

# Lamplighter

Summer 2018



## Austin Kratz is **FAST**

His senior year was a continuous highlight reel, culminating in a gold medal on his largest stage yet—the U20 world championships in Finland.



*Lowell Smith*



**DOCK**  
MENNONITE ACADEMY

- ◆ Commencement 2018  
**Beautifully and wonderfully made**
- ◆ Senior Presentations  
**Metamorphosis**
- ◆ Alumni Profile  
**For this Dock alum, business is taking off**

# Lamplighter

A publication of Dock Mennonite Academy

**3 Commencement 2018**  
*"You are beautifully and wonderfully made."*  
 This simple truth about who we are as children of God has the power to transform our relationships—and the world.

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 Every day, every hour, every minute and second of their Dock experience, students undergo constant change as they discover and shape their identity. Here is a window into the process.

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 Carrying the mission forward

**On the cover:** The stage continues to grow larger for Austin Kratz ('18). On the heels of league, district and state gold medals, Kratz drew national attention with a 200M victory at the New Balance Nationals. Most recently, he helped the USA U20 men's 4x100 relay team capture a gold medal in Tampere, Finland. Is Tokyo 2020 out of the question?  
*Photo by Lowell Swartley*

**Right:** And now they are Dock alumni! **Sammy DiLoreto** (left) and **Mikayla Frederick** are all smiles as they prepare to enter Clemens Auditorium for Dock's 63rd annual Commencement.  
*Photo by Mike Landis*



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**Jay Gordon**, Editor  
**Steve Leinbach**, Layout & Design



# You are beautifully and wonderfully made

Commencement speaker Scott Roth said it first to the Class of 2018, and then to their parents, families, and friends. Remembering this simple truth about who we are as children of God, he said, has the power to transform our relationships—and the world.

Part of the inspiration for his address to Dock's 95 graduates came from Sanford Alderfer—the 95-year-old local legend who built an auction and real estate company into one of the area's most successful businesses. Scott Roth bumped into him at breakfast recently and asked him what he would say to the next generation. "He said, 'Get common sense. It's easy to get—just read a chapter of the book of Proverbs every day.'"

"You see, when you read the Bible, you get the story of how much God loves you, and how you are beautifully and wonderfully made," Roth said. "So if you want to be reminded of who you are and what God has done for you, dive into the scriptures. It can get scary sometimes. When I see that whole, 'Love your neighbor as yourself' thing? I have some neighbors who are pretty annoying, and I don't want to love them. But here's the thing: At the end of the day, you are beautifully and wonderfully made—and so are they."

Roth also had a word of advice for parents. "Don't let them go," he said, gesturing to the graduates sitting on the stage. "You're going to release them, yes. You're going to let them grow, yes, and they are going to make mistakes.

*'I told them not to do that.'*

*'I told him not to buy that car.'*

*'Why are they dating that person?'*

"You know—the things that *your* parents said. But seriously, don't let them go. I've seen too many families let go. They get mad, they get frustrated, and they let go. Don't do it. The number one thing we have going for us is that we have relationships. Technology continues to push people away from each other. Families, make sure you take time with each other. It's easy for us to become so busy that we forget the basics. I sit with families that are struggling and time after time I discover that they have not taken the time to love each other."

We are beautifully and wonderfully made, Roth said, because God has something in mind for us to do. Take time to find out what you're passionate about, and follow your passions," he said. "Spend time doing what you love, doing what you know God has made you to do. Because when you are in that zone, amazing things happen. Just go do it. Don't hold back. You only have one shot at this life, so go at it with all you've got. You're going to trip up, you might even fall and skin your knee, but you get back up and you go after it—because you are beautifully and wonderfully made."

*Pastor Scott Roth wears a lot of hats. He is associate pastor at Perkiomenville Mennonite Church, executive minister of Eastern District Conference—and deeply involved in his community. He helps run a bike shop, robotics clubs, thrift shops, and still pursues his passions for family, fishing and video games.*

*View Scott's address, and all of Dock's 63rd Annual Commencement, on the web site at [dock.org/commencement](http://dock.org/commencement)*



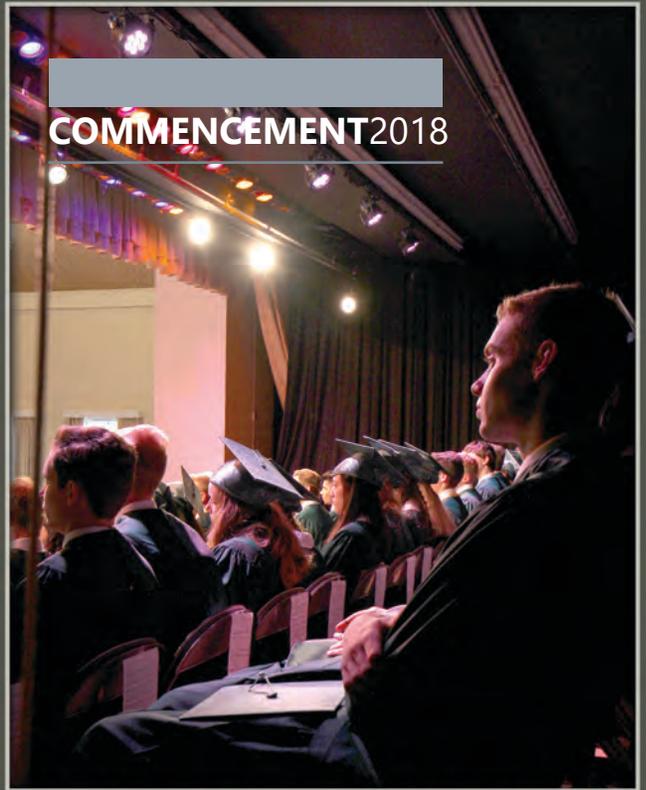
# The "C" word *Community.*

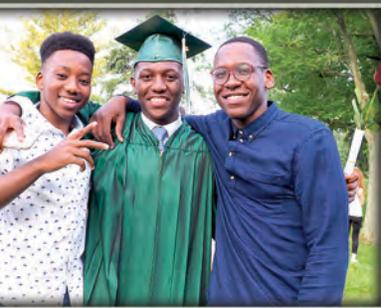
Some would say the word is overused at Dock, to the point where it is emptied of some of its meaning. And yet when seniors give their Senior Presentations at the end of their four years, many make mention—sometimes grudgingly—of the authentic ways they experienced true community on this campus.

Faculty member **Mr. Ron Hertzler** acknowledged this during Dock's 2018 Baccalaureate service on Friday, June 8. He commended some of the responses students gave for a *Kingdom Living* assignment where he asked them to describe their ideal community.

- *A place where we can love, respect and care for each other.*
- *A place where everyone's opinions are valued and respected.*
- *When there is conflict, it should be dealt with maturely and responsibly through a face-to-face meeting involving active listening and respect.*
- *When there is conflict, see it as an opportunity to get to know others better.*

"My prayer for all of you as seniors is that you can find on your journey a community where you can love, forgive, and care for each other," Mr. Hertzler said. "Grace will lead us home."





Subject Area Award Winners  
Academic Awards  
Scholarships

### Christopher Dock Award

The **Christopher Dock Award** is presented to one senior male and female in recognition of all-around campus citizenship, leadership, and scholarship during high school. The winners of the 2018 Christopher Dock Award are **Livia Anderson** and **Alex Martin** (below). The Christopher Dock Award is sponsored by former Dock English teacher Pearl Schrack.



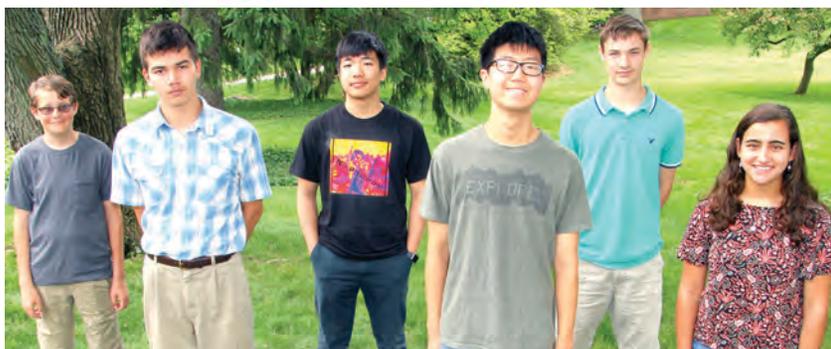
### Sam & Helen Lapp Peacemaking Award

**Lauren Ness** is the 2018 recipient of the **Sam & Helen Lapp Peacemaking Award**, awarded to a student who makes a significant contribution to peace on the Dock campus. Lauren was named this year's winner for her grace and compassion, as someone who lives out her faith and displays the fruits of the Spirit on our campus.



