

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR --
MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO
ATTEND HERITAGE DAYS 2012
AND THE ALL-ALUMNI EVENTS
JULY 13 & 14**

INSIDE...

- 2 2012 Reunions
- 3 President's Message
- 4 2011 Hall of Fame continued
- 6 Homecoming & Award Pics
- 8 Alumni Comments
- 9 Who Do You Remember?
- 10 Mustangs On Main
- 12 Mustangs...What Are They
Doing Now?
- 16 Alumni News
- 19 Awards Nomination Form
- 20 2011-2012 Support Form

2011 HALL OF FAME

The Alumni Hall of Fame is growing, and this year's winners join an elite group of alums who have been selected for this prestigious honor. The 2011 Alumni Hall of Fame winners honored during Homecoming Weekend are (shown below left to right):

Service: Millicent Hoggard Zenishek, Class of 1947

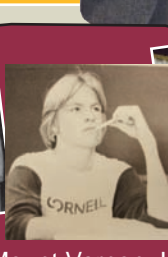
Fine Arts: Mark Benesh, Class of 1983

Athletics: Randy Hoidahl, Class of 1961

Achievement: John Rife, Class of 1960

Alumni Awards Chair Jean Kuntz Bowman '64 said "Our nominees for these awards make it a very difficult decision for the Selection Committee. Mount Vernon alums have gone on to do amazing things in their lives. Again we celebrated four recipients that are hands down deserving of their awards."

continued on page 4



525 Palisades Road SW, Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314

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



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If you are interested in advertising in the Alumni News - call 319-895-8845 or email alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us



Get your nomination in today for the 2012 Award Winners Hall of Fame! Deadline is July 1st, 2012 See page 19

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2012 MV Community Events www.visitmvl.com

May 5-6	Chalk the Walk
June 2	Chocolate Stroll
July 4	Antique Extravaganza
July 12-14	Heritage Days
Sept tba	Lincoln Hwy Arts Festival
Oct tba	Chili Cook Off

2012 REUNIONS

ALL ALUMNI-EVENTS

-Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14 Reception Tent, Uptown MV on Main Street (west of Bingo Tent)
-Saturday, July 14 Breakfast (by donation) at new High School

CLASS REUNIONS (look to see if your class has a Facebook page)

2007 - 5 YEARS

Contact: Kevin Wolters
Phone: 319-895-6404
Contact: Rachel Craig
Phone: 319-533-5918

2002 - 10 YEARS

Contact: Teresa Britt Patterson
Phone: 319-558-6488
Email: teresa.patterson@yahoo.com

1997 - 15 YEARS

Contact: Nick Boots
Phone: 319-560-0836
Email: nboots@lisbon.k12.ia.us

1992 - 20 YEARS

Contact: Amy Reyhons Glick
Phone: 319-563-886-6287
Email: amosg74@aol.com
Contact: Vince Ellison
Email: vellison74@yahoo.com

1987 - 25 YEARS

Contact: Sarah Miller Johnson
Phone: 651-695-8075
Email: smillerjohnson@hotmail.com
Contact: Bob Blythe
Phone: 319-895-0188
Email: bob@pollyanns.com

1982 - 30 YEARS

Find us on Facebook - Mount Vernon High School Iowa Class of 1982
Contact: Sonia Essex Redmond
Phone: 319-895-8259
Email: mvred3@aol.com
Contact: Cheryl Covington MacDowell
Phone: 608-348-3626

1977 - 35 YEARS

Find us on Facebook - MVHS Class of '77
Contact: Annie Lehman Currie
Phone: 319-895-8518
Email: mustangmama77@msn.com

1972 - 40 YEARS July 14th

Contact: Diane Zinkula
Phone: 319-395-7152
Email: dzinkula@aol.com
Contact: Joan Karr Berends
Phone: 319-465-4077
Email: joannie054@yahoo.com
Contact: Jean Lehman
Phone: 505-474-0885
Email: screaminjean@aol.com

1967 - 45 YEARS

Contact: Roger Pitlik
Phone: 319-895-8934
Email: rpitlik@mountvernon.k12.ia.us
Contact: Sharon Meyer Crain
Phone: 310-641-7652 cell-310-880-0148
Email: srain@akingpump.com

1962 - 50 YEARS

Contact: tba

1957 - 55 YEARS

Contact: Myrt Clark Bowers
Phone: 319-895-8515
Contact: Karen Jilovec Martin
Phone: 319-895-8255
Email: rkmartin3@juno.com
Contact: Barb Neal Hutchins
Phone: 319-373-0628
Email: nohutch@juno.com

1956 - 55 YEARS

Contact: Leona Reyhons Smith
Phone: 319-895-8097
Email: Leonasmith@yahoo.com
Contact: Roger Schnittjer
Phone: 319-895-8817
Email: rmschnittjer@gmail.com

1952 - 60 YEARS (1949, 1950, 1951) held fall 2010

1947 - 65 YEARS All-Alumni Breakfast July 14 Contact: tba

1942 - 70 YEARS All-Alumni Breakfast July 14 Contact: Carolyn Neal Palmer Phone: 319-895-6643 Email: cfpalmer45@aol.com

1937 - 75 YEARS @ Alumni Breakfast

1932 - 80 YEARS @ Alumni Breakfast

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



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

Find the Alumni Association on Facebook, search for MVHS Alum and then add this page to your groups

DON'T WANT TO RECEIVE THIS PRINTED PUBLICATION?

But would prefer to receive it via email?

Let us know and we will change your receipt of this publication to an electronic version.

alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us
(also watch for a link to the online version on Facebook)

Also on Facebook look for Mount Vernon, IowaPlaces and Mt Vernon Alum

VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI BREAKFAST OR RECEPTION AREA

-- Call 319-895-8845 or write alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

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 addresses, phone, name updates) to alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

IN THE SPRING 2012 ISSUE...

2011 REUNION & HERITAGE DAYS PICTURES
SUPPORTER & DONATION LISTS
ALUMNI 2012 REUNION INFO
SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR IN REVIEW
send in your news by April 1

Get your nomination in today for the 2012 Award Winners Hall of Fame!
Deadline is July 1 Postmark
See page 19



Kevin Rogers '81
Alumni Association
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Three years ago as part of our annual alumni homecoming weekend celebration, the Alumni Association's Hall of Fame selection committee had a vision of providing Alumni Hall of Fame recipients with an opportunity to share their life experiences with current Mount Vernon High School students. As with anything new, 'visions' often times get off to a slow start, but in 2011 this vision took on new meaning and purpose.

On Friday, September 16, Superintendent Dr. Pam Ewell, High School Principal Steve Brand, and MVCSD Foundation Director Bethany Campbell Tvedt, joined Susan Mounts Fisher and myself, in accompanying three of the four 2011 Hall of Fame recipients and a previous Hall of Fame award recipient, for a memorable day at Mount Vernon Community High School. Achievement recipient John Rife, Class of 1960; Service recipient Millicent Hoggard Zenishek, Class of 1947; Athletics recipient Randy Hoidahl, Class of 1961; and 2008 Athletic recipient Gary Knutsen, Class of 1965, spent much of the day meeting with Mount Vernon High School students sharing their life's experiences.



