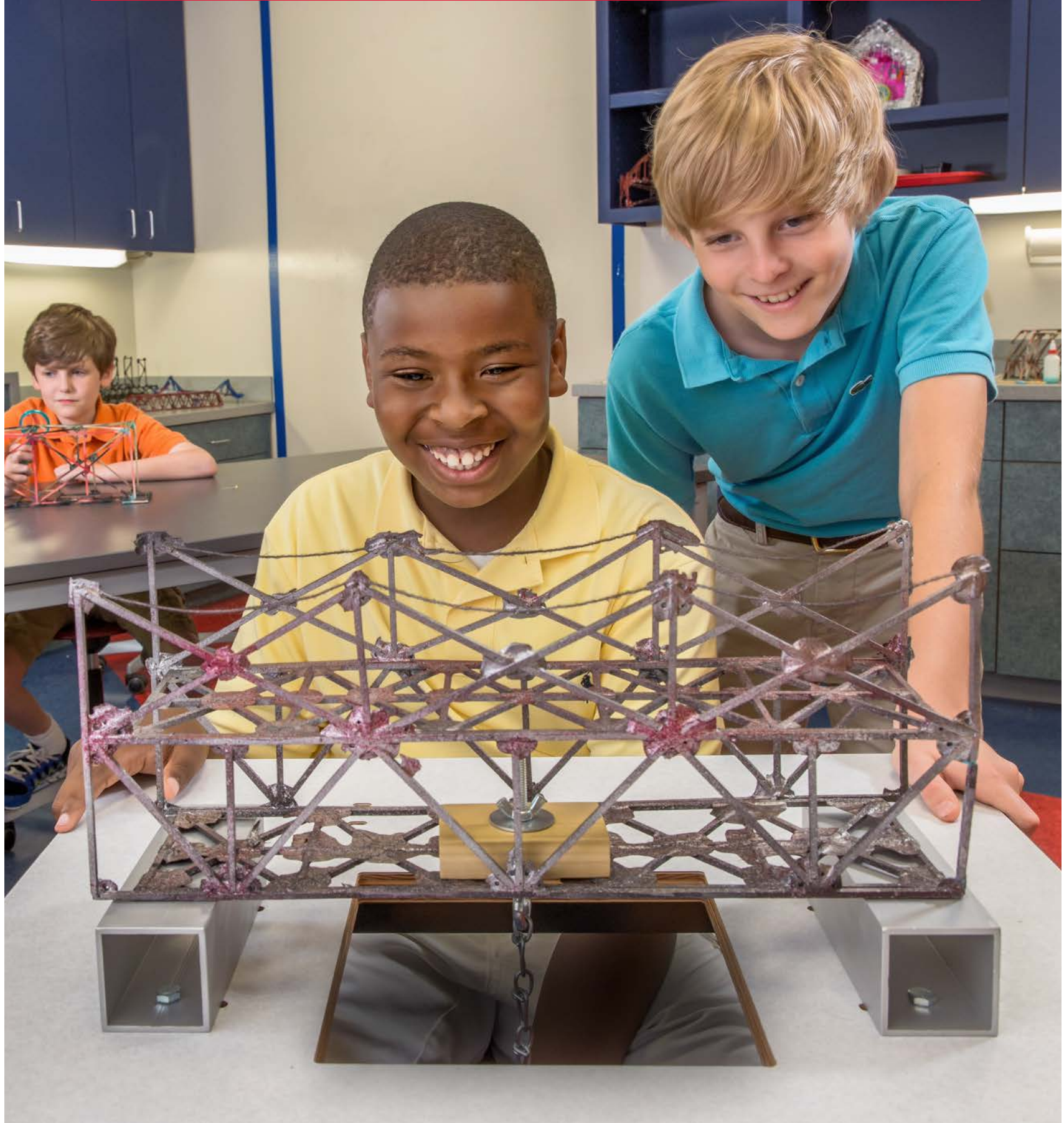


THE MAGAZINE OF PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL • SUMMER 2015

PDS SPIRIT





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IN THIS ISSUE OF *PDS SPIRIT*



Another school year is behind us. Just a year ago, my family and I were moving into our home on Kirby Road. So much has transpired in 12 months. Our enthusiasm for PDS and Memphis has continued to grow during this time.

As I look back over the year, I am reminded by all that has been accomplished this year. The learning that takes place in the classroom has been guided and encouraged by our amazing faculty. Several of these faculty members are highlighted in this issue of *PDS Spirit*. The bridge building activity was a highlight of the spring. Unfortunately, the printed page can't capture the intense squeals of delight that were heard in the hallways as our boys cheered for each other during the competition stage. The bridges held a range of weights and ultimately each one broke to the ground. Every boy experienced success amidst his failures.

Through ice bucket challenges, dunk tanks, and zip lines, I have come to experience the enthusiasm our boys have for this great school. I am excited for the future. Together, we are making PDS an even stronger school.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Hancock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Hancock, *Headmaster*





PDS SPIRIT

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Pictured this page: PDS sixth graders get pumped up before the annual Student/Faculty basketball game

On the cover: PDS fifth graders Kristian Perkins and Webb Daniel get prepared to test the structural integrity of their balsa wood bridge. Learn more about the fifth graders bridge-building project starting on page 12.

Distinguished Alumnus Luncheon

Each year, Presbyterian Day School honors an alumnus who demonstrates a love for the school and who represents the goals, ideals, and imagination of PDS.

This year, PDS is proud to announce Bob Loeb '67 as the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus.

Mr. Loeb was honored at a luncheon held at PDS on April 24, 2015. Scott Anderson '86,

Chair of the Alumni Association Board, welcomed over 275 alumni, parents, and special friends of PDS who gathered to reconnect and honor this distinguished alumnus.

Bob Loeb is president of Loeb Properties and is the visionary behind the revitalization of Overton Square, which is once again a thriving entertainment, dining,

and shopping destination for Memphis.

