

Lamplighter

Summer 2017

Sparks

The sparks sown in the Class of 2017 will ripple through the lives of countless others

sown in us like seeds



DOCK

MENNONITE ACADEMY

- ◆ **Country Fair & Auction**
Fun. Family. Community.
- ◆ **Growth curve**
Senior Presentations are a window into the Dock experience, and evidence of students' growth and development
- ◆ **Transforming experience**
A Senior Experience trip to Uganda builds faith and stirs a call to ministry
- ◆ **Plus:** Homecoming Weekend October 6 & 7

Lamplighter

A publication of Dock Mennonite Academy

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On the cover: The Class of 2017 celebrates the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, following Dock's 62nd annual Commencement on June 10.

Photo by Mike Landis

Right: Members of the class of 2017, including (l to r) Brynn Ramsay, Rachel Barth, Sarah Thalathoti, Becca Edenfield, Irina Althouse, and Nathan Kerms.

Photo by Mike Landis



Learning for Lives of Purpose



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Jay Gordon, Editor

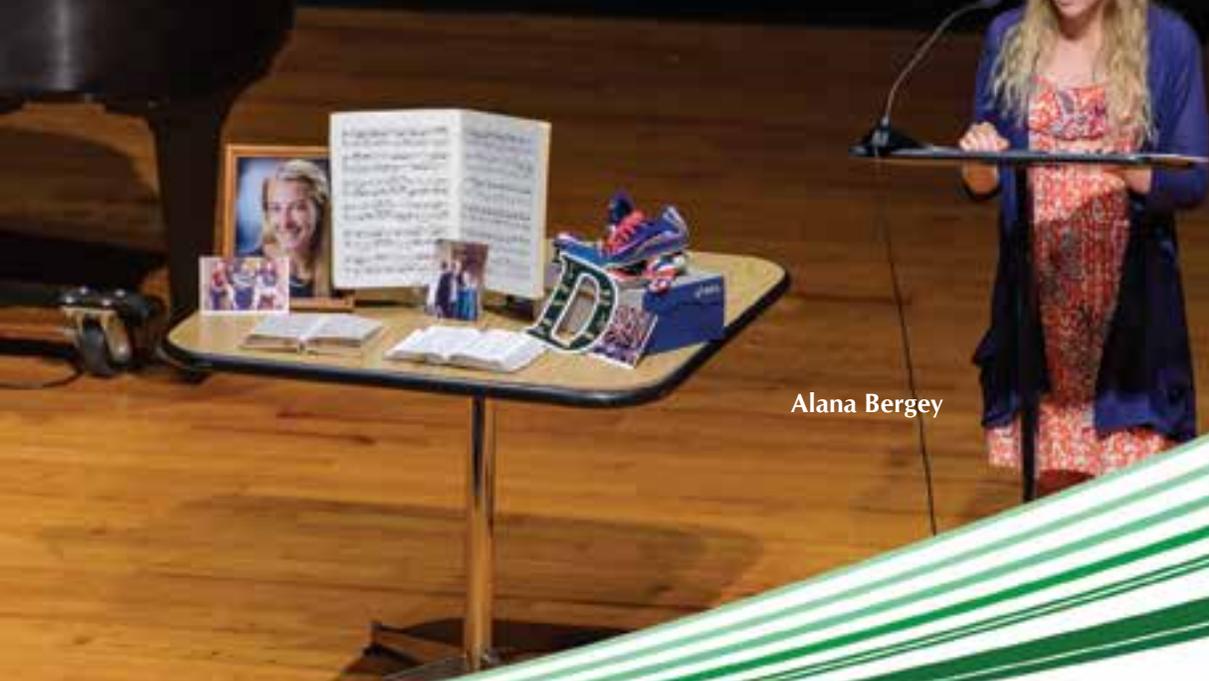
Steve Leinbach, Layout & Design

Growth Curve

SENIOR PRESENTATIONS 2017

How do graduating Dock students view their growth and development during high school?

These reflections from Senior Presentations offer a window into the Dock experience.



Alana Bergey

Alana Bergey

This year, I had the incredible privilege of joining Touring Choir. I had always looked at the students in green with awe, knowing I wanted to be one of them someday. To have that 'someday' come was unbelievable. That summer, I got to be part of the last Europe trip with Mr. Derstine before his retirement, and we sang at huge cathedrals and tiny Mennonite churches. It was an experience like no other. I got to tour Germany, where we ate tons of schnitzel; Austria, where we climbed to a peak in the Alps early one morning; Switzerland, where we slid down a chute in an ancient salt mine; Italy, where I left my passport and wallet on a beach, and didn't find out until the next morning (surprise, Mom!); and France, where I felt like Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* as I walked down cobblestone streets, ate French crepes and was called 'Mademoiselle.' The memories we made will last a lifetime.

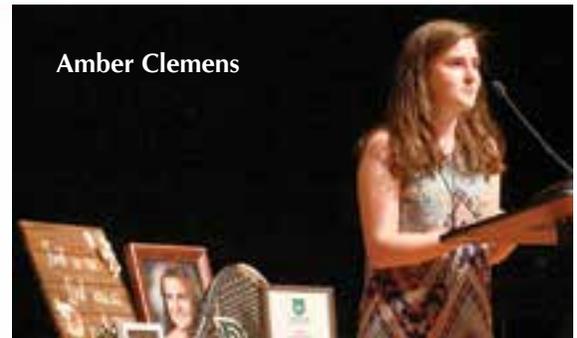
The memories we made will last a lifetime.

— Alana Bergey

Amber Clemens

My school year began with my last tennis preseason. I took it upon myself to help Cody out as much as possible as he was on his own as coach this year. Cody did an amazing job, and I could not thank him enough for his hard work, dedication, and time that he put into our team. I found myself playing first singles against district- and state-ranked girls, but I decided to just have fun and give it my all in every match, with the pure motivation to just enjoy my last season. I wanted to be a great captain and leader for the team this year, so I took every opportunity to be encouraging and show the girls the importance of what it means to be a teammate. I guess I did well because I received the Leadership Award at our sports banquet.

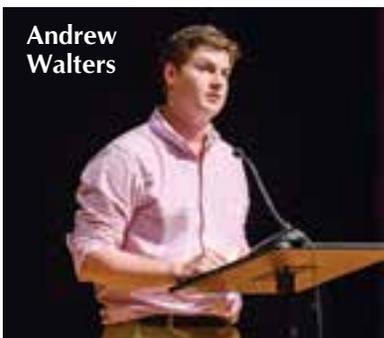
Amber Clemens



Senior Presentations

As they prepare to leave Dock, each senior gives a 20-minute public presentation reflecting on their growth as a student and as a person over their high school years. These excerpts are taken from those presentations.

Andrew Walters



Andrew Walters

When Austin Landes came to Dock and shared about an opportunity to travel to Entebbe, Uganda, I was hooked. It was an adventure and a completely new experience for me. We did things like paint a basketball court, visit an orphanage, and throw a Christmas party. The Christmas party was without a doubt the highlight of the week for me. For a guy who works at a summer camp, loves kids, and intends on being a social work major, let's just say that being surrounded by 1,000 happy screaming children was a dream come true.



Dylan Derstine

Dylan Derstine

The school year started when I walked into Concert Choir and shook the new director's hand. The new director, Ms. Grimes, wasn't anything like Mr. Derstine, but that's not what she was there to do. She was there to lead us in making meaningful music. She did exactly that. I liked the way that she connected with the text of the songs that we sang and how each one meant something different. We didn't just sing songs because they sounded nice, but because they resonated with something deeper within us all.

I saved the best class for last: *AP Calculus*. I knew that if I was going to succeed I would need to humble myself and come in early and ask Mr. Yoder for help. Some weeks I came in four out of the five days at 7 a.m. to meet with him. He never seemed to take a break and stayed in school later than everyone else. Mr. Yoder, I can honestly say that you were my favorite teacher at Dock, and you have taught me more lessons than I ever thought possible. Thanks for inviting me to sing in the bluegrass quartet while you played guitar. It's something that I'll never forget.

