



COMET CHATTER

Penn Manor Alumni Association Newsletter / Fall 2016

Find us on Facebook or online at www.pennmanor.net/alumni

Vietnam Revisited a Half Century Later

The Vietnam War had tremendous impact on the entire Penn Manor community and back in 2009 your alumni association held a banquet honoring all PM veterans with a special salute to those who lost their lives during the Vietnam War:

Dennis Eshleman, U.S. Army
Barry Graham, USMC
Jay Herr, USMC
William Robinson, U.S. Army
Leslie Shenk, U.S. Army
Robert Wenzel, U.S. Army
Kenneth Witmer, U.S. Army



Frey (left) and Myers (right) with their guide on the Freedom Bridge over the Ben Hai River, which separated North and South Vietnam during the war.

Recently two Penn Manor Class of '63 alums returned to Vietnam to personally explore this reunified country and possibly find some closure to their war experiences. Jack Frey's tour in Vietnam was as a Marine Corps "grunt" (infantryman) and it ended when his platoon was ambushed on the first day of the North Vietnamese Army's Tet Offensive in 1968 when he received a grave wound to his head which changed his life forever.

Rich Myers, Frey's classmate and friend, served as an officer in the U.S. Navy and advised a Vietnamese Navy unit which had eight "junks" that patrolled some of the rivers in the same area where Frey patrolled the jungle on foot. Rich coordinated the revisit where the two friends (accompanied by Jack's wife, Bunky) visited many of the same places they had seen during the war under much different circumstances. In addition, they visited Hanoi, the capital of the now reunified country.

Frey remarked, "Everything has changed. The military installations as well as the jungle are now gone." These veterans received warm welcomes wherever they travelled and marveled at the paved roads, coffee and banana plantations, modern hotels and spas catering to Vietnam's new tourist trade. The people there were interested to hear



This photo is of an informal discussion at a private home where Myers and Frey were invited to visit.

the men's stories and memories about the war and listened intently to a very dark time in their country's history.

Alumni in the News

This space is dedicated to Penn Manor alumni who have in some way brought honor and respect to our alma mater. If you know someone who is doing something exciting, please e-mail Jan Mindish at janmindish@comcast.net with the information.

Hugh Herr, Class of 1983: Known for his groundbreaking artificial limb research, Hugh recently received one of Spain's most prestigious prizes, the \$56,000 Princess of Asturias Award for scientific research. In announcing its unanimous decision, the prize jury stated that Herr's pioneering work "has resulted in a new class of smart bionic prosthesis that can be controlled by the brain." In 2011, TIME magazine coined him the "Leader of the Bionic Age." Hugh currently heads the Biomechatronic Group at the MIT Media Lab in Massachusetts.



Lisa Radinovsky, Class of 1986: Lisa has been submitting regular feature stories to LNP from Greece on the refugee crisis there. Lisa graduated from Princeton University and lives with her husband and two children in Crete, Greece. In her most recent story, she asked that we think of this: "Thousands of children and parents, wives and husbands have been separated from their formerly peaceful lives, their homes and one another. Refugee families should be reunited promptly. They have lost everything else; at least let them have their families." For more on Syrian refugees in Crete, see Radinovsky's blog: mominGREECETODAY.blogspot.gr.

Grant McFarland, Class of 2005: Grant was featured recently in an LNP story about his metal band's video that's gone viral, earning more than 5 million views on Facebook in its first week. His group, Galactic Empire, "reimagines" Star Wars soundtracks while wearing high quality costumes. In the video, Grant plays drums as Boba Fett. He explains that Galactic Empire is a fusion of his two biggest passions, "My love for music and my love for Star Wars just collide in a perfect storm."



Eric and Mark Rintz, Class of 2009: Following their graduation from the United States Naval Academy, both Eric (left) and Mark (right) were assigned to Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. They continued Flight Training in Texas and Florida. After completing training, Eric has been assigned to Naval Air Squadron VP-45, "The Pelicans" in Jacksonville, Florida. Mark has been assigned to Naval Air Squadron HSC-6, "Screaming Indians," in Coronado, California.



Lars Anderson, Class of 2011: Lars co-wrote an LNP feature article on heart disease with his father, cardiologist Rolf L. Anderson, M.D. The article outlines three ways to prevent heart disease and discusses how a family history of early heart disease plays a big role in determining your risk. The importance of research in the prevention and treatment of heart disease was stressed. Lars currently works in clinical research for Lancaster General Hospital.

