

## James Hamilton Story

**B**efore coming to Christ, really before coming to Wisconsin Academy, my goal every day was to live to reach age 21, and to not get caught. I had a drinking problem, a drug problem, and some family problems. I had, and still have, parents that love me and I consider that a blessing, but a divorce between them is hard to handle from the perspective of a kid who saw it all coming, and could do nothing to stop it.

It wasn't a quick change, it was a drawn out and painful ordeal that left me far from stable and even farther from Christ. How can God, who uses marriage to symbolize Christ's bond with the remnant church, allow for my parents' marriage to go so awry? I had grown up around drinking, and as soon as I started I understood why it was so popular among my family and friends. It was a release, a getaway, and a temporary patch for the void left in my heart by pushing away Christ.

I also used a veritable buffet of drugs, made available by my desperate search for friends. I was homeschooled until 6th Grade, then entered public school where I was socially behind and emotionally lost. I found friends there that acted outside the limits of the law, usually ones above my own age, and followed them into the swirling hazes of smokes and highs that ruled my life for several years. My parents being bogged down with their own problems, I managed to evade authority, pulling off mediocre grades throughout middle school.



**James Hamilton, a Junior at Wisconsin Academy, was baptized March 12, 2018, and is currently a member of the Wisconsin Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

Then, a change came. I was presented with the chance to leave my spinning world, and go to a new world I had barely heard of. It was new and different, but I had a strange and powerful feeling that it was a world I needed to join. For once, I actually listened. The decision was last minute, made in the car on the way from one parent's house to the other, and I was enrolled at Wisconsin Academy.

I started classes, liked the teachers, and found interest in the spiritual influences present every day. I was clean at Wisconsin Academy, and because of that I knew how the withdrawals should have looked. However, they only lightly touched me, and I now see that as one

of the many ways God was helping me towards Him.

Sadly, I went home and went partially back to my old life. Since I was 10, I had struggled with depression and anxiety, and eventually thoughts and actions towards suicide. Before coming to Wisconsin Academy, I tried five times and somehow failed.

Since my enrollment, I have only tried once more, again failing. My sophomore year, I was back to being clean, but depression tore at me harder than ever. God kept pushing at my heart though, even through all the darkness I harbored, and He finally

*continued on page 5*



## From the President's Desk

### It's Personal

Over the past few weeks Juanita and I have gotten to know Brian, Kathleen Traci, and Mary. They may not be members of the Seventh-day Adventist church, but they ministered to us in profound ways.

What do they have in common? They all wear scrubs. They were men and women who did far more than hand out pills and give shots. They were people who took time to listen; took time to share a little bit of their own personal struggles, to bring encouragement and healing.

As I watched these caring people I thought of our church. Our congregations spread out across Wisconsin are designed to be hospitals for the hurting. Places where people who are in need can come to be introduced to the Great Healer and receive healing.

As at a hospital our churches have protocols; sermons, programs, etc. that we do for people. But it is the personal touch that makes the most impact. It is our

intentional taking of time to attentively listen to the interesting, as well as the uninteresting. It is our giving of self, even when it is inconvenient, that makes lasting impacts.

I believe we often underestimate the power that a kind word has on a hurting heart. Our thoughtfulness even briefly extended, can be a real bright spot in the life of a person whose life seems filled with shadows. And all too often a smiling face masks a hurting heart, in need of encouragement.

While you may not wear scrubs, you too can bring healing to a hurting heart, by your thoughtfulness. An encouraging card, an email, phone call, text, or conversation, can make someone's day better because you took time to care. Ask God to help you bring joy to someone today.

