

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS



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JOIN US JULY 11-12

- **HERITAGE DAYS ALL-ALUMNI BREAKFAST**
- **HERITAGE DAYS ALL-ALUMNI RECEPTION & MEETING AREA**

INSIDE... Foundation Insert with news and information, see pages 13-19

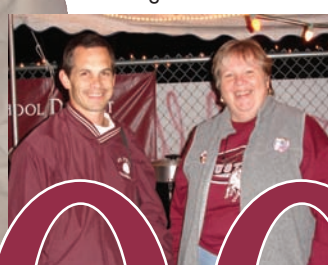
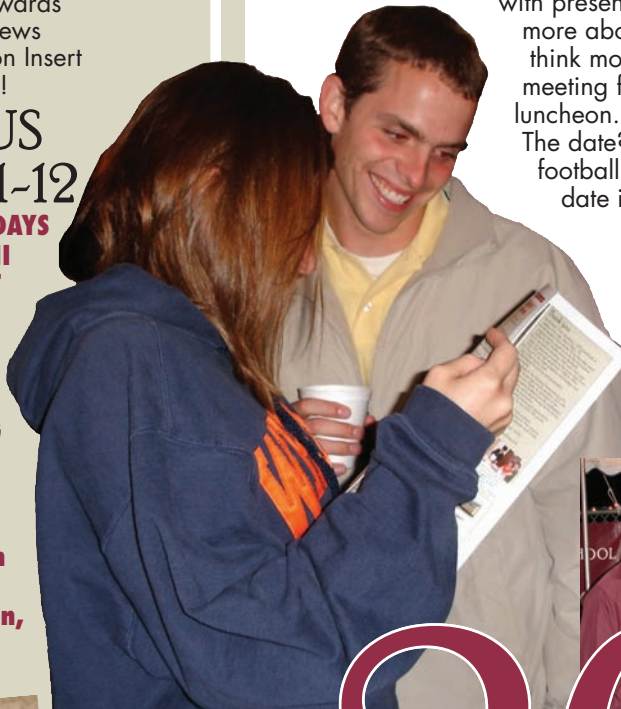
MEMORIES FROM HOMECOMING

Homecoming – a time for football, queens and kings, a burning 'M', snake dances, parades, and.... a 'welcome home' to alums. For the past three years we have hosted an alumni reception area during the Friday night Homecoming football game - the first two years in the cafeteria area of the Middle School (or the English room and library area of the 1927 high school), then outside this year on a beautiful September evening.

The homecoming event has not held a candle to the enormously popular and successful Alumni Breakfast during Heritage Days (and we're expecting a record crowd again this year!), but we may be putting a 'bonfire' under the Homecoming events in 2008 and beyond (although not literally, no more bonfires). When the Homecoming Committee meets to plan next fall's events, they will not only have a reception to contend with, but with presentation of our first four Alumni Award recipients (read more about these on page 10). The committee will also have to think more about a re-designed, member-friendly, annual meeting for the next day, followed by a first-ever President's luncheon. Sound like fun? It will be.

The date? We won't know until late next spring when the football season is set, so we hope to be able to announce the date in the spring newsletter. In the meantime, enjoy these pictures from the 2006 and 2007 Homecoming Receptions (continued on page 4).

At top left: Jessica Corcoran'06 and Alan Driggs'07
 At left: Eric Dye'04 and fiancée, Sara Noll
 Below left: Jeremy Elliott'89 and Annamae Stoneking Baker'60
 Below right: Connie Meyer Kahl'59 and Marie Sippola'59
 Bottom left: Jenny McNeal Woods'98 and Keith Woods'88, and Deb Winchip Douglas'86
 Bottom right: Kim Mortensen Raim'81



2007



525 Palisades Road / Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314
 alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us
 319-895-8845 / fax 319-895-8875
 www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us

Mustang ALUMNI

In or near Mount Vernon? You can help...

- host Honor Society Induction
- prepare newsletter for mailing
- serve on a committee
- spend an afternoon in the Alumni office

Anyone can...

- help find missing classmates
- volunteer to help at next summer's Alumni Breakfast or Reception area
- update records

ALUMNI BAND UPDATE

Thank you to so many who responded with our request to join an Alumni Band – are you ready to play? High School Band Director Alan Kiser is looking forward to having our first alumni band present at next year's homecoming. Former band and flag members who do not want to play, but would like to be present with the band are also welcome. If you would like to know more or put your name on the list to be contacted, please contact the Alumni Office – 319-895-8845, or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us, or write to Alumni Office, 525 Palisades Road, Mount Vernon, IA 52314.

PICTURES of the '07 Alumni Breakfast and '07 Class Reunion photos will appear in the Spring '08 Alumni Newsletter.

2008 MV Community Events

www.visitmvl.com

- July 4 Antique Extravaganza
- July 10-12 Heritage Days
- July 12 Art In The Park
- Sept tba Lincoln Highway Arts Festival

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

2008 Reunions Coming Up...

For more information, watch your class Alumni web page at:

www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni

MISSING PEOPLE – A list of missing people will be in the Spring 2008 Newsletter. Be sure to let us know if you have changes in your contact information.

(all phone numbers are 319 area code unless noted)

Miss one? Call 319-895-8845

2003 - 5 year - tba

1998 - 10 year - July 12 weekend

Contact: Char Campagna McDermott
Phone: 895-8234
Email: charlotte.mcdermott@hotmail.com

1993 - 15 years - July 12 weekend

Contact: Braden Pospisil Rood
Phone: 895-8476
Email: roodgirl@gmail.com
Missing: Lisa Berry, Matt Buls, Aaron Davidson, Lance Jaster, Jodi Mauseth, Rae Ann Pierce, Lance Schulte, Chad Sulzner, Kim Wilkin

1988 - 20 year - July 12 weekend

Contact: Lisa Squiers White
Phone: 895-0122
Email: whitetdlc@msn.com

1983 - 25 years - July 12 weekend

Contact: Lisa Lewis Hazlett
Phone: 895-0199
Email: lisa@envisagephoto.com

1978 - 30 year - July 12 weekend

Contact: Ann Koppenhaver
Phone: 895-6411
Email: akoppenhaver@koppenhavercpas.com

1973 - 35 yr - tba

Contact: Ann Clark

1968 - 40 years - June 28 weekend

Contact: Rita Suchomel Dudley
Phone: 563-927-4093
Email: dud916@iowatelecom.net
Missing: Lona Sterenberg, Harl Yeisley, Cathy Reiff Blanm, Ann Bunting, Karen Stinson, Esteban St. Martin, Vicki Childs Hanson, Mary Jane Oakley Lewis, Beth Lowenberg Long, Karl Moses

1963 45 years - July 12 weekend

Contact: Linda Peterson Nost
Phone: 455-2138
Email: lnost@southslope.net
Missing: Sharon Strong

1958 - 50 years - July 12 weekend

Contact: Marilyn Dean Schnittjer
Phone: 563-927-2019
Email: marilyn@mwcii.net
Missing: Joan Clark Beatty

1953 - 55 years - August 2 weekend

Contact: Betty Carney
Phone: 362-5653

1948 - 60 years - July 12 weekend

Contact: Frances Pitlik
Phone: 362-8172

1943 - 65 years - tba

Contact: Elizabeth 'Liz' Wolfe Kroul
Phone: 455-2400

1938 - 70 years - tba

Contact: Mary AdaLaide Mulherin
Phone: 895-8179

CLASS OF 1967 THANK YOU TO CLASSMATES...

Terry Meeks, Nancy Smykil Berns, Bill Lange, Philip Hetland
and

Marianne Hansen Garrigan,
Christine Chadek Deignan, Peg
Howard, Mary Burr, Linda Cornwall,
Nancy Williams, Roger Rife and Nancy
Tonne Hanson for their
generous pre-reunion donations
to support our class reunion.

And thank you to ALL the members of the class of 1967 who attended the reunion and gave so generously. After expenses our class was able to give a donation to both the Alumni Association and the Foundation.
WAY TO GO CLASS OF 1967!

from Class of '67 Reunion Organizers

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ALUMNI COMMENTS

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

'I just had to let everyone know how much I appreciate Roger Pitlik opening up his garage & yard to a Fri. catered picnic, and then a Sat. dance. We had the very best time just talking about each others lives. Past childish prejudices were long forgotten and often apologized for. Larry Pisarik is so much appreciated for all his efforts in keeping this reunion going by searching and searching for all of our class members. (It was too bad the local class members didn't think they were important enough to attend.) I'm glad Larry made the effort to call me to encourage me to attend. Talking to him and reminding myself this was my 40th reunion, was what pushed me to make those flight arrangements...Everyone came together and pulled off a great Alumni weekend/Heritage Days.'

