



# Tassel Talk



**Wizard +  The Works® = Wow!**  
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What do you get when you combine a live theatre performance about a fourth grader who meets a mysterious wizard with three other really cool activities? You get a morning of MAGICAL fun at an amazing place for kids and grownups alike – The Works in downtown Newark! Once again this past winter, on three consecutive mornings, every fourth grader was bused to The Works to see a play, *The Wonderful Wizard of College*. The play was co-written in



*These McGuffey fourth graders did a great job planning for their graduation party with staff member, Tara Houdeshell. Their fall PEAK lessons taught them how to prioritize, stick to a budget and be savvy spenders!*

2010 by Ohio State Newark Education/Theatre lecturer, Edie Norlin, and Dennis Kohler, retired art

teacher and local actor. Its plot beautifully reinforces fall PEAK programming: weekly lesson plans about college, the relationship between educational attainment and earning power, and the four money management skills of save, spend, donate and invest. Four Ohio State students reprised their roles, with three returning for the second year, and Jack Casey, a junior engineering major, playing the Wizard for the third straight year. When

asked why he has been involved with Wizard since day one, Director Kohler comments: "Even though I have been involved with theatre in Licking County for over 40 years, acting in, directing, designing and in some way working on over 400 productions, *The Wonderful Wizard of College* will always be one of the most meaningful and satisfying involvements I have had." In addition to the performance, students also enjoyed three hands-on sessions that investigated a locally-focused World War II history exhibit, allowed them to practice budgeting for their 2025 high school graduation party and let the students have fun with all the amazing science activities on the first floor.



*This year's performance of "The Wonderful Wizard of College" featured the same four very talented Ohio State students as last year. On left, Jack Casey, Jessica Nincehelter, Mitchell Baughman and Erin Hedricks, who played the plucky fourth grader, Jamie*

# PEAK Week



Above, McGuffey students interact with their Denison guests, Jessica Ramsey and De'Von Fulton.



To the right, Denison sophomore, Niall Clancey, challenges these Cherry Valley students with the "Magic Wand" activity.

Thanks to Denison lecturer, Suzanne Baker, and her enthusiastic education students, 14 second grade classrooms had the opportunity to learn about the brain and talk college during the month of April. Seven other classrooms at Legend and Hillview enjoyed a concert, courtesy of a talented A Cappella singing group from Denison called DUwop. In addition to these special PEAK activities, other college-related events included second graders creating an "Imagine My Future" workbook and celebrating Alma Mater Day with their teachers. ✎



Second graders at both Legend (pictured here) and Hillview, had the wonderful opportunity to learn about A Cappella music and college during two very fun College Comes Into the Classroom events thanks to the Denison student-run singing group, DUwop.

# 'Cats in College – The Inside Scoop

**Josiah Garrison**, a 2013 NHS graduate, is currently a senior at Denison University. He will graduate in May with a B.A. in Environmental Studies with a concentration in "Food Systems and Social Justice". Josiah offers some great tips on how to follow his successful path:



*Josiah at the entrance of the Denison Biological Reserve*

**Why were you in a position to attend college as a NHS senior? What were the 3 most important things you did in school to make going to college a reality?**

The number one thing is to maintain a good grade point average. Also make sure to develop interests outside of the classroom - sports, music, clubs, volunteering -- schools look at those involvements more than you would think. Finally, it is important to stay on top of application deadlines.

**How have you been able to afford college? What are tips you would give current Wildcats and their families in terms of preparing financially for college?**

Definitely plug into A Call to College! They have a Last Dollar Grant you can apply for and there are also other scholarships available locally. Submit your FAFSA to see what federal and state aid you qualify for. I did the Work-Study program all four years at Denison and paid part of my tuition through those funds. On-campus employment is a good way to help cover costs, network and to get experience at the same time.

**What was the most difficult transition for you from NHS to Ohio State? In other words, how is college different than high school?**

I think the hardest thing is to learn how to manage your own time. In high school, you don't really need to manage your days, except for homework. Often in college you need to manage every aspect of your day. There is a lot more going on and no one is reminding you of it, so you have to stay on top of your schedule. I wish I had learned that quicker.

**What are 3 major tips you would give to a current NHS senior about how to get the most out of college and be successful there?**

Apart from going to class, meet with your professors as often as possible. Getting to know the professor helps with recommendations and they can advise you on bigger life decisions. Time management is everything. With everything going on around a campus, you can quickly burn out or get behind if you try to do too much. At some point, you will have to say "no" to some things.

However, make sure to try new things like taking classes that are in subjects completely unknown to you. There are several classes that I took which helped me land on what I want to do career-wise. Even the classes that you try and don't like help you know that this area is not the right path.

**What has been an involvement that**

**you have really enjoyed in college?** I have loved working at the Denison Biological Reserve. I actually landed the job through a friend freshman year and I have worked there ever since. Getting a job you enjoy or being part of a club is an important part of the college experience.

**How did you end up choosing Denison?**

I ended up choosing Denison for several reasons. I really liked the campus and atmosphere of the school. Denison was actually the least expensive option for me, despite having a larger starting price tag than all of the state schools. I also liked that it was close to home.

**Where do you hope to be professionally 5 years from now?**

I am thinking I want to attend graduate school, but first I would like to take a break from school for a few years to gain work experience and pay down my school loans. 🐾

# College, Careers and Ca\$h

By early April, all 18 Newark eighth grade classrooms had completed PEAK's 3C's programming. The five lesson plans focus on the important relationship between occupational choices, educational level and annual earnings. Three classroom sessions introduce each eighth grader to the Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ), an on-line program that offers extensive career and college information ([www.ohiomeansjobs.com](http://www.ohiomeansjobs.com)). In addition to completing two career inventories, the students also play Jobs Bingo, an interactive game which allows them to realize that even as middle school students they are developing employable skills like teamwork, following procedures and information gathering (to name just a few!). Another lesson features an exercise where students make hiring decisions for a summer job at the YMCA based on two fictitious candidates' skill sets.

The last lesson plan in 3Cs allows the eighth graders to preview how much their desired lifestyle as an adult will cost and what types of careers and educational levels might (or might not!) support their annual expenses. PEAK then spends most of May sponsoring Reality Store, a financial literacy simulation game that

brings this on-line tool to life in each middle school. This year, Reality Store will take place on May 15, 19 and 24. These all-day events are made possible by the generous assistance of nearly 100 volunteers from State Farm and Park National Bank (Wilson), Denison (Heritage) and COTC/OSUN (Liberty). Those students assigned to play the role of a high school dropout find out very quickly that their monthly earnings do not go very far and that education pays off! 🐾



*Above, four Wilson Tigers, soon to be Newark Wildcats, pose with the cinch bags they were given after completing Reality Store 2016*

*Below left, at the Household Needs table, assisted by two COTC volunteers, Liberty students decide what type of furnishings they want to purchase for their apartment or house*

*Below right, a Heritage lion shows off her 3C's workbook this fall*

