

Echoes March 2022

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Echoes: The Haddonfield Alumni Newsletter

March 2022
Haddonfield Alumni Society
Online at hmhsalumni.org



The Haddonfield Alumni Society (HAS) newsletter shares information about the alumni community and the continued good work in the Haddonfield public schools.



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President's Message

An alumni/ae association can be a lot of things. It can provide a connective backbone that helps classes come together for reunions and social events. It can provide news, updates and information about the current state of your alma mater. It can build a



Update: Ninety-one alumni are now listed as class coordinators

to help get information out to you about reunions, events and news. If your profile doesn't have an agent icon, let us know to add you.

connected community that meets through social events, master classes and celebrations of alumni/ae achievement.

In addition to serving alumni/ae, individual grads and whole classes have supported the current student body with class and family scholarships, individual gifts and contributions to special efforts like the Legacy Walk and the Beautification project.

HAS accomplished all of the above with a fair degree of success over the past 25 years. Can we do more?

Can we do some things that support both current and recent grads? Our lead article this month speaks to the contribution that Bill Rauch, an HAS Lifetime Achievement Award honoree has been making over the past two years. His expertise, knowledge and generosity have created some very unique experiences for our current students and faculty.

Would more of you like to do what Bill has done? Are you willing to tap into your expertise or contact base to be a guest speaker at HMHS, to participate in their career fair, or to allow your organization or company to mentor a high school or college student? If so, drop me an email at jserico1@verizon.net

Joseph Serico
HAS President

Alumni Spotlight: Bill Rauch '80

Distinguished Alumnus Gives Back

Bill Rauch '80 was first introduced to HMHS English teacher, Kim Dickstein Hughes by Mimi Sullivan '77 after Mimi had read in the Courier-Post of Kim's work with students on the Shakespeare elective.

They became better acquainted when Kim enrolled in a summer teacher training program at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the nation's largest repertory theater, where Bill was artistic director at the time. "I wasn't at all surprised when Kim was named Teacher of the Year," Bill said, "because it was immediately apparent to me that she was a passionate innovator and a tireless advocate for her students to learn in new ways."

[Click here to view the list of Class Coordinators.](#)

Upcoming Events

Visit hmhsalumni.org for details on all upcoming events and reunions.

The classes of **1972** and **1997** are preparing for their 50th and 25th reunions respectively. For the class of 1972, please reach out to:

micklarsongmail.com

For the class of 1997, please contact:

bensmorris@hotmail.com

Alumni Society Trustee Meetings

Third Tuesday of every month September through May/June, except December. Contact us for the location.

Let us know about your event and be sure to get your class representative to add details of your class reunion to your class page.

Haddonfield Memorial High School is the only school in the State that has won this award every year since its inception!



Bill was thrilled to move across the country to New York City three years ago in part because it put him closer to his alma mater in Haddonfield and the amazing work that Kim and other current teachers at HMHS are doing. As the inaugural artistic director of the Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center that's currently under construction at the World Trade Center, Bill will present and produce theater, dance, music and chamber opera.

Bill is also a leader of the JDS Legacy Group, an alumni organization seeking to honor their former HMHS drama teacher Jack Shaw and to pass on the amazing gift of mentorship that Shaw provided them in their student days. The JDS Legacy Group is working to establish an endowed grant to give to a graduating HMHS senior who is interested in further study in theater.

In addition, the group established an ongoing speaker series, intended to bring exposure to professional theater makers to HMHS students. The JDS Legacy Group quickly raised the funds to bring theater artists to campus; as the pandemic wore on, Bill and three actors from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of Othello held a virtual panel with Kim's Shakespeare students in April 2021. The professional artists were especially impressed by the sophisticated questions that the HMHS students asked, which demonstrated a deep understanding of Shakespeare's text.

