I will never forget my final high school race. My coach asked me to run a leg of the 4 x 800 relay, an event I seldom ran. The race was a qualifying event so I knew we had to excel to advance to the next round. The other three members of the relay were my best friends. I did not want to let them down. I was scared to death. I really don’t remember much about running the two laps of that race, but I do remember hearing the encouragement of my teammates as I rounded each curve. When I finished my leg, I remember cheering from the infield for our anchor as he rounded the track two times and crossed the finish line.

The memory of that race reminds me of my time as Interim Head of School. In January of 2018, I was asked by the Board of Trustees to accept the baton from Tim Wiens and run the next leg of the race. The very physical presence of the office reminded me of my predecessors whom I greatly admired, respected, and loved. I am continually reminded of their godly example of praying and committing their work to the Lord for His sovereign rule and blessing. Those memories have been my personal “witnesses of faith” much like those described by the Apostle Paul in Hebrews 13.

My term as Interim will end on June 30 and I will pass the gold baton (I actually have one ready in my office) to Dan Steinfield as he assumes the Head of School role. I have known Dan for many years but more recently have appreciated his heart and passion for the Lord and Christian Education. As we have talked on a very regular basis this spring, I can attest to his “heart” for the ministry of this school to be its very, very best. As heads of school, we each bring our own personalities and opinions to the plate; God, however, gives us that love for him and for his people through which the ministry moves forward with his blessing.

Our desire is, as the Apostle Paul reminds us, to “press toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heaven-ward in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14

On June 30, I will be cheering and praying for God’s continued blessing on DC as I pass the baton to Dan as he assumes his leg of the race as our next Head of School. Join me in praying for Dan as he presses forward to advance the mission of Delaware County Christian School.
CONGRATULATIONS

THE CLASS OF 2019

CONGRATULATIONS
2019 COMMENCEMENT WELCOME
AND INTRODUCTION

“Welcome to the 62nd Commencement of Delaware County Christian School. We magnify the Lord tonight as we celebrate his love and faithfulness to these His children, to each family represented here tonight, and to an academic institution committed to educating students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action.

This evening’s celebration represents 71 unique journeys, 71 distinct stories, and yet, it also represents ONE collective story of students, of families, of devoted educators. A story both written and governed by the Good Shepherd.

On the long road to a milestone of this magnitude, there have been many points of triumph and success; accordingly, there have also been moments, days, and sometimes weeks of pressure, worry, and toil. Nonetheless, our graduates today can say with the apostle Paul that “we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that our suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.” It is in that hope and with gratitude to God that we turn our attention to the Class of 2019.”

–Mr. Mark T. Dixon, Head of Upper School

In·flu·ence

/ˈɪnfləʊns/
Noun
The capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself.

As we celebrate the Class of 2019, we asked a number of seniors to share stories of a faculty member who influenced them for good.

From pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, we are grateful to the men and women who heed the calling to teach, coach, mentor, and pray for DC students. Their high level of spiritual maturity and commitment to DC’s mission demonstrate, as in the words of DC’s first Headmaster Dr. Roy Lowrie, Jr., DC teachers are indeed “our gold in the bank.”
In the last 12 years, I attended nine schools which gave me the opportunity to observe and interact with dozens of teachers. My experience with Mr. Pulliam goes entirely unparalleled. He undoubtedly is the best teacher I encountered. I know he genuinely cares about me as a person, and does not focus solely on my academic performance. He takes a genuine interest in my growth as both a chemist and a Christian. Early in my life I was convinced I wanted to be a doctor. However, through Mr. Pulliam’s teaching I discovered I was not as interested in medicine as the chemistry behind medicine. During my senior AP Chemistry course my bond with Mr. Pulliam grew stronger, so much so I consider him a father-figure in my life and a mentor in my work with science. Through his genuine interest in me, countless laughs, and devotion to his field, Mr. Pulliam allowed me to discover my passion in life.

As a result of his loving guidance, I have been inspired to pursue a future in science education.

REBECCA HARRIS ’19 - MRS. LINDA UNGER

From the minute I walked into Mrs. Unger’s class, I was inspired to see the world from a different point of view. I was challenged to incorporate art into everything I do. She encouraged me to stretch my abilities (even when I failed) and to continually improve both my art skills and myself.

Mrs. Unger also taught me about trusting God and the power of prayer. Whether she is trying to find a set of keys or is overcoming illness, prayer is a constant in her life.

The skills she taught me reach far beyond art and will stay with me for the rest of my life.
I have known Mr. Fenley since the sixth grade and was fortunate to have him as my math teacher for all three years of middle school. Mr. Fenley pushed us as students to do our best, providing encouragement every step of the way. With his help, my math placement improved, enabling me to go from the low math track to taking calculus as a senior. He became even more of a mentor and role model to me once I started playing football. Coach Fenley always encouraged his players toward greatness on and off the field. He stressed the importance of being a good neighbor to others, treating others with respect and kindness.

I am thankful for the many valuable life lessons he taught me – making me into the person I am today with a desire to become a more godly man – just like him.

I first met Mrs. Courtright in my sophomore year theatre class. My initial concerns about the “new” theatre teacher proved to be unnecessary. In fact, I think Mrs. Courtright was one of the best teachers I encountered during my time at DC. She has really won the love and respect of her students! As an international student, my first year was a difficult one. I was struggling on how and where to fit in at DC. Through her encouragement, Mrs. Courtright gave me a sense of community and a fresh view of theatre. She helped me feel valued and put me at ease. As a result, I grew in confidence and was no longer afraid to become more involved in DC’s theatre program. I participated in DC Players and musicals and have even written two scripts.

Because of Mrs. Courtright, I have decided to study playwriting in college. Without her, I would not be who I am today.
JANAE JOHNS '19 - MR. LLOYD HILL

I have known and trained with Coach Hill since the sixth grade. He has been a very patient, kind, and understanding figure in my life during the past six years. Coach Hill taught me many important life lessons in and out of the discus ring that I can now take with me into the next chapter of my life. It is because of his investment in me that I achieved all the medals, goals, and milestones throughout my throwing career at DC. It makes me sad to know this is the last time I will be coached by such an encouraging spirit who pushed me further into all the areas of my success.

I’m so very grateful and appreciative of all the ways he impacted me. He will always be someone I look up to and strive to be like someday.

CALEB GONEAU ’19 - MR. RIC ELLIOTT

Mr. Elliott has been my mentor and friend for over four years. His teaching is straightforward and has provided me with opportunities to learn through doing. Of course, with hands-on learning, I make plenty of mistakes along the way. But when I do, he corrects in a way that does not feel critical. He is a fantastic leader and instructor. He is also humble enough to deny everything I am saying about him. In stressful situations, Mr. Elliott’s levelheadedness is a calming constant. His steadfastness reminds me that in the end, no matter what may go wrong, nothing will affect our status in heaven. His down to earth, practical advice (as opposed to lofty goals that would be nice to achieve one day) provides me with guidance here and now. He is a man I can converse with easily and come away feeling like the time spent talking was productive and valuable.

