

COMET CHATTER

Penn Manor Alumni Association Newsletter / August 2011

HOMEcomings 2011

Please mark your calendars for Friday, October 7th! Plans are already underway to make this Homecoming celebration the biggest ever and we hope you can join us for the festivities. Our resurgent Comet football team will meet the McCaskey Tornados 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 150 alums to stop by the tent will receive the 2011 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 Penn Manor alumni communications. We hope to see you there. Go Comets!

Penn Manor Alumni Remembered at Senior Awards

At Penn Manor's annual awards ceremony each May graduating seniors are presented a variety of awards and scholarships. Included each year are awards given in memory of Penn Manor alumni. Many of these awards are funded through scholarship funds managed by the Penn Manor Education Foundation. If you would like to contribute to any of the existing award/scholarship funds listed below or wish to establish a new fund to honor the memory of an alumnus, please contact Dolores Warfel, PMAA Corresponding Secretary at 717-872-9520 Ext. 1934 or email doloreswarfel@pennmanor.net to request more information.

Alumnus

Ruth McLaughlin Houseknecht	1933
Abram W. Sangrey	1936
David Neff	1937
Donald Winters	1938
James Burmeister	1963
Jay Donald Herr	1966
William H. Duncan, Jr.	1968
Diane Meily	1973
Bruce Ditlow	1975
Kevin Weatherlow	1975
Patricia Gilner	1976
Janice Ruhland	1976
Reeder Martin Duke, Jr.	1978
Christine Weidinger	1979
Alan W. Creasy	1980
Hans H. Haverstick	1991
Kevin B. Smith	1998
Rachel E. Miller	1999
Donald W. Woodward	2000
Christopher Johnson	2002
Eric Torbert, Jr.	2003
Cory Denlinger	2007

Class



At the senior awards ceremony, Jessica Cheng (left) received the Dr. Diane Meily Award. Danielle Warfel (right) received the Bruce Ditlow Memorial Award and the Rachel E. Miller Scholarship. Both were also recipients of a Ruth McLaughlin Houseknecht Scholarship.



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

PMAA Annual Banquet and Distinguished Alumni Induction

On April 16, 2011, PMAA held its annual banquet combined with the induction ceremony for the 2011 Distinguished Alumni honorees in our high school cafeteria. This year's theme was a salute to those alumni who dedicated their careers to the field of education. Approximately 50 alumni (a full one-third of the banquet attendees) were honored. These careers represented teachers, coaches, administrators, counselors, cafeteria personnel, school bus drivers, and maintenance workers. Don Stewart, retired Penn Manor superintendent, praised the unselfish dedication of these folks to the students they served during his keynote address.

PMAA president, Michael McDonald, sang several songs that represented the evening's theme and Penn Manor's award-winning kindergarten teacher, Liz Crum, led the group in our pledge. Long-time PM school board president, Willis Herr, offered an invocation once again saluting those in the field of education.

The highlights of the evening were the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor inductees' remarks as they remembered the early seeds planted during their years at Penn Manor which led to extremely impressive careers. This distinguished group was comprised of Dr. Daniel Witmer, PM '56, Dr. Joseph McSparran, PM '61 and Dr. Dean Hess, PM '68.

For the first time in the history of the award an honorary alumna won the prestigious President's Award when it was presented to Dr. Jan Mindish at this year's banquet. Jan has been a tireless PMAA volunteer since her retirement from the position of high school principal and has also established her own endowed scholarship fund for graduating PM seniors.



Wall of Honor recipients (from left) Dr. Daniel Witmer '56, Dr. Joseph McSparran '61 and Dr. Dean Hess '68.

Also honored with the President's Award was Frank Geist, PM '63. Frank is the immediate past president of PMAA and has been a driving force for both PMAA and the Penn Manor Education Foundation. Frank's dedication to Penn Manor is legendary.



Michele Aichele Transue and Jocelyn Arnold (both PM 1999 and present teachers at Penn Manor) assist President McDonald in presenting school bell lapel pins to all alumni with careers in education. Another Penn Manor teacher, Sarah Collier Repkoe (PM 1985), comments on her PM experience.

Thank You for Recent Donations to PMAA

Norma Aston	Linda Millard
Sue Blechschmidt	Janice Mindish
Eileen Beccone	Jeannine Murry
Vincent Bresch	Freeda Murry
Ralph Byers	Rich Myers
Carol Diller	Anna Neff
Gerry Dunkle	Grace Newswanger
Jay Frey	Daniel Rutt
Frank Geist	Gordon Sauder
Arlene Glick	Larry Smith
Verna Graver	Gordon Sneath
Chester Haverstick	Samuel Stayer
Marion Herr	Charles Stekervetz, Jr
Bob Herr	Rose Thomas
P. Robert Herr	Ann Van Dyke
James Hess	Dan Witmer
Dorothy Hess	Patricia Yates
Lee Martin II	Virginia Yuninger



The servers for the evening were heavy on alums! From left, Deb Gerlach, Marie Brandt Duke '82, Della Kreider, Cindy McMullen Frey '73, Gail Reish Yohe '77, Sherlyn Reinhart Wolf '76.



