

## Lynn Schweizer: Honored for 44 years of dedication to Denison



Photo courtesy of Jace Delgado

From left to right: Mike Hills (Director of Varsity D Association), Nan Carney-DeBord (Associate Vice President & Director of Athletics & Recreation), Lynn Schweizer and Rich Seils (President of Varsity D Association) pose at the Hall of Fame Ceremony during Big Red Weekend where Schweizer was inducted into the Denison Varsity D Association Hall of Fame.

**AARON SKUBBY**  
Ast. News Editor

Lynn Schweizer was a teacher, coach, administrator, and friend to generations of students and faculty. She saw and helped fight for dramatic improvements in equity for women's sports over the course of her career following the passage of Title IX.

Recently inducted into the Varsity D Athletic Hall of Fame, Schweizer retired in 2017 after 44 years at Denison. She coached women's basketball, swimming, and diving, as well as briefly coaching synchronized swimming

and men's diving.

After coaching, Schweizer served as an administrator, acting as chair of the Physical Education Department for 19 years.

Even before her long tenure as a coach and administrator at Denison, Schweizer called Granville home. In a lunch interview, she reminisced on how her parents owned Canards Jewelry and Gifts store in Granville, and her high school swim practices held at Denison.

After attending Ohio University, Schweizer worked briefly as a high school teacher and swim coach until she found

a job at Denison.

Schweizer began as the head women's basketball coach in 1973, one year after the passage of Title IX. In her Hall of Fame induction speech, she described the battle for equity in Denison Athletics. She said: "with the implementation of Title IX, Denison athletics had a lot of hard work ahead of them."

Schweizer told stories of the process of seeking fair treatment for women's athletics. "equity was slow to come," she said in her speech. She recalled, "I often took basketball game stats on the bench while coaching and at the end of the game I did the sports write-up in hopes that the paper would print it. They didn't, very often."

Women's athletics faced a laundry list of inequalities. They had no assistant coaches, only one locker room and no athletic conference of their own. But Lynn Schweizer and her players fought to get what they needed. Women's sports had no athletic trainers, so Schweizer took a basic athletic training course to help her players. She

told of how women could only have their game uniforms washed, so Nan DeBord, who is now Denison's Athletic Director, placed her dirty practice uniforms on the Athletic Director's desk.

But things got better. The NCAA expanded to include women in 1981. "In 1984," she explained in her speech "The North Coast Athletic Conference was created with the founding principles of gender equity as well as sports equity." As Schweizer explained in her interview, "when I was hired there were 2 full-time and 2 part-time women coaches/administrative staff and now there are 26 women serving in roles of coaching, teaching and administration."

"I absolutely loved my career at Denison," Schweizer said in her speech, "And it is because of the coaching staff, the students, the administrative staff." In an email, she left a quote from Charles Swindoll:

"I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes."

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## What is a Community Advisor? A message from Res Comm

**RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES**  
Special to *The Denisonian*

Community Advisors (CA's) are student-leaders who build community and serve as local resources in the residence halls. Since Denisonians live on campus throughout their years on the hill, CA's foster an important safe and welcoming space for residents and work to connect people to resources and to each other. CA's are expected to exemplify positivity, flexibility, respect and a willing spirit towards their work. Through their training and role, CAs develop a set of skills, experiences and network.

CA's host programs, connect with individual residents, educate their local community about university resources and expectations, and support the administrative operation of the residence halls. From providing opportunities that fit residents' interests and needs to supporting events on campus and teaming up with other departments, CA's create and promote activities that help Denisonians succeed and meet people.

The students also collaborate on a monthly newsletter to communicate about campus events or share useful information in a fun and creative way! They are also trained in University policies and serve as on-call responders. Being a CA allows you to make a positive impact at Denison through building relationships, fostering inclusive communities, and facilitating learning and skill development for other stu-

dents. Between hosting programs, being on-call, making door decorations and newsletters, getting to know residents, managing roommate conflicts and helping students through difficult times, being a CA is one of the most diverse and exciting jobs that Denison has to offer!