Jane Baker Hardin '67
Horn Lake, MS

'Just a note to tell you we were very impressed with the quality and content of the Alumni News. It is great fun to see photos and articles of classmates. We have lived in San Antonio, TX for 28 years, since my husband (a Springville and Coe College graduate) retired from the A.F. I completed my nursing degree after our 2 children were grown and worked at a hospital 16 years as a cardiac Telemetry RN. Now we enjoy travel and our home and have been married almost 55 years.

p.s. It's never too late to get an education!'
Wiladene Hoggard Willming'50
San Antonio, TX

'I would like to extend a big thank you... for a huge success for the Alumni breakfast. I'm so proud to be called a Mustang; that I have important roots in Mount Vernon; and the excitement that I felt as I was given a grand tour of our new high school. Just a great day, sharing stories, reminiscing, and taking in the events for Heritage Days.....I will be at the next breakfast.'

Dennis Akers'64
Cedar Rapids, IA

'I received a letter from Austin Armstrong recently, the first contact since our only class reunion - 50th. Wish I could come to the breakfast but my travel, at 91, is limited. I was happy to receive the 'alumni news'. Thanks so much'

Frances Keeler Tragle '33
Mount Juliet, TN



Lisa Squiers White '88
Alumni Association
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Fall 2007 MVCSD Alumni Newsletter! This is the first time we have published a fall newsletter, so we hope you enjoy it. I would like to share some of the latest Alumni news with you.

One of the most exciting developments for the Alumni Association is the development of alumni awards which I'm sure will be a huge hit. We kick off these awards with the nomination form and information on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter. I encourage you to think of your classmates and send in a nomination for those you think are deserving. We think it will be a real challenge to select the 'first', as we have so many deserving alums. The first recipients of these awards will be announced at next year's Homecoming - and isn't Homecoming a good time to start a new tradition that truly honors our alums! The Homecoming night announcement will be followed by a Saturday presentation and activities at our Annual Meeting.

Again, we appreciate so many of you have responded to help the Association with your financial support. The Alumni Database has expanded to over 3440 mailing addresses to date - a useful resource for reunion planners, a surprise resource for all of us so we can reconnect with others, and ultimately

'Thanks so much for my alumni news as it took me back many years. Had a great class and a great town.'

June Longerbeam Kessler '44
Sterling, CO

'Just reading your alumni magazine that Ron Pisarik gave to me while visiting Mount Vernon in August and I noticed your mentioning linking students and alumni via the high school counselor. I became interested in foreign languages thanks to both Mr. Sulliman and Mrs Swisher, starting with German in middle school and changing to Spanish in high school. The interest eventually lead me to an international career. I have lived and worked in Latin

a wonderful resource for counselors and teachers to link alumni with students. If you need information about how to log into the database, just contact Kathy at the Alumni Office 319-895-8845 or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or me and we will be happy to help out.

At this year's annual meeting held September 29, we voted in one new director, Jenny Moore Hampton'89, and re-elected Shauna Applebee Dye'01 as secretary, Deb Winchip Douglas'86 as director, and myself as president. We will miss Dick Moore'52 who has been such an integral part of our organization. Dick has provided insightful suggestions as a member of our Association Board and By-Laws committee, helping to get our organization off to a great start.

This fall newsletter is being sponsored by the Foundation, and you will find their find information and news on pages 13 through 19. Thank you to the Foundation Board for their support of the Alumni Association.

Finally, I invite all of you to join us next summer at what has become a phenomenal success - our Alumni Breakfast and Alumni Weekend on July 12. Bring your families and catch up with alumni from all classes. Good food, lots of fun, and a time to make some new memories!

Lisa Squiers White'88, President
whitetdlc@msn.com or 319-895-8845

America, France and now work in West Africa (French speaking) thanks to my language skills (added French later). If the high school is aware of students or alumni wanting to work overseas and need some encouragement, I would be more than happy to do so. There is a current shortage of lowans in the ex-pat life out there... so let's send some!'

David Ware '75
West Africa

'...I love being in contact with the alumni association, even if I'm far from Iowa and can't make it to many events.'

Sarah Naomi Bly'91
Phoenix, OR

CORRECTIONS:

Correction: our apologies to Sara Kendall'78 who was incorrectly identified in the last issue. Sara, a University of Iowa nurse, was selected one of the top 100 nurses for 2006 in the state of Iowa. Look for more information in the Spring 2008 news.

Correction: the following were missed in the listing of Association Supporters: Millicent Hoggard Zenishek'47, Carolyn Neal Palmer'42, and Linda Peterson Nost'63.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A new list of 2007-2008 ALUMNI Association Supporters and Alumni Donations will appear in the spring news. Your donations to the FOUNDATION will appear in the fall issue.

HOMEcoming ALUMNI RECEPTION PICS

THANK YOU to the many alums who helped with these events!



Far left: Mary Manor'96
 2nd Picture: Eric Walden'07, Scott Binsfield'07
 and Jessica Corcoran'06
 3rd Picture: Allan Viktor'69 and Lisa Squiers White'88
 4th Picture: Becky Thumm Whitman'77
 Right: Jean Minish Stoner'37



2007



2006



Top: Ty Ulch'91
 Bottom: Former Middle School Secretary Joyce Loomis enjoys reading a letter sent in by an alum

Above left: Karen Jilovec Martin '57, David Neal'60, Lizzy Wolfe Kroul'43
 and Nargi Rayman Steinbrech'55
 Above right: The 'Drahos boys' check out some old pictures in the yearbooks
 Bottom left: Bill Thomsen'72 (and 5th grade teacher at MV Middle School) enjoys the autographed football from the undefeated 1957 football team donated by Iris Hipple, wife of '57 coach Don Hipple.
 Bottom right: Bunny Williams Copeland'61, Karen Kaliban Fox'63 and Barb Thomsen Neal'68 make the Association's first Alumni Homecoming Button

HONORARY FOOTBALL CAPTAINS



SCOTT
POSPISIL'95



WAYNE
HORMANN'85



FATHER TOM
ZINKULA'75



GABE ALLARD'95



RYAN
NICOL'03



MATT MEYER'96



MATT
OSTROM'90

NOT PICTURED:
IVAN KUNTZ'76
AND
DAVE VISLISEL'76

New Mount Vernon Head Football Coach Duane Orr started his first season by having an Honorary Captain for each game as a 'way to connect today's players with the program's important, successful past.' In Orr's interview to the *Sun*, he said "I like the idea of kids being connected to tradition – to the accomplishments of those who went before them," He added the new practice is also a way for those from past teams to stay connected and "pass the torch" to the young men wearing Mustang uniforms today.

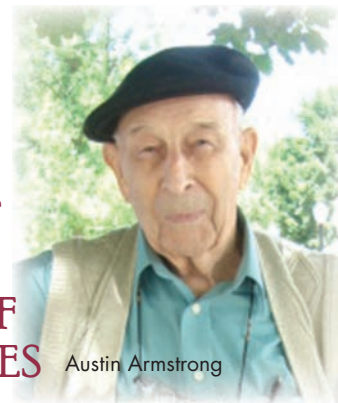
Each Honorary Captain had the opportunity to attend the team's Thursday-night practice and then visit with the players about whatever he wanted, including the lessons learned from their Mustang days. Then on Friday night, each Honorary Captain joined the team on the sidelines, and walked with the four team captains as they took the field for the coin toss.

Orr worked with Dave Ryan'85, president of Mount Vernon Bank and Trust, to choose and sponsor each week's Honorary Captain. His bank also sponsored a weekly feature about each captain in the *Sun*. Ryan started the project by making a list of Mustangs who had earned All-State honors as a way to begin picking Honorary Captains.

Congratulations to the alumni Honorary Captains pictured above. You will find a complete article by Jake Krob in the August 30, 2007 issue of the *Sun*, and then weekly captain features in the *Sun* during football season.



CLASS OF '33 RECALLS 'ABOUT AS GREAT AS ANY 4 YEARS' OF THEIR LIVES



Austin Armstrong

Editor's Note: following is an excerpt from an article written by Jake Krob, *Mt. Vernon-Lisbon Sun*, complete article in the July 19, 2007 issue.

Sitting in the one-year-old Mount Vernon High School Saturday morning, three former classmates recalled their last reunion – their 50th. But that was almost 25 years ago. "It's been a long time," said Austin Armstrong, who grew up on a farm here and lives in Cedar Rapids.

Armstrong and two classmates, Blanche Biderman Long of Cedar Rapids and Mary Ellison Wolrab of rural Mount Vernon, held an informal Class of 1933 reunion as part of the Heritage Days all-alumni breakfast. In its third year, the all-alumni breakfast has become a big Heritage Days draw, due to the active Alumni Association. This year, hundreds gathered in the high school commons – some formally as part of class reunions, like the Class of '57 for its 50th, and some informally. That was largely the case with the Class of 1933. With a list of seven living members from the 29-member class, Armstrong worked to gather as many as he could.