*Michael H. Edge*

Wisconsin Conference President

### The President's Sabbath Schedule

#### August

- 4 ASI
- 11 Hispanic Camp Meeting
- 18 Living Faith
- 25 Lancaster

#### September

- 1 Wisconsin Rapids
- 15 AHS Mission Conference
- 22 Milwaukee Central
- 29 Northern District Meeting

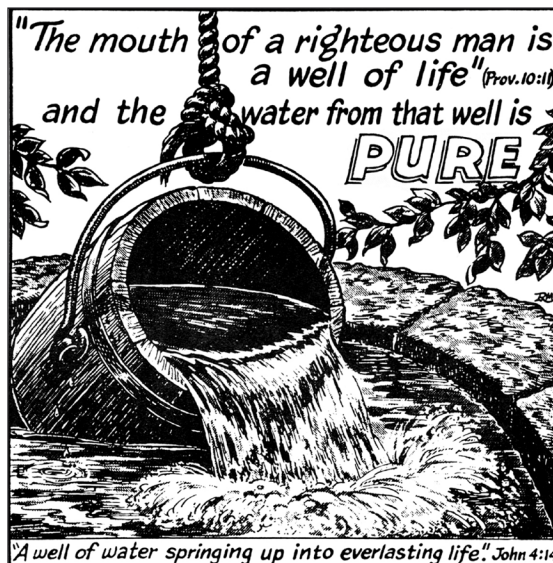
#### October

- 13 Tomahawk
- 20 Pastor/Teacher Retreat
- 27 Oxford

#### November

- 3 NAD Year End Meetings
- 10 WI Executive Committee Retreat
- 24 Vacation

To request speaking appointments contact Mike Edge at [mgedge@wi.adventist.org](mailto:mgedge@wi.adventist.org).



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# Wisconsin Adventist Schools are Soon to Begin



**W**e are looking forward to an exciting 2018-2019 school year. Our students are blessed to be in a school system with deeply caring and talented teachers who are committed to inspiring, engaging, educating and empowering every student.

We have been hard at work over the summer making plans for special events and professional development for teachers.

Two years ago we embarked on an ambitious three year literacy initiative. 2018-2019 will be our 3rd year. Literacy experts among our teaching staff developed researched materials and resources to use in the evaluation of students' literacy skills in our Seventh-day Adventist schools. Students are tested in the fall and spring of each year.

Results are analyzed to inform professional development plans for teachers. Teachers have self selected professional learning communities to focus on the literacy needs of their students. We look for trends as we study the data. One observation was the

improvement in spelling, which we attribute partially to the emphasis on the annual conference spelling bee. We look forward to the full implementation of the new Bible Encounter curriculum in the elementary schools. This exceptionally engaging curriculum, with outstanding teaching strategies is helping students and teachers encounter Jesus as they participate in Bible study. This curriculum is loved by students and teachers.

Here are some important dates to remember:

**August 1:** Teachers report to work

**August 6-9:** North American Division Teachers' Convention, held at the McCormick Place in Chicago

**August 20:** K-10 schools first day of school

**August 12 & 19:** Wisconsin Academy registration

**August 23:** Wisconsin Academy first day of school

**September 4-6:** Outdoor Education for students in grades 5-6

Home School Parents: You are welcome to participate in the literacy assessment and Outdoor Education for your 5th or 6th grade child. Contact your local school or Linda Rosen at [lrosen@wi.adventist.org](mailto:lrosen@wi.adventist.org) for more information.

Looking forward to the coming school year we solicit your prayers to bless God's work in our schools. Faith based learning that takes place in our schools gives students the opportunity to experience Jesus as their Creator and Redeemer.



Linda Rosen  
Education Superintendent

## Constituency Session

**O**n October 7, delegates from across our conference will convene at Wisconsin Academy for our 38th conference constituency session. Every four years delegates gather to reflect on the past four years, as well as look forward to the next four years. Conference administrators, departmental directors, the executive committee, the constitution and

by-laws committee, and the nominating committee are elected by the delegates to lead the conference for the next four years. Delegates will also vote on capital projects, goals, and strategies for the coming years. Time will be given for delegates to speak on the issues presented at the session. The input of the delegates is important, not only for the process of the day, but to help shape

the direction of the conference for the next four years.

All delegates are encouraged to attend. Non-delegates may attend as observers, but will not be able to take an active part in the meeting. Please pray that God will guide and bless throughout this important meeting.



## Teresa Schaetzka New Office Employee



**T**eresa Schaetzka, a native of Wisconsin, has returned to work at the Wisconsin Conference office. Teresa is working at the Conference office as the Administrative Assistant for Elder Mike Edge, Elder Adam Case and Brian Stephan.

Teresa comes from Indiana Academy where she has been working for the last six years as Registrar. Teresa is an office aficionado who is driven by a strong work ethic and great organizational skills.

