



# COMET CHATTER

Penn Manor Alumni Association Newsletter

Winter 2017 Issue

## 1st Annual Alumni Breakfast!

Join us on Wednesday, March 29, 2017



On Wednesday, March 29 at 8:15 a.m. in the cafeteria at Penn Manor High School, your Penn Manor Alumni Association will be hosting the first Penn Manor Alumni Breakfast. For \$5.00, you can enjoy a hot breakfast, musical entertainment, door prizes, and a chance to catch up with your fellow alums!

Parking will be available in front of the cafeteria after 8:00 a.m. – please do not arrive any earlier as buses will be unloading students. Follow the parking signs. Please do not park in the upper lot. Reservations are required but payment can be made at the door.

Call Cindy at 717-872-9500 ext. 2223 for reservations or email [cindy.rhoades@penmanor.net](mailto:cindy.rhoades@penmanor.net) by Friday, March 17. Hope to see you there!

## Penn Manor Alumni Socials

Have you joined us for a Penn Manor Alumni Social as of yet? The first one was held on Thursday, September 29 and the second on Thursday, December 1. Both were hosted at Copper Hill Public House at Crossgates, owned by alums Andy Zook, Class of 1997, and Ken Eckert, Class of 1998. All alumni are welcome to attend and complimentary appetizers are provided by PMAA, while they last. The next alumni social will be held on **Thursday, May 11 from 6 to 8 PM at Copper Hill Public House**. Mark your calendar to drop in and see some old friends and make some new ones!



[www.pennmanor.net/alumni](http://www.pennmanor.net/alumni) or visit us on Facebook

# Alumni Businesses in the News



**Matt Johnson**, Class of 2000, was featured in a November 2016 LNP article, "Original musical to introduce Ton-Taun's latest EP." Matt wrote the musical that sold out three performances at Tellus360 in December. Matt is an adjunct philosophy professor who you may also know as a Jeopardy contestant, pioneer of Capital Day in Lancaster, host of trivia nights around town, head of the Acappellus360 competition at Tellus360 and founder of the event planning collective Homespun Lancaster.

**Kristina (Shaw) Page**, Class of 2000, and husband, Tony, have gotten a lot of press with their Rooster Street Butcher business. They were featured in the May 2016 Susquehanna Style as "The Face of Hand-Crafted Butchery." In an October 2016 LNP article they answered questions in observance of National Pork Month. They run a shop and cafe in Lititz where they sell the meat of locally sourced, pasture-raised animals they've butchered. A variety of meats along with fresh sausages, cured meats, pates, bacons, hams, along with a selection of artisan cheeses and breads are offered. They also have a popular stand at Lancaster Central Market.



**Josh Gring**, Class of 2004, and wife, Lindsay, have owned a stand at Lancaster Central Market that they took over from Josh's mom two years ago. Featured in LNP's September 18, 2016 Sunday magazine, Lancaster Pet Bakery sells pet products that are made with natural ingredients. Lindsay is a nurse and Josh is a teacher, so they spend their evenings and weekends baking their products in their Millersville home with their pets doing the taste-testing for new recipes!

In Susquehanna Style's Weddings 2016 edition, companies of three Penn Manor grads were included:

**Fiffer (Herr) Rausch**, Class of 1983, Treasured Events, wedding planner.

**Jonnaysa (LePage) Kirkham**, Class of 2000, Planned Perfection, wedding planner.

**Christine Helwig**, Class of 2006, Greenfield Catering, Hamilton Ballroom at Wheatland Place.

## Homecoming!

We had a great night on Friday, October 14, 2016! Lots of Penn Manor alums stopped by PMAA's tent (provided once again by Bob Herr, PM Class of '81) and everyone enjoyed this year's PMAA giveaway, a Penn Manor portable umbrella. There were cash raffle prizes, blue and gold pompoms, and mini footballs for the kids! The Comets posted an exciting 23-7 win over Conestoga Valley. Congratulations to Karly Emmert, Penn Manor's 2016 Homecoming Queen, and the entire homecoming court, for raising \$4,300 to help military veterans and their families.



If you have never visited the alumni tent, plan to come see us for **Homecoming 2017** on Friday, September 29, 2017.

# Excelsior's Penn Manor Connection

You may have noticed the Excelsior Building, a historic landmark built in 1853 on East King Street in Lancaster, in the news over the past year. This “former Victorian-era social hall turned event space” has gained attention for blending an aged, worn look with modern touches.