Now in their early 90s, the three 1933 grads recognized much has changed in the school district. Most of those in their class didn't start attending "city school" until the ninth grade, after years of country school education. The Class of 1933 was the first to go through their full junior high and senior high years in the First Street Building that, up until this past school year, was used as a middle school.

With that experience, and seeing the new high school, the three from 1933 said it's clear Mount Vernon continues to be committed to education. "We always had good schools – it's one of the reasons the community is still growing," said Armstrong. "My four years of high school were about as great as any four years of my life."

PICTURES of the Alumni Breakfast and Class Reunion photos will appear in the Spring 08 Alumni Newsletter.

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Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ DAN CAMPAGNA '00

MV grad entertains military families

excerpted from an article by Crystal Eskelsen, *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun*

A lion entertaining military families abroad has his roots in Mount Vernon. Dan Campagna '00 traveled overseas during October to present 12 shows over 19 days as part of a Children's Theater tour sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment. Campagna played drummer "Lance the Lion" in "The Party Animals Live," where characters dress up like animals and sing and dance as a rock-and-roll band.

Campagna said 'Party Animals' has been performing in Los Angeles for some time, and Armed Forces Entertainment hired the troupe to bring the show to military families in the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Germany and the U.K.

Campagna received an undergraduate degree in theater and philosophy from Occidental College in Los Angeles. He also studied at the London Dramatic Academy in England, and is a graduate of the Bang Improv Conservatory.

He lives in the Los Feliz area of L.A. In addition to acting, he works at The Brighton Foundation, an organization that provides study abroad opportunities for high school students. He performs improv comedy in the L.A. area.

Editor's Note: Dan can be reached at daniel.campagna@gmail.com. After Dan's tour ended in October, we talked to him briefly about his tour, and life back in high school. Enjoy his comments...

Tell us about your tour?

The tour was a great success. No major malfunctions, and each show was incredibly fun. We performed at Army, Air Force, and NATO bases. Everyone was excited to have us, and very pleased with our shows, so we anticipate being invited

back in the spring.

A word of advice for high school students?

Work hard, learn as much as you can, find what you love, and pursue it (even if it means performing as a Lion in a kids rock band in Europe - I don't know if that qualifies as "something I love" but it was pretty wild). Also, travel as often as possible, especially while you're young.

Some memories of Mount Vernon?


I had so many great teachers in school. Mrs. Ellison, Mr. Meeker, Mr. Alnot, Mrs. Michaud, Senora Deibner, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Jacobs, and a host of others. Favorite memory? I had some fun nights at "The Moon" during the summer, and nothing compares to a fresh banana and a gatorade after a Cross Country meet.

The greatest thing about my high school education were the teachers who urged us off the beaten path. The ones who encouraged critical thinking even at that young age, whether in English, History, Language, Art, or whatever field. Having been out of school for so long, it's also pretty amazing to check in with Alumni and see what spectacular people they have become and marvel at all the great things they are doing. Like the guy whose house you used to play tag at as a kid is now working on eco-friendly engineering in Northern California (you know who you are). Credit that connection to MySpace.

At right, Dan as 'Lance the Lion', at left in Brussels



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AND MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
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FAX	319 895 8437	akoppenhaver@koppenhavercpas.com

A listing of
2007-2008 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
SUPPORTERS and DONATIONS TO THE
ASSOCIATION will appear in the Spring
2008 issue of the Alumni News

FOUNDATION DONATIONS
will appear in Fall 2008 issue.

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■ MATT SILLMAN '75



Editor's Note: We found out that Matt has recently published a book, *Sentience and Sensibility*, and wrote to ask him about it, what's he's been up to, and a memory about Mount Vernon.

Here's what he wrote back to us. Thank you Matt!

"After leaving Mount Vernon in 1975 I studied philosophy at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and then did graduate work at Emory University in Atlanta, eventually moving to Purdue where I completed my Ph.D. with a dissertation on Locke's theory of property. Since then (more than 20 years!) I have taught philosophy at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Somewhere along the way I became an avid (not to say fanatical) bicyclist, though in recent years I have mellowed, and now spend some of my spare time in an ocean kayak. I live in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where (with my spouse, playwright and performing artist Sharon Wyrrick) I have a pretty big garden, and a large cat named Roscoe.

"Most of my memories of MVHS involve running – from place to place, or training and competing with the track team – or singing in the choir. Compared to other people I meet, the high school education I received there (Spanish with Senora Swisher, History with Dick Peters, Physics with Rich Rockrohr, Biology with Halsey) seems pretty solid, though of course I was relatively unappreciative at the time.

"Although I have published philosophy papers regularly since graduate school, I was somewhat slow to complete and

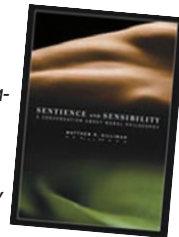


Matt, senior in High School

publish a book. I have come to see this as a virtue, however, as very few people are in a position to know what they really have to say about a book-length topic, or how to say it with a modicum of grace, before at least the age of fifty. *Sentience and Sensibility* (Parthenos Publishing, 2006) is a conversation, in dialogue form, concerning the nature and origin of moral value. Thanks to its conversational character, however, one need not be a philosopher or academic to read and enjoy it."

You can reach Matt at msilliman502@hotmail.com

MORE ABOUT HIS BOOK *Sentience and Sensibility*...which has won the *Forward Magazine* book of the year award for Philosophy



David Weissman of CCNY believes this "may be the best use of the very difficult medium of philosophical dialogue" he has read, and that the book "deserves a wide audience."

"Sillman's resuscitation of the art of the philosophical dialogue breathes substance into conversation and drama into ideas. This wonderfully urbane and well-written dialogue about the moral life captures the reader's attention early and never lets it go." John Lachs, Philosophy, Vanderbilt University



■ PHOEBE BALL '91



Thank you to Phoebe who writes in...

'My daughter Sophia and I have moved to Tallahassee, Florida where I am working as an attorney for the Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities Inc. I recently found out that I passed the bar in Florida, so my title of staff attorney is legitimate. The Advocacy Center is the Florida Protection and Advocacy organization for Florida. We are funded through Federal grants to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities in education, benefits, employment, community and a variety of other contexts. I am working with the Self-Determination team which deals primarily with issues of financial exploitation, guardianship, trusts, economic development, voting rights and self-advocacy. All of our cases have to do in one way or another with promoting the right of individuals with disabilities to make decisions for their own lives. I am also attaching a picture of Sophia and I reading a book together on our porch, she really is a girly-girl even though she looks like a hip hopper in this picture!'



Phoebe, senior in High School

continued on next page

THANK YOU '76-'77-'78 DONORS

The Mount Vernon graduating classes of 1976, 1977 and 1978 would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the following area businesses who generously donated merchandise or services for door prizes for our reunion.

Ace Hardware, MV Alumni Association, Anbriette's Pet Grooming, Bauman's Clothing, Blooming Acres, Bridge Bank, Chameleon's Pub & Grub, China Café, Dairy Queen, Elliott's Uptown Fitness, FUEL, Garden Style Florist, Gary's Grocery, Hands On Embroidery, Hillcrest Country Club, Hills Bank, Ivanhoe Road Winery, Java Grande, Kroul's Farm, Lincoln Café, MV Bank & Trust, The Perfect Blend, Pizza Palace, Right Frame of Mind, Shepley's Pharmacy, The Silver Spider, The Sun, MV Subway, and Video Village

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Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ MATTHEW WILCH '72

"Matthew Wilch will never forget the story that changed his life. It was about 1980, and Wilch was listening to a group of Maryknoll Sisters speak about the human rights abuses against Church workers and others in Central America. One spoke about returning to the States after many years in rural Guatemala.

"She walked into a large grocery store and broke down crying," says Wilch, 53, in an e-mail. "Something just broke open inside of her. It came home to her in a moment, deep down, how much we have and how many choices we have."

"That story...inspired Wilch to help the refugees fleeing Central American during the 1980s and 1990s. After receiving a law degree from Arizona State University, he began providing free legal services to refugees and immigrants in Arizona...One of his most fulfilling projects involved the resettlement of about 1,000 people who had fled religious and ethnic persecution in Burma."

from the *Catholic Digest*, October 2007



At left, Matthew in a march on Capitol Hill, right, as a senior in High School

Congratulations to Matt who joins an elite group of twelve in *Catholic Digest's 'Meet 12 Catholic Heroes for America and the World.'* Matt and the other heroes were selected because they have changed the lives of others by performing extraordinary work that is making a positive difference in their communities and beyond.