Loeb is currently working on developments on Broad Avenue and the Highland Strip. In 2014, Loeb was named Memphian of the Year by *Memphis Magazine*. He has three children, including two PDS graduates: Win '04, Hensley, and Jackson '07. 🍀

-
- 1 Louis Jehl '74, Cannon Allen '74, Scott Stafford, and George Klepper '70
 - 2 Foster Smith '92 and Lewis Smith '94
 - 3 John Dobbs '79, Worth Morgan '99, Neely Mallory '01, and Dwight Creasman
 - 4 Willis Willey '55, Kem Wilson, Donnie Malmo '00, and Lewis Williamson
 - 5 David Work '67 and Edward Nemon '97
 - 6 David Warlick '80 and Philip LaMoreaux '86
 - 7 Lon Magness '79 and Worth Jones '90
 - 8 Mary Coleman and Bob Loeb '67
 - 9 Scott Anderson '86, Bob Loeb '67, and Don Batchelor '66
 - 10 John Phillips V '97 and John Phillips IV '80
 - 11 John Stevens '71, Frank Crump '57, and Chuck Smith '60
 - 12 Bill Lockwood '67, David Anderson, Bob Loeb '67, and Elmer Stout '67





Building a New Memphis

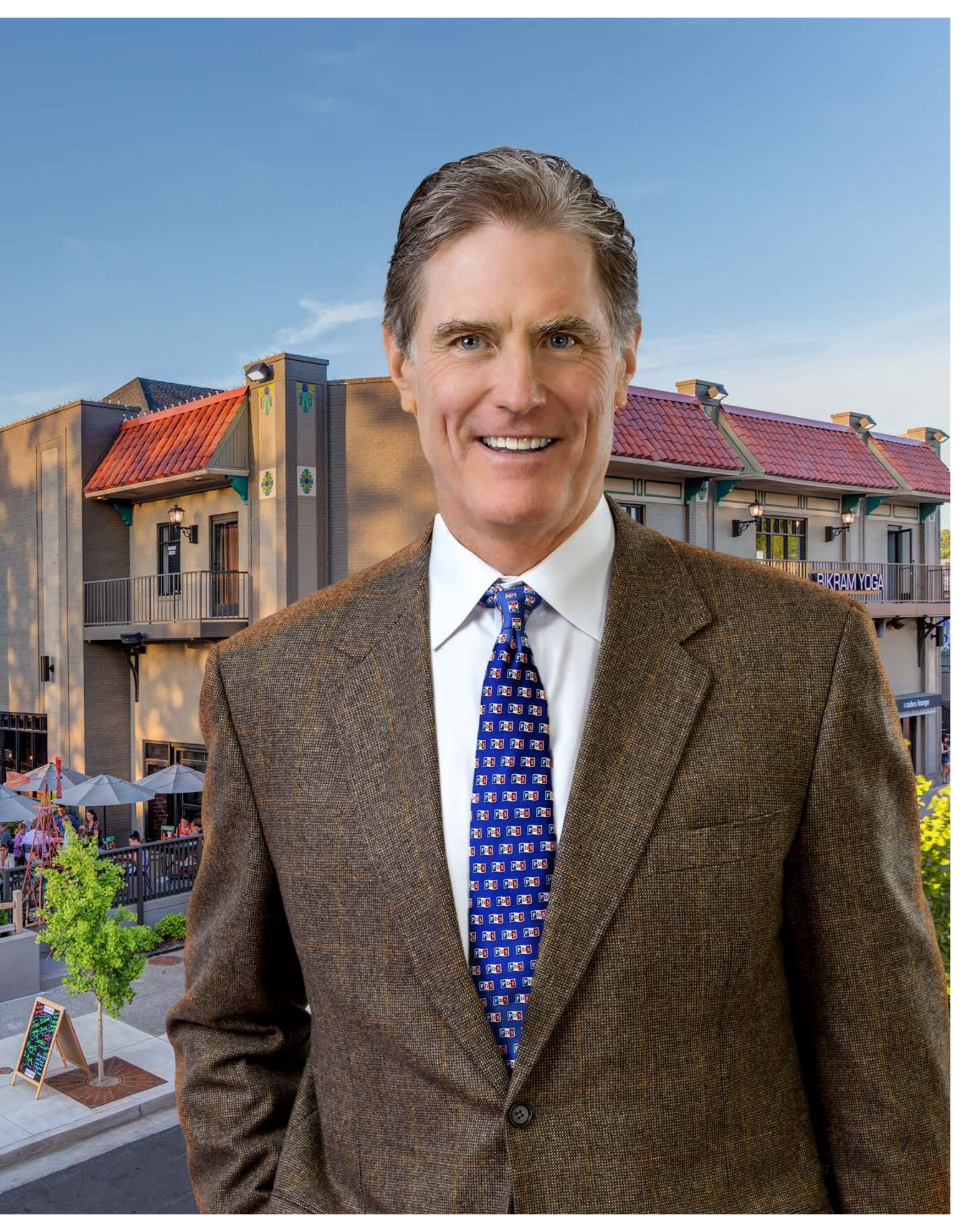
Written by Pete Wickham

*And seek the peace of the city
whither I have caused you to
be carried away captives, and
pray unto the Lord for it: for in
the peace thereof shall ye have
peace. — Jeremiah 29:7 (KJV)*

Bob Loeb '67 remembers that verse of Scripture, one of many branded on his brain in Mrs. Hodges' classroom years ago at PDS. Though the Loeb translation goes more like "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city where I have placed you..."

He's done that much of his working life, as president of one of Memphis' bedrock companies, Loeb Properties. But the past few years, to borrow a foodie mantra, he's taken it up a notch. Or three.





In a city suddenly teeming with multimillion-dollar development, Loeb said there are plenty of projects at which he marvels: Bass Pro turning The Pyramid into a Shangri-La for the camo crowd; the continuing evolution of Downtown Memphis; the reincarnation of the old Sears Crosstown facility to house medical, educational, and arts groups, and the constant growth in the Medical Center.

“I’m working harder, but I’m having more fun than I ever have had in this business,” said Loeb. In December, he was named Memphian of the Year by *Memphis Magazine*. And on April 24, PDS gave him its Distinguished Alumnus Award.

