the Capitol building and why it is important. The tour was fascinating and the group I was in had an interactive tour guide who knew a lot about the building and the paintings in it. Next, we got to go into the courtroom where no pictures were allowed, so we had to turn in our phones, cameras, food, drinks, and any other knickknacks. Everything but the clothes on our body was taken and even then we had to go through a metal detector to get into the courtroom. We didn’t get to go on the floor because we had an appointment with our senator to be there and Senator Cline had to leave us at the first security checkpoint. Therefore, we sat up on the balcony which gave us an eagle eye view of the room.

Once we were done, we walked through the underground tunnels that connected to the Library of Congress. Personally, this was my favorite part because it was such a pretty building and I love

books. The ceiling itself was a piece of art with different paintings representing several classical books. The Seniors got free rein to wander around so several got library cards for fun, some just sat around and enjoyed the building, and others went to the exhibits provided by the library. My personal opinion is that everyone should try to go see inside the building. It really is beautiful.

The trip in total was a success. Students learned a lot but also were prepared before the trip thanks to Mr. Gordon Miller, who had come in two class periods before the field trip to give

us information about the buildings we were visiting and prepared us with questions to ask Senator Cline and Chaplain Black so we wouldn’t look like gaping fish out of water. Thank you Mr. Mora and Mr. Miller for such an interesting trip to the Capitol to listen to our leaders about our government. Faith Richardi said, “I really liked the Library of Congress. It was really beautiful to look at.” Seth Job added, “The trip was really fun. It honestly sparked my interest and gave me good insight to how some of our government works.”

Masquerade Banquet: an Evening of Glamour and Disguise

Abi Dugre

Sunday, April 6, was a busy day for upperclassmen, particularly Juniors. After a grueling morning of ACT testing, they got ready and put on their masks to head to Luray for the evening. Everyone was looking forward to being able to dress up, eat good food, and have fun with their dates and friends at the annual Junior-Senior Banquet.

Months beforehand, Junior officers had begun planning this banquet, making sure every little detail was perfect. The venue was the Mimslyn Inn in downtown Luray. A group of Juniors, as well as some staff and parents, arrived early to set up the room. Beautiful centerpieces were put up, with fairy lights, masks, and giant feathers to match the theme. Complementary silver and black masks were thoughtfully set out for those who did not bring their own. Place cards at each table listed seating arrangements and meal orders, and an archway was set up at the entrance and covered with more lights and feathers. Overall, there was an ambiance of festivity and intrigue.

Around 4:00, students and staff began arriving. Everyone was dressed very elegantly and on theme. Some even chose to dress as well-known characters such as the

Phantom of the Opera, Princess Tiana, and Snow White. For the first few minutes, everyone chatted and went to the hotel bar to enjoy non-alcoholic Shirley Temples, spritzers, and punch. After getting settled in, Seniors lined up in the lobby for their grand entrance. As each went through the archway, he or she was introduced with royal titles such as “Duke,” “Duchess,” or “Princess.” It was a fun way to start the evening, and the Seniors were able to get special recognition.

The first game played was Hedbandz, where each of the ten tables was given a stack of papers with different popular masked characters on them. Each person had to hold up a paper

without looking at it and guess which character it was based on their table’s descriptions. Some of the characters included Zorro, PJ Masks, Westley from Princess Bride, Batman, and Spider Man. This fast-paced game brought out energy and competitiveness, and it also recalled many people’s favorite childhood movies or shows.

There was some free time afterwards to take pictures on the beautiful spiral staircase or the themed backdrop, which was

tastefully decorated with lights and black and gold balloons. Despite the surprisingly chilly weather, many also went outside to pose by the ornamental fountain or the giant pillars before heading inside to eat dinner. The food provided by the hotel was both delicious and nutritious, with options of squash ravioli, veggie lasagna, roasted potatoes, and wild rice. Dessert was cheesecake, chocolate torte, or sorbet.

The next hour or so was spent playing more games. First, Eman Matagaro and Andrew Martin led out a round of Family Feud, where a few volunteers went to the front of the room and gave their best guesses to questions like “Name a Reason Someone Might Be Late for Work.” Then Sophia Trigo led “How Well Do You Know Your Date?” For many, even simple questions about favorite animals or shoe size challenged their knowledge of their friends, while others were confident in every answer.

