

The Magazine of the Delaware County Christian School

# KEYNOTER

SPRING 2014



DELAWARE COUNTY  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Spring 2014

THE MAGAZINE OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Joy C. Ludwig

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Charles E. Young

## HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

M. Andrew Alford

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Jeannie Leaman

## MISSION:

Our mission is to educate students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action.

## 2013-14 SCHOOL VERSE:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

PLEASE SEND NAME & ADDRESS  
CORRECTIONS OR CHANGES TO  
[ADVANCEMENT@DCCS.ORG](mailto:ADVANCEMENT@DCCS.ORG) OR  
CALL 610-353-6522 X2207

Delaware County Christian School (DC) Keynoter is published tri-annually to communicate our school vision and news to alumni, friends, family, and prayer partners of the school. Delaware County Christian School was established in 1950. Today, the school serves 757 Pre-K through Grade 12 students at two campuses in Newtown Square and Devon, PA.

Delaware County Christian School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Association of Christian Schools International. DC admits students of any race, color, and national/ethnic origin to all of the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national/ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, or athletic and other school-administered programs.





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# A Season Of New Beginnings...

Dear DC Family...

**A**nytime we complete a school year, I am grateful to recall our yesterdays, I am compelled to reflect upon today, and I am drawn into hope and wonder for the possibilities of what our tomorrows may bring.

Yesterday, DC was founded by visionary parents who wanted a Christian education for their children and made amazing sacrifices to see that goal fulfilled. Yesterday, our former heads of school, Dr. Lowrie, Mr. Tanis, and Dr. Dill, along with hundreds of former and present faculty, built a school that was true to its initial calling to bring glory and honor to the rock of our foundation, Jesus Christ. Yesterday, thousands of young men and women walked our hallways and graduated, prepared to impact the world and culture for Christ's kingdom.

## **Yesterday was a very good day.**

Today, as we reflect upon another wonderful year in which 90 faculty members and 147 total employees endeavored to create a vibrant learning culture across both campuses, we set out to build upon our Christian liberal arts philosophy. Our students flourish with that same mission of engaging the world through biblical thought and action. Today, we have 85 remarkable seniors graduating having served one another and their communities, having excelled in the classroom, on a variety of athletic fields, and on the stage, and even having excelled in the quiet recesses of their private worlds—when no one else was looking. For all that has been done—and done well—today, we are thankful.

## **Today was another very good day.**

As we begin to think about summer and its brilliance and as we begin to dream about DC's tomorrows, may we be filled with hope and wonder. As we roll out a new strategic plan meant to enable us to build for each tomorrow, may we be filled with hope and wonder. As we dream about the impact tomorrow's graduates will have upon Christ's kingdom, may we be filled with hope and wonder. And, as we consider our impact upon the future, may we be filled with hope for tomorrow and wonder for all that God has in store for us. Indeed, tomorrow looks like another very good day! May our tomorrows serve to bring glory, honor, and praise to the God who has redeemed us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

**Soli Deo Gloria,**



Head of School



# New Beginnings for the BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Outgoing President David Nichols Announces New Slate of Board Officers for the 2014 -2015 Academic Year

"It is with mixed emotions that I finish my term on the DC Board of Trustees with my fellow members from the 2007 elections, Steve Landman and Peter Yanes. The hours of work on the Board are far surpassed by the blessings of seeing God work at DC, getting to know families and staff more closely and working with the Board to set strategic direction. I have seen God work in the quietness of coaches and teachers mentoring students to the very visible ways that He led us through the last financial campaign, the purchase of the Devon Campus and the transition from Dr. Steve Dill's leadership to the leadership of Dr. Tim Wiens. I want to thank you for your prayers and support; it was a blessing to serve in this capacity.



David Nichols  
Trustee, 2007-2014  
Board President, 2011-2014

and Davis (entering 11th grade). David has served on the Board for three years. He is currently the Associate General Counsel with AmerisourceBergen Corporation. Andy Thompson (Vice President), Jane Kim (Secretary) and Dean Heacock (Treasurer) join David on the Board Leadership Team for the upcoming Academic Year."

## Incoming President David Gibson on the purpose, role and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

"The DC Board – diverse in background, united in faith and purpose. The current DC Board is comprised of parents of elementary, middle school and high school students, parents of alumni, as well as alumni themselves. The Board seeks to maintain a diverse mix of gender, age, ethnic, economic and evangelical backgrounds (similar to the school society), while ensuring its members bring needed skills, expertise, and

perspectives to help the school achieve its vision and strategic plan. Most importantly, the Board must have members who have a strong and mature faith in Christ, believe deeply in the school's mission, and have a passion for Christian education.

### What is the Board's role?

When considering this question, it is helpful to think about the Board's role in relation to DC's mission, vision and core values. This collective mission defines us, gives us purpose, and provides us with a future direction. The Board is principally the keeper of the school's mission and has been entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that it is properly fulfilled. The Board accomplishes this by overseeing the school's operations and by helping to develop and implement a long term strategy for the school. In overseeing the school's operations, the Board is tasked with ensuring DC achieves its mission "to educate students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action," and that the school does so in a way that reflects our core values. This does not mean the Board manages the day to day operations of the school, whether hiring faculty and staff, disciplining students, or selecting curriculum. Instead, just as the Board is entrusted with keeping the mission, the Board entrusts the day to day execution of the mission to the Head of School, who is the Board's sole employee. The Head of School is responsible for operating the school within the guidelines set by the Board. The Board directs, guides and evaluates the Head of School through a carefully established set of policies that describe the results to be achieved and actions to be taken or avoided by the school's administration. A good example is the process of admitting students into the school. While Board policy provides minimum standards that must be met by prospective families, as long as those standards are met, the administration is free to make final admission decisions. This reflects the Policy Governance model that the school adopted in 2003. Policy Governance provides the Head of School with a clear set of expectations and helps the Board maintain the correct oversight role, empowering the Head of School to properly manage the school's operations and enabling the Board to maintain the proper focus on DC's future, rather than the past or present.



David Gibson  
Trustee, 2012-2014

We as a Board are excited and thankful to God for bringing us such a skilled, talented and godly man as our Head of School, Dr. Wiens. Just as important as the Board's responsibility to oversee the school's operation (and arguably more important) is the Board's role in developing the school's long term strategy. In its strategic role, the Board partners with the Head of School to establish and implement a long term strategy that will achieve the school's vision. A successful strategy looks beyond the "today" toward the future, helping to preserve the long term viability and success of the school. The decision to purchase the Devon Campus is an example of the Board acting in its strategic role, looking beyond the immediate needs of the school community toward the future. More recently, each Board member was challenged to bring his or her individual experience, skills and resources to bear in helping to accomplish the school's recently adopted strategic plan. The Board worked closely with Dr. Wiens on this plan that reflects our core values of Rooted in Christ, Scholarship, Excellence, Community, Servanthood and Impact. This thoughtful and thorough plan will enable the school to fulfill its mission of "educating students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action."

It has been said that the process of sanctification means never claiming you have arrived. God's work in conforming us to his Son's image will not be completed while we are on this earth. As an organization, we must also be careful not to believe we have arrived and must continue to strive to grow and improve. This is reflected in the school's core value of excellence.

As a school community we look back over the past 64 years and praise God for what he has accomplished. We also look forward with great excitement and anticipation for what God is yet to accomplish. The Lord has brought Dr. Wiens to Delaware County Christian School at this very time to fulfill the purposes He has for us as a school – and what the Lord wills to accomplish will be achieved. As a Board, we ask that the society support the Board and Dr. Wiens in daily prayer, that God will give all of us the wisdom needed to fulfill the school's mission in a manner that brings honor and glory to His name."



If you have a question or comment about the activity of the Board, please contact a Board member directly (see [www.dccs.org](http://www.dccs.org) for individuals) or through the Board email ([board@dccs.org](mailto:board@dccs.org)). Please pray for your Board to have wisdom to plan for the future and faith to trust the One who knows the future.



DISTINCTLY DC

## The Strategic Plan For 2014-2017

### *New Plan Sets the Stage for Improvement & Innovation*

The health and longevity of any institution is incumbent upon its leadership who strategically plan for the organization's future. A key benefit of strategic planning is that the process provides a sense of direction, sets measurable goals, and essentially becomes the barometer for guiding day-to-day decisions made within the organization.

