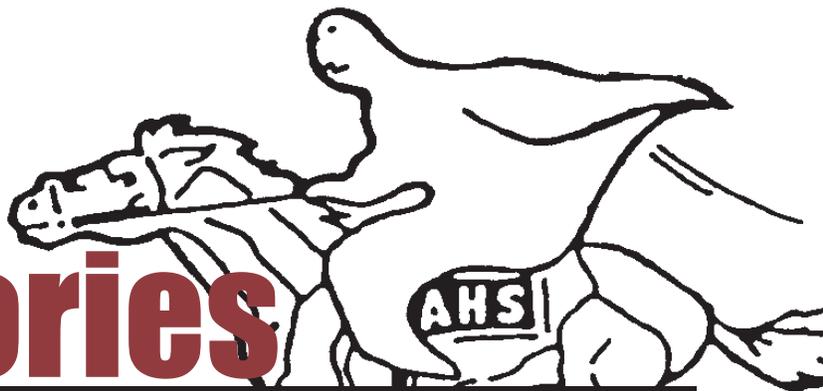


Spring 2012

Abington Ghost Stories



Remembering Tom Cameron, former president

The Alumni Association lost one of its most loyal and contributing members, Tom Cameron '36, who died November 20, 2011, at the age of 93. Throughout the years, Tom was a tireless worker for the Alumni, and served as its president in the 1980s.

Born in Philadelphia, Tom had an older sister, Ann, and a younger brother, Walter, whose nickname was Bud. The family moved to Abington when Tom was 8, and he attended Highland School and Abington Junior High graduating from Abington High School in 1936. While in high school, Tom played a year of football.

He attended the University of Pennsylvania for a year, then pursued a burning interest in flying by going to the Rising Sun School of Aeronautics. When World War II began, Tom enlisted in the Army Air Force and served in the Pacific as a flight engineer. Before his wartime service, he married Jean



John in 1942.

After leaving the military, Tom worked for Walker Brothers, a producer of electrical wire systems that was later merged into Textron of Parkersburg, W. Va. Tom became a regional sales manager working out of the Lansdale, Pa., office.

Retiring at the age of 63 in 1981, he devoted much of his time to community service. He became post commander of the North Penn VFW Post in Ardsley, received a 50-year pin from the Masons, and stayed active with the Alumni Association. He and Jean moved from Glenside to

Rydal Park retirement community in 2004. Jean died in 2009.

Tom is survived by his daughter, Millicent Neff, of Richboro, a former Abington High School director of libraries, and two grandchildren, Jessica Tischler and Matthew Neff. Tom will be dearly missed!

From the president

I must say that having served in the Association for many years, this year has been the most rewarding.

Many of my old friends have come out of the woodwork as the year has progressed. I have taken on an old project and hope to increase the scholarships to future graduating students.

We are the official AHS Alumni Association. You are probably getting many requests to join from organizations claiming to be us. They are asking for your credit card information for payment. **We do not** take cash, credit, or debit cards. We only accept checks sent to us. Our address is Abington High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 55, Abington, Pa. 19001.

Our funds are only used for class lists for reunions and to support the scholarship fund for graduating students. This year we are awarding nearly \$15,000 in scholarships to students. We are the largest contributor to the scholarship program at Abington.

Over the last 50 years, we have made scholarship awards in excess of \$263,000. Our goal is to double that amount



Dave Clark '65

in the next 10 years. Anyone who would like to help us achieve that goal, please send donations. You can be a Life Member for a onetime \$20 donation. If you are a Life Member, you might want to upgrade to the next level of membership. If everyone were to send a small donation or upgrade their membership, we could increase the annual awards by \$6,000 each and every year. There are now

24,150 graduates in our registry of Life Memberships. See the Membership and Donation form on page 6.

Remember, it's not the size of the gift, but the thought behind it.

You also can help by volunteering with the Association. Some jobs require updating the database, generating membership letters, filing obituaries and important information in

See President on page 2

Where are they now?

Charles R. Gallagher, Sr. '36, who lost his leg in the Battle of the Bulge, is at the Veterans Hospital in Orlando, Fla.

