



DenisonPride

The LGBTQ Alumni Network of Denison University



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The Newsletter of the Denison University Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Alumni Association



New Name, New Newsletter, New Website

by Jeffrey Masten '86

The Denison GLBTAA has changed its name to Denison Pride — and there's a new website to go with it — DenisonPride.com.

We think "Denison Pride" is less of an alphabetic mouthful and also conveys how far Denison has traveled on matters of sex/gender community and diversity. The new name came out of substantial Steering Committee discussions earlier this spring and summer.

The new name — the full version of which is Denison Pride: The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni Network of Denison University — continues to reflect the broad range of gender identities and sexual orientations that our

organization represents and whose causes we advance on campus and in the larger Denison community. And the mission remains the same: to represent students, to connect alumni with the college and each other, to partner with the college in fostering diversity and to provide resources for graduating students.

We recognize the history of a group that started out as the "GLBAA" almost 30 years ago. But we also know that the new name better tells the story of Denison's progressive transformation on these issues. The name even connects up nicely with the #DenisonProud hashtag in widespread use on social media. So, use them both: you can be #Denison-Proud or #DenisonPride.

The [new website](http://www.DenisonPride.com) is an opportunity for Denison Pride to provide more frequent updates about group events and events on campus. Thanks to the Steering Committee for its great ideas, and especially to **Patrick Hewitt '10**, who led

the work on the new site and designed our new logo. We continue to have a [Facebook group](#), now also renamed and searchable there as "Denison Pride."

With the new website and name, we also bid farewell to *Voices Swell*, the quaint old name of our former newsletter, echoing the line from [Denison's alma mater](#): "To Denison, my Denison, in praise our voices swell." We hope your "senses thrill" to the new publication and fresh name. **Rick Carson '65** continues to organize and edit the newsletter, and we are grateful for all his work!

We hope the new name and website will encourage other alums and friends of the college to connect with Denison Pride.



Alumni Council Report

by Patrick Hewitt '10

*Denison Pride Representative to the
Alumni Council*

*Patrick shared this report via e-mail
and during a conference call with the
Alumni Council.*

The GLBTAA completed a profound makeover in the past six months by officially changing its name to Denison Pride. The new name reflects the broad swath of gender identities and sexual orientations that our organization represents and whose causes we advance. Denison Pride's mission remains the same: to represent students, to connect alumni with the college and each other, to partner with the college in fostering diversity and to provide resources for graduating students.

As part of our name change, Denison Pride has finalized a new website: www.DenisonPride.com. The website includes up-to-date events, blog posts, ways to get involved and give and resources for current and prospective students. Over the course of the next year, we intend to promote and enhance the website as a tool for current students, alumni and prospective students.

Denison Pride has also been active with our traditional slate of events. In June, we hosted a gathering at Beth Eden House during Reunion weekend. Various alumni from across the country participated as hosts and attendees, as

continued on following page

In the Beginning...

If you somehow missed the DENISON Magazine article about the history of things gay and lesbian on Denison's campus and how Denison Pride (a.k.a., the GLBTAA or Denison Gay/Lesbian Alum Association) came into being, here's a link to the Spring 2013 story, "Open-Door Policy": www.expandingarchives.org/files/original/804e90f4ac4d5236b2438bf492123b92.pdf



IN THIS ISSUE

Glimpse just some of the diversity and richness represented by Denison's LGBT alums.

... from page 1

did members of Denison's administration, staff and faculty.

Kim Cromwell '81 hosted a gathering of Denison Pride members in Provincetown, MA, on August 28 [see page 5]. The local event attracted approximately 16 members—including recurring attendees and new faces to the group. The local event is intended to be the first in a series of future local gatherings of Denison Pride alumni.

Denison Pride also hosted our annual Big Red Weekend event on September 24. The event brought current students, alumni, faculty and staff together to meet and discuss the current campus climate. Another thank you to host Bill Fox for welcoming Denison Pride into his home another year.

Denison Pride's new name, brand and website reflect a renewed commitment to its long-term mission.

In the coming months, we look forward to continuing to host our annual events while planning a 30-year anniversary celebration for 2018.



It's not too early to make plans to attend next year's Reunion Weekend Denison Pride gathering. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 3.

