LAMPLIGHTER

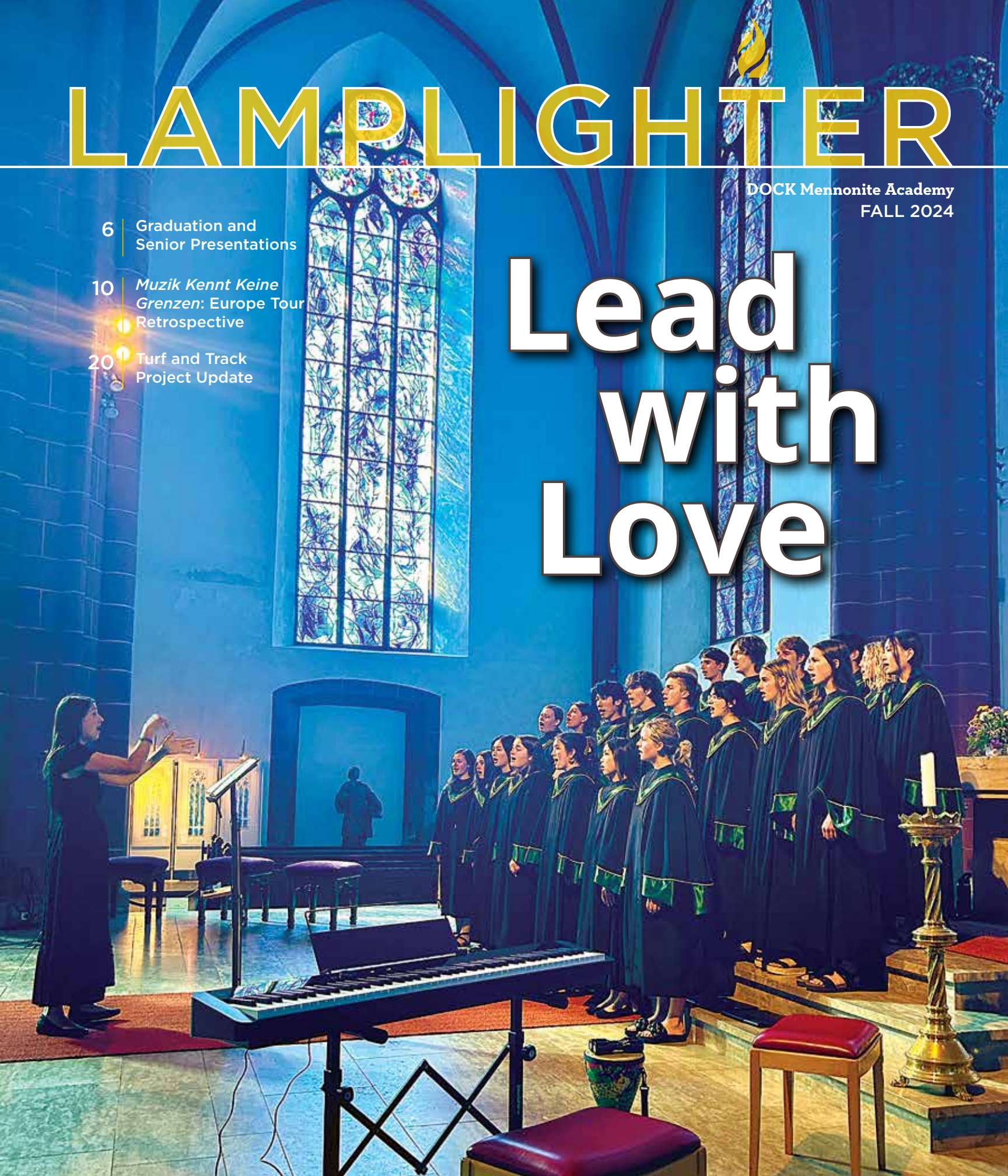
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Lead with Love



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ON THE COVER: Read more about Europe Tour 2024 on page 8, and scan here to watch the choir perform "Lead with Love" and "Baba Yetu" at St. Stephan's Cathedral (Mainz, Germany).

SCAN ME

RIGHT: **Jody Clemens** (member of the 2024 Quilt Committee) and her granddaughter, **Elise Kissel** ('32), with the 2024 4th Grade Quilt at the 63rd Country Fair and Auction.



DOCK
MENNONITE ACADEMY

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The Essential Connection of Faith and Academics

Superintendent's MESSAGE

We often attempt to separate things that are intertwined and interdependent. We find concepts such as accountability with love or words versus deeds to be easier to separate than to understand their connectedness.

During our 2015 merger, we discussed our brand as Dock Mennonite Academy. We agreed with stakeholder feedback that faith and academics were equally important at Dock. This was true for both campuses historically and it was our continued desire for future students. In the Dock logo, you note the words "Mennonite" and "Academy" are the same size and on the same line. This design was to emphasize that neither superseded the other. Both were equally important to the Dock brand. The opening statement in Dock's Educational Philosophy notes, "Dock Mennonite Academy understands faith and learning to be inseparable". We often describe faith and academics as sides of a zipper – stronger when joined and only able to function when interlocked together.

DOCK
MENNONITE ACADEMY

Faith is infused in everything we do and impacts the entire class session, our lunch time, recess, and interactions throughout the day.

It is always a temptation to use a simple, tangible measurement for faith integration. Requiring teachers to begin each class with a Bible verse and a prayer followed by a secular lesson is a practice that represents the bar for combining faith and academics for many schools. At Dock, we have a different understanding of how one integrates faith and academics.



These aren't separate practices that function at different times of the day. Our understanding of faith is that Christ-centeredness is a part of every minute of every day. Faith is infused in everything we do and impacts the entire class session, our lunch time, recess, and interactions throughout the day. Our faith instructs how we relate to one another and how we restore relationships that have been damaged.

Jesus calls us to excellence, encouraging us to do well in everything we do. Colossians 3:23 reminds us, "Whatever task you must do, work as if your soul depends on it, as for the Lord and not for humans." Our faith demands that we take our work seriously and strive to do it well, including at school.

How do you infuse faith into academics? Inviting an outside accreditation team to review standards related to both our academic program and our faith component is a primary way to hold ourselves accountable. Another key to integrating faith and academics is a faculty who understands faith as a part of everything we do. They understand we are always in God's presence, while teaching, but also during times of recreation and socializing. Our guiding mission, branding, policies, and practices reinforce this concept for our school community.

This issue of *Lamplighter* reveals the Dock zipper of faith and academics. You will hear it through the senior speeches, in the stories of alumni, and through service experiences. It helps explain why accreditation with both Cognia and the Mennonite Schools Council is important to Dock. The Touring Choir experiences demonstrate the integration of faith and academics. Enjoy the stories and descriptions of the zipper in this issue of the Lamplighter. The strength of faith-infused academic opportunities at Dock is a distinctive that truly sets Dock apart.



Dr. Conrad Swartzentruber, Superintendent

Graduation
2024

Moving





on with Love

"Dock has a culture of Christ infused education which sets you up to being a God bearer."- Marlene Frankenfield











Pastor Marlene Frankenfield is an ordained minister who has led for decades serving various roles in the Franconian Mennonite Conference, Mosaic Mennonite Conference, and as youth minister at Salford Mennonite Church. Marlene had a direct connection with Dock for many years, serving as Christopher Dock Mennonite High School's Campus Pastor and later as international host coordinator. She has served on the Healthy Niños Honduras Board of Directors for many years. She is passionate about her experiences and learning from the people of Honduras through those visits. Marlene and her husband, Dean, are both graduates of Christopher Dock Mennonite High School, Class of 1975. They have three children, all Dock alumni, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Paul Veltre (parent of graduate Olivia Veltre) set up Commencement well the night before at the Baccalaureate service when he acknowledged the generosity shown by many in previous and current generations that have supported Dock Mennonite Academy. Paul asked all to, "remember the discernment and conviction that led individuals in this community to heed God's calling to form and finance this school... and to remember the generosity and sacrificial giving it took, and continues to require, to maintain." Many have given generously to Dock as staff persons, teachers, and a variety of other roles, and commencement speaker, Pastor **Marlene** (Moyer) **Frankenfield** ('75), is part of that group, serving as high school Campus Pastor from 1998-2011.

Pastor Marlene leaned on her years of experience in roles related to supporting church leaders and pastors, specializing in youth ministry, as she encouraged the Class of 2024 to *Move on with Love* from Dock. In her preparation, she requested a list of all of the graduate's names, saying that, "as I eagerly anticipated this day, I devoted myself to a spiritual practice of speaking your names aloud. Holding each one of you up to God, as beloved sons and daughters of God created in God's image." Marlene quoted the text from this year's Touring Choir song, *Lead with Love*, as she encouraged the graduates to step forward in faith, putting *one foot in front of the other* and *leading with love* as they move on. Through a story she witnessed while Dock's Campus Pastor, Marlene provided the students a powerful example of *leading with love*.

