

# COMET CHATTER

Penn Manor Alumni Association Newsletter / February 2013

## Alumni Banquet to Honor Distinguished Wall of Honor Inductees & All Performing Arts Alum

At this year's alumni banquet we plan to give two special groups of alumni a resounding tribute. The first group is this year's inductees into the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Honor. Inductees to be honored are Chip Cargas ('65), C. Willis Herr ('60), Boyd Lyon ('88), Richard Stoner ('01), Mark Swayne ('84). See their bios below.



The second group to be recognized is Penn Manor performing arts participants from the past. Please help get the word out among your classmates. If you were involved in chorus, band, orchestra, musicals, theatre, dance during high school, you need to be at the banquet! We would love to have some performances from the various decades of alumni. If

you are interested in performing, please contact Michael McDonald (class of '74) by Friday, April 5, 2013 at [mrmcdonald1955@verizon.net](mailto:mrmcdonald1955@verizon.net).



Our banquet will once again be held at the Penn Manor High School cafeteria beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 20th. PMAA is holding the banquet price at \$15 per person. Anyone who does not receive a formal invitation in the mail may call 717-872-9520 (ext. 1934) to request one or you can go to the website and download one at [www.pennmanor.net/alumni](http://www.pennmanor.net/alumni).



We are planning an evening of food, fun and fellowship. There will be musical entertainment and, of course, a few surprises are planned. Let's make this a banquet to remember. Hope to see you there!

## Distinguished Wall of Honor Inductees:



**Donald G. "Chip" Cargas** is a 1965 graduate of Penn Manor. During high school, Chip was involved in Key Club, National Honor Society and Wrestling. He earned his B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Cornell University. In 1988, Chip founded Cargas Systems, an employee-owned software and consulting company nationally recognized for innovative workplace programs. For six consecutive years, Cargas Systems was named as a Best Places to Work in PA winner and is a Gold Certified Microsoft Dynamics partner.

Chip is a past recipient of the Small Business Person of the Year award presented by the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce. Cargas Systems was one of 40 finalists nationwide in the Top Small Company Workplaces for 2010 sponsored by Inc. Magazine and Winning Workplaces.



**PENN  
MANOR**



**ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION**

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](http://www.pennmanor.net/alumni) and check us out on Facebook.

# Penn Manor Homecoming 2012



Brisk fall weather did not deter hundreds of returning alumni from attending the October 12th homecoming. As thousands of fans packed Biemesderfer Stadium, the Comets swept aside the visiting Manheim Township Streaks, 30 to 6. At halftime Melanie Rupp, escorted by her father, was crowned this year's Homecoming Queen.



At the large white alumni tent 140 free commemorative T-shirts disappeared quickly as returning alumni gathered to touch base with fellow classmates and participate in the many PMAA sponsored activities. Raffle prizes of gift cards were awarded to alumni and everyone enjoyed the Penn Manor face tattoos!

Mark your calendar now for next year! Homecoming 2013 will be held on Friday, October 4 as the Comets host the Red Tornado of J. P. McCaskey.



## Athletic Wall of Honor Inductees Honored

The 2012 Induction Class to the Penn Manor Athletic Wall of Honor was honored on Friday, January 4, 2013 in the high school library. The following inductees were then introduced during halftime of the varsity basketball game that same night:

Lloyd Byers (Class of 1964) - Lloyd was a three-sport athlete excelling in soccer, wrestling, and baseball.

Kambria Riggins (Class of 2002) - Kambria broke the all-time career scoring record for L-L League girls soccer and was a key player for Penn Manor's State Championship team. She went on to West Virginia University on a full-ride scholarship and excelled there.

Donna Bervinchak (Class of 1985) - Donna had an exceptional career in gymnastics which culminated in her winning a State Championship in the parallel bars. After graduation she continued her gymnastics career at Northeastern University.

Amy Martin (Class of 1982) - Amy was a 4-time L-L League track and field champion and continued her track and field career at Rutgers University.