DC's own longevity and trajectory of excellence and continued improvement stems from a number of contributing factors, most importantly, a continued focus on the tenet of remaining rooted in Christ. While we would not be the school we are today without constant, fervent prayer, and the Lord's blessings upon us, we are also grateful to the past and present trustees and heads of school who, collectively, recognized the value of best practice activities, including the in-depth process of evaluation and forward thinking that encompasses the development of an organizational strategic plan.

With the installation of Dr. Timothy Wiens as DC's fourth head of school, our current board and administration recognized the value of engaging in a strategic planning process at this juncture in the school's history. Following several months of information gathering, listening, dialogue and much prayer, we are excited to introduce a three-year strategic plan that outlines several key initiatives all designed to improve upon key educational and organizational practices. These initiatives recognize and build upon components that will capitalize on our distinctiveness in both Christian and secular educational settings, locally, across the nation and even beyond the borders of the United States.

## VISION STATEMENT

Delaware County Christian School (DC) will be an exemplary educational institution in the greater Philadelphia area, providing a comprehensive Pre-K-12 college preparatory education that is grounded in the Word of God. Firmly rooted in Christian community, DC will seek to continue building rigorous, innovative programs in academics, the arts, and athletics. The school will provide students a liberal arts education, engaging the mind and body as well as developing leaders who will be equipped to impact the world for Christ. Moreover, DC will aspire to be an institutional leader and model for schools both nationwide and globally.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Delaware County Christian School is to educate students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action.

*Every student will be educated,  
every subject taught,  
and each decision made with  
our mission and core values in mind.*

Throughout the upcoming school years of 2014-2017, DC will create an academic program that is cutting edge, while remaining solidly grounded in the liberal arts. We will seek to impact our community by providing excellence in the arts and the humanities, as well as in the sciences and mathematics.

A revised schedule and school calendar will reflect the aforementioned changes: likewise, our co-curricular programming will reflect excellence in each area.

Our Strategic Plan will provide the Board of Trustees, school administration, faculty, staff, and parents with a framework designed to steer DC on an upward trajectory. It will also serve as the plan that guides decision-making, policies and goals for the coming years. The future of Delaware County Christian School is optimistic indeed as we eagerly anticipate many years of Christian academic excellence and impact for the cause of Christ.

## Strategic Planning Committee

**Mr. Andy Alford**, High School Principal, Parent

**Mrs. Susan Ashworth**, Secretary, Board of Trustees, DC Alumna and Alumni Parent

**Mrs. Robin Bronkema**, Dean of Academics, Parent

**Mr. Michael Burd**, Chief Operating Officer

**Mr. John Chnug**, Parent

**Mr. Don Davis**, Director of Athletics

**Mr. David Gibson**, Vice President, Board of Trustees, Parent

**Dr. Sue Hutchison**, Director, Discovery Center

**Dr. Steve Landman**, Board of Trustees, Alumni Parent

**Mrs. Joy Ludwig**, Elementary School Principal

**Dr. George McFarland**, Dean of Faculty, Alumni Parent

**Mr. Kevin McIntyre**, Elementary School Faculty, Director of Summer Programs

**Mr. David Nichols**, Present, Board of Trustees, Parent

**Mrs. Kristen Paulson**, Director of Development, Parent

**Mr. Andrew Thompson**, Treasurer, Board of Trustees, Parent

**Dr. Timothy Wiens**, Head of School

**Mr. Chuck Young**, Middle School Principal, Alumni Parent

## SAVE THE DATE Thursday, October 23rd

Strategic Plan Open Forum  
7:30 p.m. – DeMoss Center

Join Dr. Wiens and members of the Board of Trustees as they present more detailed information on the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan.

# DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN



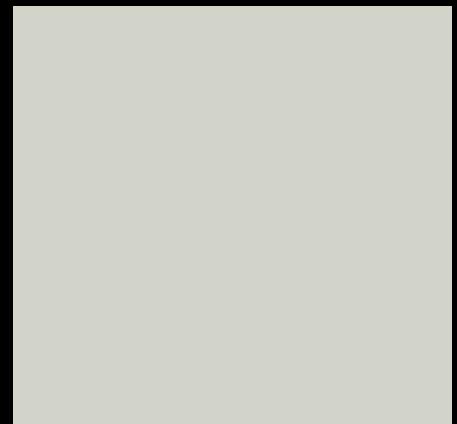
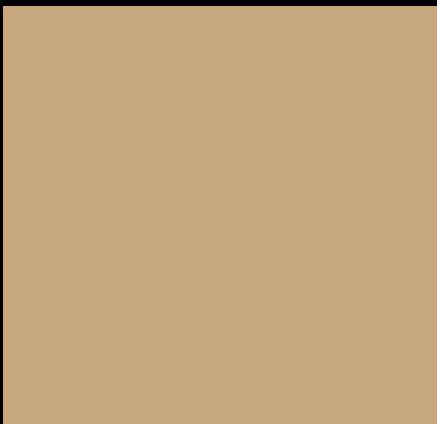
## EXCELLENCE

Doing everything to the glory of God compels us to excellence.



## COMMUNITY

Our diverse community values partnership, collaboration and strong personal relationships.



# IAN SCHOOL CORE VALUES



**SCHOLARSHIP**

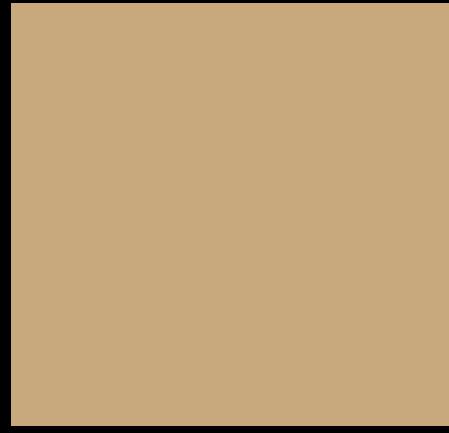
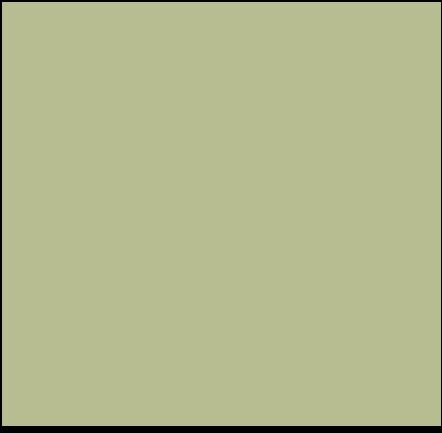
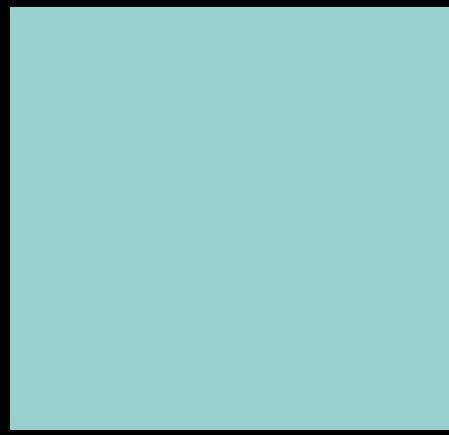
**SCHOLARSHIP**

We cultivate our God-given intellects and become passionate, lifelong learners.

**SERVANTHOOD**

**SERVANTHOOD**

As servant-leaders we recognize our calling to influence culture for good.



**IMPACT**

**IMPACT**

Reasoning critically and acting biblically, we are equipped to impact the world for Christ..



# DISTINCTLY DC

## The Strategic Plan for 2014-2017

*Understanding that wherever we find truth, it is our Lord's, DC will continue to build a school where Christ is preeminent and where all that is done is founded upon historic Christianity. As such, the following initiatives will be implemented by 2017.*

### INITIATIVE 1

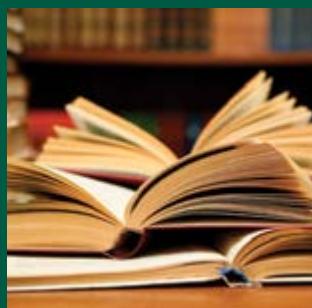
DC will improve and restructure school programming to meet the needs and desires of 21st century families interested in a high quality Christian education.