Teresa has enjoyed working with young people for the last several years and her burden for young people extends into young adult ministry. As a young adult herself she's recognized how young adults sometimes have a hard time finding their place in the church.

Working with "Cruise with a Mission" ministry under Center for Youth Evangelism has empowered her and she wants to share the experience with others. She recognizes that it encourages young adults to be themselves and minister to those in and outside of the church.

Teresa looks forward to ministering in the Wisconsin Conference and meeting new people and being reunited with old friends.

**T**each me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth.

Psalm 86:11

## Melissa Boryca: New Milwaukee School VP



**M**elissa Boryca is now serving the Milwaukee Adventist School as Vice Principal. She obtained her BS in Elementary Education with emphasis in Language Arts and Spanish from Andrews University, and a Masters Degree in Leadership and Administration from Nova University Southeastern in Florida. She discovered her love for working with children during years of summer camp, and has served as a teacher in the Michigan Conference for the past eight years. "I look forward to being a support to teachers in helping their students be successful."

## Melissa Chacon New Milwaukee Teacher



**M**elissa Chacon is the new 5th & 6th grade teacher for Milwaukee North. A graduate of Southwestern Adventist University, she received a double major in Education and Psychology. She has served as head teacher at the Santa Fe Adventist school in New Mexico for the past three years. "I couldn't imagine being anything but a teacher," says Melissa. "I'm excited for the school year and to see what God has in store."

## Yolanda Voss New Petersen Teacher



**Y**olanda Voss will be teaching K-4 at the Petersen Elementary School. She received her BS in Elementary Education from Andrews University, and earned a masters in Special Education with endorsement for Behavioral and Learning Disabilities, and Intellectually Disabled from Morning Side College in Iowa.

After 13 years of teaching in Adventist schools, Yolanda has spent the past several years teaching special education in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for the public school system.

She and her husband, Kevin, have one son, Derek. "I love kids," says Yolanda. "It's really exciting to see the light bulb turn on in a child's mind, as they learn about doing and being what God created them for." In her free time, Yolanda enjoys reading, gardening, sewing and creating things.

## Davina Fingerson New Milwaukee Teacher

**D**avina Fingerson has agreed to teach English in the Milwaukee Adventist School. She received her degree/certification in Elementary Education and Music from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, and has served as an administrator and teacher for the Hylandale Church School in Rockford, WI, since 2006. Davina and her husband, Keith, have two children, Hannah and Rebekah. In her free time Davina enjoys reading, music, the outdoors, gardening, antique farm tractors and spending time with family.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

**A**s we find ourselves mid-summer we have just closed the books for the first half of our fiscal year. At mid-year the conference is experiencing a 5.12% tithe gain along with a 4.18% increase in giving to Wisconsin Budget. We give thanks to the Lord for this.

I also would like to bring you up to date on the special appeal for a full time special evangelist we have made both at camp meeting and in this article. Our goal was \$60,000. I am happy to report that we raised \$20,000 of that at our camp meeting evangelism offering appeals. In addition, churches have turned in through remittances another \$15,000 for Wisconsin Evangelism bringing us to a total of \$35,000 toward our \$60,000 goal.

We would very much like to fill this position by fall so our evangelist will be ready to go by the first of the year. With all working together I believe these funds can be in hand in time to fill this position by then.

Prayerfully consider giving to this need. As the Lord impresses you to give we ask that you use the line item on your tithe envelope marked Wisconsin Evangelism or write in "Conference Evangelist." You may turn your envelope in with your regular offerings or send it directly to the conference. Thank you in advance for making this a possibility. It has been over seven years since we have had a full time evangelist in this conference and

we would like to see this position restored at least for the next two or three years. We already have several good candidates as possibilities.

It won't be long before school will be starting up again. Preparations are already under way at Wisconsin Academy for the new school year. This summer a generous donation was given to the conference for the purpose of paving the parking areas at the boys and girls dorm of the academy as well as the parking lot and driveway at the lighthouse. This will bring a much improved appearance to the public as they enter our property for the lighthouse and the school. It also makes for a safer environment as well.

