LAMPLIGHTER

8 | Elf the Musical
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20 | Friday Breakfast Fellowship

DOCK Mennonite Academy
WINTER 2023



2 | **Learning outside the classroom**

Mini-Term allows students to pursue learning connected to their passions and curiosity

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ON THE COVER: Sophomore **Savannah Sobetsky** is having the time of her life learning about physics during the **STEM in Motion** Mini-Term. Read more about Mini-Term starting on page 2. Photo credit: Jay Gordon

RIGHT: Students in the **Cooking and Community** Mini-Term group are leaning into their recipe creation during their "Cooking with Robin" experience.

DOCK
MENNONITE ACADEMY

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Superintendent's
MESSAGE

Choosing Joy



Our faith offers the perspective that hope is never absent and is always available in the direst situations. At Dock, our hope is linked to a belief that this next generation of students will grow and be even better leaders of our communities and world.

Every day is a gift, and each morning you can decide the attitude you will have for that day. You can choose to have a positive attitude about anything. This wise advice about life was given by **Dave Landis** ('59), as remembered by his family at his recent memorial service – see page 24.

Each day we have a choice. Over the past years we navigated a pandemic as well as political polarization that none of us had ever experienced. I watched students, parents, faculty, and staff make their choice each day of how they would embrace the day. It was a challenging and often discouraging time. Covid mitigation decisions were divisive, and the stresses of life were pronounced.

I was always encouraged to find people who chose to claim hope. Our faith offers the perspective that hope is never absent and is always available in the direst situations. At Dock, our hope is linked to a belief that this next generation of students will grow and be even better leaders of our communities and world. Our current students will always hold the lessons learned from these unusual years to shape their leadership perspectives and skills in the future.

This Lamplighter issue is evidence that Dock has successfully navigated a challenging period in our history and is delighted to be back together. Events are well attended. Students and parents greatly appreciate being physically together again. Community is back! We need to be together. It is essential for our social and emotional health and is key to our fulfillment as people.

Enjoy reading about our Honduras trip on page 5. The life changing impact of a mission trip for students was a theme in my doctoral dissertation and continues to be evident today. These Dock students described in a recent chapel how the Honduras trip reshaped their worldview. They noted their culture shock upon return to their country and the subsequent changes they made in their own lives after the trip. Read about other Mini-Term experiences related to topics such as STEM, the arts, the medical world, construction, and outdoor exploration.

We continue to decide each day whether we choose joy or discouragement. In community, we have the power to encourage each other toward joy. The Dock community continues to surround and encourage each student, faculty, and staff. We celebrate hope. We celebrate the journey ahead with over 600 students, preparing to impact our world in significant ways for decades to come. Thanks for joining us on this journey!



Dr. Conrad Swartzentruber, Superintendent

ALL OF LIFE

is a classroom; persons learn in and out of school and throughout their lives.



When Dock's Mini-Term program was launched in 2019, it was in part to honor what all good educators know about learning; learning happens in and **outside** of the classroom. Now, with three years of successful Mini-Terms completed, students and faculty are leaning into what has quickly become a valued new tradition and integral part of the curriculum at Dock for students in grades 9-11. Mini-Term lasts for four days during quarter 1 and is a time of intense, hands-on, experiential learning in small groups that provides an educational experience beyond what is offered in the traditional classroom. The goals of individual Mini-Term courses correlate with Dock's Mission Statement and Graduate Profile, including our emphasis on equipping and inspiring students to serve with a global perspective.

Mini-Term is filled with examples of being an educational experience that engages and empowers students. In a world of smartphones, streaming services, and online shopping that values entertainment and instant gratification, how can we help students to not just be compliant while in school, but also engaged and empowered in their learning? The author A.J. Juliani recently shared a podcast titled, *How to Combat Student Apathy (In Three Easy Steps)* and his recommendations for educators are:

1. Have a real focus on conversation and **relationships**.
2. Find ways to make the learning **authentic and meaningful**.
3. Plan instructional strategies that are more **student-centered** and not teacher-centered.

During a special chapel held after Mini-Term week, each Mini-Term group was asked to present important learnings, highlights, and reflections from the week. Look out for each of Juliani's strategies to combat student apathy as you read the following student reflections.



Mini-Term Objectives

- Provide a hands-on, experiential learning experience
- Help students develop a passion or be given a taste for a topic or career
- Expand student awareness of other cultures and people
- Help students explore the unknown
- Expose students to the world's needs
- Build new relationships
- Apply the goals stated in the Graduate Profile to the real world
- Develop their faith journey
- Give to others through concrete service opportunities
- Learn about themselves in new settings





It was a 9.5 mile hiking day on the Appalachian Trail that I learned the most from on Mini-Term (*Wilderness Expeditions*). I doubted myself several times during the hike, but when I finally got to the top of the mountain and I looked down, the view was spectacular and I knew that everything was worth it. At that moment, from this Mini-Term, I realized that the world that God created is so amazing. I think we really need to spend more time in nature, and know that nothing is impossible and there's endless potential inside of ourselves as long as we believe in ourselves and give it a shot.

Junior **Claudia Zhang** – 1



I would like to thank **Doctora Silvermoon** for allowing me to be her teacher assistant in the *Acrylic Painting* Mini-term as a part of my senior experience. I not only gained a lot of memories, but also a deeper understanding of art. I learned that the purpose of art is not to show how good you are, but whether you can use your ability to help your community.

Senior **Steven Liu** – 2





On the first day of Mini-term (*Cooking and Community*), everyone immediately filled the room with positive energy and excitement. Working together to finish a task and then enjoying what we made together as a group really helped us to get to know each other and appreciate each other's company. As the days progressed, we grew closer and closer with the people in our group.

