

Welcome New DI Alumni!

We'd like to begin this newsletter by extending a warm welcome to DI's newest Alumni, the graduating class of 2007. We believe that the Alumni are the future of DI and the DIAA reflects that in their mission statement:

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

As you begin your journey through DI as Alumni we encourage you to stay involved, ask questions, and give back to the organization that gave so much to you. Don't have a lot of time to spare? Volunteer as on the day of your local tournament or be an appraiser. Want to do more than that? Consider being Co-TM, Co-RD, Challenge Developer, or participating in University level DI. There are many more opportunities available to you besides just these so contact your Affiliate Director (http://www.idodi.org/where/ad_usa.html) or the Alumni Board (dialumni@gmail.com) to find out more.

DI Alumni at Globals

Before Globals even officially began with its awe inspiring Opening Ceremonies, the DI Alumni were hard at work. They were talking with ADs, RDs, Sponsors, VIPs, Board members, fellow Alumni, parent, and current DI participants. 2007 – 2008 will be the year of the Alumni and they wanted to make sure that everyone knew it.

Over the course of Globals, Lara Morrell, the DI Alumni Task Force Chair, offered presentations on the value of the Alumni Organization and the plans for its future to, ADs, VIPs, and the Board of Trustees. In these presentations, she focused on the value of the Alumni association to Alumni and DI as a whole, as well as to all of DI's stakeholders. She stated that the DIAA wanted to get Alumni connected, help them to learn more about the opportunities available to them, get them to stay involved in and excited about DI, and offer them an inside scoop into everything that is going on. She also stated that the DIAA wanted to find more volunteers to support the large DI network, help create greater stability for the organization by creating a foundation of volunteers with a long history in the organization, and grow DI even larger! She focused the end of her presentations on what role everyone needed to play and how everyone can help ensure the success of the DIAA going forward. All of these presentations were welcomed with enthusiasm and thanks.

She also addressed current DI members, both at Opening Ceremonies and at the DI Graduation. In her speech at Opening Ceremonies, her words encourage everyone to see the value in continuing DI past HS graduation.

"On Friday night, many of you will walk across the stage at the DI graduation and celebrate your accomplishments. That moment will be a turning point in each of your DI journeys. For many of you, it may mark the end of your competitive time in DI and you might think the end of your DI career. I am here to tell you, IT IS REALLY JUST THE BEGINNING!"

"I need you to know and understand that it is each and every one of you in this audience tonight that are truly the future of DI. If we are to one day deliver this program to our children, we must challenge you to continue your journey in DI past your high school graduation.

"The Alumni of this organization flows through its veins and

continually help to keep it alive. They are now Affiliate and Regional Directors, Appraisers, Team Managers, Challenge Developers, parents, and So Much More. You all know this program better than anyone else, so who better than YOU to take DI forward into the future?"

These words were taken to heart by many and at the Club DI: Midnight Madness party, the DIAA was able to recruit close to 60 graduating seniors. In total, between that event and other recruiting opportunities this, the DIAA signed up 138 new members this year and the registrations continue to come in.

Help keep the excitement going and spread the enthusiasm in your region and affiliate. Interested in helping us grow? E-mail us at dialumni@gmail.com

DI Alumni Get CRAZY!

In June, not long after Globals are over, DI is already hard at work again, planning Challenges for future DI years. This year, 15 Alumni served as Challenge Developers, the largest number yet, and Bob Purifico stated that he hopes to include even more Alumni in the future.

Challenge Developers work under a shroud of secrecy since the content of the Challenges must be kept secret up until the program materials for that year are released. This ensures a level playing field for everyone. The Challenges can be everything and they are told to leave any preconceived ideas they have behind. The Development process is a long, challenging, and exciting one. This year's Developer Alumni got pumped, not just about their Challenge Development Teams but about what their service to DI as an Alumni truly meant. They will be working with the DIAA Task Force throughout this year to keep the excitement alive and the ball rolling on many of the DIAA's efforts.



Tell Us What You Think

As the DIAA moves forward with its re-organization, we want to keep all of your opinions and requests in mind. Please let us know what you think by e-mails us your answers to the following:

To: dialumni@gmail.com

Subject: Restructuring

1. How many years have you been a member of the DIAA?
2. What Affiliate are you from?
3. Does your Affiliate have an active Alumni population?
4. Do you feel that being a member of the DIAA has added value to your DI experience?
5. What do you feel is the DIAA's biggest strength?
6. What do you feel is the DIAA's biggest area for growth?
7. What would you like the DIAA to do for you?