

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS

JOIN US JULY 14 & 15

- **HERITAGE DAYS ALL-ALUMNI BREAKFAST (Open House)**
- **HERITAGE DAYS ALL-ALUMNI TENT**
- **HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI PARTICIPATION IN PARADE**
- **and HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**

SEE PAGE 6 FOR MORE INFORMATION



A Mount Vernon alum enjoys going through yearbooks while visiting the Alumni Tent at Heritage Days 2005. See pages 3 and 4 for more photos.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Lisa Squiers White '88, Alumni Association President

The MVCSD Alumni Association is nearly one year old, and as the first Board president, I am excited to share with you all we have accomplished as well as what we have planned for the future.

With three meetings under our belt we have been able to boast involvement by graduates from 1935 through 2005. For Heritage Days, more than 200 people attended an all-Alumni breakfast at the high school and many more visited the Alumni tent to visit and share memories while perusing old yearbooks. Nearly 100 people enjoyed hot cider and conversation at a reception held during the 2005 Homecoming game. In October, the first Alumni Association Board was elected. And great strides have been made with the Alumni database, with nearly 4,700 entries to date.

We have many plans for the future, as well. Beyond supporting class reunions and hosting more alumni events, the Alumni Association hopes to support current MVHS students at events such as the National Honor



Fun at the Alumni Tent during Heritage Days 2005

Society induction ceremony and commencement. We intend the database to serve as a resource for current faculty and students for research, college and career searches and more. As we continue planning for the future, we invite you to get involved and to share your expertise and enthusiasm.

You may wonder what prompted me to serve on the Alumni Association Board. Two years ago my husband and I decided it was time to move back to Mount Vernon. I have always been thankful for the education I received here and I was anxious to give my children a similar experience. I have been overwhelmed to learn just

continued on next page





Mustang ALUMNI

ALL-ALUMNI EVENTS

HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI BREAKFAST (Open House)

Saturday, July 15, 8:30-10:30 am, all alumni, families, and friends, High School Commons. Tours of the new high school from 8 to 11 am

HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI TENT

Friday, July 14, 4-8 pm, and Saturday, July 15, 11:30 to 8 pm. Hang out with your classmates uptown and meet fellow alums from many classes. New tent location nearer to Heritage Days activities uptown.

HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI PARTICIPATION IN PARADE

Saturday, July 15, plan to meet up with other alums in the Heritage Day Parade. Float available to class members having a reunion this year – or, have your own float! Several antique cars in our alumni lineup too.

HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, July 15, at Davis Park. See info on page 5.

HOMECOMING GAME

Watch for information to come about our fall Homecoming Reception.

2006 MV Community Events

- July 4 Antique Extravaganza
- Sept 1 - Booster Club Tail Gate Party, Football game vs Solon at MV
- Oct 7-8 Art Walk
- Dec tba Fine Arts Assoc. Cookie Walk
- Dec 1-2 Hometown Holidays in Mount Vernon

525 Palisades Road
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314
319-895-8845
alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us
www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us

2006 Reunions Coming Up...

For more information, check out your class Alumni web page at:

www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us

2001 - 5 years - July 14-15

Contact: Jamie Wallace
Phone #: 319-361-5875
Email: jamie-wallace@uiowa.edu

1996 - 10 years - July 14-15

Contact: Ben Pospisil
Phone #: 319-895-0220
Email: bennyp1984@yahoo.com

1991 - 15 years - July 14-15

Contact: Jenny Moore Hampton
Phone #: 319-833-4732
Email: jjdspthamp@mcshi.com

1986 - 20 years - July 14-15

Contact: Deb Winchip Douglass
Phone #: 641-755-3055
Email: debbilld@netins.net

1981 - 25 years - July 29

Contact: Rhondi Ewing
Phone #: 805-499-1415
Email: Rhondi@EwingDesign.com

1976 - 30 years - to be held in 2007 with classes of 1977 and 1978

Contact: Glori Holtz Roman
Phone #: 319-396-2991
Email: glor17@msn.com

1971 - 35 years - tba (volunteers needed)

Contact: Linda Pospisil McNeal
Phone: 319-895-8861
Email: mammylou7@aol.com

1966 - 45 years - was held in 2004

Contact: Margaret Ellison Duffy
Phone: 319-895-8786

1961 - 45 years - July 14-16

Contact: Richard Blew
Phone: 816-529-3750
Email: rkblew@comcast.net

1956 - 50 years - July 14-15

Contact: Leona Reyhons Smith
Phone: 319-895-8097
Email: Leona@fbx.com

1951 held in 2005

1946 - 60 years - July 14-15

Contact: Margaret Clark Reilly
Phone: 895-6090

Miss one? Call 319-895-8845

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, Letter from the President, continued from page 1...

how many MVHS alum share my feelings. Even before our move was complete, I found that every alumnus I spoke with had either moved back already; was hoping to move back soon; or said they would move back in a heartbeat if circumstances allowed. Few schools and communities can boast this level of passion!

It is precisely this pride and enthusiasm that prompted me to join the Alumni Association. I encourage you to become involved as well, whether by attending meetings, visiting the website, keeping your information current on the database, or attending Alumni Association events. You will be glad you did!

If you would like to become involved in the Association, please contact Lisa at whitetdlc@msn.com or Kathy at 319-895-8845 or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEEDED: for the years 2003, 2002, 1962, 1950, 1941, 1938 and years before. Is this you?

NEXT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER TBA, DAY AFTER HOMECOMING

Correction: our apologies to Bob Blythe '87, whose name was left off the 2005 list of Mount Vernon District staff members in the last issue of Alumni News.

Correction: Not pictured, but present at the first Alumni Association meeting was Carolyn Palmer '42



Alumni Reps Organize Alumni Association



The Mount Vernon Community School District Alumni Association held its annual meeting, Saturday, October 15. Elected at the meeting were the Association's first officers and directors. Shown above in front: Vice President Jean Kuntz Bowman '64 of DeWitt, President Lisa Squiers White '88 of Mount Vernon, Director Nargi Rayman Steinbrech '55 of Solon, Seated top row: Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher '65 of Mount Vernon, Secretary Shauna Applebee Dye '01 of Mount Vernon, Director Deb Winchip Douglass '86 of Panora. Not pictured: Director Dick Moore '52 of Mount Vernon.

Minutes and Bylaws can be found on the alumni pages of the district website at:
www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni
 or by calling 319-895-8845.

THANK YOU TO
 ADVERTISERS ON PAGES 16 & 17
 your support of this publication
 is APPRECIATED!

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Gary's Foods | Mount Vernon |
| Gwen's Restaurant | Family Dentistry |
| Heritage Days | Shepley Pharmacy |
| Hill's Bank | Sleep Inn |
| Hillcrest Country Club | |
| Mount Vernon Eye Clinic | |

Your donation of support (or dues) to the Alumni Association is tax deductible.

All-Alum at Heritage Days 2005...

Heritage Days Committee '05



Lisa Squiers White, Jenny Hampton Moore, Nick Boots, Amy Rehons Glick, Judy Caldwell Penn, Annie Lehman Currie, Susan Mounts Fisher, Guy Bys, Deb Vargason Lord

The inaugural All-Alumni Heritage Days weekend festivities took place in July of 2005 with a Saturday morning breakfast, participation in the Heritage Days parade, and an Alumni Welcome Tent near Davis Park on Friday and Saturday.

Over 200 breakfasts were served at the High School Commons, with alums and friends ranging from 1936 to 2005 meeting together for the first time. The breakfast, which was made by district staff members, was a delicious fare of everything from eggs and sausage to breakfast pizza. Coffee was free to anyone. Alumni representatives made name tags, handled the guest book, served breakfast, made toast, and did a lot of visiting. Both the wall composites and the yearbooks were in constant use as everyone enjoyed looking back through the photos and events.

The parade was led by Nick Boots '97 and Susan Mounts Fisher '65 with the Alumni Banner, followed by Guy Bys '74, Carlyle Bys '53 and Allene Merritt Bys '52 in their antique Jeepster. The 20x30 tent next to Davis Park welcomed approximately 150 alums throughout the weekend.

An official thank you to Alumni Association Heritage Days committee members Jenny Hampton Moore, Nick Boots, Amy Rehons Glick, Judy Caldwell Penn, Annie Lehman Currie, Susan Mounts Fisher, Guy Bys, Lisa Squiers White, and Deb Vargason Lord. Also thank you to the many other alumni representatives who came to help out at the breakfast or the tent.

PICTURES FROM HERITAGE DAYS 2005 ALL ALUMNI BREAKFAST AND TENT

-- more on the next page



PICTURES FROM HERITAGE DAYS 2005 ALL ALUMNI BREAKFAST AND TENT continued



MANY THANKS

for helping to make our Heritage Days Weekend Alumni Activities Possible....

- Nesco Signs and Chris Hoffman '96
- Pepsi
- Guy Bys '74, Carlyle Bys '53 and Allene Merritt Bys '52 - Antique Car
- Tom Wieseler and Coe College
- MV Food Service - Marcia Purington
- MV Bldg. & Grounds: Roger Pitlik '67, Keith Burge '67, Dave Albang, and crews
- Breakfast Chefs Matt Burke (aka School Board Sec-Treas) and Chiara Burke '78 (aka MS Secretary)
- Mount Vernon School Board
- Mount Vernon Foundation
- MV Heritage Days Committee



ASSOCIATION ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE



Dick Moore '52, Braden Pospisil Rood '93, Jean Kuntz Bowman '64, and Shauna Applebee Dye '01, not pictured: Bill Yeisley '52

Thank you to the Association Bylaw Committee, members Shauna Applebee Dye '01, Dick Moore '52, Jean Kuntz Bowman '64, and Bill Yeisley '52, (and Braden Pospisil Rood '93 who helped get it started,) for their diligent work in preparing our first Association Bylaws. Their goal was to prepare a document that would guide our organization through the years, but to be broad enough in scope as allow the Association to grow and change without being restricted by too many details. Their proposed bylaws were passed unanimously by alumni representative members present at the October 2005 Annual Meeting along with a stipulation that a joint meeting would be held of the Association Officers, School District Administrative Staff, Ann Koppenhaver-Foundation President, and others as invited by the officers, for review of the relationship of the Association to the School District and the Foundation and review of legal responsibilities of the Association. This meeting was held in November, 2005.

The Bylaws have become the Association's working draft, and will be presented at the next Annual Meeting in October 2006 with any proposed changes and/or additions for adoption.

KEEP THE UP- DATES COMING!

We love getting your current contact information - keep it coming!

HOMECOMING RECEPTION 2005

Thank you Homecoming Committee Members Ben Pospisil '96, Jamie Wallace '01, Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Dave Fisher '65, and Sonia Essex Redmond '82 for their guidance and support of the Homecoming Reception activities. Thank you also to Kim Mortenson Raim '81 for her time spent making photo copies for decorations. Thanks also to Association Members who helped with a variety of tasks including decorating, the guest book, welcoming, name tags, refreshments, etc., Jean Minish Stoner '37, Annamae Stoneking Baker '60, Judy Caldwell Penn '60, and Nargi Rayman Steinbrech '55. Many other Association representatives came to visit and to welcome visiting alums.

