



LAMPLIGHTER

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2019

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Presentations

DOCK Mennonite Academy
SUMMER 2019



Justin Burkholder ('17)
lived the summer
of his dreams
in South Philly

22

Going Yard

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ON THE COVER: A special connection with another Dock alum helped **Justin Burkholder** ('17) land the summer job of his dreams. Read how Justin went Yard with the Philadelphia Phillies on page 22.



DOCK
MENNONITE ACADEMY

RIGHT: The journey to graduation is filled with plenty of twists and turns for **La'akea Fujita** and her Class of 2019 classmates. In this issue, you can read some of their high school reflections, and relive Dock's 64th annual commencement ceremony, beginning on page 2.

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Assistant Superintendent

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Principal,
Grades Nine to Twelve

Bronwyn Histan
Principal,
EC to Grade Eight

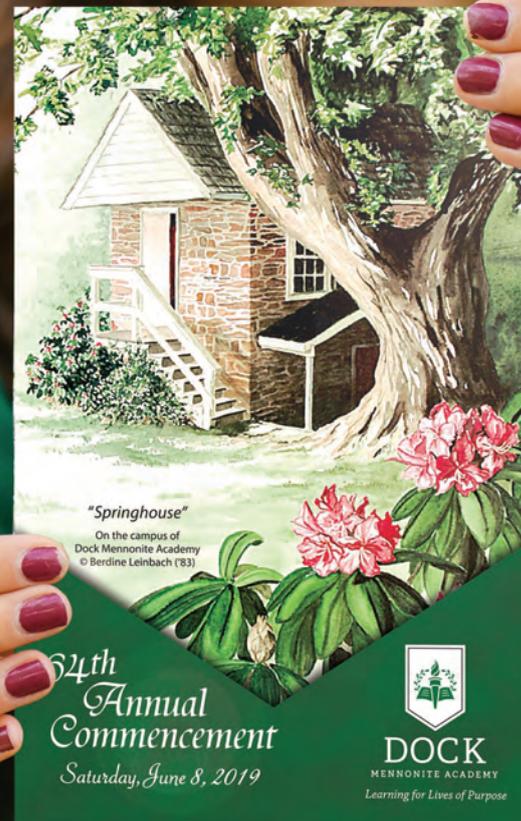
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Lamplighter is published by
Dock Mennonite Academy
1000 Forty Foot Road
Lansdale, PA 19446

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www.dock.org



At Dock, we are preparing students for the unknown.

Our mission is to prepare them to think critically and to navigate change.

We will be successful if our graduates are prepared to be life-long learners who can adjust and adapt to this unknown future.

Fifty years ago, Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, something no one had ever done before. I still recall as a young boy hearing that moment on the radio. Seventeen years later, Neil Armstrong gave the commencement address at the university where I was receiving one of my graduate degrees. While Neil Armstrong is the most well-known astronaut, this was not an accomplishment of one individual.

The amount of preparation for this step onto the moon was incredible. No one knew exactly how this event would transpire; it had never been attempted before. Hundreds of people helped prepare for the success of this mission. Research, practice simulations, and engineering feats were all a part of the preparation. Imagining the unknown was critical to success. Preparing for something new that had never been attempted was the challenge.

At Dock, we are also preparing students for the unknown. Many of our students will have jobs in their lifetime that don't currently exist. We don't know the specific skills or knowledge they will need. Our mission is to prepare them to think critically and to navigate change. We will be successful if our graduates are prepared to be life-long learners who can adjust and adapt to this unknown future. They are not alone; it takes a large team to accomplish this mission.

Skills needed for the future are critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, flexibility, and a collaborative mindset. We continue to adjust our approach to education to best teach these skills. In Middle School we are moving to a Project-Based Learning model. This approach allows for more student ownership in the learning process. It is active and connects learning with a student's own interests and passions. It fosters the ability to analyze and solve complex problems. These learning approaches are incorporated in other areas throughout our school.

Flexibility and knowing how to learn are critical skills as we help students prepare for the unknown. For the moon landing, preparations were made for things to happen in ways other than what was planned. Our students need to be comfortable with a rapidly changing workplace and job assignments. With skills to discern and gather the knowledge they need, students will be prepared to respond as the situation changes around them.

Our faith values do not change through this shifting environment. Principles such as integrity and respect for all people will continue to guide our graduates as they navigate careers over their lifetimes. While information, jobs, and problems to be solved will continue to change, the faith foundation received at Dock will continue to guide our students toward lives of meaning and significance throughout their careers. Teachers will continue to be a support team as they model a life of following Christ while mentoring students through their journey.

As you read this issue of the *Lamplighter*, notice the ways in which our seniors give evidence in their speeches of their preparation for life. The future is uncertain, but Dock graduates are prepared for new things—things that no one has ever tried.

Dr. Conrad Swartentruber, Superintendent





2019 Commencement

Whose report will you believe?

Leonard Dow ('82) asked the Class of 2019 to put their confidence in the "good report of the Lord."

Leonard Dow remembers getting a less-than-stellar grade in German from faculty member **Dan Reinford** when he was a student at Dock. "It definitely put a damper in the Dow house," he said. In his commencement address to the Class of 2019, Dow said there are other types of bad reports that we enjoy receiving even less.

A bad credit report, for example, can jeopardize your financial future, preventing you from getting a mortgage or other loan, or even from getting a job. Perhaps the most unsettling bad report we can receive is a grim diagnosis from the doctor. Dow remembers when his father received a bad medical report after being diagnosed with liver cancer. It caught him and his family by surprise because his dad had always been healthy, and the news that he had six months or so to live was devastating.

Dow remembers his dad being unusually calm considering the circumstances, and eventually he explained why: He said he had asked God for a little more time. He had some unfinished business, and he needed time to complete it. So he asked his family to join him in the belief that he would have more time.

This was a test of the family's faith, Dow said. *Which report were they going to believe?* The doctor's report was backed up by a battery of test results. There was cancer in the Dow family medical history. Common sense said the doctor's report was probably correct.

Dow's father would eventually die as a result of his cancer, but he lived for *three years* after his grim diagnosis. The doctors told him his quality of life would deteriorate quickly, yet he continued to live with purpose—working part-time, serving his church as a deacon, and ministering to his family as husband, father and grandfather—until just a short time before he died.

"Graduates, the question I give to you this evening is the same question my dad faced: *Whose report are you going to believe?*" Dow said. "My father, and later his family and friends, chose to believe the report from the Lord!" Dock graduates must choose which reports they are going to believe, too, he added, because there are a lot of "bad reports" floating around in the world today:

- Reports that the ongoing violence in the world, from the Middle East to the middle of Philadelphia, "is not my concern."
- Reports that the broken relationships in our marriages, in our families, and in our communities cannot be restored.



Leonard Dow is Stewardship and Development Specialist for Everence, which helps individuals, organizations and congregations practice financial stewardship that aligns with their faith and values. Prior to joining Everence he served as pastor of Oxford Circle Mennonite Church in Philadelphia for nearly 20 years. He is a graduate of Dock Mennonite Academy ('82), Eastern Mennonite University, and Palmer Theological Seminary. View his address, and all of Dock's 64th Annual Commencement, on the website at dock.org/commencement



- Reports that a bridge cannot and will not be built between the political, ethnic, racial, economic or religious differences that divide us as a nation.
- Reports that nothing can be done to reverse the adverse impact of climate change.
- Reports that the Church, including the Mennonite Church, and our faith is outdated, on the decline, and no longer relevant.
- Reports that there is no God, or at best God is an absentee landlord leaving this world to its own devices and self-destruction.

“We seemed like grasshoppers”

The question, “whose report are we going to believe?” is as relevant in 2019 as it is when it was first asked in the Bible in Numbers 13. Moses sent out 12 spies to survey the land of Canaan, which God had promised generations ago to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants. For 40 days the spies wandered in the Promised Land and then returned with a “report” about the land and its inhabitants. “The land does flow with milk and honey,” the spies said, “but the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large.”