- Enhance and restructure the academic programs by fully defining and implementing the model for Schools of Distinction at every level – elementary, middle, and high school.
- Enhance academic programming to better meet the needs of students who require academic support and enrichment.
- Enhance overall professional development to ensure teachers are provided with outstanding professional development opportunities that result in optimal learning.
- Improve training of faculty to teach from a distinctly Christian worldview across all subject areas.
- Create a long-term technology plan to provide detailed short and long-term goals meant to enhance teaching and learning across all divisions.

### INITIATIVE 2

DC will improve its physical plant, ensuring all programs are provided with high quality facilities that will be maintained excellently for generations to come.

- Develop a master plan for both campuses to formally structure the process of facility development over the next decade.
- Design a plan to discern need, develop, and construct new facilities to enhance current and future programming and maintain all facilities to ensure their proper care and use for generations to come.
- Initiate a long-term plan for the maintenance and regular replacement of capital assets.





## INITIATIVE 3

DC will advance the areas of admissions, development and marketing.

- Develop and implement a plan to better communicate the purpose and needs surrounding development initiatives.
- Develop plans for new capital campaigns.
- Examine all current admissions policies and create an admissions plan consistent with the mission and values of DC and designed to grow the school to its full capacity.
- Utilize internal and external connections to create a high quality attainable approach to marketing and to develop a strategic marketing plan.
- Develop an early childhood marketing plan to attract more mission-appropriate families to pre-k and kindergarten.

## INITIATIVE 4

DC will create a more coherent sense of Christian community among current families and alumni.

- Continue to build upon past traditions.
- Develop strategies to better meet the academic, social, and spiritual needs of our increasingly diverse student population.
- Create new traditions meant to foster community in new ways.
- Communicate in a more defined, and clear manner with all constituents.
- Increase alumni connectedness to the school.



*Congratulations*  
*Class of 2014*



## GRADUATES WHO ATTENDED DC SINCE KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE

Luke Stanton Eddy, Victoria Rose Eppright, Joel Romero Favino  
Ashlyn Phillips Griest, Aaron Hudson Heacock, Mia Christine Jasinski  
Margaret Mei McManus, Tabitha Rose Mulholland, Lauren Stafford Phillips  
Rachael Noreen Pope, Katie Leigh Ressler, Matthew Garrett Rhine  
Peter James Schaefer, Elena Isabella Taylor, James Garrett VanderWaal  
Abigail Lee Weaver, Rachel Elyse Hope Wilkinson, Daniel James Yeung

## EARNED SCHOLARSHIPS AT COLLEGE OF CHOICE (TOTAL AWARDS: \$1,630,600)

**Rachel Anstatt** Wheaton College  
**Aubrie Bird** Gardner-Webb University  
Saige Bird Gardner-Webb University  
**Emily Bronkema** University of Cincinnati  
**David-Louis Browne** Messiah College  
**Ronald Burrell Jr.** Gardner-Webb University  
**Kayla Charles** Mount Saint Mary's University  
**Lauren Coury** Furman University  
**John-Tyler Dawes** Eastern University  
**Carley Deger** University of Delaware  
**Jessica Edelstein** Temple University  
**Aaron Elcock** Villanova University  
**Victoria Eppright** Cedar Crest College  
**David Goines** Bridgton Academy  
**Ashlyn Griest** Immaculata University  
**Jacqueline Hawkins** Eastern University  
**Aaron Heacock** Eastern University  
**LeShawn Johnson-Sydnor** Spelman College  
**Ashley Karpiak** Messiah College

**Danielle Kaufman** Moore College of Art  
**JaeHee Lee** Wheaton College  
**Jonathan Lees** Widener University  
**Margaret McManus** University of Delaware  
**Stephanie Meell** Wheaton College  
**Melissa Moffett** Messiah College  
**Tabitha Mulholland** Immaculata University  
**Lauren Phillips** Eastern University  
**Rachael Pope** Eastern University  
**Katie Ressler** North Park University  
**Matthew Rhine** Champlain College  
**Jamie Scavillo** Valley Forge Christian College  
**Peter Schaefer** Eastern University  
**Mathew Schoenlank** Clarkson University  
**Abigail Scott** West Virginia Wesleyan  
**Yu Ri Shin** University at Buffalo (SUNY)  
**Trevor Stephens** University of Delaware  
**Vann Sutphin** Lancaster Bible College  
**Dallas Thompson** Widener University  
**Daniel Yeung** Penn State University

2014 Valedictorian: **Victoria Kravets**  
2014 Salutatorian: **Mia Jasinski**

(Opp. Page) 2014 School Prefects: Alex Payne, Rachel Wilkinson,  
PJ Schaefer, Ashley Karpiak, Drew Darby and Vicki Kravets

# *The 2014 Graduates*

## DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Rachel Anstatt  
Wheaton College



Jamie Barr  
Liberty University



Jerel Berry  
La Salle University



Aubrie Bird  
Gardner-Webb  
University



Saige Bird  
Gardner-Webb  
University



Elizabeth Blake  
Temple University



Michael Boucher  
Cairn University



Emily Bronkema  
University of  
Cincinnati



David-Louis Browne  
Messiah College



Ronald Burrell  
Gardner-Webb  
University



Kayla Charles  
Mount St. Mary's  
University



DeVicka Cheston  
Northeastern  
University



Yoon Chung  
Korea



Lauren Coury  
Furman University



Drew Darby  
College of William  
and Mary



John-Tyler Dawes  
Eastern University



Carley Deger  
University of Delaware



Robert DiBartolomeo  
Temple University



Luke Eddy  
Indiana University  
of Pennsylvania



Jessica Edelstein  
Temple University



Aaron Elcock  
Villanova University



Victoria Eppright  
Cedar Crest College



Marcus Evans  
West Chester  
University



Joel Favino  
Grove City College



Jaunice Fennal  
Morgan State  
University



Andrew Garrett  
Liberty University



David Goines  
Bridgton Academy



Ashlyn Griest  
Immaculata University



Wingate Grim  
Penn State University  
University Park



Jacqueline Hawkins  
Eastern University

# *The 2014 Graduates*

## DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Aaron Heacock  
Eastern University



Ethan Herman  
Delaware County  
Community College



Mia Jasinski  
University of Pittsburgh



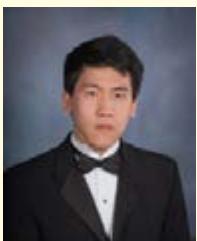
Fabian  
Jimenez-Roman  
Costa Rica



LeShawn Johnson-Sydnor  
Spelman College



Christian Jones  
Eastern University



Jingu Jun  
Fashion Institute of  
Technology



Ashley Karpiak  
Messiah College



Danielle Kaufman  
Moore College of Art  
and Design



Victoria Kravets  
Georgia Institute of  
Technology



Donggeon Lee  
West Virginia  
University



Eunice Lee  
Indiana University at  
Bloomington



JaeHee Lee  
Wheaton College



Soo Yeun Lee  
University of Southern  
California



Jonathan Lees  
Widener University



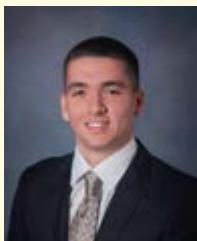
Cheyenne Majeed  
Edinboro University of  
Pennsylvania



Margaret McManus  
University of Delaware



Stephanie Meell  
Wheaton College



Henry Miller  
Immaculata University



Melissa Moffett  
Messiah College



Tabitha Mulholland  
Immaculata University



Ji Young Nam  
Korea



Dayu Ouyang  
Pratt Institute



Hyeon Park  
Rhode Island School  
of Design



Hyun Min Park  
College of William  
and Mary



Alexander Payne  
University of North  
Carolina, Chapel Hill



Gregory Pendell  
Liberty University



Caroline Perrone  
Point Loma Nazarene  
University



Lauren Phillips  
Eastern University



Rachael Pope  
Eastern University

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” Jeremiah 29:11*



Kirsten Rasmussen  
Gap Year-Costa Rica



Katie Ressler  
North Park University



Matthew Rhine  
Champlain College



Damir Rose-Ginn  
Morgan State University



Jamie Scavillo  
Valley Forge Christian  
College



Peter Schaefer  
Eastern University



Mathew Schoenlank  
Clarkson University



Abigail Scott  
West Virginia Wesleyan  
College



Wanjae Shin  
Ursinus College



Yu Ri Shin  
University at Buffalo  
(SUNY)



