

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# ALUMNI NEWS

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**2010 HERITAGE DAYS ALL-ALUMNI EVENTS**

- JULY 9-10 Alumni Reception
- JULY 10 ALUMNI BREAKFAST

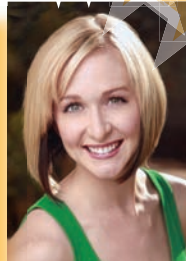
Young alums purchase their first alumni shirt. From left to right: Jeff Vislisel'08 (son of Steve Vislisel'76 and grandfather Paul Vislisel'52), Emily Wilkinson'09 (daughter of Tom Wilkinson'86 and grand daughter of Thomas Wilkinson'60), and Mary Beth McWhinney'09 (daughter of Marsha Siggins McWhinney'70)



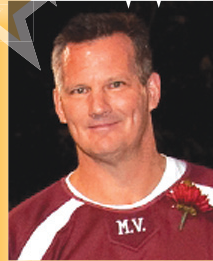
## ALUMNI HALL OF FAME AWARD WINNERS



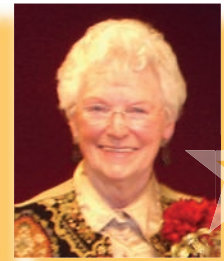
**2009 Achievement**  
Richard 'Dick' Bowman'58



**2009 Fine Arts**  
Kristin Stewart'99



**2009 Athletic**  
Paul Hufford'80



**2009 Service**  
Treva Moore Heiser'50

Alums who attended Homecoming 2009 enjoyed the second year of some new traditions... the Alumni Awards – the Alumni Band – the Alumni Association Award Ceremony – and the President's Harvest Luncheon. Thank you to everyone who played a part in these events and to the students and families of our district who welcomed these new traditions.

Four alumni, pictured above, were announced as the 2009 Alumni Hall of Fame recipients from the Mount Vernon Alumni Association during halftime at Friday's Homecoming football game, and also were recognized at the annual Alumni Association Award Ceremony the next morning. Read more about these winners on pages 5 through 7.

Forty-four nominations were received for the four categories. The seven-member selection committee is made up of two Alumni Association board members, two faculty/staff (past/present), one Fine Arts Association member, one Athletic Booster Club member, and one community representative. If you would like to see your classmates honored as one of our future Hall of Fame winners, see page 19.

**ORIGINAL 1890 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RECORD BOOK DONATED - SEE PAGE 15**



*'the spirit lives on in you'*

525 Palisades Road SW  
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## 2010 ALL-ALUMNI EVENTS

### •JULY 9-10

Alumni Reception Area Friday and Saturday up-town MV during Heritage Days, be sure to stop in and enjoy the displays and friendship

### •JULY 10 ALUMNI BREAKFAST

Don't miss this incredibly popular event, serving from 8-10, open from 8-11, High School, by donation, friends and community welcome

### •Date TBA HOMECOMING

and Alumni Reception, Alumni Band, Alumni Awards announcement

### •Date TBA CELEBRATION

Alumni Award Ceremony and Annual Meeting, President's Harvest Luncheon

## 2009 MV Community Events

www.visitmvl.com

Dec 3 Magical Night

## 2010 MV Community Events

May tba Chalk the Walk

July 4 Antique Extravaganza

July 8-10 Heritage Days

July 10 Art In The Park

Sept tba Lincoln Hwy Arts Festival

Oct tba Chili Cook Off

# 2010 REUNIONS

Is your reunion listing missing? Call 319-895-8845

**Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10  
All-Alumni Reception, Uptown MV  
Saturday, July 10 Breakfast (by donation)  
at new High School, and building Tour**

## 2005 5 years - tba

Contact: Chrystal Covington  
Phone: 319-540-1879  
Email: Crystaal2005@yahoo.com  
Contact: Beth Young  
Phone: 319-895-6458  
Contact: Anne Daly  
Phone: 319-455-2412

## 2000 10 years - July 10 weekend

Contact: Lauren Sauter  
Email: lauren.rsauter@gmail.com  
Contact: Jenny Mick  
Email: jmick1230@gmail.com  
Contact: Paul Easker  
Phone: 515-203-9764  
Email: peasker@gmail.com  
Contact: Katey Forest Sanders  
Phone: 319-365-2425  
Email: shoktart11@aol.com

## 1995 - 15 years - tba

Contact: Allyson Clark Thurn

## 1990 - 20 years - July 10 weekend

Contact: Brittany Kaalberg Booth  
Phone: 319-895-6530  
Email: boothjb@mchsi.com  
Contact: Paul Morf  
Phone: 319-841-3472  
Email: pmorf@simmonsperrine.com

## 1985 - 25 years - tba

Contact: Marcia Peters  
Phone: 651-340-7514  
Email: marciapeters@comcast.net

## 1980 - 30 years - tba

Contact: Chris Kinley Osborn  
Phone: 319-521-8150  
Email: cosborn@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

## 1975 - 35 years - tba

Contact: Carol Woods Boren  
Phone: 319-895-8845  
Email: cwoods@mountvernon.k12.ia.us  
Contact: Lori Lehman Reihle  
Phone: 319-294-5137  
Email: lar917@msn.com

## 1970 - 40 years - tba

Contact: Gwen Stewart Drahos  
Phone: 319-455-2873  
Contact: Judy Hess Greco

## 1965 - 45 years - tba

Contact: Susan Mounts Fisher  
Phone: 319-389-3686  
Email: SusanJFisher@msn.com  
Contact: Suzanne Roberts Stoner  
Phone: 319-895-6071  
Email: wwstoner@aol.com

## 1960 - 50 years - July 10 weekend

Contact: Judy Caldwell Penn  
Phone: 319-396-2435  
Email: luckylady793@msn.com  
Contact: Annamae Stoneking Baker  
Phone: 319-895-8979  
Email: abmrk@juno.com  
Contact: John Rife  
Phone: 319-895-6357  
Email: jrife1@msn.com

## 1955 - 55 years - tba

Contact: Kay Jilovec Lind  
Phone: 319-455-2079  
Email: rkling@iowatelecom.net

## 1950 - 60 years - tba

Contact: Dick McKeen '51  
Phone: 319-248-0502  
Email: rmckeen933@aol.com

## 1945 - 65 years - July 10 Alumni Breakfast

Contact: Betty Pospisil Wolfe  
Phone: 319-895-8125  
Contact: Marilyn Woods Overman  
Phone: 319-895-8507

## 1940 - 70 years - July 10 Alumni Breakfast

Contact: Merrill Pitlik  
Phone: 319-366-7074  
Email: MHPitlik@aol.com

## 1935 - 75 years - July 10 Alumni Breakfast

Contact: Marie Zinkula Kuntz  
Phone: 319-895-6705

Your class may not be having a reunion, but come enjoy seeing classmates and other alums at the All-Alumni Breakfast.

### DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Your email address is as valuable as your mailing address these days. Having your email address in the alumni data base is a great way for other alums, your class representatives, and the alumni office to contact you. If you are not receiving occasional emails from the alumni office, then we probably don't have a personal email address for you.

Please send your email address (as well as any updates like addresses, phone, name changes) to [alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us](mailto:alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us)

You are a student once, but an alum for a lifetime.



Kevin Rogers '81  
Alumni Association  
President

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I round out my first year as president of the MVCSA Alumni Association, one thing that I have come to realize is that in Mount Vernon, the community and the school district go hand-in-hand. Paraphrasing a comment made by Treva Moore-Heiser, Class of 1950, recipient of the 2009 Alumni Service award, 'Mount Vernon Community

School District is a school district for the community, supported by the community.' I have also become more acutely aware of the rich ties many Mount Vernon alumni have to Mount Vernon and its exceptional school district.

Recently Mount Vernon was named one of the top ten coolest small towns in America, by *Budget Travel* magazine (October 2009). For those who have attended Mount Vernon Community Schools, then have gone on to have children of their own who also attend or have attended school in Mount Vernon, this designation comes as no surprise. Despite the fact that Mount Vernon is a great place to get a good cup of coffee, and a place with exceptional food venues, Mount Vernon represents family and home.

During this past year, including Mount Vernon's Heritage Days and the associated MVCSA alumni events, and more recently during Homecoming 2009, I had the distinct opportunity and pleasure of conversing with many alumni. And not surprisingly two things resonated repeatedly from Mount Vernon alumni young and old.