Sophomore **Jenna Detweiler** – 3

No matter how tired we were every morning, there was always laughter filling the room. I truly don't think I could have been placed with much better people. Whether we were cooking with Robin, making food, or doing service for families with food insecurity, there were always people around that made school feel like a second home. I'm so happy to be able to say that I felt God's love radiating through each and every one of us. During the Mini-Term (*Cooking and Community*), I made new friends and memories that I hope will last for the entirety of my four years at Dock.

Freshman **Emerson Gruver** – 4





Encouragement was a main theme throughout the week for our group (*Calligraphy Crash* Course). Whether it was praise for a certain piece of art we made or a written encouraging sticky note, the whole group was encouraging and I left the week feeling refreshed and encouraged.

Freshman **Amy Muhlfield** – 5

My biggest takeaway from Mini-term (The Working World of St. Luke's Hospital) was the amount of love that I felt from the people, specifically when we visited the infusion center and I talked with a patient who was going through chemo. He told me about how he had baked a cake to share with every patient in the ward. Every nurse or employee I talked to was eager to answer my questions and everyone was genuinely happy to talk about their jobs. It was this type of love that I'm grateful to have witnessed during my Mini-Term.

Junior **Adelyn Clemmer** – 6





"A very wise old teacher once said:
"I consider a day's teaching wasted if we do not all have one hearty laugh."
He meant that when people laugh together, they cease to be young and old, master and pupils. They become a single group of human beings enjoying its existence."

- Gilbert Highet

Mini-Term 2022 offerings:

STEM in Motion
Acrylic Pour Painting
Golf for Life
Philadelphia Museums
Wilderness Expeditions
Cooking and Community
Spruce Lake Adventure Trip
Calligraphy Crash Course
Shed Building
The Fall Classic
Inexpensive Fun
Service Trip to Honduras- Healthy Niños
The Working World of St. Luke's Hospital



Healthy Niños Honduras



Four students had the opportunity to work with the Healthy Niños organization and travel to Honduras with Dr. Herman Sagastume (Executive Director of Healthy Niños) and Dock *Social Studies* teacher **Ms. Maddie Clemens** ('12) during the Mini-Term week. The Healthy Niños organization seeks to provide much needed resources to the children and communities that live in environments that prevent them from having basic needs like food, water, and shelter. While Ms. Clemens is no stranger to working with Healthy Niños, having participated in three trips prior to this one, since she started teaching four years ago she was eager to lead students on a service trip abroad so that they would, "not only broaden their perspective of the world, but also have a passion for service be ignited," just as she had experienced herself as a young adult.

Reflections from Honduras students...

Honduras claims raw vibrant beauty but also the injustice of today's world order. It simply does not make sense why I have clean water, an exemplary education, a finished house... all of these things really because I am a U.S. citizen. I think about this while I am getting ready for school, sitting in class, riding the bus, and just how low the stakes are for me. My life is about performing in the musical, getting school work done, whatever hobbies or activities I have going on. My life isn't about working all day in sweltering tropical heat making money for my family. Nor is it about worms that steal nutrients from my body, or hunger that never goes away. It is like I am living in a different world, but I'm not. It's the same planet. And the truth is, we live in an unjust world. – Sophomore **Aaron Sensenig**

The beauty of Honduras was not the only aspect that I was not expecting. From the moment I boarded the plane I was amazed by the kindness that our group was shown. The way the people in Honduras welcomed me and extended grace to me in all circumstances made me feel right at home when I was away. Their simple acts of kindness, whether it was offering a warm smile or helping me with my Spanish, was just the beginning of my perspective changing. Going to Honduras has completely changed my worldview. It has made me so much more appreciative for the little things in life and has truly taught me how lucky I am to have been born in a country where I have so many opportunities. – Junior **Abigail Neiderer**

Since I have returned I have cut back on what I am consuming and I'm trying to put my purchases in perspective. For example, do you know those Stanley water bottles everyone is getting are the equivalent cost of a water filtration system? Did you know that two pairs of Lululemon leggings are the equivalent to a cement floor? Did you know that two meals at Chick-fil-A are the equivalent of a month's worth of groceries for a family in Honduras? You have to be living in ignorance to not realize how blessed we are. I will admit I have still spent money on frivolous things since I have been back, and my point in sharing this is not to judge your spending habits, but to remind you to give back when you can and to go on a trip like this when the opportunity presents itself. In our culture we spend so much time consuming and always wanting the next new thing, but we never end up being happy with the end result. The people in Honduras prioritize family, friends, community, God, and they are always thankful for each other. I think if we focus on these things more, then maybe we can be more thankful, too. – Senior **Zoe Wolfe**

Before I went on the trip, I was told to be careful and stay with my group, because I wasn't going to be in good circumstances. But when I got there, I was amazed by how much kinder and more approachable everyone was. Everyone there was clearly going through so much but they relentlessly stayed kind and faithful. The first time I experienced culture shock was not from leaving this country for the first time, but coming back and seeing how much more we have and how little we care about it. It's hard not to feel guilty about how much more we have compared to others, because what did we do to deserve it? But the truth is we don't deserve any of it, we are just blessed. I don't want to just appreciate how blessed I am, I want to use the resources that I am lucky enough to have to help the people that deserve it. – Senior **Jade Prosock**

Senior Experience



While students in grades 9-11 were engaged with Mini-Term, **this year's seniors were getting their chance at the long-standing Dock tradition of Senior Experience week**. In 2019, an Alumni Survey was administered with the goal of getting feedback from recent Dock graduates. A clear outlier on the responses of this survey was concerning the value recent alumni gave to Senior Experience week, with 80% of respondents saying **it was a valuable piece of their post-graduate preparation**. Dock is proud to continue to require seniors to complete hours of job shadowing or service opportunities that are consistent with Dock's graduate profile, and that enable students to **learn more about themselves and their next steps after high school**.