To read the entire story, visit www.catholicdigest.com

Matt is currently Senior counsel for policy and advocacy for the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in Baltimore, Maryland. You can reach him through lirs@lirs.org.



■ DON KRUMM '39



By RYAN BRINKS, Marshalltown *Times-Republican*

More than 60 years after a Marshalltown World War II veteran survived a German prisoner of war camp, he will receive nine of the 11 service medals he earned for his Army deeds.

Donald Krumm, an 87-year-old former Iowa Highway Commission supervisor who transferred to Marshalltown in 1967 and now lives at the Glenwood Place Retirement Community, will be honored by the government in a special medal presentation ceremony in the coming weeks.

"It really puts you on quite a high point," he said. "When I found out I was going to get them, I couldn't believe it. Now that I've been told enough that I'm going to get them, I'm just waiting for the day." Those telling Krumm have been the military and Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who responded immediately to a letter from Glenwood Place Manager Amy Edmonson about the veteran's VA benefits as well as the medals, Edmonson said.

A date has not yet been set for the ceremony, but Krumm was told he will receive a bronze star medal, a Purple Heart with two bronze oak leaf clusters, a POW Medal, a Good Conduct Medal, an American Campaign Medal, a European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with a silver service star, a World War II Victory Medal, a Combat Infantryman Badge First Award and an Honorable Service Lapel Button for WWII, all to go with the Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge he received in the mail after he had returned home.

The young Krumm had fought through parts of France before being hit by a German bazooka shell that did not explode. After recovering, he then returned to his unit about the time of the Battle of the Bulge, and only a few days back in action, his squad had crossed the Elbe River and was in an outpost on a holding position when the Germans surprised and captured them.

Krumm got out of the POW camp on a



COOL CAR...

Noel Neuenswander from the Class of 1953 sent in a picture of his 'cool car' he drove in his senior year. He says, "There are even some alums from the Classes of 1954 and 1955 that will remember the "cool car" quite vividly. Carlyle Bys '53, actually did some of the custom work on the car for me." He says it was a typical "50's" cool car with:

- Four inch lowering blocks in the rear.
- Dual exhaust with glass-packed Smitty's; sound of a Chris-Craft inboard motor boat.
- Fender skirts.
- All interior lighting converted to "RED."
- Spotlight.
- Custom paint job.

Editor's Note: Can you beat that?



Noel pictured at top left with his 'cool car', above right are Noel, Roger Trpkosh and Jack Moore



convoy that was allowed to pick them up shortly before the end of the war.

"I never pretended to think I was ever a hero. I was lucky, I got back here in one piece, a few scratches but in one piece," he said. "... I figured I had a job to do and I did it to the best of my ability. I didn't ever think I was any better than the rest of them. We did what we had to do."

Krumm did not care to talk much about his war experiences once he was back home and married in 1946, and he knew all along he probably was due some medals, but he did not know how the presentation was done.

City leader and Veterans of Foreign Wars member Laurel Phipps said the reason he waited so long is because veterans have to request their medals. The government does not volunteer them.

"A lot of veterans are entitled and should get them, but if they don't request them, they'll never send them," he said.

A past fire in a Kansas City military records building has further complicated the verification process for medal requests, but Krumm had saved his.

"I was lucky to save all the records from the time I got out. That helped to get this thing going," he said. "I'm happy to get the medals, I think anybody would be, and it's been 60 years coming."

Editor's Note: You can contact Ryan Brinks at 641-753-6611 or rbrinks@times-republican.com. Don Krumm can be reached at 2907 S 6th St, Apt 117 Marshalltown, IA 50158-4690 or 641-752-4981



FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION

Are you interested in joining or supporting the Mount Vernon Schools Fine Arts Association?

For more information contact the Alumni Office 319-895-8845 or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

■ KRISTIN STEWART '99

Where will you find Kristin Stewart '99 today? Maybe in Florida or in Wyoming? Kristin is on the road, working 7 days a week in the touring, off-Broadway production of *Hairspray* where she plays Velma Van Tussle. (If you've seen the movie recently released on DVD, that role is played by Michelle Pfeiffer.) We were happy to have her back in Iowa when *Hairspray* had a one-night performance at the Paramount Theatre in Cedar Rapids. Kristin was excited that family and friends were able to see her perform locally, and that she was able to showcase a career that began in Mount Vernon.

Not only did Kristin do her regular job, but somehow made time to visit with family and friends and meet with students at both the Middle School and High School. At the Middle School 6th graders filled the music room to hear Kristin talk about her life in 'show-biz' and answered their many questions. Then she met with high school students currently involved in the drama department to do the same.

Among Kristin's comments was a conviction about how well her parents and school days in Mount Vernon prepared her to enter college and pursue her career in music. Kristin studied music theater at Illinois Wesleyan University. She urged students to play instruments and involve themselves in both their classwork and activities as much as possible.

She also said that early in life she had set a goal to establish a career in music theater. She has kept that goal in mind when she made decisions about her education, summer jobs, auditions to attend, and jobs to accept. She has



Kristin in High school as an independent photography student preparing photographs for showing in the art gallery

tried hard to remain focused on that goal.

Kristin calls New York City home, but her career has taken her to all of the contiguous states; she'll add Alaska to the list with *Hairspray* in February.

For Kristin's visit, she was featured in the *Sun* and also in the *Gazette*. You can find her article online for in the October 25th issue of the *Sun*, and in the *Gazette's* October 25th weekend! insert.

Kristin can be reached at stewartkristin@hotmail.com



At the Middle School 6th graders filled the music room to hear Kristin talk about her life

ALUMNI AWARDS

How will we ever choose just four people out of the many deserving alums of Mount Vernon Schools? We'll let the Awards Committee sweat about that -- just get in your nominations! We are pleased to announce the addition of this new alumni program, our Alumni Awards.

The very first awards will be announced next fall, but please don't wait! We encourage you to fill out your nominations and mail them (or submit online at www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni). We are pleased that these awards will enhance the homecoming tradition here in Mount Vernon. We are even more pleased that we can recognize these recipients as role models and examples for our current students.

The committee will include: two Alumni Association board members (Deb Winchip Douglass '86 and Jenny Hampton Moore '91), faculty/staff (past/present) (Alan Kiser, Maggie Quinn Ellison '62), Fine Arts Association member(s) (Jenny Ciha and Janet Dietrich), Athletic Booster Club member(s) (Carol Woods '75) and one community representative (Bob Meeker). Deb Winchip Douglass '86 will chair the committee, and each member will serve a two-year term.

The development of these awards was quite an undertaking, and we thank Alumni Director Deb Winchip Douglass '86 for developing the awards and then working through the details with all of us. If you have any suggestions please let us know. Following is a description of the awards and their criteria.

'The Spirit Lives On In You'

The Alumni Association Board of Directors
Lisa Squiers White '88, President
Jean Kuntz Bowman '64, Vice President
Shauna Applebee Dye '01, Secretary
Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Treasurer
Nargi Rayman Steinbrech '55, Director
Deb Winchip Douglass '86, Director
Jenny Moore Hampton '91, Director

MVCS D Alumni Achievement Award

Given to alumni who have earned recognition for their achievements and contributions in their professional life.

Criteria:

- Alumni of Mount Vernon High School at least 28 years of age.
- Demonstrates a high level of achievement in his/her field and makes significant contributions to that field.
- Exhibits high moral character.

MVCS D Alumni Service Award

Given to alumni for specific and meritorious service to the MVCS D Alumni Association or any other not-for-profit organization.

Criteria:

- Alumni of Mount Vernon High School at least 28 years of age.
- Service must be for a not-for profit organization in a non-compensated capacity.
- Exhibits high moral character.

MVCS D Fine Arts Hall of Fame

Awarded to alumni with exceptional accomplishment in the fine arts while attending Mount Vernon High School.

Criteria:

- Alumni of Mount Vernon High School at least 28 years of age.
- Significant contributions in his/her fine arts area.
- Conference honors and/or all-state recognition, or equivalent.
- Superior ratings earned in competition.
- Major roles in theater productions, solos, etc.

Other considerations:

- Outstanding character and leadership.
- Successful participation in college and/or post-college.
- Major roles in theater productions, solos, etc. after high school.
- College scholarships in the fine arts disciplines.

MVCS D Sports Hall of Fame

Awarded to alumni with exceptional accomplishment in athletics while attending Mount Vernon High School.

Criteria:

- Alumni of Mount Vernon High School at least 28 years of age.
- Statistical records and/or awards received.
- All-conference all-state and/or state championships earned.

Other considerations:

- Outstanding character and leadership.
- Successful participation in college and/or professional athletics.

HOW THEY WILL BE AWARDED...

All four awards will be granted based on nominations, which can be submitted by mail or online at www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni. Who can nominate? Anyone - you do not have to be an alum to submit a nomination. Written nomination forms can also be picked up at the high school or use the form on the next page. Nominations will be accepted until June 15th for 2008.

