

# THE SIGNET



SUMMER 2010 | VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

From the Head of School

## An Excellence Within

One of the regular responsibilities for High School teachers at the end of a school year is choosing award recipients from the current senior class. This activity can be a bit stressful as there are usually multiple excellent candidates to consider. This year was no exception, with a plethora of bright and gifted students from which to choose. Maybe pointing out a few will deepen our awareness, our awe, and our appreciation for what God has been doing at PMCA.

Our Fine Arts Festival in May included three days of being awash in contributions of visual and performing arts. Who would have thought that a recently-organized, student-initiated male cappella group would surprise us at our Festival with amazing offerings from years gone by? A full display board featured the work of senior Brandon Stiles, who has established himself as a top-tier young artist and will pursue excellence at the Art Institute of York Pennsylvania in the fall. The arts at PMCA are stunning and speak of gifted young people committed to excellence. Their impact is reflected in the words of a vendor who paused during a delivery to our campus to admire what he walked past in the hallway. He asked me, "Does this school specialize in the arts?"

Athletics is often an area where public recognition comes more naturally than the arts, so you may already be aware of some examples of excellence. PMCA stepped right into the PIAA three years ago and already has had teams qualifying for postseason tournament play in the midst of many other larger, long-standing teams of excellence. Meghan Toohey will be PMCA's first Division I Womens Soccer player at Michigan. Jon Shope spanned the school year with matching 5th place honors in state level competition in both Cross Country (Fall) and the 3200 meters (Spring). Maurice Griffin surpassed the 1,000 point scoring mark in PMCA Boys Basketball and will continue playing while studying at Eastern. Curtis Glover hopes to continue his prowess in track at Lehigh. Sarah Asher will probably continue soccer at Grove City; Emily Steiger may continue her ace softball pitching there. Chris Sanford will hit the soccer field while a student at Stevenson College in MD, while Dana Schnitzel plays softball at Geneva.

Academia is our expected area of excellence from our stated mission, through program offerings, an excellent long-tenured professional, godly faculty, all the way to our students. While college acceptance runs at an amazing 96% among our seniors, it is also representative of excellence that 75% of our grads have received at least one award or scholarship. Our students continue to enter into prestigious secular schools such as Amherst, Emory and Dartmouth, and Christian schools are well-represented as

well, with 5 students going to Grove City, 4 to Geneva and 3 to Eastern. Noemi Hormann and Elia Tomer were named *National Merit Commended Scholars* and Christine Bierema is a *National Merit Scholar*.

PMCA also desires excellence in developing a heart for others. Within our program we have many opportunities to serve. The National Honor Society and the German National Honor Society continue to hold service activity as a hallmark of their memberships. Our Interact Club focuses on service to others within our school and community, participating in events such as Philly Cares Day and community playground improvements. Many of our students choose to serve as aides in classrooms, offices, and activity areas. A number of students participate in self-funded missions trips through their churches. (It was a trip to Africa which seemed to solidify for National Merit



Emily Steiger shows off her pitching arm.

(continued from page 1)

Scholar Christine Bierema a calling to enter medicine with hopes of returning to assist people afflicted by AIDS.) Two of our students, Schuyler Hasty and James Goetzenberger, earned the honored designation of Eagle Scout this year, showing high levels of commitment to their goals. A highlight of this year occurred through a student initiative to integrate classroom learning with a hands-on mission trip to Arizona where 10 of our seniors served in relationship-building on a Native American Reservation. Planning, fundraising, serving, and sacrificing the coveted Spring Break all reflected a commitment to excellence that extended far outside the walls of PMCA and changed a few lives as well. You can learn more about that trip on page 5.

A sample from the Senior Art Portfolio of Brandon Stiles.



We have much for which to be thankful and by which to be humbled and awed at PMCA. The things summarized here continue in and through many other students and faculty day after day, year after year. Often we take them for granted because they seem to come so naturally. Are they really natural demonstrations? Or, are they actually natural evidences of supernatural work being performed by God in the hearts and minds of those who yield themselves to discipleship in faith at Phil-Mont?

Have you ever wondered whether your faithful support in prayer and giving actually makes a difference? You need not wonder any further. The evidence walks before us and into our classrooms everyday. God continues to be at work in this place. AMEN! ■■

## Board Letters

*On July 1, Mike Major completed his term of Board service after five years, three of them as President. He was succeeded by Louis Prontnicki, pastor of Maple Glen Bible Fellowship Church. A message from each of them to the PMCA family is below.*

It is with a sense of mixed emotions that I write this. For me it is the end of an era as I complete my term as Board President. It brings to an end 17 years of direct interaction with PMCA. I know for some of you that is just a drop in the bucket. I am and will always be eternally grateful for the prayers and support that I have received as president. I am even more grateful for the love, training and development that Monique (class of 2006) and Michele have received under the tutelage of the tremendous teachers that PMCA has. Thank You!!!