Classes "re-unioning" include 1952, 1961-1962-1963, 1977, 1986-1987-1988, 1992, 2007 and 2012.

Big Red Weekend Recap

by Patrick Hewitt '10

Denison Pride's annual Big Red Weekend event was held September 24 as part of the University's slate of weekend events. Hosted by Dean of Students Bill Fox and his family at their home, the event brought a fantastic set of current students, staff, alumni and administrators as well as a number of parents of current students to discuss the current campus climate.

Following introductions, discussions and refreshments, the group discussed various important topics including the potential for mentorship for current students, internship opportunities and better relations between current students and alumni. Students also stressed the importance that the leadership of the alumni network and Steering Committee should reflect the diversity of our members and our current student body. Like current students, we see opportunities for growth in Denison Pride and the Steering Committee.

Other topics included getting alumni back to Denison for a typical Outlook meeting, adding information about queer life on campus to the Denison Pride website and expanding the website to be a resource for more than just alumni but also students, staff, faculty and prospective students.

Students also discussed the desire for a permanent space for Outlook on campus. Such a space could be a home for Outlook's meetings, a study space for students or space for community-building events. Denison Pride will continue working with the executive board on their efforts.

As always, the event provided the opportunity to meet current students, discuss life on campus and think of new ways to ensure that Denison remains the inclusive community that it has become.

Reunion Weekend Recap

by Patrick Hewitt '10

Denison Pride has been active with our traditional slate of events, which included a June gathering at Beth Eden house during Reunion the first weekend in June. Numerous alums from across the country participated as hosts and attendees as did members of Denison's administration, staff, faculty and students. As always, the event provided the opportunity to think of new ways to connect with alumni. Ideas

included more intentional outreach efforts to graduating seniors and better advertising of the alumni group to former students—especially those who may not have been involved in Outlook or been a member of the GLBTQA community during their time at Denison.

The event also brought faculty and administrators — including President Adam Weinberg, VP for Student Development Laurel Kennedy, Provost Kim Coplin and VP for Institutional Advancement Julie Houpt — who were able to give updates on important issues such as the Queer Studies program and efforts to ensure that transgender students are an included group on campus through gender neutral accommodations in housing and facilities. And it was helpful for the dialogue that several current students were in attendance.

The gathering has become one of the best ways that alumni can interact with each other, with staff and with students and faculty.

Co-hosts Val Mockus '94, Kristen Frame '89, Patrick Hewitt '10 and Chris Collette '91



Whoa — three reports from Patrick Hewitt!

Yes, he is our own version of the Energizer Bunny!

Thanks to him for all his work on our behalf!



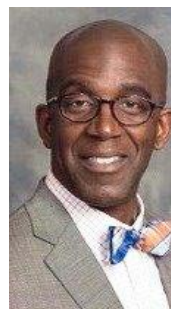
Caitlyn recently completed a two-year term on Denison's Board as a recent-student Trustee. She is currently located in Houston, TX.

Rick Carson '65 has lived in St. Petersburg, FL, for some 20+ years but spent most of his post-Denison years doing political work in Washington, DC, then left the cesspool there to clean toilets in his Civil War-era B&B near the Delaware River in NJ (guess which job was worse). Since retiring to FL he's been involved in varied volunteer efforts, including as the coordinator of an AIDS Buddy program, editor of his neighborhood newsletter and editor of the bi-monthly e-zine for the 95 United Church of Christ congregations in FL.



Kim Cromwell '81 (double major in English and Communication) grew up in Princeton, NJ. She lived and worked in Boston after completing a Masters in English at UMASS/Amherst. Her 30-year career in Human Resources included roles such as US Diversity Manager for Digital Equipment Corporation and Director of Workforce Effectiveness and Diversity at Bank Boston. For more than 12 years Kim consulted privately with for-profit and not-for-profit organizations including Harvard University, Lehman Brothers and Children's Services. She now resides in St. Petersburg, FL, (and spends summers in Provincetown, MA) with her spouse of more than 30 years, Kath. Kim is a proud co-founder of the Denison GLBTAA (now Denison Pride), which began back in the late 1980s.

H. Timothy Ewing '89 earned his Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communications at Denison, a Masters in International and Intercultural Management at the School for International Training and a doctorate in Organizational Behavior from Case Western Reserve University. After a 20-year career as the President and Founder of BreakThrough Dynamics International, LLC, Tim is currently the Vice President of Organizational Development, Learning and Inclusion at Baystate Health in Springfield, MA. He calls Amherst home.