The Alumni Awards Committee will review nominations and select individuals for recognition by July 15th. The selections will then be presented to the Alumni Association Board for approval by July 31st. Recognition will be determined by a majority vote of committee and board members.

The first recipients will be honored at the 2008 Homecoming football game, then receive their award at the annual alumni meeting and awards ceremony the following morning. Inductees may be invited to other events, when appropriate. Those receiving the awards will have their names added to the appropriate plaque, which will be displayed at Mount Vernon High School.

The Mount Vernon Community School District (MVCS D) has many alumni (defined as all graduates and former students) who have used their education and experiences to become successful, positive contributors to society. These graduates should be held up as examples for today's students. The MVCS D Alumni Association would like to present four alumni awards as recognition for outstanding achievement.

2008 MOUNT VERNON ALUMNI AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Name of person I would like considered for an award: _____

His/Her address (if known) _____

His/Her phone (if known) _____

Select Desired MVCS D Alumni Award:

Alumni Achievement Award Alumni Service Award Fine Arts Hall of Fame Sports Hall of Fame

Description of Qualifications (Attach additional pages, as necessary)

Name of Person Submitting the Nomination _____

Address _____

(City, State, Zip) _____

Daytime Telephone (_____) _____ Home Telephone (_____) _____

Email _____

All awards will be granted based on nominations, which can be submitted by mail using this form or online at www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni. Nominations will be reviewed and selected by the Awards Committee and approved by the Alumni Association Board. Questions - call 319-895-8845 or email to alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

Send this form post marked by June 15, 2008 to: Alumni Association, 525 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

****Elected or appointed members of the ICDA Board are not eligible during their term of service.**

Alumni News...

Send us your information...

Alumni Association
525 Palisades Road
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314
or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us
or call 319-895-8845

Norma Bartosh Kubichek '44 and husband Lawrence, celebrated 62nd Wedding Anniversary June 6 2007

Thomas Wolfe '45 and wife Mary, celebrated 50th Wedding Anniversary Sept 14, 2007, and also celebrated 35 years as owners and developers of Lake Mac Bride Golf Course and Country Club

Wiladene Hoggard Willming '50 & husband Ed, celebrated 55th Wedding Anniversary Aug. 31, 2007



From childhood to adulthood, we are committed to providing you and your family the highest quality eye health care, service and products.

MOUNT VERNON EYE CLINIC

Dr. Richard Skotowski and Dr. Steven Sindt
202 Glenn Street in Mount Vernon
319-895-8888

Reid Hanley '64 retired June 1 after 30 years as a sportswriter at the Chicago Tribune

Lisa Squiers White '85 accepted the position of Alumni Director at Cornell College

Mike Russell '89 and wife Jodi, a daughter, Aug. 25, 2007

Scott Rose '93 accepted the position of assistant director of development at Cornell College

Shelby Onstott Sproston '95 and husband Devon, a daughter, August 2007

Vicki Stoner Bausch '97 and husband Alan, a daughter, July 21, 2007. Grandparents are Dan '70 and Cathy Humphries Stoner '69.

Whitney Bennett Turner '00 and husband Jonathan, a son, Sept. 1, 2007

Derek Boren '00 and wife Lori, a daughter, Sept. 27, 2007

Shauna Applebee Dye '01 and Ian Dye '01, a daughter, April 14th, 2007

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In Memory

- Mildred Neal Biderman '31
- Alice McLaughlin Carney '39
- Wallace 'Pic' Littell '40
- Margaret 'Peg' Herring Coogan '41
- Darrell Stoner '46
- Ruth Mallie Erenberger '47
- Helen Marie Bader '49
- John Edward 'Jack' Moore '53
- Donna Staskal Johnson Soukup '55
- Steve Haack '72

(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.)

EDUCATION NEWS

B. J. Leeper '97 graduated from the University of Iowa Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy in 2005. He works at Blue Valley Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Clinic in Overland Park, KS.

Diana Brace '01 received the Dr. Mary Agnella Gunn Memorial Scholarship from the University of Iowa College of Education (presented to an undergraduate student in English education).

Megan Wright '02 graduated from Wartburg College with a psychology degree in 2006.

Tyler Leeper '03 graduated from Bethel University, St. Paul, MN, in May, 2007, with a B.A. in Education K-8. He teaches 6th Grade English at Coon Rapids Middle School in the Minneapolis area.

MARRIAGES

Trenay Allen Hart '87 to Robert Hart, Sept. 2006, reside in Billings MT

Angie Hampton '89 to Larry Jones, July 7, 2007, reside in Kellar, TX

Alexis Stine '92 to Loren Gallegos, Sept. 2, 2007, reside in Seattle, WA

B. J. Leeper '97 to Jodi Berheim, Dec. 17, 2005, reside in Olathe, KS

Jennifer McNeal '98 to **Keith Woods '88**
Nov. 25, 2006, reside in Mount Vernon, IA

Joe Corkin '99 to Danya Serrano, May 20, 2007, reside in Houston, TX

Megan Wright '02 to Andrew Drysdale, Sept. 8, 2007, reside in West Des Moines, IA

Elizabeth Rasmussen '03 to Jonathan Grandon, Nov. 18, 2006, reside in Marion, IA

Jeffrey Sabin '04 to Jenna Rees June 2, 2007, reside in Fayette, IA

Shantell Munson '05 to **Andrew Ternes '04**
May 12, 2007, reside in Huxley, IA

The Perfect Spot

for Your Class Reunion is at Gwen's

Join fellow alums Gwen and Gary Drahos in their Party Room for your next reunion or gathering of friends and family.

A local favorite for Gwen's home style food – open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner, daily buffets.

Try her specialty – a hot beef sandwich with mashed potatoes and gravy!



Celebrating 25 Years!

Gwen Stewart Drahos '70 and Gary Drahos '72
119 W Main Street in Lisbon 319-455-2873



*Your Foundation Gift...
your legacy to Mount Vernon Schools*

You and Your Family Can Make A Difference -- YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOUNDATION CHANGE CHILDREN'S LIVES

Mount Vernon students receive an excellent education. In Washington Elementary School, all children receive a quality education that creates an excellent foundation in the core areas such as math and reading, as well as the development of a broad base of skills including social skills, community service, and creativity. In the Mount Vernon Middle School, students start to expand their education in core areas with acceleration in some areas while concepts in teamwork, service, and character are expanded. In the Mount Vernon High School, students are introduced to more rigor in their core education areas, are allowed to branch out to elective courses to explore, and are given many opportunities to participate in fine arts and athletic activities to help develop that well rounded student that has always been the tradition of the Mount Vernon Schools. Your contributions to the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation help take education to an even higher level and fund many projects and programs that touch the lives of hundreds of children each year.

Your contribution to the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation is an investment in our children that will endure well into the future.

Bequests to the Foundation through a Will

Since 1987 the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation has met the needs of our teachers and students thanks to the generosity of our many supporters who have shared their time, talent, and money. Yet there are many more students to serve. One of the ways you can support them financially is through a bequest to the Foundation in your will. Even if you choose not to include a bequest to the Foundation in your will, you should consider what benefits a will can provide you.

What can a Will do?

A will is an important legal document that is not expensive or difficult to make. Surprisingly, only about 4 of 10 adults have completed a will even though a will can provide for many useful purposes such as:

- Allows you to specifically direct who will receive the property that you accumulate over your lifetime.
- Can provide financial security for family members who may need more support.
- Can provide for proper administration of your assets for your children until they reach an appropriate age and begin making financial decisions for themselves.
- Can indicate who will be the guardians of your children.
- Can name an executor to make it clear who is the administrator of your will to carryout your instructions.
- Can be structured to minimize potential estate, inheritance, and income taxation of inherited assets.
- Can provide financial security for a surviving spouse and children especially when second marriages are involved.
- Can be structured to provide specifically for grandchildren, including those born after your death.
- Is easy to arrange and since it is not payable until death, it does not affect your assets and cash flow during your lifetime.
- Is revocable and can be changed at anytime until death.
- Can allow you to assist friends and your personal charitable causes thereby allowing it to become an expression of your values.
- Can be set up in conjunction with "living wills" and "standby powers of attorney" to make sure that the persons you choose represent you should you become incapacitated.

Can a Will reflect my wishes?

A will is beneficial to you in a number of ways.

- It provides your family and loved ones with your financial support after your death.
- It allows your estate to be distributed according to your wishes.
- It provides you with peace of mind and personal satisfaction.
- It allows your legacy to continue to support your favorite charities and other interests.
- It can be drafted to ensure that items of sentimental value go to the persons of your choice.
- It is a future giving document and can be easily changed at any point in time.