I leave PMCA with the calm assurance that the Lord still has His hand on PMCA and that Lou Prontnicki (the new Board President) will serve you well. To my colleagues on the board *Thank You* for your prayerful support. To Don, Al, members of the faculty and staff, *Thank You* for your prayers, encouragement and support during my term. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Mike Major



National Merit Commended Scholars Elia Tomer (left) and Noemi Hormann (right) with National Merit Scholar Christine Bierema.

Though my five sons graduated from PMCA, and our family had many wonderful experiences at this academy, I am gaining a deeper appreciation for what the Lord is doing here, now that I am serving on the board. I am reminded of Jesus' two-sentence parable in Matthew 13:44: *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."* In the sense that PMCA is part of God's kingdom, it is a treasure of Christ's wisdom and power, centered in the cross. And because that is true, then it is not really a sacrifice to give of our time, our talent, and our money, to gain the supernatural and sacred treasures of a Christ-centered education! In fact, like the man in the parable, it is a joy for me to give of myself, for the sake of being part of something that is of far greater value. Therefore I am excited and passionate about what the Lord has done, is doing, and will continue to do, in and through PMCA. Christ's power and wisdom are being displayed here, in every classroom, in every relationship, and especially in every weakness and struggle. Would you ask the Lord to help me to serve the flock at PMCA, as I lead the board? Thank you.

Lou Prontnicki

## Crossing the Finish

PMCA's 4th Annual Race for Education was a big success, and we thank everyone who contributed. As of the end of June, the total amount received was approaching \$42,000!

# Delighting in Diversity: The Rainbow that is Phil-Mont

Will Liegel

*“Then God said, let us make man in our own image, and in our likeness... So God created the man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:26a, 27*

There are so many things that make Phil-Mont a wonderful place. Certainly foundational and key is the fact that the Scriptures and a love for God are woven into the very fabric of the school. As the students say, “At Phil-Mont, every class is Bible class.” Kudos also to the high-level academics led by talented teachers who challenge every level of learning and open doors to great universities and careers for our graduates. There are fine instrumental and vocal music programs, athletics that push us into the playoffs, an upper school drama program that involves over fifty percent of the student body, and dozens of clubs, activities, and leadership opportunities.

However, if you sidle up to a group of parents and faculty talking in the hallway, you might hear them exulting in yet another boon with which God has blessed PMCA – Diversity. Those who live with and work out the Phil-Mont mission daily are a diverse group. Our Board, committees, parent groups all reflect the montage we are. Then as you look at performers in a Phil-Mont stage show or cheer for one of our teams running on to the field, you can’t miss the fact that the beloved children’s song is beautifully illustrated by our student body, “Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight.” Amen! Phil-Mont is a vital reflection of the real world of America. Teaching here or attending for years, it can become such a natural situation that you forget that it is not commonplace – or a thing that should be taken for granted.

Kids of every color and background form our learning community. Those from the suburbs sit side by side with kids from the city. Kids on scholarship with financial challenges co-lead clubs with those for whom money is not an issue. A Bible class will acknowledge that the rows include Baptists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, Methodists, and those from a diversity of independent churches. An animated, honest class discussion might involve Phil-Mont lifers with a girl from Russia, a boy from Korea, a girl from South Africa, and a boy

from China. It gives a whole new meaning to “social studies”! Seniors attend the prom with dates of another race, casting for plays is done without regard to color, and the lunch tables look like a checkerboard of friends simply enjoying friends. It should not be surprising that the high school also has an active Culture Club, this year led by faculty members Lisa and Dave Askey and Harrison Yoo, a Korean national student. Each month visitors speak on a wide variety of international topics and each Spring the club sponsors



The Pre-Kindergartners make a pattern on the gym floor.



Lydia Sorkness, Curtis Glover and Jenn Tees in costume for *Pirates of Penzance*.

an International Day that begins with a special cultural awareness chapel. The festivities end with students in international dress moving about a gym literally filled with home cooked food and flavors and fragrances from around the globe.

Guidance Counselor Marilyn Furcola says, “As I sit in my office and look at the pictures covering every available space, I am struck by the diversity of our student body. I count it a great blessing to work at PMCA for that very reason. Add to that the joy of working with our many international students. Looking down the “Avenue of the Flags” and remembering the many students represented by the various flags is like taking a walk down memory lane.” Many fine schools don’t have this blessing of diversity. Most institutions naturally reflect a neighborhood or a church community and this can often mean that a school draws from one ethnic group. However, Phil-Mont comes by its name honestly with our location almost literally on the Philadelphia-Montgomery County dividing line. Are we exaggerating the point? Perhaps some figures will bear this all out even more clearly. In our upper school of 215, there are 88 minority students including 67 African-American, 10 Asian and Asian-American, 9 Hispanic-American. In the elementary division, it is actually a misnomer to use the term minority students since 73 of 127 of them would be in that category! That means as Phil-Mont grows older, we will most likely continue to be a truly diverse body of learners. Praise God!

