

# THE SIGNET



AUTUMN 2011 | VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

## From the Head of School

### The Three-Legged Stool: The Home

In today's struggling economy you may have heard reference to the "three-legged stool" as a model for retirement planning. It may also be used to refer to the structure of certain business models. For those of us involved in Christian education, the "three-legged stool" serves as a foundational element to the most biblical and effective format for schooling. The model is used to help us understand that multiple components are necessary for us to do Christian education well. If one leg of the stool is absent or even out of balance with the other legs, the stool itself becomes unstable and falls short in serving its purpose of holding up one who rests upon it. The three legs of the stool in Christian education are as follows: the home, the church, and the school. In this year's *Signets* we plan to use that theme to frame the way we share PMCA with you. This edition will focus on the first leg which is the Christian home.

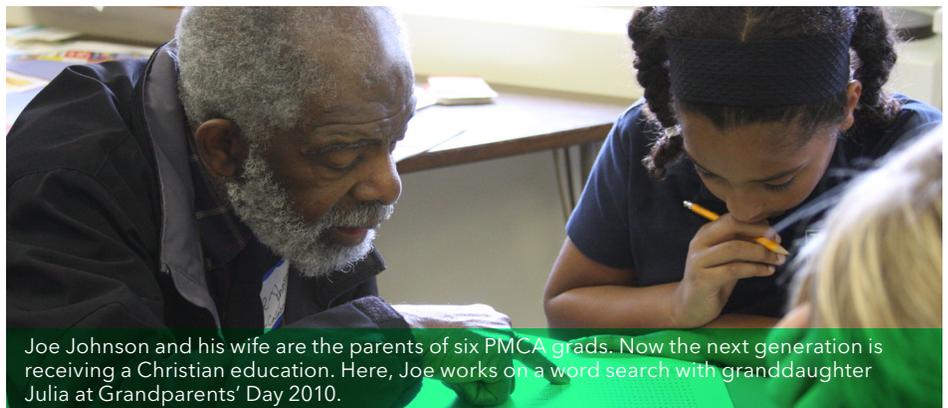
I often tell parents during new family interviews that I can show them in the Bible where God established the family and I can show them in the Bible where God established the church. These two institutions are directly attributed to the working and word of God. While I will seek to show how Christian education is a direct function of that Christian family, I

cannot show in the Bible that a Christian school was directly instituted. (However, I'll plan to show that connection in a later edition on this theme.)

The Lord established the family when He created a helper suitable for man and instructed them to be fruitful and multiply. This family structure is the most basic unit of our society. When the fifth commandment calls us to honor our father and mother, it not only calls children to respect and obey their parents, it presupposes that parents are to exercise authority over their children. That authority includes being responsible for the education of those children. In the Old Testament we can see this in the Deut. 6 passage: *"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise"* (vs. 6-7). Solomon's instruction to parents involved training up a child in the way he

should go (Prov. 22:6). To the children, Solomon said to listen to the instruction of their fathers and not to forsake the teaching of their mothers (Prov 1:8). The foundation of that instruction for our children is the fear of the Lord and knowledge of His Holiness (Prov. 9:10). The goal of that instruction is that we are prepared to destroy every argument and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and to bring into captivity every thought to obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).

Both the clear establishment of the family and the tremendous responsibility and opportunity it has to provide Christian education are evident from Scripture, and result in a significant task. This task leads Christian parents to face formidable obstacles as they seek to fulfill their God-given responsibility. Many parents are not in a position to teach their children at home. Many may not be qualified to teach all subjects for all ages. Insufficient resources and limited accessibility are also factors to



Joe Johnson and his wife are the parents of six PMCA grads. Now the next generation is receiving a Christian education. Here, Joe works on a word search with granddaughter Julia at Grandparents' Day 2010.

*(continued from page 1)*

consider. Add to those the completely secular character of the modern public school and it becomes clear that educating our children along biblical lines is a most solemn responsibility. Nonetheless, it is our responsibility as parents. This biblical responsibility becomes the very fundamental element upon which PMCA exists; providing excellent education for the children of Christian families is the core of our mission statement.

So, how do we do that? In coming issues, we will seek to give some direction as we consider the other two legs of the stool: the church and the school. At this point however, let it be sufficient that we ponder the important call God has given to us as dads and moms to be the first important tool in providing Christian education for our children. May God give us wisdom and courage to respond to this call.

Thank you for continuing to pray for our role in this task. Thank you, as well, to those of you who support PMCA through your gifts. I invite your continued confidence, prayers and support as we serve through this new school year together.

*Donald B. Beebe*

## From the President's Laptop

Psalm 127 tells us that *“Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves. Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one’s youth.”*

Unless the Lord sovereignly works, our efforts will be futile. Our building projects, our security measures, and our family’s welfare all are dependent on His grace and power.

Anyone who has struggled with infertility knows that children do not come automatically. Those who have tragically lost a child know that trying to be the most protective and caring parents does not guarantee the preservation of life.

And then there is the matter of what our children do with the faith we seek to pass on to them. We, like Joshua, can proclaim, *“But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD,”* but we humbly acknowledge that only our sovereign Lord can turn hearts to Himself. We commit our children to the Lord, pray for them and with them, take them to church, conduct regular

family devotions, and sacrifice to send them to a Christ-centered school such as Phil-Mont... and yet there is no formula to ensure that each one will serve the Lord from the heart.

While mothers and fathers rejoice when their children follow them in the ways of the Lord, what hope is there when a son or a daughter turns his or her back on the gospel?

What’s a parent to do then? Certainly, we should rest on God’s covenant promises in Christ. As we trust God’s sovereign plans, it is encouraging to remember that God’s ways are higher than our ways, and that His schedule for our children may be different than our schedule for them. We want to see instant results, while God often works over decades and centuries. I have seen this truth fleshed out in the history of my wife’s ancestors in Ireland. For in a number of generations, some believing parents who fervently prayed for the salvation of their children saw the final answer to their intercession only from the balcony of heaven!

(If you want to hear how God can even transform the life of a hardened terrorist, ask me about Lynn’s cousin, Kenny

“Maniac” McClinton. God is able to save to the uttermost!)

So although it appears at times that we as parents might be “building” and “guarding” in vain, the truth is that the Lord works in ways with our children that always bring Him glory. As someone has noted: “God writes straight on crooked lines.”

In Christ’s mercy,  
*Lou Pronnicki, President,  
Board of Trustees*

# Oklahoma! – OK!

On March 31, 1943, the American Broadway musical was born. Up until that time there were “plays with music,” but often these simply took place within a nightclub or a stage show and the songs were mere entertainments along the way. However, on that fateful night, a lone cowboy strolled before the footlights to tell the world of his joy over a prairie sunrise with “Oh, what a beautiful mornin’, Oh what a beautiful day...” The show moved on, song after song, introducing a spellbound audience to the hopes, joys, and frustrations of the folks of the Oklahoma Territory. Brooks Atkinson wrote in *The New York Times* that the show’s opening number changed the history of musical theater: “After a verse like that, sung to a buoyant melody, the banalities of the old musical stage became intolerable.”

However, the New York production went on to play 2,212 performances and ushered in the Golden Age of Musical Comedy. *Oklahoma!* songs like “People Will Say We’re in Love,” “Surrey With a Fringe on Top,” “The Farmer and the Cowman” and the aforementioned “Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’” are now known and loved around the globe. The 1955 film version won the Academy Award for **Best Picture** and rare was the 50’s home that did not have a copy of the film cast recording for its hi-fi system. This astonishing song and show writing team went on to score huge successes with *The King and I*, *South Pacific*, *Carousel* and the *Sound of Music*, but Rodgers and Hammerstein’s first groundbreaking, Pulitzer Prize winning production is the one for which they receive the most praise.



Front Row: Korinn Geigel (Ado Annie), Matt Sawyer (Ali Hakim), Brad Steiger (Curly) and Emma Shope (Laurey). Back Row: Jeremy Bierema (Will), Brittany Adams (Student Assistant Director) and David Kelley (Jud).

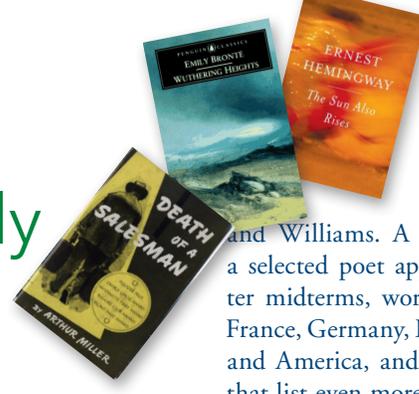
This fall on November 17, 18, and 19, the lights will dim in Hamel Auditorium, the music will begin, and suddenly audiences will be transported to that same world of cowboys, farmers, peddlers, and dance hall girls as Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Oklahoma!* takes the stage. Based on the Lynn Riggs play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*, the original production was panned in pre-Broadway tryouts by the famous director Mike Todd; “No legs. No laughs. No chance.”

*Oklahoma!* has special meaning for Director Will Liegel, since it was in a Grove City College production that he and elementary principal Mrs. Liegel first met. He was Curly in the famous Dream Ballet, she was in the singing chorus, and within six months they were dating. Their future would be full of thousands of other songs and hundreds of other stage productions, eventually leading to them co-producing Phil-Mont’s musicals for fifteen years.

“We’ve done many shows over and over again, but while we’ve done revue versions of the *Oklahoma!* music, this is only the second production of this classic we’ve ever done – forty-three years apart. It’s about time!” After seventeen years of journeys to places like Egypt (*Aida*), Russia (*Fiddler on the Roof*), and England (*Pirates of Penzance*), Phil-Mont is more than ready to travel to the American heartland.

Casting happened on week two of school with thirty-six students chosen to kick up their cowboy boots. Music Director is middle school social studies teacher Miss Katie Trego and she and Student Assistant Director Brittany Adams are doing their best to corral and train this frisky bunch. Playing Curly and his sweetheart Laurey are Brad Steiger (‘12) and Emma Shope (‘12), well remembered as the primary couple of Phil-Mont’s *Pirates of Penzance* two years back. After six years in Phil-Mont musicals, Jeremy Bierema (‘12) is the hick cowpoke Will Parker, smitten by the flirtatious Ado Annie played by Korinn Geigel (‘12). Rounding out the featured players are Matt Sawyer (‘13) as Ali Hakim, David Kelley (‘12) as Jud Fry and Susi McKay (‘12) as Aunt Eller. Support crews are in place, with over twenty additional students spread out over costumes, set, make-up, tickets and all the rest. This is proof positive that *Oklahoma!* is a student endeavor and they’ll do their best to make our hopes for a revolving stage, a working windmill and over one hundred specially designed costumes a reality.

*Oklahoma!* dances are currently being staged, harmonies are being learned, hammers and saws are ringing out on crew days, and everyone is developing an Okie twang that is spilling in lots of other places besides the stage. Cowboy hats and bonnets abound, petticoats are swishing and swaying, and “Yeow!” has become a favorite student exclamation. Since that’s the case, how can you resist joining us for what promises to be a great evening of Phil-Mont theatre? We’re getting ready for full houses once again, so y’all better call the school office, buy those tickets, and make plans to be a part of the joy of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Oklahoma!* OK!



# Literary Forum: A Monthly Time of Refreshment

Will Liegel

After a long day at the Academy, when classes are done, practices are over, and assignments are complete, what's a Phil-Mont high school student to do? Well, for a good number of our scholars, the decision is to dive into a great book in order to prepare for another monthly Literary Forum. Oh, there are still those who find their refreshment in a few exciting rounds of Angry Birds or with an episode of Disney's Phineas and Ferb – good stuff! However, dozens and dozens of our students also choose to spend time reading and then discussing the works of writers like Hemingway, Wells, Tan or Shakespeare. Literary Forum rocks!

What is a Literary Forum? Let's back up some twenty years when our English department was debating what to do about extra credit. Mrs. Carradice, Mr. Liegel and Mrs. Clever had a dilemma. The thought was that too often students who fell behind or missed assignments hoped to gain some needed points by doing a quick poster or a few extra questions. While every effort is appreciated, couldn't we do better and encourage students of every level to stretch and get a bonus for it? Why not have them do some reading of great works outside of class in a planned manner and then schedule a teacher-led discussion group? How collegiate! How academic! How... hopeful?

Well, the great news is that for the last twenty years, hundreds of students have met at 7 pm on the fourth Monday night of each month to discuss great works of literature. Books are chosen by the department with a list of titles and assigned months sent out in the summer, and copies are made available through Mrs. Askey and her library team. No pressure, totally voluntary, but those who show up for the Forum take a simple reading quiz, participate in our ninety-minute discussion, write a critical

response – and then get ten points of sweet extra credit added into their English grade. While an average month might bring twelve to fifteen students, certain works bring forth thirty-plus!

While this began as simply an extra credit idea, it has grown into much more. What teacher wouldn't want to meet with a group of enthusiastic students who have actually read the material? What students wouldn't want to jump into an animated discussion - where there will not be a test to follow it up? Add in the facts that it's in the evening when conversation always seems to flow more easily, that underclassmen get to dialogue with their senior counterparts, and that there are often refreshments. How about *A Tale of Two Cities* and doughnuts? *Frankenstein* and a basket of chocolates and licorice? The poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks and homemade pancakes? Not a bad deal! It becomes a time to share opinions, develop ideas and stretch one's experience.

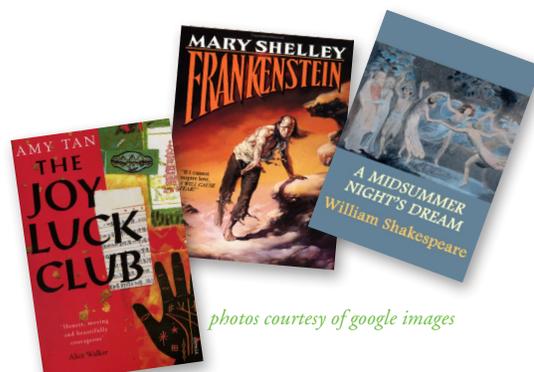
Another great benefit is that Forum lets us naturally introduce interested students to some of the wonderful books we simply can't fit into our curriculum. During classes we get to *Hamlet*, *The Great Gatsby*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and dozens more, but interested students can choose to add in up to eight great works every year. Some do ten over four years. Some twenty. Eight have actually done all thirty-two and received an award to prove it to the world. Imagine a college receiving a list of all the voluntary reading that a particular student has done. Pretty impressive!

So what's being read? Our current working list is altered periodically as new ideas are submitted and it repeats itself every four years. Ancient Greek theatre pieces appear along with Shakespeare, Chekhov, and modern playwrights like Wilder, O'Neill

and Williams. A collection of pieces by a selected poet appears each February after midterms, works appear from Russia, France, Germany, England, Africa, Ireland and America, and the hope is to expand that list even more. The list includes men and women writers, representatives from diverse races, wide-ranging topics, themes, genres, and time periods.

It's worth noting that while Christian writers like C.S. Lewis appear, the works have been selected from the broad range of established classics. Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, and Jane Austen are pretty middle of the road, but there is no doubt that *1984*, *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, and *The Visit* take the reader to darker areas of theme and character. Some plays deal with broken families, some novels focus on broken societies, and some poetry spills over with anger and despair. However, beginning with prayer before a Forum on a difficult piece is a blessing. A Christian worldview becomes central to every discussion: how the work agrees or disagrees with the Bible, shows off the fallenness of man, posits untenable answers for life, or diagnoses the dilemmas of life. Students certainly come to appreciate the beauty of good writing and wonderful stories, but they are also more prepared to enter the world of a SEPTA ride, of their neighborhood or of the colleges and universities almost all of them will so soon enter.

So that's Monthly Literary Forum. Great literature, energized discussions, good food, and, oh yes, a handful of special points for one's trouble. Mrs. Carradice, Mrs. Schutte and Mr. Liegel agree that this is one of the most authentic and interesting programs of the school. Certainly, the hours do add up for the department leaders, but it's all worth it to see Phil-Mont students grow. ■■



photos courtesy of google images

# PMCA Welcomes New Families!

*The PMCA Board, Administration, Faculty and Staff Welcome:*

## *New Students and their Families*

Karliss and Alexis Akins, Kayla (K)  
Kia Brady, Richard (9)  
Eric and Patricia Broome, Christian (K)  
Ronald and Felicia Cox, Emmanuel (K)  
Dwayne and Tara Cuff, Dwayne (K)  
Jennifer DeVos Vogel, Tess DeVos (9)  
Philip and Jenny Dharmawirya, Karis (1)  
Michael and MaryBeth DiNunzio, Christina Caffrey (9)  
Tim and Gayle Eimer, Torin (3), Conor (6)  
Keion and Leslie Green, Kameron (K)  
Stacy Green, Laiah Hampton (K)  
Aaron and Allison Harvie, John (6)  
Michel and Patty Hatem, Laura (3) and Rachel (5)  
Christopher and Ime Holland, Christian (PK)  
Roger and Joy Kim, Sarah (10)  
Gabriel and Jennifer Malloy, Hannah (1)  
Daniel and Marilyn Martinez, Bella (PK) and Alma (5)  
Eric and Nanette McCloy, Viktor (9)  
Lucy Myers, Ruth (8) and Matthew (10)  
Guilherme and Wedja Pires, Gustavo (2) and Rodrigo (4)

Lornall Reed, Jaán Bacon (3)  
Mark Ricketts and Tanya Weddemire-Ricketts, Milana (10)  
David Sawyer, Summer (10)  
Noel and Robina Shafqat, Mofeth (Lydia) (9)  
Toshiba Sharon, Anisa Allen (7)  
Corby and Rachel Shields, Henry (K)  
David and Debbie Smith, Matthew (9)  
Wheatley Spence, DeJason Ellis (8)  
Kevin and Pamela Stewart, Shannon (9)  
Tom and Lisa Stiles, Reed (K)  
Jeremy and Rebecca Suggs, Andre (PK), Kayla (1) and Jay (3)  
Rickey and Karla Sutton, Nehemiah (PK) and Moses (K)  
Pete and Bethany Tyson, Rynear (K)  
Chandler and Margaret Wolf, Chandler (1)

## *Families Returning to PMCA*

Jose and Debora Carrera, Jeremiah (1) and Micah (4)  
Sharyn Spitznagel, Jessica Silverman

## *Current PMCA Families adding new Students*

Keith and Stephanie Avellino, Corinne (7)  
Jonathan and Amanda Bird, James (K)  
Lamar and Andrea Caison, Jordyn (PK)  
Michael and Lisa Hawkins, Emma (7) and Ethan (7)  
Greg and Kathy Hobaugh, Trinity (1)  
John and Jeanne Lozowski, Catherine (6)  
Chase and Martha Maxey, Lizzie (PK)  
James and Andrea Moody, Sasha (PK), Jewel (9)  
Brady and Beth Rennix, Dakota (PK)

## *New International Students and their Host Families*

Peter Kim and Phoebe Ko, Sung Hyeon (Sean) Lee (9) and Yechan (David) Park (9)  
OSung Kwon and Hyunji Lee, Jong Hyuk (Jake) Lee (10)  
Young Lee, Yeseo (Leo) Moon (9)  
Ed and Rebecca Schnitzel, Victoria Helbrandt (10)



### MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2001

**Front Row** (from left): Ashley Berke, Stephanie (Lee) Dorsey, Shyriah Johnson, Susan Bartz.  
**Middle Row** (from left): Mike Mason, Mike Williams, Ben Kless, Tiffany Nicole Kinkaid, Rachel Bucknor, Lindsay (Feracco) Blasy, Ellen (Nave) Bacon, Kelly (Gunning) Chu, Willie Chu.  
**Back Row** (from left): Jason Todd, Chris Anderson, Kevin Sanders, Mark Atwood, Jimmy Baird, Matt Copeland.

**Class of 2001 Reunion time**, and what did we find out? Many of us have gotten married and have kids which is an obvious big change from where we were 10 years ago. We have begun our careers instead of just having jobs. Some of the careers include a Graphic Designer for Lockheed Martin, an Events Coordinator for the Constitution Center, the owner of a Medi-

*by Chris Anderson and Lindsay Blasy*

cal Equipment Distributor, a Financial Analyst, and Researchers for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, along with many others. We had classmates coming from as far away as Phoenix, Nashville and Pittsburgh, although most of us have stayed fairly local in Blue Bell, Lansdale, and Philadelphia. We do have classmates all over the country; not all could make it. It

was a great night of catching up with old friends at the *Lederach Tea Room*. With all of the events of the past 10 years, decade, tenth of a century, it all feels like a million years and yesterday all at the same time. Successes, failures, lessons learned... or maybe just old friends sharing in some good memories and great company. Here's to ten more!

# Addition and Transitions

**Lois Sorkness** ('76) is now a fulltime PMCA faculty member, teaching First Grade. Lois originally joined the faculty as a second grade teacher just after her graduation from Gordon College with her degree in Elementary Education. She proved to be a teacher of distinction before leaving to raise her family. Lois returned to PMCA three years ago as part of our Learning Center team. While serving there she initiated two new programs directly tied to her heart and passion for the teaching of Reading. First, she began a support component that sought to address reading learning deficiencies in kindergarteners and first graders, helping to solidify skills vital to early reading success. While working in support of student learning, she researched, recommended, and piloted the AudiBlox program which is a learning strategy training discipline. The success of that pilot has led us to incorporate the use of AudiBlox in the general classrooms of Kindergarten through second grade for this current year. We are very excited to have her on board and back in the classroom!

**Kathy Furlong** is serving as an Aide in the Kindergarten classroom alongside Vicky Maienshein in support of Jana McCann. Kathy and her husband John both are PMCA alumni, Class of 1990, and children Tim and Julia are in first and third grades. Kathy has been serving as a substitute at Oreland Presbyterian Church Preschool for the last 2 years as well as making herself available as a room mom here at PMCA. Please welcome her to our team!

**Heidi Oelschlegel**, PMCA Class of 2007, joins PMCA as a half-time fifth grade teacher. She is a graduate of Messiah College and was a Lifer as a student at PMCA. Heidi is working in partnership with Jim Krug who has been teaching at PMCA for over 20 years. She has responsibility for teaching mathematics and science to half of this large class while the other group receives language arts instruction.

**Diana Granados** has been teaching Spanish at PMCA in the early grades. This year

she transitions to the high school honors level, teaching Spanish Levels III & IV.

**Rosanna Lu** and **Phil VanVeldhuizen** have begun serving PMCA in the area of Admissions & Marketing. Both Rosanna and Phil have taken on the duties of marketing, student recruitment, admissions and student retention.

Rosanna comes to us most recently after her studies at Westminster Seminary. She has served in various marketing capacities in college and beyond. Rosanna actually attended PMCA as a kindergartener before relocating with her family to California. She returned to the Philadelphia area to do graduate work at Westminster.

Phil VanVeldhuizen is a 1999 alumnus of PMCA. He comes to us after a number of years in sales and marketing with an international Christian Bookstore. He has a great PMCA story to share and looks forward to being able to communicate to new families throughout the community the blessings of a PMCA education. Phil's other claim to fame is his role as husband to outstanding High School Math Teacher Beth VanVeldhuizen.

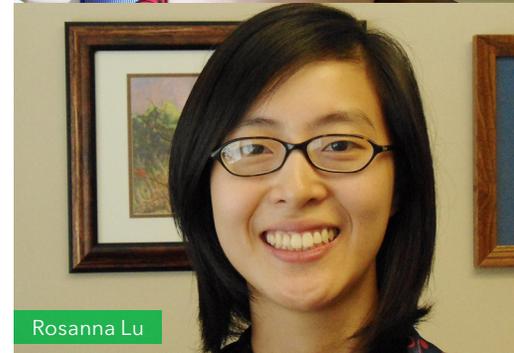
**Rebecca Suggs** is the newest member of the Fine Arts Department, teaching Elementary and Middle School Art. Her three children, Jay, Kayla and Andre, are members of PMCA's third grade, first grade and Pre-K classes. Becky holds degrees from Calvin College and the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.



Lois Sorkness



Heidi Oelschlegel



Rosanna Lu



Phil VanVeldhuizen



Rebecca Suggs

## Pray for PMCA

*For our students, faculty and staff*  
that they would work and learn  
to God's glory

*For the Administration*  
that they would be wise leaders  
and decision-makers

*For Mrs. Furcola*  
as she guides our senior class  
through the college application  
process

*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 families new to the school*  
that they quickly become part of  
the PMCA family

*For the Middle States Coordinators  
& Planning Team*  
as they prepare for the evaluators'  
visit in March

*For our new Admissions &  
Marketing Team*  
that they would succeed in  
generating renewed interest in  
a PMCA education throughout  
the community

*For prospective parents and students*  
as they attend Open House Tours  
and consider a PMCA education.

*For the Lord's ongoing blessings and  
provision for the work at PMCA*

# Flotsam

## an installation by Matt Stemler

PMCA High School Art Teacher Matt Stemler ('89) presents *Flotsam*, an installation and drawings at the **LGTripp Gallery** in Philadelphia through November 26. Visit [lgtrippgallery.com](http://lgtrippgallery.com) for more information.



**The Class of 1981** met for a 30th Reunion Celebration on May 28 at *Scoogi's Restaurant* in Flourtown. In attendance were

**Back Row** (from left): Linda Collins Smith, Curtis May, David Haney, Lou Guerra, Ron Boekel, Ken Kirkner, Nancy Rawlings Scholtz

**Front Row** (seated, from left): Ruth Fackler Haines, Becky DeHeer Haney, Sue Barry Bires, Cindy Cover Van Eerden, Ruth Wallace Matthews.

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

### ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT — AWARDS —

Last fall we announced our plan to institute an annual Alumni Achievement Award, to be presented each year as part of the June Commencement ceremony. We did not get the process implemented in time for the 2011 Commencement, but now complete information and an online nomination form are available on the Alumni tab of the PMCA website. The deadline to submit nominations for 2012 is February 15. This is a wonderful way to underscore the value of a Phil-Mont education and the gracious goodness of our Lord! Be thinking of those you would like us to designate as “best of the best”; we hope to receive many nominations!

# Alumni News: Class Notes...

**67** **Meredith (Hatzai) Kelly** passed away early in 2010.

**76** **Ruth (Galetar) Hart** died in an auto accident on August 13, 2011.

**78** **Dr. Andrew Zeller** was honored in a retirement ceremony at the headquarters of *NORAD and U.S. Northern Command* for 26 years of chaplain ministry in the U.S. Army. For the past 11 years Chaplain



(Colonel) Zeller has served in the Colorado Army National Guard part-time while full-time as the President of *Sangre de Cristo Seminary* in Westcliffe, Colorado. Andrew's wife, Beth Ann and their thirteen children all participated musically in the retirement ceremony which was attended by family, friends and members from each branch of the military. In his message to the gathering, Andrew spoke about citizenship in the eternal Kingdom of God and how following Jesus, the King of that Kingdom, is the criterion for a successful life. Andrew was awarded the *Defense Superior Service Medal* for his strategic work at U.S. Northern Command and the Legion of Merit Medal by the Colorado National Guard for service, including 15 years of combat arms

ministry with soldiers and his role as the Colorado State Chaplain. He comments, "I am very thankful for the faculty, friends and life-forming years at Phil-Mont. It was an excellent experience that I sincerely treasure."

**92** Olivia Shea was born to **Will Jarman** and his wife, Robin, on September 5, 2011.

**95** Joel was born to **Tedd Pronnicki** and his wife, Barb, on September 15, 2011.

**97** **Aneesh Khushman** is Administrative Officer and member of the Medical Staff of *Christian Hospital* in Mungeli, India, a 100 bed hospital which was founded by American Presbyterian and Disciples Missionaries in 1896. Located in central India, the facility helps provide basic medical care to the poorest of the poor. Along with tasks of administration, Dr. Khushman sees patients daily and routinely performs surgeries in life-threatening circumstances.

Aviyah and Micaiah (twin daughters) were born to **John Valloor** and his wife, Linda Kay, on October 21, 2010. Aviyah is Hebrew for "God is my Father" and Micaiah is Hebrew for "Who is like God?" John and his family reside in Eagleville, PA.

**99** Audrey Lin was born to **Justin and Jennifer (Hause '98) Snyder** on August 20, 2011.

Madelyn Grace was born to **Stephen Wilson** and his wife, Michelle, on September 2, 2011.

**01** **Sara (Helinsky) Herman** and her husband, Kyle, welcomed their first child, Maxwell Aiden, on May 31, 2011.

**07** **Andrea Gould** graduated from Drexel University with a B.S. in Entertainment & Arts Management, minor in Business Administration in June 2011.

William (Will) Andrew was born to **Bonnie (Oliphant) Matthews** and her husband, Andrew, on July 28, 2011.

**Jonathan VanVeldhuizen** graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. in Exercise Science from Sterling College in Sterling, KS in May 2011. He traveled to Ghana, West Africa following graduation to teach in a Christian school, preach in village churches and evangelize in the streets. Jonathan is now living and working in Sterling as an Admissions Counselor for Sterling College.

## Email Addresses Wanted!

In an effort to keep in touch more effectively with all of our constituents, we are expanding our email database. If you have an email account that you check fairly regularly, please send your current address to Nancy Stemler at [NStemler@phil-mont.com](mailto:NStemler@phil-mont.com).

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 Nancy Stemler.

Parents: If you are receiving this publication on behalf of a son or daughter who no longer lives in your home, please contact Nancy Stemler with a current mailing address.

