

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS



INSIDE...

- 2 2007 Reunions
- 4 Heritage Days 2006
- 7 Reunion Pictures
- 10 Thank you Supporters
- 12 Lehr vs. Palmer
- 13 Alumni Comments
- 14 Mustangs – What Are They Doing Now?
- 19 Farewell to Ken Smykil
- 22 Alumni News
- 28 Foundation Grants
- 30 Moving On and more!

JOIN US JULY 13 & 14

- **HERITAGE DAYS ALL-ALUMNI BREAKFAST**
 - **HERITAGE DAYS ALL-RECEPTION AND MEETING AREA**
- SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Lisa Squiers White '88
 Alumni Association
 President

Welcome to the Spring 2007 MVCSD Alumni Newsletter! 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 will

kick off these awards with the nomination form and information in the fall Alumni Newsletter.

The Alumni Association continues to grow in active membership as alumni take advantage of the 5-year support-membership and online payments. As I have mentioned in past newsletters, your voluntary support dollars help cover the cost of running the Association, so please take the time to send in your support dues. We have received several donations that go above and beyond the membership dues from Alumni who appreciate what the Association is doing, and for that we thank you!

When sending in your support, be sure to update your contact information and include a note about what you're doing these days. Many

have done so already, and the Alumni Database has expanded to over 3,160 mailing addresses to date. It serves as a useful resource for reunion planners and will ultimately be a wonderful resource for the High School guidance counselor and teachers to link alumni with students in various industries or fields of study. If you need information about how to log into the database, just contact Kathy at the Alumni Office 319-895-8845

alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us
 or me and we will be happy to help out.

Finally, our annual All-Alumni Breakfast, held during Heritage Days, more than doubled in attendance last year. I encourage all of you to join us this year on July 14 – bring your families and catch up with alumni from all classes. You're also welcome to visit the Alumni Reception and Meeting Place on both Friday and Saturday near the bandstand uptown. Good food, lots of fun, and a time to make some new memories!

Fun at the Alumni Tent during Heritage Days 2006



Mustang ALUMNI

ALL-ALUMNI EVENTS

HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI BREAKFAST (Open House)

Saturday, July 14, 8:00-11:30 am, serving from 8:30-10:30 am, all alumni, families, and friends, community welcome. High School Commons. Tour the new high school. 731 Palisades Road SW - next to the Middle School (previous high school)

HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI RECEPTION & GATHERING PLACE

Friday, July 13, 4-7 pm, and Saturday, July 14, 11:30 am to 7 pm. Hang out with your classmates uptown and meet fellow alums from many classes. New location nearer to Heritage Days activities, uptown near the Band Stand in Karen Martin'57's Farm and Home Realty office, 104 1st St West.

HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI BASEBALL GAME

Saturday, July 14, 5:00 pm at Cornell College baseball diamond. Show up and play. Contact Jeremy Elliott 319.895.0440 or email mvelliott@netzero.net

NEXT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER TBA, DAY AFTER HOMECOMING All Alumni are Welcome to Attend

2007 MV Community Events

www.visitmvl.com

- July 4 Antique Extravaganza
- Sept 29 Lincoln Highway Arts Festival
- Dec 1 Fine Arts Assoc. Cookie Walk
- Nov 29 Magical Night and
- Dec 1 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

2007 Reunions Coming Up...

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

www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us

MISSING PEOPLE - If you know how we can contact any of the people listed, please let the reunion organizer or the Alumni office know.

2002 - 5 year - July 14

JBT Cycles Shop, Lisbon
Contact: Teresa Britt Patterson
Phone: 319-558-6488
Email: teresa.patterson@yahoo.com
Missing Classmates: Phillip Gardner, Amber Kilberge, Luke Gefaller, Joseph Lewis, Aaron Havill, Gina Lord, Amy Hughes, Angela Lysne, T.J. Thurn, Lacy Johnson, Evan Vassar, Eli Junker, Jesse Kamberling

1997 - 10 year - July 14

Don Mar Lanes
Contact: Nick Boots
Phone: 319-560-0836
Email: nboots@lisbon.k12.ia.us
Missing Classmates: Rachel Bel-lows, Matthew Evers, Sean Farshchi, Jami Griffin, Stephan Hoess, Holly Holbrook, Vidya Hutchinson, Amy Hearne Kunkle, Eric McDowell, Kajsja Nordenhall, Kathryn Pisarik, Rebecca Rudnicki, Vidya Seesaran-Hutchinson, Melody Shannon, Jennifer Slach, Mirjam Svanero, Tammy Thies

1992 - 15 year - July 14

Location tba
Contact: Amy Reyhons Glick
Phone: 563-886-6287
Email: amosg74@aol.com
Missing Classmates: Emily Adams, Elizabeth Harkin, Brian Jones, Michael Jones, Che Krumm, Jason Mehaffey, Derek Oakley, Holly Petersen, Bitta Ulriksen, Mark VanSlyke, Kyle Weber, Nicole Rudish West

1987 - 20 year - July 14

Hillcrest Country Club, Mount Vernon
Contact: Bob Blythe
Phone: 319-895-0188
Email: bob@pollyanns.com
Missing Classmates: Sherri Grell Fitzpatrick, Malinda Goodall, Jeffrey Howard, Paul Marker, Lori Smith, Carl Troendle, Pamela Van Slyke-Cavanaugh, Patrick White

1982 - 25 year - July 14

Regal Crown
Contact: Sonia Essex Redmond
Phone: 319-895-8259
Email: mvred3@aol.com

Missing Classmates: Jim Campbell, Stacy Douda, Douglas Drahos, Michael George, Christine Hartelt, James 'JR' Horton, Terrence Houser, Walter Houser, Wayne Mantz, Linda Marston, Ted Meyer, Christina MacKay Moutray, Douglas Phillips, Tim Phillips, Joe Rempt, Karen Rodarmel, Heidi Sim-nacher, Jennifer Walker, Anne Wiese

1976-1977-1978 - 30 year - July 14

Regal Crown, Lisbon
Contact Persons:
1976-Glori Holtz Roman
Phone: 319-396-2991
Email: glor17@msn.com
1977-Annie Lehman Currie
Phone: 319-895-8518
Email: mustangmama77@msn.com
1978-Ann Koppenhaver
Phone: 319-895-6411
Email: akoppenhaver@koppenhavercpas.com
Missing Classmates:
1976 Janis Erie, Karin Haack, Lee Jensen, Carrie Johnson, Mark Nichols, Carol Semler, Kent Streed, John Thompson, Jr., Robert Thornton, Joel Weber
1977 Terry Arnold, Karen Markley Esterson, Emily Franks, Rita Nelson, Dao Nguyen
1978 Leonard Blazek, Rosalee Gilbert, Trina Mrstik Siebert, Cheryl Velky, Teri Volk Turzinski, Jon Douda, Paul Far-faras, Joseph Neff, Dave Smith, Greg Solomon, Walter Yeisley

1972 - 35 year - August 11

Gwen's Restaurant, Lisbon
Contact: Diane Zinkula
Phone: 319-395-7152
Email: dzinkula@aol.com

1967 - 40 year - July 14

Pitlik Farm
Contact: Roger Pitlik
Phone: 319-895-8934
Email: rpitlik@mountvernon.k12.ia.us
Missing Classmates: Thomas Blinks, Paulette Kautz Cummins, Candice Go-odrich Elliott, Martha Gregory, Mike Kingsbury, Cynthia Whittmore

1957 - 50 year - July 14

Sleep Inn, Mount Vernon
Contact: Myrt Clark Bowers
Phone: 319-895-8515
Email: myrtb203@aol.com
Missing Classmates: Roger Dennis, Helen Beckman Haidle

1947 - 60 year - July 14

At Alumni Breakfast, Mount Vernon High School
Contact: Sis Woods Pitlik
Phone: 319-895-6038

1942 - 65 year - July 14

Gwen's Restaurant, 1 pm
 Contact: Carolyn Neal Palmer
 Phone: 319-895-6643
 Email: cfpalmer45@aol.com

1937 - 70 year - July 14

At Alumni Breakfast, Mount Vernon High School
 Contact: Jean Stoner
 Phone: 319-895-8028

1933 - 76 year - July 14

(and Austin hopes to see many other alums from the 30s and 40s too!)
 At Alumni Breakfast, Mount Vernon High School
 Contact: Austin Armstrong
 Phone: 319-362-5159

Miss one? Call 319-895-8845

Watch for a tentative list of reunions for 2008 in the fall newsletter

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THE OCCUPATION SURVEY ENCLOSED OR RESPOND ONLINE AT

www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni

BASEBALL TEAM OF 1997

Attention 1997

State Baseball Champions:

There will be a float in the Heritage Days parade marking the 10th anniversary of your championship team, with a cookout to follow.

Please reply to Jeremy Elliott whether you'll be able to participate, phone 319.895.0440 or email mvelliott@netzero.net

CLASS OF '72 – Help Wanted

We're looking for classmates who are young at heart and still love to have fun. If you would be willing to represent our class in the Heritage Days Parade on July 14, contact Diane Zinkula at (319) 395-7152 or email dzinkula@aol.com.

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

Now, you can contribute on-line at www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni
THANK YOU!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Your board meets at least once yearly in addition to the annual meeting, or more often as needed. At their January meeting, from left to right around the table: Secretary Shauna Applebee Dye'01, Board Member Dick Moore'52, Vice President Jean Kuntz Bowman'64, Board Member Deb Winchip Douglass'86, President Lisa Squiers White'88, Board Member Nargi Rayman Steinbrech'55, Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher'65

Put it on your calendar -- July 13 & 14 this year's All-Alumni Events



Some members of the **Heritage Days Committee 2007** met at the First Street Building in February to discuss details of the upcoming alumni events. From left to right around the table, Marilyn Dean Schnittjer'58, Bunny Williams Copeland'61, Annamae Stoneking Baker'60, Susan Mounts Fisher'65, Jenny Moore Hampton'91, Kathy Akers Hartgrave'72, Diane Zinkula'72, Carol Woods Boren'75.

Stop in to visit at the **Alumni Reception and Meeting Place** open on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening, located near the bandstand in up-town Mount Vernon, in Karen Jilovec Martin'57's Farm and Home Realty office, 104 1st St West. Thank you to Karen, and building owner Suzanne Stoner'65 for this location.

Join in to visit with fellow alums and friends Saturday morning July 14 from 8:00 to 11:30 for **Breakfast** at the High School Commons (serving from 8:30 to 10:30). 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. Your chance to tour the new high school building.

THANK YOU!

to Alumni Association Board Member Deb Winchip Douglass'86 for her research and development of the new Alumni Awards, and to Jenny Moore Hampton '91 as a committee member and representative of the Association for this project.

THANK YOU!

to Susan Mounts Fisher'65, Nargi Jo Rayman Steinbrech'55, and Barb Thomsen Neal'68 for hosting the High School Honor Society reception on behalf of the Alumni Association.

Correction: our apologies Mount Vernon Bank and Trust Company as we had their company name incorrectly listed in the last issue. Justin Dix is also an assistant vice president.

Correction: our apologies to Ed Slach for misspelling his name in the last issue.

Correction: our apologies to Robin Baker'85, we had incorrectly listed her name.



MEMORIES FROM LAST YEAR -- HERITAGE DAYS '06

The 2nd Annual All-Alumni Heritage Day Breakfast and Uptown Alumni Tent held in 2006 was again well received. Despite the heat, many alums took time to stop at the **Alumni Tent** which was open on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening, located near uptown businesses in the Mount Vernon Bank and Trust parking lot. Several hundred alumni visited the tent.

Attendance at the All-Alumni **Breakfast** doubled from our first year. Fifty alums from 1937 to 2001 assisted with the breakfast and alumni tent over the weekend. The Saturday morning, July 15 breakfast, from 8:30 to 10:30 drew almost 500 people and was held in the Band Room due to remodeling activities taking place in the Commons. We served over 400 meals, and unfortunately ran out of food. Cost of the breakfast was by donation (eggs, sausage, fruit, breakfast pizza, rolls, toast, juice, coffee, etc). Tours of the new high school building nearing completion were given from 8 to 11 am.

Several alums, including Mary Mulherin'38, represented the Alumni Association by riding on an Alumni Float in the **parade** at 11 am, along with Carle Bys'53 and Allene Merritt Bys'52, and Guy Bys'74 in Carle's antique car. Thank you to Dave Fisher'67 and Susan Mounts Fisher'65 for the hayrack and tractor.

Seven reunions took place over the weekend, drawing alumni from as far away as England, Texas, New York and California.

THANK YOU Heritage Days Committee '06

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

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



2006



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 319-895-0188 [www.Bob@Pollyanns.com](mailto:Bob@Pollyanns.com)



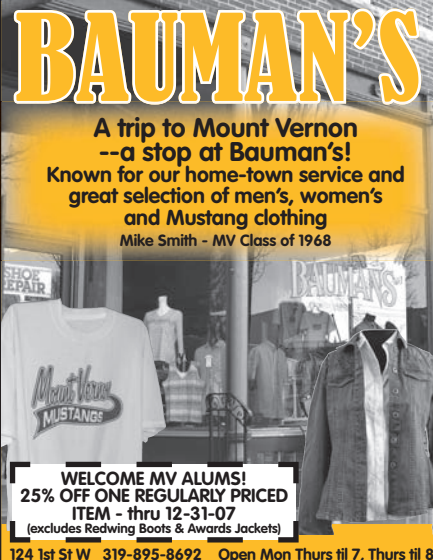
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A trip to Mount Vernon --a stop at Bauman's!
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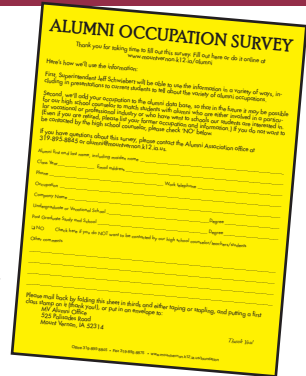


WELCOME MV ALUMS!
 25% OFF ONE REGULARLY PRICED ITEM - thru 12-31-07
 (excludes Redwing Boots & Awards Jackets)

124 1st St W 319-895-8692 Open Mon Thurs til 7, Thurs til 8

OCCUPATION SURVEY

Please take time to fill out the Occupation Survey enclosed with this newsletter, and mail it back to the Superintendent's office. We would like this information for several reasons - first, because administrators would like to get an idea of what our alums are doing (or have done, in the case if those of you retired), and secondly because our data base could possibly benefit our current students. With the data base, our high school counselor and teachers may connect students to alums in various occupations or professions and educational affiliations. If you prefer not to be contacted, please check the 'no' box on the survey.



ALUMNI OCCUPATION SURVEY

Thank you for taking time to fill out this survey. It will help us to do a better job of serving you and your children.

Please print clearly. If you have any questions, please contact the Alumni Association office at 525 Palisades Road, Mount Vernon, IA 52314.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Occupation: _____
Check box if you do NOT want to be contacted by high school counselors/teachers:

Please mail back by holding this sheet in place and either taping or stapling. Put in the envelope with the survey. Do not staple to the envelope.

Mount Vernon, IA 52314

HOMECOMING RECEPTIONS 2006 AND 2007

Watch for 'show and tell' information and pictures about the Fall 2006 Homecoming Reception in the Fall Alumni Newsletter. The 2007 reception will be held on Homecoming night along with the football game, a date yet to be determined. The Association Annual Meeting will be held the following morning for all Alumni Representatives and for any alums who would like to come and participate, for the purpose of conducting Association business.



If you would like to be part of the planning committee for the October 2007 Homecoming Reception, please contact one of our Association officers or Kathy Staskal at 319-895-8845 or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.

