

# Spotlight on DECA

Summer 2011

Alumni Edition

Volume 34, Issue 1

## Inside this Issue

Welcome to an Exciting Year.....	1
Calling All Alumni.....	2
Alumni Picnic.....	2
DECA Goes to Orlando.....	3
Staying Involved.....	4
Spotlight on Chad Sturdavant.....	5
Picnic RSVP Form.....	6
Membership and Contribution ....	7

## Upcoming Dates

Picnic RSVP Due.....	August 2
Summer Picnic.....	August 6
State Career Development Conference, Dearborn.....	March 9-11
International Career Development Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah .....	April 27-May 2



### A Publication of Michigan DECA

208 King Hall  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
p. 734.487.DECA  
f. 734.487.4329  
www.mideca.org

Articles and letters welcome for publication

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## Welcome to an Exciting Year

Lydia Tibble, Chairperson

The upcoming year will be an exciting one for the DECA Alumni members. We ended our 2010-2011 year with a great State Conference in Grand Rapids.. At the State Conference, the Board of Directors introduced a proposal of our bylaws to be updated. The present Alumni members voted on the updates and the bylaw change has been passed. As your 2011-2012 Chairperson it is my pleasure to share with you the new Michigan Alumni DECA Bylaws.

To begin our changes in the bylaws, there is now a Vice Chairperson position. The person elected to this position will serve as Vice Chairperson in preparation to assume the position of Chairperson upon the year following their term of Vice Chairperson. They will assist the Chairperson throughout the year with planning and organizing of conferences. This will allow the Vice Chairperson to learn the role of the Chairperson, thus becoming more successful. Overall there will be a total of six individuals on the Alumni Board of Directors. This shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and four members. Election of this Board of Directors is at the annual Alumni meeting held during the State Career Development Conference. I am excited for these changes as it will benefit our Board of Directors by running more smoothly and efficiently. Our 2011-2012 Vice Chairperson elected is Lacey Edwards. She was a 2010-2011 Board Member, so she accepts this position with a solid year of leadership experience. Lacey and I are committed to representing and leading a great Board of Directors.

To continue the excitement, there are many new faces to the Alumni division, and I would like to welcome the new Alumni members and assure them that their Board of Directors will be here to answer any questions that they may have. Joining such a large group of Alumni members (Michigan has one of the largest Alumni divisions in the United States) can be intimidating, so we would like to be available throughout the year via e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, or the old fashioned way, by telephone. Welcome to the year and keep an eye open for some exciting Alumni activities! I hope to see all of you at our Annual Alumni Picnic August 6th.

# Summer Picnic 2011

Jason Whiteson, Board Member

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Grab a friend, your bathing suit and your water wings folks, it's time for Michigan Alumni DECA's annual summer picnic! For the last few years, our summer picnic has been held at Mr. Dave Wait's house in Whitmore Lake, and this year that will continue. The picnic will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 6, 2011. Mr. Wait has an awesome back yard with a lot of room for gathering around the table for a meal, and then a fantastic amount of space for games like bocce, bean bag toss, ladder golf, and swimming. That is not even the main attraction!

The main attraction that everyone should come to the picnic for is of course..... your Alumni board of directors! Hey we are cool people who are super excited to see everyone! Oh well who are we kidding? The real main attraction is Mr. Wait's pool. In years past we have had some pretty intense games of pool volleyball, and the water is always fun! So look for the registration form in this issue of our newsletter, and join us for some food, good times together, and some fun! So on behalf of the Michigan DECA Alumni board of directors, I formally invite you and your family to our summer picnic. The RSVP Form is on Page 6.

## Calling All Alumni: Now is the Time to Give Back

Lacy Edwards, Vice Chairperson

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Begin the 2011-2012 DECA year by giving to the organization that has given so much to all of us.

The Michigan DECA Development Campaign is an ongoing comprehensive campaign to raise financial support for the student-centered events and activities at DECA events. This campaign comes at a time when it is difficult to secure new funds from the state and federal governments. As Michigan DECA Alumni, our goal for the 2011-2012 fiscal year is \$2,000. Contributing to this campaign means you will be directly helping by:

- Providing travel scholarships to the top winners in an event
- Providing awards to the top winners
- Helping to keep membership and registration fees at reasonable levels
- Building a financial base for Michigan DECA

Included in this edition of Spotlight on DECA is the Pledge Form. Please take the time to consider how much you can give to our campaign. Gifts of any size will make a difference and count toward our campaign goal. For information on Corporate and Vendor Sponsorships, please contact the Michigan DECA office for more information: 734-487-DECA (3322).

**Please hurry – the faster we can raise the funds needed for this campaign, the faster we can put your support to work on behalf of the students. It's never too early to give!**

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Michigan DECA.

# Michigan Alumni DECA goes to Orlando!

Sean Warren, Board Member

Jarod Foshag and I represented Michigan Alumni DECA at the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) this year in Orlando, FL. As always, ICDC was a lot of fun! From the electric Opening Session to the exciting Grand Awards, with all the fun in between, this year did not disappoint.