Soon afterward, the event ended and everyone loaded the buses. This year’s Junior-Senior banquet was a time to forget about the stresses of school and upcoming exams. It was a time to relax and, for the Seniors, make memories of their last high

school banquet. One Senior, Donovan Hernandez, says “I think my favorite part was walking in with the formal titles. The Juniors did good and it was super fun.”



Eu Vou: I'll Go

Sienna Daurer

Balancing as you scale the ramp to the boat, you leave your shoes covered in dried concrete on the growing pile at the bow of the boat. You smell delicious Brazilian food coming from the open-air kitchen. After cleaning up with river water, you climb the steps to the top floor where you sink into your hammock. This is your home for ten days.

The journey into the southern hemisphere began behind the cafeteria at noon on Thursday, March 13. Eighteen hours, four countries, two flights, and one hemisphere later, 53 students and 15 adult missionaries were in Manaus, Brazil. We were greeted warmly by Instituto Missoes Noroeste missionaries who led us onto the two twin boats that would be our address over the next ten days. And so, our travels into the heart of the Amazon began its eight-hour voyage across immense, glassy waters mirroring the sky and carrying us to the tiny village of Lindo Amanhecer.

The students' construction of the church began early Sunday morning; however, God had been preparing a way long before. The site was chosen because the land

was donated by a Pentecostal woman whose daughter became a Christian because of an encounter with Adventist missionaries ministering to her village. It is the providence of God which led us to her remote village. Over 1000 blocks were made on site and the foundation of the church was laid under the direction of the local SDA missionary presence beforehand. At SVA's arrival, blocks continued to be made, eventually surpassing the record high by producing over 250 blocks in one day! The rest of the construction team mixed concrete and mortar, cut and tied rebar, laid block, spread stucco inside and out, and welded trusses and purlins. The process was not without obstacles, but many of the students worked hard with eager hands and hearts. Under Brazil's equatorial sun and torrential rain, walls were raised and trusses were lifted to finish all but half of the roof.

In addition to construction, students also participated in outreach to the community of Lindo Amanhecer. This village is tucked away into a remote tributary of the Amazon with approximately 600 members. Students had the opportunity to connect with the local people in a

variety of ways. While helping to teach the little ones in the school, SVA students were learning about Brazilian culture and language. "I loved being able to spend time with the local children in the Amazon, playing and singing songs. They helped me realize that I can truly be happy with very little," expresses Senior Samantha Trigo. Many of the students created bonds with the children. Helping in the medical clinic showed students the world of primitive healthcare in the Amazon. Community members came in for various reasons, ranging from general checkups to respiratory difficulties, to a man falling off a two-story building. One thing they had in common: "Almost all of them had high pain tolerances," remarks Daniela Munoz. Pastor Serveli took students with him to reach the hearts of the natives with in-home visitations. Students boarded a small riverboat typical of the area and wove in and out of the river to access the locals' homes. It was a humbling and unforgettable experience to listen to the community members when they shared their stories, challenges, and dreams, as Pastor Serveli translated. Aliyah Serveli shares, "It was a good experience to see the world outside the safety of the US, to see how

people live differently and are still joyful. I think every person should participate in at least one mission trip; it opens people's eyes."

One could hear singing coming from within the newly built church going out into the jungle community. It was a beautiful day to hold the church's first Sabbath. After a powerful word delivered by Pastor Serveli, the boats were ready to retrace their journey and float back to Manaus. The friendships that had been made in the past week between SVA and Lindo Amanhecer made students less ready to leave. The last bittersweet farewell was shared, and the river boats pulled out of the waters of the village. Many special memories and friendships were

made which will last a lifetime. The new experiences we were given will not be easily forgotten and Brazil will forever hold a special place in the heart of each student missionary.



Junior Religion Trip

Sophia Trigo

The Junior Class was bubbling over with excitement. On Monday, March 31, 2025, the Junior Class had their annual Junior Religion Trip. The trip would consist of a tour of the General Conference in Maryland, then a visit to the Ellen G. White estates, and end with a lovely time at the National Mall of Washington D.C.

At 7:30 we loaded the bus at SVA. During this time, we realized that our lovely religion teacher, Ms. Rester, was not on board the bus due to illness. Mr. Leeper and Pastor Diego were unable to find another chaperone. All 48 of the Juniors solemnly swore to be on time to places and not cause our chaperones any grief.

