



DIAA NEWSLETTER

January 2007

DIAA Officers Meet at DI Headquarters

On August 11 – 13, the DIAA VP (Ernie Chang), Treasurer (David Mitchell), and Secretary (Lara Morrell) met at DI Headquarters in NJ to discuss the future of the DIAA and outline an agenda for the 2006-2007 DI year. Their working weekend focused on the goal of making DIAA a more effective organization and finding new ways to recruit more Alumni to become involved in DI as volunteers and keep those already involved active.

Over the course for the two and a half days, DIAA Officers met with Bob Purifico and others at the DI Headquarters to map out the direction the DIAA need to go. Their time was spent reviewing the Alumni Associations past work, as well as the road blocks they have faced and the challenges of the future. Bob Purifico emphasized to the DIAA that they are the future of DIAA and that their continued and increasing support is invaluable to the Destination ImagiNation Inc. As such, it is crucial that the Alumni continue to stay involved and are increasingly recruited.

The first task of the DIAA Officers was to find common ground and work to build unity amongst the organization. To do this, a mission statement for the DIAA was formed and strategic goals for the upcoming year were put into place. A tremendous amount of work went into refining and wording these efforts and the final product of each represents the common themes and shared vision everyone had for DIAA and its contribution to DI in the future.

The new mission statement of the DIAA is:

To foster a network of Alumni united towards supporting and strengthening the future of DI.

The 2006-2007 goals for the DIAA are:

1. Develop and distribute Alumni Recruitment Kits (11/10/2006)
2. Create a "live" DIAA website
3. Compile a master list of all DIA
4. Have successful, productive, regularly scheduled board meetings
5. Produce Quarterly Alumni Newsletters (January, April, June, October, +1 for Globals)

The DIAA set out more general goals for what it wants to provide for its members and for the Affiliates. The Alumni resources are summarized by the following four bullets:

- **Get Connected**
Meet lots of other DI Alumni and hear all their great stories about how their PVC pipe scenery broke at competition too!
- **Learn More**
Hear about what the Alumni are doing across their Affiliates, the country, and the world in the Quarterly DIAA Newsletter
- **Stay Involved**
The DIAA database allows Alumni to be matched up with their new affiliates as they go to college, get jobs, and move. This way they can always find their DI home.
- **Get the Inside Scoop**
Graduating and need a new job? First year as RD and struggling with recruiting new schools? Going to Globals with your team and have no idea what to pack? We can promise there will be at least one Alumni who will know what to do.

The Affiliate resources are summarized by the following three bullets:

- **Find more volunteers**
Currently, DI Alumni are: Tournament Volunteers, Appraisers, Team Managers, RCMs, ACMs, RDs, ADs, Challenge Writers, and more!
- **Create greater stability**
As past participants, DI Alumni know the program intimately. They have a driving passion and a desire to see the program foster and grow. An increased number of Alumni working within the affiliates will ensure a strong foundation for your Affiliate in the future.
- **GROW!**
As more Alumni become involved as volunteers, they will help recruit, advertise, and publicize the program on an increasingly larger scale.

Alumni can provide a team members point of view on what souvenirs sell the best, what would have made their day at tournament run more smoothly, and most importantly, their successes provide a shining example for the positive impact DI has on its participants

With these goals and objectives now in place, the DIAA expected 2006-2007 to be its most successful recruiting year ever. In addition, they hope to begin to unit the DI Alumni into a more cohesive group, with a shared mission, determination, and pride.

However, none of this can be done without the support of all of the DIAA members. So, what are your thoughts? Do we share your vision and goals. Do you feel the same pride we do in being Alumni? Let us know by e-mailing alumniboard@dionline.org. We'd love to hear from you.

DI Alumni Get Involved

Have you ever gone to your competition and just looked around at all the people working? Have you ever seen the appraisers at work? Ever wonder who it was that wrote the challenge that you were doing? Did you know that everyone that is working your competition site volunteered? They were all there for you! Now it's your turn. It's your turn to help children and young adults find a way to work together and use their imagination to solve the challenges that lay before them. Now that you are done competing in DI, choose to give back to the program that helped you. Want to know how you can help? It's simple!

If you are over 18, there are lots of ways to help depending on how much time you have to offer. If you're in college (for example) and don't have much time to spare between classes, then you can sign up to be an appraiser. That's right, you can appraise right along side those that appraised you. All you have to do is make time to go to a few trainings and that's it. Don't think you can make it to the trainings? You can still volunteer on the day of the tournament in many other roles. Or, if you do have time to spare, consider coaching, or even mentoring a team? Go back to a school in your area (maybe even the school you attended) and get one started. Here's a little more details on what each of these jobs entails:

Being a tournament volunteer is perfect if you want to help on the run. It usually does not require any time commitment from you besides on the day of the tournament. Do you know how to use a stopwatch? If so, then you can be a Challenge timekeeper. Do you have a loud voice? If so, then you can be the announcer. Or, you can always work in sales, and run scores to the score room. Each tournament needs a lot of volunteers to do these jobs and help keep the tournament flowing.

If you have a little more time to spare, you might want to be an Appraiser or work in the score room. If you love computers, math, and a quiet environment, then the score room would be the perfect fit. (Plus you get to know how all the teams placed before everyone else) If you'd like to learn the secrets to scoring, watch a ton of performances and once again become very intimate with a Challenge, then choose to be an Appraiser. Both require a minimal amount of training which normally consists of a half day or day sometime before the tournament, an hour or two of prep on your own time, and a commitment the day of the tournament. Another bonus of being an Appraiser is that after you have served as one for a few years, you're eligible to apply to be an Appraiser at Globals!!