88 people signed the guestbook at the Reception which was held in the Middle School cafeteria from 6 until approx 10 pm on Homecoming evening, Friday, October 14th. Coffee, hot chocolate, cider, and popcorn were served. Thank you to the Mount Vernon High School Cheerleaders for their gift of candy packets to welcome alumni. Thank you to the Middle School Staff and District Buildings and Grounds Staff for their extra help in making this event possible.

If you would like to be part of this committee for the October 2006 Homecoming Reception, please contact one of our Association officers or Kathy Staskal at 319-895-8845 or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.



DID YOU KNOW?
"When did MVHS adopt the Mustangs as our mascot?"
the answer is...

Larry Edwards, class of 1954 was the first to call in and let us know that our school changed from the Maroons to the Mustangs in the 1951-52 year. In the 1949-50 yearbook teams were associated with the Maroons, but the Mustangs were in the 1951-52 yearbook. Larry remembers playing athletic sports as both a Maroon and a Mustang during his high school years. Thanks, Larry!

THANK YOU to Susan Fisher, Janet Fisher, and Sarah Woods for serving refreshments at the High School Honor Society Reception

1st ANNUAL MOUNT VERNON ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT



When: Saturday, July 15, 2006
 12-4 pm, play will continue on Sunday if needed

Where: Davis Park Sand Volleyball Courts (in case of rain, the games will be played at Mount Vernon Schools)

Who: Any alumni or staff, a maximum 9 person roster, co-ed, male or female teams (your teammates should have graduated within two years of each other, for instance class of '98 could play with classes of '96, '97, '99, and 2000)

Cost: \$20 per team, check to Alumni Association

Contact: Maggie Lessmeier Willems '96, 319-929-4542 or maggiewillems@gmail.com

Entry Deadline: July 1st - the sooner the better!

HERITAGE DAYS REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

'06 - JULY 14-15



The Heritage Days Committee met at an uptown cafe recently to discuss details of the upcoming alumni events. From left to right, Guy Bys, Roger Schnittjer, Marilyn Dean Schnittjer, Bunny Williams Copeland, Annamae Stoneking Baker, Kathy Staskal, Susan Mounts Fisher, Nick Boots

Mark your calendar now to attend the 2nd Annual All-Alumni Heritage Days weekend festivities July 14 and 15.

Stop in to visit at the **Alumni Tent** open on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening, located near uptown businesses.

Join in to visit with fellow alums and friends Saturday morning July 15 from 8:30 to 10:30 for **Breakfast** at the High School Commons. Cost of the breakfast will be by donation (eggs, sausage, fruit, breakfast pizza, rolls, toast, juice, coffee, etc). If you're not hungry, come anyway to visit and enjoy a free cup of coffee or juice. Tours of the new high school building will also be given from 8 to 11 am.

Join in the **parade** at 11 am if you'd like - meet near the Cornell Athletic Center and find the Alumni Association Float in the line up. Several reunion classes will be having their own float, but feel free to ride on the Alumni Association Float and join in the fun. A special invitation to those classmates here to celebrate their reunions to ride the float. Contact is Nick Boots '97 or Guy Bys '74, or alumni@mountvernon.k12.i.a.us

Check out page 5 for more information about the **Volleyball Tournament**.

Heritage Days Committee '06

Committee: Judy Caldwell Penn'60, Susan Mounts Fisher'65, Narji Rayman Steinbrech'55, Jean Stoner'37, Barbara 'Bunny' Williams Copeland'61, Annamae Stoneking Baker'60, Nick Boots'97, Roger Schnittjer'56, Marilyn Dean Schnittjer'57, Maggie Willems'96, Ben Pospisil '96 Jenny Hampton Moore'91, Guy Bys'74, Deb Vargason Lord'74, Jean Stoner'37, Annie Lehman Currie'77, Charlotte Campagna'98, Kay Lind'55

Some great pictures from recent class reunions... many thanks for their submission by reunion organizers!



▲ Class of 1944

The Mount Vernon High School class of 1944 held its 60th reunion Sept. 25, 2004. A Saturday brunch was held at Gwen's Restaurant in Lisbon. A dinner and the evening were spent at Hillcrest Country Club in Mount Vernon. Out of 27 in the class, 15 members were present: Uri and Betty (Herring) Martinez of Sun City, Ariz.; Eula (Burnett) Lichtenberg of Orangevale, Calif.; Donald Dill of Macungie, Pa.; Alan and Gwen (Smyth) Turnbull of Greenbelt, Md.; Raymond and Pat Lake of Mesa, Ariz.; Dick and Phyllis Dvorak of Cedar Rapids; Paul and Jean Brace of Davenport; Jack and Char Koch of Cedar Rapids; Pauline (Daubenmeir) Wagaman of Lisbon; Bud and Norma (Bartosh) Kubichek of Lisbon; Harold Herring, John and Betty Wolfe, Bob and Dorothy Gaines, Joe and Shirley (Minnick) Giannini; Mary (Brawner) Viter and Sherlee Peterson, all of Mount Vernon. Thanks to Gwen Turnbull for the photo.

▼ Class of 1970

The Class of 1970 held their 35th Reunion banquet at Gwen's Restaurant August 27, 2005.



Front: Anne Yeisley, Susan Vislisl, Chris Rilett, Marsha Siggins, Gwen Stewart Drahos, Elaine Hoke Blythe, Ruth Hetland, Cindy Litts, Carmen Stolte

Back: Scott Akers, Dave Surrey, Tom Ohlfest, Dan Stoner, Sara Gaarde, Roger Johnson, Judy Hess Greco, Chris Swiser, Brian Rosendahl, Nancy Vislisl, Bob Allard, Craig Blythe, Rita Pospisil, Glenn Wolrab

REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES



photo printed courtesy of Envisage Studios, Lisa Lewis Hazlett '83

Class of 1955

The Class of '55 held their 50TH YEAR REUNION Banquet September 17, 2005 at Hillcrest Country Club. Several members attended the home football game on Friday night Sept. 16 vs. Maquoketa.

Front row: Phyllis Brecht White, Leota Staskal Pospisil, Jane Johnston Perry, Janet Johnston McCannon, Narji Rayman Steinbrech, Carol Hartenberger Walden
Back row: Barbara Sutliff Hansel, Leroy Berry, Francis Cooper Opperud, Kay Jilovec Lind, Lloyd Hughes, Jerry Ringer, David VanMetre, Larry Ringer, David Thomson, Marvin Stastny, Betty Smith Brunton, Jud Strickland, Joyce Thompson Whitlatch

Class of 1995

The Class of '95 held their 10th Reunion on Heritage Days Weekend. On Friday evening they met for wine and beer tasting at Devine Wines in Mount Vernon, then held a family picnic on Saturday at Davis Park.

Class of 1960

The Class of '60 held their 45th Reunion the weekend of July 8 and 9, 2005. They started with a Saturday Social at the home of Annamae Baker and Ed Koehn before heading on to their Reunion Dinner at The Lighthouse Restaurant in Cedar Rapids. A Sunday Brunch was held at the home of Keith and Jo Clark.



First Row - L to R: Judy Caldwell Penn, Frances Bensmiller Lanning, Frances Krejci Woodward, Mary Ann Ellison Comings, Dorothy Wolfe Welsh, David Neal
Second Row - L to R: Ted Pence, Lumir Nezerka, Keith Clark, Pat Lynott, Kathy Morrissey Layden, Kay Kamberling Jamison, Susan Dye Hodin, Sheridan Gillam Edmund, John Rife
Back Row - L to R: Jim Matthews, John Hunter, Ed Saathoff, Tom Wilkinson, Linda Stastny Bragg, Nelda Conner Techau, Annamae Stoneking Baker, Jean Plank Stinehour, Mary Ann Saathoff Prenosil, Fred Niehaus

Class of 1990

The Class of '90 held their 15th Reunion the weekend of July 8 and 9. They started with an evening Reunion Reception at Hillcrest Country Club on Friday, then held a family gathering at the new Washington Elementary Playground on Saturday afternoon. A total of 29 classmates attended either event or both.



Front row: Shauna Arenas Graybill, Jennifer Schulte, Brittany Kaalberg Booth, Kim McGowan McAdams, Janee Koehn Brendes.
Middle row: Paul Morf, Matt Pfiffner, Aaron Telecky, Andrea Mott Zastrow, Angie Vittetoe Reed, Kristy Forest Kirby, Beth Carlson Wasserstrom, Megan Story Ostrom, Julie Harrington Nosek, Dan Aalbers, Jason Booth
Back row: Alex Frey, Matt Ostrom, Peter Wilch, Matt Slinker, John Akers, Chadd Plotz, Benton Frey, Aaron Goodrich, Mike Jamison



Below members of the Class of 1990 gathered together again on Saturday for a family event at the MV Elementary School playground. The group was joined by fellow classmates, Kela Kelley Lange, Aaron Kirkpatrick, Paula Sand Gold, and James Winchip.



REUNION PICTURES

Class of 2000

The Class of 2000 held their first reunion to celebrate 5 years at an informal Reunion Picnic at the Pal' on Saturday, July 9



Class of 1945

Members of the Class of 1945 celebrated their 60th Reunion the weekend of Sept 24 and 25, 2005. A banquet was held on Saturday night at Hillcrest Country Club with 32 present, 18 which were class members. On Sunday a brunch was enjoyed at the Lake McBride Country Club at Solon. A donation was made to the Mount Vernon Alumni Association in memory of deceased classmates.

Left to right: Row 1: Mary Fredrick Barkwill, Phyllis Conell Schump, Milton Koch, Melvin Coppock, Marilyn Woods Overman, Marilyn Coppock Carpenter
 Row 2: Betty Pospisil Wolfe, Opal Paul Gish, Jacque Nichols Gillian, Dorothy Reyhons Poduska, Monica Blood Svoboda, Dorothy Longerbeam Steinocher
 Back: Lester Notbohm, Robert Ruble, Bud Druger, Tom Wolfe, Glenn Klinsky, Raymond Zinkula



Class of 1949: Front: Buzz Anderson, Jack Stanton. Back row: Jim Telecky, George Hill, Beverly Nation Behrends, Paul McKeen.



Class of 1950: Front: Dorothy Staskal Hufford, Dorothy Biderman Shestak, Martha Jo Ennis, Joyce Lenz Thomas
 Back row: David Wolfe, Lauren Johnson, Dick Netolicky, Gordon Behrens, Jim Kent, Chubb Litts

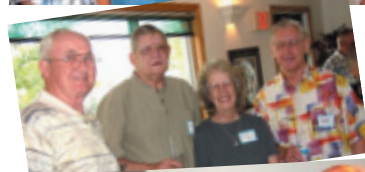
Classes of 1949, 1950 and 1951

These three classes held a joint reunion July 23rd, with an afternoon golf outing and 6 pm Reunion Dinner at Solon Country Club.

The Class of '49 also met earlier that day for a luncheon gathering at Abe's Pub & Grub for those wishing to have lunch, and linger to chat.



Class of 1951: Front: Lloyd Duffe, Pat Young Schloss, Ruth Thompson Trostle, Carol Croft Kent, Howard DeCamp. Back row: Jim Neal, Bud Bridges, Roland Henik, Loren Hammond, Dick McKeen. Not pictured: Dick Moore



REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES



Class of 1985

The Class of '85 held their 20th reunion July 9 and 10, 2005. They started with an informal gathering uptown at Chameleon's on Friday, and then a Reunion Banquet at the High School Commons on Saturday, featuring speakers former principal and superintendent Ade Ringold and current superintendent Jeff Schwiebert, followed by a Sunday family picnic.

