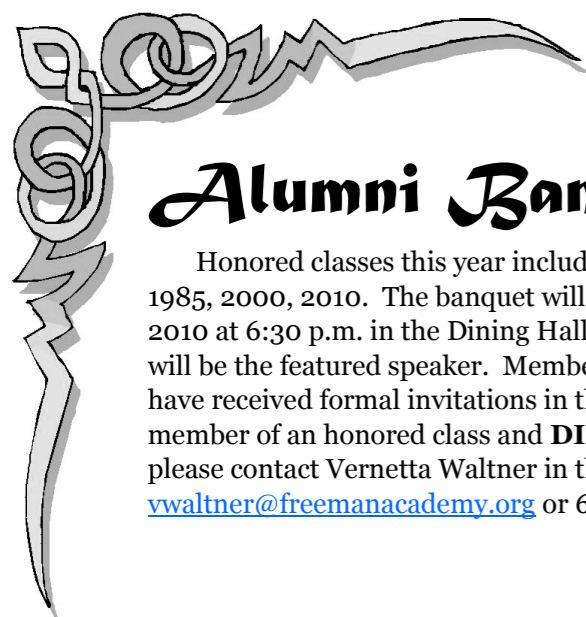
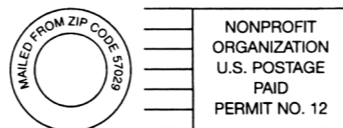




748 South Main, PO Box 1000
Freeman, South Dakota 57029-1000

Return Service Requested



Alumni Banquet 2010

Honored classes this year include 1930, 1935, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1985, 2000, 2010. The banquet will be held on Saturday, August 7, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dining Hall. Dr. Duane Pankratz, FA '60, will be the featured speaker. Members of honored classes should have received formal invitations in the mail recently. If you are a member of an honored class and **DID NOT** receive an invitation, please contact Vernetta Waltner in the Development Office at vwaltner@freemanacademy.org or 605-925-4237, ext. 235.

Coming Events

Schmeckfest
March 19-20, 26-27

Steps Forward Dinners
April TBA

Graduation
May 22

Alumni Banquet
August 7

FOCUS ON FREEMAN ACADEMY

It has been my privilege to visit alumni in the south central Kansas area annually since 2007. Over 350 FJC and FA alumni live in Kansas, a high percentage of them in the Newton/Wichita area. In this issue, I provide updates on two of those wonderful people.

Vernetta Waltner

Kansas Friends of FJCI&FA

Reminisce



Miguel and Jeanne Cardenas

By Vernetta Waltner

Miguel Cardenas FA'52, FJC'52

International students have always been an important element of life at Freeman Academy and Freeman Junior College. Presently, many of our international students come to us through special agencies, but 60 years ago these often came through personal contacts. That is how Miguel (Mike) Cardenas became part of our "Freeman family."

Victor and Myrtle Buller from Worthington, MN met Mike on a missions visit to Chihuahua City, Mexico at the Centro Cristiano, a Methodist missionary school, while he was there drawing plans for an addition to the school building. During their conversation, Mike mentioned that he was interested in furthering his education but did not have financial means.

Vic and Myrtle arranged for Mike to attend school in Freeman if he could finance and arrange for his trip

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February 2010



*Where Faith & the Arts
Bring Learning to Life*

▶ **Our Mission...**

Freeman Academy, as part of Christ's church, integrates Christian principles into all learning while maintaining a standard of excellence in academics, creative arts and athletics. Freeman Academy is Mennonite in origin and doctrine, but seeks to serve students of all Christian faiths. A safe, caring and nurturing atmosphere prepares students to accept God's call to live a life of compassionate service and discipleship to Christ.

Kansas Friends Reminisce

Continued from page 1

to the US. This involved obtaining a passport, visa, and permission from the Mexican army to leave the country. Mike left Chihuahua on a bus to Worthington, MN with \$2.00 in his pocket.

The Bullers transported Cardenas to Freeman prior to the start of the 1950-51 school year. There he was introduced to Dick Waltner who took him home to become a part of the Richard and Hilda Waltner family during his stay in Freeman.

Mike arrived in Freeman with only eight years of education in Mexico. After taking some tests, it was determined that he could attend FJC if he took an English and American History class with the Academy seniors. In that way, he actually received diplomas from both Freeman Academy and Freeman Junior College when he graduated in 1952,

According to Mike, "Trying to summarize so many positive impressions of FJC and FA would be like using the words 'really big hole' to describe the Grand Canyon. Loyalties and affections were apparent like the stitches of an especially complicated needlework." He especially enjoyed Dr. Gross' semantics class and Elvira Voth's choir.

