

# Shen-Val-Lore

The Student Voice of Shenandoah Valley Academy

Shenandoah Valley Academy

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## SA BANQUET 2015: ALICE IN WONDERLAND

DANIEL REYES

As we all know, Spring is closing up quickly and temperatures are rising. You begin to feel the humidity and summer heat on your skin. Those mornings filled with chilly air and fog have slowly turned warmer and warmer. Summer is right at the door, and you can feel the excitement in the air. Finals are coming up, and as scary as that sounds for you upper and underclassmen it also means that vacation will be here faster than you can imagine.

So, since school is almost over we have to go through with the yearly SVA tradition during the spring—SA Banquet, brought to you by your very own Student Association. This year's banquet theme was "Alice in Wonderland." When the idea was brought up during one of the Student Association meetings you could just feel the ten-

sion and uncertainty. Decorate the gym, outside areas, and ad building for a tour that would require speaking in public, dressing up, and having to run around in this hot weather? It seemed crazy. This was going to be an enormous undertaking, one that would require hours of planning, memorizing script lines, cooking, and, worst of all, decorating. If there's one thing that I am scared of it's decorating for parties. I mean, there is nothing more grueling than standing on your feet for hours on end hanging up banners and lights, and taping and tying things down in order to transform the gym into a wonderland. As soon as the music department's spring concert came to an end SA went right to work. Members involved with the music department quickly jumped out of their tuxes

and dresses and went right to work. The following morning all of the helpers showed up dreary-eyed at 8:00 A.M. to finish the project that had only been half finished the previous night.

As the day wore on, progress began to be obvious. And the gargantuan task of decorations finally came to an end thanks to the literal sweat and tears of all the SA members (but where was Reiss?) and all of the wonderful volunteers that dedicated their free time in order for the project to be done. The stage was set and everyone was ready. Makeup and costumes were finished and the students attending began to file in.

When everyone was seated, the tours of "Wonderland" began. Students (and staff alike, if they wanted to) were escorted in a rather odd way, by a bunny that bumped

into Alice, the tour guide, and quickly ran off into a "caterpillar tunnel." The students would then run into Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum, who then noisily took them through the caterpillar's tunnel and into the wise man's chamber. After staying in a fluorescent-, bubble-, and fog-filled room for about 10-15 minutes, the tour then took people down the stairs, led by Jennifer Peña the Cheshire cat, and into the ad building where they ran into Mr. James Matthews, the Mad Hatter.

The tour then took students to the outside games that were set up, and then back into the gym where they ran into Gabby Whonder, part-time SA president, part-time Queen of Hearts. The tour ended with Marceline Ndahayo, the White Queen, the one who told the whole tale of Alice's dream and wished you

farewell on the rest of your night.

All in all, the tours ran smoothly and everyone enjoyed themselves, despite the uncomfortable and stuffy room that Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum were running around in. When everyone was back in their seats and hungry from the trip around campus, the food was served. There was also a complimentary dessert table or should I say, tables, since it took three tables to hold all of the desserts. After the guests were well fed everyone was given time to walk around with their date, play games on front campus, or take pictures with their escort.

Dean Azariah was in charge of the photography and he did an absolutely amazing job! Be sure to log on to Facebook if you had your pictures taken by him. Before the banquet

ended, there was one last treat that SA had planned for the night. Brian Bence the magician absolutely had the crowd on their toes by performing seemingly impossible tricks that left even Mrs. Dodge and Mrs. Griffin with their jaws wide open. It was a perfect way to end the night. The students absolutely loved it. After all the struggle of setting up and making preparations for the banquet, it seemed as if things would not go well; the weather wasn't on our side, but then again it never had been (picnic). The odds didn't look good. But thankfully, everything came together and all of the work was worth it. I would personally like to thank all of SA, Dean Azariah, Dean Cassie, Ms. Weidemann, and all of the wonderful volunteers that dedicated their free time to make the banquet come together. It was a great success.