This year, Kim has connected the dots between



Reunion and Class Web Pages

On these pages, you will find valuable information about your upcoming reunion, class contacts and officers, class news, photos, class discussions and more. Let the Haddonfield Alumni Society host your class website (free of charge) instead of you paying and hosting it. Not sure when your next reunion will be? Refer to your class page. Who is in charge? Look at your class page. Trying to find a classmate? You guessed it, take a look at your class page.

See what's there now! Just select a class in the "Who do you want to find?" select box or head to the 'Search' page.

The class page showcases class news, events, discussions, photos, the class directory, class search, lost/missing, in memoriam, facts and figures, class officers and contacts, and a class map.

Group/Class Moderators Functionality

Class reunion organizers and class officers can have the

Greek mythology, a hit Broadway musical, and a writing project for her Shakespeare elective. Kim has crafted a teacher innovation grant with her students entitled, "From Classics to Contemporary: An Exploration of Modern Retellings." Kim is using her grant money from the Haddonfield Educational Trust to have her students do an in-depth study of Hadestown, a contemporary retelling of the classic Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. The Kimmel Center recently featured the Shakespeare elective on their Instagram and will be publishing a blog post about their study of Hadestown on their website. Kim says, "Beyond the excitement of seeing this irreverent hit, students began to understand on a whole new level the foundational storytelling embedded in iconic works of literature."

Working with Bill Rauch and Lue Douthit, Play on Shakespeare Director, at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Kim is also commissioning a playwright to serve as a mentor to her students over a ten-week period. She noted, "Collaborating with Bill has opened doors to my students that I never thought possible. Despite the demands of his own creative work, he has been an inspiring thought partner and connected me with folks who help turn my ideas into action." This playwright-in-residence will coach students through the research and development process involved in a modern retelling. The students will rewrite selections from Shakespearean plays and provide a modern retelling of their selected play to address contemporary concerns. Students in the Shakespeare elective will do a public reading for the community at **Inkwood Books on Sunday, May 22nd.**

Bill states, "I think this work with the speaker series will bring fresh insights to text for theater kids and non-actors alike. I hope we can inspire future generations of HMHS alumni through furthering the great teaching of Jack, Kim, and teachers yet to come!"

Here are a few student reflections regarding the

ability to:

Class Agent Options

- Add news
- Add events
- Email blast
- Register new profiles
- Add photos
- Run a membership report and export data
- Edit member information

Contact us if you don't see the above Agent button on your class page.



experience of seeing the musical:



“I am so grateful this was able to happen. Being able to see this production with our whole class was a unique experience. Coming from different backgrounds with

musicals and plays, there are performers in our class along with people whose first musical was Hadestown. I think seeing this musical really helped bring the work we do in class to life. It brings an understanding to how older texts can continue to be learned from today. I am very glad everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves.” – Briana L.

“ I feel like during any normal year doing something like this would've been incredible, but the fact that we made it happen this year with COVID was even better. On top of that the musical was phenomenal so overall the experience was perfect.” – Owen T.

“I thought the musical and experience were incredibly impactful. It brought our class closer together and gave us very compelling material to learn about. The Greek myth is very applicable to today, as shown by the musical, which made the experience even more powerful.” – Jack E.

Alumni Spotlight: Paul Wiedeman '89



For the Wiedeman family, basketball is more than just a sport, it is a passion and a family legacy, at least for Haddonfield Memorial High School basketball head coach

Paul Wiedeman '89.

I had the good fortune to work with both Dave and Paul Wiedeman at HMHS. Dave was an exceptional basketball coach and an extremely enthusiastic gym teacher. He made an indelible and positive impact on the basketball community in South Jersey as an HMHS coach for nearly two decades and rightfully



Keep your Information Updated

Keep your e-mail and mailing addresses current and you'll receive the details for all alumni information, activities, events, and reunions. Update your [profile](#) today!

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Have News for Us

This newsletter is for you, the alumni. We would like to bring you news about your classmates and information about the Haddonfield Schools today. Please contact us at president@hmhsalumni.org, if you have updates that you would like to share.

earned a place in the South Jersey Basketball Hall of Fame.