ALUMNI BAND INFORMATION

Thank you to so many who responded with our request to join an Alumni Band. It is still in the works, but may be a year or two before you actually get contacted about proceeding. We're very excited about the possibility of having an Alumni Band presence at Homecoming in future years. Even if you don't want to play, but would like to be a part of the evening's activities, please let us know. 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.

KEEP THE UPDATES COMING!

We love getting your current contact information - keep it coming!
 alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or 319-895-8845

ALUMNI SERVICE -- THANK YOU!

Thank you to so many alumni who have helped the students of Mount Vernon in one way or another - perhaps you read to a child, took pictures, helped with a scholarship, assisted with an athletic team, helped at a school event, donated to the Foundation, wrote a note to a former teacher, helped with an alumni event or attended a planning meeting, sent in your current contact information, or thought of the school in some other way. The Alumni Association is now sponsoring the High School Honor Society annual program. The Foundation was able to re-institute Foundation Grants for Teachers this year, giving \$4,000 for educational projects or supplies throughout our schools, much of the funds donated by alums. Your good deeds and generous donations are much appreciated by the Alumni Association, the Foundation, and the students and teachers of Mount Vernon Schools.

Thank you!

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REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTUR

▼ Class of 1961



The Class of 1961 held their 45th Reunion during Heritage Days weekend 2006. They started with a Friday evening supper at Gwen's Restaurant in Lisbon and also enjoyed other classes there. On Saturday classmates attended the All-Alumni Breakfast, had a class float in the parade, and then 37 classmates and spouses and friends attended the reunion banquet at the Lone Star in Cedar Rapids on Saturday night -- coming from as far away as Nevada, Texas and Florida. A special treat was the attendance of Mr. Leo Gerst and his wife Lois; he was their 7th grade teacher as well as high school teacher and principal. On Sunday several classmates attended the Bertram Methodist Church at which classmate Rev. Marilyn Buchanan is the minister. The class met for a tour of the new high school in the afternoon, and then finally met at Baxa's Suttiff Store and Tavern for more visiting. Thanks to Richard Blew for the pictures.

▼ Class of 1956

Photo reprinted permission of First Impressions Photography



The Class of '56 held their 50th Reunion on Heritage Days weekend 2006. They started with a Friday evening welcome at Gwen's Restaurant in Lisbon, met again at the Alumni Breakfast on Saturday morning, and then had a banquet at the Sleep Inn Motel Saturday evening. A Sunday brunch was hosted at the home of Leona Reyhons Smith in Mount Vernon. Pictured above are, front row, left to right - Albert Lnenicka, Kenny Kaliban, Doug Wolrab, Evelyn Dvorak Vogel, Frank Benesh, David Staskal and David Albright. Second row: Nancy Aderson ladehoff, Ronald Rhoads and Gretchen Beckhelm Third row: Corinne Wilcox Drognesen, Pat Conner Strickland, Jayne Tschopp Keagbein, Audrey Barret Yarbrough, Betty Coon Ammeter, Deanne Dean LeVan, Betty Moore Stoneking, Carolyn Ludly Crawford, Bonnie Clark Keith, Shirley Pospisil Heiserman and Leona Reyhons Smith Back row: Adolph Nezerka, David Ennis, Dick Kruse, Roger Schnittjer, Janet Miner Glassman, Kathleen Sikkink Helnzal, Barbara Becicka Larwsen, Robert Kalous, Bert Sippola and Mike Wolrab. Thank you to Leona Smith for the photo.

▼ MV Retiree Group



Last year a school retirees 'Get Together' was started. They meet at Gwen's in Lisbon for breakfast the first Tuesday of each month at 8 am. Spouses are invited to join them also. They meet for an hour or more and enjoy visiting. Joyce Loomis, retired Middle School secretary, organizes the get-togethers, and is also a representative to the Alumni Association. They are shown here touring the new High School during its construction. From left to right: Don Stine, Adrienne (Marlow) Coffeen, Carolyn Palmer '42, Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert (giving the tour), Sheryl Peshek, Shirley Ryan, Judy Lass, Judy Stine, Darrell Ferreter, Joyce Loomis, Sandra Ferreter, Don Happel, Donna Happel, Lyle Coder, Jan Helble, and Glenn Helble

continued on next page

REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

▼ Class of 1986



The Class of 1986 held their 20th year Reunion on Heritage Days Weekend 2006, and included such events as decorating a float and then riding in the Heritage Days Parade using the class theme 'Back in Black,' playing at the new Elementary School playground, meeting at Heritage Days, the Alumni Breakfast, a Golf Tournament at Hillcrest Country Club, and then a final Casino Night and Silent Auction at Hillcrest. Proceeds were donated to the school district through the Foundation. Thank you to Deb Winchip Douglass for the pictures.

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



▲ Class of 1946

The Mount Vernon High School class of 1946 held its 60th reunion July 14, 2006 at Gwen's Restaurant in Lisbon. Front: Helen Peterson Meeks, Helen Dvorak Stoner, Bob Thompson. Middle: Ruth Utloff Kocher, Diane Pringle Croft. Back: Jean Trego Smith, Margaret Clark Reilly, Doug Van Metre, Jim Gunn, Darrell Stoner, Dean Brawner. Thanks to Margaret Reilly for the photo.

▼ Class of 1948

The Class of 1948 held their 50th Reunion banquet at Gwen's Restaurant in 1998. Thanks to Ruth Hinz for the pictures.



Front: Robert Wolfe, Alvin Klouda, Marilyn Gray Altholf, Mary Strickland Thomsen, Francis Pitlik
Middle: Donald DeCamp, Ruth Reyhons Hinz, Joy Litts Morton, Audrey Burnett Davis, John Blinks
Back: John Kirkpatrick, Dave Dean, Kenneth Peterson, Howard Davis, Ronald Kudart

Below: Fun to see each other at the Alumni Breakfast in 2006 - Bud Davis, Audrey Davis, Jay Morton, Francis Pitlik, Ruth Hinz



◀ Class of 1937

Jean Stoner hosted a Reunion lunch at Gwen's Restaurant in July of 2007 for classmate Betty Rowley from Colorado, and daughter of classmate Jessie Hughes, Linda Hemm and husband Bob of Virginia. Kathy Staskal from the Alumni Association was also in attendance. Jean is inviting members of her class to meet for their 70th reunion at the upcoming 2007 Alumni Breakfast.



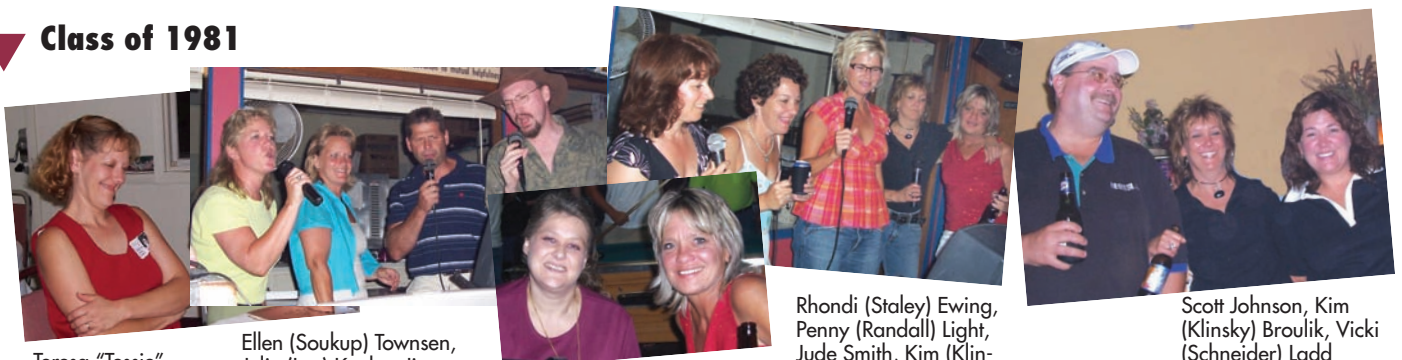
REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES



Class of 2001

The Class of 2001 held their 5 year reunion with a Barbeque held over Heritage Days weekend 2006 at classmate Tom Ash's parent's farm
 Front Row: Christy Brown-Kwaiser, Annie Pisarik Messer, Annie Daly, Diana Brace, Rachel Sauter, Tom Ash, Heather Wood, Kelly Wolfe, Shauna Applebee Dye, Ian Dye, Billy Thomsen
 Second Row: Dustin Snodgrass, Brandon Hanna, Doug Johnson
 Third Row: Tanya Locke Lee, Michelle Wiese, Carrie McMahon, Amy Pitlik, Adam Dake, Bobby Studt, Amy Friedl, Drew Rotschafer, Catherine Hileman, Megan Moon, Cassidy Sill, Jamie Wallace, Brantley Garner, Ben Brandt
 Fourth Row: Kyle Nelson, Thaddeus Ternes, Aaron Reasland, Dan Overman, Grant Rasmussen Thank you to Shauna Dye and Jamie Wallace for the photos.

Class of 1981



Teresa "Tessie" (Stolte) Conley

Ellen (Soukup) Townsen, Julie (Lee) Koehn, Jim Koehn, Devin Kelso

Cheryl (Stepanek) Al-Muhawish and Terri (Telecky) Smith

Rhondi (Staley) Ewing, Penny (Randall) Light, Jude Smith, Kim (Klinsky) Broulik, and Terry (Telecky) Smith

Scott Johnson, Kim (Klinsky) Broulik, Vicki (Schneider) Ladd

The Class of 1981 held its 25th reunion July 29th at Hillcrest Country Club with a dinner, DJ and festivities. They started the weekend with a social event...suds, songs, and stories...at the Three Fingers Saloon in Lisbon owned by fellow classmate Penny Light and her husband Rudy. The class enjoyed a family picnic on Sunday at Davis Park. Thank you to Rhondi Ewing and Tessie Stolte Conley for the pictures.

Class of 2007

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2007!

95 seniors graduated May 26th -- the first class to walk the stage in the new High School. Congratulations, and we welcome all of you to Alumni activities.



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 July 1) to help offset the costs of printing, mailings, data base update and management, services to alumni reunion organizers, etc.

2006-2007 SUPPORTERS

Arthur Hull - 1933
Fort Worth TX
Marie Zinkula Kuntz - 1935
Mount Vernon IA
Dorothy Fisher Tennant - 1936
Coupeville WA
Robert Fisher - 1937
Aiken SC
Charlotte Pavelka Meroshek - 1937
Mount Vernon IA
Jean Minish Stoner - 1937
Mount Vernon IA
Mary Mulherin - 1938
Mount Vernon IA
Donald Krumm - 1939
Marshalltown IA
Roy Martin - 1939
Mount Vernon IA
Leland Martin - 1940
Cedar Rapids IA
Merrill Pitlik - 1940
Cedar Rapids IA
Jeanne Sullivan Stopulos - 1940
Bettendorf IA
Margaret Herring Coogan - 1941
Davenport IA
Don Current - 1941
Burlington IA
Betty Stoneking Meyer - 1941
Mount Vernon IA
Marian Fisher Tillett - 1941
Laramie WY 82070
Betty Hedges Current - 1942
Burlington IA
Leora Foster Henderson - 1942
Austin TX
Mary Plattenberger Lambertson - 1942
Cedar Rapids IA
Pearl Whitlach Martin - 1942
Mount Vernon IA
Clara Meroshek Pospisil - 1942
Mount Vernon IA
Howard Fischer - 1943
Tacoma WA
Elizabeth Wolfe Kroul - 1943
Mount Vernon IA
William Litts - 1943
Louisville KY
Richard Dvorak - 1944
Cedar Rapids IA
Ward Hemenway - 1944
Monroe CT
Norma Bartosh Kubichek - 1944
Lisbon IA
Gwen Smyth Turnbull
Greenbelt, MD
Pauline Doubenmier Wagaman - 1944
Lisbon IA
Marilyn Coppock Carpenter - 1945
Urbandale IA
Marilyn Woods Overman - 1945
Mount Vernon IA
Dorothy Reyhons Poduska - 1945
Solon IA
Thomas Wolfe - 1945
Solon IA
Tom Wooff - 1945
Redwood City CA

Dorothy Noska Wooff - 1945
CA
Diana Pringle Croft - 1946
Tallahassee FL
Martha Moses Divishek - 1946
Cedar Rapids IA
James Gunn - 1946
Mount Vernon IA
Margaret Clark Reilly - 1946
Mount Vernon IA
Helen Dvorak Stoner - 1946
Gold Canyon AZ
Darrell Stoner - 1946
Gold Canyon AZ
Doug Van Metre - 1946
Marion IA
James Croft - 1947
Tallahassee FL
June Koch Culberson - 1947
Knob Noster MO
Betty Longerbeam Edwards - 1947
Fulton IL
Richard Edwards - 1947
Fulton IL
Donald Killen - 1947
Hot Springs Village AR
Martha Vislisel Kimm - 1947
Marengo IA
Harold Klinsky - 1947
Marion IA
Dorothy Winey Parsons - 1947
Bettendorf IA
Kathleen Woods Pitlik - 1947
Mount Vernon IA
Wilma Levy Whittemore - 1947
Callahan FL
Robert Zinkula - 1947
Mount Vernon IA
Audrey Burnett Davis - 1948
Bella Vista AK
Howard Davis - 1948
Bella Vista AK
David Dean - 1948
Oklahoma City OK
Joy Litts Gaarde-Morton - 1948
Paradise Valley AZ
Ruth Reyhons Hinz - 1948
Anamosa IA
Francis Pitlik - 1948
Cedar Rapids IA
Mary Baldwin Brannaman - 1949
Lisbon IA
Dr. Stanley Grant - 1949
Deer Park WA
George Hill, M.D., D.Litt. - 1949
West Orange NJ
Florence Klinsky Kadlec - 1949
Hiawatha IA
Larry Nutt - 1949
Lincoln NE
Dolores Staskal Hicks - 1950
Rancho Palos Verdes CA
James Kent - 1950
Winchester MA
Charles Litts - 1950
Mount Vernon IA
Richard Netolicky - 1950
Ely IA
Wiladene Hoggard Willming - 1950
San Antonio TX
David Wolfe - 1950
Los Angeles CA
Carol Croft Kent - 1951
Winchester MA
Patricia Young Schloss - 1951
Cedar Rapids IA
Margaret Merriitt Bys - 1952
Cedar Rapids IA
Jeanette Sproston Coder - 1952
Anamosa IA
Adeline Biderman Gaimari - 1952
Cedar Rapids IA
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St. Mary's GA
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Mount Vernon IA
Ann Vislisel Pavik - 1952
Granite Bay CA
Bill Yeisley - 1952
Cedar Rapids IA

