

Perry Alumni News

Volume 3, Issue 2

March 2007

Officers

Larry Advey, 1969
President

Carole Compton Martin, 1961
President Elect

Judy Miler Church, 1976
Secretary

Linda Bringleb Hofer, 1968
Treasurer

Rick Amos, 1968
Immediate Past President

Directors

Marv Bihn, 1954

Larry Brainard, 1979

Linda Witzel Chapman, 1980

Rich Chapman, 1972

Linda Krivanek Clark, 1968

Holly Such Egolf, 1968

Becky Miller Garry, 1980

Gina Horvath Toth, 1981

Mike Zinn, 1986



Proud that she was one of our own

The sad headlines of the January 19, 2007 Plain Dealer read, *Perry grad killed in Iraq praised for her passion*. Andrea (Andi) Parhamovich, a 1996 graduate of Perry High School, was killed January 17 in Baghdad. She was working for the Washington-based National Democratic Institute on International Affairs when she and five others were ambushed in Baghdad by an al-Qaeda coalition linked to Sunni insurgents. She died alongside three bodyguards of Croatian, Hungarian and Iraqi nationality.

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) is a non-profit organization that works to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. Andi worked as a program officer, providing training and programs in democracy to the emerging government.

She was a civilian, not a member of the military. According to institute president, Kenneth Wollack, "This is a tragic loss for the institute and its Iraqi friends."

Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, now chairwoman of the National Democratic Institute, applauded Andrea and her co-workers' efforts. "There is no more sacred roll of honor than those who have given their last full measure in support of freedom. Andrea Parhamovich and our security personnel were enshrined on that list. They did not see themselves as heroes, only people doing a job on behalf of a cause they believed in. They were not enemies of anyone in Iraq; they were there to help," she said. "Now, the prayers of all of us at NDI are with them and



Andi Parhamovich
1978 to 2007

with their families. We pledge to do everything that is within our power to see that they did not die in vain. We will honor their example, keep alive their memory, and carry on their work."

Andi's brother-in-law, 1985 PHS graduate Joe Zampini, addressed the media at the time of her death saying, "Andi was a wonderful daughter, cherished sister, loving aunt and devoted friend who put those around her first. She embraced challenges which allowed

Continued on page 2...

Andi's Story...from page 1

her to achieve so much in a relatively short period of time. Andi always sought out great experiences that also allowed her to make a difference. It was that commitment to making a difference which led her to Iraq.

"Andi's desire to help strangers in such a dangerous environment thousands of miles away might be difficult for others to understand,

but to us, it epitomized Andi's natural curiosity and unwavering commitment. She was passionate, bold and caring, as exemplified by her work to improve the lives of all Iraqis."

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad condemned the attack saying, "The young American who was killed in this attack, along with her security team, exemplified a commitment by all those who have never wavered in their resolve to build a stable, united and democratic Iraq."

**"Andi was an energetic, enthusiastic student/athlete who wanted to make a difference in people's lives."
Pat Giannell**

Perry teacher and coach, Pat Giannell, knew her well. He said, "Andi was an energetic, enthusiastic student/athlete who wanted to make a difference in people's lives. She had a tremendous work ethic to go along with a great personality and outstanding intelligence. Despite being small in physical stature, she was brave, tough, had a huge heart and cared about people less fortunate than herself."

Andi graduated from Marietta College in 2000 with a degree in advertising and public relations and a minor in journalism. Her career included work in political communications with the Massachusetts governor's office, the Massachusetts Department of Economic Development, Miramax, and Air America Radio.

Andi worked for Al Franken for 18 months while she was employed at Air America. He said, "She was a thoroughly charming, intelligent,

funny, idealistic, dedicated young woman. It was just great being in her presence because you felt like you were in the presence of a really good person, a real American."

Andi's life was cut short before she had an opportunity to be married. She was engaged to Michael Hastings, a Newsweek reporter stationed at the publication's Baghdad bureau. According to Michael, she had dreams of working on a presidential campaign and possibly running for Congress.

Survivors are her fiancé, Michael; parents, Andre and Vicki of Perry; sister, Marci (Joseph) Zampini; twin brothers, Cory and Chris, who are seniors at Perry High School; grandmothers, Bernadine Fox and Suzanne Parhamovich; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

To read more about Andi and her family's cherished memories of

her, visit www.News-Herald.com and search for Parhamovich.

Andi's death is not only a loss to those of us in Perry, but a loss for our country and our world!

**"She was a thoroughly charming, intelligent, funny, idealistic, dedicated young woman."
Al Franken
Air America
Radio**

Memorial contributions may be made to:

Andi Fund
c/o Donna Ovechhio Perkins & Cole, LLP
607 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005



President Larry Advey

A new year has come, and by the time you read this two months will have passed and we'll hopefully be experiencing an early spring. What started out as a very mild winter turned to arctic cold with an abundance of snow. Northeast Ohio provides us with ever-changing weather and just the right mix to keep most of us living here. I grew up being told by my parents that we had four seasons here, a good place to live, but it sure seems that every year one of the four doesn't show, and it's rarely winter.

Reading through the newsletter you will see articles on PHS alumni achievements, events in everyday life, and contributions to society across America and throughout the world. The Perry Schools have provided an excellent education to all of us, and

Message from our president

we should be proud of being PHS alumni.

This year we are planning an alumni gathering on September 29 at the Perry Community Center. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend (see page 7 for more information). The next planning session will be held March 21 (see page 15 for details). We welcome your attendance and input on this event.

I also encourage you to contact any officer or director with ideas or suggestions on ways to help us increase membership. What activities would you like to see or be involved in the planning? If you want to volunteer for a committee or be on the board, please come forward. We welcome your help and would appreciate any time and effort you're willing to contribute.