How can I make a Will?

To make a will contact an attorney to set up an appointment to sit down together and write out the goals that you wish to accomplish in a will.

How can I include the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation in my Will?

We hope that the Mount Schools Foundation can find a place in your will just as the Mount Vernon Schools has a place in your heart and memories.

continued on next page

F O U N D A T I O N

Bequests to the Foundation through a Will, continued

To include the Foundation in your will, some typical language might include:

I give to the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation, an Iowa nonprofit corporation located in Mount Vernon, Iowa, the sum of \$_____ to be used as the Board of Trustees of the Foundation shall determine.

Alternatively, instead of leaving a specific dollar amount to the Foundation, you can bequest a "percentage of my residuary estate" or "the following described property".

How easy is it to change a Will?

After you make your will, it can easily be changed by revoking your previous will and making a new one.

You can also easily add to or alter the wishes of your will through a Codicil document. A Codicil is a legal document which can be used to supplement or modify your will without having to draft a new will. Check with your attorney regarding how to set up a Codicil and the specific verbiage to use.

How often should I review my Will?

Though wills are usually stored in safes and safety deposit boxes, many people also keep a copy of their will in a secure but more easily accessible location to annually review it for possible changes and updates. Keeping your will up to date will allow your wishes in the will to be carried out more easily.

Who has named the Foundation in their Future Giving?

Bequests to the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation through your will and other methods of future giving such as life insurance or a charitable gift annuity allows you to make a significant gift while at the same time maintaining control over your assets during your life. You do not have to be wealthy to make a bequest. Every gift to the Foundation is important and makes a tremendous difference to the future of Mount Vernon Schools.

The Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation desires to have the resources to continue to serve the future students of Mount Vernon Schools. By making a future gift, you are saying that you believe in our school's mission and know that our students will continue to make a positive difference in the world well into the future.

Some of the people who have named the Foundation in their future giving plans

The following people have notified us this past year or in previous years, to let the Foundation know that they have included the Foundation in their future giving plans through their will or some other means of future giving. We want to express our sincere appreciation to them.

- Ed and Sharon Hill
- David F. Wolfe '50 in memory of Wilma F. Wolfe
- Diane Zinkula '72
- Paul '90 and Jennifer Morf
- Bob Penn '81

Please let us know if you have included the Foundation in your future giving.

If you have already included the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation in your future giving plans, we are profoundly grateful for your support. We hope that you will let us know of your intentions so that we have the opportunity to thank you for your generosity.

Ways to Give

Contributions to the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation are tax deductible and can be made in a variety of ways. Use the form on page 19 of this newsletter, or if you if you would like to speak to a Foundation representative with questions or regarding planned giving, please contact the Foundation at 319-895-8845 or email to MVFoundation@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.

On-Line Giving

You can donate to the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation using our secure online payment processing system, Give2Schools. This program allows you to make donations online via e-check or credit card at your convenience. You can access this option on the Foundation website at www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/foundation.

GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION from Mount Vernon School District Employees

Kaimee Akers
Lisa Alger
Doreen Anderson
Kristin Anderson
Gary Benda
Steve Benson
Lisa Bierman
Chiara Niederhauser Burke'78
and Matt Burke
Jenny Ciha
Dee Clark
Kathleen Darrow
Susan Deibner
Ian Dye'01
Julie Dye
Maggie Quinn Ellison'62
Jackie Engelbrecht
Tawnua Fell
Sarah Fitzgerald
Nate Frangella
JoAnn Gage
Zoe Gressel
Dennis Gross
Nannette Gunn
Robert Hanson
Melissa Hauser
Annie Hawker
Natalie Hayslip
Jennifer Holub
Kristi Keast
Laurie Keller
David Kennedy
Kacey Kuntz'00
Mary Leopold
Susannah Maddock
Laurie McCoy
Renee Mente
Deanna Mlynarczyk
Jan Moore
Patricia Mote
Gary Nelson
Sarah Opiol
Duane Orr Family
Joe Peters
LeAnn Pisarik
Roger Pitlik'67
Sheryl Pospisil
Marcia Purington
Robbin Rekemeyer
Sarah Richardson
Jeff Risk
Susan Roberts-Maurice
Jodi Russell
Amber Schouten
Brandy Schurbon
Jeff Schwiebert
Kathy and Vern Staskal
Kimberlee Steele
Karen Stewart
Cathy Humphries Stoner'69
Gloria Telecky
Claudia Ternes
John Thatcher
Stephanie Timm
Bethany Campbell Tvedt
Beth Vittengl
Jean Wade
Dennis and Patricia Walsh
Krista Whitham
Vicky Wieseler
Erin Wilkinson
Tom Wilkinson'86
Carol Woods-Boren'75
Judy Berends Workman'65
Mary Young
Laurie Zaiger

F O U N D A T I O N

GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION

Thank you to alumni and community members who have contributed to the Foundation.

11-15-2006 to 11-15-2007

The Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation is a charitable non-profit organization that partners with alumni, businesses, parents, and friends of the Mount Vernon community to support a higher level of educational excellence and opportunities to prepare Mount Vernon School students for the challenges of global opportunities. The Foundation receives tax-deductible contributions to support the programs of the Mount Vernon Community School District.

The Levels Of Contribution recognized here are:

Major Gifts \$15,000+

Founding Donors \$10,000+

Leading Donors \$5,000+

Mustang Donors \$1,000+

Maroon and White Donors up to \$1,000

MUSTANG DONORS

David Loeb sack - Loeb sack for Congress

MAROON AND WHITE DONORS

Paula & Steve Adams
Russell Baker '75
Barron & Ginne Bremner
Henry G Carleton '42
Class of 1967
J. David Ennis '56
Varlyn & Jane Costello '59 Fink
Ed '59 & Karen Fordyce
Richard Glatly '59
Doug & Lisa Greif
Janet Griffith - RBC Dain Rauscher
Foundation Employee Grant
Don & Donna Happel
Shirley (Pospisil) Heiserman '56
George J. Hill MD '49
Beth Hufford '84
James '50 & Carol Croft '51 Kent
Dale '92 & Kasey Kurtz '94 Merrill
Marguerite Morey '39
Simmons Perrine PC on behalf
of Paul P Morf '90
Jeanne Sullivan Stopulos '40
Stacey J. Stowers '96
Jon '59 & Georgia Swanberg
John & Karen Thorton
Gary & Sharon Neal '59 Urich
John & Jo Wilch
Peter '90 & Melanie Wilch
Steve & Mary Young
Andrea Mott Zastrow '90

In Memory of Paul Christiansen from:

Winston C. Addis

In Memory of David Fisher '64 from:

Anonymous
Larry Baltes
Jim & Joyce Bellamy
Jim & Jan Brendes
Buzz '67 & Liz Smith '77 Burgess
Robert Caldwell '65
Bob & Chris Clark
Gordy '68 & Anita Rahn '73 Clark
Tex '64 & Diane Clay
Jay & Chris Davis
Robert '68 & Marie Davis
Bill & Ruth Deskin
Rick & Trudy Elliott
Margaret Quinn Ellison '62
Ed '59 & Karen Fordyce

Chuck Franks '71
Robert '44 & Dorothy Gaines
Marianne '67 & John Garrigan
William & Michele '92 Grudzinski
Charlie & Marie Harms
Paul & Diane Harrington
Stephanie Parish Heck '86
Barry '68 & Mary Jamison
Steve '79 and Julie Jilovec
Betty Johnson
Marty & Wendy '71 Johnson
Vernon '73 & Sue Johnson
Paul & Jeanette Kepler
Ann Koppenhaver '78
Ivan '76 & Joy Koehn '76 Kuntz
Arlene & Kenneth Lee
Paul & Karen Lehr
Robert & Kay Jilovec '55 Lind
Joseph '62 & Deborah Lynott
Allan & Regina Mallie
Roger '58 & Karen Jilovec '57 Martin
Bob Meeker
Tim & Diane Miller
Jeri '66 & Barb Thomsen '68 Neal
Ken '67 & Kathy Neal
Edward & Linda '63 Nost
Wayne & Diane Novak
Frank & Chris Osborn
Ron & Marilyn Stolte '73 Parker
Joe & Kemra Peska
Virgil & Sharon Peters
Sherlee Peterson
Doug '69 & Barb Pitlik
Bennie & Vi Pospisil
Rick '76 & Pam Post
Kay Rahn
Dorothy Randall
Ginny Randall
Barbara Russell
Pat Schenk
Gerald & Wava Schmidt
Gary & Cathy Schonhorst
Gary & Jan Smith
John & Mary Wolfe '47 Smith
Leona Reyhons Smith '56
Mick '67 & Jeanne Snodgress
Larry & Janelle Sproston
Bill Stewart Family
Mike & Karen Stewart
Dan '70 & Catherine
Humphries '69 Stoner
David '68 & Jo Ann Thomson '70 Stoner
Jean Stoner '37
Ray '64 & Ann Stoner
Warren '63 & Suzanne Roberts
'65 Stoner

