

# COMET CHATTER

Penn Manor Alumni Association Newsletter / August 2012

## GRADUATION CEREMONIES HALF A CENTURY APART

On Tuesday, June 5th, Penn Manor High School said farewell to 453 impressive seniors, which is exactly the number of new PMAA members the association picked up that day! Joining in on the celebration was a small, enthusiastic group of 1962 alumni. The Class of '62 graduated from the same high school building, back then the high school building was home to all students grades 7 through 12. The district had no middle schools in 1962 and the senior class that year included only 199 students.



Herbert who will be attending Brigham Young University in the fall. The Mary Filling Klemmer Award goes to the class salutatorian, Ellen Blazer, for the Class of 2012. Ellen will be attending the University of Pennsylvania this fall. Both of these academic achievement awards are for \$500. (Pictured from left - Ellen Blazer, Mikayla Herbert, Dr. Leichter)

The Luella Mellinger Scholarship goes to a dedicated student who will pursue a career in education with this year's winner being William Green who is headed to Temple University. The final PMAA award for Excellence in Art was presented to Dylan Keagy. Dylan will be attending HACC.

This year's commencement had a patriotic tone with a robust standing ovation for the graduates who have already chosen a career serving their country in various branches of the military services. Also there were three graduates who had originally left school before graduation to serve during times of war. Philip Fisher served during the Korean War, Henry von Kroge is a World War II veteran and Robert Neff, a veteran of the Vietnam War. PMAA welcomes these gentlemen to the alumni association and thanks them for their service.

The association wishes all our 2012 graduates the best, and we are sure they will continue to make Penn Manor proud!

Although the Class of '62 was relatively small it has seen members inducted into both the Athletic Wall of Honor and the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor. In addition, classmates June Finney Rabatin and Eileen Killian wrote the current words to our alma mater over 50 years ago.

PMAA is proud to sponsor four awards to members of every graduation class. The Dr. D. L. Biemesderfer Award goes to the class valedictorian with this year's winner being Mikayla



The mission of the Penn Manor Alumni Association is to support, inform, and maintain communications with our alumni, encouraging them to play an active role in PMAA, support our alma mater, and remain part of the Penn Manor family.

Learn more about the Penn Manor Alumni Association  
Visit our website at [www.pennmanor.net/alumni](http://www.pennmanor.net/alumni) and on Facebook

# PMAA wants to see you at Homecoming 2012

Please mark your calendars for Friday, October 12th! Plans are underway to make this Homecoming celebration the best ever and we hope you can join us for the festivities. Our title contending Comet football team will meet the Manheim Township Streaks that evening, and our Homecoming Queen and her court will be announced at halftime.

PMAA alumni activities will center around the alumni tent inside Biemesderfer Stadium once again, so be sure to visit us. This year the first 100 alums to stop by the tent will receive the 2012 PMAA Homecoming commemorative T-shirt free. There will be handouts for the young children of alumni and an opportunity for non-members to sign-up for future alumni communications. Other promotions are planned that will be announced soon.



Above - Alumni visit the tent prior to the Homecoming Game. Right - Immediate Past President, Michael McDonald, and his 1974 classmate, Barry Rhoades, display the complimentary footballs given out prior to the game at the Alumni tent.



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## Wall of Honor News

The **Athletic Wall of Honor** selection committee has chosen three female athletes and two male athletes to be included in the 2012 induction class. The induction dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the high school library on Friday, January 4, 2013. The newly inducted members will then be introduced at half-time of the home basketball game with Hempfield later that evening. The names of these athletes will be announced soon.

The **Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor** selection committee will be choosing a new induction class for 2013 at the end of this year. If you would like to honor and perpetuate the memory of an alumni who has brought recognition, honor, distinction, and excellence to Penn Manor through his/her postgraduate accomplishments, please complete the enclosed nomination form. The successful candidates will be inducted at the spring alumni banquet in 2013.





# Alumni in the News

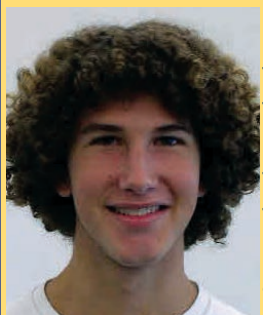


**Phil Horst**, Class of 2003: During his Penn Manor years Phil had many onstage roles and served as President of PM's thespian troupe. Recently he entered a play he authored in the prestigious Neil Simon playwriting contest during the annual Neil Simon Festival in Cedar City, Utah. This play entitled "Well-Adjusted" won the grand prize! The photo (left) is from the play. Phil is in the center. Phil currently lives in Virginia and is a high school English teacher.