I remember my dad telling me just before I graduated that my high school days would be the simplest, easiest days of my life, and almost 38 years later, truer words have never been spoken. When I come across fellow PHS graduates from years gone by, it's like a flashback to that less

complex life now long gone. Try getting involved with the Alumni Association to renew those old friendships and kindle some new ones. We would love to have your participation. We'd also appreciate you contacting some of your fellow classmates to

encourage them to join us. This is an informal group, no jackets, ties and dresses required to attend, just a desire to occasionally get together to enjoy one another's company.

Go Perry!!!!!!
Larry Advey '69

Alumni contacts:

President: Larry Advey '69
Phone: 440-669-2788
Email: ladvey@adelphia.net



President Elect & Scholarship Chairman:
Carole Compton Martin '61
Phone: 440-259-2257
Email: carole@neffp.com

Membership Chairman & Alumni Clothing:
Holly Such Egolf '68
Phone: 440-428-3692
Email: hegolf@ncweb.com

Immediate Past President & September 29 Event Chair:
Rick Amos '68
Phone: 440-259-2910
Email: rick@ncweb.com

Reunion Support Chairman: Linda Krivanek Clark '68
Phone: 440-428-2643
Email: lindaclark@ncweb.com

Newsletter Chairman: Judy Miller Church '76
Phone: 440-259-2926
Email: jchurch@ncweb.com

Web Team: Judy Miller Church '76, Alison Wakelee '03

Alumni/School Liaison: Patrice Carroll
Phone: 440-259-9525
Email: carrollp@perry-lake.k12.oh.us

Website: www.perry-lake.k12.oh.us/district/alumni/index.php

Where are they now? Bill Sarvis, Class of 1980

Where's the boy voted "cutest" and "most talented" from the PHS Class of 1980? He's working as a teacher and coach at Perry High School and sharing his talents with today's youth.

Bill is proof that hard work and commitment lead to success. This driven teacher/coach/athlete earned the News-Herald Boy's Division II Cross Country Coach of the Year award in the fall of 2006. The recipient of this honor is selected by area coaches and News-Herald writers. This was a much deserved honor, according to his harriers.

Meredith Schuette, PHS sophomore, who competed at State this past fall, shared her thoughts about Bill. "Anyone who has ever worked with Mr. Sarvis has a tremendous amount of respect for him. As a student and athlete, you immediately realize the great amount of dedication he has. It doesn't stop at the end of practice or at the end of

the school day. He cares about each individual, whether you're a student or an athlete, and he wants you to succeed. He's willing to do whatever is necessary to help you reach your full potential."

Bill, who is quite modest, explained what winning the Coach of the Year recognition meant to him. "It is an honor that your peers feel you have done something exemplary with the athletes that you have the opportunity to coach. It also means you have some great athletes and coaches (like Eric Thomas and Rob Renau) that you're fortunate to work with; they are the reason that you, as an individual, receive recognition. It's a team thing."

Bill is no stranger to cross country. He was the Cross Country MVP his junior and senior years at PHS and competed as a harrier in college. He has been coaching cross country for 18 years, the last six at Perry.

He began his cross country coaching career in 1987 after an invitation from then principal at Riverside High School, John Weiss (founder and now director of Lake Academy). Mr. Weiss asked if he would be

interested in coaching the Riverside team. "I had never given it any thought prior to that time, and I was flattered (and surprised) that he would consider me worthy of leading a group of young men. I later found out that Mr. Lou DiDonato had provided my name to him; I cannot thank Mr. DiDonato enough," said Bill.

Since that time, Bill has coached many successful harriers. He says, "I have been fortunate to work with some incredible athletes." His teams have won regular season, league and district championships, and he's trained state qualifiers. He's also coached individual meet champions, conference champions, All-Ohio athletes, and Academic All-Ohio athletes.

What does he consider his proudest cross country coaching accomplishment? "I enjoy



any time when an athlete is able to do something that he or she has never accomplished before, be it a personal best time, a particular workout, a place in a competition, or even improved relationships and gaining the respect of his or her peers on the team.

"At Perry, I think the proudest moment I experienced was a couple of seasons ago when our girls' team defeated a previously unbeaten team (and defending state champion) at the district meet. The thing I remember the most was not the victory, but that I was able to share the emotion of accomplishment with the team, my parents, my fiancé, and my former coach, Bob Wilson [Perry teacher/coach from 1973 to 2002], who nearly squeezed the life out of me with a tremendous bear

Continued on page 5...

"He cares about each individual... he wants you to succeed. He's willing to do whatever is necessary to help you reach your full potential."

**Meredith Schuette
Class of 2009**

Where are they now?

(from page 4)

hug after seeing the results posted for the race.

“Anyone who ever ran for or worked with Coach Wilson knows that he is a very uplifting person, so to do something that made him proud meant a great deal to me. It was also meaningful because I took over for cross country coach Mr. DiDonato [Perry teacher/coach from 1975 to 2007], who I was also fortunate to run for in high school. I wanted to continue the tradition of excellence that he created for the cross country program at Perry.”

Bill leads by example, something he learned from the positive role models in his life, including his father, Larry Sarvis, and Coach Wilson and Coach DiDonato.

“My father has an amazing amount of energy, can do anything he sets his mind to, and shows more character, honor and ambition in one day than I will ever be able to in my lifetime. And he loves his family.”

He says, “Mr. Wilson and Mr. DiDonato were people that I respected a great deal during my high

school years, and still do to this day. My appreciation for them isn’t just for motivation that they helped instill in me, but more for the guidance and support they have provided for me later in my life, particularly in my experiences as a coach. To know that I have been able to do things that they recognize as being commendable means everything to me, and having their friendship means even more, if that’s possible.”