As many of our Phil-Mont folks know, the MacQueen (Science) and Liegel (English and Music) families are racially diverse through adoption and sent their kids through Phil-Mont. Often they have commented that Phil-Mont looks like their dinner table – kids of varied backgrounds who are brothers and sisters. Involvement with a school where that was also the case was both a desire and a blessing – and is probably part of the reason that Paul MacQueen has been here for 41 years and the Liegels are beginning their 21st. Students grow up knowing how to interact with friends who are different from them and yet who are like them in their union with Christ and their desire to glorify Him. Certainly this prepares them for a life in our contemporary real world. There are those of us on staff who feel that perhaps those in authority “out there” in that world could learn a lot about life from a visit to our bustling school. God is doing something exciting in our midst! It’s common to hear media cries of “Celebrate Diversity!” However, rather than just calling a one day meeting or staging a parade or a festival to bring people together, the students at Phil-Mont are celebrating their unique oneness each day.

Our Spring Arts Festivals recently have developed themes to pull the visual, theatre, and music arts together. It seemed a great way to underscore our faculty’s natural interests in a variety of forms and styles. It also makes it easy to decorate, choose foods, and stretch artistically, right? However, it was only after the fact that we realized that our four year cycle of Asian, African, Celtic, and Hispanic festival accents mirrored our student

population. Without a decision to do so, we rather “breathed” diversity. And that’s really something that Christian parents can both appreciate and celebrate. This year children of all backgrounds joined together, using their God-given skills to ignite *The Rhythms of Africa*; exploring the intricacies of the Swahili language, harmonizing the worship music of South Africa, reading of legends of Anansi in the story hut, and enacting the animal stories of the Bantu peoples. “*O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.*” Psalm 8:1

In thinking about this article, of course the idea of photos to illustrate it became an issue. What pictures might we create or use? Schools are famous for assembling a racially diverse group of kids to pose for brochures and newsletters, often drawing upon a true minority in their midst in order to appeal to a wider audience. However, it became easy to find ways to accompany this article – just use pictures from the recently published yearbook! Almost any candid shot from our *Philotheon* shows off who we are in this area, accenting our wonderful diversity and fellowship. Yes, this is just one more of the many things that makes Phil-Mont a very special place to study and serve. However, it is one truly lovely thing for which we can thank our God. “*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body.*” I Corinthians 12:12 ■■



Teacher Audrey Sutliff with a group of her fourth grade students.



The Girls’ Middle School Bible Study is led by teacher Katie Trego, at left.

# Senior Class Mission Trip

Tom Sorkness

To the best of anyone's recollection, 2010 marked a first in Phil-Mont history – a mission trip conceived, planned and executed, totally, by students – the Class of 2010. What started over a year ago as merely a student whim for the class to go on a mission trip resulted in ten students from the current graduating class going to the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona over spring break. The class members worked under the auspices of Adventures in Missions as it helped a local mission on the reservation – First Nations Ministries. Work included manual labor around the mission site, evangelistic

outreach and simply getting to know and encourage Apache believers. Along with four adult chaperones – faculty members Joel Alberts, Paul MacQueen and Tom Sorkness, and Louisa Sorkness ('06) and the ten seniors were: Christine Bierema, Alex Dimitri, Ted Eckel, Curtis Glover, James Goetzenberger, Molly Lloyd, Brian Roberts, Dana Schnitzel, Stephen Scott and Lydia Sorkness. Why the San Carlos site? The decision grew partly out of a research assignment on Native Americans presented to the class in their Junior year, which really piqued the students' interest. The San Carlos tribe in particular was the one

researched by team member Curtis Glover. After nearly a year of planning, months of fund-raising and generally much hard work, the idea became reality. The most amazing thing about it all is that the students did everything, from start to finish. The adults basically were along for the ride. The two writing pieces which follow are by student participants and reflect their varied experiences of the reservation. The team thanks everyone for their prayers and support in so many ways and is humbled by the way in which they were enabled to show the love of Christ in such a needy situation. ■■