- Despite where life has led them (to lay down new roots), they do consider Mount Vernon home, and
- They consider their graduating class family.

But the one thing I heard Mount Vernon alumni reverberate most often was the pride they continue to hold in being a graduate from Mount Vernon Community Schools.

It is this very sense of home, family, and pride that I will continue to rely on and nourish as president of the Mount Vernon Alumni Association as we move into our fifth year as an organized association. As I have stated to many alumni over the last year I am so proud of what the MVCSA Alumni Association has become and what it represents. It is also an honor to preside over such a wonderful organization. But then again, I also envision our alumni association being bigger, better, and getting much more involved.

While I don't want to lose sight of the fact that the alumni association's primary mission is to keep Mount Vernon alumni connected and provide the means to do so, this connection can serve two purposes; the second of which is staying connected to Mount Vernon Community Schools.

During the 2008-09 school year Mount Vernon alumni began forging that path.

A number of Mount Vernon alumni came forward volunteering their time and support to the school district. Dozens of Mount Vernon alumni lent our support in volunteering in a variety of capacities at the ACADECA (State of Iowa Academic Decathlon) that Mount Vernon high school hosted in the spring 2009. We were there for the annual Honor Society inductions providing the reception following the induction ceremony. And we were also there when the call came out for assistance in selecting the student commencement speakers.

Although these may be small gestures in time when looking at the big picture, it is often these small things that lend to further recognition and exposure of our alumni association.

It is the resounding pride and spirit of being a Mount Vernon alumnus that makes our organization what it is today.



Alum Jon Stoner '04 was in town from his home in California during October, and held an after school Improv Workshop at the High School. Below Jon, at right, works with High School student Spencer Schmidt.



### NOTE TO CLASS OF 1955

Next year will be our 55th year. Let me know if you want to get together at an organized meeting or if we should have a "50's" get-together at Heritage days. Call or email me and I'd be glad to help put something together.

Kay Jilovec Lind  
Phone: 319-455-2079  
Email: rklind@iowatelecom.net

### Want to do something that would be really helpful to your reunion organizers?

Their number one request is 'Please send in your response' when you get your mailing or emails or phone calls. They truly want your attendance, but your response helps them plan. Many times they have to place deposits and purchase items for the reunion and your responses help them.

Their second request is to the local people -- please attend. So many alums travel hundreds or even thousands of miles to attend a reunion, and are often disappointed when local alums do not attend the reunion events.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ELECTION RESULTS

The following alums were elected to the Alumni Association Board of Directors September 26th: (\*in cumbent) Directors Jennykaye Moore Hampton '91\*, Michele Meyer Grudzinski '92 and Lynn Watson Brokel '78. Shauna Applebee Dye '01 was re-elected Secretary. At a reorganization meeting held before the Annual Meeting, Jennykaye Moore Hampton '91 was elected Vice President.

## SPIRIT OF MVHS LIVES IN MEMBER OF CLASS OF '29



by Jake Krob, *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun* July 15, 2009

Myrtle Westcott Licht sums it up simply. "I always said I gotta live to be old so I don't miss anything."

Her longevity was applauded Saturday morning, as hundreds of Mount Vernon High School alumni and community members gathered for the all-school reunion breakfast at the high school for Heritage Days. Myrtle was recognized as the oldest known living alumnus of MVHS. She's 98 years old and graduated with a class of 29 in 1929.

"I'm opting to be 110," Myrtle said, adding that she's in good enough shape she could have run the Heritage Days 5K before the breakfast.

Myrtle spent most of her life after MVHS in Cedar Rapids. Today, she lives at the Clarence Nursing Home. This is the first time she's been able to come to Mount Vernon for Heritage Days alumni events.

"This sure doesn't look like Mount Vernon," she said, sitting in what she called and "extraordinary" new high school.

When she was in school, she attended the then new high school – what's now the First Street Building and often called the "old middle school." "It was brand new," Myrtle recalls.

An only child, she lived across the street with her parents and grandparents. Both of her parents worked – her mom was a milliner, her dad owned theaters – so her grandma often got Myrtle ready for school. She recalled how her grandmother "had it down to the second" when getting Myrtle up for school and making sure she was ready in time to head out the door.

At their home by the high school, a boy two years her senior lived two places down. "He was tall and, boy, could he whistle," Myrtle recalled. She made certain she was on the porch when he left the house.

Mount Vernon School Board Member Bob Penn '81, welcomes Myrtle Westcott Licht '29, our oldest known living alum



# 2010

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE 2010 ALL-ALUMNI EVENTS

HERITAGE DAYS WEEKEND SATURDAY JULY 10

8-11am (serving from 8-10) BREAKFAST AT HIGH SCHOOL

Cost: donation at door Friends, family, community welcome

FRI., JULY 9 AND SAT., JULY 10 ALUMNI RECEPTION AREA UPTOWN

LOOK FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION IN THE SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

She and the boy – Joseph Sedlacek – married. They were married 39 years until his death. She later married Martin Licht. Myrtle had no children and has no relatives around.

After graduating from MVHS, Myrtle went to business college in Cedar Rapids, commuting back and forth via the interurban. When she was 65, she retired from a radiation center in Cedar Rapids.

She said MVHS prepared her for life after school. "When I was there, the Mount Vernon school was ranked 21st in the United States," she said. "It was a great school – you knew everybody, you knew all your teachers."

At the all-alumni event, Myrtle was presented with a plaque. "The spirit lives on in you," it reads. "This is nice ... very nice," Myrtle said.

Myrtle can be reach c/o Larry Wiebel, PO Box 365, Lowden, IA 52255 or by email at [lwiebel@gmail.com](mailto:lwiebel@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

Editor's Note: Watch for more pictures and information about the 2009 All-Alumni Breakfast and Reception in the Spring 2010 news



# EXCEPTIONAL ALUMNI HONORED AT MVHS HOMECOMING

Information about our winners excerpted from an article by Dave Morris, *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun* · October 01, 2009

## Dick Bowman, Class of '58 Alumni Achievement

Dick Bowman of Shorewood, Minn., is recognized as one of the finest trial lawyers in the nation. He was nominated for the Alumni Achievement award by his brother, Robert Bowman '58.



"Being from Mount Vernon and having attended school there has always been a huge part of who I am," he said in a letter accepting the award.

After graduating from MVHS in 1958, he went on to Cornell College, where he graduated in 1968 magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. He went on to attend the University of Minnesota Law School.

After graduating in 1965, cum laude, he joined the Gray Plant law firm in Minneapolis, where he soon became a partner. He practiced there until starting the Bowman and Brooke law firm on Feb. 1, 1985. Starting with offices in Minneapolis and Phoenix, the firm has since added offices in Los Angeles and San Jose, Calif., Detroit, Mich., and Richmond, Va. Bowman has been managing partner of the firm for all 24 years, until he stepped down in January.

Bowman cited "two unparalleled opportunities" at MVHS: academics and extracurricular activities.

"We had a great faculty, and I learned to study and to excel," he said in his letter. "Whether it was Charlie Krause teaching English, dramatic arts and declamation, or Red Miller teaching science or Leo Gurst teaching math ...

our faculty was top notch. I didn't really understand how top notch until I got into Cornell College and discovered that I could academically compete with anyone there no matter which big city or private high schools they had come from."

Looking back now, Bowman sees a "rich array" of extracurricular activities he could participate in. "Precisely because the high school had limited enrollment (I think my class had 45 members), a student got to do everything if he wanted to," he said. As a result, he played football on the conference champion team in 1957, had roles in dramatic productions, entered declamation competitions, sang in the chorus, and played trumpet in the band.

"The result was that I grew up in high school thinking that it was normal to be on my feet in front of crowds of people, performing either verbally, vocally, instrumentally or athletically," he said. "I am absolutely sure that this early competence and confidence on my feet was the driving force that sent me to law school to become a courtroom trial lawyer."

Bowman's career has involved defending manufacturers against product liability claims. His firm, the largest supplier of defense lawyers to the worldwide auto industry, is the only one that tries cases in all 50 states, and its client list includes: Ford, General Motors, Toyota, Volkswagen, Nissan, Subaru, Chrysler, Hyundai, Kia, Honda, Kawasaki, Yamaha and many others. The firm recently was named the number one product liability defense firm in the nation by The Legal 500, a lawyer rating firm.