While being a CA isn't the only way to show your support for your community, it's one way to make a difference. If you'd like to show care about your campus and Denisonians in this way, then we hope you'll consider applying. The application opens October 21 and must be submitted by November 3; all applicants are required to attend an information session during the week of October 21 in order to be eligible for the position. If you're interested in becoming a CA and would like more information about the job or the application, visit the Residential Communities tab on MyDenison or email residential-communities@denison.edu.



Photo courtesy of Residential Communities

Students come together to paint a canvas as a community.

## Roe Conn '86, a Chicago-based radio host, revisits his home on The Hill

**CHLOE SFERRA**  
Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

Everyone has a dream coming into college but getting from Point A to Point B can be a lot more difficult than we anticipate.

With several alumni on campus, this past weekend reminds us of the reality of post-grad but there was one alum that reminded students why they came to school in the first place.

The dedication of the Michael D. Eisner Center for Performing Arts brought many enthusiastic alumni back to campus, one of which was Chicago-based radio host Roe Conn '86.

Conn graduated in 1986 with a degree in Anthropology and a passion for radio.

While at Denison, he worked at the WDUB "The Doobie," Denison's radio station on Saturday nights and immediately looked for a broadcasting job after graduation.

"I applied for probably one hundred jobs but I couldn't get into the business," Conn told a group of students invited to have lunch with him through the Knowlton Center for Career Exploration.

"It's about showing up: put in the work and physically be there and that's how you make your own opportunity."

"It was a phenomenal opportunity to have Roe Conn on campus, not just for Denisonians involved in the Doobie, but a wider population of aspiring authors, publicists, musicians, and critical thinkers who were able to engage with him through discussion and asking poignant questions," said WDUB station manager Rachel Weaver '20, an art history visual culture and environmental studies double major from Nashville, Tennessee.

"This is just one example of alumni engagement being a foot in the door for students or giving them advice on how to succeed in a competitive field."

Conn currently works under ABC on WGN radio in Chicago with a show from 3-7 p.m., as well as appears on televised news programs.

However, Conn says he had years of hosting at undesirable times, low pay and difficulty in the industry before he reached his current level of success, and his visit reminds students to go for what it is they desire.

"Say what you want," Conn said of interview questions.

"Don't look for the answer that you think the interviewer wants. Say ex-

actly what it is that you hope to accomplish.

If your goal is to publish a book, say that, and let that drive your career."

Conn told students about several friends who have successful careers but always say they wished they followed their passion.

One piece of advice was to not back down when a job on your ideal career path gets too difficult. There's always room to grow.

"When I was at Denison I got a 'D' in political science and now I talk about politics for a living, which I find kind of funny but my political science professor doesn't find too funny," Conn joked.

His show often talks about the current political climate with a strong dedication to protecting truth in media.

This was also a topic of conversation on Conn's guest talk show at the WDUB following lunch. Conn invited Denison political science professor Paul Djupe to join this 40-minute show.

Conn was inspired to host this conversation after reading an article Djupe wrote by chance.

Realizing the author was a Denison professor, Conn made the connection easily.

A few minutes into the show it became clear how Conn's passion drives his work.

He seamlessly popped in and out of questions for Djupe, keeping Djupe both relaxed and nervously fidgeting his hands.

Conn's strategy was to circle around different topics to get a variety of Djupe's answers. Conn can have an interesting live show but then edit the audio into a cohesive interview to post online.

Like any experienced radio host, Conn remained in control of the entire interview, and you would never know what he really believed from listening to him on-air.

To be more clear, Conn was very good at balancing his own opinions and maintaining unbiased in his interview, he often pushed back on Djupe's answers, despite being a fan of his political writing.