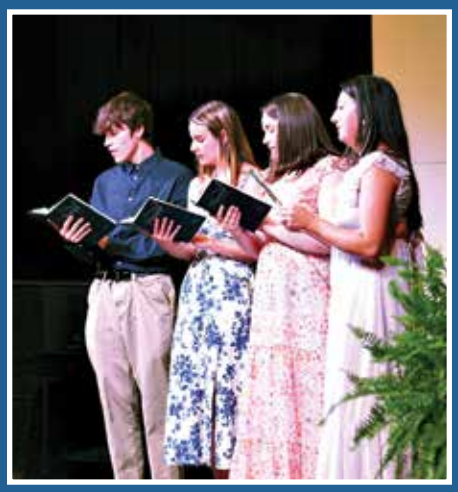
Enjoy this snippet from Pastor Marlene's commencement address that highlights that story:

Dock has a culture of Christ infused education which sets you up to being a God bearer. Being a God bearer will look different for each one of you as you scatter and move from this place. The amazing story of a God bearer that quickly came to my mind was a Senior Experience trip to Honduras that I had the privilege of leading twenty years ago.

Laura (Gaugler) **Lazic** ('04) volunteered during her senior year with Healthy Niños Honduras, which is now Healthy Ninos Honduras. Laura wanted her friends to share her passion for helping the people in Honduras while providing medical and nutritional care and education, all while building relationships and loving the Honduran people.

Graduation 2024

Baccalaureate 2024







Baccalaureate was a meaningful evening that included great food, fellowship, and time of worship and reflection in the chapel.







These Dock students were God bearers as they took the loving, humble gesture of feet washing that Jesus taught by washing his disciples' feet. Each day, while in Honduras, we ventured out in a van over bumpy, muddy, dirty roads to a village where mothers and barefoot, malnourished children were already lined up when we arrived. They were anticipating seeing the doctor as well as the students who came to assist in weighing and measuring the children, and distributing Vitamin A and the powerful deworming pill that each one happily received. These pills kill parasites that enter their body, contaminating food and water that burrow into the feet, eating away the little food the children have, causing malnutrition and sometimes death.

To end each day, the students gathered to share and listen to one another about what they experienced as we encountered the people in the village. At the end of the week, when it was Laura's turn to share, she said, "what if we have a foot washing service with the village children to end our trip?" The last village we visited was the next day, and the students filled the basins, set up chairs, and the kids lined up to have their dirty feet washed. While Laura washed a little boy's feet, he asked with a big smile on his face, in Spanish, if he could wash her feet. And when Laura took off her shoes, the Honduran children giggled at her white, unscarred, clean feet.

While the little boy washed her feet with his brown, malnourished hands, he giggled with pure joy. The rest of the students paired up with the children, humbly washing one another's feet. Laura mentioned that she returned home with the Honduran children's footprints on her heart. She went on to college to become a nurse.

The act of serving and being served has more to do than just a one-time service trip. It was symbolic of everyday life, stepping forward with love and learning to be a God bearer. As you leave Dock, you will join 5,662 Dock alumni community. You will take with you all that you were taught and experienced at Dock, and you will stay connected to some friends while others will fade away. In the future, you may even surprise yourself and find yourself back here at Dock, maybe as a staff person, a teacher, or maybe even the principal.

ACADEMIC AWARDS



CHRISTOPHER DOCK AWARD

The highest honor given to a student, the Christopher Dock Award is presented to one senior male and female in recognition of all-around campus citizenship, leadership, and scholarship during high school. The 2024 winners of the Dock Award are **Maria DeRosa** and **Bryan Dorneman**.



Sam & Helen Lapp Peacemaking Award

Olivia Veltre is the 2024 recipient of the **Sam & Helen Lapp Peacemaking Award**, given to a student who makes a significant contribution to peace on the Dock campus.

Subject Area Awards

These awards are presented to the seniors who have shown outstanding performance in a given subject area as recognized by the Dock faculty.

Bottom Photo: (L to r): **Tess Bergey** (Family and Consumer Sciences); **Adelyn Clemmer** (Paul R. Clemens Bible, Social Studies, Technology); **Abigail Niederer** (English); **Anna Smith** (Music, Spanish); **Meagan Reed** (Writer's Award, Drama, Charles Clemmer Art); **Belinda Leisner** (Physical Education); **Erin Miles** (Science); **Ella Bechtel** (Career Study); **Dominic Brown** (Physical Education), **Bryan Dorneman** (Paul R. Clemens Bible)

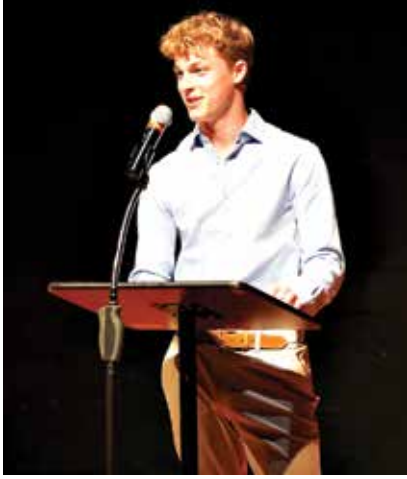
Citizenship Award



The Citizenship Award is sponsored by **Lee** and **Ruth Delp** ('64) and State Rep. Steve Malagari. The award is presented to one student in each grade who consistently shows good character, citizenship, involvement and responsibility at Dock, and consistently goes above and beyond to meet the needs of the campus and their classmates. Citizenship Awards for 2024 were presented to (l to r) **Amelia Landis** (grade 9), **Amy Muhlfeld** (grade 10), **Cindy Yuan** (grade 11), and **Adelyn Clemmer** (grade 12).



"Taking **time to reflect** on the distance you have come **is valuable."**- Trevor Ridge



The Value of Reflection

By **Emily Rush**
HS English and Senior Speech Coordinator

Observing external changes is often easier than internal ones. Adding inches, changing styles, getting a haircut are all developments easily perceived and easily found throughout a high school career. Internal change, however, is harder to pinpoint, especially if you're not looking for it. It's not until we step back, look at the bigger picture, that we can see growth and progress.

One of the most notable assignments in a Dock student's career gives the opportunity for this big picture work: the senior speech. For some, it is a looming fear next to the excitement of graduation, while for others, it is a welcome chance to look back over their four years. Through the hard work of reflecting, students come to recognize the importance of their time at Dock. **Trevor Ridge** explained this realization at the start of his presentation: "The 'Senior Speech' that Dock requires all students to do is something that I was dreading for the longest time. It was not until I started writing my speech that I really found value in what I was doing. As fast as my high school years have gone, I think that it is important that I reflect on the stages of life I went through during my high school career. This principle can be applied to many stages of life, not just high school. Taking time to reflect on the distance you have come is valuable." Year after year, we see that value for each student and each audience member attending.

In the first week of June, each graduating senior spoke on that distance after reflecting on it for weeks in their Communications classes. Audiences saw how far the class of 2024 had come, getting a 20-minute crash course into the varied lives of individuals. The following excerpts show just a glimpse of the reflective work fostered by the Dock community and the learning these graduates will take with them.



Adelyn Clemmer and Leah Al-laty at Baccalaureate

Adelyn Clemmer: I am very actively still on my journey. I can feel the safety nets being cut out from around me as I start to take more and more steps out into the world by myself. I have thought a lot about whether or not I am afraid of this next chapter and the answer I have stumbled upon is... yes I am really terrified... but I'm not scared of failure or regret. I am scared that the experience I am graduating from will be as one of a kind as I already have the suspicion it is.

Toni Philips: I learned that a lot of the challenges I faced had to do with mindset. This had to do with in class and through sports or anything I decided to voluntarily do that took time out of my day or expenses. I didn't learn this the easy way but changing the way I thought about things played a big role on what I put out on the track and in school.



Anna Smith



Senior Speech—a welcome chance to look back over their four years

Anna Smith: High school is a rollercoaster ride of change, joy, and hardship. I have experienced some of my highest highs and lowest lows throughout these past four years, however, I have not faced them alone. High school has shown me just how much God has been with me. He has had a hand in everything, from my biggest accomplishments to my worst struggles. Life has challenged me and will continue to challenge me. However, with God beside me, I know that I can do hard things.

Bryan Dorneman: I have realized that it is the people we interact with everyday that have the biggest impact on our lives. It is not the NBA stars or CEOs we see on TV. It is our friends, teachers, pastors, custodians, coaches, siblings, and parents who are happy to see us and make us feel valuable daily. I have learned that there is a great value in living life for a purpose. My four years here have helped me become more confident and comfortable being myself. I know that I am a vital part of something bigger. I know that I am a child of God. I know that I am blessed beyond measure.

Olivia Veltre: I am blessed to have made many meaningful memories and met the most incredible people here. The abilities and opportunities I have been given are God-sent, and through Him, all things are possible. I want to start this speech by addressing how positive my experience has been at this school. Being able to go here since preschool is such a blessing, and it has shaped me into the person I am today. I would like to thank all of my loving teachers and everyone who has made my attendance here possible. I will always treasure my time here at Dock and I am happy to know that I will still be able to come back frequently in the future.

Ceara Barnes: My entire high school journey has had its ups and downs and I became a better person because of all of it. The biggest lesson I've learned from the last four years at Dock is to stand up for myself and not give up when things get tough. There's nowhere else I would've wanted to complete these last four years because the memories and people have shaped me to be who I am today.