This was my second time in Orlando for ICDC, my first in 2003 as a senior in high school. I remember my high school experience as amazing, but it was a whole different experience as Alumni. It was exactly how we like to explain to potential Alumni members when recruiting, “all the fun, without the stress of competition”. I enjoyed the freedom we had; knowing when and where we needed to be somewhere, we worked our schedule for the whole week to ensure we hit every attraction we could. We received the 4-day Disney Park Hopper passes, which included passes to Disney’s Water Parks as well! We stayed at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista, located in the Walt Disney World Resort. Downtown Disney was across the street and very easy to walk to.

It seemed like we didn’t have much work to do this year. We organized the registration materials and T-shirts for Michigan DECA for a few hours, did night watch each night, and helped coordinate Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making one day. Night watch in Orlando was a whole lot better than it was in Louisville in 2010. I think since the students had more activities to do during the day (Disney), they were tired and had already had a lot of fun, so they were willing to get to bed. We really had no major issues with any Michigan students.

Some of our favorite experiences:

- Dinner and the ambiance of Downtown Disney – really all of the Disney parks had a great atmosphere.
- The Kilimanjaro Safaris at Animal Kingdom was really cool – it’s like a safari tour and it was actually about a 20 minute themed ride through some rough terrain on a big truck – it really was a lot of fun.
- Buzz Lightyear’s Space Ranger Spin at Magic Kingdom – this thing is a kid’s ride where you play laser tag with targets, but it was actually really fun!

- Twilight Zone Tower of Terror and the Rock ‘N’ Rollercoaster Starring Aerosmith at Hollywood Studios.
- The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios Islands of Adventure.
- The thrill of the Summit Plummet at Blizzard Beach, when we went airborne on a water slide – this thing was crazy and slightly painful, but worth it.
- Our security guard on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hilton was pretty weird and we had a great time hearing about her cats, pet raccoon, and how she got fired from Epcot for stealing plates (she claims innocence, but I’m not sure).
- Really getting to know Mike Parr and David Dudley – we went to many of the parks together and spent quite a few hours walking the halls on night watch.

The sessions and competitions were all held at the Orange County Convention Center. This place was massive in size and quite impressive. We joked about it, but it literally was larger than an airport, with rooms larger than airport hangers, but there were no airplanes! Michigan had a strong presence during the Parade of Flags; we might have had more members on stage than any other state. Michigan DECA also did very well in competition this year. We had quite a few members that made the top 10! Michigan took top 3 in four events:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place International Marketing Plan, Petoskey High School
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Stock Market Game, Tuscola Technology Center
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Entrepreneurship Promotion Project, Davison High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Lakeview High School

Start planning now for the 2012 ICDC in Salt Lake City, Utah! More info to come, but the more Alumni, the better!

Don’t forget to follow Michigan Alumni DECA on twitter @MiAlumniDECA and also, find us on Facebook for our newly updated Group Page, join discussions and share experiences – we’re listed under “Michigan Alumni DECA”. I’ve been making an effort to keep them updated.

# Guide to Staying Involved for the Incredibly Busy or Out of State Alumni Member

Courtney Clark, Board Member



So you want to stay involved with Michigan Alumni DECA, but you are lacking the time, funds, or transportation to attend conferences. I get it – I am right there with you. Conference assistance is a huge part of what Alumni members do. But as a college student in Chicago sans car, it is difficult enough for me to make my way to the State Career Development Conference, and I regrettably have to miss most other Michigan DECA events and conferences. We all have experienced growth, friendship, and learning because of this organization and the opportunities it provided, and we desire to continue to make those opportunities available for students today. Below I have provided a list of ways you can stay involved with Alumni that do not require the time to travel to conferences:

1. **Check in on your former chapter or a chapter near you.** Remember that advisor who spent countless hours watching your presentations, helping you run for office, or supervising you during conferences? Chances are she or he is probably still dedicating their energy and love to current DECA members, and they just may need a bit of help. If you live out state, check the DECA website ([www.deca.org](http://www.deca.org)) to find a chapter near you. For example, Alumni of Jenison DECA have made donations to sponsor students, hosted

students on job shadows, practiced role-plays with students, and helped to review written projects. If you are not geographically close to your chapter, see #2 or 3.

2. **Send a thank you note to your former advisor.** Speaking of your former advisor, why not send her or him a thank you note? A bit of encouragement and gratitude can go a long way.

3. **Serve as a long distance mentor.** Skype, cell phones, and email make it incredibly easy to communicate and collaborate over long distances. Why not contact your former advisor and see if you can mentor someone who is competing in your former event or a current state officer? Offer to practice role-plays long distance, provide feedback on written events, or help brainstorm leadership activities.

4. **Encourage your employer to become involved.** One Ontario Alumni member convinced several of his colleagues to join him as judges at a provincial conference, and they were so excited about their experience that his employer became a sponsor and also helped him attend ICDC as a judge and Alumni member. It may be easier for you to take a day off work if you tell your employer you are serving as a judge for DECA and especially if your supervisor or other higher-up has seen for him or herself how competitions actually work. Plenty of businesses provide a valuable service to Michigan DECA by providing funds or scholarships to assist students with conference costs.
5. **Keep an eye out for Alumni events near you.** Michigan Alumni members gather outside of conferences, such as the annual summer picnic in the Ann Arbor area. Check the Alumni Facebook page for updates about a Cedar Point trip and outing for West Michigan members.

