



## Meet the 2015-16 Alumni Ambassadors Council

In addition to the Alumni Ambassador Program, we have formed the Alumni Ambassador Council (AAC), which brings together a group of dedicated alumni with the purpose of helping DI headquarters. The AAC works with our staff by providing the unique alumni perspective and offering feedback on a number of different projects and initiatives, supporting DI in creation of new partnerships and collaborations, and strengthening and growing DI around the world.



**Erica Begun-Veenstra**

Erica began her journey with Destination Imagination in 1995 when she joined her first team as a participant. Since becoming an alumna, she has volunteered for DI in a variety of roles, including Appraiser (her favorite!), Challenge Writer, Regional Challenge Master and Affiliate Challenge Master, and served for two years on the Michigan Board of Directors as Alumni Director. In the "real world," she teaches courses in anthropology at Grand Valley State University where she currently holds the title of Visiting Assistant Professor.



**Charlie Bonner**

Charlie joined Destination Imagination as a Rising Star! in the first grade and continued as a participant through his senior year of high school. Throughout his time in the program he was able to compete in a wide range of Challenges, but found a niche in Project Outreach, where his team would receive the highest award at Global Finals. Charlie is currently a freshman at the University of Texas in Austin where he double majors in Plan II and Government. He interns at the state capitol and volunteers for several non-profits in addition to DI, utilizing his problem solving skills learned in DI to tackle community issues on a daily basis.



**Blaire Chennault**

Blaire first got involved with Michigan DI as a team member in the 10th grade. After becoming an alumna of the program, she began volunteering with DI and has served in a variety of volunteer roles, including Appraiser and Affiliate Challenge Master for DI Georgia tournaments. She also served as an Appraiser at Global Finals 2014. Blaire recently graduated from Emory University and now resides in California, where she works at Google.



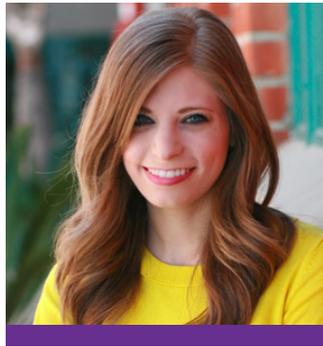
**Jenna Caputo**

Jenna Caputo is an alumna from Londonderry, NH. She began participating in DI when she was in the third grade and continued through her senior year of high school. As a college student, she began volunteering as a Team Manager and later became a Regional Challenge Master. In her "real life," Jenna works as an Area Coordinator for Residential Life at her alma mater, Mount Holyoke College. She says the lessons she learned in DI impact her life every day, and despite the physical distance between her and her team members they remain her family.



### **Megan Candelaria**

Megan joined Sundance, Wyoming's very first DI team in 1993 when she was in the third grade. She competed through elementary, middle and high school, including working with a long-distance high school team comprised of students from across the state of Wyoming. Megan has volunteered as an assistant Team Manager, Instant Challenge Appraiser and Instant Challenge Master. She now serves as the Affiliate Training Director and co-social media manager for DI Wyoming. Megan received a B.S. in Mathematics and Physics and a Master's in Mathematics. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Mathematics Education at the University of Wyoming (UW). Megan loves STEM outreach and recently took a job with the Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium coordinating STEM outreach efforts in the state of Wyoming. Candelaria also works as an undergraduate lecturer for the UW's Mathematics Department where she teaches a variety of mathematics courses.



### **Dawn DiCicco**

Dawn has been involved with DI for 15 years. She spent nine years as a DI Massachusetts participant and after becoming an alumna of the program, she began serving in a variety of volunteer positions including Team Manager, School Coordinator, Appraiser, and Challenge Master in Massachusetts and New York. Dawn received a B.A. in Studio Television Production from Emerson College, and uses the skills learned from years of Instant Challenges as the Script Coordinator for the live daytime talker "The Wendy Williams Show." Outside of volunteering with Destination Imagination, Dawn enjoys looking at pictures of baby animals, eating Milano Cookies and trying to figure out who the heck "A" is on "Pretty Little Liars." She is thrilled to be a part of the inaugural Alumni Council and is passionate about seeing the program continue to expand.



### **Lauren Good**

Lauren joined her first Destination Imagination team when she was eight years old and went on to participate in the program for 12 years. Since becoming an alumna, she has served as Affiliate Challenge Master for the Scientific Challenge and served as the Social Media Coordinator for DI Missouri. She graduated from Missouri State University in 2013 with a Bachelors of Music Education and now works in the Carl Junction School District as a band teacher. Lauren says that teaching band and being involved in Destination Imagination allows her to constantly think on her feet and be creative—something she wouldn't trade for anything in the world.



### **Kaitlin Keddy**

Kaitlin Keddy was a DI participant for 10 years. After graduating from the program, she began volunteering for DI Massachusetts as an Affiliate Challenge Master. She also coordinates DI Massachusetts' social media accounts. In "real life," she is a protective social worker for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Kaitlin lives just outside of Boston with her husband and her two crazy cats. She's thrilled to be a part of the first Alumni Ambassador Council and looks forward to helping our amazing program grow!