Garry Xing

Our first stop was Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. When I saw the real thing, not just what appeared from my history textbook, I felt like a historical understanding came from my heart. It is correct that you can learn more things in real life than in a book. Matt, Ryan, Ethan, and I were in the same group, and we talked about ourselves, and they were curious about me, asking many questions about where I was from and why I came to Dock. And I asked them how they felt about international students like me; they said they were comfortable to hang out. This field trip was the top highlight of my sophomore year.

Dock teachers were my lifesavers because they let me know that I can truly be myself and do not have to be afraid of sharing my ideas with others. Their way of teaching opened up my interest about studying. When they dealt with international students like us, they were always patient and gave us extra help.

Brynn Ramsay

One night of the [Social Issues] trip really sticks out to me. A group of us were walking around Georgetown, enjoying the freedom that was granted to us on that trip. After getting Panda Express, a group of us remembered a homeless man who had been outside. We were talking about bringing him dinner and giving him any cash we could spare. As we opened our fortune cookies, we were inspired by the words "lend a hand to one less fortunate than yourself." Jake, Rina, Mindy, Liz, Shane, and I all went out to the man and asked if he'd like dinner. As Liz, Shane, and Jake went to get it, Mindy, Rina, and I stayed back and talked to him. When we sat on the sidewalk, he looked at us, surprised, and said, "You're going to sit? With me?" He told us about all the places he traveled to and tried to guess where we were from. The rest of the group came back and handed him the food and some change we were able to gather up. He kissed our hands and thanked us. Rina asked him, "Do you believe in God?" and he answered, "Sometimes." We asked if we could pray over him, and as we did, someone walking by joined our prayer and added a few dollars to our collection. He held our hands and thanked us, asking if we could come back to talk tomorrow.



Brynn Ramsay

But we were leaving the next day. That was one of the defining moments of my life. That one man really changed my ideas about the homeless and made a big impact on me.

Danica Moyer



...do me a favor and take *Faith Walk*. It's the most fulfilling class you will ever take.

— Danica Moyer

Danica Moyer

To all the people who have yet to be seniors at this school: do me a favor and take *Faith Walk*. It's the most fulfilling class you will ever take. You get to know people on levels you never even imagined. It was during that class that I had the biggest epiphany in my entire life: God truly does love me, and no matter how much I screw up, He will never leave me nor forsake me. Remember what that one person said about people using God as a crutch to deal with the real world? He's right. Humans are weak, every single one of them, no matter what they believe. That's why we need God—to make us strong.

Garry Xing



Chris Beljan

A class at Dock that will hold a very special place in my heart is *Faith Walk*. Hearing everyone's stories really made me realize I was not alone in how I felt about things. That class really changed my perspective on how people think, and it made me realize we should never judge a book by its cover. When I gave my personal testimony, I couldn't believe how many people came up and said they could relate to me; it made me feel like I was not alone.

Chris Beljan



Mia Bevilacqua

During this time my mom had mentioned a change of scenery—switching schools. I was not up for it at the time because I thought this was just a stage I'd go through and it'd be done in a few weeks or months. The thought lingered on my mind for a week or two when one day I was sitting in my room doing pre-calc homework that I didn't know how to do. I put the homework down and pulled out my journal. I wrote a list of pros and cons of switching schools. The pros outweighed the cons by a landslide. I told my mom it was time to start looking somewhere else.

My mom and I worked together to find as many schools as possible to tour. We had no idea what we wanted, so the more the better. My mom strongly encouraged Dock, whereas I was not as excited about even touring there. As it turned out, all of the other schools I either did not like or were way out of our price range. So I visited Dock.

I visited the school and fell in love before I even stepped out of the car. I saw the wide open campus with the beautiful pond and Detweiler House and I thought it would be amazing to walk outside from class to class. I decided to shadow for a day with Megan Swintosky, who now is one of my best friends. Entering the school on my shadow day I was nervous and excited at the same time. I tried to lay low as best I could and just watch. I soon realized everyone here was just like me—not hick-ish at all. I walked from class to class seeing that teachers actually teach their classes and students actually pay attention to what is being taught. Not only that, but the style of teaching is so different; it's hands-on and interactive instead of writing down what's on the board in front of you.

By far, my two favorite things that day were seeing the art building, and being free walking around the campus. The open campus was amazing. It was so much better than being stuck inside all day not being able to breathe fresh air. The art building is open and free for anyone to enter. I realized I could play soccer *and* create the art I was always interested in, and be completely devoted to both. I was absolutely intrigued. I was sold. I made my decision to join the Dock Class of 2017.



Mia Bevilacqua

Gintare Tamulyte



Gintare Tamulyte

After my fourth time trying to get my visa, I didn't get an answer right away and I was waiting for weeks to see if my prayers would become a reality. Before that I had a warm interview with Mr. Hackman and

I truly enjoyed talking with Mrs. McTavish and hearing her stories of visiting and living in Lithuania four different times. It is awesome to get to know someone who is from a country like the U.S. and knows something about a small country like Lithuania. After weeks of waiting, I finally received my visa and was ready to come to the U.S. I packed my stuff and three days later I was in the airport saying the hardest goodbye to the ones I love the most. I still picture myself walking toward the gate and trying not to cry, but as soon as I passed the gate I started crying like a little baby. But soon I realized there is no reason to cry, because it was my choice for a better life, so I should be smiling, not crying. I knew those were happy tears.

Jill Bolton

Senior year, I had a moment I will never forget. It was our senior night, and we were playing a talented Gwynedd Mercy team. We lost our lead and the score was 4-3. I got my 99th goal on a corner to tie it, then a minute later they took the ball down and scored to go up 5-4. We quickly took the ball downfield and got a corner with no time left. We played the corner out and I ended up scoring my 100th goal to make the game go into overtime. Then Macy had the winning goal in overtime for the win! It was a crazy game, and an awesome night which also happened on my birthday. It's definitely an 18th birthday I will never forget.



Jill Bolton

God has put a passion for serving others on my heart.

— Liz Wanamaker



Liz Wanamaker

Liz Wanamaker

I have known what I want to do with my life since middle school. God has put a passion for serving others on my heart. I want to be able to do this on a daily basis as an occupational therapist, but part of me feared that I would hate it. Because of that, I decided to shadow an OT for my Senior Experience. Cheryl Shreiner was nice enough to allow me to shadow her, and I absolutely fell in love with OT. It was more than I ever imagined it would be, and I could see myself doing it for the rest of my

life. I enjoyed myself so much that I did a presentation on early intervention occupational therapy for my *Family Living* class. It is with great satisfaction that I will be attending Elizabethtown College in the fall where I will be in their five-year Masters of Occupational Therapy program.



Shelly Lim

Shelly Lim

Junior year was challenging because I tried out for track and field. I was on the track team when I was an elementary school student, and I was on the soccer team ever since I came to the U.S. After a couple of years of soccer, I was sure I was in shape for track. In shape? No way. I was the complete opposite. Coach Eger was strict, and he would not listen to any of my excuses. Never in my life have I been through more demanding and exhausting practices. I thought about quitting every single day. Despite the physical hardships of the sport, I managed to endure. What made it harder for me was the fact that I was alone—the only Asian runner among the crowd of tall, long-legged, and experienced American kids.

Sarah Rittenhouse

The *Faith Walk* overnight retreat was a key turning point in my life. At the retreat we start at a prayer labyrinth—a maze-type thing—and as you walk toward the center you are to let go of worldly thoughts and focus on coming to meet God in the center. I spent a while in the center asking God to reveal himself to me in some way that weekend.



Sarah Rittenhouse

This is how he did just that: As I mentioned before, my grandmother passed away in April 2016. She told us that if she could send anything to us it would be a cardinal. On the retreat we had to spend an hour in solitude. I was sitting on a rock snuggled up in two blankets trying not to freeze when all of a sudden a cardinal landed on my knee. I felt the utmost amount of peace during this moment. I felt a lot closer to the people in my *Faith Walk* class at the end of the quarter, and was upset that it had to end so soon. But I am thankful for the new and reconciled friendships that came out of that class.

Mindy Marinko

Since I had been taking *Spanish* continuously since freshman year and was in *AP Spanish IV* this year, I was pretty proficient. So I decided to volunteer at ACLAMO in Norristown for Senior Experience. They provide services to the Hispanic community, including an after-school program. I spent the week translating, creating pamphlets, and teaching ESL. It was incredible. I grew my Spanish vocabulary and practiced my verb conjugation and I was actually able to communicate with people using Spanish.

