

Penn High Alumni

Spring 2015



Reunion news and updates

Class of 1965: A 50th reunion is planned for Aug. 29. Updated addresses are needed to send reunion information. Anyone who has had an address change in the past five years, please contact Jackie (Geerligs) Minix at (574) 273-4749. Location to be announced. Any veteran with military information please contact Nile Thomson at (616) 457-1274.

Class of 1985: A 30th reunion is planned for this

summer with a reunion weekend June 26-28. Details to come.

Class of 1990: The reunion is scheduled for Aug. 8 at the Waterford Estates Lodge in South Bend. For ticket information, visit www.pennhigh1990.myevent.com

If your class is planning a 2015 reunion, send in information to alumni@phmef.org, call (574) 254-2893 or check phmef.org for updates.

New contact information

Find the latest updates about the Alumni Association in these numerous formats:

Mailing address (same):
Alumni Association
55900 Bittersweet Road
Mishawaka, IN 46545

Phone: (574) 254-2893

Email: alumni@phmef.org

On the web:
www.phmef.org/alumni

On Facebook:
Search for P-H-M
Education Foundation

Alumni News

'79 swimmer inducted to hall of fame

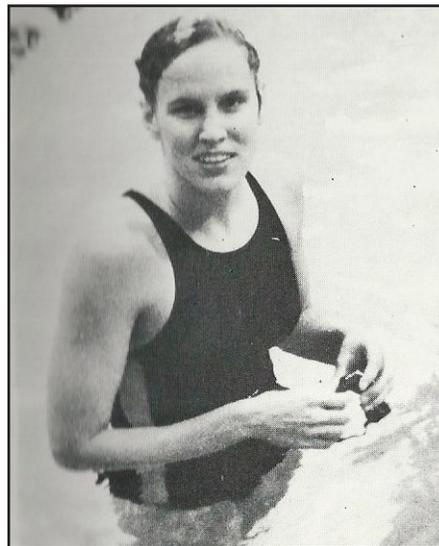


Photo credit: Kingsmen Yearbook
Deb Thompson in 1979.

If you attended Penn in the mid- to late 1970s, you probably remember Deb Thompson, class of '79. This April, the two-time 200-free state champion and first Indiana high school female to break the two-minute barrier in the event was inducted into the Indiana Swimming & Diving Hall of Fame.

"They called me at work," said Deb, now a PE teacher at St. Joseph High School in South Bend. "I was so surprised, and very honored. We are only the second class to be inducted." Deb was one of 25 inductees who were honored at the April 18 banquet in Indianapolis. She earned four Penn High School records and eight individual sectional titles, never losing the 200-free in sectional competition. At the state level, Deb led **Swimmer, see Page 2**

What does the Association mean to you?

The Alumni Association committee would like to invite you to take a brief online survey, as it continues to collect feedback.

The survey should take 10 minutes and will capture what information is important to you as Penn alumni. Results will steer how information will be communicated, what events the association will sponsor, and

how funds should be raised.

The survey will be open through the end of May and can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/pennalumnisurvey

If you would like to receive newsletters electronically, email alumni@phmef.org and send your name and current email address.

P-H-M honors, accomplishments

PENN HOCKEY: Penn wins hockey Class 3-A state crown: Penn 6, Columbus 3.

PENN SPELL BOWL: Penn's Spell Bowl team earned its 14th state championship in November.

PENN ACADEMIC TEAMS: Penn High School's six Academic Super Bowl teams won three subject areas. The Kingsmen Math, Science and English teams grabbed first place honors while Penn's Social Studies, Fine Arts and Interdisciplinary teams turned in second place performances. The strong showing at the Ft. Wayne Dwenger Invitational followed an overall championship at the Warsaw

Invitational two weeks prior. Regional competitions are set for April 21.

PENN WRESTLING: Kingsmen captured state title for the first time in school history. Chase Osborne and Kobe Woods each earned individual state titles in their weight classes, and Drew Hildebrandt was runner-up in his. Chase is also the recipient of the Ward E. Brown Mental Attitude Award.

PENN ROBOTICS: The Black Knights, Team 135, represented Penn at FIRST Robotics Competition at the state level and earned the highest award - the Chairman's Award. The team will head to FIRST World Competition in April.

PHMEF News

Silver Mile to gather 3,000 community members

The P-H-M Education Foundation will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Silver Mile Run for Education & Health and Fitness Fair on Saturday, May 9.

Participate in this community event through the 5K Run/Walk, 1-Mile Timed Run, and 1-Mile Fun Walk - starting on the Penn High School track.

Inside Penn's cafeteria, presenting sponsor Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center will offer free health screenings

including blood pressure, cholesterol tests, and much more. The health and fitness fair will feature 25 local vendors. A talent show will feature student groups from Horizon, Grissom, and Penn. The day will also include a silent auction, with more than 100 items such as restaurant packages, golf outings, and a getaway to Hilton Head, S.C.

To register or for more information, visit www.phmef.org. Proceeds from the Silver Mile support PHMEF's grant cycle.

Swimmer, from Page 1

Penn relays to top 8 finishes and always medaled (top 8) with her second event, the 500-free. Her sophomore year she beat her own previous year's state 200-free record (2:01:09) with a 1:59:27, becoming the first Indiana high school female to break the 2-minute barrier. That year, the Penn Girls Swimming & Diving Team placed 3rd in the state, taking just five swimmers and one diver, fielding only two (as opposed to three) relays. Deb and the team were coached by Christine Simper, who still teaches at Penn and remains a close friend of Deb's. Deb went on to swim for Purdue Uni-

versity where she was a member of two record-setting relay teams—the 200-free and 400-free—that also competed nationally. (Deb also walked on the Purdue softball team her freshman year, but found it was a tough schedule to continue.)

"I used to say I majored in swimming in college, and took classes on the side," she said. As a physical education major she was able to keep the rigorous practice hours, complete her student teaching and graduate in four years. Her dream had been to coach college swimming, which meant finding the right fit. "I found I didn't like the scholarship level, but really enjoyed D-3, where

In Memoriam

Remembering Penn High School students, staff, and administrators

- David John Anderson
Class of 1976, Oct. 18, 2014
- Patrick B. Donahue
Class of 1962, Dec. 26, 2014
- Chayce E. Herron
Class of 2005, Jan. 20, 2015
- Tyler J. Kabzinski
Class of 2011, March 14, 2015
- Rachel M. Logan
Class of 1998, March 6, 2015
- Tracy Niemiec
Class of 1980, Jan. 2, 2015

News To Share?

Do you have news to share with your fellow classmates? A wedding, promotion, birth of a child, relocation? Send your news to alumni@phmef.org. Share your photos along with a description.

Honoring a fellow classmate

Undesignated donations made by class reunions or in memory of a loved one will support the Alumni Association scholarship. Your donation and support will help grow this scholarship. A list of donors will be printed in the Alumni Association newsletter.

there were no athletic scholarships." She coached in several systems, including Pennsylvania, Wisconsin with an especially successful stint in New York (State University of New York at Geneseo).

But she missed being near home, where her family was and where her nieces and nephews were growing up without her. So she headed home to Mishawaka and joined the St. Joseph High School staff, choosing not to coach at all.

"I miss coaching sometime, but I don't miss the time it took. In college coaching there is never a break, you are constantly recruiting." She adds, "I don't miss the early mornings."