

This Week at Boys' Latin, July 12, 2010

Pride and Tradition: John Alexander Dushane Penniman, Class of 1909

Dushane Penniman '09 was born in Baltimore on January 21, 1892. He lived in Roland Park, which at the time was part of Baltimore County. He initially enrolled in Boys' Latin in September of 1903. He left BLS in 1905 and re-enrolled in 1906 before graduating in 1909. He was an above average student who excelled in English and English Composition. He was also involved in sports while at BLS playing left tackle on the 1908 football team. The 1908 BL football team won the Baltimore City Prep Championship with impressive wins over the Country School for Boys (Gilman) 6-0 and rival Marston's University School 25-5. In the spring of 1909 he was a member of BL's first and only crew team.

Football was important to the Penniman family. Dushane's father, George Dobbin Penniman, a prominent Baltimore corporate attorney, was a member of the Johns Hopkins Class of 1884. According to the September 2, 2008 edition of The JHU Gazette, in 1882 George Penniman and some others from the JHU Class of 1884, not only introduced the game of football to Hopkins, but also to the city of Baltimore. The JHU Class of 1884 decided that their University should have a football team and decided the team should have its own colors. They decided the uniforms would be black with a blue stripe and would include little woolen caps with tassels. The JHU Gazette also reported that JHU's first football game was played against the Baltimore Athletic Club on October 7, 1882 with Hopkins losing the contest 4-0.

Upon graduation from Boys' Latin, Dushane decided to follow in his father's footsteps, and attend Johns Hopkins University. He along with six of his BLS classmates enrolled at Hopkins in the fall of 1909. Dushane eventually earned his A.B. degree in 1914. He decided to continue his studies with law school and entered the Harvard Law School, graduating with his LL.B. degree in 1917. When war broke out in Europe in 1914, records reveal Dushane entered the military serving in 1915 with the Company F 1st Training Regiment. There are no records available to verify if he served overseas during WWI.

In 1920 he married a 1914 Bryn Mawr School graduate named Christine Stuart Brown and lived on Cathedral Street in Baltimore. He also began to practice law.

Dushane Penniman became well known as a legal scholar in Baltimore City and practiced law until his early death on March 5, 1939.

BL Teachers in Sierra Leone

Donna Avila, Julia Williams and Greg Schnitzlein, all teachers here at BL, spent part of their summer vacation in the west African country of Sierra Leone. Donna writes: "Our mission trip to Sierra Leone was an amazing experience!! (The school we worked with) desperately needed books as they only had one copy of a book for the entire class. The teachers use the chalkboard to copy the book and teach reading from the chalkboard. We were able to buy enough books that they had 2-3 class sets and enough that the kids could at least share. We also bought enough material to make uniforms for all the kids, and we hired a tailor to make the kids' uniforms. Sadly, the teachers at the school had not been paid in the last six months. We were able to pitch in so they could get paid. Last, we are arranging for two of the teachers at the school to attend a teaching college over the next year.something that they would not possibly be able to do without financial help....The mission trip will be featured during halftime of an (NFL) game in the fall - an NBC news crew was with us (during our mission!!!)....Thanks to our BL travel grant, the teachers and students at The Abigail Butscher Primary School were uplifted and

definitely more hopeful about their future when we left. (However,) there is so much more that needs to be done!"

Donna and Greg are pictured in the back row (Donna in a maroon shirt and Greg in a grey shirt.)

Homecoming 2011

Homecoming 2011 will take place the weekend of April 29th and 30th. The x1 and x6 graduating classes will be celebrating their reunion years. The Brevard Street Alumni will once again have a reception dinner in the Alumni House on April 30th 2011. Mark your calendars for Homecoming. Also, we ask that all Alumni get ready for a full year of celebrating our 50 years on Lake Avenue!

Alumni Notes

Strother Marshall '41 is a retired surgeon and is living in Los Osos, California. He recently wrote:

"My personal experience (at BL) spanned the period 1930-1941. I could still point out the class room of every teacher from Miss Reiley to Fred Hahn. That school was my childhood. It was where I learned to love English History, poetry, Latin, English grammar, French and German. On graduation a single letter from Mr. Hahn got me a full tuition scholarship at Williams College. For science I felt unprepared, so all the college years were intense. Yet I felt ready, because I could write and learn. Indeed I almost lived in the college library, so hungry was I for the books in those stacks.