Eliana Farmer: This quote from Trina Paulus sticks out to me: "How does one become a butterfly? You have to want to learn to fly so much that you are willing to give up being a caterpillar." I had to work to give up old ways and become the person I am today through these past four years. This was not all upward motion. I went through roller coaster periods where I would be having the best day ever and then the next was spent ranting to my mom on the phone. Through it all I can say if I had never gone through all of that I would not be where I am today.

Michael John: I feel like if I was asked to [work with kids at Camp Men-o-Lan] freshman year I would turn this opportunity down because I was not brave enough or would have thought I was not suited for the job. I'm glad I pushed myself out of my comfort zone and tried something like this because if I didn't I wouldn't know what I was missing out on. With my experience, just say yes to an experience even if you are unsure of the outcome, you never know what you might learn about yourself.



Bryan Dorneman



Ceara Barnes (above) Michael John (right)
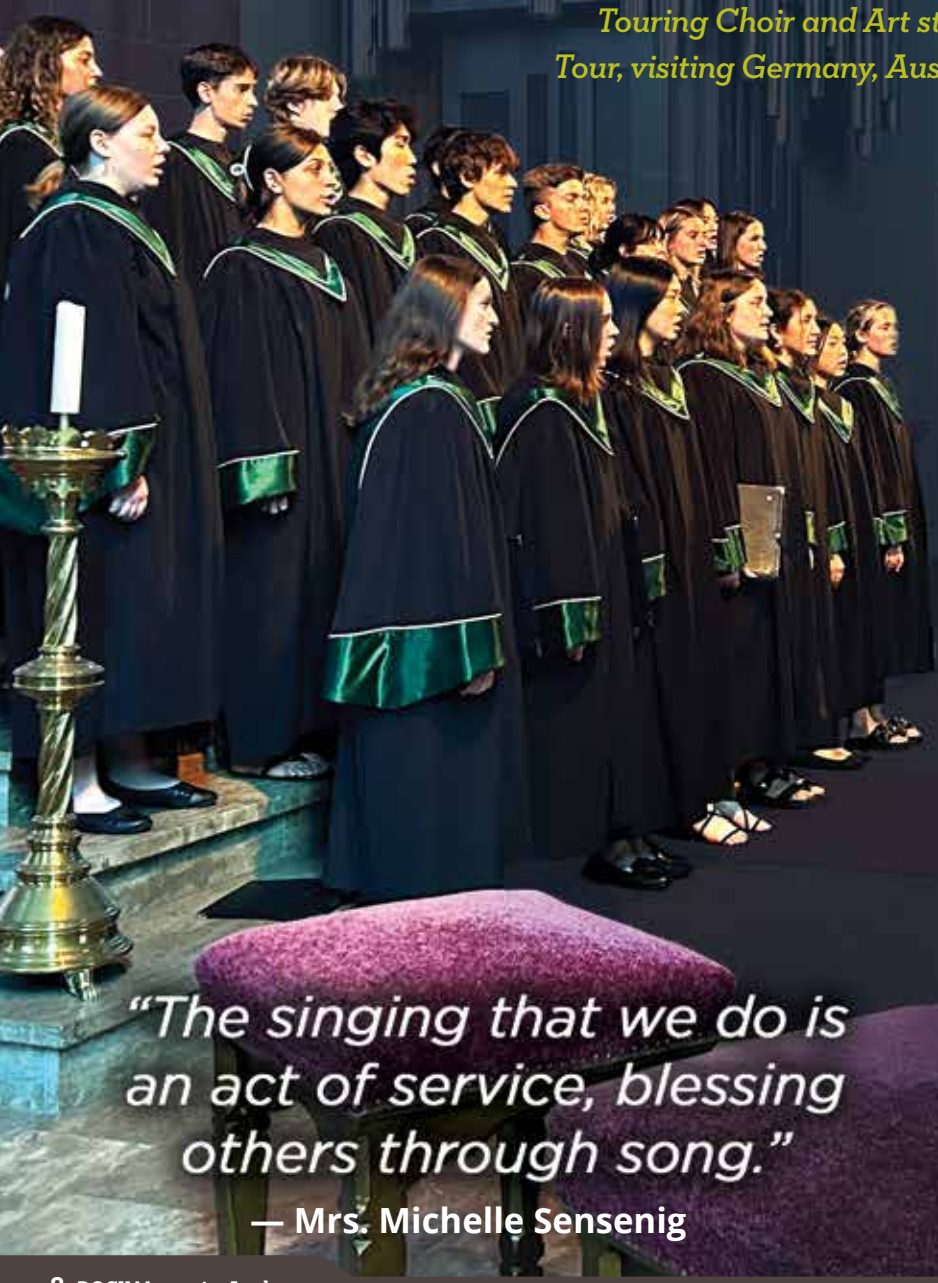


Europe Tour 2024

Leading with Love and Singing for Peace

By **Zach Bower**
HS Social Studies and Communications Associate

Touring Choir and Art students participated in the bi-annual Europe Tour, visiting Germany, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland, June 11-26, 2024.



When the Touring Choir was preparing for a concert in St. Goarshausen (Germany), a local couple walked into the church and we tried to communicate that they were a bit early, the concert won't start for another hour. They responded with, "Oh no, we mean to be here this early so that we can also listen to the choir warm up." This couple hosted a student from the Dock Touring Choir in 2004 and they have kept this routine every year the choir has visited since. This story gives a taste of how warmly welcomed Dock students are received in the communities visited on the Europe Tour after decades of building relationships. After performing in a concert later in the tour, a student shared, "I can tell we have touched so many hearts with our singing." The theme of this year's Touring Choir program was fitting; *Lead With Love*, which was also the title of a song from this year's repertoire.

For almost thirty years, the Touring Choir has traveled to Europe to bless people through music, learn about other cultures and hospitality through host families, and visit Anabaptist history sites and other significant historical locations. Director, **Mrs. Michelle Sensenig**, encouraged the students with these words during a group circle time: "The singing that we do is an act of service, blessing others through song. With choral music specifically, you put the text and the music together and the combination creates something profound." As a Mennonite school that incorporates Anabaptist faith practices, these students see first hand how they can live out the gospel message by serving others, while growing in understanding that they can make a positive difference in the world globally and locally.

"I am grateful for each community that we enter and the love that they give us."

A signature piece of the Europe tours is the invaluable experience of staying with host families, with this year's group staying with five different host families. While in St. Goarshausen (Germany), students were able to visit classes in the local high school with their hosts. After this experience, one of our students called it, "an unexpected joyful moment!" Regarding host families, a student said, "I am grateful for each community that we enter and the love that they give us." Another student said, "I have seen God in our host families. It's not easy for any couple or family to be like, 'Oh, I'll take these kids from halfway across the world for two nights.' I'm just really appreciative of that." During one host family arrangement, between Dock students and their hosts, the countries of Thailand, South Korea, the United States, and Germany were all represented, providing an unforgettable and unique cross-cultural experience.

Learning about history when you are on location is powerful. In Sinsheim, students visited a location used for worship by early Anabaptists in the 17th century (discovered by **John L. Ruth** in 1981!), and also had the unique opportunity to worship together with Sinsheim Mennonite Church for Sunday morning service. In Munich, students learned about the rise of the Nazi party while on a bike tour, and the next day toured Dachau concentration camp. While in Switzerland, the group visited Trachselwald castle and a 400-year old Swiss farm to learn more about early Anabaptist history. It was especially meaningful to be in some of these places knowing that in 2025 the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement will be commemorated around the world. Many in the group felt moved as they took the unique opportunity to sing "True Evangelical Faith" at sites where early Anabaptists lived and experienced persecution; the text of the song was written by Menno Simons (1496-1561).

Scan here to hear the choir singing "True Evangelical Faith" at Trachselwald castle, a location where early Anabaptists were held prisoner in the 17th and 18th centuries.

On June 25, the choir performed the final concert at St. Stephan's Cathedral in Mainz, Germany. The cathedral curator expressed his appreciation for Dock's values when introducing the choir, saying, "I think it is very fitting that you visit this church, which has a name that means 'Church of Peace.' That is one of your school's values, to pray for peace and to sing for peace, which is what you are doing here. This is really an appropriate place for you to sing and we are glad that you have come." As an emotional last concert followed, this represented a holy moment signaling the end of another successful Europe Tour; making meaningful connections and memories that will last a lifetime for students.



A well received feature of this year's tour was **Aaron Sensenig** ('25) introducing the Touring Choir songs in German! Photo taken by Klaus Bichlmayer.



Six students participated in this year's Europe Tour to learn about Art and Culture, under the direction of **Mr. Tim Swartz** ('73).











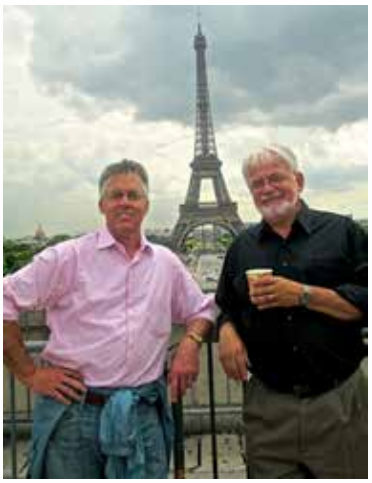
Muzik Kennt Keine Grenzen: Europe Tour Retrospective

By **J. Eric Bishop** ('74)
Dock English and German teacher (1978-2015)

Above photo: Český Krumlov, Czech Republic (2006)
Below: St. Quirin Parish in Aubing, Germany (2014)



On June 26, 2024 the Dock Mennonite Academy Touring Choir returned home from yet another two-week tour in Continental Europe, trekking through parts of Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland. It was the thirteenth such tour, adding to the almost 500 Dock alumni that have experienced the Europe Tour. This article is intended to trace some of the history of this biannual event. The article title, **"Muzik Kennt Keine Grenzen,"** is German for ***music knows no borders***; the idea is that music transcends cultures and breaks down barriers.



