

# Denfeld Alumni News

SUMMER 2012 ISSUE: 7

## DENFELD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MISSION:

To sustain alumni relations and celebrate the spirit of Denfeld High School and Western Duluth.

## DENFELD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION VISION:

To foster and sustain interest, support, and involvement in school and community affairs by coordinating projects and events that celebrate Denfeld High School's rich history.

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## Meet the New Superintendent

The Denfeld Alumni Association got a chance to interview the new Superintendent of Schools and fellow Denfeld Alumni, class of 1987, Bill Gronseth. He took over in early 2012 and we talked with him this June to find out more on his thoughts of our school district and Denfeld High School.

**Denfeld Alumni Association (DAA):** What is your professional background in education?

**Bill Gronseth (BG):** I have served in the field of education for the past 19 years. The first twelve years were as an elementary teacher. I have also served as a high school assistant principal, elementary principal, assistant superintendent, and now as superintendent.

**DAA:** What were the greatest challenges you encountered transitioning from Assistant Superintendent to Superintendent during the middle of the school year?

**BG:** Making the midyear transition from assistant superintendent to superintendent was unexpected. However, my involvement in most aspects of the district along with my familiarity with the community made for a pretty smooth transition. I consider it

an honor to be able to serve my community in this role.

**DAA:** Looking back at the past year, what are the pros and cons of having two public high schools in Duluth?

**BG:** For a long time Duluth has been talking about the fact that we have had too many schools. Our district, due to declining population levels, has gone from 25,000 students to around 9,000 students. Even with this marked difference, we were trying to maintain a three high school system. It just wasn't financially responsible or feasible to continue to do so. Our students and staff, along with community members, have done a tremendous job of bringing these schools together. Our students have really led the way for us to come together as a community.

**DAA:** What do you consider some of the greatest features of the remodeled Denfeld High School?

**BG:** The renovations at Denfeld are incredible. I am so pleased that they were able to incorporate the feel of tradition throughout the Denfeld project. Even though the layout of the building is different and all of the classrooms and learning spaces have been updated with the latest technology, new air handling systems, and

more light throughout, they were able to maintain the themes of natural wood, old-world plaster, and the regal charm of Denfeld.

The new commons area with multiple skylights, comfortable seating, and plenty of space is one of the students' favorite additions. I appreciate the modern new science classrooms in the new wing—quite a difference from what students and teachers had to work with in the past!



**Bill Gronseth:**  
Superintendent of Schools, Duluth

**DAA:** The district has been promoting their 21st Century Schools. What are 21st century students like?

**BG:** Our schools were re-designed with 21st Century learning in mind. Technology plays an ever expanding role in our society. There are very few aspects of our lives that are not touched by some kind of technology. Students of the 21st Century have grown up with technology all around them. They are bombarded with more information in a single day than their  
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## We're Counting on You

The Denfeld Alumni Association was established to promote and foster a culture where ideas, projects and activities would evolve and perpetuate the experiences we lived as youth. As a non-profit under IRS Code 501(c)(3), we depend upon businesses, organizations and individuals like you to continue our mission, as we do not receive any outside dollars. Without additional resources we will be limited in both continuing our work and expanding our mission.

Please consider becoming a financial supporter of the Denfeld Alumni Association. To make a single donation or become a monthly supporter simply fill out and return the form on the back of the newsletter along with your donation. Also consider cost effective strategies to make charitable giving a part of your overall estate plan. For assistance with charitable giving, please contact Andrew Ensign, DHS Class of 1991 at (218)628-3150. All donations are appreciated and are an essential component of our organization, in order to promote and honor our alumni.

*“The future is limited only by the imaginations of the students who attend our schools today.”*

*- Bill Gronseth*



Above: Gronseth during School Board meeting in Jan, 2012



View of new addition of school from Grand Ave. & 44th Ave W.

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not-so-distant ancestors may have had access to in a lifetime. Today’s students need to learn how to manipulate, analyze, and synthesize large amounts of information. There is no longer a focus on learning a finite set of facts and figures. Students of the 21st Century learn how to continue learning for a lifetime.

**DAA:** After so much change in the last 30 years, what do you see for the future of education in Duluth over the next 30 years?

**BG:** Life in Duluth has changed a great deal over the last 30 years, but then again, life everywhere has changed—the rest of the world has become much more accessible to us. We can connect with people anywhere on the globe instantly, share conversations, pictures, information, streaming video—the future is limited only by the imaginations of the students who attend our schools today. The work we are doing today as a community ensures that our students will be ready to enter the future with the skills they will need to build an unforeseeable and fantastic future.