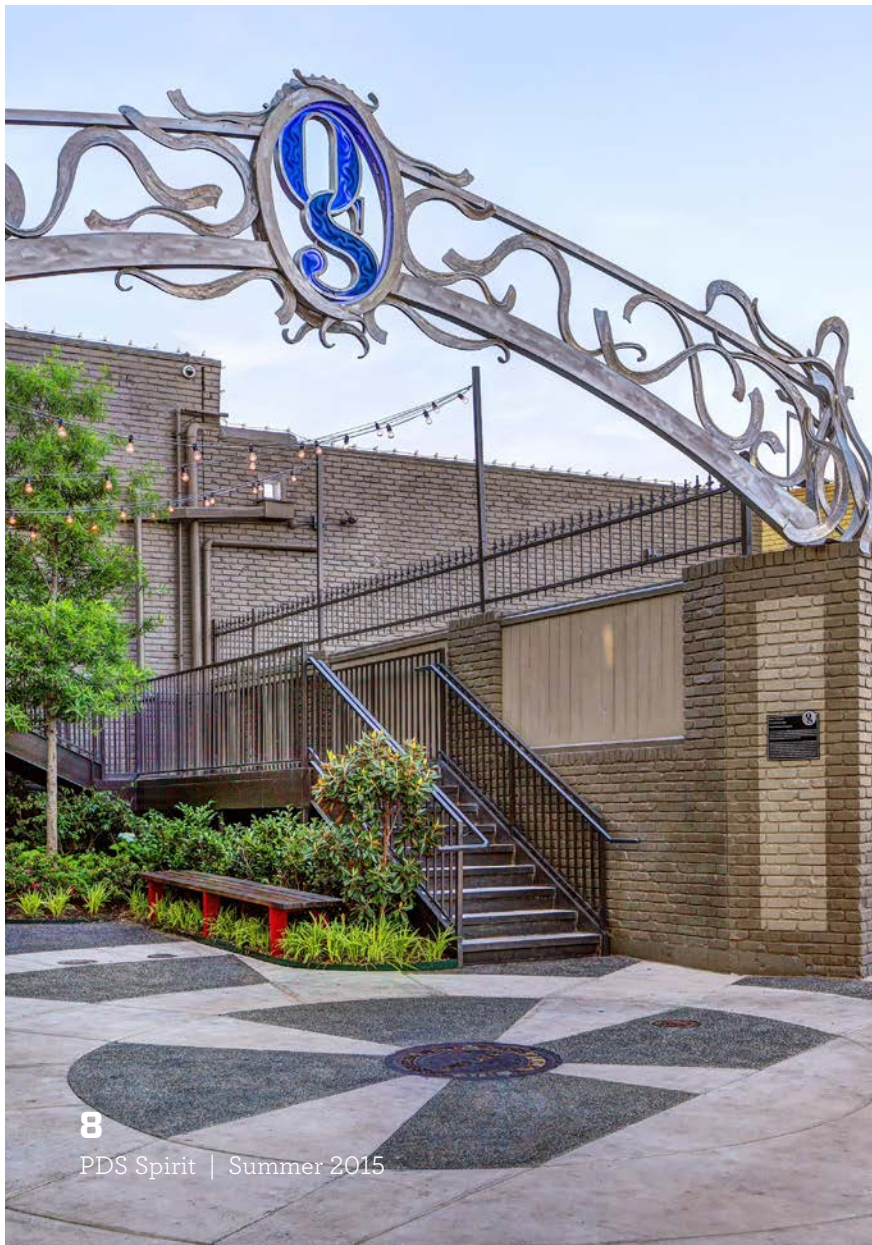
“Bob Loeb has demonstrated a love for Presbyterian Day School and represents the goals, ideals, and imagination of PDS,” said Scott Anderson '86, who heads the PDS Alumni Association. “His vision, revitalization of Overton Square, and extensive development on Broad Avenue and the Highland Strip are but a few examples of his transformational footprint in Memphis.”

Loeb’s handiwork can be seen in the suddenly vibrant mix of shops and restaurants that have sprung up along Broad Avenue. He is busy working with stakeholders in the University of Memphis neighborhood, devising a renaissance for residents and students alike. But Loeb Properties’ most visible triumph has been its purchase, and revival of the Overton Square district into a remastered mix of theater, music, and food — all with a decidedly local flavor.

Don Batchelor '66, who heads the PDS Board of Trustees, said “If you’re as old as I am, you know what happened to Overton Square in the 70’s. Many people said you can never go back again, but with Bob’s vision and leadership and a lot of professional backing, support, and expertise, he proved you can.”

“I’m humbled because of what PDS stands for in this community,” Loeb said to a Fellowship Hall filled with students, alumni, family members, and co-workers. “If we were successful with Overton Square but there weren’t a lot of other really positive things going on in the city, it wouldn’t be much of a story. I share the joy of city building and the fact that, whether it’s education, industry or healthcare, PDS alumni are leading the way.”

He told the sixth graders that PDS “gives us all a classic upbringing we carry forth the rest of



our lives. I am glad to have that foundation.”

Then he joked that, since getting Overton Square up and running, “I can conclude that even in Presbyterian circles, folks take their watering holes mighty seriously ... We’ve had fun with Overton Square, and we’re glad you’re enjoying it, too.”

So much of his business expertise came from his father Bill, whose laundries, barbecue restaurants, and convenience stores dotted the Mid-South – as did the weekly newspaper ads that featured Bob and his eight brothers and sisters.

But a spirit of collaboration – something that permeates the PDS curriculum – has come into play in this new life chapter for Bob Loeb and his company.

“Instead of just acquisition, construction, and rehab... we’ve been connecting with the community, the neighbors and stakeholders, finding out what it is they want and delivering those parts we think will be economically sustainable,” he said. “That they are so passionate about their neighborhood is invigorating.”

Loeb said he’s proud of the fact that merchants and entrepreneurs have fueled the Broad Avenue development. “It’s a bootstrap operation with relatively little public support.” The Highland Row development is still taking shape, “but it’s exciting to be partnering with all of the development that the University of Memphis is planning in the next few years.”

Along with the listening process, Loeb and his associates help foster a sense of nurturing as they help bring a neighborhood’s wishes to life. It’s the thing he remembers most about his years at PDS.