Jeffrey & Brenda Taylor
Dan '88 & Lisa Thuerauf
Terry Trimpe
John & Marian Vanous
Mary Lee Wallace
Arlo & Jean Whitman
John & Jo Wilch
Catherine Woods
Kevin Woods '73

In Memory of C. William Heywood from:

June Harrison

In Memory of Dr. Robert J. Lenz DVM & Flossie Lenz from:

Robert '58 & Linda Lenz

In Memory of Mary Meeker from:

Middie & Darrel Morf

In Memory of Thomas P Moore from:

Treva Moore Heiser '50

In Memory of (Lizabeth) Kelly Morrissey '72 from:

Norma Morrissey

In Memory of Gayla Deskin Pitlik '70 from:

William & Ruth Deskin

In Memory of Betty Jane Hanley Scott from:

Reid Hanley '64

In Memory of Chuck Swaney from:

Leona Reyhons Smith '56

In Memory of Mary Ware from:

Mitch '83 & Diana Corcoran
Kathleen Driscoll-Cooley
Mary Iber
Marilyn & William Meyer Jr.
Christina Tillman
Amy White

•COMPANY MATCHES

MAROON AND WHITE DONORS

Alliant Energy Foundation on behalf of Dennis Pitlik '71
Rockwell Collins Matching Gift Program on behalf of Mitch '83 & Diana Corcoran, in memory of Mary Ware
Alliant Energy Foundation Matching Gift Program on behalf of Robert J Bensmiller '64 (d) & Ruth Bensmiller '64, in memory of Earl Bensmiller '61

•ENDOW IOWA FUND

MUSTANG DONORS

In Memory of Rex & Helen Dean from:

Roger '56 & Marilyn
Dean '58 Schnittjer

•FUTURE PLANNED GIVING

Included in will:

Paul '90 and Jennifer Morf
Bob Penn '81
David F. Wolfe '50, in memory of Wilma F. Wolfe

•SCHOLARSHIPS

(for a complete list of scholarship funding, see page 16. Those listed below are donors to the Foundation who have specified that their donations be used for either the Foundation Scholarship or a particular scholarship.)

SUCHOMEL FAMILY

MARY CATHERINE WARE MEMORIAL FUND

Lori Dana '73
Rich Dana '80
Arden Dana-Pryor '75

DONNA SWENSON SCHOLARSHIP

Rhondi Staley Ewing '81
Melany Venditti Reinboldt '81

F O U N D A T I O N

Will YOU meet my challenge?

The first thing Diane Zinkula did one fall Monday morning was to make a call to the school district office. "I just did something really neat and couldn't wait to tell you," she said. Her surprise was that she had designated the Mount Vernon School District Foundation as a beneficiary in her will. Diane said "What a great way to give to Mount Vernon Schools – something I can't give now, but as part of my estate, I'll be leaving a real gift." Diane, an alum from the class of 1972, has been a long time supporter for the students of Mount Vernon. You will often see her working at football concessions or watching her 'Zinkula' nieces and nephews participate in school activities. Enjoy this interview with Diane.



"I recently included the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation in my will. I felt this was a very special way for me to give a lasting, wonderful gift to the students of Mount Vernon.

I am challenging you to meet my gift by including the Foundation in your Estate Plans for \$5,000 or more. Let's see what we can do together!"

Diane

Diane Zinkula, Class of 1972

Q – What made you think of putting the Foundation in your will?

A – I was asked by my church to set aside a specific amount or percentage in my will. I thought it was a great idea, but if I was going to do this, I also wanted to do this for Mount Vernon Schools. I am very passionate about my association with Mount Vernon Schools. As an alum I wear my school pride 'on my sleeve', so to speak, and now enjoy my nieces and nephews as they go through school. More are coming up for me to enjoy for years to come. I'm also an active member of the Booster Club and Alumni Association.

Q – Once you decided to include the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation in your will, was it difficult to do?

A – No, this was not hard at all. I contacted my lawyer, Paul Morf, who coincidentally is also an alum, and he put it together for me. Incidentally, Paul specializes in this area and was very helpful. He made many recommendations which I would never have considered on my own. Very simple language in my will that is easy to understand. I then contacted the school district so they would be aware, but I know this wasn't necessary to do.

Q – We think your gift will provide a lasting legacy of your love and support for Mount Vernon Schools, how do you view it?

A – I have always been very proud of my association with the Mount Vernon Schools. I have many fond memories of my student years – classmates, teachers, activities, etc. No matter where I live, Mount Vernon will always be "home." I am pleased to give something back to an organization which gave so much to me and helped form the person I am today.

Q – You mentioned that you would like your gift to be a challenge to others, please explain.

A – Yes, I would like to challenge other community members and alums to do the same. Wouldn't it be great if the Foundation could look forward to a solid financial future with our legacy gifts? Giving a larger amount of money to the Foundation through my will made it possible for me to leave a gift of lasting value, and I can't help but feel there are many people like me out there who would like to do the same, but just hadn't thought about it. I will be leaving a gift of \$5,000 – I'd like others to meet this amount or more in their estate planning for the Foundation.

Q – In recent years the School District has found it necessary to be in continuous evaluation and improvement of all programs. How important do you feel this is for students to compete and contribute in our world?

A – It is very important as we, the alumni, are a reflection of Mount Vernon Schools. It has given me much pride throughout the years to witness how admirably the Mount Vernon alumni and their families contribute to their respective communities and continue to demonstrate leadership and a willingness to help out whenever needed.

Q – What are some of the aspects of the Mount Vernon Schools that make you proud of our schools?

A – All the strong programs which are offered beginning foremost with academics as well as fine arts, athletics, and other extracurricular activities. The community is also a huge plus as people care about one another and look out for each other. Our students are being raised in a nurturing environment and are constantly being affirmed. Adults of all ages, and not just parents, are actively involved in the school system, and this is a huge witness to our young people.

Q – The typical Mount Vernon student currently takes on a substantial education schedule and is also involved in a variety of activities in the fine arts and athletics to get that great core education, as well as activities to promote self-thinking and creativity. Do you think this is new to Mount Vernon students?

A – Heavens, no! It has always been this way! As a result, our students graduate with a well-rounded education encompassing a wealth of experiences and carry this hunger for knowledge and adventure into their adult lives.

Q – Your gift is an investment that will change the lives of our children for generations. How do you feel about the future of Mount Vernon Students?

A – Our students will continue to shine as adults in their communities and work environments because we are constantly striving to prepare them in the best ways possible.

Editor's Note: We have had other people over the years who have included the Foundation in their estate plans and we want to express our sincere appreciation to them. We are appreciative of Diane Zinkula's offer to help the Foundation to make others aware of this option and the good that it can do for our school district – thank you, Diane! Full interview on the website. She can be reached at dzinkula@aol.com



SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS

Following is a list of contributors who have given Scholarships for the Class of 2007, \$100 or more.

- M.V. Fine Arts Association \$2500
- Husak Foundation \$2000
- McElroy Scholarships for Continuing Education \$2000
- Suchomel Family \$2000
- Faculty \$1500
- Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Company \$1500
- Margaret Garry \$1000
- Mount Vernon Foundation \$1000
- TTT Scholarships \$1000
- Hills Bank \$750
- Mount Vernon Mustang Booster Club \$600
- Community Theatre \$600
- Student Council \$600
- Mary & Jake Studt Family \$600
- American Legion
- Hahn-Howard Post 480 \$500
- Leoral and Helen Evans \$500
- Charles H. Halsey Gift \$500
- Ann Krogmann Scholarship \$500
- Lions Club \$500
- Lisbon-Mount Vernon Optimist Club \$500
- Mount Vernon Lynch Ford, Chevrolet, and Pontiac \$500
- Rittmer Memorial \$500
- Special Student \$500
- Mary Ware Scholarship \$500
- Masonic Lodge #112 \$400
- Donna Reesink Swenson Art Award \$300
- P.E.O., Chapter DT Leadership \$300
- Dave Thumm Scholarship \$300
- Extraordinary Woman \$300
- Mount Vernon Area Chamber of Commerce \$250
- Mount Vernon Education Association (MVEA) \$250
- League of Women Voters \$250
- Teaching Creativity Award \$250
- Mount Vernon-Lisbon Woman's Club \$200

CHRISTMAS – TWICE A YEAR!

by The Suchomel Family

One summer at our family reunion we were making plans for Christmas when the subject of gift exchange came up. It seemed the 'adult' exchange had run its course, in that everyone had what they needed, or could get what they wanted, and shopping for big gifts was becoming a burden, rather than the joy it is meant to be.

