



DENFELD ALUMNI NEWS

WWW.DENFELDALUMNI.COM

FALL 2007
VOLUME 1
ISSUE 1

2007-2008 at DHS

Oct. 5

Maroon and Gold Week
Homecoming Football
Game vs. East at PSS
(5:15 p.m.)

Nov. 15

Choir Concert in Denfeld
Auditorium (7:30 p.m.)

Dec. 10

Band Concert in Denfeld
Auditorium (7:30 p.m.)

Dec. 13

Girls Basketball vs. Central
in Denfeld Gym
(7:30 p.m.)

Dec. 17

Holiday Concert in Denfeld
Auditorium (7:30 p.m.)

Jan. 8

Boys Hockey vs. East at
Duluth Heritage Sports
Center, pending
completion of construction
project (7:30 p.m.)

May 28

Outdoor Music Concert
featuring Denfeld choirs
outside the school's main
entrance on 44th Ave. W.
(6:30 p.m. Bring a chair.)

June 5

Graduation
Commencement in Denfeld
Auditorium (7:30 p.m.)



The Denfeld Auditorium was restored in 2006 and reopened in March 2007.

Alumni centennial campaign begins

When Denfeld High School holds its 100th graduation commencement in 2009, it will be the start of a new era. By then, work could already be underway to expand the school to house 1,500 students — the result of closing Central High School as part of a consolidation plan for Duluth Public Schools.

Among Denfeld's assets will be the continued strength of its alumni support, a century-old tradition that remains the foundation of the school's success.

With that in mind, the Denfeld Alumni Association formed in 2004 and developed a plan for celebrating Denfeld's past, present and future.

The first goal was to develop a newsletter to keep Denfeld's graduates connected and rally support for important initiatives. This is the first issue. The second will be mailed in spring 2008.

The alumni association's other goals are: 1) Rejuvenate the Hunter Hall of Fame. 2) Honor Denfeld's centennial. 3) Complete renovations to the school's pipe organ. 4) Develop a new scholarship for students.

Hunter Hall of Fame

Twenty-nine legendary Hunters have been inducted into the school's hall of fame and presented with plaques over the years, but plans to enshrine those honorees with a display of plaques inside the school have never come to fruition. The alumni association is looking to raise \$5,000 to complete this long-overdue task and also induct new members to the hall of fame for the first time since 1996.

Centennial

Denfeld's predecessor, Duluth Industrial High School, held its first classes in the fall of 1905, graduating its first class in 1909. The alumni association is hoping to celebrate Denfeld's centennial in August 2009 with as many events as are financially possible. A fundraising goal of \$50,000 has been set for this effort.

Organ Fund

Denfeld's 80-year-old Kilgen Pipe Organ is still in need of repairs. Over the past decade, A Denfeld Organ Project (ADOPT) has raised \$120,000 and had parts of the organ repaired. Another \$180,000 is needed to finish the job. The alumni association would like to see a fully repaired organ in 2009.

Student Scholarship

Since the Greater Denfeld Scholarship Foundation awarded its first scholarship in 1974, hundreds of students have benefited from this ever-growing, permanent endowment fund. The alumni association has set a goal to raise \$50,000 for a new scholarship for Denfeld grads pursuing higher education.

The alumni association is also seeking \$15,000 to support the long-term mailing costs for its newsletter. That brings the total fundraising goal to \$300,000. It won't be easy, but if only one goal is completed it will have been worth the effort.

Donations of any amount will be greatly appreciated. Use the form on the back page of this newsletter for instructions, or visit www.denfeldalumni.com.

Class Reunions

1988

The class of 1988 will hold its 20-year reunion on July 26 at the Buffalo House Junction in the Midway Township. For information visit www.denfeld1988.myevent.com or call Mandy Roman LeGarde at 218-628-2584.

1953

The class of 1953 will hold its 55-year reunion July 30 at Patsy Munger Lehr's home in Duluth and on July 31 at Black Woods Grill & Bar in Proctor. For information, visit www.denfeld53.org or call Barbara Humphrey at 612-869-7163.

1948

The Denfeld class of 1948 will hold its 60-year reunion August 22-24. Friday night will be a dinner at the Ridgeview Country Club, Saturday will feature a tour of Denfeld and dinner at the Kitchi Gammi Club, and Sunday will be a picnic lunch at the Pike Lake Auto Club. For information, call Bill Ellifson at 715-392-2872 or Dick Olson at 218-729-6050.

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Next Hunter Hall of Fame induction ceremony in 2009

The Hunter Hall of Fame was established in 1996 to honor positive contributions to Denfeld, its traditions and its community. The Denfeld Alumni Association is now seeking nominations for a new group of inductees to be enshrined in 2009.

Denfeld alums are encouraged to nominate Hunter Hall of Fame candidates by writing a brief letter of support outlining the nominee's accomplishments. Nomination letters should be mailed to the Denfeld Alumni Association, 4405 W. Fourth St., Duluth MN 55807.

In addition to being actively involved in Denfeld, its traditions, activities and community, nominees should have excelled while at Denfeld. There are three categories in which hall of famers may be honored:

Professional
Humanitarian
Athletic

Denfeld graduates cannot be inducted until 10 years after graduation. Attending Denfeld as a student, however, is not required. Teachers, administrators and community members who have served the school are also eligible. No self-nominations will be accepted.