John Rife '60, Achievement recipient, talks to 1st hour Language Arts and Business classes. At right, are Randy Hoidahl '61 and John Rife at High School Entrepreneur Class.



Gary Knutsen '65 (2008 Athletic Hall of Fame), Randy Hoidahl '61 and John Rife '60 talk to High School Sports in America and U.S. History students. At right, are Millicent Hoggard Zenishek '47 (sitting) along with President Rogers and Alumni Association Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher '65 in the Entrepreneur

I would like to extend a special thank you to High School instructors Joe Wallace, Ed Timm, Joann Gage, and Tawnua Tenley for providing the classroom settings for the Hall of Fame recipients.

It was an exciting and at times, emotional day for the former graduates and current MVCSD staff. More importantly, it was a day where we observed first-hand Mount Vernon alumni truly connecting with current Mount Vernon High School students. The overall message left with the students was: Don't be afraid to dream; don't let life's obstacles get in the way of achieving your dreams; and don't let anyone impede your personal quest.

While most students would never let on that they were the least bit interested in what was being said, they were. One class insisted on getting a class photograph taken with the Hall of Fame recipients at the conclusion of the class hour. Another inquired as to "Who those people were," following our departure from the classroom. The final lesson that day was for that class to understand 'who those people were' and yes, WOW, those people actually graduated of Mount Vernon Community High School. This will be a wonderful tradition to continue next year!



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2011 HALL OF FAME CONTINUED



Jean Kuntz Bowman, Class of 1964,
Alumni Awards Committee Chair



Thank you to the Russell family for organizing and serving a delicious Fall Awards Reception after the Award Ceremony. From left to right, Barb Russell, Chair Sheri Russell'82, Linda Russell Brooks'83 and Julie Russell Lynch'86

Our Award Ceremony audience was filled with laughter, tears, memories, praise, and a sense of awe at these wonderful people. At times I'm sure there wasn't a dry eye in the auditorium. Certainly a day those present will never forget."

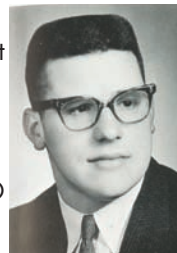
During Homecoming Weekend 2011, September 16 and 17, a variety of Award events took place to honor this year's four winners. Three of the winners appeared in Thursday night's Homecoming parade, and three of the winners plus first year Athletic Hall of Fame Winner Gary Knutsen'65 visited with High School students during the day on Friday.

On Friday evening at the football field the winners were presented to the crowd at halftime and enjoyed visiting at the All-Alumni Reception. On Saturday morning after a brief Alumni Association Annual Meeting, they were honored at the Annual Awards Ceremony, followed by the Fall Award Reception in the Middle School Commons. The Award Ceremony is truly a unique event, and both the introductions and acceptance speeches are memorable and touching presentations.



From left to right: John in the Homecoming Parade, classmate Annamae Baker presenting the Award Certificate to John, children Josh'96 and Sarah Rife Patten'93 introduce their father at the Award Ceremony, and at right, John with wife Thelma, daughter Sarah, and granddaughter and future alum Emily.

Achievement winner John Rife'60 is a friendly and familiar face around Mount Vernon, but also a prominent figure from the world of insurance. Nominated by classmates Annamae Stoneking Baker'60 and Dorothy Wolfe Welsh'60, he was introduced at the Award Ceremony by his two children, Sarah Rife Patten'93 and his son Josh'96. His professional history shows a successful, humorous, and humble man who attained the rank of CEO by working up from a training director position. John joined United Life Insurance Co. in 1976. In 1984 he became president of United Life, then was also appointed president of United Fire in 1997 and CEO, chief executive officer, of United Fire in 2000. Under Rife's leadership United Fire experienced record levels of growth and profitability – tripling the company's total assets. In the 25 years that John led United Life, the company's total assets increased from \$42 million to \$1.3 billion. Now retired, John continues to serve as Vice Chairman of the board of Directors of United Fire. He also serves as President of the McIntyre Foundation which supports arts and human services. Congratulations to John! He can be reached at jtbr2@q.com or 210 Candlestick Dr NE, Mount Vernon IA 52314



Fine Arts winner Mark Benesh'83

is also a Mount Vernon resident. He currently teaches at Lisbon Community Schools as their K-8 art teacher. Nominated and introduced at the Award Ceremony by his father, Frank Benesh'56, Mark's paintings can be seen all over the Mount Vernon area. Some of his latest works are the large scale mural paintings on several barns including the American Gothic reproduction along Hwy 30 and on several downtown business walls. Mark also painted the mural that hangs on the entry way hall of the High School. He is President of the Mount Vernon Arts Council and organizer of Chalk the Walk. During high school Mark was known for his creativity and skills in the art room.



In a message received from JoAnn Zinkula Kintzle'83 on behalf of their class, she wrote "The class of 1983 knew early on that Mark Benesh was blessed with superior artistic abilities. The MV Junior High yearbook of 1978-1979 validates this recognition, where fellow 8th grade classmates voted Mark as the "Most Artistic" male of the class. The 1982-1983 MV High School yearbook utilized Mark's drawing of the school (now the present Middle School) inside both the front and back covers of



Mark and daughter in Homecoming parade

the book, rather than the typical photo of the school building.

It was common to see Mark's work exhibited in the glass display cases outside of the high school art room. His calm, patient demeanor showed through in the beauty of his finished work.

Fast forward to today and his artwork continues to be showcased throughout town. There are beautiful murals on barns, notecards depicting Mount Vernon's "uptown" district, and his chalk designs created during the annual Mount Vernon Chalk the Walk festivities. His talents are not only seen through his art projects, but also the recognition of his skills as a nurturing and proficient art teacher, encouraging and enabling other children to use and share their artistic gifts.

Congratulations, Mark! The Class of 1983 is proud of your contributions and accomplishments. You are truly deserving of the Alumni Association's Fine Arts Hall of Fame Award!"

Mark can be reached at sarndipt489@msn.com or 489 Standing Rock Rd, Mount Vernon, IA 52314



Mark is nominated, introduced and given his Award Certificate by father Frank Benesh '46



From left to right: Millicent in the Homecoming Parade, Millicent receives her certificate from sister and nominator Wiladene '50, and at right, Millicent with her family, including sister Vernelle Hoggard Willming '45, front row at left.

Service winner Millicent Hoggard Zenishek '47

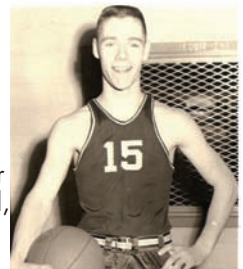
is a Mechanicsville, Iowa, resident. Nominated and introduced by her sister, Wiladene Hoggard Willming '50, Millicent is a role-model, especially for women in agriculture, for her accomplishments which might be described as pioneer. A farm wife and active volunteer while her children were growing up, her real service accomplishments came after they were grown. In 1980 she became a member of the Cedar County Farm Bureau Womens Committee and was the Chairman for Conservation. In 1986 she became Assistant Commissioner of the Cedar County Soil Water Conservation District; then elected Commissioner the next year. For her service as commissioner she received the Award of Merit in 1986 and 1992 and the Distinguished Service Award 1986-1992. She was also Chairman of the Cedar County Farm Bureau Women's Committee from 1995-1998 and their educational outreach led to a variety of programs that has touched the lives of thousands of students. Millicent can be reached at 563-432-6664 or 125 Indian Ave, Mechanicsville IA 52306



From left to right: Randy receives his Award Certificate from nominator Gary Knutsen '65, Randy receives his Honorary Captain certificate from High School Head Coach Duane Orr, Randy gives his acceptance speech, and at right, Randy in center with Gary Knutsen '65 on his left and brother Rich '59 on his right.