George Brown - 1953
Kearney NE
Carlyle Bys - 1953
Cedar Rapids IA
Betty Dostal Carney - 1953
Cedar Rapids IA
Rosemary Brecht Erenberger - 1953
Solon IA
Jean Pavelka Litts - 1953
Mount Vernon IA
Barbara Beckhelm Moore - 1953
Mount Vernon IA
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Cedar Rapids IA
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Decatur GA
Larry Edwards - 1954
Cedar Rapids IA
Fae Sparks Edwards - 1954
Cedar Rapids IA
Marlene Mallie Ford - 1954
Fairfax IA
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Lisbon IA
William MacCaulay - 1954
Roseville CA
John Studt - 1954
Bentonville AR
James Washburn - 1954
Solon IA
Leroy Berry - 1955
Cedar Rapids IA
Kay Jilovec Lind - 1955
Lisbon IA
Janet Johnston McCannon - 1955
Burlington IA
Kay Mullen Morrissey - 1955
Palmer MA
Jane Johnston Perry - 1955
Mattoon IL
Jerry Ringer - 1955
Bloomington IL
Donna Staskal Soukup - 1955
Mayhill NM
Nargi Jo Rayman Steinbrech - 1955
Solon IA
David Van Metre - 1955
Omaha NE
Phyllis Brecht White - 1955
Solon IA
Betty Coon Ammeter - 1956
Cedar Rapids IA
Frank Benesh - 1956
Mount Vernon IA
J Ennis, USN Ret - 1956
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Kenneth Kaliban - 1956
Cedar Rapids IA
Roger Schnittjer - 1956
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Janet Miner Sessions - 1956
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Barbara Clements Stolpmann - 1956
Bakersville NC
Douglas Wolrab - 1956
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Dr. Sandi Cunningham, PhD - 1957
Burns KS
Barb Neal Hutchins - 1957
Marion IA
Rita Becicka Krall - 1957
West Branch IA
Joyce Olmstead Lucas - 1957
Central City IA
Karen Jilovec Martin - 1957
Mount Vernon IA
Elaine Mulherin - 1957
San Antonio Hts CA
Mary Bowman Seidler - 1957
Des Moines IA
Janet Hess Smith - 1957
Des Moines IA
Richard Washburn - 1957
Sturbridge MA
Vince Wolrab - 1957
Cedar Rapids IA

Robert Bowman - 1958
Glenview IL
Myra Croft Greve - 1958
Northwood IA
Janis Glatly Hoover - 1958
Poughkeepsie NY
David Kroeger - 1958
Marion IA
Robert Lenz - 1958
Strawberry Point IA
Ronald Nezerka - 1958
Cedar Rapids IA
Gail Yeisley Rhodes - 1958
Clive IA
Marilyn Dean Schnittjer - 1958
Delhi IA
Mavis Edwards Spangler - 1958
Clarence IA
David Sparks - 1958
Ankeny IA
Jeanette Hammond Blessing - 1959
Mountain Home AR
Jane Costello Fink - 1959
Anamosa IA
Edward Fordyce - 1959
Mount Vernon IA
Ronald Hess - 1959
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Bill Jilovec - 1959
Mechanicsville IA
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Martelle IA
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Shirley Andrews Sparks - 1959
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Cedar Rapids IA
Frances Bensmiller Lanning - 1960
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David Neal - 1960
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Lisbon IA
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Dennis Wolrab - 1964
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David Brown - 1965
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Irene Kuntz Cherveny - 1965
Northfield IL
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Mount Vernon IA
John Woods - 1965
Lisbon IA
Susan Glatly Clark - 1966
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Bella Vista AR
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Mount Vernon IA
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Laura Werkman - 1968
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Darlene Hartl Allard - 1969
Mount Vernon IA
Mary Peterson Berry - 1969
Pinehurst NC
Mary Peterson Berry - 1969
Pinehurst NC
Diane Kirkpatrick Jones - 1969
Anaheim Hills CA
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Ely IA
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Ankeny IA
Jean Pospisil Larsen - 1971
Ankeny IA
Dennis Pitlik - 1971
Mount Vernon IA
Julie Loomis Stephenson - 1971
Cedar Rapids IA
Jean Lehman - 1972
Santa Fe NM
Diane Zinkula - 1972
Cedar Rapids IA
Mark Hylbak - 1973
Marietta GA
Sheila Billings Moffett - 1973
Lisbon IA
Christine Hanson Starkweather - 1973
Mount Vernon IA
Douglas Thumm - 1973
Darlen IL
Donna Zinkula McKay - 1974
Mason City IA
Sandy Rice Schloss - 1974
Tabor SD

Patricia Cribbs Sindt - 1974
Story City IA
Ed Slach - 1974
Iowa City IA
Joni Loomis Tackenberg - 1974
Tampa FL
Andrea Jilovec - 1975
Mount Vernon IA
Anne Shutt Reynolds - 1975
Lancaster PA
Carol Woods Boren - 1975
Mount Vernon IA
Theresa Mortensen Krause - 1976
Glendale AZ
Terry Pisarik - 1976
Lisbon IA
Kevin Whitman - 1976
Mount Vernon IA
Terry Boren - 1977
Mount Vernon IA
Mary Rice Emge - 1977
Omaha NE
Denise Jilovec McAfee - 1977
Des Moines IA
Becky Thumm Whitman - 1977
Mount Vernon IA
Michael Woods - 1977
Mount Vernon IA
Steve Cody - 1978
Mount Vernon IA
Sara Kendall - 1978
Cedar Rapids IA
Michael Hufford - 1979
Solon IA
Joseph Hagedorn (Reynold) - 1980
Minneapolis MN
Kevin Rogers - 1981
West Branch IA
Barbara Durfey Rogers - 1981
Linn Creek MO
Leanne Zinkula - 1981
Tampa FL
Sharon Zinkula - 1981
Oak Park IL
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Joy Jordan - 1987
Appleton WI
Magille Kurtz Gevock - 1988
Iowa City IA
Jennifer Clark Gonzalez - 1988
North Liberty IA
Dave Lynott - 1988
Mount Vernon IA
Lisa Squiers White - 1988
Mount Vernon IA
Mark Wilkey - 1988
Bristol VA
Jeremy Elliott - 1989
Mount Vernon IA
Brittany Kaalberg Booth - 1990
Mount Vernon IA
Jason Booth - 1990
Mount Vernon IA
Angela Vittetoe Reed - 1990
Iowa City IA
Beth Carlson Wasserstrom - 1990
St. Louis MO
Andrea Mott Zastrow - 1990
DeWitt IA
Jamie Hampton - 1991
Mount Vernon IA
Jennykaye Moore Hampton - 1991
Mount Vernon IA
Sarah Franks Kline - 1991
Des Moines IA
Michele Meyer Grudzinski - 1992
Anamosa IA
Catherine Dendurent Nelson - 1992
Brooklyn NY
Dana Vig - 1992
St. Louis MO
Emily Adams Vig - 1992
St. Louis MO
Sarah Rife Patten - 1993
Mount Vernon IA
Crystal Kauder - 1994
Minneapolis MN
Andrew Morf - 1994
Cedar Rapids IA
Kim Zangger Tucker - 1994
Cedar Rapids IA
Carmen Stoner Sealock - 1996
Exeter NE
Teresa Duppong Stewart - 1996
Middletown CT
Matthew Stewart - 1996
Middletown CT
Stacey Burkholder Stowers - 1996
Cedar Rapids IA
Maggie Lessmeier Willems - 1996
Mount Vernon IA
Dan Zangger - 1999
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Brock Grenis - 2002
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Ryan Whitman - 2003
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Thank you to the following
classes and individuals that
have made a donation to the
Association during the past year.

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Class of 1956

Leora Foster Henderson - 1942
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Keith Jilovec - 1954
Leroy Berry - 1955
Phyllis Brecht White - 1955
Mary Bowman Seidler - 1957
Robert Bowman - 1958
Annamae Stoneking Baker - 1960
David Neal - 1960
John Rife - 1960
Dorothy Wolfe Welsh - 1960
Steven Becicka - 1961
Renee Sterenberg Branson - 1963
Harry Edelman - 1963
Rosalie Bowman Gallagher - 1963
Gloria Herboldsheimer Krob - 1963
Stephen Howard - 1964
Pauline Meroshek Erickson - 1965
Jane Baker Hardin - 1967
Diane Kirkpatrick Jones - 1969
Dennis Pitlik - 1971
Julie Loomis Stephenson - 1971
Jean Lehman - 1972
Diane Zinkula - 1972
Denise Jilovec McAfee - 1977
Joseph Hagedorn (Reynold) - 1980
David Koffron - 1981
Daniel Dumbaugh - 1982
Lindsey Borg - 1983
Dan Drahos - 1984
Lynnette Rodman Koffron - 1985
Jane Hill - 1986
Crystal Kauder - 1994
Brock Grenis - 2002

Watch for a list of
Foundation, scholarship,
and grant donors
in the fall news



GRUDGE MATCH, ROUND TWO

by Jake Krob, publisher of the *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun* · April 12, 2007

In under 35 seconds, Todd Lehr avenged a loss that's stuck with him for more than 25 years. Lehr topped Tina Palmer 2-0 in a best-of-three arm wrestling grudge match at Mount Vernon Middle School on Saturday afternoon, April 12. Over 200 people filled the stands to watch the big event Lehr set up as a chance to redeem himself after a loss he suffered to Palmer when the two were Mount Vernon fourth graders in 1979-80. They are members of the class of 1988.

"My manhood is fully intact; halleluia, halleluia," Lehr said after the win. Mount Vernon-Lisbon area residents, natives and guests in town for the Easter weekend paid three bucks apiece to see the match, raising \$573 for the American Cancer Society. Lehr set up the face-off after what he says have been years of thinking about it since the loss in John Thatcher's gym class. In fourth grade, Thatcher had boys go against boys and girls against girls. Lehr won the boys' competition; Palmer the girls'. "When you won the boys, you had to be taken down a notch," Thatcher said Saturday. "Tina did the job."

As they did in fourth grade, the two faced off with left hands. Instead of lying on a gym mat, this time they used a professional table with two pro referees. With the crowd stomping their feet and clapping their hands, fifth grade teacher Bill Thomsen '72 brought out the contenders. Lehr came out with arms in the air, and wore a Brian Bosworth haircut as he did in high school. Palmer came out fired up, too; Lehr greeted her with a big kids' grin.

Lehr topped Palmer in about five seconds. After a five minute break with contenders in their respective locker rooms, they battled again. This time, Palmer pushed Lehr's arm to about a 45-degree angle. Slowly, Lehr battled back, topping Palmer in 28 seconds. "Apparently Todd has been working on this more than I anticipated," Palmer said, referring to Lehr's use of a professional to prepare for the big battle.

Lehr, a filmmaker with his wife in San Jose, Calif., is making a documentary about hunting down Palmer in Cedar Rapids and asking for a rematch. He even used some of Thomsen's fifth-graders for a re-enactment of Lehr's loss to Palmer in fourth grade.

Although Lehr won, the saga might not be over. After most of the crowd left, Lehr and Palmer went at it with right arms. Lehr lost. And before the big match, a kids' tournament was held. A boy and girl faced off on a gym mat. Like Palmer, the girl won. Thomsen said Lehr will return in 25 years to film their rematch.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Check out more information about the rematch and also the documentary Todd is making on www.findingtinaalmer.com Todd said after the match, "I had an incredible week in Iowa. It reminded me how much I love the people in my hometown and why I am extremely proud to say I am from Mount Vernon."



TIMELINE FROM
www.findingtinaalmer.com

04/07: TODAY IS THE DAY OF THE REMATCH!!
Todd and Tina make front page news on the 'Gazette,' eastern Iowa's major newspaper.

04/06: Hear Todd on the nationally syndicated 'Bob & Tom Radio Show' at 7:25AM CST. Check website for local listings.
Todd & Tina's story appears on the 'Good Day Iowa' morning show airing on the local FOX affiliate.
Todd is interviewed on 100.7 The Fox, a local radio station.

04/05: Photos of the documentary in the making!
Todd and Tina appear on the local CBS News.

04/04: Todd and Tina, picked up by the local ABC news. Be sure to check out the video!
Todd and Tina, on the front page of the 'Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun' - read full article.
'Des Moines Register,' Iowa state newspaper, publishes article.

04/03: If you missed Todd's interview on 'Black Light Radio,' we've got it recorded! Click to listen.

04/02: Media Day! Interviews by 'Des Moines Register,' 'Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun,' and local ABC news station.

03/31: Hear Todd being interviewed LIVE. 8PM Pacific (10PM Central), on www.blacklightradio.com!

Online voting before the match showed that Tina was favored...

Todd Lehr	27.37%
Tina Palmer	72.63%
Total votes: 1286	



ALUMNI COMMENTS

Following are some of the 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.

'After living in Minneapolis for the past six years, my husband and I moved back home to raise our new 6 month old daughter. I'm excited that our little girl will someday go to Mount Vernon just like I did!'

Kim Zanger Tucker '94
Mount Vernon, IA

'I was very impressed with the look of the newsletter. I am so happy that Mount Vernon now has this alumni site! Also, I had no idea about the new school being built. That is so exciting! Thanks for all you do!'

Donna Becicka Nichols '81
Columbia, MO

'Thanks for a beautiful and well thought newsletter. Of course, I know my step-mother, Annamae Baker, has got to be your best helper! I just wanted to let you know I really appreciate the hard work of all the committee.'

Jane Baker Hardin '67
Horn Lake, MS

'I just got my Alumni newsletter and it made me homesick.... Sounds like all of us share the same feelings about our hometown and what it means to us. Our parents must have done a good job raising us..... Thanks ...for the newsletter.'

Jude Smith '81
Scottsdale, AZ

'Enjoyed the newsletter - good to hear about old friends. Saw the town website - never thought about Mount Vernon as being 'quaint'. Hope to get one last look at Mount Vernon and see some pals. Good job.'

Ward Hemenway '44
Monroe, CT

'Just wanted to say thanks for the hard work and dedication to the Mount Vernon Alumni newsletter. I enjoy the trip down memory lane as I dissect every picture and read every last word.'

Phil Akers '75
Holt, MO

'My father, Joe Fisher, moved his family to Mount Vernon in the summer of 1930 because he wanted us to have

the chance of a good education. We were a family of six children...we started school that fall, and all of us graduated from Mount Vernon High School - Albert '34, Dorothy '36, Robert '37, Howard '39, Marion '40 and Mildred '42. Four of us went on to college. Howard graduated and went on to get many degrees. Albert and Howard died - Albert in a plane crash in 1946 and Howard in 1996 of Leukemia. The four of us remaining are all in our 80s. I live on Whidbey Island in Washington...We all have had well-educated and successful lives, scattered across the country as we have been. We are pleased to have Mount Vernon be our home town.'

Dorothy Fisher Tennant '36
Whidbey Island, WA

'Wow! Great job on alumni news. We retired to Missouri in '94, moved back to Nebraska in 2005. Don't read or hear much about the class of '48? Thanks for the hard work.'

Larry Nutt '48
Lincoln, NE

'Where did the class of 1971 go? So, just as I thought. Our class has vanished off the face of our planet.

I guess it was to be, We're the class that "No One" wants to remember.

Not that we were bad as such, but just a lot of ingrates that didn't give a darn. But today I look back and see a lot of prosperous individuals, all going on journeys to locations on this planet of ours, Which formed a lot of individual paths to which no one else can or will follow. Their destiny is for them alone. Secretive individuals aren't they.

Lots of empty trails that will never pass again.

I'm sorry to see that, for a lot of us were good friends, shared some splendid times together, growing up in some formidable years. So here's to the class of 1971, I toast you, your families, your future. Some day our paths will cross. I'm a resident of Ames Iowa. Two girls, And a lovely bride, of 29 years Ya I'm proud to be a member of your class.'

Jim Marshek, '71
Ames, IA

'I love the newsletter! What a neat way to stay connected, especially when you can't be there in person.'