One of the spies, Caleb, said to Moses, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” But some of the other spies told a different story. “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are,” they said. “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.... We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

The spies gave two distinctly different reports. One affirmed that the land was just like God said it would be, but the obstacles to possessing it were just too big to overcome. Their report was based on fear.

Caleb’s report was based on faith. Yes, he said, the land is just like God said it would be. Yes, the people who live there are larger than us, and yes, the possibility of failure is high. But we serve a God that isn’t only a promise maker, but a promise keeper. Let’s go! The Israelites chose to believe the bad report based on fear, and as a result an entire generation failed to move forward into the purposes and possibilities God had in store for them in the land He had promised.

“Graduates, Jesus wants you to know that he has come and given each of you a good report to replace all the bad reports you are bombarded with every day in the news, on social media, and by your peers,” Dow said. “The good report is that God sent his Son Jesus into the world and now, the Holy Spirit is available daily to lead each of you into a full life, a complete life, an uncompromised life, right here, right now.

“Whose report are you going to believe upon leaving Dock? Will you continue to live and believe according to the reports based on fear, or will you by God’s grace seek to live according to the reports based on faith, proclaiming the good news to your generation?”

“Today I’m inviting the Class of 2019 to join others in this generation to lead us through our wilderness as Caleb and Joshua led their generation into the promises of God, by believing the good report of the Lord!”





ACADEMIC AWARDS

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 2019 Christopher Dock Award are **Laura Bergey** and **Louis Cocco**. The Christopher Dock Award is sponsored by former Dock English teacher Pearl Schrack.



CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The Christopher Dock Citizenship Award for 2019 was presented to (l to r) **Laurel Latt** (Grade 9), **Jocelyn Pfeifer** (Grade 10), **Miguel Santiago** (Grade 11) and **Sam Gingerich** (Grade 12). The Citizenship Award is sponsored by Lee and Ruth Delp and State Rep. Steve Malagari.



Senior Plans—The Class of 2019

Trent Alderfer

Gap Year: Froese Brothers Harvesting
2020: Montana State University, Mechanical Engineering

Macy Balmer

Lancaster Bible College, Healthcare Management

Andrew Bean

University of Pittsburgh

Theresa Beck

Cairn University, Criminal Justice/Social Work

Laura Bergey

Gordon College, Secondary Mathematics Education

Aya Berry

Arcadia University, Psychology

Nolan Bolton

Liberty University, Business

Brooke Bozarth

Hood College, Nursing

Sydney Breslin

Temple University, Advertising

Wenjing (Kasey) Cai

University of Connecticut, Business/Animal Science

Seth Cardy

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Astrophysics

Sydney Cardy

Stevens Institute of Technology, Computer Science/
Theater & Technology

Robert Cercos Gonzalez

Undecided

Michael Chavez

Lehigh University, Biological Sciences/Mathematics

Yuxuan (Christine) Chen

Franklin & Marshall College, International Relations/
Economics

Adam Choi

Drexel University
Electrical/Computer Engineering

Kurtis Clemens

Colorado Christian University

Louis Cocco

Muhlenberg College, Media and Communications

Connor Derstine

Gap Year: Froese Brothers Harvesting
2020: Messiah College, Mechanical Engineering

Joshua Detweiler

Bucks County Community College, Business
Employment: Clean Fleet

Xander Duerksen

Eastern Mennonite University, Undecided/Minor in Physics

Joshua Edenfield

Penn College of Technology, Construction Business
Management

Mason Fisher

Moravian College, Pre-Physical Therapy

Nicole Ford

Montana State University, Nursing

Natalie Frank

Liberty University

Carolina Fraser

Colorado State University, Anthropology

Eliza Fraser

The George Washington University, International
Affairs/Business/Russian

Shaina Freeman

Apprenticeship in Tattoo Artistry

La'akea Fujita

Eastern Mennonite University, Accounting

Ava Gangwer

Shippensburg University, Psychology

Sam Gingerich

Saint Joseph's University, Biology



Subject Area Award winners for 2018-19 included (Front l to r) **Claudia Zhang, Risu Ha, Laura Bergey, Sydney Cardy, Alexa Kennel, Abigail Morgan, Audrey Schweizerhof.** (Back l to r) **Matthew Leavy, Josh Detweiler, Matt Lacek, Tyler Rotelle, Sam Gingerich, Ryan Kratz.**



SAM & HELEN LAPP PEACEMAKING AWARD

Elissa Odeh is the 2019 recipient of the **Sam & Helen Lapp Peacemaking Award**, awarded to a student who makes a significant contribution to peace on the Dock campus. Elissa 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.

SUBJECT AREA AWARD WINNERS

Award

Charles Clemmer Art
 Paul R. Clemens Bible
 Career Study
 Drama
 English
 Family & Consumer Sciences
 Mathematics
 Music
 Physical Education
 Science
 Social Studies
 Spanish
 Technology
 Writer's

Sponsor

Class of 1961
 Moyer's Chicks/Moyer Realty
 Harleysville Bank
 Jim and Kendra Rittenhouse
 Gerald and Rhoda Benner
 Landis Supermarkets
 Libra Systems
 Ferne Alderfer
 Landis Supermarkets

 S. Duane Kauffman
 Living Branches
 Jen-Tech Systems
 Gerald and Rhoda Benner

Recipient

Risu Ha
Tyler Rotelle, Laura Bergey
Josh Detweiler
Sydney Cardy
Claudia Zhang
Abigail Morgan
Claudia Zhang
Ryan Kratz
Matthew Leavy, Audrey Schweizerhof
Alexa Kennel
Sam Gingerich
Laura Bergey
Matt Lacek
Alexa Kennel

Camron Good

Messiah College, Biomedical Engineering/Pre-Law

Jacob Gordon

Employment: Bergey's Buick-GMC, Chick-fil-A

Kyle Gouldey

Employment: Giant Food Stores

Benjamin Graham

Millersville University, Film Studies

Risu Ha

Pratt Institute, Architecture

Robert Hadden

Temple University, Journalism/Broadcasting

Aliyyah Haggard

Eastern Mennonite University, Music/Theater

Jacqueline Halteman

Montgomery County Community College, Psychology

Zhilin (Leo) He

Boston University, Mathematics

Colin Hunsberger

Eastern Mennonite University

Jie Ji

Penn State University, Engineering

Rixing (Caesar) Kang

University of Illinois, Mathematics

Bryce Kauffman

Geneva College, Chemical Engineering

Mason Keller

Immaculata University, Business/Sports Management

Alexa Kennel

Goshen College, Environmental Science/Music

Cody Kratz

Montgomery County Community College

Employment: Kratz Home Remodeling

Ryan Kratz

Eastern University, Business

Matthew Lacek

University of Maryland, Computer Science/Music

Performance

Alexis Landis

Bucks County Community College, Secondary Education

Employment: Chick-fil-A

Marshall Leaman

Employment: Walnut Hill Services Group

Matthew Leavy

Eastern Mennonite University

Emanuel Lekaj

Chaffey College, Business

Xin (Peter) Liang

Emerson College, Communication

Zizhuo Liang

Temple University, Nursing

Kangliang (Slade) Liu

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Painting

Rachel Lopes

Montgomery County Community College

Yuanhao (Tony) Luo

University of Delaware, Business/Engineering

Mikayla Martin

Gap Year: Youth With A Mission/Colorado Springs

Ryan Maurer

University of Alabama, Finance

Ashley Mellinger

Gap Year: EMT Training/Employment

2020: Eastern Mennonite University, Nursing/
 Psychology/Spanish

Emmaline Milosek

George Mason University, Political Science/
 Criminology

Abigail Morgan

Messiah College, Biology/Pre-Medicine

Brody Moyer

University of North Carolina, Accounting/Finance

Jeremy Moyer

Ursinus College, Computer Science

Michael Moyer

Liberty University, Finance

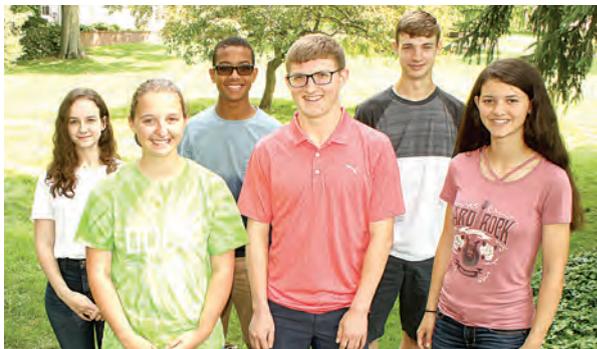


DANIEL REINFORD SCHOLARSHIP

Katelyn Sellars and **Ashley Mellinger** are the 2019 recipients of this scholarship, named for the former Dock teacher.

