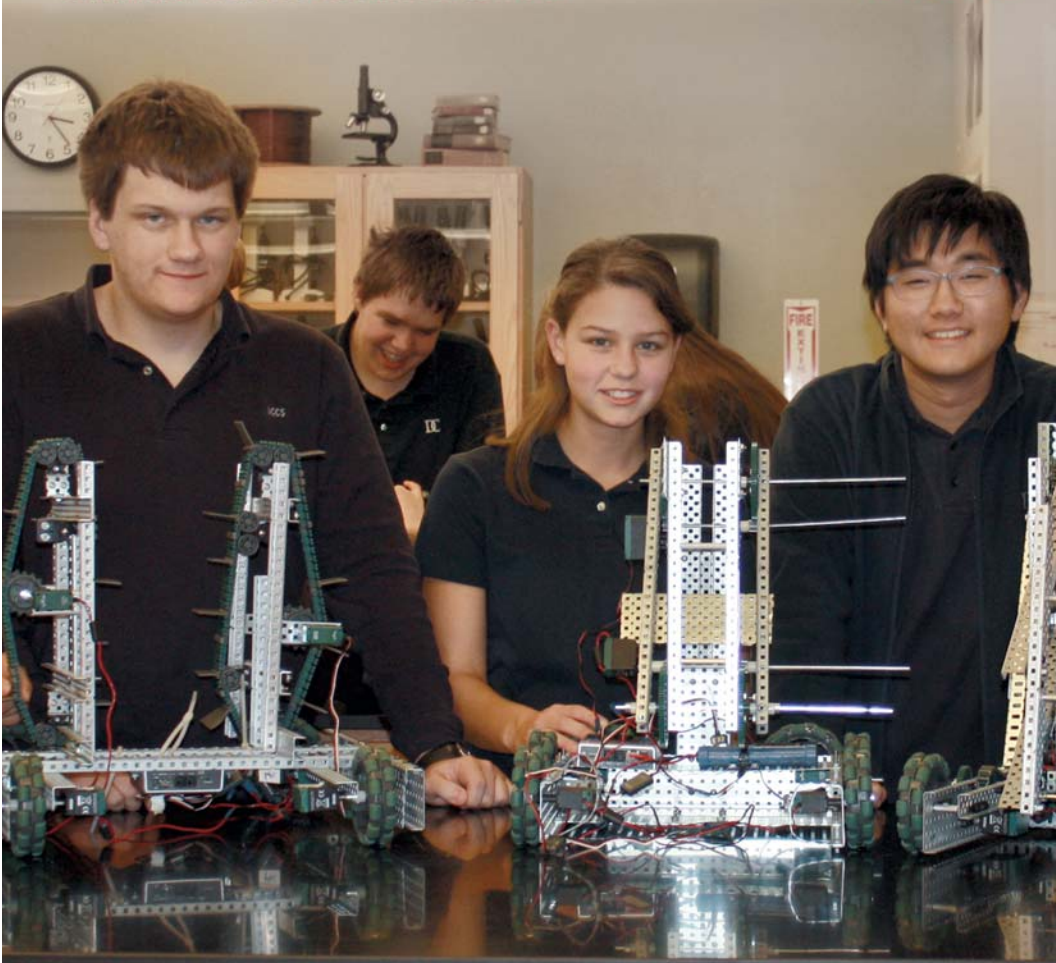


# KEYNOTER

DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WINTER 2012



**Spiritual Vitality**  
**Academic Rigor**  
**Student Giftedness**



**HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Stephen P. Dill, Ed.D.

**DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT**

Russell T. Nixon

**DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS**

Betty Ellsworth

**BUSINESS MANAGER**

David Smyth

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**HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

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Charles E. Young

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Joy C. Ludwig

**DISCOVERY CENTER DIRECTOR**

Susan K. Hutchison, Ed.D.

## MISSION

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

## KEYNOTER

Delaware County Christian School (DC) Keynoter is published semi-annually to communicate our school vision and news to alumni, friends, family and prayer partners of the school. Delaware County Christian School was established in 1950. Today, the school serves 765 Pre-K through Grade 12 students at two campuses in Newtown Square and Devon, PA.

Article suggestions and contributions should be directed to Kim O'Bryan at the DC Advancement Office, 462 Malin Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073. You may e-mail submissions to [kobryan@dccs.org](mailto:kobryan@dccs.org). Photos are welcomed, but can not be returned. Send address changes to [dccs@dccs.org](mailto:dccs@dccs.org).

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

Visit our website at [www.dccs.org](http://www.dccs.org)



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### Cover photograph

Members of the DC Robotics Team prepare for competition: Pictured from left to right: Ryan Simms, Tyler Donohue, Jamie Madison and Kenny Lee.



# Do Christian Schools Make a Difference?

From the Head of School, Stephen P. Dill, Ed.D.

There is a long history of several thousand families who have made a significant sacrifice to send their children to DC over the years, and today over 500 families continue to make that sacrifice. Although there has been an abundance of anecdotal evidence over the years that Christian schooling is effective, earlier this year a major research study has provided some statistical evidence that says – yes, Christian school education does make a significant difference.

The study was conducted by Cardus, a Canadian think tank that spent a million dollars to conduct a very thorough study of graduates of Christian schools by highly qualified researchers. (You can read the full summary at [www.cardus.ca](http://www.cardus.ca)) They surveyed adults (ages 24-40) who attended Christian schools – and compared them to adults who were home schooled, public school graduates, Catholic school graduates, and graduates of other private secular schools. The study contains two significant conclusions with implications for DC.