Lisa Addis Proehl '82
Bellevue, WA



Mount Vernon MOTEL

"We've always wanted to own our own business, and now we have the motel in our home town. We especially love to have MV alums as guests -- we hope we can make their visit extra special."
Beth Drongesen Mhire '86 and husband Dave
Corinne Wilcox Drongesen '56



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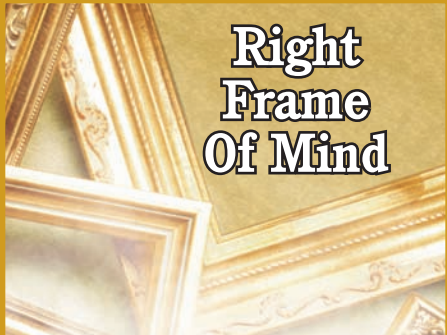


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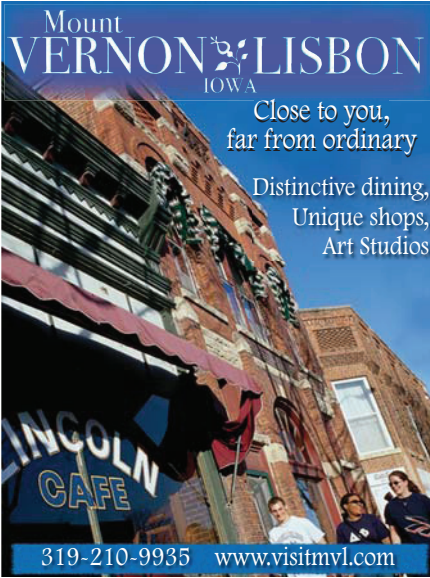
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Mustangs...what are they doing now?



■ **JOY
JORDAN**
'87

by Crystal Eskelsen, *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun*
Joy Jordan was inducted into the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union's Hall of Fame in November of '06 as part of the state volleyball tournament in Cedar Rapids. She was a member of the Mount Vernon volleyball team from 1984-1987, while the Mustangs won the state title once, finished second the following year and were knocked out in the regional finals the following year.

During those three seasons, the Mustangs put together an overall record of 116-8-8, which is the best three-year record that Mount Vernon has ever had. As a sophomore, Jordan was selected to the all-tournament team, and was on the seventh team all-state.

"My fondest memory is winning the state championship my sophomore year," Jordan said. "After the match, I had such a natural high and it was wonderful to celebrate with my teammates, family and all the Mount Vernon supporters. That's the greatest feeling I've ever had in any of my athletic experiences."

As a junior, Jordan was once again selected to the all-tournament team and was named first team all-state (the Elite team). As a senior, Jordan was the Class 1A player of the year and again she was on the Elite team. Jordan played for longtime Mount Vernon coach Shirley Ryan and says she could not have done it without Ryan.

"I remember Shirley's great knowledge of the game and her hard work," Jordan said. "She attended coaching workshops and stayed up late creating practice and game plans. She always worked just as hard as we did, so it was easy to be motivated. She cared deeply about all of us as people, not just players."

Jordan's volleyball career didn't end at Mount Vernon. She went on to play NCAA Div. 1 volleyball at the University of Indiana where she earned several honors including the Big Ten Medal



Joy, the state's leading ace setter, shown in action, 1986

of Honor, which annually goes to the outstanding female scholar athlete at Indiana.

She continues to be involved with volleyball as much as time will allow. She is a volunteer assistant at Lawrence University and spends one or two nights a week working with the volleyball team there.

This Hall of Fame award was not only for Jordan, but for her family, the coaches, the fans, the entire Mount Vernon community. "I really don't see this as an individual award," Jordan said. "I share it with Shirley Ryan and my parents. I absolutely would not be in the Hall without their support. Furthermore, I share it with all my teammates, coaches, family and the whole Mount Vernon community. I was blessed to grow up in such a supportive community."

Editor's Note: Joy is currently Assistant Professor of Statistics at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and was the winner of the University's 2001-02 Young Teacher Award. Richard Warch, President of Lawrence University, said when presenting the award to Joy, "...in your hands statistics become not a dreary diet of dry formulas, but a vital and exciting mathematical study of uncertainty, probability, and prediction, a study not merely useful, but absolutely crucial today as journals, newspapers, magazines, and television flood us with statistical claims of all sorts. Students may not come to the study of statistics with wild enthusiasm, yet they leave your classes not only uniformly enthusiastic about your talents as a teacher, but with an appreciation for and an interest in statistics they never imagined having." Congratulations on your achievements, Joy!

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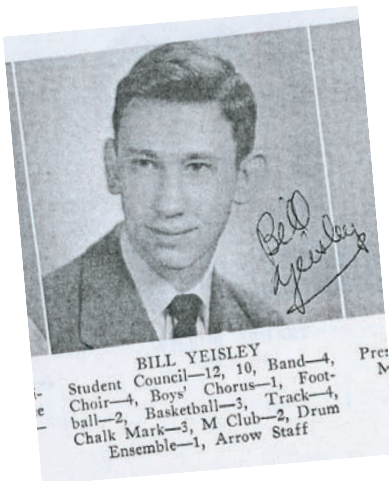
■ **BILL YEISLEY '52**



Congratulations to Bill Yeisley '52 who was honored by the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the National Federation of High School Sports and Iowa High School Football Official for the year 2005. The award was presented to Bill at the IHSAA Awards Ceremony in May 2006.

After graduating from high school, Bill earned degrees from Cornell College and the University of Iowa. He was a classroom teacher for 11 years and an elementary school principal for 27 years at Marion. He retired in 1995. He has been an IHSAA registered official for 34 years with work in football, basketball and baseball. He has also been a longtime member of the Cedar Rapids Area Officials Association. He's been a training coordinator for new football official members for 23 years and is currently the coordinator for football rules study presentation. Bill has worked the Iowa high school football playoffs for 23 years and has officiated five state championship games.

Bill and his wife Harriet live in Cedar Rapids. Bill is also an Alumni Representative and served on the original Alumni Bylaws committee.



■ **JON SWANBERG '59**



Jon and his wife Georgia took a 4-week journey to Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, and Germany 2006

"Graduated from MVHS, June 1959. Go mighty mighty Mustangs !!" Jon

Jon left Mount Vernon after graduating and headed to Boulder Colorado where he earned a BSc Electrical Engineering at the University of Colorado in 1963. Jon says he "loved electronic transmitters and complex power generators." Following is Jon's account of what happened next:

"Hughes Aircraft, Fullerton, California, hired me for an overseas position in high-powered radars. I trained as a Hughes technical representative on-board several US Navy cruisers at the Long Beach Naval shipyard and then was sent to South Korea for 2 years, 1964-1966. Worked 3 days on, 3 days off, at Pyongtek, on a 5000 foot mountain overlooking the Yellow Sea toward China. Obtained a GS-13 (equivalent to a Major) and traveled to Japan on short trips from Osan US Air Force base. Learned to ski in Nagano, Japan, long before the Olympics occurred. Filmed many Japanese temples and sites with an 8mm, color movie camera (very new then). Shipped a Honda motorcycle to Korea from Japan to facilitate travel within Korea. Learned some Korean, my age was 'sumul twulo', 22 years (were we that young once !!).

Returned to USA, trained on very early versions of 16 bit computers (operating at 1 MHZ clock speed), became a system engineer on large Air Defense systems used to track enemy aircraft for NATO missile defense of Europe. Got married in 1966, honeymooned in Zermatt on my way to Copenhagen, Denmark, 1966. Installed Air Defense

systems in Denmark, Greece, Spain, Belgium, Turkey and Holland from 1966 to 1969.

Took a leave-of-absence from Hughes from 1969 to 1970 to attend University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand where I obtained Msc Physics equivalent. On the way, traveled to East Africa, Kenya and Tanzania, took the old steam train from Nairobi to Mombassa, rented an old VW bus from Mombassa to Arusha, Nongorogoro Crater (this is 1969, very few tourists), gave a ride to several Masi warriors on the Serigetti plain, 6 foot 8 inch, with spears and several wives. Stayed in tents, no "luxury accommodations" then !! Traveled through Nepal, India, Bangladesh, viewed Mt. Everest at dawn and the Taj Mahal at dusk. Saw the islands of Pago Pago and Rarotonga, took old American PT boat (remember Kennedy) on Blue Lagoon cruise. Returned to USA, via Tahiti (remember, this was 1970), very few tourists, very French, beautiful females.

Returned to Hughes Aircraft in 1970, trained on new Air Defense computers with dual processors (1970!), helped develop frequency scan, flat plane, side looking radars (1970!). Went on installation team to Europe for new NATO intercept systems, including Milano, Anzio (Rome), and Otranto (Brindizi), Italy. Then to Finnsness (Northern Norway, above Pt Barrow, Alaska, in latitude) and Tonsberg, Norway. Just about got kidnapped and shot in Turkey in 1972, the terrorists got the Englishman instead, held him for ransom and shot him. I was very lucky, very scared.

Decided to become a Biomedical Engineer in late 1972. Hired into the Children's Asthma Institute and Hospital (now National Jewish Hospital) in Denver, Colorado. Created a Department of Biomedical Engineering, hired 4 engineers, build whole body plethysmographs and computerized several laboratories (1974 !!!) using Data General 1200 minicomputers and 8085 based microprocessors. Developed pulmonary function software for children with Dr Gerry Cropp.

Did environmental contract work for EPA on performance monitoring involving breathing small PPM amounts of carbon monoxide during exercise, bad stuff, that CO.

continued on next page

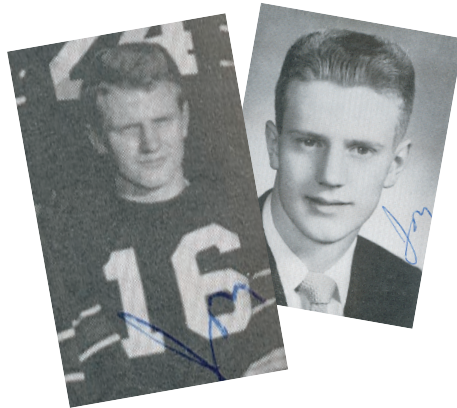
Mustangs...what are they doing now?

Jon Swanberg, continued

Went to University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1980, as a manager of 14 Biomedical Techs for the new 1200 bed Alberta teaching hospital, including bedside computerization. Developed a handheld airways resistance measuring device, got a US Patent.

Canada was just too cold, so I went back to Hughes Aircraft, Fullerton, in 1984, got to perform in a site survey in Egypt from 1985 through 1987. Traveled down the Nile to Dendura, Eurdo, Aswan, Abu Simbu. I became very interested in old Egyptian culture and visited the valley of Kings at Luxor multiple times. Took a week to see the Sinai Desert and snorkeled in the Red Sea.

Returned to California in 1988, worked at MCTSSA, Camp Pendleton, for the Marines on a new SCUD missile radar (remember Iraq had SCUDs). Became expert in data acquisition for new radars, and applied to Hughes (again !!) to go to Saudi Arabia from 1994 through 1997 on the Peace Shield program. Very difficult to work in Saudi due to perception as my (and all westerners) being infidel. Traveled all over Saudi Arabia (imagine, they have 11,000 foot mountains in Saudi !!!) Every 4 months, my new wife, Georgia and I were given a ticket anywhere in the world, plus two weeks vacation, while I was stationed in Taif, Saudi Arabia which is very near



Jon participated in football, wrestling, track, Science Club, M-Club, and chorus in high school

Mecca. Traveled to Australia and New Zealand, then a romantic Italian lakes district trip, and finally, to Singapore and the jungles of Taman Negara in Malaysia. Returned to USA, via Thailand and Laos, traveled on the Mekong River.

My final employment was with Honeywell International in Phoenix, working on the cockpit flat panel displays of Boeing 777, 737, Embraer 170/190, Cessna Sovereign aircraft, and Italian Agusta helicopters. I worked closely with 40 India engineers as a team lead and went to Bangalore, India for a month to facilitate the testing of fail safe software for the engines and synoptic instrumentation on board commercial aircraft. Visited Mysore, Madras, and hill country religious retreats throughout India. Made many Indian friends and visited Indian homes and attended an Indian wedding.

Throughout my life, I have always loved to fly light aircraft and have owned a Navion, a Cessna 180 bush plane, and have rebuilt a WW II glider used as a trainer for the Normandy invasion. This glider now hangs in the Duxford Spitfire Museum south of London.

I believe in courage and perseverance; indeed, the diversity of people of this earth are amongst the most interesting part of life on this planet."

Editor's Note: Thank you to Jon for writing in to tell us what you have been up to. We find that many MV alums are world travelers like you. No matter where you go, know that you and other alums are always welcome back home in Mount Vernon.

■ PAULA HOLCOMB '72



Dr. Paula Holcomb became Director of Bands at the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1999 after being Director of Bands for 20 years at Central College

in Pella, Iowa. Under her direction at Central College, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the Symphonic Band toured internationally to Canada, Europe, and Mexico and performed at Alice Tully Hall of New York City's Lincoln Center. At SUNY Fredonia, Dr. Holcomb oversees an extensive band program consisting of four concert bands while she conducts the Wind Ensemble and musicals. In addition, she initiated the Master of Music in Conducting degree program and teaches graduate and undergraduate conducting.

Highly sought after as an adjudicator and guest conductor, Dr. Holcomb has conducted bands and orchestras in 39 states, South America, Australia, Mexico, Europe, and Canada. She has presented Conducting Symposiums in Canada, South America, Australia and the United States. Dr. Holcomb is former assistant horn of the Des Moines Symphony and past president of the Iowa Music Educators Association. Recently, she was presented with the A. Frank Miller award from Kappa Kappa Psi, served on the Council and Artistic Planning Conference Committee for the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, serving on the board of the Conductors Guild and is currently Northeastern Division President-elect of the College Band Directors National Association.

Editor's Note: See Paula's interview on page 21



As a senior, Paula, along with fellow classmate Matt Wilch, were escorts for Mrs. Robert Ray, the governor's wife, when she visited the High School. They ate lunch and visited, and Mrs. Ray was given a fresh loaf of bread made by the men's cooking class.

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT TRISH BOTHEL ALMOND '88

excerpted from a article by Jake Krob, publisher of the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun

In a "spur of the moment" decision, Trisha Bothel Almond '88 joined the Air Force. Nearly 20 years later, she's earned a rank shared by only one percent of Air Force personnel.

Trish took her oath in late February as Chief Master Sergeant in the Air Force. She is operations superintendent of the Western Air Defense Sector at McChord Air Base in Washington. The Western Sector is a Washington Air National Guard organization responsible for constant air defense coverage of 72 percent of the continental U.S.

"Being chief means you are taking care of the enlisted force – no matter the personal cost," Almond said, noting that cost means everything from time to take phone calls in the middle of the night.

The daughter of Jeanie Bothel and the late Curt Bothel of Mount Vernon, Trish entered the Air Force in October 1988, after graduating from MVHS that same year. During high school, she said she enjoyed playing on the basketball team and working at Gary's Foods.

Service to her country came quickly. "I was getting ready to graduate and was supposed to go to college – I was feeling unsure of my decision and decided one day out of the blue to go and talk to an Air Force recruiter," she recalled. "That night I announced to my parents at the dinner table that I had enlisted."

Her service began with basic training at Lackland Air Base in Texas, then more work at the Keesler Air Force Base



Thank you to Jeanie Bothel for these pictures. She was able to go to Washington State and see daughter Trish receive her promotion.

in Mississippi. A few months in, she decided it was the career for her.

"The military offers people so many opportunities...it also offers you a sense of family and pride," she said. "Every time I hear the national anthem it sends chills down my spine...there isn't a better job in the world to have than defending our democracy and our country."

Trish's career has included a number of honors and promotions. "The military is more than a job – it is a way of life," she said. "You have to be committed, disciplined and willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice of your life."

Trish has been stationed at the McChord Air Force Base since March 1995. She and her husband, Master Sgt. Kent Almond, have three daughters, Allegra, Marissa and Meghan.