Again, thanks to all who support this conference with the many talents God has given. Working together, and with God's blessing, my prayer is that our efforts will bring many to a knowledge of our Lord and Savior so many may be ready to meet Him when He returns to take us home.



Brian Stephan  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

**I** will sing of the mercies  
of the Lord forever;  
with my mouth will I make  
known Your faithfulness to  
all generations. Psalm 89:1

## James's Hamilton Story Continued...

broke through during a sermon series on End Time Prophecy, found in Daniel. I indicated the desire to be baptized, and commenced studies with the pastor. I started to accept Christ more fully, and with his strength, I have set aside drinking, drugs, dark music, and the people that draw me towards those things.

I was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit on March 12th, and now I praise and thank God for how He has changed my life. There is no such thing as a perfect human, not since the Garden of Eden, but I pray every day I can be as close as possible to Christ's image, and believe that I and anyone can reach that goal based on Philippians 4:13. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (NKJV)

I surrender my life and my actions to Christ, and remember where I was just two years ago, before coming to Wisconsin Academy, and I praise Him for leading me to where I am now. He truly has washed me white as snow, and as I go forwards in my life, I look to Him to guide me in all that I do, and pray that His purpose through me is fulfilled according to His will for my life.

James Hamilton  
Wisconsin Academy Church

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	2018	2017	% Change
June Tithe Income:	\$427,147	\$404,484	5.60%
YTD Tithe Income:	\$3,157,617 (26 wks)	\$3,003,785 (25 wks)	5.12%
June Wisconsin Budget:	\$16,953	\$19,344	-12.36%
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$128,686 (26 wks)	\$123,523 (25 wks)	4.18%

## Are You Receiving the Conference eNewsletter Each Month?

Start your free subscription today! Send your email address to the Wisconsin Conference office at [jedge@wi.adventist.org](mailto:jedge@wi.adventist.org), or [droat@wi.adventist.org](mailto:droat@wi.adventist.org).





*from the principal's desk:*

## God's School

**W**isconsin Academy: a place where lifelong friendships are made, memories are created, academic excellence is pursued, and daily opportunities are provided for students to grow and find a relationship with Jesus.

Signs all around tell us Jesus is coming soon, and it is so important for our young people to be in an environment that nurtures a true, transformative relationship with Him.

The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. Monday evenings you will find many of our students gathered together in the lobby for voluntary Bible study. Early each morning you will find small groups of students in both dorms, studying their Bibles and praying together.

Wisconsin Academy is God's school, our students are God's children, and we seek God's guidance as we continue to nurture that relationship.

It is a thrilling experience to watch students' lives be changed for God, through worships,

weeks of prayer and weekends of spiritual emphasis, mission trips, service opportunities, Bible classes, and healthy relationships with fellow students and staff. The wife of one of our visiting speakers, Igdaly Patel commented, "It was amazing to witness these students' desire to want to read and understand God's word and its truth. Their yearning to live a life of purity and to follow God's counsel...was inspirational."

The only way we will be ready to stand for God in these last days is by having a strong relationship with Jesus through Bible study, prayer and sharing His love with others. "The greatest want of the world is the want of men - men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall." EGW, Education, p. 57

Thank you for your support as we begin this new school year. We ask for your continued prayers as we seek to follow God's leading.

Rosalie Rasmussen, principal  
Wisconsin Academy

## Four Commit To Jesus Through Baptism



**W**isconsin Academy students, staff, family, and church members rejoiced with all of heaven as four students were baptized this summer. Sophomores James Hamilton, Bryce Ladwig, and junior Devonte Lee were baptized by pastor Jonathan Fetrick at the W.A. chapel. Senior Caleb Crownover chose to be baptized at camp meeting where his family could attend and his home church pastor, Ron Kelly, could baptize him. We praise God for pastor Fetrick who studied with these four young men, and for the students, staff, and family members who have studied with, encouraged, and prayed all the way.

## APPLY TODAY!

1. Complete our online application  
[www.wisacad.org](http://www.wisacad.org)
2. Talk to our registrar,  
Rosalie Rasmussen  
(920) 623-3300
3. Discuss finances with  
our business manager,  
Darlie Gagatam  
(920) 623-3300 ext. 302



## Rasmussen New Interim Principal



**W**e are happy to announce that Rosalie Rasmussen will be serving as Interim Principal at Wisconsin Academy! Rosalie brings many years of experience in educational administration and teaching, including 12 years as administrator for the Pauline Center for the Creative Arts at Pacific Union College. Most recently Rosalie has been serving as Wisconsin Academy's registrar.