## MAY

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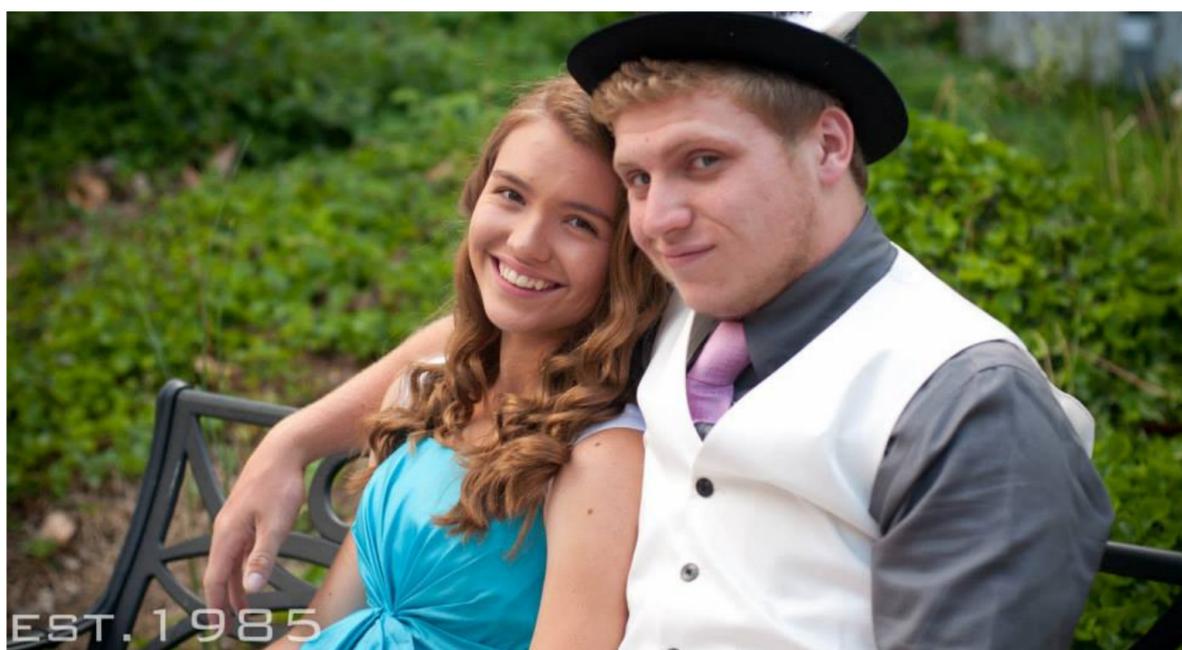
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Banquet Pictures Compliments of Dean Azariah Anderson  
More Banquet Pictures on p. 8

## SA SPRING PICNIC

ELLERAB DORVAL

This year's spring picnic was held on April 26, which was a change due to issues with the weather. It all started at 9:00 am in the chapel where SA gave a few announcements and then a worship talk was given by River Anderson, the SA pastor. After prayer, everyone headed to the gym for the first event, which was basketball. The first match was between the freshmen and the juniors. The freshmen played strenuously while the juniors did not put in as much work as needed. Next was the sophomores and the seniors. The sophomores are the most competitive class and they became upset when some of the SA members who were evaluating and taking score during the game messed up the scoreboard. I was one of the people who were evaluating

the game and I was taking book for all the basketball games. But the quarrel was soon resolved and the game continued. In the end, the seniors won against the sophomores. The final game was between the seniors and the juniors, and since most of the varsity basketball players are seniors, they found it easy to play against the juniors. And the seniors won the basketball portion of picnic.

The next event was volleyball. Again the freshmen were paired up with the juniors, and this time juniors had some of the volleyball team members like Meredith Schuen and Karen Vallado. After three sets, the juniors made it into the final. The seniors barely won their match against the sophomores but they made it through into the final match

against the juniors, where the juniors won the first set and the seniors won the second set. The game was tied and the juniors need to score just a few more points to beat the seniors. For what seemed like the most agonizing game ever played, the juniors took the victory against the seniors.

From there, everybody headed to lunch, in need of some food to fuel their energy that would be needed for the afternoon games. After lunch, students made their way down to the soccer field where the next portion of picnic was being held. The juniors played the freshmen in the first game. I feel like the juniors had more of an advantage over the freshmen because their team consisted of most of the soccer players for the guys' varsity

team. The seniors in the second match found it hard to play against the sophomores because the sophomores also had good soccer players and had a strong defensive line, but the seniors ended up winning against the sophomores. The seniors and the juniors played a difficult game. The game went on into overtime and then eventually into penalty kicks, at which point the juniors won 3 to 2.

After the soccer match, the school walked to the next field over to play football. The first match was won by the juniors and the second match won by the seniors. And once the final whistle blew, the seniors rejoiced in their win against the juniors.