The last morning I was there, Alana Bergey and I taught an ESL lesson about snow days to a group of moms. I was trying to teach them the idea that a snow day meant there wouldn't be school for their children, and where to look to see whether the district called off school or not. My supervisor had told me not to use Spanish so they could learn through other connections. So I started to describe snow to them in Spanish and making the connections that way. We ended up having a lovely conversation, not just about snow, but about their children and how scary it is for them to have to try using English.



Mindy Marinko



Justin Burkholder

Justin Burkholder

In *English* class this year, we were required to do a research project on a topic of our choice. I chose to learn more about our prison system—why there are so many people incarcerated, and how our country treats people who are, or have been in jail. I also read *Orange is the New Black* to help give me a better perspective of someone who was incarcerated. I am glad I chose this topic, and it stirred up interest for me to possibly work with incarcerated people one day.

We got to experience a Pentecostal church service [in Washington, DC] which was neat. I enjoyed traveling with Mr. Benner handing out meals to the people that needed them. It was eye-opening walking around the city and seeing the wide range of economic status. I loved seeing the beautiful buildings of the city at night. This class also helped me to gain my own perspective on issues in our world. I was able to form my own opinion, and have better conversations with people who disagreed with me as well.

.....
We had more conversations and we became closer to each other.
.....

— Andy Sun

Camryn McCloskey

My reading disability was a challenge that I did not want to define me. I was placed in a Learning Support class with Mrs. Grega my freshman year. I will be honest, I was uncomfortable attending this class. But Mrs. Grega *believed* in me. From day one she motivated, challenged, and expected great things from me. Her straightforward approach, honesty, and faith in me allowed me to improve my reading skills and become a more confident advocate for myself.

Now, as my four years at Dock come to an end, I know that I leave here as a stronger individual. I entered high school lacking confidence and concerned about what was in store. I depart Dock with confidence in my abilities and excited and prepared to take on York College in the fall.



Lizzie Fang

Lizzie Fang

Going to Haiti for my Senior Experience was one of the best decisions I have ever made. This trip changed me as a person and my perspective on the world. I realized how happy the Haitians were every day, even though they barely had anything. I experienced more God moments than I have ever experienced in my entire life. Every night we all would sit on the rooftop and gaze into the night sky. We would share funny stories and occasionally have deep conversations. During the day, we would travel by sitting on top of the jeeps. At the end of the week we helped a total of 1,234 people.

I experienced more God moments than I have ever experienced in my entire life.

— Lizzie Fang

Jerry Yu

One area in my academic life that I grew in would be in my reading. I used to hate reading because I had a hard time comprehending what certain books were talking about. Dr. Bishop got me interested in reading by giving me different methods I could use in order to understand the text. He gave the class a sheet that had six different reasons why we read. Viewing these reasons, I was now able to decide for myself what it was that I wanted to get out of the book, and I found myself starting to enjoy reading again.

Jerry Yu



Dr. Bishop helped me get back on track with a very important academic tool, and he is someone I will be forever grateful for.

It was the day of the boat race. We pushed the “Flying Pig” into the water and started our race across the lake. As many other boats started sinking due to thin edges and bad connections between the tape and boat, our boat just kept going without any water inside. Our beautiful boat made it to the other side without any damage. Our efforts finally paid off at that moment. I realized how important teamwork is as we conquered all the problems we faced.

Daphne Hunsinger

First semester I was fortunate to have Dr. Bishop for freshman *English*. Even though his 10-point reading quizzes challenged me, he focused a lot of class time on teaching us about real life scenarios. During this class we had to write our first major paper; at the time I was extremely proud of my five-page paper about Jackie Robinson because it took me several hours to write. Now, writing a paper that length would be a breeze.

Daphne Hunsinger



Rebecca Qu



Rebecca Qu

I did not accept religious things when I first came here. What are God, Jesus and gospels? These things for me were nonsense. I learned them only for getting good grades. However, my perspective toward Bible class changed as I joined the choir during my sophomore and junior years. I was also unconsciously influenced by the three days a week of chapel. It is delightful to hear stories from the variety of people who shared with us. I gained a strong

feeling of community and the strength of faith. I learned about the Old and New Testaments, and Kingdom Living in my senior year pushed my understanding into a higher level.

A quote from 1 Peter 4:8 says: “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins.” I found this quote meaningful as I learned the principles of non-violence of Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. I began to believe that non-violence can overcome evil and injustice in every circumstance, even though the process would be full of difficulties. Bible class was no longer my suffering time during school. Even though I am still not a Christian, I believe there is a God, and he will strengthen me and fill the atmosphere around me with love.

Andy Sun

Living with my American host parents, I felt a little shy to talk to them but I really appreciate what they did for me, especially my host mom, who made great meals for us. One day after school, I came home and found a note on the table that said: “Dear Andy, sorry I will be late coming home today. If you are hungry, you can find some leftovers in the refrigerator.” An idea popped into my head: make a traditional Chinese meal for them. The result turned out very good. My host mom liked my food and was surprised about my cooking skills. She joked with me, “I thought you only knew how to eat,” and we burst into a laugh. She asked if I could teach her how to make Chinese food. We had more conversations and we became closer to each other.

Andy Sun



A transf



forming experience

A Senior Experience trip to Uganda builds faith and stirs a call to ministry



Headed down the homestretch of his high school career, Justin Burkholder had some decisions to make. The first was how to spend his Senior Experience week, but he also was undecided on a major for college. A missions trip to Uganda was an option for Senior Experience, but it would mean missing a week of his final season of Dock basketball.

With the blessing of his coach, Justin decided to go to Uganda, on a trip sponsored by CitiHope Relief and Development, a Margaretville, NY-based ministry that provides health services and other compassionate relief to underserved populations around the globe. Dock alum Austin Landes ('01) is the program fulfillment officer for CitiHope, and accompanied Justin and four other Dock students to Entebbe, Uganda, last January.

"I did not know what to expect for the trip," Justin said, "but I had the week of my life."

In addition to helping provide medical services, Justin and other members of the group—Courtney Sadler, Duncan MacIntyre, Ryan Nichols, and Andrew Walters—engaged in door-to-door evangelism, and hosted a Christmas party for more than 1,200 children from the community, with music, games, food, and gift bags for every child.

On their last day, the group experienced a worship service with their new Ugandan friends. "The worship music was contemporary and joyful," Justin said. After the powerful service, he added, "I decided to accept Christ again in my life. It was an experience I will never forget. The trip helped me to become more expressive with my faith to others, and sparked a call into ministry for me next year."

Justin plans to major in ministry at Palm Beach Atlantic University in the fall. Watch a CitiHope-produced video on the Uganda trip on Dock's YouTube channel. Learn more about CitiHope at citihope.org. 

"It was jaw-dropping to see the shacks that lined the streets throughout parts of [Entebbe], and to realize just how little some of these people had. I felt empathy for the people struggling to get food or stay healthy. I also noticed something interesting as a result of the poverty. It appeared as if the Christians [in Uganda] had a much stronger faith than those in the U.S. This can be related to many things, but one of the biggest would be the lack of distractions. They don't have as many things to do that would distance them from God." ~ Ryan Nichols '17

Sparks *sown in us like*

Commencement speaker Rodney Derstine mused about how the sparks sown in the Class of 2017 during their time at Dock might eventually ripple through the lives of countless others.

seeds



Rod Derstine's love of music was the result of a spark sown in him by his mother. "My mom loved music," Dock's recently retired Touring Choir Director and music teacher told the Class of 2017 during Dock's 62nd Annual Commencement on June 10. "She saw to it that we all sang. We gathered around the piano and she would teach us the wonders of four-part harmony. I had an interest in music and so she arranged piano lessons for me. Those lessons were of great value to me as I went on to study music in college. Little did my mother know that the spark she had sown in me would ripple into the lives of hundreds of my students over the past 40 years."

Sparks that are sown in us like seed.