“PDS had a nurturing environment that made you feel at home,” said Loeb.

Both Loeb’s sons, Win ‘04 and Jackson ‘07, followed in his footsteps, first to PDS and then MUS. Bob Loeb has been the board president at MUS, and helped head a \$26 million capital campaign at St. Mary’s Episcopal School, where his daughter, Hensley, is a graduate.

Loeb said they are part of a demographic tidal wave that will reshape the planet, with more

“Bob Loeb has demonstrated a love for Presbyterian Day School and represents the goals, ideals, and imagination of PDS.”

—Scott Anderson ‘86

than 2.5 billion people migrating to cities by 2050, looking to settle in the urban core. “It will be the biggest migration in the history of our planet,” Loeb said. “Memphis competes regionally, nationally and internationally to get our fair share.”

He has also learned, “You are either moving forward or backward, there is no staying the same.”

Recently, Loeb was in Charleston, S.C., walking through that city’s famed historical district, and said “it began to overwhelm me.”

Then he remembered the verse from Jeremiah... *And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.* ●

Alumni Gathering

Young Alums Reconnect

In May, a reception was hosted at PDS to honor 2015 high school graduates who are PDS alumni. These gentlemen were able to reconnect with one another, as well as some of the teachers that taught them when they attended PDS.

The sixth-grade video that was shown during the reception sparked many great memories of PDS. The alums were then free to tour the school and visit their previous classrooms. 🍷

- 1 Spencer Richey '09, Christian Schneider '09, Bennett Wilfong '08, Braxton Brady, Will Farnsworth '09, Charles Brandon '09
- 2 Eason Taylor '08 and Thomas Hayes '09
- 3 Baty Daniel '09 and William Merriman '09, and Grant Stevenson '09
- 4 Dwight Creasman and Brad Jarratt '09
- 5 Arnav Thakur '09, Hamid Shirwany '09, and August Klinke '09
- 6 Nevin Naren '09 and Alex Creson '09
- 7 Ross Redmont '09, Michael Apple '09, and Patrick Demere '09
- 8 Ethan Pretsch '09 and Mitchell Clark '08
- 9 Ahmed Latif '09 and Dale Hill
- 10 Peyton Jones '09 and Lewis Hergenrader '09
- 11 Joseph Preston '09 and Christopher Davis '09









BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Applying STEM to the Real World

Written by Pete Wickham

The challenge for the boys was a fairly simple one: build a bridge to span an 18-inch chasm. The challenge for the teachers, however, was far greater: make math and science meaningful for a group of fifth graders.



Kim Bullard's Science Lab was a combination of controlled chaos and precise frenzy.

Plans were being drawn, proposals and applications filled out. Glue was dripping, balsa wood sticks and planks being cut, numbers being crunched – and stress levels tested by a group of fifth graders that spent a couple of weeks this past semester building bridges.

“STEM – it's a buzzword in education now. It stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math,” said Bullard, who heads PDS' Science Department. “We talk about the science and engineering involved in designing and building a strong bridge that is also aesthetically

pleasing to the eye. The boys learn about several basic bridge types through research. Time is spent testing the strength of triangles vs. squares. Mathematics is integral to the design process.”

Or as Math teacher Windy May said, “the greatest thing I've heard was, “Wow... we're not learning math just to learn it, this is real-world stuff.”

The project is about connections that go far beyond simply spanning an 18-inch chasm. It connects different academic disciplines and helps the boys connect to each other via collaboration on a shared project. In a sense, bridges are being built all over the place. Some that can be seen, others felt or realized.

Five groups of boys started the two-week project looking to build a scale model bridge made of balsa wood, string, and glue that would span an 18-inch long gap. When finished, weights would be hung from the center of the bridge to see which design is best able to stand up to the “everyday” wear and tear of traffic and commerce.

“The winner,” May said, “gets bragging rights.”

They're applying science, math, design, and technology learned in the classroom to real world situations. They're learning how to collaborate and manage time and relationships, all while keeping their eyes on those blueprints and fragile pieces of wood.

Bullard said, “It takes a lot of planning, and then you have to take a leap, from a teacher's standpoint, and let go. The reward is what transpires when you let you go...the boys take ownership of the project.”

May's excitement was watching the way in which the numbers were shuffled and crunched. “We had our bankers developing a loan system in which assets were being secured.”



EVERYONE HAS A JOB...



EDWARD GRINDER
Project Director

As the project director, I have many jobs like making sure everyone is on task, signing order forms, and keeping a daily journal of the company's progress.



GARNER UHLHORN
Architect

It is my responsibility to draw the plans for the bridge and instruct the carpenter on how to build the bridge. I have a lot of responsibility because if the bridge fails, it is mostly my fault.



WEST LODEN
Consultant

It is my responsibility to research bridges and to give ideas and advice to all the groups for making the bridges stronger.



GRYFFIN OSTNER
Accountant

As the accountant, I have to make the checks, fill out the balance sheets, keep track of how we use our money, and take the checks to the banker.



WILL CHANDLER
Carpenter

My job as carpenter is to cut and sand the wood and put it in place. This is important because if I make a mistake it could make the bridge collapse on itself.



HAYDEN ROE
Warehouse Manager

As the warehouse manager, I sell the supplies like land, cable, pins, and glue. I also collect payments from the groups and ship the supplies by way of the transportation chief.



BENNETT BRADY
Transportation Chief

As the transportation chief, it is my responsibility to get the supplies from the warehouse and take the bills.



DANIEL CARRILLO
Banker

I am in charge of tracking all the checks made out to the warehouse as well checking each group's financial records.



RICKY RANSOM
Code Inspector

In my job as code inspector, I have to check bridges to see if they are up to code. If the bridges are not up to code then I could fine them from 25 to 1000 dollars.



Kristian Perkins started out wanting a carpenter's job, but then a couple of his classmates saw his drawings and he said "they chose me for architect. They thought it would be a good idea. I was kind of upset that I wouldn't be a carpenter. But I like the architect job. I really like to draw a lot."