Alana Micciche Weaver, Class of 2007, was one of the presenters when Penn Manor High School held an assembly this spring for Food and Hospitality Careers. Alana told students that she didn't know what she wanted to be in high school, noting "I was good at talking people into things! A four year college degree isn't always necessary for many of the new career paths. There are other ways to win."

She began working in business development in Washington, D.C. then took a job in NYC. She now works for High Hotels, owner of the Marriott in downtown Lancaster. Alana is responsible for their online presence, social media, developing promotions and working with marketing teams. Working in e-commerce, she is responsible for building relationships to get better deals. "The new digital age results in older employees listening to you because you are the expert right from day one. They listen to you because you speak the language that they don't understand."



Alana encouraged students to contact her if they are interested in intern openings at the Marriott. PMHS continues to benefit when our graduates return to speak to current students

PMAA ADDS 411 NEW MEMBERS

This year's commencement was again held at Franklin & Marshall College on Tuesday, June 7th. PMAA is pleased to welcome 411 new Penn Manor alums into our ranks. This ceremony was the first where a new version of the Penn Manor alma mater music was conducted by senior Will Torres who wrote new music while still utilizing the words written back in 1962 by Eileen Killian and June Finney Rabatin.



Principal Dr. Phil Gale once again had V.I.P. guests in the audience from the Penn Manor Class of 1966 which was celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Dr. Gale thanked the seniors for allowing Penn Manor to receive national recognition from U.S. News and World Report for the second year in a row.



Class of 1961 - 55th Reunion

The Class of 1961 is having their 55th reunion on October 15, 2016 at the Conestoga Country Club at 6 PM. Friday, October 14, 2016 they are having a picnic at Washington Boro picnic area. Call Charles Stekervetz at 687-0542 for more information.

Class of 1976 - 40th Reunion

The Class of 1976's 40th reunion will be held on October 15, 2016 at the Lancaster Tennis and Yacht Club from 5 to 9 PM. Contact Ellen McSherry Harter at eharterenv@aol.com for more information.

Class of 1991 - 25th Reunion

The Class of 1991 will hold their 25th reunion on November 26, 2016 at Acorn Farms Conference Center from 5:30 to 11 PM. Contact Bobbi Sue Barton Heistand at 717-284-3822 or by e-mail at bobbiesue1991@comcast.net for more info.

Class of 1967 - 50th

The Class of 1967 is holding their 50th reunion the weekend of September 22-23, **2017**. An informal get together is being planned for Friday, September 22, 2017 and a dinner for Saturday, September 23, 2017. More info to come! Contact Mike Wilds at michael_c_wilds@yahoo.com or at 717-284-0938 with questions.

Memorial Gifts

Donors

William Hutchinson
Frank Geist

In Memory of:

Doris Hosler
Dolores Frankhouser

Thank you!



The 2016-17 PMAA General Membership Meetings will be held at 6:30 PM in the High School Library on

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

April meeting to be determined

Join Us! All are welcome!

PMAA Executive Committee

Melissa Detz Ostrowski - President, Class of '88
Judy Herr Duke - Treasurer, Class of '79
Cindy Duncan LaMaster - PMAA Archivist, Class of '74
Fred Wilds - Immediate Past President, Class of '61
Dr. Janice Mindish - Alumni Coordinator
Becca Rhoades Carver - Social Media, Class of '03
Cindy Brown Rhoades - Newsletter Editor, Class of '76

Mission Statement

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.

Facebook

Join the nearly 700 alums who visit our Penn Manor Alumni Association Facebook page to keep up-to-date with events, reunions, and more!

Reunions

To find out whether your class has planned a reunion, visit the *Upcoming Reunions* tab on the PMAA website at www.pennmanor.net/alumni. If you are having a reunion and would like to have it included on the website, Facebook and in the Comet Chatter, e-mail your info to cindy.rhoades@penmanor.net

Jill Witmer (2010 Homeschool graduate) - Jill is without a doubt, the top field hockey player to come from Penn Manor's storied program. Jill was 1st team Section One and 1st team Lancaster-Lebanon League All-Star (2007-08; 2008-09; 2009-10). She was voted Player of the Year in the Lancaster-Lebanon League as a junior when she helped propel the Comets to their first PIAA State Field Hockey Championship. Jill was voted as a 1st team All-State and All-American (2008-09 & 2009-10). She went on to play field hockey for national power University of Maryland for four years. She was named ACC Freshman of the Year leading the Terrapins to a National Championship. Her senior year she earned first Team All-American and ACC Offensive Player of the Year, making her a four-time All-American. Jill is currently a member of the United States Field Hockey Team and earned a spot on the U.S Olympic Roster traveling to Rio for the 2016 Olympics.