Patrick Hewitt '10 hails from Cleveland, OH, where he is a Senior Planner with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. At Denison graduate, Patrick majored in history, and on campus he participated in off-campus study in Copenhagen, was a DCGA Senator representing the GLBTQA community and president of the University Programming Council. Following graduation, he went on to receive his Masters in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University and has worked in the public and private sector planning fields in Columbus and Pittsburgh. In his present position, Patrick leads Master Plans for communities in Northeast Ohio, assisting these places in planning for parks, housing, transportation and urban design.



Nikki Hurley '15 was a Queer Studies concentrator and Outlook president and is still an idealist who is working in the non-profit world. Starting from Maryland and slowly making her way west to Ohio and finally to Seattle, WA, Nikki prefers to jump headlong into the unknown (although she is unsure how wise that ultimately is).

Laura Kendrick '04 is a landscape architect at a community design nonprofit. Living in DC, she can often be found practicing kung fu, reading, hanging with her cocktail and watching the "X-Files." At Denison, Laura majored in English, played rugby and worked in the scene shop. She once made a twig broom for English prof Dr. **Fred Porcheddu '87**.



Marina Martinez '15 graduated from Denison with a double major in Communication and Women's Studies. Since her departure from The Hill, she has relocated to the Tampa Bay area and works in higher education at the University of South Florida/St. Petersburg. She is thankful for her time at Denison and looks for opportunities to stay connected to the Denison communities that helped build her.

Jeffrey Masten '86 is a professor of English and Gender & Sexuality Studies at Northwestern University. He co-founded the Denison LGBTQ alumni group in 1988 and served as a member of Denison's Board of Trustees and Alumni Council from 2010-16. He is the author of a number of essays on the history of sexuality and gender in premodern England. His most recent book is *Queer Philologies: Sex, Language, and Affect in Shakespeare's Time* (2016). He lives in Chicago.



OUT AND ABOUT

What's Happening With Our Denison Pride Members



Joining a crowd of 3,500+, **Don Wenzel '84** (and his JP Morgan Chase PRIDE co-chair, pictured) attended the HRC National Gala on the evening of September 10 in Washington, DC. He reports it was a glittering evening packed with a long list of dignitaries and an impressive roster of speakers. Political topics were on the top of their minds, and the attendees were honored to hear from Vice Presidential candidate Tim Kaine as the keynote speaker. The evening was punctuated with remarks and performances by Billy Porter, Chad Griffin, Samira Wiley and Nyle DiMarco. He says by far the most enthusiastic response from the crowd was to the comments of civil rights pioneer Rep. John Lewis (D, GA), who shared these words:

"When I gaze out at the crowd assembled here I see that we are one people, we are one family, we are the human family. I see everything that truly matters. I see a room filled with the light of hope, and hearts filled with simple dreams we all aspire to. We all want to gaze into the faces of the people we love and be happy; we all want to raise our families well with respect, to live and die with dignity and make a beautiful contribution while we are here...and leave some kind of legacy behind that matters. We are so much alike in every way that matters. Our similarities far outnumber our differences, but somehow we live in a society that has built a foundation on the things that separate us. We focus so much on separation, and that leads to division, and division derives hate."

Don said that Rep. Lewis emphasized these points when he commented on the Pulse tragedy in Orlando, saying, "On June 12 it was more than a man that pulled the trigger — it is the 'WHAT' that pulled the trigger; and that 'what' was a climate of hate and division. It was hate that pulled the trigger...and 49 beautiful young men and women died. That must never ever happen again in America."

Don shared that it was an honor to attend this significant gathering of LGBTQ leaders from across the country. He said it challenged him to raise the bar on both the work he does in the LGBT space while continuing to strive for a legacy of love, unity and peace.

Nikki Hurley '15 packed everything she owned into her car, set off from Maryland for a nine-day trip across the country and has finally settled on the west coast in Seattle. Despite the constant anxiety about volcanoes and earthquakes, she is

loving life on the best coast and has a challenging and exciting job working in a food bank. If anyone else is in the Puget Sound area she invites you to please reach out — getting a meet up together would be fun and easy!