Paris, France (2014)

"Vee haff to make contacts!" (said in our best Hogan's Heroes accents) is a statement that former Dock Choir music teacher (1986-2016), **Rodney Derstine** ('70) and I would amusingly utter to each other many times over the years. Saying it meant that we had to get busy arranging the itinerary for an upcoming Touring Choir trip through Europe. Specifically, it meant first identifying the destinations and then the hosting congregations that would always be a part of any tour.

In the 1990s, Rodney took choirs to England, during which they were hosted by the Loughborough Grammar School, an independent boys school in the town of Loughborough, Leicestershire, England. But no Dock choir had ever set foot on the European continent. So, in the fall of 1995, Rodney asked me if I would be interested in helping him put together a two-week tour to Europe for June of 1996. Though I had been mostly teaching English classes, I had also been teaching some German, so he thought it would be handy to have a chaperone along who knew the language and could serve as the "Dolmetscher" (interpreter). There were, of course, a number of educational travel companies offering package trips to almost any destination, but they were charging way more than we wanted our students and families to pay. Rodney and I were confident that we could design a good trip with a reasonable price tag. The only significant expenses (other than what the students chose to spend) would be the flights, the motorcoaches, and the occasional hotels. The home stays would cost us nothing.

Preparing to depart from Dock for the first Europe Tour (1996)



In those early days, the only options for quick communication were FAXes and the telephone, so that is what we used, trusting that nothing important would get lost in the translations! To get us started in the planning, Rod contacted former Dock music teacher (1976-1981) **Jay Hartzler** who had been taking his Eastern Mennonite High School choirs to Western Europe, and Jay suggested several destinations. It was during our first tour that we, by chance, ended up giving a concert at the Wilhelm- Hofmann-Gymnasium in St. Goarshausen, Germany, on the banks of the Rhine River, near the famous Lorelei, which we floated past on our river cruise. Ever since that first overnight host stay and concert, each tour to Germany has included a homestay and concert in St. Goarshausen, and our relationship has brought their choirs and jazz bands to Dock several times.



Rodney Derstine and Frank Reichert, St. Goarshausen, Germany (1996), and Dock (2024)



Paris, France (2014)

The 1996 tour was, as Rodney says, "very conservative," (only Germany and Switzerland) mostly because everything was new to us. That choir had 35 singers and only three adults as chaperones. Recent tours have averaged around 30 singers, but the number of chaperones has grown to five or six. Participants in recent years have also included a handful of art students who go along under the leadership of Dock art teacher, **Tim Swartz** ('73). The 2018 tour included Espelkamp, Germany where Tim's father served as one of the "PAX boys" in the early 1950s.

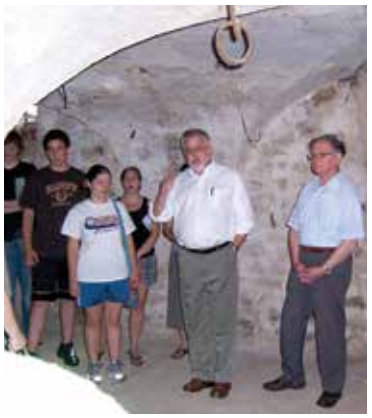
Though the 1996 tour was highly successful, we didn't return to Europe until 2000, with a much more expansive trip. We visited the German cities of Dresden, Berlin and Munich. That tour included the first of many visits to the concentration camps of Dachau and later, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Theresienstadt.



John L. Ruth meeting the choir in Thayngen, Switzerland (2010)



16th century Anabaptist trail, Switzerland (2010)



Steinsfurt, Germany (2006)

Other frequent tour destinations in Germany have included the Russian Mennonite community of Waldbröl, and the tiny, mostly Mennonite village of Weierhof am Donnerberg. In 1988 and 1990 Dock hosted students from the Weierhof Gymnasium. When in the Basel, Switzerland area, the choir is usually hosted by the Basel-Holee Mennonite congregation. Members Pierre and **Mary Jane** (Kolb) ('66) **Goldschmidt** live nearby on a spacious farm in France, and they always lodge a number of choir members. **John L. Ruth**, who has led many Anabaptist history tours to Europe, has suggested sites to check out on our tours, such as Thayngen, Switzerland, where in 2010 the choir hiked up a steep mountain path that 16th-century Anabaptists once traversed. John was actually there to greet us when we arrived in Thayngen! While in Sinsheim, Germany the choir sang "What Is This Place?" in a cellar in Steinsfurt where early Anabaptists worshiped in secret. Inside the church building in Owingen, Germany, we saw a Souderton Mennonite Church afghan hanging on the wall, evidence that others from back home had also been there (a tour organized for that congregation's choir by former Dock music teacher, **Stanley Yoder**).

Quotes from Touring Choir alumni:

"I truly have the best memories from being part of the Touring Choir, and St. Goarshausen was my most memorable stop from the trip - I love seeing this tradition continue!"

"I remember what a thrilling experience it was to sing in the churches and cathedrals in Europe many years ago."

"It's so cool to see that even ten years later, Touring Choir students get to return to so many of the same churches and communities. What amazing cross-community relationships have been built from decades of these trips!"

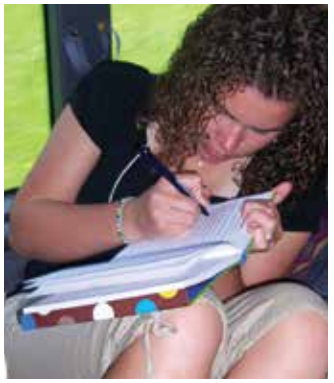
Though the actual concerts are usually held in churches, we also get permission to render an impromptu song inside some of the massive cathedrals, such as the Kölner Dom (Cologne) and the Frauenkirche (Munich), always a selection that sounds magnificent in those spaces, such as "O Magnum Mysterium." Whether it is in a church or in a cathedral, the performances aways draw a crowd, and what strikes the listeners (as they have told us) is the quality of the singing, that it is teenagers singing, and that they are doing it from memory. In 2014, the choir was hosted by Mennonite churches in Paris, coordinated by Brad and Brenna Graber (friends of Zach Bower from Eastern Mennonite University days). Brenna received these responses from members of the churches after the choir



Paris, France (2014)



Fraunenkirche Cathedral in Munich, Germany (2014)



Setting aside time for reflection



Mike's Bike Tour in Munich, Ger

performed in an old Catholic church in the village of Villeneuve-le-Comte, outside of Paris: "I thought the concert was absolutely wonderful! So professional! … with musical precision, and they truly communicated the message." Another commented, "It was a real blessing. The beauty of the voices, the variety of the songs … We really felt the Spirit moving."

So far, the trips have included (though not each time) the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary. Though each itinerary is unique, there have been some constants such as always flying Singapore Airlines; the "Mike's Bikes" tour through Munich; staying at and mostly occupying Hotel Grünwald (Aubing, Germany); Halle (in Tyrol); Werfenweng (in the Austrian Alps); a tour booklet with the daily itinerary and a map of Europe with our route drawn on the cover; written reflections by the choir members near the end of the tour (i.e. writing about traveling as a pilgrim versus traveling as a tourist); having the students show us their passports for checks throughout tour; drinking bottled water (with or without "gas"); using the proceeds from the concert offerings and CDs to supplement the students' spending money.

Homestays are always a highlight for everyone because they are not touristy events. The pairing of choir members with hosts is established by the on-site coordinators who use the biographical information we provide about each student months in advance of our arrival. It is always a thrill to stand back and watch as our students meet and greet their hosts. Many hosts take their guests on excursions during free time, even if it is only to go get ice cream, especially European-style gelato. And when it comes time to say goodbye, hugs and tears abound!

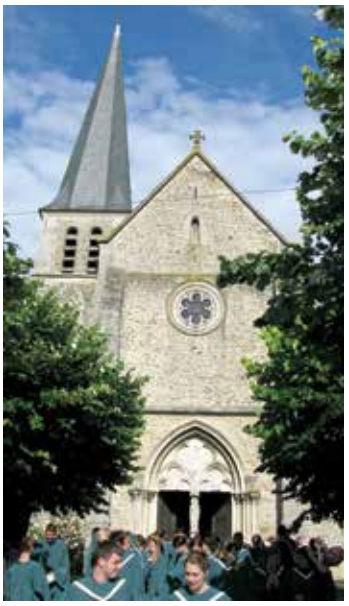
Dock social studies teacher, **Zach Bower** ('02), was a choir member on the 2002 tour and then a chaperone for later tours. He says, "I didn't fully realize the value of the Europe tour as a student, but looking back, I see how seeds were planted. I can draw a line from that 2002 trip to my participation in an Eastern Mennonite University semester cross-cultural to Europe two years later, and from my cross-cultural to serving for a year at Black Forest Academy, in Germany, two years after that. I gained



Meeting host families in St. Goarshausen, Germany (2008)

tools on how to view the world through a global perspective, and inspiration to travel and to live in a different culture. What brings me joy now is helping to set up these experiences for current students, and also finding opportunities to bridge my "then and now" worlds, like making a connection with EMU friends that coordinated Mennonite churches in Paris to host the choir during the 2014 trip."