TIM JOHNSON, former coach



Tim Johnson, local wrestling legend and former Mount Vernon Coach was inducted into the Glen Brand Wrestling Hall of Fame of Iowa, Class of 2007. The induction took place at the Dan Gable International Wrestling Institute & Museum in Waterloo. Johnson is entering his 21st year as the voice of Iowa Public Television's long-running sports series, *College Wrestling*. During this time, Johnson has broadcast over 150 college wrestling meets for IPTV, the Fighting Illini Wrestling Network, ESPN and Real Pro Wrestling. In 1984, he was director of wrestling for the Los Angeles Olympic Games.



Trish in her senior year

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Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ GWEN SMYTH TURNBULL '44

Gwen Smyth Turnbull '44 and her husband Alan drove round trip from Maryland to Montana last summer. They went via Canada and a number of national parks and included a brief stop in Mount Vernon where they enjoyed seeing several MVHS alums.

In Montana, they spent two 40-hour weeks at the beautiful Great Divide Ranch doing volunteer computer and mailing work for Project Vote Smart, a non-partisan, non-profit electronic library of free, factual information for voters. (www.vote-smart.org)

Gwen reports that for the 7300 mile trip, their Prius actually averaged over 51 miles per gallon, and she hopes they'll be able to make a similar trip again. Their longest road trips ever were two trips to Alaska in the 1980's, one totaling over 17,000 miles when they came home "the long way."

Editor's Note: Thank you to Gwen for writing in to let us know about her adventures!



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, 1962, 1950, 1941, 1938 and years before. Is this you?

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?
Send it our way to
alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us
or call 319-895-8845.

■ JOHN RIFE '60

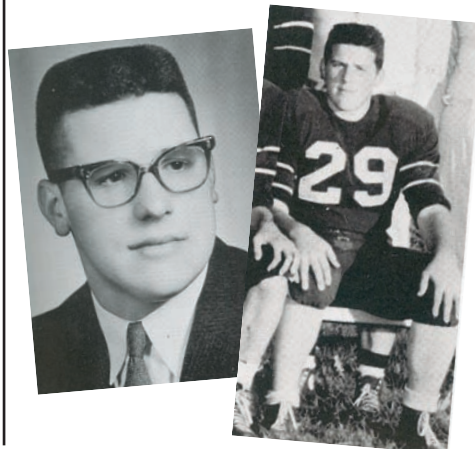


Congratulations to John Rife '60, who just retired as President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Fire & Casualty Company on May 16. He will however continue to serve on the Board of Directors of United Fire & Casualty Company and its subsidiary companies and will retain the position of President of the Company's subsidiary, United Life Insurance Company, a post he has held since 1984.

Shown in front of NASDAQ building above, in July of 2006 he was selected to preside over the opening bell at NASDAQ Stock Market in New York to celebrate his company's 20 year listing anniversary on the NASDAQ.

John lives in Mount Vernon, but worked at the corporate office in Cedar Rapids. United Fire & Casualty Company is a regional insurer that, along with its insurance subsidiaries, offers personal and commercial property and casualty insurance and life insurance.

John is a faithful participant at the summer and Homecoming Alumni events - see you at the Breakfast, John!



■ LARRY PISARIK '67



At the end of May, Larry Pisarik '67 retired from teaching science for Cascade High School. During the past thirty-five years he taught one year in Clarence, IA, two years in New South Wales, Australia, earned his M.A. in Science Education (during the two six month periods before and after teaching in Australia) and has spent the last 31 years teaching at Cascade Jr-Sr High School in Cascade, IA.

During his years of teaching he organized many activities, field trips, and taught all areas of science as well as a few other subjects. He coached 7th grade football for the past 13 years.

Larry currently offers a private guide service for groups or families wanting to take a guided trip canoeing or hiking, and is working part-time at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque.

Editor's Note: Thank you to Larry for writing in to let us know about his life after retirement - or maybe he is working on his second retirement?



DID YOU HAVE A FAVORITE TEACHER?

Kelli Curtis Chapman '89 writes here about a teacher that made an impact on her life...



A teacher that left a impression on me? Only one name comes to mind—Donna Jacob. She was my expressive writing teacher – an elective class I took in my high school junior year.

Originally I took the class just because I thought it would be easy. Quickly I learned endless writing tools that let my imagination run wild. She taught me the gift of putting thoughts to paper. I remember we kept daily journals and at first I put your basic everyday stuff in them... you know, "Today me and Becky had a fight" kind of stuff. Then I started writing little short stories. Then I challenged myself to see the things I could come up with. So every day before I went into the classroom I would pick one word, any word, and write an entire story starting with that one word.

I remember Mrs. Jacob telling me time and time again what a very creative imagination I had. Today I still keep daily journals and they are filled with short stories, long detailed stories, children's books, and poems. Anything I can think of, I usually write it down. I've even passed the "one word" story starters on to my daughter who is now in 6th grade. She loves writing just as much as I enjoy writing. Thank you, Mrs. Jacob, for your wonderful encouragement. It truly left a lasting impression on me, and now my children.

Editor's Note: Today Mrs. Jacob lives in Mount Vernon and among her many community volunteer activities, she continues to help the School District as a volunteer sponsor of the High School Thespian Troupe. Kelli lives in Mount Vernon, is married to alum Bryce Chapman '97, and is the mother of three future alums. Kelli is also an Alumni Representative for the class of 1989. Thank you for sharing your favorite teacher story with us, Kelli.



Three Friends Meet Every Year

If it is early August, three friends from the Mount Vernon class of 1958, along with their spouses, are probably together at Lake Okoboji catching up on another year. They are Linda Trpkosh Thomas (Phil), Gail Yeisley Rhodes (Gary), and Marilyn Dean Schnittjer (Roger—MV class of 1956).

The friends were not in contact very much over a period of thirty years, but Gail decided to get them together at her home in Mason City in 1992. After that, subsequent years saw visits to the Thomas home in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, and then the Schnittjer home in Delhi. Meanwhile the Rhodes moved to Arizona and then back to Clive in 2006.

After all the various homes were visited, it seemed easier and more fun to go where there was ample recreation, no cooking, and a relaxing time for all. Thus the group relocated to Fillenwarth Beach Resort in Arnold's Park where there is a deck to gather on, daily boat rides, golf, and many attractions to fill the days.

The "Class of 1958" reunions are always special to this group and none have ever missed one over the years. The next "class of 58" reunion is a big one—fifty years! It is scheduled for July 12, 2008 at the Sleep Inn party room in Mount Vernon.

Editor's Note: Thank you to Marilyn Dean Schnittjer '58 for sending in their story and picture for our enjoyment.



RULES FOR HAPPY CLASS REUNIONS

Found on Alumni Website
Center High School, Kansas City,
MO

(Passed along, and added to, by
Richard Blew, MVHS 1961)

1. No whining or moaning over what might have been or any other depressing subject. No one wants a pall cast over happy events.
2. Seek out classmates who have made a difference in your life and thank them. They will appreciate it.
3. Check your midlife crisis at the door. No one needs to know you are having an affair, that your spouse left you, or that you got skinned in the "Dot Com" meltdown.
4. Don't brush off anyone who wants to talk to you. It doesn't matter whether or not you liked that person in high school. We've all changed, haven't we?
5. Bring an extra hankie. Cry all you want when you are overwhelmed by nostalgia and old friends. Tears can be a great catharsis.
6. Don't do too much bragging!! It puts a spotlight on your insecurities. You'll get the best compliments without fishing!!
7. Counter any remarks about your baldness, gray hair, weight gain, wrinkles, or implants, with humor.
8. Be careful how you approach others.
9. Be yourself. Not like you used to be, or how you wished to be, but how you ARE.
10. Update your Alumni class website ASAP after a reunion. Tell about your reunion events, include some photos, and let your absent classmates see what they missed. Your schoolmates from other classes will enjoy it too."

FOND FAREWELL TO KEN SMYKIL



Photo by Conrad Leighton '67



Ken Smykil was a popular and very successful band instructor at Mount Vernon High School during from 1954 to 1971. Last summer his daughter, Nancy Smykil Berns '67, wrote the Alumni Association to say that her dad was seriously ill and asking if there were any alums that might consider writing to him. We sent an email out to those alums we had email addresses for, in years we thought might have had Mr. Smykil as an instructor, and the result was, well... fantastic. Many emails and letters were sent to Nancy for her dad. She wrote back to say the remeberences from the past meant a great deal to her father. She says "we read all of them to him, and it really brightened his days. Thank you so much as we heard from so many former students and friends during his final days. It meant a great deal to him and our entire family."

Following you will find portions of some of the notes that were either sent to Ken and his family or to the Alumni Association, and on the next page an article written by Dr. Paula Holcomb from the class of 1972, currently Director of Bands at the State University of New York in Fredonia, who talks about memories of Mr. Smykil and also of her days at Mount Vernon.

As I look back on my high school years, which is now 41+ years ago, I remember about three teachers who had quite an influence on me...Mrs. Rife, Mr. Beckman, and Mr. Smykil are the ones I remember as outstanding in their respective areas. I missed a lot of days my senior year as we were farming an extra farm. But I very seldom missed band. I would come to school for band during first period then go home to work the rest of the day... Even though I have not touched my cornet for 25 or 30 years, Mr. Smykil instilled a love in me of music that is still with me every day.

Dave Hartl '65, Iowa Falls, IA

I can still picture Mr Smykil giving me personal instruction on marching in step, which as I reflect may be something I struggled with, and in a manner that had me and everyone else laughing. Music was not my calling.

Steve Brown '74, Waterloo, IA

Roger and I kind of courted through our band activities. It got us out of the house to attend marching band practice and one of our best courtship stories happened on a band trip. At every class reunion someone tells the story about hanging Roger out of the window of a hotel (4th floor) to look in on my room on the third floor

and chat a bit. The boys were told to stay on their floor and the girls on ours. After a few minutes of being upside down, he was pulled bck to his own room. We were married soon after I finished high school and have had 47 years together so far. Your mother is just as wonderful as your dad... He was terrific!

Marilyn Dean Schnittjer '58, Delhi, IA

Last summer my class celebrated its 45th reunion and there was much talk of our wonderful marching and concert bands under Mr. Smykil's direction. Lots of stories about what a great time we had.

Judy Caldwell Penn '60, Cedar Rapids, IA

A few of us band members had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Smykil on a band tour around eastern Iowa, traveling with him in his station wagon ahead of the band buses (as I recall, ahem, he was a bit of a fast driver). We would set up the chairs, etc. for the concert assemblies at the vairous schools before the band arrived. And the Indianapolis 500 parade in 1961—the MV community was very supportive, and we were the only band from Iowa that was selected to march in the parade. I recall that we played, and even sang, 'We're from loway, loway'... 'that's where the tall corn grows!' Do you remember that

song? And then there were many contests, with much hard work as individual musicians, and as a band. Mr. Smykil was a real spark plug as a band director – full of energy and enthusiasm, and talent for what ever job was to be done.

Richard Blew '61, Oak Grove, MO

I started instrumental music in 4th grade and remember loving my lessons with Mr. Smykil. I wanted to play flute badly, but ended up on the french horn at his urging. My parents did not allow us to neglect our instrument practices, so my lessons with Mr. Smykil were always fun since I was well-prepared. My practice card was always full of the right amount of minutes/hours and I recall receiving a dime from him for every perfect week. I LOVED that! With Mr. Smykil's early encouragement, I am proud to say that music has been a big part of my life and my childrens' and for that I thank him. The people that I've met, the work ethic I learned and the travel I experienced all come bck to him and his efforts with band students in Mount Vernon.

Lori Lehman Reihle '75, Cedar Rapids, IA

I remember my dad Chet telling stories of he and Ken refereeing junior high football games, and how Ken always made sure that he got the coin back from Chet after the coin toss. Seems he thought he'd pulled a fast one one time by saying he'd used a 50 cent piece instead of a quarter. He thought he'd come out ahead by getting one back, only Chet said he'd switched a nickle for the quarter and Ken never caught on. I was of course a member of some of those bands and have fond memories.

Jim Wallace '64, Mount Vernon, IA

We moved to Mount Vernon when I was in the third grade...I went to school where he was busy trying to pair up students with instruments and of course I wanted to play the drums with all my heart. Mr. Smykil had other ideas. He asked me to blow into a pop bottle. I did and he said, 'FLUTE. She plays the flute.' And the rest is history. Many wonderful years of band with Mr. Smykil...We eventually went to the Eastern Iowa Band Festivals yearly and had several wins, including Mr. Smykil winning best director one year. Our band almost always received top honors. We were also chosen to march in the Indy 500 parade. Mr. Smykil always wore a white uniform and marched right by us always looking so sharp...We were expected to be at at practice, all practices, not just the performance. He raised our values for ourselves because he knew we could always do better. Even though it has been over 40 years now since graduation, my band experiences seem like yesterday to me.

Renee Branson Sterenberg '63, Hesperia, CA

PAULA HOLCOMB '72 HAS FOND MEMORIES OF SMYKIL & MOUNT VERNON

Paula, you mentioned that some of your earliest memories were discussions your parents had regarding Ken Smykil's terrific work. What do you remember and how did this affect you?

When I was a child my brother played in the high school band under Mr. Smykil's direction. There was some connection between my parents and Ken even before this as they had high respect for his work. My Father, who was also a musician, played trombone in the Mount Vernon, Lisbon, and Mechanicsville community bands. Dad was a Cornell Conservatory of Music graduate and also a band director for several local schools early in his life, so Dad always held Ken as a shining star. I even remember going to the Smykil family home (and at that time they lived in a home with very innovative architecture) for dinner.

You have said that Ken Smykil was a primary inspiration in your life, in what way, and do you have a specific memory or story you can tell?

Ken was my band director for my first years, 4th and 5th grade. Knowing my Father's respect for him, I was so scared to even have a lesson with him. One day, I forgot my instrument so I called my Mom (with Mrs. Davis's permission) to ask her to bring in my horn. But she refused and told me that I would have to tell Mr. Smykil that I forgot it. I was petrified, but he was very gracious and forgiving and showed me how to remember it next time. He was so energetic, would sing along, and tap along, doing anything to get music out of us.

I didn't get to play with Mr. Smykil in high school. But the program in high school at that time was so large and successful because of him. He was very helpful to my brother Ed, especially when we transferred from Martelle Community Schools. Students would stay in school because of him; and I know my brother was one of those students who Ken kept in school by keeping him connected to the music. In fact, the reason we came to Mount Vernon was because of the music program and also the outstanding quality of education, so my parents fought hard to get us into the Mount Vernon district when Martelle closed.

What was your school experience like at Mount Vernon and was it of help to you going on to college?

Yes, for example when I went to college, I had no problem getting accepted and found that Mount Vernon had prepared me

to be successful at Drake and Northwestern. In terms of my preparation, I tested out of about 16 hours of college coursework thanks to Al Craig, Bob Landis and Don Ringgenberg for the math, sociology and political science.

Some thanks I'd like to say – thanks to Mrs. Norton 6th grade and Mrs. Davis 4th grade teachers, Gladys Rife and Mrs. Bolton in High School. Ade Ringold was very influential as both a principal and superintendent and kept us on the straight and narrow. I also remember a great band trip to St. Louis with Don Stine, which was so much fun. I credit Lois Nichols and Lois Kopacek in the music program as role models. In junior high, Lois Kopacek would come to our house for dinner and help me practice. A female role model at the high school was Lois Nichols, who was fantastic, and a huge influence on many of us with her high standards and superb teaching. Those two were by far the most influential conductor/role models for me.