# Spotlight on Chad Sturdavant

Sarah LaBean, Board Member

Chad Sturdavant is one Alumni member who definitely deserves high recognition for his dedicated to DECA. He is the one member you will always see at the State Career Development Conference not only because it is his favorite event but he takes care of the miracle minute including about how to count the money and explaining to new Alumni members when this takes place at the conference. He is one of the main people for the tab room always calculating and working hard to make sure everything is precise. Chad's other reason to like SCDC, "it's getting to see all the new Alumni and the lifers (you know who you are)".



Chad's achievements are not just by how many things he has went to, what awards he has won through the organization but more important-ly it's how he has impacted it including the people. DECA has helped him more than he knows because all of the new friends he has even his best man in his wedding. It has also allowed him to travel and have a nice conversation starter. Chad believes his personal aspirations for DECA have been met, he just hopes that DECA will still be around when he has children so they can take part in this wonderful organization.

His favorite DECA memory was hard for him to pick due to the fact almost every year he adds a new one to the list. However, every conference or leadership academy he has been to has given him amazing memories from every single one. As well as being a State Officer was one of the more important ones being that he got to meet a lot of new people traveling around the country and making friendships he will never forget.

Lastly, but not least this past March in Grand Rapids at the State Career Development Conference, Chad had received the Brian Johnson Outstanding Service Award. How did it feel for him getting the award? Well "he did not know Brian but knowing what he did for DECA Alumni and knowing what the past recipients have done make me proud to receive an award in his honor". Chad is a truly exceptional member of Alumni DECA, one we all can learn from.



# Summer Picnic

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**August 6, 2011    RSVP by August 2, 2011**

The sun is shining and the summer is upon us which means it's time for one of the highlights of the Alumni DECA year. That's right kids, the Summer Picnic is just around the corner. The picnic will begin at 3:00. As always, there is loads of fun in store. Be sure to bring your bathing suit because you will inevitably be thrown in if you don't come prepared! The picnic is a great time of year where we can all get together and celebrate the year. We always have an amazing time hanging with friends and making new memories each and every year at the picnic. We only ask a \$5 contribution to help cover the cost of food.

This year's picnic is again at Dave Wait's house in Whitmore Lake...complete with a pool and hot tub! The house is just off of US-23, south of I-96. We'll send you directions when we know you're coming.

We need all of you to attend to catch up on old times and create new ones. Those of you who haven't made it to the picnic in the last couple summers have been sorely missed! My plea to you... "Be there all ready!" To those of you who have not ever attended an Alumni DECA summer picnic I ask you "Why not?" Finally, to you fanatic Alumni DECA members that we are so used to seeing I say... "I can't wait to hang out with you again!"

Be sure to pack your swim suit, towel, and a smile. We will provide the burgers, hot dogs and plenty of sides and sodas. Feel free to bring a friend too!

We hope to see you there and keep your fingers crossed for beautiful weather (even if it's raining though, it's an indoor pool, so we'll still have a great time!). I know that this picnic will be a great kickoff to an extremely fun and productive year as Michigan Alumni DECA.

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## Summer Picnic RSVP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution

Names of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Michigan DECA  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
Or Fax to: 734-487-4329

You can also email the requested information to  
dwait@emich.edu to RSVP.

**RSVP by August 2**

# Membership/Contribution Form

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Former Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Many employers have matching contributions to state universities.)

## Membership Information

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Complete this section if you are sending in your membership fees.

State and National Fees: \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Life Membership - Optional: \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Life Membership Installment: \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Four additional installments of \$25.00 will be due for a total of \$125.00)

Credit cards are now accepted for Life Memberships! To pay for your Life Membership via credit card, complete this section. (Please note, we can only accept credit cards for Life Memberships. Yearly memberships must be paid by check or money order.)

## Scholarship Contribution

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**Yes!** I'd like to contribute to Alumni DECA's fund that provides travel scholarships to DECA members that qualify to compete at the International Career Development Conference. **Amount: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options:

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\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed  
Make checks payable to "Michigan Alumni DECA"

\_\_\_\_ Please bill my Visa/MasterCard/Discover  
***Life Memberships, Installments, and Scholarship Contributions only.***

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail to:** Michigan Alumni DECA  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

**Or Fax to:** 734.487.4329

**Questions?** Call 734.487.DECA

Address Service Requested

Michigan Alumni DECA  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



# Spotlight on DECA

*Alumni Edition*

## *Summer Picnic Information*

### **Inside this issue:**

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Exciting Year  
Alumni Picnic  
Calling All Alumni

DECA Goes to Orlando  
Staying Involved

Spotlight on Chad Sturdavant  
Picnic RSVP Form  
Membership/Contribution Form