Mr. Elliott is a teacher who has influenced me greatly in so many ways. I am a better person for knowing him.
THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2019

EARNED SCHOLARSHIP AT COLLEGE OF CHOICE - $2,028,970

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GRADUATING SENIORS WHO HAVE ATTENDED DC SINCE PRE-K, KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE

Jacob Stevenson Bronkema
Johanna Suzanne FitzGerald
Joshua Daniel Gifford
Peter Nathaniel Grieb
Lauren Elizabeth Hackett
Benjamin David Halladay
Jacob Irving Halladay
Joshua Michael Halliday
Linda May Hansen
Amanda Grace Heacock
Janie Victoria Johns
Grant Winfield Kemph
Rekabah Faith Lange
Etan Joshua Madison
Jason Matthew Motley
Laura Danielle Myers
Daphne Grace Neal
Katharina Rose Powska
Tyler Anthony Rossin
Luke Timothy Rowe
Luke David Snyder
Jared Houston Sulphin
Nathaniel Vaughan Tunton
Shekina Faith Vergara Yanes

SECOND GENERATION GRADUATES

Caleb Simpson Gromeau
Peter Nathaniel Grieb
Amanda Grace Heacock
Laura Danielle Myers

STUDENT LEADERS

Hannah Lee Mastar - Administrative Prefect
David Evan Miller - Development Prefect
Hannah Marie Meineckert - Athletics Prefect
Ethan Yelin Cal - Admissions Prefect
Jason Matthew Motley - Student Life Prefect
Ryan Seaton Schoefner - Fine Arts Prefect
Yousaf (Soren) Shao - International Prefect
Jude Baoersn Giehler - President

Johanna Suzanne FitzGerald - Member
Daphne Grace Neal - Member
Autumn Rochester-Chasten - Member

2019 VALEDTORIAN

Ethan Yelin Cal

2019 SALUTATORIAN

Monica Lynn Lebardi
Art in Bloom – Spring Shows
Highlight Student Instruction from Grades Pre-K to 12

DC’s comprehensive and sequential art programs are showcased each spring at the Lower, Middle, and Upper School Art Shows. From our earliest learners through soon to be graduates, students explore and develop skills through instruction in a wide variety of mediums. The SAIL (Schools for Applied and Integrated Learning) program provides additional visual art opportunities for upper school students including digital photography, printmaking, easel painting, found objects metal sculpture, and graphic design.

The Arts

Ethan Madison ’19, Oil
HELLO, DOLLY! SHINES BRIGHT AT 2019 CAPPIES GALA AWARDS CEREMONY

It was an evening to shine for DC’s Theatre Program at the 2019 Cappies Gala Awards Ceremony held May 19 at Unionville High School. The cast and crew of the school’s recent production of Hello, Dolly! entered the evening’s event with an impressive eight nominations including Best Musical. At the close of the gala, DC received three awards: Best Female Vocalist, Best Set, and Best Stage Crew. This was a fantastic showing for DC as the highly competitive field of nominees included a total of thirty-three public and independent schools from the Greater Philadelphia Area. Senior Jordan Thompson was named Best Female Vocalist for her performance of Dolly Levi. This award was a three-peat for Jordan who has received this honor for the third year running. In 2017, she was recognized for her role as Ursula in The Little Mermaid and again in 2018 for her role as Marmee in Little Women.

DC’s Stage and Tech crew were also repeat nominees in 2019. Technical Director Mr. Ric Elliott has a dedicated group of students who commit annually to labor diligently behind the scenes. Their strong work ethic and attention to detail contribute greatly to the overall success of DC’s productions. It was wonderful to see this group’s efforts be rewarded again this year.

Hello, Dolly! was produced and directed by third year Theatre teacher Mrs. Molly Courtright. She notes that each member of the ensemble, from cast to tech crew, Red Team, and orchestra, worked hard to bring this classic Broadway show to life on the DC stage. Congratulations cast and crew for shining brightly and for honoring God with your gifts and talents!
ON STAGE AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Freshman Benjamin Favino took to the stage in Opera Philadelphia’s recent production of Puccini’s LaBohème. The five performance run at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia took place over the end of April and early May. Ben is looking forward to touring Italy this summer with the Philadelphia Boys Choir.

DC STUDENTS REPRESENT IN REGIONAL CHOIRS

A growing number of DC students are building on their choral training under Ms. Diane Clark and Mrs. Renee Bussey by participating in well-known regional choirs. A total of eight boys sang this year with the Philadelphia Boys Choir: Teagan Ellis, Paxton Ellis, Billy Sterious, Alex Sterious, Phillip King, Buddy Sorge, Luke Anderson, and Ben Favino.

Liping Au, Rebecca Morgan, Emily Chung, Emma Carrington, and Mackenzie Van Eerden are members of the Philadelphia Girls Choir. Members of the Pennsylvania Girl Choir include Anna Sterious, Stephanie Moonhtach, and Maya Collins.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & CONCERT BANDS COMPETE WITH SUCCESS

Mrs. Mandy Limpert returned as DC’s Band Director in January and quickly began working with members of the Middle School and Concert Bands to prepare for spring performances and adjudications. The Concert Band participated in the Music in the Parks Festival at Busch Gardens on April 12-13. Their superior scores earned them a first place finish in Class A and the distinction of Best Overall Concert Band across all divisions. The Middle School Band participated in the ACSI Fine Arts Festival held at Messiah College on May 23. They also received a superior rating and first place honors. This year’s Spring Band Concert was a memorable evening of beautiful music showcasing the efforts of our bands and instrumental ensembles. A highlight of the concert was a combined performance of “Theme from the Avengers” – a popular selection for both the performers and the audience.

“I SING BECAUSE” CHORAL FESTIVAL

DC’s 72 member Concert Choir recently took part in a choral workshop and festival sponsored by Temple University. DC was one of several choirs participating in the event spearheaded by Temple faculty members Dr. Rollo Dilworth and Dr. Christine Bass. All of the participating choirs performed Dilworth’s arrangement of “I Sing Because” which the Concert Choir performed again at their spring concert. Mrs. Bussey and the choir members were grateful for the opportunity to receive valuable instruction and input from Drs. Dilworth and Bass during this special choral workshop.

FOTA ARTS RECOGNITION NIGHT

The fifth annual Arts Recognition Night was held at the Upper Campus on Saturday, May 11. Organized by DC’s Friends of the Arts (FOTA), this event celebrates the accomplishments of our visual arts, theatre, choral, and instrumental students. As the newly appointed Upper School Arts Prefect, junior Brendan Tuttle took on a large role in planning the programming portion of the event. He notes, “Arts Recognition Night is an awesome opportunity for students to come out with their families and be recognized along with other students for their participation and achievements in the Arts. In helping to plan the event this year, Mrs. Courtright and I added a comedic flare by having students in Choir, Band, or Art introduce the awards for their respective divisions with a lighthearted “Oscar-esque” bit about the ins and outs of being a student of the Arts.”
Winter & Spring Athletics

ATHLETIC AWARDS – ALL LEAGUE, DISTRICT, AND STATE

WINNER OF THE 2019 ANNE BERKE AWARD
Monica Lebaudy

WINNER OF THE 2019 GEORGE HUSMANN AWARD
Janae Johns, Erin Mulholland, Nathaniel Tutton