Athletic winner Randy Hoidahl '61

was nominated by Dr. Gary Knutsen '65 and Vic Wallace '61. In Dr. Knutsen's nomination he says "Integral to Mustang team success is a growing number of truly exceptional Mustang athletics and among those stars, there is a very short list of exceptional Mustang athletes who have achieved elite status in multiple sports. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the graduation of one such elite Mustang athlete who still today remains undeniably the most versatile Mustang to ever pass through Mount Vernon High School...my long time Mustang idol, Randy Hoidahl." During his Mustang career Randy was awarded 15 varsity letters in an unprecedented six sports, including five varsity letters in baseball as their star pitcher and leading hitter. He was the #2 runner on the Mustang State Champion Mile Team (Cross Country). In track and field he was Fresh-Soph conference champ in mile run and pole vault (set conference record) and won conference championship in pole vault and as member of a relay.



From left to right, Mark's father Frank Benesh '56, Mark's mother Lynda, Mark's aunt Dixie Viner, Mark, daughter Emily (3rd grade at Mount Vernon), wife Sarah Benesh, and son Thomas (junior at Mount Vernon High School).

continued on next page



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CLASS OF '78
AND MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

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TEL	319 895 6001	
FAX	319 895 8437	ann@koppenhavercpas.com

2011 HALL OF FAME CONTINUED

In golf Randy played #1 and after graduation won the Hillcrest Club Championship in 3 of the next 6 years. In football he was the starting quarterback and standout defensive back. However, it was Randy's remarkable talents on the basketball court that were most memorable to Gary and Vic. Gary says "his heroics kept the hearts of all Mustang fans racing game after game." Randy was a basketball four-year letter winner, three-time all-conference and all-state and all-Eastern Iowa selection. Randy was 1 of the top 35 basketball players (out of over 3300 starters) in the entire state. He followed this with an academic scholarship to the University of Denver, earning both a successful college athletic career and then professional career in finance. Congratulations to Randy! He can be reached at jrroidahl01@hotmail.com or 3702 S Halifax St, Aurora CO 80013



PICTURES FROM HOMECOMING AND ALUMNI AWARDS 2011

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Left to right, President Kevin Rogers, Tom Ash and friend enjoy the historical Homecoming buttons, Duane Jordan '93 shows and his son Derek '19 some of his class photos.



from left to right: Annamae Stoneking Baker '60 and President Kevin Rogers '81 enjoy visiting with Greg Encke '82 and his wife, Cam Addis, brothers Mike Woods '77, Jim Woods '79 and Kevin Woods '73

Mount Vernon MOTEL

"We've love owning the motel in our home town. We especially enjoy having 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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At left, Judy Caldwell Penn '60, Bunny Williams Mulligan '61, and Susan Mounts Fisher '65 bundle with in coats and blankets for the cool September evening; at right and 2011 Recipient of the Alumni Hall of Fame Achievement Award, Marilyn Asplund Buchanan '61 and Lynda Benesh enjoy the Fall Reception

IN 2012... HERITAGE DAYS DATES JULY 13 and 14, 2012

HOMECOMING & ALUMNI AWARD CEREMONY DATES ARE tba



Funky Hot Spot

Jewelry Toys Books
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Gifts for ALL

Main Street, Mount Vernon



from left to right: Alumni winners are announced on the field at half-time, and joined for a congratulatory picture by some Alumni Association Board members, Superintendent Pam Ewell and Foundation Executive Secretary Bethany Campbell Twedt.



From left to right: the Hoggard sisters at the Alumni Reception, and at right alums enjoying the pictures



At left: John Rife'60 is both the Alumni Awards Master of Ceremonies, Middle: Association Board Michele Meyer Grudzinski'92 member greets visitors to the Award Ceremony, At right: Class of 2008 friends Nick Jerabek, Luke Murray, and Kaiden Kuntz enjoy some hot chocolate at the Reception Tent



At left, Vernelle Hoggard Willming'47, Mary Wolfe Smith'47, Helen Peterson Meeks'46, Linda Peterson Nost'63, Karen Jilovec Martin'57, and Sis Woods Pitlik'47(d). At right Millicent is congratulated by Superintendent Pam Ewell, School Board Member and Foundation representative Ann Stoner, and Association Board Member and Awards Committee Chair Jean Kuntz Bowman'64

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Tom Kortemeyer and Lynn Brokel'78

VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT HERITAGE DAYS ALUMNI BREAKFAST OR RECEPTION AREA
-- Call 319-895-8845 or write alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

DVDS AVAILABLE



Thank you to Tom Childs'63 who has donated a video to the Alumni Association he made from some home movies filmed during the 1962 Football season. Thirteen minutes, full color, and although there is no sound, it features the football players, Homecoming Parade with band, snake dance, & uptown buildings and people.

Also Thank you to Conrad Leighton'67 from the Class of 1967 who has donated picture files to the Alumni Association he shot during his years as school photographer

Both are for sale at \$5 each, or \$7 each to include shipping. Pick one up at any Alumni Event or contact alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or 319-895-8845

Show your Mustang pride by proudly wearing a MV Alum **LAPEL PIN**



Lapel pins available at ALL alumni events \$2 each

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

"Great job this weekend (Alumni Hall of Fame Weekend), Kevin and crew!! A weekend to remember for my family and many others! Thanks for all that you do!"
Kim Benesh'85, Mount Vernon, IA

"To all MVHS alums...If you have never been to MV's Hall of Fame ceremony and reception, I strongly encourage you to attend sometime. It is a wonderful celebration and a huge testament to the kind of graduates Mount Vernon has. It was a pleasure to be one of the "hostesses", along with my sisters Sheri'82 and Julie Russell Lynch'86 and our Mom, Barb. Congrats to all those honored."

Linda Russell Brooks'83,
Mount Vernon, IA

"Dear Mount Vernon Alumni Association, As I reflect on what the Mount Vernon Alumni Association means to me: One of the first things that comes to mind is how the association keeps us all connected. I love the fact that while not living in Iowa we are all keep up to date with upcoming events within the community. I look forward to receiving and reading the newsletters and feel it's paramount in keeping alums in the loop of such events and honors. If we didn't receive emails and newsletters I don't think we would have such a strong base and it's very possible after graduation many would not visit Mount Vernon for heritage days, homecoming and various events throughout the year.

Having a strong following generates income for local business's while alum visit their beloved Mount Vernon. Having the Alumni Association allows us to communicate on a global level while we have alum living in various parts of the world. Having the data base helps with finding and keeping all abreast with upcoming reunions and helps so folks don't feel disjointed. It sure helps with not feeling so home sick and we feel were right there with family and friends.