Matthew Mellone opted to be a banker on this project, because that's what his father does in real life. As he juggled checks, balance sheets, and audit forms he said, "Now I know why my dad comes home really stressed and tired some nights. We talked it over... he said he was glad to find I had an interest in what he did."

As warehouse managers, Hays Hurdle and Hayden Roe sat guard over the stacks of balsa wood, draft paper, string, glue, and other supplies needed for each project. Their job was to sell supplies to the bridge-building groups and deliver the supplies to the transportation chief. Everyone had a job to do, and it would get done.

"You have to make sure everything balances, and you usually figure it out more than once," Roe said, calculator drawn and ready. "I've missed a zero lots of times."

Hurdle said "It can be very stressful when you get a bunch of orders at once. You have to make sure everything is done right."

The average cost of each order? "About \$600,000," Hurdle said. And the most money he's ever dealt with at one time in his life? Two hundred dollars.

Carpenter Jayden Jones applied glue to key joints in their bridgework as Project Director John Monaghan hovered over him.

As he delicately pinpointed the glue at spots marked by pins on the plan, Jones

said, "If it's not perfect, things won't fit."

The boy smiled a bit sheepishly, and Bullard reminded Jones that in this project, you're not expected to get it right the first time, the design approach involves trial and error. The key is to learn from your mistakes.

"We want the boys to fail quickly, fail often, and then fail forward," she said. "When you fail forward, you're really taking a step towards a solution that suits the need. If you

"We want the boys to fail quickly, fail often, and then fail forward..."

sit and hover on an idea, you don't try things, and then it's hard to grow your ideas."

Later in the week, all the boys huddled in a circle watching as each bridge in turn was placed on the table. The boys cheered louder and louder as more and more weight was added to the bucket hanging from the center of each bridge. Finally, the boys erupted in a loud roar when each bridge ultimately gave way.

When asked what type of STEM project might be next, Bullard said, "We're looking at LEGO robotics and littleBits electronic circuitry."

At that moment, Jones lit up with the kind of smile Albert Pujols usually reserves for juicy hanging curveballs up in the strike zone. "I love LEGOs," he said. ●



Called to Lead

Meet Laura Glenn, the New
Head of the Elementary
School Division

Written by Grant Oster

If you've been around the PDS campus much, you've probably seen the smiling face of Laura Glenn. Laura has been an integral part of the PDS family for the better part of 15 years, and when it came to deciding on a new Head for the Elementary School Division, she was the clear choice.

"PDS was blessed to have many candidates from around the world apply to be the next Head of Elementary School Division," acknowledged Headmaster Steve Hancock, "but Ms. Glenn had an amazing series of interviews and won the committee over with her poise and exciting ideas."

Part of what made Ms. Glenn such an attractive choice for this position was her long history with PDS. After working at PDS as an Admissions Office assistant, a Junior Kindergarten assistant, a student teacher, and a teacher in the Technology Lab, Ms. Glenn took some time to gain experience

at other independent schools in the Memphis area — always with a desire to return to PDS. After gaining experience at St. Mary’s Episcopal School and St. George’s Independent School, Ms. Glenn returned to PDS as a first-grade teacher.

For the last nine years Ms. Glenn has taught PDS first graders the foundations of both education and life. Furthermore, she’s fostered an appreciation for classic literature — you know, the classics, like Tedd Arnold’s *Fly Guy* series and Shel Silverstein’s *A Light in the Attic*.

From the implementation of multisensory learning in the classroom to her “Can Small Kids Do Big Things?” unit of study, Ms. Glenn spent the past nine years making PDS’ first-grade boys her top priority. She is a firm believer in teaching critical thinking and increasing the classroom’s learning experience through authentic growth opportunities.

“My passion is for the future of PDS and the boys that are here,” she continued, “They drive every decision I make.”

“Ms. Glenn has a deep knowledge of PDS, a genuine love for teaching boys, a strong faith, and an impeccable reputation,” says Mr. Hancock.

Part of what makes Ms. Glenn such a special part of PDS is the time and dedication that she puts into extracurricular activities with the boys. While the entire student body fondly remembers her time spent in the PDS Jamboree dunk tank and her performance in the annual Student-Faculty Basketball game, she is also an active member behind the scenes of many of our events.

Serving in a leadership capacity, Ms. Glenn set out this summer, with a group of rising sixth graders, to assist the World Leadership School in Costa Rica. This trip serves as an opportunity to teach our boys leadership skills and the importance of helping others through service projects. Working with World Leadership School opens our students’

eyes to cultural differences around the world and provides them an experience to implement many of PDS’ Seven Virtues in a real-life situation.

What began as a reading unit on encouraging the boys to make a difference in the lives of others, “Can Small Kids Do Big Things?” led to an annual event that allows PDS students to assist boys their own age in Tanzania. Each year her class runs a lemonade stand with proceeds going to a Tanzanian

“Ms. Glenn has a deep knowledge of PDS, a genuine love for teaching boys, a strong faith, and an impeccable reputation.”

—Headmaster Steve Hancock

orphanage. The boys are able to assist in raising tuition money for those less fortunate. It offers them a chance to see what it is like to be compassionate, make a difference in the world, and prove to them that, in fact, small kids can do big things.

In her new role, devoting her focus and energy to overseeing all aspects of teaching, learning, and curriculum, Ms. Glenn will work to meet the needs of the boys’ academic needs. Moreover, she will serve to assure that students transition from grade to grade with continuity.

As part of her new charge, she will work to encourage and improve the professional development of teachers, and design and develop the curriculum. She will also work closely with the Head of Early Childhood and the Elementary Principal to guarantee the educational, social, and emotional needs of all PDS students are met. ●

Sixth Grade Awards

Recognition for the Class of 2015

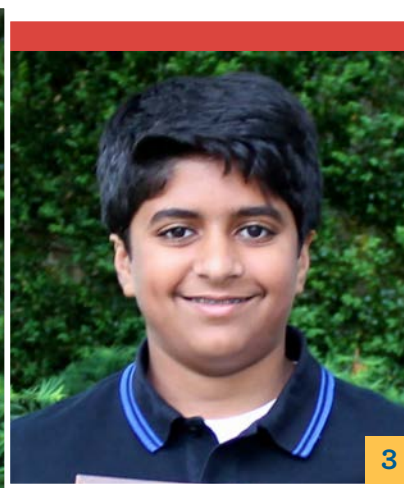
Congratulations to the following sixth graders from the Class of 2015 who received awards in recognition of their outstanding achievements during their PDS careers.

