

# COMET CHATTER

Penn Manor Alumni Association Newsletter / Spring 2016

# Scholar-Athlete 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. For this edition of the Comet Chatter, we will focus on athletic excellence because in Fall 2016 our next induction class to the Athletic Wall of Honor will be selected.

Penn Manor has always been known for athletic excellence matching our renowned academic prowess. In recent years we have had many alums who excelled at the next level and they are simply too numerous to mention them all here. Instead we will focus on just two sports, football and field hockey and list some of the many who had great success in these two sports.

**Chas Alecxih,** Class of 2007: Chas had an amazing experience this year playing in the NFL with the Carolina Panthers. He spent the season on the practice squad helping the Panthers get ready for each week's game as well as helping them prepare for Super Bowl 50! He attended the Super Bowl and was visible on the Carolina sideline watching his teammates compete. Chas played his college ball at the University of Pittsburgh where he earned an athletic scholarship after being recruited as a preferred walk-on. He recently signed a futures contract with the Carolina Panthers.

**Charlie Bell**, Class of 2014: Charlie had huge success his senior year at Penn Manor winning recognition as the L-L League Player of the Year. Although he excelled on both offense (running back) and defense (linebacker) he had to choose one side of the ball when he went on to the University of Delaware. Charlie chose defense and has made great impact during his freshman and sophomore years. Head Delaware Coach, Dave Brock, sings his praises saying, "Charlie is a very committed person and his dedication matches his talent." Charlie was committed to the team concept while at PM and this continues at U of D.

Other recent football standouts:

Cody Booth, Class of 2009: Temple University and Jacksonville Jaguars (NFL)

Noah Braun, Class of 2015: Shippensburg University

Brett Caggiano, Class of 2014: Johns Hopkins University





# More Alumni in the News

**Demetrius Dixon**, Class of 2011: Lafayette College

Tanner Erisman, Class of 2015: Franklin and Marshall College
Jordan Gibbs, Class of 2007: University of Pittsburgh
Matt Keller, Class of 2015: Syracuse University
Logan Kinser, Class of 2014: Millersville University
LaRonn Lee, Class of 2009: West Chester University
Ashton Leschke, Class of 2015: Stevenson University
Gerrin McKinnie, Class of 2015: McDaniel College
Adam Sahd, Class of 2015: Millersville University
Mike Stover, Class of 2015: Millersville University
Mike Stover, Class of 2006: College of William and Mary, Calgary Stampeders (CFL)
Mike Treier, Class of 2008: Coaching at Marshall University
Mitchell Sweigart, Class of 2014: Princeton University
Now, turning to field hockey:



**Eryn and Emily McCoy,** Class of 2013: Eryn (photo at left) and Emily (photo at right) both had spectacular careers at Penn Manor and they now continue that success at Division I level at Boston College. Presently juniors they led their team in scoring with a combined 19 goals and six times they provided their team with a game-winning goal this season. Emily and Eryn were both named All-Stars in the Division I Northeast region for their play during their junior years. In the classroom they work



toward degrees from the Boston College Carroll School of Management.

Catherine Altdoerffer, Class of 2009: Ohio University

Kayla Bixler, Class of 2012: Millersville University

Jennifer Bradley, Class of 2009: American University

Katie Breneman, Class of 2011: Penn State University

Maggie Brommer, Class of 2009: Columbia University

Michele Enck, Class of 2014: Lock Haven University

Emma Evarts, Class of 2015: Saint Francis University

Cassie Kline, Class of 2015: Penn State University

Carolyn Sloss, Class of 2015: Kent State University

Shannon Sloss, Class of 2013: Louisville University

Renee Suter, Class of 2011: University of Massachusetts

Kathy Weidman, Class of 2009: Providence College

**Jill Witmer,** Home Schooled, Class of 2010: University of Maryland; currently a member of the USA Field Hockey Women's Senior National Team

BREAKING NEWS! Longtime Penn Manor teacher and coach, Harry Frey,

was inducted into the Lancaster-Lebanon League Hall of Fame on Thursday night, February 11, 2016 during halftime of the L-L finals game. This is the Lancaster Newspaper's article on Harry.

Harry Frey played soccer, basketball and baseball as an athlete at Penn Manor and was tabbed All-County in basketball and soccer. He returned to his alma mater after college and began a teaching and coaching career that included basketball, baseball and soccer. He coached the boys' basketball team for 11 seasons, winning the section and county championships in 1971 and '72. He was voted Coach of the Year following the '71 season.



Frey was able to impart the knowledge he had about the game to his players."That came naturally to me," Frey said. "My senior year in college (West Chester), I was injured, so the coach asked me to scout for him. I learned a lot from that." Frey, too, learned a great deal from his high school coach, Dave Neff, a 2015 L-L Hall of Fame inductee. "Dave's main emphasis was that you go all out and give it all you have," Frey said. "That's the philosophy I adopted."

Frey coached the Penn Manor girls' basketball team for five seasons, directing the Comets to an L-L title in '84. "The girls' teams were a delight to coach," he said. "They soaked up everything you told them. As far as hustle, toughness and grit, they had just as much as the boys had." Frey spent three years as the varsity soccer coach and 15 years as the junior varsity baseball coach.

Congratulations to Coach Frey! Another reason to be Penn Manor Proud!