Paul, the current HMHS coach, has followed in his dad's footsteps, the man he has called a role model.

Under the tutelage of his dad, Paul won a state championship in 1989, as a 6' 4" starting point guard on a team that included Doug Stewart and Matt Maloney, both of whom later played at the professional level. The 1988-89 HMHS team won thirty-one straight games before losing in the NJ State Tournament of Champions.

Both Wiedemans enjoyed successful college basketball careers. Dave was the starting backcourt teammate of Billy Packer, for the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest. In the 1962 season, Dave's Wake Forest team advanced to the NCAA Division I Final Four. From 1990 to 1993, Paul played basketball at Rowan University, and was the starting point guard.

During his four years his team was 70-17. Rowan made it to the Division III Final Four for the first time in 1993, ending the season with the overall best record in the school's history to that point.

Paul graduated from Rowan University in 1993 with a marketing degree in business. Shortly after graduation, he began interning with the Philadelphia 76ers. Although he gained off-court experience in the behind-the-scenes activities of pro sports, Paul's true passion was on the court. In 1995, he went back to Rowan and earned his teaching degree in health and exercise science.

According to Paul, his father inspired him to follow a career in teaching and coaching basketball. "He's a great inspiration," Paul said. "I hung around my dad all the time. I just grew up watching games, going to Camden and Atlantic City, Florence, Willingboro with my dad. We'd take tours all over the place. I remember staying up and drawing up lineups for teams with him."

In 1999, Paul followed in his father's footsteps at HMHS by becoming the head boys varsity basketball coach and a physical education teacher. During his time at HMHS, he has won five state championships, seven South Jersey championships,

and fourteen Colonial Conference championships. In March 2020, he surpassed five hundred career wins and in 2018 was inducted, like his dad, into the South Jersey Basketball Hall of Fame. Paul now ranks among the top ten in wins among high school basketball coaches in South Jersey.

As a longtime fan and former high school varsity basketball coach, it is a delight to watch the HMHS team play. They are always prepared, fundamentally sound, and play a very special brand of team basketball. When I wanted my grandson to experience what good high school basketball could look like, we watched the Bulldogs play in a holiday tournament. He still talks about their tenacious defense and smoothly executed back door plays.

Paul has enjoyed extraordinary success with talented teams like the Brian Zoubek-led squads of 2004 through 2006 that won three successive state championships and the Depersia' brothers teams of the recent past. Winning three state championships in a row was special. Paul noted, "It put a stamp on the fact we were a good program." Recent teams have not diminished that reputation. In four of the last five years, the Bulldogs have reached the South Jersey Group 2 final developing a heated rivalry with Camden High and won back to back state championships in 2018 and 2019 beating Camden along the way. On March 7th, the Bulldogs will renew that rivalry with Camden, the number one ranked team in the state.

When the tip off takes place on Monday, Paul will be on the bench and Dave will be in the crowd looking on with pride. Although as far as Dave Wiedeman is concerned, his son passed him a long time ago as a coach. "He's better than I was," Dave Wiedeman said. "What he's done has been remarkable, and I don't say that because he's my son. I see it from a coach's eyes."

Paul has a true appreciation for what he has been given by his dad and he hopes to preserve it. "I'm just trying to do my part to keep his legacy," Paul Wiedeman said of his father. "I don't want to let down what he had built up over the years. It's like, in his

honor I've got to keep his legacy going.”

Reunion Planning and Class Organization



Are you tasked with communicating and organizing your class or reunion? Here you will find everything you need . . .

- [Contact us](#) if you are the primary contact for your Class to gain access to update the news, events, and pictures on your Class page, as well as to be able to send email blasts and create profiles. We already have [contacts for many classes](#).
- You can also post a discussion about your reunion in the message boards (look for your Class forum) under [Class Notes, Reunions and Get-Togethers](#).

So what are you waiting for? Start planning, organizing and sharing your event today!

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See you back on [https://hmhsalumni.org/!](https://hmhsalumni.org/)

– Haddonfield Alumni Society

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