Tim Morrow '47 had exciting and life-changing experiences as a pilot during the wars in Korea and Vietnam. In Korea in 1955, he was shot down in his Cessna plane while flying over the DMZ to observe possible nighttime activity on the ground. After bailing out of his plane, he walked back to his home base at A-9 airfield. After being shot down in his helicopter in North Vietnam, despite being injured, he managed to survive by swimming across a river and navigating minefields to safety in South Vietnam. Tim's unique experiences as a pilot includes flying Vice President Richard Nixon from Key West to Miami and flying Muriel Humphrey, wife of Vice President Hubert Humphrey, from St. Thomas to Puerto Rico. When Tim arrived in Puerto Rico, he learned that the Haitian military had overthrown the government, and he had to fly to Haiti to evacuate 96 State Department personnel back to Puerto Rico. Tim lives in Carlisle, Pa.

Norman E. Green '48 spent more than 40 years in the scientific-technical fields, and now has turned to teaching meditation. Norman joined the Air Force after college, and served in the Korean war. In April 1953, he participated in one of the biggest one-day air engagements of the war. After being hit by enemy aircraft cannon, he wanted to ditch his plane in the Yellow Sea. He prepared to eject, but was unable to open the plane's canopy, and the system to expel him through the canopy failed. Managing to force open the canopy, he turned the plane upside down, lost his protective helmet, but managed to parachute into the sea only to find that his survival suit leaked. His battery radio was flooded with saltwater and wouldn't work, and he was unable to contact rescuers. He was finally rescued when a large seaplane saw one of his flares.

After a serious heart attack in 1968, Norman became interested in meditation, and eventually opened a facility in

South Windsor, Conn., called the Prema Center for Meditation (prema is the Sanskrit word for "divine love.") While at AHS, Norman played soccer for P. T. Gantt and later starred for Temple University.

Robert Kiesling '48 has been one of the area's top golfers for a number of years. While at AHS, he finished 15th in the Pennsylvania State Tournament (which was won by Arnold Palmer) and placed second in his senior year. Bob went on to star at Lehigh University, where the golf team lost only three matches in three years. He reached the semifinals in the 1954 Pennsylvania State Amateur Tournament, losing to **Dick Sperry '51**. While playing in the U.S. Amateur (won by Palmer), he managed to win a match. Bob was Huntingdon Valley Country Club's golf champion for two years, and still plays regularly. He and wife live at Brittany Point in Lansdale.

Marguerite Herrmann Sexton '60 is the founder and executive director of Journeys of the Heart (journeysoftheheart.org), a non-denominational ministry that officiates at weddings, funerals, birth celebrations and other life passage celebrations for people who aren't affiliated with a traditional religious organization. Margie has travelled the world with her husband, Tom, and her sister **Patricia Herrmann Conroy '64**. All five Sexton children are AHS graduates. Margie and Tom live in the Hollywood section of Abington Township.

Dr. Robert Bayuk '62 was named 2011 school psychologist of the year at the Annual Conference of the National Association of School Psychologists.

Gary Newell '69, a graduate of Penn State, furthered his education at Temple Dental School. He practices dentistry in Glenside (<http://www.dentistinglenside.com>), and is on the staff at Abington Memorial Hospital. In his spare time, Gary likes to coach his two boys in sports. He also enjoys flying, sailing, water and snow skiing, and summers in Cape May. He is married and also has a 13-year-old daughter.

David Hindia '10 achieved success with the varsity football team as a linebacker, earning many notable awards. Number 45 has moved on, and is finishing an associate's degree at Montgomery County Community College. He expects to graduate in December 2012. Dave works part-time at Otto and Ron's Lukoil in Jenkintown.

We'd like to hear from you. Where has life taken you? What are you doing? Where are you living? What hobbies do you enjoy? Send your updates for "Where are they now?" to the Association via postal or e-mail.

Be part of AHS oral history project

Students at Abington Senior High are creating an oral history of how Abington High School developed over the last 125 years. To make this project a success we need your help!

Have something to say? We want to hear from you! Additionally, anyone who has AHS memorabilia (other than yearbooks) is invited to show us your piece of history. If you're interested in helping make an oral history of Abington High School a success, either by being interviewed or sharing your artifact, contact Andrew Van Buren at 267-536-9834.

President

continued from page 1

class files, generating scholarship letters, generating letters to recipients of Alumni Association awards, responding to phone calls and e-mails, generating class lists and labels for reunion committees, and working on *Ghost Stories*. Most jobs only require a few hours per year. You don't even have to live close to the high school. Just contact us and we will find a job that meets your schedule.

