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Bobbi Gauger

Andrews University

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What CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Did for Me

BY BOBBI GAUGER

I am writing as a college sophomore at Andrews University. The excitement of this new year has started me down memory lane and a journey that began years ago. I have fond memories of grade school and all my years at Bethel Junior Academy. My teachers there instilled in me a love of learning that has led me to my elementary education major.

But at this moment, my thoughts are back at Wisconsin Academy (WA). Maybe that's because my sister, Kelli, is in her senior year there and I pray she will have an experience as wonderful as mine.

Going to WA was something I had looked forward to all my life. As a little girl my mother would talk to me about the day when I would get to go to WA and shared stories of her years there. I couldn't wait to take history from Carl Sigler, just like my mom. But a little girl's daydreams were no comparison to what I found three years ago.

WA opened the door for me to experience one of God's greatest blessings—friendships that last into eternity. Dorm life strengthens friendships like almost no other situation can. Your friends are not only your classmates, they become your roommates, neighbors, and family. I'll never forget the day, during finals week my junior year, when my grandpa died and my friend, Esther, asked Dean Thomas to take her into town to buy me ice cream—my comfort food. My friends spent that evening letting me talk and cry, and years later I knew that I had seen Jesus through them.

I can't say enough about the teachers and faculty at WA. I knew they were always willing to help me with my classes, to give counsel, and come to the rescue for my times of need. I've seen them each make sacrifices to give their all.

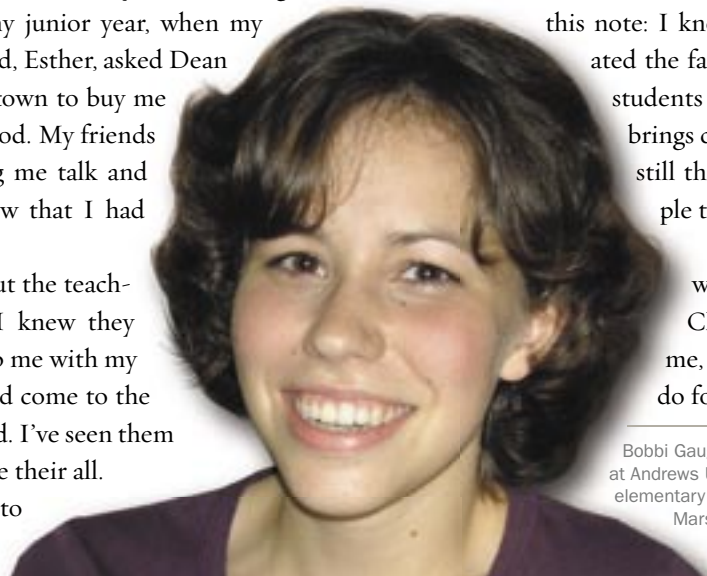
I happened to walk into the business office one

day and Mrs. Budd took time to listen. Then she prayed the most powerful prayer with me, and I knew God would carry me through that day. I had many experiences just like that to draw strength from.

I was given the opportunity to develop leadership skills by being a class officer, working with Girl's Club, Student Association, *Wisconsinian* (the school newspaper), and the National Honor Society. I also took advantage of the chance to join the bell choir, and attended a prayer conference. Each opportunity taught me new skills, added some fun and excitement to my day, and allowed me to grow as a person. Above all else, WA brought me closer to God—a priceless investment.

I could go on sharing the impact that a Christian education at WA has had on me, but I would like to close with this note: I know that since I have graduated the faculty have changed and new students have arrived. Although that brings changes, I *know* the mission is still the same—to lead young people to a deeper walk with Jesus!

If this is simply *part* of what Wisconsin Academy and Christian education did for me, just think of what it could do for you!



Bobbi Gauger is a 20-year-old sophomore at Andrews University where she is studying elementary education. She is a member of the Marshfield (Wisconsin) Church.