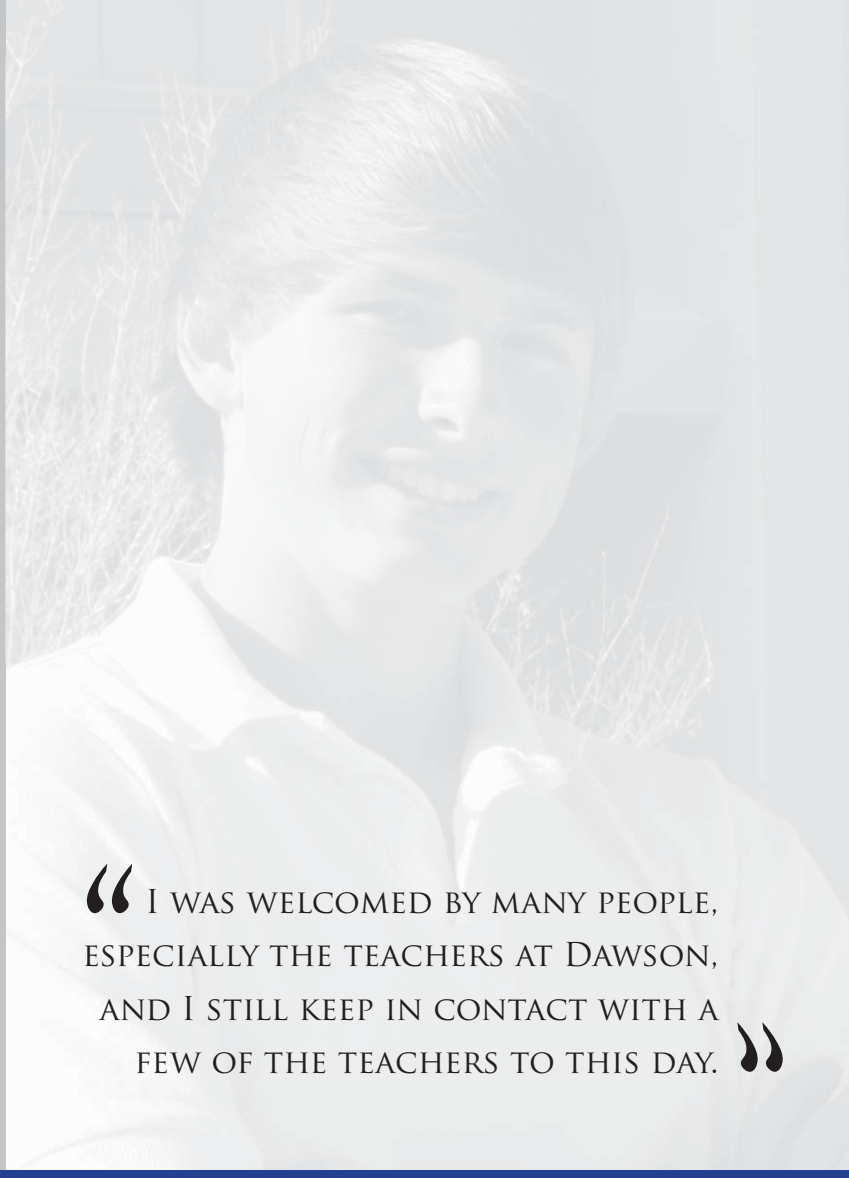


# Alumni

JACK LEAVITT, class of '07



Jack Leavitt, 2010



“ I WAS WELCOMED BY MANY PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE TEACHERS AT DAWSON, AND I STILL KEEP IN CONTACT WITH A FEW OF THE TEACHERS TO THIS DAY. ”

Dawson alumnus, Jack Leavitt, completed his seventh and eighth grade years at Dawson, graduating in 2007. He remembers his first year at Dawson as an exciting experience.

“I made new friends, many of which I still have, even though we attend different high schools,” he said. “I was welcomed by many people, especially the teachers at Dawson, and I still keep in contact with a few of the teachers to this day.”

When he looks back on his time at Dawson, Jack’s fondest memories are of “Mr. Finrock’s photography class, where all of my classmates created beautiful photographs of the world around us.” He also

remembers his many conversations with Mr. Browne, who encouraged him to try pole vaulting.