BOYS BASKETBALL
BAL 1st Team Presidents Division
JACKSON PIOTROWSKI

BAL 2nd Team Presidents Division
OBINNA NWOBODO, JACOB BRONKEMA

BAL Honorable Mention Presidents Division
TYLER ROSSINI

PIAA Class 2-A All State Second Team
JACKSON PIOTROWSKI

GIRLS BASKETBALL
BAL 2nd Team
MONICA LEBAUDY

GIRLS LACROSSE
BAL 1st Team
MONICA LEBAUDY, JOHANNA FITZGERALD

BAL Honorable Mention
MIKAELA GH

BASEBALL
BAL 1st Team
ROBERT LUCAS, TYLER ROSSINI

BAL 2nd Team
JEREMIAH CHOW, COLE LEVIS, BRETT TANIS

BAL Honorable Mention
BEN IOTT

TRACK & FIELD
BAL 1st Team
CHERITH GARNER, ALEXANDRA SOLAND, BROOKE VAN EERDEN, MAGGIE KIM – Girls 4x100m Relay
KATIE POWALA, BROOKE VAN EERDEN, ELLA HINES, ALEXANDRA SOLAND – Girls 4x400m Relay
ALEXANDRA SOLAND – Girls 200m and 400m
ELL A HINES – Girls 800m and 3200m
JOSIAH BRONKEMA – High Jump
DANTE FALASCO – 200m

BAL 2nd Team
MAGGIE KIM – 100m
KATIE POWALA – 300m Hurdles
JANAE JOHNS – Discus

BAL Honorable Mention
BETHANY JACOX – 3200m

All Delco – American Division
DANTE FALASCO – 200m First Place
JOSIAH BRONKEMA – High Jump Third Place

District 1 – 2A Qualifiers
CHERITH GARNER – 4x100m
ELL A HINES – 1600m, 1600m, 4x400m
BETHANY JACOX – 1600m, 3200m
JANAE JOHNS – Discus
MAGGIE KIM – 100m, 200m, 4x100m, 4x400m
KATIE POWALA – 300m Hurdles
ALEXANDRA SOLAND – 100m, 200m, 4x100m, 4x400m
BROOKE VAN EERDEN – 4x100m, 4x400m
JOSIAH BRONKEMA – 4x100m, High Jump
LINUS COOK – 100m, 4x100m, Long Jump
DANTE FALASCO – 200m
JOHN FINNE L – 4x100m, Javelin
ZANE HOB AUGH – 110m Hurdles
MICAH METRICARTI – 300m, 200m, 400m
DAVID PALOMINO – 4x100m, 4x400m

PIAA Class 2A State Qualifiers
DANTE FALASCO – 200m
KATIE POWALA – 300m Hurdles
CHERITH GARNER, MAGGIE KIM, ALEXANDRA SOLAND, BROOKE VAN EERDEN – 4x100m Relay

Winter & Spring Athletics

Pictured (L-R): John Finnell, David Palomino
ATHLETICS

TACKLE IS BACK

EIGHT-MAN FOOTBALL

Following a one season hiatus, tackle football will be BACK at DC for the 2019-2020 school year! DC will be joining the newly formed KSFL (Keystone State Eight-Man Football League) and along with Parkmen School, Valley Forge Military Academy, and Mercersburg Academy, will bring a concept of football to PA that many other small schools across the country have been moving towards over the past several years.

Eight-man football shares the same rules, procedures, and structure as the traditional 11-man football, with a few minor differences. Typically, an eight-man formation eliminates two offensive tackles and a skill player on offense and two defensive backs and a defensive lineman on the defense. The game is quicker, with higher scores bringing added excitement for casual and die-hard fans alike. Why the move to an eight-man formation? Many smaller schools who value what football offers athletes and school culture as a whole are taking a closer look at this type of program. Due to a number of challenging circumstances, the difficult decision was made late last summer to place DC’s ten-year-old football program on hold. From a sustainability vantage point, the eight-man formation gives smaller schools some latitude in numbers and the physical size of linemen. Since football has become a big part of DC’s schoolwide culture, a move to the eight-man program is a win/win, led by Head Coach Lloyd Hill, the committed coaching staff from our 11 man program is on board and is already hard at work planning for the 2019 season. The team has over twenty players committed to play next season and have begun pre-season workouts and mini-camps. Be sure to check the Athletics Page on DC’s website in August for more details on the program and the 2019 game schedule.

VARSITY BOYS BASEBALL

The Varsity Boys Baseball team had an excellent season, finishing with an 11-1 regular season record and a BIAS Constitution division title. The team also made a District playoff run, making it to the title game before losing to Faith Christian 4-3 in extra innings. That final loss was the second in as many years to a bitter rival, making this year’s result very difficult for DC’s loyal fans. However, the future of the team remains bright with several of the team’s top performers returning and an influx of quality freshmen adding to an already talented group.

VARSITY GALS LACROSSE

DC’s Varsity Girls LAX team showed themselves to be gritty, competitive, fighters who demonstrated a great work ethic and always played hard. Even with the limited number of players on the team this season, this group was able to be competitive in several games including wins against Academy Park and Collegium Charter. The girls maintained a high level of commitment to the team and built confidence in each other. Despite being their first season in the competitive Philadelphia Catholic League, the team finished the season only one spot away from a playoff berth. The best part of the season was seeing both schools create a relationship with each other that they will have for a lifetime.

VARSITY GALS SOFTBALL

DC’s Varsity Girls Softball team is well on its way to rebuilding, having completed a successful season with a 9-7 record and a berth in the District 3AA playoffs. Despite a loss in the first round of Districts, these Lady Knights showed an incredible competitiveness and joy for the game that carried them through the toughest parts of their season. The season was a season of comebacks. Multiple times the girls rallied from behind to either win or lose by a single run.

VARSITY BOYS LACROSSE

DC’s Varsity Boys Lacrosse players formed a joint team with nearby Devon Prep again this year. The team included many new faces this season with a majority of freshmen and sophomores rounding out the team roster. There were many roles to fill from having 12 seniors last season, opening up a window of opportunity for many of these underclassmen. The team found a way to grow together quickly and build confidence in each other. Despite this being their first season in the competitive Philadelphia Catholic League, the team finished the season only one spot away from a playoff berth. The best part of the season was seeing both schools create a relationship with each other that they will have for a lifetime.

VARSITY TRACK & FIELD

This year’s girls’ team worked hard from the start of the season and were rewarded with a fourth place finish at BIAA’s from a field of nine teams. Our girls demonstrated depth and performance in all categories – sprints, hurdles, long distance, and field events. At the PIAA District 1-AA Championships, senior Katie Powala took gold in the 300 hurdles and sprinters Cherith Garner, Alexandra Soland, Béatrice VanEerden, and Maggie Kim won the gold in the 4x100m relay. As a result, these five advanced to the PIAA State Tournament. The boys team also saw tremendous growth across a variety of events. With up and coming long distance runners and consistent performance in field events, the team was also sparked by junior sprinter Dante Falasco who was an inspiration to the team as he battled through the season with a painful injury that will require surgery this summer. Dante earned gold in the 200m at both the Delco Championships and at Districts and qualified for semi-finals at States.
Two In A Row For District Title

With a 13-9 regular season record, the varsity boys basketball team set their sights on a successful postseason run to a repeat District Championship title and the PIAA State Tournament. DC faced Valley Forge Military in round one of district play. VFMA was confident having defeated our Knights 61-53 in their earlier season match up. However, DC showed great focus on defense and held Valley Forge to 48 points in a 68-48 romp of the visiting Cadets.