Jackie (Ochs-Gregory) Texter (Class of 2005) - Jackie was an outstanding three sport athlete. In volleyball, Jackie was a four year varsity letter winner, a Lancaster-Lebanon League 1st Team All-Star her junior and senior year. Jackie lettered three years in basketball. Her senior season she lead the team to a District III playoff berth, was named Lancaster New Era's Player of the Week and was named Team MVP. Soccer, Jackie's best sport, was her passion. She was a three year starter and team captain her senior year. In her four years on the team, Jackie was part of a team that won three Lancaster-Lebanon League Championships, a District Championship and the 2002 & 2005 PIAA State Championship. Jackie attended Virginia Wesleyan and played soccer for four years.

Jarred Texter (Class of 2004) - Jarred was a two sport athlete at Penn Manor High School playing golf and basketball. He earned seven varsity letters (four in golf; three in basketball) and was named Penn Manor's All-Around Male Athlete his senior year. Golf was Jarred's passion and he excelled as one of Pennsylvania's top scholastic golfers in his Penn Manor career. He was the Lancaster-Lebanon League Individual Champion in 2001. In 2002, Jarred won the District III Championship. A sharp shooter in basketball, Jarred led Penn Manor to their first league and district playoff appearance in over 10 years in 2002. Jarred earned a golf scholarship to the University Nevada, Las Vegas and competed four years for the Running Rebels. He was named 2005 MWC Freshman of the Year and earned Academic All-MWC honors.

The 2005 Penn Manor Girls Soccer Team had a storybook ending to their season by winning the PIAA Class AAA State Soccer Championship defeating previously undefeated Emmaus 1-0 on a Kasie Shover goal at 12:38 into the first half.

Team members include:

Coaches - Head Coach, Bill Zapata; Asst. Coaches, Jack Kremer, Jason Hottenstein

Players - Kirsten Armstrong, Mackenzie Dantine, Steph Fisher, Taryn Fry, Jennifer Funk, Emily Gordon, Maria Hershey, Caitlin Higgins, Nicky High, Jackie Ochs-Gregory, Ellen Ochs-Gregory, Amy Pham, Megan Quinn, Sara Scheid, Kristi Shepps, Kate Shiffler, Kasie Shover, Emily Wary, Lauren Wolpert, Sarah Shetler, Emily Andrew, Katelyn Wolf, Morgan Kauffman; **Scorekeeper** - Deb Goodhart; **Trainer** - Dave Ohl

If you would like to attend the 2016 Athletic Wall of Honor Induction and Dinner on Friday, January 6, 2017, please contact Cindy Bachman at 717-872-9520 ext. 1867 or e-mail at cindy.bachman@pennmanor.net for tickets. The cost is \$20.00 and includes dinner as well as a ticket to the Penn Manor basketball game following the dinner where the honorees will be introduced at halftime. The reception begins at 4:30 pm and dinner is at 5:15 pm in the high school cafeteria. Advance reservations are required.



PENN MANOR HOMECOMING

**Friday,
October 14, 2016**

Mark your calendars for **Friday, October 14th, 2016**. Our football team meets Conestoga Valley in Biemesderfer Stadium. Look for PMAA's big white alumni tent. The first 150 alums to stop by the tent will receive a free PMAA umbrella. Don't miss out on the PMAA raffles for cash and gift cards and more! Enjoy an evening filled with PM Pride and watch as we see another Homecoming Queen crowned and another football victory recorded.



Join us for the first PMAA Social Night on
Thursday, September 29 from 5 to 7 PM at
Copper Hill Public House
at Crossgates Golf Course in Millersville.

Meet up with old friends and make new ones. Try out the
restaurant, relax at the bar or enjoy the outside area.
Totally casual and just for fun!



Friday, January 6, 2017

This year's honorees to be inducted in the Penn Manor Athletic Wall of Honor will be:

William A. Beck (Teacher/Coach) - Bill was the head coach of the Penn Manor Varsity Football Team (1969-1979). He was hired in 1969 to build the football program from scratch and remained with the program in some capacity for 44 years. He compiled a 46-47-1 record in his 11 years coaching moving the program to varsity status. His most successful season was his 1974-75 team, which went 8-1-1 and won the Section II Championship in the Lancaster Lebanon League, our only Section Championship in football. Bill's commitment to Penn Manor Football continues with the creation of the Bill Beck Scholarship Fund, which presents scholarships to deserving Penn Manor Football Players who continue their education beyond high school.