



*Donor Profile:
Fred Dittmann '71*

While planning for his 50th reunion, Fred Dittmann '71 decided to put his appreciation for the school into action. Ever grateful to the family and the school for the education and experience he received at EA, he wanted to mark this milestone celebration with a gift to support students in their own academic journeys at EA.

Last fall, Fred established The Fred Dittmann '71 Scholarship Fund. "I have been so blessed in my life, and EA's training and teaching gave me a strong foundation. I feel incredibly fortunate that I am able to direct a six-figure gift from my estate to help children have the same opportunity I did.", said Fred.

By doing this now, Fred has the opportunity to meet current students on financial aid and witness the impact of other similar gifts. He can also make contributions to this fund prior to his death and be active in determining who will be stewarded in the future. In Fred's case, it is important to him that his daughter, Danielle, be included in updates on the fund and have the opportunity to meet future Dittmann Scholars.

Fred commented, "I want people to know about this step to encourage them to consider an estate gift to help Episcopal incrementally. My family completely supports this decision to use these funds to help children who might not otherwise be able to come to EA. "

The Fred Dittmann '71 Scholarship was established in 2019 in appreciation for the education he received and the friendships he developed at The Episcopal Academy. The Dittmann Scholar will be an Upper School student who has financial need and combines academic excellence, athleticism and a love of the arts.

The threshold to establish a named fund at The Episcopal Academy is \$100,000, but gifts of any amount can be made to endowment funds that are already in existence. The school's current policy is to draw down 4% each year from our endowed funds to benefit the school and its students.



LEARN MORE ABOUT
PLANNED GIVING:

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Gratefully Acknowledging Recent
Gifts from the Estates of:

- Carolyn Aller*
- Edward S. Buckley, IV '45*
- Forest Gager '40*
- Austin and Adele Hepburn '46*
- Stanley K. Golaski '50*
- John P. Gregg '65*
- Edward L. Jones, Jr. '53*
- Donald M. Sykes, Jr. '55*
- Harriet Toland*
- William N. West, IV '55*

Welcoming new
BISHOP WILLIAM
WHITE SOCIETY
members since our last report:

- Alexa Aldridge P '85*
- GP '18 '21 '21 '23*
- Kim and Peter Dugery '87*
- P '19 '21 '23*
- Stanley Golaski '50*
- Christine and George Henisee P '00*
- Adam Murray '02*

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Bringing American History Alive The late H. Richard Dietrich, Jr. '56 established The Dietrich American Foundation when he was only 25 years old. Pieces from his collection were recently on display at the Pennsylvania Museum of Art. We spoke with his son about the collection and his father's legacy. See pieces from the collection and read the article at episcopalacademy.org/dietrich.



THE BISHOP WILLIAM WHITE REPORT
Office of Gift Planning *Fall 2020*

The Student-Teacher Bond

Each year, our seniors reflect on the experiences that defined their EA education. In every case, the teacher-student relationship is called out as a meaningful part of life at Episcopal. Last fall we invited a few seniors to attend the Bishop William White Luncheon with their favorite faculty member. In lieu of that experience this year, we would like to share some of our current seniors thoughts on their relationships with the teachers who have most deeply impacted them.



“ While there are many excellent teachers at Episcopal Academy, there is one EXCEPTIONAL teacher that has made a lasting impact during my fourteen years here as a student. Mr. Luff is the epitome of all English teachers. I have known Mr. Luff since I was in pre-k at Wetherill House and he was the Head of Lower School at the old Merion campus. I remember him greeting all of us as we arrived each morning and helping us in our cars and waving goodbye each afternoon. Little did I know then that I would be lucky enough to have Mr. Luff for my seventh and eighth

grade English teacher, as well as my middle school basketball coach. Enthusiastic in and out of his classroom, Mr. Luff is passionate about the material he teaches and coaches. Whether reenacting a scene from *The Odyssey*, explaining what a gerundive is, or diagramming an offensive play on the court, Mr. Luff gives it his all. He is one hundred percent dedicated to his students. His understanding and caring style made it very easy for me to ask him questions and share things with him and he always took the time to answer me and give me helpful advice. Mr. Luff gave me the confidence to be an advocate for myself in and out of his classroom and taught me to be a thoughtful thinker. I hope to be a teacher one day and I could not have had a better role model than Mr. Luff.”