As inspiration for his commencement address, Mr. Derstine drew on the words of a hymn that is now familiar to most Dock students and alumni, *What is This Place?* A copy of the song, laser-engraved on a beautiful piece of cherry wood, hangs in the vestibule of Dock's chapel, a gift of the Class of 2013. Mr. Derstine sang part of the hymn at the opening of his address:

What is this place where we are meeting?
Only a house, the earth it's floor,
walls and a roof sheltering people,
windows for light an open door.

Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered
here, and know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling,
sparks that are sown in us like seed...

"What a wondrous place this is!" Mr. Derstine said. "You are surrounded by faculty, administration and staff that pay attention to you and notice your gifts. They plant seeds and fan flames, and believe in you when you may doubt yourself."

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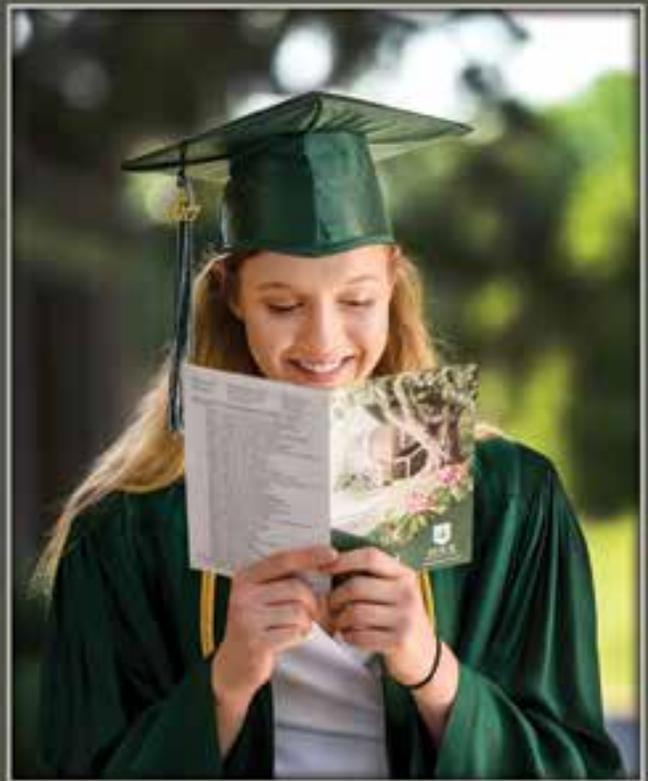
Sparks that are sown in us like seeds

Mr. Derstine gave many examples of how Dock faculty, staff and coaches have sown sparks like seeds—starting with his own daughter, Liz, who has become a competitive runner more than 10 years after graduating from Dock. Mr. Derstine credited her high school running coach, Mr. Dana Gehman. “Thank you, Dana, for nurturing that faint spark of a lackadaisical high school cross country runner, which has now burst into a full-flamed competitive marathoner,” he said.

Dock graduates may experience those sparks in a variety of other ways as well, Mr. Derstine added:

- Taking *Ceramics* class on a whim and discovering you have a gift that may change the course of your life.
- Having Mrs. McTavish say, “This is one of the best and most creative papers I have ever received!” *Hmmm, maybe I should rethink the path I’m on.*
- Getting a taste of the stage through musicals, dramas, and Arts Days, experiences that gave you an insatiable desire for more.
- Having learning difficulties your whole life and discovering through the incredible Mrs. Grega that, with alternative approaches to academics, you could succeed beyond your wildest imagination.
- Bible classes that encourage you to think seriously about your walk of faith, and to follow the way of Jesus—which may actually put you at odds with mainstream Christianity.
- *Faith Walk* class, where you realize you are not alone in having a ‘shadow side.’ May it encourage you to continue to be open and honest with others. You will discover why people tear up when hearing or singing *Amazing Grace*. Giving and receiving grace is one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself and those around you.

Other Dock experiences and classes will broaden your world, such as *Social Issues*, Senior Experience, Refugee Day and others, he added. “Any or all of these may spark something within you,” Mr. Derstine said. “Pay attention! Nurture that flame! Let your soul be awakened! Class of 2017, the world *needs* your Christ light.”





The Class of 2017



- Irina Althouse**
Montgomery County Community College
Medical Office Assistant
- Vladimir Althouse**
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
Welding/Woodworking
- Andi Barbullushi**
Bunker Hill Community College
Accounting/Business Management
- Rachel Barth**
Temple University
Education or Nursing
- Christopher Beljan**
University of Rhode Island
Global Business
- Alana Bergey**
Gap Year: Youth With a Mission
- Deins Bergis**
Undecided
- Madison Bergman**
Liberty University
Business
- Sarah Bergstresser**
Eastern University
Elementary Ed/Special Ed.
- Mia Bevilacqua**
Virginia Wesleyan University
Civil Engineering
- Jill Bolton**
Liberty University
- Justin Burkholder**
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Ministry
- Marissa Campo**
King's College
Physician Assistant
- Dale Carson**
Universal Technical Institute
Mechanic
- Jacqueline Carson**
Penn State University - Altoona
Nursing
- Mikayla Centeno**
Community College of Philadelphia
Secondary Education
- Xi Bei (Sylvie) Chen**
New York University
International Relations
- Amber Clemens**
Messiah College
Communications
- Sabrina Demetrius**
Chestnut Hill College
Global Affairs
- Celena Derstine**
Montgomery County Community College
Nursing
- Dylan Derstine**
Messiah College
Mechanical Engineering
- Rebecca Edenfield**
Elizabethtown College
Early Childhood Education
- Elizabeth Fang**
Liberty University
- Anna Ford**
Eastern University
Nursing

Shane Frederick
Montgomery County Community College

Ariana Freed
Undecided

Kenneth Graham
Ithaca College
English

Daniel Groce
Kutztown University

Zachary Guntz
Montgomery County Community College

Samuel Gwiazdzinski
University of Pittsburgh, Bradford
Sports Management

Elizabeth Haas
Temple University

Ryen Haney
Bucks County Community College/Dublin Fire Co.
Fire Science

Nathaniel Hartley
Montgomery County Community College
Materials Science & Engineering

Jacob Hedrick
Employment
Spring Hollow Golf Club

Courtney Herm
High Point University
Athletic Training

Emma Hinershitz
York College of PA
Special Ed/Early Childhood Ed.

Shichenhao (Kevin) Hu
University of California, San Diego
Physical Science

Daphne Hunsinger
Geneva College
Communication Disorders

Nathan Kerns
Eastern Mennonite University
Nursing

Jason Landis
Undecided

Grace Levengood
Muhlenberg College
Mathematics and Dance

Jung Eun (Shelly) Lim
Saint John's University
Pharmacy

Matthew Lynch
Montgomery County Community College
Fire Science

Duncan MacIntyre
Goucher College
Chemistry

Melinda Marinko
Metro Beauty Academy
Cosmetology

Camryn McCloskey
York College of PA
Hospitality Management

Brian Miller
Universal Technical Institute
Auto/Diesel Technician

Haley Mong
Messiah College
Music and Worship

Danica Moyer
Liberty University
Nursing

Ryan Nichols
University of Denver
International Studies

Chuyu (Rebecca) Qu
University of California, San Diego

I. Emme Raieta
College of Charleston
Biology

Brynn Ramsay
Temple University
Undeclared/Liberal Arts

Xiaotian (Jackson) Ren
Undecided

Sarah Rittenhouse
Lehigh Carbon Community College
Physical Therapy

Abigail Roberts
University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg
Biology

Juliana Rotelle
Lancaster Bible College

Daniel Sabath
Philadelphia University
Business

Courtney Sadler
Gap Year: Agape Adventures

Ethan Schimek
Penn State - Berks
Mechanical Engineering

Matthew Schmidt
The George Washington University
Finance

Connor Schnable
McDaniel College
Marketing

Nicholas Schnable
Penn State University - Mont Alto
Forestry

Austin Sell
Montgomery County Community College
Nursing

Maura Shisler
Employment: Bergey's/Lawncare/Bakery

Sierra Shore
LaSalle University
Nursing

Guohua (Andy) Sun
University of Miami
Biochemistry and Nutrition

Megan Swintosky
University of Pittsburgh
Neuroscience

Gintare Tamulyte
UWE Bristol
Business Management

Sarah Thalathoti
Grove City College
Undeclared Sciences

Christopher Trapp
Penn State University - Lehigh Valley
Mechanical Engineering

Andrew Walters
Eastern University
Social Work

Xiaoying (Ako) Wan
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Design

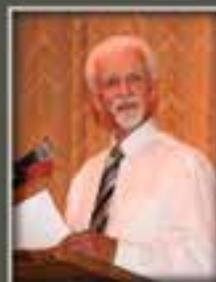
Elizabeth Wanamaker
Elizabethtown College
Occupational Therapy