- 1 The Headmaster's List:
(front row left to right)
Hart Gowen '15, Fisher Marks '15, Gavin Murrey '15, Max Shackelford '15, and Ryan Peng '15
- 2 The Headmaster's Trophy:
Judson Fair '15
- 3 The Wetter-Boyle Memorial Award:
Akbar Latif '15
- 4 The Robert E. Gentry, Jr. Creative Writing Award:
McKnight Johnston '15
- 5 The MUS Book Award:
Ryan Peng '15
- 6 The A.W. Dick Trophy:
Cash Brown '15
- 7 The Charlotte G. Neal Spirit Award:
William Patteson '15
- 8 The Vicky C. Spicer Award:
Fisher Marks '15
- 9 The Minna Potts Thompson Bible Award:
Elijah Graham '15
- 10 The Motsey Hudson Speech Award:
Elliot Allen '15
- 11 The Henry Edward Russell Scholarship:
Wade Roberts '15
- 12 The Mary Hearn Coleman Award:
Cooper Grinspun '15
- 13 The Robert J. Hussey Scholarship:
Hart Gowen '15
- 14 The Wendy Edwards Award:
Mason Love '15
- 15 The Elisabeth Horton Laios Award for General Excellence:
Hart Gowen '15
- 16 The Jane East Award:
Jack Jabbour '15

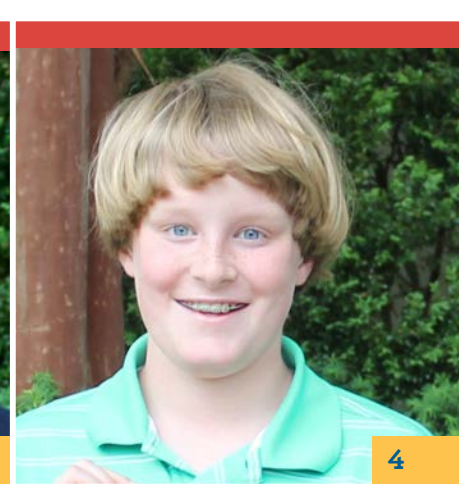




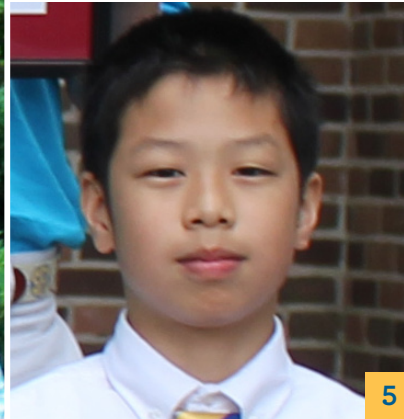
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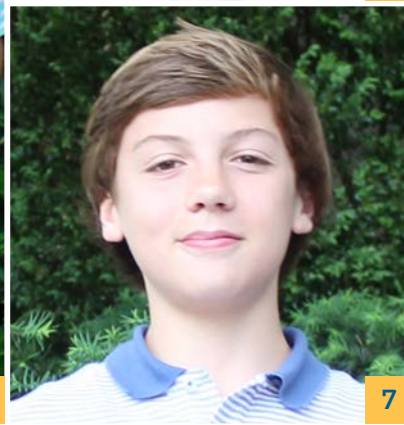
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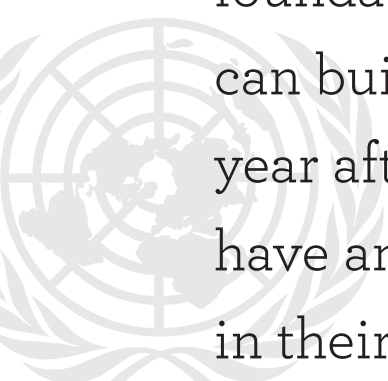


MODEL BEHAVIOR

At Presbyterian Day School,
Model United Nations is literally
in a class of its own, as are its
remarkable participants.

Written by Jared Scott Tesler

When asked how Information Specialist and Study Skills Coach Nina Haley gets the sixth graders on PDS' Model UN team jazzed about such heady and worldly issues as diplomacy and international relations, she points to an excerpt from author, professor, and political activist Elie Wiesel's 1986 Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech, which she instructs each boy to interpret on the first day of class:



If I am able to lay a foundation on which they can build these same skills year after year, then they have an amazing advantage in their educational and professional lives.

“Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes, we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must — at that moment — become the center of the universe.”

A call-to-action of sorts, the passage sets the proverbial stage for the researching, writing, delivering, and debating of their own authoritative speeches, including

introduction, summation, and resolution.

It all culminates in a one-day educational simulation designed for hundreds of Memphis-area middle school students: the Tennessee YMCA Middle School Model United Nations Conference, held annually in the City Council Chambers of City Hall. Within their assigned teams, students, referred to as delegates, represent member countries of the United Nations, arguing formal resolutions in Committee and before the General Assembly. The victors garner their fair share of awards — at last year's conference, as the youngest students in attendance, several PDS boys were recognized for their outstanding delegacy, resolution, research, and participation.

“This process develops critical thinkers with a global perspective as students explore important topics such as peacekeeping, sustainable development, human rights, natural disasters, epidemics, refugees, and civil unrest,” says Haley, who serves as Model UN Coach. “Delegates must become familiar with their country's history, culture, geography, political structure, current political affairs, and statistical data in order to adequately represent their country during debate.”

Model UN at PDS officially began in fall 2004. While interviewing for a teaching position at PDS, having taught World Geography, Model UN, and Study Skills elsewhere, with many years of priming students for the Middle School United Nations Conference under her belt, it was Haley who initially proposed that the school implement its own program. In doing so, she hoped to further develop sixth-grade boys' camaraderie, collaboration, communication, confidence, and cultural competence.