Bill shares the same passion as his father and his coaches with today’s students and athletes. “I want to empower them with the belief that a

“My father has an amazing amount of energy, can do anything he sets his mind to, and shows more character, honor and ambition in one day than I will ever be able to in my lifetime.”

strong work ethic will help them accomplish great things throughout their lives. I try to help the students/athletes understand that they can do

anything that they believe they are able to achieve. Once they have this understanding and perspective of themselves, the sky is the limit.”

“It’s important that the athletes realize that they mean more to you than victories on the courses we compete on

each weekend during the season. They must realize that you care about them as people, not just as athletes. They must realize that you are their friend.”

He says that the most gratifying part of coaching is “helping students/athletes set and achieve goals, and watching their growth not only as runners, but

“...the pride you feel from something that was difficult to attain is worth the effort.”

more importantly as people. The journey towards the destination is what it’s all about.”

Bill says the most valuable lesson instilled in him at PHS: “Nothing comes easy. Hard work is required for success in anything you do. But the pride you feel from something that was difficult to attain is worth the effort.”

In addition to coaching kids on the cross country course, Bill guides them in the classroom. For 14 years he’s been a teacher at Perry High School. He teaches business and technology courses, including Cisco Networking, A+ computer hard/software repair, Technology Communications, and is the advisor for Perritech.

Bill was instrumental in the establishment of Perritech, a non-profit student-run corporation created to enhance the

technology curriculum at PHS and give students real-world experiences. Under Bill’s direction, the program received an Innovations in American Government Award from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government (now the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation).

Perritech provides support services to area homes, schools

and businesses in hardware repair, networking troubleshooting and installation, software support, and web page design. Bill says, “It’s been an incredible learning experience for both me and the students.”

In 2005, representatives from Perritech accepted an invitation from the Government of the Republic of Korea to participate in the Global Forum on Reinventing Government. The Forum was held in cooperation with the United Nations. Perritech was selected as an exhibitor because of its innovation in the field of technology education.

The goal of the trip was for Perritech representatives to share information with other governments about the highly-successful, student-run corporation and

Continued on page 6...

Where are they now?

If you'd like to see a classmate featured in the "Where are they now?" column, please contact the Alumni Association at:

phsalumniassoc@hotmail.com

or by mail at:

PO Box 148, Perry, OH 44081



Would you like to receive the Perry Alumni News via email? If so, let us know by sending your email address to us at phsalumniassoc@hotmail.com



Here's proof that you're never too old to try something new!



Don Johnson, Class of 1964, proved his athletic prowess in September 2006 when he competed in the Portage Lakes Triathlon. Inspired by two friends who had competed previously, Don decided to give it a try.

At age 60, he competed in a 500-meter swim, a 12.4-mile bike ride and a 3.1-mile run. This first-time triathlon competitor achieved his goal, which was to complete the race. But he accomplished much more than that. His training increased his endurance and strength, he lost 20 pounds, and he developed exercise habits that he continues today.

When asked what part of the triathlon he enjoyed most, he responded, "I can't say I enjoyed

any one of them individually, but I got tremendous satisfaction out of completing the race and doing the training necessary to participate in it. The support I got from family and friends the day of the race was wonderful."

Don was an athlete in high school, lettering in football, basketball, baseball and track. He was voted Most Athletic by the Class of 1964 (he was also voted Class Leader and Best Personality!).

Don is the business director for the Tallmadge City School District. His parents are also PHS alumni: Marilyn Burt Johnson '41 and Vaughn "Dutch" Johnson '40.

Where are they now? (from page 5)

provide information on replicating the program. Over 4,000 government officials and educators from around the globe visited the Perritech booth. Perritech was one of only three organizations representing the United States.

To learn more about this educational technology program co-founded by our own PHS alumnus, or find out how Perritech can assist you with your computer needs, visit www.perritech.net.

While teaching and coaching seem to be a natural fit for Bill, they weren't his first career

choice. The first seven years after receiving his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from The Ohio State University, he worked in sales, marketing and advertising. When he discovered that teaching was his passion, he attended Lake Erie College to gain his certification. He went on

to earn his Master's in Teaching and Learning in 2002 from Nova/Southeastern University.

By the way, did you know Bill is the talented person who created the Alumni Association logo?





Who knows who you
might see at the
**Perry High School
All-Class Reunion**

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Family events are planned throughout the day

- ◆ *Start the day by getting reacquainted at our pancake breakfast*
- ◆ *Tour the school buildings, community and historical society*
- ◆ *Rekindle relationships with classmates and teachers at the alumni dinner*
- ◆ *Participate in contests and win prizes*

Proceeds benefit the PHS Alumni Scholarship Fund



Alumni Association to Award Two \$1000 Scholarships

The Perry High School Alumni Association Scholarship program was established in 2005 to recognize graduating seniors who have exhibited commitment and loyalty to their schools and/or communities. In 2007, two \$1,000 scholarships will be offered recognizing one graduating senior who is the child/grandchild of an alumnus and attends any school (not necessarily Perry High School), and one who is a graduating senior from Perry High School.

Eligibility

Candidate must:

- ◆ be a graduating senior
- ◆ be the child or grandchild of a PHS alumnus or a PHS graduating senior
- ◆ complete the scholarship application (below)
- ◆ plan to pursue post-secondary education immediately following graduation from high school
- ◆ possess a 2.5 or higher grade point average at time of application and provide verification
- ◆ submit an essay (see Essay Guidelines)
- ◆ submit two letters of recommendation addressed to the PHS Alumni Association Scholarship Committee: one from a high school teacher, school staff member or Perry High School alumnus, and one from any other individual

Essay Guidelines

The essay must respond to the question: *What have you done to make your community and/or school a better place?* The essay must be typed and contain no more than 500 words. The candidate's name, home address and home phone number must appear in the upper right corner of the essay.