Former Denfeld Principal, Ed Crawford, accepted to job of Assistant Superintendent of Schools, working under Gronseth. Tonya Sconiers is the new Denfeld High School Principal.

## Hall of Fame Preview

Please join us for the Denfeld Hall of Fame ceremony on July 28th for the induction of 20 fellow hunters. The ceremony will take place in the school’s auditorium. Here is a quick preview of two of the inductees.

**ROBB STAUBER 1986-** Robb Stauber comes from a hockey family. He has five brothers who all played hockey. He began as a goalie at age 5 and has never looked back. He started every game for Denfeld from 1984-86 and led them to a State Tournament berth in 1986 earning All-State honors that year.

Robb was drafted by the L.A. Kings in 1986 and selected to the USA World Junior Team that year. Robb played three seasons for the Minnesota Gophers (1986-89) leading them to Final Four appearances all three years. The Gophers won the WCHA title in both 1987-88 and 1988-89 with Robb in the nets. He was the first goalie ever to win the Hobey Baker Award as the nation’s top hockey player in 1988 and was runner-up for the award in 1989. He was Team Most Valuable Player in 1988 and WCHA Goalie and Player of the year in 1988 and WCHA Player of the Year in 1989.

Robb turned professional in 1989 signing with the Los Angeles Kings. Robb played professional hockey from 1989-1999 and was a member of the L.A. Kings Stanley Cup Finalists in 1992-93. In 1995 he became the third goalie in A.H.L. history to score a goal. Robb retired in 1999.

Since retirement Robb has devoted himself to training goalies. He was the Golden Gopher goalie coach from 1999-2008. Minnesota was NCAA Champions in 2001-02 and 2002-03. He was also the University of Minnesota-Duluth Women’s goalie coach from 2004-2008. The Bulldogs were NCAA Champions in 2007-08. Goalies he has coached have received numerous awards.

In 2002 Robb began Stauber’s Goalcrease which has trained 50% of MN State Champion goalies while only training 4% of the state goalie population. Robb has been the Team USA Women’s Goalie Coach since 2010. They have won two world titles. Robb has two children and volunteer coaches for both their teams.

**JANET PETERSEN** – Better known as “Mrs. Pete.” Daughter of Scottish immigrants she actually went to elementary school one year in Scotland. Janet went to elementary school at Lakeside, junior high at East, and high school at Central. Janet always wanted to be a “gym teacher” as she put it and went to Duluth State Teacher’s College to pursue that goal. She graduated with a degree in physical education and social science and got a K-12 license to teach in Minnesota. While in college she was a member of the women’s athletic association, basketball team, wrote for the student newspaper, a cheerleader, member of the College Pep club called ‘the barkers’, and a member of a dance group called Orchesis. She was also elected May Fete queen.

Janet student taught at the Lab School, East Junior High, and Central High School. Her first teaching positions were in Wrenshall; Moose Lake where she was the cheerleader advisor; and then in Duluth at Lincoln Junior High and Central High School where she taught three years. She took a break to spend time raising three daughters returning to teaching in 1958, at Denfeld where she stayed until retiring in 1976. She taught girls physical education, was cheerleader and Girls’ Club advisor, and Power Club sponsor.

When Janet began teaching at Denfeld it was obvious to everyone that her enthusiasm was contagious. That energy is still apparent in how she has conducted her personal life. Her philosophy has always been to stay active. She started golfing in her 50’s and has recorded a hole in one in both Duluth and Brownsville, Texas. She said, “I tell everybody to keep active. Don’t sit around and feel sorry for yourself. Spend time with young people and play golf.”

Of course, Janet has been active in her retirement writing poetry, being involved in her church, keeping in contact with former students – whom she still knows by name, playing golf, and also as Director Emeritus of the UMD Alumni Board - and she still roots for the Hunters. A human dynamo that made Denfeld a better place.

## Upcoming Reunions

1947 - 65-year reunion Sept. 14, 2012. Mr. D's Bar & Grill. September 15, 2012 Tour of DHS 11am-2pm. Contact: Connie Tessier (218-722-9821) or Helen Lind (624-4042)



1952 - 60-year reunion August 24, 2012. Tour of DHS 10am-12pm. Contact Gerald Anderson (727-4439)

1957 - 55-year reunion September 28-30, 2012. Friday: Cocktail mixer at Elk's Club at 5:00. Saturday: Dinner at Ridgeview Country Club. Social hour at 5:00. Dinner at 7:00. Sunday: Tour of DHS and brunch 8am-12pm. Contact: 218-525-5664.