### Perfect Attendance Award

The Perfect Attendance Award is sponsored by Harleysville Bank. Recipients this year include (l to r) **Dalton Moore**, **Thomas Schreiber**, **Mingguang (Ming) Xue**, **Adam Choi**, **John Bennett**, and **Hannah Mellinger**. Not pictured: **Wenjing (Kasey) Cai**, **Ria Chu**.





## Daniel Reinford Scholarship

**Hannah Hackman** is the 2018 recipient of this scholarship, named for the former Dock teacher and principal.



## L. Travis Bechtel Memorial Scholarship

**Eric Becker** is the 2018 recipient of this scholarship, named for the '91 Dock grad and awarded for excellence in academics, athletics and business. The award is sponsored by business advisors Baum, Smith & Clemens, LLP.



## Subject Area Award Winners

### Abigail Nice

Charles Clemmer Art  
sponsor: Class of 1961

### Lauren Ness, Alex Martin

Paul R. Clemens Bible  
sponsor: Moyer's Chicks/Moyer Realty

### Robert Work

Career Study  
sponsor: Harleysville Bank

### Isaac Longacre

Drama  
sponsor: Jim & Kendra Rittenhouse  
Music  
sponsor: Harold & Ferne Alderfer

### Lauren Ness

English  
sponsor: Gerald and Rhoda Benner

### Heyan (Rebecca) Xiao

Spanish  
sponsor: Living Branches

### Melea Ruth

Family & Consumer Sciences  
sponsor: Landis Supermarkets

### Samantha DiLoreto

Mathematics  
sponsor: Libra Systems

### Rachel Shreiner, Isaiah Denlinger

Physical Education  
sponsor: Landis Supermarkets

### Livia Anderson

Science  
Social Studies  
sponsor: S. Duane Kauffman

### Ryan Class

Technology  
sponsor: Jen-Tech Systems

### Erica Gunden

Writers  
sponsor: Gerald & Rhoda Benner

(Subject Area Award Winners - l to r)  
Heyan (Rebecca) Xiao, Rachel Shreiner,  
Erica Gunden, Samantha DiLoreto,  
Livia Anderson, Isaac Longacre,  
Melea Ruth, Isaiah Denlinger,  
Lauren Ness, Ryan Class, and  
Abigail Nice.

## Citizenship Award

The Christopher Dock Citizenship Award for 2018 was presented to (l to r) **Meredith King** (Grade 12), **Laura Bergey** (Grade 11), **Hannah Landis** (Grade 10) and **Laura Frederick** (Grade 9). The Citizenship Award is sponsored by Lee and Ruth Delp and State Rep. Robert Godshall.



## Additional Scholarship Winners



Additional scholarship awards were given to seniors (l to r) **Livia Anderson** (American Association of University Women-Lansdale Branch); **Ian Anderson** (The Neinken Fund of the Bucks County Foundation); and **Heyan (Rebecca) Xiao** (Souderton-Telford Rotary Club). Not pictured: **Daniel Kabakjian** (Harleysville Rotary Club), **Graciella Odelia** (Medical Staff at Abington Health Lansdale), and Marques Brockington (Souderton-Telford Rotary Club).