Rodney says, "My goal for the concerts was not necessarily to impress people, but with being up there and singing these incredible songs, with very moving words, I wanted to move people. I wanted them to feel something. I didn't want them to just say, 'That was impressive.' I wanted them to have some sense of God's spirit in the place." Rodney notes that in addition to the concerts, the host families are also highlights of the tours for him.



Paris, France (2014)

With Rodney's retirement from Dock (though he still goes along as point person), the choirs have since been directed by **Emily Grimes** (2018 tour) and now by **Michelle Sensenig** (2022, 2024 tours). There was no European tour in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



rmany (2008)



Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France (2014)

EC to Grade 8 CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



8TH GRADE CELEBRATION

Congratulations to ALL of our 8th grade students! Each year, teachers read words of encouragement about each of our 8th grade students as they move on to their next chapter in their lives.



SPRING SHOWCASE

There was a lot to celebrate in the Spring Showcase in May: Elementary Spring Concert, Art Show including the Glow Room, Used Book Fair, Auction preview, Open House, Classroom visits, Pizza, Ice Cream, and more!





ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Each year the Dock EC8 Athletic Department recognizes a male and female athlete who demonstrate outstanding characteristics in athletic ability, citizenship, and sportsmanship. Congratulations to **Luke Burleigh** as the male recipient of the Athletic Achievement Award, and to **Belyse Landis** and **Taelyn Landis** as the female recipients of the Athletic Achievement Award. Taelyn Landis also received an award for the school record of 147 strikeouts/13.4 strikeouts per game.







DOCK GIRLS RUN—RUNNING WITH A PURPOSE

Dock Girls Run is a running group for girls in grades 4-6. This group met twice a week for seven weeks to train, share devotions, build camaraderie across grade levels and inspire students to be healthy and confident in who they are as children of God. As a team, the group ran a 5K at the HS campus on May 4. Leaders, **Mrs. Jenn Crissman** and **Mrs. Rachel Myers**, are so proud of the girls and their commitment to finish STRONG!

MENTAL HEALTH PROJECTS

Mrs. Cheryl Ryder's MS Exploratory Mental Health course students created first aid kits to help someone with mental health illness and disease. They talked about the stigma that goes along with mental health illnesses and how educating ourselves will help reduce this stigma. Students researched a specific mental health illness, created a fact sheet, and then found five items that would help someone be able to cope with the illness.









PREPARING FOR THE COUNTRY FAIR & AUCTION

Country Fair & Auction Day kicked off with **Principal Claire Wanamaker** leading students in an All-School chapel discussing the history of the Country Fair & Auction and its importance to our community. At the end of chapel, teachers and students surrounded the BBQ Chicken Pit volunteers and prayed for them and all those helping make this largest fundraising event happen again this year.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT

The Middle School Spring Concert was an amazing showcase of the students' hard work and musical gifts. A special thank you to **Dr. Matthew Ramage** and to **Mrs. Samantha Brannon** for all their work with our students.







EC to Grade 8 CAMPUS HAPPENINGS











EXPLORE STUDENTS LEARN AND PRACTICE SUSTAINABILITY

Dock Explore (Grades 5 & 6) students' End-of-Year PBL project was based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Their driving question was "What changes should our school make to increase the biodiversity of our campus while also balancing our needs as a school?" They developed their ideas to increase biodiversity on our campus. Local experts **Mrs. Valerie** (Metzler) **Miller** ('08) (Dock HS teacher) and **Mr. Ryan Beltz**, from the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, visited campus to advise students. Teachers and students also traveled to the Perkiomen Watershed for a field trip where they continued to learn about biodiversity and the bio-indicators of a healthy ecosystem. Finally, they presented their ideas to Mr. Beltz, who was so excited about these project ideas that he has already begun to secure funding and he looks forward to working with our students this fall to make their stewardship ideas a reality.

LEARNING AND SERVING WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD

Mrs. Rachael Grim's MS Child Development Exploratory students learned about the stages and domains of development. They then reviewed the developmental goals for Dock's Early Childhood students and planned activities. Our youngest students experienced reading, crafts, games and physical activities while our MS students got to observe child development firsthand.









63rd Annual Country Fair & Auction with Chicken Barbecue



DOCK'S 63RD ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR & AUCTION

It was such a blessing for our whole community to come together at our Dock Country Fair & Auction in May! We could not have done it without our strong base of amazing sponsors, volunteers, and families. **$110,000** was fundraised to support our school. Thank YOU!





DOCK
MENNONITE ACADEMY
GOLF CLASSIC





DOCK SPRING CLASSIC

This was the first school year with one golf outing fundraiser and our Advancement team was excited to host the Dock Spring Classic at Indian Valley Country Club in Telford on April 22. We were blessed with great weather and for all of the sponsors, players and volunteers who helped drive in over **$55,000** to support our tuition assistance programs for qualifying students!











Professional Development Spotlight





IN-SERVICE WITH JOHN D. ROTH



Dock faculty and staff had the special privilege during March In-Service to hear from John D. Roth, well known Anabaptist-Mennonite scholar and professor emeritus of history at Goshen College. After spending this school year reading and discussing Roth's book, Teaching that Transforms (2011), faculty and staff sent questions and feedback to Roth, knowing that they would be able to eventually speak with him over Zoom. Many commented afterwards how they appreciated hearing Roth's wisdom and perspectives on Mennonite education, and felt encouraged about Dock's continued mission.

LISTEN AND LEARN SERIES

Faculty that participated in differentiated supervision (like Action Research) last school year had a chance to present to colleagues during the June In-Service to share their journey, work, and findings for everyone to learn from. Implementing differentiated supervision was a new initiative for the 23-24 school year. **Dr. Sharon Fransen** said, "I deeply appreciate the nineteen faculty that were willing to kick off this idea by choosing a differentiated supervision option. In my meetings with them, it is clear that they grew as educators as a result of this experience." It was great to see the energy, passion, and enthusiasm for continued growth as educators!

Staff and Faculty Transitions





Special thanks and appreciation to Ryan Detweiler and Joan Wismer for their years of dedication and service to the Dock community!

Ryan Detweiler ('03), Rental Coordinator and Business Office Assistant
Mr. Ryan Detweiler served the Dock Community in various capacities for 16 years, beginning as Fitness Center manager and later transitioning to Rental Coordinator and the Business Office.

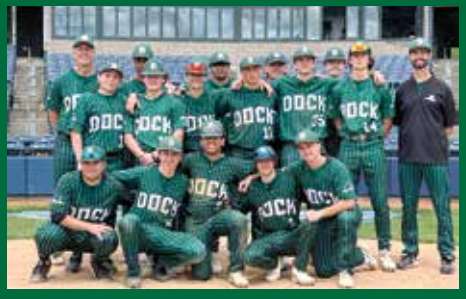
Joan Wismer, Learner Support Teacher EC-8 Campus
Ms. Joan Wismer retired this summer after 29 years of service to our Dock Community. Over those years, Joan taught at various levels on our EC8 campus. We want to thank her for a lifetime of service to our students and their families.

SPRING ATHLETIC TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS



Track & Field

Congratulations to the girls Track and Field team on capturing the Bicentennial Athletic League Title.



Baseball

Congratulations to the Baseball team on winning their third straight League Title.



Softball

Congratulations to the Softball team on winning their second straight League and District Title.



Grades 9 to 12
CAMPUS
HAPPENINGS



HIGH SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT

Thanks to all the students and Directors, **Mrs. Michelle Sensenig**, **Ms. Joy Yoo**, and **Dr. Matthew Ramage**, for a delightful Spring Concert. The Dock community was blessed with beautiful music, and it was a special time to acknowledge the hard work and growth achieved by students this year. Special shout out to **Yebeen Lee** ('25). Yebeen has participated in ALL PMEA ensembles that are offered in PA in the past two years- she has played in the District 11 Band and Orchestra, Region 6 Band and Orchestra, and All State Concert Band and All State Orchestra.

SPANISH CLASS STUDENTS DONATE TO MANNA ON MAIN STREET

"Donar es Alimentar" or "To Donate is the Feed" was the motto of the Food Drive organized by Dock Spanish class students. Last spring, Spanish students collected food items for Manna on Main Street in Lansdale. Thanks to the Dock parents that assisted in transporting the food, to **Doctora Silvermoon** for continuing to inspire students to serve the community, and of course to the Spanish class students for your hard work and generosity in gathering food for Manna on Main Street!







NEW PAINT IN CLEMENS GYM

We can't thank **Jon Stunkard** ('01) and everyone at JDS Painting enough for the wonderful new paint in Clemens Gym! In return for this incredibly generous gift, Jon had only one request that many Dock alumni might appreciate - a quart of homemade Duchess soup from the Dock cafeteria - the same recipe from his high school days. When ten quarts of the soup were delivered, Jon said, "Dock put me in great shape for my career, so I want others to have the same benefit that I had. I look forward to helping Dock in the future." Thank you so much, Jon, the entire Dock community appreciates your generosity and support!