1960 - 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party August 18, 2012 at Northland Country Club in Duluth August 19, Tour of DHS/breakfast 10am-12pm. Contact Karin (Henson) Swor (karinswor@hotmail.com or 218-348-5843)

1962 - 50-year reunion July 28, 2012. Tour of DHS 9am-11am. Contact Richard Warner (624-5176)

1965 - Tour of DHS 10am-12pm, August 4, 2012.

1987 - 25-year reunion August 4, 2012. Contact: Aaron Blazevic. (972-343-8856 or ablazevic@clmgcorp.com)

1992 - 20-year reunion August 3-4, 2012. Friday: Spirit Valley Days Street Dance. Saturday: Black Woods Bar & Grill in Proctor. Tour of DHS Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm. Contact Kim LeDoux (391-6697)

### Denfeld Alumni Association

401 N. 44th Ave. W.  
Duluth, MN 55807  
Phone: 218-336-8830  
www.denfeldalumni.com



#### Board Members:

Marilyn Monson (1946)  
Adrienne Thureen (Bergquist, 1957)  
Karin Swor (Henson, 1960)  
Linda Paulick (Seger, 1963)  
Richard Swanson (1966)  
Joe Vukelich (1977)  
Anna Montgomery (Jimenez, 1979)  
Tim LeGarde (1988)  
Mandy LeGarde (Roman, 1988)  
Dr. Amber Erickson (1997)  
Tom Skull (2000)  
Kristine Baird (Watkins, 2004)

## Did You Know?

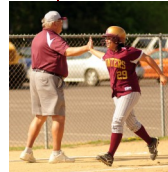
One of the traditions of Medieval times was to carve figures on the outside and inside of buildings to indicate the animal characteristics of humans that must be removed by institutions of higher learning. This tradition is carried out on the inside of Denfeld High School. There are figures on the wall at each stairway, a total of six, and they are called bas relief. Many of you have seen but maybe not really looked at the MASON (pictured to the right), which is one of the six carvings. Masons were respected members of society because they built things that outlived themselves and represented earlier cultures to the future. Many believe that the architects who built Denfeld High School included these carvings as secret messages to the students.



## Denfeld Now!

Highlights from the 2012 Spring Semester

Softball: The Hunters finished 18 -5 and were Section 7AAA runner-up. Nikki Logergren, Kara Warren, Sarah Hendrickson, Melissa Jarvi and Haylee Johnson were named All Conference. Longregren was Honorable Mention All-State and selected to play in MN SB Coaches Assoc. All-Star Series in Mankato, MN.



**Nikki Logergren after a homerun**



Dance: The 2011-12 Denfeld Dance Team, The Shoreliners, had a

great season. Adding a Junior Varsity Jazz Team and 3 new coaches, along with half of the team being rookies, the year was challenging. Varsity Jazz Team placed 3rd at the section 2AA Championships, earning them a trip to state for the first time in 10 years.

Spring Sports Standings	W	L	T
Boys Hockey	11	13	2
Girls Hockey	9	15	2
Boys Basketball	21	7	
Girls Basketball	5	18	
Baseball	7	12	
Softball	18	5	
Boys Tennis	4	14	



## Hunters in the News

Class of 1979: Greg Anderson won the Pro Stock final at the NHRA Summit Racing Equipment Southern Nationals at the Atlanta Dragway in Commerce, Georgia in May 2012.

Class of 1979: Frank Huie was named the new Varsity Head Coach of Denfeld Football



**Janee Harteau, Class Of 1982**

Class of 1982: Janee Harteau was nominated as the first female police chief of Minneapolis by Mayor R.T. Rybak after working her way through the department for 25 years to her current position as assistant police chief.

Class of 1997: Dr. Amber Erickson, one of our own Board of Directors, was named one of the "Top 50 Doctors of 2012" by her peer physicians. Dr. Erickson is a neurologist at Essential Health in Duluth.

Class of 1973: Mark Munger, author and St. Louis County District Court Judge, released his 7<sup>th</sup> book, a murder mystery titled "Laman's River". The book is available though the publisher's website at www.cloquetriverpress.com and in local bookstores.

Check out the newsletter online at [denfeldalumni.com!](http://denfeldalumni.com)

## Denfeld Alumni Association

401 N. 44th Ave. W  
Duluth, MN 55807

### Support The Denfeld Alumni Association!

Donations will be used to continue to promote Denfeld Alumni Events such as the Hall of Fame, newsletters and outreach projects.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like your donation to go towards a specific project, please specify:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Make check payable to  
Denfeld Alumni Association  
401 N. 44th Ave. W., Duluth, MN 55807  
Tax deductible receipt available upon request

### Stay in Touch!

Use this form to update your contact information.

You can also use this form to inform us of a fellow Denfeld Alumni who would like to receive this news letter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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