(1) The first is that compared to all other groups – Protestant Christian school graduates are more grounded in their faith. Some quotes from the study:

- *Christian school graduates are more committed to their churches, practice spiritual disciplines more frequently, and follow church teachings at much greater rates than their Catholic, public, and non-religious private school peers.*
- *Christian schools have a very distinct impact on their graduates' belief in religious and moral absolutes.*
- *Christian school graduates have a strong sense of direction in their lives. Perhaps this is influenced by the theological concept of calling taught in many Christian schools.*
- *Christian school graduates report unique confidence in their abilities to navigate challenges that they encounter in life. Because these graduates also report praying and consulting Scripture to make difficult decisions, it is understandable that they feel equipped in the realm of decision-making.*



Stephen P. Dill

(2) However, the second conclusion of the study was not a positive one: “on almost every measure, Catholic schools are providing superior academic programs, resulting in admission to and attendance in more high-ranking colleges and eventual advantage in years of education and higher degrees.” Christian schools did not fare as well on academic measures, because some Christian schools place little emphasis on academics. While spiritual formation is ultimately of greater significance, the purpose of schooling is different than that of the church. The study says it this way: *in many ways, the academic outcomes portion of this study is centrally important; without attention paid to the academic program, of course, a Christian school is nothing more than a tuition-based youth group.*

Delaware County Christian School is committed to being much more than a “tuition-based youth group.” The top half of DC graduating classes have average SAT scores higher than area prep school class averages, and the average DC graduate scores over 100 points higher than local (academically strong) public schools. Over 60% of DC students are taking an Advanced Placement (college level) course in their senior year, and last year one third of DC graduates were recognized as AP Scholars: students who take 3 or more AP exams and score a 3 or higher on each exam. This fall one third of the Class of 2011 matriculated at selective colleges, as defined by Peterson’s College Guide. DC prepares students for a wide variety of schools, and being in God’s will is more important than attending a selective college. But DC graduates do have the option of selective schools if God calls them there. In 1960, DC became the first Christian school in Pennsylvania to be fully accredited by the Middle States Association, and academic achievement has grown significantly in the intervening 50 years.

At the end of the day, faith development is more important than academic success. We have not achieved our mission if a graduate experiences academic and career success, but walks away from the Lord. We also fail to achieve our mission if we have not provided a strong academic education that prepares a student for higher education. Fortunately, DC parents do not have to choose between those objectives. DC will continue to be a school that provides an amazing blend of spiritual vitality, academic rigor, and a focus on student giftedness.

Dr. Roy Lowrie, DC’s first headmaster, said it this way: *An education in which Jesus Christ is central will influence the whole course of a child’s life.* Christian education at DC does make a difference.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” Proverbs 3:4-5



CAMPAIGN COMMITMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 2011

## Campaign Update

**TRUST.** . . Five years ago DC embarked on *The Campaign for Transformational Leaders* with an ambitious goal of \$24 million, trusting the Lord would provide, knowing He is always faithful.

**TRUST.** . . After the quiet phase of the campaign the result was \$14.3 million in commitments.

**TRUST.** . . A matching grant of \$3.5 million is established to encourage participation from all parts of our community. Three goals have been met or exceeded: 100% of Board has participated, 90% of our faculty and staff, 75% of current parents. The challenge now is to our alumni and alumni parents to reach 35% participation.

**TRUST.** . . In the last year of the campaign the total stands at \$22.8 million with \$2.2 million more to raise before June 30th, 2012.

Our theme verse for this school year reminds us to trust in the Lord, to acknowledge him and he will direct our path. It all begins with trust, and acknowledging that all we achieve comes from the Lord. As a school, as a campaign committee and as a board we have trusted and continue to trust in the Lord to meet all our needs and to lead us in the right direction. This is an exciting year as we put all our trust in the Lord for the dollars left to be raised.

We are grateful for the leadership gifts that have laid the foundation and inspired our campaign, every gift of every size is essential to reaching our goal and showing your support for DC. Please partner with us by giving what you can to *The Campaign for Transformational Leaders* and celebrating with us this year in all the Lord has done will do.

To support DC go to [dccc.org/give](http://dccc.org/give) or contact the Advancement Office at 610-353-6522 ext 2208

## Attention ALL DC alumni WE NEED YOU!

There is a \$3.5 million dollar match on the line that requires 35% participation from alumni in order for us to receive all the matching funds. **We need 250 more alumni donors to reach our goal!** Please join with us by making your participation gift today and ensuring DC reaches our campaign goal. A gift reply envelope is enclosed.

## The Legacy of Christian Education *The Cardone Family*

*“What we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power and the wonders he has done.” Psalm 78:3-4*

In the Cardone Family, Christian education is a tradition. DC grandparents, **Michael, Jr and Jacquie Cardone** attended Christian college at Oral Roberts University and continued the commitment when they chose to send their three children to Phil-Mont Christian Academy. **Michael, III** carried on the family tradition by attending Oral Roberts University where he met his wife **Alexandra**. Now parents, Michael and Alexandra have chosen DC for their three children.

The impact of Michael, Jr and Jacquie’s decision on the second generation is now being reaped in the third generation. Alexandra and Michael, III, desire to carry on the spiritual legacy in their family and believe that choosing DC and Christian education is an important part of that legacy. The striving for academic excellence together with the spiritual training makes DC special and has influenced the Cardone’s decision to be here. For the Cardone’s, one goal of Christian education is to grow children in the image of God while molding their hearts and ultimately their character. The faculty and staff have demonstrated this goal over and over again in the knowledge and care evidenced in the classroom.

“As parents and grandparents in today’s world effective parenting is difficult, to say the least. To have the school, teachers, and educational philosophy in congruence with our family values is important” says Jacquie Cardone, “DC comes alongside to support and bolster the Christian world view we want our grandchildren to embrace.”

*The Campaign for Transformational Leaders*, the Cardone family believes will ensure the resources necessary to continue to remain competitive academically and athletically as a school, preparing students who will go out into the world and make a difference in business, in science, in academia, in design, in whatever field it is they choose. A successful campaign secures the funds that help DC sustain its commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. As the Cardone’s pour into each generation through Christian education they are grateful for DC and pleased to be a part of *The Campaign for Transformational Leaders*.