Cara Sparks  
Eastern University



Trevor Stephens  
University of Delaware



Natalie Storti  
Northeastern  
University



Vann Sutphin  
Lancaster Bible  
College



Elena Taylor  
Kutztown University



Kairi Tezuka  
University of California,  
Davis



Elisha Thomas  
The University of the  
Arts



Dallas Thompson  
Widener University



James VanderWaal  
Wheaton College



Sarah Wagenveld  
West Chester University



Abigail Weaver  
University of  
Pittsburgh



Rachel Wikinson  
George Washington  
University



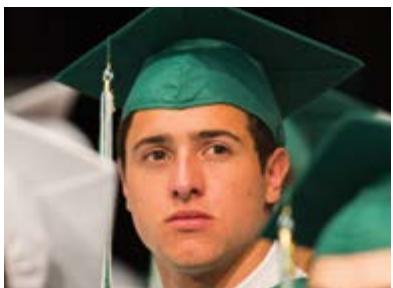
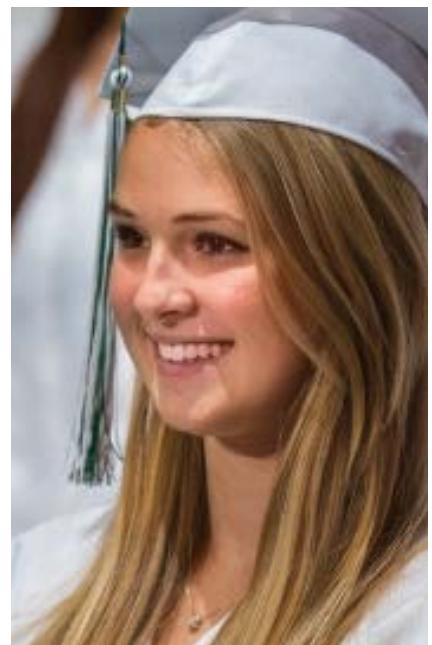
Boxuan Xie  
Northeastern  
University



Daniel Yeung  
Penn State University,  
University Park



Hannah Zubyk  
Penn State University,  
Altoona



# Senior Seminar Research Project Expands Students' Critical Thinking and Writing Skills

"There is not a square inch in the whole of human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, 'Mine.'"  
-Abraham Kuyper

This quote from Dutch theologian Abraham Kuyper served as the foundation for a curricular innovation implemented this year. Teachers Jim Favino and Rob Atkins revamped the former senior English class and expanded upon the senior Bible class - now entitled Apologetics and Christian Thought (ACT) - to create courses that work in conjunction with each other, complementary in content and skills. For example, as certain literary aspects were examined in English class, those ideas were "worked out" in ACT class by examining, critiquing, and evaluating those influential ideas with a distinctive biblical worldview. This rigorous interdisciplinary learning has equipped the Class of 2014 to evaluate influential ideas that will be faced (and currently are faced) in the secular world. The capstone joint assignment for these classes was the Senior Seminar Research Project, a paper in which students explored the impact of theological or philosophical ideas on a specific discipline, policy, or practice, evaluating the ideas from a biblical worldview. Since students' topics were self-generated, the papers represented the wide range of interests that our seniors possess. Below are excerpts from several of the papers.



In his paper entitled "Psycholinguistics: Language, Thought and Culture", Alex Payne analyzes "both the relationship between culture and language and the extent and character of the effect of that relationship upon human thought." Alex succinctly links a Christian worldview to the theory of linguistic universalism. He writes "The Christian knows the universal component in human language to Imago Dei, so that even when languages are vastly different there is a uniquely human soul attempting to communicate through that language. Thus, as is the case with many things, humans are tied together through the unifying character of God."

Aaron Elcock's paper entitled "God's Glue" addresses the misconception of some believers who choose not to engage with scientific phenomena and instead are content to rest in the notion that gaps in knowledge can be explained away as "a God thing." Aaron takes the position that "Since God reveals himself in nature, Christians should desire to study nature even more than unbelievers, because in nature, people observe God's characteristics (whether they admit it or not)." Furthermore, "Christians do not continually search for explanations to natural phenomena out of a distrust for God and His sovereignty, but because in discovering natural laws, one can learn about 'God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – (which) have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made.' (Romans 1:20 NIV)." He concludes, "If any person discovers the real Truth, then the theory shall naturally fit both science and the Bible, because God is the source of all truth."



In her paper entitled "The Truth in Myths: When Stories Come to Life", Maggie McManus unpacks the tradition of myth and storytelling and the role they have played cross-culturally through countless generations. She holds that while "The word myth in today's society connotes a lie or fiction" this limits many from recognizing that "in this scientific era of empiricism....myths contain essential information for the understanding of the nature of mankind...Myths and stories hold glimmers of the truth that transcend culture, time and place. These ancient stories all follow a common theme and point to a certain truth, placing itself at the center of civilization. By analyzing and comparing these myths, we can gain a better understanding of what it means to be human." In reconciling her own faith to the value of traditional myths and storytelling, Maggie writes "The universal storyline or metanarrative of this world is explained through biblical Christianity. The master narrative of the universe in accordance with Christianity is the story of God's purpose to redeem humanity and bring ultimate glory to Himself. It is also the master explanation of the world reality and human experience. It is from this true transcendent myth that all other myths reflect and are structured after." Maggie concludes her paper with these thoughts. "Modern society also must recognize that we are idol worshippers whether we acknowledge it or not. Whether it is money, beauty, success, or anything else, humans must always worship something because we are covetous beings. A life filled with these sub-idols brings emptiness and restlessness. In essence, our society must realize that we are not so different than our ancestors who believed in these fantastic myths and stories and worshipped gods and goddesses. It is ironic that fairy tales and myths contain more truth than the lies that our media and culture try to pass off as reality. It is only through the use of God's word, the ultimate story book, that we are able to separate truth from fiction."