MEDICAL STAFF AT ABINGTON HEALTH-LANSDALE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is awarded to a Dock senior pursuing a career in the healthcare field. The 2019 recipient is **Kate Strickland**.



PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARD

The Perfect Attendance Award is sponsored by Harleysville Bank. Recipients this year include (l to r) **Evelyn Elliott, Libbie Derstine, Jonathan Anderson, Jacob Gordon, John Bennett,** and **Katherine Wenzel**.



L. TRAVIS BECHTEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Brody Moyer is the 2019 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.



VANESSA L. MYERS WOMEN IN STEM SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is given to a female Dock grad who plans to pursue a degree and career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). The 2019 recipient is **Abigail Morgan**.

Jonathan Nash

Michigan State University, Social Work/Music Production/Coaching

Justin Nice

Montgomery County Community College, Business Administration

Austin Nice

East Stroudsburg University, Exercise Science

Elissa Odeh

Montgomery County Community College

Seohyun Park

Les Roches International School of Management, Hospitality

Stepan Pilip

California State University, International Business

Julia Rolley

Bloomsburg University

Tyler Rotelle

Cedarville University, Criminal Justice

Gabriel Schimek

Penn State University, Computer Science

Addison Schweizerhof

Bucks County Community College

Audrey Schweizerhof

West Chester University

Jackson Scialanca

West Chester University

Steven Seachrist

Montgomery County Community College

Ryan Sell

Montgomery County Community College, Criminal Justice

Katelyn Sellars

Eastern Mennonite University, Nursing

Allison Sharkey

West Chester University, Early Childhood/Special Education

Aiden Smith

Toccoa Falls College, Business Administration/Marketing

Micah Souder

Employment: Bergey's Buick GMC

Claire Stockmal

Moore College of Art and Design, Illustration

Kate Strickland

Millersville University, Biology/Respiratory Care

Antanas (Anthony) Tamulis

The Skill Factory Basketball Academy

Troy Vasey

Montgomery County Community College, Microbiology

Juzhi (Harlem) Wang

University of North Carolina

Zixiao (Steve) Wang

Boston University, Applied Math/Computer Science

Kennedi Wells

Liberty University, Digital Marketing

Zachary Whitehair

Loyola University

Zhaozeng (William) Xu

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Mathematics

Wanting (Swan) Yang

University of California-San Diego, Cognitive Science

Olivia Yates

Penn State University, Bio-Behavioral Science/Spanish

Hanzi (Shirley) Yu

Boston University, Mathematics

Anna Zanetti

Tron Scientific High School

Lukah Zehr

West Chester University, Psychology

Micah Zehr

Employment

Haiyu (Vivian) Zhang

Penn State University, Business

Yuqi (Claudia) Zhang

Johns Hopkins University, Art History

Jenna Zook

Montgomery County Community College, Business Administration

2019 BACCALAUREATE

DOCK'S PRAYER WARRIOR MOM

Though few students were aware of it at the time, for the past 19 years the Dock community has been lifted up in prayer by a special group of Dock mothers called Moms in Prayer. The leader of that group is **Deb Rotelle**, who now has prayed close to 2,000 students through Dock—including four of her own children.

"One of my favorite things to do for each of you is to pray for you," Rotelle told the Class of 2019 at Dock's Baccalaureate service on June 7. "We have an amazing group of praying moms who meet in the balcony every Friday before chapel. We have prayed for your relationships with the Lord, for your relationships with friends and family, we have prayed for protection for you, for your relationships with teachers, for your health, and for the Lord's continued provision for you through high school and for your future.

"Prayer is one of the greatest gifts you can give someone," she added, "and I wanted you to all know that you have been covered in prayer, not just by Moms in Prayer, but by your teachers and your family during your entire time at Dock. Thank you to all the amazing moms who came to pray. I will forever cherish the times we have spent in prayer together for our students and teachers over these past 19 years."

Just prior to the traditional Groff Pond candlelighting, Rotelle offered a prayer of sending for the Class of 2019. "My prayer is that, as you light your candle tonight, you will ask the Holy Spirit to light a fire in your heart for Him as never before," she said, "and that it would burn bright all the days of your life."



"As you leave this place, keep painting. Pick up the next blank canvas, submit your brushstrokes to God, and imagine the mural that is waiting to be. And while you paint, we will be praying for you, and waiting to see what amazing works of art God will create."

— Mrs. Kellena Smith, faculty reflection



Watch the entire Baccalaureate service on Dock's YouTube channel or online at dock.org





Senior Presentations

FAITH JOURNEY

Whether students begin their Dock journey from next door or from halfway around the world, their stories tell of courage, faith, and growth.

For some Dock students, starting as a freshman on the Grades 9-12 Campus almost feels like an extension of their Middle School experience, just with more freedom and responsibility. Some students come to Dock from other public and private schools, and for them the transition typically carries with it a bit more anxiety, as they learn a new campus, make new friends and navigate new academic expectations.

Then there are students like **Elissa Odeh** ('19). Raised in the Palestinian town of Beit Sahour, she traveled halfway across the globe to attend Dock, and her family's story is one of extraordinary faith and courage.

Beit Sahour is a town with about 12,000 residents just east of Bethlehem. Christian tradition holds it to be the site where the angels announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds. The town has been under Israeli occupation since the Six-Day War in 1967, and many of the original Christian Palestinian occupants have been driven out of the town. She was a freshman in high school when her father began talking about immigrating to the United States.

"I was completely against the idea of leaving my homeland, the place I love, the place where I spent my childhood running around and climbing trees with the neighbors," she said. So she took it upon herself to foil her parents' immigration plans, even going so far as to stage a "hunger strike"—staying in her room all day, refusing to eat with the family until her parents changed their minds. She acknowledges it was a half-hearted attempt. "I used to sneak out of my bedroom and grab whatever I could hold in my hands or stuff in my pockets, from bananas to sandwiches to crackers," she said. "My parents thought I was starving; little did they know I had an entire grocery store under my bed."

"God sent me to France"

Her feelings about coming to the U.S. began to change when she was offered a two-week trip to France. She fell in love with everything about the country—the food, the people, the sights. Yet the trip had a profound impact that went well beyond sightseeing.

"Being in France was my first time to see life without a border wall, without guns and tanks everywhere, without fear of a soldier invading

Elissa celebrated her graduation in June with her parents, Issa and Colette, and siblings Jessica ('22) and Hanna ('27).

Above left: Elissa was reluctant to leave her home in Beit Sahour until she spent two weeks in France—and felt truly free for the first time in her life.



my house,” she said. “I had to see it with my own eyes. I now know that God sent me to France because He knew it would finally make me change my mind. I knew that I was the one keeping my family from leaving, and I was preventing them from having a better life. I cannot deny the truth: I loved feeling free for once. So, I finally chose to give it to God and say ‘Yes’ to a new, mysterious, yet promising life.”