**Matthew Johnson**, Class of 2000: Back in his years at PM high school Matt was a key member of our Quiz Bowl team. This became the perfect training for his recent appearance on the popular TV show Jeopardy! Matt did well in the competition that was taped in California in December, but could not share any of the details until the episode's official airing in April when he watched the show with 40 supportive friends. Matt is pictured at right with Jeopardy host, Alex Trebek. As a senior Matt was selected as the "most musically talented" in his class. He continues his love for music through his band, Slackwater News which is comprised of PM Class of 2000 alums JJ Gamache, Dan Ramirez, Dan Zdilla, and Matt Blank. Matt graduated from Millersville University with degrees in English and Philosophy and is presently pursuing a Masters at Temple University.



**Maegan Keperling**, Class of 2012: Moved by a newspaper article detailing the challenges of Penn Manor students who are homeless, Maegan started a drive to collect backpacks for these students as the school year approached. Her original goal was to have 30 backpacks ready and filled with necessary school supplies by the start of the school year. She enlisted the help of her church, community, and PMAA. Her final total of FREE, well-supplied backpacks was 63!



**Henry Stewart**, Class of 2010: Henry recently entered the worldwide competition of the Villiers String Quartet for pieces written specifically for string quartets. Vying against over 50 musical compositions from around the globe, he made the finals which were held in London. Only three composers qualified as finalists. The finalists attended the live competition as the Villiers Quartet performed their compositions for a live audience who then voted for their favorite piece. Although not the eventual winner, this was a great honor for the PM alum who recently completed his sophomore year at Goshen College.

**Deb Goodhart**, Class of 1984: Deb was instrumental in helping her good friend and fellow Penn Manor employee, Shelby Foster, create a new organization she recently envisioned. When Shelby lost her father to brain cancer she was inspired by the tremendous help and support she and her family received from a faith-based support organization in Snellville, GA. With the support of her husband, friends, church, Deb, and many other alumni, Shelby has been able to fulfill her personal mission of bringing this type of organization into the Penn Manor community. This organization is Grace Cancer Care Ministry (GCCM) and it is closely related to the Grace Methodist Church in Millersville. Anyone willing to volunteer with this group or just wishing to learn more should visit [graceccm.wordpress.com/](http://graceccm.wordpress.com/)



Do you know alumni who are making Penn Manor Proud? We want to hear about it. Email your information to [cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net](mailto:cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net).

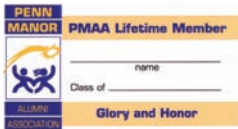
# Memorial Gifts

## Donors

Ralph & Karen Byers  
Jeannine Murry  
Frank & Joyce Geist  
William Hutchinson  
Kathy Schlegelmilch Zwerko

## In Memory of:

Dave Neff  
Ethel Gochenaur Shaub  
Stephen LaMaster  
Doris Hosler  
Ralph Schlegelmilch



## New Lifetime Members

PMAA's Lifetime Members are key alumni and friends of the association, who have made the commitment to keep our association strong for many years to come. We salute the following individuals who have made this commitment during the previous school year:

Name	Penn Manor Class
Eileen Beccone	1964
Dean Hess	1968
Florence Hess	1953
Michael McDonald	1974
Christina H. McSherry	2008
Jan Mindish	Associate
Julia Murray	1973
John Walzl	1965
Kathy Schlegelmilch Zwerko	1971

## Penn Manor History Alert!



While cleaning out boxes to move, an alum in North Carolina came across this photograph of the old Red Hill School from 1953. If you have old photos of Penn Manor schools, yearbooks, or sports memorabilia, please check with PMAA before discarding these items. We would love to add to our display at alumni events. Contact Penn Manor Alumni Association Archivist, Cindy LaMaster at clamaster74@aol.com or leave a message at 872-9502 ext. 1934.

# PMAA General Membership Meetings

As alumni of Penn Manor you have voting rights at every general membership meeting during the year. PMAA is always looking for possible new programs that will benefit our alumni and our alma mater going forward. Your help in serving on a committee, serving as a future officer, or simply attending as an interested party will all be greatly appreciated. Help keep PMAA strong!

These meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the alumni room in the high school library (please enter at the Central Complex near the new gymnasium).

**Tuesday, September 4, 2012**

**Tuesday, November 13, 2012**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2013** (This meeting will serve as the annual meeting of the association.)

Please call with any questions:  
717-872-9520 extension # 1934

## PMAA Executive Committee

Fred Wilds - President, Class of 1961  
Melissa Detz Ostrowski - Vice President, Class of 1988  
Judy Herr Duke - Treasurer, Class of 1979  
Gillian Graham - Recording Secretary, Class of 2007  
Dolores Hippey Warfel - Corresponding Secretary, Class of 1960  
Cindy Duncan LaMaster - PMAA Archivist, Class of 1974  
Michael McDonald - Immediate Past President, Class of 1974  
Frank T. Geist - Executive Board Member, Class of 1963  
Cindy Brown Rhoades - Newsletter Editor, Class of 1976