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Featuring a message from the 25 and 50-year classes!



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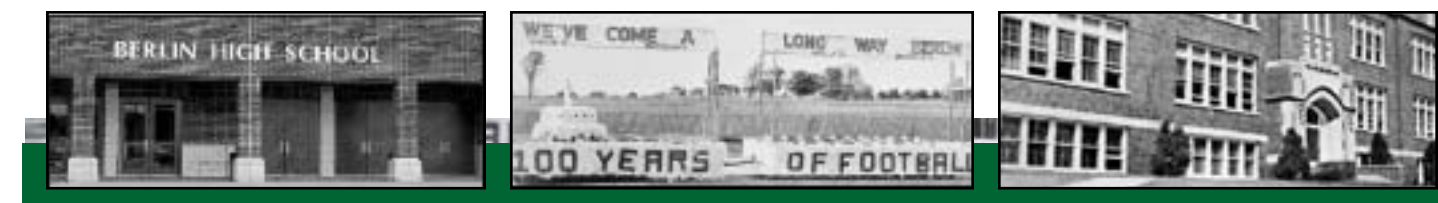


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Spring 2016
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Berlin High School Alumni Association - "The Oldest in the State"

Pethke continues to learn after high school

By Bria Osterberg, 2017

25-year speaker Stacy (Malzhan) Pethke knows that learning does not stop after graduating from high school. This is also the topic for her speech at the Alumni Banquet.

"The education I received at Berlin High School prepared me for many parts of my life," Pethke said. "I didn't know it then, but I was reminded down the road."

Many teachers helped Pethke on the way to her future.

"I know during high school, people sometimes think that they don't really like some of their teachers," Pethke said. "But, they all helped me get through my education and prepared me the best they could for what was ahead of me."

After high school, Pethke went to Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton. Pethke now has a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement and is currently attending Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she lives.

"I anticipate graduating in 2018 with a Master of Divinity degree," Pethke said. "I am dreaming that my first call in ministry will bring me back to Wisconsin."

Following her education, Pethke had a

career in the medical field and in human services.

"I worked as an emergency medical technician for 20 years," Pethke said.

Pethke has had many obstacles in her life that have gotten her to where she is today. She had trouble getting steadily on her feet after high school.

"I made an unexpected move to Appleton after graduation," Pethke said. "I was not ready to be away from people I knew. I have learned that I just need to be around people who will encourage and support me."

Pethke has been taking life one step at a time, and has not given up.

"I did not give up on furthering my education or on family relationships," Pethke said. "I took the failures and stumbles and learned from them."

Pethke had many influences, one of them being her own mother.

"I had a single mom who showed how you make being a single parent work, no matter how tough it gets," Pethke said.

Pethke followed in her mother's footsteps by being a role model, too.

"I wanted to show my daughter, when I was a single parent, that you need to



Photo Submitted

25-year alumni speaker Stacy Pethke and her husband Tom Pethke.

finish some type of post-high school education," Pethke said. "I did when I completed my associate's degree in law enforcement."

Currently living in Minnesota, Pethke lives with her husband Tom of three years and her daughter Brianna (17). She also has a step-son Justin (18) and two step-daughters, Chelsie (24) and Brooke (22).

Endowment Fund rewards seniors

The BHS Alumni Association Endowment Fund continues to grow and to be used to give graduating seniors a scholarship to assist with college tuition. In addition, it is used to fund The Echo newsletter. The Alumni Association would like to acknowledge that since 2009, our donations exceeded the costs for the scholarships and banquet. Thank you for helping to reward both past and present Berlin High School graduates.

The 2015 BHS Alumni Association Scholarship recipients, who received \$1,000 each, were

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Scholarship Donors			
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Kunasch to speak as 50-year at banquet

By Alyssa Thiel 2016

50 years have passed since Mary (Schultz) Kunasch walked the halls of Berlin High School. She is now returning to give a speech focusing on the changes of technology in education at the alumni banquet.

“In 1966 we had only two electronic typewriters in class and the rest were manual,” Kunasch said. “Now, we have cell phones to serve as mini com-

puters.”

She also would like to put emphasis on how important education is.

“My message will be to encourage the class of ‘16 to make the most of their education from BHS,” Kunasch said. “I believe that I have achieved success by always wanting to learn more.”

Kunasch says she cannot believe how fast time has gone

since she graduated from BHS.

“I remember going to the Alumni Banquet when I was a senior and looking at a table that said 50 year and thinking, ‘Oh heavens, imagine being out of school for 50 years,’” Kunasch said.

Kunasch is now in her 49th year at the Waushara Argus. She works as the senior publisher and looks forward to retirement in the near future.