**Ready, Set, Bid is the motto for DC's 15th Benefit Auction Year!**

You may have noticed that the DC Benefit Auction has taken on a whole new look this year. Two "live" auction events (Oct. 15, 2011 and May 12, 2012) in combination with DC's new online auction at [www.dcauction.org](http://www.dcauction.org) are providing year-round bidding fun this year in support of our school. Whether you enjoy the competitive face-to-face bidding at a "Live" auction, or hovering near the bid sheets at a "Silent" Auction, or enjoy using technology to shop and bid online – there's bound to be something for everyone this year!

We have set our most ambitious Auction fundraising goal for 2011-12 to raise \$100,000 in support of DC and the Annual Fund (the Fund for DC). The Annual Fund is currently part of the "Transformational Leaders" \$24 M campaign. These monies are critical to the overall support of DC –keep in mind that All of our 765 students benefit.

DC's Auction Year began at the start of the school year with the launch of DC's Online Auction ([www.dcauction.org](http://www.dcauction.org)). We are delighted that the DC community has responded so favorably by checking out the site and placing bids! (Be sure to peruse the site and keep checking for more listings! And, place your bid(s)!) Whether you bid in person or online, auction fever is bound to cause your temperature to rise! Remember, it's for the school!

**Here's what's happening for DC's 15th Benefit Auction Year:**

Saturday, Oct. 15th The DC Auction Steering Committee hosted its first annual Gala, Dine & Bid Auction Night for adults at The Lamb in Springfield. This quaint restaurant – located just a few miles from DC's Upper Campus – was filled with current parents, alumni parents, and alumni along with DC faculty and staff. The evening provided fun selections for competitive bidding including vacations, golf outings, "one of a kind" dinners and adventures and even included an authentic framed robe and photo of the legendary actor Cary Grant. At the end of the evening the room was filled with smiles and \$55,000 was raised in support of DC. Plans are in the works now to set a fall date for this event to be held in 2012. Watch for more information and then make plans to invite family and friends to be a part of this Auction event!

DC's Online Auction -- [www.dcauction.org](http://www.dcauction.org) -- is slated to run throughout the year with new postings monthly. Be sure to check out the site regularly! We also encourage our school community to patronize the area businesses that are supporting our school with their donations! (Items purchased through the Online Auction may be paid for by check or credit card.)

**DC "Tradition" is also being preserved by sponsoring its bi-annual Family Auction Day on Saturday, May 12, 2012 on the Malin Road Campus.** This day is guaranteed to provide fun for all ages at a Live Auction featuring "DC One of a Kind" items such as Teacher Treasures and Class Theme Baskets, along with Twice is Nice Furniture and Accessories, Flea Market, Children's Fair, and so much more. DC will continue to accept donations throughout the year for this event – to make arrangements or ask questions, contact [dstewart@dccs.org](mailto:dstewart@dccs.org).

Whether you're looking for new or gently used items, whether you're looking for a family vacation or a weekend get-away for two, whether you are in need of a pre-owned quality car or perhaps searching for the perfect gift such as jewelry or sports tickets, dining out certificates for a celebration, golf outings, etc. – the possibilities are endless. Check out [www.dcauction.org](http://www.dcauction.org) and attend the events!

All of these Auction events depend on the support of our DC community both through donations and purchasing through your bidding. We thank all those who have supported the school through the years (our first Auction was in 1989) and we thank you in advance for your continued support in the months ahead. To make arrangements to donate contact [dstewart@dccs.org](mailto:dstewart@dccs.org) or call 610.353.6522, ext. 2284.

On your Mark, Get Set, Bid! Come join the fun!

**READY SET BID**  
 Year-Round Fun, Year-Round Auction Support for DC

**Your Auction Steering Committee:**

Julie Ammon, Tracy Castelli, Barbara Diamond, Rose Esterly, Beth Hines, Elizabeth Neal, Anna Nichols, Russ Nixon, Kim O'Bryan, Christi Rhine, Kim Rowe, Nancy Sarley, Kim Simms, Debbie Stewart, Trisha Tuttle, Gail VanRhee



# DC and Social Media



Gone are the days of communicating merely through print flyers, publications, press releases, and short blurbs on the evening news. We now live in an age of fluid communication where information is readily pushed to home computers and mobile devices and shared at the tap of a button. Along with email, websites, and specialized apps, social media has increased the sharing of information exponentially.

Social media is a term for the tools and platforms people use to publish, converse and share content online.\* DC has tapped social media to provide additional avenues for folks to stay connected to the school, as well as to provide fresh ways to promote and market the school in this technological world.

## CHECK OUT WAYS YOU CAN STAY CONNECTED TO DC:



Blog "Inside the Christian School" Inside the Christian School is a series of reflections on aspects of Christian school education. Head of School, Steve Dill and members of the Delaware County Christian School (DC) Community contribute posts to the blog. Readers are encouraged to email authors of the posts with feedback. The content of the writing often uses DC as the example, but hopefully these thoughts also apply to

Christian schools throughout the world. God has used Christian schools to shape thousands of believers in the past, and we believe He will continue to use these schools to make significant "kingdom impact" for years to come. [www.dccs.org/blog](http://www.dccs.org/blog)



### FACEBOOK FAN PAGE

Facebook is undoubtedly the most popular of the social networking sites with 800 million active users (<http://www.facebook.com/press/info.php?statistics>). Members of Facebook can Like the Official DC Facebook Fan page at [www.facebook.com/dccsorg](http://www.facebook.com/dccsorg). When you Like our page, DC news articles, blogs and happenings are automatically pushed to your news feed.