At this point, administration blew whistles and led everyone to the pavilion. There, everyone

sat on the ground and waited for the results to be announced. Gabby Whonder, the SA president, announced the places. Seniors came in first, juniors in second, and the sophomores and freshmen tied for third. The sunset glowed with sherbet colors in the horizon. The cool evening breeze served as a relief after being out in the humid afternoon heat. Everyone was happy at the end of picnic. There were no complaints, no bad sportsmanship, and no attitude. After evening worship was concluded, SA announced that there were ice cream sandwiches and popsicles. At the sound of that, all the students, including myself, sprang up from their seats on the ground and rushed towards Bob's truck. Everyone received one ice cream sandwich and one

popsicle. And that marked the end to picnic.

I feel like this picnic was not as stressed as others. Everyone seemed happy during this picnic. Yes, there may have been a slight falling out, but people recovered and most people had a good attitude and everyone seemed to have had fun. School picnic here at SVA is an event where class spirit is expressed, where classes unite and work together as a team. It may seem like it's all about winning and that having pride is the best thing. But I feel like school picnic helps us to bond with each other. It allows us to just take a day off and spend time with each other. I believe this year's picnic was much different than others and I hope that we have picnics like this from now on.

## SOPHOMORE TRIP TO DC &amp; MD

AMBER MUNDY

On April 27, the sophomore religion and history classes took a field trip to DC/Maryland. Darnell, my favorite soccer player, came with me on this adventure. The first place we stopped was the General Conference. The General Conference, or GC, is the Adventist headquarters of the world. When we arrived, we saw many beautiful pictures of Jesus and scenes from the Bible. We saw a sculpture collection that depicted the second coming of Jesus with many people from different nations. We then proceeded to walk into the giant conference room where all the Seventh-day Adventist leaders meet. The room was very big and you could feel the presence of leaders. Although we didn't get to see the Ellen G. White estate, one of our groups did get to meet the GC president.

He actually came out from a meeting to see us. Then one of the secretaries, an SVA graduate, asked us to sing the school song for him and was ecstatic when we did.

Another cool thing we were able to see were some more of Harry Anderson's paintings. This was especially interesting because Mr. Anderson was Mrs. Griffin's grandfather. We saw a self-portrait that he created, and we got to see some of his actual tools. Walking through the GC we also saw where the Hope Channel films. We viewed how the studio worked and all the cameras that make it happen. At the end of the tour Pastor Harley talked to us about what was inside the estate of Ellen White and explained to us about how they protect all of her books. Her writings are so precious that in the case of

a fire, the doors are sealed and all the oxygen is sucked out so no fire is able to be created. Many people were surprised and amazed by this. Some asked questions about how we own this technology and others asked why other places didn't have this type of security. Everyone enjoyed going to the GC.

Before entering the second part of our field trip, we sat down to eat lunch at the Washington Monument. It was a beautiful day outside and everyone enjoyed the break.

The second activity was a little more solemn than the first. When we first arrived at the Holocaust Museum, we were put in an elevator that smelled like dirty metal and blood. The guide then explained that the museum was built to resemble a con-

centration camp. We were all given a person to read about that told a little about their story. At the very end could you find out if your person died or not.

The first level of the museum showed Hitler's rise to power and the beginning of the war. It told us a little about how he ruled the people up. Hitler was a disgusting human being and I cannot even fathom why people would even listen to him. The second level showcased the beginning of the Holocaust. It explained the methods of the Nazi army and showed how they burned down towns and took people. They had many interviews with survivors and they all explained the horrors. Churches were burned down and stores were shut down. They even had videos and pictures of the Jewish towns

before and after. The third level is what impacts people the most. There we saw how prisoners were killed and the living quarters they stayed in. In detail the museum explained how they were stripped of all their belongings and given uncomfortable wooden shoes. The shoes of the lives taken were showcased with the saying, "We are the shoes. We are the last witnesses. We are the shoes from grandchildren and grandfathers. From Prague, Paris, and Amsterdam, and because we are only made of fabric and leather and not of blood and flesh, each one of us avoided the hellfire." This is what affected most people who went on the field trip—knowing that actual people walked in those shoes only to be gassed. On the same level, the gassing pro-

cess was actually shown. The living quarters and memories from survivors surrounded us. Finally, the last level showed the punishments of both the Jews and the people who helped them. That part also seemed to impact people and humble them even more.