Deadline

The scholarship application, letters of recommendation, grade verification and essay must be postmarked by April 1, 2007.

Notification

The scholarship recipient will be notified by May 15, 2007.

Mail scholarship application and essay to: PHS Alumni Association Scholarship Committee, PO Box 148, Perry, OH 44081

Scholarship Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

High School: _____

GPA at time of application: _____

College planning to attend: _____

Intended major: _____

Parent's/Grandparent's name: _____
 (if PHS graduate)

Parent's/Grandparent's graduating class: _____
 (if PHS graduate)

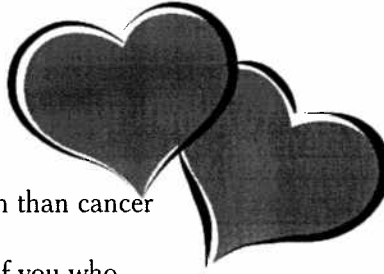
List participation in extracurricular activities (include school year)

List participation in civic/volunteer projects at your school or in your community (include dates)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2007

If more space is needed, please attach a separate page.

Heart Healthy



Jennie Crofoot Drain '76 (married to Ken Drain '78) was an unlikely candidate for a heart attack, yet she experienced one on Christmas Eve. She's doing fine now.

Jennie was featured on News Channel 5 promoting the Go Red for Women campaign, a program that helps alert women of the risk of heart disease. She's sharing her story to bring awareness to a disease that kills far

more women than cancer does.

Those of you who remember Jennie from her high school days will recall she was the epitome of physical fitness. She was an incredible athlete, and still is to this day.

Jennie runs daily, rides and shows horses, and thought she was in excellent health. She had no history of high blood pressure or high cholesterol, yet she had a heart attack. She had no

warning signs prior to the attack. She's proof that anyone can have a heart attack.

To view Jennie's story that ran on WEWS News Channel 5 on February 6, go to www.newsnet5.com/health/10944193/detail.html. Click on Jennie's picture or the story on "Women often miss subtle heart attack symptoms."

Alumni Leaders Needed

Would you like to play a role in the planning and implementation of the PHS Alumni Association activities? If so, consider running for a position on the Board of Directors or serving as a member of a committee. Officer and committee terms are one year; director terms are three years.

Officers and committee chairs must be contributing or lifetime members of the Association. Board meetings are held approximately every other month.

For details on specific officer, director or committee duties, refer to our bylaws on our website at www.perry-lake.k12.oh.us/district/alumni/bylaws.php or request a paper copy by contacting Nominating Committee chairman, Carole Compton Martin '61 at 440-259-2257 or carole@neffp.com. Carole would also like to hear from you if you're interested in serving on the alumni board.

Election of officers will be held at the Annual Meeting on June 20, 2007.



PHS Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

When: Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Where: Perry Local Schools
Community Fitness Center
One Success Boulevard, Perry

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers; nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Who's pictured on page 7? Clockwise from top left: Carole Compton Martin '61, Larry Brainard '57, Helen Billig Erickson '60, Phil Haskell '64, Kathy Compton Homerick '57, Dan Chapman '64, Judy Warner Ernst '64, Frank Whittaker '71, Joy Brown '73, Les Zsigray '61, Bob Rideout '73, Becky Miller Garry '80, Ken Anzelc '64, Barbara Hillston '60, Doug Zinn '76, Suzette Strayer Miller '75, Judy Miller Church '76, Don Johnson '64



The December 20, 2006 News-Herald featured an article on the sister act of Eileen Cicero '80 and Lydia Cicero Erkkila '82. Eileen owns Cicero's on the Avenue hair styling and nail salon; Lydia manages the facility.



Judy Miller Church '76 was recognized on the front page of the December 19, 2006 News-Herald for her volunteer commitment to the Clothe-A-Child charity.



Bill Sarvis '80 earned the News-Herald Division II Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year award. Read more about Bill on pages 4, 5 and 6.



Megan McGuire '06 was named to the dean's list at Grove City College.



Have you heard?

Cara Champion '06, the Alumni Association's 2006 scholarship recipient, received the Rush Rhees Scholarship at the University of Rochester.



With sadness we report the loss of Bruce Billig '73, who passed away in September 2006, Robert "Bob" Hilborn '49, who passed away in November 2006, and Ida Mae Cross Brewster, Ron Brewster '73, and Frank Petrowski '64, who passed away in February 2007. Obituaries of our lost classmates may be viewed on our website at www.perry-lake.k12.oh.us/district/alumni/index.php.



Megan McGuire '06 was named to the dean's list at Grove City College.



A new quarterly magazine, The Heart of Lake County, highlighted the Perry communities in the October 15, 2006 edition. "Mayor Laurence Logan—for the Good of Perry Village"

appeared on page 6. Larry is a '58 alumnus.

Maria Zampini Pettorini '80, President of Lake County Nursery, Inc., was highlighted on page 8.

Larry Secor '75, owner of Secor's Nursery, was mentioned on page 9.

"You're in, you're out, you're home—This is Rideout's IGA" headlined an article on the local grocery store owned by Bob '73 and Susan Gyure Rideout '77.

Vikki Shields King '88 and her husband, Rob, were featured on page 22 for their successful business, Tyler Industries.

Joe Sutch '75 was pictured on page 27. He's involved in the development of Nautica at Lake Erie Shores.

"Rick C. Amos, Perry Township Chairman Serving the Community He Calls Home" titles an article about the '68 graduate and community leader.

Perry Schools received publicity on pages 68, 69 and 70.

The Heart of Lake County can be purchased at Rideout's IGA. Subscriptions and back issues are available by contacting donnalrobinson@theheartoflakecounty.com.