I can say there are many people I have gotten to know after high school that were classmates that I didn't know in younger years. Today I call them my true friends for we have a kinship that only Iowan's would know and understand.

When I'm asked where are you from: I don't hesitate for a minute to say Mount Vernon Iowa with a big smile. I will always be an Iowa girl and I'm very proud to call it home and if it weren't for the deep connections I'm not sure I would have the same feeling. Keep up the good work and thank you for your service and keeping our community strong and vibrant...Sincerely yours,"
Jude Smith'81, Scottsdale, AZ

To: Kevin Rogers "As I crossed the bridge into Dubuque, I got that feeling again. There is always something special about driving into Iowa that is familiar and comforting. It might be the way tiny two-lane roads wind through tinier towns, or how the cornfields blend one into another all the way to the horizon, or the offhand way everyone waves at everyone else. To me, returning to Iowa means 'it's okay now'.

This trip, I was headed to the 1981 Mount Vernon class reunion. It has been 30 years since high school, but Iowa didn't seem to change much. I wondered if my classmates had.

The evening before the reunion, a handful of us gathered around a big table. Old friends sat down with treats, some drinks, and tales of life. From the ones who have traveled the globe, to the ones who stayed close, we all had stories to tell of love, children, careers, and, of course, loss.

The reunion itself was at Sutliff Cider Barn. Old relationships seamlessly re-emerged from long-forgotten days briefly spent with good folks. I was warmly welcomed in to the arms of people who remembered my name, my family, my story. Surprisingly, I felt a sense of belonging with people who knew me so briefly. It made me realize the relationships I formed during my four months at Mt. Vernon High School have helped define who I am as an adult.

Today I'm back in Wisconsin, where I have raised my children and established my career. I only lived in Iowa for 16 of my 48 years, but I left knowing that even though life has carried me away, the Iowa prairie has long arms and deep roots that will always call me home.

Robyn Niswonger Shingler'81,
Shawano, WI

"Dear Mount Vernon Alums, the Mount Vernon Community Schools, the Foundation, and the Save the Field Committee would like to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who has volunteered their

time, talents and treasures to the Save the Field Project.

A Big thank you to all who have donated money to this facilities campaign. To date we have raised over \$50,000 to cover the expenses of these improvements. Our next step is to replace the football home field bleachers as soon as we have the funding in place, so every contribution helps. Funds received in excess of the bleacher goal will also help the District move forward on other facility needs such as the baseball field, tennis court renovation and track improvements. Contact Becky Whitman at 319-895-6756 or email the committee at SaveOurMVField@gmail.com if you have questions.

- Thanks to Randy Nicol, Ted Grenis and Jim Jones for providing their expertise in upgrading the lights and providing the school with special pricing on materials.
- Thanks to Kroul Farms for donating plants and planting them under the scoreboard.
- Thanks to the Kuntz family for donating the new scoreboard in memory of Ivan Kuntz'76. Ivan was a MV alum, MV football player and member of the football chain gang for 20 years.
- Thanks to the many alums, community members and the City of Mount Vernon who have donated their time, talents and equipment working on the football field – trimming trees, mowing the hill, pulling weeds, re-roofing the concession stand."

VISIONS OF MUSTANG FOOTBALL 2012

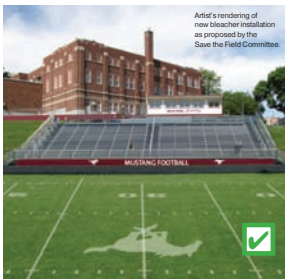
Help us replace the wooden bleachers.



The next step in refurbishing our field is to replace the existing bleachers. To be ready for the 2012 football season, we need your donation now. Every donation makes a huge difference!

Donations can be deposited in buckets at concession stand.

NO MORE SPLINTERS!



Artist rendering of new bleacher installation as proposed by the Save the Field Committee.

The detachable bleachers can be used for the field or removed to create a large open area. © 2011 Mount Vernon, Iowa 52048. This website was used with permission to go to the Save the Field on your behalf. Thanks for your help!

Save The Field Committee
 Shannon Amundson, Jenny Moore Hampton'91, Wayne Hormann'85, Jodi Hornmann, Jeremy Hotz'99, Lindsey Kerr Hotz'01, Ann Koppenhaver'78, Joy Koehn Kuntz'76, Tasha Whitman, Cathy Humphries Stoner'69, Sandra Reid, Carol Woods'75, and Becky Thumm Whitman'77



WHO DO YOU REMEMBER FROM THESE PHOTOS?

Thanks to Beth Drongesen Mhire'86 and Corinne Wilcox Drongesen'56 for this 1887 Class photo



An article from the July 1, 1954 Hawkeye-Record issue donated by Randy Hoidahl'61

ago. He has been given a jail sentence.

Nancy Pisarik Wins \$10 In "Nicholas" Contest

Nancy Pisarik, daughter of the William Pisariks, has been awarded a ten dollar prize on her entry in the "I think W. H. Nicholas would make a good governor because . . ." contest.

A personal letter from Mr. Nicholas extended an invitation for her to spend Sunday, June 27, with the Nicholas' at their cottage at Clear Lake. Because of the travel distance involved Nancy was unable to accept the invitation. Nancy will enter the 8th grade at Mt. Vernon the fall.

headlight 1916

The Girls' Athletics
 By Elizabeth Anderson

The Girls Athletic Association was organized during the third week of this school year. Eva Noodles was elected the president, Rose Tallman as secretary-treasurer, and Golda Vantassell as manager, and a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution. Basketball practice was begun immediately and under the efficient coaching of our principal, Miss Gilmer, the girls did some very good work, especially in the class tournaments. The girls of the first team were:

Lillie Belle Wand	Substitutes
Dorothy Arlingast	Faye Baldwin
Gladys Carrent	Mary Rogers
Bea Heald	Phoe Rumble
Helen Warren, Captain	Lillian Wilcox
Golda Vantassell	Edna Hayes

The Association now has about fifty members, all of whom are interested in making athletics a success in the High School.

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

Mustangs On Main...

Remember when you graduated from High School? You couldn't wait to leave Mount Vernon for new adventures. And statistics show that well over 90% of our District's students go on to another form of education, and others to the military or into the job force.

Adventures out of the way; settling in Mount Vernon is a wonderful life choice. One of the great things about Mount Vernon, is that it is a great place to come home to -- whether to live or visit.

In our alumni data base of about 4,800 known alumni names from 1930 to 2011, we have approximately 4,000 addresses (less than 1,000 email addresses). Approximately 2,800 live in Iowa. Of those, almost 1,200 live in Mount Vernon and almost 150 live in Lisbon. Of course that count includes our alums from 2008-2011 who count Mount Vernon as home, but could easily be somewhere else at this time. That leaves about 2,000 alums that live throughout the U.S, and about 30 alums that live internationally.

This article features alums that have chosen to work in Mount Vernon. Our three featured alums are entrepreneurs that have opened shop on Main Street. Here they talk about their businesses, their love of Mount Vernon, and just why they settled here. Enjoy...

