

This Lancer Letter will be published between the Christmas and New Year holiday. Hopefully, you are having a relaxing week filled with family, friends and beautiful memories!

This is a time of year when many of our GM alumni are home from college or travel from where they live to visit their roots. It is always exciting for me to hear what our alumni are doing and what path they have followed since leaving us. We're "proud of our product" here in the district and it is good to know of the successes of our graduates.

If you are an alumnus visiting over the holidays, I would ask that you register for our alumni association if you have not done so already. It is very simple and can be done from anywhere in the world that has an internet connection. Simply go to www.generalmclane.org and look for the tab across the top of the page which reads, "Alumni." Click and hold on that tab and select the "Join the Lancer Alumni Association" option. Parents and grandparents can sign up the GM graduates in the family as well as the information needed would be readily available to family.

Members of the Alumni Association will receive a quarterly newsletter that features the accomplishments of our graduates and highlights some of the happenings in the district. It is a great way to stay connected to your alma mater and classmates. The alumni association also helps with the organization of class reunions. And, no, we don't want you to join just so we can ask you for money, though, we're happy to accept donations to our tax deductible foundation at any time!

Hearing from our alumni is a form of "quality control." It is helpful to know what we've done that has been helpful in a career and in life and also what was not helpful or missing. We do a degree of that with a survey administered to seniors in May of their graduating year. We then follow up 18 months and 5 years later to see what is happening.

Additionally, we have just signed up to receive reports from the National Student Clearinghouse. All colleges and universities (36,000 across the country) are required to report data on their students. These college students identify their high school of graduation so we are going to be able to know how many of our graduates dropped out of college, finished in four years, etc.

Getting this data is helpful but it is still great to hear directly from our graduates and engage in conversation.

The holiday season is about home – home is where we always feel most comfortable. I want General McLane graduates to always feel like GM has been part of their home and know that they are **always** welcome to come back and visit. We want to hear from you!

Welcome home for the holidays!