DIELMAN HALL TOUR FOR RETIRED DOCK TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

We were thrilled to host nineteen retired high school teachers and administrators for breakfast along with a tour of Dielman Hall renovations in May. This dedicated group represented in excess of 590 years of service at Dock! This group of distinguished educators and leaders helped to shape Dock's program, curriculum, and facilities, along with extracurricular activities. Many alumni benefited from their commitment to serving Christ and dedication to impacting young people in positive ways.

Turf Field and Track Project



Dock's track was installed in 2002 and has served the school and wider community well since that time. Due to extensive use, it was time to rework the track to prepare it for the next couple of decades for high school track and community activities.

The turf field was at the end of a typical ten-year lifespan and quality was decreasing for all who used it. As a way to conserve resources, 2/3 of the old turf material was reused by others and all of the existing rubber pellets have been reused with the new turf.

The total cost of the project is $1,040,000 with renovations to be completed during Summer 2024. Revenue collected from rental groups that utilize the turf and track has contributed $800,000 to the cost of the project. As of now, $15,000 remains to totally fund the project.

Dock appreciates the generous support of parents, grandparents, and area businesses in order to make this project a reality!





Bible | Stewardship Project

"The goal for this project is for students to consider what stewardship could look like in their life and to practice it." – Mr. Caleb Benner



What can authentic learning look like when faith and academics are connected? The "Stewardship Projects" that students complete in **Mr. Caleb Benner's** ('07) freshmen Bible class allows each student to personalize their own individual or family resource stewardship plan, document their progress, and reflect on their successes or failures. After convincing her family to take on the challenge of taking shorter showers, one student commented, "This project really changed our perspective... we realized how much money and resources were being wasted that could be going to others in need. We loved doing this so much that we want to continue the challenge."

There are clear connections with this project and the Mennonite Schools Council Anabaptist Identity accreditation standards that Dock strives to meet. For example, "*Anabaptist faith formation and distinctives (such as discipleship, service, peacemaking, stewardship of talents and resources, and fostering intercultural competence and caring community) are incorporated into the education program, including but not limited to chapel and Bible/faith formation curriculum.*" Read on for an interview with Mr. Benner where he explains more about the Stewardship Projects:



What are the goals for this project?

In Genesis 1:27-28, God creates people in His image to rule over all that He had made. In Genesis 2:15, God puts the man in the garden to take care of it. These passages show that part of our purpose is to take care of, or *steward*, God's creation. The goal for this project is for students to consider what stewardship could look like in their life and to practice it.

All of the students choose a resource (energy, food, clothing, time, technology, etc.) in their lives and develop a proposal for how they could better steward this resource. To help them brainstorm and implement their proposal, the students collect data and talk with an adult (usually a parent) about their plan. Almost all of the students find the process of setting and working toward their goal to be meaningful, and many express an interest in continuing part of the proposal!

What do you think are the most important takeaways or learnings for students?

Many of the students have great conversations with their parents and other students as a result of the project. This builds a support network for students who wish to implement some of their stewardship practices long-term. At the end of the process, the students recognize the power they have to improve their own lives while taking care of others and the planet. This is part of what it means to be made in the image of God; we have a responsibility to use the resources in our care to spread God's love.

Student journal excerpts:

I am glad I chose to do service (for this project), because it helped me realize that we are blessed and that we can give to others that don't have. As I looked over my service time from last year, I realized that it wasn't a lot, and that I needed improvement.



For my stewardship goal, I want to try and use my device more for productive purposes. Even though I felt like my screen time wasn't that high, I think I could use it towards something else. Productive purposes could include working out, looking up recipes and trying them out, drawing from references, or maybe studying a new topic.



Caitlin May ('24) talking with her dad about her Stewardship Project, 2021



Photo taken by Maria DeRosa ('24)

Better Together
The New MSC Accreditation Model

By **Zach Bower**
HS Social Studies and Communications Associate

The partnership between MSC and Cognia accrediting agenda has changed, creating new opportunities to live out the mantra - Better Together.

Dr. Sharon Fransen (Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction) and **Dr. Conrad Swartzentruber** (Superintendent and MSC Chair) noticed an exciting opportunity as they were beginning preparations for Dock's most recent accreditation, planned for the 2022-23 school year. In spring of 2022, Swartzentruber and Fransen, with the help of **Jenn Esbensade** (at the time, Director of Curriculum at Lancaster Mennonite School), began creating a vision and laying the groundwork for a new accreditation process tailored just for Mennonite Schools Council (MSC) schools. The end product is a unique school accreditation process that continues to utilize the highest "industry standards" of Cognia (a secular accrediting agency), combined with Anabaptist faith standards and External Review Teams that consist of all MSC educators. Recommendations for accreditation are approved by Mennonite Schools Council Executive Committee and continue to be sent to Cognia, allowing for dual accreditation.

The journey towards this new accreditation process started with Fransen and Esbenshade working together to define and clarify MSC and Cognia's relationship, so that MSC could have a specific mechanism, within Cognia's parameters, for accrediting schools that aligned with MSC vision and values. In fact, five additional standards that are specific to the needs of MSC schools that focus on features of Anabaptist identity were created and added to Cognia standards. Esbenshade is proud of the work completed and hopes that, "MSC partners see the value in accreditation, and that it is an opportunity for schools to reflect on and thoroughly analyze all aspects of their work... while providing an outside perspective that can give yet another voice into strengths and areas of improvement." During the 2022-23 school year, Esbenshade led Lancaster Mennonite School through its accreditation

"When you have 3-4 different MSC schools represented on the same team, you have people from all over the country with the same values working on, sometimes struggling with, the same kinds of things. You learn about programming but also build relationships."
- Dr. Sharon Fransen

process using the new model, and also led the review teams for Dock and Quakertown Christian School.

The new accreditation process builds on a model that MSC used for accreditation in years prior, which also utilized Cognia standards for accreditation through an Anabaptist lens, and allowed for one MSC educator on the External Review Teams. Having only MSC educators on review teams in the new model caused pause at first for some, unsure if visiting each other's schools was as helpful as "outsiders" visiting. But in fact, the opposite has happened. The Mennonite educators that have been on the review teams care deeply about each others' schools, understand a shared context and purpose, and have kept the integrity of the process high. **Dr. Brad Anderson**, Head of School at Freeman Academy, led his school through accreditation last year and shared afterwards, "While we have had pleasant experiences with non-Mennonite teams in the past, it is helpful to have staff from fellow Mennonite schools who understand both the benefits and challenges of Anabaptist-shaped education."

As of summer 2024, Dr. Fransen has assisted seven MSC schools in the accreditation process using the new model, and provided leadership to External Review Teams for five of those schools. The process includes a rigorous self-assessment in which the school evaluates themselves against Cognia and the new MSC Anabaptist identity standards, as well as reviewing and analyzing student performance data, stakeholder feedback data, and classroom environment data. At the end of the self-study, an External Review Team reviews the evidence provided by the school and conducts an on-site team visit to collect first-hand evidence. The team provides valuable feedback and guidance to the school to help it focus its improvement efforts into the future. Fransen says she is, "thrilled that we have schools and team members that are building relationships and see the value in what we are doing; we are seeing we are *better together*."



Lindsay Carson, Elementary Principal at Lancaster Mennonite School, has been part of two External Review Teams (co-leading one) and also assisted LMS with their own accreditation last year using the new model. Carson shared, "It has been incredible for me to be able to see deeply into the life and systems of schools so similar to my own, but in a slightly different context." Dr. Fransen says it is hard to put a value on the relationships that are built while on the review teams: "When you have 3-4 different MSC schools represented on the same team, you have people from all over the country with the same values working on, sometimes struggling with, the same kinds of things. You learn about programming but also build relationships."

In addition to her responsibilities at Dock, Dr. Fransen's new role is "MSC Accreditation Coordinator," in which she works at developing protocols and is responsible for guiding MSC schools through the accreditation process. There is an effort to include educators on the review teams that are a part of schools that will experience accreditation the next year. Following this pattern, the External Review Team that Fransen and Carson co-led at Central Christian School last spring included two teachers from Lezha Academic Center, Albania. **Alma Kola** and **Denisa Fida** made



Sharon Fransen and Conrad Swartzentruber visiting Lezha Academic Center in Albania.

the long journey to Ohio to join the review team for Central, while also taking notes and gaining invaluable experience in their role to lead Lezha through the Cognia/MSC accreditation process next year, which would make Lezha Academic Center the first school in Albania to be accredited. Dr. Fransen and Dr. Swartzentruber started to lay the groundwork for Lezha's accreditation when they were able to visit last winter.

It is hard not to be inspired and have a renewed sense of purpose for Mennonite education after serving on a review team. Dr. Fransen says, "It is one thing to know that Mennonite schools are out there, but to have them as a caring community that supports is a gift." She says, "Dock has benefitted from my involvement in this work by the ways I am encouraged and the ideas I bring back... sometimes I get a question from a teacher or an administrator, and now I can point towards an educator or idea at another Mennonite school." Lindsay Carson shared, "I am so inspired to be reminded that Mennonite Education is its own philosophy of education that transcends geography...I have consistently seen dedicated faculty who are multi-talented, relational with students, resourceful, making connections to stewardship and peacebuilding, and building strong and diverse communities.

