

COMET CHATTER

Penn Manor Alumni Association Newsletter / August 2013

Another Link in the Penn Manor Chain

On June 4, 2013 a recently initiated tradition of linking a half-century of Penn Manor pride was repeated for only the second time in our school's history. That tradition is having the Penn Manor class celebrating its 50th anniversary participate in the current year's commencement exercise.

This year there were 20 representatives of the PM Class of 1963 in a special V.I.P. section as Penn Manor's Class of 2013 graduated at the commencement ceremony held at Franklin & Marshall College. The size of this year's graduating class was 381 while the Class of 1963 numbered 174. One of the 1963 alums in attendance, Bob Houck, saw his son, Sean, graduate with the Class of 2013. It was a special night for the family and Bob was pleased to report his son will continue to follow in his footsteps as Sean plans to enroll at Millersville University, which happens to be his father's college alma mater.

Also in the 1963 group was married couple, Bob and Leslie Campbell Best, both of whom graduated with this class. They had special interest in the ceremony as their grandson, Shane Best, was among the 2013 grads. Marsha McMillen Barley (PM 63) was also in attendance with her husband, Hen (PM 61). They watched as their granddaughter, Abby Schultz, received her diploma that night.



Many who attended this commencement felt the class speakers did one of the finest jobs in recent memory. The crowd enjoyed the thoughts, reflections, and expressed hopes for the future of Kelsey Fulton, Lindamarie Olson, Valedictorian Lake Heckaman, Salutatorian Jillian Heckman and Class President Alex Quinn (pictured from right to left). Truly a job well done!



Class of '63 - Front row (left to right): Marylynn Stachitas Darmstetter, Cheryn Markley Dettrey, Marsha McMillen Barley, Leslie Campbell Best, Dave Gerlitzki, Christine Moore, Miriam Breneman. Back row (left to right) Henry Barley, Bob Best, Frank Geist, Paul Moore, Glenn Witmer, Jerry Breneman. Also attending: Bob and Debbie Houck, Jim and Sally Harne, Jim Lawrence, Jack and Bunky Frey



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.

HOME COMING 2013

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 4, 2013 as the Comets take on the Red Tornado of McCaskey High in Biemesderfer Stadium. Look for PMAA's big white alumni tent and stop by for a free Homecoming 2013



T-shirt, games, prizes, and more! Enjoy an evening filled with Penn Manor Pride and watch as we see another Homecoming Queen crowned and another football victory recorded.

Alumni Banquet and Distinguished Wall of Honor Induction

The 2013 Alumni Banquet was held on April 20, 2013. At this event over 30 alumni who participated in various performing arts were recognized for their contributions to Penn Manor's legacy of excellence in the arts. The evening also marked the induction of the most recent members of the Penn Manor Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor. Congratulations to all.



2013 Wall of Honor Inductees: Left to right - Richard Stoner (Class of 2001), Willis Herr (Class of 1960), Donald "Chip" Cargas (Class of 1965), Diane Lyon (mother of Boyd Lyon - Class of 1988), Mark Swayne (Class of 1984)

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 are 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 3, 2013

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Tuesday, April 1, 2014 (this meeting will serve as PMAA's annual meeting)

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 Geist - Executive Board Member, Class of 1963
Cindy Brown Rhoades - Newsletter Editor, Class of 1976



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ALUMNI in the SPOTLIGHT

Shirley Herr Warfel, Class of 1967:

Shirley is married to Joe and they have three daughters and one granddaughter. During her high school career Shirley excelled at performing as one of Penn Manor's majorettes. She recently stated that it still fills her with school pride thinking about marching in front of Harold Wilds' outstanding marching band. At this year's alumni banquet Shirley wore her high school majorette outfit (yes, still fits quite nicely) and enthralled the crowd with a rousing performance of her high school routine as appropriate marching music blared in accompaniment. When asked how she was able to do this taxing three minute segment, she stated her day always starts with a two-mile walk. Banquet goers said it was as if they were viewing a Nike "Just do it!" commercial. Bravo, Shirley!