## Maurice

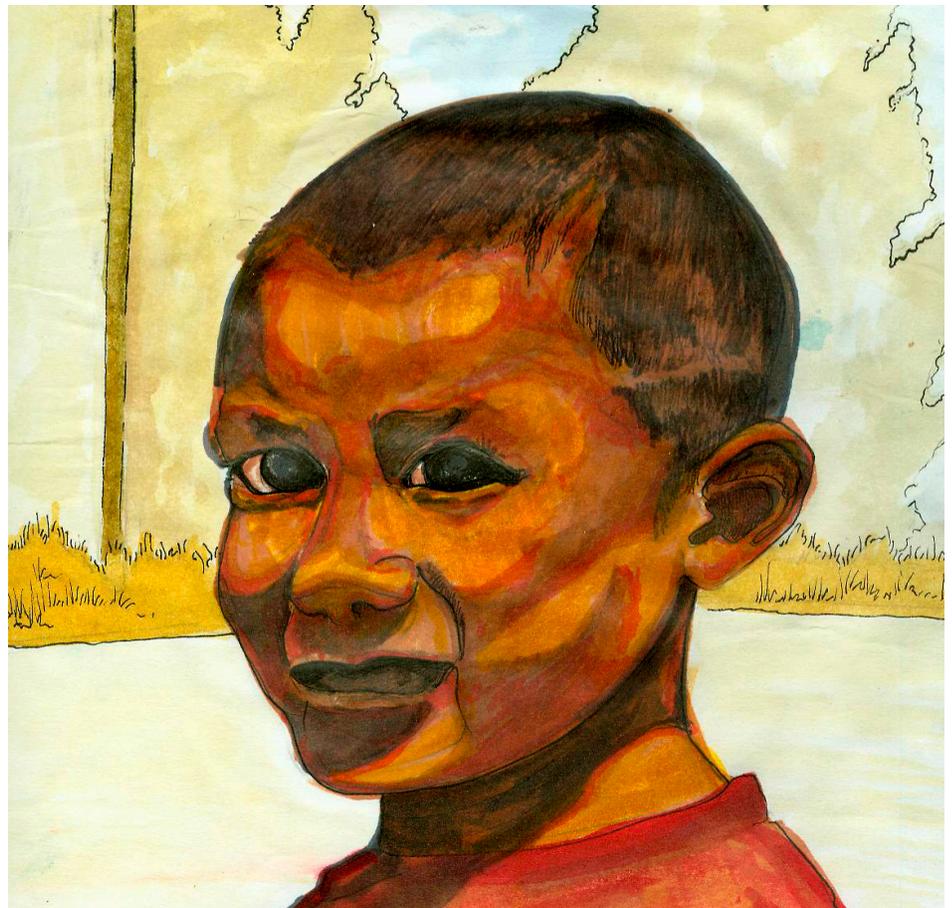
Lydia Sorkness

“Where's my bike?!” Maurice caught a glimpse of his mother through the crowd milling around under the star-encrusted sky.

It was the night before Good Friday and many people on the Apache Indian Reservation had gathered at the church for free hot dogs and an inexpensive movie entitled *Jesus*, projected onto a makeshift bed sheet overhead. There was a bike drawing, and all the kids got a ticket in hopes of going home with a bicycle they could call “mine” that night.

With a furrowed brow of determination, Maurice bulldozed his way through the legs standing in his path to his mom. He pulled down hard at the already stretched-out, faded pink T-shirt his mother had been sacrificially pulling over her head for countless mornings, in hopes that, in turn

Lydia's portrait of Maurice was displayed at PMCA's Fine Arts Festival.



*(continued from page 5)*

her beloved children would not go to bed hungry that night.

“I want my bike now!” The deep black eyes traveled far up out of his snot-smearred face penetrating the familiar, weary expression of his mother, Karen.

If this meth-baby had been born more than four years earlier, he would not have been demanding his new bike that night, or stuffing his round, dusty face with a second hot dog while sitting on the steps of the church. In fact, meth-baby Maurice would not even be expectantly tugging on his mama’s shirt as she adoringly stared back at him, that night before Good Friday.

Before Karen got saved and made a complete 180 in her life, she was a day-to-day nervous wreck. Her daily schedule was wake up, get high on meth, go to sleep, repeat. Of course, Karen’s lifestyle gave her no time, let alone desire, to care for her three children, husband, or even herself. It left her with no will to eat, drink, or even come in out of the rain.

One particularly dark and stormy night, Karen found herself lying on the floor of her kitchen giving birth two months early to her fourth child. Completely high on meth, exhausted, and confused she was dragged out into the rain and hoisted up into the seat of a rusty pickup truck. Soaked to the bone, Karen gawked in pure horror at the mess in her lap; a screaming baby, two pounds, six inches, umbilical cord and all.

Karen’s husband, after numerous failed attempts at starting the car, jumped out, slamming the heavy door behind him, and began to push. He pushed that truck, wife and baby helplessly, hopelessly inside, uphill for a mile and a half through pounding rain and mud to the safety of the hospital.

Six years later, the two pound, six inch baby is the tallest in her Kindergarten class and as healthy as can be. “She’s my Miracle-Baby,” says Karen. The night of the birth of Otisha, the Miracle-Baby, although horrendous, was a turning point, and the beginning of an epic revival in the home of the Lopez family.

Karen and her husband came to know the Lord soon after Otisha was born. Their daily lives took on a new look. They began to notice their kids and the hungry bellies they carried around with them. The ravenous hunger for meth disappeared, and into that emptiness, a hopeful desire for a Savior was dropped like a bucket of bricks.