Front Row (ltoR): Amy Lifson, Wendy Pyles, Kirsten Baylor Bronoski, Mike Langer, Adria Hardesty, Kelly Erickson, Ruth Corcoran Munger, Ann Vislisl, Shawna Hutchins, Nicole Nelson Flynn
 2nd Row: Kirsten Sutherland Holmquist, Paula Gray, Monica Werling, Diane Green, Jan Caspers, Tami Staley, Andrea Newman, Lorri Krob, Bill Douglass, Jennifer Spencer Toriggino, Susan Buchanan, Laura Schmitz Timm
 3rd Row: Butch Myers, Tom Dumbaugh, Cathy Royer, Marcia Peters, Kim Benesh, Amy Petersen Niehaus, Sally Gardner, Joy Earle, Julie Wirfs Neff, Kim Schlemmer, Connie Royer, Lynette Rodman Koffron, Ron Timm
 4th Row: Wayne Hormann, Dan Brown, Lonnie Wright, Dennis Hartl, Bill Spellerberg, Kent Ford, Tim Hoffman, Chris Houser, Kevan Forrest, Todd Bothel, Julie Livermore



Class of 1975

Front row (sitting): Carolyn Clausen Stokes, Cheryl Becicka Dake, Crystal Cottrell Clark, Linda Royer Pitlik, Mary Conrad Engstrom, Carol Woods-Boren, Marcie Behrens Fiala
 Middle row: Kathy Konkowski, Chris Billings Yancy, Mary Thomsen Shook, Lori Lehman Reihle, Judy Stolte Faust, Lori Hylbak Burns, Ron Hess, Susan Berends, Luann Covington Smith, Phil Heath
 Back Row: Andrea Jilovec Riley, Barb Neff Aguirre, Ron Pesarik, Brian Dake, Craig Baack, Doug Gaines, Jerry Niederhauser, Matt Kinley, Ed Pospisil

The Class of 1975 held their 30th Reunion July 8 and 9, 2005 during Heritage Days Weekend. In addition to the All-Alumni events, they held their Reunion Banquet Saturday night at Regal Crown Reception Hall in Lisbon.

Class of 2006

The class of 2006 will graduate May 27 with approximately 85 students. Welcome to these new alumni!



Classes of 1939 and 1940

Celebrating their 65th year reunion, the Class of 1940 met August 18 of 2005 along with the Class of 1939 at Gwen's Restaurant for a noon luncheon.





Rhondi in 2006 and Rhondi from her Class of 1981 yearbook

DID YOU HAVE A FAVORITE TEACHER?

Rhondi Staley Ewing '81 writes here about a teacher that made an impact on her life...

by Rhondi Staley Ewing '81

"My folks moved around a lot while I was growing up, and while I was always a pretty sharp kid who loved to read, I developed a serious "attitude" problem in junior high while attending McKinley Junior High in Cedar Rapids. It was a pretty scary school and my younger sister developed a brain tumor around this time and was in the hospital for a very long time. My folks were busy with her, and out of guilt and lack of oversight I started hanging out with a very rowdy group.

After picking me up at the police station a couple times, my parents moved to Mount Vernon to turn me around. I arrived at the very wholesome MVHS in 9th grade, wearing a jean jacket with a big marijuana leaf on the back. Mr. Ringold singled me out right away as someone to watch closely. It was a big adjustment. During this time, late 70's, kids who smoked and got into trouble were called "scoops" (as I soon found out, as I was called that)...

Within maybe 6 months, I started dating a popular boy in wrestling and his sister, Jude Smith (my dearest friend to this day) made friends with me and I started normalizing. We both took lots of art classes with Donna Swenson. My grades were rotten in 9th grade and my prospects weren't great, but by 10th grade I was getting straight A's and by our senior year Mrs. Swenson was taking us to visit lots of companies using artists/designers of varying types, and she was giving us college level course materials.


Donna really believed in us and pushed us hard. She was so "matter of fact" that we didn't question the fact that we should go on to college and study design. I went on to Iowa State University and received a degree in Graphic Design, ultimately moving to California and working for toy companies including Applause and for customers including Paramount Studios, Warner Bros., Children's Television Workshop (Sesame Street), Jim Henson, Charles Schulz/United Media (Peanuts), etc.



Donna and I wrote letters over the years and I spoke to several of her classes when I was home during the school season. We always traded Christmas cards.

I was shocked and greatly saddened by her death. I feel she still looks out for me and urges me on. Whenever I feel I can't do something in my career, I picture her face telling me "yes you can!" She was a great teacher. "

Editor's Note: Thanks to Rhondi for taking time to write in about her favorite teacher. Rhondi lives in Thousand Oaks, CA as owner of her own design firm, Rhondi Ewing Gift Designs.

We would love to hear from other alums for future issues about a teacher or staff member who made a difference in their life, 319-895-8845 or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us 

Donna Swenson, art teacher from 1974 to 2002, will long be remembered for her hands-on-approach to teaching and her high quality art program. Her passion for art inspired her students in many aspects of life. Her vast knowledge of the visual and fine arts and her own never-ending quest for more knowledge and experience allowed her to learn and explore alongside her students.

Aside from a diverse list of classes that incorporated hands-on-work, Mrs. Swenson believed in understanding art and its effects on our culture.

Her wish was to show-and-tell about students who went on to art careers. Their stories can be seen in the "Donna Swenson Display Case" located in the high school.

The last Swenson Art Scholarship for a deserving MVHS senior art student will be given this year.

This scholarship, managed by the MV Foundation, will have supported four scholarships over a period of four years. Donations to continue this scholarship or a new Art Scholarship would be welcomed by the MV Foundation.

Recent Recipients of the Swenson Art Scholarship...

According to Laurie Zaiger, HS Visual Arts Program Instructor...

2004 – Holly Gunn attends the Art Institute in Chicago. Her parents report that Holly is doing very well there. Holly was chosen outstanding young artist at the Institute's "Art Bash" exhibit. She is teaching high school-aged students at the Art Institute as a part of a Chicago area summer school program. Her parents were very appreciative of the extra assistance the Swenson Scholarship provided Holly. She used this money to buy art supplies and materials that she needed.

2005 – Camille Schefter attends Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. She plans to pursue a double major in visual arts and Spanish. Camille was an outstanding senior art student and we look for great things from her during her college career.

Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ LINDSEY BORG '83



Lt. Col. Lindsey Borg commands the B-2 stealth bomber mission support squadron at Whiteman AFB, Mo. Whiteman AFB is the only place in the world to permanently base the bomber.

Air Force Lt. Col. Lindsey Borg, a 1983 MV graduate, is commander of the B-2 stealth bomber mission support squadron at Whiteman AFB, Mo. He took command of the 200-person squadron in July 2004 and expects to be reassigned in July 2006.

Lindsey is a 15-year veteran who began his Air Force career after graduating from Iowa State University in 1989 with a degree in journalism and mass communication.

"I had the outstanding opportunity to serve as a White House intern during the Reagan administration," Borg said. "I returned to Iowa State from that experience knowing I wanted to serve our country. I extended my time at ISU to complete the two-year ROTC program."

Borg said his plan to serve four years, then return to Iowa, changed as time went by.

"The Air Force has continually presented me with terrific opportunities and experiences. It's hard for me to believe 15 years have passed; they've gone quickly despite seven household moves."

Borg served the first 14 years of his Air Force career as a public affairs officer and will likely return to that

work when he relinquishes command of the B-2's mission support squadron. "This opportunity to command a squadron is unique for me as a public affairs officer," Borg said. "I'm thrilled by the chance to broaden my skills and experience base."

In recent years, Borg has been assigned to the Pentagon, NATO Headquarters in Belgium, and the Air Force's European headquarters in Germany. While assigned to the Pentagon, he served as the Air Force representative to the Joint Chiefs of Staff planning group that created the public affairs plan for Operation Iraqi Freedom and the system for embedding journalists with combat forces. Extended deployments have taken him to Homestead AFB, Fla., in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew; to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; and Pristina, Kosovo.

"I highly value my Mount Vernon roots," Borg said. "The Iowa work ethic, strong emphasis on education and solid values are keys to success in any line of work but match the Air Force's focus very well."

Borg and his wife, Deb, a Cedar Falls native, met while students at Iowa State. They have two sons, Tanner, 9, and Nathan, 7.

■ DONNA ZINKULA MCKAY '74



Congratulations to alum Donna McKay from the Class of 1974, who was named the 2006 National Cheerleading Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School (NFHS) Spirit Association.

One of the founders of the Iowa Cheer Coaches Association (ICCA), no one has impacted cheerleading in Iowa more than Donna McKay. From her duties at the local level in Mason City, to her varied roles with the ICCA, to her involvement with the NFHS at the national level, McKay has given many hours to cheerleading activities. McKay is responsible for 60 cheerleaders at Mason City. A teacher and basketball coach for 28 years in the Mason City schools, McKay has guided her cheer teams to three state titles during her 20-year tenure. A total of 86 Mason City cheerleaders have been selected to Iowa All-State teams.

In addition to many team spirit awards, McKay's team members have been involved in numerous community service projects. One of the major team projects has been to mentor elementary students. Her teams have raised money for Juvenile Diabetes Research, Hospice of North Iowa, New York Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund, Make a Wish Foundation and Walk/Run for the Cure. In 1994, the Mason City High School cheerleaders raised \$15,870 for the V Foundation for Cancer Research.

Donna was a cheerleader here at Mount Vernon High School, and she also cheered at the University of Northern Iowa. A charter member of the ICCA, McKay has served two terms as president (1992-94 and 1998-00) and currently serves as ICCA secretary and ethics director in charge of arranging all rules meetings and clinics. Since 1996, she has been coordinator of the NCA/NDA National Coaches and Directors Conference and is in her 13th year as a cheerleading judge at the state, regional and national levels. She also has written numerous articles for the

Watch for another 'Four Generations of Mustangs' Feature in a future issue

continued on next page

Mustangs...what are they doing now?

Donna Zinkula McKay '74 continued

ICCA newsletter and is co-author of a new book entitled 'Complete Cheerleading'. Donna was instrumental in the planning of the cheer/spirit exhibit at the new Iowa Hall of Pride. **Editor's Note:** Thank you to the IHSAA for information about Donna that was shared in this article.



Donna was a member of the 1974 cheerleading squad

DEVIN KELSO '81



Devin is shown here as member of the 1981 tennis team



Devin Kelso from the Class of 1981 has traveled the world and now lives over 6000 miles away in Japan. Devin teaches English at Kokugakuin Tochigi University High School and the Wish English Academy, but says 'he gets homesick'. So Devin, along with his mother Jane Kelso, and brother Nick Boots '97, have provided inspiration and support for a 'bridge between Japan and Iowa.' Now in his 3rd year of the Kelso Heartland Homestay Program, he and wife Hiroe bring students from Japan to Mount Vernon and Lisbon for a two-week crash course in English, the Midwest, food and shopping.

Once here, his students stay with host families from the Mount Vernon-Lisbon area. The program blossomed to 24 students last year who came in July to tour the towns, local farms, the Field and Dreams and the Mississippi River

Museum. They traveled to St. Louis for a few days.