We all need these role models – having female role models is very important for young people. Having women and people of ethnicity in leadership and teaching positions, is just as critical as having male elementary teachers. This is a global world and we need the exposure, which is what Mount Vernon provided. The U of I in Iowa City also provided much of that diversity when I was younger. In my job now I encourage diversification and realize now that I learned that lesson through the Mount Vernon/Iowa City influence.

What instrument did you play and did you earn any particular honors or have memories of a special band trip?

My instrument was the French horn so I was in All-State and every honor band possible because I just loved to play. I remember when I was in 5th grade that William LaRue Jones, now the Director of Orchestras at the University of Iowa, was the band director Cornell College. He held an honor band at Cornell, and Ken Smykil took me to that honor band. Mr. Jones was African-American so this was my first experience with someone of ethnicity. This was quite something for me to see an African-American on the podium, which I realize, now opened many doors for me. He was a phenomenal director and musician. That helped me realize I could do anything I wanted.

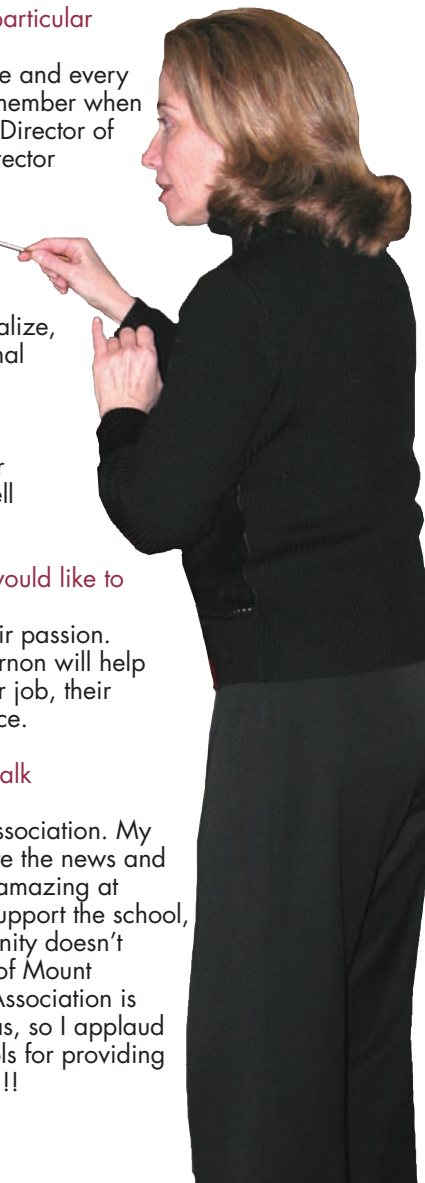
There were no women band directors at the college or university level at that time yet Mr. Jones was at Cornell so I thought if he can do it, so can I.


Do you have a story, a success, or some advice you would like to relate to other alumni members?

To the young people, my advice is that they follow their passion. They may not know what their passion is so Mount Vernon will help them find their passion. If they make their passion their job, their excitement will show and make the world a better place.

Not a question, Paula, is there anything you'd like to talk about that I didn't ask?

I think it is phenomenal that MV now has an alumni association. My classmates were such a great influence, so I appreciate the news and keeping in touch. Thanks to Diane Zinkula '72 who is amazing at linking our class! It allows us to connect, return, and support the school, alums and students. Just because we leave the community doesn't mean we don't want to support the school and future of Mount Vernon – a very special school and community!! The Association is an example of the vision and innovation the district has, so I applaud the Association and thank Mount Vernon Public Schools for providing a balanced, sound curriculum in an innovative setting!!!





Paintings by Mark Benesh
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Alumni News...

Renee Sterenberg Branson'63 retired in January 2007 after teaching at La-Petite Academy for 18 years.

Tom Wilkinson'60 and wife Shari celebrating 40th Wedding Anniversary

Dick Moore'52 and **Babs Beckhelm Moore'53** celebrated 50 years

Polly Niederhauser Blythe'86 and **Bob Blythe'87** celebrate 15 year anniversary of Polly Ann's Antiques

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

Kyle Nelson'01 and wife Katie, a son, October 31, 2006

Tanya Locke Lee'01 and Jason Lee had their second child, a daughter, June 12, 2006

Grant Rasmussen'01 graduated from the Cedar Rapids Police Academy, in Sept 2006, and in May 2007 was named their 'Recruit of the Year'

Teresa Berner McDermott'98 and husband Luke, a baby girl, April 2006

Maggie McWilliams Noll'98 and husband Scott, a son, May 2006

Kimberly Zangger Tucker'94 and husband Justin, a daughter, June 2006

Loren Hammond'51 and wife Neoma celebrating 50th Wedding Anniversary

Don Feaker'78 and wife Terrie celebrating their 30th Wedding Anniversary

Gary Drahos'72 and **Gwen Stewart Drahos'70** celebrating 25th Wedding anniversary

Jon Bellamy'79 and wife Kristen, a son, October 2006

Jane Hill'86 and Fred Primoli, a daughter, September 206

Darin Vig'86 and wife Charlene, a daughter, November 2006

Mariah Vonk Hess'99 was awarded a one-year artist in residency at the Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, California

Scott Harrison'69 was named CEO of Life Care Retirement Communities, Inc. based in Des Moines, IA

Mark Zinkula'85 was named to the board of directors at Mount Vernon Bank & Trust

John Rife'60, retired as President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Fire & Casualty Co., May 16, 2007

Renee Meyer Vande Wege'96 and husband Aaron, a daughter, November 2006

Sarah Rife Patten'93 and husband Randy, a daughter, March 30, 2006



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Gwen's

Celebrating 25 Years!

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

Sara Ardall'78, a University of Iowa nurse, was selected one of the top 100 nurses for 2006 in the state of Iowa

Audrey Burnett Davis'48 and husband Howard, celebrating 56th Wedding anniversary

Stephanie Fisher'87 is now a Business Analyst for FirstEnergy Corp in Akron, Ohio

Mary Bauman Kolbe'64 opened a new interior design office, Kolbe Interiors, in Scottsdale, Arizona

EDUCATION NEWS

Jeffrey Sabin '04 and **Josh Sabin'04**, students at Upper Iowa University, and **Erin Wright'03** and **Rachel Young'03**, students at Wartburg College, were named to 2007 edition of 'Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges'

POST GRAD

Mariah Vonk Hess'99 Master of Fine Arts, University of California-Davis

MARRIAGES

Lisa Scoma '98 to Aaron Van Gorp, June 16 2006, reside in Springfield, MO

Charlotte Campagna '98 and **Adam McDermott '97**, June 23rd 2006, reside in Mount Vernon

Derek Boren'00 to Lori Fries, Sept. 2, 2006, reside in Mount Vernon

Gabe Haugland'00 to Carolyn Nicholas, August 2006, reside in Des Moines, IA

Kelly Wolfe'01 to Cameron Hayton, November 25, 2006, reside in Australia

Cassidy Sill'01 to John Reinken, September 23, 2006

Rachel Sauter'01 to Ben Saltzman, August 19, 2006, reside in Mount Vernon

Teresa Britt'02 to Tyler Patterson, Sept 6 2007, reside in Marion, IA

Nathan Bunting'92 to Valerie Hillabosh, August 2006, reside in Mount Vernon

Aaron Swanson'95 to April Kresser, Nov. 12 2005, reside in Mount Vernon

Margaret 'Maggie' Burke'03 to Brock Slaymaker, June 10, 2006, reside in Cedar Falls, IA

Catherine O'Meara Dunn'96 to Chris Honse, reside in St. Louis, MO

Erin Driscoll'99 to Andrew Whitehead, July 28, 2006, reside in Cedar Rapids, IA

Gail Halsey'94 to Patrick Bertram, July 2006, reside in Oshkosh, WI

Jared Nicol'99 to Toni Christianson, November 2006, reside in Urbandale, IA

Katharine Freeman'98 to Daniel Tarplin, October 2006, reside in Brooklyn, NY

Justin Simon'00 to Nellie Young, July 2006, reside in Cheyenne, WY

Greg Applebee'03 to Jamie Schinelfenig, July 2006, reside in Ames, IA

Mina Rotschafer'99 to Lucas Ferden, Sept 30 2006, reside in Minneapolis, MN

Kristine Traver'83 to Jeff Kott, May 4, 2007, reside in Chrystal Lake, IL

Lisa Scoma'98 to Aaron Van Gorp, June 16, 2006, reside in Springfield, MO

Send us your information...

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

WHAT IS YOUR WORK/PROFESSION?

When updating your contact information, please tell us your work/profession and schools you attended. The high school counselor may use this information to link current high school students with alumni. (see survey enclosed with this newsletter)

In Memory

Dorothy Noska Wooff 1945
Jim Swift 1937
Alice Smith Harris 1937
Mary Kingsbury Hanzlik 1968
Jim Franta 1952
David Fisher 1964
Mike Baker 1969
Irvin Brokel 1961
Sandi Martin Dennis - 1960
Arlene (Aldrich) Bader Bleadorn 1955
Audrey Nelson Adrain 1943
Robert Bensiller 1964
George Trpkosh, Jr., 1963
Donald Russell 1951
Sharon Thomas 1957
*Wanda Collins Kaplan 1940
Don Sievers 1958
Kenneth Klinsky 1972
Leo Kirkpatrick 1938
Sarah Nost Brown
Marian 'Mickie' Rogers Kohl 1927
Monroe Winsor 1945
Art Wooff 1953
Alice Vislisl Faoro 1957

FRIENDS

Ken Smykil
Mary Ware

* Alumni Association Representative
(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.)

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 Mitchell Dennis



Thank you to Conrad Leighton'67...

Conrad has been busy sending the Association digital files of many of the pictures he took as a school photographer while he was in high school. Several appear throughout this issue. Conrad says he 'has several thousand' (wow!), and his classmates will get to enjoy many of them at their upcoming reunion.

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VALUES

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Coach Bellamy retires from Mount Vernon after 37 years

Excerpted from the *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun*, by Jake Krob and Crystal Eskelsen, Sun Sports, complete article at www.mtvernonlisbonsun.com

In his high school days at Des Moines Roosevelt, Jim Bellamy set his sights on his life's goal to become a coach.

Fifty-two years after graduating, he's retiring after over four decades of leading student-athletes, 37 years at the helm of the Mustangs. He leaves coaching with numerous successes including as the coach with the third most wins in Iowa high school history (320). Only two men in Iowa have spent more years coaching football.

"Every year's been my retirement year the last few years," Bellamy said. "I just thought it was time."

"I'm just going to take it day by day," he said of his plans.

Bellamy's career as a Mount Vernon coach spans back to 1970, his first season as head high school football coach. He's led the Mustangs on the gridiron ever since, with teams that have won three titles and made the playoffs 20 times. Since 1971, he's also led the Mount Vernon High School boys' track and field team, earning 1 state championship and 2 runner-up titles. And for a 10-year stretch, Bellamy coached the high school girls' basketball team, earning a state berth in 1984. Bellamy taught high school at MV until retiring at 62 after the 1998-99 school year.

BOARD HONORS LONG CAREER

When his retirement was announcement at a winter board meeting, Board members honored his long career.

Bob Penn (also a member of the class of 1981) lauded Bellamy and the lasting impact his coaching has had on players.

"There are grandparents in Mount Vernon who can remember specific moments or things he said to them," said Penn. "It doesn't leave you ever."

Penn said that, even as an adult, the sight of Bellamy brings him back to his playing days. He told the board that he was jogging one day years after high school and encountered Bellamy on the sidewalk. "My first thought was it's a good thing coach saw me working out," said Penn.

Board member Paul Morf (also from the class of 1990) reflected on Bellamy's dedication as a coach on and off the field. "I remember having a game on Friday night and coming in for films on Saturday morning. He had something to say about every play we made," he said, noting that Bellamy "must have stayed up all night."

Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert called Bellamy "probably the most influential per-



son, after my father, on how I coached."

The superintendent said that while Bellamy will be duly remembered for his record as a football and track coach, his influence on all the other sports programs was just as important. Schwiebert noted that teaching kids about hard work and discipline was never a problem if they'd already had Bellamy as a coach.

"He made my life as a coach much easier," said Schwiebert.

"He'll be missed," added Penn.

THE STEP TO MOUNT VERNON

Bellamy coached the West Liberty Comets with Adrian Ringold, who later became principal, then superintendent, at Mount Vernon. The Mustangs needed a coach after Don Ringgenberg left; Ringold called on Bellamy. (Dick Peters, also a former staffer at West Liberty, had also become a teacher here.)

"I was very fortunate to get the job," Bellamy said. The new coach knew what he was taking on: "Mount Vernon has a winning tradition going for them, which is to their advantage."

Under Bellamy, the success continued.

The team tied for second in the league with rival Solon in Bellamy's second season. (Under Bellamy, the Mustangs' record against the Spartans is 22-19, which includes two wins and two losses in playoff action.)

In the Mustangs' fourth season under him, in 1973, they earned their first of what was to be 16 league (conference, then district) titles. In the past 37 seasons, the teams were league champs or runner-up in 26 of them.

Mount Vernon earned its first state accolade in 1973, a year after the Iowa High School Athletic Association's playoffs

began. The team was Class 2A state runner-up that year.

The next season, in 1974, the Mustangs were Class 2A state champions, their first of three titles during Bellamy's tenure. Mount Vernon also earned state championship status in 1993 and 1994. In Bellamy's 37 seasons, his teams were State runners-up five times (in 1973, 1978, 1989, 2002 and 2003). All totaled, Mount Vernon was a state participant 20 times with Bellamy as head coach.

Overall, Mount Vernon won over 74 percent of its games under Bellamy, who retires with a 269-92-1 record here.

Success also goes beyond the borders of Mustang country.

Bellamy is No. 3 on the Iowa all-time football coaching leaders' list with his teams compiling a record of 320-127-4. And only two men have coached longer than he has; Dick Tighe, Fort Dodge, with 53 years, and Harold Tackleson, Burlington, with 49 years.

Bellamy has received numerous honors for his coaching, which includes induction into the Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1985.

"Think about just the numbers," said Bud Legg, information director for the Iowa High School Athletic Association. Bellamy coached 450 varsity games, was involved with countless junior varsity, fresh-soph and junior high games and, Legg estimates, led over 2,500 practices.

"He obviously impacted thousands of lives in a positive way," Legg said. "He certainly has earned his retirement."

He added: "The football scene changes with him no longer coaching in Mount Vernon, Eastern Iowa, and the state."



School District Events 2006-2007

5-2007

- HS graduated 95 students in the class of 2007. Valedictorians were Paul Rekemeyer and Teresa Redmond, Salutatorians were Stephanie Damon-Moore and Alexandra Scheffer
- HS Spring Musical is 'Guys and Dolls'

4-2007

- WeTap hosts another successful 'Enrichment Day' for elementary students focusing on the theme "Creativity!" Volunteers hosted workshops.