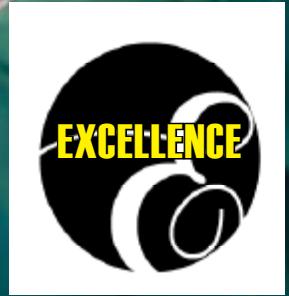
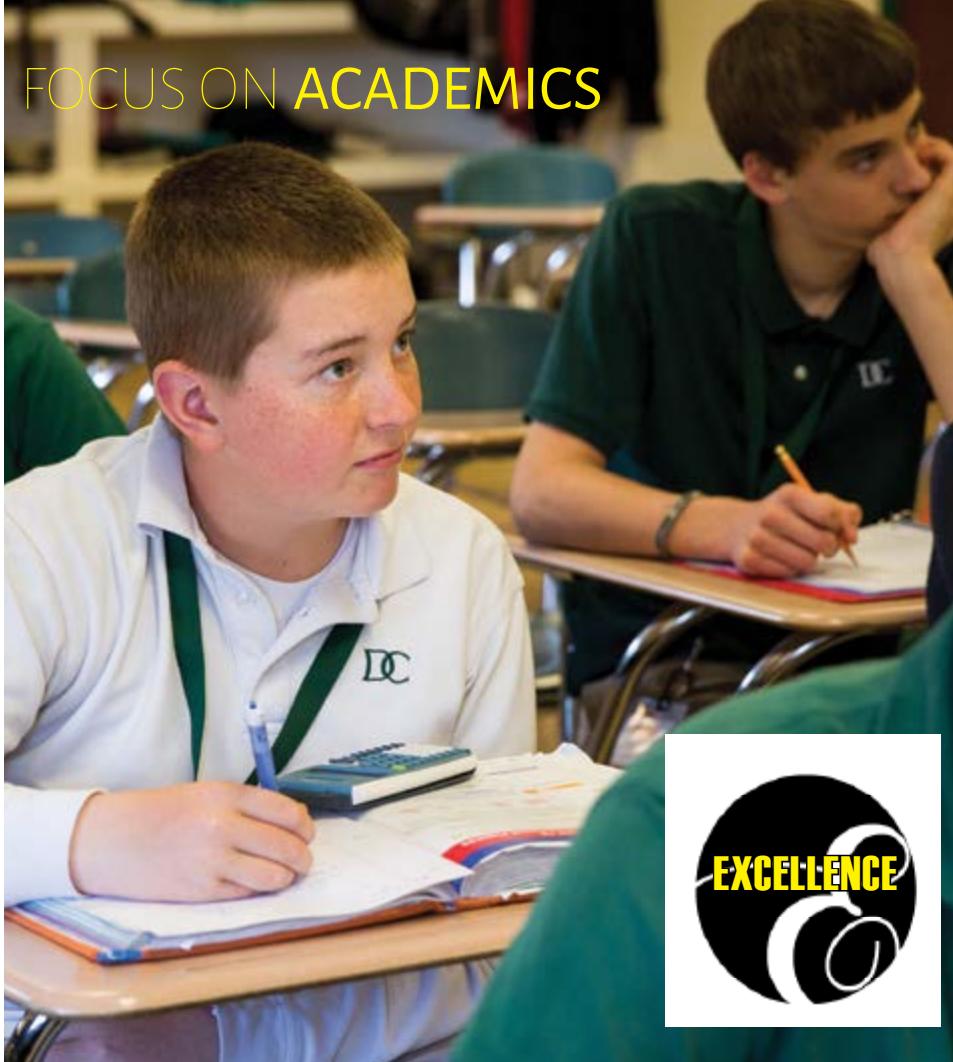
# FROM THE ARCHIVES...



The landscape of DC's Upper Campus certainly has changed over the years. When our school first moved from Grace Chapel in Havertown to the George Strawbridge estate in 1955, there was a formal garden with reflecting pool located where the high school building resides today.

Can you identify these three students shown in this photograph taken in the formal garden? What are your memories of the garden or DC's campus when it more closely resembled a family estate? Send us your recollections and we'll share them in the fall 2014 Keynoter. Submit your responses to Kim O'Bryan, Alumni Coordinator at [kobryan@dccs.org](mailto:kobryan@dccs.org).

## FOCUS ON ACADEMICS



Pursuing  
**EXCELLENCE**  
  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

### New History Curriculum

Announced for  
2014-15 Academic Year

By Robin Bronkema

In line with two of DC's new core values, excellence and scholarship, we are excited to announce significant updates in our school's Pre-K to Grade 12 history curriculum. The word curriculum, specifically its word root cur-, derives from the Latin currere which means to run a course. As such, curriculum sets the course for students' learning. In keeping with the administration's commitment to make sure the learning course is up-to-date and reflective of current research, a curriculum review cycle is followed to ensure regular examinations of our learning content. DC's history curriculum was the latest subject area to be put through this comprehensive appraisal.

#### The Process

The Pre-K to Grade 12 history curriculum review spanned the entire 2013-2014 academic year. The review committee included four elementary teachers, two middle school teachers, and four high school teachers, in addition to two administrators. Expanding the review process to encompass all grades was significant as it ensured the review would yield a coherent and seamless curriculum. The review process included identifying gaps and redundancies in our current curriculum, talking with other schools—Christian, independent, and public—about their curricula, and examining several textbooks and programs of study. In order to achieve a cohesive PK-12 curriculum, the committee used a backwards design approach, anchoring the goals and outcomes of the highest level (our AP courses), and then working backwards, scaffolding what students will know, understand, and be able to do to get to that level.

## The Curriculum

The history committee is very excited about the outcome of the curriculum review. At the upper end of the curriculum, we will continue offering four AP history courses: AP World History, AP US History, AP European History, and AP US Government and Politics. In the middle school, a new eighth grade course has been developed, entitled Modern World. In this class, students will study the geographic, political and cultural makeup of regions of the world.

Curriculum reviews ensure that course content is up-to-date and reflective of current research.

Sixth and seventh graders will go deep with US history, and elementary students will follow a three-pronged course of study focused on geography, US history, and world history and cultures. One of the highlights of the new elementary curriculum is an expanded exposure to world history and cultures – an important component as the pace of globalization quickens, and a fitting component for a school with a mission that speaks to impacting the world for Christ.

We look forward to implementing this exciting and comprehensive curriculum at the start of the 2014-15 academic year!



# FOCUS ON **FACULTY**

## *Congratulations to the 2014 recipients of the Distinguished Faculty Award!*

The Distinguished Faculty Award is an annual monetary award given by an anonymous donor to three faculty representatives who embody the school's efforts to be a **"great school through the work of great teachers."**

Candidates are nominated by faculty and administration, based on award criteria in the areas of spiritual vitality, academic rigor, and attentiveness to student giftedness.

Student survey data and parent input also play a role in award decisions.

A selection committee of teachers makes a recommendation to the Academic Team, and the award recipients are announced at the end-of-year employee lunch.

Past recipients of the award include: 2011 – George McFarland, Christy Ware, and Nancy Weidman, 2012 – Peggy Bell, Marge Dill, and Joel Kamm, 2013 – Linda Nixon, Betsy Sautter, and Mike Skaer

### *Scott Bateman - 5th Grade*



Colleagues, in their nominations of Mr. Bateman (lovingly known as "Mr. B"), noted, "Scott is an excellent teacher who gives his life to connect with and reach [students'] hearts...He is passionate about what he teaches and that passion flows into his students. He loves the Lord and wants his students to grow in their love for Him; too...Scott truly does what he does for God's glory. He is an incredible teacher and a friend to every student. He challenges his students to grow in their understanding of science and social studies. Years later, they still remember what he taught them. Scott has the unique ability to make science interesting to all of his students. His commitment to hands-on learning never goes out of style."



## *Gina Critchlow - Middle School Bible, Discovery-Resource Room*



Mrs. Critchlow was described as an excellent Bible and resource room teacher who is gifted in helping students understand subjects with which they struggle.



*"She holds her students accountable while encouraging and shepherding them towards success...They don't simply get their work done; they learn life lessons that will serve them well for years to come. She has a remarkable capacity to impart knowledge as well as inspire her students to think critically. Gina's unique ability to know the curriculum for all grades in the middle school enables her to help students be successful."*

As a Bible instructor, Mrs. Critchlow teaches her 6th graders with a “deep passion for God’s word.” She works diligently to create lessons that help students better understand God’s love for them.” A fellow teacher wrote, “We are blessed to have her extraordinary ability to know and understand the learning process.”



## *Rachel Mackin - High School English*

Ms. Mackin was observed as one who “has been very committed to her role at DC,” having taught all the English courses at one time or another, and assisting with the school newspaper and student prefects. “She is faithful in attending many school functions and trying to make DC a better place.”



A younger teacher commented,

*“She is an inspiration to me as a young teacher as to who I wish to become as I become a more seasoned teacher.”*

Others noted her enthusiasm, her willingness to learn new instructional approaches – as demonstrated by her serving as an Educational Technology Coach – and her cheerfulness.

Between her commitment to serving faithfully at school and at church, she demonstrates a Christian lifestyle every day.”

*We are truly blessed with many gifted faculty members, and are grateful to be able to recognize a few through this award!*

# FOCUS ON THE ARTS



The spring season brings a host of activities highlighting the ARTS at DC.



High School Art: Sara Schoenlack, Oil



Drew Darby, Digital Photography

The 8th grade class recreated works from Art History with chalk, outside the DeMoss Center for their end of the year project.



Rose Favino, Watercolor, Pen & Ink

Esther Ahn and Hannah Schaafsma perform “Let it Go” from the movie *Frozen*, in Korean and in English, at the spring choral concert.



Nashville, TN was the destination of this year's concert choir tour. The high school concert band traveled to Baltimore and Philadelphia for their tour.



Members of the band enjoyed performing and interacting with students at a number of inner-city Christian schools.



