Meet the Crew: Captain Ferguson

D. Andrew Ferguson first became interested in establishing a school for aeronautics and maritime studies when the original Benjamin O. Davis High School closed. He commented that his inspiration came from his middle school and high school teachers. "I spent a lot of time on 'hands on' activities," he said. "It's amazing how powerful a teacher can be in influencing a kid's life."

Mr. Ferguson is president of PHASTAR Corporation, a non-profit public health and safety technical aviation resource. He coordinates the efforts of people and groups that are interested in growth and development of Davis A&M.

"I was always attracted to adventure and have always been a thrill seeker," said Mr. Ferguson. After high school, Mr. Ferguson was certified as a firefighter/EMT at Cuyahoga Community College. He went on to get a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He later obtained a master's degree in public health from Cleveland State University with a focus on disaster and emergency management.

"My favorite thing about flying or operating a boat, is the freedom. You are master of your own fate. It's very addictive," said Mr. Ferguson. His goal, however, was to combine his love of aviation with his commitment to helping people.

Mr. Ferguson believes that the most important thing about this school is the

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MY TURN: STUDENTS VOICE THEIR OPINIONS

On School
Dennia White
“One thing that is annoying and should stop is gossip. Now, I know that you can’t just stop it but you can slow it down. Yes, I know it sounds weird.

Gossip is such a big deal in school, television, politics and the internet. But it is a kind of bullying.

Some people may like gossip. It’s that common but some people don’t know how important or mean it is until it happens to them. Even after that some people continue to pass on gossip.

Gossip at a school can be so serious that it can cause arguments, fights and even suicide. All types of gossip can be harmful.

Some people aren’t aware that they’re passing on gossip. There’s the ‘he said, she said’ group, the one’s that start it. Then there are the nosy ones as well as the person that you tell not to tell your secret but that person tells everyone. There’s also the person that tells everyone their business. The list goes on and on.

Gossip is a huge problem. We can’t solve it if we don’t recognize it. We can’t solve it if we keep doing it.

Laila Graham
“Davis A&M should have clubs in school. If they do eventually have clubs, I think we should have an Anime’ Club, and an orchestra or music club."

Quinton Oliver
“I believe the school should have a chess club. Chess builds character. It is a gentlemen’s game and before and after each game, opponents shake hands. During the game, there is complete silence. This would teach kids discipline and open up careers. Chess teaches kids to be competitive while showing your opponent respect.”

De’Maurione Murphy
“The students should be able to use the elevator because there are way too many stairs to walk up and then we’re all tired and always getting in trouble for taking the elevator.

Marcus Jackson
“Schools need to offer more curriculum like sports’ teams and different languages. If we don’t get a foreign language teacher then those students will never learn that second language they wanted to learn. Music should also be added. It is a great way to learn about history and even science. Think about the musical “Hamilton”. Music is like a gateway to feelings, culture and history. Music can change your feelings in a snap.”

On Sports
Carleo’no Lewis
“I believe college athletes should be paid to play for their schools. Some college athletes can get their schools a lot of popularity and in turn get them a lot of money. When certain players get really popular, the schools sell merchandise with that player’s name on it and the student gets nothing. Some of the time the student is doing the school a favor by playing for them.”

Jake Ford
“If the Cavaliers get Demarcus Cousins and Dwayne Wade, in my opinion, they’re not going to lose to the Warriors next year. Kyrie Irving should have never left the Cavs. He downgraded to a garbage team, the Boston Celtics. The Cavs should trade Iman Shupert because he’s not helping them.”

Andre Lovett
“A lot of people that live in Cleveland root and cheer for the Cleveland Cavaliers. They cheer for their team because of their win in the 2016 finals against the Golden State Warriors. Citizens of Cleveland look up to two players, LeBron James and Kyrie Irving.

Well, the Cavs weren’t expecting to trade Irving until he took it upon himself to request a trade which shocked Cav’s fans worldwide. Kyrie said it wasn’t about basketball but about the interaction between him and LeBron. This was heart-breaking to various fans. Some say it’s pointless, others say it’s good.

Closing the divide
Keeping up with your student’s progress can be hard. To help, here is some contact information for Davis A&M to keep you in the loop.

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On the web: http://DavisAM.org

Power School Gradebook:
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Courtland Farley Leon Lyle
Jake Ford Cara Matthews
Laila Graham De’Maurione Murphy
Savannah Hill Quinton Oliver
Naomi Hunt Jayden Owen
Ja’inya Jackson Amaareon Smith
Marcus Jackson Dennia White

DATES TO REMEMBER
Our year is sailing along - already midterms - and here is a list of other important dates in the near future.
• Oct 9 – Columbus day – staff only, no students
• Oct 13 – End of first marking period
• Oct 26 – Parent-teacher conferences (12:30-7 pm)
• Nov 7 – Election day, staff only, no students
• Nov 10 – Veterans’ Day – no school
• Nov 20 – Second marking period progress reports
• Nov 22-24 – Thanksgiving Break, no school
• Dec 21 – End of second marking period and first semester
• Dec 22 - Jan 8 – Winter Break for students
• Jan 9 – Schools resume for students
Davis A&M students got an exclusive tour of Burke Lakefront Airport and the planes on display for the Labor Day weekend Air Show. They were able to get a special view of the Thunderbird pilots practicing for the weekend event.

