Fond Memories from the Early Days

“Our years at Hartland were some of the best years of our lives,” share 1987 graduates Wayne and Laura Wright.

by Wayne Wright and Laura Mayer Wright as told to Kevin Wahl

Wayne

In 1983—the same year Hartland College was founded—I experienced a dramatic conversion and began to make some major changes in my lifestyle. Yet, three months later, I began to backslide. I really wanted victory over sin, but the influence of my old friends plus attending college in a less-than-ideal environment in the heart of the city made it difficult.

That summer, I joined a colporteur program in the Pennsylvania Conference. There I met some young people who told me about Hartland. A friend and I decided to visit their campus, where I met President Colin Standish. After much prayer, and reading and reviewing E.A. Sutherland’s Studies in Christian Education, I decided to enroll at Hartland in January of 1984. Hartland knew that I wanted a new start and took a chance on accepting me as a Pastoral Evangelism major. I wasn’t certain what God had in mind for my life, but I knew I wanted to do something to serve Him.

The spiritual atmosphere and beautiful country surroundings were just what the heavenly Doctor ordered. I appreciated the spiritual emphasis in all the classes. The majority of the staff and students were fully committed to God and were clearly there because they chose to be there. I loved every prayer meeting, worship service, and week of prayer.

Many Sabbath afternoons, I enjoyed hiking on the trails at Hartland or in the Shenandoah Mountains with some of my fellow students. The Christian fellowship around the lunch table or during other social activities was also a highlight.

After graduating from Hartland, I served two years as an academy teacher and nearly 10 years as a pastor in the Mountain View Conference. I currently work as a database
administrator and report writer, and I’m active in my church as an elder and Sabbath School teacher.

The knowledge, practical skills, and friendships I gained at Hartland have been and will continue to be a blessing in my life. There I grew spiritually, learned many valuable lifestyle behaviors, and I met Laura—the woman who has now been my wife and spiritual partner for 25 years.

Laura

Before majoring in Health Science at Hartland College, I’d already completed five years of college, but did not have a degree. I previously majored in Occupational Therapy, and had taken a lot of health and science classes. Hartland worked it out so I could finish with a bachelor of science in two years, so I decided to attend. My brother Hal Mayer and his wife Betsy lived there, which was a blessing.

Hartland strengthened my belief in the eight natural remedies and how powerful they are in reversing many of the degenerative diseases we see today. Hartland also taught me massage, hydrotherapy, and cooking skills. Today I’m a certified nursing assistant (CNA) helping the elderly in their homes. I use the natural remedies I learned at Hartland all the time, and find that my clients seem to appreciate my prayers with them more than anything else.

I try to get involved with any health programs put on by my church or other Seventh-day Adventist churches in my area. We just finished a seminar on the eight natural remedies. Around 50 people graduated, and most of them reported amazing improvements in their health with the change of diet and exercise. One man is very interested in having Bible studies. I praise God for using me to help others improve their health physically, mentally, and spiritually.

One of the biggest blessings I received from Hartland is a wonderful Seventh-day Adventist husband—Wayne—who has similar goals and dreams in life. Last but not least, Hartland taught me Jesus’ method of reaching people. He mingled with men, ministered to their needs, gained their confidence, and bade them, “Follow Me.”
Then and Now

How I remember Hartland’s campus in the early years

by Gillian Gibson Bethel

Gillian stands in front of Log Manor, which used to be the women’s dorm.

“I n the summer of 1986, I came from my homeland of England to work as a volunteer at Hartland. The moment I stepped onto the campus and received a welcoming hug from staff member Jeanne Peters, I fell in love with the place! It instantly felt like I’d come home. I’d never experienced Seventh-day Adventism as I found it at Hartland.

Here I met a group of people convicted and passionate about Seventh-day Adventism and the mission the Lord had given them. Also, I found a school different from any I’d experienced, a simple lifestyle program that transformed lives, a dedicated publishing ministry, and a worldwide vision for education and outreach. For the first time, I met young people who wanted God to be first in their lives, studying to equip themselves to serve Him better.

But back in those days, Hartland was logistically different—the campus was not as well developed. For instance, the women’s dorm used to be Log Manor. As acting dean, I lived there with my 13 girls and felt like I’d traveled back in time! Ronda Potterton Smith told me that in Hartland’s first months, the staff lived in Log Manor like true pioneers.

One day, as some of the ladies were making applesauce, a stranger walked in and started looking around as if it were a “living museum” exhibit like Jamestown. When she learned it was really a private residence, she felt very embarrassed. But to her it looked just like something from pioneer days—and in a way it was! Hartland began with much sacrifice by the first staff members.