"Again, that Mount Vernon High School gave me both sides of the equation I needed to become what happened to

continued on next page



From left to right: On the football field Bob Bowman '59, representing his brother Dick '59, Mike and Karen Stewart representing their daughter Kristin '99, Paul Hufford '80, and Treva Moore Heiser '50.



From left to right: Sitting in the audience just prior to the Award Ceremony are Treva, Paul, and Paul's presenter, Dick Peters.



From left to right: Mike and Karen Stewart representing Kristin, and Kristin's nominator and presenter, Michael Ireland '99



From left to right: Bob Bowman '59, who nominated his brother Dick for the Achievement Award, Master of Ceremonies Jon Rife '60, Dick's sisters Mary Bowman Seidler '57 and Rosalie Bowman Gallagher '63.



Treva is congratulated by, from left to right, Alumni President Kevin Rogers (not pictured), School Superintendent Dr. Pam Ewell, Foundation President Ann Koppenhaver '78, Awards Chair Debra Winchip Douglass '86, and Alumni Director and Awards Committee member Jennykaye Moore Hampton '91.

Below, enjoying the President's Harvest Luncheon are from left to right: Paul Hufford '80, Paul's mother Ann Hufford, Association Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Association President Kevin Rogers '81, and Karol Koppenhaver '74. Dick Peters is in the lower right of the picture.



## DID YOU KNOW...

### 5 YEAR ASSOCIATION ANNIVERSARY IN 2010

In one year the Alumni Association will celebrate its 5th year. The first Alumni Association meeting for class representatives, held in conjunction with ground breaking of the new high school, was in April of 2005. The first newsletter was printed in May of 2005. Watch for more celebration info in the Spring News.

# Get your nomination in today for the next Award Winners to the Hall of Fame! See page 19



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## Award Winners, continued

me (the academic skills to excel and the stand-up confidence to do it in court before juries) leaves me with a large debt of gratitude to good old MVHS," he said.

Dick can be reached at richard.bowman@bowmanandbrooke.com

### Kristin Stewart, Class of '99 Fine Arts Hall of Fame

Kristin Stewart, an actress based in New York was nominated for the awards by classmate Michael Ireland.



Kristin was rehearsing in Chattanooga, Tenn., with a touring company for "The Wizard of Oz," and was unable to attend the Ceremony. She plays the role of Glinda and is also assistant company manager. The closest the company will come to Mount Vernon is its Nov. 29 performance at the Adler Theatre in Davenport. Iowa performances also are scheduled in Ames and Sioux City.

She has acted in national touring productions of "Hairspray," "Wonderful Town," "The Full Monty," "Stand By Your Man" (in the role of Tammy Wynette), and "A Christmas Carol."

She has acted in a lengthy list of regional and New York productions, including "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "The Music of America," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Cabaret," "Oklahoma," "Nonsense Jamboree," "A Winter's Tale," "City of Angels," and "The Sound of Music."

The daughter of Karen and Mike Stewart, Kristin credits her years at MVHS as giving her many opportunities. "There were many chances to be involved in plays, performing, speech, music," she told the Sun from Chattanooga. "The teachers who were so encouraging. It made it very easy to be involved." She said she's thankful for the opportunities. "I have only fond memories of everything in Mount Vernon," she added.

After graduating from MVHS in 1999, she graduated cum laude with a B.F.A. in music theatre from Illinois Wesleyan University.

While at MVHS, she was involved in four years of large and small group speech, receiving 10 all-state speech awards and a scholarship. She was in ninth grade Opus and auditioned for All State music three times. She was president of the Thespian Society and choir, was in "The Sound of Music," "Brigadoon," "Guys and Dolls," "The Manchurian Candidate" and "Rumors."

Watch her acceptance speech on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tb7coNjUkC8>  
Kristin can be reached at [stewartkristin@hotmail.com](mailto:stewartkristin@hotmail.com)

### Paul Hufford, Class of '80 Sports Hall of Fame

Paul Hufford of Shawnee, Kan., was nominated by his family for the award (names). He is regional marketing manager for the Transport America trucking firm.



"Mount Vernon ought to feel fortunate for the teachers and coaches who have stuck around so long," Hufford told the Sun. "There were plenty of outstanding teachers and coaches who helped the transition to college."

Hufford, the son of Ann and the late Harold Hufford, was a standout athlete at Mount Vernon from 1976 through 1980. He lettered in four sports and won state championships in wrestling and track. He recovered from a major knee injury suffered during the wrestling regional finals during his senior year in high school.

He overcame the injury to become a three-year letter winner at the University of Iowa and was named defensive lineman of the year his senior year. While at Iowa, his brother Mike '79 also was on the football team. Prior to that, brother Joe '75 was a Hawkeye player.

As a member of the MVHS football team, Hufford earned many honors: three-time letter winner (positions played: offensive tackle, nose guard, punter), three time all-conference, two-time first team all-state, member of conference champion team, Adidas All American and was a captain.



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As a wrestler, Hufford was a: four-time letter winner at 155 pounds, 167 pounds, 185 pounds and heavyweight; three-time conference champ; three time state participant (first place, fifth place, qualifier); member of third place team and fourth place team; runner-up state freestyle wrestling (heavyweight); and captain.

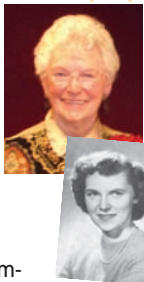
On the track team, he was: a three-time letter winner (shot put, hurdles), a three-time member of a conference championship team; a two-time conference champ (shot put); a one-time state champ (shot put); a conference placewinner (fourth in high hurdles); and a member of a team that placed fourth in state. He won two letters as a baseball player and was named all conference once.

Hufford's college football accomplishments included: three-time letter winner; two-time All Big Ten; two time All American; Big 10 defensive lineman of the year; and serving as a captain during his senior year. He was a member of the Rose Bowl, Gator Bowl, Peach Bowl and Freedom Bowl teams.

Paul can be reached at [Paul.Hufford@transportamerica.com](mailto:Paul.Hufford@transportamerica.com)

**Treva Moore Heiser, Class of '50 Alumni Service Award**

Treva Heiser, recipient of the Alumni Service Award, was nominated by both her husband Wil Heiser and classmate David Wolfe. She lives in Loveland, Colo.



Her many awards and accomplishments include: served as mayor and council member in Loveland; designed an A.A. Degree Technical Writing Program which received a

Colorado Award; initiated Veteran's Memorial Campaign (2004); initiated Colorado Children's Day; initiated a Senior Advisory Commission; initiated a Police Volunteers Unit; initiated Loveland Loves to Read-One Book, One Community; initiated a Berthoud Community Scholarship Fund; served eight years on Thompson R2J Board of Education, four years as president; and served on Larimer County Vocational Technical Center Governing Board, including as president.

She also: received "Making A Difference Award" 2005 from the Loveland Reporter Herald for people who build a better world - beginning in their own community; has been a member of Chilson Senior Center Board of Directors; member of Loveland Public Library Board; member of Loveland Friends of the Library; volunteer-tutor, Centennial Elementary; member and lector, King of Glory Lutheran Church, Loveland; Master Teacher Award from Front Range Community College (nominated by students); Lt. Governor, Div. 16 Rocky Mountain District, Kiwanis International; member for many years on Scholarship Committee for Kiwanis Club and PEO Club.

Heiser's professional career included teaching in Iowa and Colorado. She has both bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Colorado.

Treva can be reached at [wiltreva@earthlink.net](mailto:wiltreva@earthlink.net)

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For those of you who live in Mount Vernon, watch the Award Ceremony on local cable channel KMYL on Saturday, November 28th at 9:30 am.



At the Alumni Annual Meeting on Sept 26, President Kevin Rogers '81, on stage, introduced the Alumni Board and honored volunteers. From left Volunteer Judy Penn '60 for her work with the alumni data base, Board members Jerry Niederhauser '75, Dennis Drahos '59, Past-President Lisa Squiers White '88, Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Director and Awards Chair Deb Winchip Douglass '86, Vice President and Awards Co-Chair Jennykaye Moore Hampton '91, volunteer Alumni Band Chair Betsy McWilliams Brown '99, and new Board member Michele Meyer Grudzinski '92. Not pictured is new Board member Lynn Watson Brokel '78



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# HOMECOMING 2009

In addition to the Alumni Reception on Homecoming eve and the Annual Meeting the following morning, our alums enjoyed the second year of new traditions during Mustang Homecoming. These new traditions included the alumni band and color guard/flag, the BIG ANNOUNCEMENT of our Alumni Award recipients, the Awards Ceremony and the President's Award Luncheon.