### TWITTER

Twitter is a real-time information network that connects you to the latest information about what you find interesting (<http://twitter.com/about>). By creating a Twitter account, not only can you tweet in 140 characters or less, but it allows you to specify which Twitter accounts you want to follow so you can see those in one place. DC has three Twitter Accounts officially associated with the school: [dccc.org](http://dccc.org), [dc\\_knights](http://dc_knights), and [dc\\_guidance](http://dc_guidance). DC's main twitterfeed tweets news, calendar events, blog posts and happenings from the school's webpage. [www.twitter.com/dccsorg](http://www.twitter.com/dccsorg)



Get instant updates from DC's Athletic Office. According to Assistant Athletic Director, Mike Walker, "The DC\_Knights Twitter Feed allows us to provide real-time updates. Parents, teachers and students can get immediate game information, scores and changes. It also provides avenue for the local media to keep up with our teams. It creates a positive buzz surrounding DC Athletics." [www.twitter.com/dc\\_knights](http://www.twitter.com/dc_knights) or find the live feed on DC's Athletic webpage at [www.dccs.org/athletics](http://www.dccs.org/athletics).



DC's Guidance Department's Twitter Account targets the issues of parenting, Christian families, and the college application process. Director of College and Career Counseling, Trevor Creeden says, "It's the quickest way to get information out. Not only can we inform parents and students about what is going on at DC, but it allows us to share (retweet) articles from experts that may be useful – articles they may not see otherwise." Retweets often include links from The Princeton Review, ACT Student, College Counselors, and Focus on the Family. [www.twitter.com/dc\\_knights](http://www.twitter.com/dc_knights) or find the live feed on DC's Guidance webpage at [www.dccs.org/guidance](http://www.dccs.org/guidance).



### LINKEDIN

The Delaware County Christian School LinkedIn Networking Group provides a venue for past and present members of the DC Community to share professional business information. Connections between alumni, alumni parents, faculty & staff, current school parents, and friends of the school can easily be made. Members can share employment opportunities, internships, job postings, and professional services. LinkedIn users must request to join this group and be approved by a school administrator. Search for Delaware County Christian School under groups.



Visit the Get Connected page on DC's website to find links to all its social media: [www.dccs.org/getconnected](http://www.dccs.org/getconnected).

\*(Designing for Civil Society - David Wilcox on social media, engagement, collaboration, [http://www.designingforcivilsociety.org/2007/02/glossary\\_of\\_soc.html](http://www.designingforcivilsociety.org/2007/02/glossary_of_soc.html)).

# DC Athletic Update



## DC KNIGHTS

To start off the 2011-2012 year, the DC athletic department welcomed many new athletes, coaches, and a new Athletic Director. Coach Don Davis came to DC from Lakewood Park Christian School in Indiana. A new vision of "Champions 4 Christ" has been the theme in the athletic department all year long. Thanks to Coach Davis for his vision and leadership as we forge ahead into another year of athletics.

DC athletes and coaches have such an opportunity to put on display what our great school is all about! Our fall teams did a wonderful job of pursuing Christ-centered excellence through hard work, determination, and teamwork! Many of our teams experienced great reward for their efforts on and off the field of play. 2011-2012 was one of the most successful fall seasons DC has ever seen. Fans of DC got to cheer on 11 individuals and all 7 of our fall teams as they competed in PIAA District 1 competition, and 2 of our teams got to compete in the championship game (Football and Boys Soccer)! Praise the Lord for our dedicated athletes and coaches.

What a platform to proclaim the name of our Savior! Not only are we super proud of our athletes and coaches, but people outside the DC community also recognized the efforts of some of the Knights! Several of our athletes were recognized by local and state media along with sports-specific associations. Coach Joni Calderwood (FH) was recognized as B.A.L. Coach of the Year, several of our athletes were named to various All-League and All-State teams, and two of our athletes were named as the B.A.L. League M.V.P. (Brittany Weideman, Field Hockey / Amy Eichling, Girls Soccer) For a complete list of team and individual achievements, please visit our website [www.dccs.org/athletics](http://www.dccs.org/athletics).

Special thanks to the parents of middle school and high school athletes! Your sacrifice and commitment to your child and the DC Athletic Department are much appreciated. Thank You for allowing our dedicated coaches to work with your young people as we strive together to produce CHAMPIONS 4 CHRIST!

Now the athletic department is in the midst of a big winter season. DC recently hosted its annual Basketball Tip-Off Tournament, and soon host the Wrestling Tournament as winter sports are underway. Schedules are already online for the many Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity contests.

**Praise God for his many blessings, and Praise God for DC! ...GO KNIGHTS!**

# Why I do what I do By James Crane

God has blessed me greatly by allowing me to work at DC. Joe Austin, a former DC high school principal told me during my interview process, that if I gave DC a chance, just for a year, I'd be hooked. He was right; this is a fantastic place to work because it is a place where teachers are encouraged and supported in using the gifts and talents that God has given us.

God has given me a passion to share excitement and motivate others to strive for excellence. Teaching physics is the perfect subject for me because it relates to so many different topics and allows me to connect with a huge variety of students. I hear an audible "wow" daily in my classes. God has kept me energized by enabling me to present to my students the wonder of His creation, and His creation gets a "wow" from my students! But this isn't enough to sustain me for the past 15 years, God's plan for me has proved to be much more complex.



*James and his son Peter*

When I was a child, I remember telling my father that I wanted to be a carpenter when I grew up. My father supported the thought, but added this one to my own: "Carpentry can be a hobby, is there anything else you would like to do in addition to being a carpenter?" He probably doesn't know this simple suggestion made such an impact (maybe now as he reads this article) but ever since, I have become very analytical in all of my decision making processes. A new world was opened; it wasn't what do I want to do when I grow up, but what things do I want to do, accomplish, be in my adult life?