1. **Marina Ferrer Genoves—Early Childhood teachers at Dock Mennonite EC-8 Campus.**
2. **Hoyt Bultje—PE teachers at Dock Mennonite EC-8 Campus**
3. **Mikaela Davis—Early Childhood teachers at Dock Mennonite EC-8 Campus**
4. **Sophia Lacher—Grade 1 teachers at Dock Mennonite EC-8 Campus**
5. **Marlyse Giesbrecht—St. Luke's hospital in Quakertown**









Christmas came early this year!



elf
The Musical



Dock Theater's presention of *Elf the Musical* provided a much deeper meaning of positivity and faith in the greater good than one might think on its surface. Just look at things the way Buddy the Elf does!

Buddy, played by **Aaron Sensenig**, has tremendous belief in the world and a unique faith in people, even in challenging times. He has a knack for getting right to the heart of the matter. Buddy looks beneath the surface to see that there may be more than meets the eye in any given situation. He sees that Jovie (**Mikaela Davis**), is not a hardened New Yorker, but a lonely person with her guard up because her heart has been stomped on. He sees past his dad, Walter's (**Ivan Dean**) gruff exterior and connects to his heart, buried under the stress of daily life. We can all relate to that!

Even when Buddy finds out he's not an elf, his dad disowns him, and his girlfriend, Jovie, tells him goodbye, he never stops believing. He realizes that the Christmas spirit is more than just Santa (**Mr. Darwin Zehr**) and presents; it's about family and sharing special moments with the people you love.

So, throughout the year, on that dreary day in March or that sweltering day in August filled with frustrating challenges, just look to your inner Elf and be grateful for all the people in your life for whom you care and who care about you. The day will get better. May you see past the rough exterior and into the heart of the "holiday spirit" all year long!

Tad and Samantha Brannon, Directors












Elf

HOMECOMING
& FAMILY WEEKEND



reconnect • rediscover • remember



The weekend was packed with opportunities for active participation around campus for the whole family, cheering on our athletic teams, enjoying live music, kids inflatables, class reunions and local food trucks.















Class of 1987

Jill (Bolton) Bergey *('17) was awarded the Outstanding Athletic Achievement Award for her accomplishments in Field Hockey. Jill finished her illustrious career with many awards including being a 2022 Honda Sport Award Finalist as the top collegiate Field Hockey athlete, leading Liberty University to the 2022 National Championship game, 2-time All-America First Team award, and Liberty's record holder in goals and points. Jill was widely respected by her coaches and teammates as a high-character individual who was a great leader and role model*



Class of 1971



Class of 1962



Class of 1957



HOMECOMING SPOTLIGHT



Dock's 2022 Alumni of the Year Award winners (l to r): Distinguished Service—**Dr. Richard Kratz** ('87) and **Arlene (Hinckle) Steffen** ('81); Outstanding Achievement—**Dr. Thomas Clemens** ('69); Young Alum of the Year—**Curtis Denlinger** ('09) and **Dr. Emily Pakhtigian** ('11).

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Thomas L. Clemens, Ph.D 1969: Professor and Researcher
Dr. Clemens is the Lewis Cass Spencer Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and serves as the Vice Chair for research in the department at John Hopkins University where he started in 2009. He has authored more than 160 highly cited publications.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Arlene (Hinckle) Steffen 1981: Musician and Teacher
Arlene runs an independent piano studio and works with students from beginning through advanced stages. For 24 years, Arlene taught at Fresno Pacific University and touched the lives of music majors, fellow professors and aspiring musicians.

Dr. Richard Kratz 1987: Pediatrician and Volunteer
Dr. Rick Kratz has been taking medical teams to Honduras to serve with the MAMA Project/Healthy Ninos Honduras for many years. He serves on the Healthy Ninos Honduras Board of Directors. Rick has worked as a pediatrician at Pennridge Pediatric Associates for 24 years.

YOUNG ALUM OF THE YEAR AWARD

Emily (Lambright) Pakhtigian, Ph.D 2011: College Professor and Researcher
Dr. Pakhtigian is an Assistant Professor and the Hyde-McCourtney Career Development Professor at the School of Public Policy at Penn State University. She is an environmental and development economist who studies how the natural environment affects household decision-making, well-being, and human capital accumulation.

Curtis Denlinger 2009: Pilot and Entrepreneur
After graduating from Hesston College's Aviation program, Curtis became a flight instructor at Hesston, then a pilot for Republic Airlines and was recently promoted to Captain and now Check Airman, training new First Officers and Captains. In 2017, Curtis launched CleanFleet, a full service truck cleaning and car detailing service with 10 part-time employees. He served many trucking and bus companies until selling his start-up.

race For Education

We are excited to announce that we smashed our $35,000 goal this year and raised **$62,728** during our **Race for Education!!** A huge thanks to all our Dock parents grandparents, family & friends for helping us raise funds to support a strong Christian education for ALL our students! What a great day was had by teachers, staff & students. As a result of exceeding our goal in such an amazing fashion, we even got to slime Principal **Mrs. Claire Wanamaker** at an All-School Pep Rally!



















CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERT

We are extremely thankful to have a full house at Franconia Mennonite Church on December 2, for our EC8 Christmas Benefit Concert. As a result of our offering and match, we raised a total of $26,381 for our school and our students. We had a wonderful evening of music celebrating the true meaning of Christmas with family and friends! Thank you for your generous support!



EC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & RECEPTION

Early Childhood parents, grandparents, family, and friends enjoyed a special morning with our EC students celebrating Jesus' birth together!





12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

On the 12th Day of Christmas, we packed up lots of food and delivered it to Keystone Opportunity Center! A special thank you to all of our Dock families and students who generously donated these much-needed foods for families in our local community! Dock EC8 Principal, **Mrs. Claire Wanamaker**, poses with several Dock MS students who helped pack and deliver 1,187 pounds of food to Keystone Opportunity Center's food pantry. Thanks for spreading joy to others this Christmas!