## ALUMNI RECEPTION



The Alumni Reception Tent is decorated and filled with visitors to congratulate the Award Winners.

Many of you know that for the last few years we have been creating a different commemorative alumni water bottle label for each of our Heritage Days and Homecoming Events. Alums who have been at past events are selected at random to be pictured. Featured on the water bottle this fall were: Kevin Woods'73, Jane Costello Fink'59, Tyler Leeper'03, Sheri Russell Arnold'82, Dan Drahos'84, Alissa Claes Philipp'00, and Dennis Akers'64.



Karen Valentine Thuerauf'80 and her son Chris Thuerauf'05 visit with Sports Hall of Fame winner Paul Hufford'80

At right, alums Linda Peterson Nos'63, Susan Mounts Fisher'65, Rosalie Bowman Gallagher'63, and Gloria Herboldsheimer Krob'63



## HONORARY CAPTAINS

For the third year in a row, High School Football Coach Duane Orr has included 'legends from the past' as honorary captains for each fall football game. The Honorary Captains first join the team for their Thursday night practice, and offer lessons learned, then on Friday game night they walk team captains out onto the field for the coin toss, and join the team on the sidelines.

Honorary Captains for the 2009 season were:

- Vance Ellison'95 Solon 8-28-09
- Keith Woods'88 Iowa City Regina 9-4-09
- Bill Clark'84 LaPorte City Union 9-11-09
- Ken Pospisil'68 DeWitt Central 9-18-2009
- Vaughn Schweitzer'68 Marion 9-25-2009 Homecoming
- Josh Rundle'04 Vinton-Shellsburg 10-2-09
- Doug Wumkes, assistant coach 1976-2001 Maquoketa 10-9-09
- Ross Dutton'84 Benton Community 10-16-09
- Jeremy Hotz'99 Anamosa 10-23-09

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THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING 2010 WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL SPRING. WATCH FOR MORE INFO TO COME.

2010

AWARD CEREMONY, ANNUAL MEETING & PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON, Sept.26



Decorating the Reception Area are alum Katey Forest Sanders'00 and President Kevin Rogers'81

ALUMNI BAND



Friend Beth Drongesen Mhire'86 joined Alumni Band Flag Member Nancy Curry Worrell'85 Below, the Alumni Band joined the 8th grade band and High School Band on the field



The Class of 1974 celebrated their 35th Reunion over Homecoming weekend. Here Ann Dvorak Ash, center, greets classmates.



The High School Dance Team performed at the Award Ceremony then served at the President's Luncheon. Here a team member serves Dennis Drahos'59 and John Rife'60



Enjoying the Homecoming festivities are at left: Jennie Stoltz Hook '84, Tiffany Stoltz Adams '89, Angela Harms Randall '88 At right wearing his letter jacket is Mark Rodman'82



Above, alumni band members visit, and at right, past band director Don Stine visits with alum band member Dave Lynott '88



At right, alum Molly Thornton'05 plays prior to the President's Luncheon



Karen Jilovec Martin'57 at left enjoys visiting with Mary Bowman Seidler'57 at far right, and husband Roger'58 center, visits with alums and Bob Bowman'58 at right.



Karol Koppenhaver '74 and Carolyn Neal Palmer'42



Enjoying the President's Harvest Luncheon are High School Band Director Alan Kiser, and alums Babs Beckhelm Moore'53 and Dick Moore'52



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## MEET SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DR. PAM EWELL

School board president Tom Wieseler turns to a focus group's comment to sum up the school district's new superintendent: "She feels the most like Mount Vernon."

The school board unanimously approved the hiring of Dr. Pam Ewell, who came from Grinnell where she was the middle school principal, as the new superintendent of the Mount Vernon Community School District. Involved in education for more than 25 years, Ewell said it's been a long-term goal to become a superintendent – "to lead and work with excellent people." "I have found that in Mount Vernon," she said.

Wieseler said school board members were impressed with Ewell's "breadth of

experience" – including with teaching, the Area Education Agency, administration and leadership. The interview process involved five focus groups, with 59 total stakeholders, and Wieseler said there was consistency in their thoughts about Ewell. "I know we chose the candidate that is the best for us," Wieseler said.

A native of Monticello, Ewell, 49 earned a bachelor's degree in education and early childhood from ISU in 1982, a master's from Drake University in 1991 and an education specialist degree in administration-superintendent from Drake in 2001. In 2004, she earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from ISU. (from the Sun)



## CLASS OF 2009

A class that Mount Vernon High School principal Dennis Walsh said is "chalk full of many talented and motivated" individuals earned their diplomas at May's 2009 commencement. And they did it in style, becoming the largest class in school district history with 118 earning diplomas.

Walsh pointed out that the Class of 2009 is "truly gifted," with measures ranging from athletic to academic success. He pointed out the sports' accolades, including that earlier that night the girls' track and field team had earned the Class 3A state title. He noted the academic accomplishments, from 87 members of the class earning at least a 20 on the ACT to the school being ranked in the top 25 of the state's advanced placement index with 30 seniors taking 80 AP exams.

The ceremony, held in a packed MVHS gym, honored five top graduating seniors – valedictorians Alex Brannaman, Scott Burke and Jonah Greenstein and salutatorians Jordan Barr and Shelby Kintzel.

Ian Dye '01, alum and High School Math teacher, was the featured speaker.



### COMING SOON – MOUNT VERNON MIDDLE SCHOOL FITNESS ROOM

We are now looking for a variety of new or quality-used fitness equipment including:

- stationary bikes
- elliptical machines
- jump ropes
- dumb bells from 5-25 pounds
- various weight training bars and benches

Please contact Jeremy Elliott '89 at 319-895-0440 or mvelliott@netzero.net if you have any of these, or other items to donate. Monetary donations also welcome. Thank you for your help with this project that will benefit the Middle School students.

If you have a group of people wanting to tour a school building, please give the Alumni Office a call at 319-895-8845.



Dear Mount Vernon Alumni and friends of the district,

I am so pleased to be the new school district Superintendent. Mount Vernon has a can-do attitude. I felt confident I could hit the ground running, and since July it has been non-stop. I'm excited about helping the district build on an education system focused on excellence. The amazing number of student clubs, strong parent organizations, the way the district communicates through the newsletter and website, and the active alumni association and foundation are some of the impressive strengths. You really don't see these types of things everywhere.

We, the board, administrators and staff, are working hard to lay ground rules for our work over both the short and long term. We've developed five strong long-range student achievement goals. In addition we have pinpointed district goals for this year. In short they are to:

- build student-adult relationships
- increase student awareness of different careers
- continue improvements in curriculum design
- improve teaching methods and staff evaluations.

To work hand-in-hand with these goals, I was very encouraged that the Foundation Board approved funds of \$11,000 to assist with the Teacher Grant Program, the annual Foundation Scholarship, a new Bronze Apple teacher mentoring and recognition program, and staff recognition opportunities. None of which could have happened without the donations from so many of the District's alumni and friends.

I look forward to meeting as many alums as I can at school and alumni events. Yes, 'the spirit lives on in you' in so many ways, and it is evident in our school district, thank you! If you ever have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Dr. Pam Ewell

# MOUNT VERNON IS ONE 'COOL TOWN'

by Jake Krob · excerpt from the *Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun*, October 08, 2009

Well over half a million people are learning about Mount Vernon, after a national travel magazine dubbed the community one of the "Top 10 coolest small towns in America." Already, it's creating a buzz in the community and elsewhere.

Mount Vernon made the top-10 list in the October edition of Arthur Frommer's *Budget Travel* magazine. Yanina Erman, a spokesperson for *Budget Travel*, told the Sun that the list is "the editor's picks" based on an online *Budget Travel* poll last spring asking people to nominate and vote for the coolest small towns.

"The town certainly had some enthusiasm," she said, referring to the nomination and votes Mount Vernon received online. In the online poll last spring, *Budget Travel* asked for nominations of towns under 10,000 that are "on the upswing" and places that are "beginning to draw attention – and new residents – because of the quality of life, arts and restaurant scene, or proximity to nature. We want towns with an edge, so think avant-garde galleries, not country stores."