Amadeos Khari
Hesston College
Business

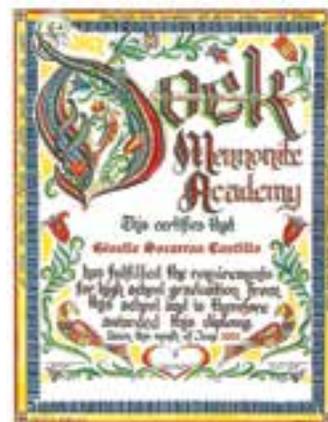
Botao (Garry) Xing
University of California, Santa Barbara
Film & TV Production

Yonghao (Jerry) Yu
University of California, Santa Cruz
Computer Science

Baccalaureate



A new diploma for the Class of 2017



With a new name, Dock Mennonite Academy, and a new identity for the combined schools, Dock administrators and faculty felt the time was right for a new diploma as well. The Class of 2017 was the first graduating class to receive Dock's new fraktur diploma, which was created by Emily Smucker Beidler, a Lancaster-based artist and a Dock alum from the Class of 1983. Emily unveiled the new diploma and described the creative process in detail during chapel presentation on April 17. You can watch that chapel presentation on Dock's YouTube channel.





The *Social Issues* trip almost always includes a Sunday visit to one of the oldest African-American churches in Washington (left).

Above: A day at Arlington National Cemetery provides a somber reminder of the costs of war.

Social Issues became a required course for all Dock juniors in the late 1990s, highlighted by a two-day trip to Washington, DC. The course has been an eye-opening, worldview-expanding experience ever since—as demonstrated in these reflections from students past and present.

“Throughout my experience on our *Social Issues* trip I noticed a common theme in all of the spots we visited. It stuck out to me that we often put ourselves in a box and do not choose to recognize that the world is a million times more diverse than what we realize outside of Lansdale. This theme was most apparent in our work at the soup kitchen and at the Holocaust Museum.

In the soup kitchen I realized there are people who might not be confident about having another meal. The corn bread we cut and bagged was more than just bread. We were helping other humans in our section of the global village. It felt awesome to realize this. In Lansdale we might hear about these issues once in awhile, but many people choose not to do anything about it. It renews my faith to see the workers in these kitchens who dedicate their lives to helping others.

The Holocaust Museum was disturbing, but very necessary. It showed me that anti-semitism is often ignored today. The quote [by Martin Niemöller; see page 17] may not be as applicable in our society today, but we still need to remember it.

Worldview is underrated in determining what makes good character. We acknowledge that being good stewards and

Spotlight on:
Social Studies

Thinking outside the box



Dock students learn about the needs of others by volunteering in Washington-area food banks, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters (left).

Above: The trip affords students the opportunity to hear the stories of people who are either homeless or formerly homeless.

living a moral life is important, but empathy does not seem as important. Being able to walk in another's shoes for even a brief time can help us understand one another, and bring our global village closer together."

~ Dan Loveless, '18

"I saw poverty as I've never seen it before. And yet, just blocks away stands the most famous building in America: the White House. And it's huge. It just boggles my mind how this contrasts so vividly with the poverty that is so prevalent in Washington. The trip was a time to laugh, to cry—and to realize it was perfectly fine to do both."

~ Dock student journal, 1998

First they came ... is a poem written by German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller (1892–1984) about the cowardice of German intellectuals following the Nazis' rise to power and subsequent purging of their chosen targets, group after group. The U.S. Holocaust Museum displays this version of the poem:

*First they came for the Socialists,
and I did not speak out—
because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists,
and I did not speak out—
because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews,
and I did not speak out—
because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me—and there was no one left to
speak for me.*

*I sit and watch as they pass by, every day
With expensive clothes and cars,
But I only have this ragged coat and worn out shoes
You walk by holding your coffee cup—
I have one too, but it collects spare change.
You return to your lavish homes
While I spread my blanket on the concrete sidewalk.
You claim to value independence,
dependence as a sign of weakness,
but what happens when you
are forced to depend on others
for food and shelter, for basic needs to survive?
Don't live your life forgetting that
there are others trying to live too.*

~ Lauren Ness, '18

"Working with the homeless has helped me get rid of some of the stereotypes I had about them before the trip. I thought a lot of the homeless were just too lazy to go out and work, but now I realize that isn't always the case."

~ Dock student journal, 1997

"Before the trip, I thought that the majority of homeless were dirty, dangerous alcoholics. By working in the soup kitchens, however, I discovered that most of the homeless people I encountered are actually good people who have undergone trying experiences."

~ Dock student journal, 1998

"My life is just handed to me. Why am I complaining? People go for days without food, but I'm upset because I had to wait 45 minutes for my food to be prepared? Can we truly eliminate homelessness? I think we can. It would take a tremendous amount of effort—and less selfishness."

~ Dock student journal, 1998



BIG FUN at the Country Fair & Auction

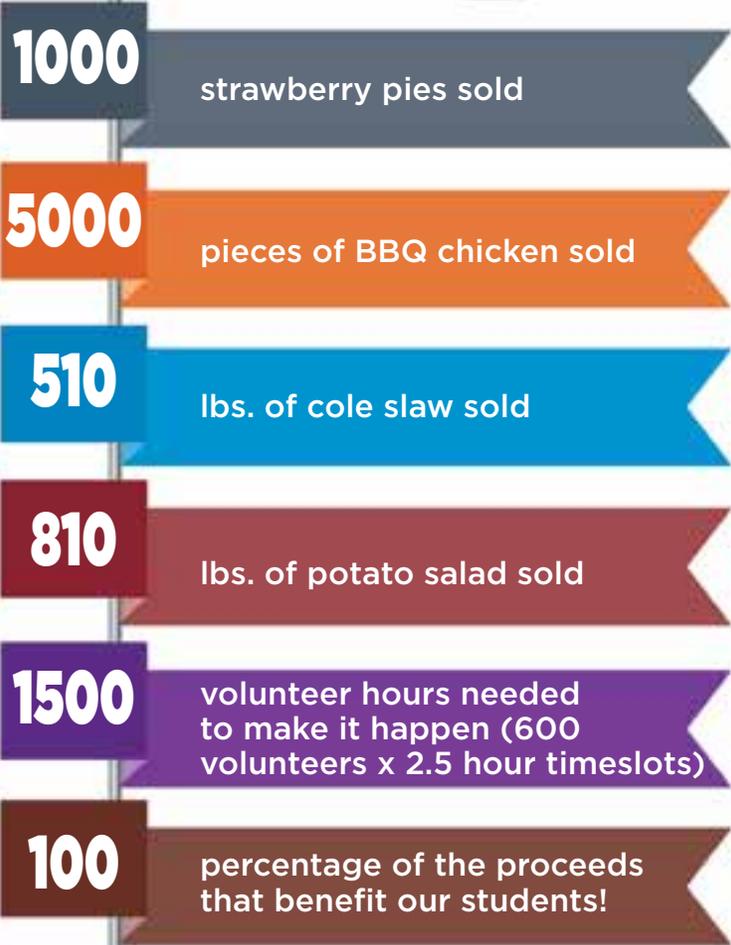
The annual Country Fair & Auction is Dock's single largest fundraising event—mainly because it's also FUN-raising!

One of the reasons Dock Mennonite Academy's annual Country Fair & Auction is such a long-running success is because there is literally something for everyone.

For kids, it's non-stop fun. There's the kids tent, with tons of games and tests of skill. There are pony rides, loads of inflatables, pilo polo, and let's not forget the Helicopter Candy Drop! (parents love that, too).