We celebrate with **Dean Hanzell '74** upon his appointment by Governor Jerry Brown this past August as a Judge in the California Superior Court of Los Angeles



Val Mockus '94 (and Gary) have moved into their "chouse" (i.e., church renovated into a house) in Hebron, OH (near 'nerk). You can check out her cheeky blog at www.hebronchouse.com. When she wasn't in Hebron or Lithuania, she was in Paris visiting **Kevin Fore '94**.



Kevin Fore '94 was promoted last year to Dean of Student Development at The American University of Paris (AUP), where he has worked for the past 12 years. He feels privileged to find such purpose and meaning in his daily work with students from around the world, transmitting many of the same values he learned during his time at Denison.



Val Mockus '94 and Kevin Fore '94

Kevin is part of ongoing discussions between Denison and AUP to form several academic partnerships this year and is also thoroughly enjoying mentoring a current AUP student as part of a brand new first-generation mentoring program. In other news, he and Fabrice, his partner of 25 years, are thinking of tying the knot now that gay marriage is legal in France.

They hope to invite friends and family to Paris and the south of France to celebrate, most likely in 2018.

"Denison trained us to be aware and open to other cultures and to think critically and compassionately," he writes. "On the eve of the November 13 Paris attacks commemoration and right after this divisive American presidential election, our Western democracies require more than ever engaged citizens who are able to actively listen while at the same respectfully confronting others with opposing ideas."



According to the *Los Angeles Times*, **Bryan Blaskie '09** as the music director overseeing Peter Allen's music in the "joyous" west coast premiere this spring of "The Boy from Oz," did so "superbly." And he's up for an award! After seven years in LA, Bryan's now living in NYC, attending grad school and doing music gigs in his "spare time."

Brian Galloway '83 (right) and Derek Howe (of Boston and Provincetown, MA) are planning to marry in May of 2017. Congratulations to them both!



Susan Sayre Batton '81 moved with her spouse Maja from NY to CA to become the deputy director for curatorial affairs at the San Jose Museum of Art. Sue says there's so much to say about the Bay Area in terms of quality of life (hiking in the redwoods), exquisite food culture and winemaking...and culture!



Peggy Knapp '66 (right) and her spouse Val (left) are still playing Flyball with their pups. Their two fastest racing dogs are in the top 10 in both Singles and Pairs racing for 2016 in the United Flyball League International. They live in Escondido, CA, and in the beginning of the year are looking forward to a trip to the Galapagos.

Lisa Wilson-Wright '94 and spouse John enjoyed a wonderful week-long trip in Kyoto where they ate some fantastic food (here eating baby-octopus-on-a-stick at the Nishiki Market), saw beautiful sites and had fun shopping for the latest addition to their kitchen knife collection.



Vikki Krane '83, a professor of teaching excellence at Bowling Green State University, is a sport psychologist and also teaches courses in gender, sexuality and sport. She has just begun working on a book on LGBTIQ sportspeople. She and her wife will soon be celebrating their 30th anniversary (legally married for three years). Vikki confesses, "I need to make it back to DU for one of the gatherings. It's been too long!"



Jeffrey Masten '86 was back on campus just before Thanksgiving to give a talk in Denison's "Queer Night" course, led by professors Ron Abram (Studio Art) and Bill Kirkpatrick (Communication). This course meets one evening a week to discuss films and readings as part of the Queer Studies Program. Jeff talked about British director Derek Jarman's queer-cinema classic *Edward II* (1991), based on Christopher Marlowe's 1594 play about a king and his boyfriend. Jeff is currently producing a new edition of Marlowe's play, and he spoke about the relation between religion, heresy and early modern "sodomy" in the film, in the play and in a rare copy of the play he discovered in Germany several years ago. He also met with Queer Studies faculty for dinner and with Outlook members and did a lunch workshop (in collaboration with the Knowlton Center for Career Exploration) with students thinking about applying to graduate school.



Derek Jarman's Edward II (1991)

Summer Denison Pride Gathering in P-town

Denison Pride held its first ever late-summer gathering on Sunday, August 28 — in Provincetown, MA, at the gorgeous harbor-side home of **Kim Cromwell '81**. Sixteen alums, spouses, allies and friends of the college met for drinks and snacks, while admiring the extraordinary late-afternoon harbor views.