I decide what to do by looking at my goals, mission, and abilities that God has given me. Then I try to create opportunities for me to achieve those goals and my mission. Because I work at DC, my mission matches the mission of DC: "To educate students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action." I tell my students, if they find that they no longer agree with the mission of the place of their employment, they should look for new employment.

Teaching students how to be leaders and impact the world is my greatest passion. The vehicle that I use to teach leadership changes based on how it fits in with everything else going on in my life. When I first started teaching, being married without kids, gave me the flexibility of time where I could do technical theater at night and on weekends. So for 7 years, I was heavily involved with all things Tech here at DC. When my wife and I had kids, that flexibility decreased, and tech no longer became an option. So I stepped into the role of student government advisement along with taking on the science chair responsibilities. I am able to do these things during the day, and can come home every evening and spend time with my family. Once my kids got a little older, I gained some of that flexibility again, and was able to take on another role. I didn't have to create this one; God already had lined up my next role. He had a local school donate an extra robot to our school, and put my name on it. I knew nothing about robotics, but was already looking for a new project and open to anything. Three years later, I am spending my afternoons with both my kids and my students enabling the students to work in teams, and build leadership skills, while playing with robots. On the weekends, I spend time working with the leaders of other area schools helping them build and sustain their robotics programs, helping them impact even more students.

When people ask me how I can keep working at the same place for 15 years, it is easy to answer. There is always something new to do, learn, and be a part of – especially here at DC.



## VEX ROBOTICS COMPETITION PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**February 4, 2012**

Hosted by  
**Delaware County Christian School**  
462 Malin Rd.  
Newtown Square, Pennsylvania



### THE GAME

VEX Gateway is played on a 12'x12' square field. Two alliances - one "red" and one "blue" - composed of two teams each, compete in matches consisting of a twenty-second autonomous period followed by two minutes of driver-controlled play.

The object of the game is to attain a higher score than your opponent Alliance by Scoring Barrels and Balls in Goals, earning Bonus Points and Doubling or Negating Goals.

### INFORMATION:

Register your team online using the following link: <http://robotevents.com/robot-competitions/vex-robotics-competition/pennsylvania-state-championship.html> or simply come and cheer on the teams.

Contact Jim Crane for more details at [jcrane@dccs.org](mailto:jcrane@dccs.org)



# DC 2012 J-Term Experience

Delaware County Christian School seeks to help students identify, understand, and apply their God-given unique design for optimum achievement in order to impact the world through biblical thought and action. J-Term is a unique and creative opportunity for students to explore their gifts, talents, abilities, and passions. It supplements the annual two semesters of traditional education with in-depth, experiential learning in a particular area of interest. This unique opportunity adds to an excellent education at Delaware County Christian School that is truly comprehensive and is designed to assist students' discernment of God's overall plan and purpose for their lives.

Students in grades 9-12 choose from experiences and trips that provide:

1. Stimulating educational experiences beyond the classroom,
2. Service opportunities,
3. Opportunities for students to identify and develop their God-given abilities, passions, and gifts for the sake of God's glory, and
4. Innovative approaches to teaching and learning including outdoor activities, professionals as guest faculty, and intentional partnership with local churches.

J-Term provides a wide-range of opportunities for a high school student at DC to identify and develop their God-given abilities, passions, and gifts for the sake of God's glory. Students exercise their personal resources (talents, academic knowledge, skills, interests, etc.) for the benefit of their community and the Kingdom of God. The experience may influence a career choice, college major or interest in further mission work. It both creates community and takes our community out into the world. J-Term strengthens relationships with faculty, parents, and youth ministry leaders in a setting other than the traditional classroom.

This January's DC J-Term found more than 300 high school students involved in many different experiences. Students chose from over 30 classes which ranged from Screenwriting Basics to Awesome Auditions; from Mentoring Elementary Children in Robotics to Introduction to Medicine and Health Care; from Principles and Problems of Coaching to Worship Leader Workshop; and many more! More than 50 students were involved in Internships while more than 30 students studied abroad in England, France, Israel, and Costa Rica. DC students were also active in mission work in Reading, Chester, and Philadelphia (PA) as well as The Dominican Republic and Mozambique!



*DC students traveled across the state and around the world to serve in mission projects during DC's January 2012 J-Term. Pictured here in front of the church they helped build is the Mozambique Team who were hosted by DC alumni parents (and former faculty) Don and Terri Larson who are currently serving full-time in Mozambique.*

*Working at Jacquette's Bakery in Broomall for her internship, Jessie Edelstein learns how to frost a cupcake. "I really like baking," said the sophomore, "so I wanted to come to this bakery to see if this is what I want to do for my future."*



*Helping his students, Mr. Dan Correia (DC high school science teacher and skilled carpenter and wood craftsman) correctly measures the board so that students David Hoch and Peter Giardinieri cut the wood correctly. Correia spent many hours this fall creating a woodshop with donated equipment in the Upper Campus barn in anticipation of this year's J-Term experience. More than 30 classes were offered during J-Term to enhance a DC high school experience. (Check the web for more highlights!)*



# DC Alumni Association Update

The DC Alumni Association is pleased to announce that Mr. Mark Dixon, Class of 1999, has agreed to serve as the President of the Alumni Association Board. He is excited for this opportunity to serve both DC and its alumni community in a new capacity. Like so many, DC's impact on his life is far-reaching. Having attended DC from Kindergarten through graduation, he is keenly aware of the formative value of a Christian education.

After graduation he earned a B.A. in English Education from Elizabethtown College in 2003 and a M.A. in School Counseling from Eastern University in 2010. Mark and his wife, Cara, have been married for 5 years and have three children: Sammy (5), Sophia (3), and Mariah (4 months). They live in Wayne and attend Church of the Saviour.