*The Coolest Small Towns in America* feature in this month's magazine edition is subtitled, "Every now and then, you stumble upon a town that's gotten everything right – great coffee, food with character, shop owners with purpose. These 10 spots have it all, in perfectly small doses."

The story on Mount Vernon, by Thisbe Nissen, says the community is a place where "art isn't confined to gallery walls." The piece reports "In Mount Vernon, about a 20-minute drive east of Cedar Rapids, art isn't confined to gallery walls. As you're driving in on Highway 30, a local artist's rendition of Grant Wood's 'American Gothic,' splashed on the side of a barn, immediately sets the town's tone. And at an annual sidewalk-chalk festival, which takes place each May, hundreds of people put their stamp on more than 4,000 square feet of the main drag."

The "American Gothic" piece was done by Mount Vernon artist and Lisbon School art teacher Mark Benesh '83.



# SUTLIFF BRIDGE -WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Do you have a special memory of Sutliff Bridge? Johnson County's Board of Supervisors would like to hear from you...

[http://www.johnson-county.com/dept\\_survey.aspx?id=7627](http://www.johnson-county.com/dept_survey.aspx?id=7627)

Follow this link to an online survey being conducted by Johnson County to determine the fate of the flood-damaged bridge.

The county currently has three options, each using a combination of Federal and tax-payer dollars to affect the missing bridge span which toppled into the river with record 2008 floods. One option involves replacing the lost span with one similar in appearance, another option is replacing the lost span with a cable-stay span, and third option is demolition of remaining spans and use of Federal reimbursements funds for other Johnson County projects.

This survey is being conducted as the result of pleas from local residents to the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. More than 100 people turned out at a recent Johnson County supervisors meeting, some traveling from as far as California, to make a case to save the historic bridge site.

The bridge crosses the Cedar River at Sutliff and was partially destroyed when 2008 flood waters pushed the eastern span into the river. The bridge is eligible for \$1.7 million in restoration funds from FEMA. However, Johnson County could also use \$1.4 million of the FEMA funds on alternate projects in the county.


Many want to see the bridge restored and preserved as it has been the site of parades, picnics, photos, and even marriage proposals. And the Johnson County Supervisors recognize the strong emotions many have about saving the bridge.

"This is shaping up to be one of the toughest issues the board has faced," Johnson County Board of Supervisors Chairman Terrence Neuzil said recently. The County set up the on-line survey to collect public input towards a decision about restoring the bridge. The county expects to make a final decision later this month.



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# Mustangs...what are they doing now?

## ■ CLINT LANDIS'80



What began as a band that first played for their company Christmas party five years ago, has blossomed to near stardom. Clint Landis'80 who is married to alum Lori Martin Landis'80, is one of four Frontier Natural Products Co-Op employees who joined together to form the band Aeroroot. Clint, who is a lead vocalist and plays rhythm guitar for the group, is Frontier's Chief Marketing Officer.

After the company Christmas party, their band became a regular at company gatherings. They entered the FORTUNE Battle of Corporate Bands, competing first, and winning, in Hollywood in July of this year. This took them to the finals at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio in October to compete against seven other bands. Although they did not win first place, videos and pictures can be seen on their web site at [www.aerorootband.com](http://www.aerorootband.com) and on face book.



FORTUNE Battle of the Corporate Bands is a partnership between NAMM (the trade association of the international music products industry), FORTUNE magazine, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. The national competition celebrates the positive effects of making music, which has been shown to increase employee morale and productivity in the workplace. Event proceeds benefit the Rock Hall's educational programs.

Aeroroot plays rock, rhythm and blues, and has three cds available for purchase on their web site. The cds are Extract Lab (2005), Aeroroot II (2006), and Midnight Flight (2007).

They have been featured in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, the *Des Moines Register*, *City Revealed* and various other publications.

Clint can be contacted at: [aerorootband@hotmail.com](mailto:aerorootband@hotmail.com)

Editor's note: Thank you to Karen Jilovec Martin'57 for providing information for this article.



## ■ KIM BOYD WOLFE'74 and GLENN WOLFE'72



Excerpted from an article by Jake Krob, *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun*

The most valuable item at Mount Vernon's newest antique shop might just be a piece not for sale. Held in a plastic sleeve atop a three-ring binder is a 1909 ledger page from the shoe store that was located in the antique shop's new home. It details the charges and payments of D.L. Boyd. He's the great-great-grandfather of Kim Wolfe'74, who with her husband Glenn'72 opened Wolfe's Antiques at 121 1st St. N.W. in uptown Mount Vernon in 2008.

Wolfe said Frank Benesh'56 gave her the ledger – his grandfather owned the shoe store where Wolfe's is now set up. She said it's that kind of history – that kind of connection – that makes her and her husband excited about opening a shop on main street. "Glenn and I have always had good feelings here," she said of the location. "It's always had a good vibe for us."

Kim and Glenn have a rich history in this community, with original Mount Vernon settlers. D.L. (David Lindsey) Boyd arrived in the U.S. in 1862. Glenn's great-great-grandfather, John Wolfe Sr., arriving in Iowa in 1839; on his mom's

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Thank you to alum Judy Penn'60 for many of the pictures in this newsletter.

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side, the Stonekings came in the mid-1850s. Kim said it's through family that they developed an interest in antiques, including through her grandparents and Glenn's dad, Bob Wolfe '48.

Their love of Mount Vernon, and the history here, led them to open an antique shop in 1989. Since then they have had a furniture stripping and refinishing business in addition to being antique dealers in Middleton, Wis.

Then in 2008 they returned to Mount Vernon, where for two months they extensively remodeled the front space of the building they are now in on Main Street, transforming it from a restaurant to a store.

Wolfe said the focus of items in the store is on "things that can go right into somebody's home." Items are numerous and diverse at Wolfe's Antiques. There's glassware, silver, early china and antique prints. The Wolfes enjoy quilts, and have a few of them for sale. In a back room, artwork by Kim's mother, Ruth Ipsan-Brown, is located. In the future, the Wolfes might take over more of their new space for an art gallery.

They can be reached by email at: wolfeantiques@aol.com



## ■ CRYSTAL CARDON ESKELSEN '93

### FIRED UP: A decade later and I still love what I do

**Editor's Note:** In 2008 Crystal Eskelsen celebrated ten years as a reporter for the *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun*. Here is a portion of the article she wrote to tell about those ten years.

It's true what they say – time really does fly when you're having fun!

I can't believe it has been 10 years since I read the help wanted advertisement for a job covering high school basketball games for the *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun*.

We were living in Coralville at the time and had a brand new baby. I was looking for a part-time job to help support our little family as my husband went to graduate school.

I called the newspaper and spoke with Mike Weiler – the sports editor at the time. He asked me to bring in some writing samples when I came for my interview. I scraped together a couple of papers that I had written in my one college English class.

Writing was one thing that I swore I would never do unless I absolutely had to. I didn't like English classes because the scoring was so arbitrary, while my math and statistics problems were clearly right or wrong. I waited until my junior year of college to take my first English class – that's how much I didn't want to do any writing.

But, I did love sports and the thought of covering high school sports was pretty exciting.

Weiler spoke to me briefly and asked if



I had ever taken any pictures. I told him that I owned a camera and had taken a high school photography class. I walked out of the newspaper that day with a job (an assignment to cover Mount Vernon basketball) and an ancient 35mm camera in hand. Jeff Schwiebert was the boys' basketball coach and Pat O'Donnell was the head coach for the girls – wow, that seems like a long time ago. At that point, we took all of our pictures on film. I recently read those first articles I wrote and it amazes me how far I've come.

Ten years later, I cover every Lion and Mustang team in one form or another. I celebrate their victories and struggle through their losses right along with them. I love my job, I love getting to know the athletes and the coaches and most of all I love taking the pictures.

The photography part of my job has changed dramatically over the years, as my equipment went from that first clunky 35mm camera to an irritatingly slow early digital camera, to a my current 35mm digital SLR. I take great pride in capturing faces of athletes as they participate in their sports and that has gotten much simpler with the aid of technology.

I would wish for every person to have a job that they love as much as I love mine. Recently, publisher Jake Krob and I were at the U.S. Cellular Center for the state volleyball tournament. We saw an older woman wandering the sidelines with a camera in hand and Jake made a comment about that being me in 50 years – if I could only be that lucky!