■ LISA LEWIS '83

My business is....
Envisage Studios

I have been in business for this many years... 12 years



My business is in Mount Vernon because....

When I started Envisage Studios out of my home I had two children in school. It was very important for me to be at home. I liked to have lunch with them and be a part of their school activities. As time has passed and the business has grown, I have chosen to stay here because to be quite frankly this is my home. I enjoy being a part of the community, and sharing the Mount Vernon experience with my clients. If I were to go to another city or town, it just wouldn't be the same.

The thing I personally like best about Mount Vernon is...

One of my favorite things about working in Mount Vernon, is when I am out walking around with clients taking their pictures, I always get a wave or a hello from passing neighbors, even cars driving by will honk and wave. It makes me feel a part of something, a part of the community. It is very heartwarming to have people wave and acknowledge you. My clients always comment on what a great town this is, and they wish they had opportunity to come here more often. To date, two of my clients have moved to Mount Vernon, that says a lot about the community and the atmosphere.

Something I am proud about is... Well, once after I opened the office on main street a former school official stopped in and jokingly (I hope) said "Who would of thought!" It made me smile, because

through it all I often ask myself "Who would of thought!"

A favorite memory of mine from my days in Mount Vernon Schools.... I miss Mrs. Donna Swenson like crazy! I am so glad to have been able to share the beginning of my Envisage Journey with her. I think she was very proud of what I was doing and what she thought of me always mattered. She mentored me through high school, I even went to her college in Missouri. Her guidance, her patience and her support is what got me through high school, and I can honestly say, I would not be who or what I am today without knowing her. Thank you Mrs. Swenson.

Connect with Lisa at lisa@envisagephoto.com



■ BEN POSPISIL '96



My business is.... Mount Vernon Family Dentistry

I have been in business for this many years... 6 years as of August 2011

My business is in Mount Vernon because....

I have lived in and have visited many other communities throughout Iowa and the country, yet still believe there is no place that could offer me or my family a better life. Mount Vernon offers us four beautiful seasons, a community where family bonds are strong, a supportive and vibrant group of friends, and a school system that believes in our children.

The thing I personally like best about Mount Vernon is... that we are close to family in all directions.

Something I am proud about is... that I have drastically evolved from the "Dental School Dentist" I once was. When I first graduated from dental school I thought I knew how to "fix" people. I thought I knew it all. I have since been quite humbled. I am beginning now, through mentorship, to clarify for myself why it is I do what I do. I believe this self-actualization process has drastically helped me, my family, and my patients. I am proud of how far we have come as a practice and as friends at Mount Vernon Family Dentistry.

A favorite memory of mine from my days in Mount Vernon Schools... is when as a student council, we donated money to the Mount Vernon/Lisbon Ambulance service for new jackets for the volunteer crew. I know that it sounds pretty random, but it was important to me as president and is a memory that has stuck with me all of these years.

Connect with Ben at mvfamilydentistry@gmail.com

■ JODY MURPHY STEWART '79

My business is.... Mt. Vernon Hair Co. & Friends.

I have been in business for this many years...
I have been behind the chair styling hair for 31 years.

My business is in Mount Vernon because....
I wanted to work in the community I grew up in.

The thing I personally like best about Mount Vernon is... is knowing the majority of the people in our community. Although it has grown in leaps and bounds in recent years, there are always moments that things happen where you think "Only in a small town could this happen." These moments are heart warming.

Something I am proud about is... is how our schools, churches and community pulls together, not only to help our own, but people in need around us. It always has been and continues to be a very caring community to raise your family.

A favorite memory of mine from my days in Mount Vernon Schools... is the the rich tradition that we walked away with. It didnt matter if we won or lost in sports. (well, it kind of did, you know what I mean) It didnt matter if we didnt do sports at all. We where proud to be Mustangs. Proud to be from Mount



Vernon. The friends that I made from those days are so special to me. Even if we dont see schoolmates for years. Even if you didnt really hang out. You share a tradition, common ground and a sense of belonging to a place where we all had to do it. Even kids today are doing what I had to do, at good old Mount Vernon High. We have common ground for generations to come. So when you run into those old friends it just makes you smile to think of that time in our lives. Just being a Mount Vernon Mustang is a wonderful memory.

Reach Jody at stewjs3@aol.com

A Walk Down Main...

Now let's take a walk down Main Street and take a look at the other entrepreneurs who set up shop in Mount Vernon (Before we get started, let's apologize ahead of time to anyone we have missed. This list doesn't even begin to recognize the independent farmers and artists and one-person businesses. Let us know and we will make note of it in the next issue): Mike Smith '68, partner in Bauman & Company; Kim Boyd Wolfe '74 and Glenn Wolfe '72, owners of Wolfe Antiques; at Scorz Bar & Grill are owners Dan Spellerberg '91, Brandon Pitlik '91, Tammy Berner Pitlik '93, and Dennis Pitlik '71; Karen Miller Thornton '74 is owner of Big Creek Market; Steve Neal '96 is owner of Neal's Water Conditioning; Dale Merrill '92 and Casey Kurtz Merrill '94 are owners of Liberty Ironworks; Polly Niederhauser Blythe '86 and Bob Blythe '87, are owners of Polly Ann's

Antiques, Blythe Cottage Inn, and Blythe Construction; Ann Koppenhaver '78 is owner of Koppenhaver & Associates; Beth Drongesen Mhire '86 and mother Corinne Wilcox Drongesen '56 own both the Java Grande and Mount Vernon Motel; Denny Morgan '67 is owner of Morgan Funeral Home & Cremation; Duane Jordan '93 is owner of Dirtscapes; Bill Lange '67 owns Lange Sinclair Station; Paul Konkowski '78 is owner of FJ Meyer Construction; Kenny Pospisil '68 owns Pospisil Painting and Decoration; Jeremy Erie '93 is owner of Proformer Concrete; Mount Vernon Tree Transplant & Nursery is owned by John Petrick '64; at The Locksmith Family Salon is Laura Werkman '68; at Studio B is Linda Russell Brooks '83; Kevin Smith '73 owns Room 222 Antiques & Wants in the First Street Building; and Braden Pospisil Rood '93 owns Rood Runner.

continued on next page

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Mustangs On Main, continued...