Students loaded onto busses and then proceeded to the nearby airport where they received wristbands. “The field trip was really fun,” commented Radames Burgos. Students used their wristbands to enter a trailer. “We walked into a dark room that had many different screens and game,” said Chyanne Bradlely. Chyanne played a game where she had to uncross the lines with hexagons.

Patrick Crowley enjoyed the flight simulator. At this stop, students wore virtual reality goggles and got to “fly” a plane through some obstacles. Jordi Mayorquin was interested in the jet which was open for students to inspect the cockpit. Later, the entire Davis A&M team had their picture taken with a retired Thunderbird F-16.

In addition to the jets, students were able to test their ability to do pull ups on a device that measured and recorded their scores. Principal Timothy Jones was an early leader in the pull up contest with twenty-five pull ups. Ricky Alex beat that score with 30 pull ups. Ricky said “Going to the airport was a great experience for me and a wonderful opportunity.” He added that the Thunderbird pilots “inspired me to never give up on my dreams and to persevere.”

Principal Jones greets students and parents on the opening day of Davis A&M on August 9th, 2017

PLANEs, BOATS AND HOW WE GOT HERE

Naomi Hunt & Ja’nya Jackson
The city by the lake has finally gotten a school that uses the lake as its classroom. Started with an idea and followed by a need to produce more educated workers, The Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School was founded.

Davis A&M, which is starting with only a ninth-grade class is housed on the fifth floor of a building at 1440 Lakeside Avenue. The facility was built in 1975 and was originally created as a “Supplemental Education Center.” Currently, the second, third and fourth floors are occupied by The Digital Arts High School.

Davis’ founding principal, Timothy Jones, is originally from California. There he attended Mountain View High School, a very large high school but later transferred to Pinewood School which was small, like Davis. “I had a great experience at a small high school which motivated me to make sure I worked at a small high school as a teacher and as principal,” he said. Mr. Jones went to college at UC Santa Barbara and worked at a math and science high school. Mr. Jones decided to come to Cleveland in February of 2017 to found and organize Davis A&M with community partners who were interested in this project. When asked if he was nervous when he first came here, Mr. Jones replied, “Yes, I wanted to make sure the first day was really great for kids. I got over being nervous by just doing it.”

The principal shared his hopes for this new school by saying, “I hope that kids get an opportunity to do things here that they wouldn’t be able to do at any other school.” Mr. Jones is getting to know many of the students here well and is working on getting to know a lot more.

“I like the school a lot,” Mr. Jones remarked, “We have some really good teachers who know how to teach.” What does Mr. Jones do when he comes home from school? He says “hi” to his own two kids.

Mr. Jones soaks up some sun on the Davis Balcony outside the principal’s office.
Meet the Crew

focus on the individual student. “We’re not setting you into a career or college pathway,” he said. “We’re introducing fun activities and helping you make your own choices in life and career fields. We’re helping you find your passion for what you want to do,” he added.

Captain Ferguson’s love of flying came from his family. His dad has a private pilot’s license but stopped flying before Captain Ferguson was born. His great-uncle, however, was one of the first jet pilots.

What scares a man who is a self-admitted thrill seeker? “My biggest fear,” he said, “would be falling short of student and faculty expectations.” His plans for the future of the school would be to locate on a campus with direct access to air and water, where you could walk out the back door to an airport or dock. He also envisions professional and adult education programs on campus.

Mr. Ferguson can be found at Davis A&M throughout the week in the PHASTAR thematic office. When he’s not in school, he’s out recruiting new partners and new opportunities to improve the school and our community.

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STRAIGHT FROM THE THUNDERBIRDS!

CHYANNE BRADLEY

Davis A&M got a private visit September 1st from the pilots of the Thunderbirds who performed at The Air Show later that week.

Major Alex Turner of the United States Air Force was accompanied by Sea Airman Edward Kearns, Tech Sargent Eric Gallivan, Sargent Nick Nye, Staff Sargent Alvin Felder and Staff Sargent Stephanie Englen.

Major Turner, pilot of Thunderbird 5, showed a video that shows what flying looks like to the pilot of a 30 million dollar jet. He referred to the view as “the view from my office.”

Major Turner commented on the long hard road that led to getting his job as a pilot with the Thunderbird Team. He also pointed out that what a spectator sees at the Air Show “represents all the hard work we do out there.” There is a lot of teamwork behind the show. “It takes 130 people to put six jets in the air,” he said.

Students from Davis A&M and their families were treated to free tickets to the Air Show. The Air Show was held over Labor Day Weekend and showcased many complicated flying skills.

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THE FABULOUS FABLAB

NAOMI HUNT & JANYA JACKSON

Davis A&M houses a state of the art FAB Lab which will provide students with an opportunity the make almost anything they can imagine.

Run by Danny Smith and Nick Stipanovich, the FAB Lab is housed in the basement level of Davis A&M. FAB stands for “Fabrication Lab” and Mr. Smith commented that “we can make anything out of any materials for school projects or for fun. We can use modern technology to design things.”

PHASTAR, the non-profit support behind Davis, secured funding for the lab from the Cleveland Foundation, The Gund Foundation, CMSD, The Office of Naval Research and other community partners.

Students using the lab will be able to learn manufacturing skills using the latest technology, 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC machines and much more. Mr. Stipanovich and Mr. Smith bring over twenty years of industry experience in manufacturing, design and engineering. They are excited to bring this experience to the Davis A&M community and to help students bring their ideas to life.