“I felt that PDS boys would benefit from training in the sixth grade rather than waiting to have their first year of Model UN



PDS Model United Nations 2014-15: *Front row left to right:* Jack Alexander '15, Mason Love '15, Austin Dowdle '15, Cooper Grinspun '15, Hart Gowen '15, Everett Miller '15, and Scott Ledbetter '15. *Middle row:* Wade Roberts '15, Stefan Smith '15, Colin McCown '15, Rhodes Heard '15, Jack Rogers '15, Will Schuessler '15, and Fawwaz Omer '15. *Back row:* Akbar Latif '15, Wesley Butler '15, Edwin Shy '15, Harmon Colvett '15, Daniel Russell '15, McKnight Johnston '15, and Walker Burks '15.

in another school in the seventh grade,” she explains. “Taking part in Model UN can be an overwhelming experience while also starting at a new school. I thought the boys would be more willing to do Model UN at a new school if they had a year of experience behind them.”

Haley and the boys convene in the Library before school, at lunchtime, and even during a scheduled class one day per week. Once they have composed the final draft of their resolutions, students practice responding to difficult questions, with the ultimate goal of thinking quickly on their feet and not being caught off guard, if possible.

“If I am able to lay a foundation on which they can build these same skills year after year, then they have an amazing advantage in their educational and professional lives,” Haley says. “Setting up practice sessions to reveal the weak spots in their presentations and resolutions is important. I want the boys to make their big mistakes here at school, where we can refine

their approach and the debate process.”

Developing skills in critical thinking, debating, leadership, public speaking, research, teamwork, and writing is only the beginning. While deeply immersed in parliamentary procedure, Model UN participants also gain a global awareness and understanding of international issues as well as the ability to respect diverse opinions and perspectives. Additional competencies often include active listening, creativity, decision-making, design thinking, empathy, higher-order thinking, negotiation, revision, and role-playing – all of which “will become vital as the boys move through high school and into adulthood in the 21st century.”

The performance of the PDS boys participating in Model UN has surprised more than a few parents. “This year, I heard a parent say, ‘I didn’t even know how he knew that kind of information or that he could answer those questions!’” Haley says.

Haley is quick to point out that success is not determined by the passage of a resolution

or the receipt of an award. At the end of the day, these boys should be proud of the fact that they were able to complete the rigorous program to the best of their ability at just 11 or 12 years old.

“It matters that each feels a wonderful sense of accomplishment in dealing with real-world issues in an adult venue,” she says. “Each will know that they now belong to a select group of individuals who have had an educational experience that is like no other.”

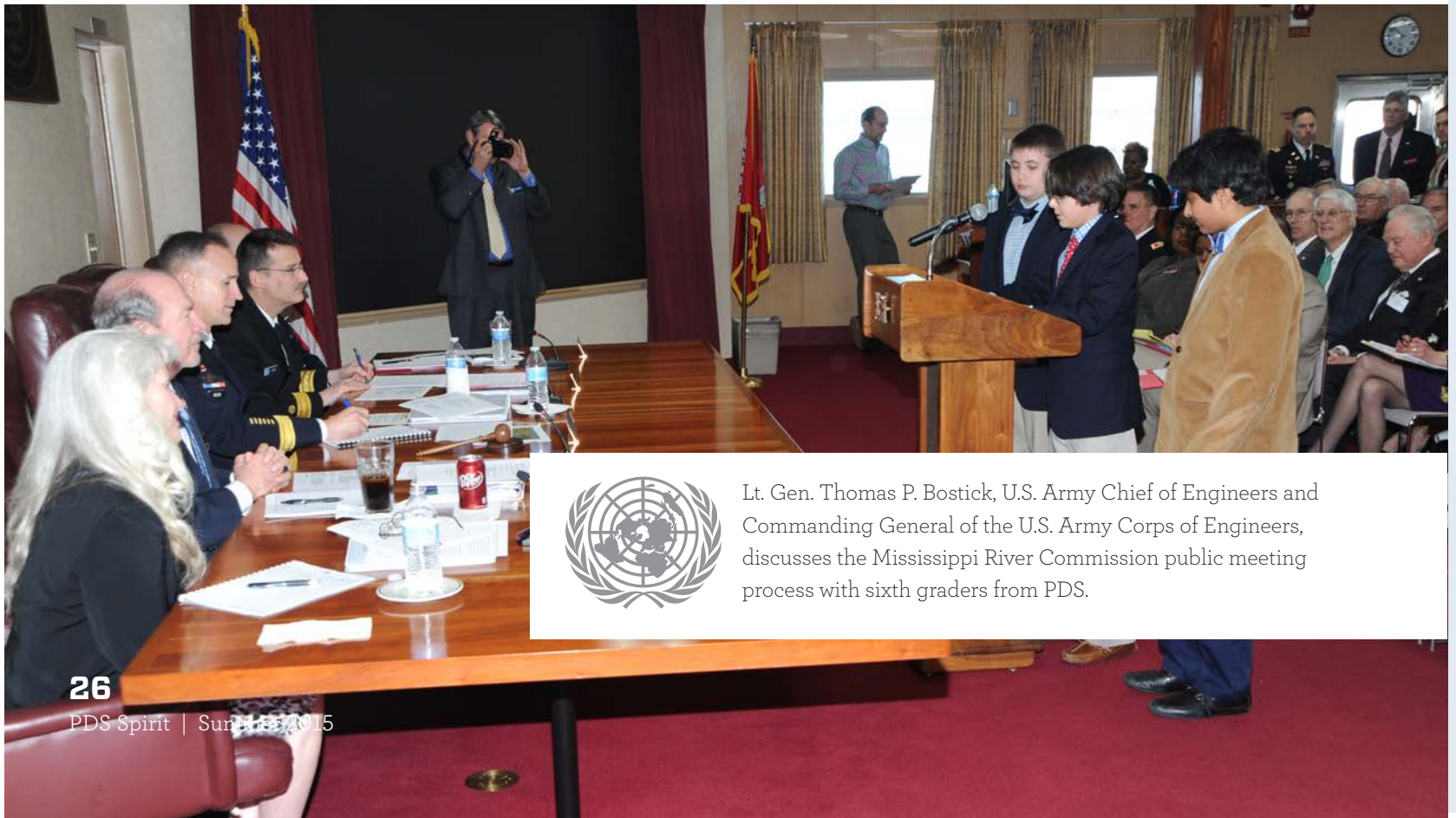
This spring, the boys were granted a special invitation from Memphis District Commander Col. Jeffery A. Anderson to attend a standing-room-only U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) public hearing at Beale Street Landing aboard the Motor Vessel Mississippi, where they toured the pilot house and engine room and spoke before a panel of generals and seven presidentially-appointed Mississippi River Commission members.