This museum is a valuable place to visit. It is absolutely necessary to remember how the Jews and many others felt, being so persecuted and humiliated. How some Jews can forgive Germany amazes me. I left the museum angry. How could anybody let one person have so much power? Why did they let this happen? All these new unanswered questions whizzed through our minds. This just shows how much of an impact this trip had on myself and others.



## SVA FRESHMEN VISIT JMU

HANNAH SLOAN

On Monday, May 11, the freshman class headed off to JMU for our Conceptual Physics field trip. Upon arrival we saw the beautiful campus that they have. JMU has a very modern campus, especially considering their advanced transportation. We didn't see any students because the previous Saturday they had their graduation ceremony. The campus also has a huge football stadium and field hockey area. The school is very contemporary and is currently constructing a new building. Once we parked the bus, we headed off to the chemistry and physics lab.

When we got inside one of their classrooms, a few JMU students led out in the presentation. They conducted an experiment about waves using a stereo and a tube with holes in them (that had fire coming out of them). Throughout

their presentation, they had a chemistry professor come in and explain that the series of experiments they would perform would be about smoke, fire, and slime. That one professor was quite a character; he loved trying to make us laugh, and was very engaging.

Back to the physics: they, too, had several engaging activities including an activity that Mr. McNeilus could not complete, until we found out it was a total hoax. A few other experiments included hearing a loud bang, electricity, and an original "JMU in a cup." The best experiment involved ten SVA students. They went down to the front and nine of them held hands including one who put his free hand on an electrostatic generator that kept them positively charged. The "wild card" (10th person) did not hold anyone's hand, but would touch the end

person's free hand and would get shocked. This happened a few times until a JMU student went over and touched the electrostatic generator with a metal ball. This was not a very exciting time for the students holding hands because they received a massive shock that traveled across the line of people. That really made them scream! They did this experiment to show us how electricity travels and how the different charges react to each other. The morning consisted of tons of experiments and laughing which left most of the freshmen in awe.

To finish off the field trip, the professors took us to an outdoor classroom. They took liquid nitrogen and soda bottles and poured the nitrogen into the bottle. We sat pretty far away and as we waited the nitrogen started to change phases and the bottle began

to expand. Liquid nitrogen is roughly negative 300 degrees Fahrenheit, so as it started to change phases, the bottle began to freeze rather quickly. So much pressure built inside the bottle and then BAM BAM! The bottles exploded and their caps went flying.

One of the students remarked, "It took about ten minutes to explode and the loud noise made me think I was going to die." What a great end to a fabulous field trip! On our way back to SVA we laughed and joked, but the fantasy was short-lived and we had to return to class. Although it ended early, we still learned a lot and had fun with the people we were with. The JMU field trip was a success, and it was a great way to finish off the semester and to complete our freshman year here in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley.



## TENNESSEE SOCCER &amp; BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

KAREN VALLADO

## Attendees:

Baseball Team: Trace Wilkens, Austin Plank, JP Santos, Matthew Davis, Sun Ho Park, Daniel Hernandez, Justin Lee, Ricky Paulino, Luke Fogg, Barry Armstrong, Matthew Reinoehl, CJ Sanchez, Vinny Leach

Soccer Team: Karina Ruiz, Lei Edwards, Andrea Herrera, Karen Leb-Hernandez, Krisi Koliadko, Julia Jedamski, Carla Navarro, Andy Carcamo, Gaby Carcamo, Meredith Schuen, Madai Villa, Paola Nago, Karen Vallado, Becky Renderos, Kearsten Jedamski

Managers: Robert Moncada, Heidi Davis, Elizabeth Schuen

The bus filled with baseball and soccer player left SVA close to noon on Tuesday, May 5, and arrived at its destination, a summer camp called Camp Bluff in Dayton, Tennessee, around 8:00 PM. The bus stopped in front of a miniature golf course and that's where most of the people stayed while the coaches were at registration. Over the next three days, the guys' baseball and girls' soccer teams would play four games each at this tournament, along with around 750 other athletes.

The SVA soccer team lost their first three games and felt the pressure to win when it came to their last game. Up

until this point, the soccer games had been two thirty-minute halves, but this game was two forty-minute halves. It was so hot and both teams were constantly running. The sun beat mercilessly down on SVA's navy blue jerseys. The ball pinballed its way around the field with both teams having about the same amount of possession until a cross from Karina Ruiz found its way to the feet of Becky Renderos, who pounded it in and scored the first goal of the game. I don't know if this goal gave SVA the boost in confidence they needed or if it discouraged the other team or both, but after that goal, SVA had much more possession and many more opportunities to score. The game was now taking place mostly on the other team's half of the field with SVA's strikers ready to score goal number two.

