

Alumni of the Month:

Lori Chase

Year of Graduation:

1986

What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?

After a short stint at Penn State, I started working at Ball-InCon in 1989 (originally Pierce Glass, now Ardagh), where I'm currently our Cold End Trainer.

In 2008, I began pursuing one of my lifelong interests with a little sportswriting in my free time, mostly for the hometown Reporter Argus but also some freelance work for the Olean and Bradford papers and the Associated Press. Since then I've covered everything from the Gators to Triple-A baseball (and PAHS grad Josh Kinney) to NCAA basketball games, and even a Pro Football Hall of Fame induction.

The Argus became eligible for the Keystone Press Awards for the first time this year, winning two first-place awards in our division for my stories on the Port High wrestling and soccer teams.

Where do you currently live?

Port Allegany

Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?

We had many outstanding teachers at PAHS in the 1980's, but the two who had the most positive impact on my life were Mrs. June Dunn and Mrs. Bettie Kelley.

Mrs. Dunn shared her passion for all forms of music with every student who walked into her classroom or signed up for chorus. Even though I wasn't one of her most talented singers, that shared interest developed into a friendship which lasted beyond graduation; several years later, I was thrilled to be able to direct a community theater production of "Guys and Dolls" with her.

Likewise, Mrs. Kelley's influence extended far beyond English class -- where she helped spark my interest in writing -- as the drama club director and our "It's Academic" coach. I always enjoyed whatever time we spent together, even when it involved getting roundly thumped (along with everyone else who dared to play against her) in our epic "Trivial Pursuit" games.

I miss them both.

What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?

So many ...

A few that stand out: Proudly taking the field in the new band uniforms we worked for and helped design, the fun we had rehearsing and performing various plays and musicals, and winning our "It's Academic" match (and beating Hutch Tech!) in our senior year.



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