## Serna New Asst. Men's Dean



**W**e are delighted to announce that Enrique Serna has accepted the call to serve as Assistant Dean of Men at Wisconsin Academy! Enrique is an alumnus of Wisconsin Academy, graduating in the class of 2009. He went on to earn a BA in Theology from Andrews University. He is married to Johanna Serna and enjoys sports, outdoor activities, and handyman projects.

## Rasmussen New Asst. Women's Dean



**W**e are delighted to announce that Heidi Rasmussen has accepted the call to serve as Assistant Dean of Women! Heidi graduated from Pacific Union College with a bachelor's degree in Music Education. She will continue to teach Strings and Life Skills. Heidi enjoys crocheting, hiking, whole-foods cooking, baking, time with her cats, and "working with the amazing students of W.A."

# Investing in Eternity

**W**e know that providing your son or daughter with a Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist education involves one of the most significant investments a family will make. We're here to help make this step as easy as possible. Here are some ways families like yours have made Adventist education a reality.

### Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

The State of Wisconsin provides funds to financially qualifying families to cover private school tuition. Families may enroll in this program between February 2 and April 20 of each year. Contact Karen White at 608-345-2051.

### Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)

The state of Wisconsin provides funds to financially qualifying families living in Milwaukee to cover private school tuition. Families may enroll in this program on the 1st-20th of any month. Contact Karen White at 608-345-2051.

### Youth Education Scholarship (YES!)

YES! is a three-way financial assistance matching program. The funds a local church gives (up to \$2,000) will be matched by W.A. and Wisconsin Conference, yielding up to \$6,000 per student (\$4,000 for non-WI churches).

[www.wisacad.org/admissions/financial-options/](http://www.wisacad.org/admissions/financial-options/)

Wisconsin Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists  
PO Box 100  
Fall River WI 53932

Return Service Requested

## Calendar of Events

### August

1-5 ASI Convention  
5 Hispanic Camp Meeting Pitch  
6-9 NAD Teacher Convention  
8-12 Hispanic Camp Meeting  
12 Nominating Committee for  
Constituency  
12 & 19 WA Registration  
20 K-10 First Day of School  
23 WA First Day of School  
24-26 Public Campus Ministries  
Retreat  
26 SAL - Hispanic  
28 Board of Education  
29 Executive Committee  
31-9/2 SEEDS Conference

### September

3 Labor Day  
4-6 Outdoor Education - Wakonda  
7-9 Adventurer Camporee  
7-9 Lay Minister's Training  
7-9 Pastor's Wives Retreat  
21-23 Hispanic Couples Retreat  
21-23 Pathfinder Camporee  
29 Northern District Meeting

### October

5-7 Women's Retreat - Wakonda  
7 Constituency Session  
8 Columbus Day  
12-14 Pathfinder Leadership

19-20 Pastor/Teacher Marriage  
Retreat  
22-28 JAHWI  
30 Board of Education

### November

1-6 NAD Year End Meetings  
9-11 Executive Committee  
11-13 LUC Departmental Meetings  
18 Hispanic Women's Banquet  
18 Adventist Lay Seminary  
22 Thanksgiving

## Hudson Church Shares With Community



In June the children of the Hudson church collected books, crossword, Sudocu, adult and children's coloring books and small stuffed animals. We took them to Western Wisconsin Health Hospital to share with the children in Baldwin, Wisconsin.



**Roger Dunder**, principal of Wisconsin Academy, has moved to Kenya where he will serve as principal of Maxwell Academy.

**Germelen Dunder**, business office assistant at Wisconsin Academy, is moving to serve at Maxwell Academy in Kenya.

**David Kabangie**, assistant boys dean at Wisconsin Academy is moving.

**Ellen Mbungu**, assistant girls dean and teacher at Wisconsin Academy, is moving to Michigan where she plans to continue her education.



The Hudson church held their Vacation Bible School July 18-19. The theme was "Sea of Miracles."