Around 9:00 am, we arrived at the General Conference where the staff waited for us with trays of sweet breakfast goodies that we were able to eat before our tour began. Once inside the building, students separated into groups for our tour.

Half of the Junior class went to the E.G.W estate first while the other half went to a tour of the General Conference.

Once in the E.G.W. estate, we were greeted by a large mural called “The Christ of The Narrow Way” commissioned by Elfred Lee. This painting is very special as it shows the first vision of Ellen White and shows a large scale of the Adventist Movement. If you look very carefully, the mural is covered with large figures of the Adventist Church and very great moments in Adventist history. A very beautiful detail is the way Jesus’s eyes were painted allows you to make eye contact with Jesus’ eyes no matter what angle you are to the painting. Our guides went over the many writings of Ellen G. White and helped us understand some of her most important visions. One vision Ellen had allowed her to carry an 18-pound Bible above her head for half an hour. This was incredible as Ellen was only 17 when this vision occurred and was still very frail.

The tour guides chose the strongest person in the room to hold the Bible over their head. Emmanuel Matagaro was able to hold it for a little over a minute!

In the General Conference, we were able to see the different branches that help hold our church together. We visited large conference rooms and were even able to see Pastor Billy Biaggi, Mr. Biaggi’s father! We went into the Hope Channel Studios and were able to see a Sabbath School lesson on air. Our tour guides took us to see the many paintings that flooded the General Conference. Steve Creitz (illustrator), Nathan Greene (painter), Victor Issa (sculptor), and Phil McKay (illustrator) are some of the artists featured in the General Conference. After visiting the Adventist World Radio and Adventist Development and Relief Agency, we departed for our lunch.

Once we ate lunch, we loaded onto the bus and headed over to

the National Mall. Though traffic was to be expected, we anxiously waited to get off the bus. At this time of year the annual Cherry Blossom festival was in full swing. It was so beautifully warm outside, and the trees were decorated with the light pink flowers. We split up into groups and walked around to the different monuments. Some groups stayed under trees and some groups had a blast renting scooters and riding all over. Unfortunately, our stay at the National Mall was just a bit too short and we loaded up to go home. On the way back, we stopped at a shopping center to pick up a meal.

Overall, the trip was a huge success. We learned a lot of new information at the General Conference and expanded our knowledge on the life of Ellen G. White and the Adventist Movement. A huge success in the teacher’s books is that no student went missing or was late at any point of the trip!

Farewell

Sam Girven

Five key members of SVA’s faculty and staff have announced their intention to leave SVA at the end of the 2025-2026 academic year. Vice Principal Kaleb Leeper announced in December that he had accepted an offer to be the principal at Campion Academy in Loveland, Colorado. More recently, several other staff members have also announced that they have taken positions elsewhere or intend to retire, including Music Director Daniel Biaggi and his wife Monica, IT Director Jonathan Burishkin, and Student Accounts Manager Cindy Champion.

On April 22, Biaggi announced to students on the Nashville music tour that Pioneer Memorial Church, on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, had offered him a position as an Associate Pastor for Witness and Worship.

Days later, Burishkin told SVA staff in an email that he had accepted a position at an aerospace company in Michigan and would be leaving SVA sometime in the summer.

While no official announcement has come from Champion regarding her departure, SVA administration confirmed that she would be leaving SVA to spend more time with her family and grandchildren.

Given each staff member’s personal investment in SVA’s educational program and years-long service record, the announcements signify SVA’s entry into a transitional era.

Leeper arrived with his wife at SVA to serve as Vice Principal in July 2019, following the retirement of Dorenda Dodge. Before his time at SVA, he was a religion teacher at Georgia-Cumberland Academy. In July 2023, he took on the additional role of school chaplain, following the retirement of Timothy Harley, former religion teacher and director of campus ministries. “I have seen a school change for the better by the leading of the Holy Spirit. It gives me

hope and confidence that it can be duplicated elsewhere through a lot of prayer and a lot of hard work,” he said in an interview.

The move is bittersweet for the family—Leeper’s three children have grown up and spent much of their lives on SVA’s campus, witnessing both Mr. and Mrs. Leeper reach out to the student population. Nonetheless, Leeper believes God has led them through the entire process, from being offered the principalship at Campion, to overcoming obstacles that would have prevented them from moving to Colorado.

