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**2019 McCormick Medalist Drew Bitner Honored at Founders Day**

WORMLEYSBURG, PA – Drew Bitner, an alumni parent and retired member of the Board of Trustees at Harrisburg Academy, accepted the 2019 McCormick Medal at Harrisburg Academy's annual Founders Day celebration on Sunday. The award is presented each year to one individual who exemplifies leadership and service to the school. Founders Day is held at the John Harris and Simon Cameron Mansion in downtown Harrisburg, Harrisburg Academy's original location.

Drew Bitner earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Tri-State University and began his engineering career with PennDot (Department of Highways) in 1967. While working for PennDot, he attended Penn State Capital Campus, completing the required courses for his Master of Engineering degree. Through the years, he spent time with the engineering firms of Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT), Urban Engineers, and Dawood, and currently serves as the township engineer for Fairview Township.



Bitner's resume includes many accolades and highlights. He served on the Academy's Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2007. Bitner provided oversight and support to the Middle School and Upper School library renovation project, completed in 2000. During his time as president of the board (2004-07), Dr. Jim Newman was appointed head of school, and Harrisburg Academy pursued and received approval to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma program. Bitner is a long standing member of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE), and the American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE), serving in leadership with each organization.

Bitner served 25 years as a Boy Scout leader in various positions for Lewisberry Cub Pack 284 and Lewisberry Troop 312. He served as the Lewisberry United Methodist Church as council chair, chair of the pastor/parish relations, member of the finance committee, trustees, and supervised a \$1.2 million addition to the church. Bitner has also served numerous Masonic organizations during the last 40 years, which includes the purchase and \$500,000 renovation of the building for Lowther Manor Lodge No. 781. Bitner will receive the honorary 33<sup>o</sup> on Aug. 27 in Milwaukee, presented by the Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

Bitner and his wife, Ginny, are proud parents to alumni Todd '04 and Michael '10, and grandparents to Tegan (age 1). Bitner had the distinct pleasure of presenting a Harrisburg Academy diploma to his son Todd while he served as president of the BOT in 2004. Now semi-retired, Bitner retains part-time positions with Fairview Township and JMT. He and Ginny enjoy spending the winter months traveling in Mexico.

Established in 1784, Harrisburg Academy is the 17th oldest non-public school in the nation and Harrisburg's only independent school. Our coed, diverse school community inspires students from age three through 12<sup>th</sup> grade by providing an academically challenging and globally minded liberal arts education focused on dynamic classroom experiences, strong student outcomes, and a commitment to character development. The Academy proudly stands as the first school in the greater Harrisburg area to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and merit scholarship.

For more information about Harrisburg Academy please visit our website or contact Miranda Connelly at 717-763-7811 or via email at connelly.m@harrisburgacademy.org.