# The Class of **2018**

**Evan Alderfer** Welder Training & Testing Institute  
*Welding/Fabrication*

**Brian Anderson** Case Western Reserve University  
*Electrical Engineering*

**Ian Anderson** Kutztown University  
*Secondary Education*

**Livia Anderson** Johns Hopkins University  
*Neuroscience*

**Eric Becker** University of Pittsburgh  
*Finance/Marketing*

**Jackson Bell** Liberty University  
*Commercial Music Publishing & Producing*

**Emily Bennett** Eastern Mennonite University  
*Education*

**Lincoln Bergey** Liberty University  
*Automotive Dealership Management*

**Lindsey Bernd** Messiah College  
*Social Work*

**Jessica Blaney** MCCC  
*Music Technology, Employment - Film Actor*

**Olivia Boyle** University of New Haven  
*Marine Biology*

**Sophia Breslin** University of Pittsburgh  
*Biology/Pre-Physician's Assistant Track*

**Marques Brockington** Eastern University  
*English Literature/Creative Writing*

**Madison Buiting** James Madison University  
*Communications*

**Brianna Cascarelli** University of Rhode Island  
*Pre-Veterinary Medicine*

**Heejeong (Liz) Choi** Gap Year, McGill University  
*Life Science*

**Yunxi (Jacob) Chu** University of Connecticut  
*Business/Engineering*

**Ryan Class** Messiah College  
*Mechanical Engineering*

**Adam DeLisser** MCCC  
*Photography/Business*  
*Employment - Normandy Farms Estates*

**Isaiah Denlinger** Gap Year  
*Service Adventure in Colorado*

**Eliza Dennis** Delaware Valley University  
*Small Animal Science/Pre-Vet*

**Joseph DePaul** Messiah College  
*Marketing*

**Matthew Derstine** Moravian College  
*Communications*

**Samantha DiLoreto** Washington College  
*Environmental Science*

**Joshua Farmer** MCCC  
*Business/Cyber Security*

**Mikayla Frederick** Messiah College  
*Elementary Education/TESOL*

**Shawn Gacy** Employment  
*Landis Supermarket*

**McKenzie Gordon** Messiah College  
*Anthropology/Sociology*

**Erica Gunden** Goshen College  
*English*

**Yilan Guo** University of California-San Diego  
*Economics*

**Hannah Hackman** Goshen College  
*Psychology*

**Heidi Hackman** University of Southern New Hampshire  
*English/Creative Writing*

**Molly Hand** Thomas Jefferson University  
*Interior Design*

**Madison Hawkins** Eastern University  
*Management/Marketing*

**Hsin Jui (Charret) Ho** University of Nevada-Las Vegas  
*Hospitality Management*

**Jaden Hunsberger** Stevens College of Technology  
*HVAC/R Technology*

**Shan (Jackie) Jiang** Syracuse University  
*Film*

**Daniel Kabakjian** Grove City College  
*Biblical and Religious Studies*

**Christopher Keach** University of Pittsburgh  
*Computer Engineering*

**David Keller** Lock Haven University  
*Recreational/Fitness Management*

**Nicholas Kelly** Liberty University  
*Business/Entrepreneurship*

**Meredith King** Eastern University  
*Business Administration*

**Kevin Knapp** Temple University  
*Physical Therapy/Sports Medicine*

**Jamie Kolb** Gwynedd Mercy University  
*Accounting*

**Austin Kratz** Arizona State University  
*Business*

**Austin Kurian** Penn State University – Abington  
*Biomedical Engineering*

**Linxi (Kimberly) Li** School of Visual Arts  
*Illustration*

**Xin (Mia) Li** Penn State University-Erie  
*Media/Communications*

**Yuantong (Rachel) Li** University of Pittsburgh  
*Biological Sciences*

**Yihang (Daniel) Liu** University of Florida  
*Engineering*

**Isaac Longacre** Eastern Mennonite University  
*Music Education*

**Levi Longacre** Berklee College of Music  
*Music Performance/Music Education*

**Daniel Loveless** Shippensburg University  
*Marketing*

**Alex Martin** Seton Hill University  
*Exercise Science*

**Carsyn McCloskey** Gap Year, Duquesne University  
*Undecided*

**Leah Miller** Bucks County Community College  
*Sociology*

**Christian Mirarchi** MCCC  
*Business Management/Marketing*  
*Employment – Landscaping*

**Daniel Moyer** Liberty University  
*Government*

**Harrison Moyer** Lock Haven University  
*Athletic Training*

**Jiatai (Tommy) Mu** Penn State University  
*Computer Science*

**Lauren Ness** Grove City College  
*English/Biblical Studies*

**Abigail Nice** Messiah College  
*Undecided*

**Daniel Nixon** Williamson College of the Trades  
*Mechanical Engineering*

**Misrahim Nyagwegwe** Eastern Mennonite University  
*Recreational Leadership and Sports Studies*

**Graciella Odelia** Eastern Mennonite University  
*Biology/Biochemistry/Music*

**Laura Olsen** Goshen College  
*American Sign Language*

**Caleb Pfeieger** St. John Fisher College  
*Communications and Media*

**Hayden Phillips** Cairn University  
*Business*

**Angelica Rampogu** Delaware Valley University  
*Animal Science*

**Katherine Robinson** West Chester University  
*Nutrition and Dietetics*

**Jeremy Rolley** Pennsylvania College of Technology  
*HVAC Technology*

**Dylan Rush** Drexel University  
*Business Analytics*

**Melea Ruth** Penn State University-Berks  
*Undecided*

**Rachel Shreiner** Messiah College  
*Nursing*

**Nicholas Smith** Undecided  
*Law Enforcement*

**Brianna Stoner** MCCC  
*Athletic Training/Sports Management*

**Elysa Stout** Penn State University-Lehigh Valley  
*Psychology*

**Xin (Sunny) Sui** Lehigh University  
*Undecided*

**Hannah Swartley** Employment  
*James K. Swartley Builder*

**Mckenzie Swartley** Messiah College  
*Undecided*

**Samuel Thompson** University of Buffalo  
*Aerospace Engineering*

**Machealle Tirtasaputra** Jefferson University  
*Nursing*

**Luke Tyson** MCCC  
*Employment - M & S Centerless Grinding*

**Angelica Velazquez** Employment  
*Compucom Managed Solutions*  
*Missions in Guatemala*

**Kaiyao (King) Wei** Penn State University  
*Architecture Engineering*

**Kyle Wells** Kutztown University  
*Business/Marketing*

**Abbie Woods** Gwynedd Mercy University  
*Nursing*

**Robert Work** Employment  
*Electrical Apprentice*

**Heyan (Rebecca) Xiao** New York University  
*Undecided*

**Jeremy Yoder** University of Colorado  
*Business Management*

**Hanyin (Dillan) Yuan** Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
*Material Science*

**Mason Zehr** Penn State University  
*Undecided*

**Zihan (Melanie) Zhang** Waseda University  
*Undecided*

**Yuchao (Sean) Zhu** University of Connecticut  
*Economics*

**Praise Zoegar** LaSalle University  
*Marketing*



In the blink of an eye...

# Metamorphosis

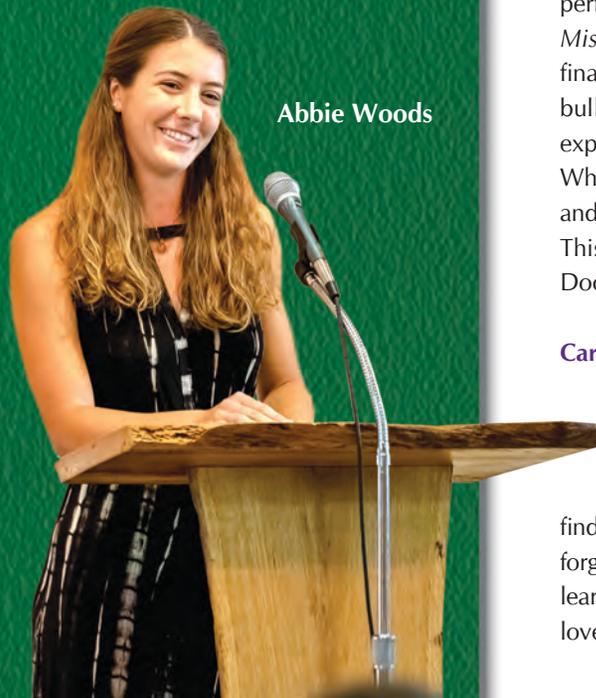
Isaac Longacre



Carsyn McCloskey



Abbie Woods



720 days. 5,040 hours. 302,400 minutes. 18,144,000 seconds.

As Class of 2018 President Dylan Rush pointed out in his Senior Presentation, that is the amount of time a student will spend attending high school for four years. That may seem like a lot of time, but his classmates would agree with Dylan—in the end it seems like the blink of an eye between Freshman Orientation and Senior Presentation.

Every day, every hour, minute, and second of their high school experience, students undergo constant change as they discover and shape their identity. The reflections contained in their Senior Presentations are a window into that transformation.

#### Isaac Longacre

It was junior year when I began to consider music as a career option, especially after performing “Red and Black,” from *Les Miserables*, for Arts Day. When it was finally time for us to go on, I was sweating bullets, but it turned out to be a magical experience. Everything went perfectly. When we finished the crowd went wild, and I will admit to shedding a few tears. This was by far one of the highlights of my Dock singing career.

#### Carsyn McCloskey

I learned some of the most valuable lessons these last four years; lessons about taking responsibility, lessons about relationships, lessons about finding a connection with God. I will never forget these last four years. I grew stronger, learned what love is, and what it is to be loved by those around me.

#### Abbie Woods

The class that really stuck out to me this year was *Social Issues*, where our eyes were opened to the facts about life around us. Through my class project, I learned about domestic violence and how it can affect people, and we experienced first-hand stories of homelessness in our trip to Washington, DC. Learning about these topics really made me question our country’s priorities. We went every morning to buy our \$5 Starbucks, while at night we listened to people who were homeless. These stories, and witnessing the poverty of the city, made me think about being in that position. It felt great to help at the soup kitchen. It was tedious and boring cutting up kale the whole time, but we did not complain.



## For Austin Kratz, it was quite a Senior Experience

As his senior year unfolded, the stage became larger and larger for **Austin Kratz**—and each time, with more eyes, and more pressure on him, Kratz answered the call.

Expectations were high even before the spring track season began. During his winter track season, Kratz continually improved his indoor times, culminating in a thrilling come-from-behind 200 meter gold medal at the New Balance Nationals in New York City.

For an encore, Kratz and his teammates dominated at the league, district and state meets during the spring track season. His state medal haul include two individual gold medals, in the 100M and 200M, and a third gold running the anchor leg of Dock's 4x100 relay with **Praise Zoegar**, **Nick Smith**, and **Austin Nice**. Both the relay and the 200M set new state records—and oh, by the way, Kratz also took silver in the long jump.

Those amazing senior year performances earned Kratz the opportunity to run on his biggest stage yet—the International Association of Athletics Federations U20 Championships in Tampere, Finland. In a thrilling race, Kratz ran the 3rd leg of the 4x100 and helped Team USA bring home a gold medal. Blessings to you, Austin, as you head to Tempe, AZ, for your freshman year at Arizona State University.



### Dan Loveless

*World Cultures* offered new perspectives on religion that I was never exposed to before. My own beliefs were challenged, and I began to understand that I was constantly repressing the act of thinking for myself. I began to question my faith, and ask myself: *What am I?*

I began to actually attend services at my church, Calvary Church of Souderton. I did biblical research on issues I felt conflicted about, such as abortion, profanity, and the creation story, to name a few. Reaching a point where I was finally thinking for myself, not giving the “perfect church answer,” and asking questions on my own was a big first step in becoming the confident person I am today.

### Daniel Nixon

My love for technology turned into an obsession to learn about 3D printing. This machine is programed to feed melted plastic out of a small nozzle over and over until a 3D form is created. You literally can make anything this way, but at the same time it challenged me to design pieces so they would print the correct way, factoring in support, wall thickness and the density of the piece being printed. The possibilities with 3D printing are endless, ranging from simple objects like a pencil holder, to more complicated designs, like a prosthetic limb. Mr. Zehr showed me some ways to get better prints; he saw that I had a drive to learn more, and he fostered it until I broke down and bought my own 3D printer.