# Denny Herr's Legacy of Giving Back Continues

Penn Manor Alumni Association lost a wonderful friend and loyal supporter, Dennis R. Herr



Denny Herr with fellow PMAA volunteers, Dolores Warfel (left) and Nancy Smith (right), set up for a Penn Manor Homecoming

(Class of '67), on June 30, 2015. Son of Alta M. Herr (Class of '40) and the late Richard Herr, Denny was married for 39 years to wife, Deborah. Daughter Courtney, (Class of '99), and son, Joshua (Class of 2001), were also PM alum.

Denny volunteered for many organizations such as Make-A-Wish and the Conestoga Historical Society. PMAA also benefitted from his support. Each fall, Denny supplied us with the lights for the Alumni tent at Homecoming and spent the night greeting alumni as they visited the tent. After Denny's death, wife, Deb, donated the lights to PMAA knowing that's what Denny would have wanted.

That spirit of giving back to Penn Manor continues with son, Josh, who recently returned to PMHS for a career presentation. Visiting from Oregon, Josh volunteered to speak to PMHS students about his career

designing athletic shoes. The teenagers immediately paid attention when Josh came in wearing original sneakers designed for Kanye West. They were anxious to hear how a skinny kid from Conestoga ended up as the "go to" originals designer for rappers at Adidas.

Josh (second from left in photo) explained that he earned a degree in graphic design at Kutztown and then worked briefly at a design firm in Washington, DC. After posting his work on the Internet, he got a call from Reebok in Boston. He worked on their design team for four years and met his wife, Julia, there. He then got a call from Adidas in Germany and took that opportunity to continue designing men's lifestyle footwear. Recently, Josh returned to the US



and heads up a team of designers at the Adidas headquarters in Portland, Oregon.

What advice did he give to the students? "When you see an opportunity, take a chance. Employers are looking for passion; you can't teach someone to care. Hard work IS transferrable. Whatever you do, do it well."

Denny would be smiling in agreement!



## PENN MANOR Homecoming

### Another Great Homecoming Celebration!

What a great night we had on Friday, October 9, 2015! Over 250 Penn Manor alums stopped by PMAA's big white tent (provided once again by Bob Herr, PM Class of 1981) and everyone enjoyed this year's unique PMAA giveaway, a Penn Manor gloved ice scraper. There were cash prizes, many giveaways, a special gift basket, but most impressive were all the past Penn Manor friendships that



# Nominations Needed for the



Every even numbered year there is a new induction class selected for the Penn Manor Athletic Wall of Honor. This program is a partnership between PMAA and our school district with Penn Manor's athletic director handling the administrative leadership of the process. The selection committee is comprised of the athletic director, a school board member, one male coach, one female coach, one female alumnus, one male alumnus, and one retired Penn Manor coach.

The most important part of this process is you. Anyone can submit a nomination for a Penn Manor athlete or Penn Manor team, but please remember the athletes must have graduated from Penn Manor **at least five years ago**.

If you are willing to take the time to nominate an athlete or team worthy of this honor in 2016, you can download a nomination form from the PMAA web site at www.pennmanor.net/alumni or simply call Jeff Roth, Penn Manor's athletic director at 717-872-9520 Ext#1367 or contact Jeff via E-mail at jeff.roth@pennmanor.net

### **Memorial Gifts**

#### **Donors:**

Ernie Doerschuk Phyllis Strittmater Ron Brubaker Nancy Weiss Carole Long Joanna Bailes P. Robert Herr

#### In Memory of:

Larry Sangrey Myrtle Seigler Geist PM Class of 1968 Derek Weiss Donald Schmid Doris Hosler Stanley Charles

### 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 current school year:

Name	Penn Manor Class
J. Eugene Schock	1958
Terry Edwards	1963
Kim Wells	1972
Jeff Warner	1981
Elizabeth Deaner	1985

### PM Alum Owned Businesses

In collaboration with the Penn Manor Education Foundation (PMEF), PMAA is reaching out to alumni to help us in developing a data base of Penn Manor Alumni who own businesses.

This list will help our Penn Manor community to locate a needed service or product while at the same time supporting Penn Manor owned businesses. If you know a Penn Manor alum business owner, forward the following info to Dr Jan Mindish, Alumni Coordinator, at jan-mindish@comcast.net.

Please provide the following information:Alumni NameYear of GraduationName of BusinessType of BusinessBusiness address and phone number

We hope to post these businesses on both the PMEF and PMAA facebook pages and websites.

The next PMAA General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 6:30 PM in the High School Library. Join Us!

### **PMAA Executive Committee**

Melissa Detz Ostrowski - President, Class of 1988 Frank Geist - Vice President, Class of 1963 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 Fred Wilds - Immediate Past President, Class of 1961 Dr. Janice Mindish - Alumni Coordinator

Cindy Brown Rhoades - Newsletter Editor, Class of 1976

### Reunions

Go to 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, please contact Cindy Rhoades at 872-9500, ext 2223 or by E-mail at cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net.

### **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.



The Class of 1996 will be holding its 20 year reunion on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Chameleon Club located at 223 N. Water Street, Lancaster from 7 pm until midnight. The cost is \$20 per person if you respond by April 1st. The price is \$25 per person after that date. Fill out the form online at http://goo.gl/forms/exc0bpA0fj. We ask that you prepay by writing a check to "Penn Manor Class of 96" and send it to treasurer Jen Kroesen at 19 Quarry Drive, Millersville, PA 17551.

The reunion will be lots of fun and includes refreshments and prizes with music and dancing. Hope to see you there! For questions, e-mail jen.kroesen@pennmanor.net.