"The 1930s in Baltimore were depression years indeed. But the street cars were regular and in the Spring and Fall there was the 2:00 P.M. bus out front (for athletics) at Mt. Washington. The gym on Brevard Street was small, as was the pool. Neither seemed so from the lower school view point. And the lunch room downstairs was always there at noon.

"Everyone at Boys' Latin underwent the Depression, accepting life as it came and just making the best of things....."

Tim Daly '78 is working for BlueRidge Bank in Towson as an Executive Vice President. Tim, who spent 24 years at Mercantile Bankshares here in Baltimore including a stint as chief credit officer, said the BlueRidge bank Towson office will provide commercial products and services, such as accounts receivable and inventory financing, as well as equipment and real estate loans. For read more on the story in the Baltimore Sun go to Tim Daly.

Ben Bryan '88 writes: "My wife Shawn and I have moved to Reno, Nevada to be closer to Shawn's parents. Last August, Shawn slipped into a hypoglycemic coma for six days.

Unfortunately, Shawn now has brain damage. With her family in California and mine in Colorado, moving was the next logical step. I cannot put into words how supportive classmates from BL have been the last several months. They have truly been a second family for me."

100 Years Ago

The following passage is found in the 1910-1911 Boys' Latin School catalog:

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

In view of some modern tendencies in school methods, it is a matter of importance to state that the School is opposed to the use of collegiate and university methods in training immature minds. Still more is it opposed to permitting boys to ape the inessentials of college life, to imitate

inane college customs or reprehensible follies.

The Masters have been selected not only for sound scholarship and experience in teaching, but also for their personal character, their tact in dealing with boys, and their ability to impart knowledge.

Every language recitation is made an exercise in English.

75 Years Ago

In the fall of 1935 Fred Hahn was beginning his 16th year at Boys' Latin and his second year as the Headmaster of the school. There were 25 new boys entering the school. The third form (freshmen class) had the largest number of new students with four. New students included: Brooke Cottman '48, Don Hahn '47, Bill Hupfeldt '44, Rodgers Brooks '41, Rodney Brooks '39, Larry Harper '39, Nick Streett '39, Harry Campbell '36, and Louis Kemper '36.

Brooke Cottman recently remembered that he was actually too young for first grade but Mr. Hahn allowed him to enter the school as a favor to his mother who was working at the time. Brooke's older brother J. Stewart Cottman, Jr. '41 was already enrolled at BLS. His father, James Stewart Cottman, Sr. '16 was also a BL alumnus.

60 Years Ago

According to the 1950-1951 Boys' Latin School catalog tuition for the Upper School was set at \$450. In addition, Boys' Latin had the policy that sons of clergymen and of teachers would be entitled to a reduction of 20%. The regular charges covered tuition including physical education. However, chemistry and physics laboratory fees were \$10 for the year. The boys were to provide for their own books which were to be purchased at a local bookstore or they could be purchased used from boys in the class above them. There was also an assessment of \$24 yearly for the support of student activities including a subscription to the school newspaper, the Inkwell. The school and the Alumni made available several partial-scholarships in the Upper School. Factors that determined the winners were: a) marks received on written examinations held in June; b) previous scholastic record; c) contribution to the life of the school; d) character references; e) need of financial aid. Seven work grants, each worth \$100, were also available to the boys who qualified.

30 Years Ago

The members of the Areta Chapter of the National Honor Society were announced in the 1980-1981 student handbook:

Seniors

Charles S. Barker '81

John S. Gibbs, IV '81

Mark D. Knobloch '81

Wesley R. Payne, IV '81

Jesse McDade, III '81

Jeffrey C. Mason '81

Guy J. Matricciani, Jr. '81

John F. Possidente, Jr., '81
David O'D. Watts '81

Juniors

George F. Barker '82
Juan M. Buendia '82
Frederic J. Chalfant '82
Peter E. Darwin '82
W. David Possidente '82
Roy C. Shugars '82

Sophomores

Kevin S. Kordon '83
Marshall E. Kordon '83
Zinon M. Pappas '83