Guenter Miller (Class of 1992) - Guenter qualified for State competition all four years he was on Penn Manor's swim team. He went on to Bowling Green University where he became the Mid-American Conference champion in the 200 yard butterfly for three years during his college career.



# ALUMNI in the SPOTLIGHT

**Matt Volmer, Class of 2007:** Matt showed great promise while at Penn Manor concentrating much of his scholastic effort in the areas of drawing/commercial arts and technology. Following his graduation from the Art Institute of York Pennsylvania he did some extraordinary web site design work with Hershey Entertainment and now continues his career with Stoner Bunting Advertising.

**Dr. Jake Bleacher, Class of 1996:** Jake continues his impressive career as a NASA scientist. After graduating from Franklin and Marshall, he earned his doctorate in geological sciences from Arizona State University. This year he addressed the Library of Congress explaining the most recent work of NASA's Desert Research and Technology (RATS) team in northern Arizona where the terrain provides the rough, dusty environment ideal for testing robotics and extravehicular equipment utilized for solar system exploration. We thank Jake for returning to Penn Manor to talk with Dave Bender's class at our high school.



**Don McCann, Class of 1963:** After retiring from a successful career in banking, Don started volunteering in the mission of restoring the American chestnut tree and has personally planted acreage in Potter County from hybrid species. Recognizing his commitment and expertise the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation has elected Don President of its board of directors.

**Alex Kuhl, Class of 2012:** At the age of twelve Alex decided that one of his ambitions in life would be to compete as a bull rider in rodeo competition. This past July he traveled to Rock Springs, Wyoming to realize his dream by entering national competition which he had qualified for through success in regional events. He qualified for two events, bronco riding and bull riding. Although he suffered a concussion from a blow from a bull's horn, he loved the experience and has not completely ruled out returning to more rodeo competition in future years.

**Krista (Greider) Cox, Class of 1990** - Krista graduated in 1990 with an appreciation for the opportunities she enjoyed at Penn Manor. The daughter of Anne and Ken (former PM School Board member) Greider, Krista was the baby of six children – Cynthia, Karen, Ken, Melissa and Joan. She grew up on a farm and went through a boots and flannel phase in high school. She served as goalie on the state semi-finalist field hockey team, participated in theater, NHS and was elected Class secretary.



Because she was inspired by Liz Loht at Letort, her goal was always to be a third grade teacher. Initially, Krista struggled in the elementary education program at Millersville. She withdrew and worked third shift at a gas station, returning to college in the spring semester.

Krista started substitute teaching in Penn Manor in 1994, but left in January of 1999 for a permanent 7th grade language arts position in Ephrata. There she became a 7-12 Supervisor, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator, and Ephrata Middle School Assistant Principal before returning to Penn Manor on 2009 as an Assistant High School Principal.

Why return to Penn Manor? Krista has never actually left the district. She's lived here all of her life. Returning to Penn Manor to work enables Krista to be a parent and do her job. Now she doesn't miss her kids' school activities and enjoys the support of her mom with childcare. Krista and husband, Matt, believe that Penn Manor has been a good place for their kids - Rob, Madison, AJ and Olivia - to grow up.

Was it difficult for her former high school teachers to accept her as a leader? Krista feels the biggest challenge was that this was her first high school experience. She worked to build relationships with students and staff while learning her job. During the 2012-2013 school year, Krista seems to have successfully transitioned to the elementary level where she now serves as Eshleman's Principal. She feels that her unflappable personality is well suited for kids of all ages. "It doesn't take much to change someone's day - take time to smile and listen to them."



**Harry Frey, Class of 1958** - The Class of 1958 was the last class that graduated from the "old high school." Harry Frey remembers classes held in the church and the fire hall along with the small, cinder block gym. They played basketball in Brooks Hall at Millersville.