Memorial Courtyard

The Memorial Courtyard at Penn Manor High School continues to be a work in progress. Located outside the rear of the auditorium, this area has become home to a memorial brick walkway, a fish pond, a large metal sculpture, a class gift of benches and, most recently, a glass mosaic of "Starry Night."

The walkway contains two sizes of bricks, which can be purchased to honor alumni, staff and friends of Penn

Manor. Brick order forms are available at the high school; they can be requested from PMAA at 717-872-9520 ext. 1934, or simply downloaded from our web site penmanor.net/alumni/

The goldfish pond was completed in 2009 as a senior graduation project with funds raised to honor boys basketball coach, Jeff Churchill, who died in 2008. Staff and students maintain the pond area, including the planting and goldfish.

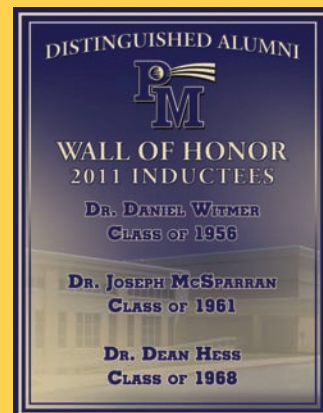
The eye catching metal sculpture is a gift from 1952 Penn Manor graduate and retired art educator, Ken Hoak. Four benches donated by the Class of 1941 provide seating for visitors to enjoy the courtyard.

The "Starry Night" glass mosaic is being created by art students over the past three years, under the direction of art teacher, Teri Hay. The colorful installation was funded by Penn Manor Education Foundation artist-in-residence Venture grants. It is scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2012.

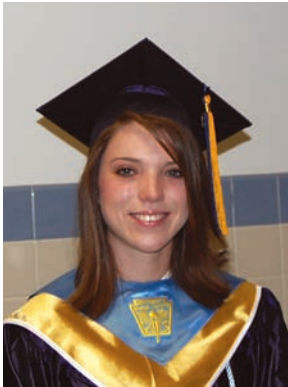
The interior hallway between the rear of the auditorium and the courtyard is the home of the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor. The individual plaques honoring our distinguished alumni have recently been replaced with group plaques for each induction year beginning with 2001. Prior to 2001, alumni were recognized by the PMAA as Alumni of the Year with their names on group plaques. These plaques were also recently replaced to match the format of the Distinguished Alumni plaques. Also on this wall is a tribute to the seven Penn Manor Alumni who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Rubbings of each name from the Vietnam War Memorial were framed and presented to the high school by Ron Atwell, Class of 1966.

Penn Manor has received gifts of artwork from several alumni which are displayed on the wall in the auditorium lobby. These works include paintings by Harry Book, Class of 1942, and Philip Dale Ziegler, Class of 1972, and a photograph by Nathan Cox, Class of 1987.

More recent gifts from graduating classes have included new podiums, banners, signboards, lighting and landscaping, and display cases. The Penn Manor Alumni Association thanks all alumni who have helped enhance our alma mater's environment!



ALUMNI in the SPOTLIGHT



Class of 2009 Alumna's Heroic Deed

When Lexy Adams headed off to Yale after a stellar academic and field hockey career at Penn Manor the last thing she expected was to play a key role in saving a life. As a member of Yale's field hockey team she, along with all Yale athletes, was encouraged to participate in a bone marrow match drive. This

drive was done in support of Mandi Schwartz, a Yale ice hockey player who was diagnosed with leukemia.

Although Lexy has always been terrified of needles her teammates easily talked her into taking the matching test, which only requires a swab of the cheek lining. She was told there was an extremely low percentage chance she would match Mandi. Sure enough Lexy was not a match and was placed in the national bone marrow database. A donor match was found for Mandi elsewhere.

Unexpectedly Lexy received a call six months later telling her that she appeared to be the perfect match for a 64 year-old man in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant. To be sure of the match extensive blood work would be required...tests that involved the dreaded needles! Lexy however did not hesitate and these tests confirmed the ideal compatibility.

Preparing for the transplant required injections twice a day for five days which amplified the amount of bone marrow and pushed it into her bloodstream. This caused muscle soreness and a throbbing in her bones. When her body was ready the required surgery took 15 hours.

Now, six months later, the recipient is doing well. The program requires a full year before the donor and recipient are allowed to meet, but the man's wife assures Lexy that she did in fact save her husband's life!

Lexy is currently playing a big role for Yale's field hockey team as they try to replace Princeton as the number one team in the Ivy League. Although her major is undecided at this time, Biomedical Engineering and Pre-Med top the current list of possibilities.

Learn more about becoming a potential donor at <http://www.mar-row.org/>

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 6, 2011

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

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

PMAA Executive Committee

Michael McDonald - President, Class of 1974
Fred Wilds - Vice President, Class of 1961
Judy Herr Duke - Treasurer, Class of 1979
Nancy Kreider Smith - Recording Secretary, Class of 1958
Dolores Hippey Warfel - Corresponding Secretary, Class of 1960
Cindy Duncan LaMaster - Association Archivist, Class of 1974
Cindy Brown Rhoades - Newsletter Editor, Class of 1976
Frank Geist - Immediate Past President, Class of 1963