Our middle school band and choirs competed with great success at the annual Music in the Parks competition, receiving superior ratings and winning their respective categories. In that same competition, the middle school girls select choir and B101 choral competition champions captured the coveted “Best Overall Choir” award.



# FOCUS ON SPRING SPORTS

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ATHLETES RECEIVING  
BAL HONORS**

## FIRST TEAM BAL

Jerel Berry – Track & Field  
Mike Boucher – Baseball  
D.L. Browne – Baseball  
Ben Chung – Track & Field  
Morgan Ellis – Track & Field  
Marcus Evans – Track & Field  
Ronnie Marie Falasco – Softball  
Cassidy Foxhoven-Gamble –  
Track & Field  
Andrew Garrett – Track & Field  
David Goines – Track & Field  
Alex Harvey – Track & Field  
Jacqueline Hawkins – Track & Field  
Caroline Hedwall – Track & Field  
Mia Jasinski – Girls Lacrosse  
Annette Kempf – Track & Field  
Maggie Linton – Track & Field  
Michael Logie – Track & Field  
Jack Moyer – Track & Field  
Tab Mulholland – Softball  
Garrett Vanderwaal – Baseball  
Kyle Winters – Baseball  
Beth Yeung – Track & Field

## SECOND TEAM BAL

Brian Goebel – Baseball

## HONORABLE MENTION BAL

Ron Burrell – Baseball  
Carly Deger – Girls Lacrosse  
Jessica Freeman – Girls Lacrosse  
Jillian Freeman – Girls Lacrosse  
Bekah Good – Softball  
Julia Kyne – Girls Lacrosse  
Kailey Neef – Softball





durance

# TRACK & FIELD



Senior Aaron Elcock with Coach George MacFarland, who celebrated his 75th season of coaching at DC this Spring.

Andrew Garrett capped the season with a 3rd place finish in the 800 meters at the State Track meet, breaking his own school record by over 2 seconds. His timed qualified him for the National High School "Remarkable" is no stretch for this team. The team bonded together under the leadership of co-captains Andrew Garrett and Marcus Evans. No less of importance were the devotions and times of praying for those on the team, as well as for coaches who had specific needs. The desire of all was to run, throw and jump for the glory of God.



Alex Harvey

## BOYS UPDATE

As the Daily Times stated in their headline article after the District Meet, the DC boys had a "historic year." They finished 5-0 in BAL League meets, 1st in the BAL Constitutional Division, 2nd at the BAL Championship, and captured the District One Class AA title - a first for the boys track program.

Twenty boys qualified for the district meet and seven moved on to the State meet. District Champions included Michael Malkowicz in the Shot Put, Morgan Ellis in the 400 and 300 Intermediate Hurdles, Andrew Garrett in the 800 and 1600, and the 4 X 400 Relay (Morgan Ellis, Andrew Garrett, Jerel Berry and Marcus Evans).



Annette Kempf



Rachel Lange



Jacqueline Hawkins

## GIRLS UPDATE

Led by co-captains Jacqueline Hawkins and Cassidy Foxhoven-Gamble, the girls track team continued the tradition of sending girls to the District Track meet. Sprinters who led the way were Annette Kempf, Caroline Hedwall, and Cassidy Foxhoven-Gamble; middle distant runners Maggie Linton and Beth Yeung; jumpers Jacqueline Hawkins and Caroline Hedwall; and throwers DeVicka and Jarissa Cheston. Overall the girls were 4-2 in BAL League meets, finished 4th in the BAL Championships, and 5th in the district meet.



New school record holders David Goines, Aaron Elcock, Morgan Ellis and Colin Campbell

#### 2014 TRACK & FIELD—SCHOOL RECORDS SET

Morgan Ellis 400 Meters (51.50)

Cassidy Foxhoven-Gamble Long Jump (16'3")

Andrew Garrett 400 Meters (51.68)

Andrew Garrett 800 Meters (1:55.63)

Shuttle Hurdles Relay (1:10.17)

*Colin Campbell, Aaron Elcock, Morgan Ellis, David Goines*

800 Meter Relay (1:33.91) *Jerel Berry, Morgan Ellis,*

*Marcus Evans, David Goines*

400 Meter Relay (44.54) *Ben Chung, Aaron Elcock,*

*Marcus Evans, David Goines*

1600 Meter Relay (3.30.70) *Morgan Ellis, Marcus Evans,*

*Andrew Garrett, Michael Logie*

#### TRACK & FIELD DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

Jerel Berry—4 x 400 relay

Morgan Ellis—400 meters, 300 intermediate hurdles, 4 x 400 relay

Marcus Evans—4 x 400 relay

Andrew Garrett—800 meters, 1600 meters, 4 x 400 relay

Michael Malkowicz—Shot Put

#### TRACK & FIELD STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

##### DIVISION AA

Andrew Garrett—3rd place in 800 meters



David Goines, Morgan Ellis



Ben Chung



Andrew Garrett



Zeph Ellis

# Baseball



Senior D.L. Browne

The 2014 varsity baseball team had a bit of an up and down season. After starting the season with a loss, the team then rallied to win seven of their next eleven games. The season ended with some tough games, but the team did well enough to earn a spot in the district tournament. The boys ended the season with an 8-11 record.

Senior D.L. Browne hit .500 for the season, with a slugging and an on base percentage of over .600. He also led the team in steals and virtually every offensive category.



Senior Garrett Vander Waal



2014 Varsity Baseball Team

# Girls SOFTBALL

After graduating several key seniors last year, including a college level pitcher and shortstop, the girls varsity softball team battled all season long, collecting enough wins to earn a spot in the district tournament. Freshman Ronnie Marie Falasco and senior Tab Mulholland ranked among the top hitters in Delaware County. The girls finished the season 4-12 and are looking to gain more momentum next season.



2014 Varsity Softball Team

# Boys TENNIS

Under the direction of new head coach Peter Achuf the varsity boys tennis team battled through a tough season. The team found some wins early on, and despite some struggles thereafter, six team members advanced to the BAL tournament. Seniors Vincent Xie and Drew Darby competed in singles competition. Seniors Joel Favino and Daniel Yeung advanced in doubles play along with the junior/senior pairing of Micah Skinner and Alex Payne.



Daniel Yeung



Drew Darby



Jason Favino



Vincent Xie

# Girls LACROSSE

The varsity girls lacrosse team hit their stride toward the end of the season, winning seven of their last eight games. In their second year under head coach Naomi Sweeney, the girls finished with a 7-4 record, losing only to BAL opponents New Hope and Jenkintown. The season provided some great momentum for the girls lacrosse program at DC.



Emma Ellsworth



Jessica Freeman



2014 Varsity Girls Lacrosse Team

# Boys LACROSSE



In 2013, DC partnered with Devon Prep in a cooperative agreement to sponsor a varsity boys lacrosse team. This arrangement, known as Team 21, continued for the 2014 season. This year's team came together quickly and had a winning record of 7-6. Like their girls LAX counterparts, the boys also rallied later in the season winning four of their last five games.



# The Third Annual **5-K**



**COMING  
NEXT  
FALL**

**SATURDAY  
September  
27th**

DURING  
HOMECOMING WEEKEND  
**UPPER CAMPUS**

TO REGISTER GO TO

**www.dccs.org**

**COMING  
THIS FALL**  
Don't miss these  
important events!

**Thursday, August 28**

DC Family Picnic 5pm  
Dedication & Praise Ceremony 6:30pm

**Fri. September 26, Sat., September 27**

Homecoming  
Fall Sports Weekend  
DC 5-K (Saturday)

**Thursday, October 9**

MS/HS Grandparents Day 10:45am

**Thursday, October 23**

Strategic Plan Open Forum 7:30pm

**Friday, October 21**

Renewing the Mind Seminar 7:30pm  
Speaker: Andy Crouch

**FOR MORE INFORMATION &  
TO REGISTER VISIT [dccs.org](http://dccs.org)**

Check out the Online Business Directory on the DC website. You will find a listing of DC alumni and parent owned businesses at [www.dccs.org/businessdirectory](http://www.dccs.org/businessdirectory). If you are an DC alumnus or parent who owns a business and would like to be included in this free online directory, fill out the form found on the website.