That mysterious, yet promising life began on July 2, 2017, when the Odeh family came to the U.S. Without a Social Security number and a work permit, Elissa’s father was unable to work at first, and the family did not have transportation or a place to live. “It was in those moments that I needed God the most,” she said. “I needed God to show me that we did not come across the world just for this, a complete disappointment. It takes courage to believe that God will reveal His way at the right time, when all you see around you is darkness.”

Showing God’s grace

God did send his angels to the Odehs at just the right time, in the form of **Ken Burkholder**, pastor at Deep Run East Mennonite Church, who had known the family for years. Burkholder was able to find the family a home, and a school for Elissa and her siblings to attend.

From her first meeting with Principal **Martin Wiens**, to the kindness shown to her by people like **Hannah Swartley** (’18), who walked Elissa to all of her classes every day for a week so she could learn her way around campus, to the experience of singing in Touring Choir, Elissa’s Dock experience has been a blessing to her.

“To those who helped my family move, and made it possible for me to attend Dock, I want to thank you, because you have shown me God’s grace,” she said. “To the amazing faculty here, thank you for helping me and welcoming me into your community.”

Elissa’s next steps are not yet clear, “but there is one thing I will always be confident of—that I want to help people,” she said. “I want to be there for those the world has forgotten. I do not know how all this can be accomplished, but I do know that God will help me land on my feet where I need to be at the exact right time.”



“A WHOLE NEW WORLD BEFORE ME”

Abigail Morgan didn’t have to travel quite as far as Elissa Odeh to get here. She came to Dock sophomore year from a neighboring public school—and felt like it might be a short stay.

“A part of me thought that I would only be going to Dock for one year to let the drama [at my old school] settle, so I was scared of opening up to people and being hurt again,” she said in her Senior Presentation. But a positive experience with Arts Day gave her a confidence boost and helped her realize she needed to be more involved and reach out to her new classmates. “Once I let that [negative] mentality go, a whole new world was before me. I was learning how to be myself again, and how to feel safe. By the end of the year, I remember feeling happy again.”



Like Elissa Odeh, Morgan’s transition to Dock was also a faith journey, and it took a significant step forward during chapel that year—a new experience for her. “I remember feeling how different it was for the entire student body and staff to meet together, three times a week. There truly is something remarkable about a school that can do that,” she said. “It showed me that I am part of something bigger, and as I listened to various speakers that year, it stirred my heart and my mind. I didn’t grow up in a family that goes to church every Sunday, I was not familiar with the books of the Bible and often felt guilty because of how little I knew. I wondered what it was like to be a true and faithful Christian—and if it was too late for me to follow Jesus too.”

Her sophomore project in *Bible* class gave her an even deeper look into what it means to be a follower of Christ. “A small group of us went to Philadelphia



READ ON TO LEARN HOW OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2019 DESCRIBE SOME OF *THEIR* DOCK EXPERIENCES.

Alexa Kennel (1)

The best part of Junior year was the musical. We did *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and boy oh boy, was it something else. I was cast as the narrator along with two underclassmen who I grew close to: **Carlie Cocco** and **Hannah Landis**. We made an amazing dynamic trio and had fun getting to know one another. I enjoyed being the oldest of the group and strived to be a good role model. Performing the musical to three nearly full houses with curly pink glitter-filled hair and full-on glamorous makeup was more fun than I can explain in words. I loved the energy of the show, and I loved the people around me.

Alexis Landis (2)

One thing I loved about my sophomore year was chemistry with **Ms. Metzler**. She may not know it, but she made a huge impact on me that year. Every week, Ms. Metzler would have a Bible verse or an inspirational quote on her white board in the bottom right corner, and every day I would take a moment and read it. It would calm all my anxiety and stresses about homework and tests. God really blessed Ms. Metzler with a sense of humor, and I knew the Lord was speaking to me through her teaching and her kindness.



Claudia Zhang (3)

Concert Band was a special activity for me at Dock. Thanks to **Ria Chu**, who jumped at me during lunch on the second day of orientation and begged me to join band with her and teach her the flute, and thanks to Mr. Shughart who said to me, "We need you in the band." I picked up my flute, and after spending two years in the band and performing eight concerts, I must say that this is one of the most wonderful experiences I had here.

several times to serve hot meals and coffee to the needy and homeless. As I stirred cream and sugar into the coffee, I witnessed true acts of the Lord," she said. "Volunteers had made relationships with some of the 'regulars' and were praying for them. In the middle of the streets of Philadelphia, I saw the Lord working. Strangers were weeping with one another, people were calling out to the Lord. I was in awe of how powerful prayer can be."

On the last night her group served, all of the volunteers and some of the locals gathered in a circle, holding hands, standing in silence and in prayer for over 20 minutes. "The beauty in it was how there was no awkwardness or desire to walk away, but the feeling of calm and stillness that fell upon us in that moment," Morgan said. "From that moment on, I knew a relationship with God was waiting for me and all I had to do was embrace it."

By the time senior year rolled around, Morgan had fully embraced her Dock experience. She rejoined the soccer team determined to be a better player than she was sophomore year. She joined chapel committee to help plan chapels that would engage her classmates. She led worship nights, and served as class secretary, planning events and activities to make the final year memorable for the class of 2019. She became a Dock

Ambassador because she was passionate about leading others to Dock, "where they could have a great experience like I did."

That experience was possible because of support from the Dock community of students, faculty and staff. "Some of life's greatest lessons are taught by those around you," she said. "The people I met here taught me that greater things are ahead, that it is OK to hurt and that pain is temporary. They showed me how to laugh through the trials in life, how to be myself, and how to enjoy each moment. It made my transfer one of the best things to happen to me. Coming to school each day this year, I was confident and proud to be here. Whether it was people shouting my name around campus or checking in on me when times were tough, it made me feel valued and loved."

SENIOR PRESENTATIONS

As part of their *Communications* class, all Dock seniors are required to give a 20-minute public presentation reflecting on the ways they have grown academically, spiritually and emotionally as a result of their high school experiences. You can read additional excerpts and see selected video clips from Senior Presentations on Dock's website at dock.org.



Aliyyah Haggard (4)

Touring Choir was something I always admired. It was super cool that the students were an auditioned group of singers. Singing had become so much more to me than a hobby. I had never really done a singing audition before, but I decided to try. My audition was shaky, not the sound I was hoping for, but I carried it through the song and when I was done I left the room with a sense of pride because I knew that even if I didn't get in, I was able to do what I had to do to audition. Surprisingly, I ended up making the choir and was excited for my first year.



Touring Choir was *amazing*. I became friends with so many new and talented people, and it allowed me to embrace my love for singing and helped me gain confidence in my voice. I decided to audition for two solos this year. I surprised myself and I'd like to think I surprised **Ms. Grimes** as well. Though I did not end up with a solo, I was proud of myself for the accomplishment of auditioning. I hope to continue singing in college and I am thankful for two years in Touring Choir to prepare me for that.

Bobby Hadden (5)

The one thing I'll never forget about my freshman year in cross country is that I started the year with a 5k time of 29 minutes, and on my last race I had a time of 21 minutes. I improved a whole eight minutes, and that happened all in one season. These hard races only made me a more determined and resilient person in whatever I put my mind to.



Natalie Frank

I was surprised by the infectious energy **Mrs. Rauch** spread over the class. She has the perfect voice that makes you feel like you're rubbing your head with a scalp massager, but not in the way that you want to fall asleep. She always taught her lessons in ways that made me eager to do the homework. Her excitement became my excitement. She ended up introducing me to my second favorite book, *Pride and Prejudice*, and I am entirely indebted to her for that. A semester in her class wasn't nearly enough, but I am thrilled that I got the opportunity to be her student before she retired.

