



Desert Christian Ministries, Inc.
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ALUMKNIGHTS FALL 2009



Do you know where these alumni are?

Class of 1992 Rebekah (Staley) Bissell, Shawna Harris, Mark Jones, Julie Knerr, Christina (Kazsuk) Knott, Amy Smith, Trisha (Simpson) Sprague, Curtis Wilson Class of 1993 Jason Worsley Class of 1994 Eric Hainline, Erin Hurlburt, Jeremy Ingham, Chandra King, Kristin (Sheldon) Prettol Class of 1995 Brad Doyle, Sabrina Fontaine, Sarah Kleven, Joshua Millard, Jeremy Ward, Michelle Whalen Class of 1996 Michael Blake, Austin Freeman, Danny Garcia, Joylin Houston, Christa Ingersoll, Bryan Ingham, Dana (Brady) Lash, Michael Miller, Jonathon Rue, Douglas Smith, Cristal Straight, Steve Woodward Class of 1997 Corey Anderson, Eryk Barba, Elisa (Millard) Barba, Michael Bozeman, Natalie Chambers, Seth King, Karen Kocichin, Janell Lessing, Billy Marrinez, Julie Nixon, Christopher Pacheco, Christine (Beltran) Pacheco, Ari Winbush Class of 1998 Jeremy Bennett, Jennifer Camou, Jeff Casagrande, Tiffany Emard, Jason Gray, Daniel Ingham, Rachel Kleven, Kerri Koslow, Briana Malady, Lincoln McElwee, Jennifer Rogers, Danny Scott, Paige Simpson, Rebecca (Wolfenstein) Casagrande, Tiffany Wood Class of 1999 Kimberly Behnke, Eric Bell, Danette Colin, Britt Dee, Laura Fish, Joseph Foss, Melissa Gill, Jon Gymnaitis, Megan Hunsberger, Travis Jacobsen, Kimberly Martinez, Ryan McMichael, Andrew Parker, Edward Taylor, Patrick Williams, Meko Winbush Class of 2000 Briana Bergier, Brittany Boyll, Summer De La Toya, Mark (Christopher) Fessia, Jarrod Gibson, Allison Johnson, Elisabeth (Iglesias) Kepke, Joshua Kleven, Joy-Carin Martin (Rufener), Sarah McElwee, Charlotte Nordstrom, Valerie Pacheco, Christine Yribe, Stephanie Zierenberg Class of 2001 Michael Argent Jr., Kristina

Behnke, Jonathan Fluty, Kristen Hunsberger, Andrea Johnson, Aaron Kubela, Adena Long, Emily McMichael, Ryan Smith Class of 2002 Stacey Aloisi, Serena Bennett, Megan Bielz, Tony Bruneau, Melea Denison, Joshua Fluty, Angela Hunter, Timothy Johns, Tim Lee, Maria Lefferman, Corisma Robinson, Adam Rogers, Alyssa Smith, Lauren Yribe Class of 2003 Joey Beltran, Jonathan Case, Tim Chamberlin, Sarah (Abbie) Cooper, JR Golen, Josh Horton, Meredith Idleman, Jeff Kean, Melinda Posthumus Class of 2004 Emily Arthur, Jason Clarkson, Ashley Hoderland, Chris Hofbauer, Joel Johnson, Erica Klein, Tiffanie Montgomery, Patrick Richardson, Aimee Scott, James Simison, James Townley, Alistair Wilson Class of 2005 Nicole Bell, Danielle Bibby, Christopher Boyll, Cherie Cohen, Andrew Dickie, Stacy Falk, Christopher Martin, Danielle McKenna, Kevin Scholl, Lindsay Sneider, Saem You Class of 2006 Krystal Arlequeuw, Grant Harpole, Lanette Lubwama, Sung Ro, Briana Schroeder, Shelley Smith

What an awesome privilege it is to see what God is doing in the lives of our alumni! I hope to hear from more of you before our next issue goes out, as it encourages all of us to see what God is doing in your lives! Please take the time to share with us, so that others might be encouraged too! Many blessings to you all!

— Teri White

Desert Christian Schools' AlumKnights

Fall 2009 Edition

What's Inside?