A second round matchup against Church Farm presented our Knights with yet another revenge game, having lost to the Griffins 48-33 in an early-season contest. This time the Knights had the district title on their minds. The Griffins jumped out of the gate shooting an impressive 10 for thirteen in the first quarter of play. Despite the Griffins’ early success, the Knights battled and kept up with the fast pace of their opponent. With the clock running down, it was too close to call as neither team could gain an edge. The back and forth scoring of both teams continued until the final seconds. Two free throws put DC ahead and forced the Griffins to launch a desperation shot to potentially win the game. The ball clanked off the rim and the Knights secured the rebound which left the score 54-52 in the Knights’ favor. As the final buzzer sounded, the Knights stormed the court and the celebration began for the back to back district champs.

The Knights were successful in round one of the PIAA State Tournament, defeating Strawberry Mansion 56 to 47. Unfortunately, DC’s run came to an end in a twelve point shortfall against Holy Cross in the second round of states. Although disappointed, the team’s future looks bright in the coming years. With a strong feeder program and a significant number of returning players, the team hopes to capitalize on this year’s experience in post season play to come out even stronger in 2019-2020.

Q&A

Tell us about your journey with Christian education.

My mother was a career Guidance Counselor with over 25 years’ experience, and I knew early on I wanted to be a teacher or work in an educational setting. Messiah College was my first experience with Christian education and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to study through the lens of a biblical worldview. About a year after graduating from Messiah College, the opportunity opened to join Delaware County Christian School as a middle school history teacher. I accepted the call to join the DC community, thinking it would be a short term experience. But once I experienced a distinctively Christian education at DC, I was hooked for life! The ability to approach academics, athletics, the fine arts, and all co-curriculars through scriptural truth brings a level of depth and meaning to the learning experience that is void elsewhere. Colossians 1 reminds us, “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” Now, with over 22 years experience in Christian education, I am more passionate than ever about the opportunity to instruct students from a biblical worldview, grounded on the truth of God’s Word.

Welcome Dan Steinfield

July 1, 2019 marks a new chapter in DC’s history as Dan becomes the fifth head of school.

His appointment coincides with Delaware County Christian School’s 70th year of exemplary Christian Education.

We recently asked Dan a number of questions which we hope will provide some insight on his view of leadership, the value of Christian education, and the future of Delaware County Christian School.

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Over the course of your career, what have you come to value most about Christian education?

There are countless benefits to a Christian education, but the first three ideas that come to mind include the centrality of the Word, an education marked by excellence sola gloria, and a community of lifelong learners. The most significant distinguishing quality of a Christian school is that it is rooted in Christ and a biblical worldview. A biblical worldview must pervade every aspect of the school community, with God’s revealed truth speaking to every subject, activity, sport, and experience in the life of the school. Additionally, having faculty members who are qualified, spiritually mature, and who view their vocation as a calling are “the gold in the bank” in any Christian school.

Secondly, Christian schools must be marked by excellence in curricular and co-curricular activities, to the glory of God. Each activity is an opportunity to live our lives in worship to our God and to offer to Him our best. Ephesians 2:10 tells us each student is God’s workmanship and He has prepared work for them to do. Christian schools are entrusted with God’s craftsmanship. We endeavor to help students understand and apply their God-given gifts and talents, and in so doing, we strive for excellence.

Finally, Christian schools are lifelong learning communities. The school cultivates a culture of learning in which critical, creative thinking is modeled and students and teachers continually seek to be lifelong learners, willing to take risks and experiment with new ideas and techniques. These learning communities are distinguished in their partnerships. Christian schools should seek to partner with parents in their primary calling to raise children. Christian schools seek to cultivate church partnerships and serve and support local church bodies in the community. Christian schools should engage the world around them and students should be encouraged to use what they are learning in service to the community. We live in a global society and opportunities for spiritual development for both young and old. I enjoy finding “platforms” for people to share their gifts and talents and to always pause and ask, “Why and for whose glory?”

What are some lessons you have learned through your journey in Christian education?

These leadership lessons were taught to me by some great mentors in my life and have proven true time and time again in my leadership journey. First, shepherd and love people through any and all situations. Ken Tanis (Headmaster Emeritus 2002-2018) taught me leadership begins with servanthood. Always make time for people; projects, to do lists, buildings, and programs come second and never at the expense of people. It has been said, “leadership is not about getting things done. It is about getting things done for other people.” Secondly, build God’s kingdom; not your personal kingdom/brand or your school’s kingdom/brand. You will get pressure from your leadership to deliver. You will put pressure on yourself to deliver. You will get pressure to deliver from those you are leading. It is of utmost importance to lead with integrity and to always pause and ask, “Why and for whose glory?” Christian education is ministry; we are about building the kingdom in the Greater Philadelphia area and beyond. Third, vision is an invitation to invest in a preferred future. People own what they create. Empower others around you to lead in areas they are passionate about. This means things won’t always be done on your timetable, and you will at times have the responsibility of cleaning up some messes. But nothing is more rewarding for a high level leader than to empower others to lead.

What are you looking forward to most about returning to DC?

My family and I are very excited to answer God’s calling in our lives to return to DC. Having spent 16 years in the ministry of Christian education (1997-2013) at DC, it became our family and our home. Our two children were born and grew up in the DC community. As such, my family is excited to return to a community with so many friends and wonderful memories. We look forward to being a part of the rich culture, heritage, and traditions found at DC. I, myself, am a product of the DC community and countless individuals who poured into my life to shape the leader I am today. In the past six years, the Lord used wonderful experiences to further shape and develop my leadership skill set. Personally, I am most excited to return to a community which has given so much to me and my family and now be in a position to serve, to give back, and to be part of a team who God will use to move DC into the next exciting season of growth and innovation.

Fast forward to 2025 and beyond. How do you envision DC at that time?

In five or ten years, envision DC as a flourishing school centered on its mission to educate students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action. A school rooted in Christ and pursuing excellence sola gloria. This will be accomplished first and foremost by God’s blessing and leading of DC as we humbly walk in Him. As stewards of this ministry, we will prayerfully and strategically plan to move forward in our commitment to excellence. This will also be accomplished with a core belief in the significant role of innovation in Christian education. The educational landscape is changing at a rapid pace. Christian schools which not only survive, but thrive in today’s culture will be schools that embrace innovation and are educational leaders in their communities and beyond. The greatest sources of innovation are our faculty and staff. Cultivating a culture of collaboration, innovation, and risk taking combined with empowering faculty and staff to lead is the mark of a flourishing school. As I begin my tenure as Head of School in July, we will work together as a community to build a strategic plan to accomplish this vision. And as we do so, we look forward eagerly with anticipation for how God will work in and through us in the months and years ahead!
RECIPIENTS FOR 2018-19 HEBREWS 10 AWARD

Meggan Arnold – Upper School Spanish

Meggan Arnold is completing her third year of teaching Spanish in the Upper School, while also leading the very successful DC Mock Trial team, and assisting with middle school cross-country and softball.

Through the classroom, the courtroom, and the field, she gets to see many sides of students not apparent in a singular context. One colleague says of Meggan, “She loves being at DC and embodies the school well. She is an innovative teacher who develops new ways of teaching concepts to her students while still holding them to a high standard of learning.” Additionally, Meggan’s leadership of Mock Trial has been superb. You may see a tear of pride enter her eye as she talks about the team’s hard work, strong performance, and supportive camaraderie. She fosters great relationships with students who often congregate in her classroom before and after school, and at other “down” times.