If that works out to be the case, I will be a truly grateful person. Grateful for the opportunity to be involved in something I love to do.

Crystal can be reached at: [crystalesk@msn.com](mailto:crystalesk@msn.com)



  
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-Jenny Moore Hampton '94  
[jjdsphamp@mchsi.com](mailto:jjdsphamp@mchsi.com)  
319-651-3439

-Susan Mounts Fisher '65  
[susanifisher@msn.com](mailto:susanifisher@msn.com)  
319-389-3686

■ MIKE SMITH '68



At left, Mike Smith '68 shows his line of Mustang apparel, at right, Mike as a senior in High School

**Bauman's at 100: Store's tradition holds 100-year history in uptown Mount Vernon**

excerpt from an article by Dave Morris, *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun* · August 20, 2009

**IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CUSTOMER.**

For 100 years, Bauman & Co., has been consistently serving the clothing needs of its customers at a fair price. It's that consistency that has been keeping customers coming back, said owner Mike Smith '68, who has been a part of the business for 40 of those 100 years. "It's all about meeting needs, fitting customers properly and giving them reasonable service and great quality for the money," he said. "Consistency is important. We greet every customer who comes in the front door."

The business, reaching 100 years in August, is second only to Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co. in longevity as a business in the community. Long known for its men's clothing, Bauman's also carries clothing for women and has a wide selection of Mount Vernon School District and Cornell College wear. Men's big and tall clothing and dry cleaning services are popular, too.

**CUSTOMERS COME FIRST**

For Smith, it's all about the customers. The reward of working at and now owning Bauman's has resulted in great relationships with his customers. "A lot of them are now our friends. The friendships are amazing," he said. Customers come from Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and Dubuque, and the Mount Vernon and Lisbon people are wonderful to us."

**'JUST A SMALL PART OF IT'**

Smith attributes the longevity of the business to those involved before him who laid a strong foundation.

"It goes back to Fred Young, Tom Wolfe and the Bauman family," he said. "One hundred years - it's amazing. It's pretty much about the people here and those ahead of me. I'm just a small part of it." The firm was founded in August of 1909 by Fred A. Bauman, who previously had been co-owner of the Mount Vernon Hawkeye newspaper with his brother, A.A. Bauman. Not long after the store's founding, Fred Young was hired. Fred Bauman's sons, Robert and Corlyn, took over after his death in 1938. Young retired in 1973. That year, the store was sold to Tom Wolfe '45, John Wolfe '44, and Doug Van Metre '46.

In 1993 Smith and his cousin, Scott Wolfe, bought the place. Smith took over sole ownership about 10 years ago.

"It's certainly a milestone for Mount Vernon," said John Wolfe '44, the former owner. "I hope it goes for another 100 years. You couldn't ask for nicer people. Mike has Mount Vernon at heart."

Mike can be reached at [mikesmith124w@yahoo.com](mailto:mikesmith124w@yahoo.com)



**ALUMNI BAND SIGN UP NOW!**  
You're in for a really great time as a member of the Alumni Band. Players, non-players, and Pom squad members welcome.  
**SEE PAGE 18**

■ BRIAN BARTHEL '77



Since graduating from Mount Vernon in 1977 Brian received his B.S. in Health Science in 1984 and his Masters in Health Science in 1985, both from from Brigham Young University. He went on to get his Ph.D in Health Education from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale in 1988. Brian has been an Associate Professor of Community Health at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah since 1998.

Enjoy this email from Brian to family and friends about a trip he is currently on...

"Hello Family and Friends,

The past several days I've been in and around Creel, Mexico... which is central Mexico in the State of Chihuahua. I traveled (drove from Utah) here last week with 3 other faculty and 12 students. Our purpose has been to test the local water sources, wells, springs, streams for elevated levels of arsenic and determine if the people exhibit any signs of chronic arsenic exposure. Some seem to, but we are not certain it is arsenic related... the populations around Creel are the Tarahurara Indians.... a colorful, industrious people who live in frontier style homes of logs and stone... heated with wood burning stoves. They are known for their ability to run long distances and run from here to there... when you enter a village the children especially come running to greet you, and they run everywhere with you... very inspiring"

Brian can be reached at: [barthebr@uvu.edu](mailto:barthebr@uvu.edu)



# COMPOSITES NOW UP!



## ORIGINAL 1890 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RECORD BOOK DONATED

It's a small, old, tattered book, with its spine barely holding the pages together. But the treasures inside it are priceless. A record book dating to 1890, holds the first Mount Vernon High School Alumni Association by-laws and charter member names, along with a 1943 *Hawkeye-Record* newspaper article explaining how it got into their hands.

How it got into our hands? Many thanks to Randy Hoidahl '61, who along with his brother Rich '59, brought it to Mount Vernon this past summer. Randy found it among his deceased mother's belongings, Florence Hoidahl who was a long-time reporter for the *Hawkeye-Record*, and wanted it to come back to the Alumni Association.

Prior to that, Jay Boyd from the class of 1891 found that he unknowingly had it in his possession, and sent it to the *Hawkeye-Record* in 1943, asking "it to be turned over to the secretary of the Association with the warning that it should be kept somewhere so that future generations may have access to it. I think it is quite an heirloom for the High school as it contains a list of 246 of the early graduates of the school."

Among the charter members are Ethelda Burge, Cora Francher, Carrie Keyes, Anson Burge, Geneva Shantz, Maud McKean, Ella Davis, F.S. Alden, W.C. Alden, Chas. R. Keyes, Grace Foster, James R. Smith and Lois C. Miller. The organization was started June 11, 1890 with Ethelda Burge as president, W.C. Alden as secretary, and Carrie Keyes as treasurer. The Association started their first activity with a reception for the graduating class of 1890.

Stop in at the Association Office if you would like to see it. We will work to put the pages on-line in the future.



Roger Pitlik '67 and Maintenance Supervisor for the Mount Vernon School District, along with assistant Jerry Ortmann hung new class composite frames in the High School building over the summer. The next step was to transfer the composites from their old frames to the new frames. Thirteen enthusiastic alums with fond memories of those hanging composites and who didn't mind a little hard work volunteered. Keith Burge '67 (and custodian at the Middle School) helped to oversee the transfer.

Pictured above from left to right are: John Pospisil '66, Donna Wood '86, Kevin Wolter '07, Kim Raim '81, Kylee Husak '07, future alum Jared Jackson '14 (son of Kim), Emilie Lynch '08, Pat Pisarik '68, Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Lisa Berry '93, Keith Burge '67, Margaret Ellison Duffy '66, and Carol Woods Boren '75

## ALUMS VOLUNTEER AT HIGH SCHOOL



From left to right are Lynn Watson Brokel '78, Alumni Association President Kevin Rogers '81, and Myrt Clark Bowers '57 who last spring volunteered to help High School Principal Dennis Walsh select a student commencement speaker. Seniors submitted and then performed a proposed graduation speech to this volunteer committee.



## SPELLERBERG SCHOLARSHIP

Dear Fellow alums,  
Many of you know about the tragic death of our classmate Dave Spellerberg. Dave sustained a head injury from a fall while painting. After being in a coma for nearly a month, Dave passed away on Thursday, October 8th.

Dave wasn't the star athlete or the class clown, but out of the spotlight, he always had a smile on his face. We will remember Dave as kind, caring, hard-working and well-liked by everyone who knew him.

After graduation, Dave earned a degree from Kirkwood Community College and was hired by Bowker Mechanical Contractors. For the past 17 years he worked for Bowker and farmed with his brothers near Mount Vernon.

To honor Dave, we intend to create a memorial fund to provide an annual scholarship/award for a Mount Vernon High School student interested in a vocational/technical career. We will collaborate with Dave's family and Bowker Mechanical in this effort to remember Dave.

The specifics of this memorial will be determined by our contributions and Bowker's donation, along with thoughtful input from Dave's family, our class and Bowker.

If you would like to contribute, please send your donation to:

Dave Spellerberg '89 Memorial Scholarship Fund  
c/o Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation  
525 Palisades Road SW  
Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Please make your check payable to the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation.