3-2007

- Mount Vernon hosts the State Academic Decathlon, and the Mount Vernon HS team places 2nd in Small Schools. This was the first time in the competition's history that state was held outside of Denison; it's to be held here every other year. Over 200 individuals, including many alums, helped with the two-day event. Three MVHS team members earned high honors for their overall scores: Chris Stoner earned first place in the small school Scholastic division and Charlie Nichols earned first in the Varsity division, Stephanie Damon-Moore earned third in the Honors division.
- HS Drama students visit New York City over Spring Break
- Senior Jacob Ryan is the winningest wrestler in Mount Vernon Wrestling with 153 career wins over his past 4 high school years

2-2007

- District School Board member Dean Borg was named Mount Vernon's Citizen of the Year by the Mount Vernon Chamber
- HS Improv Acting Team of Ben Klaus, Greg Mlynarczyk, and Jeff White brought home the Iowa State Speech Association All-State Banner. They were first selected from a group of 740 participants to attend the All-State Festival; then from an honored group of 25, the Improv Team won the prestigious, well-deserved, Critic's Choice Award by defeating schools such as West Des Moines Valley and Waterloo West. This is the first time Mount Vernon has earned the honor of an All-State banner, making us number one in the state in any speech category. Their coaches were Maggie Ellison and Karen Mills.
- Voters of Mount Vernon and Linn County pass the one cent local option sales tax, SILO, a 58-42 percent margin of victory in Linn County. Based on student enrollment numbers, the SILO will generate an estimated \$7.5 million for our schools during the ten year term of the SILO. The Mount Vernon School Board recently updated the school district's master facilities plan and determined the following three areas as high priority items for the SILO proceeds.
 - Renovation of the 1956 Washington Elementary School building
 - Completion of the Mount Vernon Middle School building renovation project - \$950,000 for computer technology and other technology equipment over 10 years.
- Overall the School Board noted that these projects generally meet current needs, plan for future student enrollment growth, enhance energy efficiency, and solve deferred maintenance issues.
- Middle School Science Olympiad team placed 3rd in the state competition on March 24th in Ames. This is the first year Mount Vernon has competed in Science Olympiad.
- Rob Cook, lead teacher at the Transition Center, was awarded the KCRG A+ for Education Award.

continued on next page...



Pictured are Matthew Wilch, class of 1972, and Kevin Wolter, class of 2007. Matthew and Kevin both have something in common: Matthew, Student Council President in 1971, accepted the board presentation for the then-brand-new high school. Matthew came from Baltimore to visit family and come to the new high school grand opening last September. Kevin, Student Council President for this past school year, represented the high school student body at the 2006 Grand Opening Ceremony.



A multi-faceted acrylic mural by Mount Vernon artist Mark Benesh '83, was installed in the commons area of the new Mount Vernon Community High School. Mark made the mural to serve as a tribute to past, present and future students in the district, and the values of the community. Mark chose 12 words to capture the values of Mount Vernon students throughout the decades, and completed separate images – typically measuring four by five feet in area – relating to each theme. "I got to thinking about what would be meaningful for the people who occupy this space," said Mark. "What I wanted to do was make a piece that would be meaningful for students, parents and grandparents." The mural, he said, aims to demonstrate how much students today actually share with past generations. Mark will be at the All-Alumni Breakfast July 14th so that you can visit with him personally about the mural.

Alums join MV Staff...

- Kacey Kuntz '00, ES 1st Grade teacher and MS volleyball 8th grade coach
- Jeremy Hotz '99, freshman football coach
- Josh Rife '96, HS special ed associate and volunteer HS football coaching asst.
- In addition, from our current staff Abby Neal Bock '99 will be the MS cross country coach

Alum elected to MV School Board

In September of 2006 Paul Morf '90 was elected to the Mount Vernon School District Board for a 3 year term

Alums join MV Foundation Board

In September of 2006 Peter Wilch '90 and David Ryan '85 joined the Mount Vernon School District Foundation Board

Aerial photo by
Richard Searce



Front of the new high school building



The First Street Building?



For some the 1927 First Street Building is your old Middle School, for others your old High School. The middle school moved to the renovated high school building in December of 2006. Today the First Street Building is home to the school district's Superintendent's Office, the Transition Program, the Alumni Association office, and renters Elliott's Fitness Center, Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, and Dance Arts Iowa.

The Superintendent's Office is using what was the middle school office area, as well as the 2nd floor math room for a board room, and a science room on the main floor. The Alumni Office is in with the Superintendent, as well as using a 2nd floor classroom for storage.

Elliott's Fitness Center is using the band, art, gymnasium, locker, and cafeteria rooms. The fitness center's weight room – double Elliott's previous gym size – is now located downstairs in what some would call the 'dungeon.' The gym can be rented, and gym use is free for Elliott's Fitness Center members. The cardio area is located in old band room, and a sauna was installed. Dance Arts Iowa uses the cafeteria area, remodeled with a new floor.

Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, a congregation of 175 led by pastor John Rosenberg, was previously holding services at the current Mount Vernon Middle School building. The church offices uses 2nd floor classrooms in the east wing and library, as well as the auditorium on main floor. The church has plans to construct its own building in the future.

Plans are being made to rezone the building to a community center.

1-2007

- The 8th grade class invited all middle school students and their families to a Family Unity Night to celebrate and tour the new middle school on Palisades Road. Admission was a potluck dish to share and canned food to donate to the Southeast Linn Community Center.

12-2006

- The Middle School moved from the 1st Street Building to the remodeled building on Palisades Road.
- Mount Vernon Community High School was nominated as a Blue Ribbon School in public education. This achievement places Mount Vernon in the top 10% of schools in the state.
- In honor of the last year that Mount Vernon will be holding classes in the old middle school building on 1st Street, David Thackery took a series of pictures of the building and the individual classes to make a historical keepsake.
- HS Dance Team placed 6th at the state competition earning a Division 1 rating.

11-2006

- Fall Play was 'The Matchmaker'. Directed by Karen Mills.
- HS adds Trap Club, Archery Club, and Fishing Clubs and Robotics Program to list of extra curricular activities.

10-12-2006

- HS Yearbook earns first place in Class A Yearbook Sweepstakes and 21 individual awards by the Iowa High School Press . Their instructor is JoAnn Gage.

9-2006

- Seniors Michael Taylor, Stephanie Damon-Moore and Paul Rekemeyer were named finalists in the 52nd Annual National Merit Scholarship Program.
- School Board members Todd Tripp and Carol Dillard completed their term of service with the School Board. Todd Tripp had been a member for 9 years. Carol Dillard, a previous board member, had been completing a term for a board member who moved.
- Paul Morf '90 and John Cochrane were elected in the fall School Board Election.
- HS holds Grand Opening with over 450 students, staff, community members and guests on hand. Board President Tom Wieseler and Board members presented a key to the building to student representatives. Senior Kevin Wolter accepted. This marks the completion of the new high school in Phase 2 of a five-phase District Facilities Plan that continues to 'fulfill the promise' of excellence in academics, arts, and athletics for the students of Mount Vernon Schools.
- HS Student Council Officers elected were President-Kevin Wolter, Vice President-Joe Alger, Secretary-Michael Taylor, Treasurer-Jacob Ryan.

8-30-2006

- Foundation Board members Middie Morf and Ed Fordyce and Gary Nelson were thanked for their completed their service to the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation. New members Peter Wilch'90 and David Ryan'85 representing the community, and Matt Burke representing the School District were welcomed.
- The annual Booster Club Membership Drive earned \$7,000.
- HS learns it is 2nd year recipient of Fruit Grant.
- High School students attend classes at the newly constructed High School.



AT THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL

The high school was completely remodeled for the middle school. This shows the entire gutted west wing of what was the library and classrooms.



With well over 50 contractors working to build the new high school and remodel the middle school, it was a common sight to see Mount Vernon alums in the midst of construction, pouring, pounding, painting, or working on some type of project.

Pictured at left is Josh Smith'00, from Mount Vernon Construction, looking over some of the final touch-up projects that needed to be done. Nick Boots'97, pictured right, works for Bowker Mechanical Contractors as a plumber when he is not teaching at Lisbon Community School.

BUILDING MEMORIES: NEW HIGH SCHOOL A BACKDROP FOR ALUMNI REUNIONS

reprint of article by Sarah Leavenworth · July 19, 2006 *Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun*

Deb (Vargason) Lord, a Cedar Rapids resident and member of the Mount Vernon Class of 1974, said she has watched with interest as the new Mount Vernon High School building has materialized "from cornfields."

Lord, who began her high school career at what is now the old middle school building on First Street, recalls the excitement in the community when a bond issue was passed and construction began on a new high school building during her sophomore year at Mount Vernon.

High school students helped move desks and boxes to what was then the new high school facility, and Lord remembers she and her classmates "could hardly wait" to begin school in the new building.

"This was a new school and it was so big [and] modern," Lord said. "When we moved in here, it just seemed like a big deal."

Many of Lord's memories of the old high school building – which is being renovated and will house the district's middle school next year – center around the commons area, where she said friends gathered and cheerleading practice and other activities were held.

"It doesn't seem like this building is old enough to retire [as the high school building]," Lord said, but admits "with all of the growth in the community, you've just got to have more space."

She said she hopes future students respect the facility and understand "what it takes to acquire a new building."

Lord and several hundred other Mount Vernon High School alumni gathered over Heritage Days weekend at reunions, an all-alumni breakfast Saturday, an alumni tent set up downtown and tours of the new building.

District superintendent Jeff Schwiebert estimated he and high school principal Dennis Walsh gave tours to 250 alumni over the weekend, including a special tour Sunday for members of the Mount Vernon High School Classes of 1961 and 1956.

It was "just an overall very good weekend," Schwiebert said. "I thought the tours went really well."

The new Mount Vernon High School building, which is slated for completion in a matter of weeks, served as a backdrop and topic of conversation for Mount Vernon alumni ranging from Catherine Hileman, Mount Vernon Class of 2001, to Mary Mulherin, who graduated in 1938 and was the oldest alum at the Saturday breakfast.

Mulherin, who currently resides in Mount Vernon, attended high school at the old downtown school building, and recalls the close association she shared with her 33 classmates through chorus, drama and other activities.

"It was special," she said, expressing her wish that future Mount Vernon students share similar positive high school experiences in the new building. "I hope that their interests and the special subjects they take can carry them to their future life," she said.

Richard Blew, Class of 1961, "didn't have any history with Mount Vernon" when he moved to the district before his freshman year of high school. Blew, who moved from Ottumwa to Mount Vernon, estimates his graduating class would have numbered several hundred if he had remained in the Ottumwa district. His Mount Vernon High School class comprised 34 students. "It was my first foray into high school with a bunch of new faces," Blew recalls. "I really kind of thought of it as a big family." Blew, who currently resides in Kansas City, Mo., said he was able to participate in numerous school activities during his high school career, and hopes future students will take advantage of the opportunities smaller schools offer. "Our whole school experience prepares us a lot more than we realize," Blew said. "The things they have available to them now are just unbelievable."

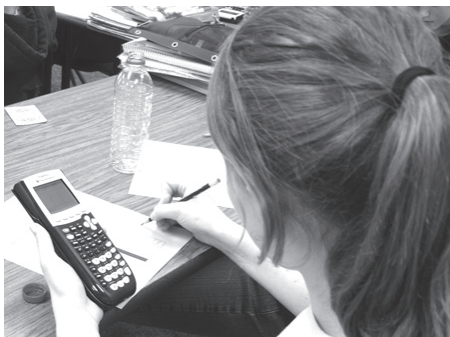
Small class sizes and a tight-knit community fostered among Blew and other alumni a sense of reconnecting with family members. For other Mount Vernon High School alumni, however, family connections were literal. Joy Litts Gaarde-Morton, a member of the Mount Vernon High School Class of 1948 and a current resident of Paradise Valley, Ariz., attended the alumni breakfast with her daughter, Sara Gaarde, of

Mount Vernon (Class of 1970) and granddaughter, Hileman (Class of 2001). Gaarde-Morton said the lessons she learned and friendships she developed in high school have impacted her entire life. "We've stayed in touch through the years," she said, expressing hope that future classes will share "as good a camaraderie [as] we have." Gaarde-Morton added she believes the new high school building is "going to be a wonderful addition to the community."

Mount Vernon resident Braden (Pospisil) Rood, Class of 1993, attended high school in the new middle school location, and has watched the new high school building progress from the ground breaking ceremony to its current state. "It happened so fast," Rood said. "I was here for the whole process." Rood, who said her high school career was filled with myriad activities, remembers walking down the hallways, attending basketball games and practicing with the cheerleading squad. Rood was in "Guys and Dolls," the first show on the old high school stage, and said she hopes an auditorium is constructed soon at the new high school building. The building's present lack of a theater, however, is Rood's only negative comment about the facility. "I thought it was absolutely fantastic," Rood said after a tour. "I loved the windows and the natural light."

Rood's mother and father, Jane and Ken Pospisil of Mount Vernon, were members of the Mount Vernon High School class of 1968 and were high school sweethearts, Jane said. During their high school years at the old middle school building, Ken was a basketball player and Jane was a cheerleader, and Jane recalls a high school career filled with friendships and good experiences. "Every room would have a memory," she said. Pospisil said her first reaction to seeing the new high school building was pride in the district that has educated her son Ben Pospisil (Class of 1996), daughter Braden and many other family members. "Our grandsons plan to attend there," she said. "I would like them to feel they learned a lot in class; that they try everything. "That's one of the benefits of a small town – you can be anybody. I'm excited for these kids and their teachers."

TEACHERS ENHANCE STUDENT EDUCATION WITH FOUNDATION GRANTS



Middle School math teacher Kim Bjork introduces 8th graders to graphing calculators.



Students in Mrs. Theide's class use Reader's Theatre scripts purchased with a Foundation Grant, to present a play to an audience.



Two elementary students show the new glocks Mrs. Keast was able to purchase with her Foundation Grant Funds. They have become 'instruments of choice'.

Last fall the Mount Vernon Schools Foundation provided \$4,000 in grants to our teachers for the 2006-2007 school year for innovative projects to help them take education to an even higher level. Eight projects were funded with the available Foundation funds, and following is an update from the recipients about what they were able to purchase and how they used their grants for student education. Thank you again to all the Foundation donors, many who were alums, who provided the funds for these grants. Our teachers care about our students and it shows in their efforts to help all students succeed.

\$600.00 Middle School Math Graphing Calculators

Kim Bjork '96, Middle School math teacher, used her \$600 Foundation Grant for 5 graphing calculators that she is using in 8th grade algebra. Ms. Bjork says "students will be graphing function and solving systems. I am in the process of taking a course to implement the calculators into the classroom." Ms. Bjork says these calculators will allow students to take real-life examples and connect it through the use of technology. The students will then continue use of graphing calculators in High School math.

\$250.00 Elementary Music Instruments

Elementary Music teacher Kristi Keast used her \$250 Foundation Grant to purchase additional instruments for use in the music room. She was able to purchase a Begerault Alsto Glockenspiel and a Begerault Soprano Glockenspiel. The new glocks have become instruments of choice. Students enjoy the clear sound and can be heard commenting on how great they are. We use the barred instruments to explore rhythms and melodic sequencing, utilizing spoken description with musical description. The new glockenspiels have made it that much more enjoyable.

\$289.00 Middle/High School Keyboarding

Robbin Rekemeyer, who teaches both High School business classes and Middle School keyboarding, was the recipient of a \$289 Foundation Grant that allowed her to purchase 30 typing masks for the Middle School keyboarding class. These masks force students to learn touch typing. Mrs. Rekemeyer says that "The keyboard covers have helped the 6th and 7th graders a lot. They have caused some problems for the 8th graders and some teachers who have not had the opportunity to learn how to touch type. Recently a 6th grader told me that he thought that

typing properly helped him. Calvin Kranig said that he typed a paper at home and was not stiff like he usually is when he types at home. In addition to this student testimonial, more 6th grade students using covers achieve our desired typing speed by the end of the quarter than 7th graders (presumably because they have been forced to type correctly from the beginning of their keyboarding lessons, since the first quarter did not show this differential and the covers were not on at that time).

\$659.00 Elementary Reader's Theater Folktale Set

Cathy Stoner '69, Title 1 reading for grades 3-5, was the recipient of a \$659 Foundation grant that she used to purchase Reader's Theatre materials to support fluency and comprehension goals at Washington Elementary School. She was able to purchase a folktales set with 252 scripts. These materials, appropriate for students in grades one through five, are 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.