### David Keller

College visits were winding down and I had a few colleges in mind. My first choice was Lock Haven University. I went to a baseball showcase there after my visit just to see if I could make the team. I didn't expect much out of it. At the end of the showcase the head coach sat me down and gave me his number to contact him. A week later the pitching coach emailed me his contact information and we instantly began talking. At a soccer team dinner I felt my phone buzz. It was the coach. He offered me a scholarship to play college baseball at Lock Haven. Just like the time I made the varsity team as a freshman, I called my parents right away to tell them the news. My first question was answered: I'll be attending Lock Haven University next year. My second question was answered at the same time: Yes, my dream to play ball in college is now very much real.

### Dylan Rush

Sophomore year came to a close, but not before we had class elections. I decided last minute to run for class president, and to my surprise, I actually won. This was an important event for me because it allowed me to transfer the leadership abilities I had honed on the baseball field into other aspects of my life. This represented a key shift in my character, and I wanted to transform my classmates' perception of me as someone who goofed around in class to a responsible member of our class who could lead and help set an example.

### Elysa Stout

My favorite part of *Child Development* was our Wednesday block days. This was when all of our kiddos got to come in and play. My younger cousin, Clay, came in with me on those days. We would do crafts, read stories and play games, both inside and outside. Clay's favorite parts seemed to be playing with playdough and going outside, whether we were going on a scavenger hunt, blowing bubbles, kicking balls around on the turf or just going on a walk. Through this class, I have learned not only how to properly care for a child, I've learned from the kids themselves. I've learned how to look at the world through their eyes, to see the world with awe, wonder and happiness; to enjoy the little things in life.

### Emily Bennett

*Geometry* was my first class with Mrs. Anderson. As much as I enjoy the subject, the most prominent thing I took from her classes was her prayers at the beginning. It was an amazing reminder that we should be constantly seeking and thanking God, and trying to use the abilities he has given us in the classroom. The way Dock teachers integrate faith in every subject is something I have noticed and valued.

### Erica Gunden

Being on the [cross country] team was one of, if not *the* most influential part of my four years at Dock. Since it was fairly small in numbers, it felt natural and easy to become close to the whole team. We worked, pushed, and encouraged each other, and several of my teammates became role models to me. It's a sport where you get out what you put in, with the added motivation of helping your team succeed. You work for personal bests and places, but the team is what makes it rewarding, the team is what makes it worth doing.

### Graciella Odelia

It's amazing to see God working in mysterious ways. Somehow, I don't know how it happened, the opportunity to attend Dock was served to me on a silver platter. But even when money wasn't the problem anymore, my parents said that going back and forth from Philly to Lansdale was not a wise decision. So, what do you do in moments when you feel like your life is in disaster mode? You pray. Come humbly before God, take a leap of faith, and believe that a miracle will happen. And it did. God led me to the most humble, kind, generous people I've ever known, Dr. Conrad and Mrs. Sharon. Your humility and simplicity captured my heart, and I actually didn't know that someone as nice as you existed on the face of the earth. As cliché as it may sound, words can never describe how grateful and blessed I am for your kindness to my family and me. Dr. Conrad and Mrs. Sharon ended up being my host family during the week, and on weekends, I would go back to Philly to my family. I was content because I got a taste of what college might be like, living away from home.

### Jamie Kolb

Over the last few weeks I have been forced to do a lot of reflecting on the past four years. Some of this has been a bit painful, but mostly it encouraged me to see how far I have come and made me thankful to be on the other side of challenges that have shaped the way I live my life. My mindset has undergone a large shift in the last four years. I now aim to prioritize relationships and passion-driven activities, but also prevent myself from overthinking areas that are not worth the worry. The lessons I learned at Dock, and the people I have surrounded myself with, have helped to shape my confidence and show me who I want to be—bold in my faith, and true to who I am.

### Josh Farmer

To say that I enjoyed my first assignment in freshman *English Study Skills* class would be a complete understatement. The assignment was to find a quote from a book we enjoyed. I remember picking mine, a Dr. Seuss quote: *Why fit in when you were born to stand out?* It reminded me how people like Dr. Seuss, a famous author who was rejected time and time again when he first began trying to get his children's books published, was different from the rest of the authors of his time.



Dan Loveless



Dylan Rush



Elysa Stout



Erica Gunden



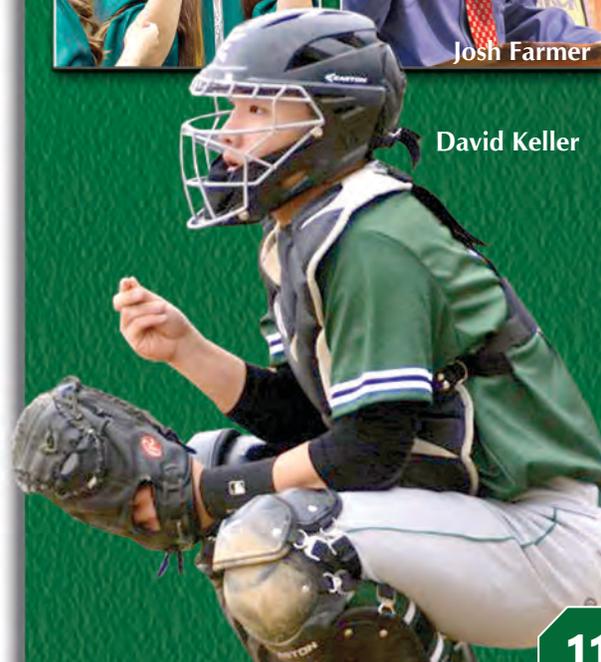
Graciella Odedia



Jamie Kolb



Josh Farmer



David Keller



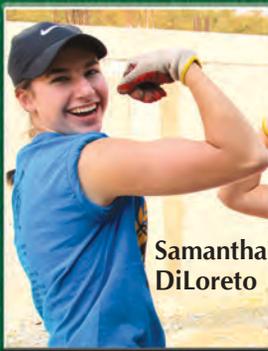
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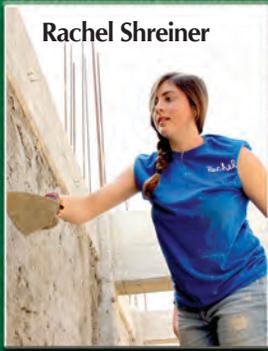
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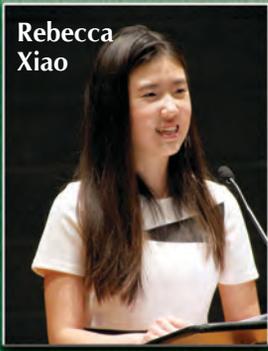
Praise Zoegar



Samantha DiLoreto



Rachel Shreiner



Rebecca Xiao



Madison Buiting



Matt Derstine

Jeremy Rolley



He was not afraid to be different. I would always use him as an example if people were to call me out for doing things a little bit differently than they thought should be done. Look how Dr. Seuss turned out. The legacy of his creativity lives on to this day.

**Jessica Blaney**

The world seemed to have gotten a lot bigger for me junior year. I saw and understood more of the world, primarily because of the classes I was taking. One class that made a significant impact on me was *Conflict Resolution*. At first, I thought many of the things we learned were meaningless. However, the longer I was in the class, the more I began using the skills I learned *outside* of class. I began searching for peaceful methods of solving conflicts with people instead of jumping right to anger or blaming. I began sharing these skills with my parents, friends, and anyone who was in a conflict who I thought could benefit from them. I found that these tactics are especially vital when talking about politics or other issues that make people angry. I continue to solve many of the conflicts and disagreements I have using the methods I learned.

**Jeremy Rolley**

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. High school was harder for me than for your average student. Freshman year my pain was minor, but I was still affected by the disease, and it caused me to struggle in school. My grades were dropping because of my exhaustion from the school day. I would come home from school and immediately go to bed, sleeping for hours. Sometimes I would wake up as late as 9 p.m. and just fall asleep again. My mom and I decided to let my teachers know how my health was being affected. I remember my mom being amazed by all the responses she got from my teachers. They all showed concern, and were willing to work with me. Through this I knew that the teachers here at Dock actually cared about their students.

**Laura Olsen**

I had been told junior year was the hardest year, and one thing my mother and I were worried about was *Physics* class. My mom wanted me to get a tutor right away and try my best to stay afloat, but I convinced her to let me go a week first just to see how the class would go; then we could see what help I would require. A week became a month,

and a month became a quarter. *Physics* was my jam. It came easy to me, and I looked forward to it every day. Mrs. Mast soon became one of my favorite teachers, along with Mrs. Grega, and with them on my side I felt like I could do anything.