As he searches the storehouse of his memory, he treasures the friendships and learning to "extract the permanent and significant from the transitory and trivial" as important values that he has retained

throughout his life. "Physically, I remember Freeman, a town by a highway with a college in the background and green fields swelling in the rear. Somehow, such a place corresponds to feelings of security and warmth – a sense of place, hearth and home."

After graduation from FJC, Mike attended and graduated from Bethel College in N. Newton, KS in 1955, continuing with graduate work at the University of Kansas, Emporia State University and Wichita State University. Beginning in 1958 Cardenas began a lifetime career teaching mathematics, first at the junior high level and ending in 1989 at the graduate level at Wichita State University where he taught evening classes and was a featured lecturer.

Mike is not only gifted mathematically, he has a great love of literature, music, and history. One of his most worthwhile accomplishments was a biography written about his wife's grandparents who were Sudeten Germans of the Austria/Hungary Empire that settled in a sod house in Western Kansas. A personal library in his Wichita, KS home includes 5050+ books and more than 7900 items. Another special moment was delivering a speech at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. to *The International Group for the Study of the History and Pedagogy of Mathematics*.

Mike hopes that Freeman Academy "will be the inspiration for students to do great things: discover how the universe works, write words that illuminate the human condition, arrange sounds and colors in ways that touch our deepest ambitions. Great models of one generation tend to encourage great successors in the next." We are honored with Mike's noteworthy memories of his time at FJC, FA and the Freeman Community!

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Schmeckfest

Schmeckfest time is nearly here! Interested persons are still welcome to "apply" for an opportunity to expand the Schmeckfest experience by spending one day WORKING at the event and another day as a GUEST! Assistance is needed in the demonstrations and at the meal as a kitchen helper/cook or as a table server. Contact Vernetta Waltner at vwaltner@freemanacademy.org or 605-321-7351.

Tickets for the ethnic meal and the musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, are still available. Online orders for tickets can be placed at www.schmeckfesttickets.com or by printing an order form at www.freemansd/schmeckfest.com.



Music Hall 2010

Music Hall Window Replacement

The Building and Grounds Committee has received a preliminary bid of \$10,000 - \$11,000 on the labor for

The Daily Walk

Continued from page 5

organize his paperwork.

God provides a wide variety of gifts far beyond the culturally accepted list. We need the encourager and the organizer; these are important gifts that nurture and provide a social fabric to our student body. God provides a variety of gifts necessary for our communities to sustain relationship from the standard recognized gifts to the subtle supporting gifts.

Back to my visit with the elderly lady. Clearly, she didn't feel gifted in the socially recognized way and felt that her nurturing gifts were of no value. Is there a way for us to assist students today with recognizing gifts that appear to hold less value? Staff are vital in helping students recognize their gifts, both those culturally accepted and those that are not. Each person has a gift to offer and all gifts are of value.

As constituents of Freeman Academy, I would ask for your prayers as our staff nurtures each student's gifts daily. You also play an integral role in student development with attendance at student events, financial contributions, and prayers.

replacing the Music Hall windows. This comes to approximately \$500 per window. After purchasing the windows at a cost of \$9000, that leaves a balance of \$9400 in the account. Gifts to make up the difference will be needed. We ask for your prayerful consideration to assist us so that we can finish the project during summer vacation 2010. Contact Vernetta Waltner with any questions or concerns.

Sterling Hall Debt Reduction Updates

An extra payment on principal, \$17,000, was made on November 3, 2009 on the loan from Merchants State Bank. This was made possible due to extra gifts and extended pledges made to reach the goal of paying off the loan early.

Sense of Community

Continued from page 5

different learning styles of children.

In a review of studies on impact of support in school, the studies found that a caring school climate is associated with higher grades, engagement, attendance, expectations, and aspirations. The studies also found that the students have higher self-esteem and self-concept, as well as less anxiety, depression and loneliness. The school culture and climate are really developed and maintained by the board of directors, administrators, teachers, and staff.

It is comforting to know that we are sending our children to this school culture where the school climate "feels" warm and accepting. If the adults within a school setting are not establishing a positive school culture, the school climate will reflect that attitude. Make sure that your children, grandchildren, and others are experiencing a positive school culture so they are able to attend classes feeling welcomed and accepted. Freeman Academy offers that positive school culture and climate. For more information on this topic, go to <http://outreach.msu.edu/bpbriefs/issues/brief31.pdf>.