Kate Strickland (6)

There were a few teachers my freshman year who really went out of their way to help me succeed in the classroom. One of those was **Mrs. Grega**, who knew that I struggled with anxiety taking tests, so she arranged it so that if I ran out of time on a test it would be sent to her room and I would finish it there. This way, I was able to feel relaxed heading into tests and not stressed about running out of time. Another teacher that stands out to me was **Ms. Johnston**, my *Biology* teacher. I struggled to stay focused in *Biology*, but Ms. Johnston patiently made sure I succeeded in her classroom by taking time to sit down and review tests with me. These two teachers shifted my mindset on academics and school performance, and I actually began to enjoy doing well and receiving good grades. They helped me set the tone for my high school academic career. I became a student who worked extremely hard and strived for A's, and eventually outgrew the need for extra support on tests.

Louis Cocco (7)

I still felt like I had to do something new that I hadn't tried before to top off my year. One day, sitting in chapel, Mrs. Kennel spoke about the spring drama auditions. I thought to myself, "This is a sign, and this is the perfect timing, since hockey season was ending." It wasn't until a few hours before the auditions that I elected to go ahead and do it. Long story short, when I got up on stage, I felt it and I was hooked. I was eventually cast as Don Pedro, the Prince of Aragon in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and Mr. Hill the medium/clairvoyant in *A Mad Breakfast*. The spring drama was amazing. I became a part of a new family, the theater family, and I am proud of what we accomplished.





7



8

Ashley Mellinger

As a freshman, I was encouraged to join clubs and extracurriculars. It's how you made your best friends, apparently, and that came true for me. In the fall, I joined stage crew. I quickly became friends with everyone and I felt like I belonged. The upperclassmen made me feel so accomplished, like I was doing something that mattered. Whenever I messed up, they would reassure me. I needed that. Because of them, I continued stage crew throughout all of high school.

English class was my safe haven. Mrs. Moyer, I don't think you realize the impact you had on me and my writing. See, in 8th grade, I had a wonderful English teacher who supported my writing through and through. I was scared I'd never have that again, but I was so wrong. Mrs. Moyer loved my writing, despite my refusal to acknowledge the Oxford comma, and she always gave me a stage to showcase my



9

work, and encouraged me. I distinctly remember her saying she was "going to find my name on bookshelves one day." I beamed; I still take pride in that comment.

Matt Lacek (8)

Speaking of perfect send-offs, this year's Arts Day was, simply put, *amazing*. I performed with two separate musical groups, and both bands performed swimmingly, the smaller group particularly so. It was comprised of myself, **Steve Seachrist**, and **Bryce Kauffman**. We had been performing together since freshman year, and this year was the culmination of discussions and plans we had been building since then. We performed *Wish You Were Here* by Pink Floyd, and I provided lead vocals, which was the first time I had done that on such a large scale. Sure, I had performed by myself or in a duet during coffeehouses, but the audiences there were a third the size of the Arts Day crowds. Ending our performance that night was one of the best experiences of my high school career.

Nicole Ford (9)

The summer following my junior year was one of the hardest but most rewarding periods I've gone through. I continued having trials with a relationship but through all the pain, God showed me his outstretched hand and I took a firm grasp of it. It started with the Touring Choir trip to Europe and took off from there. Between deep talks with new people and worshipping frequently, I was on fire for God and got out of the rut I seemed to be in for so long. It was a time where God seemed to be moving not only in me, but throughout this whole school. I felt confident in my faith through the rest of the summer, and into the beginning of senior year.

Samuel Gingerich

When looking back from freshman year at Dock to now, the one thing that sticks out to me is the supportiveness and generosity of the people around me. Dock is a place where I have always felt welcomed and I know there are people I can talk to and trust. Dock is a place where my confidence has grown like never before. I know I'm talking a lot about my confidence in this speech—I've already said the word "confidence" 18 times and counting—but I can't stress enough how much more confident I've become since coming to Dock and interacting with the community here.

Josh Detweiler

Working on a car is a time that I can spend with God. Some people get bored working alone, but I enjoy spending hours working alone on my car. When I am working alone, I reflect on my day and relax. I feel the presence of God when I'm working on my cars. It is a time when I can clear my head and be at peace, and just let God in. Most people take high school for granted. These four years have flown by faster than I would have ever expected. I am thankful to have the opportunity to go to a private school where my teachers and classmates care about me.

Steve Wang (10)

The other special thing to mention is chapel time. I am not a Christian, so sometimes I do not even understand the meaning of chapels. But I do feel tranquility during the chapel time, especially when I was facing some challenges. I usually get stressed when I have to deal with too many things at same time. It even affects my attitude toward others, and I can become aggressive and angry. However, when I sit in the chapel, I can easily feel the quietness in the room. It really calms me down. Sometimes, I am even curious about the power people get after the chapel. It is pure, extremely pure. Such invisible force supports them to study and face their challenges. I can get such a blessing even though I am not a Christian.



10

EC to Grade 8 CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



8TH GRADE CELEBRATION

Dock 8th graders and their families share some memories, and advice, as they observe a milestone in their education and transition to high school.

Celeste Derstine and her dad, **Zach**, agreed that it is choices, not chance, that determines your destiny, and Celeste is thankful for the choice her parents made to send her to Dock. She enjoyed her classmates and the memories she made in six seasons of athletics. Celeste also enjoyed choir and the musicals, as well as opportunities to serve on Student Council and Chapel Committee, and teachers who were caring, kind, and go the extra mile to help students learn.

Both Zach and **Kara** (Souder) **Derstine** attended the Penn View and Christopher Dock campuses. They graduated from Dock in 1997, and when they were married in 2002, their wedding party featured friends who had been Dock classmates from the very beginning.

“When I look back at my time at Dock from K to 12, I remember my friendships, teachers that cared about me, and Christian principles the school tried to instill in me,” Zach said. “So in July 2010, we had to make a decision: Where would we send Celeste to school? We believe it is choices, not chance, that determines your destiny, and your children’s destiny, so we decided to send Celeste to Dock. We wanted her to experience Dock the same way we did, and we are happy to say that she received the education we envisioned for her. Our prayer is that Celeste and her classmates will think about how their choices will affect *their* destiny.”

Laural Harper said she is thankful for a school and faculty that have helped her daughter **Haley** grow, both in academics and in her faith. Dock also helped her develop a heart for service, and teachers encouraged her to be an independent thinker and helped her navigate the social challenges of the teen years. Haley’s favorite memories included playing with her teachers’ puppies on the last day of 5th grade; every Country Fair & Auction; orchestra; field hockey; the middle school musical; and the activities middle school students share with the Early Childhood students. “There is an 11-year age difference between the youngest and oldest students here, and that offers some great learning opportunities,” Haley said.

Tyler Derstein said his most memorable Dock experiences include the ability to play different sports; smaller class sizes that allowed for better relationships with teachers; the way faith and learning were integrated in Outdoor Classroom; and Science Fair. His mother, **Maura**, remembered the outfit Tyler wore on his first day of preschool—and the big smile on his face at the end of that day; “car time” on the way to jazz band practice; after-school sporting events; and the middle school musical. She offered some advice for all students: 1. Show up, “for your friends, your teachers, and your community,” she said. “Be a light.” 2. Live in the moment rather than *recording* the moment. “We often enjoy life from behind a device rather than being in the moment,” she said. “The memories you make will be more vivid than any video.” 3. Get comfortable being uncomfortable. “When we push ourselves out of our comfort zone,” she said, “that’s when we will leave a mark and make a difference in our community.”



STUDENTS SHARE PEACE WITH SMH RESIDENTS

Mrs. Kipp Glass's 4th grade students spent three months learning to tell the story of Jesus using a carton of plastic eggs. The more they became familiar with the story, the more energy and enthusiasm emerged. Students wrapped up the year with a unit on peace-making, and learned that peace-makers always have the story of Jesus ready to share with anyone. They spent the last few days sharing the story with Early Childhood and Kindergarten students, and wrapped up by sharing their story and talents with residents at Souderton Mennonite Home. Music teacher Mrs. Katie Litzenberger led various music students as they performed for residents and friends. We are thankful for the opportunity to build connections with extended family and friends!