Not only do the students from Japan learn English, but their host families get an education, too. Wendy McClain '82, opened her home for the past two years. She says 'It's a good experience for my daughter to know other cultures, and it's a great experience for the kids that are coming.'

He will be bringing a group this year in late July - so if you live in Mount Vernon or Lisbon and would like to help Devin out by offering to be a host family, contact mom Jane Kelso at 319-895-8142 or brother Nick at 319-560-0836.

Editor's Note: Thank you to Sarah Leavenworth of the *Sun* for her help with information for this article.



Dan playing drums in 1983



DAN COLEHOUR '83

Editor's Note: Dan Colehour recently updated us about his musical success...

"Since leaving Iowa in '84, I've been on a bit of a musical journey. There was college in Texas (NTSU), followed by a move to California with two other M.V. natives; Jeff Strickland and Chuck Soukup, then back down to Texas where I became involved in the music scene. I lived in Austin for three years, writing and playing out as much as I could. My publisher in Austin at the time had some Nashville ties and the move seemed inevitable. So in '97 I made the move. Since then I've been working with Frank Liddell for Carnival Publishing and Recording Company. Recently, we've completed a CD titled; 'One For The Old Man', that is scheduled for release by the end of this year as a joint venture between Carnival and Universal. We're keeping our fingers crossed and holding our breath where all of that is concerned.

I'm out on the road for a handful of solo dates every month, which takes me to Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa and Illinois primarily. If all goes according to plan we'll be out with the band sometime later this year. Coming back to Iowa is the most enjoyable part in all of this. Through all of my travels no other place has ever truly felt like home...that's always and only been Iowa."

Editor's Note: Thank you to classmate Lisa Hazlett for this picture and story idea.



Classmate Lisa Lewis Hazlett writes "This February, Dan Colehour was playing in Cedar Rapids and a few of us from the class of '83 were able to go and see him." Pictured from left to right are: Christine (Grant) Pientok, Lisa (Lewis) Hazlett, Tracy (Sherman) Thoreson, Dan Colehour, Beth (Walden) Smith, Paige Peterson, Mitch Corcoran.

■ RUTH OPAL STEARNS '25



Raven Beatty is shown here with her grandfather, Dennis Beatty, and a photo of her great grandmother.

Mount Vernon Middle School student Raven Beatty is shown here with her great grandmother's violin which she now uses as a member of the orchestra. Her great-grandmother Ruth Opal Stearns graduated from Mount Vernon in 1925.

■ MORGAN STINE '96



This is a picture from the animation studio Morgan Stine built this last year. It is located on the penthouse floor of a historic building in downtown LA on 7th and Grand. The concept of geodesic walls was employed by the drawings of Ana Henton Design and all construction was completed by Stine Builders. His next project was a dance studio. He is currently working on his own recording studio to continue his own musical interests and to also record that of others (metal, punk, electronic).



Morgan was selected to perform with the 1996 All-State Band in the first chair position

ALUMNI COMMENTS

Following are some of the comments the Association has received over the past year. Thanks to everyone who took time to write an email or note to the Association.

'I love all the pictures, news and information (in the Alumni News). Where did those years go so fast?'
Martha Moses Divishek '46
Cedar Rapids, IA

'Thank you for sending this (the Alumni News) — it was great to catch up on the Mount Vernon school news and see the progress of construction (of the new high school building). I look forward to the next issue!'
Mary Manor '96
St. Albans, Hertfordshire, UK

'Very impressed with the Alumni newsletter and all the Alumni and Foundation activity.'
Jane Hill Primoli '86, Stillwater, MN

'Alumni News — great job! Thanks!'
Jeanne Sullivan Stopulos '40
Bettendorf, IA

'What a great idea! A great big thank you to all the volunteers that help us stay connected!'
Karen Kaliban Fox '63, Marion, IA

'Great work!!'
Joy Litts Gaarde-Morton '48
Paradise Valley, AZ

'Just found the MV Alumni newsletter in our mailbox today. Super job! Many thanks to those who have helped write and publish the letter and those who had the foresight to start an alumni association. Many thanks! I'll be signing on to the web site soon.'
Mike Seiler '67, Bonita, CA

'Great job on the first alumni newsletter. Enjoyed the trip down memory lane. The info and pictures were of vital interest.'
Peg Herring Coogan '41
Davenport, IA

'I want to compliment you on the first ever issue of the Alumni News. It's very nicely put together. I'm sure you were striving to interest all age groups and you succeeded'
Jane Costello Fink '59, Anamosa, IA

'I enjoyed reading the newsletter and wish I were closer so I could attend some of the events.'
Janis Glattly Hoover '58
Poughkeepsie, NY

'I'm not a MV Alum, but read the Alumni Newsletter from cover to cover several times. It is easy to read, filled with interesting news and pictures and looks very professional. I plan to support the organization with some funds in addition to my compliments. Thanks again for a job that was not just well done — it is a work of art!!'
Mary Jane McWilliams, Friend of the Association, Mount Vernon, IA

'I sure enjoyed the Alumni booklet.'
Eula Burnett Lichtenberg '44
Orangevale, CA

'I just read the newsletter and THOROUGHLY enjoyed it!' Thank you so much! How fun! I searched every picture and list of names for old friends! Even though we only lived in Mount Vernon for 4 years, sophomore thorough college freshmen, those high school years are vivid and irreplaceable. I graduated with the Class '66 and have only been able to attend our 10th and 15th reunions, so it was great fun to see the pictures.'
Karilyn Mead Eastvold '66
Springfield, Illinois

'It (the newsletter) is great and I certainly think you people have done a great job. Keep up the good work!'
Helen Dvorak Stoner '46
Gold Canyon, AZ

'I talked with another alumni yesterday who was raving about the first issue.. couldn't believe how professional it was. Also another person from the Class of '61 who wrote me a very long email told me how he was able to connect with someone he'd long lost track of. Thanks to the Association for everything you do... you are bringing 'happiness' to many people.'
Judy Penn, '61 Class Representative,
Cedar Rapids, IA

INTERESTING INFO

9 Donalds in the class of 1941 out of 33 classmates (thanks to Jean Stoner '37 for this interesting fact).

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Don Current | Donald Hunter |
| Don Dolezol | Don Leighr |
| Don Ferguson | Don Merritt |
| Don Herring | Don Minnick |
| Don Horton | |



Thank you for your Support of the Association

One way YOU can help the Alumni Association is to be a 'Supporter'. We are asking each alumnus for a voluntary contribution of \$10 or more annually (July 1 to June 30) to help offset the costs of printing, mailings, data base update and management, services to alumni reunion organizers, etc.

2005-2006 SUPPORTERS

Benjamin Aalbers - 1992
Archdale, NC
Norma Reyhons Abbott - 1954
Iowa City, IA
Dennis Akers - 1964
Cedar Rapids, IA
Scott Akers - 1970
Cedar Rapids, IA
Susan Hansen Aragon - 1966
Loveland, CO
Annamae Stoneking Baker - 1960
Mount Vernon, IA
Barry Bauman - 1958
Sun Lakes, AZ
Kristine Bys Beisel - 1972
Lisbon, IA
Robert Bensmiller - 1964
Shellsburg, IA
Susan Berends - 1975
Cedar Rapids, IA
Norma Berry - 1958
Mount Vernon, IA
Kerry Ammons Booth - 1960
Arvada, CO
Terry Boren - 1977
Mount Vernon, IA
Randy Borg - 1976
San Antonio, TX
Lindsey Borg - 1983
Whiteman Air Force Base, MO
Jean Kuntz Bowman - 1964
DeWitt, IA
Mary Baldwin Brannaman - 1949
Lisbon, IA
Renee Sterenberg Branson - 1963
Hesperia, CA
Ronald Bridges - 1961
Joshua Tree, CA
George Brown - 1953
Kearney, NE
Christene Hudson Brown - 1964
Lisbon, IA
Dan Brown - 1985
Lafayette, IN
Gene Brown - 1958
Springfield, MO
David Brown - 1965
Centennial, CO
Eula Lichtenberg Burnett - 1944
Orangevale, CA
Carlyle Bys - 1953
Cedar Rapids, IA
Margaret Merritt Bys - 1952
Cedar Rapids, IA
Betty Dostal Carney - 1953
Cedar Rapids, IA
Warren Carney - 1952
Cedar Rapids, IA
Margaret Herring Coogan - 1941
Davenport, IA
Barbara Williams Copeland - 1961
Marion, IA

Diana Pringle Croft - 1946
Tallahassee, FL
James Croft - 1947
Tallahassee, FL
June Koch Culberson - 1947
Knob Noster, MO
Amanda Dake - 1998
Cedar Rapids, IA
Howard DeCamp - 1951
Lombard, IL
Martha Moses Divishek - 1946
Cedar Rapids, IA
Dan Drahos - 1984
Muscatine, IA
Richard Dvorak - 1944
Cedar Rapids, IA
Shauna Applebee Dye - 2001
Mount Vernon, IA
Ian Dye - 2001
Mount Vernon, IA
Karilyn Mead Eastvold - 1966
Springfield, IL
Betty Longerbeam Edwards - 1947
Fulton, IL
Richard Edwards - 1947
Fulton, IL
Fae Sparks Edwards - 1954
Cedar Rapids, IA
Larry Edwards - 1954
Cedar Rapids, IA
Michael Elliott - 1998
Mount Vernon, IA
Patrick Elliott - 1994
Milwaukee, WI
Erin Kennedy Elliott - 1994
Milwaukee, WI
Mary Evans - 1967
Mount Vernon, IA
Rhondi Staley Ewing - 1981
Thousand Oaks, CA
Jane Costello Fink - 1959
Anamosa, IA
Susan Mounts Fisher - 1965
Mount Vernon, IA
Karen Kaliban Fox - 1963
Marion, IA
James Fox '62 (deceased)
Sarah Kline Franks - 1991
Pleasant Hill, IA
Joy Litts Gaarde-Morton - 1948
Paradise Valley, AZ
Adeline Biderman Gaimari - 1952
Cedar Rapids, IA
Marianne Hansen Garrigan - 1967
Fayetteville, TN
Dr. Stanley Grant - 1949
Deer Park, WA
James Gunn - 1946
Mount Vernon, IA
Jamie Hampton - 1991
Elk Run Heights, IA
Jenny Moore Hampton - 1991
Elk Run Heights, IA
William Harris - 1947
Marion, IA
Sandra Schweitzer Haven - 1963
Santa Cruz, CA
Marilyn Schnittjer Hayes - 1963
Chicago, IL
Lisa Lewis Hazlett - 1983
Mount Vernon, IA
Shirley Pospisil Heiserman - 1956
Lisbon, IA
Leora Foster Henderson - 1942
Austin, TX
Tim Hill - 1988
Grayslake, IL
George Hill - 1949
West Orange, NJ
Helen Blue Holder - 1961
Austin, MN