# AROUND CAMPUS...



FIELD DAY! RED, YELLOW, BLUE AND GREEN!

It wouldn't be Field Day without official score keeper Miss Warkentin! Fun, laughter and healthy competition were the order of the day. Congratulations to 2014 victors – the Red Team.

## 5th GRADE PHILADELPHIA TRIP



Fifth graders wrapped up their elementary years with a field trip to Philadelphia to visit historic sites and to view some of the many urban murals that brighten the city's streetscapes!

## *Grandparents Day*

Our elementary students welcomed grandparents to campus in April.



Drs. John and Pina Templeton with grandson, Micah Dill.



Third grader Katie Quinn and her grandmother.



Grandparents enjoyed listening 5th grader Declan Thompson and his fellow band members.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## AROUND CAMPUS



### 7th GRADE SPRUCE LAKE

Tackling the ropes course, studying eco-systems and hanging with friends were all activities that made for a memorable Spruce Lake adventure.

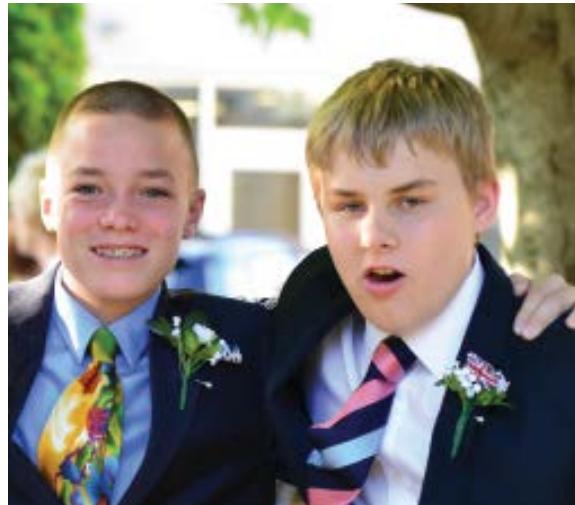


### 6th GRADE

Sixth graders enjoyed exploring Lego® robotics, interacting with classmates and using Chrome Books.



## 8th GRADE BANQUET



The Class of 2018 celebrated the end of their middle school careers at the highly anticipated annual 8th Grade Banquet. This year's theme, "A Knight in London", began with a courtyard reception with various famous Brits in attendance including: Mary Poppins, Kate Middleton, Peter Pan, and Sherlock Holmes. Following a quick "ride" on the London Underground, the students enjoyed dinner and entertainment followed by carnival games. The evening ended with student awards and a slide show. The entire event was planned for the students by their parents.

# AROUND CAMPUS...



## SPRING JUNIOR/SENIOR

Spring in the high school is jam packed with days of learning and meaningful interactions with teachers and peers. Filled with milestone events such as the highly anticipated Junior/Senior, the season has many poignant moments as the student body prepares to bid farewell to yet another group of graduating seniors.



# WICHITA SCHOOL



# ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

## '95

**Michael and Kristi Kelso Boucher '95** are pleased to announce the birth of their twin girls, Lainey Rose and Grace Josephine, born on January 2, 2014.



Boucher Twins

## '98

**Chris Tabakin '98** received the West Chester University Distinguished Alumni Award 2014. He earned his BS from West Chester University and a MS in Non-Profit Management from Eastern University. Chris is in the process of founding a nonprofit organization focused on helping fulfill the needs of vulnerable people internationally. "The vision is to develop connections and meaningful partnerships that are mutually beneficial, and in doing so, providing short and long term solutions for people with disabilities in developing countries."



Chris Tabakin

## '02

**Kevin Wilfong '02** and Lachelle Anderson were married at Aldan Union Church on August 18, 2013. They reside in Springfield, PA.



Kevin Wilfong

## '00

Ryan and **Lori Wilfong Miller '02** were married on April 6, 2014.



Lori Wilfong

## '08

Peter and **Stacy Dolan Mitchell '08** were married on May 31, 2014. Although Peter attended DC for a time, they officially met at church in 2012. Included in the bridal party were **Emily Tice '08** and **Abby LoRusso Berger '08** along with **Ethan Mitchell '11** and **Timothy Mitchell '98** as groomsmen. Peter and Stacy now reside in El Paso, TX where Peter is stationed.



Stacy Dolan

We would love to stay in contact and have your update in our next Keynoter magazine! Please email updates and pictures to: [alumni@dccs.org](mailto:alumni@dccs.org). Also, join the Delaware County Christian School ALUMNI group on Facebook for the latest info or to post your event or status.

Check out the Online Business Directory on the DC website. You will find a listing of alumni and parent-owned businesses at [www.dccs.org/businessdirectory](http://www.dccs.org/businessdirectory). If you are an alumnus or parent who owns a business and would like to be included in this free online directory, fill out the form found on the website.



Vincent Talliercio

# Class of 2004

## 10 Years Out: Where are they now?



Jen Horton



David Bonner



Rachel Hepkins



Kelli O'Neill

**Tammy Deminski Anthony** graduated from West Chester University with a B.S. in Education. She is a teacher at Octorara Area School District and resides with her husband, Ryne, in Downingtown, PA.

**David Bonner** graduated from Penn State University in 2007 with a B.A. in Theatre. He is the President for Brevity Productions, a one-stop production company, which provides a wide range of production services from inception to mass-delivery. David and his wife, Angela, reside in Media, PA.

**Mayu Takahashi Fang** graduated from Messiah College in 2008. She and her husband, Joe, have a 2 year old daughter and are expecting a baby boy in July. They currently reside in Norristown, PA. Mayu is a stay at home mom and works as a manager and photographer with her husband in their company, FANGfoto. Before having their daughter, Mayu worked as a family therapist in the Harrisburg area. Check out Joe and Mayu's photography website at [www.FANGfoto.com](http://www.FANGfoto.com) and their facebook page, FANGfoto.

**Amy Glass** graduated from Elizabethtown College in 2007 and earned her J.D. from Widener University School of Law in 2009. She resides in Wilmington, DE and is currently the campaign manager for Brenda Mayrack for State Auditor.

**Jennifer Horton Grandlienard** earned a B.S. degree from West Chester University and is a missionary for Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. She and her husband, Stuart, are currently raising support, and will be residing in Dayton, OH, serving the campuses of Central State University and Wilmington College.

**Emily Toopes Layton** graduated from Belmont University in 2008 with a B.S. in Business. Emily and her husband Forrest reside in Franklin, TN. She is currently employed in development and community relations at Waves, Inc., a non-profit organization that meets the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Josh** and Samantha Freeman '07 **McGuire** are both currently employed at Tribal Worldwide in Manhattan. Josh is a creative director for Tribal and works with an array of clients including Quaker, Partnership for Drug Free America, The Lunchbox Fund, and Pfizer. Josh is currently teaching an advertising class at Pratt Institute and is the co-creator of an app designed for The Lunchbox Fund, a non-profit organization that works to provide food for under-privileged school children in South Africa. He has received several awards including Webby recognition for his work on The Lunchbox Fund, and the 2013 U.S. Cannes Young Lions competition for film. Josh is a graduate of Temple University's Tyler School of Art.

**Sarah Aguilar Shipley** graduated with a B.A. from George Washington University in 2008 and earned her Ph.D. in School Psychology from Temple University in 2013. She is a school psychologist for North Penn School District. Sarah and her husband Will reside in Philadelphia, PA.

**Rachel Hepkins Thompson** earned a B.A. at Messiah College and her J.D. at Liberty University School of Law in 2012. She is an associate attorney at Poarch Law, a firm specializing in immigration. Rachel and her husband Bradley reside in Salem, VA with their eight month old son, Jeremiah.

**Anthony and Kelli O'Neill Wood** married in 2008 and moved to Canton, Michigan in 2009. Kelli graduated from Lancaster Bible College with a B.A. in Early Childhood Education. They are pleased to announce the birth of Abigail Elizabeth, born this past January. Kelli is currently working in a daycare setting and loves sharing her love for the Lord with preschoolers.

# ALUMNI REUNIONS

The Class of 1964 celebrated their 50th class reunion during the weekend of May 2-4 at the Doubletree Hotel in Valley Forge, PA. Organized by Donna Younglove, the class spent a wonderful evening together over dinner in a private dining room at the Doubletree.