\$100.00 Elementary Math Manipulatives

Kindergarten teachers Susannah Maddock and Annie Hawker were recipients of a \$100 Foundation Grant to renew and replace their supply of DAP (Developmental Activities Project) materials, which they use for math manipulatives and language arts projects. Ms. Maddock says that "we spent the whole \$100 on small toys for making new math manipulative kits, which we can also use for language arts, like in storytelling and sequencing. We are still in the (fun) process of making fabulous themed mats on which to use the toys; for example, moons and planets for the little astronauts, and swamps for the snakes and bugs. The idea is that the students use the toys along with the mats to actively work out problems, patterns and equations, to bring what's on their papers to life. In kindergarten, this way of doing math links much-needed tactile experiences with visual and auditory skills, and allows students to discuss and communicate ideas for collaborative learning."

\$1,250.00 High School Art Display Panel

High School art instructor Laurie Zaiger was the recipient of a \$1,250 Foundation Grant to purchase an art display panel. She purchased a grey, flat, 6-foot display system that is freestanding and on locking casters. Mrs. Zaiger says "Our students

produce excellent work in all subject areas. In particular we lacked exhibit space for 2-dimensional work. In the art area, students will benefit from organizing and hosting an art show at the end of each semester to showcase their art work to peers, family, friends and teachers. In other subject areas, teachers can also easily exhibit student work. We now easily set up the display in the Commons area for exhibits."

\$600.00 Middle School Science - Hot Air Balloon Demonstration

Dee Clark, Middle School 6th grade science teacher, will be using her \$600 Foundation Grant sometime in May for a Hot Air Balloon project. The grant covers materials for 6th grade students to construct and launch a 4'6" hot air balloon, and also to bring Jeff Bridgewater, a hot air balloon pilot, to the school to demonstrate how a hot air balloon is launched, landed, and piloted. Mrs. Clark says this project "engages students in science, technology, engineering, math, and social studies."

\$180.00 Student Admissions (30) to Rivers Museum

DeAnn Searce and Gloria Telecky, Extended Learning Program teachers, took thirty 3rd-4th-5th grade ELP students to Dubuque in May for a 3-hour tour at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium. Mrs. Searce says "this experience provided extended learning for students in the areas of Iowa history and the scientific study of streams and rivers."

Editor's Note: If you would like to contribute to future Foundation Grants for Mount Vernon teachers, simply note to the Foundation your wish to have your donation or a portion of your donation to be used specifically for these grants. For more information, 319-895-8845 or foundation@mountvernon.k12.ia.us



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FALL ISSUE COMING...

THIS IS A BIG SPRING ISSUE – but if all goes well, we will start publishing two issues of our alumni newsletter per year – so each issue will be smaller, but still packed with information. Watch for the next issue to come this fall. THANK YOU to all the ALUMS who have mailed their support (or dues) to help the Association with organization and publication expenses, to the FOUNDATION for their continued support of the publication and our Association, and to the ADVERTISERS in this publication for their advertising and support of this publication.

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following Mount Vernon Community School District staff members and teachers are celebrating service anniversaries this year.

- 5 years:** Doreen Anderson, Gary Benda, Lisa Bierman, Tom Carter, Sidney Cook, Jan Forest'64, Mike Hunter, Jena Jaspers, Tammy Latta, Trista Lynner, Heather Plathe, Kim Ronan-Amos, Brandy Schurbon, Carol Smith, Kathy Staskal, Kim Steele, Cathy Steines, Mary Young, Laurie Zaiger
- 10 years:** Mary Boudreau, Chiara Burke'78, Claudia Ternes
- 15 years:** Sheryl Pospisil
- 20 years:** Cathy Stoner'69
- 25 years:** Joleen Woods, Bill Thomsen'72
- 35 years:** Carol Stone
- 40 years:** Dorothy Steiner, John Thatcher

**Heritage Days 5 K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run
July 14, 2007 8:00 AM**

WHEN Saturday July 14, 2007
TIME 8:00 a.m. 5K Run/Walk (1 Mile Fun Run 9:00 a.m.)
WHERE Mount Vernon Middle School (former high school)
 525 Palisades Road SW, Mount Vernon, IA
ENTRY FEE \$12.00 5K Run/Walk \$7.00 1 Mile Fun Run
 \$15.00 and \$8.00 for entries received after July 4
 (Fee includes T-shirt)
REGISTRATION 7:00 a.m. until race time
AGE Children's 1 Mile Fun Run (Up to age 12)
 Adult 5K Run/Walk –Men & Women's Categories
CATEGORIES 15 & under, 16-20, 21-29, 30-39, 40-49,
 50-59, 60 & over

Prize awarded to the top 3 finishers in each age category.
 For more information or for an entry blank, contact Sherry Brayton:
rightframemv@iowatelecom.net or (319) 895-6372 or (319) 455-2113



MOVING ON...

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



WINSTON ALNOT

What you taught: World History; Sociology; Criminal Justice; 19th. Century American West; Problems in Modern Society.

Year started at MV: 1988

Total years at MV: 19

years

First year favorite memory: The job I was hired to do had been held by the popular Dick Peters. Knowing that I could not be Dick Peters, I had to work hard to establish my own identity as a teacher. Additionally it was the period of time when the children of senior teachers were in high school, not to mention the Superintendent's and the principal's kids. All this was added incentive for me to do my best.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? Ruth Michaud and Don Swenson were two friends who gave me moral support from the start. Donna Happel made sure I was aware of the reading level of the materials I used and on occasion gently brought me back down to earth if I got too ambitious with some assignments. Sandra Swenson did an outstanding job providing support for special needs students. Ade Ringold was always available to counsel one and all or to quiz whoever was at hand. I was personally grateful to Ade for having the foresight and perseverance, in the face of criticism, to plant trees to develop the most beautiful high school campus anywhere. Tom Madson was always there providing guidance and support.

Favorite memory: I find it difficult to isolate one event or individual to highlight because there are so many others who are then slighted. The best things about my experience at Mount Vernon High School the climate or culture created by the administration and teachers to help our kids learn in an open environment. It was not just the spacious campus which created this sense of community, openness, and freedom but also present was a sense of trust and tolerance. Another aspect of the job I have found gratifying is the students who come back some time after graduation to tell you that you made a difference for them.

What has changed in education? In my time at the Mount Vernon High School much has changed. Only with the perspective of time will we be able to evaluate the changes. Change always brings with it periods of adjustment. While change for the sake of change is not necessarily useful, change

in response to a changing world is essential. While we can be nostalgic about "the good old days," most of us have adapted to the new realities and probably would not want to go back to those days. The biggest challenge to educators is to maintain high standards while keeping all students motivated.



JIM BELLAMY

What you taught: HS Science, PE

Year started at MV: 1970

Total years at MV: 37
Retired from Teaching 1999, Retired from Coaching 2007
see article on page 24



JOAN KOHL

What you taught: Kindergarten

Year started at MV: 1975

Total years at MV: 32
First year favorite memory: For the first month I didn't know we had a teachers' bathroom. Eight new teachers my first year.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? Every teacher I have taught with has been great!

A favorite memory: I love it when past students stop by to say hi! They discuss the circus, and their VIP charts.

What has changed in education? Same kids, more demands and technology!

Do you remember the first student you taught that you had also taught their parents? Peter Wilch was the first, but I have had many!

Retirement plans: Enjoy the grandchildren, travel, and substitute teach.



TERRY LOESBAC K

What you taught: 2nd grade

Year started at MV: 1972

Total years at MV: 28

First year favorite memory: My first year I remember a parent who wrote me a note on a paper plate...a

sweet note explaining why their daughter was a bit different!

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? Jeanne Snodgrass and June Silliman showing me how things were done in Mount Vernon, and helping

Also, best wishes to

- Robbin Rekemeyer - HS and MS business and computer applications
- David Kennedy - HS Counselor
- Josh Rife - HS Associate
- Laurie McCoy - ES Sign Language Interpreter

me get a handle on some of my more aggressive students.

A favorite memory: I remember a student (can't remember her name) who was VERY shy. At the end of the year she came up to me and told me a joke, and gave me a big hug.

What has changed in education? I think the biggest change I've seen is the parenting. Parents seemed more relaxed and able to cope with stresses of everyday life. Retirement plans: Enjoy the next adventure of my life, in DC and in Mount Vernon.



DOROTHY NOST

Your position: Kitchen cook, at both the elementary and Middle School

Year started at MV: 1992

Total years at MV: 15
Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your

career? Wilma from the high school kitchen helped me a lot. Mr. Krumbholz and Kim Steele.

A favorite memory: I've enjoyed working around the students and getting to know the other cooks. I remember going to Adventureland with the Class of 2004, and while I was standing by one the rides, the students yelled "Hi Lunch Ladies!"

Retirement plans: I plan to take some trips through Hills Bank and also work at home. I enjoy being with my friends.



JANELLE SPROSTON

Your position: Transportation Director

Year started at MV: 1984

Total years at MV: 23 years

First year favorite memory: My first kindergarten bus was getting lost northwest of Mount Vernon - the old CB

radio helped me out.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? My husband Larry was in Transportation before me. He was a great mechanic and bus driver and he taught me the ropes. Also Glenn Plattenberg of Lisbon taught me to back a bus correctly over 30 years ago. Mr. Ringold took pride in our transportation department and helped me make it a success.

A favorite memory: Jeff Schwiebert and I made many road trips together back when he coached basketball and baseball

- there are a lot of stories to tell! I so enjoy the bus riders - I wish I would have written down all the cute things kids say and do.
What has changed in education? The children have not changed, but the parents have. There is a lack of discipline in most homes, and not a consequence for what they do.
Retirement plans: Larry and I will travel, camp, garden, take care of our acres. Sleep in. I love cooking, baking, and spending time with grandchildren.



KAREN STOLL

What you taught: 3rd grade, Title 1 Reading
Year started at MV: 1972
Total years at MV: 34
First year favorite memory: My first year was 'trial by fire'. I had the principal's

son, the school board president's son, and then mid-year, the new superintendent's daughter. First year, first day of school, I had to get used to Iowa kid terminology. I said that it wasn't fair to 'butt' in line. All the kids giggled and said it was 'budge' in line. I saw why. I asked the kids to be sure to go to the basement at recess. After many puzzled looks, I realized that all my schools in Maine had bathrooms in the basement, so to be polite we called going to the bathroom 'the basement', but in Iowa, you call a spade a spade.

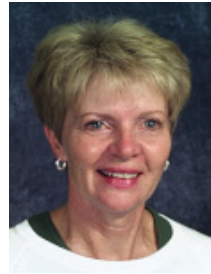
Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? Harriet Pitlik, who had kids my age, was one of the 3rd grade teachers. She took me under her wing and taught me how to teach. She modeled kindness and respect for students, and was so good at coming up with creative ideas. I would never have made it through my first year without her!

Favorite memory: Where do I start! I've discovered over the years that just when you think you've changed a kid, you sometimes have to eat your words. I had a little girl years ago who was street-wise enough to get answers to worksheets and tests off my desk. I thought I'd cured her of cheating and had been praising her up and down, when I got an assignment back from her. The last question was 'Which of these insects seems most interesting to you?'. She wrote "Answers may vary."

What has changed in education? What hasn't changed? Children used to come, sit for hours at a time, talk when called on, not go to the bathroom except at recess, and remember to do their homework. At times, I even remember thinking "this class could teach itself." Kids now have been exposed to so much and are much more active; but I must admit, their creativity and spark really makes them come alive, and I enjoy that aspect of teaching (except on indoor recess days). I'm amazed at their knowledge and their imaginative ideas, and

how much better at technology they are than I am!

Retirement plans: I hope the future is retirement for me. I'm moving back home to Maine to be with my mom and older sister who have health problems, and to help my younger sister too. I hope to find a literacy or a talented and gifted teaching job. I'd like to build a house on the land my mother has set aside for me.



GLORIA TELECKY

What you taught: K through third grade Extended Learning Program
Year started at MV: 1999
Total years at MV: 8
First year favorite memory: My first year of teaching one of my students presented me

with two baby chicks as an Easter present. The chicks did not fare well in our apartment so they went to live on my brother's farm. He said they grew into the two meanest roosters he ever had???? Not sure how they met their demise.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? The teachers who have taught me the most are those who required excellence from their students mixed with an understanding of the student's personal ability and a respect for the student themselves. They were teachers who lived what they taught in both their personal and professional lives. They were people who never lost their thirst for learning and communicated that in their classroom. They also knew how to take what was learned and apply it to life. That made them just plain interesting and fun to be around.

What has changed in education? What has changed the world has changed education. Specifically that would mean computers and instant communication. I also believe our culture has assigned tasks to the schools that should be the responsibility of the home and family

Retirement plans: Ron and I will be spending time in Colorado Springs volunteering for an organization called the Navigators as well as volunteering for other local organizations such as the Salvation Army and East Iowa Bible Camp. I want to spend more time teaching women's classes, spending time with my family, reading for pleasure and for my book club, playing in my flowers.

CAROL HESS

Since the 2006 Newsletter, Carol Hess also retired. Congratulations and best wishes to Carol!

Your position: Elementary School Secretary and Aide

Year started at MV: 1976

Total years at MV: 29



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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

There are a variety of options you can choose from to include the Foundation in your estate planning. If you would like to speak to a Foundation representative regarding planned giving, please contact the Foundation at 319-895-8845 or MVFoundation@mountvernon.k12.ia.us You can also visit the Foundation website at www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/foundation. Your consideration and gifts are accepted with gratitude.



Watch for a complete interview with Diane in the Fall Alumni Newsletter

PHOTO BY LISA LEWIS HAZLETT '83 - ENVISAGE STUDIOS, MOUNT VERNON

Thank you

- to Ed Slach '74 for donating a 1970 yearbook in memory of his sister, Sherry Slach '70
- to MS Secretary Chiara Burke '78 for the older event programs she has passed on to the the Association, and for the 2007 Middle School Yearbook
- to Dr. Leo Gerst for donating 1960 and 1962 yearbooks. Dr Gerst was principal at the junior high from 1956-1957 and high school from 1958 to 1962.
- to Class of '61 For sheet protectors and badges and copy of their reunion book
- to Ade Ringold for pictures and graduation announcements
- to Craig Hipple '61 for donating homecoming pins
- to Iris Hipple, former high school secretary and wife of former coach Don Hipple, for donation of her husband's autographed football from the undefeated 1958 football team, and to Reid Hanley '64 for bringing the football to the Association
- to Jim Bellamy, football pictures and memorabilia
- to teacher Holly Winn for the 2006 8th grade Middle School Video
- to Narji Jo Rayman '55 for class pictures
- to Ruth Minish Stoner '41 for class of 1941 picture
- to Allene Merritt Bys '52 for scrapbooks and Chalk Mark newspapers
- to Judy Caldwell Penn '60 for early 1970s memorabilia
- to Mavis Spangler '58 for homecoming pins

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



Pictured at left: around the table from the front, Shirley Swanson Googler '65, Karen Jilovec Martin '57, Joyce Loomis-Friend, Bunny Williams Copeland '61, Kay Jilovec Lind '55, Crystal Carmer Osborn '53, Annamae Stoneking Baker '60, Barb Thomsen Neal '68, and Babs Beckhelm Moore '53
Pictured above: Annamae Stoneking Baker '60, Bunny Williams Copeland '61, Kay Jilovec Lind '55, Susan Mounts Fisher '65

Is your household getting more than one alumni news? Please let us know.

Remember the alumni association when you are changing addresses. Do we have your current email address too? 319-895-8845 or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us



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