One colleague observes, “Meggan goes above and beyond with her students and investing in their lives. She pours into her students spiritually, truly caring for their hearts, and supports them at school events.” Meggan co-led a trip to Spain last year and a Spanish and Biology trip to Costa Rica during this year’s Spring Break. She was thrilled to see her students’ Spanish language skills and confidence grow through these opportunities and is already working on ideas for another overseas adventure. Meggan’s students are not the only ones being impacted by her care and dedication. Fellow teachers also take note: “Meggan is such an inspiration in how she is constantly someone who will cover your class, help you plan, and give you a word of encouragement while staying on top of her full course load. She consistently goes above and beyond and truly models the core values in support of DC. To sum it up in the words of another colleague, “Meggan excudes enthusiasm for everything she does. She loves her students, her subject, and all of the extracurricular activities that she takes part in for DC. Her support of DC in so many ways is exemplary.” We are grateful for the widespread impact Meggan makes in our school community.

Emilia Lee – Lower School Librarian, Media Specialist & Instructional Technology

God called Emilia Lee to DC in 2016. She currently holds multiple titles: Librarian, Media Specialist, and Instructional Technology.

Emilia says, “Christ-centered education is what led me to DC.” She eagerly joined the DC community to teach in the field she loves and “to speak to my students about how everything we do and say is all done to glorify God and Him alone.” Emilia has successfully increased the use of technology throughout the Lower School. She provides professional support for teachers enabling all to grow in their proficiency of using technology and software as a teaching tool. Additionally, students are introduced to digital citizenship and the use of Google Suites as they create and collaborate on projects. Students in grades 3-5 are learning coding in their weekly “makerspace” sessions. The library is a hub for students who need to conduct research, select a new book or practice their typing skills. It is a warm and inviting space which contributes to the overall learning environment in the Lower School. A colleague notes “Emilia has an encouraging spirit and a desire to help others feel and know that God cares for them. She is a skilled teacher and helps the students to grow academically. She demonstrates patience and kindness on a daily basis to students, administrators, parents and colleagues.” Another co-worker shares “Emilia goes above and beyond her duties at DC. She constantly helps other teachers, taking duties, being an encourage- ment, and always having the best attitude. She constantly points students to love and obey the Lord. Her positivity, work ethic, joy, and love for the Lord is contagious!” Additionally, Emilia fosters DC’s core value of community through her work with volunteers, both on a daily basis in the Media Center and through her oversight with the annual Read-a-thon and Grandparents Day events. When not in the library, you can see Emilia attending class activities as she captures school memories for the yearbook. We thank the Lord for bringing Emilia to DC and for being a blessing to students, families and colleagues alike.

Addison Martin – Upper School Biology & SAIL Coordinator

Lancaster County native Addison Martin stands in his DC bio that he “will take on anyone at any time in Dutch Blitz!” That spirit mirrors Addison’s passion for teaching, which was ignited by his experiences conducting biological research in Switzerland and Costa Rica and working at a number of camps and an outdoor education program. Addison began his teaching career at DC in 2014. He says, “I am a firm believer that education without spiritual and moral formation is vapid in its beauty and use to people. As a Christian, I was of course drawn to DC’s commitment to follow Christ’s teaching and example and to guide others in this commitment as well. I am happy to teach at a place where I can do so without fear or denial of my faith in Christ and where I can help others pursue Christ as well.” In his five years of teaching upper school students, Addison has taught various levels of Biology, several SAIL courses, and most recently spearheaded leadership of the newly formed SAIL committee. In this role, he leads extremely well, executing on strategic initiatives to keep SAIL moving forward while protecting the core identity and characteristics of the program. A colleague reflects on Addison’s strong leadership and teaching abilities. “His leadership of the SAIL program is excellent. He pushes students to work to the best of their ability and encourages them to connect what they learn to the Creator. His passion for science and teaching is awe-inspiring and he is well liked and admired by his students and fellow faculty members.”

Addison partnered with fellow faculty member Meggan Arnold to organize a student trip to Costa Rica to see the country’s unique ecosystems firsthand. This trip is just one hallmark of Addison’s service at DC. Another co-worker observes, “Addison is a great teacher who truly embodies...the core values very well. I see him interacting with students and others in the community in ways that reflect his servant heart and desire to follow in Christ’s footsteps.” We are grateful for Addison’s willingness to step up to ensure a variety of relevant experiential learning opportunities for students and for his commitment to excellence in Christian Education.

Congratulations to Matt Hummel on his May, 2019 graduation from West Chester University with a Master of Education degree in Applied Studies for Teaching and Learning. As part of his program, Matt conducted research on the effects of student choice in writing assignments on engagement and proficiency.

He shared the results of his study with the upper and middle school faculty on May 29. Congratulations on all of your good work, Matt!

Three upper school faculty members—Rachel Kamm, Mike Skair, and Cody Skair—were accepted into the summer fellows program of Athena, a platform for teachers to find and share practices. Through posting classroom activities, lesson ideas, writing prompts, projects, and more, teachers critique and provide feedback to one another. This mutual sharpening of each other’s work benefits those who participate, and ultimately the students whom they will teach.

 kindergarten teachers advance STEM instruction

Catching the vision for bringing STEM instruction to our early learners, long term teacher Donna Daly and Karen Good attended last summer’s NSTA STEM conference focused on teaching STEM in the early childhood grades. The two wrote a joint proposal for funding to attend the conference with the express purpose of developing a curriculum for their grade level. This year, kindergarten students benefited from their efforts. Their curriculum included monthly STEM challenges that engaged students to explore the design process. Weaving STEM activities into the existing grade level curriculum, helped student to problem solve, foster independence, think critically, and develop language skills.
TURNING THE PAGE... TWO BELOVED FACULTY MEMBERS BLAZING NEW CHAPTERS AFTER 28 YEARS OF SERVICE AT DC

NANCY WEIDMAN & SUZI CALDERWOOD

“Valuing Skillful Communication & Individual Students”

NANCY WEIDMAN

As you wander the halls of DC’s Lower School you may be surprised to hear acronymic language coming from the fifth grade Language Arts room. “TMI” is just one of the timely and cogent gems of wisdom with which Miss Weidman has enriched fifth grade culture over the years.

For Nancy Weidman, Language Arts and the art of teaching in general have always really been about the life of the individual. Grammar has never been a set of rules, but the servant of clear communication between writer and reader. And communication has never been a static exercise, but an expression of individual learning, thought, and personality. For Miss Weidman, the individual fifth grade student has always been of utmost importance and her delight. It’s no surprise that when homeroom communication takes the form of graphic details about one’s gastrointestinal adventures, we know you will find a role of influence in the lives of those around you. We will miss you at DC.

A native of Lancaster County, PA, Nancy Weidman graduated from Houghton College. After serving nine years as a first grade teacher and in the Admissions Office at The King’s Academy in West Palm Beach, FL, Nancy joined the DC faculty as a fourth grade teacher in 1990. Throughout her years in this role, her unique personality as a teacher flourished. Fourth graders from those years will certainly recall the blood-curdling (and sudden) screams of the White Witch of Narnia during lunchtime reading. Miss Weidman’s six hour torrent of puns on Bear Day kept students on their toes and highly amused during habitat studies, and her love for Russian Dwarf hamsters and the Phillies became legendary. As fifth grade Language Arts teacher, Miss Weidman has not only influenced the communication skills of DC students, but developed a Philadelphia Mustard Trip and involved fifth graders in grounds beautification and bird-care both on the Lower Campus in Devon and at the former elementary campus on Bishop Hollow Road.

