

**DESTINATION IMAGINATION  
ALUMNI — MORE THAN  
1.5 MILLION STRONG —  
ARE LEADERS IN  
COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS.**

# ALUMNI STORIES



**MAELLE RICKER**

## DI Alum Wins Gold in the Olympics

The world saw Maele on the podium with her gold medal in the snowboard cross event, becoming the first Canadian woman to win gold at home in the 2010 Winter Olympics. She learned competition, teamwork and goal setting at a young age as a Destination Imagination team member from British Columbia.

Maele remembers, "Destination Imagination was not only a great way to make lifelong friendships and have tons of fun, but also helped me build self-confidence to pursue my dreams, including stepping on top of the podium at the winter games in Vancouver."



**SIMON DODD**

## DI Alum Named Worldwide Volunteer of the Year

Lexmark's 2010 Worldwide Volunteer of the Year directly credits his creative approach, leadership skills and "can do" attitude to his years and experiences in Destination Imagination. Simon adds, "Destination Imagination taught me that nothing was impossible. In addition to solving problems creatively, I can light the spark with my colleagues and help them transform the theoretical into reality. Our team's drive to excel not only gets solutions implemented, but also helps us resolve issues above and beyond anyone's expectations."

Simon holds 26 patents, is an M.I.T. graduate and dedicates his time as a Destination Imagination volunteer and Team Manager for his son's team.



**MATTHEW HARVEY**

## DI Alum Applies Teamwork as a Marine

The final test of Marine Corps boot camp is called the Crucible and includes a series of challenges. Private 1st Class Matthew Harvey wrote about his experience: "Our team had to move a wounded Marine and then get the rest of the team to safety, with next to no materials. I suggested we move from roof to roof to quickly escape. I said in combat, 'we use whatever means available to achieve our objective safely', and the instructor didn't say we couldn't. The team finally agreed. We achieved our goal in minutes, while the other teams took 15 minutes to finish. The Drill Instructor said, 'In all these years, I have never had a team use that kind of solution. Good job, and way to think about your possibilities.'

"It was all Destination Imagination," Matthew added. "In Destination Imagination we worked as a team for points; now we work as a team because it is life and death."

**Destination Imagination is an educational program where student teams solve open-ended Challenges and can present their solutions at tournaments.**

START A TEAM / 888.321.1503 / ASKDI@DIHQ.ORG