That night of the bike drawing, Otisha’s little brother, Maurice, was able to run to his mother in hopes of receiving his very own bicycle, because he knew that his mother cherished him more than anything. It is for this same reason that Karen can now run to her Father in heaven in hopes of receiving as well. ■■

Otisha the Miracle-Baby as she looks today



# Hopelessness

Alex Dimitri

In another sketch by Lydia Sorkness, the starkness of the landscape mirrors the starkness of the lives of many of the San Carlos Apache people.

The Apache people of the San Carlos Indian reservation in Arizona have a sense of despair that no history textbook can convey. The statistical averages of unemployment, substance abuse, lack of education and gang activity only make outsiders say “Aww...that stinks” and then move on with their lives. Many say that these people need to suck it up, get over the past, and join society. Sadly, this bigoted attitude towards human beings within our own country is just another part of the boot that is kicking these people while they are down. It is not economic or social struggles that are the underlying cause for the plight of the Apaches; rather, it is the depressed mental state and overall bitterness toward others and their own kind.

The sights of teddy bears in nooses hanging from trees, belligerent drunks, and even merely the stoic looks on the faces of hopeless Apaches as you drive by almost literally tears your heart in two. There is almost a sense of guilt that overcomes you when you witness such horrible things happening to sinners with God-shaped holes just as you have. However, one of the most important things to realize is that such guilt is, in actuality, God peeling back the blinders over your eyes and whispering in your ear with love, “Look, this is what I have delivered you from.” One of the biggest lies the Enemy tried to penetrate our team’s mind with was “What can you really do here? You’re just another drop in the bucket, meaningless.” However, God’s voice was heard over Satan’s; God not only made us aware of that lie, but graciously allowed us to see the fruits of our labor there and even soon after our departure



from Arizona. As the team returned home there was an emotional atmosphere of unfinished business and disappointment to return home, where numerous distractions drown out God’s voice.

With that said, the Apaches literally have nothing to occupy their time on the Rez. There are no mini-idols like there are here to fix their eyes on. Also, the cruelty with which children treat their own dogs just shows how little value people there place on life. One day a dog walked up, dripping blood from its nose after it was in a fight, and a kid not only continually kicked that dog, but used its puppy’s head as a battering ram to the point where it couldn’t even see...for fun. This, accompanied with being on the dead end road of life, causes

many people, of all ages, to take their own lives because they feel no one cares and life is insignificant. A few teens from PA learned to love and care, but, there is One who has a greater love and will always care... Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ■■

# Congratulations Class of 2010!

Christine Elise Bierema



- Amherst College
- Valedictorian, PMCA Class of 2010
- Amherst College Scholarship
- National Merit Scholarship Corporation Scholarship
- Merit Scholar, National Merit Scholarship Program
- WPVI Channel 6 Best of the Class
- Valedictorian Award, Rotary Club of Springfield Township
- PHEAA Certificate of Merit Recipient Competitive Award
- Sam Walton Community Scholarship
- President, PMCA Class Of 2010
- Vice President, PMCA Interact
- National Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

Amy Lynn Bratcher



- Geneva College
- Geneva Scholar Academic Award
- Geneva College Gold and White Connections Scholarship Award
- North American Presbyterian and Reformed Churches Scholarship
- National Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors

Virginia Elizabeth Cronin



- Baptist Bible College
- Baptist Bible College Early Acceptance Grant
- Baptist Bible College Grant
- National Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors

Alexander Spiro Dimitri



- Grove City College
- National Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors

Rebecca Hardman



- Philadelphia Biblical University
- Philadelphia Biblical University Academic Excellence Scholarship
- Homeschool Member of the Class of 2010

Brandon Michael Hassell



- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Rochester Institute Opportunity Scholar
- Rochester Institute Award
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

D. Schuyler Hasty



- Montgomery County Community College
- Eagle Scout

Sarah Renée Asher



- Grove City College
- Treasurer, PMCA Class of 2010
- Treasurer, PMCA Interact
- National Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

Alexander Wil Avellino



- Montgomery County Community College

Jonathan Edward Baird



- Emory University
- PHEAA Certificate of Merit Recipient Competitive Award
- President, PMCA Student Council
- Treasurer, PMCA National Honor Society
- National German Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

Randall Justin Ball



- Bloomsburg University

Theodore Johnson Eckel



- Drexel University (The Pennoni Honors College)
- MS/BS Engineering Program
- Drexel University Dean's Scholar Scholarship
- Vice President, PMCA Student Council
- Graduated with Honors
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

Curtis Isaiah Glover



- Lehigh University
- Lehigh University Grant Award
- Vice President, PMCA National Honor Society
- Vice President, PMCA Class of 2010
- Graduated with Honors

James Madison Goetzenberger



- Montgomery County Community College
- Eagle Scout

Maurice Allen Griffin



- Eastern University
- Eastern University Provost Grant

Carley Rhoda Hawkins



- Eastern University
- Eastern University Trustees Scholarship
- National Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