As of summer 2024, there are nine MSC schools that are accredited through Cognia and MSC, and in the last two years, seven that have participated in the new Cognia/MSC accreditation model. Dr. Fransen feels that leading a tighter, better aligned, accreditation process, that also benefits schools from building bridges and relationships, has reenergized and re-emphasized her support for and involvement in Mennonite education.

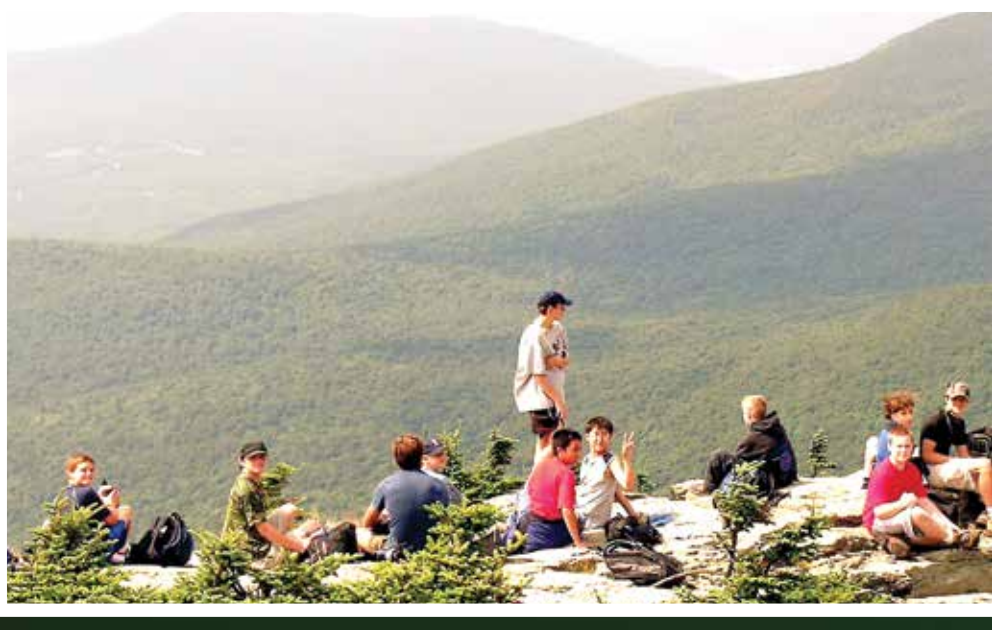
Grow with and through Bethany Birches Camp in Vermont

By **Brandon** and **Amber** (Landis) **Bergey** ('00)

It is unlikely there were any Dock educators in the year 2000 expecting **Amber Landis** and **Brandon Bergey** to run a small Christian camp in central Vermont for twenty years. However, that's how the story went. At the post-college crossroads, Amber pursued her career, and Brandon, after studying psychology and business at Eastern Mennonite University, had an interesting experience.

A sense of call (let's refer to it as God-given passion) can be a funny thing. Funny in that you may know what you're drawn toward, but you may not know why or exactly how to get there. That happened for Brandon. There were three women, all from his home church (Blooming Glen Mennonite), who over the course of a few months, independent from each other, brought up the idea that Brandon may be useful at Bethany Birches. He says that he had no interest, but it was the third woman who got him thinking and then exploring. She said the same thing as the previous two women, which was, "What are you doing after college?". Then after a bit of discussion, she spoke the same words for the third time. "Have you ever heard of Bethany Birches?" This time Brandon replied, "Why?" "Oh, I saw they were looking for a new Director and when I read the job description, I thought of you."

Brandon remembers calling his father and asking how one can know if God is speaking, or inviting toward something. His father replied, "it can be challenging to know in advance. It's usually after you go and see that you gain a sense for God's



Campers on top of Mt. Killington, Vermont

The Dock community, and nearby Mennonite communities, have helped Bethany Birches thrive.



Anna Martin ('14) praying with campers



2008 summer canoe group: **Benjamin Bergey** ('07), **Amber** (Landis) **Bergey** ('00), **Brandon Bergey** ('00), **Adriel Santiago** ('07), **Greg Yoder** ('05), **Kristina** (Landis) **Yoder** ('05)

It's usually after you go and see that you gain a sense for God's invitation.

invitation. Regardless of God's involvement, you may as well apply. You probably wouldn't get the job due to lack of experience and if you do get the job that might help you answer what you're doing after college." That **Phil Bergey** ('77) is wise!

Brandon states that his father was correct. It wasn't until year three that he could identify a sense of passion in the role. Amber needed less help sensing her passion and invitation. In 2005, she interviewed for the seasonal Program Director role, and when asked what she understood the job to be she said, "play games and share God's love. I love both of those!"



At that time, Amber was pursuing a graduate degree in athletic training with dreams of directing an undergraduate athletic education program. Looking for a break from academia and secular culture, Amber found herself as the summer Program Director at Bethany Birches Camp (BBC) in 2005.

Learning to run a camp had many challenges and deep joys. Sharing Bible stories with campers who had never heard them was new and thrilling. Questions from secular campers caused deep conversations among staff and helped to bond groups tightly. As Brandon and Amber worked together, and got to know each other, they enriched their passion for each other, which they initially discovered at Christopher Dock in the late 90s. They got married in 2008 and Amber has been full time, no time, and part time at BBC over the years.

Increasing BBC's operating budget, camper attendance, and making facility upgrades required a deep community effort that was invigorating. Running and growing the camp was energizing and exhausting. The realm of God was evident at BBC for both of them, and for many campers and staff.

Working (and playing!) in the mountains of Vermont in the summer and winter is an enjoyable, and instructional endeavor. To those of you who have interest in joining us, please reach out! You can come for a week, a summer, a year, or in some cases, half a lifetime.

The Dock community, and nearby Mennonite communities, have helped Bethany Birches thrive. Many from those communities have played key roles over the years. From 1965 through 2000 many Dock alumni have been a part of BBC. From 2000 up through the present, the same trend has continued.
While Amber and Brandon were starting out at BBC they reached out to high school friends to come join them. Some of those



Amber (Landis) and Brandon Bergey

people included **Andrew Moyer** ('01), **Pete Derstine** ('01), **Katie** (Moyer) **Gehman** ('03), and **Derek Landis** ('03). **Greg** and **Kristina** (Landis) **Yoder** ('05) brought deep compassion for campers and musical skills to the counseling staff in 2007. The 2008 summer team included **Benjamin Bergey** ('07), **Rachel Mast** ('07), **Adriel Santiago** ('07) joining Greg and Kristina to make 2008 a memorable summer!

Anna Martin ('15) came to volunteer with her parents as a young girl, and eventually joined the counseling staff for a few summers. She was asked to join the year round team in 2019 and is now currently managing the summer and winter programs! There are many Dock alumni who have been a part of the Bethany Birches community.

Over the years Bethany Birches has hosted a handful of senior experience trips, youth group service projects, and Dock students. If you are one of those persons, would you take a minute to write up your story and send to brandon@bethanybirches.org? Bethany Birches is a great place for young adults to grow in their faith and experience God's faithfulness in new ways. May the connection continue to grow!



ALUMNI NEWS



ALUMNI NOTES

At its heart, the *Lamplighter* is about connection. Connecting Dock family, alumni, and community members to what is currently happening at Dock and also with each other.

Send in your news if you have any that you would like to share!

Share with us at lamplighter@dock.org

1957

Glenn D. Frederick passed away on March 21, 2024.

1959

Rebecca (Becki) (Bishop) **Hendricks** passed away on April 30, 2024.

Douglas E. Hershey passed away on June 13, 2024.

2002

John Herman married Deanna Stock on May 4.

On August 2, Betsy and **Curtis Denlinger** welcomed Cara Sue.

2008

On June 6, Julie and **Galen Halteman** welcomed Wesley Dean.

2009

Mariangeli Diodonet married Alex Lopez on March 27.

2010

Kaitlyn (Hoover) **Freed** graduated in June with her Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) with a Clinical Nurse Leader certification. She has been working as an inpatient medical-surgical nurse for nine years and developed an interest in quality improvement and education in nursing care. Kaitlyn looks forward to using this knowledge to better serve patients and enhance the quality of care at the bedside.

On June 5, Michelle and **Daniel Bishop** welcomed James Richard.

2011

Samuel Thalathoti finished residency at Jefferson Health New Jersey in Emergency Medicine in June. He is currently working as a travel physician in Arkansas as an Emergency Medicine Physician.

2012

On May 3, Sarah and **Nathan Bergey** welcomed Brooks Thomas.

Matthew Wimmer graduated from Goshen College in April, with a Masters degree in Business Administration.

Darian Derstine married Alycia Beebe on June 16.

2013

Amy (Bergey) **Godshall** passed the Florida Bar exam and is now working as an Immigrant Rights' Legal Fellow at the Florida ACLU.

2014

Simon Nam married Sydney Macnabb on June 2.

On May 17, **Abigail** (**Bergey**) and Joel Bankert welcomed Eden Joy.

2016



Elias Gehman '16

Elias Gehman graduated from Alvernia University in May, with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing with a minor in Biology.