Mike Ashton '01 received a grant from MTV to make a music video. You can view his music videos at www.tower8.net.



Emily Brewster '01, a senior pharmacy major at the University of Toledo, was named to the dean's list.



Michael Mrozek '05 was named to the dean's list at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, IN. Mike was one of the technologically-talented students who created the alumni website.



Continued on page 11...

Have you heard?
(from page 10)

Darcie Garafalo '04 was named to the dean's list at John Carroll University.



Katie Police '98 is engaged to marry Ben Kraus on October 6, 2007. The wedding will be at St. Gabriel's Church in Concord.



In January, Coach Pat Giannell was awarded the first ever Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year Award for the Northeast District. The Northeast District is the largest district in the state. Coach Giannell has been a part of the PHS coaching staff since 1980.



Current PHS Head Football Coach, Mike

Elder, earned the 2006 News Herald, Associated Press, Plain Dealer, Lake County Touchdown Club and Northeast/Great Lakes Coach of the Year awards. Coach Elder joined Perry Schools in 2002.



Andy '88 and Tami Gilson Roberts '88 traveled to China in November to bring home their new daughter,

Lydia. She joins sisters Abby and Alexa.



Dutch '40 and Marilyn Burt Johnson '41 will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on April 5. They began their years of wedded bliss on Easter Sunday in 1942 at Perry United Methodist Church.



Engraved Brick Orders Being Accepted

What do the bricks cost? Personalized paving bricks can be ordered for \$40 each.

Where are the bricks located? The engraved bricks are incorporated in the sidewalk in front of the home bleachers at Alumni Stadium.

Who receives the proceeds? All proceeds from the sale of bricks benefit the Perry High School Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Who is eligible to have his/her name engraved? Bricks can only be engraved with the names of former Perry High School students, teams, clubs/organizations or Perry School faculty.

Need a reason to buy a brick? Engraved bricks make wonderful gifts for graduations, birthdays, holidays and teacher retirements. They're an excellent way to memorialize someone or offer congratulations for an achievement.

When is the order deadline? Brick orders must be received by July 15 to be guaranteed to be in place by Homecoming (subject to brick vendor production schedule).

SAMPLE BRICKS

IN MEMORY OF
TREVOR CHASE
1932-2005

MEREDITH
NICOTRA
CLASS OF 2001

SCIENCE
OLYMPIAD
CHAMPS 2006

THE MILLER
SISTERS
1973, 1976, 1978

Engraved Brick Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Write exactly what you want engraved. Lettering will be centered on the brick.

Make checks payable to: PHS Alumni Association

Mail to: PHS Alumni Association, PO Box 148, Perry OH 44081

Lifesaving Measure

Terry Seith '76 was honored by Lake Hospital System for extraordinary efforts to save a life.

Terry and two of his fellow Lake Hospital plant operations employees conducted a procedure that had little to do with their jobs. The trio usually deals with the hospital's electrical and plumbing systems. Their skills were utilized in a unique way to assist in the emergency room when a patient arrived with a four-foot metal rod impaled in his abdomen.

ER doctors stabilized the patient, but did not have the tools required to cut the solid rod. The staff worried that the fire department's demolition saw might be too large for the job. That's when Terry and his co-workers came to the rescue.

Using a small cutting wheel, the three removed three feet of the rod before the patient was taken by medical helicopter to MetroHealth Medical Center.

Way to go, Terry!

Class of 1987 to Reunite

The PHS Class of 1987 is hosting their 20-year reunion on Saturday, June 23, 2007 at DeRubertis Party Center. Cost is \$40 per person or \$75 per couple.

Missing classmates include:

Julie Anderson, Tom Bohrer, Tracy Friday, Missy Getch, Todd Gilstrap, Janet Griffith, Linda Kmetz, Steve Leopold, Laura Matviyak, Ray McCreight, Duke Pauley, Lorie Raines, Kristine Thomas and Kim Zelensky

If you know the whereabouts of any of these Perry grads, or if you'd like to make reservations to attend, please contact:

Tammie (Woidtke) Vicini @ 440-259-1780
 Anne (Brainard) Liddy @ 440-428-0315
 Stacy (Evans) Harvey @ 440-350-7408

Perry High School Alumni Association Membership Application

Any graduate or former student of Perry High School will be considered an Associate (non-voting) member of the Association by submitting this completed application for inclusion in our alumni records. Contributing (voting) members shall be graduates or former students who have paid membership dues and have submitted application in full. Any current or former teacher at Perry Local Schools will be considered an Educator (non-voting) member of the Association by submitting this completed application.

- Membership type: Contributing (voting) Member — \$10 annual dues
 Lifetime (voting) Member — one-time fee of \$100
 Associate (non-voting) Member — free
 Educator (non-voting) Member — free

Name _____ **Class of** _____ **Phone** (____) _____
Please print (include maiden name, if applicable)

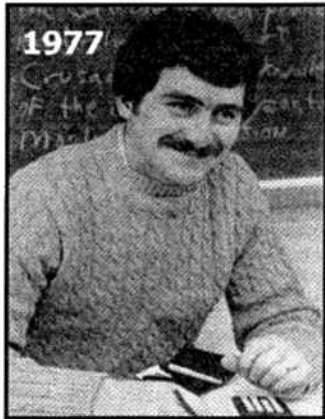
Address _____ **City/State/Zip** _____

Email address _____ **Birthday** _____ **Date** _____

Please **DO NOT** list my name on the Perry High School Alumni Association Web site

Forward completed form to PO Box 148, Perry, OH 44081. Make checks payable to PHS Alumni Association.

Teacher Feature: Mr. Lou DiDonato



March 1, 2007 marked the first day of retirement for longtime teacher, coach and advisor at Perry High School, Mr. Louis DiDonato. After spending 31 years inspiring students, instilling values, and sharing his passion for history and the American government, Mr. D (as he's well known), earned his retirement.