DOCK HAS THE MOST CREATIVE TEACHERS!

Dock teachers are really good at finding creative ways to help students learn. First grade teacher Mrs. Trish Landis completed a unit themed with the popular Mario Bros. video games. Students visited different Mario "worlds," where they learned about design thinking, math, character analysis, vocabulary, and vowel teams. "Outdoors," for example, students were given a sight word and had to find the gold coin with the same word and then squirt it with water. "Underground," students worked on addition, missing addends, and place value. In the "Classroom," students broke open question boxes to find vocabulary words written within sentences to figure out the meaning of the word. The class even "played" Mario Kart; students designed their own cart that could hold their gold coins without using their hands. The class went to the gym and used their carts to solve math equations using mental math skills. Combining unforgettable experiences with rigorous academics makes students more inclined to have a growth mindset and challenge themselves!

Did we ever fully appreciate the great teaching tool the game of Monopoly is? Students in Mrs. Amy Rodriguez's 3rd grade class do now, as they had an opportunity to demonstrate the 'mad' math skills they learned by participating in a classroom Monopoly tournament! Even Lucky the Dog joined in the fun as student Penny Longacre shared her live auction prize of spending the day with Lucky in school with all of her classmates. How Lucky can you get?!



All-School CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



DOCK RECOGNIZES FACULTY MEMBERS

The beginning of the 2019-20 school year marked the start of **Mr. Jerry Yoder's** 46th year of teaching—making him the longest-tenured teacher in Dock's 65-year history. Yoder and two other teachers were recognized for their long service at luncheons on each campus at the end of the 2018-19 school year. Also receiving gifts for their service were Middle School art teacher **Mrs. Alice Wolfgang** (45 years) and High School English teacher **Mrs. Gretchen McTavish** (25 years). Congratulations, and thank you, to these dedicated faculty members!

FACULTY AND STUDENTS ATTEND GENIUS CAMP

Dock middle school teachers, along with several 8th grade students, participated in Genius Camp the last week of July at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. One of the highlights was a teacher vs. student competition in which each team created an amusement park, complete with lots of rides. Other activities included making brochures with 3D printers, green screens and cameras.

The Genius Camp experience brings students and teachers together in a maker environment to take charge of their own ideas and growth with challenging, but fun stations like circuitry and storytelling, robotics, wearable technology and coding. Teachers left the camp excited to begin implementing maker learning into their classrooms while using questions that encourage students to become independent learners. Students developed the ability to be creative and reflective in their thinking when solving complex problems.



Dock middle school teacher **Mrs. Claire Wanamaker** ponders a Genius Camp problem-solving exercise with students (clockwise) **Julia Rosario**, **Jonah Kuhn**, and **Dylan Jernigan**.



SUMMER CAMP FUN!

Dock's EC-Grade 8 Campus was the place for BIG FUN this summer as we hosted six weeks of Summer Camps. From sports to art and creativity to science and STEM, nature, reading and theater, Dock's summer camp season had something fun for everyone. View photos, stories and more on our EC-Grade 8 Facebook page, and be sure to visit dock.org/summercamps to stay in the loop about our 2020 Summer Camps!





FACULTY EXPLORE TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE LEARNING

A group of Dock faculty, staff, and administrators from both campuses attended the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) in Philadelphia June 22-26. ISTE is a community of global educators who believe in the power of technology to transform teaching and learning. Reflecting on their ISTE experience, Dock faculty said it is clear that many teachers are “ditching” textbooks in favor of online resources for student learning.

“This means not being tied to a textbook chapter by chapter, but using online projects and resources to target the required content,” said Grades 9-12 math teacher **Mr. Marcelo Mast**. Another big takeaway from the conference for him is the emergence of artificial intelligence as the new frontier in education. “One seminar focused on ways to use Alexa-type devices in the classroom, both as a tool to retrieve content as well as a means for students to present their work,” he said.

Assistant Director of Technology **Mr. Jason Sprunger** was interested in learning how Dock’s iPads can use augmented and virtual reality. “This was my first time at ISTE, and it was a whirlwind of new technology—unique displays and screens, 3D Printers, robotics, and all sorts of software,” he said. “Everything here designed to improve how students learn, increase engagement, and foster creativity and innovation.”

Mast said he was impressed by software and apps that create professional-looking short videos based on the topic and basic information a teacher enters, create animated GIFs for presentations, enable students to easily create music, and allow students to explore and create virtual reality or augmented reality worlds. Most of these are free, he added. “It is amazing what students and teachers can create!” he said.

Sprunger said the trick is integrating these technologies into the learning experience. “Technology isn’t magical on its own—effective integration is key,” he said. “If educators can successfully integrate technology into their classrooms, it can make them more efficient and engaging. ISTE gave me some exciting technology ideas that can make a good learning experience into a great one.”

“I talked with teachers who are integrating technology, project-based learning, and best practices in teaching at all levels, from early childhood up through high school,” added EC-Grade 8 Principal **Mrs. Bronwyn Histand**. “I learned about new ways to teach coding, integrate curriculum in subjects like science and math, and utilize hands-on activities for all ages. Schools across the globe are doing amazing things with technology—all in support of providing a solid foundation for the learners of today.”

ISTE attendees from Dock included (standing, l to r) EC-Grade 8 Principal **Mrs. Bronwyn Histand**, EC-Grade 8 Librarian **Mrs. Missy Camilleri**, Director of Technology **Mr. Darwin Zehr**, 4th Grade Teacher **Mrs. Kipp Glass**, 1st grade teacher **Mrs. Trish Landis**, Grades 9-12 math teacher **Mr. Marcelo Mast**, Assistant Director of Technology **Mr. Jason Sprunger**; (kneeling l to r) Grades 9-12 Principal **Mr. Martin Wiens** and middle school teacher **Mr. Nathaniel Freed**. Not pictured (because she was taking the photo!), **Dr. Sharon Fransen**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction.

DOCK IS THE NEW HOME OF THE SPSO

Starting with the 2019-2020 season, the **Southeastern Pennsylvania Symphony Orchestra** is moving its home to the performing arts center at Dock Mennonite Academy’s Early Childhood to Grade 8 Campus in Souderton. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Symphony Orchestra is the regional professional orchestra for Montgomery and Bucks Counties and features performances of the great symphonic masterworks of world-renowned guest artists. For the past decade, the Symphony has performed mainly at Lansdale’s Trinity Lutheran Church.

Audiences for the Orchestra’s 2019-20 season will be welcomed to a fully accessible performing arts center with no partial view seating, wonderful acoustics, and a great concert experience.

“We are thrilled to begin this new partnership with Dock Mennonite Academy, and to bring our audience and music-making to this wonderful hall,” said SPSO Music Director **Allan R. Scott**. “Our 48th season opens on Saturday, September 28 with *A Night in Italy*, featuring memorable opera highlights, Italian film music, and fun Italian songs.” *Learn more about the SPSO and other concerts on Facebook or at www.spsos.info*

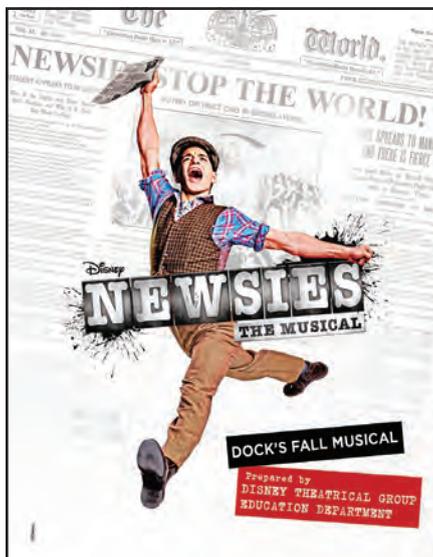


Grades 9 to 12
CAMPUS
HAPPENINGS



**REVELRY, HIGH JINX, AND
HAPPILY EVER AFTER**

There was a bit of all three mixed into Dock's spring drama, which consisted of three one-act plays: Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* (revelry), Isabel McReynolds Gray's brilliant *Mad Breakfast* (high jinx), and Percival Wilde's charming *The Lost Elevator* (happily ever after). Congratulations to Dock Theater for providing some great theater and a boatload of laughs. Visit the show's web page for photos, cast lists, and more.