**Lindsey Bernd**

I always thought chapel was a neat thing that Dock incorporates into our schedule. Not very many schools have a time where the entire student body meets together to learn about God and worship Him. It creates an opportunity for students to share their experiences and how they have seen God work in their lives. Chapels have taught me that God works in crazy, miraculous ways, but also that He uses individuals like us to touch others and show the love of God to people around us. I am grateful for the opportunities Dock gives us to learn and grow in our faith.

**Machealle Tirtasaputra**

One of my favorite moments at Dock was when we had "Friends-giving" junior year. It was a potluck just before the Thanksgiving break. Everyone brought something for all of us to eat and we ate as a big group in Mr. King's room. It may not seem like a big deal, but it was moments like those that made me feel like part of something big.

**Misrahim Nyagwegwe**

Although I enjoyed these sports, none of them came close to the enjoyment I had playing basketball. My senior season didn't end the way I wanted, but the things we accomplished put us in the record books, and the memories we made will last a lifetime. Coach Fergus has helped me develop into the player and person I am today and I just want to thank you for all you did for us, like making us breakfast before our state game, and driving me back and forth to practice. The time and effort you've put into this program has shown over the last couple of seasons, and without you our team wouldn't have done the things we did.

**Praise Zoegar**

For Senior Experience I chose to do service in New York City. David, Austin and I worked at a food bank serving hundreds of people every day. I remember one woman brought kids in who were my age. The teenagers looked embarrassed to see me. I did not know how to act, so I just served them. Learning to serve others has been a

valuable lesson that will stay with me. After this trip I learned that people in need do not only live on the streets, they can be found in our own communities. I hope to see Jesus in all people.

### **Meredith King**

Many people told me how beneficial *AP Language and Composition* was, and after finishing the year I completely agree. Even looking at papers I wrote in September, it is astonishing how much my writing has improved since Mrs. McTavish began working with me. I have learned to write both quickly and effectively, getting my ideas and thoughts on paper in a way that others can understand. Mrs. McTavish has effectively prepared me for college, and looking ahead at my next four years, I feel confident in my writing and speaking skills.

### **Mason Zehr**

My favorite class throughout all of Dock has to be *Faith Walk*. There is no other class that matches any aspect of *Faith Walk* in our curriculum. I was inspired by all of the people who shared their testimony and opened up about things they were struggling with that not many, if any, knew about. This led me to be more open and share things in my testimony that not even my closest friends had known about before. I learned so much more about myself and how to improve in my own life through others' testimonies. I learned valuable lessons of patience, forgiveness, and strength, and I am beyond thankful that Dock offers this class as an option.

### **Samantha DiLoreto**

One night, Julie, the mother of the children at the ranch, came to share her story and the stories of some of her children. I have never seen anyone so devoted to God and willing to let Him direct her life. Julie's care and desire to take in all the children God gives to her is amazing. I have never had a powerful 'God moment,' but that night when we prayed over Julie after hearing her stories, I felt something I never experienced before. I am so thankful to have had this opportunity to witness the good and beauty of people in this world.

### **Rachel Shreiner**

It's time to say goodbye. A new chapter of life is beginning. I am sad to leave. I am sad to leave the beautiful campus we have, the constant green grass and the familiar sound of the bell. I'm sad to leave the place where so many memories were created. I'm sad to leave the teachers who have poured

countless hours into my education, who cared for me beyond the normal job description of a teacher. Most of all, I am devastated to be leaving all of you—my beautiful, kind, amazing, loving, supportive, hilariously funny friends. You each have helped shape me into the person I am, and have given me memories I will forever cherish.

### **Rebecca Xiao**

When junior year began, our Culture Club started doing many different fun activities in addition to our regular meetings—things like making dumplings, movie nights, apple picking, and carving pumpkins. By the end of the year, we spoke in chapel, hoping to make a larger impact. All of us worked together, and it almost made me cry when we were presenting. It was delightful to see this group expand. I am grateful for everyone in our Culture Club family. I couldn't have made it this far without your support. This was definitely a highlight of my high school career.

### **Madison Buiting**

At some point during the fall, I started to go to Mr. Yoder for extra help. This was something I had never done before as I was usually either too nervous or too embarrassed. I clearly remember going into his room after school one day. He sat down next to me to answer my questions, and then he began to talk to me. He didn't talk about math problems specifically, but about how he had struggled himself. Mr. Yoder allowed me to see that not having something come easy to you is okay and normal. He told me he would always be willing to help me, and he always was. I was so thankful for all of the extra help in the morning, at lunch, and after school. I even got an A on one test and he told me to hang it up on the fridge—I was so happy.

### **Matt Derstine**

Transferring to Dock opened up my eyes. I knew I had to step it up. If I wanted to go to college, I could not have another lousy year. I tried out for the soccer team and made the team as a swing player—right away, that was a step up from [my previous school], and I was so happy. The biggest difference between my freshman and sophomore years was that I had friends surrounding me to help make sure I succeeded at Dock. That was something I did not have at [my previous school]. There, if you were failing a subject it was more of a joke than a problem.

**Meredith King**



### **Yilan Guo**

I still remember *To Kill A Mockingbird*, the first novel I ever read fully in English by myself. It took me almost an hour to read one single chapter, while American students could read it in just 20 minutes. Because the vocabulary and sentences were too difficult for me to understand, I would always automatically fall asleep and miss dinner. I was in such an anxious state, but Mrs. Rauch's words comforted me. "Bie dan xin" was something Mrs. Rauch always said, which means "don't worry" in Chinese. Even with her "awkward" foreign pronunciation, I realized that I was not alone: my teachers and friends would always be by my side and support me through all of the difficulties.

### **Angie Velazquez**

Coming to the United States was a great step of faith. Jenny Yoder has been taking Dock groups to Refuge Ranch, my home, since 2009. When she came in 2017, she asked me if I wanted to finish my senior year at Dock Mennonite Academy. My first thought was that it was impossible, because I had applied for my visa twice, and was denied on both attempts. I had given up.

One day at church I told my pastor, "I am going to the United States this year." My mom and Jenny were a great help in that process. We scheduled an interview with Mr. Hackman and Mr. Wiens. When the interview ended, they told me they would be in contact with me. While I was waiting for an answer, I had an interview with the embassy. When I was walking towards the window, I said to God, "You know what is best for me, and I trust you, no matter what happens today." When they finished interviewing me, they told me, "Your visa has been accepted."



Melea Ruth



Olivia Boyle



Sophia Breslin



Sam Thompson



Sunny Sui



McKenzie Gordon

I couldn't believe it! I cried out in gratitude to God, and I said, "Thank you, because your timing is better than mine, and you know what is best for me." Two weeks later, I received a letter saying I had been accepted at Dock. I was leaving my family for the first time, and happy because my dream was coming true—and a wonderful family was waiting for me.

**Melea Ruth**

A new opportunity came about this year with the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy. I love Chick-fil-A and many of my friends were also part of the group. As part of our "Do Good December," we held a toy drive for Grand View Hospital, and for our final project we held a fundraiser for our sister school in Puerto Rico. Sammy DiLoreto and I took leadership of the dodgeball tournament; it was a big challenge, but it ended up being a great fundraiser. We raised over \$10,000.

**Olivia Boyle**

If you were to tell me on the first day of freshman year that I would be at Dock in five months for the rest of high school, I would have thought you were crazy. I found out about Dock from a previous travel coach, and he got me in contact with Coach Benner. It was after talking to Coach Benner about the school and the softball program that I seriously started to consider that Dock could be a good fit for me. I reached out to Sammy and asked her if I could shadow her to see if I liked the school enough to come. After long talks with my parents, they told me I would start the new semester at Dock in January.

**McKenzie Gordon**

I always have a hard time responding when people ask, "So, why did you come to Dock?" I got this question a lot throughout my junior year. I've always been close with my cousins, so I grew up going to their sports games, musicals, and other Dock events. I fell in love with the campus, the people, and the general feel of what it must be like to be a student here. I could see through glimpses of Emily's life how solid her relationships were, and how much this place meant to her. I liked [my previous school] and had nothing against the school or the students, but I thought I could get something more out of high school.