Noemi Hormann



- Dartmouth College
- PHEAA Certificate of Merit Recipient Competitive Award
- Commended Student, National Merit Scholarship Program
- National German Honor Society
- Homeschool Member of the Class of 2010

Angela Frances Hunter



- Drexel University
- A. J. Drexel Scholarship
- National Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors

Lindsey Renaé Jackson



- Johnson and Wales University
- Johnson and Wales Campus Award
- Johnson and Wales Grant

Daniel Jordan Kless



- Arcadia University
- The Arcadia University Distinguished Scholarship
- Arcadia University Honors Program
- Arcadia University Grant
- Salutatorian, PMCA Class Of 2010
- Editor, *Hillcrest Herald*
- National Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

Nicholas Edward Kline



- Valley Forge Christian College
- Valley Forge Christian College Dean's Scholarship
- Valley Forge Christian College Fine Arts Scholarship
- National Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

Molly Elizabeth Lloyd



- Bodenseehof/Azusa Pacific University
- Undergraduate Deans Scholarship for Azusa Pacific University
- Editor in Chief, *Philoteon*
- National Honor Society
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

Andrew Thomas Maisenshein



- Geneva College
- Geneva Scholar Academic Award
- Geneva First Year Technology Scholarship
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

Madeline Hope Romig



- Loyola University Maryland

Christopher Brian Sanford



- Stevenson University
- Stevenson University Faculty Scholarship

Dana Rae Schnitzel



- Geneva College
- Geneva Scholar Academic Award
- C. M. Lee Distinguished Scholar Award
- North American Presbyterian and Reformed Churches Scholarship
- William Penn Charter National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution 2010
- President, PMCA National Honor Society
- National German Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors

Stephen James Scott



- Grove City College
- Treasurer, PMCA Student Council
- National Honor Society
- National German Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

Brandon Charles Stiles



- Art Institute of York

Deanna Ruth Stock



- Eastern University
- Eastern University Cornerstone Grant

Jennifer Ruth Tees



- Montgomery County Community College
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

Elia Diane Tomer



- Grove City College
- Commended Student, National Merit Scholarship Program
- PHEAA Certificate of Merit Recipient Competitive Award
- 2010 "Service Above Self" Award, Rotary Club of Springfield Township
- 2009 Philadelphia Inquirer Student Citizenship Award
- Secretary, PMCA National Honor Society
- President, PMCA Interact
- Graduated with Honors

**Christiana Jane McDonald**



- The College of St. Rose
- St. Rose Grant
- St. Rose Founders' Scholarship
- National Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors

**Natalia Michelle Nock**



- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Philadelphia Kappa Silhouettes Stipend/Book Award
- West Philadelphia Baptist Congress of Christian Education Scholarship
- 2010 Service Award, Rotary Club of Springfield Township
- National Honor Society

**Brian Braheim Roberts**



- Adelphi University
- Bethany Christian Services Haldeman Scholarship
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-122

**Michael James Rojewski**



- Valley Forge Christian College
- Valley Forge Christian College Music Scholarship
- J. Wood Platt Caddie Scholarship
- Assembly of God Fine Arts Scholarship
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

**Jonathan Michael Shope**



- Geneva College
- Geneva First Year Technology Scholarship
- Geneva Scholar Academic Award
- Geneva College Gold and White Connections Scholarship Award
- National German Honor Society

**Kevin Charles Siebert**



- Montgomery County Community College
- National German Honor Society

**Lydia Jane Sorkness**



- Temple University
- National Honor Society
- National German Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

**Emily Kristin Steiger**



- Grove City College
- Secretary, PMCA Class of 2010
- National Honor Society
- Graduated with Honors
- Attended PMCA Grades 1-12

**Meghan Christine Toohey**



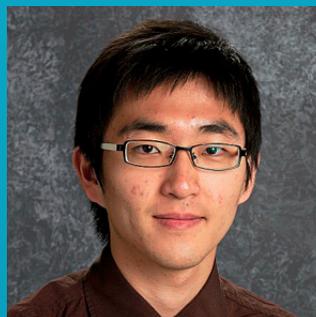
- University of Michigan
- University of Michigan Athletic Scholarship

**Jenna Marie Williams**



- Montgomery County Community College

**Hosun (Harrison) Yoo**



- Drexel University
- Drexel University Dean's Scholar
- President, PMCA Culture Club

# Where Are They Now?

Marilyn Furcola

What a joy it is to share delightful news about PMCA alum Jason Todd, Class of 2001. Many of you may remember him or his two younger sisters, Cindy and Megan, who who all attended PMCA from kindergarten through 12th grade. Additionally, his mother teaches 2nd grade at the Academy and his father has been a valued substitute teacher. So the whole family is very much a Phil-Mont family.