DOCK'S FALL MUSICAL: NEWSIES!

Hot off the presses: Dock's 2019 fall musical will be *Newsies*, the Disney musical based on the real-life newsboy strike of 1899. Dock Theater Director **Ms. Karen Johnston** says *Newsies* is a high-energy show with lots of dancing. "It's a show that many students can get involved with and share gifts you may not have explored before," she says.

Synopsis: Jack Kelly is a rebel newsboy who dreams of a life as an artist away from the big city. After publishing giant Joseph Pulitzer raises newspaper prices at the newsboys' expense, Kelly and his fellow newsies take action. With help from female reporter Katherine Plumber, all of New York City soon recognizes the power of "the little man." Visit dock.org for audition details.



Pictured, standing l to r: **Mason Keller, Theresa Beck, Austin Nice**. Seated l to r: **Macy Balmer, Brooke Bozarth, Kate Strickland, Nolan Bolton, Mason Fisher**.

STUDENT-ATHLETES ANNOUNCE COLLEGE COMMITMENTS

Dock Athletics hosted an event on Wednesday, May 8, to recognize senior student-athletes who have been recruited by a college coach, and have committed to playing their sport at the college level. The event featured video highlights from each athlete's career, and a reception was held afterward. Congratulations to these Dock student-athletes:

- Macy Balmer** - NCAA D3 - Field Hockey - Lancaster Bible College. Parents: Jen and Dwane Balmer
- Theresa Beck** - NCAA D3 - Softball - Cairn University. Parents: Katie and Doug Beck
- Nolan Bolton** - NCAA D1 - Baseball - Liberty University. Parents: Lori and Todd Bolton
- Brooke Bozarth** - NCAA D3 - Basketball and Soccer - Hood College. Parents: Tracy and Bob Bozarth
- Mason Fisher** - NCAA D3 - Baseball - Moravian College. Parents: Lisa and Keith Fisher
- Mason Keller** - NCAA D3 - Baseball - Immaculata University. Parents: Andrea and Kurt Keller
- Austin Nice** - NCAA D2 - Track and Field - East Stroudsburg University. Parents: Linda and Kevin Nice
- Kate Strickland** - NCAA D2 - Field Hockey - Millersville University. Parents: Bob and Anna Strickland

DOCK SENIOR IS STATE RUNNER-UP IN TENNIS

Congratulations to Dock senior **Robert Cercos Gonzalez**, who finished as the runner-up in the PIAA 2A tennis championships—the first district champion and state singles finalist in Dock Athletics history. Congratulations on an outstanding season of tennis!

Robert with gold medal winner Jonathan Nottingham of Masterman High School in Philadelphia.



SENIORS ATTEND ROTARY LEADERSHIP CAMP

Dock students **Madelyn Bergin** and **Dalton Moore** attended Camp Neidig, a Rotary Youth Leadership Camp for rising seniors sponsored by the Rotary Club of Harleysville. The Camp experience was held June 14-17 at Camp Manatawny in Douglassville, PA, and featured workshops, guest speakers, and a series of problem-solving exercises that challenge campers both mentally and physically to work as a team. Each problem-solving activity is designed to test and refine specific leadership skills. Congratulations to Madelyn and Dalton, and thank you to the Harleysville Rotary Club for their investment in our student leaders!

GOING YARD

An alumni connection helped Justin Burkholder ('17) live the summer of his dreams in South Philly

There's nothing like a summer spent working for a professional baseball team—your professional baseball team—to change your perspective of ministry.

"I used to think ministry was confined to a church building, doing pastoral-type work," says **Justin Burkholder** ('17), who, in fairness, grew up watching his dad, Ken, do pastoral-type work in a church building as pastor of Deep Run East Mennonite Church. "But this summer I understood that any work I do can be ministry if I am doing it to serve God."

This shift in perspective came about thanks to one of the best summer jobs you could imagine for a baseball fan like Burkholder: working for the Philadelphia Phillies as an entertainment staff assistant. His role? Playing wiffleball and



other games with kids at **The Yard**, an interactive baseball-themed playground inside Citizens Bank Park.

“People say if you find a job you love, you’ll never work a day in your life,” said Burkholder, who is about to begin his junior year as a ministry and intercultural studies major at Palm Beach Atlantic University. “I now know that can be a reality. I learned about what work I enjoy, and the ‘why’ behind it. This was a great opportunity to love people in an environment I least expected.”

His job with the Phillies came about through a connection with Dock alum and family friend **David Keller** (see right), but Burkholder’s

ministry to kids extended beyond Citizens Bank Park. He also served as a summer intern with two South Philly Mennonite churches, taking leadership and support roles at a peace camp at Indonesian Light Church, and Vacation Bible School at Nation’s Worship Center. He spent the summer living with Indonesian Light pastor **Hendy Stevan** and his family, just two blocks from CBP. “It was a different experience for me because most of the children came from Asian households, but I learned patience, leadership skills, and flexibility,” he said. “It was significant for me to grow outside my ‘comfort bubble.’”

See additional photos and read more about Justin and David on Dock’s website at dock.org/lamplighterextra



BASEBALL

The original Mennonite game?

Dock grads and baseball teammates **David Keller** (’99) and **Erik Kratz** (’98) both got to the major leagues—they just took different routes. Kratz spent eight years as a catcher in the minor leagues before having some recent success as a major league player. Keller, whose own playing career was cut short by injury, also spent years in the minor leagues—in the front office and scouting departments—before landing a job in the majors.



“Like most kids, I wanted to be a player. I wanted to live Erik Kratz’s life,” he smiled. After graduating from college, Keller had begun recruiting student-athletes for the admissions office of his college alma mater, Bucknell University, when he got an opportunity to coach a local high school baseball team. Baseball quickly became a consuming passion. “I spent more time thinking about baseball and how to help [the team] achieve what they wanted than anything else,” he said. “That was the first clear indicator to me that I needed to try to get into baseball.”

So he sent resumes to every minor and major league team in baseball. Just three teams responded—but one of them was the Philadelphia Phillies. After an interview, the Phillies hired him in the marketing department, and former GM Ed Wade eventually brought him over to the baseball operations side of the business. That experience was the catalyst to a series of jobs in the minors and majors, including stints with the Arizona Diamondbacks, New York Mets, Boston Red Sox, and Miami Marlins. In 2017 he rejoined the Mets as a professional scout.

Keller’s Phillies connections helped **Justin Burkholder** get an interview for his summer position—and to add a supernatural twist and bring the story full circle, it was partly due to the ministry of Justin’s parents, **Ken** and **Karen** (’87) **Burkholder**. “They were my MYF sponsors at Blooming Glen Mennonite Church, which is where my family attended,” Keller said. “They breathed confidence into me, and their impact on my life, and the kindness and Christ-like love they showed me during that time in my life, is something I will never forget.”



David Keller

“He’s a funny man!”...
First team... Stoic hair... Mr. Baseball... Great voice... Sweet smile... DMB... Quiet confidence... Good man

ALUMNI NEWS

Send us your News

If you have a new
Spouse
Baby
Degree
Job/Promotion
Award/Recognition
 we'd love to share your news!