Some may even be aware that the Excelsior is the vision of Penn Manor residents, John and Kelly Dantine. However, most folks don't realize that much of the work on the project was completed by a group of Penn Manor alumni who served as subcontractors.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with these guys at the Barn Door in Millersville to discuss their work on the project. The alumni and their areas of expertise included:

**Derrin Sample**, Class of 1997, welding and steel fabrication

**Steve Appel**, Class of 2000, hardscapes, flagstone patio

**Bob Greene**, Class of 2002, general carpentry

**Travis Dantine**, Class of 2003, project manager

**Ben DeLuca**, Class of 2003, welding and metalwork

**Dan Ott**, Class of 2004, general contractor, framing and roofing

How did they all get involved with the Excelsior project? Dan and Ben had worked together on another project in Lancaster and visited the Excelsior project where Travis was working. Travis explained that he was familiar with their work and already had a relationship with them. As project manager, he'd rather hire guys he knows and trusts, to do a good job. As the project continued, he brought in the other alums as their expertise was needed. Because of their friendship, Travis was able to call on Ben when a small job or problem would come up. Ben remembered “welding for dinner and a beer” on several occasions.



How did each of them end up with their own businesses? Their paths ranged from degrees in art (Ben) and education (Steve), industrial technology (Travis), electronics tech school (Derrin), education in marketing and art (Dan), and apprenticing with small contractors (Bob). All agreed that they learned the skills they are using in their businesses by working with and learning from folks established in the field. Derrin spent over a decade working with his uncles before striking out on his own. Bob worked with contractors on the Eastern shore of Maryland, at first unpaid, as he learned the trade. Ben noted that he learned a great deal from his parents' perspective as small business owners themselves. He also worked in a sculpture foundry after college.

Dan offered that starting a business in the trades isn't as hard as you would expect, “it's a thin herd.” Experienced craftsmen are retiring and young people committed to learn the trade can make a living if they are willing to work. They are building their businesses by word-of-mouth referrals with their past work serving as advertisement for future jobs. PMAA is proud of our alumni who are working hard and finding success.

The PMAA would like to promote your Penn Manor owned businesses by listing contact information on the PMAA website and Facebook. Contact Becca (Rhoades) Carver at [becca.rhoadscarver@gmail.com](mailto:becca.rhoadscarver@gmail.com) with your business information.

*If you have a story idea about Penn Manor alumni for future issues of Comet Chatter, contact Dr. Jan Mindish at [janmindish@comcast.net](mailto:janmindish@comcast.net).*

# Athletic Wall of Honor Induction

Friday, January 6, turned out to be a magical night featuring an induction ceremony with every possible element of significance. Before a very large crowd, we saw long time football coach and teacher, Bill Beck, receive this well-deserved honor.

The evening also featured the first ever husband/wife inductees to the Athletic Wall. Jackie Ochs-Gregory Texter (PM Class of 2005) and husband, Jarred Texter (PM Class of 2004) were both honored for their outstanding sports careers. The State Champion 2005 Penn Manor Girls Soccer Team was honored for their Cinderella season when they beat heavily favored, undefeated Emmaus for the Pennsylvania crown.

The evening was capped with the induction of Jill Witmer (Homeschool 2010) who became the first Olympian to enter our Athletic Wall. Jill was an All-State field hockey player in high school, All-American in college (Maryland) and a key member of the USA Olympic team in 2016.

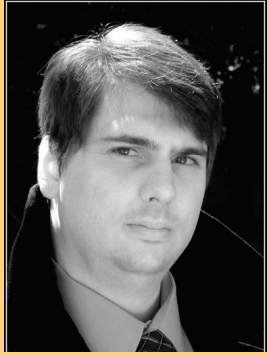
PIAA District III Athletic Director of the year, Jeff Roth, was the master of ceremonies for the evening.



## *Nominations Being Accepted for the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor*

The Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor selection committee will be choosing a new induction class for 2018. If you would like to honor an alumni who has brought recognition, honor, distinction, and excellence to Penn Manor through his/her postgraduate accomplishments, please complete a nomination form available on the Penn Manor Alumni Association website at [www.pennmanor.net/alumni/about/](http://www.pennmanor.net/alumni/about/).

# Father Honors Son's Memory



A July 2016 Lancasteronline story focused on James Buescher, a 1994 Penn Manor grad who was killed in a car crash at the age of 34 in 2010. An accomplished writer, James was a correspondent for Lancaster Newspapers at the time. His dad, Jerry Buescher, has been on a mission to turn a play by his son into a movie. The movie, renamed "Johnstown," is based on a play James wrote in the late 1990's called "Winnow Winds." It is set in Johnstown, Pennsylvania where the flood of 1889 killed more than 2,000 people. The movie, which is a musical, is "based on real events, but Jim made up the characters," according to his dad.

His AP English teacher, Marianne Sullivan, remembers James as witty, dramatic and gifted, "his early death was and is a painful loss." James returned to Penn Manor in 2005 to do a story on the Educational Improvement Tax Credit, which allows businesses to earn tax credits by contributing to educational non-profits like the Penn Manor Education Foundation. James used the "quiet little reading revolution" of the students in Sullivan's AP English class, supported by a PMEF Venture grant, as the opening of his feature story. Afterwards Sullivan received a note from James. "Thank you again for everything . . . without AP English . . . my talents would have withered on the vine. Honestly, I'd probably be in LA and waiting tables, desperately auditioning for Nyquil commercials . . ."

Jerry Buescher is determined to finish the movie and hopes to make the kind of movie his son would have wanted. The movie has a positive message and the project keeps him connected to his son.

