

Part 2: The Present

Brett Dashevsky: "When we come to school we see you and you make the announcements, so typically how does each day start for you and what is your morning routine before you come here and start the day?"

Dr. Lawyer Chapman: "I'm up at 4:30 [A.M.] every morning, and the first thing on my agenda is my devotion. I happen to be religious and I happen to be an elder in my church, so my daily devotions are very important. And then from there I do some exercises, I prepare, I dress, I have breakfast at home every morning and then I jump in my car and I drive to Cherry Hill."

BD: "So what time do you arrive at East on a daily basis"

Chapman: "I try to arrive around 7 am."

BD: "When you come to East, you generally know that you are going to make the announcements every morning, so what are your inspirations for the announcements- where do you get your quotes from? Are they your own quotes or ones you read from a book and they just come to mind? What is behind all that?"

DLC: "I am always on the lookout for quotes, in fact, I saw one around on a display in our school building that I am going to use. So I am always on the lookout and I do a lot of reading. I love to read the New York Times and the Philadelphia Inquirer- all the newspapers. I do a lot of reading of books, so as I read I see them and I make note. And then I Google. Like when it is Women's History Month I Google "Women's History Month" and then I come up with some quotes. When it is Black History Month I Google the same thing- I Google alot. So between Googling, reading and people share quotes with me so I make note and I try to keep them. The reason that I try to give some inspirational text as much as I can is because I believe that we all need to be inspired and motivated. And I believe and I also have evidence that I have touched some scholars. Certain that not as many as I want but I have touched some. And I have heard some scholars repeat some things that I said. So that's the reason I do that I believe in inspiration and I believe in motivation."

BD: "I think a lot of the hard work that you do behind the scenes gets unnoticed, I don't think many people know what you are doing behind the closed doors so what is your daily routine here at East from when you arrive to when students are in class."

DLC: "The first thing that I do is take a look at the emails and respond to the ones that I feel are crucial to respond to right away and then set aside those that I can take of later on. And then it is important for me to get around the building and to see what is going on. I feel that part of my responsibility is to set the tone and to set the school climate so I want to get around and meet and greet students and staff and try to make sure that the quality of instruction that is going on is of what we expect. And from there, I will be many places: I will observe some instruction in classrooms, I will deal with parental matters, parents calling, they want me to get back to them and I do that. We have staff members who want to share things with me so I make time for that. There is a lot of correspondence that come in so I have to respond to that. And meeting with my secretary on a daily basis and doing the correspondence to the district office, to the state or to government, or to parents. I take care of that."

BD: "Aside from that, is there anything in particular that you like to do that's fun throughout the day and who are your friends within administration that you enjoy seeing?"

DLC: "One of the fun things that I enjoy is meeting with scholars and being able to try to resolve differences. I really get enjoyment out of scholars coming in, very concerned about a matter, feeling it is between life and death and I can sit down and help to resolve that. That is a real good feeling to me. In terms of friends, I have lots of friends here, lots of people that I consider friends, not necessarily social friends but professional friends. I have the administrative staff here and the faculty as well as staff members. I have a large number that I consider to be friends. I have found that people here in general are very warm and friendly. I said to the last group here that I was so pleased, so very very pleased that how I was accepted when I first

came. People welcomed me with open arms. And I can have a conversation or I can ask anyone on our staff to do something and they will do it with a smile and I feel that it is a warm place, a caring place and a place that like no other place- I like that, it is a place like no other place”.