Now it is time to say farewell to Miss Weidman as she returns to Lancaster County. We can imagine her happily beautifying her own garden and reading Narnia stories aloud on her own front porch, possibly making her new neighborhood as she vocalizes the rant of Jadis wresting the arm from a lamppost. We thank you, Miss Weidman, for being a fabulous colleague to those of us who have had the pleasure of teaching with you for many years. Though it may not take the form of responding to infinite journal entries, we know you will find a role of influence in the lives of those around you. We will miss you at DC.

“A Shepherd’s Heart”

SUZI CALDERWOOD

The memory is as vivid as if it were yesterday, but it was the spring of 1978, as I walked into a second-grade classroom and was warmly greeted by the smiling face of Mrs. Suzi Calderwood. We were quickly surrounded by a “flock” of second graders, who clearly adored her and were curious about who I was. Mrs. Calderwood skillfully “shepherded” me through my student teaching while continuing to care for and instruct her class. This was Suzi’s second year of teaching second grade at DC coming out of public school to join her husband Bill, a DC alumnus, high school teacher, and coach. She left before the birth of their first daughter and spent the next fourteen years “shepherding” her own three “little lambs”; Joni, Janet, and Jamie.

In the fall of 1992, Suzi returned to DC to serve as the elementary resource room teacher and to create and implement an Enrichment Program which she taught for twenty years. While the name of the support services at the Lower School has changed a number of times over the years, the level of excellence and individualization that Suzi has provided in shepherding her students for almost thirty years has not.

Current Head of the Lower School Joy Ludwig reflects “Suzi is an integral member of the Lower School faculty. She is a strong supporter of Christian education, giving many years of faithful and excellent service to the Lord at DC. She has impacted the lives of many students over the years, supporting them, encouraging them in their walk with the Lord, as well as enabling them to experience success in their school work. Her impact at DC will be realized for many years to come. She will be sorely missed.”

As Suzi retires from “shepherding” students here at DC, she will be spending more time enjoying her family, especially her grandchildren. While her second daughter, Janet Rose, is now rejoicing in the presence of her Savior, Joni, her husband Jon Mindrebo, and their son Owen, just welcomed a new family member, Charli Rose. Suzi’s son Jamie, and his wife Ashley, have also blessed Bill and Suzi with their two granddaughters, Ivy Jane and Hazel. Suzi, we know that you will embrace this new role with as much heart as you have every other task that the Lord has set before you.

We wish God’s continued blessings on both Brook and Tracy. They will be missed greatly by their students, colleagues, and members of the DC community at large.

GOODBYE & GODSPEED

The end of the school year marks a transition for two members of our faculty and staff.

MS. BROOK PAULEY, UPPER SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

has accepted a new position at The American School in Beirut and will be moving to Lebanon this summer.

MRS. TRACY MOTELEY, UPPER SCHOOL, MATHEMATICS

will be joining the faculty at nearby Episcopal Academy starting next fall.

We wish God’s continued blessings on both Brook and Tracy. They will be missed greatly by their students, colleagues, and members of the DC community at large.
The ever popular Letter People continue to prepare our youngest learners for reading readiness. The Pre-K class celebrated the culmination of their alphabet studies with a special Letter People Parade led by “Mr. H with his Happy Hair” (aka Mrs. Susan Horton).

**Letter People Parade**

The “Jane Austen’s World” SAIL class culminated with a wonderful “book club” atmosphere as students read through Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*. Class instructor Mrs. Lisa Griest explains, “The iconic novel provided content for a variety of topics including: addressing our own issues with first impressions and judgment; conflict with parents; misunderstanding the opposite sex; the historic, religious, and cultural context of the time; and of course, love vs. infatuation.” The class practiced writing letters with beautiful handwriting, enjoyed a proper English tea, and critiqued a variety of adaptations of the book from the PBS series, to the Keira Knightley version, to the recent Zombie version of *Pride and Prejudice*. As a final assignment, students wrote a scene in modern times. One group did a texting version and the other a “prom-posa” instead of a ball. The class was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

**Sailing into the Classics**

A team of eighth grade students won the videography award for their submission in the “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing” video contest sponsored by the Manufacturing Alliance of Chester and Delaware Counties. DC was among 17 area middle schools to submit an entry in this year’s contest.
AROUND CAMPUS

THIRD GRADE DISCOVERS LONGWOOD

As a culmination of their science unit on “Plants and How They Grow,” third grade students recently traveled to Longwood Gardens for a hands-on discovery lesson led by Longwood educators. During their “Operation Pollination” lesson, students observed plants in the conservatory and learned which of God’s creatures assist in the pollination process. Students also enjoyed viewing one of Longwood’s famous fountain displays, exploring the treehouses and the many gardens, woodlands and meadows on Longwood’s grounds.

SPRING BREAK ADVENTURES IN COSTA RICA

Spanish teacher Meggan Arnold and biology teacher Addison Martin led a combined academic trip to Costa Rica over spring break, affording students the opportunity to experience God’s creation in new and dynamic ways. Students also improved their language skills by being immersed in a Spanish speaking culture.

The group of 16 students learned about several of Costa Rica’s different ecosystems through a variety of experiences including caving and zip-lining through the jungle canopy. A catamaran excursion to Tortuga Island gave students the opportunity to hike by a volcano and to learn about the geology and animals from the region. A highlight of the trip was a special night hike where the students saw a variety of awesome animals!

One day of the trip was dedicated to service with the Abraham Project, a ministry that provides social services to local Costa Ricans in need. The students were able to spend time with some children who attend the school there and enjoyed speaking Spanish and getting to know the kids as well.

EXPLORING MEDICAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Amanda Heacock will pursue a nursing degree at Widener University this fall due in great part to her participation in a yearlong Medical Careers internship through the Delaware County Technical School.

The five day a week 7-9am internship took place at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital and was a mix of classroom learning and clinical rotations. Amanda shares “One impactful experience was observing an open heart surgery. As a result, I am leaning towards becoming an operating room nurse. I learned so much from the Medical Careers internship and am so grateful to have had this opportunity.”

SEVENTH GRADE STEPS OUTSIDE AT SPRUCE LAKE

For seventh grade students, the three day stay at the Spruce Lake Outdoor School continues to be an impactful field trip that capstones the student’s yearlong science curriculum. The trip offers a mix of activities that range from teambuilding, hiking, science lessons, and experiencing the thrill of ziplining, Spruce Lake moves students to the great outdoors. Seventh grader Ashanti Harris shared “Spruce Lake is a great time to connect with nature and really see and acknowledge the incredible world God has created for us to live in.” Classmate Kate Myers echoes this sentiment: “I would recommend this trip to anyone who appreciates God’s creation, or anyone who needs God’s glory shown in their lives.”

EROSION STUDIES IN ACTION

Riverbend Environmental Center visited the Lower Campus recently to lead second grade students in an outdoor education lesson on erosion. Students solved a problem on campus by planting two perennial beds along a path that was washing away due to rainwater run-off. It was wonderful to see students making real world connections and using their design cycle knowledge to solve a problem impacting their school campus.