On July 11, Lianna and **Darren Souder** welcomed Malachi John.

2016/17

Tyler Alderfer and **Ryen Haney** began their firefighting experience in high school volunteering with Dublin Volunteer Fire Company, and are now able to work together as Captain and Engineer, three years in at Rutherford County Fire & Rescue.

2018

Ian Anderson married Grace Folk on May 24.

Carsyn McCloskey married Devon Robertson on May 11.

Congratulations to **Austin Kratz** on being elected to the Pennsylvania High School Track and Field Hall of Fame! Austin is the first Dock Athlete to receive this well-deserved honor and was recognized at Shippensburg University during this year's PIAA Track & Field State Championship Meet.



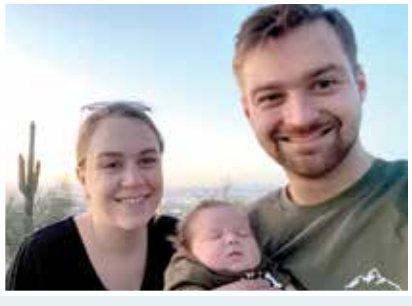
Austin Kratz '18



Kaitlyn (Hoover) Freed '10



Samuel Thalathoti '11



Nathan Bergey '12



Simon Nam 14



Tyler Alderfer '16 and **Ryen Haney** '17

Creation is Calling For Peace

Artist and educator, **Berdine** (Mininger) **Leinbach** ('83) is exhibiting her watercolor landscapes and worship visuals in an exhibit entitled, The Call of Creation. This display at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA includes interactive components for all ages and will be open until Sept 28, 2024.



Photos taken by Lynelle Leinbach ('12)

Leinbach also unveiled an Anabaptist collaborative artwork she initiated with eleven artists entitled, Creation is Calling for Peace. Dock has several contributors: **Libby** (Landis) **Musselman** ('58–retired art teacher), **Lydia Sensenig** (class of '28), **Kim** (Landes) **Bergey** ('97–current EC-8 art teacher), **Glenn Bauman** ('63), **Tim Swartz** ('73–current HS art teacher), and **Joanna** (Benner) **Rosenberger** ('13). Individuals were each given wooden hexagons and the task of showing how creation calls for peace. Current events around the world make the call for peace even more urgent. "The goal of the collaboration is to call for peace, promote mutual respect, and seek reconciliation for the well-being of all. We need to pray and act for peace," said Leinbach.



Libby Musselman, Lydia Sensenig, Berdine Leinbach, Kim Bergey, and Steve Leinbach





Bishop Band

In June, **Eric Bishop** ('74) checked off a bucket list item for 2024: to jam with his former students! The group is called Us3Plus (with Bishop) and features graduates from the Class of 2005, **Isaac Martin**, **Sheldon Good**, and **Greg Yoder**. Us3 was the group name when the band played in high school.



Whack & Roll

Congratulations and THANK YOU to the two teams playing for Dock that participated in the Mennonite Heritage Center's Nonprofit Croquet tournament in June. Dawn and **Mike** ('79) **Derstine** placed second in the Amateur Division. **Doug Hackman** ('03) and Ken Kabakjian placed 5th in the Advanced Division.

THE VAULT

***The Vault* will share out special photos of captured moments that are preserved in the Dock Archives.**



1996, TOURING CHOIR IN VISBEK, GERMANY - (Photo courtesy of J. Eric Bishop)

Kara (Souder) **Derstine** ('97), recalled some memories related to this photo:

The summer Touring Choir trip to Germany was amazing. We departed from JFK--a highlight from the airport is that we saw George Clooney! (Somewhere, I have a photo with him!) I remember singing in many different churches, chapels, and old buildings with rich history all around us. The music we created was sacred in those places. Having the time to sightsee and tour around the different towns was also a highlight and such a privilege. **Eric Bishop** ('74) was fluent in German, which was also a huge bonus for our group. He served as one of the chaperones, helping **Rod Derstine** ('70). The two of them together were hilarious at times--lots of laughter and banter! Another highlight from the Europe trip was the opportunity to live with host families. This first trip abroad is what sparked my love of travel and enjoying different cultures. The world is so big, yet so small and we are all just people, created by God... different yet the same.

Learning for Lives of Purpose

Interviews with Dock alumni, asking them to reflect on the Dock tagline, Learning for Lives of Purpose.

Suzanne Landis Kaczor, Class of 1998



Suzanne graduated from Goshen College with a B.A. in Biology, worked in pharmaceutical sciences for six years, earned her Master's Degree in Acupuncture in 2011, and will complete her Doctorate in Acupuncture this coming Thanksgiving. She created Indian Valley Acupuncture in 2011 and guest lectures for the Nursing students at Gwynedd Mercy University to share the current research and practices of acupuncture. She loves to garden, parent, and travel with her husband, Allen. They live with their daughters, Naomi (13) and Nayla (10), in Telford, PA.



What does it mean to you to live a life of purpose?
One of my core beliefs, echoed strongly in my family, church, and at Dock, is that we all have God-given gifts that can be used to transform our communities. I believe our purpose is to identify them, no matter how little or big they seem, and to contribute something to the world outside of ourselves. We must be curious and investigative, use prayerful listening and discernment, work to push ourselves, create learning and share those learnings to benefit our families and communities. One of my daughters brought home a school project last year; a creative paper flower pot that was labeled with a quote that says, "...We are called to sow seeds of peace in our hearts and communities. These small acts of kindness and love, nurtured by our faith in Christ, can grow into a bountiful harvest of harmony and unity..." - from Mrs. Rossi and Mrs. Finger's 4th grade class. These foundational efforts can have a prolific effect on ourselves and within community development.

The idea of living a life of purpose can feel heavy, but there is so much to learn just by considering the process. I began my career path in pharmaceutical research, but never felt settled. I looked back to see what aspects of old jobs had been life-giving and what had been significant hardships. I prayed about next steps. I identified what I wanted to bring forward into my next move and what I wanted to leave behind. I asked family and friends for feedback and interviewed new people to observe other career paths and outcomes. This discernment process helped me to have the confidence to move forward into a different career that required significant risk and investment. I left the pharmaceutical world to go back to school for three years to become an acupuncturist, and found that my bioscience background happened to be a completely relevant springboard for my current work, not in a way that I had planned.

In what ways did Dock prepare you to live a life of purpose?
During my time at Dock, one of the many gifts that the school gave me was to be involved in a multitude of activities that allowed me to investigate potential interests and talents. I participated in sports, orchestra, choir, and drama. In high school, opportunities like Touring Choir (we explored the cathedrals of England and Wales), Field Ecology (we canoed through the Pine Barrens to investigate a unique ecological space), and Social Issues provided spaces to widen my comfort zone. On the Social Issues trip, I was given the task of spending a day peeling a mound of garlic in a food kitchen – now I have seriously efficient garlic peeling skills. All of these opportunities contributed to the formation of my faith and sense of self.

From the time we brought our kids to Dock, this Christ-centered model has consistently supported our family. I know that my children will feel enabled to explore faith, life, and education within this environment. **I was seen by my teachers. They were interested in my goals and they provided me with new opportunities for growth.** There are caring and qualified teachers in many places, but Dock has a thicket of excellent teachers and administrators. This staff, combined with an incredible community of families and churches, share the ideal that each of our students is gifted by God. Each of us has something to contribute to the families and communities we are in. The environment at Dock provides fertile soil for future growth and the discovery of purpose.

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

SEPTEMBER 2024
September 2 – Labor Day, **No School**
September 5 – EC-Grade 4 Back to School Night, 6:30pm
September 11 – 1st & 2nd Grade Family Lunch
September 12 – Middle School Back to School Night, 7pm
September 16-17 – Picture Day
September 19 – Middle School Team Building at Camp Menolan
September 27 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**
OCTOBER 2024
October 4-5 – Homecoming Weekend 2024, Grades 9-12 Campus
October 15 – K-8 Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 17 – **Early Dismissal** (K-8 Parent-Teacher Conferences)
October 18 – **No School**
October 22 – EC-Grade 8 Family Breakfast, 7:15am
October 23 – Middle School Family Lunch, Race for Education
October 30 – Middle School EXPO, 6:30pm
October 31 – End of Quarter 1

Grades 9 to 12 Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2024
September 2 – Labor Day, **No School**
September 10 – Picture Day, Back to School Night, 6:30pm
September 23-26 – Mini-Term
September 23-27 – Senior Experience
September 27 – Faculty In-Service, **No School**
OCTOBER 2024
October 4 – Fall Concert, Alumni of the Year Awards
October 4-5 – Homecoming Weekend 2024
October 5 – Grades 9-12 Admissions Open House, 12:30-2:30pm
October 8 – NHS Induction, 7pm
October 10-11 – Senior Retreat
October 11 – Junior Shadow Day, Sophomore Field Trip
October 14-17 – Spiritual Life Week
October 18 – Senior Yearbook Pictures, **No School**
October 31 – End of Quarter 1



HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

OCTOBER 4-5, 2024

Dock's Homecoming 2024 is almost here and we are excited to reunite and reminisce on our beautiful high school campus with new improvements to Dielman Hall and Stadium Track and Turf! The weekend is packed with opportunities for the whole family!

SCAN ME