Pictured Front Row L-R: Bette Ann Weir Loane, Ellen Glover Kinch, Sharon Piersma Hecker, Donna McCann Younglove, Sheila Lambert Majczan Back Row L-R: Paul Keen, Steve Davies, Ken Bachofer, Perry Townsend



The Class of 1993 had a great time getting together to celebrate their 21st reunion. They enjoyed catching up on what God has been doing in each of their lives and learning about the children with which they have been blessed. The class is appreciative of the hospitality extended by Dan and Sue Hussar who opened up their home for the event.

SAVE THE DATE

# UPCOMING REUNIONS

## 1963

The Class of 1963 is celebrating their 51st reunion at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 11, 2014 at the home of Robin Harshaw in Newtown Square, PA. A tour of DC's upper campus will take place at 10:30 a.m. the next morning. Contact Jane Abbott for more information at [jane\\_abbott@verizon.net](mailto:jane_abbott@verizon.net) or 610-357-9284.

## 1984

The Class of 1984 is planning its 30th class reunion for 2014. Details to follow.

## 1989

The Class of 1989 will celebrate their 25th class reunion on Saturday, November 29, 2014. Contact Kim O'Bryan at [kobryan@dccs.org](mailto:kobryan@dccs.org) for more information.

## 2004

The Class of 2004 will celebrate their 10th reunion on November 29, 2014 at McKenzies Brew House, Chadds Ford, PA. Contact Rachel Hepkins Thompson at [rldthompon12@gmail.com](mailto:rldthompon12@gmail.com) for more information.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## “Teacher on the Trail” Finalist **Mark Poulterer ‘88** Blazing Through Life and Impacting Many

**W**hile the winter of 2014 may quite possibly be the closest thing to an Alaskan winter that we Pennsylvanians ever experience, DC alum Mark Poulterer ‘88 encountered “the real deal.” This past winter he traveled to “The Last Frontier” after being named a “Teacher on the Trail” finalist in the annual Alaskan Iditarod sled dog race; a grueling endeavor that tests the character and endurance of both man and beast.

According to their mission statement, “Teacher on the Trail” is an adventure learning project that provides incredible opportunities for educators to focus on literacy, math, science, technology, and other content and bring researched based teaching and learning opportunities to classrooms in the United States and around the world.” Mark has been using the Iditarod in his ESL classroom for the past three years. He has found no better way to engage students’ minds in learning across the curriculum.

Mark’s involvement with the “Teacher on the Trail” program is just one of many facets of the adventure-filled life he has pursued since graduating from DC. We recently caught up with Mark to find out about his experience and his life of adventure.

### After DC, where did life take you?

“From 1988 to 1992 I attended Wheaton College. As a Wheaton student I was challenged to look beyond myself. It’s funny that Wheaton is often referred to as the ‘Wheaton bubble’, yet it is the place that launched so many of us around

the world. After college I spent four years working with a start-up mission in Mexico, working in underprivileged neighborhoods and with street kids - one of the most defining periods of my life.”

### Tell us about your family.

“After leaving Mexico in 1996, I moved to the Chicago suburbs. My wife Luciana and I attended the same church and were involved on the same ministry team for a few years before we took notice of each other. We married in 2001 and have two daughters, Isabel, age nine, and Cecilia, age 5. My wife and I had always discussed adoption. After Isabel was born in 2005 we started to get serious about it. The process was long and we were ready to throw in the towel when Cecilia showed up on the waiting children’s list. In 2011, we traveled to Peru to bring home our second daughter. She was born with cleft palate, and it had only been partially repaired. She was in an orphanage that had literally saved her life through their constant care and prayers, I owe my daughter’s life to them.”

### What is your current vocation?

### Did you ever envision yourself working in this field?

“I have been teaching ESL at West Chicago High School since January of 1998. I am a teacher because of the students with whom I work. A lot of teachers go into the teaching profession because they love the material. For me, the love of the subject matter is secondary. I teach English because the kids that I love need it in order to be successful in the United States.”



### What do you find to be particularly special about your work?

“I have the privilege of working with the newest immigrants to our country. I believe that the Bible is pretty explicit about helping the widow, the alien and the orphan. I watch young people walk into my classroom with fear and very little knowledge of what life is all about here in the US. By the end of the year, they are communicating in English, and walking with a new sense of confidence. Leaving one’s homeland is not easy. The first year is full of ups and downs. The best part of my job is walking those mountainous roads with my students.”

### How did you become connected to the Alaskan Iditarod?

Alaska started with a book that I was reading to my daughter a few years ago titled *The Great Serum Race* by Debbie S. Miller. It is an amazing true story of a diphtheria epidemic that occurred in January of 1925 in Nome, Alaska. The only way to deliver the serum was by dog sled. I was enthralled and as I was researching the story, I stumbled upon information on the Iditarod. My wife and I began following the race and I realized what an amazing resource it was for my classroom. My wife was the one who encouraged me to apply for the ‘Teacher on the Trail’ program and I was chosen as a 2015 finalist. I traveled to Alaska at the start of the 2014 race to participate in the interview process. Although I was not chosen as the 2015 ‘Teacher on the Trail’, I have no regrets. This trip was a life-changing experience.”

### **Do you have any specific memories about your days at DC?**

"Dr. McFarland will go down as one of the most encouraging teachers in my life. What an amazing man of integrity, compassion and simplicity. I'll never forget when I had a project to do for his class. I had a church retreat the weekend before it was due, and I didn't think I was going to have time to finish it. Surely a church retreat was a good enough excuse to ask for an extension. He gently and firmly told me that I had had plenty of time to work on it, and that he would still expect to see it on Monday. Those kinds of standards are what I remember from most of my classes. My teachers did not accept excuses."

### **What's up next...can you top your Alaskan adventure?**

"Life should never be stagnant. When I hit 40 years old I was really depressed. I thought, '40 is no man's land'. My twenties were spent in international adventure and my thirties were spent starting my family. Then I started reading about Sir Ernest Shackleton and his amazing journey to Antarctica in his forties. I started following Aliy Zirkle who has finished the Iditarod in 2nd place for three years in a row who is my age. I realized that this (depression) truly was a state of mind, and I'd better change it quickly! I made the decision to try something new every year. I'm now 43. So far, those things include mountain biking, learning to play the hammered dulcimer, and experiencing the Iditarod first hand.



### **How has your faith played a role in the way you carry out your job?**

"As a public school teacher there are a lot of restrictions on what I can and cannot say in the classroom. Fortunately most of my students come from a Roman Catholic background, so I don't have to be too careful. Also, I have the freedom to speak if they ask questions, so I will share in those situations. Some of my students have really hard lives. Almost half of them are not living with their parents; they have come to the US to live with a sibling, aunt, uncle etc. I am always looking for ways to follow Jesus's command to feed, clothe, visit, and care for my students."

### **What impact did the "DC experience" have on your life?**

"I wouldn't be who I am today if I had not gone to DC. Different people need different things as they grow up. I talk a lot about adventure, but I was not an adventurous kid. Some people are natural risk takers, but that is not me. DC was a relatively safe place, and a place where I was able to begin



building the confidence I needed to live the life of adventure that I do today. Teachers who encouraged me made a world of difference. I want to clarify my term 'adventure'. Adventure includes mountain biking and traveling to Alaska, but it also includes marrying a woman from Brazil and adopting a daughter from Peru. It means teaching young people from around the world. It

means raising kids without a television. It means doing anything that might be a little off the beaten path. DC prepared me for all of this."

### **What will the next seven years of life bring to Mark?**

Only the Lord knows for sure. However, this DC Alum will most likely continue to live out his faith daily on a road filled with adventure and challenge.

*Adventure for Mark includes mountain biking and traveling to Alaska, but it also includes marrying a woman from Brazil and adopting a daughter from Peru. It means teaching young people from around the world. It means raising kids without a television. It means doing anything that might be a little off the beaten path.*

To read Mark's blog posts from his "Teacher on the Trail" experience visit <http://2015iditarodteacheronthetrailfinalists.wordpress.com>

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