Sports

Abington's fall sports season was highlighted by its football team. Coach Tim Sorber led his squad to a 10-2 record, losing only to Council Rock South in the regular season and in the first District 1 playoff game to Pennsbury, a team they had beaten earlier. Abington, seeded sixth in the state after an 8-0 start, was seeded second in the district before the playoffs. The season ended with a resounding 42-7 victory over Cheltenham on Thanksgiving morning.

Randy Garber's soccer team made the District 1 playoffs, but lost in the

first round. The highlight of the year was two victories over district runner-up Council Rock North.

Winter sports made a great showing also. Track star Jordan Matthews won the Pennsylvania Indoor State championship in the long jump.

Girls' basketball, aided by the strong playing of Aiyannah Peal, defeated Rustin (West Chester) in the first round of the districts, but were then eliminated in round two. The team finished with a 17-8 record.

Boys' basketball went to the district

semi-finals before finishing third, losing to Lower Merion, the eventual Pennsylvania State runner-up. Abington did advance to the PIAA State championships, where they lost a tough game to Central Dauphin 52-45 in the first round. Their impressive year was completed with a 20-8 record, which was the best in a number of years. High scorer Anthony Durham averaged 19 points per game for the Ghosts.

It was a very successful year for these Abington teams.

Nearly 30 AHS grad return to coach

Abington High School not only educates its students to be exceptional, but sends many of them on to further education and successful careers in many diverse fields. Fortunately, many of them return to Abington School District to give back their expertise to current students.

In the 2011-2012 school year, Abington employed a surprising 27 alumni as high school coaches, representing many different sports.

Fall sports

Football has seven. Head Coach, Tim Sorber '90 is a graduate of Millersville University and a social studies teacher at AHS. He is assisted by Mike Mignogno '03, a West Chester University graduate employed by the University of Pennsylvania Hospital; Greg Miller '05, a graduate of Villanova University and student teacher at AHS; Chris Brown '04, also a Villanova grad who teaches social studies at AHS; David Laughlin '04, a Temple University graduate who's a graduate student at Delaware Valley College; Chris Roberts '87, a Rutgers University grad and a CHI recruiter; and Le Roy Roberts '59,



Sports scholarship award winners

Pictured from left are Matt Figueroa (lacrosse), attending the University of Hartford; Chris Duffy (lacrosse), attending the University of Hartford; Ryan Ambler (lacrosse), attending Princeton University; Principal Dr. Jeffrey Fecher; Bryan O'sei (football), attending Temple University; Athletic Director Cosimo Fiorino; Chris Ruhl (football), attending Lehigh University; Isaac Pitkow (soccer), attending Dickinson College; and Jordan Matthews (track), attending Kansas State University.

a Temple grad who's a molding technician.

Boys' soccer is led by head coach Randy Garber '71, a graduate of Penn State University who teaches physical education at AHS, and Jim Di Ferdinand '73, who attended Penn State University and is a teaching deacon at Saint Mary Magdalen.

Rick Tompkins '72, who heads the girls' soccer program, is a Penn State University graduate and an attorney; as-

sistant coach Abbey Smith Sarault '99 is a graduate of Ursinus College who teaches biology at Abington Junior High School.

Cheerleading is led by Stacey Roberts Walker '89, a graduate of Montgomery County Community College who teaches for the Abington Head Start Program.

Both girls' and boys' cross-country are headed by Brian Deck '98, a graduate. See *Coaches*, page 5

News

Sichel to head national school administrators group

Once again, the Abington School District is in the news. Dr. Amy Sichel, Abington School District superintendent, has been elected president of the American Association of School Administrators. This is the first time in the organization's 147-year history that it will be led by a Pennsylvania school chief.

Dr. Sichel is only the fourth woman to hold this post. She'll be president-elect of the 13,000-member group in 2012-13 and president in 2013-14. Dr.

Sichel is a past president of the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators and was Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year in 2010.

Public education has faced hard times and increasing criticism from those who say it's failing America's children. Dr. Sichel's response: "Public education today is continually bashed, when in reality, 95% of the schools across the country are doing extremely well." She feels that we have to get bet-

ter at promoting our successes. Under her leadership in Abington, college enrollments among district graduates jumped from 80% to 90% during her 12-year tenure. All of this occurred with funding cuts and a reduction of local revenue. Dr. Sichel feels that we need to provide a quality education and give students the tools to function in a global world. As alumni, we're sure she's up to the challenge and wish her success in her new role.