After half time, this lasted a while, but not as long as it needed to. The other team began attacking much more. Defender Paola Nago took a hard hit on her leg to block a ball that would have gone in for sure if she had not been there. Defense was playing really well, but the other team sent attack after attack and eventually they broke through and scored ten minutes before the game was supposed to end. This sent the game into overtime, in which neither

team scored. Then it went to penalties. Karina, Julia, Kearsten, Becky, and Krisi went up to kick. Kearsten blocked the kick of the other team, scored her penalty, and got right back in goal. After the first five girls had kicked for both teams, it was still tied because both sides had only scored one. Then the next five went to kick. First it was Meredith. The other team's goalie blocked it and Kearsten once again blocked their shot. Then it was Gaby's turn. If she scored, we would win. She rose to the challenge and scored a beautiful goal. Later she stated, "Seeing the whole team running at me after making my penalty kick is something I will never forget." The whole team cheered, jumped on her, and tackled her to the ground. Everyone was so happy and so proud of each other. After the game, the director of the tournament gave us our third place trophy and I don't think any other team was ever so happy and so proud to be third. Captains Karina Ruiz and Julia Jedamski also received a plaque for the "All Tournament Team."

The baseball team was up against 22 other teams who had played two, three, or even four times as many games as ours had this season. SVA tried really hard and had several different line ups. Start-

ing pitcher Justin Lee threw over 300 pitches in the course of four games. Austin Plank and Luke Fogg also pitched. Starting catcher and captain Trace Wilkins gave sophomores Vinny Leech and CJ Sanchez an opportunity to catch during the last game. There were many hard hits, great catches, and close calls throughout their games. Luke Fogg commented, "A lot of great plays made but couldn't finish." The guys struggled to get on bases covered by much more experienced players. SVA did have its strengths, as manager Heidi Davis observed: "The guys played hard. Defense was good." Regardless of their record, SVA's baseball team finished with a good attitude. When Austin Plank asked Daniel, "What position did you play?" he jokingly replied, "I played as much as you guys did. I played I left bench."

It's not always about winning. Competitiveness and a drive to win has its place but it does not take precedence over good sportsmanship and team bonding. This tournament was as opportunity to grow closer as a team. With graduation just around the corner, many athletes were sad not because of the score, but rather because they looked around and realized that the seniors among them were leaving and these were some

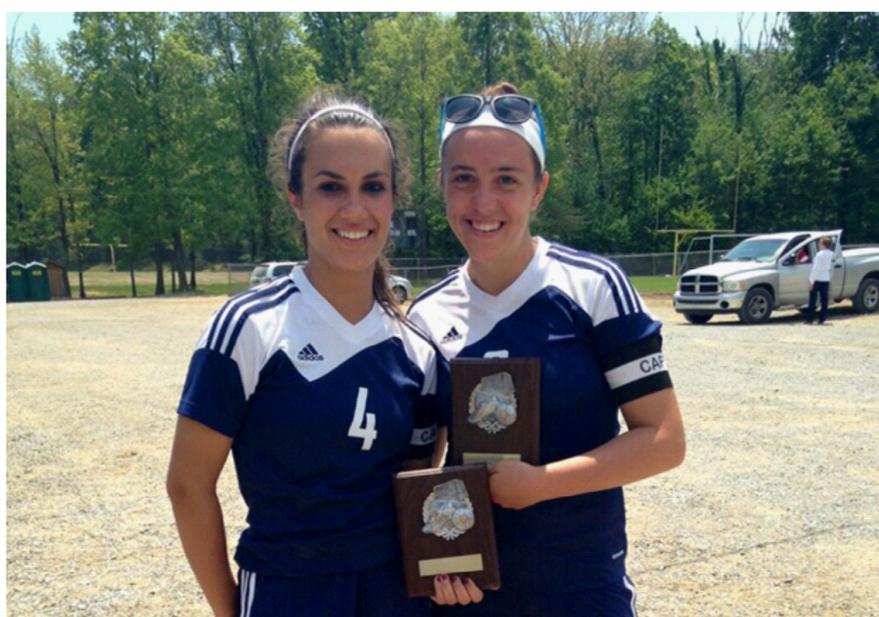
of the last games they would all be playing together as SVA students. It's important to be grateful for that our school gives us opportunities to play sports, make friends, and have unforgettable memories even if we don't win. Trace Wilkins said "It's the best group of guys I could have asked to play with for my last baseball game and tournament at SVA." Participating in sports and tournaments brings people together in a unique and memorable way.