Other differences included the lifestyle program taking place in the mansion, where guests shared beautiful colonial-style bedrooms equipped with four-poster beds and antiques donated by Dr. John Hart. All the college classes were held in the chapel or cafeteria, and the young men lived in the basement. Hartland had no dormitory buildings, no lifestyle center, no conference center, and fewer staff homes.

Yet in all the most important ways, Hartland has not changed. I recently returned as staff and have been so happy to find that Hartland is still filled with people who are on fire. The worldwide vision has continued and the singing in the chapel is still like no other! God’s greatest gift to me and many others through Hartland has been a clearer understanding of the truth as it is in Jesus. May the Lord continue to use Hartland to finish His work.
Spring Graduation 2013

On June 7–8, the Lord set aside five graduates to help proclaim the gospel to the world. They encouraged the students with their internship reports and testimonies, relating how God led them to Hartland College and helped them through their training. Chuck Holtry, 1997 graduate, talked about winning souls, one by one, and always obeying God’s commands, no matter what kind of society surrounds you. President Norbert Restrepo spoke closing words of encouragement to the graduates, and President Emeritus Colin Standish offered the prayer of dedication.

Radford Bingham
USA
Christian Media Management
Bible verses: Jeremiah 29:11–13
Vision: To accomplish God’s will in my life and use my training to help others

Samuel Francis
USA
Pastoral Evangelism
Bible verse: Psalm 23:4
Vision: To establish small sanitariums and schools in the Dominican Republic following the divine blueprint, by God’s grace!

Fortunato Jardinico
USA
Pastoral Evangelism
Bible verse: Psalm 46:10
Vision: To be thoroughly equipped to do God’s service

Toki Kawakami
Japan/USA
Bible Instruction Agriculture Minor
Bible verse: Luke 2:52
Vision: To provide youth with opportunities for true education

Rena Lee
USA
Christian Media Management
Bible verse: Psalm 16:11
Vision: To put all my trust in the Lord, let Him direct my path, and use the talents that God has given me to finish the work that needs to be done

AIM: Saving souls, one at a time
MOTTO: Obedience at all costs
A Whole New Lifestyle

“God showed me how He meant for us to live,” says Jade Johnson, after attending Hartland’s “Lifestyle to Health” session.

by Jade Johnson as told to Kevin Wahl

My blood pressure spiked very high—it read 198/117. I was in danger of a stroke. I didn’t want to take blood pressure pills because of headaches and other side effects. I also had really bad pain in my stomach and my back. I thought I either had stomach cancer or that my gallstones had come back after five or six years. I didn’t want to let the hospital remove my gallbladder.

I came to Hartland’s Lifestyle Education Center, and they put me on a fast. After two or three days, I didn’t feel the pain anymore. My blood pressure started to come down after a while, but sometimes it would go back up at nighttime. Also, I felt like there was a ball inside my stomach. I became concerned that maybe I had more than gallstones or cancer, so they gave me teas and different juices to drink, and a lot of exercising and walking to do. Each day I noticed myself getting better and better. I no longer feel that “ball,” and I really feel great today with all the exercising. I now go walking three times a week.

I learned how the body can break down from poor eating habits. At home I struggled with cooking. I wanted to learn how to cook healthy, nutritious, delicious food, without using analog food. What they taught me here really amazed me. I found out that I had most of the stuff at home needed to make healthier foods—I just didn’t know how to do it. I didn’t know how to make bean burgers or almond milk. And I actually helped cook, so I got hands-on experience. I also learned the importance of reading labels before buying what looks healthy.

During my last week here, my blood pressure read 110/84. It hasn’t been that low in years! The pain in my stomach and back—I don’t know where it went. And I’m 100% sure that the gallstones are gone.

I can’t wait to go home and share my testimony. My church is waiting to know the results of my coming here. Also, I’ll teach my neighbors the importance of drinking lemon water first thing in the morning to help cleanse your body; eating early and not late at night, and not eating between meals; going to sleep early to get your melatonin between 10 PM and 2 AM, and not going to bed so late and then being stressed in the morning.

I feel wonderful! I’m very happy to have come through this program.
Why Donors Support Hartland Institute

I very much appreciate everything that Hartland does in keeping true to the Adventist faith. It’s just wonderful to know that there are institutions like this that are still faithful to the Spirit of Prophecy and what the Lord wants for His people in the last days. So I feel privileged to be able to support Hartland!—California

I believe Hartland is one of the institutions that will finish the work on earth and hasten the second coming of Christ!—Pennsylvania

I faithfully give to Hartland since I know that they put money to good use for His cause.—Washington

Praise God for Hartland’s continued witness for Christ, and how they so thoroughly teach the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy—it is beautiful! Hartland’s work is daily in my prayers. They help many worthy students. I appreciate the “Thank you” notes and the pictures—they are encouraging to givers!—Virginia

I consider it a privilege to support Hartland Institute. Supporting the Missionary Training Fund is a “no-brainer,” because foreign students get trained here and then go back to their own countries, where they speak the languages and know their cultures.—Maryland

Hartland teaches our young people how to reach others through health evangelism and to preach the Three Angels’ Messages, calling people out of Babylon. Hartland’s young graduates go all over the world teaching and preaching our Lord’s soon coming and preparing others to be ready for that day. We also love the fact that Hartland has a health facility on the premises, helping people to get well and to follow the eight rules of health.—Connecticut
For many years, Hartland Natural Farm has helped supply fresh produce for the college cafeteria and provided opportunities for the students to learn practical skills. This is an important aspect of Hartland’s educational philosophy, and it helps many of the students pay their way through school.