Coaches

continued from page 4

ate of Arcadia University who teaches special education in Philadelphia. His assistants include Brian Murphy '10, a Montgomery County Community College student, and Bryan Schwoebel '09, a student at Temple University.

Winter sports

Charles Grasty '90, head coach for the boys' basketball team, is a Rowan University graduate and teaches business at AHS.

Wrestling head coach John Gillespie '88, is a graduate of Albright College and a social studies teacher at AHS. His assistants are Bill Brennan '99, also an Albright College graduate, who works at IT Solutions, and Chris O'Donnell '89, a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania who teaches social studies at AHS.

The swim team's diving coach is Stephanie Serbun '06, a graduate of McDaniel College and a substitute teacher.

Spring sports

Head softball coach Ellie White '87 is an East Stroudsburg University graduate who teaches health and physical education at AHS.

Dave Torresani '74 heads the

baseball team. A graduate of East Stroudsburg University, he teaches senior health at AHS. His assistants include Pat Brennan '07, a Temple University student, and Tim Archer '94, a graduate of Marist College who teaches in Philadelphia.

Boys' head track coach, Bill Neely '70 is a graduate of Norfolk State University and is an assistant professor in the math, science, and technology department at Montgomery County Community College.

In addition to cross-country, Brian Deck '98 is the head coach of girls' track. He was named the 2009 Pennsylvania Track and Field Girls' Coach of the Year. Brian's assistants include Shaun Deck '99, boys and girls jumping coach, who is a West Chester graduate and social studies teacher at Abington Junior High; and Karl Gaines '98, who owns a custodial service.

This is an outstanding array of coaches who take care of our athletes and sports teams at Abington High School! We wish them the best of luck.

Class of 2011 scholarship winners

The Alumni Association awarded \$14,000 to deserving graduates of the Class of 2011. Scholarship recipients are:

- Veronica Brown, school to be determined.
- Cory Brugger, attending West Chester University.
- Seong Ug Kim, attending Temple University.
- Brittany Lloyd, attending the University of Richmond.
- Ryan Sukley, attending Franklin & Marshall College.

We wish them much success in their chosen fields.

Ghost Stories now available online

Starting with this edition, *Ghost Stories* will be available to download (in PDF form) from the Alumni Association website, <http://www.abington.k12.pa.us/news/alumni.html>. You'll need the free Adobe Acrobat reader (available at <http://www.adobe.com/downloads>) to view the PDF file.

Class reunions

McKinley Elementary School—celebration, unearthing of time capsule, and burial of a new time capsule on Saturday, May 5, 2012, in conjunction with the McKinley homecoming event and fair.

Reunion for all Abington grads—Saturday, October 13, 2012, at the Franklin Institute. We will be posting information on the Alumni Association website for all who are interested.

Class of 1947 (65th)—luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, October 13, 2012,

at the LuLu Temple Country Club. Contact Jim Garvin at 215-886-3836 for more information.

Class of 1962 (50th)—Anyone interested in participating in the reunion or in forming a reunion committee, please contact Gerard (Jerry) Bowers at 908-995-4605 or gerard.bowers@gmail.com.

Class of 1972 (40th)—6-10 p.m. Friday, November 23, 2012, at Manufacturers Country Club, 511 Dresher-town Road, Fort Washington, Pa. Con-

tact Emily Hess at AHS1972@comcast.net. We also have a group on Facebook: Abington High School Class of 1972.

Class of 1973 (40th)—6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20, 2013, at the VFW in Glenside. Contact Kathy Tirri Slusarski, 215-884-4947 or 215-740-3140 (cell).

If your class is planning a reunion, please send any information a year ahead of time to the Alumni Association at alumni@abington.k12.pa.us.

New life members

Class of 1947

Robert Aitken
Robert Beideman
Robert Bruce Bennett
Helen Boyes Globe
Jane Carr Hall
—*Gifts by Myrtle E. Ryan '47*

Class of 1957

Roberta Wells Ryan

Class of 1964

Alfred Gramp

Class of 1966

Samuel A. Wood

Class of 1981

William Hewish
Wendy Metzger
Patricia Quallet

Class of 2011

Anastasia Barnard, *Alumni Award for Culinary Arts*

Veronica R. Brown
Chelsea L. Burkart
Erin Cain, *Alumni Award for Culinary Arts*
Chrystyna M. Colon
Megan M. Dawson
Dale W. Hoover
Kelsey Brooke Hughes
Taylor Monet Jenkins
Heidi M. Jeong

Sean A. Lawrence
Andrew S. Lukens
Presley Manzinger, *Alumni Award for Collision Repair Technology*
Chad J. Ritter
Ashley Ming Tsung
Joshua A. Zlotnick

Hall of Fame Nomination Form

The next Hall of Fame is planned for fall 2013.

