



Alumni Information

Name: Christopher MacLeish

Class of: 2007

How many years were you in DECA? I was in DECA for two years.

Who was your teacher for Marketing? Coach Matt Nicolo was my Marketing teacher.

What was your favorite DECA moment? We had a project, which I hope is still around in some form which required us to redesign the school store inventory, create a business plan and present it to Coach Matt and Mr. Showers. There were certainly times during DECA, particularly during state competition that were, perhaps much more fun. However, in retrospect, it was that project that I remember more vividly than anything other memory from DECA. I say this because that project most closely resembled both college presentations and "real world" job requirements. The work in DECA/Marketing was such that I (and my classmates) had the opportunity to either take it seriously and succeed and dismiss it and fail. Coach Matt and Mr. Showers left that choice entirely up to us, which for those planning on going to college, is precisely the treatment you will receive from your professors. Take advantage of the practice afforded you by this class in high school, because as I and many of my peers soon discovered, the ability to self-motivate as is taught by both Marketing and DECA is the most important ability to hone should you hope to succeed in a very competitive higher education environment.

What are you doing now? I am currently a (Scout) Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition platoon leader in the United States Army.

Any words of wisdom?

For many, high school is far too easy to present a challenge. Achieving high grades while putting forth very little effort seems almost comically facile. If this is you, than please, heed these "words of wisdom." Do not allow yourself to become complacent during high school. Do not get taken in by the relative ease with which you can exceed the expectations of your teachers and peers. If you fall into a pattern of allowing your successes to be judged by the standards of those whom you out-perform, and should you decide to attend a particularly competitive college or university, you will be surrounded by a new peer group, all of whom are just as accustomed to similar levels of success. The only way you will remain the peerless outperformer you are used to being is by actually doing your work, studying and reading even when the only motivation for doing so is internal. If you fail to internalize a higher level

work ethic than you possessed in high school, you will be marginalized, and those who *can* maintain solid work habits early on will pass you by. After high school, you need not be the smartest or the most consistently excellent in your endeavors. But, if you cannot develop the will to work and struggle you will have to fight for the few great opportunities life has to offer.

Would you be interested in becoming an alumni DECA member with our chapter? Yes No

If possible, attach a current photo of you at work, with your family, friends, etc.

Return completed information with photo to:

Matt Nicolo

DECA Advisor

Thomas Jefferson High School

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