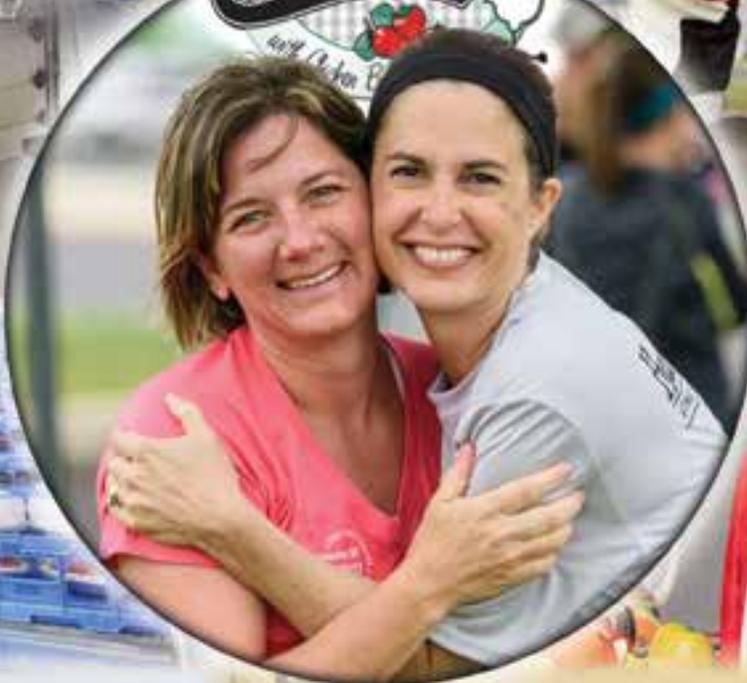
There's fun for moms and dads and grandmoms and grandpops, too—a fabulous breakfast, a great concert, an outstanding auction, some of the best barbecue chicken on the planet, and our delicious strawberry pies!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered and attended the 56th Annual Country Fair & Auction—you made the event a great success. Let's do it again next May!





56th Annual
Country Fair
& Auction
with Chicken Barbecue



57th Annual
Country Fair
& Auction
with Chicken Barbecue

Save the Date
The 57th Annual Country Fair & Auction will be held May 18-19, 2018 on the EC-Grade 8 Campus. If you haven't been involved before, come join the fun!

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 2016 Christopher Dock Award are **Amber Clemens** and **Dylan Derstine**. The Christopher Dock Award is sponsored by former Dock English teacher Pearl Schrack.

Sam & Helen Lapp Peacemaking Award

Justin Burkholder is the 2017 recipient of the Sam & Helen Lapp Peacemaking Award. Justin also was the recipient of the John Fisher Citizen Scholar Award, presented by the *Bucks County Courier Times* and *Intelligencer* newspapers for excellence in academics and leadership in school and community. Justin also received the Neinken Scholarship awarded by the Bucks County Foundation for academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and personal character.



L. Travis Bechtel Memorial Scholarship



Matt Schmidt was awarded 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.

Daniel Reinford Scholarship

Nate Kerns is the 2017 recipient of this scholarship, named for the former Dock teacher.





Subject Area Award Winners

(l to r) Kenny Graham, Maura Shisler, Mindy Marinko, Emma Hinnershitz, Justin Burkholder, Danica Moyer, Dylan Derstine, Mia Bevilacqua, Megan Swintosky, Alana Bergey, Jill Bolton, Lizzie Haas, Matt Schmidt, Chris Trapp.

Elizabeth Haas

Charles Clemmer Art
sponsor: Class of 1961

Jill Bolton, Dylan Derstine

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

Emma Hinnershitz

Career Study

Melinda Marinko

Drama
sponsor: Univest Corporation

Alana Bergey

English
sponsor: Gerald and Rhoda Benner
Spanish
sponsor: Living Branches

Maura Shisler

Family & Consumer Sciences
sponsor: Rockford Realty

Matthew Schmidt

Mathematics
sponsor: Univest Corporation

Kenneth Graham

Music
sponsor: Harold & Ferne Alderfer

Mia Bevilacqua, Justin Burkholder

Physical Education
sponsor: Rockford Realty

Megan Swintosky

Science
sponsor: Libra Systems
Social Studies
sponsor: S. Duane Kauffman

Christopher Trapp

Technology
sponsor: Jen-Tech Systems

Danica Moyer

Writers
sponsor: Gerald & Rhoda Benner

Citizenship Award

The Christopher Dock Citizenship Award for 2017 was presented to (l to r) **Abby Nice** (Grade 11), **Becca Edenfield** (Grade 12), **Miguel Santiago** (Grade 9) and **Abby Morgan** (Grade 10).

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):

- **Anna Ford** (Abington Health Lansdale Hospital)
- **Megan Swintosky** (AAUW Lansdale; Souderton-Telford Rotary Club Science & Technology Award)
- **Liz Wanamaker** (Harleysville Rotary Club)
- **Dylan Derstine** (AAA East Penn Scholarship)



Perfect Attendance Award

The Perfect Attendance Award is sponsored by Harleysville Bank. Recipients this year include (l to r) **Dalton Moore, Thomas Schreiber, Matthew Hadden, Bryce Kauffman, Evelyn Elliott, Sean Kearney, Sydney Leaman, Adam Choi, Jake Gordon, and William Xu.**

STUDENTS HELP EASE THE TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL



Mrs. Grega's 10th grade students visited the Middle School campus in late April and shared presentations they had created on transitioning to high school. Tenth graders—including (l to r) **Alexis Landis, Theresa Beck, Kyle Gouldy, Micah Souder, Ben Graham, Jake Gordon, Julia Rolley,** and **Aiden Smith**—spoke to 8th grade students about the challenges of managing academics, distractions, technology, and social activities. "My *English Skills* students shared with me in the fall that they wished some high school students had come to the EC-Grade 8 campus to discuss high school and make them feel less anxious about their new adventures," said Mrs. Grega. Students brainstormed how to do this, and developed their own Powerpoint content, speaker pairings, and even a short questionnaire related to study skills and test-taking advice. "It was a project-based learning experience for us all," said Mrs. Grega.

CLASS OFFICERS ELECTED

At the end of the 2016-17 school year, each returning class held elections for class office. The following students were elected to represent their classes:

Class of 2018

President – **Dylan Rush**
 Vice President – **Jamie Kolb**
 Secretary – **Elysa Stout**
 Treasurer – **Lindsey Bernd**
 Senators: **Madison Buiting**
Meredith King
Lauren Ness
Rachel Shreiner

Class of 2019

President – **Louis Cocco**
 Vice President – **Laura Bergey**
 Secretary – **Abby Morgan**
 Treasurer – **Caeser Kang**
 Senators: **Connor Derstine**
Nicole Ford
Ryan Kratz

Class of 2020

President – **Regan Zehr**
 Vice President – **Miguel Santiago**
 Secretary – **Ruth Michel**
 Treasurer – **Carlie Cocco**
 Senators: **Madelyn Bergin**
Olivia Celenza
Giana DePaul

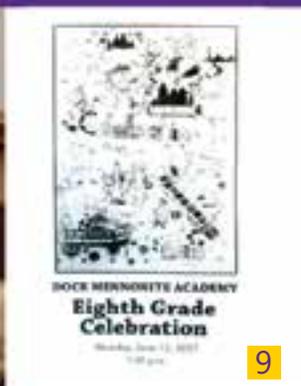
Student Senate Officers elected include

Meredith King (President)
Madison Buiting (Vice President)
Olivia Celenza (Secretary)
Rachel Shreiner (Treasurer)



1. **Laura Frederick** plays her own arrangement of the Dennis Jernigan song, *All in All*.
2. **Bryce Cardy** and the Select Strings perform during the 8th Grade Celebration.
3. Friends **Helen Hwang, Lydia King, Isa Rodriguez, Olivia Yetter, Libbie Derstine,** and **Peyton Scialanca** gather before the 8th Grade Celebration
4. The 8th Grade Choir sings to close the Celebration, directed by **Mrs. Laura Landes**.
5. **Jesse Detweiler** and his mother, **Mrs. Jody Detweiler**, share their reflections.
6. **Jaselyn Ramos** listens as her son, **Rey**, reflects on his Dock experience.
7. **Savahn Duerksen** receives her 8th grade certificate from faculty member **Mr. Mike George**.
8. **Libbie Derstine** receives her certificate from faculty member **Mrs. Claire Wanamaker**.
9. The 8th Grade Celebration program cover was created by 8th grade student **Daniel Park**.