Although he didn't have a favorite subject, Harry remembered his teachers fondly - Miss Aston, "Bugs" Johnson, and for Latin, Stan Charles. He remembers Stan telling students, "Don't get frustrated. I'm just like Moses, I'll lead you through the wilderness." Harry greeted Stan with a "Hi Moses!" in the hallway. "That's Mr. Moses to you!" Stan replied.

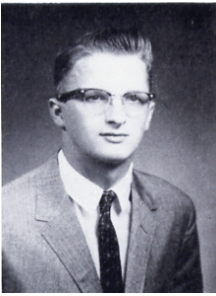
Harry attended West Chester State Teachers College as a Physical Education major, while farming and working road construction in the summers. He got his first teaching job in 1962, teaching grade 8 PE at Penn Manor. Harry became assistant boys' basketball and soccer coach with Dave Neff as the head coach in 1963, eventually becoming head coach in each sport. His longest coaching stint was as the JV baseball coach with Dale Bennetch. He also coached girls' basketball 1980-85.

Harry considers his greatest success as a coach to be the 1971 and 1972 boys' basketball teams with Wally Walker. Both teams made it to states and had large followings with spectator busses. In talking about students he's coached and taught, Harry noted, "You like seeing how successful your kids have become."

Harry and wife, Faye, have two children, Beau and Val, who is married to Nelson Breneman. Grandson, Aron, just graduated from Delaware Valley and is now in charge of calves and heifers on the family farm. Granddaughter, Katie, is a sophomore at Penn State where she plays field hockey for PM grad and former basketball player on Harry's team, Coach Lisa Bervinchak-Love.

What does Harry do in retirement, in addition to traveling to watch Katie play field hockey? "The greatest part is no longer wearing a wrist watch after 41 years of memorizing the bell schedule at the high school." Harry still gets up at 6:00 AM, but now enjoys being able to do things during the day in the "real world." In September and October, 2011, Harry took a 3 week trip that included visiting Wally's family in Seattle and a trip to Maui. He makes spring and fall deer and turkey hunting trips and enjoys being able to stay for 3 or 4 days. He's playing a little more golf, enjoying an annual spring trip with friends to Pinehurst.

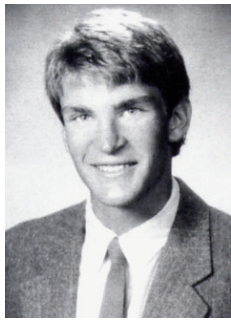
**Do you know alumni who should be in the spotlight? We want to hear about it! Email the information to [cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net](mailto:cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net) or call the alumni association at 717-872-9520 ext. 1934.**



**C. Willis Herr** is a 1960 graduate of Penn Manor and attended Penn State University. In high school, Willis was a member of the Sports Club, Dance Club and Shakespearean Club. From 1964 to 2009 he served as C.E.O of Herr's Fruit Farm. Willis was a member of the Penn Manor School Board from 1997 to 2009 serving as board president for 10 years. He is a former president of the Marietta Jaycees, former president of Hopeway, an agency that supports the transition of inmates back into the mainstream, former president of the Board of the Directors of the Lancaster Association of Retarded Citizens and an active member and board



member of the Manor Brethren in Christ Church. Willis received the "Service to Mankind" award from the Sertoma Club of Lancaster. Willis is married to Martha Finney (PM '60) and has seven children and eight grandchildren who all attend(ed) Penn Manor schools.