DOCK STUDENTS HELP THE HOMELESS IN MONTCO



Because of an affordable housing crisis in Montgomery County, homelessness has grown four times higher in the last two years with families and the elderly being particularly affected. **Mrs. Rachael Grim** and **Mrs. Rachel Myers**' service learning students are working on knitting/crocheting scarves & hats, as well as creating plain mats for some of these local homeless people. Mark Boorse, Mrs. Grim's dad, came to present to both service learning groups about homelessness. Mr. Boorse works with Access Services, Inc developing support programs for the homeless/housing insecure communities, including the Pottstown Street Medicine program. He shared about the current challenges facing the homeless community and possible solutions they are trying to get permission from the county to implement. We are excited to be partnering with him to provide relief to those facing homelessness in our community!



GENIUS HOUR

Dock 6th, 7th and 8th grade *Genius Hour* (4 days/week) students presented their projects to an audience of their peers, parents and teachers. During Genius Hour, students choose something they would like to learn, pursue a passion, master a skill, or help others in their community. It was exciting learning more about everything from tennis, guitar, & embroidery to acrylic art painting, roller coasters, sneaker art design & more! We look forward to seeing other students' presentations over the next few weeks!







WIND POWER IN KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Christine Dando's Kindergarten students created windsocks as part of their science unit on wind power and took their creations outside on a cold, blustery December day to test them out!

SOUDERTON FIRE COMPANY VISITS PRE-K & K STUDENTS

We would like to thank Dock parent and Souderton Fire Company VP Mr. Dan Biros, and friends, for visiting with Dock Early Childhood and Kindergarten students in October as part of Fire Prevention month.







DOCK STUDENT AUTHOR—GUEST READER

Dock librarian **Mrs. Missy Camilleri** invited Dock 5th grade student **Avelynn Myers** as guest reader and author to read to **Mrs. Bonita Ness**'s Kindergarten students. She read her book,"Isadora! Take That Thumb Right Out" to the class and talked with students about how she became an author when she was just six years old! She explained to them that she wanted to write the book to help others that might struggle with stopping a bad habit. Several of our Kindergarten students were excited to go home and become authors themselves. Others wanted to try the techniques used by the main character in the story to help stop a thumb sucking habit. Avelynn's book is available in the library for check out.

DOCK NEW FACULTY 2022-23

(Left to right) **Miss Rebecca Edenfield** ('17), 2nd Grade Teacher; **Dr. Matthew Ramage**, Instrumental Music Teacher; **Mrs. Samantha Brannon**, Elementary/ Middle School Music Teacher and HS Fall Musical Director; **Mrs. Sarah Garges** ('13), EC-Grade 8 Guidance Counselor; **Mrs. Jennifer Rhodes** ('13), 2ndGrade Teacher; **Mrs. Stacey Vaitis-Dubost**, Early Childhood Teacher; **Mr. Matthew Speck**, Early Childhood Teacher; & **Mr. Jason Hackman**, Middle School Bible/Social Studies Teacher. (Missing from Photo: **Ms. Joy Yoo**, HS Strings Teacher)



Grades 9 to 12
CAMPUS
HAPPENINGS



CHOIR STUDENTS COMPETE IN STATE COMPETITION

Music Director **Mrs. Michelle Sensenig** and six Dock students spent three days in January rehearsing with approximately 180 students from the area at PMEA's District 11 Chorus held at Council Rock High School South. Two of the students, **Aaron Sensenig** and **Anna Smith**, advanced to the PMEA's Region 6 Chorus Festival in February. Congratulations to all!



DOCK COLLABORATES WITH DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY FOR CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

On September 12, Delaware Valley University professor Jeffrey Charlesworth visited campus with his Design Studio Class students to collaborate with **Ms. Valerie Metzler** and her *Environmental Science* students on a 5-year restoration plan for the woodland area on Dock's campus. Charlesworth and his students complete similar projects like this for parks, schools, or public places each year and are excited to study Dock's campus. They are considering how best to create a better habitat for native species and also to increase the native biodiversity on campus.

Slam Dunk

What did you do on your summer vacation last year? Dock senior Cooper Brannon launched a business—and quite possibly a career.

BY MR. ZACH BOWER, *ACCOUNTING* AND *SOCIAL STUDIES* TEACHER

How was your summer?

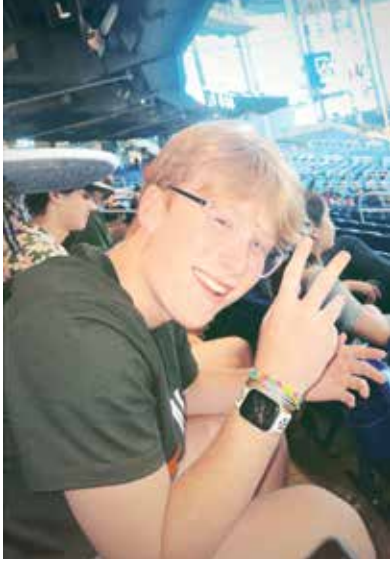
This is a typical and common question that teachers enjoy asking students on the first day back at school, and often elicits typical and common responses. Every now and then, though, teachers get a response that is far from common, as was the case of senior **Cooper Brannon** this year when he shared about a trip he took to Miami, FL, over his summer break.

It was in *Accounting* class that I was really able to hear the significance and exciting details of Cooper's summer experience in Miami. The class was responding to the question, "Have you ever had an idea for starting a small business?", and Cooper's response again was a memorable one. Cooper not only had an idea for a small business – he already started one! Cooper is co-founder of The Mojo Network LLC. Here's how he describes Mojo on LinkedIn:













Mojo offers a multi-level sports entertainment platform led by young content creators looking to make a mark in a unique way. We prioritize youth to build a rare level of content "relevance" and "feel" for our clients, assisting them in building a national platform for media content.

