

Darryl J. Ford on Liz Flemming
OPC Weekend

Honorary 1689
Friday, May 6, 2022

It is my great pleasure to make a few remarks about our colleague and friend, Liz Flemming, who becomes Honorary 1689 this evening.

Liz came to Penn Charter in September 1983 to teach mathematics in our Upper and Middle Schools. Like her signature assignment, life as a sine curve, Liz's career has oscillated –moved up and down and from side to side like a sine curve and permeated almost every aspect of Penn Charter. For the first 18 years of her teaching, Liz taught one section of advanced seventh grade math in Middle School and three sections of Upper School math, including her signature 11th grade double A course. While successful at teaching the strongest math students, Liz was skillfully adept and enjoyed helping weaker math students find success both in the classroom and in the Math Center, where she also worked.

Liz's work as an educator continued as an advisor of students; as the 7th grade class advisor (for more than a decade) and as 12th grade class advisor (for about a decade); service on numerous committees, and throughout her tenure as a teacher coach in the best Penn Charter tradition.

Early in her career, Liz was the assistant 8th grade boys basketball coach, working with Jack Rogers. With the start of Middle School girls basketball, Liz was the coach of the first and then only team. In similar fashion, when there were both A and B girls Middle School teams, Liz was the head coach and often only coach of both. After more than a decade of coaching Middle School basketball, Liz became the Upper School JV girls basketball coach, coached a ninth grade team, and was a bench coach for the Upper School varsity girls team.

For all of her work in and commitment to athletics, the Women's Legacy Fund honored Liz and her companion teacher – coaches Debbie White, Beth Glascott, and Cheryl Irving for the seminal role they played in starting and promoting girls athletics at Penn Charter.

For 26 years, Liz was the Middle School cross country team coach. In Upper School, she was an indoor track coach for about a decade, an assistant to the spring boys track team for about a decade, and the head girls coach for spring track and field for about two and half decades. In this role, Liz helped to lead her teams to six Inter-Ac championships. Currently, Liz continues her commitment to student athletes as the Home Track Meet Director.

While accomplishing all of the above and more, Liz's apex of her Penn Charter Life as a Sine Curve was the birth of her daughter Anne Flemming. Liz shared Anne with us at Penn Charter and together Liz and Anne shared Penn Charter as their community. With the conferring of the Honorary 1689 Diploma to Liz Flemming, she and her daughter Anne OPC '20 now both will share the distinction of being alumnae of this old school.

Congratulations, Liz.

William A. Quinn on David Wright
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It is an honor to be here tonight to speak about my former colleague, Dave Wright who is one of the Honorary 1689 recipients. My name is Bill Quinn. I was the Director of Facilities here at Penn Charter and, basically I was Dave's boss.

When Chris asked me to speak on behalf of Dave, I thought about what I could say about Dave that would help people understand who Dave is and what he has meant to Penn Charter.

Dave started working in the Kitchen 36 years ago. Eventually he moved to Housekeeping and spends some time in Security.

Dave is a recognizable campus figure. Whether he's cleaning, driving around in his golf cart, setting up for events, delivering packages, shoveling snow, or directing traffic. And whenever there is a need for some extra muscle moving something heavy or unloading a truck, Dave is always there, willing to help, with a smile.

What people may not about know Dave, is that he begins his day at 5:00am so that he can arrive at PC to start work at 6:00am. He's also known to occasionally work on weekends. He rides his bike from his home in Roxborough thru all kinds of weather like rain and snow and sleet, just like a postal worker. Through it all Dave always has a positive attitude and energy with moves to match.

One of the highlights for me and probably many in this room, is to watch Dave direct traffic in the back parking lot in the morning or afternoon. He keeps the flow of traffic moving safely as he entertains students and parents as they enter or leave the campus. Some of the time in costume at Halloween or a Santa hat at Christmas time. Dave always brings a fun loving attitude to his job no matter the occasion.

You may or may not have noticed but in the summer of 2017, Dave was out for an extended period of time. Dave was in extreme discomfort and he had his hip replaced. After his surgery and during his rehab, Dave missed PC and his coworkers so much that he returned to work early. Earlier that he should have! Right Dave?

All of these are the reason Dave Wright is one of our Honorees this evening. Dave it is your positive attitude that got you here. I am so happy for you. I wish nothing but the best for you. It's been a great experience getting to know you on a personal level. Stay at Penn Charter for as long as you can because I believe it is your happy place.

As a recipient of this Honorary Degree myself, I welcome you, today, to the class of 1689 OPC. You will forever be known as David Wright OPC 1689. Congratulations. Well deserved!

It is my honor and pleasure to introduce you as OPC 1689.