- Principally Speaking
- Class of 1999 Reunites
- Class of 2009 Hits the Mark!
- Alumni Updates
- Save the Dates
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DCHS Principally Speaking: Devin Thomas

Devin Thomas has been at DCHS for 13 years. Previously he taught at North County Christian School in Atascadero, California and served as an assistant coach with the Cal Poly women's basketball program. North County requested the opportunity to visit the school and observe teachers from DCHS as a part of their professional growth program. Every staff member from North County was housed with a staff member from DCHS and Devin was



Ready for the dunk tank...with help from his family!

assigned to the principal, Chris Johnson. Later Chris offered Devin a job. At the same time Devin was asked by the Cal Poly coach to come on staff full time. Devin loved where he was and declined the offer to work at DCHS (twice). When Chris called a third time, saying that Devin was the one for the position, Devin felt that God was talking to him and he accepted the offer. He and his wife Rosa made the move to the Antelope Valley. When God calls you three different times, you go!

When Devin first came to DCHS, he was a Bible and math teacher and coached both basketball and softball. He loves being here at DCHS, and loves the relationships he has with staff and students. Four years ago he and his wife, Rosa became the parents of two sons (Matthew and the D.J.). He says the neatest thing is the testimony of what God has done for them through the prayers of many. He loves having students pray and see God work in any situation...it is a testimony of God's faithfulness to be able to tell his students how God has answered their prayers above and beyond.

Last year Devin became the principal at DCHS. He is blessed by the students and staff he currently works with. Devin strongly believes in meeting personally with the parents so that they can take part in the lives of their high school children. Because of this belief, he has implemented "Coffee with the Principal", where every few months he meets with parents and allows them to ask questions, and give their feedback; basically establishing relationships with them. He also tries to make sure there are a variety of speakers and worship teams coming in for chapel time so that it doesn't become stagnant.

Devin's vision for DCHS is that the students would be a light in this dark world. He said, "I would love for us to invest in the community and the community invest in us - for youth groups of different churches and other Christian schools in the area to come together as believers for different events (not excluding non-believers), to make it cool to worship the Lord and to be a Christian." He said some things are in the works on this, and he is excited to see it all come together in God's timing.

Devin had the privilege of meeting with the graduating class of 1999 this summer. When asked, "How did it feel to see the class of 1999?" his smile said it all. "It was a delight. I really can't express it in words...they invested as much in me as I did in them...it was a true investment - it was amazing and a blessing to see them." He feels the enrolled students are also an investment.

Devin loves being the principal, and treasures the relationships not only with students, but also with their parents.

SAVE THE DATES:

■ October 17th
Homecoming Football Game at 7:00 p.m.

(see coupon below)

■ December 18th
Alumni Chapel
1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Football Fundraising Car Wash

"It's been an enjoyable experience to see the program grow and to see God continue to mature the individuals involved in our football program."

— Devin Thomas

FREE ADMISSION to Homecoming 2009

Alumni, come join us on
Saturday, October 17th at 7:00 p.m.
at Lancaster High School
(Lancaster Blvd. and 32nd St. W.)

Present this coupon to the ticket booth for FREE admission.
Refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there!



Class of 1999 Reunites...

Dana Johnson worked hard over the summer to reunite the class of 1999! He wrote the following letter after returning home.

Reunion 2009

Having a 10-year reunion was something I had been looking forward to since graduation. The class of '99 seemed especially close to each other during our time in high school, and it seemed right to plan on coming together to share life after such a long absence. Thankfully, most of the class felt the same way I did.

Through the miracle of online social networking, I was able to contact almost our entire class in a matter of weeks. Some I had kept in touch with through the years. John Barnes and I were each other's best man at our weddings, and I was roommates with Ray McCormick after undergrad. Others were a great surprise to see how much had changed. Daniel Pieniaszek took a while to recognize after his years in the Marines and security work. Matt Teske manages two companies that he started himself.