Remembering Dave,

Jeff Meeker '89 (319) 361-4476  
jmeeker@cornellcollege.edu

Mike Russell '89 (319) 551-4256  
mjruss@inav.net



## HALSEY INDUCTED INTO VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to Charles Halsey who was inducted into the Iowa Girls Volleyball Coaches and Officials Hall of Fame in November of 2007.



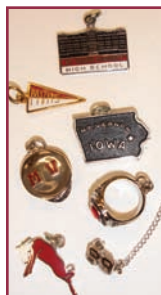
Charles taught biology and chemistry at Mount Vernon High School from 1969-2001. In 1972, as Title IX was changing the sports world by providing opportunities for young women to participate in high school athletics, principal Adrian Ringold asked Halsey to coach "extramural" girls' teams in basketball and volleyball. As a result of that pilot program, the school established formal programs in volleyball, basketball, and softball, hiring individual coaches for each sport. In 1973, Halsey turned over the coaching reigns to legendary Mount Vernon Coach, Shirley Ryan, but at the urging of Ringold, Halsey agreed to assist the school and its volleyball program by obtaining certification as a volleyball official.

In his 35-year officiating career, Halsey officiated over 2000 high school and middle school volleyball matches. He worked his first state tournament in 1975, just three years into his career. As one Iowa's best referees, he has regularly been selected to officiate in the state volleyball tournament, working 11 state competitions in all. Throughout his career, Halsey has been devoted to continuously improving the level of high school volleyball officiating in Iowa. He was instrumental in creating the East Central Iowa Volleyball Officials Association.

Charles and Linda Halsey live in Mount Vernon. They have two daughters, Anne '92 of Chicago, and Gail Halsey Bertram '94 of Oshkosh, WI. In addition to continuing his officiating duties, Halsey currently serves at Cornell College as a chemistry lab instructor.



## MOUNT VERNON JEWELRY



AlumTex Clay '64 has several one-of-a-kind Mount Vernon and Mustang jewelry pieces made in the 1960s for sale. If interested, he can be reached at 319-455-2752 or texclay@aol.com

## Alumni News...

### Send us your information...

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

**Nick Boots '97** is Lisbon High School's new Student Administrative Manager. Boots began his work at Lisbon in the fall of 2004. He's served as a fourth grade teacher and coach ever since. He and his wife, Sarah, have two children and live in Lisbon.

Congratulations to Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Company and it's president- **Dave Ryan '85**, for being named Business of the Year by the Mount Vernon Community Development Group (CDG)

**Randy Rundle '74** and wife Kari celebrating 26th anniversary. Married Aug. 25, 1984

**Julie Stephenson Loomis '71** retired from the College Community School District last May with over 30 years of teaching

**Jay Gunn '71**, retired in May from the Cedar Rapids Community School District

**Mary Evans '67** and husband James celebrating 40th anniversary. Married Aug. 24, 1969

**Jeri Neal '66 and Barb Thomsen Neal '68** celebrating 40th anniversary. Married September 12th, 1969

**Pat Sievers Montgomery '58** and husband Sam celebrating 50th anniversary. Married Aug. 11, 1959

**Roger Martin '58 and Karen Jilovec Martin '57** celebrating 50th anniversary. Married Feb. 28, 1959

**John '44 and Betty Pospisil Wolfe '45** celebrating 60th anniversary. Married Aug. 23, 1949

**Don and Judy Stine**, both retired teachers from Mount Vernon celebrating 40th anniversary. Married Aug. 9, 1969,

**Harry and Delores Suchomel** celebrated their 60th anniversary. Harry is retired from Mount Vernon Schools.

**Carolyn Neal Palmer '42 and Jean Minish Stoner '37**, both of Mount Vernon, provided their memories of days when washing machines and other electrical appliances were not widely available to rural families. They took part in a four-Saturday series on "When Women's Work Was Never Done," featuring artifacts in the collection of the Linn County Historical Society at the Carl and Mary Koehler History Center in Cedar Rapids during August.





## THE STURDY CLASS OF 1937

submitted by Jean Minish Stoner

The Mount Vernon Class of 1937 had 26 graduates. Today twelve are still living. Ten are 90 years old or more, two of us are working on it, one in March of 2010, and the other in June. The latter two did not have kindergarten in the schools they first attended.

I think this is very unusual. All of those remaining are in fairly good health. All the men and a nurse came home from World War II. The first reunion was held in the 50s and the group had such a good time they continued having them every other year, until just a couple of years ago.

Those living are:

Vernon Burge.....Mount Vernon  
Charlotte Pavelka

Meroshek.....Mount Vernon  
Helen Pitlik Neal.....Mount Vernon  
Jean Minish Stoner.....Mount Vernon  
Helen Peet.....Mechanicsville

Waunetta Sipple Stubbs.....Iowa City  
Betty Rowley.....Boulder, CO  
Marjorie Littell Schmiel.....Sarasota, FL  
Mary Ford Clark..Huntington Beach, CA  
Robert Fisher.....Aiken, SC  
Robert Current....Oak Park Heights, MN

## MARRIAGES

**Jenna Broulik'06** to Nick Dains, Sept. 26, 2009, reside in Mechanicsville, IA

**Rachel Cardon'06** to Brennan Harding, June 19, 2009, reside in Nauvoo, IL

**Lauren Penn'05** to Tim Oliphant, August 22, 2009, reside in Branson, MO

**Nick Dietrich'04** to Kendra Kurth, Oct. 17, 2009, reside in Des Moines, IA

**Jenna Nicol'04 and Jesse Vislisl'03**, July 18, 2009, reside in Iowa City, IA

**Jamie Povey'04** to Jay Bodkin. Aug. 1, 2009, reside in Otisco, Ind.

**Erik Triggs'03** to Amy Kastanek, May 30, 2009, reside in Marion, IA

**Drew Virlee'02** to Renee Jennings, August 8, 2009, reside in Springville, IA

**Jennifer Blythe'00** to Brian Mertes, October 2009, reside in Johnston, IA

**Brent Duppong'00** to Brenda Lauterbach, Sept. 26, 2009, reside in Peoria, IL

**Betsy McWilliams'99** to Chris Brown, September 6, 2009, reside in West Des Moines, IA

**Lauren Carlson '97** to Nathan Young, June 20, 2009, reside in Madison, WI

## BABY NEWS

**Mariah Palmer Franzen'06** and husband Andrew, a daughter Danielle Susan, July 17, 2009

**Eric Dye'04** and wife Sara, a son Jameson Daniel May 21, 2009. Grandparents are **Dan Dye'72** and wife Diana

**Ellis Burge'99** and wife Cindy, a daughter Jaidyn Jorie, Sept. 15, 2009, Grandparents are **Linda Blinks Burge'70** and **Keith Burge'67**, Great-grandparents

are **Vernon Burge'37** and wife Helen and **Helen Peterson Meeks'46**

**Jeremy Hotz'99 and Lindsey Kerr Hotz'01**, a daughter Lillian Jean, March 22, 2009. Grandparents are **Mark Kerr'73** and wife Peg

**Tsinia Schuster Borgman'99** and husband Jeff, a son Emmett William Borgman, March 13, 2009

**Maggie Lessmeier Willems'96** and husband Nate, a girl Emery Ann, October 27, 2009

**Matt Poduska'94** and wife Cathy, a son Nathan Ervin, Feb. 27, 2009

**Kim Wilkin Korte'93** and husband Scot, a daughter Dorothy Grace, June 24, 2009

**Sarah Rife Patten'93** and husband Randy, a daughter Sophia Elizabeth, May 26, 2009, Grandparents are **John Rife'60** and wife Thelma

**Brad Stoner'93** and wife Gabrielle, a daughter Maciann Marie, Sept. 15, 2009. Grandparents are **David Stoner'68** and **JoAnn Thomson Stoner'70**. Great-grandparents are **Jean Minish Stoner'37** and **Doris Pospisil Gollobit'58**

**Dan Aalbers'90** and wife Shelly, a daughter, Addison Lynn April 2, 2009

**Todd Lehr'88** and wife Katherine, a daughter, Jordan, Aug. 29, 2009

**Eric Siggins'82** and wife Kim, a daughter, Lilly Grace, Aug. 5, 2009.

**Shelly Fordyce Brinkmann'88** and husband and Adam, a daughter Adeline Hope June 11, 2009. Grandparents are **Ed Fordyce'59** and wife Karen



## In Memory

of classmates we have lost

Roy Martin 1939

Ruth Minish Meeker 1941

Raymond Lake 1944

Thomas G. Humes 1962

Angela Nedil Everett 1966

Donna Lou Krumm 1966

Barbara Plattenberger Tarwater 1967

Tracy Jo Edmunds Murphy Anderson 1973

David Spellerberg 1989

Matthew Rekemeyer 2009

(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.)