Janis Glatly Hoover - 1958
Poughkeepsie, NY
Marie Russell Hruby - 1954
Oxford, IA
Catherine Hufford - 1983
Clarendon Hills, IL
Elizabeth Hufford - 1984
Laguna Niguel, CA
David Hull - 1939
Cupertino, CA
Cornelia Brooks Hull - 1939
Cupertino, CA
Arthur Hull - 1933
Fort Worth, TX
Deanna Parish Humphrey - 1991
Indianola, IA
John Hunter - 1960
Cedar Rapids, IA
Barb Neal Hutchins - 1957
Marion, IA
Mark Hylbak - 1973
Marietta, GA
Cindy Feaker Johnson - 1974
Lisbon, IA
Timothy Johnson - 1973
Lisbon, IA
Joy Jordan - 1987
Appleton, WI
Kenneth Kaliban - 1956
Cedar Rapids, IA
Robert Kalous - 1956
Cedar Rapids, IA
William Kaplan - 1939
Mount Vernon, IA
Donald Killen - 1947
Hot Springs Village, AR
Kathy Studt King - 1966
Hiwassee, AR
Sarah Franks Kline - 1991
Pleasant Hill, IA
Harold Klinsky - 1947
Marion, IA
Ruth Uthoff Kocher - 1946
Bettendorf, IA
Mary Bauman Kolbe - 1964
Phoenix, AZ
Donald Krumm - 1939
Marshalltown, IA
Marie Zinkula Kuntz - 1935
Mount Vernon, IA
Janet Henderson Lacy - 1968
Walker, IA
Mary Plattenberger Lambertson - 1942
Cedar Rapids, IA
Jason Lange - 1994
Clarence, IA
Sara Kreinbrink Lange - 1998
Clarence, IA
Diana Kafer LaVoi - 1964
Apple Valley, MN
Kay Jilovec Lind - 1955
Lisbon, IA
William Litts - 1943
Louisville, KY
Joyce Capellen Loomis - Friend
Mount Vernon, IA
Joyce Olmstead Lucas - 1957
Central City, IA
Mary Manor - 1996
St. Albans, Hertfordshire
Pearl Whitlach Martin - 1942
Mount Vernon, IA
Leland Martin - 1940
Cedar Rapids, IA
Karen Jilovec Martin - 1957
Mount Vernon, IA
Roger Martin - 1958
Mount Vernon, IA
Roy Martin - 1939
Mount Vernon, IA
Denise Jilovec McAfee - 1977
Des Moines, IA

Teresa Berner McDermott - 1994
Melbourne, FL

Lucas McDermott - 1995
Melbourne, FL

Martha Rogers McNabb - 1941
Racine, WI

Elizabeth McWilliams - 1999
Anamosa, IA

Ruth Minish Meeker - 1941
Lisbon, IA

Helen Peterson Meeks - 1946
Iowa City, IA

Charlotte Pavelka Meroshek - 1937
Mount Vernon, IA

Betty Stoneking Meyer - 1941
Mount Vernon, IA

Sandra Zinkula Moore - 1976
Glen Ellyn, IL

Barbara Beckhelm Moore - 1953
Mount Vernon, IA

Richard Moore - 1952
Mount Vernon, IA

Marguerite Johnson Morey - 1939
Iowa City, IA

Ruth Corcoran Munger - 1985
Sioux City, IA

Dorothy Rogers Narro - 1946
Temple, TX

Stephen Neal - 1966
Cedar Rapids, IA

Gary Neal - 1963
Cypress, CA

Richard Netolicky - 1950
Ely, IA

Linda Peterson Nost - 1963
Lisbon, IA

Kay Kirkpatrick Osterkamp - 1968
North Richland Hills, TX

Karen Edwards Packer - 1968
Petersburg, VA

Donald Patchin - 1965
Adair, IA

Sarah Rife Patten - 1993
Mount Vernon, IA

Ann Vislisl Pavik - 1952
Granite Bay, CA

Trudy Clay Pearson - 1968
Tipton, IA

John R. Pence - 1954
Fairfax, VA

Jane Maxson Penfield - 1964
Dongola, IL

Judy Caldwell Penn - 1960
Cedar Rapids, IA

Dorothy Gaines Petersen - 1947
Monticello, IA

Judy Strother Petersen - 1971
Anamosa, IA

Larry Petrick - 1962
Fairfax, IA

Brandon Pitlik - 1991
Marion, IA

Tammy Berner Pitlik - 1993
Marion, IA

Martin Pitlik - 1963
Rockwall, TX

Merrill Pitlik - 1940
Cedar Rapids, IA

Kenneth Pospisil - 1968
Mount Vernon, IA

Jane Colehour Pospisil - 1968
Mount Vernon, IA

Benjamin Pospisil - 1996
Mount Vernon, IA

Jane Hill Primoli - 1986
Stillwater, MN

Sonia Essex Redmond - 1982
Mount Vernon, IA

Angela Vittetoe Reed - 1990
Marion, IA

Margaret Clark Reilly - 1946
Mount Vernon, IA

Christabel Kramer Rhoads - 1955
Falmouth, MA

John Rife - 1960
Mount Vernon, IA

Jerry Ringer - 1955
Bloomington, IL

Gloriane Holtz Roman - 1976
Cedar Rapids, IA

Harriet Moffitt Sander - 1942
Boulder City, NV

Richard Sanderson - 1948
Mililani, HI

Patricia Young Schloss - 1951
Cedar Rapids, IA

Marilyn Dean Schnittjfer - 1958
Delhi, IA

Roger Schnittjfer - 1956
Delhi, IA

Michael Seiler - 1967
Bonita, CA

Cassidy Sill - 2001
Mount Vernon, IA

Kevin Sill - 2005
Mount Vernon, IA

Patricia Cribbs Sindt - 1974
Story City, IA

Marie Sippola - 1959
San Antonio, TX

Bertram Sippola - 1956
New Orleans, LA

Janet Hess Smith - 1957
Des Moines, IA

Donna Staskal Soukup - 1955
Mayhill, NM

Mavis Edwards Spangler - 1958
Clarence, IA

Nargi Jo Rayman Steinbrech - 1955
Solon, IA

Dorothy Longersbeam Steinocher - 1945
Rogers, AR

Julia Loomis Stephenson - 1971
Cedar Rapids, IA

Matthew Stewart - 1996
Middletown, CT

Teresa Duppong Stewart - 1996
Middletown, CT

Morgan Stine - 1996
Los Angeles, CA

Jean Plank Stinehour - 1960
Littleton, NH

Jean Minish Stoner - 1937
Mount Vernon, IA

Darrell Stoner - 1946
Gold Canyon, AZ

Helen Dvorak Stoner - 1946
Gold Canyon, AZ

John Studt - 1954
Bentonville, AR

Gary Suttiff - 1961
Tampa, FL

Jon Swanberg - 1959
Huntington Beach, CA

Joni Loomis Tackenberg - 1974
Tampa, FL

Dean Tesar - 1965
Cedar Rapids, IA

Robert Thompson - 1946
Calabasas, CA

Douglas Thumm - 1973
Darien, IL

Jennifer Spencer Torriggino - 1985
Denver, CO

Ruth Thompson Trostle - 1951
Calabasas, CA

Patricia Rice Troyer - 1972
Kalona, IA

David Van Metre - 1955
Omaha, NE

Doug Van Metre - 1946
Marion, IA

Darin Vig - 1986
Chicago, IL

A special thank you

donations to the Alumni Association

- Robert 1964 and Ruth Bensmiller in memory of Earl Bensmiller 1961

- Class of 1945 for your \$50 donation
- Clint Currie 2005 cash donation

to these alums for their donation in addition to supporter dues...

Mary Bauman Kolbe 1964
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Renee Sterenberg Branson 1963
Stephen Neal 1966
Janet Hess Smith 1957
Donald Krumm 1939
Julia Loomis Stephenson 1971
Karen Jilovec Martin 1957
Roger Martin 1958
Denise Jilovec McAfee 1977
Dan Brown 1985
Martin Pitlik 1963
Ruth Corcoran Munger 1985
Mary Manor 1996
Dr. Stanley Grant 1949
Lindsey Borg 1983
Robert Wagner III 1982
Barry Bauman 1958
Elizabeth Pospisil Wolfe 1945
John Wolfe 1944
Janis Glatly Hoover 1958
Morgan Stine 1996

And, to these friends of the Association, John and Mary Jane McWilliams

Robert Wagner III - 1982
Wilmington, NC

Richard Washburn - 1957
Sturbridge, MA

Beth Carlson Wasserstrom - 1990
St. Louis, MO

Dorothy Wolfe Welsh - 1960
Potomac, MD

Lisa Squiers White - 1988
Mount Vernon, IA

Rory Wiebel - 1996
Mt. Vernon, IA

Mark Wilkey - 1988
Bristol, VA

Wiladene Hoggard Willming - 1950
San Antonio, TX

Esther Dvorak Wilson - 1942
Sun City West, AZ

David Wolfe - 1950
Los Angeles, CA

Thomas Wolfe - 1945
Solon, IA

Elizabeth Pospisil Wolfe - 1945
Mount Vernon, IA

John Wolfe - 1944
Mt. Vernon, IA

James Woods - 1979
Mount Vernon, IA

Carol Woods Woods-Boren - 1975
Mount Vernon, IA

John Yeisley - 1952
Cedar Rapids, IA

Andrea Mott Zastrow - 1990
DeWitt, IA

Millicent Hoggard Zenishek - 1947
Mechanicsville, IA

Diane Zinkula - 1972
Cedar Rapids, IA

Sharon Zinkula - 1981
Oak Park, IL



Thank you!

Heritage Days 2006

July 13 - Evening at Hillcrest Country Club - games, entertainment, food and fireworks
 July 14-15 - Uptown Mount Vernon Entertainment on main stage all day and evening
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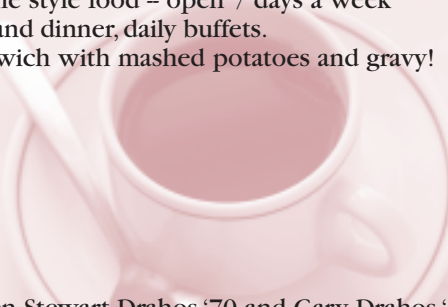
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Alumni News...

Pamela Bensmiller '91 is an attorney at Lynn C. Conniff Law Offices in Oak Park, Il. She graduated from the U of I Law school in 2004

Keith '54 and Arlene Jilovec celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 21 2005

Carol '55 and Don '53 Walden celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 17 2005

Holly Armstrong '89, was named the communications director for Washington Governor Christine Gregoire

Tammy Berner Pitlik '93 and husband Brandon Pitlik '91, baby boy in September 2005

Art Wooff '53 and wife Donna celebrated their 45th Anniversary Braden Pospisil Rood '93 and husband Anton, baby boy November 2005

Justin Dix '97, promotion to VP at Mount Vernon State Bank

Gwen Stewart Drahos '70 for 25 years in business at Gwen's Restaurant in Lisbon

Darci Merrill '05 Linn County Fair Queen 2005

Lisa Lewis Hazlett '83 earned grand prize in national 'Hot Tots and Cool Kids' photo competition Aug 2005

Shelly Fordyce Brinkmann '88 and Adam Brinkman, baby daughter June 15 2005

Dave Van Metre '55 was recognized as an Outstanding Alumni at Omaha South High School

Jon Swanberg '59 retired from Honeywell in July 2005 where he was an Aircraft Cockpit Design Engineer.

Betty Dostal Carney '53 and husband Warren Carney '52 celebrated their 50th Anniversary

ALUMS EARNING COLLEGE DEGREES

UNDERGRAD

Ellen Daly '01 - Iowa State Univ.

Lori Lynch '02 - Iowa State Univ.