Drop us a line at
alumni@dock.org



Don't miss our Fall Golf Tournament on **Thursday, September 26** at Lederach

Golf Club. Register your foursome today and join the fun! Details at dock.org/golf



ALUMNI NOTES

1967

Former Dock Alum of the Year winner **John Metzler** was honored by Michigan State University's International Studies Department with the 2019 International Award, which celebrates contributions by MSU faculty, students and community members in international research, teaching, innovation and engagement. Metzler received the Special Recognition Award for Promoting International Understanding, for helping develop education abroad programs in Africa, starting with Zimbabwe in 1985; there are now more than 20 programs in eight African nations. Metzler has taught at MSU for more than 32 years, serving most recently as assistant director for Outreach Programming in the African Studies Center. Metzler received Dock's Alumni of the Year Award for Distinguished Service in 2016.



1974

Rodney "Rod" Beidler, 62, died on April 23, 2019. He was the husband of Wendy (Rice) Beidler for 39 years. Rod was born in Sellersville, PA to the late Willard and Mamie (Metz) Beidler. Rod attended Penn View Christian School before graduating from



Christopher Dock. After graduation, he worked as a stock clerk for Landis Supermarket, where he and Wendy met. Rod also worked as a mechanic at Cope's Garage in Souderton. Later, he worked for over 25 years as an oil truck driver and dispatcher at Farm & Home Oil Company in Telford. Most recently, he worked as an oil driver for Moyer Indoor Outdoor in Souderton. He was an active member of Blooming Glen Mennonite Church.

1996

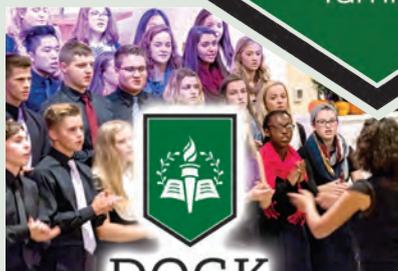
Jamie Fly has been named President and CEO of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, which relies on networks of local reporters to provide accurate news and information to 34 million people in 26 languages and 22 countries where media freedom is restricted, or where a professional press has not fully developed. An editorially independent media company funded by a grant from the U.S. Congress through the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), RFE/RL's videos were viewed over 2.6 billion times on Facebook and YouTube in FY2018. "Jamie's understanding of geopolitics, passion for human rights and broad contacts in Washington and around the globe make him ideally suited to lead the network in delivering top-rate content across all platforms to audiences in Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran," said USAGM Board Chairman Ken Weinstein. Previously, Jamie served as a Senior Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States and as a senior staffer in the U.S. Congress, the National Security Council, and the U.S. Department of Defense.



HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

October 4-5, 2019

A celebration for the entire family



DOCK
 MENNONITE ACADEMY



reconnect • rediscover • remember

2005

Sheldon Good has been named executive director of the entity created by the merger of two publications that serve the Mennonite Church, *The Mennonite* and *Mennonite World Review*. The publishing and digital media organization created from the merger will unveil its new name, as well as a new publication and website, by the time the merger is completed in September 2020.



2008

Mason Floyd Landis was born to Mattie and **Adam Landis** on June 4, 2019, in Sellersville.

Sarah Detweiler is Music and Creative Director at Genesis Community Church in Woburn, MA.



2015

Madison Downes graduated from James Madison University with a degree in marketing and professional sales. She has accepted a position with Medstar Radiology Network as a Practice Liaison-Outside Sales, calling on doctors and hospitals to market image services. Her territory will be in the Towson, MD, area.



Kylie Shore graduated in May from LaSalle University with a degree in Communication

Sciences & Disorders/Speech-Language Pathology. She plans to pursue a Masters degree in Speech Language Pathology at Francis Marion University (SC).

2017

Daniel Sabath of the Jefferson University (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University) baseball team earned the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Top XVI Award for posting the highest cumulative GPA at the 2019 CACC Championship. A sophomore business management major, Dan's GPA of 3.88 was the highest among the student-athletes in the finals.



2018

Graciella Odelia won 3rd place in Eastern Mennonite University's Academic and Creative Excellence Festival, an annual event devoted to academic rigor, the creation of new knowledge, creative expression through the arts, and the application of knowledge to solve problems. Graciella and her partner, Andrea Troyer, submitted a project entitled, *The Effects of Different Copper Sulfate Concentration on Typha sp. of Wetland Ecosystems*. The project is intended to explore the viability of phytoremediation—using live plants to extract metal pollutants from water—as a less expensive, eco-friendly alternative to chemical treatments. You can read the full abstract at emu.edu/academics.

CLASS OF 2014 HOLDS 5-YEAR REUNION

The **Class of 2014** held its five-year reunion on Saturday, June 30, 2019, and it was literally a walk in the park. About 35 members of the class came to Franconia Park for food, games and good conversation. "It was great to see so many friends, along with new spouses and even kids!" said Reunion Coordinator **Jessica Bergey**. "It was exciting to hear what our classmates have been doing and accomplishing in the last five years."



Attending the Class of 2014's 5-year reunion were (front row l to r): Elena Trout, Hannah Derstine, Raychel (Bair) Brady, Jessica Bergey, Naomi Davidar, Lindsey Laverty, Landon Leinbach, Audrey (Hamilton) Malz, Abigail Anderson, Simon Nam, Ryan Moyer, Hailey Hagen, Ethan Neal. (back row, l to r): Aaron Guttenplan, Travis Hoover, Derek Cassel, Austin Kratz, Logan Hunsberger, Issac Moyer, Tom Grasse, Derek Reeser, Johnathan Capps, John Bergstresser, Eric Morton, Connor Tipping, Abigail Bergey.

Dock announces

Alumni of the Year 2019



DOCK
MENNONITE ACADEMY



Outstanding Achievement
Evon (Swartzentruber) Bergey '77
Henry "Hank" Landes '64



Distinguished Service
Krista (Moyer) Snader '93
Gerald A. Benner '59



Young Alumni of the Year
Danielle Gallaher '06
Joshua MacNeill '04

Read their stories in your Alumni of the Year email or at dock.org, and come out to support these 2019 Alumni of the Year as they are honored at Dock's Fall Concert on **Friday, October 4, 2019** at 7:00 p.m.



DOCK

MENNONITE ACADEMY

EARLY CHILDHOOD TO GRADE EIGHT

420 Godshall Road
Souderton, PA 18964
215.723.1196

GRADES NINE TO TWELVE

1000 Forty Foot Road
Lansdale, PA 19446
215.362.2675

WWW.DOCK.ORG

Dock Mennonite Academy inspires and equips each student to serve with a global perspective by integrating faith, academic excellence and life-enriching opportunities in a Christ-centered community.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

EC to Grade 8 Calendar

AUGUST 2019

August 30 - **No School**

SEPTEMBER 2019

September 2 - Labor Day, **No School**

September 5 - Middle School Back-to-School Night, 6:30 pm

September 11 - 2nd & 3rd Grade Family Lunch

September 12 - Early Childhood and Elementary
Back-to-School Night, 6:30 pm

September 20 - Faculty In-Service, **No School**

September 23-24 - Picture Day

September 26 - Fall Golf Tournament, Lederach Golf Club

Grades 9 to 12 Calendar

AUGUST 2019

August 28 - Pioneer Day All-School Orientation

August 29 - Fall Parent-Coach Night, 7:30 pm

August 30 - **No School**

SEPTEMBER 2019

September 2 - Labor Day, **No School**

September 17 - Picture Day

September 19 - Back-to-School Night, 6:30 pm

September 20 - Faculty In-Service, **No School**

September 26 - Fall Golf Tournament, Lederach Golf Club

September 23-27 - Spiritual Life Emphasis Week



FALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

Dock's **Fall Golf Tournament** is fun not just for golfers, but for the whole family! In addition to a scramble tournament at the beautiful **Lederach Golf Club**, the Fall Golf Tournament features outdoor dining on the patio as well as games and a candy scramble for the kids. It's the most family-friendly golf tournament around! Learn more and register to sponsor or play at dock.org/golf.