In addition, alums that are employed in Mount Vernon or surrounding area are: Sarah Booth Freed'84 working with First Brick Antiques; at Mount Vernon Bank and Trust are David Ryan'85, Mary Thomsen'75, Justin Dix'97, Sonia Essex Redmond'82, Jeremy Clark'05, Sheri Russell'82, Kathy Pisarik Dix'72, Denise Strother Clark'75, and Adrienne Smith'11; working for the City of Mount Vernon are Keaton Burge'05, Adam Flockhart'96, Meredith Hoffman'86, Dave Studt'61, and Dan Boggs'76; at Chameleon's Pub & Grub is Nick Jera-bek'08; at Fuel are Anna Butz'10, Grace Moran'10, James Taylor'10, Jackie Kerr'07, Candice Wilson'07, and Sasha Richardson'X, as well as future alums Hannah Snyder and Matisse Christensen; Lynn Watson Brokel'71 at Mount Vernon Insurance; Jerry Niederhauser'75 and sister Molly Niederhauser Bertling'81 at Coldwell Banker-Lee's Town & Country Realty; Jeremy Elliott'89 at Iowa Physical Therapy; at C&D Lounge is Denny Clark'71; at Cornell College you will find Peter Wilch'90, Lisa Squiers White'88, Sharon Thuerauf Grice'86, Josh Rife'96, Becky Thumm Whitman'77, Lindsay Kerr Holtz'01, Teresa Hines Flockhart'76, and Cathy LeVan Boggs'82; Jeremy Hotz'99 at MIC Group; local free-lance artist Mark Benesh'83; at Gordon Lumber is Dave Blythe'76; at the Sun is Crystal Eskelsen'93; at Pizza Palace is Crystal Covington'05; at Ace John Bock'00 and future alums Olivia Neiderhauser, Brandon Thackery, Brant Golberg, Laura Deininger, Keenan Shannon, Mat Peiffer, Robbie Blythe, and Maggie St. Claire; at Mercy Care Mount Vernon is Dr. Monica Lehner Meeker'96 and Teresa Britt Patterson'02; and at Mount Vernon Schools are Carol Woods Boren'75, Heidi Niehaus'82, Julie Lee Ruden'81, Kacey Kuntz Schmit'00, Denise Clark Havill'79, Ann Whitley Wattleworth'30, Erin Driscoll Whitehead'99, Kim Bjork'96, Abby Neal Bock'99, Jenny McNeal Woods'98, Angela Harms Randall'88, Chris Kinley Osborn'80, Roger Pitlik'67, Ryan Whitman'03, Tom Wilkinson'86, Maggie Lessmeier Willems'96, Keith Burge'67, Chiara Niederhauser Burke'78, and Olivia Junk Stoner'05; at Koppenhaver & Associates are Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier'78 and Aarika Koppenhaver'08; at Lynch Ford Chevy you'll find Heather Armstrong'88, David Jordan'90, Matt Moses'10, and Alexis Chadwick'07; at M&K Dust Control, Michele Meyer Grudzinski'92; at Mt. Vernon Construction you'll find Alvin (Scott) Brokel'78, Ted Brokel'79,

Greg Clark'71, Merle Clark'74, Al Randall'70, Dave Randall'87, Chris Schonhorst'00, Ed Smith'70, Josh Smith'00 and Skyler Smith'05; working with Ben at Mount Vernon Family Dentistry is Jenifer Carmer Back'89; Mark Sargent'74 at Sargent & Fortmann; at Iowa Health Physicians St. Luke's Physicians & Clinics - Mount Vernon Family Medicine are Cathy Thuerauf Rice'80 and Cindy Babcock Osborn'80; Sandi Erenberger Hanna'67 at Hills Bank; at Shepley Pharmacy you will find Angela Church'08, Flannery Lucas'10, and future alums Anna Beth Lucas'12 and Mackenzie Foxen'12; at Cherry Ridge and Hallmark you will find Alissa Gillespie'98, Megan Mealman'03, Kelly Weber'09, Jordan Arnold'10, Lindsey Gillespie Hartwig'03, Adam Swiser'00, and Melissa Bertling'06; and local realtor Darlane Hartl Allard'06; at Bridge Bank are Lisa Curtis Weiland'91 and Megan Driscoll Downey'02; at Gary's Foods you will find Louise Franks'70, Jon Bellamy'79, Ross Dutton'84, Tom Carew'87, Jenny Brown'92, Nicole Franks'03, Sean Dietrich'07, Kendall Hills'09, Jeremy Martin'10, Autumn Stensland'10, Trevor Gretten'11, Casey Lamparek'11; and Doug Berner'97 at Don Mar Lanes.

In Lisbon you will find: Gwen Stewart Drahos'70 and Gary Drahos'72 at their business Gwen's Restaurant; LuAnn Covington Smith'75 and Kendra Kepler Kamerling'97 at Regal Crown Receptions. At Lisbon Schools you will find Sarah Rife-Patten'93, Amanda Kula Meeker'97, Nick Boots'97, Mark Benesh'83, and Ian Dye'01; at Whitey's Tasha Berner Rubner'95; at 3 Finger Saloon Penny Randall Light'81.



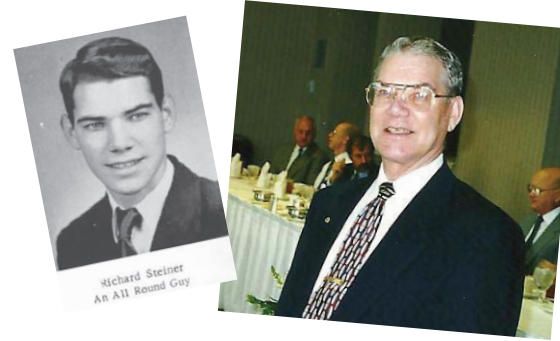
THANKS!



Another mailing, another gathering of some volunteers to get it done. Here volunteers meet at Annamae Stoneking Baker's'60 back porch to label postcards for Homecoming and Awards. Clockwise from left are Joyce Loomis, Bunny Williams Mulligan'61, Karen Kaliban Fox'63, Kay Woods, Annamae and Maggie Ellision'62

Mustangs...what are

■ RICHARD 'DICK' STEINER'54



Since leaving MVHS, class of 1954, I went to Cornell College, class of 1958, and then on to the State University of Iowa for an MS, in 1960, with a major in Geology. Also in 1960, Judy (Kohl), class of 1957, and I were married in Mount Vernon. I then served a very humbling stint in the U. S. Army reserves as a private E-1 to cap off my higher education. In the spring of 1961, I finally was hired to be a petroleum geologist by Humble Oil and Refining Company, which is now known as ExxonMobil. We started out in Houston, Texas, and got moved to several cities including Baytown and Midland, Texas, New Orleans and Lafayette, Louisiana, and finally back to Houston. During the course of our travels we had two sons, Jim and David. In 1998, I retired from ExxonMobil but went back for an additional year as a consultant.

While retired, I worked one season with H. R. Block to learn about tax preparation. The following year I worked as an AARP volunteer tax person. We also spent a lot of time visiting Judy's parents when they lived in Livingston, Texas. Both of our sons now live in the Houston area and we see them and their families regularly. We have a total of five grandchildren to spoil on occasions such as birthdays and Christmas. We spend a fair amount of time walking at the local Kingwood Medical Center mall for exercise. At home I spend a lot of time reading, working on various EXCEL spreadsheets, doing write ups like this, or playing spider solitaire. I also plunk around on my guitar when not listening to classical or blue grass CDs.

My favorite memories of my time at MVHS are of the music contest trips as a member of the boy's glee club and the choir. Those were some very enjoyable times. I didn't have a favorite teacher, as such, but I can certainly name several teachers who are all stars on my

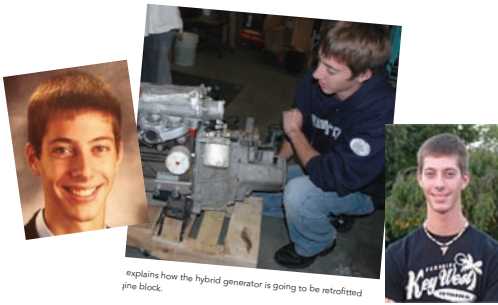
they doing now?