From August 1975 until February 2007, Mr. DiDonato invested his time and talent in students attending Perry High School. During this time, PHS students had the privilege of receiving social studies instruction from this history buff. In addition to his social studies expertise, Mr. D is incredibly knowledgeable about school operations, reform and funding; has a knack for details; is always prepared for everything he does, from classroom instruction to his leisure-time activities; and motivates others by his example. He is a man of

integrity and a tough competitor, even if it's competing with himself to continually improve his own exceptional performance. He's also a published writer.

Mr. D grew up in Ashtabula and graduated from St. John High School in 1967. He is a 1971 graduate of Youngstown State University where he received a Bachelor's degree in Education with a major in History and Government. After a two-year stint in the U.S. Army, he returned to YSU where he earned a Master's of Arts in History.

He and his wife, Ann, began careers working in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. D left the political arena for teaching. "We just thought we needed to get out of that world. It was fun and meaningful, but no place to raise a family."

It just so happened that his former St. John teacher/coach, Phil Cassella (who was a Perry teacher and athletic director from

1972 to 2002), alerted him of an opening in the Perry Local School District. "For that I am very grate-grate to him," commented Mr. D.

From his first quarter in college, Mr. DiDonato knew his ultimate career goal was to be an educator.

"I was inspired by three of my former teachers/coaches: Don Cannell, who is retiring this year from St. John's after 48 years of teaching; Roland Cincarelli, who was a retired Marine General



and my basketball and football coach and World History teacher; and Gene Pushic, who also was a social studies teacher and a football and basketball coach. He went on to coach at Boardman High School and was Bernie Kosar's coach."

Mr. DiDonato may not realize it, but he, too, has inspired his students

to pursue careers. According to Grace Brainard '05, it was his enthusiasm for government that led to her course of study in college. "After taking Mr. D's government class, I am

"He was a great source of inspiration for me and many others who had the privilege of taking his class."

**Grace Brainard
Class of 2005**

now majoring in Political Science at Ohio University. He was a great source of inspiration for me and many others who had the privilege of taking his class. He has a special enthusiasm and talent for making class

both fun and interesting for his students."

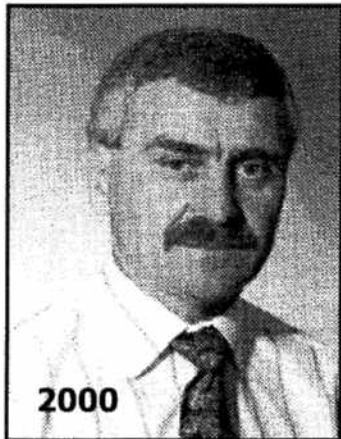
Mr. DiDonato has taught Psychology, American History, American Government, World History and AP Government. He served as student council advisor and spent 21 years as the coordinator of the PHS Bloodmobile. He's also coached football, basketball, cross country and track, but running sports were his passion.

He devoted 24 years to coaching girls' and boys' cross country. During that time, the teams won a number of league championships, two girls' teams competed at state, the teams made 30 trips to regionals, and numerous harriers were

Continued on page 14...

Teacher Feature

(from page 13)



state qualifiers and All-Ohio athletes.

During his 20 years of coaching track alongside Bob Wilson (Perry teacher/coach from 1973 to 2002), the coaches developed numerous All-Ohio runners, most notably Michelle Webb '84, Michelle Rizzo '98, and four-time All-Ohio long jumper and State Champion Chandice Albrecht '97.

Other noteworthy competitors include Joe Medlen '85, who still holds the school record for the 3200 and Tracy Nichols '87, who won the Honda Award for Courage while at Vassar College in 1991. "We had a number of state qualifiers. It was a good run, no pun intended."

With pride, Mr. D says his most rewarding

teaching experience is the success his students have achieved. "I have had so many great kids. Some go on to do some outstanding things like become a doctor/dentist (Tracy Karolyi '86, Chandice Albrecht '97, Summer Gustat '94) work for the U.S. government, become teachers/coaches (Bill Sarvis '80, Michelle Rizzo '98, Judy Rudd '89 and Jenny Gaertner '91 come to mind), own businesses or are successful in the business arena, or they are just good family people, like Judy Miller '76 and Larry Brainard '79. It is always nice to hear from those kids. It is surprising how many e-mails I get out of nowhere asking if I am still here."

"Mr. D was more than just a teacher, he was a mentor of life," commented Chandice

Albrecht Richards '97. "I admired his willingness to work hard and to be a strong leader. He genuinely cared

about his students and wanted them to succeed. He was very supportive in helping me to achieve my goals as a student/athlete. No matter how big the goal was, he always made it seem attainable. When I won the state championship, I felt like we won it together. He worked just

as hard for it as I did. Mr. D was one of my most influential teachers, and he made an incredible impact on my life as a student, athlete, and today as a working mother."

Mr. DiDonato's high standards, intense passion for and extensive knowledge of history and government, along with his ability to treat everyone fairly, earned him the respect and admiration of his students and his professional peers. A direct reflection of his peers' confidence in him was his election as president of the Perry Classroom Teachers' Association for 26 years.

His opinion in the educational arena is sought after. He has held various positions in the Ohio Education Association and has had numerous articles on education funding and reform printed in Gazette Publishing newspapers.

Does anyone recall Mr. DiDonato teaching his entire class from his chair, never getting up to write on the board or walk around the room? If so, you were a witness to one of his funniest memories during his years at PHS.

He tells this story: "I split my pants one day in school and one of my

kids, who ran for me, offered to go to my car to get me another pair of pants. I gave her my keys, but she never returned the entire day. I had to sit in a chair in front of the room and teach all day."