Edward 'Ted' Carlson '02 - Colorado College

Kristin Hotz Robinson '02 - Monmouth College

Grant Rasmussen '01 - University of North Dakota

Gregory Poduska '01 - Carleton College

Derek Boren '00 - Iowa State Univ.

Adrienne Brant '01 - Iowa State Univ.

Brent Duppong '00 - Iowa State Univ.

Aubrey Scott '00 - Iowa State Univ.

Stephanie Triggs '00 - Iowa State Univ.

Michelle Wiese '00 - Iowa State Univ.

Crystal Raiber '01 - Luther College

Catherine Hileman '01 - Middlebury College

POST GRAD

Anne Poduska '97, Cornell University, MS in chemistry

MARRIAGES

Elizabeth Overman '02 and Aaron Reasland '01, married July 2 2005

Matthew Miller '90, to Jennifer Getz, July 30 2005, reside in Minneapolis, MN

Andrew Pitlik '99 To Erica Schark, April 1 2006, reside in Mount Vernon

Robin Viter Baker '85 to Jason Riechard

Aubrey Scott '00 to Curtis Gregg, Feb 18 2006, reside in Decatur, Il.

Douglas James Merrill '94 to Gina Winchip May 15 2005, reside in Cedar Rapids

Brandon Durgin '97 to Ashley Boone, July 30 2005, reside in Cedar Rapids
Jim Berends '72 and Joan Karr '72
April 16 2006

Send us your information...

Alumni Association
525 Palisades Road
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314
or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

In Memory

Dave Ohlfest '75

Bill Burnett '42

Donna LeGrand '89

Don Neal '58

Sharon O'Connor Bergstad '58

Delores Jennings Dingman '58
Virginia Forest '55

Dorothy Robinson Zinkula '43

Robert 'Bob' Horton '65

Terry Gugler-Barth '83

Conrad Meyer '63

Robert Wilkinson '63

Jeannie Thomassen '42

Louise Rogers Souders '45

Steven 'Hawkeye' Charles Haack '72

Lewis Meyer '62

Willard Neal '33

Richard 'Dick' Winsor '49

Alice Vislisl Faoro '57

Frances Cooper Opperud '55

James 'Jim' Sproston '55

Jane Marie Koza '43

Alice Marie Harris Smith '37

Alberta Neal Taylor Post '38

Dorothy Connell Greisel '38

Keith Price '56

(Please excuse us if your classmate or loved one is not listed here for their recent death, but let us know for inclusion in the next newsletter.)

■ ALISON HORTON JACOBI '97

The Mount Vernon 14-and-under ASA Softball Team held the first annual Alison Horton Jacobi Memorial Tournament in 2005. Alison, who was a teacher, coach and athlete, was killed in a car crash in '03.



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1st ANNUAL
MOUNT
VERNON
ALUMNI
VOLLEYBALL
TOURNAMENT

-- see page 5

Saturday,
July 15, 2006
12-4 pm

COMING FULL CIRCLE...

Graduates of Mount Vernon class of 1986 send kids off for first day of school

by Sarah Leavenworth
Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun

Donna Griebel, Julie Lynch, Polly Blythe and Sharon Grice attended the same kindergarten class in 1973. They remember the bus rides, school picture days and their high school graduation in 1986.

Now these Mount Vernon-area residents have something else to add to their memories of going back to school in the community: the first day of school last fall 2005 when their five-year-olds started kindergarten together at Washington Elementary.

On this Monday afternoon in the park, the children of the four friends are getting acquainted as well. Blythe's daughter, Lisa, Grice's son, Christopher, Lynch's daughter, Barbara, and Griebel's daughter, Macey, are not in the same classes at Washington Elementary, so this is the first time the whole group has gotten together.

"They're getting to know each other," said Blythe, who co-owns Polly Ann's Antiques and the Blythe Cottage Inn with her husband, Bob.

Although many of the educators the four friends remember from their school days have retired, including long-time elementary teacher Barbara McClain, Blythe said that she recognized some familiar faces when she walked Lisa through the same halls she walked as an elementary student. "Kids can still walk and ride their bikes to school," said Griebel, a communications assistant at CIPCO and mother of three. "I remember you knew at least somebody every couple of blocks."

As the four friends talk and reflect back on their years together in school and after, Lisa comes running from the new playspace at Washington Elementary and asks her mom for a drink. This brings back memories of a fourth grade field trip, when a teacher told the girls they should suck on their thumbs if they were thirsty.

Lynch, a nurse at University of Iowa hospitals, said she remembers exactly when she met the other three. They used to ride the bus together and play at recess.

Grice remembers how Griebel used to wear her hair long and tied up with a bow.

Polly wasn't having such a good hair day when she got her kindergarten picture taken. It must have been after recess, she said, "because my hair was going every which way."

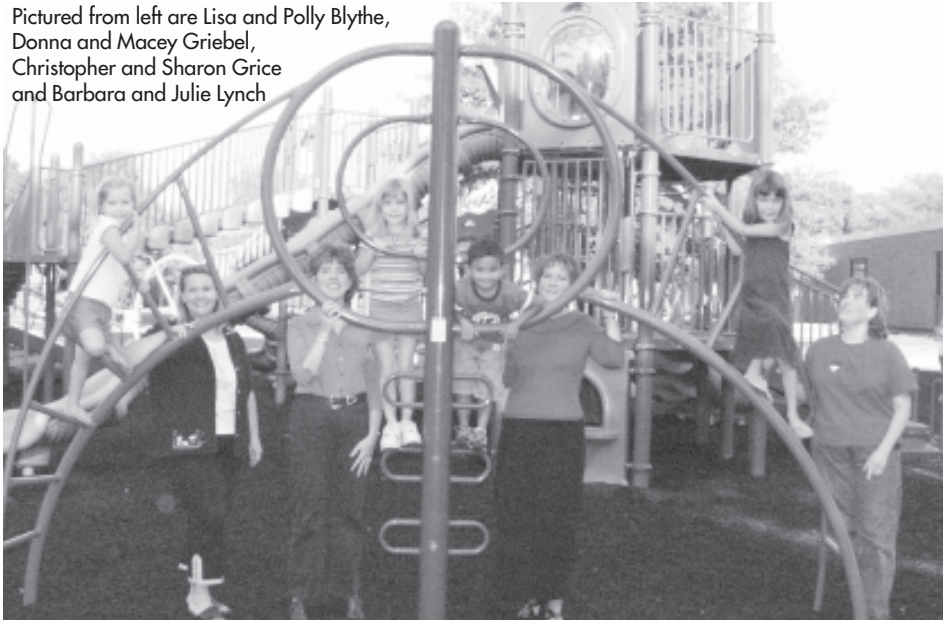
The friends also remember the piano in their kindergarten classroom, and the painting shirts they wore for art class. The building hasn't changed that much, even after 30 years.

Grice, the associate director of admissions at Cornell College, said she had mixed feelings dropping Christopher off for his first day of school. "I did just fine until I got out to my van then the tears came," she said.

Blythe laughed, saying, "my husband and I were counting the days down. We were very much ready for school to begin." But when the time came to say goodbye, Blythe and her husband found themselves lingering in the classroom long after the other parents had left. "I would love to have a video of the first day," said Blythe.

Griebel recalls that when Macey came home from her first day, she told her mom that, according to the teacher, all 20 students in the class were going to be one big family. Macey told her mom that she really didn't want to have 20 kids in her family. But by the time she, Barbara, Christopher and Lisa have graduated from high school, Macey may have changed her mind.

Pictured from left are Lisa and Polly Blythe, Donna and Macey Griebel, Christopher and Sharon Grice and Barbara and Julie Lynch



COMMUNITY NEWS : Mount Vernon Lisbon Task Force new slogan 'Close to you, far from ordinary'

Alums join MV Staff...

This school year we welcomed 4 alums to the High School teaching staff...

- Maggie Willems '96 - HS Resource
- Kim Bjork '96 - MS Math
- Abby Neal Bock '99 - MS Math
- Ian Dye '01 - HS Math

School District Improvements 2005-2006

The new high school building construction has taken the spotlight in the school district during the 2005-2006 school year, yet there have been many other improvements in the schools over this past year.

- The new Washington Elementary School playground was opened in June to the delight of young and old.
- The architects are finishing the plans for the remodeling of the current high school building into a middle school. Construction bids are expected to go out in May with construction completed in December, 2006.
- Plans proceed for how the previous middle school building next to the football field (which was also the previous high school building) will be used after the current middle school moves to its new building. The Superintendent's office will move to that building along with the Student Transition Center. The Mount Vernon Area Arts Council has expressed interest in setting up studios in the building and there are also businesses interested in renting space.
- High school teachers and administrators have been meeting with representatives from the Clear-Creek Amana Schools and the Grant Wood Area Education Agency to discuss changes to the current educational approach and how it can be redesigned to better prepare students for the ever changing world environment.
- The middle school has implemented and continues to modify a team teaching approach to education that promotes better communication among teachers regarding students, better communication with parents and students, and allows teachers to work together on various classroom units.
- The middle school teachers are beginning to implement a Character Counts program to help fortify student values.
- A new middle school/high school assistant principal position was created to manage student attendance issues and help students with disciplinary issues.
- The high school teachers continue to make changes to the high school schedule to provide more academic opportunities for students as well as provide them with more guidance

regarding their high school classes and how those classes relate to their plans after graduation.

- The high school has volunteered to host the Iowa Academic Decathlon State Contest in 2007. Planning for this event has already begun. This will be a significant event in the community and will also be an opportunity to showcase the new high school building.
- The district is planning to add more summer academic classes this year to provide students an opportunity to further enrich their educational experience.
- This past year the high school developed a Student Success Lab to assist students in their classes.
- The teachers in the district have started a structured mentoring program among teachers to discuss teaching improvements and collaborate on informational resources.
- A new communications council has been formed to allow a representative teacher from each building to meet monthly as a group with the superintendent. This group discusses questions and facilitates communication to resolve any issues or concerns.

• The district is currently working on a new school newsletter format that is printed by The Sun newspaper. This new format promotes expanded communication to parents and the community.

• And the new high school building is on schedule to be completed and opened before the start of the 2006-07 school year. With about 80% of the work completed on the building, it already looks like an impressive high school building both inside and out. Although the building will be completed about August 1, it will truly be complete on August 23 when both faculty and students are in the building working together on the first day of school.

The Mount Vernon Schools appreciates its partnership with the Mount Vernon School Alumni. Without alumni support, the advancement of educational excellence for the next generation of Mount Vernon alumni would not be possible.

Thank you!

Aerial taken Aug 5, 2005



Front of new building in April 2006



Ribbon Cutting Day for the new Washington Elementary School playground equipment

2006 SCHOOL DISTRICT RETIREES...

The following staff members and teachers will be retiring this year or moving on. Thanks to all of them for sharing some of their memories and thoughts with us...