While I am considered a millennial and seen by some of my colleagues as still *tech-savvy*, I continue to be amazed by my Gen Z students and the creative and powerful ways that their generation can harness the potential of technology and social media. Cooper and his two other business partners, both also in high school, found each other last year after noticing each other's content on Instagram. They started a group chat, with Cooper in Pennsylvania, the others in California and Georgia. Before long, The Mojo Network was born and had secured its first "major client." Last summer, Cooper and his partners were hired by the Ambetter Classic and Destination Hoops to create video and other content for a basketball tournament in Miami, FL.

"Planning for something like this as a teenager was totally different than anything I had experienced before and was definitely not a vacation," Cooper says. "We were responsible for scheduling the flights, lodging, and transportation." This included a lot of firsts for Cooper; the first time he was out of the state, the first time making travel arrangements, and working with new people he was not familiar with. One of the highlights of the experience was filming a dunk contest. "Some of what we were able to film was extraordinary," he says.

Another highlight was seeing a new city while learning how to balance time for work—another experience far from typical for a teenager. Though it wasn't a vacation, Cooper (and his family, who went along for the ride), was able to take in a Marlins game. But mostly, The Mojo Network team worked hard in Miami, and Cooper said they might be invited back next summer.

Being his accounting teacher, I had to ask Cooper if they were able to make any money by the end of the week, and with a smile he assured me that they "made out OK." I could tell, though, that Cooper is clearly seeing the big picture and playing the long game. He understands that the networking and connections built that week in Miami were potentially worth more than any money they made or lost that week, and the investment could pay huge dividends later with new and return clients.

The Mojo Network also realizes that their Miami experience was about more than the financial return. As a teacher, I know this type of experience offers a world of learning opportunities that will set up Cooper and his business partners well for the future. For example, the value of learning "soft skills" cannot be minimized. A LinkedIn study found that more than 90% of employers say that soft skills—creativity, collaboration, adaptability, and time management, for example—matter as much or more than hard skills when hiring. At this rate, though, Cooper might be the one doing the hiring in the near future!

Congratulations, Cooper, on stepping into the entrepreneurial world early with hard work, talent, ambition, and willingness to take risks.

Grades 9 to 12 CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



DOCK ALUM ATHLETES CHAPEL

Under the direction of Athletic Director, **Mr. Seth Frankenfield**, Dock's Athletic Leadership Council invited athletic alum to speak during chapel on January 11. **Brandon Reichart** ('10), **Holly Seiz Tillotson** ('12), & **Emily Gordon** ('15) spoke to Dock students about how both their coaches and athletic experiences during high school helped shape who they are today. Each of our alum imparted different words of wisdom for our students, but all were encouraged to stay close to God, go the extra mile, and put themselves out there. "God has plans for each of you, and if you stay close to God, He will lead you in everything you do."



BEYOND THE GAME

On Saturday, August 6 Dock Mennonite Academy hosted the first Annual **Beyond The Game Officials Clinic**. The brain-child of noted NCAA D2, D3, and high school official Dan Moretski, and veteran Dock Coach **Mike Fergus** (photo ❶), the clinic was held to promote and teach the much-needed vocation and skills of basketball officiating. 35 area officials attended and received instruction and feedback from a staff of noted officials, including NCAA Final 4 official Joe Lindsay (photo ❷), as well as an assortment of other top D1, D2, D3, and high school officials and evaluator. Moretski commented "The entire day was first rate. The officials got a great opportunity to work high caliber games and receive valuable feedback from our championship level staff. Thank you to Coach Fergus and the Dock staff for putting it all together!" Fergus continued, "It was wonderful to give something back to a group of people without whom we have no game-the basketball officials! My thanks to Dock and to Dan Moretski and to all the teams that competed. We are hoping to make this an annual event, and are happy to be able to do something to help this great game of basketball that we love so much!"









CHAPEL INTEREST GROUPS

Mr. Caleb Benner and our HS Chapel Committee work hard to provide different opportunities for faith formation at our high school campus during the fall semester. Students experienced chapel in smaller "interest groups" that have been planned and led by chapel committee members. Some of these student-led groups include Girls & Guys Bible Studies, Acts of Service, Worship Band, Bible Verse Art, & Faith in Sports just to name a few! Pictured here are a few of our Acts of Service students writing Thank You notes to our amazing Food Service staff, and a group photo of the Faith in Sports group.

CLASS OF 2022 GIFT

You might notice some improvements next time you enter the high school campus from Forty Foot Rd! Thanks to the class of 2022 for providing funds from their class gift to improve the landscaping around the entrance signs on Forty Foot Rd. Additional thanks to the excellent work by Clarke's Landscaping, who designed and then installed the new flowerbeds on a beautiful day in late September.









AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB

"Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand." These words from the Chinese philosopher Confucius rang true in more than one way for **Ainsley Moyer** and **Adelyn Clemmer** as they participated in a service trip to Belize this summer with Souderton Mennonite Church. While on the trip, their team assisted with the construction of a new building for Jesus' Deaf Church and interacted with many members of that congregation. After returning to school, Ainsley was inspired to start an American Sign Language activity period, and with the help of Adelyn, they now have twelve students learning ASL! One of the group's activities this fall was when they gathered for a silent Thanksgiving meal.

ACCOUNTING CLASS PROJECT BASED LEARNING

On the last day of the semester, Dock *Foundations of Accounting* students had a lot to celebrate! Throughout the second quarter, the class engaged in Project Based Learning to apply critical thinking and real-world applications to accounting. In November, **Marissa Busby** ('13) visited the class to share her vision about starting a new baking business while requesting some accounting guidance as well. Operating in two teams, the class worked hard at creating materials for Marissa while also incorporating helpful feedback from **Natasha Alderfer** ('97), **Josh Kerr** ('02), **Meredith King** ('18), and Michael Lambright. Each team then presented their final products to a panel of experts (**Nate Weaver** ('07), **Jennifer Landis** ('01), Caleb Mangum) to get additional feedback and a final evaluation. Marissa visited the class again to receive what the students prepared for her and to, of course, celebrate! The students surprised her with cake and Marissa surprised them with cupcakes—sweet! What a great way to end a fantastic semester! Thanks to Marissa and to all the other Dock alumni and friends of Dock that helped make this great learning experience possible for our students!