Alumni Spotlight:

Fulbright Scholar teaches around the world

By Emily Schmidt, 2017

Determined, involved and kind-hearted are a few words that describe the outstanding achievements of (‘10 BHS graduate) Claire Lind’s experience in the Fulbright Student Program.

She has had the chance to travel all around the world and work with elementary, high school and college students.

“I am currently teaching prep school English at Nigde University in Turkey,” Lind said. My students are freshmen in college who are required to become proficient in English before advancing

to their desired area of study.”

Traveling, teaching English Language Learners (ELL) and humanitarian work give Lind endless opportunities that appeal to her interests.

“Although I earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education with a minor in teaching English to students of other languages (TESOL) and Middle Eastern studies, I’m not certain what career path I’ll take,” Lind said.

Last winter, Lind taught Native Alaskan students in a village on the Bering Strait of Alaska and worked on a boat during the summer months.

“A couple years ago I spent

a summer in Israel working on an archaeological dig,” Lind said. “In addition, I also taught refugee students in inner city Milwaukee and Somali students in Minneapolis.”

Learning from experience and diverse people has made Lind feel very fortunate to be able to travel to many different places.

“I feel very fortunate to have had many learning experiences and to have met so many diverse individuals from traveling to many different places,” Lind said. “Travel is the one thing you buy that makes you richer.”

Thanks to the Farmers & Merchants Bank and to the First National Bank of Berlin for underwriting the costs of postage for this newsletter. Also, thank you to the Berlin Journal for public relations support throughout the year.

Highlights from the Red ‘n’ Green

Betler travels to help area recover from Hurricane Katrina

by Alyssa Thiel, 2016

Amidst the sounds of hammering and scraping, senior Kailee Betler worked in Bayou La Batre, Alabama this past summer to serve on a mission trip.

“The site I worked on was a church and kindergarten through first grade school that was affected by Hurricane Katrina,” Betler said. “We repainted the outside trim of the building and redid the sidewalk.”

While Betler worked on her site, she noticed the school was struggling to feed the students every day.

“My idea was to gather an offering of money from our groups and together we raised almost \$300 for

the church,” Betler said.

Along side Kailee was her older sister Makena, a ‘15 graduate of Berlin High School.

“We were giving our time and energy, but the people we were helping were giving us everything they had,” Makena said.

This past summer’s trip was Kailee’s third, and because of her experiences she wants to become a teacher.

“Not a day goes by that I don’t think of the families and kids from my sites,” Kailee said. “They have left some of the biggest prints on my heart. I think teaching makes a huge impact on people’s lives and I can’t imagine doing anything else.”



Betler paints the outside of a local church in Bayou La Batre, Alabama for her third mission trip.

Nelson wins National award

by Bria Osterberg, 2017

Senior Connor Nelson took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and entered the National Merit Scholarship Program. This is a nationwide competition that took place at Ripon High School on October 15, 2014, where the top 50,000 students with the highest scores got a chance to move on and earn a scholarship.

“Only the top 16,000 are in the running for the Merit Scholarship award,” Nelson said. “I was top 34,000, which is still really good.”

The other 34,000 students are named Com-



mended Students. These students will not continue in the semifinal competition for the scholarship award. Commended Students rank among the top 5 percent of over 1.5 million students who entered.

“I had to score in the top 50,000 of the 1.5 million people that took the PSAT,” Nelson said. “It was not easy. It took some studying and hard work.”

After taking the test, Nelson continues to receive emails from many different colleges.

Edinger returns from Italy

by Brittney Meyer, 2017

For the past two years, Berlin’s own senior Melissa Edinger lived in the city of Brindisi, Italy.

“I just lived in Italy for two years, but I would always go visit during the summer in previous years,” Edinger said.

Edinger was not alone on this journey though, and moved there accompanied by her parents.

“It was wonderful to stay with my family and live where I grew up,” Melissa’s mother Rita Ed-

inger said.

Both Melissa and her mother were excited to go back to Italy as a family.

“It has always been one of my dreams to move back with my husband and kids,” Edinger said.

Once there, Melissa had to readapt to the lifestyle of a different country and to the people who lived there.

“The lifestyle is completely different. The people there are very outgoing and live life to the fullest,” Edinger said. The sights in Brindisi,

Italy were very different than places in Wisconsin.

“My city is a tourist attraction for its archeological ruins and remains, so during the summer many tourists come visit and cruise ships fill up the port,” Edinger said.

The port in Brindisi is also a popular spot for the people who live there.

“During the weekends everyone usually goes to eat and just hang out,” Edinger said.

Edinger said she is glad she experienced life in Brindisi; it was life-changing.



Senior Melissa Edinger visits the marina in her hometown, Brindisi, Italy, where she lived for her sophomore and junior years of high school.