If you have lots of time and just can't get enough of competing then maybe you should start your own team. That's right, now it's your turn to call the shots. All you would need to do is go to your local school and see if they have any teams competing in DI. If so, then tell them you would like to manage a team. If they don't have any teams then maybe you should sign the school up and make some teams!! Go to www.DestinationImagination.org and follow the links to set up a new membership. Remember, to do this you must get it approved by the school and children willing to participate.

There are so many ways you could help the Affiliate Directors and Regional Directors. All you need to do is contact your local Regional Director and he/she will get you started. Just remember you are the future of this program and the experience is always welcome in Destination Imagination. Being a DI Alumni is an honor that we should never take for granted.

DI Alumni Write for DI eXtreme

Want to become more involved as an Alumni, but not sure what you can do? Each issue we will work to hi-light the hard work of at least one Alumni who was raised in the world of creative problem solving and continues to stay



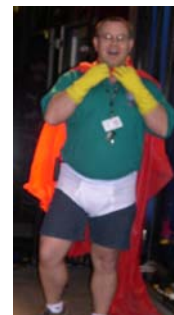
DI eXtreme Writers Rebecca, Felicia, and Simon

involved long after their last performance.

These Alumni have held various positions within the organization over the year and serve a role models for the next generation of DI-ers. They are DI.

This month, we bring you 10 Questions with DI Extreme writers Simon Dodd and Rebecca Middendorf. Both have extensive creative problem solving careers of their own and have held numerous volunteer positions. Who would have thought when they were on teams in elementary school in different states across the country that they would one day be working together and challenging their creativity to the eXtreme!

- Where are you from? (City, Affiliate)*
(SD) Originally from Corvallis, OR but have just moved to Lexington, KY
(RM) Originally from Atlanta, GA. I now live in Washington, DC
- How many years (and in which grades) did you participate in DI?*
(SD) Participated in Odyssey of the Mind for 2nd-12th grade and college. I did multiple challenges one year.
(RM) 5th - 12th grade, so 8 years.
- What was your favorite challenge that you participated in?*
(SD) Supercollider, 1991. The challenge was silly (structure + rolling a billiard ball against the crusher board) but our team was incredibly fun. Was a musical, though none of us could sing.
(RM) "Vaudeville" - mostly cause of the great team I was on with my Mom as the Team manager
- What is the strangest thing you have ever had to wear for DI?*
(SD) We generally concentrated our skits around togas and cross-dressing.
(RM) A pregnant belly
- What is your favorite thing to do at Globals in Tennessee?*
(SD) Love hanging out with all of the participants and talking with them about how they solved their challenge!
(RM) I visit the Mellow Mushroom for a late night pizza run!
- When you were a participant, did you ever imagine yourself involved becoming involved after you graduated from HS? If so, how?*
(SD) After graduating I flirted with the college level. Because all of my team went different directions it was hard to get into. (didn't have eXtreme then!) I also decided to be a TM to help other kids learn about creative problem solving.
(RM) I guess I figured I would be an appraiser, but hadn't thought much beyond that.
- For those who don't know, what is DI Extreme?*
(SD) DI eXtreme is FUN. There are actually many different types of DI eXtreme challenges from a 1 hour glorified IC to a multi-day bonanza... and we are thinking up more each day! For example one DI eXtreme challenge last year was a 14 hour challenge handed out at midnight. Teams registered a few hours to a few months in advance. That means some teams were people who showed up at GFs to participate in one way, met other people, and formed a team right there! Other teams were Internet based, school based, or ??? Just like any DI challenge, the solution is created by the team. Some challenges can be solved with simple means and some require complex solutions. They are like DI challenges in some ways, but go way beyond in others ways.
(RM) The coolest thing since sliced bread! DI eXtreme is DI for the college aged community - you can do it at Globals, but also on campus and at state/regional tournaments - check it out at <http://www.destinationimagination.org/subpages/dix.html> or www.shopdi.org. It is DI with an edge - shorter prep time, disruptions while you are working and wilder requirements! At Globals, we also do the eXpress version with Alumni after hours - so look for the announcement before D2k.7.
- How did you come to be a DI Extreme writer?*
(SD) I applied to be a challenge writer through the yearly challenge writer application process.
(RM) I was invited to participate in the group that was creating DI eXtreme in it's present form. I think I was picked since I was only about 3 years out of college. Then they threw me in with Simon and Felicia who are on total opposite ends of the personality scale - it's a blast!
- What does being a DI Extreme writer entail?*
(SD) Lots of problem solving! In DI eXtreme we challenge ourselves to push the boundaries with our challenges. We try to be as wild as we can, while still being able to have an Elementary age audience. We spend a couple of hours a week brainstorming, writing challenge drafts, and editing other drafts. Every so often we get a chance to try our the challenges to see where the big problems are.
(RM) We work almost a year ahead writing and testing challenges for all levels of DI eXtreme (In-Site, eXpress and Max). But our main goal is to think up new ways to keep college kids on their toes - weird supplies, wacky premises, overall eXtreme situations!
- What other voluntary roles have you filled or do you fill with in DI?*
(SD) I've been a TM; regional, affiliate, and international challenge master; various roles on our affiliate board of directors; part of the Alumni board; and helped with numerous trainings, IC days, and team skills days.
(RM) On Board of Directors for GADI, Challenge Master in GA and the NW VA region, appraiser trainer, appraiser



Perhaps when Simon answered Q4 he had forgotten about this!