SUSAN BRUST

Susan has taught a total of 37 years – 31 here at Mount Vernon. She has taught Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades. **First year favorite memory:** When I first started teaching it was the 70's and we wore

dressess everyday to teach in and if you remember the 70's they were miniskirts. That was a lot of fun—leaning over desks. My first year of teaching was in Elmer, Missouri. My husband Jim was in graduate school at Kirksville and I found a job in a very small school K-8 with probably 60 students and 5 teachers. Probably the most important thing I learned there was don't drink the water.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? The staff member who probably helped me the most is Joan Kohl. I arrived in Kindergarten without a clue as to what to do. I wanted half time work because Jim and I had just started a family and I wanted to be home with Lindsay but I didn't want to quit sooooo there was this opening in Kindergarten and I took it. Joan literally walked me through the first year and we discovered we had similar teaching styles and expectations for our students. For years we were the only 2 kindergarten teachers and we became very good friends as well as teaching partners. Believe it or not, I think I got better as the years went along.

A favorite memory: If I were to list an event I think I would have to recall all the Kindergarten Circuses I have staged over the 25 years. Some went very smoothly — some may be chalked up as disasters and I am sure there are videos out there that could be sent to Americas Funniest Home Video and win \$1,000. The most startling event was during a Show and Tell. One of my students pulled a live snake out of his backpack — a little something he found on the way to school.

Do you remember the first student you taught that you had also taught their parent(s)? At this stage of my career I have had several students whose parents I also had taught. It has been exciting to have the next generation in my classroom but also a gentle reminder of the years I have taught and the need for me to retire.

Retirement Plans: I have been telling everyone I am going to do anything I want. This probably will include lots of time reading on my screened in porch, trying my hand at quilting, working in my yard, sailing, traveling, and keeping up with my family and friends. Oh, Gary, you might call me occasionally to sub.

ADRIENNE (MARLOW) COFFEEN



Adrienne is not retiring, but moving on to Decorah, Iowa. She's taught 29 years at Mount Vernon Schools, the majority of them teaching middle school English.

First year memory: "On my very first day of teaching I was nervous and wanted to do my

best. I started out doing roll call for my 7th grade class at Fort Dodge. I said every name, the first name then the last. Things were going well, until I got to one student's name. When I read, "Jack Peed", a little mischievous voice from the back of the room asked, "He did?" Without skipping a beat, I went on to the next student's name. I learned right then that it is sometimes wise to pretend (deafness). Since then, I've learned to enjoy the unpredictable nature of teaching kids!

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? The wonderful group who retired last year from the Middle School of Meyer, Helble, Wumkes, Happel, and Gondek meant a lot to me. They always had a way of using humor on good days and especially on "bad" days. By example they showed that teachers should enjoy the uniqueness of this age group and the uniqueness of every kid. I learned from them not to take myself too seriously and to laugh.

A favorite memory: I've found with this profession that one of the great benefits is the experience of seeing former students years later and reconnecting with them. It is wonderful to watch their growth from young adult-middle schoolers to full adults and to celebrate their journey. Not many professions provide those personal relationships. Many former students seem to remember their Western Journal and have kept them throughout the years.

Going On plans: I am relocating to Decorah and plan to kick back for a while getting used to my new environment.

Parting words to your fellow staff members...

Life is short. Nobody's perfect. Keep it simple. Stay open. Laugh.



SHIRLEY GIANNINI

Shirley has worked for Mount Vernon Schools since 1973 for a total of 33 years as an elementary school aide.

First year memory: Alex Morf had a splinter in his foot in first grade and at graduation he told that story.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? Barbara McClain and Joe Cullen helped me out a lot. **Favorite Memory:** When a first grader asked me out on a date. He wanted to go to Suttiff. **Parting words to your fellow staff members...**

Take care of your principal, he's the best!



PAT LEHNHERR

Pat started teaching at Washington Elementary the fall of 1973 with half-time kindergarten. After three years teaching kindergarten and a maternity leave, she taught first grade for 19 years, and now second grade for 9 years.

Together with one year of first grade in Illinois, she has taught for 32 years.

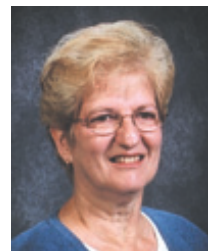
A favorite memory: My favorite thing about teaching has always been the entertainment value! Kids would be surprised at how often we staff repeat incredible one-liners or remember funny things that happened, like the kid who ran home during a fire drill, or the sharing that began: "This is a family secret, so I'm just going to tell the whole class. . . ."

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? I consider it a blessing to have spent my career sharing these experiences with creative, upbeat people from mop to memo, especially Shirley Giannini. She has been our resident sounding board for as long as I have been here, and she has endeared to herself to everyone she comes in contact with, old and young alike. (Boy, does she have the stories!)

What has changed in education? I miss the days when trusting educators was a thing to be lost rather than gained. But one thing has always remained a constant: Kids will be kids, and spending my days with people who are excited to be alive, looking forward to the future, and (most days) eager to learn, has been something I don't take for granted.

Retirement plans: My husband Bob and I plan to bike, travel, and be as involved in our children's lives as they will allow. My personal goal is to convert him to a traveling Hawkeye fan, but if that doesn't pan out, I may be calling on some of you!

Parting words to your fellow staff members... Thank you to everyone who has shared your lives with me. You have a lot to give!



SHERYL PESHEK

What you taught: Two years of 6-7 reading and Title One reading, 22 years as 5th grade teacher.

Year started at MV: I started at MV in 1984, and taught for 22 years, previously I taught 3 years at Delwood Schools for a

25 years total!

First year memory: At the pre-school workshop I had taken some cold medicine that made me rather sleepy. One of my co-workers at the middle school announced to the whole staff that Mr. Ringold's speech put me to sleep. Since I was new and trying to make a good impression, I was rather embarrassed!

Quote from a student: When asked for a definition of the word commentator a student replied, "I think it's a potato that everyone likes." (Oops - this wasn't first year!)

Another teacher or staff member who

was a mentor or helped you in your career?

At both the middle school and the elementary school I have very much appreciated the help from all the staff. They have been great listeners and advisors. I have taught with Bill Thomsen since I came to the elementary. He has been a great teaching partner.

A favorite memory: The Iowa flag from the front of the building was in need of replacement. One of my classes held a "burial ceremony" for the flag and buried it beneath a tree west of the elementary school. The photography workshops with Bob Campagna were a special part of each year. The most meaningful things are those that come from the heart of the students. To receive a hand made remembrance or a return visit or note from a former student makes my day!

What has changed in education? Support from home. Fewer families have designated homework time and fewer expectations for the child to be responsible.

Do you remember the first student you taught that you had also taught their parent(s)? I believe it is this year. I had Adriana Hartelt in junior high reading, and I have her daughter, Cathy Boettcher, this year.

Retirement plans: To read, sew, exercise, enjoy the grandkids and teach for fun.

Parting words to your fellow staff members... Thanks for your help and support.

I will miss you all.

**RAY RICKELS**

Ray started driving bus for Mount Vernon School in 1992.

Favorite Memory: Driving special education taught me an appreciation for handicapped children and their love of fun and sense of humor.

A personal highlight for me has been enjoying the students day & night - I will miss them!

Retirement plans: Some winter months in Arizona, will continue to live in this area. Plan to continue deer hunting, turkey hunting with Merle Hartung. I hope to do volunteer work in Vet's Hospital.

Parting words to fellow staff members: I need to thank Janelle for being a considerate and fair supervisor who we all respect. She is also a good sport! I will miss all the comradeship, stories and jokes at the bus barn. They've been a great group to work with!

**JUDY STINE**

Judy started in 1975 here in Mount Vernon and has taught 31 years at Mount Vernon, 36 years total. Through the years at Mount Vernon Judy has taught 6th and 7th General music, 6-7th-8th Band, Band Lessons, K-1st and 2nd grade general music, and

7th and 8th grade chorus.

First year favorite memory: I spent my first 2 years in a portable classroom parked on the east side of the parking lot. It had a leaky roof and no bathroom. Another favorite memory of that first year was when Steve Pisarik, an avid hunter and trapper, blew into the fur collar of my

winter coat and announced 'cheap mink!'. This year I had the pleasure of teaching his triplets - they're a lot more tactful than their dad! But, I always enjoyed Steve. He was forthright and very nice (if tactless at times) kid.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? Lois Nichols and Don Stine and Caroline Palmer (all were experienced members of the Music Department). Also, Joyce Loomis, then MS Secretary, who was my second mother and Tom Lass who was a constant source of inspiration and amusement.

A favorite memory: I don't think of any real 'stand out' success stories, but I have had a lot of students come to me when they're out of high school and tell me I made a difference in their lives - that's gratifying!"

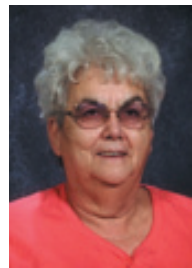
What has changed in education? Technology has made a huge difference.

Do you remember the first student you taught that you had also taught their parent(s)? At this point I've had too many to remember who was the first. I refer to them as my 'grand-students'.

Retirement plans: I plan to recover from knee replacement surgery and then start on what my original goal in life was - to be a housewife!

Parting words to your fellow staff members...

A truly caring teacher can make a huge difference in a child's life. They may not remember what you taught in your class, but they will always remember how you treated them.

**KAY WOODS**

Kay worked in the district for 17 years as both as district secretary and lunch time helper. Most of the students remember her at the end of the lunchline checking them out or at the many athletic activities taking money at the door. Kay says "I didn't teach here at the school, but I did

a lot of learning!"

First year favorite memory: My first year began when Virginia (Larsen, District Secretary) left. I spent hours trying to reconcile the check book that was off by 50 cents.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? Donna and Tom Swenson were always encouraging to me; Vicky Wieseler, everyone really.

A favorite memory: I remember the time we were headed out to attend a Secretary's Day Luncheon and Mr. Ringold and Carol left me on the sidewalk. I missed the lunch altogether!

What has changed in education? The kids are a little more brash today than they used to be.

Retirement plans: Just mess around. I still have three grandchildren to help push through.

Parting words to your fellow staff members...

The hardest part of leaving will be missing all the friends I made here. Carol (daughter, and district secretary) said I should be volunteering. I think that's a good idea, so I shall still see some of you. I tried to make the kids' life a little more enjoyable. I hope I left them with some fun memories. God bless you all!



Service Anniversaries

The following staff members, teachers and board members are celebrating service anniversaries this year.

Five Years...

Dave Albang, HS Custodian
Jessica Bartelt, ES Resource Teacher
Eric Butikofer, HS Science Teacher, Tech
Rob Cook, HS Success Coord./

Resource Teacher

Andy Craig, HS Science Teacher, Coach

Lisa Darrow, ES Lunch Worker

*Justin Dix, Coach

Tawnua Fell, HS English Teacher

Dennis Gross, Bus Driver

Doug Hanson, Coach

Annie Hawker, ES Resource Teacher

Candy Heeren, MS custodian

Lisa Henik, HS Associate

Joe Peters, HS PE Teacher, Coach

*Bonnie Wikstrom, MS Associate

Ten Years...

*Keith Burge, HS Custodian

Sue Deibner, Spanish Teacher

Roger Johanson, Coach

*Roger Pitlik, Maintenance Director

Jean Wade, First Grade Teacher

Fifteen Years...

*Bob Blythe, Coach

Sarah Fitzgerald, ES Art Teacher/Alt Kindergarten

Kristi Keast, ES Music Teacher

*Julie Koehn, Third Grade Teacher

Russell Kwaiser, Sub Bus Driver

Ray Rickels, Bus Driver

Twenty Years...

Lisa Alger, Kindergarten Teacher

Julie Vislisl, Second Grade Teacher

Tom Wieseler, School Board President

Twenty Five Years...