"After five years as a teacher and guidance counselor in the public sector, God opened a door for me to return to DC. Psalm 127:1 states, "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." Like anywhere else, DC is comprised of sinful people in need of mercy and grace; however, it is also a community on which God continues to rest his hand of provision.

Once as a student, and now as a laborer at DC, I am daily thankful for the assurance that my labor is not in vain. May He continue to use this school as a training ground for future covenant generations."

In welcoming Mark, we'd like to thank Hans Specht ('87) for his term as the previous Alumni President. He volunteered many hours of his time in this role and will be continuing to serve his fellow alumni by assisting on the Alumni Board.

Mark has a desire to build a vital connection among past and present DC graduates and to keep these alumni connected with their alma mater for future years to come. Please consider getting involved with our association and find out how you can serve by contacting the DC Alumni Office at [alumni@dccs.org](mailto:alumni@dccs.org).



As you might imagine, these humbling mornings have afforded me plenty of time to think. This year, as I knelt in introspection on my three-hundred-and-sixteenth walnut, I stopped for a moment and surveyed several of the other trees in the neighborhood.

To my chagrin, the majority of the trees in my line of vision still possessed all of their midsummer green leaves, as their owners sat comfortably at their kitchen tables sipping coffee, reading the morning paper, not wearing a T-ball helmet. My tree, on the other hand, had already shed the majority of its walnuts and leaves. A few days later, my walnut tree was completely bare. The time for it to bear fruit and shed its leaves came early. It's been ready for winter for a few weeks now.

## Reflections

I have a black walnut tree right outside my backdoor. Just before the Fall season begins each year, this tree sporadically drops large, green walnuts . . . in the yard, on the driveway, and even in the gutters. These walnuts are impervious to conventional yard tools like rakes and leaf blowers.

Thus, on most Saturday mornings in September and October, my neighbors have the pleasure of watching me meander around my own backyard, wearing my son's T-ball helmet for protection, picking up walnuts one-by-one and dropping them into a kiddie pail, normally used to construct sandcastles.

There's another tree that I encounter on a regular basis which has consumed many of my thoughts in recent weeks. It is situated here on campus, right outside the art building. At the foot of the tree there is a plaque which reads:

### *In Memory of Rick Rossi friend, teammate, brother*



Twelve years ago, Rick and I graduated from DC together. We were basketball teammates and good friends. As a sophomore, Rick fought through a year-long battle with Leukemia, which kept him bedridden most of that year. However, he returned to school to repeat his sophomore year and was cancer-free throughout the rest of high school.

Our group of buddies spent countless hours on weekends together, doing what high school students do: hanging at friends' houses, watching sports, or eating huge meals at Denny's at 10 o'clock at night. Rick was a soft-spoken and notably humble guy, uncommonly mature for a teenager.

By May of our senior year, Rick was already looking forward to beginning his college career at Temple University in the Fall. I can vividly remember our senior trip to Virginia Beach with our graduating class. All of our academic requirements fulfilled, we were free to enjoy ourselves until Graduation Day.

During a day-long trip to Busch Gardens, an amusement park in Virginia, Rick asked if we could "wait up" for a few minutes between roller coaster rides. "My back is killing me", he said, as he sat down on a nearby bench. Later that night, a group of us were walking down Main Street, looking for a place to grab dinner, and again Rick stopped, doubled over in pain, and said he thought he needed to head back to the hotel to lay down. A few weeks after graduation, a trip to the doctor revealed the unthinkable: Rick's cancer had returned.

I can remember the surreal ride through West Philadelphia with that same group of buddies, going to visit Rick at Children's Hospital. None of us knew what to say or how to act. What would we say to Rick? What would we say to his folks? Why would God do this? Why now?

I don't recall many details about those visits to Rick's hospital room; we were all pretty numb. But I cannot forget Rick's smile and the inexorable peace that permeated that room for weeks. His doctors were confounded by Rick's joy; to them, the timing of this recent onset represented the pinnacle of tragedy. For Rick, however, there was nothing that could jar his unshakable hope: "I am in a win-win situation", he said. "If I am healed, I win and if I die, I win."

For months after Rick's death, I asked the Lord "Why Rick? Why not me or one of the other guys?" As a parent now myself, I am keenly aware of the prayers that the Rossis prayed for their little boy as he lie in bed each night.

How could they have foreseen or prepared themselves for the path that awaited their family? They couldn't. And I can't. . . . And even when we are confident that our loved ones will spend eternity with Christ, the pain we experience in their absence is palpable. Nonetheless, Christ calls us to trust him, and not to worry; He tells us that tomorrow will worry about itself.

So what am I thankful for? I'm thankful for today. I'm thankful for today. I'm thankful for flat tires and recessions; I'm thankful for dirty diapers and sleepless nights; and I'm thankful that although, right now, we see in a mirror dimly, and cannot help but consider God's ways mere anarchy, soon we will see Him face to face, soon we will understand.

Underneath Rick's name on the plaque at the foot of the tree, Psalm 1:3 is inscribed: "And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of living water which yields its fruit in season."

I am thankful for DC, a community which, year after year, leads students to streams of living water. Rick and I are two of thousands of DC alums rooted in Christ, prepared for the exact course God ordained for us before the foundation of the world. Like the tree in my backyard, none of us knows when we will shed our last leaf. All the more, may I, may we, yield fruit in season.

*Mark Dixon shared these words of reflection in All-School Thanksgiving Chapel on Nov. 22, 2010.*

# DC Reunions



On July 9th, 2011, Tom '76 and Marj '80 Wilcox hosted a "Welcome to the 50's" Reunion Party for **Classes 1974-1977**. Those who attended loved the multi-class reunion as well as the teachers who came. Thanks to the generous hospitality of the Wilcox's, it was fun to reconnect with so many from long ago! Their effort in gathering everyone from far and wide and opening their home was so appreciated. With everyone contributing delicious foods and conversation going well into midnight, the reunion was a success!