He said that over the past several months, multiple people have contacted him about the principal position becoming available at Campion, and once it did, he was offered the position three times before he accepted it. “We did not feel fully at peace about it until we sensed God’s leading,” Leeper said. By the third time the job was offered, obstacles and hoops that would have prevented the family from accepting the job had been removed.

Mr. and Mrs. Biaggi have worked at SVA for seven years. They arrived following the departure of David Nino, former music director. In addition to being the chair of the music department, Mr. Biaggi has been a Spanish teacher and worked with countless international students as they acclimated to student life at SVA. Mrs. Biaggi, an experienced pianist and organist, has served as a worship ministry teacher, piano teacher, accompanist, and worship leader at the New Market Church, making her instrumental in the success of SVA’s music department.

In the Biaggi family’s case, they weren’t planning a cross-country move and career change. Yet, Mr. Biaggi’s graduation from Liberty University with a PhD in Christian Worship led Pioneer Memorial Church to offer him a position as an associate pastor, focusing on the areas

of music, worship, and community outreach. “We believe God was leading in everything,” he said in an interview. Pioneer Memorial Church is one out of potentially two or three Adventist churches in the world that has a pastor on staff focusing on these specific areas of church ministry, according to Biaggi, making the position an especially rare and exciting challenge.

In many ways, it is a position Biaggi has been preparing for years in advance. In addition to his multiple music degrees and a bachelor’s degree in psychology, in 2020, he graduated from Washington Adventist University with a master’s degree in Religion. Having successfully defended his dissertation, Biaggi will graduate with his PhD in Christian Worship this month.

“Those studies that I did were mainly oriented toward the relationship between music and the church,” Biaggi said. “That is a big part of what we do in music here, but we also do music for other things. I was always doing it from the academy side. This new position comes more from the church side.”

Yet, Biaggi said the family will miss being at SVA, and especially, engaging with the students and other staff members. “Doing music at SVA is special. There are a lot of activities, and you become part of a community that changes every year. But, we know the Lord will provide both for us and for SVA as we move forward.”

Burishkin has been SVA’s intrepid, dedicated IT director since June 2019. In addition to his responsibilities at SVA, he has also juggled an additional role as IT director at SVAE. Throughout his time at SVA, he overhauled SVA’s network and maintained the sprawling campus’s digital infrastructure while teaching coding, design, and computer classes. “It has been a meaningful journey,” he said.

An SVA alumnus from the class of 2003, he said in an interview that he was honored to come back to SVA and work with many of the same people he worked with as a student. Yet, echoing Leeper and Biaggi, his departure also coincided with divine intervention.

“I think everything is falling into place with this position,” Burishkin said. He will be moving to Michigan (closer to his wife’s family), where he has accepted a job at an aerospace company.

In the information technology industry, the job market is oversaturated, while many companies are also laying off tech professionals, thus making the job offer even more significant. “Other doors have closed, but everything has flowed through this door,” he said.

Mrs. Champion has been the Student Accounts Manager at SVA for over 17 years. Generations of students have worked with her on their financial plans, and many students have been able to come to SVA because of her efforts to find all the funding to ensure no student is turned away because of their finances.

The Shen-Val-Lore was unable to reach Champion before the time of publication. However, in a statement, Principal Don Short said that she has been a “vital part of the success of SVA for many years. Her caring approach has been appreciated by families, students, and colleagues.” He added that she has been instrumental in helping families who have wanted to “take advantage of our Adventist Christian boarding education.”

The Four Seasons at Andrews

Aleks Ulrich

The Seniors departed SVA behind the cafeteria at four in the morning on March 30, to travel to Berrien Springs, MI, where Andrews University is located. Most people had procrastinated and not packed early enough, so people were knocked out snoring with their mouths open like they were hungry or something. We arrived at AU around dinner time, which is when the four seasons started to occur. As soon as we got there, all the clouds let loose and there was a thunderstorm. We dropped all our stuff off at the residential housing that was apart from the dorms but was actually nicer than the dorms, and resembled a hotel on the inside. We had to walk over to the cafeteria in the rain, where we found a wide variety of food, and almost everybody enjoyed it.

