

James Newman, Ph.D., Head of School

## A Letter from Jim Newman

Dear Harrisburg Academy Alumni,

I am pleased to write and share exciting news from throughout our Academy community. Our 2009-10 school year, the year of our unique **Triple Anniversary** Celebration, will be a year filled with news and events that focus on the Academy's past and its future. We are looking forward to this year... a year truly for you, our alumni.

Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, in 1784, John Harris Jr. hired a schoolmaster from Lancaster and provided space in his home on Front Street for the education of his neighbors' children. Two hundred years ago, in 1809, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granted a charter to Harrisburg Academy to enable it to function as a school "for the education of youth in useful arts, sciences, and literature." And fifty years ago, in 1959, the trustees of the Academy opened the doors of our current school facility on Erford Road. That's three anniversaries and many memories later for the Academy's 2,800+ living alumni.

I want to urge you to participate in our upcoming Triple Anniversary year events, starting with the Sept. 25, 2009 celebration of the move to the Erford Road building, to which we are sending a special invitation to the members of the Class of 1960. In October, our students will be hosting an All-School Community Service Day to give back to the community in a variety of ways. This year, we are also planning to plant 225 trees in the greater Harrisburg region in honor of our 225 years. As the year goes on, we will have an event that many people will want to be a part of — collecting items for a time capsule to be closed in the spring as we end our year of celebration. I would add that the focus of some of our Triple Anniversary events will be our school community, while others will have a positive impact in the wider Harrisburg community.

In the spring we are planning a **Triple Anniversary** celebration; mark your calendars and join us at our *Toast in Time Gala* at The Hershey Lodge on April 17, 2010. Share in the good times with your classmates and other friends from the Academy!

Please look for our monthly Explorer: Alumni Edition. The eNewsletters will provide updates from fellow alumni, news of happenings during the school year, and information about the rich academic program that we offer to our students.

Whether you graduated a number of years ago or more recently, I think you'll be struck by our sustained commitment to an excellent school experience for every Academy student and the changes that have resulted from our focus on the finest teaching practices and the integration of technology.

Last year, we completed our fourth consecutive five-year strategic plan, [Challenge 2013](#). I encourage you to review the goals projected in *Challenge 2013* and to send me your comments. I think you'll be struck by the enduring [mission](#) of the Academy and our listing of core values which are so central to our five-year plan. I'm sure they are what you remember about your experience at the Academy and since then, what has helped to shape your lives!

Challenging our students in an environment that nurtures and inspires.

Day in and day out, our goal is to animate our core values and thereby prepare our students for the remarkable challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are all excited about preparing our students for the future — we've done it successfully for 225 years!

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim".

Jim Newman  
Head of School