The fraktur for Dock's new 8th grade certificate was created by Middle School art teacher, **Mrs. Alice Keppley**.



8TH Grade Celebration

On June 12, 57 8th grade students received their graduation certificates as Dock held its 8th Grade Celebration at Franconia Mennonite Church. Students and parents reflected on their elementary and middle school careers as they looked forward to the transition to high school.

Former Dock board member **John Duerksen** and his daughter **Savahn** shared some of their thoughts about Dock, where she has attended since she was 3. Savahn said the opportunity to play sports was one of her favorite parts of Middle School. Although her teams didn't always win a lot of games, Dock gave her the opportunity "to not only play the sports I love, but to make amazing friendships, and to show God's love on the field." She recalled her experience on the 8th grade field hockey team.

"Before every game, our coaches, **Mrs. Ryder** and **Mrs. Baker** would pray with us," she said. "This was really cool, because it taught me that I could go to God wherever—even on the sports field." The whole team got to apply this understanding later in the season when a girl on the team got hit in the head with the field hockey ball during a game. "Almost instantly, the whole team gathered together to pray that the girl would be okay," she said. "This was a really good experience for me, because not only did we get to show our faith on the field, but it also showed that our team had learned to trust God in that situation."

John Duerksen said his family has appreciated all the activities Savahn has been able to participate in at Dock—piano, flute, choir, musicals, and dramas, in addition to four sports. "She has been able to learn new skills, make

new friends, and gain valuable life skills such as teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership," he said. But he has also appreciated the way faith, academics, and athletics intersect at Dock.

"Faith was infused in every classroom and subject," he said. "**Mrs. Baker** was a strong influence on Savahn and **Xander** as a Bible teacher. She made Bible stories real and interesting to our children. Savahn also had the opportunity to play for some great coaches. **Trish Landis** was Savahn's 7th grade basketball coach, and she incorporated faith lessons at practice and at games. She had the team pray after each game and they invited players from the other team to join them. This not only encouraged Savahn in her faith but encouraged her to share her faith with others. I am grateful to all of her teachers and coaches for the very real impact they have had on Savahn's life."

PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY



3rd grade student **Amy Muhlfeld** was the auction winner of “Principal for the Day.” Amy enjoyed shadowing Principal **Bronwyn Histand** and getting a glimpse into the daily life of a principal. What did she think about her day as principal? “This was the best day ever!” she said. Well done, Amy!

PIG TO PIE

Middle School students who participated in our spring “Pig to Pie” day (see Spring 2017 *Lamplighter*, page 22) brought the experience full circle and reached their goal of making a fresh custard pie complete with a homemade crust using the lard they pressed back in March. Great job to all—those pies look delicious!



A LEGACY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Dock has a tremendous legacy of science education! The Dock Mennonite Academy EC-8 Science Fair team won the 1st place school award at the Montgomery County Science Research Competition the past two years and has held that title 12 of the past 17 years—making Dock one of the top-performing schools in Bucks and Montgomery counties. Congratulations to our science students and faculty!



FUN IN THE SUN

Three-year-old students enjoyed “Fun in the Sun” activities on the Early Childhood playground! Outdoor activities included:

- Squirting the building with squirt bottles to build fine motor strength
- Sponge ball game – carrying sponge balls, running and squeezing out the water into another bucket to build fine motor strength, motor planning, and gross motor skills
- Bean bag toss – working cooperatively throwing and catching a bean bag with a friend
- Obstacle course using walking/running/jumping skills
- Cooperative ball game where two friends squish a playground ball between them and work together as they move across the playground and back.



THE JOYS OF AN EXPLODING WATERMELON



Dock 8th grade science classes had a BIG finish to the school year with their watermelon science experiment. The prize? Exploding watermelons for ALL to enjoy!

FIELD DAY

Students in 3rd to 5th grade held a Fabulous Friday Field Day complete with events like running, soccer, capture the flag, frisbee throw, pitching, and standing broad jump. We had perfect weather and students had lots of fun!



THEY GOT A PIÑATA

Mrs. Liz Wallace’s 7th grade Spanish students created a traditional Mexican piñata and took turns trying to break it. Students sang the *Pinata Song* in Spanish as each student took their turn. It was a great way to spend their last class of the year together! “They did such a great job on this piñata,” said Mrs. Wallace. “If you see a 7th grader, ask them why the Mexican piñata has points like this, and they will share some of their knowledge with you!”



In memoriam



Heidi (Miller) Kolb, Class of 1984

Heidi Charlene (Miller) Kolb, 51, of Sellersville, PA, passed away on Wednesday, August 2, in Tokyo, Japan after a long battle with cancer. She had been married to Joel E. Kolb, pastor of Hopewell Christian Fellowship in Telford, for 28 years. Heidi was born in Sellersville to Samuel T. Miller and Eleanor (Anders) Miller.

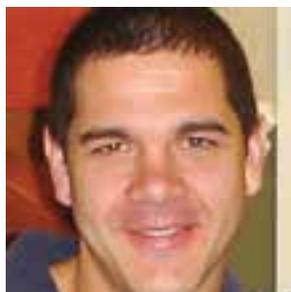
She graduated from Dock in 1984 and then attended school in Denmark for a time before graduating from

Christ for the Nations Institute in Stonybrook, NY, in 1990.

She was a longtime employee of Miller Tire & Auto Company in Perkasio, and was also employed as an administrator for Hopewell, where she also served as children's ministry director, junior youth group leader, VBS director and as a member of the worship arts team.

In addition to her parents and husband, she is survived by two daughters, Annette G. and Elisabeth J. Kolb. of Sellersville; and two sons, Martin E. and Jonas E. Kolb of Sellersville.

Douglas Moyer, Class of 1986



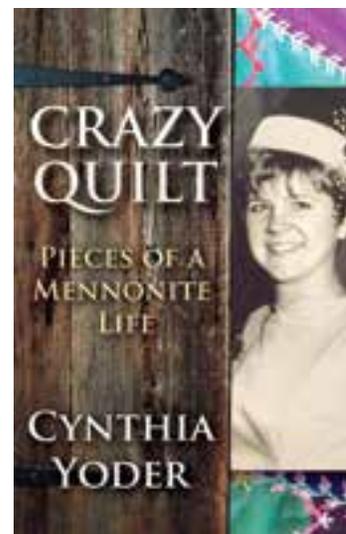
Douglas Alan Moyer, 48, of Stephens City, VA, passed away Wednesday, May 17, after a tough battle with multiple myeloma. He is survived by a son, Kyle, 21, and a daughter, Grayson, 16, and by their mother, Gwen Grim Moyer; his brothers, Mike and Steve; and parents, Charles and Carolyn.

While a student at Christopher Dock High School, he was affectionately known as "Dr. Doug" to differentiate between the three Doug Moyer's in his class. He spent his college years at Eastern Mennonite University in

Harrisonburg, VA where he met and married Gwen Grim.

Doug was an Information Technology professional with the Warren County (VA) School District for about two decades. He received their Staff Person of the Year Award in 2011.

Alum Cynthia Yoder's memoir is re-released



A memoir written by Class of 1983 alum Cynthia Yoder, *Crazy Quilt: Pieces of a Mennonite Life*, has now been released as an e-book.

Crazy Quilt follows the author's journey home from New York City to rural Pennsylvania during a difficult time. In her mid-twenties, during a personal crisis, Cynthia leaves her husband and drops out of her graduate studies at Columbia University. She moves back to Pennsylvania to live near her grandparents and write. Her aim is to collect the stories of her aging Pennsylvania Dutch Mennonite grandparents. Coming to terms with family, cultural and religious roots she had cut off too quickly, *Crazy Quilt* is a story of love, healing and spiritual awakening.