# 50





CLASS OF 1986

The Class of 1986 celebrated 25 years since graduating from DC on Saturday, September 17th, 2011 at the Newtown Grill in Newtown Square. A campus tour took place in the afternoon before the dinner. "25 years? We can't be that old! But many of us faced reality when we celebrated our 25th reunion." Could it really have been that long ago! Time had certainly flown as many of them faced reality when they celebrated their 25th reunion. There were 24 classmates along with some spouses, friends and even one child. They had 4 people come in from Texas (Jill Nagel and her daughter, Joy Nagel and Dana Clark). They also had Robb Hall and his wife fly in from Luxemburg. Fun was had by all. It seemed like they picked up exactly where they had left off 25 years earlier. It is amazing how so much time can go by and how quickly they could connect. Time seemed like a blink as the night was soon over. The group all said they want to get together again sooner than another five years. The truth is their lives are busy and 5 years will be here before they know it. The class promises to try to make it happen before they hit the 30 year mark!

The Class of 1991 held their 20th Year Reunion at the Newtown Grille restaurant on November 26, 2011. They had a wonderful time sharing laughs, photos, and high school memories. During dinner, each graduate shared '20 years in 2 minutes': They gained a synopsis of each other's lives since leaving DC. Their peers' experiences were diverse, and very interesting to hear. It was a great night and they look forward to their 25th year celebration!

Those pictured:

Back Row L to R: Andy & Jenny (Landman) Iott, Mike & Cheryl (Scott) Lutz, Chandler Gillespie, Graham Wedeven, Katharine (Traeger) & Juan Lander, Keith Campbell & Liz

Front Row L to R: Marc & Michelle (McWilliams) Zeisloft, Alice Pakhtigian, Kristen (Frank) Bassill, Amber Waters-Porter, Jen (Wickersham) Gaudino



CLASS OF 1991



CLASS OF 2001

The Class of 2001 had their 10 year reunion Nov 25th at Kildares in Manayunk. Over 35 classmates came to the event traveling from as far as Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee and California. During the evening, the class shared memories, looked through old pictures, caught up with old friends and introduced spouses and significant others. Also, everyone signed two cards for our classmates in the military overseas, Daniel Selke and Christopher Rossi, to wish them well and thank them for their service for our country. Everyone left overwhelmed with the blessings God has bestowed upon the class and also is looking forward for the next time we can all get together.

The Class of 2006 celebrated their five-year reunion on November 26, 2011 at the Fox and Hound in King of Prussia. 29 members of the Class of '06 were in attendance, with a total of 35 guests. People came from as far as Texas and Arizona, and a great time was enjoyed by all as everyone caught up on the events of the last five years and reminisced on old memories. We look forward to our 10-year reunion in 2016.



CLASS OF 2006



~ Free Alumni Event ~  
Saturday, January 28, 2012

Live Music Night at Burlap & Bean Coffeehouse  
This evening was a special time of live music including Brad Almond '99, Luke Eccles '01 (Awaking Mercury) & Justin King '99 (Rare Season) along with fabulous student talent performances. It was a great time of fellowship, talent and relaxation by alumni and DC families!

## Alumni Class Notes

Send pictures and updates to **Kim O'Bryan** at [kobryan@dccs.org](mailto:kobryan@dccs.org)

**Greg Maffet '68** works for the Saudi government as an accreditation consultant for the National Commission for Academic Accreditation and Assessment. He has been living in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for two years but his accreditation work takes him all over the world. Recently he volunteered at a Sudanese refugee school in Cairo, Egypt, named African Hope Learning Center by providing educational assistance through workshops for the teachers. Cairo has been most difficult for everyone, especially for the Coptic Christians. Prayer support is needed every day for their safety, health and finances.

**Sgela Cerato Shumsky '74** continues to be the Owner/Operator of Shumsky's Gourmet Bakery in Atlantic City, NJ (25 years now). She is also Operations Manager for the Ralph Lauren Corporation. She and her husband Lee currently reside in Egg Harbor Township, NJ.

**Jonathan Fiet '76** is the Director of Finance-Europe for Trans World Radio. He currently resides in Fuquay-Varina, NC.

Congratulations to **Mark Founds '86** on his new job as VP, Marketing Director at High Point Bank. He and his wife, Kim, currently reside in High Point, North Carolina.

**Dana Clarke '86** spoke at the National Air Medical Transport Conference in St. Louis, MO in October. She is currently employed as a helicopter flight nurse in Houston, TX employed by PHI Air Medical. She is still single (and content!) and live in Dickinson, TX with 3 (very large) cats. "I am truly BLESSED!"



*Hans & Caroline*

**Hans Specht '87** and Caroline Newberry were married on September 2, 2011. Hans is an Operations Coordinator at Turner Investments and Caroline is employed with Siemens Medical Solutions as a project manager. They currently reside in West Chester, PA.



*The Evens Family*

Bill and **Elrena Carlson Evans '96** are delighted to announce the birth of Marielle Faith Evans on May 16th, 2011. Marielle is looking forward to attending DC someday like her siblings - Annika, (6, 2nd grade), Joshua (4, Pre-K), and Zachary (2).

Sarah Jane and **Charles "Kip" Patterson '97** welcomed William Nathaniel on March 23, 2011 at the Portland Hospital in London, England. Captain Patterson serves in the US Army full-time as a Public Affairs officer. They are currently living in Germany.

**Kristine McGuire Koslowsky '98** is an RN for Continuum Pediatric Nursing. She graduated from Messiah College with a BSN in 2002. She and her husband, Stephen, have two children Katie Rai (7/25/09) and Jonah James (8/5/10). They reside in Glen Burnie, MD.

Justin and **Rebekah (Miller) Zenn '00** are proud to announce the arrival of Calen Alexander Zenn, born May 19, 2011. He joins older brothers Luke, 3, and Jackson, 2.