Now, Hartland Natural Farm is also serving the nearby communities in a more personal way, providing them with fresh and wholesome produce, including beets, kale, collards, Swiss chard, spinach, mustard greens, lettuce, spring onions, leeks, broccoli, cabbage, and culinary herbs.

On April 21, 2013, Hartland Natural Farm held a “Grand Opening” as a way of letting the nearby communities know that they are open for business. “Approximately 100 visitors joined us for this event,” recounts Kevin Wagner, director of Hartland Industries. “We gave tours, hayrides, food samples, recipes, gardening tips, and many other items of interest.”

The guests were also able to buy fresh produce and transplants. In addition to the farm crew selling produce, the Lifestyle Education Center gave therapeutic juice samples and chair massages, the cafeteria sold granola, Michelle Blackwood made kale smoothies, Ivonne Restrepo and Karine Sanchez made food samples using kale, Hartland Publications sold health books, and even 13-year-old Eva Sanchez sold all the bread that she had made. All the guests’ purchases helped sponsor students who are working their way through school.

Kevin concludes, “It really was a grand time that was decently attended by the community. Perhaps the greatest blessing to me was to see the cooperation and cheerful willingness of the Hartland family to pull our resources together and make it happen! This is the kind of unity that the Lord will bless.”
“I am never ashamed to hand out Last Generation. As a university student, I shared copies with sophisticated, educated people who eagerly took them.”

“After reading your special issue on the Sabbath, I began Bible studies and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

“I share Last Generation with interested people in my Nigerian community—both Muslim and Christian.”

These are samples of the many interesting responses from our readers and literature missionaries on five continents. When we started this ministry 25 years ago, we never envisioned this magazine’s international reach.

In the summer of 1988, a decision was made to start a monthly magazine providing Bible answers to contemporary issues for 18 to 30-year-olds. A small team of publishing novices began that September to plan upcoming issues.

The first Last Generation magazine rolled off the press in January of 1989. Eleven months into the venture, the editor and a number of staff moved on, leaving only a skeleton crew. After much prayer and deliberation, the “remnant” decided to publish bimonthly and target a wider age market.

Because of its contemporary focus, Last Generation presents solid Bible answers on topics that are interesting to all ages—topics as varied as the rise of occult entertainment, the origins debate, and Islam in Bible prophecy.

Having its headquarters on a college campus has undoubtedly kept Last Generation fresh and vibrant. College students assist in writing and editing articles as part of their vocational training.

Last Generation has an international bimonthly circulation of about 18,000 magazines. We also send many more magazines through our free literature program. These magazines assist literature missionaries in their efforts to spread the Three Angels’ Messages, often in new, unreached areas.

This year we completed a special issue in Spanish, “Volviendo a lo Básico,” on the Three Angels’ Messages and the Law of God. Forty-eight thousand copies are being processed for the Dominican Republic, Chile, Colombia, and Venezuela. The Latino Protestant Reformation is gathering momentum as millions are seeking both a personal relationship with Jesus and Bible truth. Last Generation is at the forefront of this exciting development.

Check out our vibrant literature resources at www.lastgen.net.
The Hebrew hosts were encamped on the borders of Canaan. Only the Jordan River lay between them and the Promised Land. The 40 years of wandering through the desert were over. Moses, their leader and prophet, was about to depart from their midst. Just before Moses stepped down from his position as Israel’s visible leader, God directed him to rehearse to Israel the history of their deliverance from Egypt, their journeying in the wilderness, and to recapitulate the law spoken from Sinai. With deep feeling, Moses stood before them describing the love and mercy of their almighty God and repeating His last warnings and admonitions.

Today we stand on the borders of the heavenly Canaan. All time prophecies have been fulfilled, and the work of our High Priest in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary is about to close. Since 1844, 169 years have gone by. “Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” Romans 13:11. This year is the 150th anniversary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. At such a time as this, we should rehearse our history, understand our high calling, and recommit ourselves to proclaiming the Three Angels’ Messages.

God has called His church today just as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. He has called us out of the world in order to bring us into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made us the depositaries of His law and has committed to us the great truths of prophecy for this time.

