

speaker series | december 10, 2014

NEW speaker SERIES

Upper School heads at St. Mark's and Hockaday worked together to create a new speaker series to help promote academic socializing between Hockaday girls and Marksmen.

She walked in front of the room of students. She took a deep breath and started her presentation about her time with the CIA and FBI, but couldn't help noticing that something was different. Instead of just Hockaday girls for an audience, there were both Hockaday girls and St. Mark's boys.

Tracy Walder's presentation on Dec. 10 was the first of a series of speakers for a mixed audience from both schools. Created by the heads of both Upper Schools, the program aims to create interaction between the schools in an academic setting, something that had not been available to students since joint classes stopped in 2011.

"We are trying to figure out ways that we can encourage some interaction between the Hockaday girls and

St. Mark's boys that encourages getting together in an academic setting or an intellectual one," Upper School Head Wortie Ferrell said. "We have certain programs like spirit parties, community service and fine arts where we have overlap, but we wanted to find a way for boys to see girls and girls to see boys using their minds, thinking, talking and learning."

With speakers coming from both schools, the program provides an opportunity for students to obtain more diverse presentations. The program's hope is to eventually hand the series off to the students and let them decide who the speakers are.

"The great thing would be handing it off to the students," Ferrell said. "Ideally, it would be something the students

would say, 'We think this is neat. How do we take control of it and try to further this mission and pick speakers that not only appeal to the adults but to us as well?' It would be great to make it a student lead thing."

Along with becoming student-led, one of the program's goals is to continue over the years and become a continuous event. Even without much follow up, the program was well received and seemed beneficial on its inaugural event.

"It's one of those things where we are trying to create the spark to get something to happen," Ferrell said. "We didn't do a whole lot of debriefing with guys, but I think it was time well spent and it felt like a good start for interactions between the two places."



LEARNING TOGETHER Guest speaker Tracy Walder checks on the different groups as they converse about a variety of discussion questions about the topic at hand. Groups were made up of a mix of both boys and girls.



TRACY WALDER was the first guest speaker in the new speaker series. The Hockaday teacher discussed global events, terrorism and her career in the FBI and CIA. She provided a variety of discussion questions for the groups of students, including student's opinions on terrorism.

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— Head of Upper School Wortie Ferrell

varsity wrestling | december 10, 2014



PINNED Freshman Tucker Ribman wrestles his opponent to the mat during a first-round match.

BY THE numbers

1 Wrestler who finished in first place for his weight class at the meet.

3 Wrestlers who made it to the final match of their weight class.

12 Wrestlers who participated in the meet.

141 The average weight of the varsity wrestling team.

36 SPC championships won by St. Mark's.

TAKING HIM down

Wrestlers Tucker Ribman, Jake Holder and Blake Spangler talk about what the sport means to them.

Freshman Tucker Ribman anxiously stepped on to the mat for his second home varsity meet on Oct. 13. He knew the game was different than last year's, but he was prepared from his practices and off-season work.

Ribman put on his tight, stretchy singlet and his headgear as he listened to his new warm-up music. He put his foot on the line in the center of the mat and shook his opponent's hand. The umpire blew the whistle, and Ribman was ready to pounce.

Ribman did very well last year during Middle School wrestling, as he made it to state matches. But he has had a much different experience this year.

"Varsity wrestling is a whole different level," Ribman said. "I flew through Middle School state last year, and I'm already less than 50 percent this year, meaning that I've won less than half of my matches. I have had to adapt quite a bit because it's a lot more physical and they let some illegal moves slide."

Senior Jake Holder shared Ribman's nervousness in his freshman year of wrestling as well.

As he progressed through high school with training, he performed better and more confidently.

"I used to get really worked up and really nervous before a meet," Holder said.

"but these days I try to relax and try to be smart."

Like Ribman, Holder and senior Blake Spangler both started wrestling in Middle School and have improved tremendously ever since. Spangler believes that experience, strong core techniques and fundamentals are what bring success in wrestling.

"The more times you wrestle you get better," Spangler said. "It's a sport of experience and knowledge; you get to a certain point where you just get a feeling of what to do, rather than rote memorization of it, which is how you gets a lot better exponentially. Our core techniques stay the same each year, but its definitely a process of refining those techniques through practice, which is how we ultimately get better."

Holder and Spangler both went undefeated in the preliminary matches of the meet. Spangler does not plan to pursue wrestling in college, but the lessons he learned from wrestling will stick with him in the future.

"There is definitely a whole lot of dedication that it takes to do wrestling," Spangler said. "The delayed gratification is very prevalent in the sport of wrestling; you don't see the results immediately, but over time if you keep putting in work, you will see the results."

Todd Williams guest speaker | december 11, 2014

THE MORE you know

Seniors talk about what they learned from guest speaker Todd Williams and how he impacted them.

1 The talk was very engaging. I really admired Todd Williams's passion for education. I personally really enjoy tutoring, so I could really relate to his point. — senior **Raymond Guo**

2 Sometimes it's easy to forget just how lucky we are. It's time we used the gifts we've been given to provide for our community, and that starts with education. — senior **Matthew Co**

3 It caught me at a pretty crucial moment: college decisions were coming out and it made us all rethink what we wanted to do with our lives. — senior **Burke Garza**

4 It was cool seeing how a guy who had gone around and re-devote himself to something completely different but that meant a lot to him. — senior **Jack Dayton**

5 The city of Dallas has always had a special place in my heart and I have always wanted to give back to it in any way I can, but Mr. Williams showed our class that our public school systems are failing and that we must do something if we want Dallas to be a prosperous place to live in 30 years. Mr. Williams inspired me to continue making an impact in other people's lives, and because of his powerful message I want to do something for our city when I am an adult. — senior **Mason Smith**



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT Speaker Todd Williams talks to seniors about how they can better the community around them.

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