Friday Breakfast Fellowship

Since the late 1980s, there has been a tradition of Dock male faculty ending the work week by meeting for breakfast, usually on Friday mornings, usually by 6:00 a.m. if not earlier, to score the best seats at the table.

BY J. ERIC BISHOP, ('74)



Photo l to r: **Caleb Benner** ('06), **Bob Rutt**, **Tim Swartz** ('73), **Zach Bower** ('02), **Rod Derstine** ('78), **Ron Hertzler**, **Eric Kehs**, **Marcello Mast**, **Darwin Zehr**, **Eldon Miller**, **Jeff Hackman**, **Kirby King**, **Tim Ehst** ('71), **Eric Bishop** ('74) (circa 2015)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, one group in particular has continued to meet, but by Zoom only. This smaller group (the "Executive Committee," as we once called ourselves) consists of retired teachers: **Mr. S. Duane Kauffman**, **Mr. Gerald Benner**, **Mr. Richard Lichty**, **Mr. Wilmer "Wib" Zook**, **Mr. Eldon Miller**, **Mr. Rodney Derstine**, **Mr. Jerold Yoder**, **Dr. J. Eric Bishop**, and **Mr. Timothy Ehst**. While the Zoom meetings continue to convene every Wednesday, the in-person breakfasts only occur on the first Wednesday of each month at the Franconia Heritage Restaurant. A mood of nostalgia (as well as a good bit of laughter) certainly accompanies our weekly meetings.

I recently set my iPad in the center of the round table reserved for us in the back of the dining room and recorded the responses to several prompts, the most important one being: Why does this group meet? Mr. Benner says, "We have a shared past. We don't have to spend a lot of time bringing each other up to date as to what we have been through." Mr. Miller says, "For me, it's one place where I can talk about stuff, and I know that everyone in the group will understand what I am talking about. This group, for me, has at times been like church, like when Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered in my name. . .'." For Mr. Lichty, it is "a non-judgmental group," a sentiment echoed by Mr. Kauffman who says, "We can take off our masks and allow ourselves to be vulnerable because we trust each other." Mr. Derstine (in a later interview) said, "To me, it's inspiring because these guys are all life-long learners, and they're not entrenched in some ideology whereby they can't question things anymore. It's a very freeing group in terms of having honest discussions about important topics." "When we were teaching at Dock," says Mr. Benner, "we each did our own thing, in our own rooms, with our own groups of students, but we had a real sense that we were a team, working together. Meeting around a table like this [at breakfast] enables me to know each other much better as a team and to realize how valuable each member was then and still is. It's a gift and a treasured memory."



Mr. Timothy Ehst, ('71), Health and P.E./A.D., and Mr. Jerold Yoder, Math • Photos by J. Eric Bishop

We veteran teachers also think fondly of the generations of students we interacted with, and we often talk about them. Mr.



Visiting Tim Ehst's farm, Frontier Pastures in May 2022.
Top Row: Mr. Benner, Mr. Derstine, Mr. Yoder, Mr. Miller, Mr. Lichty, Mr. Kauffman
Bottom Row: Mr. Ehst, Mr. Zook, Dr. Bishop
Photo: Anne Derstine Ehst ('69)

Kauffman says, "We still have interest in the alumni, and we want to stay in touch with them to see how things are going." Mr. Lichty says, "We enjoy following former students in their educational and vocational pursuits and accomplishments." And what would we want Dock's alumni to know about us, in turn? "I want our alumni, and others as well, to know that we still have an interest in a Dock education, that we had a passion for what we were doing when we were teachers there and that we still care," says Mr. Zook. Mr. Yoder says,



Mr. Wilmer "Wib" Zook, Health and P.E./Driver Ed., and Mr. Eldon Miller, Spanish

"We want our alumni to know that we really value the experiences that we had there." Mr. Miller wants the alumni to know, "We still share that idea of the community, that shared vision of what we experienced." Having recently retired from Dock [at the end of 2020-2021], Mr. Ehst says, "For me, this group is helpful in my efforts to shape a new identity of recently retiring. In addition, having opportunities to talk about life, both the challenges and what brings joy, usually adds positive energy to my day!" Speaking of retirement, there are certainly other retired Dock teachers who could



Mr. S. Duane Kauffman, Social Studies, and Mr. Richard Lichty, Bible and Social Studies

and should join this group, and there have, in fact, been Zoom drop-ins by such former teachers as **Mr. Roland Yoder** (Art and Science) and by **Ms. Rosie "Stoltz" Stoltzfus Hartzler** (Health and P.E.). We are also aware that some of Dock's female teachers have been meeting for breakfast as well over the years.

This group would certainly want me to mention that when we meet at the Franconia Heritage Restaurant, we are always well served by our beloved waitress Louise. She always loves it when we sing, in harmony, "God is great and God is good..." Then we break the bread, sip our coffee, and eat our eggs together and remember that, overall, God has indeed been quite good to our little group.



Dr. J. Eric Bishop, ('74), English and German and Mr. Gerald Benner, ('59), English/Development



Top Row: **Mrs. Rose Lambright, Mrs. Joan Grega, Ms. Karen Johnston**
Bottom Row: **Mrs. Kathy Moyer, Mrs. Gail Anderson, Ms. Barb Brown**

Rose Lambright—Dock Mennonite Academy is a place where friendships flourish. Often we see that between students, but it also happens with faculty members. Women faculty members meet Friday mornings at the Courtyard Marriott in Kulpsville to share life's stories, struggles, joys, prayer concerns, and lots of laughter. Sometimes we are there for an hour, sometimes much, much longer! Sometimes there are two or three of us, other times up to ten. Always, we leave having deepened our friendship and laughed a lot.