## New Faces at PMAA

Recently two graduates from 2000 and 2003 have stepped up to help grow the Penn Manor Alumni Association and to help attract new members from more recent graduating classes.

**Nicki Reynolds Nafziger** is a member of the Class of 2000 and the President of Agape Care, Inc. She is PMAA's new vice-president. Nicki volunteers her time with Penn Manor Youth Boys Lacrosse Club, and is a member of the advisory board for Joy of Living Ministries. She works with the Penn Manor Education Foundation, which grants scholarships for graduating seniors, raises money for classroom activities, and connects Penn Manor to the business leaders and the community to advance the role of education in our society. She is a member of the Lancaster Sertoma Club and is slated to chair the 66th Annual Sertoma Chicken BBQ in 2018. Nicki and her husband Jeremy (also Class of 2000) reside in Millersville with their two children, Isiac and Mackenzi who attend Manor Middle School and Eshleman Elementary. Their family is completed by two dogs, Gus and Lola. The Nafziger family enjoys cheering on the Comets and Nittany Lions as well as summer days spent on the beach.



**Becca Rhoades Carver**, a member of the Class of 2003, is heading up PMAA's social media presence. She graduated from Lock Haven University and Canisius College with a Master's in Sport Administration and is employed by Brethren Village Retirement Community. She enjoys working with senior citizens helping them to be as physically active as possible with a goal of staying healthy as long as possible. Becca manages her own *Thirty-One* business and is a member of the elite 10% group of all independent consultants in the country. Becca and her husband, Kevin, recently moved into the district after living in York, PA and Buffalo, NY. Their son, Chase, will attend Hambright for kindergarten next year. The Carver family enjoys spending time at the beach and is looking forward to a Disney vacation.



## Class of 67 - 50th Reunion

The Class of 1967 will be holding their 50 year reunion the weekend of September 22 & 23, 2017. An informal get-together is being planned for Friday, September 22, 2017 at 6:00 PM at Copper Hill Public House @ Crossgates in Millersville. On September 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM, join us for a tour of the high school and 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM, we will have an informal banquet at the Hamilton Club, Lancaster. All events will be casual attire. More information will be provided at a later date. If you have any questions, contact Mike Wilds (717) 284-0938 or email at michael\_c\_wilds@yahoo.com.

*Do you have a class reunion coming up? Share the information by emailing Cindy at cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net with the details. It will be posted on the PMAA website and on our Facebook page.*

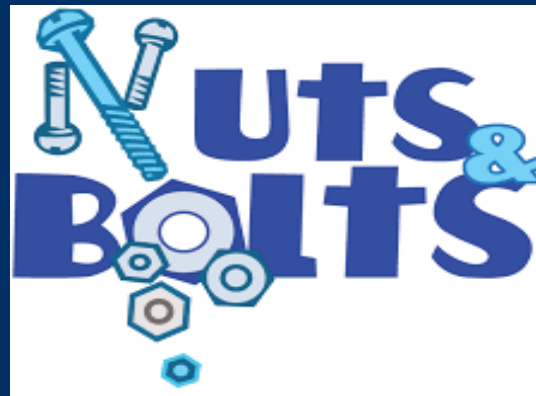
## Memorial Gifts

<b>Donor</b>	<b>In Memory of</b>
Jere Herr	Jay D. Herr
Ronald Brubaker	Class of 1968
Frank & Joyce Geist	Stan Deen
Elizabeth Deaner Hershey	Jack Deaner
Nancy Weiss	Derek Weiss
Ivan D. Engle	Ivan G. Engle & Daniel G. Engle
P. Robert Herr	James Todd & Mike Wenglasz

## New Lifetime Members

We salute the following individuals who have recently made the commitment to keep our association strong for many years to come by becoming lifetime members.

Donna Lapham	Class of 1963
David W. Haverstick	Class of 1967
Kara Latshaw	Class of 1988
John D. Wenzel	Class of 1963
Lois Kelley	Class of 1960



The 2016-2017 PMAA General Membership Meetings will be held at 6:30 PM in the high school library. Please join us!

**Tuesday, February 28, 2017**

**Tuesday, April 11, 2017**

Executive Committee:

Melissa Detz Ostrowski – President, Class of '88  
 Nicki Reynolds Nafziger – Vice President, Class of '00  
 Judy Herr Duke – Treasurer, Class of '79  
 Cindy Duncan LaMaster – Archivist, Class of '74  
 Becca Rhoades Carver – Social Media, Class of '03  
 Dr. Jan Mindish – Alumni Coordinator  
 Cindy Brown Rhoades – Editor, Class of '76

**We need volunteers to join the PMAA Executive Committee. Don't want to be an officer? We have several committees that could use your help and a little bit of your time. Contact Jan Mindish at janmindish@comcast.net if you are interested.**

## 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 800 alums who have joined the Penn Manor Alumni Association group Facebook page. Keep up-to-date on events happening for alums, reunions, socials, etc.