

'N Touch

**The Alumni Association Newsletter of
Redding Adventist Academy**

Fall 2008

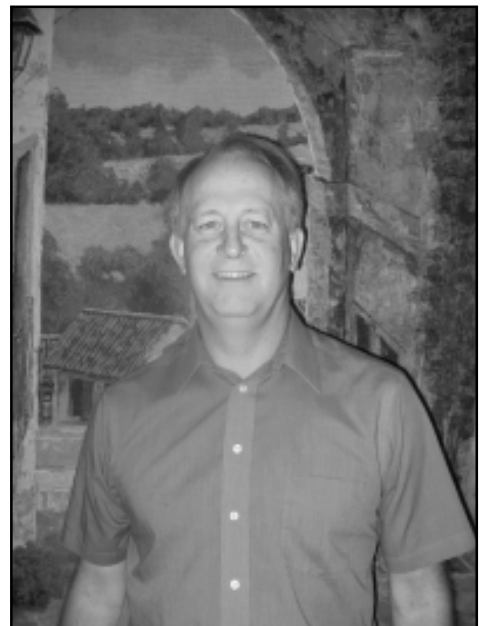
PRESIDENT RICK DUNBAR REMINISCES AND LOOKS AHEAD

Back in 1961 when I first started school, Redding Adventist Academy sat on the edge of town in a quiet, country setting. There was a creek flowing through the field to the west where we caught pollywogs and played "capture the flag." Today that field is a major shopping center with Lowe's, Safeway, restaurants, and other businesses.

RAA has moved forward with the times. Now a K-12 academy, our alma mater is a familiar landmark in Redding: the pretty school on the hill next to Lowe's. RAA has a beautiful new facade that encloses administrative offices and a library. There is a roadside sign on Cypress where daily events are posted. A mural on the west side of the two-story high school building reads, "RAA, A K-12 Christian School." The field to the north is now a sports complex with a track, a baseball diamond, and goal posts. The campus is entirely gated to make sure students stay safe. Those of you from my era would be astounded at the changes in the physical plant.

You would also see a school where activities keep our kids engaged long after 3:00 when we left the premises. There are sports events, music trips, camping trips, community service projects, and a K-12 ski program. RAA is a different school today in ways that are blessing our children and those in our community. For example, each spring the school puts on a performance of its musical to benefit the Good News Rescue Mission. Over the last four years, the kids have raised \$11,100 for the Mission.

One thing that hasn't changed is the feel of the school. RAA is still a caring and nurturing place. And maybe even more so today when compared with public schools where teachers spend more and more of their time enforcing policies in the area of drugs, restrictions against physical



Dr. Rick Dunbar

contact, and so forth. Our teachers have the time to nurture, which gives our kids such an advantage. I don't believe there is a school anywhere that prepares a student any better academically, socially, and spiritually than RAA.

My son Rick graduated from RAA several years ago, so I've had the opportunity to watch the school come of age. A school like RAA exists only because of the commitment of those who know what it means to our children — the volunteers and the constituent church members. As alumni, we had the advantages of a unique educational experience. Now it's our time to do what we can to keep the school moving forward, especially in these tough economic times. As the school has grown, so have the needs.

Funding twelve grades is an ongoing challenge, and the needs of students continue to grow. Our goal for the Alumni Association this year is to raise \$5,000 in scholarship money.

The best way for you to experience RAA is to come visit the school. The next Alumni Sabbath is planned for April 11, 2009, so mark your calendar. It's a great opportunity to share memories. One of my favorites is when Bruce Gregory and I built a volcano for a science project. We designed it to blow confetti out of the top. We had tested it at home, and it worked great, so we put a little more gun powder in it. When the big moment came, fifty kids gathered around the volcano, and it blew way beyond what we had planned."

That's one of my memories. I'd love to hear yours! See you this coming April.

Dr. Rick Dunbar finished high school at Rio Lindo Academy and then attended Pacific Union College for three years. He completed his studies at Loma Linda's School of Dentistry. He married Sharon Mellor whom he met during his junior year at Rio Lindo. They have one son, Rick. Sharon is a court reporter and one of the official reporters for Tehama County, California. You may contact Rick at drd@dm-tech.com.

www.raaalumni.org

The RAA Alumni Association web site now features

an updated list of "Missing Alumni" by class.

Maybe you know where some of your classmates are? Let us know!

Also, please send us your e-mail address!

The web site is linked to RAA's web site where you can see the school's

2007-2008 Annual Report

WHAT HAPPENED AT RAA IN 2007-2008?

MUSIC STUDENTS BOOSTED BENEFITS BOTTOM LINE

Knowing that the Good News Rescue Mission was struggling to make ends meet this past year, RAA music students took the success of the benefit performance personally. After a radio appearance on the Billy and Patrick show, the cast members of “A Cinderella Tale” prayed with Music Teacher Debbi Alexander that their efforts would bring people to the benefit performance.

Ms. Alexander challenged the music students to reach deep into their own pockets -- without going to their parents. The kids stepped up beyond expectation. When Ms. Alexander counted the offering at intermission, the music students had given \$340! This brought the grand total raised for the Good News Rescue Mission to almost \$4,000, more than in any previous year.