We all loaded the bus back up and made our way to Austin Plank's and Trace Wilken's houses for the weekend. Once we got there, we had an Adventist classic waiting for us: haystacks. We welcomed in the Sabbath on the back porch with a beautiful view of the sun setting behind the Tennessee forests and mountains. After a delicious breakfast Sabbath morning, everyone got in various cars and made our way to the base of a hiking trail. Once there, we began ascending the mountain. It was a relatively short hike, but as we got closer and closer to the end of the trail, the path got steeper and steeper. When we got to the top, we found ourselves at the entrance of a cave. After a short worship talk, we distributed flashlights and headed into the cave. Everyone felt the refreshing temperature

change—from the low 80s to mid 60s. We walked through the cave, ducking and squeezing though whenever necessary, and eventually got to a large open space in the lower level where a crystal clear water creek ran. Everyone turned off their flashlights and in the pitch blackness, we sang worship songs. The sound bounced off the walls of the cave and echoed all around as the harmonies and melodies resonated creating a beautiful and unforgettable worship experience.

We returned to the Wilkens' house for lunch and enjoyed a very relaxing afternoon of napping, horseback riding, jumping on the trampoline, and enjoying each other's company. In addition to two horses, two dogs, and a cat, there was another animal at the house. Trace's found a black snake and held it for us to touch.

At night, some people watched movies, some drove to the state border and stood in both Tennessee and Alabama, and some played very intense games of Twister. Everyone had a great time at the Plank's and Wilkins' homes. We are very grateful to our amazing hosts who added a great weekend to the end of our tournament.



*"Now you see it, now you hit it."*

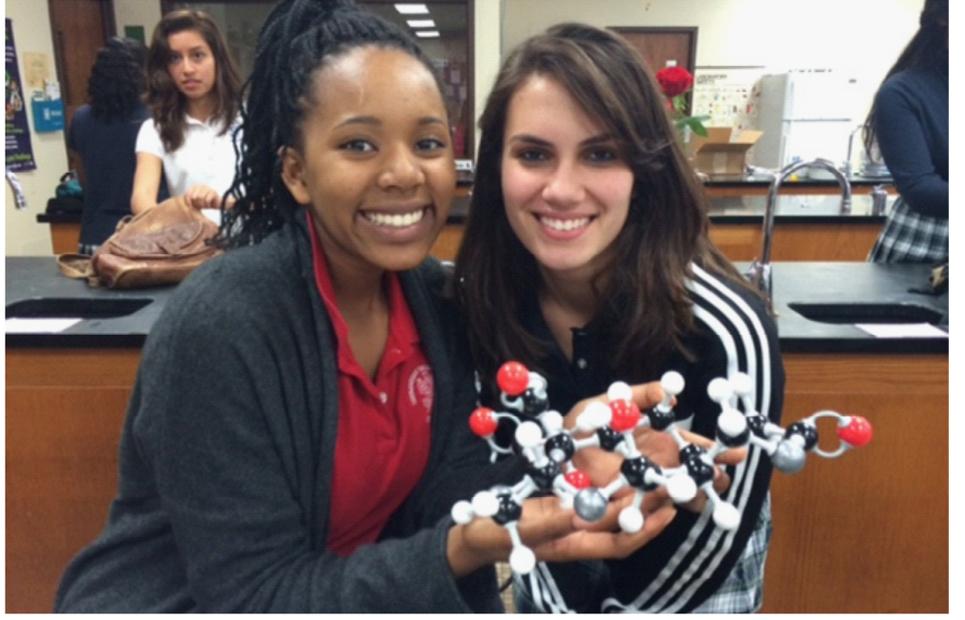
*Ricky Paulino*

*"Playing sweeper with Karen Vallado was the best experience of my life."*

*Andy Carcamo*

*"The NACA tournament was a really fun experience and going to Trace's house afterwards was really enjoyable and a good way to end the sports season."*

*Meredith Schuen*







**SPRING MUSIC CONCERT**  
VALERY VERGARA

This year has gone exceptionally well for the music department. Getting to go on a music tour to Germany and Austria is not an everyday opportunity that you get as high school students. To finalize things, our annual Spring Concert was held on May 16 in the SVA gymnasium. The place was jam-packed with people eager to hear what the music department had prepared for this year. The choir kicked off the concert with two beautiful sacred pieces: "Ave Verum" and "Alleluia." The audience could feel the silence and peace in the air while this song was sung. The Shenandoans followed with another rendition of "Alleluia." This version was definitely different in the sense that it had more of a beat to it. We even had a special guest come and play the French horn solo for us. To finish off the sacred portion of the program, the Orchestra played "Revelation

Song," which is an orchestra favorite.