I wish to nominate _____ Class of _____

to the Abington High School Hall of Fame in the category of _____
(categories are Arts, Athletics, Business, Education, Government, Science and Service. Posthumous nominations should be referred directly to the Abington Senior High School Alumni Association.)

Reason for nomination (attach extra sheets if needed) _____

Nominee's address _____

Nominee's phone number (if available) _____

Nominee's e-mail address (if available) _____

Your name _____

Your phone number and e-mail address _____

Return this form by **May 1, 2013**, to William Penderghest, Chairman, Hall of Fame Committee,
Abington Senior High School, 900 Highland Ave., Abington, Pa. 19001.
williampenderghest@abington.k12.pa.us

Memberships and donations 2011

Cornerstone

419Alberto Penta '81

Boosters

\$125Eileen M. Harmon '78

Specified Donations

\$50Overlook Hills Womens Club of Abington
 \$750Verizon Foundation, Tim Simmons '65, VIP Program
 \$2,200 ..Fifty Plus Club
 \$500Anonymous '58

Memorials and Honorariums

\$100In honor of Virginia and Wayne Cunningham by their son, Craig Cunningham '75, and daughter-in-law, Nancy
 \$25In memory of Robert T. Boutcher '50 by Pat Boutcher Kaiser '58
 \$50In memory of Paul S. Hartzell '48 by his sister, Persis '47

\$100In memory of John Wenner '53 by his wife, Phyllis Iacampo '54, and family
 \$50In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by C. Robert Kiesling '48
 \$50In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Virginia McClay Cunningham '51 and Wayne Cunningham '50
 \$25In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Marylu Briggs
 \$50In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Rev. and Mrs. George R. Gunn, Jr. '57
 \$25In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Sheila and Ira Shapiro
 \$100In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Doris Schaefer and Linda Murray
 \$15In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Kathryn Ladley
 \$25In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Donna Hendric Koenig
 \$20In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Larry and

Linda Yerkees
 \$20In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Pat and Bob Stokes '45
 \$100In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Susan Mensch
 \$50In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by the Glenside Oldtimers
 \$50In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Betty Neary
 \$25In memory of A. Thomas Cameron, Jr. '36 by Frederic Conti
 \$150In memory of Nancy Schwarz Settar '48 by her classmates Natalie Delia Barbano, Betty Meurer Kirkpatrick, Florence Mundy Rauch, Margie Ransford Purvis, Jean Riemen-schneider Garvin, Barbara Rosenberger Evans, Trudy Schmidt Painter, Thelma Turn Leonhard, Carolyn Wassmann Wright

Membership and Donation Form

Membership

- Life, \$20 (one-time donation)
- Cornerstone, \$25
- Maroon & White, \$50
- Century Club, \$100
- 500 Club, \$500

Donations (any amount)

- Booster donation
- Memorial donations—other than life membership memorials
- I am willing to give a little time to work for the Alumni Association.

Class year	Present membership	Phone number
First name	Maiden if applicable	Surname
Address—please check here if this is a new address <input type="checkbox"/>		
City	State	ZIP Code
Spouse's full name		
Please add memorial donation information here. Attach second sheet if needed.		
Total enclosed (make checks payable to Abington High School Alumni Association) _____		
Please detach form and mail to AHSAA at P.O. Box 55, Abington, Pa. 19001.		

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Ghost Stories

Spring 2012

■ **Classes of 1962 and earlier, register for the Fifty Plus Club luncheon. See the invitation on page 3 This will be the only notice for this event.**

■ **Attend the annual Association business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20, in the Alumni Office in the Administration Building on Highland Avenue in Abington.**

■ **Contact your class coordinator now to plan your next reunion!**

■ **Visit the Association's web page for reunions: <http://www.abington.k12.pa.us/news/alumni.html>, e-mail alumni@abington.k12.pa.us, or phone 215-572-8899.**

ABINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Association 2012 Officers

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