BACK IN COURT

DC’s Mock Trial team advanced to Districts for the fourth year in a row. Under the direction of Ms. Meggan Arnold, this challenging opportunity continues to gain momentum as a mainstay in DC’s co-curricular offerings. With many returning to next year’s team, DC is aiming for a district title and a run at the statewide competition.
AROUND CAMPUS

LOWER SCHOOL GRANDPARENTS DAY

DC lower school students enjoyed hosting their grandparents for a special program and classroom visits in April. The day’s festivities included grade level presentations and performances by the 4th and 5th grade bands. Always a perennial favorite, this year’s Grandparents Day was a special event for all who participated.

KNIGHTS ARE FOR READING

Our lower school students read a total of 50,135,011 words during this year’s “Knights are for Reading” Read-a-Thon. The students celebrated this accomplishment with a special celebration day that included games and activities focused on the middle ages.

OH THE PLACES YOU’LL GO

The Class of 2019 marked the May 1st National College Decision Day with a jeans and sweatshirt day to celebrate the end of their college admissions process. We thank God for these students who embody DC’s core value of Scholarship by cultivating their God-given intellects to become passionate, life-long learners. We can’t wait to see the “Places You’ll Go!”

EIGHTH GRADE BANQUET

The Class of 2023 enjoyed “An Evening in Paris” at this year’s Eighth Grade Banquet. As students arrived at the Lower Campus for the evening’s festivities they were greeted by an impressive replica of the Eiffel Tower. Dinner was served with the ambiance of a Parisian sidewalk café. Eighth grader Josh Freiling shares, “The banquet was a memorable experience and gave all of us a taste of Paris. I’m grateful to our class parents for all of their hard work to make this a fun evening.”
It was a big day for three of our alumni as they received their master’s degrees from West Chester University on May 11, 2019. Brad Warmhold ’13 received a master’s in Industrial Organization. Julia Perez Madison ’13 was awarded a Master of Education in Reading, and is now a certified Reading Specialist. Matt Hummel ’09 earned his Master’s of Education and plans to apply in his teaching here at DC.

Katherine Nichols ’15 was back on campus in April, speaking at our National Honor Society Induction Ceremony. We appreciate her taking time to be a part of this important occasion for our students. Katherine recently graduated with a degree in International Affairs from the University of Georgia. Her studies have taken her all around the world from Amman, Jordan; to Shanghai, China; and to Oxford, England. During her studies, she participated in the Security Leadership Program at Georgia which led to the opportunity for internships with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of State. Next steps for Katherine are exciting as well. This summer she will be working in the U.S. Embassy in Vienna as part of Mission to International Organizations team. Then come fall she will begin work toward a master’s in Strategic Communication at the Department of War Studies at King’s College London.

MADISON/ELCOCK WEDDING

Front (L-R): Aaron Elcock ’14 and Jamie Madison Elcock ’15, Middie (L-R) former faculty members and alumni parents Eric and Jaren Madison, Kristin Proto Wisnewski ’95, Ethan Madison ’17, Natalie Madison ’10, Matt Rhine ’14, Daniel Yeung ’14. Not pictured: Jeff Myers ’88, Rebekah Myers ’18, faculty members Jim Favino, and Instagram (dc_alumni). Take a few minutes to watch and enjoy.

If you haven’t had a chance to see the Give Week videos on the alumni pages on Facebook (alumniatdc/) and Instagram (dc_alumni), take a look. These classes will be hosting reunions on Saturday, October 12 during Homecoming Weekend 2019:

- CLASS OF 1989 – 30th Reunion. Email Kim (Tanis) OBryan, kobryan@dcs.org.
- CLASS OF 2004 –15th Reunion. Contact Dave Bonner, david.bonner@gmail.com.
- CLASS OF 2014 – 9th Reunion. Email D. L. Browne, dbrowne21@gmail.com.
- CLASS OF 1999 plans to celebrate their 20th Reunion. Thanksgiving weekend 2019. Stay tuned through our Alumni pages on Facebook (www.facebook.com/alumniatdc/) and Instagram (dc_alumni) for more information on this gathering.

Interested in more information or in planning a reunion for your class? Contact us in the Alumni Office, alumni@dcs.org.
1961
Bonnie McCurry V’Soske ’61 recently published her book, Steve McCurry: A Life in Pictures. The book has been released in Italy, Germany, France, the UK, and the U.S. She’s currently president of Steve McCurry Studios, LLC.

1967
Since reconnecting to plan their 50th Reunion for the Class of 67, Ruth Hofmann Anderson, J.K. Williams, and Marilyn Martin Darity get together regularly. The trio gathered once again this March for lunch and a time of prayer and sharing at Marilyn’s home in Kinzers, PA. Though they only had half of the sextet from their DC days on hand, the ladies still sang some of their favorite songs together. A fun time was had by all!

2006
Jeremy “Max” Fennell ’06 recently launched Fenn Coffee, an online subscription coffee company. Max is currently a cast member in the CBS television show “Million Dollar Mile” with host Tim Tebow. This event series offers contestants the chance to win $1,000,000 every time they run the Million Dollar Mile, competing against a group of elite athletes. We’ll be cheering Max on this spring as the show progresses.

2009
Joanna Kinney ’09 is excited for the next chapter in her medical career. She will soon be graduating from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and starting a Pediatrics Residency at Columbia University. In sharing her news with Dr. McFarland, Joanna wrote, “I cannot adequately express how thankful I am for your help in achieving this.” Joanna still enjoys running, only now instead of the DC track, she runs in Central Park during her downtime.

Heather Wise Pennington ’09 contacted us to share her memories of her fourth grade teacher Miss Nancy Weidman who completed her teaching career at DC this year. Heather says, “After being a self proclaimed hater of school, she (Miss Weidman) showed me that learning could be fun and even opened my eyes to a love of acting and writing. Her love and dedication was apparent in everything she did and I loved being a part of her classroom.” An added bonus, Heather met her husband Daniel Pennington ’09 of that very class. The couple now has a daughter, Aubrey.

2010
Lynnae Cepielik ’10 married her college sweetheart Tieler Gittleman in a beautiful spring wedding. The happy couple now reside in Sarasota, FL, where Lynnae is a surgical medical device rep and her husband works in the wealth management field.

2014
Ashley Karpiak ’14 married Seth Jochum on June 8th, 2018. Family and friends gathered to celebrate with the happy couple and their extended families, including Seth’s mother DC alum and former teacher Elisabeth Redman Jochum ’85.

Stephanie Meel’14 married Nicholas Fales at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Bala Cynwyd on March 17, 2019. Rachel Meel ’16 served as maid of honor. The couple currently resides in Philadelphia, PA. Stephanie is employed at Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa in Oaks as the front desk coordinator and Nicholas is a research engineer with CertainTeed in Malvern.

DC alumni are spread across the globe. Abby Scott ’14 and Fabian Jimenez Roman ’14 had a chance to visit in Costa Rica this February. Fabian now calls Costa Rica home. While it had been almost 5 years since the pair last saw each other, they reconnected quickly and enjoyed catching up.