At the Mississippi River Commission’s annual high-water public meeting, following a briefing from three-star Commanding General and Chief

of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, local partners, stakeholders, and residents discussed issues concerning the floodwall in Memphis and the water infrastructure of a small town in Arkansas. Two teams of students mentioned PDS and its mission; alluded to their involvement in Model UN; and expressed their gratitude to the Army Corps for its steadfast dedication to the safety, security, stewardship, and sustainability of Memphis’ Mississippi River and waterways.

“Everyone in the room was impressed with everything they did – from the way they presented themselves as poised gentlemen to the way they confidently presented their testimonies,” says USACE Project Manager Elizabeth Burks, PE, PMP, LSSBB, mother of Model UN participant and Outstanding Resolution honoree Walker Burks.

Back in December, Walker nobly represented Haiti with his fellow teammates, Wesley Butler and Will Schuessler, as will those who proudly follow in their footsteps at this year’s conference. 🍀



Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, discusses the Mississippi River Commission public meeting process with sixth graders from PDS.

Alumni Excellence

Have some excellent news about a PDS graduate? Send it to alumni@pdsmemphis.org.



Go West, Young Men

Congratulations to PDS graduate **Whit Thornton '05** (pictured) for graduating from the Military Academy at West Point. Lieutenant Thornton will be stationed at Fort Hood working in Logistics.

Two PDS graduates from the Class of 2009 will be attending the Military Academy at West Point as freshmen. **Jack McDowell '09** has wanted to attend the Military Academy since he was in second grade at PDS. "This is always something I have wanted to do," says McDowell. "I just went out there and did it." Having just graduated from Briarcrest, he is fulfilling his dream.

Christopher Davis '09, a graduate of MUS, plans to attend the United States Military Academy Prep School where he will run track.



Climbing the Ladder

Congratulations to **Wes Scott '93** for being named partner at Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, LLP, a top firm based out of Nashville. He serves as counsel to public and private companies, dealing primarily with corporate finance, regulatory compliance, mergers and acquisitions and corporate governance.



Academic All-Star

William Merriman '09 was recently named an Academic All-Star in Social Sciences & History by the Commercial Appeal. **Sherman Tabor '09** was named an Academic All-Star in English & Literature. This program recognizes top high school students in the Memphis Metro area for academic excellence.



Swim Stars

Sherman Tabor '09 and **Jack McCaghren '11** helped lead the MUS Swim Team to a second place finish at State, competing against 42 other teams. Tabor was instrumental in helping the 200-yard freestyle team win second place. In addition, the 200-yard medley team including McCaghren (butterfly) and Tabor (freestyle) took sixth place. McCaghren also finished sixth in the 500 freestyle.



Knowledge Bowler

PDS graduate **Stewart Love '09** is a member of the MUS Knowledge Bowl team. Love and his team defeated Lausanne in November. The competition was broadcasted on News Channel 3. Way to go Stewart!

Alumni Excellence

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Coaching for Literacy

Currently a sophomore basketball walk-on at SMU, **Jonathan Wilfong '07** has started a non-profit program called Coaching for Literacy. During middle school, Wilfong began to notice that a teammate on his AAU team could not read. Wilfong was motivated to change that for his teammate and for others! Wilfong continues to raise awareness and financial support - hoping to one day eradicate illiteracy. Wilfong's coach says that he is "an unbelievable teammate and an unbelievable role model", and PDS agrees! And by the way... Wilfong can dunk!



Top of the Class

Congratulations **James Blatchford '13**, **Garrott Braswell '13**, **Ethan Lam '13**, **Ev Nichol '13**, **William Quinlen '13**, **Sellers Shy '13**, **Tyran Williams '13**, and **Philip Wunderlich '13** for being inducted as Springfield Scholars at MUS. Eight of the 11 Springfield Scholars are graduates of PDS. This award is given to eighth graders in the top 10% of the class based on a weighted numeric average as well as one's demonstration of character that is consistent with the high standards of the school's Honor Code and Community Creed.



Jefferson Scholar

Sherman Tabor '09 has been selected for the Jefferson Scholarship at the University of Virginia. More than 1,700 nominees competed for this highly selective merit-based award, and 116 finalists underwent a five-day competition involving seminar discussions, essay and mathematics examinations, and interviews with University of Virginia alumni and faculty. Tabor is one of 34 honorees who will receive a full scholarship as well as enrichment programs such as travel abroad opportunities and career networking activities.



PDS Golf Tournament

The 3rd PDS Golf Tournament was held on Friday, April 17 at the Links at Galloway where the team of **Brice Bailey '96**, **Clay Chapman '97**, **Michael Murphy**, and **Michael Schaefer '97** finished in first place after a hole-in-one by Clay Chapman on their last hole of the tournament. Congratulations to Chapman for also winning the Longest Drive Contest and Closet to the Pin Contest on another hole as well.

- 1 **Clay Chapman '97**
- 2 **Michael Schaefer '97**, **Clay Chapman '97**, **Brice Bailey '96**, and **Michael Murphy**
- 3 **Miles Fortas '83**, **Edward Dobbs '83**, **Clarence Chapman**, and **Scott Anderson '86**
- 4 **Trey Jones '91**, **Jay Keras '91**, **Ben Wunderlich '91**, and **Rob Tayloe '91**
- 5 **Andy Wright '80**, **Greg Boucek**, **Jody Scott '81**, and **David Work '67**



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1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 & LUKE 2:52