**Boyd N. Lyon** was a 1988 graduate of Penn Manor where he was a member of the Soccer Team and Key Club. Boyd earned a B.S degree in Biology from San Diego State University and was also a member of the soccer team. After coaching soccer for several years, Boyd decided to pursue a career focused on his love of turtles. His area of interest was the collection of data on the elusive male sea turtles. Boyd moved to Florida to attend the University of Central Florida to pursue a master's degree in Biology and do research at the UCF Marine Turtle Research Institute. In his effort to research and protect the male sea turtles, he implemented a hand capturing method for tagging and studying turtles without using



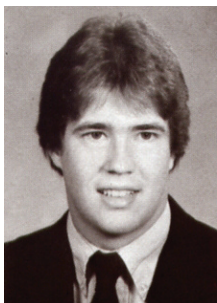
nets. During a research trip in August 2006, Boyd attempted to tag a turtle spotted in the ocean. Something went wrong and Boyd did not surface from his dive. Several memorials have been established in Boyd's name. The University of Central Florida offers the UCF Boyd Lyon Memorial Fellowship for a doctoral student in the Conservation Biology Ph.D. program. There is also the Boyd Lyon Sea Turtle Fund that provides an annual scholarship to a marine biology student whose research is focused on sea turtles.



**Richard M. Stoner** is a 2001 graduate of Penn Manor High School. Rich participated in Soccer and Track. He earned his B.S. and his Ph.D. in Bioengineering from the University of Pittsburgh. He was a postdoctoral fellow in Neurosciences at the University of California San Diego Center for Autism Research. Rich developed programs to allow visualization of large amounts of data. His goal was to develop tools that use modern technology such as an iPad or iPhone to access scientific information. In 2012, he was awarded the \$25,000 grand prize at an international competition for creating a remote diagnostic for autism app.



The app will help in the screening and diagnosis of autism in children. Rich is currently employed by the University of California San Diego medical school. He is busy developing WholeSlide Inc., a software company dealing in mobile app development across numerous scientific fields. Rich also works with Health Labs, Calit2 designing and building low cost hardware for use in third world hospitals.



**Mark J. Swayne** is a 1984 graduate of Penn Manor High School. While at Penn Manor, Mark participated in Key Club and Football. He graduated from Norwich Military University in 1988 earning a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He attended Naval Flight School receiving his wings and was named a Naval flight officer. Mark served as a navigator on the A6 bomber and received the Navy Achievement medal. He also earned the Defense Superior Service Medal. In 1993, Mark led a bombing raid into Iraq. He served as a Legislative Fellow to Senator John Warner (VA) and in 2005 was named Director for African Affairs for the National Security Council. He retired from the Navy as a Commander in 2008 after serving 20 years. Mark worked at the Pentagon with the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a civilian contractor focusing on Somalia. He is currently employed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense - Africa Policy.



# 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
Norman Miller	1953
Marie F. Eshleman	1954
Erik Kline	2010
Anna Neff	1946
Terry Edwards	1963
Vickie Kolenik	1974
Todd Schlemmer	1987
Florence A. Hess	1953
David Shimp	1972
Lori Barley	1984
Jeff Barley	1984
Tom Moretz	2008

## Memorial Gifts

### Donors

Samuel Strayer  
 Jeannine Murry  
 Pamela Noll  
 Jere Herr  
 Ann K. Warner Van Dyke  
 A. Jane Bender Parmer

### In Memory of

Harold Wild  
 Ethel Gochnauer Shaub  
 Bill Shenk  
 Jay D. Herr  
 Richard Overdorff  
 Bender brothers & sisters

## Attention: PM Class of 1963

As part of the 50th year celebration of the Class of 1963 graduation, class members will be invited as V.I.P guests to Penn Manor's Class of 2013 Commencement. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 4th. More detail will be mailed a few weeks in advance of this event. Commencement is held at the Franklin & Marshall College Alumni Sports and Fitness Center.



## LOOKING FOR YEARBOOKS!



The Penn Manor Alumni Association has a great collection of Penn Manor yearbooks dating back to 1926.

However, we are missing two books that will make the collection complete!

If you have a copy of the **1929** yearbook or the **1976** yearbook, we would love to add it to our library. Contact the alumni association at 872-9520 ext. 1934 or email [cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net](mailto:cindy.rhoades@pennmanor.net) if you have a **1929** or **1976** yearbook to donate.

# 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, April 2, 2013**

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