Joan Grega—Our weekly coffee meeting of the "Dock ladies" continues to connect our souls after our many years together. We share our joys, sorrows and life challenges with each other and support each other through prayer, conversational wisdom and humor. Dock was, and still is, a special place for all of us and our bonds of friendship and shared memories are still strong.

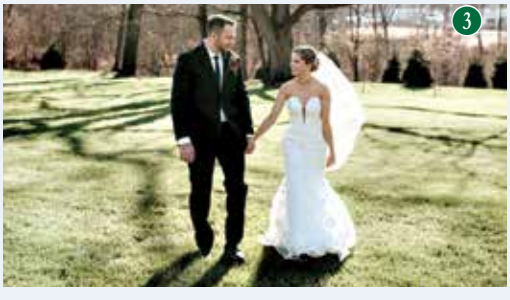


Mrs. Rose Lambright, Ms. Barb Brown, Ms. Elaine Gehman

ALUMNI NEWS


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2


3

ALUMNI NOTES

2002
On July 21, **Dustin** and Hannah **Leatherman** welcomed Riley Sophia. 1

2014
Mariah Denlinger earned her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from James Madison University. 2

Aaron Guttenplan has published in "Passepartout," a peer reviewed journal of art history published by Aarhus University in Denmark. The article is titled "Home/Screen: The Domestic Architecturalization of Television and Televised Space," and examines the ways that TV has become an integral part of the spaces we live in.

2016
Jesse Kolb married Corrine Day on December 10, 2022. 3

After graduating from Dock, **Brooke (Leaman) Muralles** served at an orphanage in Guatemala during her Gap year, coordinated through Eastern Mennonite Missions. Following that year, Brooke enrolled at Lipscomb University in Nashville, majoring in social work, but could not get Guatemala out of her mind—or her heart. She finished out freshman year, but headed back to Guatemala soon after and lived with a missionary family she had met on her first visit. That's when she met Jesus Muralles, and they got married in September 2020, with family being able to attend the wedding via Facetime. Brooke and Jesus run a ministry for young children, who's faces light up when they see them arrive after their long drive to get to the town. On August 5, Brooke and Jesus welcomed Alejandra (Ali) Grace. 4

2017/2018
Jill Bolton ('17) and **Lincoln Bergey** ('18) married on October 2, 2022. 5

2020
Rebecca Brown and the Alfred State College volleyball team won their first NCAA conference title, finishing the year with a 21-7 overall record and going undefeated in regular season conference play. (Rebecca is in the yellow headband, bottom left) 6

2021
Samantha Osborn was awarded Most Popular Driver for the ROC (Race of Champions) Late Model Series in 2022, presented by SpeedSport. 7




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6



7



A New Journey Begins

Tarrell Willis ('15) shared some exciting news with the Dock community when he visited chapel in January. Tarrell has relocated to Indianapolis, IN, joining the Ref Quest team as a Business Finance Specialist and will be starting his journey to become a collegiate basketball official, eventually officiating at the D-1 level. Using his own journey as an example, Tarrell challenged Dock students to consider how the decisions they make today will impact their life tomorrow, to go out there and establish relationships with others, and also to "trust that feeling in your head or heart and push past your fears." When Tarrell reconnected recently with former Dock Athletic Director **Tim Ehst** ('71), Tim asked Tarrell how he handles being heckled by spectators and/or coaches. Tarrell responded that his "number one go to response is to look at them and smile."

Alumni Hired as Head Coaches

*Dock Athletics is pleased to announce the hiring of **Eric Kratz** ('98) as the Varsity Baseball Head Coach and **Logan Hunsberger** ('14) as Varsity Girls Volleyball Head Coach.*

Erik Kratz graduated from Eastern Mennonite University before being drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in 2002. Kratz made his MLB debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 2010, and was the backup catcher for the Philadelphia Phillies in 2013. Kratz played for 14 different MLB clubs, including the 2015 World Series Champion Kansas City Royals. Kratz spent the past two seasons coaching Dock's Middle School Baseball team and is looking forward to making the transition to High School ball. From Athletic Director **Seth Frankenfield**, "We are very excited to have Erik lead our baseball program. We know Erik will get the most out of our athletes from a baseball perspective, but he will also help develop them into leaders who will make a positive influence in our world."

Logan Hunsberger graduated from Messiah University where he was a four year starter for Messiah's Club Volleyball team. Hunsberger spent the past season as Dock's JV Girls Volleyball Head Coach and is ready for the next step in his coaching career. He brings a high level of expertise and energy to the Girls Volleyball program, having experience serving with Push the Rock and Cal Sports camps and also serving as Volleyball Graduate Assistant at Eastern Nazarene College from 2018-2021.









ALUMNI NEWS

IN MEMORIAM



Ralph A. Alderfer ('58) died on June 29, 2022. Ralph graduated from Christopher Dock Mennonite High School in 1958 and returned to teach high school music and math in 1967-86, after serving in a similar capacity at Iowa Mennonite High School. He was also a self-employed painter and paperhanger for over 30 years. Ralph was the conductor of the Franconia-Lancaster Choral Singers since 1995 and a board member of the Lansdale Community Concerts. He was a member of Ambler Mennonite Church, where he served as chair of the Worship Commission and song leader.