The next day it was very sunny on the way to breakfast, almost like springtime or summertime, but as soon as we got to the cafeteria and started to eat, it began to snow. The snow quickly melted, though, and

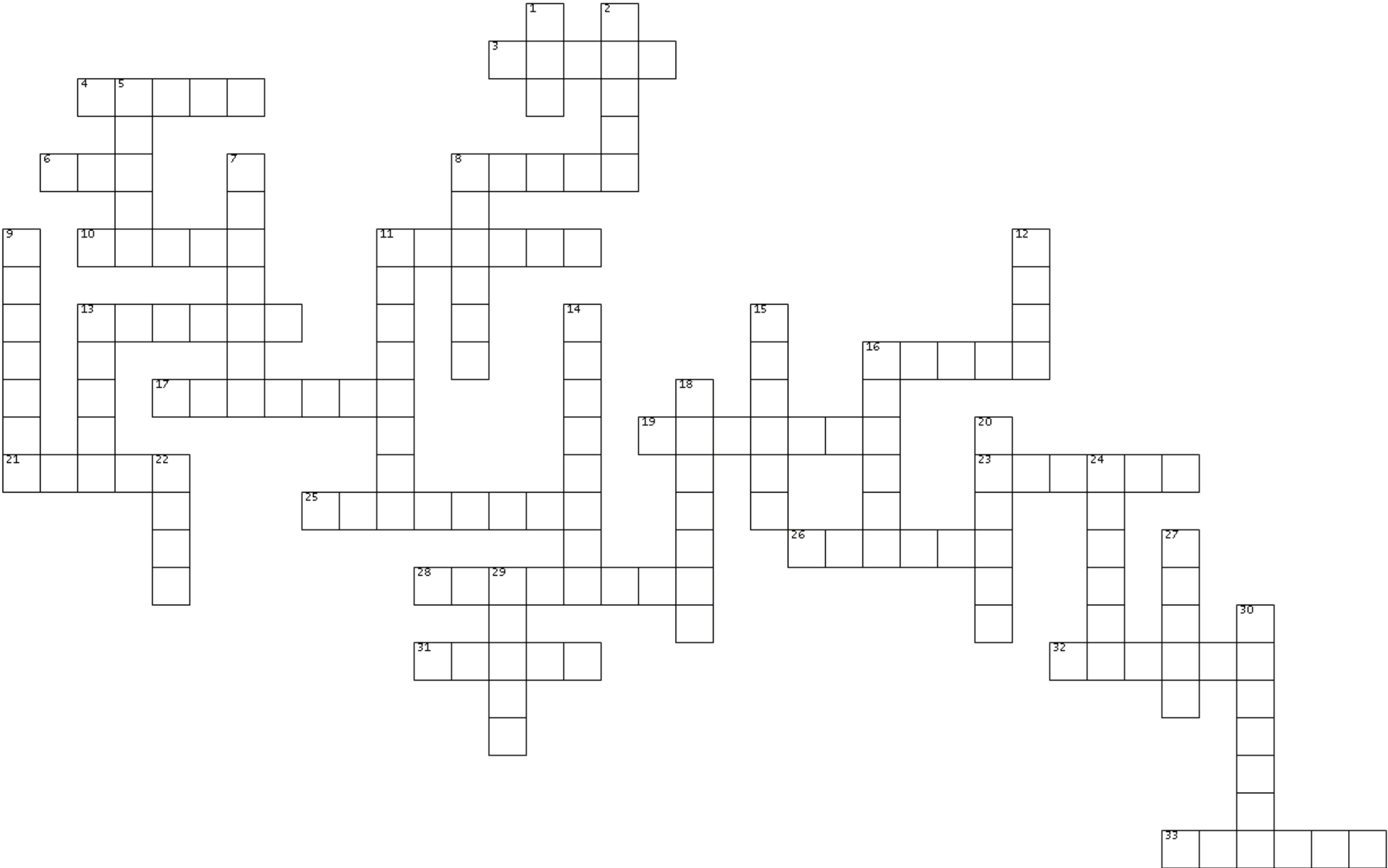
we made our way to our campus tours and different departments. Some went to business, others to aviation, and others to nursing. After this, we got to enjoy the wellness center, which included basketball, weightlifting, and also a pool, sauna, and steam room. It felt like being in an exotic resort in the Caribbean. I think all seniors could agree if they went to Andrews they would live there in the pool and hot tub and not come out. Afterwards we went to get pizza with alumni students from last year, and then we went to walk beside the beautiful Lake Michigan. There was a lighthouse you could go out to and take pictures of, which I did not ddo considering the wind was almost blowing me into the lake. Afterwards, we got ice cream and headed back and enjoyed more of the wellness center.