In addition to teaching and coaching, Mr. DiDonato has served on the boards of the American Lung Association and the Madison Country Club, and was recently selected to serve on the board of

Habitat for Humanity.

His retirement plans include teaching part time at the college level and consulting on school reform. He'll also likely be seen on local golf courses and

at the Perry Community Fitness Center continuing his daily physical fitness regiment.

The DiDonatos have been married for 33 years. Mrs. DiDonato is employed at FirstEnergy as the Area Manager for Governmental Affairs.

Read more about Mr. D on page 15.

"Mr. D was more than a teacher, he was a mentor of life."

Chandice Albrecht Richards Class of 1997

"It was a good run, no pun intended"

Mr. D

Continued on page 15...

Teacher Feature

(from page 14)

Advice from Mr. D:

“Prepare your kids for a different world than what you grew up in. I just hope American kids are prepared to compete with kids from foreign countries (notably China and India), who are very determined to have our kind of life. Everyone should read the book “The World is Flat” by Thomas Friedman and also some of the works of Peter Drucker about the future America faces.

Greatest source of pride:

“I am proud that I have had so many kids come back and say I made a difference; also that I have had so many good friends over my lifetime, and that my wife still believes in me.”

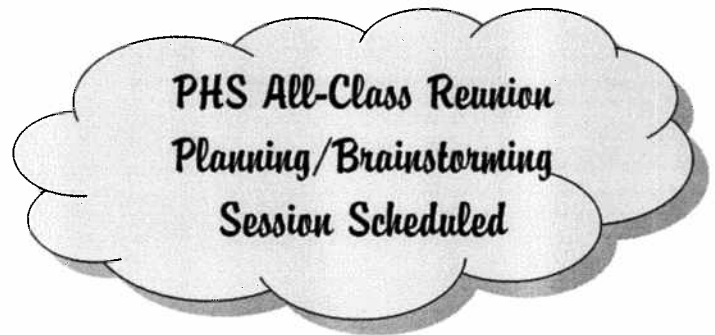
Favorite book:

“Well, for enjoyment, anything by Robert Ludlum and Thomas Clancy. I love spy thrillers. From an academic viewpoint I love biographies of people, especially presidents. I love the work of Fawn Brodie about Thomas Jefferson, Carl Sandburg’s trilogy on Lincoln, Flexner’s story on George Washington, etc. I just think we have to see these people as people with flaws, but great decision makers. We also forget that they usually were not very popular (exception George Washington) when they left

office because they made tough decisions that irritated people. I read Giuliani’s book and he was not a very popular guy until September 11 happened. In order to get things done you have to be willing to irritate people.”

Favorite restaurant:

“Alessandro’s in Saybrook. Please don’t everyone go there because it’s already tough enough to get a seat.”



Alumni are invited to help plan the September 29, 2007 All-Class Reunion. If you’re interested in helping with this social event, please plan to attend the planning/brainstorming meetings. The next meeting will be held in the Perry Community Fitness Center Team Room at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21.

For additional information, contact event chairman, Rick Amos, at rick@ncweb.com or 440-259-2910.

Important Dates

All-Class Reunion Planning Meeting	March 21, 2007
Scholarship Application Deadline	April 1, 2007
Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Election of Officers	June 20, 2007
Alumni Brick Orders Due	July 15, 2007
Picnic & Concert at Perry Township Park	Summer 2007; date TBD
Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Nomination Deadline	September 1, 2007
Alumni Athletic & Distinguished Hall of Fame Induction	September 15, 2007
All-Class Reunion	September 29, 2007

Hometown Heroes



Third Class Petty Officer

Marcus Rideout '03 is stationed in Norfolk, VA aboard the USS George Washington (CVN 73) aircraft carrier. He joined the Navy in 2004 and is an aviation engineer who is responsible for shooting planes off the carrier deck. He's engaged to Karen Murphy '04.



Lieutenant Amy Popieski

'98 is a nuclear trained Surface Warfare Officer in the Navy. After completion of Nuclear Power School, she was stationed as a Division Officer in the Reactor Department on the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) out of Bremerton, WA. She participated on the first Divo Tour on the guided missile destroyer USS Ramage (DDG 61) in Norfolk, VA. She is currently on her second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/ Operation Enduring Freedom. Her ship is in the Gulf and will not return until the end of August.



PHS business teacher, Mr. David Wright, had the honor of presenting the colors at a Cleveland Browns football game. Mr. Wright is a proud member of the Air Force Reserves. The picture appeared on the cover of the Air Force Reserve Magazine.



Private First Class Mike Kirsch '06

completed Marine basic

training at Parris Island, SC. He is part of the infantry with the 3/8. He's currently participating in specialized training in Virginia.



Staff Sergeant Chad Kelly '93

(married to Tiffany Rittenberry '98) shipped to Iraq on February 22, 2007. Chad has been in the Marines for six years. He and Tiffany have a four-year-old son, Tyler, and a baby on the way.



Major David Cassella

'89 is a member of

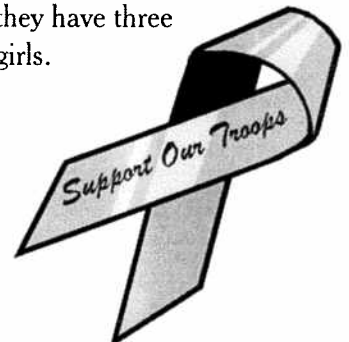
the 240th Medical Battalion stationed in Iraq. He entered the Army immediately after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Nursing. He went on to receive a

Master's in Critical Care and his Nurse Practitioner license. David's home base is Fort Stewart, GA. He's married to Tracey and they have three girls.



OT Training Petty Officer

Michael Mazur '04 is currently aboard the USS Kauffman (FFG 59).