During the weekend of August 29-30, a group of us got together for a small, yet enjoyable reunion. The alumni association arranged for a tour of the high school with Mr. Thomas, the current principal who was a teacher when we were students. Mrs. Horning, our beloved English teacher and mother of classmate Amberley, was also there with her husband Bill. It was great to see all the improvements on campus including the new gym floor, the quarantine room for those with H1N1, and trees supported by stakes in '99, that actually give shade and stand on their own now. We had a dinner that evening that included much reminiscing, catching up, and an extremely difficult pop culture quiz from the year of our graduation. Even Will Laird, who taught history and coached cross country and JV baseball during our high school years, came out to our lunch the next day at In-N-Out.

This reunion may have been small in scale, but it was mighty. It happened because there were others helping to make it happen. Meko Winbush put together a fantastic video from footage she took on our last day of high school. Ray McCormick got our location settled for the dinner and handled several details of that night, including a playlist of songs from '99 and that difficult pop culture quiz. Cheryl Corlew, of the alumni association, kept me in touch with the school to make sure everything worked well. And my lovely wife, Kathy, coordinated the food so we were all stuffed. It was a blessing to see God's faithfulness. The last ten years may not have been perfect or always full of joy, but God has continued to bless. How great it was to see growth and new life in each person there! Thanks class of '99.



Teri's Anecdotes:

There were many other comments and memories shared during the reunion, but these were the ones that stood out the most and I thought would be fun to share with you.

- Amberlee (Horning) was reminiscing with Mr. Thomas about how he used to go running with the cross country

team and he'd wear his black sweat belt to help him to sweat more inches off....he just laughed as she reminded him, and said that he might have to find that belt again.

- Dana Johnson was amazed as he looked at the "shade" trees in between the modular buildings....he remembered twigs that blew around with the wind.
- Kami (Blakely) recalled passing out in the Science room.

Class of 2009 Hits the Mark!

DCS Student Performance on the SAT Exam

The College Board is a non-profit membership association which was founded in 1900. It is composed of more than 5,400 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Every year they serve more than seven million students in a variety of ways. Their best-known programs are the SAT®, PSAT/NMSQT®, and the Advanced Placement Program®. They recently compiled a national report utilizing the scores from college-bound high school seniors from the class of 2009. We have provided a summary of their results below as well as a link to the complete report.

As you can see, Desert Christian seniors compared very well to students in religiously affiliated schools, such as ours, as well as students in public schools. What may surprise people is how well they performed compared to students in independent schools. What is an independent school, you may ask? In the context of student performance, an independent school is, typically, a secular “Prep” school. Our 2009 graduating seniors performed very well on the SAT exam. Their parents, their teachers, and the entire DCS staff are to be congratulated for their excellent work in preparing our students for academic success.



College Board Report Class of 2009 College-Bound Seniors

SAT Type of School	Mean Scores		
	Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing
Public	496	510	487
Religiously Affiliated	533	533	530
Independent	550	578	555
Desert Christian	554	546	552

Source: <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/cbs-2009-national-TOTAL-GROUP.pdf>

Alumni Updates



Kevin Scott — Class of 2002

After graduating in 2002, I attended Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, CA. I spent four years there, graduating in 2006 with a BS in cellular and molecular biology. I am now in my fourth and final year of medical school. I just finished sub-internship in trauma surgery/surgical critical care at Creighton University Medical Center and am currently in

Philadelphia where I am completing two months of emergency medicine externships at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Temple University Hospital.

My fiance, Katie Hicks, is a cardiac care unit nurse at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. We met in the summer of 2007 at the Whole Person Care Preceptorship for medical professionals at Loma Linda University Medical Center. We were engaged on December 20, 2008. Katie and I are starting to realize that we could end up anywhere in the country for residency, as I am applying for emergency residencies along

either coast. We are very excited to see where God has planned for us to be for the next 3-4 years. I will officially find out where that will be on “Match Day” (March 18, 2010) and will graduate with my M.D. on May 15, 2010. More importantly, I will be marrying my best friend a week later on May 23, 2010. God has been so faithful throughout the long schooling process and I am excited for how he is going to use us and our passions for service, people, and medicine as we continue in our careers.



Taylor (Tuso) Pulliam — Class of 2007

I recently got married on August 28th, 2009 to my sweetheart from 8th grade, Chris Pulliam, who also attended Desert Christian. We are both working hard at school; both of us are majoring in Liberal Arts and Studies, and working on getting our bachelors degree. God is great in our lives today! We both can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for us!