What a solemn privilege! However, we cannot do this on our own. With our defective characters, self-righteous works, and sins, we misrepresent God. We must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and His high priestly ministry. If we surrender to Him, submitting our will to His, He will work in us “to do of His good pleasure.” This is a daily experience. “A clearer understanding of God’s will, places man in a new relation to Him. New duties are revealed.”¹

This year is Hartland Institute’s 30th anniversary. In 1983, Hartland was established as an outpost center striving to follow the principles of true education and health. Our renewed mission is to reach the sick and weary souls who know not the truth, and to rightly train an army of youth to proclaim the everlasting gospel. “All upon whom God’s blessings have been bestowed are to respond by actual service; every gift is to be employed for the advancement of His kingdom.”² Let this ever be our goal and purpose.

Norbert Restrepo Jr., President

¹ White, Ellen G., Sketches from the Life of Paul, p. 132
² White, Counsels for the Church, p. 58
Hal Mayer, a young 1981 Weimar College graduate, had begun a health ministry in Pennsylvania and was looking for property to start a lifestyle center. His parents, Richard and Laurena Mayer, supported his ministry. In a short time, Hal roused an interest in having a medical missionary college on the East Coast.

At that time, I served as dean of the college at Weimar. Hal asked me if I would come to speak about Weimar at a meeting held at Blue Mountain Academy. There I realized a real interest, and I agreed to return to test the support for a ministry similar to Weimar on the East Coast. Raymond and Dorothy Moore, experts in homeschooling, also became involved in making presentations and promoting the idea.

At one point, 122 people from Maine to Florida met to seek God’s direction in establishing a “Weimar East,” as the idea was then called. With one person voting “uncertain,” the remaining 121 attendees voted to go ahead, and eight board members were chosen.

The board voted Glen Hoffman as the first chairman and asked me to become president of the yet-to-begin college.

I asked Hal to locate a large property with buildings already on it. We soon realized that we must find a state that would allow us to operate a college without accreditation. Only one state on the East Coast had this provision—the Commonwealth of Virginia. So we turned our attention to Virginia.

While sitting in a realtor’s office in the town of Warrenton, Hal found a brochure on Hartland Hall. It proved to be an ideal location. After many miracles, Hartland Institute of Health and Education opened on July 1, 1983. And the miracles didn’t stop. Many times we received just the right amount needed to make our quarterly payment. Step by step, the lifestyle center, the bookstore, and the farm were established. Praise God for His guidance.

Over the past 30 years, God has placed Hartland College graduates on every continent and in scores of countries. They have followed His divine plan of proclaiming the gospel through evangelistic, educational, health, and media ministries, bringing tens of thousands to the Seventh-day Adventist faith. All glory is to God!

Colin D. Standish, President Emeritus
Upcoming Events

Fall Convocation
October 18–20, 2013
Speaker: Dwayne Lemon
Contact: Events Coordinator
☎ (540) 672-1996 ext 232

Fall Graduation
November 2, 2013
Contact: JH Shin
☎ (540) 672-1996 ext 302

Winter Convocation
January 24–26, 2014
Contact: Events Coordinator
☎ (540) 672-1996 ext 232

Spring Convocation
April 25–27, 2014
Contact: Events Coordinator
☎ (540) 672-1996 ext 232

Medical Missionary Training
May 25–30, 2014
Contact: Nayelyth Pfeifer
☎ (540) 672-1996 ext 277

Spring Graduation
June 6–7, 2014
Contact: JH Shin
☎ (540) 672-1996 ext 302

Piedmont Valley Youth Bible Camp
June 22–29, 2014
Contact: Joan Reichard
☎ (540) 672-1996 ext 305

Camp Meeting
July 22–27, 2014
Contact: Events Coordinator
☎ (540) 672-1996 ext 232

Staff Openings
Contact: Nancy Carmouche
☎ (540) 672-1996 ext 356
e ncarmouche@hartland.edu
Visit hartland.edu for updates.

Hartland Institute
Office manager/Human resources

Dwayne Lemon desires to make those who are young in age and youthful in experience know that they can truly live a surrendered life. He believes that medical missionary work and the Three Angels’ Messages will help us prepare to meet the Lord. Dwayne is married to Alexandra Lemon, and they have four children: Jahred, Kayla, Kaleb, and Jada.

We thank those who have given in honor of...
• The heavenly Father and Lord Jesus by Lois Wilson,
  Simdumise Poswa by Susanne Wanzer

In memory of...
• Ken Bain by L. Sue Walden,
  Shannon Burton by Jay and Cathy Pavlik III,
  Rex Horner and Tammy Allen by Billy and Jean Horner,
  Julie K. Stoker by Michael and Earline Jackson,
  Mrs. Desse Mode by Jay and Cathy Pavlik III