"My goal in writing *Crazy Quilt* was to collect stories from my family at a time when Mennonites were modernizing," Cynthia said. "I saw their way of life changing, and I wanted to capture it. That I could do this at a time when I was going through a personal crisis was a huge gift to me. It was healing to be with them and move at the slow pace of their lives, eat my grandmother's home cooking, and borrow from the deep well of their faith."

reconnect • rediscover • remember

HOMECOMING
and Family Weekend
October 6-7, 2017

Come be a part of the Dock ESPY Awards October 7th, 7-9 p.m. Celebrate the great teams and athletes of our fall athletic programs.

A time to **celebrate and remember** great moments and stories of Dock's fall athletic programs.

Plus: Color Fun Run - Class Reunions Alumni Games - Outdoor Barbecue

Alumni of the Year 2017

Friday 10/6 at 7 p.m. - The 2017 Alumni of the Year Awards will be presented during the Fall Concert. Everyone is invited to a reception following the concert.

Dock grad making a difference at Penridge

One of the many ways you know you have “arrived” as a teacher is when the student body dedicates the school’s yearbook to you. That was the surprise faculty member **Hannah Godshall** ('01) received when she opened her copy of the Penridge High School yearbook (see photo).

The class of 2017 voted to honor Hannah “because of her dedication, spirit and great personal style,” says yearbook advisor Mrs. Rachael



Pulsfort. Penridge senior Bei Mopecha had Mrs. Godshall in *Honors World Lit*, *Film Production*, and *Theater Arts* classes, and wrote the yearbook dedication:

“Aside from her classes, Mrs. Godshall advises the Fan Club, and is known for her eclectic style choices. She also helps out with the debate club and serves as a building rep for the faculty. Any student of hers will be able to tell you her top three fandoms: *Doctor Who*, *Sherlock*, and *Game of Thrones*. Her celebration of her own nerdiness makes many students feel more comfortable expressing themselves. She attends endless meetings for the betterment of the school, and the care and enthusiasm she applies to each task complements her fun but no nonsense work ethic. She never misses a spirit day and even makes up many of her own, just to make Penridge a brighter, more enjoyable place! Thank you for all you do, Mrs. Godshall!”

Class of 2017 Gift

As its class gift, Dock’s Class of 2017 has fully funded the restoration of the vintage “Christopher Dock High School” sign that had been hanging on a pole near the Detwiler Road entrance to the school.



The Advancement Office’s goal was to have the sign hung in Longacre Center before this year’s Senior Presentations began. Director of Advancement Robert Rutt reports that a class gift installed prior to graduation may be a new Dock speed record! Many thanks to the Class of 2017 for their generosity and thoughtfulness in helping to preserve this important piece of Dock memorabilia.

Still rockin’!

Our beloved **Dr. Eric Bishop** ('74) is still rocking out! Here he is in a recent jam session with 2005 alumni **Isaac Martin** (left) and **Sheldon Good** in the sanctuary of Zion Mennonite Church. You go, Eric!



DOCK

MENNONITE ACADEMY

FALL GOLF OUTING

September 28—10:00 am

Lederach Golf Club

WELCOME/PLAYER REGISTRATION
(Conference Room)

10:45 - 11:45 am

DRIVING RANGE OPEN
Lederach Golf Club

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

Environmentally conscious



Environmental Science student **Haley Mong** ('17) and other students test the water in Groff Pond using some of the science kit equipment purchased by the David Souder Endowment.

Glenn Bauman ('63, center) visits with **Miss Metzler** (far left) and some of her *Biology* students last winter.

The tragic death of a classmate more than 40 years ago has been the springboard for a Class of 1963-sponsored endowment that continues to benefit Dock science students.

It was nearly two decades ago, at the class of 1963's 35th reunion, that former Dock Director of Development Gerald Benner challenged the class to do something meaningful for the school. Classmate **Harley Kooker**, now a retired veterinarian in Lancaster County, thought it would be appropriate to honor classmate **David Souder**, who lost his life in a tragic hunting accident.

The decision was made to set up an endowment in David's honor, and in 2000, with seed donations from classmates Kooker and **Glenn Bauman** (see photo above right), a fund was launched. Over the next four years Kooker and Bauman rounded up pledges, and between classmates and the Souder family, were able to raise over \$50,000.

"With Harley and I leading the way, our class requested that earnings from the endowment be used for *Environmental Science* class projects," said Bauman. "We wanted the money to be used in a way that honored David's life. He grew up a farmer and continued to farm after high school. The Class of 1963 is always excited to hear what is being accomplished with these funds."

What has been accomplished so far has been significant. The David Souder Endowment funds have been used to purchase 14 science



Class of 1963 classmates **Harley Kooker** and **Glenn Bauman** (top) provided seed money and were instrumental in getting the David Souder Endowment off the ground.

Dock Biology students **Celena Derstine** ('17, left) and **Duncan MacIntyre** ('17) show **Glenn Bauman** ('63) one of the GrowLab two-tier indoor gardens purchased with funds from the David Souder Endowment.

lab kits for Dock *Environmental Science* and *Biology* classes. These labs allow students to study a wide variety of environmental events, including earthquakes, heat and climate change, groundwater, physical and chemical properties of soil, and many others.

"It is rewarding to know that our efforts and contributions are benefitting current students," Bauman said. It's also satisfying to see additional contributions and investments grow the fund to nearly double its original amount.

"I'm a big believer in Dock," Bauman said. "My father was a teacher and a principal here for almost 30 years. Both my wife and I graduated from Dock, as have our two children. I can't wait to share the progress we've made with our class at our 55th reunion in 2018."





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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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Conrad Swartzentruber



This mission statement was approved by the Board of Trustees on May 16, 2017, and will guide our work at Dock Mennonite Academy. Each word and phrase received focused attention to ensure the statement would convey the desired components of Dock's philosophy.

- 1. Christ-centered.** This phrase is key to the mission and daily work of Dock Mennonite Academy. Christ is at the center of our lives and our school. The Bible is interpreted through the lens of Christ. Our work is to honor Christ in our daily activities, relationships, goals, and ambitions.
- 2. Inspires and equips.** At Dock we desire to do much more than simply transfer knowledge and information. We will only accomplish our mission if students are inspired to pursue a life of meaning for Christ. An inspired student is motivated and prepared to make an impact on the world. One of the most frequent stories I hear from alumni who return to visit is of a particular teacher who inspired them—in many cases both academically and spiritually.
- 3. Each student.** Each Dock student is a unique individual with specific gifts, strengths, and weaknesses. We differentiate teaching strategies to account for varied learning styles. We help each student develop personal gifts and begin to discern how to best use those strengths to impact the workplace, church, and community.

- 4. To serve.** Service is a key value of our Anabaptist faith; it is not something a few will choose to do, rather a way of life for each student. Christ modeled a life of service and Dock strives to incorporate this value in our curriculum.
- 5. Global perspective.** Our Christ-centered approach leads us to a global perspective. Each person in the world is important to God and is to be valued and respected. This includes my next-door neighbor and the child in a refugee camp on the other side of the world. God's kingdom transcends earthly boundaries and defines the stage for our service. This global perspective is essential in preparing students for an effective life and career after graduation.
- 6. Three Components of the Dock Experience:**
 - a. Integrated faith.** We are made by God and are spiritual beings. Our faith is not something limited to Bible class and chapel, but is integrated and woven throughout the curriculum and school activities. We strive to model, teach, and discuss how our faith impacts our worldview and daily life decisions. We encourage students to recognize the church as an important part of their faith journey.
 - b. Academic excellence.** Dock recognizes that academic

excellence is a key reason most families choose to send their children to our school. We continue to find ways to strengthen our curriculum and make it seamless across the system, preparing each student to excel, even at the strongest university.

- c. Life-enriching opportunities.** Dock provides many opportunities to develop the whole student. Drama, music, art, sports, social activities, and service projects are just a few ways we foster leadership, collaboration, and service in our students.
- 7. Community.** The entire Dock experience is in the context of a community. Each classroom becomes a sacred community of trust and safety. Our school family becomes a community of encouragement and support. Our local churches provide a community of collaboration and partnership. Our Anabaptist conferences and denomination provide another network of connections.

Dock's mission statement will guide us as we prepare for the 2017-18 school year. We encourage you to be a part of our community as we journey together. The preparation of our children for future leadership and service is a sacred calling. Our new mission statement will help define our focus and direction so we are always clear about our ultimate goal!