The 20 members of the Denfeld Athletic Hall of Fame, established in 1966, are the original Hunter Hall of Fame members.

Denfeld's Distributive Education Clubs of America chapter launched the Hunter Hall of Fame in 1996 and established its criteria. Nine new members were added at an induction ceremony on Feb. 16, 1996.

The Denfeld Alumni Association took over management in 2004 and is raising funds to have plaques placed in the school honoring all hall of fame members. For more information, visit www.denfeldalumni.com

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www.DenfeldAlumni.com



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Sweatshirts in
a variety of
sizes and
colors

Hunters in the News

Denfeld teachers **Jim Brandt, Lee Englund, Dukes Knutson** and **Jim Olson** retired after the 2006-2007 school year.

Bill Westholm retired on July 31 after serving over 30 years with Duluth Public Schools. He was Denfeld's principal from 1995 to 2005 and retired as the district's director of school operations. He graduated from Denfeld in 1966.

Rory Johnson (class of 1974) was named athletic director at Proctor High School in August.

Andrew Gunderson (class of 1993) won \$58,750 in the World Series of Poker in July. He lives in Hoboken, N.J. and works as a stock trader.

Elna DeHarpporte, one of Denfeld's oldest living graduates, traveled from the Twin Cities to tour the school on July 26. She graduated in 1931 as Elina Anteroinen.

According to the alumni association's records, Denfeld's oldest living graduate is **Frances Siennes** (Anderson) of the class of 1928. She is 98 years old and still lives in West Duluth.

Steve Williams (class of 1977) is living in Omaha, Neb., where he works for IBM Global Services. He's been married for 22 years and has three children. In his spare time he bowls, golfs, coaches football and is a scout leader and church volunteer.



R. E. Denfeld circa 1902

A group of Robert E. Denfeld's descendants toured the school on July 21. It was the second time in six years that members of the Denfeld family traveled to Duluth from across the country. R. E. Denfeld was superintendent of Duluth Public Schools from 1885 to 1916. He died in 1921.

Tracy Lundeen (class of 1972) is a partner in a new online store called the Rock Shop. It's on the Web at www.duluthrocked.com.

Dave LeGarde (class of 1985) was named head basketball coach at Central High School in June. He was an assistant basketball coach at Denfeld for nine years.

Jamie Jazdzewski (Larson, class of 1995) is living in West Duluth and working at Cloquet Middle School as a counselor. She is married to Jon Jazdzewski (class of 1997). They have one child.

Send your news to the Denfeld Alumni Association, 4405 W. Fourth St., Duluth MN 55807 or e-mail info@denfeldalumni.com.

Introducing the Denfeld Alumni Association board of directors:

Marilyn Monson (Goneau, 1946) has been married to fellow board member Rudy Monson for 56 years. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

Rudy Monson (1947) retired from Duluth's Dept. of Water & Gas in 1994. He was inducted into the Hunter Hall of Fame in 1966.

Ruth Thorpe (Van Kleek, 1956) is retired after teaching kindergarten in Duluth Public Schools for 27 years. She is married to Dale Thorpe, and has two children and six grandchildren.

Richard Swanson (1966) has taught social studies at Denfeld for 19 years. He is head coach of the girl's basketball and softball teams.

Joe Vukelich (1977) has taught social studies at Denfeld for 18 years. He started the tradition of bringing seniors and alumni into the clock tower in 1993, wrote a book on the history of Denfeld in 1995 and was the driving force behind the founding of the Denfeld Alumni Association. He has twin sons, Dylan and Casey.

Anna Montgomery (Jimenez, 1979) works for a title loan company in Superior and is married to classmate Rick Montgomery. She has three children: Mario (27), Eric (19) and Brenna (10).

Russell Salgy (1989) is an agency director in youth after-school programming. He is married to Christine Lax. They have three one-and-a-half-year-old daughters: Caitlyn Christine, Callie Ann and Cara Jane.

Paul Lundgren (1991) is a freelance writer living in West Duluth. His work appears regularly in *Business North* and *Transistor*, among other publications.

Stephanie Fechner (1998) is a social worker for St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services. She lives in a little yellow house with a giant Doberman and a clownish chinchilla.

Drew Bloomquist (2006) is attending Lake Superior College, majoring in speech pathology.

A special thanks to past board members who helped in the formation of the Denfeld Alumni Association: Bill Westholm (1966), Claudia Anderson (1970), Joel Holman (1983), Tom Skull (2000) and Trista Ward (2004).

DENFELD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

4405 W. FOURTH ST.

DULUTH MN 55807

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The Denfeld Alumni Association is a Minnesota nonprofit public charity under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Help support the Denfeld Alumni Association!

Use this form to confirm your contact information and continue receiving the *Denfeld Alumni News*. If you are sending a check to support the alumni association and would like your gift to fund a specific project, please include a note specifying your wishes.

Denfeld Alumni Association

4405 W. Fourth St., Duluth, MN 55807



Name

Class of

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City/State/Zip

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