Someone suggested perhaps putting the same amount of money we might spend into a scholarship fund, and our dad suggested giving it to the Mount Vernon Community Schools Foundation. So, with all agreeing, our scholarship fund was born.

The agreement was that all checks be sent to the foundation for a scholarship to be called 'The Suchomel Family Scholarship', with each one of us giving what we wished, and no one being obligated to give every year if we could not do so. No one would know what each gave. The total amount would decide the number of scholarships given. This process has worked well for our family.

Giving two, three, or four students even a few hundred dollars for books has given us more satisfaction than any amount spent elsewhere. The decision as to who receives the scholarships is left to those more qualified and we experience the 'Joy of Christmas giving' twice a year!

It's a payback of sorts, because we each received an excellent education from the Mount Vernon Schools. We also worked many and various jobs to make ends meet, and remember the struggles involved in reaching our goals. We hope to alleviate some of the financial stress we know students feel today by turning our gift giving in this direction.

We still have a Christmas exchange, but it is in the form of a 'Pirate' game, played with gifts limited to \$12. Each time we play we remember that the real gifts are going to students just like us back in our high school days. Our Christmas really comes in May when those Suchomel scholarships are awarded.

High School pictures from top to bottom:
Rita Dudley '68
Anne Miller '70
Jane Carlson '71
Joan Suchomel '74
Kurt Suchomel '77
Mark Suchomel '79



Left to right: Rita Dudley '68, Jane Carlson '71, Kurt Suchomel '77, Anne Miller '70, Dolores and Harry Suchomel, Joan Suchomel '74 and Mark Suchomel '79



F O U N D A T I O N

FOUNDATION GRANTS HELP TEACHERS ENHANCE STUDENT EDUCATION

This year the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation is providing \$3,000 in grants to our teachers for the 2007-2008 school year for innovative projects to help them take education to an even higher level. Eight projects are being funded with the available Foundation funds, and following is a description about the recipient projects and how they plan to use their grants for student education. Thank you again to all the Foundation donors, many who were alumni, who provided funds for these grants. Our teachers care about our students and it shows in their efforts to help all students succeed.

\$500.00 Industrial Tech Design Class Trebuchets Materials

Scott White's High School Industrial Tech Class grows bigger every year due to his popular trebuchet project (shown at right). This spring he will involve more than 35 students in the design, research, development, and drawing by CADD, of a number of trebuchets. A trebuchet was used in the Middle Ages either to smash masonry walls or to throw projectiles over them. This involves a physics instructor for the science and math of this complex machine. Mary Young, High School Math teacher, assists with math equations. Students keep a journal of the process for reference and inspection on launch day. The launch day, held in late spring, has become a community event drawing attention from local and regional media. Mr. White will use his grant to help with wood and hardware supplies.

\$565.00 Elementary Reader's Theater Folktales Set B

Last year Washington Elementary teacher Cathy Stoner '69, was selected for a grant to purchase Set A of the Reader's Theater Folktales; this year she will purchase Set B. Cathy is a Title 1 reading for grades 3-5, but these materials support fluency and comprehension goals for all elementary students. These materials, appropriate for students in grades one through five, will then be available in the media center for checkout. Each script includes multiple reading levels to include students of all reading abilities, and contains activities for fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and word study.

\$320.00 Robotic Arm Kits

Middle School 5th grade teacher Katie Poduska will use her grant to support part of the technology component of their 5th

Scott White's High School Industrial Tech Class grows bigger every year due to his popular trebuchet project. This year a Foundation Grant will help purchase supplies.



grade science curriculum by purchasing five Robotic Arm Kits. She is concentrating on robotics and its implications, and will use this new technology so that student teams can construct, program, and control a robotic arm.

\$315.00 Middle School Music Ace 1 Software

With games, puzzles, and quizzes from Music Ace 1 software, students in general music grades 5th, 6th and 7th, will be able to enhance their knowledge of music concepts they have learned in class, such as music theory, pitch, rhythm, note reading, and keyboard fundamentals. According to recipient Kristin Anderson, Middle School General Music teacher, this program also includes the function of allowing students to compose and arrange their own music. The grant will purchase ten licenses for a computer lab.

\$400.00 Transition Program Exercise Equipment

The District's Transition Program (for students ages 18-21 who are transitioning to adult life) is the recipient of a \$400 grant to help purchase exercise mats and exercise videos to increase their student exercise program. According to Rob Cook, Lead Teacher, they try to find types of exercise the students will enjoy and hopefully continue with on their own after they complete the program. The addition of these exercise habits will combine with their daily food journaling, as students can now also record their daily exercise.

\$500.00 Math Materials

4th Grade teacher Brandy Schurbon will use her Foundation Grant to purchase class sets of base ten blocks, fraction circles and measurement manipulatives for fourth grade classes. She says that using these tools in lessons help students fully

understand the logic behind mathematical equations, and that the 'hands-on' learning promotes retention of new concepts.

\$400.00 Solid Engine Rockets

Next spring each 8th grade student will receive a solid engine rocket and two altimeters for calculating velocity as a result of this grant received by the 8th Grade Teaching team. Science Teacher Robert Hanson says students will learn about the phases of the moon, the history of space exploration, and build their solid engine rockets. In conjunction with the science project, students will learn about the history of NASA and how rockets have been used in war in their social studies class. In English class students read science fiction literature, and in math they will conduct measurements using geometry to find distance of objects, primarily the height of their rocket launch.

WHERE DID THIS FOUNDATION MONEY COME FROM?

First, it came from people like you who have given to the Foundation General Fund since 1987. A portion of the investment income from this fund was then used for these grants. In addition, some donations to the Foundation given over the past year specified that their donation (or a portion of) go to funding these Foundation Education Grants.

When you send in your donation for the Annual Fund or Alumni Annual Fund, if you would like your donation or a portion of your donation to go specifically to Education Grants, please specify that on your form.

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

F O U N D A T I O N

"Fulfilling the Promise of Excellence in Academics, Arts, and Athletics"

I wish to support the Mount Vernon Community School District with a tax deductible gift to the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation. My commitment will be completed as detailed below.

Please print your name(s) as it should appear in recognition of your gift:

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Please check all that apply:

Contribution

- Enclosed is my/our contribution of \$ _____ to the Foundation. Checks should be made payable to Mount Vernon Schools Foundation.

Classroom Grants

- I would like this donation to be used specifically for classroom grants \$ _____

Honorary or Memorial Gift:

This gift is in memory of in honor of

Please print name of person(s): _____

Please send acknowledgement of this tribute to: Name _____

Address _____

City,State,Zip _____

Employer Match

- I am affiliated with a matching gift company. My company's form is enclosed.

Will or Estate Planning

- I/we have included the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation in my/our estate plans.
- I/we would like to speak to someone in the Foundation about my will or Estate Planning.

Endow Iowa

- I have sent a contribution to The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation for the Mount Vernon Schools Endow Iowa Fund.

Other

- I/we would like to speak to someone in the Foundation concerning a donation of another type.

Please return this form to:

Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation, 525 Palisades Road, Mount Vernon, IA 52314 319-895-8845



1908 MUSTANG BASEBALL TEAM

Thank you to Cam Addis'84 who wrote in with this note and postcard he found on Ebay... "It shows the 1908 Mustang baseball team. The back of the postcard has a note from 'Raymond H.' addressed to Miss Esther Locke of Montgomery City, Missouri, and postmarked August 31, 1908 from Grand Mound, Iowa.' Grand Mound is on Highway 30 toward Clinton. Thanks for your time,
Cam Addis
Defacto Alumnus (1984)"
caddis@austincc.edu

RITCH BLEW



Missouri, and spent countless hours at his computer updating each alumni class website, looking for various text glitches created by a software update and outdated information. So thank you, Ritch, and we look forward to your continued help with the Alumni web site.

A special thank you to the volunteers who put the alumni mailings together (and had fun too!)

A BIG thank you goes out to alum Richard Blew'61 for his volunteer time to the Alumni Association this past year. Not only did Ritch spend 3 days in the Alumni Office helping to get ready for the alumni Heritage Days activities, but he then went home to Oak Grove,

Thank you

- Merrill Pitlik'40 for Class of 1940 memorabilia
 - Thank you Rev. Richard Thomas and the MV Historical Preservation Commission for historical documents and Jane Koza's'43 compilation of pictures and information.
 - Barbara 'Bunny' Williams Copland'61 for 1961 and 1962 memorabilia
 - Barb Neal Hutchins'57 for 1952, 1956 and 1954 year books
 - Carol Woods'75 for Homecoming buttons
- THANK YOU**
to all the Homecoming and Heritage Days volunteers - thank you!



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