We reconnected with old friends, made new ones and had some surprising cross-era conversations about treasured Denison mentors (Professor Nan Nowik, wherever you are, we hope you were listening!). We talked about changes in the college and its embrace of diversity since many of us were students in 1970s-90s. We took a fabulous group photo of the alums.

It was a very happy occasion, and we are already talking about when and where to plan a summer gathering for Denison Pride alums and friends next year.

Thanks especially to Kim and spouse, Kath, for their wonderful hospitality and to everyone who joined us in P-town! More photos are available on the [Denison Pride website](http://DenisonPride.com).

Back row: **Brian Galloway '83, Lisa Wilson-Wright '94, Val Mockus '94**

Front row: **Chris Collette '91, Jim Lundy '83, Jeff Masten '86, Kim Cromwell '81, Ron Cruikshank '75**



QUAD HAPPENINGS

The Queer Community and the Campus



Outlook Update by Jeremy Torres '18 President, Outlook

Outlook this year is on a continual path of growth. We have had 167 people sign up on Outlook's e-mail list, and that list continues to grow on a weekly basis. Outlook has picked up where it left off in the spring of 2016: we are

dedicated to addressing intersectionality and how our many varied identities affect our lives on and off The Hill.

Outlook is also moving forward with addressing the issues of inclusivity in social spaces on campus. A campus dialogue event titled "Exploring Inclusivity at Denison" was held in collaboration with fraternities, organizations and the student-led organization Sustained Dialogue with 120 students in attendance. At this time we took one of the many steps needed in order to make sure everyone feels included on campus.

Coming Out Week, our annual week-long event, was a big success as appraised by students and faculty but also with the sheer number of students who attended our events. Two of these were major points of discussion. One was the collaboration Outlook had with the Black Student Union, the University Program Council, Whisler Center for Student Wellness, Queer Studies and the Athletics department in bringing the first openly gay NFL football player, Michael Sam, to campus to talk about his experience and the importance of inclusivity

The second major event was our annual candlelight vigil at which about 70 students appeared at the Slayter flagpole to share coming out experiences but also standing in solidarity with those students

As we move forward to 2017, we will like to continue to collaborate with the most unlikely organizations to find common understandings with us. But in 2017 we at Outlook also would like to take our activism beyond The Hill and out to surrounding areas where we will participate in communities through fundraising and volunteering for LGBTQ+ organizations.



Sam with several of our Outlook members



Queer Studies Program Update

by Dr. Warren Hauk, Director of Queer Studies and Members of the Queer Studies Committee

The Queer Studies Committee has been working on several projects/events during the fall of 2016. First, Queer Studies co-sponsored with

Outlook, the Department of Health, Exercise, and Sport Studies, the Black Student Union and several other campus groups the visit on October 12 of Michael Sam, the former University of Missouri football player who came out publicly as gay prior to entering the NFL draft in 2014.

Sam met with student athletes, faculty and coaches in an afternoon question-and-answer period, and then joined the Denison football team to review film of DU football. Sam also had dinner with students and faculty who represented campus organizations sponsoring his visit.

In an evening, community-wide event held in Swasey Chapel, Sam spoke movingly about his life growing up in a conservative Texas town and how his family, football, his sexuality and his public identity have shaped him as a person. Kudos to Outlook for their leadership in bringing this important event to Denison.

The QS Committee has continued work to establish learning goals for the core courses in the QS concentration, and we have just completed a faculty search for an instructor for our Queer Theory course for spring 2017, one of the three required courses for a concentration in Queer Studies.



First Generation Denisonians

Did you know that one in five Denison students is the first in his or her family to attend college? Realizing that this can be a challenge for many, the Division of Student Development has asked alums from different eras to reflect on their experiences and offer advice to current students.

Denison Pride members **Val Mockus '94** and **Kim Cromwell '81** are first gens and have posted advice for these students on the website (<http://denison.edu/campus/student-development/first-generation-students>).



Transitions in Alumni Engagement at Denison

by Mary Frazell '79
Director of Alumni and Family Engagement

Greetings from your newly reorganized Office of Alumni and Family Engagement! As the new director of AFE, I am so pleased to be working with the members of Denison Pride. While I am new to this role, I am not new to Denison. In addition to being a proud member of the class of 1979, I have been back on the Hill for 19 years, serving in various capacities — most recently as the director of donor relations and special events.