The following day we toured Ellen G. White’s home, and got to see more of what life would have been like, including what her church service would have looked like, the inventions they had back then,

even what the inside of her house would have looked like. After this we enjoyed a really good meal at Olive Garden, accompanied by free tickets for boba when we got back to the wellness center, where we spent the remainder of the afternoon enjoying time together and the amenities offered. We headed back to where we were staying and went to sleep early. We woke up early the following morning where once again we made the long trip back to SVA. It was a fun time, and helped us Seniors get a better understanding of where we might want to attend college and what to study.



SENIORS!



DOWN

- 3. - Everyone’s favorite PK, Princess of Valley Fellowship
- 4. - hairstyles on point every day! “Can I go to the bathroom?”
- 6. - she better make it to Howard
- 8. - Shen-va-lore master
- 10. - radiant queen that loves to bake
- 11. - top #1 essay editor
- 13. - ok SA sports secretary!!
- 16. - Queen of Pakistan
- 17. - Coxinha
- 19. - “Ti Ti on the Beat!”

- 21. - Mr. Mora’s favorite Baka
- 23. - Team C enthusiast
- 25. - smallest biggest Ohio enthusiast
- 26. - always at the front desk (even though he doesn’t work there)
- 28. - snazzy style with seashells in her hair
- 31. - senior class pastor, writes plays like Shakespeare!
- 32. - plays the cajon like a pro
- 33. - Jennifer Aniston who??

ACROSS

- 1. - glitter girl
- 2. - Hidden talent of playing the electric guitar like a pro
- 5. - name is Spanish for “loved”
- 7. - Leeper’s favorite worker
- 8. - Shrek’s biggest fan (and wife?)
- 9. - Biaggi is gonna miss her hard at work
- 11. - SVA’s Harp Legacy
- 12. - “that tall white girl”
- 13. - PH’s favorite angel
- 14. - Lithuanian beauty

- 15. - Newest member from Colombia
- 16. - oui oui mademoiselle président!!
- 18. - “the third”
- 20. - loves the color green more than life itself
- 22. - baseball king, rizzly bear!!
- 24. - Heilman’s most trusted worker
- 27. - guy with the longest hair in the class!
- 29. - “loves the smell of wet cement in the morning”
- 30. - world’s best oboist

Happy Birthday!

March		May	
1	Mariajose Velasquez	2	Miranda Jenkins
2	Gabriele Brazaityte	4	Lia Thomas
4	Donovan Hernandez	6	Guerdy Thomas
11	Andres Muñoz	8	Dylan Jimenez
	Ayden Christiansen		Sinay Ojeda
	Aliyah Serveli	12	Rafael Perez
13	Kevin Fernandez	13	Derek Alcantara
16	Evelin Balcarcel	17	Camila Soriano
17	Genessis Diaz		Kyra Walker
19	Jake Pacylowski		Neijer Ortiz
21	Caley Smith		Aidan van der Vyver
23	Nancy Majano		Rebecca Anderson
24	Michael Herold	19	Chloe Juncal
27	Samuel Girven	23	Emmanuel Matagaro
April		26	Abigail Dugre
3	Tamar Hamilton	27	Erik Avendano
6	Corey Whalen	28	Maya Castillo
	Alex Whalen	29	Staell Chrispin
7	Alan Perez		
8	Juridia Castellanos		
9	Sophia Juncal		
10	Seth Job		
	Daniel Torres		
14	Nayomi Siever		
17	Kaylyn Morris		
19	Elijah Masikonde		
22	Isai Sanchez		
24	Luis Javier		
28	Kyle Goodwyn		



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Chloe Juncal
Sponsor: Mrs. Boyer White

Letters to the Editor:

The Shen-Val-Lore welcomes your letters. All letters must contain the writer’s name and phone number. All unsigned letters will be omitted. The Shen-Val-Lore reserves the right to edit your letters for space and clarity, and to reject any letters. Place all letters under the door of the newspaper room or mail them to: Shen-Val-Lore, 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844.

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