On April 27, 2019 Jamie Madison ’15 married Aaron Elcock ’14 at Faith Community Church in Bala Cynwyd on March 17, 2019. Stephanie Meell ’14 married Nicholas Fales at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Bala Cynwyd on March 17, 2019. Rachel Meel ’16 served as maid of honor. The couple currently resides in Philadelphia, PA. Stephanie is employed at Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa in Oaks as the front desk coordinator and Nicholas is a research engineer with CertainTeed in Malvern.

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2017
Steve Hansen ’17 competed in Philly Codefest 2019 at Drexel University - a large software and hardware hackathon for “social good dedicated to generating real-world, scalable solutions to help end economic inequality in Philadelphia.” Steve’s Drexel-student team, GimmeShelter, created a Web app that provides easy access to shelter and food bank information from any type of cell phone with text messaging. The team won 6 of the 13 sponsor awards, including tours and workshops at the headquarters of Google, Comcast, and American Water. He credits his academic and team competition experiences at DC for helping to prepare him for this success. Steve felt this was an experience in living out DC’s mission to impact the world through biblical thought and action, using the power of 21st century technology.

TJ Tann ’17 is a student at the University of Richmond. His efforts to get a dedicated space on campus for multicultural students to socialize have resulted in a three semester pilot space being established by the University. He’s also been accepted into Richmond’s Jepson School of Leadership. TJ continues to credit his accomplishments to the encouragement and support he received here at DC.
**Rachel Hepkins Thompson ’04**

*Alumna of the Year*

Alumna of the Year Rachel Hepkins Thompson ’04 has come a long way from her DC days, having attended from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Her journey has brought her to a career as an immigration and adoption attorney as well as the life of a busy wife and mother.

As part of celebrating this honor at DC, Rachel spent the day on the Upper Campus on April 12, visiting with and speaking to our upper school students. It was great to see the faces of many of our faculty light up when they recognized her. A campus tour evoked memories of her experiences with the Knight Tunes and the Track & Field team, amongst others.

Later that evening, Rachel joined us at The Annual Fund Dinner and Auction and spoke to the gathered crowd. She took us for a walk down memory lane recalling her years as a DC student. She mentioned a special Bible verse learned in Scott Bateman’s class, Galatians 2:20, one that carried her through a number of life experiences and choices from personal to professional. She noted the tremendous impact so many of the DC faculty had on her as a student, her life today, and career as an immigration attorney. She took time to thank her DC teachers saying, “Know that what you’re doing here, right now, matters.”

Rachel’s journey began in Philadelphia where she was born and raised. She grew up in a community and family that instilled an early, profound love for diverse cultures, hope in the possibilities of immigration, and a fascination with other languages. Both of her parents were immigrants to the United States, her mother coming from South Africa and her father from Jamaica. They enveloped Rachel in a church congregation with immigrants from a myriad of African and Caribbean countries. From these early experiences of faith and community, Rachel learned the value and power of moving beyond where you came from even while cherishing your roots. During these years she was also able to witness these early experiences of faith and community, Rachel learned the value and power of moving beyond where you came from even while cherishing your roots. During these years she was also able to witness the process of her mother becoming a naturalized U.S. Citizen. All these experiences were influential in cementing Rachel’s desire and decision to practice immigration law.

After completing her years at DC, Rachel attended Messiah College. She completed her undergraduate program in 2008 with honors and a degree in Spanish Business. Rachel then attended Liberty University School of Law graduating in May, 2012. During her undergraduate and graduate programs, she visited, studied, or lived in Jamaica, South Africa, Ecuador, Spain, Argentina, and the Dominican Republic.

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During her law school years, Rachel interned with Commonwealth Catholic Charities and Poarch Law to get a real-world idea of what a career in immigration practice would really be like. These experiences confirmed what she had long felt, that she was called to immigration practice. She joined Poarch Law just after her graduation from law school.

Rachel quickly became an expert in her field. She teaches annually at the Federal Bar Association conference. In 2018 she won the Federal Bar Association Immigration Law Section Younger Lawyer of the Year award. She also won the Allison Parker Young Professional Award given by DePaul Community Resources in 2016. This spring she added the role of Adjunct Professor at Liberty University School of Law teaching Adoption Law to her already full schedule.

Rachel met her husband Brad while they were both students at Liberty. The couple now have three sons ages 5, 3, and 1 and live in Salem, Virginia. Though she definitely has a full plate, she doesn’t let that stop her from giving her all to her clients, spending time with her family and friends, and staying involved in her church. Without a doubt, Rachel is living out DC’s Mission to serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action.

Rachel Hepkins Thompson

**Congratulations to the 2019 Alumna of the Year, Rachel Hepkins Thompson!**
It was a record year for the 2019 Annual Fund Dinner & Auction. With over $200,000 raised and record attendance, the event was a rewarding and fun evening as we gathered together to celebrate our common mission of supporting DC’s Annual Fund which bridges the gap between our school’s tuition revenue and operating costs.

Many thanks to all the faithful volunteers who donated their time and talent to this event on April 12 at White Manor Country Club. From our event sponsors, to our auction bidders, to the generous donors of auction items, and our student helpers and performers, our community showed up! It was wonderful to see over 200 faculty, current parents, and alumni all gathered together in support of DC.

Highlights of the night included Dan Steinfeld being introduced to the audience as our incoming Head of School. Several students performed, singing the latest hit, “Hello, Danny!” This twist on the Upper School’s recent musical Hello, Dolly! was well enjoyed by all including Dan himself. Our Alumna of the Year, Rachel Hepkins Thompson ‘04, also spoke, recalling her years as a DC student from Kindergarten through 12th grade. She took time to thank her DC teachers saying, “Know that what you’re doing here, right now, matters.” Rachel’s presentation was met with a standing ovation.
HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR 2019-2020

DC’s International Student Program (ISP) office is beginning the search for families to host students for the 2019-2020 school year. Through our Homestay Program, students from around the world have the opportunity to study at DC, learn about American culture, and live with a Christian family.

The goal for the Homestay Program is to promote cross-cultural learning and a Kingdom mindset for all students and staff at Delaware County Christian School. Our host families are a critical component of this program. For some students, living with a host family is the most impactful part of their experience here in the United States. Host families have the unique opportunity to live out their faith in front of students on a daily basis and to develop lifelong relationships with them. They are partners in the International Students’ education, serving as integral team members along with biological parents, teachers, administrators, and church families.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BECOMING A HOST FAMILY, PLEASE CONTACT ARLENE WARMHOLD, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMMING AT awarmhold@dccs.org

A growing number of donors are supporting our school through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program.

The EITC program was established into law in 2001, making Pennsylvania the first state to pass an education tax credit aimed at corporations. At the program’s inception, total annual tax credits were $30 million. Expansion of the program has continued with the state issuing its second largest expansion in 2018 raising the amount of available funds for participating nonprofit educational organizations to $110 million. While the program was originally aimed at owners of privately owned businesses, individuals who meet designated criteria may also participate.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM FOLLOWS:

Who is Eligible to Participate?
Any business or individual, even an individual who works for a non-profit organization, who has PA tax liabilities of at least $3,500 is eligible to participate.

How Can I Participate?
Participants commit to donate funds for this purpose each year for two years (i.e. for 2019 and for 2020). Of the amounts you donate, you will receive a 90% credit against PA taxes. [Note: you can commit to just a one-year donation, but the tax credit is reduced to 75%]

Here is an Example of How EITC Tax Credits Work

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