**Sam Thompson**

I decided to take *Faith Walk* during the second quarter. This was initially a challenging class, as it involved opening up, not just to Mr. Wiens, which I was comfortable with, but to the whole class. Over the course of the previous three years, with chapel three times a week, I had the foundation of a spiritual life; this class allowed me to build on it. I found myself actively praying on my own accord, something I had rarely done. I have believed in God all of my life, but this class drew me closer to Him. This was a big stepping stone for me this year.

**Sophia Breslin**

There was only one extracurricular activity that I was glad that I did throughout my high school experience, and that was Science Fair. I had done Science Fair all three years of middle school, thanks to my amazing 7th grade science teacher, Mr. Anselmo, who constantly encouraged me. He is the reason I still do Science Fair today. I decided to do my 9th grade project on bioplastics with antimicrobial properties for post-operative wound healing. The goal of the project was to create bioplastics out of natural, sustainable materials that could be used to prevent post-operative wound infections. I used cinnamon, lime juice, oregano, and vanillic acid as antimicrobial materials in glycerin-starch based bioplastics. The results showed that bioplastics containing lime juice, oregano, or cinnamon were able to kill 100% of the E.coli bacterial load presented to the bioplastics. I got second place at the Montgomery County Science Fair, and placed first at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, and first place with a perfect score at the state level.

**Sunny Sui**

While visiting the campus, I discovered that students and teachers here were friendly, and there was a wide variety of courses at various levels. I also went to Dock House and had a delicious lunch made by Mrs. Bush. I still remember that she offered me a Chinese course, stewed potatoes and pork. I never expected to live in a dorm with these Chinese and Korean foods every day. That was such a surprise for me. Talking with Mrs. Bush made me want to share more about myself and my culture with her. I could not wait to spend the next three years with them.

## YOUNG ARTISTS RECEIVE PUBLIC ACCLAIM



Artwork created by Dock students was displayed at two community events this spring:

- Art students and their families participated in Dock's annual **Intergenerational Art Show** at the **Menonite Heritage Center** in Harleysville. A special thanks to art teacher **Mrs. Alice Keppley** for putting this wonderful event together!
- More than 420 pieces of art by students in Developmental Kindergarten to 4th grade was on display through the month of May in the children's wing at the **Indian Valley Public Library** in Telford.



## 8TH GRADE CELEBRATION

Dock Menonite Academy eighth grade students, faculty, staff, families and friends joined together June 7 at Franconia Menonite Church for the **Eighth Grade Celebration**. Students received encouraging words from parents and fellow students, and enjoyed music, reflections, and awards. The evening culminated with 8th grade students receiving their fraktur certificates. Best wishes to our 8th grade students as the Class of 2022 moves on to high school!

Visit [dock.org/commencement](https://dock.org/commencement) for a link to the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration web page.



## PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY



Dock 4th grade student **Gracie Longacre** was the 2018 Auction winner of “Principal for a Day”! Gracie spent the day with Principal

Mrs. Bronwyn Hestand and exclaimed it was her best day ever! Gracie spent time in classrooms, had lunch with students in the cafeteria, and even took in some events at Middle School Field Day. Nice job, Gracie!

## OUR ELEMENTARY MATHLETES



Dock 4th and 5th grade students recently competed against other schools in the region in the **24 Game Math Tournament** at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Congratulations to these students who did a great job representing Dock (l to r): **Braden Seeley, Matthew Mast, Ryan Merrill, Kaleb Kristiansen, and Corbin Tenney.**

## THIS GEM WILL BE HARD TO REPLACE

When a teacher like **Mrs. Gem Miller** retires, thoughts often turn first to the number of students she taught and nurtured over her 36-year teaching career. For Gem, that number is well north of 1,000—until you begin counting the students she has influenced indirectly or through her encouragement of other teachers.



“Gem has been one of my mentors throughout the years,” says colleague

**Mrs. Sarah Price.** “When I was in middle school, I would love when Gem would drive (twin sister) Meghan and I to and from school. Hanging out in her classroom is what prompted me to consider a career in education.” Gem’s classroom “has always been focused on providing the most successful spiritual, academic, and social atmosphere for every child,” she adds. “She helped children develop their relationships with one another, and nurtured them as peacebuilders.”



“Gem is an encourager to her students and fellow teachers,” says another colleague, **Mrs. Bev Guengerich,** who taught with Gem for 20 years. “She has an artistic flair to take any classroom and make it come alive with color and student work. She unselfishly shares her ideas—not to mention the wisdom of her experiences collected during her many years of teaching.” Mrs. Guengerich remembers many fun adventures with Mrs. Miller, like Dock’s annual 100th day of school tradition, where students and faculty dress according to the styles of yesterday. But even the adventures that weren’t as fun at the time—returning from a field trip and sweating out a two-hour accident delay on the Pennsylvania turnpike with 60 students—become unforgettable memories.

“Dock has been so blessed by the gifts of Gem Miller,” says EC-Grade 8 Campus Principal **Mrs. Bronwyn Hestand.** “She has built countless classroom communities where each child feels loved and nurtured, where students learn together and support each other. She is a beloved mentor and colleague who has teamed with many teachers and staff over the years to make teaching and learning a rewarding experience for everyone.”

It has been an honor to work with you, Gem, and we pray God’s rich blessings on this new season of your life!

## BUDDY BENCH BECOMES A REALITY



What began as a 5th grade class idea to respond to playground loneliness became a school-wide project to show compassion for others. If you haven't heard the extraordinary story about the new Buddy Bench at Dock's EC-Grade 8 Campus, please read the full story by school nurse and designated blogger **Mrs. Brenda Shelly** in our blog, *The Window*. Find it online at [dock.org/thewindow](http://dock.org/thewindow)

## DOCK FEATURED ON FOX29



Dock Mennonite Academy was in the spotlight May 7 on Fox29's Good Day Philadelphia, as students and staff were featured in a "Town Takeover" segment promoting the **Country Fair & Auction**, held May 18-19. Fox29 personality **Bob Kelly** was filming the segment from the Souderton Family Restaurant on Main Street in Souderton. Congratulations to students and staff for representing Dock well!

## DOCK HOSTS READING OLYMPICS



The EC-Grade 8 Campus hosted the Montgomery County Reading Olympics on April 30. More than 50 teams from across the county competed, answering questions about 45 books they had worked together as teams to read. Dock's team, the **Royal Readers**, scored 60 points to earn a blue ribbon—awesome job!



# DOCK

MENNONITE ACADEMY

## FALL GOLF OUTING

Thursday  
September 27  
2018

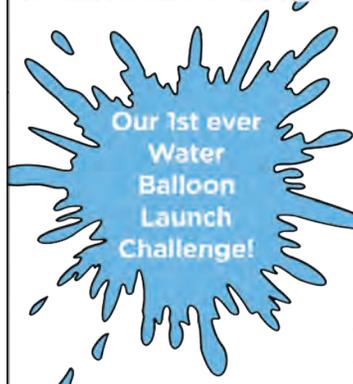
**Lederach Golf Club**  
WELCOME/PLAYER REGISTRATION  
**10:45 - 11:45 am**  
DRIVING RANGE OPEN  
**11:00 am**  
LUNCH BEGINS  
**12:00 noon**  
SHOTGUN START Scramble Format  
11:45 am Players will be directed to  
their carts  
**4:00 pm**  
KIDS GAMES & ACTIVITIES  
**5:00 pm**  
DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY

[dock.org/support-dock/fundraising-events](http://dock.org/support-dock/fundraising-events)

## 5TH GRADE STUDIES COLONIAL AMERICA



**Colonial Day** was the culmination of the 5th grade classes' month-long study of colonial America! The unit began with a field trip to Philadelphia (see photos) to learn first-hand about important events surrounding the birth of our country. On Colonial Day, students worked in small groups to learn more about a colonial trade, research and write an essay about it, and create a window display and infomercial about their colonial "shoppe." Family and friends were then invited to visit the "shoppes" and hear about what the students learned. Students dressed in colonial attire for the entire day and participated in a variety of colonial activities, including toys and games, embroidery, and making Johnny cakes!