*Calen Zenn*



*Kristen & Charles*

**Kristen Blanco '02** and Charles Puma were married on September 4, 2011 at Town Creek Marina in Beaufort, NC. **Lori Wilfong '02** served as her Maid of Honor. They currently reside in El Mirage, Arizona.

**Andrew Wasuwongse '02** has begun an M.A. degree in International Economics and Southeast Asia Studies at The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C.

**David Juliano '03** is working on his Ed.M. in Educational Leadership at Immaculata University. He is a Social Studies teacher at Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School. He currently resides in West Chester, PA.

**Brooke and Jeff Smyth '05** announce the birth of Charlotte Ruth born on December 11, 2011.



*Charlotte Ruth*



*Karli & Tim*

*Meghan & Nick*

Karli and **Tim Freeman '06** were married on July 3, 2011 in Florida. They are currently living in South Carolina and Tim is working on his Ph.D. at Clemson University in Mechanical Engineering.

Nick and **Meghan (Collins) Comiskey '06** were married on May 13, 2011 at Cairnwood Estate in Bryn Athyn, PA They both graduated from Grove City College in 2009. They currently reside in the Kansas City metro area.



*Abbey & Ben*

**Abbey Ellsworth '07** and **Ben Leaman '07** were married on July 9, 2011. Ben is a videographer for American Bible Society and Abbey is employed by the Salvation Army as the Executive Assistant. They currently reside in Malvern, PA.

**Mary Adams Patrick '58** went to be with our Lord on 10/20/2011.

## Alumni Spotlight

### Pete Ware '95

At California University of Pennsylvania, Pete Ware is a pastor involved in the ministry of college students. As a Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) staff worker, Pete is recognized as a spiritual leader on campus. He has been often called on by the Cal U administration to address the student body during times of tragedy, in instances such as an off-campus shooting and a student's suicide.

Pete works closely with student leaders, training them to reach out to their peers and to lead effective Bible studies and discipleship groups. Students of all races and backgrounds are following Pete's example. He is expressing the hands of Christ by loving his students in spreading his contagious faith to them.

In 2010, Pete was named California University's "Mr. Unity," a title presented each year to an outstanding male figure that consistently promotes unity across campus and is an active participant of the Black Student Union. "One of my mantras, which I got from my own campus minister, is 'invest in a few to reach the many,'" says Pete. "I repeat that to my student leaders all the time. As I spend time with students, my goal is to model for them how to invest in others. Whether we are studying the Bible together or shopping for ice cream for Milkshake Night, it's all about building relationships that show God's love and what it means to live faithfully." Alumnus Pete Ware is impacting the world through Biblical thought and action by transforming college students to transform the world.



# Homecoming 2011



Homecoming 2011

On October 21, festivities began Friday night with a student lead Girls Powder Puff Football Game. The game was followed by a bonfire where Coach Davis challenged the students to be CHAMPIONS 4 CHRIST!

It was a great day here at DC on Saturday for our annual Fall Sports Day. The campus was buzzing early as members of the Athletic Department, Maintenance Staff, Alumni Association, and DC Booster Club were decorating and setting up for the big day. Up went banners, senior posters, and balloons that brought life to the campus. It was setting up to be a great day! Soon the moon bounce was busy and our DC student artists were assisting the kids in spin art, tattoos, cookie decorating and face-painting under the Alumni Tent.

The day got started with our girls' sports all playing well and having fun. The smell of Booster Club burgers was in the air, and our field hockey and soccer teams were scoring goals. JV & Varsity Field Hockey both won their games over Wilmington Christian and the Girls Varsity Soccer team defeated Lower Moreland. The JV Boys Soccer team lost a tight one with Harriton High School and the Varsity game was even tighter. The stands were packed, the wall was lined with fans, and our guys were battling a tough Harriton team 0-0 at the end of regulation. Just a few minutes into overtime, a Harriton free kick slammed off the cross bar and was deflected into the goal. Our Knights played so well all day long, DC is very proud to have such wonderful student athletes giving such tremendous effort. The night concluded over at Marple Newtown H.S. as our Knights Football Team took their undefeated record

up against a big and tough New Hope-Solebury squad. After New Hope took a 10 point lead, the Knights rallied to win 27-17. The crowd was going crazy all night long.

Thank you to the many hands that made the day possible and thank you to all the fans that came out in support of the DC Knights. Praise the Lord for our seniors who each had a special moment with parents praising and thanking God for His many blessings.

# Calendar Highlights

## JANUARY

- 21 Winter Sports Day
- 25 Open House
- 28 DC Wrestling Tournament
- 28 Camp Teekna Family Night
- 28 Alumni Coffee House

## FEBRUARY

- 4 Robotics Tournament
- 22 Open House
- 22 Elementary Early Childhood Coffee
- 24-25 MS Play "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz"

## MARCH

- 1 Recommitment Society Meeting
- 9-10 DC Players Drama Production
- 13 Open House
- 22 Prayer & Praise Evening
- 24 Camp Teekna Open House & Egg Hunt
- 30 All-School Easter Chapel

## APRIL

- 12 ES Band Concert
- 15 Open House
- 20 ES Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day
- 21 Spring Sports Day
- 23 ES Art Show
- 24 MS & HS Band Concert
- 28 Senior Drama Show

## MAY

- 1 5th Grade Musical
- 3 National Day of Prayer
- 4 The "Junior/Senior"
- 8 MS Art Show & Choral Concert
- 9 ES Field Day
- 12 Family Auction Day
- 14 Alumni Chapel
- 24 HS Art Show & Choral Concert
- 25 Senior Chapel

## JUNE

- 6 5th Grade Recognition Service
- 8 Class of 2012 Commencement
- 18 Camp Teekna Opens

  
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