But back to Jason. Jason attended Kutztown University and graduated with a BA in 2005. He then attended the University of Pennsylvania and got his MSEd in Urban Education in 2006. He began teaching that September in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia in the Charles Carroll High School. He teaches U.S. and World History, another Mr. Sorkness in the making. He quickly made his presence known and is now the Social Studies Section Leader. He was honored last month as one of the school district's best teachers and along with 65 other teachers received the Christina R. and Mary F. Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award. This award is given to exemplary high school teachers who are dedicated, focused and high achieving, one from each of the Philadelphia public schools. The recognition comes with a \$3,500 gift from the foundation. Why did Jason receive this prestigious award? In addition to his excellent teaching, he incorporates technology in every lesson and searches for ways to make his lessons rigorous and relevant. He also organized the school's intramural sports program to raise student achievement as well as school spirit.

Jason was also chosen as a James Madison Fellow for 2010. The James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation selected 58 Fellows from a scholarship competition with applicants from 50 states and Puerto Rico and the nation's islands and trust territories. The foundation supports the graduate study of American History by aspiring and experienced high school teachers of American History and Government and social studies. The award is given to promising and distinguished teachers. Jason was the only winner from Pennsylvania! The fellowship will fund his course of study in graduate work concentrating on history and the principles of the United States Government.



These are certainly wonderful honors and Jason is to be congratulated for his achievement. It's rather fun to remember him as a middle schooler giving bus duty teachers fits as he ran in and out of the school

buses. It is interesting to remember him as a high schooler who did "okay" in school but didn't really have a passion for education. That all changed when he went to college. He became an excellent student, very serious about his studies. However, an even better memory is when he came back to speak at a high school chapel and give his testimony, talking about his relationship with the Lord and how he started a Bible study at college. To see his spiritual growth was as exciting as hearing about all his achievements now.

Jason married his college sweetheart, Jodi. She is a communication specialist at Philadelphia Biblical University. They live in Fox Chase with their yellow Lab, Shiloh, and worship at Grace Bible Church. It is good to rejoice with Jason and Jodi for their fine accomplishments. Greater still is to see these two young people serving the Lord and living their lives for Him. ■■

# Alumni News: Class Notes...

**78** **Christian Smith** has recently published *Souls in Transition: the Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults* (Oxford University Press, 2009). Chris is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame and Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society and the Center for Social Research, both at Notre Dame. He is married to **Emily (Tyson '81)**. Their son is a freshman at Notre Dame, studying film production.

**84** **Marshall Gisondi** completed his training to become a piano technician last July at The School of Piano Technology for the Blind. He lives in Glenside with his wife, Eva, and two boys, Mark (5) and Josiah (1) where he has his own piano tuning and repair business.

**95** **Tedd Prontnicki** married Barb Mrozoski on January 30, 2010.

**97** **Traci Williams-Riles** received her medical degree from Temple University in May of 2010 specializing in family practice. She has an undergraduate degree from Haverford College and a master's degree in biology from Drexel University. Traci will begin her residency in family medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in July. She continues her interest in music and plays basketball with PMCA friends. Congratulations to Dr. Williams-Riles! Traci singles out Mr. Eimer and Mr. MacQueen for her excellent preparation in biology.

**99** After graduating from Temple University with a degree in Social American History, **Jared Wheeler** served as the Director of Research and Archives at the Mitchell and Ness Nostalgia Company (2003-2009). He currently serves on the editorial board of *Black Ball: A Negro Leagues Journal*, and is pursuing his M.A. in Public History at LaSalle University. His independent research on the desegregation of baseball and its influence on American society was presented and published in 2006. His research on the sports uniform has been featured both in *Sports Illustrated* and on ESPN Page 2. He has served as an advisor to the Philadelphia Phillies, Detroit Tigers, Chicago White Sox and Chicago Cubs on the history of their uniforms. Jared has also served on the curatorial board of the Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum and Library in Greenville, South Carolina and recently curated the exhibition, *Play Ball: A History of Baseball in Philadelphia* which was featured at the Betsy Ross House during the 2009 baseball season. He resides in Philadelphia with his wife, Adrienne, son, Julian Evan (5) and daughter, Penélope Amora (1).

**00** Logan Titus was born to **Kailyn (Smith) Lynch** and her husband, Dan, on April 13, 2010.

**Elisabeth Sorkness** was married to Johannes Hailu on March 6, 2010.

**09** Drexel University Freshman and PMCA lifer **Billy Bernhard** received the Academic Athlete of the Year Award for the Wrestling Team in May. Billy is studying Mechanical Engineering in the Pennoni Honors College at Drexel, where he has been on the Dean's List each semester. During the wrestling season most days begin with a 6:15 am practice and end with a 2nd practice. The off season lightens up just a bit with 2 morning practices and 4 afternoon practices per week. Billy and a fellow wrestler have formed a weekly bible study with other students and support a small developing off campus church on Sunday mornings.



Billy Bernhard ('09) with his mother, PMCA Board member Tricia Bernhard.