The secular part of the program followed, and there wasn't a better way to start that off than with the Handbells playing "PDQ Bells." This song, definitely a crowd pleaser, was a mash up of various different well-known songs. The Ringers would have occasional lines they would yell out that would have the whole gym laughing.

One cool thing about going to Austria was that the Music Department got to see where certain Sound of Music scenes were shot. In honor of the tour, the Shenandoans performed a mash up of the movie's best songs and the crowd couldn't help but join in with the choir. Speaking as a member of Shens, it was a great feeling to have people enjoy the music with us and sing it together.

A meaningful performance for me personally was "Homeward Bound." This

song is very special because it's not written by any ordinary person, but by a member of the New Market SDA Church, Aaron Borchers. He took the time to make a special choral arrangement and we had promised him we would perform it this year. I am very happy we did because seeing his facial reactions and the positive feedback from the crowd was a great feeling.

Up next was the Music Appreciation class performing a song that they had all written together. The song was very interesting to watch, as it consisted of various instruments played in different moments to make one good beat. It was definitely a performance to remember. The crowd also really enjoyed seeing how the students had learned about music and different beats.

A personal favorite of the evening was Orchestra because of all the work that was put into getting all the pieces together. There was

a variety of songs played; the first one was called the "Carmen Suite." What's really cool about this piece was that the whole orchestra was actually playing the original sheet music so it took extra practice and effort to pull it off, but we did it! In this song we had two soloists involved, Miranda Benton (oboe) and Brody Weidemann (flute) who happens to be Ms. Weidemann's younger brother. It was great having both Brody and Randy Weidemann along in our performances; they are great people and amazing musicians. We played three movements of the Carmen Suite and for the last movement Sarah Lim (senior) conducted. She did a great job leading out the whole orchestra. As an orchestra we also performed excerpts from two different movie soundtracks. The first one was Lord of the Rings, which was super fun to play because of all the different time changes and dynam-

ics. My personal favorite song performed by Orchestra was Pirates of the Caribbean. We've performed this song every year for about the last three years but we knew it was worth playing again because it was such a fun song. Another fun addition to this song was that Carter Ware (senior) was conducting it with such enthusiasm, and you could tell he really enjoyed being up there and leading out the orchestra.

The final part of the concert was very bitter sweet; it consisted of honoring our seniors for their involvement in the music department. Of course they are going to be very much missed but we also thank them for all the hard work they have put in to make this year a success. Two special people were given awards for their involvement in the orchestra: Carter Ware and Sarah Lim. They are very positive and great people and the whole orchestra is

very proud that these awards were given to them. Marcie Ndahayo received the award for Shenandoans, and Julia Jedamski got the award for Ringer of the Year.

Last but not least, the whole music department would like to thank Ms. Weidemann and Mr. Goines for all the work and dedication they have put into this year in the music department. Without them the Spring Concert wouldn't have been a success. Mr. Goines will be missed very much as he heads off to Andrews University next year; we wish him the best and hope we get to see and work with him in the future again. I am very proud of what this school year has brought to the table and am definitely looking forward to see what next year will hold.

*"I loved Pirates of the Caribbean! It was so nice how everybody can come together to make a great piece come to life!"*

*Iara Nobre*

*"The whole program as a whole was beautiful! You could definitely see all the work and effort that was put into each category of music to pull everything off! Great job!"*

*Parent of Students*







A few of the photographs we received for this issue of the Shen-Val-Lore, as well as every other issue, are from the Shenandoah Valley Academy Yearbook Staff. If you are interested in who took these pictures please contact Mitzi Bame, the Yearbook Sponsor, and she will have her staff get back to you as soon as possible. The Yearbook Editor that allows us to use these photographs is Sarah Lim. Please contact either the editor or the sponsor, if possible, before using these photographs for anything other than personal use and enjoyment.

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