Since graduating from Dawson three years ago, Jack has been working hard at Faith Lutheran Jr./Sr. High School, where he is a junior. “The transition to high school was not as bad as I had expected,” said Jack. “I assumed high school was going to be hard for me, and I wondered how I would find my way around a larger campus and how difficult the classes would be.”



Seventh Grade, 2006



Eighth Grade, 2007

Because only one other student from Jack’s eighth-grade class chose to attend Faith Lutheran, he knew he would have to make friends all over again. “Once I started high school, I made new friends, became

involved in various activities, and carried with me all that I learned from Dawson. I found it was actually easy to make the transition. My experience at Dawson prepared me well.” Jack credits the teachers and classes he took at Dawson with preparing him for the discipline required for high school.

Having experienced the transition to high school, Jack encourages Dawson’s eighth graders to choose a high school that is best for them, not based on where their friends are going. “Regardless of where you go, you will always make new friends.” He also encourages graduates to “constantly set goals and keep challenging yourself, no matter how hard high school turns out to be.”

Over the past several years, technology within Dawson’s classrooms has been raised to state-of-the art standards; however, when Jack graduated from Dawson, technology was not as utilized as it is now in the classrooms. “High school classes revolve around computer knowledge, including on-line books, laptop programs within schools, and keyboarding and programming basics,” he noted. “When I was at Dawson, I wish there had been more classes in the area of computers to prepare me for that.”

While Jack devotes much of his time to academics, he is also involved in many after-school and extracurricular activities. He participates on the school’s track team in pole vaulting, in which he hopes to beat the school record of 14 feet – his personal best is 13 feet, 6 inches. Jack is also a member of the school’s rock climbing club, and he volunteers for public speaking opportunities to promote the school. He also participates in the National High School Power Clean Championship, where he lifts up to 260 pounds.

Jack is enjoying high school, but there are a few things about Dawson that he misses. “I do miss the family-like nature of all the students and the caring faculty at Dawson. I knew I was always welcome to talk about anything I wanted to with my teachers, and they were always available to listen.”

With one year of high school left, Jack is beginning to narrow down his options for life after graduation. He aspires to be a nuclear engineer, hoping to either attend college or join the Navy in pursuit of his dream. “I believe the Navy would be my best option because I handle responsibility well, am very interested in a military career, and am a disciplined person by nature,” said Jack. “The Navy also offers special educational opportunities that can’t be found elsewhere, including specialized training on nuclear-powered ships,” he added.



Class of 2004

Elizabeth Wright: After Dawson, I went to Palo Verde High School and even though I really enjoyed high school life, I dearly missed all of the incredible experiences I was able to have at Dawson. I graduated from Palo Verde in '08 and now am in my second year at UNLV studying biology. It was very difficult for me to choose which field to go into, because Dawson had sparked so many interests in me, from music and writing to science. I have the teachers at Dawson to thank for helping me grow into the person I am proud of today. I will never forget all of the wonderful memories I was able to create at Dawson.

Class of 2005

Olivia Bioni: I graduated from Palo Verde High School in '09 with a High Honors Diploma and 4.8 weighted GPA overall. I starred as Hamlet in Hamlet my senior year. I was President of the International Thespian Society and Vice President of Crafts for Kids as well. I am currently attending Colgate University in Hamilton, NY, and am employed in the Africana and Latin American Studies Department. I plan on majoring in Biology and minoring in Theater.

Class of 2008

Kaleigh Myers: I attend Mercersburg Academy and am now a sophomore at the Pennsylvania boarding school. I am participating in the traveling performance of “The Stinky Cheese Man” as The Giant and am still to learning to walk on stilts for the part!

Josh Reisman: I am currently enrolled in The Meadows Upper School. During my freshman year at the Meadows, I completed both semesters with High Honors (GPA of over 3.85). As a sophomore, I plan to participate in baseball, basketball and student clubs such as Microbank, Young Progressives, etc. Next summer, I hope to travel to China on my eighth trip with People to People, as well as my second year of Debate Camp at the University of Michigan. My true passion lies in being a part of the debate program at The Meadows School. Throughout my freshman year, I made it to the “out rounds” of three debate tournaments (octafinals, quarterfinals and finals). Currently, my goal is to acquire a bid to the Tournament of Champions as a sophomore – the pinnacle of all high school debate competitions.

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