It is a lesson in public speaking and media personality that any student can benefit from listening to, particularly the current DJs of Denison's radio station.

"We were thankful to have an awarded DJ alumnae back in the booth to show us how many doors our little community can open," says Weaver.



Photo courtesy of Rachel Weaver

Roe Conn returns to the WDUB studio, reliving and recollecting on his years at Denison when he worked for the radio station.

Weaver is part of the team that organized Conn's visit.

"Personally, I have been lucky enough to have been in contact with Roe over the last year, and his insight to the broadcasting field helped me to gain a position at my dream internship at a local radio station in Nashville this past summer."

Djupe too noted how impressed he was by Conn's skill level as a broad-

caster, speaking to the ease of listening and speaking he seemed to portray.

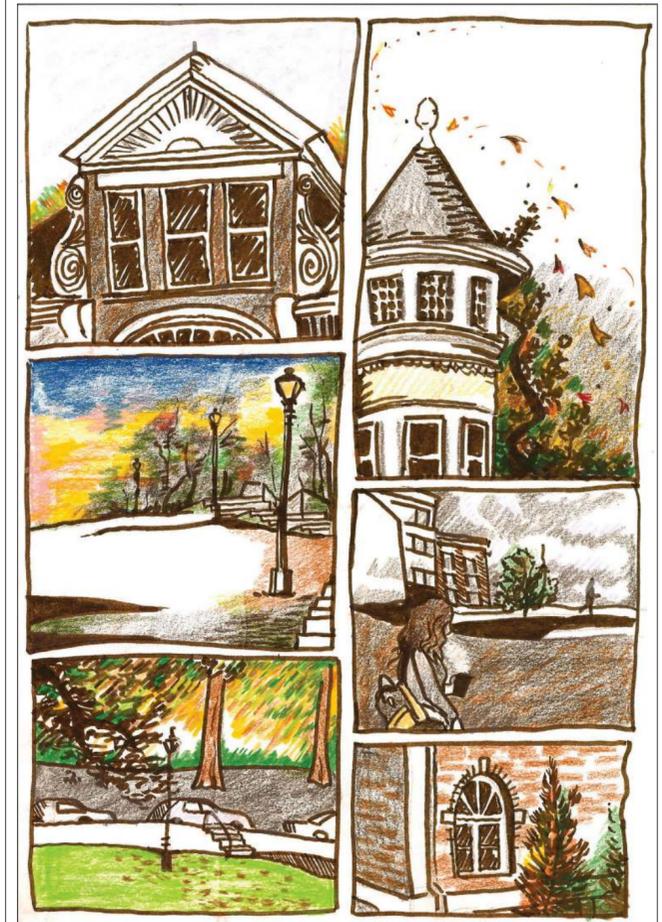
Conn is a reminder to students that the end of college is the start of whatever you want to do.

Conn left Denison as an eager graduate interested in broadcasting, and returned as an established DJ and anticipated alumni.

In the words of Conn himself: now what do you want to do?

## Student comic: Autumn on the Hill

**AISLING SMITH**  
Special to *The Denisonian*



**SAVE THE DAY. BE A CA!**

**CREATE CHANGE. BUILD COMMUNITY. DISCOVER YOURSELF.**

All Applicants Are Required to Attend One of the Following Information Sessions:

- Mon. Oct. 21 @ 11:30, Curtis Provost's Dining Room
- Tues. Oct. 22 @ 2pm, Slayter 400, Shep. Room
- Wed. Oct. 23 @ 4pm, Talbot Hall 212
- Thurs. Oct. 24 @ 11:30, Talbot Hall 210
- Fri. Oct. 25 @ 3:20pm, Talbot Hall 212

Photo courtesy of Juliana Burch

Students need to attend one of the informational sessions during the week of October 21st in order to be considered for being a Community Advisor.



Photo courtesy of Rachel Weaver

Roe Conn and political science professor Paul Djupe talk during Conn's 40-minute show.