Thomas M. Putera died on October 9, 2022. Thomas worked at Merck as a Senior Analytical Chemist until 2003 when he retired after heart surgery to be a stay-at-home dad. Over the years he was active with several local organizations including Upper Hanover Township Industrial Development Authority, Upper Perkiomen Manor, Living Hope Farm, the Macoby Run 5K committee, the Dock Golf committee, and assisted with other fundraising events at Dock Mennonite Academy. Tom was also volunteer Track and Field coach at Dock for the past five years.



Sanford A. Alderfer died on October 24, 2022. Despite having to drop out of school after 8th grade to work on the family farm, Sanford lived out his lifelong dream of becoming an Auctioneer when he started Sanford A. Alderfer Companies in 1960 where he was actively involved for the remainder of his career. Sanford was a passionate supporter of Mennonite education, assisting with the Country Fair and Auction since its beginning 62 years ago, as well as high school golf coach and serving on the Christopher Dock Mennonite High School Board of Trustees.



Sam Lapp ('57) died on December 23, 2022. Sam was the husband of Helen Lapp, who died November 30, 2021. Sam and Helen both had careers in education. Sam taught technology education at Wissahickon High School and Helen taught English at Dock in the early 1960s. Sam returned to Dock Mennonite as a regular substitute teacher for the last decade and would sometimes join the "Breakfast Men" on Friday mornings and even cover the tab for the group from time to time. Sam and Helen were the long-time sponsors of the Sam and Helen Lapp Peacemaking Award, given each year to a student



David G. Landis ('59) died on December 30, 2022. Dave grew up in Telford, PA and attended Franconia Mennonite School and then Christopher Dock Mennonite High School where he graduated in 1959. While in high school, Dave began a lifelong career at the Main Street, Telford grocery store started by his father. Over his lifetime, he gave leadership as CEO and board chair, collaborating with family members and others to grow the business to five local grocery stores to serve the community. Dave was a passionate supporter of Mennonite education and served on the Board of Trustees of both Christopher Dock Mennonite High School & Penn View Christian School (now merged as Dock Mennonite Academy).

BOSTON STRONG

*The road to the Boston Marathon was long and hard, but **Karalyn Schmidt**'s strong faith allowed her to run and not get weary.*

BY KARALYN SCHMIDT ('14)





Ever since I started training for my first marathon back in 2018, I knew that the Boston Marathon was a race I wanted to run someday. With everything I had heard about Boston and in following stories from professionals and amateurs alike, I was so inspired! I've always been one to set high goals for myself and never stop until I reach them, so I decided in 2018 to make Boston my "dream race."

Shortly after I ran my qualifying marathon in 2020, I got injured and was sidelined from running for several months. Going to physical therapy helped reduce the physical pain I was in, but mentally, I spiraled down a dark path. I struggled with losing the ability to move my body in the way I wanted. Running is a big part of who I am—it's an outlet to relieve stress and what makes me feel most alive. It is also one of the easiest ways I connect to God.



The only thing that kept me going was my faith. God was my Rock and even though it was hard to trust Him at times, I chose to rest in His faithfulness. He had healed me before and I knew He could do it again. I chose to surrender everything to God and give Him the glory in my suffering. Faith, therapy, and the support of loyal friends and family who stuck by my side every step of the way played a huge part in the healing process.

The day I got the official email announcing my acceptance into the Boston Marathon was such an emotional day! It was a huge confirmation of God working despite my setbacks. The 2022 Boston Marathon was one of the most special experiences in my life. We spent the days leading up to the race exploring the city and being a part of all the race events. On Easter Sunday, we went to a Blessing of the Athletes service, which was such an intimate moment between me and God. I gave my race to Him and praised Him for this opportunity to run. It was in that moment that I knew, without a doubt, that I would finish the race strong.

Marathon Monday came with perfect weather—sunny with a high of 50. I was so excited to start running and celebrate everything I'd overcome. All throughout the course, the crowds had so much energy, which helped carry me through each mile. I gave SO many high fives and had some good laughs reading the posters people made! I loved the fact that I was always around other runners who were celebrating this accomplishment too, which always inspires me.

Right before I finished, I looked up and just above the finish line platform was the bell tower of a church. I couldn't help but smile because it was God's reminder that He was with me every step of that race. Finally crossing that finish line is something I will never forget. Not only did it represent the completion of 26.2 miles, but it represented overcoming all the adversity I had endured in the year leading up to that moment. "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."All glory to God!

DOCK
MENNONITE ACADEMY

EARLY CHILDHOOD TO GRADE EIGHT
420 Godshall Road
Souderton, PA 18964
215.723.1196

GRADES NINE TO TWELVE
1000 Forty Foot Road
Lansdale, PA 19446
215.362.2675

WWW.DOCK.ORG

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

EC to Grade 8 Calendar

MARCH 2023
March 1 – Hoagie Day
March 3-4 – Middle School Drama
March 10 – Dock Rocks Giving Day
March 13 – **No School**
March 21 – Family Service Night
March 24 – 2nd Grade Grandparents' Day and 2nd Grade Musical
March 29 – Middle School Expo Night
March 31 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**

April 2023
April 7-16 – **Easter Break, No School**
April 18 – EC to Grade 8 Admissions Open House
April 24 – Spring Golf Tournament
April 24-28 – Spring Book Fair

Grades 9 to 12 Calendar

MARCH 2023
March 10 – Dock Rocks Giving Day
March 13 – **No School**
March 16 – Winter Athletic Awards Night
March 18 – Grades 9-12 Admissions Open House
March 21 – Family Service Night
March 31 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**

April 2023
April 7-16 – **Easter Break, No School**
April 24 – Spring Golf Tournament
April 27-29 – Grades 9-12 Spring Drama



Spring Golf Outing



Dock Rocks Giving Day

SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT

APRIL 24, 2023

Dock returns to the beautiful Indian Valley Country Club for our Spring Golf Tournament. Get a foursome together, enjoy some great golf, and make memories as we fulfill our calling to teach generations of students to be inquisitive, confident thinkers who lead lives of purpose in service to others.