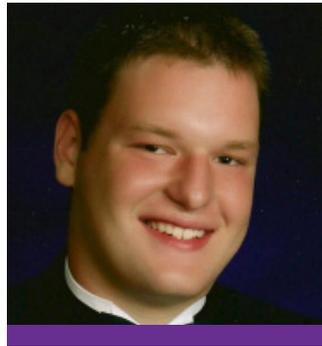
**Megan Kolf**

Megan became a DI participant when she was in the fifth grade and continued her participation for eight years. Her team was fortunate enough to qualify and participate in Global Finals during her elementary, middle and high school years. After graduating, she began volunteering for DI and has served in a variety of roles, including Team Manager, State Board Member, Regional Director, and Appraiser. Megan is a third-year pharmacy student at the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy and will graduate with a Doctorate of Pharmacy in May 2016. She uses her DI training every day as she prepares for her future career and says the only difference is that her toolbox includes prescriptions and drug knowledge instead of pipe cleaners and duct tape. She believes Destination Imagination was one of the most important parts of her education and is excited to continue working with DI in new ways through the Alumni Ambassadors Council.



**Liz Lohrmann**

Liz Lohrmann is an alumna from Norcross, Georgia and competed in Destination Imagination for 12 years, mostly in the Scientific and Fine Arts Challenges. She's currently the Regional Director for Central Georgia, the Secretary of the Georgia Board of Directors, and a Fine Arts Challenge Master. Liz attends Georgia College & State University and is studying biology. After graduation, she plans to continue her education and hopes to earn a Doctorate of Physical Therapy. Liz loves Destination Imagination and says she's thrilled and honored to be a part of DI's first official Alumni Ambassador Council.



**Chandler Sebek**

Chandler joined Destination Imagination Texas in 2002 and participated with his team, The Knuckleheads, through 2014. Sam and his team have attended the Texas Affiliate Tournament and Global Finals multiple times. He was also named DISC's DI Scholar in 2014. Now that he's an alumnus, he dedicates his time to DI by appraising at Regional Tournaments and assists with Texas DI Xtreme Challenge writing. He attends Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas and is working toward his B.A. with a focus in construction management. Sam says he misses the days of dancing around the garage to Katy Perry songs with his team members and battling butterflies on competition days, but cannot wait to begin working with the Alumni Ambassador's Council to build a positive network connecting present and future DI alumni.



**Austin Uebelhor**

Austin Uebelhor is an alumnus who hails from Southern Indiana. He spent four years as a Destination Imagination participant. Austin currently works as a Collegiate Services Coordinator for Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity headquarters, but will soon be starting a new job at the Indiana University Center for Aging Research in Indianapolis. In his free time, he likes to pursue his favorite pastimes of theater, reading and music. Austin believes that DI gives its participants something unique that is often left out of the traditional school environment: lessons in creativity and problem solving, valuable experiences that will benefit these students for years to come. He says he loved every minute of his DI experience and is looking forward to this new experience with DI.



**Marty VanWesten**

Marty VanWesten has been very active with Destination Imagination since 1998, starting out as a participant, and then moving into being an Appraiser, Challenge Master, Regional Director, Affiliate Board Vice President, and most recently, as a coordinator for his school district. In the "real world," Marty is the fifth- through 12th-grade instrumental music instructor for Centura Public Schools outside of Grand Island, Nebraska, as well as the head coach for the high school speech team. In his free time, Marty loves playing and singing music with others, traveling, and volunteering with DeMolay International to help youth in his region and throughout the state.



**William York**

Will York is an attorney in Nashville, Tennessee, who focuses his practices on civil rights, workers' rights, immigration and the representation of victims of human trafficking. He attributes much of his critical thinking, creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills to his years of experience as a DI team member. He began his enduring infatuation with DI in the third grade and still considers Global Finals one of the most transformative experiences of his life. His team mostly competed in the Technical Challenge, but these days, he works primarily with DI's Scientific Challenge each year. He is a proud member of DI's Tennessee Affiliate Board of Directors and is excited to become a Regional Tournament Director next year. This year, Will returned to Global Finals for the first time as an alumnus.

## Learn More

Do you love Destination Imagination (DI) and are an alum of the program? Are you looking for ways to give back to DI locally, nationally and internationally? Then the Alumni Ambassador Program (AAP) is for you! The AAP engages Destination Imagination alumni to help DI achieve its mission of providing opportunities that inspire the global community of learners to learn and utilize 21st century skills and creativity to become tomorrow's innovators and leaders.

In order to be eligible for a spot on the Alumni Ambassador Council, all you need to do is register as an Alumni Ambassador and fill out a brief application, which will be sent out to all Alumni Ambassadors before the new term each year.

Apply online at:  
[DestinationImagination.org/AAP](http://DestinationImagination.org/AAP)