Dock's Homecoming 2018 is themed towards Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and "STEMing Towards the Future." The weekend is headlined by two exciting road shows from Wondergy and the Franklin Institute as well as DockTalks, a time for accomplished alumni and students to showcase their impressive work and ambitions in the world of STEM.

### Friday, October 5

**Dock Fall Concert** – 7 p.m.

**Recognition of 2018 Alumni of the Year**  
(reception to follow)

### Saturday, October 6

**Disc Golf Open** – At the high school campus!  
10 a.m. Lunch provided.

**Color Fun Run** – 11 a.m. Lunch provided.

**Open House for Prospective Students/Families** –  
12:30-3 p.m. Lunch provided.

**Franklin Institute Hot and Cold Show** – 1 p.m.

**STEM Camps** – 2-4 p.m.

Drone Demos • Robotics • Hands-on Chemistry  
3D Printing Demo • Building with K'NEX and Lego  
Designing Paper Airplanes • Bubbleology  
Building Electronic Circuits • Solar Telescope

**Class Reunions** – (years ending in 3 and 8)  
4:30-8 p.m.

**Homecoming Reception** – 4:30-6:30 p.m.

**Wondergy Skate Science Show** – 6:30 p.m.

**Dock Talks** – 7:30 p.m.

**Schedule and details at [dock.org/alumni](http://dock.org/alumni)**

# DOCK ATHLETIC AWARDS

## Spring Athletic Awards

### Senior Athlete Award

(L to r): Mckenzie Swartley (soccer, track), Samantha DiLoreto (tennis, softball), McKenzie Gordon (soccer, softball), Jeremy Yoder (soccer, volleyball), Olivia Boyle (field hockey, softball), Austin Kratz (soccer, track), Melea Ruth (tennis, softball), Lincoln Bergey (soccer, volleyball), Lindsey Bernd, (cross country, track), Ian Anderson (cross country, track), David Keller (soccer, baseball), Isaiah Denlinger (cross country, track), Praise Zoegar (soccer, track).



**Athlete of the Year**



**Dr. David R. Doyle Memorial Award**

### Athlete of the Year

Austin Kratz (soccer, track & field) and Mckenzie Swartley (soccer, track & field)

### Montgomery County Triangle Club Award

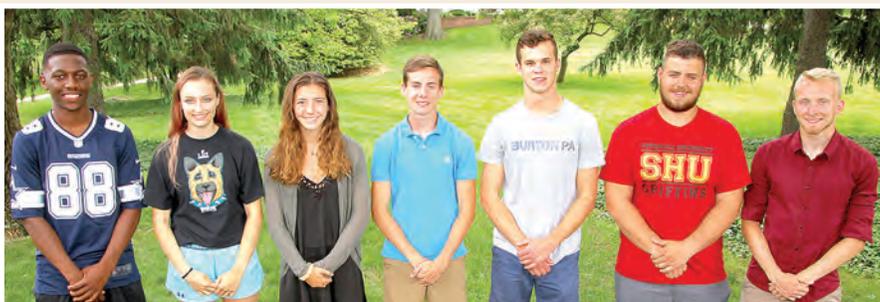
Austin Kratz

### Dr. David R. Doyle Memorial Award

David Keller (soccer, baseball) and Olivia Boyle (field hockey, softball)

### Outstanding Athletic Achievement Award

(L to r): Misrahim Nyagwegwe (basketball), Molly Hand (volleyball), Abbie Woods (track & field), Nick Smith (track & field), Lincoln Bergey (volleyball), Alex Martin (track & field), Austin Kratz (track & field, soccer).



**Outstanding Athletic Achievement Award**

*See all the spring sport team awards at [dockathletics.org](http://dockathletics.org)*



## DOCK SAYS THANK YOU TO CHICK-FIL-A

Senior representatives **Sammy DiLoreto** and **Melea Ruth** presented a thank you gift to **Dawn Montgomery Friel**, operator of Chick-fil-A Lansdale, for her generous sponsorship of our students in the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy, a national high school leadership program focused on impact through action. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to teach students servant leadership in our community!

Pictured (l to r) **Kathy Gordon**, Dock Director of Marketing, senior **Sammy DiLoreto**, **Dawn Montgomery Friel**, operator of Chick-fil-A Lansdale, senior **Melea Ruth**, and Dock Director of Admissions **Doug Hackman**.



*Josh Farmer with author Bryan Stevenson, flanked by Mrs. McTavish (left) and Mrs. Rauch. Inset: Stevenson signed Josh's copy of *Just Mercy*.*

## AN EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY

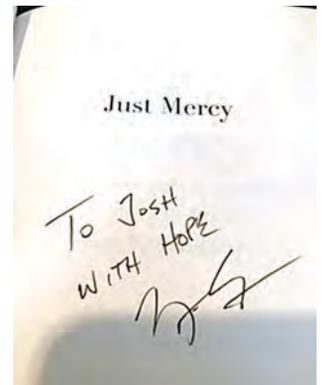
Back in January, Dock senior **Josh Farmer** was shadowing an uncle in New York City for his Senior Experience. On a tour of the offices, he noticed a framed photo of his uncle with Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*, a book Josh had read in *English* class.

"Before I had a chance to register what was happening, I was being invited to go to Montgomery, AL, for the grand opening of the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice," Farmer says. Just like that, Farmer and two guests—he selected two of his English teachers, **Mrs. Charlene Rauch** and **Mrs. Gretchen McTavish**—were on their way to witness history. In addition to meeting historic figures like Rep. John Lewis, Al Gore, and many others, the opening also included concerts featuring stars such as Stevie Wonder, Dave Matthews, Patti LaBelle, and other artists.

The Equal Justice Initiative was founded by Stevenson in 1989 to end mass incarceration and excessive punishment, challenge racial and economic injustice, and protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. The Legacy Museum commemorates the victims of lynchings and other forms of violence after the Civil War during the Reconstruction era to the 1950s.

A highlight for Farmer was meeting Bryan Stevenson and having him sign his personal copy of *Just Mercy*. The icing on the cake: Josh, along with Mrs. Rauch and Mrs. McTavish, were interviewed by a local TV news crew.

"It is hard to believe that a summer reading assignment in *English* class would lead to such an awe-inspiring opportunity," Farmer says. "It was an extremely sobering experience. Bryan's hope with this museum is to acknowledge the wrongs of the past so they are not repeated in the future."



## THINKING GLOBALLY IN SINGAPORE



Dock student **Zach Whitehair** ('19, fourth from left) joined high school students from 70 other countries at the National Student Leadership Conference in Singapore June 15-24, where the emphasis was on international business. NSLC was held on the campus of Yale-NUS, a partnership between Yale University and the National University of Singapore. The NSLC program allows students to explore the transformation to a global economy and wrestle with issues confronting multinational businesses.

## PHOTOGRAPHER WITH AN EAGLE EYE?

Part of being a great photographer involves developing your skills with the camera and lens; another part involves being in the right place at the right time. Dock senior **Laura Olsen** got both right one day in late May during *Photography* class when she shot five frames of a red-tailed hawk moments after it captured a squirrel. The hawk lives in a nest atop one of the tall trees behind Detweiler House. Laura even got him to smile for the camera—great job!



## SENIOR EXCELS AT 4-WAY SPEECH

Dock senior **Daniel Kabakjian** (far left) took first place at both the local and regional levels, and finished 4th at the district level, in the recent Four-Way Test Speech Contest sponsored by the Harleysville and Souderton-Telford Rotary Clubs. Kabakjian competed against students from five other high schools to reach the regional level. The 4-Way Test Speech Contest is a competition for 9th to 12th graders, requiring each participant to create and present a 5- to 7-minute speech on a subject of their choice, applying the Four-Way Test to guide their thinking and their actions: 1. Is it the truth? 2. Is it fair to all concerned? 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships? 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



# AIMING HIGH

B&  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
W

For Curtis Denlinger ('09), business is starting to take off—in every sense of the word.

**Curtis Denlinger** knew in high school that he wanted to own his own business, and he made good on that goal before he even graduated—by starting his own landscaping business during junior year, helping homes and businesses look their best.