'A-TEAM'. These are the teachers that covered and drilled in the basics to last me a lifetime: Leo Gerst (Math & Trig.), Helen Colon (English), Bertha West (Science & Biology), and Mrs Geneva Fossler (Business Training).

Reach Dick at rjsteiner@aol.com or 5111 Timber Shade Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345



■ GARRETT GOLBERG'08



explains how the hybrid generator is going to be retrofitted into block.

Garrett Golberg is a junior at Penn State majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He has experience with building and designing hybrid & electric vehicles as they are one of his favorite hobbies. During his senior year of high school he converted a 1988 Pontiac Fiero into a pure EV to compete in the SMART Challenge (Students Making Advancements in Renewable Transportation Technology). Garrett also started up a hybrid vehicle group at Penn State Berks during his freshman year of college. The conversion consisted of a 1995 Dodge Neon replaced with a 1.0 liter diesel engine attached with an electric motor generator. In addition to the valuable conversions he has done, he has experience with SolidWorks, C++, and AutoCAD.

Garrett was part of Penn State's successful electric vehicle program this school year. He and his fellow students took fourth place and brought home a number of other awards at the culminating Year Three finals of the EcoCAR: The NeXt Challenge competition in Milford, Mich., and Washington, D.C. (see picture above)

You can contact him at gsg5035@psu.edu.

Editor's Note: See article "MVHS alum Golberg excels with Penn State electric vehicle team" from the Sun, July 14, 2011



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...west of the Bingo Tent
Fri ~ 4 pm to 9 pm
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Friends, family, community welcome

SATURDAY JULY 14
OPEN GYM AT HIGH SCHOOL 1-3 pm

REUNION FUN



The Class of 1971 wanted to kick up their heels a bit for their 40th Reunion, so with a little hard work they put together a reunion of their old high school band. Playing during Heritage Days at the C&D Lounge were Rick Busenbark and Brian Seiler from the Class of 1971 and Bill Encke and Dave Suri of the Class of 1970.

Thank you to Rick's wife, Barbara Busenbark, for the photos.



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Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ MATT STONER'03



Left: Matt's senior picture, Middle: the night before the pro-am, Stoner and wife Amy Friedl Stoner'01 attended a pairings party at pro Davis Love III's home at St. Simons Island, where Johnson also has a home. Right: screen image of Matt's video.

Editor's Note: See complete article in the Sun, 'Stoner left holding the bag' November 03, 2011 by Dave Morris

Alum Matt Stoner'03 didn't get a lot of golf in this past summer, but still he made the cut for the McGladrey Classic pro-am at Sea Island Golf Club on St. Simons Island, Ga.

But he wasn't golfing, he was caddying for Cedar Rapids native Zach Johnson. McGladrey is one of the pro's sponsors. Stoner, a CPA, works in the tax department of the Cedar Rapids office.

Stoner won the honor as part of an in-house contest for McGladrey employees. After writing a short essay, Stoner was selected from more than 80 entries as one of five finalists. He created a video and won based on employee voting, creativity and explaining how to help Johnson experience the power of being understood (which dovetails with Mc-

Gladrey's slogan).

"His real caddie, Damon Green, was there doing all the thinking. I just got to carry the bag," Stoner said. He added that Johnson is exactly the person the public sees. They talked sports a bit, mostly about the Hawkeyes.

Stoner's video, clocking in at just under two minutes, is a humorous take on what he had to offer as a caddy, and included a round of golf on a miniature golf course, complete with advice to a golfer and large-headed plastic clubs. The video can be located on YouTube by searching for "Matt Stoner caddie quest."

Matt is the son of Dan Stoner'70 and Cathy Humphries Stoner'69. Matt can be reached at m.stoner@gmail.com



■ FRANK WILKINSON'65



"Since I left Mount Vernon High School I worked full time as route sales person for Mid Continent Bottlers for 3 years while going to junior college and later Coe College in Cedar Rapids. In 1968 I went to work as a sales representative for Kraft Foods Company in Moline, Illinois. The company then relocated me six times from Moline to Cedar Rapids to Des Moines to Chicago and back to Des Moines. I spent 37 years with Kraft Foods as it grew and merged with many other large food companies. During my years in Chicago I worked as Regional Broker Manager and later cheese product trade manager for Midwest. My last 13 years in Des Moines I was Senior Business Development manager with primary responsibility for the Hy-Vee account.

I met my wife Linda and we married in Moline, Illinois in 1970. We have raised 4 daughters and now have 6 grandchildren. My daughters now live over the western U.S. from Phoenix to California and Washington State.

In 2005 I retired from Kraft Foods just to have more time with my family. My wife and I travel to visit our daughters and grandchildren and also help daily with three grandsons that live in Des Moines area. With my grandsons I now get to relive my childhood years playing football, riding bicycles and doing whatever we decide to do when they are not in school. We also enjoy things in Des Moines area as it has a very diverse list of things to do and be part of for people of our age. What I enjoy most is not all the phone calls and emails and stress that a business career involves. I take each day as it comes and enjoy it.

My greatest life accomplishment by far was marrying my wife Linda and raising our four daughters. Hard work and travel was a big part of my days but I have always kept focused on what matters which is family. My parents set a

This Fall's Honorary Captains

Each year High School Football Head Coach Duane Orr works with Dave Ryan'85 to select alums for Honorary Captains for each varsity football game (with an occasional coach or friend). The Honorary captain is highlighted by Mount Vernon Bank & Trust in the Sun each week. This year, congratulations to:

- Aug 26 vs Marion - Ben Pospisil'96
- Sept 2 vs Maquoketa - Russ Ryan'90
- Sept 9 vs Williamsburg - Brian Hess'04
- Sept 16 vs S Tama County - Randy Hoidahl'61
- Sept 23 vs Solon - Steve Goodall'83
- Sept 30 vs Washington IA - Casey DeVries'99
- Oct 7 vs Grinnell - Andrew Buchmeyer'81
- Oct 14 vs Benton Community - Wade Squiers'84
- Oct 21 vs CCAmana - Jay Koehn'77



Homecoming Honorary Captain Randy Hoidahl'61 congratulates senior Jordan Roe after the game



good example and I have always tried to live up to their standards with Linda's help everyday.

During my years at Mount Vernon probably my favorite memories are of playing football and track. The games whether we won or lost the events are not what sticks in my mind. What was fun was time shared in the sports with friends at that time. When you are in high school you can't see the future so you live in the moment and all those practice times after

school were fun and relaxed times. By the time my senior year rolled around I was ready for the work world and eager to be on my own. It was really a combination of time spent working with my father on the farm and the fundamentals of sports that helped launch me to have a good life."

Frank can be reached at fw.wilkinson@gmail.com or 807 36th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50265



■ KURT ENCKE '80



Left to right, Kurt's picture from his junior year in High School, Kurt playing at a friend's "post flood" party in 2009, and classmates Dan Vargason '80 and Kurt playing some songs at their 30th class reunion.