Theresa Ludwig, Third Grade Teacher

Lois Pavelka, Nurse

Jeff Risk, ES Counselor

Helen Rockrohr, ES Custodian

Jeff Schwiebert, Superintendent

*Carol Woods, Superintendent's Secretary, bookkeeper, coach

Thirty Five Years...

Bob Meeker, HS History Teacher

Dave Oliphant, MS History Teacher

* Alumni

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Bob Penn-School Board Representative • Ed Fordyce • Middie Morf • Gary Nelson • Ann Stoner • Mary Young

Remember the Mount Vernon Schools Making a Difference through the Foundation!

Your contributions to the Mount Vernon Schools through the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation are making a difference!

- Your donations to the Alumni Annual Fund through the Foundation help the school district fulfill its mission and create a higher level of academic excellence in the classroom for students! The Foundation supports classroom and media center projects in the elementary, middle, and high schools and each dollar you contribute goes directly to support academic excellence for Mount Vernon students.
- \$21,450 in scholarships were awarded to Class of 2005 graduates and the majority of those scholarships passed through the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation to the graduates. Through these scholarships, Alumni help provide the next generation of Mount Vernon Alumni with the help they need for their next step in education.
- In the current building construction, the school district used all of its available resources to construct a new high school and to remodel the current high school building into a middle school. However, it was the \$367,000 in Mount Vernon alumni contributions to the Capital Campaign that provided the necessary funds to help the school district finish the buildings.

These accomplishments were made possible through your donations to the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation and made a difference toward helping Mount Vernon students achieve a higher level of excellence in academics! Thank you!

In addition to annual donations to the Foundation, there are a number of ways that you can Remember Mount Vernon Schools through gifts to the Foundation. Remembering the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation in your will, contributing appreciated stock to the Foundation, and contributing to the Endow Iowa Fund are just a few of the ways that you can support Mount Vernon students through the Foundation. More information regarding gifts to the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation can be obtained on the Foundation's website at www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/foundation or by contacting the Foundation at 319-895-8845 or MVFoundation@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

Please fill out the enclosed Alumni Annual Fund form and pledge your support to the Foundation to help create Excellence in Academics for the next generation of Mount Vernon Schools Alumni!

Gifts to the Foundation

Following is a list of Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation friends who donated to the Foundation in the last year. Donations to the Foundation support educational programs and scholarships of the school district.

Darrel and Middie Morf	Janet Griffith	Joan Suchomel '74
Unknown through United Way	Norma Morrissey	Rita Suchomel Dudley '68
Class of 1956	Charles and Linda Halsey	Anne Suchomel Miller '70
Cynthia Rittmer	Lisbon Optimist Club	John and Jane
Dean & Sheila Borg	John & Jo Wilch	Suchomel '71 Carlson
Dr. Steven L. Young	Kurt Suchomel '77	
and Mary F. Young	Mark Suchomel '79	



Alumni Association President Lisa Squiers White '88 and Mount Vernon Schools Foundation President Ann Koppenhaver '78 hold two display frames that contain names of Alumni and Foundation friends who have supported the Mount Vernon Schools during the past year. In the background is the new high school construction site. Each contribution supports the next generation of Mount Vernon Schools Alumni!

'Fulfilling the Promise'

Following is a list of gifts received by the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation for the 'Fulfilling the Promise' Capital Campaign for the current building construction projects.

MUSTANG DONORS (\$1,000+)

David '55 and Carol Van Metre
Richard Scott '59

MAROON AND WHITE DONORS

Constance and Richard Glattly '59
James '50 and Carol Croft '51 Kent
Ann M. Koppenhaver '78
Marcia L. Peters '85 and Kathryn M. Kritt
Larry '55 and Jean Ringer

IN MEMORY OF

In memory of Bill Neal '33
- Ann M. Koppenhaver '78
In memory of former Mount Vernon teacher
Elizabeth Campbell Scott
- Richard Scott '59

IN HONOR OF

In honor of the teachers, coaches, and administrators for the class of 1955
- Larry '55 and Jean Ringer

Alumni Annual Fund

Employees Supporting the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation

The following Mount Vernon School employees are showing their support of the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation with a monthly contribution to the Foundation through their Mount Vernon Schools payroll.

Thank You to all these employees for their support of Mount Vernon students both financially and in the schools!

Lisa K. Alger
Winston Alnot
Gary D. Benda
Steve Benson
Chiara Niederhauser Burke'78
and Matt Burke
Bill'84 and Dee Clark
Adrienne Coffeen
Ian'01 and Shauna Applebee'01 Dye
George Erwin
Tawnua S. Fell
JoAnn Gage
Lisa Greif
Nannette Gunn
Kristi and Craig Keast
Pat Lehnerr
Susannah Maddock
Andrew and Deanna Mlynarczyk
Patricia Mote
Gary Nelson
Duane Orr Family
Roger Pitlik'67
Sarah H. Richardson
Brandy Schurbon
Jeffrey J. Schwiebert
Vern and Kathy Staskal
Cathy Humphries Stoner '69
John L. Thatcher
Stephanie Timm
Dennis and Patricia Walsh
Vicky and Tom Wieseler
Carol Woods-Boren'75
Judith Berends Workman'65
Laurie Zaiger



Endow Iowa Fund – A Major Benefit to Students and You!

Would you like to donate to the Mount Vernon Schools and have your contribution benefit future generations of Mount Vernon students as well as current students? The Endow Iowa Fund is an opportunity for you to provide an on-going benefit to Mount Vernon students as well as a great income tax benefit for you!

The Mount Vernon Schools Foundation has established an Endow Iowa Fund through the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. Donors who make eligible gifts to this fund at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation can take a 20% Iowa income tax credit in addition to the normal state and federal charitable income tax deductions! This credit will directly offset your Iowa income taxes. The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation will professionally manage the assets of the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation's Endow Iowa Fund with the long-term objective of safeguarding principal. All donations will be held as principal with a portion of the annual earnings returned to the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation to be spent each year for students. The objective of these funds is to provide an annual benefit to students while growing the principal for an increasing long-term benefit for future Mount Vernon students.

Your gift to the Foundation's Endow Iowa Fund may be made in any amount to take advantage of this credit. This is a major benefit to the school district because of the long-term endowed funds and is also a major benefit to the donor who gets both a tax deduction and a tax credit. To see more details regarding the Endow Iowa Fund, see the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation website at www.gcrfcf.org.

Your contribution check to take advantage of this endowment can be made out to **Mount Vernon Schools Endow Iowa Fund** and mailed to:

The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation
200 First Street SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

An acknowledgement will be mailed back to you with information regarding your Iowa income tax credit.

The Endow Iowa Fund was recently created and the additional Iowa income tax credit will likely only be available for one to three years.

For further information, contact the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation at 319-366-2862 or the Mount Vernon Schools Superintendent's office at 319-895-8845.

Endow Iowa Fund Donors

Following is a list of gifts received by the Mount Vernon Community School Foundation Endow Iowa Fund through the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. Thank you!

Dr. Steven L. Young and Mary F. Young

Endow Iowa

WHERE ARE THESE PEOPLE?

If you know where these people are, please contact the class representative listed on the Alumni Agent sheet enclosed, or contact the Alumni Association at 319-895-8845 or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

1957: Roger Dennis

1958: Jean Cookes Kincaid

1959: Irma Gammon

1961: Marleen Reilly, Bill Inks, Janette Hootman Lee

1968: Charlie Driscoll

1963: Sharon Strong

1964: Janis Bair

1965: Diane Maynard

1981: DeAnna Caspers, Steve Franks, Joel Houkum, Kelly Hutchins (need address confirmed), Mary (Moore) Vieth, Mark Parnell, Doug Pierce, Nick Walker, Brett Wilde

1983: Jeff Curry, Janeen Simmons, Brenda Shute, Jason Schoen, Eric Nicewonger

1985: Carolyn Daniels, Deanna Happel, Christine Jeffrey, Jason McIlquham, Denise Phillips

1986: Mark Bostwick, Jan Capaccioli

1995: Tracy Akers, Sarah Bellows, Andrew Brunvoll, Nate Davis, April Ferguson, Lary Holets, Viveca

Kammerman, Michelle Madison, Shane McCall, Michiko Miyazaki, Kelly Nelson, Scott Phillip, Mike Pisarik, Tom Rickels, Annika Scheja, Kip Sitzmore, Kim Stoner, Farrah Studt, Aaron Swanson

1996: Melanie Barnes, Feather Beeks, Megan Bowman, Lane Davidson, Carrie Ellinger, Heather Forney, Ted Schuster, Chris Smith Zach Wolfe, Travis & Tyler Hammrich, Chris Hoffman, Matt Jacobson, Carrie Lasak, Tracey Mc Dowell, Lindsay Reckling, Nick Russo, Kurt Wulf

1989: Brian Buse, Rebecca Dunn, Shawn McGowan, Steve Salazar, Kevin Hankemeir

2001: Aleaya Studt, Chris Beimer, Bobby Studt, John Bowman, Rory Tolmie, Luke Burgess, Clarissa Rappoport-Hankins, Amanda Etringer, Eric Gerth, Robbie Frey, Kathrin Halley, Kristen Kelley, Amber Minor, Jarrod Meurs, Amanda Nielson

WHAT IS YOUR WORK/PROFESSION?

When updating your contact information, please tell us your work/profession and schools you attended. The high school counselor can then use this information to link current high school students with alumni.

Thank you

- John Blinks '48 for donation of his brother David Blink's high school scrap book
- Marilyn Woods Overman '45 for pictures of the 1945-46 football and basketball teams
- Karen Huerter '59 for contributing the Class of '55-56 Homecoming Picture
- Sis Pitlik '47 for contributing 1965 1968 1978 1981 yearbooks
- Ed Slaugh '74 for donating a 1970 yearbook in memory of his sister, Sherry Slaugh '71
- Tom Wolfe '45 for donating a 1942 Arrow yearbook
- Ginger McKay, daughter of Faith Virginia Baker '35, for donation of graduation memorabilia
- Jane Baker Hardin '67 for donation of several scrapbooks

DID YOU KNOW?

...the mustang horse on the barn north of the high school was originally painted in 1984 by Dan Drahos '84 and Doug Hanson.

www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us 

Mustang ALUMNI

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

525 Palisades Road
Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Join us on
Saturday, July 15,
8:30 to 10:30 am
All-Alumni Breakfast in
High School Commons,
525 Palisades Road

Hello Alumni!

ALL-ALUMNI EVENTS

HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI BREAKFAST (Open House)

Saturday, July 15, 8:30-10:30 am, all alumni, families, and friends, High School Commons. Tours of the new high school from 8 to 11 am.

HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI TENT

Friday, July 14, 4-8 pm, and Saturday, July 15, 11:30 to 8 pm Hang out with your classmates uptown and meet fellow alums from many classes. New tent location nearer to Heritage Days activities uptown.

HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI PARTICIPATION IN PARADE

Saturday, July 15, plan to meet up with other alums in the Heritage Day Parade. Float available to any alumni wanting to ride and to class members having a reunion this year – or, have your own float! Several antique cars in our alumni lineup too.

HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, July 15, at Davis Park. See info on page 5.

HOMECOMING GAME

Watch for information to come about our fall Homecoming Reception.