*The Mount Vernon Alumni Association wishes to thank the family of Roy Martin for directing memorial donations to the Association. It was a very thoughtful tribute to Roy and the memorials were sincerely appreciated by the Association.*

**NOTE: A complete list of Alumni Association Supporters and Donations for 2009-2010 (April to April) will be in the spring issue of Alumni News. Thank you to all of you who are supporting the Association. It is very much appreciated!**

## Are the Alumni Association and the Foundation the SAME thing? NO

The **Alumni Association** was formed to coordinate all-alumni activities. Donations to the Alumni Association are used to support the alumni newsletter, data base, awards and Association activities.

The **Foundation** is a charitable non-profit organization that partners with alumni, businesses, parents, and friends to help support a higher level of educational excellence for students of Mount Vernon Schools. Donations to the Foundation are used to support the school district in ways such as student scholarships and teacher education grants. The Foundation financially supported the Alumni Association in its first years, and continues with financial support of one alumni newsletter annually.

**DONATIONS TO BOTH ASSOCIATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# ALUMNI BAND

alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us / 319-895-8845 / fax 319-895-8875 / www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni/

## at Homecoming, Friday, date to be announced 2010 FORMER BAND AND COLOR GUARD (FLAG) MEMBERS:

Remember all that fun you had in band and color guard (flags)? Well, join the alumni band to play the Mount Vernon school song (and a few others, too!) at half-time of the Homecoming Game and we'll have one-heck-of-a-good-time! *Don't worry that you might be a little rusty, we'll be playing along with the High School Band. Music is available by mail and on the alumni pages of the website. Let us know and we'll mail you more info - call 319-895-8845 or email to alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us. We need your shirt size to have a complimentary Alumni Band shirt ready for you (please respond as soon as possible). Color Guard - we would also like you to attend the practice, and we will have a roll for you to play too. Bring a flag if you have one.*

Want to be part of the fun, but NOT play or hold a flag? Please check Option 2 in form below.

### Participation Options:

- Option 1:** Stand in place and perform with the MVHS Marching Band during the half-time game show "On Mount Vernon". The MVHS marching band will march its half-time show and then Alumni Band/Color Guard members will walk onto the field and perform the school song with the band. Alumni band members will NOT be marching.
- Option 2:** Stand with the band at half-time and be recognized as a Band/Color Guard alumnus, but choose not to perform. You may choose not to play or perform, but we still want to include you.

### Rehearsal and Game Night Plans:

- Music will be mailed out to alumni in advance so you have a chance to practice on your own. Or you may get it on the web from the alumni page. www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us then click to the alumni page
- If available, you are invited to attend the Friday, 1st period high school band rehearsal 8:20 - 9:10 AM, at the High School band room.
- All participants should meet at the First Street Building at 5:30 pm for a PIZZA PARTY!
- At 6:15 we will then move to the front of the First Street building (players, bring your instrument). Shirts will be handed out to participating band and color guard alums. GROUP PICTURE at 6:30. Betsy McWilliams'99 will give you instructions, and HS Band Instructor Alan Kiser will then join you at approx 6:45 for a music rehearsal with the High School band. (You may then watch the game or visit until our meeting time just prior to half-time. You may leave instruments inside in the gym area. A parent does supervise the area. Betsy will also have a key to the area.)

### Instruments:

- Please provide your own instrument, lyre, and flip folder.
- We have a limited supply of school instruments such as marching percussion, sousaphones, etc., but a few are available on a first come, first served basis.

### For More Information:

Betsy McWilliams'99-Alumni Band Coordinator 319-551-1444 missmcwilliams@yahoo.com  
Alan Kiser-MVHS Band Dir. 319-895-8843 x4009 akiser@mountvernon.k12.ia.us  
Alumni Association, Kathy Staskal 319-895-8845 alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

Cut and return to: MV Alumni Band, 525 Palisades Road SW, Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314 or call 319-895-8845

**Yes, sign me up for Option 1** Stand in place & perform with the MVHS Marching Band during the half-time  
Shirt Size (circle one) SM M L XL 2XL 3XL (shirt compliments of the Alumni Association)

**Yes, sign me up for Option 2** Stand with the band at half-time and be recognized, but choose not to perform

First and last name \_\_\_\_\_ Alumni Year \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_  I have my own  I need to borrow an instrument

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country if outside USA \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work or cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Be sure to pass this on to other Mount Vernon Band Alums -- BRING A FRIEND!**

**MAIL BY JUNE 15!**

**How will we ever choose just four people out of the many deserving alums of Mount Vernon Schools? We'll let the Awards Committee sweat about that -- just get in your nominations!**

Award winners will be announced and presented at Homecoming this fall 2010, but please don't wait! We encourage you to fill out your nominations and mail them (or submit online at [www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni](http://www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni)).

**THE DEADLINE IS A TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010 POSTMARK -- GET YOURS IN THE MAIL OR NOMINATE ONLINE NOW!**

'The Spirit Lives On In You'

# ALUMNI AWARDS

### MVCS D Fine Arts Hall of Fame

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

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

Other considerations:

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

### MVCS D Sports Hall of Fame

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

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

Other considerations:

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

### MVCS D Alumni Achievement Award

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

Criteria:

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

### MVCS D Alumni Service Award

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

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

NOTE: If you submitted a nomination last year, you do not need to resubmit, and your nominee will be considered for an award this year.

## 2010 MOUNT VERNON ALUMNI AWARDS NOMINATION FORM



**Name of person I would like considered for an award(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

His/Her address (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

His/Her phone (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Select Desired MVCS D Alumni Award(s):**

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

**Description of Qualifications (Attach additional pages as necessary):** (Note: a questionnaire will be sent to your nominee)

**Name of Person Submitting the Nomination:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

All awards will be granted based on nominations, which can be submitted by mail using this form, or online at [www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni](http://www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/alumni). Nominations will be reviewed and selected by the Awards Committee, and approved by the Alumni Association Board. Nominations are held for three years. Questions - 319-895-8845 or [alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us](mailto:alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us)  
**Send this form post marked by June 15, 2010 to:** Alumni Association, 525 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314  
 \*\*Elected or appointed members of the Alumni Association Board are not eligible during their term of service.

# ALUMNI

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
525 Palisades Road SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Non Profit Organization  
US POSTAGE  
P A I D  
Mount Vernon, Iowa  
Permit No. 3

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# Hello Alumni!



### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Kevin Rogers'81 President  
Jenny Moore Hampton '91, Vice President  
Shauna Applebee Dye'01, Secretary  
Susan Mounts Fisher'65, Treasurer  
Jean Kuntz Bowman'64, Director  
Lynn Watson Brokel'78, Director  
Dennis Drahos'59, Director  
Michele Meyer Grudzinski'92, Director  
Jerry Niederhauser'75, Director  
John Pospisil'66, Director

### FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Bob Penn'81, School Board Representative  
Matt Burke, Secretary-Treasurer  
John Rife'60  
David Ryan'85  
Ann Stoner  
Peter Wilch'90  
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### MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

Tom Wieseler, President  
Bob Penn'81, Vice President  
John Cochrane, Member  
Deb Herrmann, Member  
Paul Morf'90, Member  
Ann Stoner, Member  
Jeff Walberg, Member  
Matt Burke, Board Secretary-Treasurer  
Dr. Pam Ewell, Superintendent

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# ALUMNI Association 2009-2010

Your support is very much appreciated and also goes to fund alumni organization publications and activities.

**New or Renew? FOR JULY 1 2009 TO JULY 1 2010**

Yes, I'll be a 'SUPPORTER' of the Mount Vernon Schools Alumni Association

Alumni first and last name, including maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse name (and class year if also an alumna) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country if outside USA \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

One Year Supporting Contribution .....\$10 per alum

or Five Year Supporting Contribution .....\$45 per alum

additional donation .....

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Thank you!

Renew online at [www.k12.ia.us/alumni](http://www.k12.ia.us/alumni) or cut and return with your check to: MV Alumni Association, 525 Palisades Road, Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314