[excerpted from the 20087-2008 RAA Annual Report at www.reddingacademy.org]



STUDENTS SERVED, GREW CLOSER ON MISSION TRIP

When students arrived at the Adventist summer camp in the Junque National Park of Puerto Rico, they found rotting wood ceilings, shutters in need of paint, and a swimming pool that had a problem with leaves. They spent their days tearing old wood from the ceilings and putting up new boards. They painted shutters and wove vinyl strips into the chain link fence around the pool to keep the leaves out. Junior Christopher Erich says, “It was nice to fix up a place for the kids to enjoy. We learned that there is a high suicide rate among young Puerto Ricans, so the camp could be a lifeline for some of them.



After work they participated in local Adventist church and school activities. One evening all the students took part in a sunset worship service on the beach. Senior Sara

Barnett says, “It was special to see the Holy Spirit work among us so that we really opened up spiritually to one another.” Senior Nicky Straub appreciated the chance to interact more with classmates. “I became even closer to my friends. It was a great bonding time. We got to see another side of one another.” Sophomore Joseph De Kock says, “Being away from school with friends was really fun. It was a chance to be more natural, to be more like yourself.”

[excerpted from the 2007-2008 RAA Annual Report at www.reddingacademy.org]

WHAT HAPPENED (cont.)

RAA ATHLETES GAVE THEIR BEST

Like most small schools, RAA has had its share of disappointments in sports. But 2008 was different. RAA athletes celebrated multiple championships and watched their cross country coach take home a coach of the year award.

Under the inspired coaching of parent Ann Marie Groen, the girls junior high team won the league championship over longtime favorite Igo Ono. With good sportsmanship at the top of her list, Ms. Groen says, “Other schools noticed our good sportsmanship and the encouragement that the RAA players showed other teams,” she says. People came up to us and told us how nice it was to play with us because of this.”

The junior high boy’s cross country team won its regional championship outpacing bigger schools and the favored team. Coach Shellie Penington says, “The kids really stepped it up this year. They pushed themselves with extra workouts, hill training, Sunday workouts, and make-up workouts.”

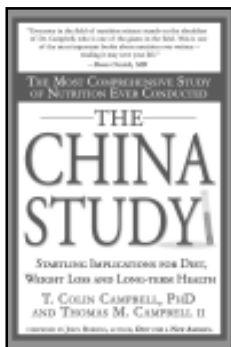
The boys varsity cross country team finished in the top ten at the sectional level for the fourth consecutive year. In recognition of having built a successful program, Coach Paul Turk received the 2007 Cross Country Coach of the Year award from the Northern Section which includes most public and private schools north of Sacramento.

So, why have a sports program? RAA’s Athletic Director Tammy Turk and Coach Paul Turk agree: “Sports are a way to develop character. They give us the opportunity to show our kids how to lose, or win, with grace. Participating in a sport helps them understand what it means to give one’s best, no matter the discipline. And sports give our kids an appreciation for being physically fit.” *[excerpted from the 2007-2008 RAA Annual Report at www.reddingacadem.org]*



BEST SELLING AUTHOR DREW A CROWD TO THE RAA CAMPUS

In keeping with the Adventist focus on health, RAA brought Dr. T. Colin Campbell, noted research scientist and Cornell professor emeritus, to Redding. Dr. Campbell spoke on the findings in his national best selling book The China Study. He told an audience of over 300 that it is possible to significantly reduce one’s risk for getting the most common diseases of affluence: cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, by eating a diet rich in whole, plant-based foods and avoiding animal-based products. The China Study also demonstrates that those who already battle these diseases can reduce or reverse their effects through diet.



“Having Dr. Campbell speak is part of our ongoing effort to benefit those in our community, and, at the same time, show people our school campus,” says Development Director Diane Butler. *[excerpted from the 2007-2008 RAA Annual Report at www.reddingacademy.org]*

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INITIATES PROJECTS TO BENEFIT RAA

As RAA has moved through almost a decade as an academy, officers of the Alumni Association have identified areas where alumni can make a difference.

With the growth of the school's sports program, the scoreboard in the gymnasium began showing serious signs of wear and tear in 2007. The Alumni Association's first project on behalf of the school—raising funds to provide a new gym scoreboard — was launched during the 2007-2008 school year. The total amount raised came to \$1,837 which represents 40% of the total cost of a wireless, digital scoreboard. The balance will come from several sources including the twelfth and eighth grade class gifts, the school payback program *eScrip*, and the school's varsity fund.

The project that the Alumni Association will undertake in 2008-2009 is a \$5,000 scholarship. With almost 12% of the school's tuition income coming in the form of gifts from local Adventist church members, the school has reached a point where it can no longer provide enough support for every child that would like to be at RAA. "This is an ambitious project," says Alumni Association President Rick Dunbar. "But times are tight for many families today, so we want to help RAA do all it can to make sure every child that wants to be here can be here."

RAA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2008-2009 Project

\$5,000 Scholarship Fund

Please accept my donation of:

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$ 250 ___ \$500

Please accept my pledge of \$ _____ to be paid by _____.

Name: _____

e-mail: _____

Mail to: RAA Alumni Association, 1356 E. Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96002

RAA Alumni Association
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2008 Officers for the RAA Alumni Association

President	Rick Dunbar, Class of 1971
President Elect	Kelly Dunbar, Class of 1976
Secretary Treasurer	Erin Penland, Class of 1978
Past President	Mark Juarez, Class of 1978
Officer at large	Brian Russell, Class of 1980
Principal's Representative	Diane Butler, RAA Marketing and Development Director

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 2009 ALUMNI SABBATH

APRIL 11

ENJOY THE SERVICE & CATCH UP WITH OLD FRIENDS

THEN STAY FOR THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETING