

James Newman, Ph.D., Head of School

Dear Harrisburg Academy Alumni,

In this edition of the Academy's alumni eNewsletter, you'll read that Joe Gillette '82 was chosen recently to be president of our Alumni Council. By virtue of his election, Joe also became an ex-officio member of our Board of Trustees.

I could not be more pleased that Joe Gillette will be leading our Alumni Association and chairing our Alumni Council. Joe was a highly-respected leader of his peers when he was a student at the Academy and later at the University of Pennsylvania. Today, Joe is the president and CEO of Stage 2 Networks, a telecommunications firm in New Jersey. Joe and his wife, Lisa, are the proud parents of three sons.

Staying Connected

Having committed and loyal members of an Alumni Association and an effective Alumni Council are critical ingredients for a strong independent school. Think of active alumni groups who are well-known for their support of their colleges and universities, and you'll understand why the same holds true for independent schools.

Supportive alumni are effective ambassadors for schools. They relate stories to others, who are not familiar with their alma maters, about the quality of the education they received and the memorable — and often life changing — experiences while they were students.

The Academy's faculty and staff are grateful for the variety of consistent kinds of support they receive annually from you and other graduates. Whether visits by alumni to our school are planned or spontaneous, faculty members are delighted to see their former students. During the last few weeks, for example, Tim East '81, Rachel Wye '08, Emily Marcello '09, and Aja Washington '09 recently stopped by to visit. Mike Snyder '08, Sydney Otto '05, and Katie Kantor '05 attended boys' varsity soccer games (their brothers, seniors Ted '10 and Andrew '10, are co-captains of the team). Michael DeRemer '01, Erin DeRemer '06, and Kevin Swank '82 attended this year's Athletics Hall of Fame dinner. Eric Pettis '78 served as master of ceremonies. Ten additional alums participated in this year's Harrisburg Academy Annual Golf Classic.

Within the last three years, Tami Swartz '85, Billy Mills '86, Ben Fierer '94, Will St. John '99, Dan Shanken '89, David Bucs '87, and Rachel Shapiro '95 have returned to the Academy and either made presentations to groups of students or participated for an extended period as artists-in-residence.

Our alumni have helped our current students in other ways as well. Each year, Academy graduates now enrolled in colleges and universities contact our juniors and seniors to provide them with helpful information about the schools they are considering for application or admission. Additionally, our alums help recent Academy graduates network successfully in the job market, either for summer employment or more permanent positions.

Meeting Our Strategic Goals Together

Formalizing our alumni relationships and networking in informal and more structured ways, on a sustained basis, are our goals. Our new strategic plan, *Challenge 2013*, specifically outlines three key implementation points that speak to this purpose.

- 1) Re-establish an active Alumni Council to support the mission and increase alumni participation in school activities
- 2) Engage alumni in becoming effective ambassadors of the school
- 3) Actively engage and utilize alumni, alumni parents, and current students in marketing and fundraising efforts

Challenging our students in an environment that nurtures and inspires.

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I am pleased to report to you that at the end of the first year of *Challenge 2013*, we have made good progress to achieve each goal for our alumni relations.

Celebrating Our Success

Joe Gillette and the Alumni Council are committed to providing the necessary organizational structure and leadership for the Academy and achieving more progress. Because this is the Academy's *Triple Anniversary* year, we hope you similarly will commit to participating in our events and helping in one or more ways to support the Academy — and enjoy your time while doing it!

Please mark your calendars for the evening of Saturday, April 17, and plan to attend our “*Toast in Time*” *Triple Anniversary Gala* at the Hershey Lodge. Additionally, we're looking for your help to make this event our best event in 225 years! Please contact Beth Zak in our Development and Alumni Relations Office (ext. 396) to volunteer for the gala. The event will be very festive with good food, music, and a live auction, and we are expecting a large crowd. Bring your classmates and join us for what we believe will be a fun time to reconnect with fellow alums and a great tribute to the Academy and its heritage of academic excellence in south central Pennsylvania.

During my tenure at the school, I've met many talented and generous alumni who recounted wonderful stories that expressed how much they value their Academy experience and the hard work of their teachers and coaches. I hope that you, much like Joe Gillette and the members of our Alumni Council, will support the school's current endeavors and its plan to continuously achieve its mission as an exemplary school experience for children of the greater Harrisburg region.

With warm regards,

Jim Newman
Head of School