We hope that you have heard about Denison's exciting new forward-looking strategic plan. The direction and function of our restructured office, still situated within college's Division of Institutional Advancement, are guided principally by the institution's stated strategic priorities that were framed "to strengthen its position as a top-tier liberal arts college by deepening student learning in ways that enhance student enrollment and student outcomes." Those strategic priorities are to: expand the curriculum; create the gold standard in professional exploration and readiness; focus co-curricular efforts on innovation, diversity,

and wellness; support faculty and staff as teachers, scholars, and mentors; and increase institutional visibility.

As a result, AFE will be partnering with the Denison's alumni and specifically with alumni affinity groups, including Denison Pride, in a number of ways. The primary goals of these partnerships are to: strengthen the engagement of alumni with Denison; increase the engagement of alumni with their Denison peers; inspire philanthropy for Denison; expand experiential learning opportunities for current students by linking with successful alumni in the professions; and heighten the visibility of our college, especially among prospective students and their families. These goals are particularly pertinent to Denison Pride because of its active and dynamic role within the Denison community for so many years.

Ways in which AFE can achieve these objectives is by assisting with events and other relevant programming that focus on issues and activities important to Denison Pride. In addition, we can connect members with interested and knowledgeable faculty and staff to help create programs of interest, both on and off campus.

Also, through promotion and communications resources, AFE can help drive interest levels and attendance at Denison Pride events, whether they are independent or tied into larger alumni gatherings.

And, as it does with several active affinity groups, AFE can help give Denison Pride a voice as the college moves forward on an upward trajectory by capitalizing on established and emerging relationships among alumni, students, faculty, staff, families and friends of Denison.

Way to Go, Denison DENISON

How is Denison doing in those various ratings of colleges and universities we read about? Here are some recent recognitions and acknowledgements*:

- A new college ranking in late October, compiled by the *Washington Post*, places Denison University at No. 28 in the nation for liberal arts colleges. The ranking combines five well-respected college rankings including *U.S. News and World Report*, *Washington Monthly*, *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education*, *Forbes* and *Money*. Denison is the highest ranked college in Ohio.
- The 2017 *Fiske Guide to Colleges* noted that at Denison "classes are small and individual attention is the norm." They added that the college "aims to graduate independent thinkers who become active members of a democratic society." Describing the college as a whole, Fiske writes, "Denison does a great job of crossing over and piecing together academic interests, and they have tons of connections in the world to help you succeed after college."
- Forbes* recognized Denison with positions on its "America's Top Colleges" and "Top Midwest Colleges" lists. The college also received an A+ financial rating, measuring its financial fitness.

Recognizing the excellence of Denison's liberal arts and sciences education, the *Princeton Review* once again placed Denison on its lists of "Best Colleges," "Colleges That Pay You Back," "Best Midwestern" and "Green Colleges." The rankings in the 2017 edition are based on surveys of 143,000 students.

College Raptor has named the college as the "The Best Hidden Gem College in Ohio." This recognition aims to highlight colleges and universities around the country that offer excellent educations. (College Raptor says it "is like a cheat sheet for making smarter, more affordable college choices.")

Money magazine has recognized Denison University as No. 3 in the nation for merit aid.

*source is Denison University's Office of Communications



Denison Pride newsletter (formerly known as *Voices Swell*) is published by Denison Pride, the LGBTQ Alumni Network of Denison University. The network includes LGBTQ alums as well as friends and allies. The newsletter likewise represents many points of view and orientation. Denison Pride welcomes your ideas and submissions, as well as contributions toward the cost of publication (checks payable to Richard Carson, 1035 Cherry Street NE, St Petersburg, FL 33701). Denison Pride editor: Rick Carson '65

Denison Pride Steering Committee: Caitlyn Battaglia '13, Rick Carson '65, Kim Cromwell '81, H. Timothy Ewing '89, Patrick Hewitt '10, Nikki Hurley '15, Laura Kendrick '04, Marina Martinez '15 and Jeffrey Masten '86. Alumni Council Representative: Patrick Hewitt '10

Find us on the web: <https://denisonpride.com/>; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/160020328041/>