## We'd love to hear from you!

Please take a moment to let us know about important happenings in your life. Have you moved? Changed jobs? Gotten married? Had children? If you want, we can include this information in the next Signet. Please email it to [nstemler@phil-mont.com](mailto:nstemler@phil-mont.com)

# Spring Sports Highlights

The Girls Varsity Softball team qualified for the first round of the PIAA play-offs for the first time. Three members of the team, Emily Steiger, Meghan Toohey and Julia Whittbeck, were named to the first team All Conference by the Bicentennial Athletic League. Sarah Asher, Dana Schnitzel, Jennifer Khoo, Lydia Sorkness and Alëna Steiger received Honorable Mention.

PMCA was represented by fourteen team members at the PIAA District I Track and Field Championships. All fourteen earned medals. Jon Shope was the winner of the 3200m race and went on to the State Competition, where he place 5th. ■■

The Girls Varsity Softball team with coaches Dodridge ('07), Steiger, and Brown.



The following athletes were honored at the Spring Sports Awards in June:

## Boys Varsity Baseball

Player of the Year: Casey Kreines  
Stewardship Award: Jean-François Shahade

## Boys Varsity Tennis

Player of the Year: Ben Wainwright  
Stewardship Award: George Bernhard

## Boys MS Baseball

Player of the Year: Justin Anthony  
Player of the Year: Seth Brandenburg

## Girls Varsity Softball

Player of the Year: Emily Steiger  
Stewardship Award: Dana Schnitzel

## Girls MS Softball

Player of the Year: Allegra Schnitzel  
Stewardship Award: Katharine Olinger

## Track & Field

Player of the Year: Claar Ennis  
Player of the Year: Jon Shope

## Calendar of Events ■ ■

### September

8  
First Day of School

10  
Back to School Barbecue, 6 pm

### October

1  
No School – Faculty In-Service

21  
Fall Tours, 9 am

22  
High School Trip Day  
Elementary Grandparents' Day

# Milestones & Transitions

## Milestones

The following faculty and staff members were honored at a Recognition Luncheon in June. We praise God for the many years of faithful service to PMCA represented here.

5 Years:

**Vicky Maienshein** (Kindergarten Aide); **Nancy McCaffrey** (First Grade); **Louise Meilahn** (Pre-K Aide)

10 Years:

**Rhonda Currie** (Business Office); **Audrey Sutliff** (Fourth Grade)

15 Years:

**Janet Nemec** (Staff)

35 Years:

**Joel Bacon** (HS Physical Sciences)



## November

8

Super Bowl

9

Fall Tours, 9 am

18–20

Fall Musical, *Aida*

22, 23

No School – Parent-Teacher Conferences

For more *information* about PMCA please visit our website at: [www.phil-mont.com](http://www.phil-mont.com)

## Transitions

**Mr. John Davis**, PMCA Facilities Manager for 20 years, retired on May 28. John began his service at PMCA in 1990. Prior to becoming an employee, he was a school parent and served two terms as a member of the PMCA School Board. His commitment to the service of the Lord and the advancement of the mission at Phil-Mont was demonstrated on multiple campuses and through many faculty, staff, and student lives. His effectiveness in facility management, his winsome spirit, and his devotion to Christ in word and deed are hallmarks of his time at PMCA. He will be missed. We give thanks to God for John's service at PMCA and offer prayers for God's leading in next steps for both him and the Academy.

Praise the Lord for providing **Mr. Rob Raggi** to serve as our new Facilities Coordinator. Rob began in mid-May. He is a Master Electrician and comes to us from Lou's Electric where, over the past 12 years, he has worked on our school and developed

a solid working relationship with John Davis. Rob has also served as a trustee at Oreland Presbyterian Church where he worships with his wife Jessica (Farrell, PMCA '98) and their 3 year old son.

**Mrs. Suzy Liegel** has been appointed as Elementary Principal / Curriculum Coordinator for the 2010-2011 school year. Suzy enjoys relationships of respect with those among whom she has served with distinction. She comes from years of proven effectiveness in the classroom teaching music and Spanish. Her classroom management style and effectiveness is recognized among the staff. She also has served her family business endeavors demonstrating strengths of organization, planning, and management. Her experience in working as an area chair on our Middle States Accreditation team will prove valuable in curriculum development. We welcome Mrs. Liegel to her new post and praise God for His provision of quality individuals for the mission and vision at PMCA. ■■



John Davis with Jason Rosenblum ('90).

## Pray for PMCA

*For our students, faculty and staff* that they would be refreshed by their summer break  
*For the Administration* that they would be wise leaders and decision-makers  
*For our recent graduates* as they prepare for the transition to college in coming weeks  
*For current school families* that they would remain dedicated to the mission of PMCA  
*For the Board of Trustees* as they seek to guide the school according to godly principles  
*For incoming families* as they make the commitment to Christian Education  
*For the Lord's ongoing blessings and provision for the work at PMCA*

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# THE SIGNET



**Board President**  
Louis Pronnicki

**Head of School**  
Donald B. Beebe

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