Dessie Jackson, Class of 2010:

We all remember Dessie's artistic skills and theatre excellence when she was still in high school. A quick look at her art career now will show things have only gotten better! She is currently enrolled at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. Her work has recently been featured in Complex and JUMP Magazine. In addition, Dessie was commissioned to create the cover art for Gilbere Forte's single "Nolita" as well as being chosen to design a T-shirt for The Hundreds. For a more thorough update on Dessie's art career go to <http://215mag.com/interview-dessie-jackson/>

Bill Kepner, Class of 1974:

Many will find it interesting that Bill has seen his career blossom with his most recent position being that of CEO of United Disabilities Services (Lancaster, PA). However, even more fascinating might be his recent appearance on the hit game show, Wheel of Fortune! Against staggering odds, Bill managed to survive through two grueling audition experiences and then travel to Culver City, CA for the actual taping of the show. Not only did he get to meet host Pat Sajak but also the renowned letter-turner, Vanna White! He provided a bit of Penn Manor pride by being the big winner of his episode of this classic game show.



Eric and Marc Rintz, Class of 2009:

Think of the odds of a young man in Lancaster County achieving his dream of an appointment to the Naval Academy. Now, consider the still steeper odds of twin brothers both receiving that prestigious appointment! Marc and Eric have not only both graduated with the Naval Class of 2013; they have each earned the distinction of being on the Superintendent's List there (Marc majoring in Honors Systems Engineering and Eric majoring in Mechanical Engineering). Now add the achievement of being accepted for flight school as they continue their path to becoming Navy Pilots. These young ensigns continue to make Penn Manor extremely proud!

Do you know alumni who should be featured in the *Alumni Spotlight*? We want to hear about it. Email the information to cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net or call the alumni association at 717-872-9520 ext. 1934.

A Penn Manor Love Story

We're all familiar with the traditional high school love story theme. Teenagers meet in high school and fall in love, get married and live happily ever after. This love story took a little longer in the making - over three decades in fact!

High school sweethearts, Phil Heesen (1973) and Cindy Cargas (1974), met in 1973 while performing in the musical, Oklahoma!. They went their separate ways a few years into college. Phil eventually became a financial planner in Richmond, Virginia. Cindy returned to Penn Manor to teach grade 4 at Pequea Elementary and later became a gifted teacher at Manor Middle and Marticville. Cindy and Phil reconnected in 2006 after a break of nearly 30 years.

With the help of Cindy's friends and former teaching colleagues, Ellen Finger and Carrie Aukamp, Phil planned to surprise Cindy by proposing on the auditorium stage of Penn Manor High School after school on Friday, March 16, 2007.

Dr. Mike Leichter, then Assistant Superintendent, was enlisted to get Cindy to the high school. Mike devised a meeting at the high school for that Friday afternoon that required Carrie and Cindy to help out with the high school theater group. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate and a snowstorm forced the district to call an early dismissal. As Phil drove to Millersville from Virginia in the snowstorm, Mike insisted that Carrie and Cindy still report to the high school in spite of the snowstorm.

Mike met them at the auditorium but no one was there. In Cindy's own words, "Mike insisted that they would be there in a minute. Then Phil started singing (yes, singing - I didn't even know he could sing!) part of "Oh What a Beautiful Morning" (from Oklahoma!) backstage, walking out on the stage toward the end. I think Carrie would have stayed for the actual proposal, but Mike made her leave, so we were alone on the stage with an empty auditorium. WOW! It was an incredible experience, and a lot of people had to keep a lot of secrets to make it happen! You just never know what life has in store for you."

Phil and Cindy soon married and this spring returned to Penn Manor High School for the Penn Manor Alumni Banquet, which recognized alumni who had participated in music and theater. They were also there to cheer on Cindy's brother, Donald "Chip" Cargas (1965) who was inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor.



Prom 1973



Wedding 2007