Perry Alumnus Authors Third Book

A charming lady with a warm smile greeted customers at Borders Books in Mentor on February 10. Elaine Tikka Lillback, Class of 1942, was seated at a table by the entrance of the store surrounded by stacks of her latest book, a copy of her son's best-selling book, and one of her watercolor paintings. You couldn't help but approach her and ask that she autograph a copy of her book for you.

Elaine's book, "John Morton Forgotten Founding Father," is a biography of the life of Declaration of Independence signer, John Morton, who was of Finnish decent and who cast the decisive vote for independence as a Continental Congress delegate from Pennsylvania.

Elaine is proud of her Finnish heritage and, as such, chronicles Finnish history. Her father was from a town in Finland adjacent to where John Morton's ancestors originated.

Morton's accomplishments and heritage were a source of pride for Elaine's father, and were often a topic of conversation in her childhood home on Shepard Road in Perry. Elaine carried her father's interest into

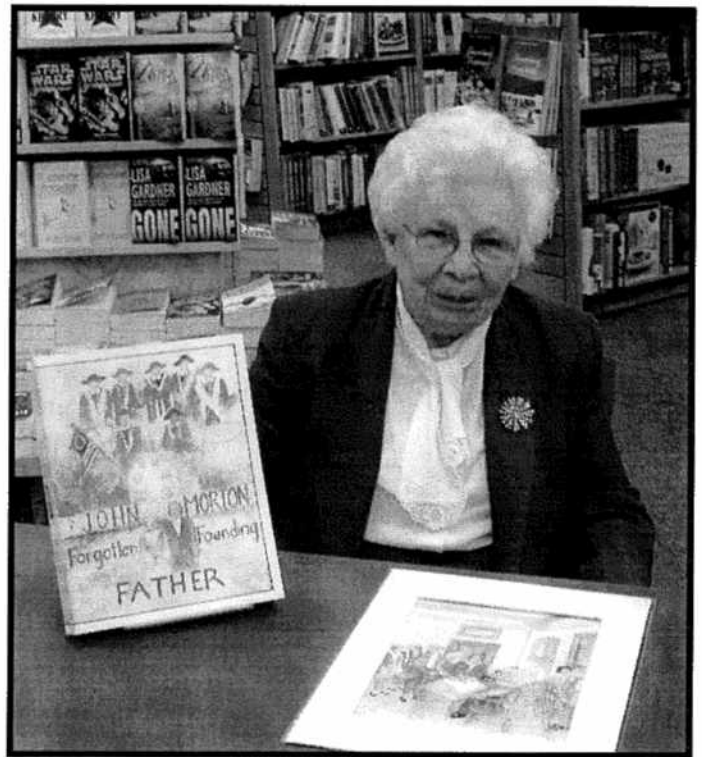
adulthood and incorporated the stories of Finnish immigrants into her social studies lessons at Munson Elementary, where she taught fourth grade for 20 years (she taught school for a total of 27 years).

Elaine often wondered why Morton's life had not received the recognition she felt it was due. Information about Morton was included in books devoted to signers of the Declaration of Independence, but none was dedicated entirely to his life and the important role he played as the final signer.

Elaine approached her son, Rev. Dr. Peter Lillback, asking that he write a book on the topic. Peter, after all, was already an accomplished author with a national nonfiction best seller to his credit. He co-wrote with Jerry Newcombe "George Washington's Sacred Fire." More than 21,000 copies have been sold. He's also authored six other books.

Peter encouraged his mom to take on the writing project, offering to assist her with research and edit the manuscript.

Elaine's research took her to Finland and the New Sweden area of the United States. Photographs from her travels, and 15 drawings and



Elaine Tikka Lillback, Class of 1942, with her latest book "John Morton Forgotten Founding Father."

watercolors by Elaine illustrate the book. The detailed watercolor book cover also reflects her artistic talent.

"John Morton Forgotten Founding Father" sells for \$25 and is available at Artful Hands on Main Street in Painesville and Treasures of Finland and the Finnish Museum, both on High Street in Fairport. She also sells the book by mail for \$27. Send a check to Elaine Lillback, 10487 Johnny Cake Ridge, Painesville, OH 44077 to receive a copy.

Elaine's previous two books are titled "The Finn Hollow of Fairport, Ohio" and "Lempi of Finn Hollow."

In addition to writing, Elaine enjoys painting with watercolors and has been involved in the creation of the new Finnish Museum in Fairport. She has also shared her teaching talents as a missionary teacher in Canada and Central Africa.

Elaine's writing career is not over. She's already working on ideas for her fourth book!



Perry High School Alumni Association
PO Box 148
Perry, OH 44081

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Perry, OH 44081
 Permit No. 7

Visit our website at:
www.perry-lake.k12.oh.us/district/alumni/index.php

Show Your Perry Pride by Purchasing an Alumni T-Shirt, Sweatshirt or Hoodie!



Current Mascot

Original Mascot

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

- Red hoodie with (circle one mascot) original pirate OR current pirate: ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL
- Red sweatshirt with (circle one mascot) original pirate OR current pirate: ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL
- Red T-shirt with (circle one mascot) original pirate OR current pirate: ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL

Quantity of hoodies ordered: _____ x \$25.00 = _____
 Quantity of sweatshirts ordered: _____ x \$20.00 = _____
 Quantity of T-shirts ordered: _____ x \$15.00 = _____
 Shipping: \$4.50 for first item; \$2.50 for each additional item: _____
 Allow five weeks for delivery Total: _____

Make checks payable to PHS Alumni Association and mail with order form to:
 PHS Alumni Association, PO Box 148, Perry, OH 44081

For additional information, contact Holly Such Egolf '68 at 440-428-3692 or hegolf@ncweb.com