— LAUREN JONES '21

“ One of the most influential teachers that EA has to offer is Mr. Erwin. When I was a new and nervous freshman four years ago, I was terrified of joining such a large group. Mr Erwin was one of the first teachers I encountered, and instantly loved his positive energy. He was so kind and welcoming, and has never been discouraging to anyone. He always encourages his students to take musical risks and to not be afraid, which leads to an improvement of confidence and skill. His positive and optimistic energy is contagious, making choir my favorite class that I've taken at EA.

— SONA BARDAKJIAN '21



“ If an underclassmen were to ask me the trick to passing latin with Mrs. Konopka, my response would be to do the work. With Mrs. Konopka, there are no shortcuts, no special treatment, no exceptions. You have to show up and do what is asked. While this seems a fairly obvious answer, it took me some convincing before I realized that maybe Mrs. K was on to something; the secret formula to any class at Episcopal, to any class beyond Episcopal, and to life. I've been honored to have had Mrs. Konopka as a coach and as a teacher since the seventh grade, and no matter where we are, she has ingrained in me that there is no easy way out, there is only the right way. I credit her with all my successes; as a latin student and a rower, of course, but most importantly, as a person. As she does with all her students, she saw my full potential, and encouraged me to reach it. Mrs. Konopka makes me excited to learn, excited to row, and, surprisingly, excited to work. After all the personal stories, fun facts, and life lessons, I couldn't be more thankful for my years of guidance and motivation from Mrs. Konopka.”

— MARGOT LEROUX '21



“ Dr. Goebeler has been one of the most intellectual, inspiring, and down-to-earth mentors in my life. His intense love for mathematics and teaching are immediately obvious through his enthusiasm in the classroom. Having spent my Upper School years with him through Math Club, the AMC, and AIME competitions, in his advisory, and in his classes, it is difficult to measure the impact he has had on me and all of his students. I'm never bored in a conversation with him, and I know I have him watching my back and hoping I succeed at what I love.”

— MICHAEL ZHOU '21



“ Mrs. McDermott is one of my favorite teachers because she challenged me, inspired me to be curious, and is incredibly engaging. There was never a day in her classroom that we all did not learn and laugh. Whether it was the relatable acronyms or the study organizers, I will never forget her class and positivity. Thank you Mrs. McDermott!”



Spotlight: EQV Society

EQV strives to unify The Episcopal Academy community and foster a sense of family by modeling positive leadership.

Esse Quam Videri (EQV) is a student leadership group made up of 10 EA seniors who are elected by their peers and the Upper School faculty on the basis of leadership potential and proven senses of integrity, honesty, and respect. The function of the group is two-fold: it seeks to cultivate a positive and inclusive culture in the school community, and it seeks to grow the leadership capacities of each of the EQV members. EQV's motto is "Unity makes strength."

EQV begins its service and growth experience with a two-day summer retreat which includes experiential learning activities to begin to understand personal leadership traits and group functionality, brainstorm their initiatives for the year, and plan orientation activities for all students new to the Upper School.

Annual initiatives vary widely but all aim at increasing a sense of unity, positivity, and pride. Examples of past initiatives include: class competitions for maximum spectatorship at arts and athletic events; shield pin awards for random acts of kindness and integrity; pen pal systems between the Lower and Upper School; and faculty-student bonding opportunities.

This year, the EQV students wrote a letter of appreciation to the faculty for their dedication to ensuring the students are getting a great education through this pandemic and challenging time. These days it is inspiring to see this kind of gratitude and recognition of the hard work that teachers have done for the benefit of their students. Here are a few of the quotes from this open letter to the faculty:

“Speaking for the entire student body at Episcopal, we recognize the great perseverance of the teachers for continuing to inspire and help us grow as students during a pandemic. The amazing faculty and staff worked tirelessly to ensure the students would continue to learn through challenging times, and for that we are grateful.”

“From Pre-K through the present, our teachers have always been there to support us when we needed it while also challenging us to grow and push ourselves. It is exciting to know that whether we are virtual or in person, our teachers will continue to create a learning environment that is challenging, lively, nurturing, and most importantly, one that encourages the ten EA stripes.”

“The extra time and care you all put into our online lessons allowed our transition to online-learning to go as smoothly as possible. Furthermore, your willingness and availability to meet with students during and after the school day creates a meaningful learning experience.”

“Finally, we appreciate that you expect honesty from all of us; we like that you hold us accountable and that you want us to do our own work. You have taught us that to learn to struggle and to honestly assess our own understanding and appreciation. Without honesty, learning is nothing.”