# Where Are They Now?

*Jonathan White ('97) is assistant professor of American Studies at Christopher Newport University, in Newport News, Virginia. Upon graduating from PMCA, he attended Penn State University, where he earned a B.A. in History with a minor in English. In May 2007, while living in Washington, D.C., Jon met Lauren Kramer at a party on Capitol Hill. They were*

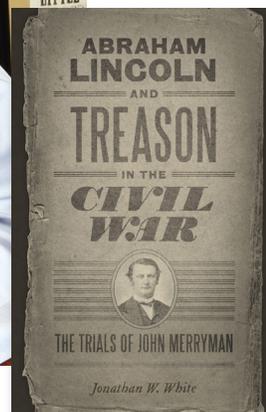
married on the beach in Del Mar, San Diego, in June 2008. Also that year, Jon completed his Ph.D. in U.S. History at the University of Maryland at College Park. His dissertation, "To Aid Their Rebel Friends: Politics and Treason in the Civil War North," was awarded the prestigious Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize by the Abraham Lincoln Institute and the Abraham Lincoln Association. This award came with a \$5000 cash prize.

Jon has published several books and articles about the American Civil War. His first book, *A Philadelphia Perspective: The Civil War Diary of Sidney George Fisher*, was

published by Fordham University Press in 2007. His new book, *Abraham Lincoln and Treason in the Civil War: The Trials of John Merryman*, was published by Louisiana State University Press in October. This new book tells the story of how President Lincoln grappled with enormous amounts of disloyalty in the North. The central character is a Baltimore farmer named John Merryman who was arrested for treason at the beginning of the Civil War. Merryman had burned railroad bridges around Baltimore in April 1861 so that Union soldiers could not get to Washington, D.C., to protect the national capital. From prison, Merryman petitioned the Chief Justice of

the United States, Roger B. Taney, for a writ of habeas corpus—a court order that could get him released from prison. Taney issued the writ, but President Lincoln ignored it, thus leading to one of the most famous constitutional conflicts in American history. Jon's book has already received high praise from several leading Lincoln scholars. Prize-winning historian Allen Guelzo of Gettysburg College has said: "Jon White's short and pungent narrative and analysis of Ex parte Merryman teems with abundant new findings and sharp analysis. It will be a joy to both the general reader, and to the specialists in Civil War history and American law."

In anticipation of his book, Jon was invited to give lectures about Abraham Lincoln at several prestigious venues. On February 12, 2011 (Lincoln's 202nd birthday), he gave an address at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, where Lincoln delivered his famous "House Divided" address in 1858 and where Barack Obama launched his presidential campaign in 2008. In March he spoke at the National Archives, in May he was interviewed on Baltimore's NPR station, and in June he delivered a lecture at the Baltimore Bar Association Library. For more information about Jon's new book, please visit <http://www.facebook.com/CivilWarTreason/>.



PMCA HOMECOMING WEEK:

## Come Home for the Holidays!

**12/12** - Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Christopher Dock, 3:45 pm

**12/13** - High School Concert, 7:30 pm

**12/14** - Girls Varsity Basketball vs. New Hope-Solebury, 4:00 pm

- Boys JV Basketball vs. Morrisville, 5:30 pm

- Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Morrisville, 7:00 pm

**12/15** - Elementary Program, 7:00 pm

**12/16** - Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Jenkintown, 6:00 pm

- Alumni Reception at 7:00 pm

- Alumni Basketball Game 7:45 pm

## Winter Gala

PMCA is excited to announce our second *Winter Gala*, an evening of classical performing arts and visual arts. The event will feature instrumental, vocal and theatre performances as well as an art show and sale featuring works by current students, faculty and alumni. Sales proceeds will benefit programs like PMCA's Fine Arts department.

*Friday, January 13*  
*7-9 pm*

# Calendar of Events

## November

**17–19**

Fall Musical, *Oklahoma!* 7:30 pm  
(11/19) Musical Matinee 2:00 pm

**21–22**

NO SCHOOL – Parent Conferences

**23–25**

NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break

## December

**8**

Middle School Christmas Concert,  
7:30 pm

**13**

High School Christmas Concert, 7:30 pm

**15**

Elementary Christmas Program, 7:00 pm

**16**

Homecoming Basketball Games  
Alumni Reception, 7:00 pm

**21**

Christmas Break begins

## January

**3**

School resumes

**13**

Winter Gala, 7:00 pm

**16**

NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King  
Day

**20**

Reenrollment period begins

**23–26**

Midterm exams

**27**

NO SCHOOL – Faculty In-Service

## February

**10**

Reenrollment due

**20**

NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day

**28**

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills begin

## March

**10–12**

Winter Play, *Stage Door*, 7:30 pm

2012

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

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# THE SIGNET



**Board President**  
Louis Pronnicki

**Head of School**  
Donald B. Beebe

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