

the student voice of Rock Canyon
the rock



Dalton Lambrecht

1998-2013

5810 McArthur Ranch Road. Highlands Ranch, CO 80124. 303-387-3000.
Volume 10. Issue 4 . March 14, 2014

Dalton ARIDER'S



It was around Thanksgiving when he wrote a simple note of gratitude, to say thank you to a teacher who he had only known for one semester. Months later, above the clutter of the teacher's desk, these kind words are what stood out. Before Winter Break, this note was just like many others' thank you notes, but after Dec. 29, it carried new meaning.

"It had still been there at the end of the semester," History teacher David Sapienza said. "It took a while to be able to get it off of my desk."

Dalton Lambrecht began Winter Break as any other high school student would; excited for two weeks off from school to relax with friends and family. ATV-ing was a love shared between Lambrecht and his family. During the break, they traveled out to the Imperial Sand Dunes of Glamis, Calif. for what was supposed to be an epic trip full of four wheeling and exploration.

On Dec. 29, Lambrecht went over a small jump that had grave consequences. Despite being dressed in proper gear and wearing a six foot tall marines flag to help make him visible, he was hit head-on by a sand rail. As his father held him in his arms, Lambrecht spent his final moments with the people he loved.

The boy who wrote that simple note of gratitude passed away pursuing his passion.

Lambrecht:



By: NIKKI NEWMAN, JAMES MCGAVIN, BAILEY MCCUE, AND STEVEN MURPHY
Photos by: RONI AND JOHN LAMBRECHT

A Passion for Riding

For Dalton Lambrecht, four-wheeling was a natural talent.

"He was so good at it; it's like the bike was a whole other limb for him," Roni Lambrecht, Dalton's mother, said. "There are football players who are really good at football and baseball players who are really good at baseball, and with his bike, he was connected to it."

The first time Lambrecht was on an ATV, he was seven weeks old, strapped on to his mother in six different places. On his tenth birthday, in Texas Creek, Colo., Lambrecht received his own four-wheeler. Every birthday of his was spent at Texas Creek and his tenth was the first time he was allowed to ride on the bike without a parent.

"The day we got [the ATV] for him, he took it down the side of a mountain and totaled it," Roni said. "We made him get right back on my bike and drive us back to camp. Once an accident of any sort



happens, people are pretty scared, but people who are really good at what they do are going to get back on and try again when they have a setback."

In March of 2012, Lambrecht's father, John, was forced to accept that Dalton was old enough to take greater responsibility on ATV trips when he got into an accident that forced Dalton to rise to the occasion. According to Roni, this was the time when their relationship "really bloomed and John allowed Dalton to mature into a man." They further bonded over breaking down and enhancing their bikes together.

"We had a lot of good times out there tearing it apart and putting it back together; it was a lot of fun," John said.

A Gift for Giving

Four-wheeling was not the only thing that came naturally to Dalton Lambrecht: he had a gift for helping others.

"One of the things I'll miss most [about

him] is that if you were having a hard time, you could always talk to him and he'd make you feel better," Noah Fullerton '16 said.

Lambrecht and Fullerton met in seventh grade at Rocky Heights Middle School. A year later, Lambrecht was introduced to his best friend, Sam Isner '16. Isner joined the Lambrecht family on

“**He had a big heart. He was a lover, and he wanted to make everyone happy.**”

Roni Lambrecht

many family trips.

"The first time I met him was the first day of eighth grade in English class, and I didn't know anyone because I had just moved here," Isner said. "We were put



together as desk partners and he introduced himself as soon as I sat down."

The way Lambrecht was able to pull other people in and make them feel welcome stood out to many of his teachers. Where a typical teenager would usually gravitate to what is "normal," Lambrecht was seemingly unafraid to branch out in order to allow other people in.

"He was the kindest person to every single student," English teacher Lauren DeLay said. "It didn't matter who you were in the class, he would be able to start a conversation."

Lambrecht's ability to take to heart other people's problems and help them through it is what brought him to form a close relationship with his guidance counselor Mike Sullivan. "Sulli," as Lambrecht referred to him, helped him come to grips with the fact that he couldn't help every person he came in contact with.

Often times, he would discuss issues with his parents, and tell them how he wanted to fix things for other people.

"He always helped anyone that was struggling or having a hard time," Nic Tsao '16 said. "He had a huge influence on some peoples' lives; he even saved some peoples' lives by helping them through their depression."

An enormous part of Lambrecht's positive mindset was that he learned through his parents the value of believing in himself. They taught him that if he believed he could do something, all he had to do was actually do it. They also taught him that if he surrounded himself with good people, people who believed in him as well, then he would always have a strong support system to fall back on when he needed it.

"If you surround yourself with amazing people, you'll probably be amazing too," Roni said.

A Love for Laughing



If Dalton Lambrecht could be described as anything, it would be funny. Whether it was goofing around with friends, telling jokes, or expressing himself through style, his unique sense of humor shined through.

"He was one of the funniest kids I've ever had in class," Health teacher Deanne Boland said. "My period two Physical Education and Health class formed a group and they're all still friends. They would come to class clapping every day. The funny thing was, there were only five of them and they couldn't clap in tune."

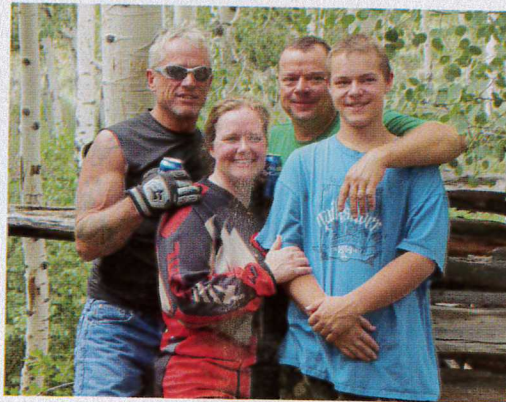
Probably the most well-known and favorable memory many friends and teachers have of Dalton is the way he made panda bears dance.

"Dalton would wear his World Wildlife t-shirt and it had a panda on it. He would bend down, pull the shirt over his knees, and start bouncing around and dancing," Boland said. "It had me in stitches!"

The Lambrecht family has been referred to as the "I Love You" family since Roni and John were kids. It didn't matter who was around, or if they were running late; the family always made sure to tell one another that they loved each other and give kisses or hugs because they never knew when they'd have their last chance to do so. Whether told in person or in a letter, they made sure to find a way to let people know that they were important.

"I've always been a stickler about making sure he wrote something that meant something to someone; that he didn't waste his ink," Roni said. "He always wrote the best birthday cards and Christmas cards and was really good about making sure that the people in his life knew how much he loved them."

For the future, Lambrecht dreamed of becoming a marine--specifically,



a sniper. He played video games constantly, loved airsoft, and enjoyed paintball- all things that helped prepare him in some way or another for his future.

After hearing stories from friends who were in the Marines and Vietnam, Lambrecht was convinced that being a Marine was his calling: he'd be able to form strong friendships, shoot guns for a living, and, most importantly, help people.

Dalton John Lambrecht: vivacious, caring, loving, empathetic, a true friend, strong, funny, a leader, compassionate, loyal, the best smile, outgoing, sweet, the biggest hugs in the entire world, unique, kind, thoughtful. These are only some of the ways that he will be remembered.



The Lambrecht family wishes Dalton's legacy of helping others will live on. They would love for you to visit Dalton's Facebook page or www.DoltForDalton.com and tell your stories about Dalton, and share how you've taken some of his "Pay It Forward" attitudes and done something nice for someone else.