A decade later, Denlinger is still helping homes and businesses look their best—but with another company, CleanFleet, he launched in January 2017. He currently has two trucks providing interior and exterior fleet cleaning and car detailing services, with 10 part-time employees working for him. CleanFleet services local businesses like Altek (see photo) as well as companies with national fleets, such as Cintas.

If that sounds like a “typical” entrepreneurial success story, here’s the rest of the picture: Denlinger is managing CleanFleet while continuing to pursue his dream of becoming an airline pilot. Technically, that part of his dream has already come true also, but let’s fill in the blanks.

After graduating from Dock in 2009, Denlinger attended Hesston College, and graduated in 2011 with a business degree. He joined Hesston’s aviation program that summer, then came back home in the fall of 2012 to drive truck for his dad, Duval, at Heacock Lumber in Plumsteadville.

The following fall he moved back to Kansas and finished aviation school. After short stints as a Hesston flight instructor and a pilot for an aviation company that provides pipeline patrol services, in 2015 Denlinger went to work for Republic Airlines, which serves as a subcontractor to some of the major airlines. He currently flies an Embraer 175, a twin-engine, 76-passenger plane.

And you thought *you* were busy. Try managing a business on the ground from 30,000 feet in the air. “We land, and I’m making calls, sending texts,” Denlinger says. “When I get to the hotel—more calls and emails.”

Denlinger was recently promoted to captain, and plans to pursue certification for Boeing 737s or even larger jets. Flying for a major airline is another goal that would provide the means for Denlinger to pursue other passions, but being a private pilot also has its advantages—such as a more family-friendly schedule.

“Flying, being an entrepreneur and an investor are my way to a better future,” he says. “It has meant some hard times, but it will also mean a future of not being married to a time clock, of vacation time that is enjoyed, a future filled with family and being able to give back and help others like I have been helped along my path.”

Visit CleanFleet at [cleanfleetinc.com](http://cleanfleetinc.com) or on their Facebook page

## Mentors, investors—and giving back

Curtis Denlinger has had quite a few mentors and “investors” along his path—and he looks forward to being able to thank them by helping others. Who are some of the major influences along his path?

**Mom and Dad.** “My parents have been a huge inspiration, especially with Dad running his own business,” Denlinger says. “If it weren’t for him I probably wouldn’t even be considering this.”

**Jeff and Donna Wilkins**, friends from Blooming Glen Mennonite Church who gave Denlinger a leg up in the landscaping business by becoming one of his first and best clients. They also helped him pay for college. “The Wilkins are a big reason why I want to be able to help others the way they helped me,” he says.

**Glenn Nemath**, another friend from Blooming Glen who has mentored Denlinger both personally and professionally. Nemath owns a construction business, and has also shown Curtis the ropes as a real estate investor. One of Nemath’s companies, Eagles Peak Spring Water, is a CleanFleet customer, and he inspired Denlinger to purchase his first investment property in Telford.

**The Dock community.** Denlinger remembers *Personal Finance* classes with **Jamie Warren** being influential, as well as the entrepreneurs she invited to the class as guest speakers; **Ross Hunsinger** was particularly memorable. Denlinger is also grateful to recently retired guidance counselor **Mrs. Cathi Hunsberger** for helping him get a scholarship to Hesston.

## Blooming Glen Quartet



The Blooming Glen Mennonite Church men’s quartet sang at the Dock Woods Chapel this spring, featuring three Dock alumni, including (l to r) **Steve Landes** ('81), John Landes, **Ron Landes** ('73) and **Michael Bishop** ('77). Thanks to **Dr. J. Eric Bishop** ('74) for the photo.

## Born to be an architect



It will probably not come as a surprise that this model of London’s Globe Theatre was created by Dock alum (and now professional architect) **Phil Lederach** ('74) as a project for his senior year *English Literature* class. Thanks to Phil’s '74 classmate, **Dr. J. Eric Bishop**, for locating this model in the Dielman Hall book room and snapping the photos. “Years ago I photocopied a photo of Phil speaking to a class of [Souderton High School] students about his work as an architect, and taped it to the model so that I could tell my students about Phil when I displayed the model in class,” Bishop says.

## ALUMNI NOTES

**1960**

**Elvin S. Kolb** died June 24 at home from acute leukemia. He was 76. Born in Spring City to the late Irvin G. and the late Gladys (Souder) Kolb, he was the husband of Ruth (Clymer) Kolb. He was a member of Vincent Mennonite Church.



**2001**

**Erin (Price) Saunders** and her husband Robert welcomed Levi Price Saunders on April 17, 2018. They reside in Souderton.

**2005**

**Haley Mead** married John Henahan on July 14 in Allentown. They reside in Fort Myers, FL.

**2006**

**Will Smallridge** recently received his V.M.D from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. He previously received a PhD from Penn State University in Immunology and Infectious Disease. He is starting a residency at UPenn Veterinary Hospital. Will, his wife Chelsea, and son Grant live in Jeffersonville, PA.

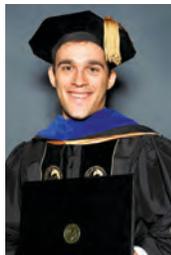
**2007**

**Carolyn Lederach** recently started as the City Director of Philadelphia for the London-based music events company Sofar Sounds. She will be coordinating secret “pop-up” concerts every month around the city.

**Nathan** and Kelsy **Weaver** are proud to announce the birth of their son, Isaiah Dean Weaver, on May 18, 2018.

**2008**

**Dr. Andrew J. Wismer** recently received a Ph.D in Human Factors and Cognitive Psychology from the University of Central Florida. He has accepted a position as an Experience Designer on the Human Factors research team with Hewlett Packard, Inc. (HP) in Houston, TX.



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## Carrying the mission forward

Ninety-five seniors prepared to walk across the stage to signify their completion of studies at Dock Mennonite Academy. As I presented the Class of 2018 to the Board of Trustees and the audience, I noted these graduates represent our school mission at maturity.

Our mission statement guides our vision and focus at Dock as I have described over the past several *Lamplighter* articles. During three days prior to commencement, each senior gave a speech reflecting on their time at Dock, including their academic, lifestyle, and spiritual journeys. Glimpses of these senior speeches are included in this issue of *Lamplighter*. These graduate reflections provide some insight into the implementation (actualization) of our mission statement. Ultimately, students reflect the effectiveness of a school and how closely it is reaching its mission.



### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dr. Conrad Swartzentruber*



Our mission statement notes three key components of the Dock experience. We strive to integrate faith, encourage academic excellence, and provide life-enriching opportunities. You will frequently find these three components in the senior speeches. I will highlight a few examples.

#### 1. **Integrated Faith:**

- "The way Dock teachers integrate faith in every subject is something I have noticed and valued." (Emily Bennett).
- "(Chapel) creates opportunities for students to share how they have seen God work in their lives. Chapels taught me that God works in crazy, miraculous ways....I am grateful for the opportunities Dock gives us to learn and grow in our faith." (Lindsey Bernd)

#### 2. **Academic Excellence:**

- "I am sad to leave the teachers who have poured countless hours into my education, who cared for me beyond the normal job description of a teacher." (Rachel Shreiner)
- "My favorite part is seeing connections between subjects, which was especially prominent senior year, as I took more advanced classes that also taught the large-scale implications of subject matter." (Erica Gunden)

#### 3. **Life-enriching Opportunities:**

- "...I learned about domestic violence and experienced first-hand stories

of homelessness in our trip to Washington, DC....We went each morning to buy our \$5 Starbucks, while at night we listened to people who were homeless. These stories, and witnessing the poverty of the city, made me think about being in that position." (Abbie Woods)

- "I have never had a powerful 'God moment,' but that night when we prayed over Julie after hearing her stories, I felt something I never experienced before. I am so thankful to have had this opportunity (Senior Experience Week) to witness the good and beauty of people in this world." (Samantha DiLoreto)

We celebrate the success of each 2018 graduate. Students had unique experiences as they considered the significance of faith in their daily lives. They explored the academic world, embarking on a journey of lifelong learning. They participated in activities and service opportunities that opened their eyes to meaningful ways of impacting the world around them. These 2018 graduates are now Dock alumni, carrying the Dock mission into their communities and around the world.