Editor's Note: This update came about after Kurt posted a link to his music site on the Facebook MVHS alumni page. Thanks to Kurt for sending.

"I started playing guitar in high school. As a matter of fact I shared my music in two different classes. One class was with Mr. Peters, where we were supposed to teach a skill. I thought "what the heck, I'll try to teach some guitar". That didn't go over so well. I only owned the one guitar at the time, so I really couldn't teach everyone. Live and learn. I was just thankful to sneak one of my original songs out to the public.

The second class was a creative writing class with Mrs. Rife. I played a few of my original songs and I thought that that was so awesome. Mrs. Rife was always so kind to me. I guess that's why she was one of my favorite teachers. She didn't care what other people thought, she just judged me on my school work. Because as some of you might remember I wasn't that well behaved in High School.

After High School I played with a number of bands. Most were party bands, but I did play with two bands that had some moderate success. The first was "The Birddog Boogie Band" with members were Mike McCullough, my brother Erik Encke '73 and myself. We were around in the late 1980's and played a lot at FB and Company in Waubeek. We were kind of the "house" band there. That meant we got to open up for some great blues acts that appeared on various holidays during the summer.

The second band was "The Other Brother Band." The members were Bill Encke '70 and his wife, Iris. Plus Erik and myself. And a bunch of different drummers. We played mostly in East Dubuque, Ill. and Cedar Rapids. I left the band after a few short years, because I always wanted to form a band of my own. Bill, Iris and Erik went on to play a number of years together after that. Of course I would occasionally show up and sit in with the band, and being brothers, the band has never really broke up. We play all the time at Christmas.

Now I spend my time recording songs in my basement. Then one day (many years ago), I decided to put my music on MySpace. That was nice but you didn't really get any interaction with people. That is why I'm glad Facebook came around. Now I have my music on Facebook and I get some many nice comments from friends from my past.

I don't really have plans to start another band because I have so much fun working on recordings with my friends. And this piece would be complete if I didn't give a shout out to one of my best friends, Dan Vargason '80, who has given me a lot of support with my music. So for now, I'm happy just being a family man and making my own recordings in my basement. If you want to check out my music, you can find it at: www.Facebook.com/cyberhippy61.

Kurt can be reached at kencke@iowatelecom.net, or find him on Facebook, or at 206 Spruce Street, Tipton, IA 52772.



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MARRIAGES

Megan Grunder'09 to Michael Traxel, Aug 13, 2011

Kylee Husak'07 to Garrett Rucinski, May 28, 2011

Angie Miceli'07 to Andy Bishop, June 25, 2011

Greg Mlynarczyk'07 to Katie Henson, July 27, 2011

Clayton Niehaus'06 to Christina Husmann, June 25, 2011

Kristen Reihle'06 to Derek Kimball, May 23, 2010 (see pic and note at right)

Leah Applebee'05 to Sydney McField, July 2nd, 2011. Groomsmen included alums Greg Applebee '05 and Ian Dye '01. Bridesmaids included alums Shauna Applebee Dye '01, Beth Young '05, and Olivia Junk Stoner '05. The couple currently resides in Managua, Nicaragua where they are teachers at the Nicaragua Christian Academy Nejapa.

Caitlin Wieseler'04 to Jared Bienemann, August 6, 2011, in an outdoor ceremony in the Coe College Clark Alumni House garden. Parents of the couple are Tom and Vicky Wieseler of Mount Vernon, and Laurel and Mark Bienemann of Alburnett. The couple resides in Cedar Rapids where Caitlin is employed as a teacher at Regis Middle School and Jared is employed at Great America Leasing.

Mackenzie Neal'03 to Dustin Paulson, Aug 20, 2011.

Abbie Reihle'03, to T. Curtis Hames, IV, June 12, 2010 (see pic and note at right)

Megan Driscoll'02 to Mike Downey, Oct 14, 2011

Jessica Miceli'02 and Derek Ellard were married on October 8, 2010

Jen Dotson'01 to Ben Stockwell, Sept. 3, 2011

Katie Hommer'01 to Bryan Ripke'97, Aug 27, 2011

Vicki Walbrick'98 to Chase Conaway, Sept 24, 2011

John Dillard'98 and Julie Gabel were married on June 25, 2011. John continues in the IT area with State Farm in Bloomington, Illinois



Two Sisters, Two Weddings, Three Weeks

Kristen Reihle, MVHS Class of '06, was united in marriage to Jesup, Iowa native Derek Kimball at Rotary Reserve Park in Cedar Falls, Iowa on May 23, 2010 with about 325 in attendance. Two weeks earlier, Kristen & Derek both received their bachelors degrees from the University of Northern Iowa. They now reside in Waterloo, Iowa.

Three weeks later, June 12, 2010, Abbie Reihle, MVHS Class of '03, was married to T. Curtis (Curtis) Hames, IV, of St. Cloud, MN and Cornell College Class of '04 at The Chapel at Planet Hollywood, Las Vegas, Nevada, witnessed by a group of 55 family members and friends. An Iowa reception was held for them at the home of Curt & Norma Hames, Marion, Iowa on August 1, 2010. They make their home in Marion.

BABY NEWS

Kristin Hotz Robinson'02 and Jason Robinson, a daughter, Josephine Lynn, May 6, 2011

Jeremy Hotz'99 and Lindsey Kerr Hotz'01, a son, Tucker Lee Hotz, Sept 8, 2011. Grandfather is Mark Kerr'73

John Bock'00 and Abigail Neal Bock'99, a son, Cody William, June 19, 2011. Grandparents are Barb Thomsen Neal'68 and Jeri Neal'66

Kathryn 'Katie' Ohlfest'00 and Lee Bortz, a son, Ryan Allen, Aug 8, 2011. Ryan is the grandson of Martha Thomsen Ohlfest'77 and the late Dave Ohlfest'75

Talia Nelson Breidinger'97 and Chad Breidinger, a daughter, Trulie Caitlin Breidinger, May 10, 2011. Grandmother is Karol Koppenhaver'74

Kevin Crabtree'97 and Michelle Clark, a son, Colt David Crabtree, Sept 1, 2011

B.J. Leeper'97 and Jodi, a daughter Emery Rose, May 19, 2011

Teresa Duppong Stewart'96 and Matt Stewart'96, a son, Jacob James, July 1, 2011

Bruce Johanson'93 and Krista Johanson, a daughter, Lillian Marie, March 30, 2011

Ben Aalbers'92 and Heather Aalbers, a son, Nolan Samuel, Mar 29, 2011

Scott Warner'90 and Cathy Derochie, a son and daughter, Cameron Scott and Ali Lynn, Sept 8, 2011

ANNIVERSARIES

Gary Viter'67 and LeAnn Viter of Mount Vernon, Iowa, 40 years on June 5, 2011

Dave Thomson'55 and wife Ann, 50 years
Linda Armstrong Janko'59 and Raymond Janko of Palo, Iowa, 50 years on September 1

AND MORE...

Mary Bauman Kolbe '64

was elected President of the Phoenix Friends of the Arizona Cancer Center for 2011-2012

Ellie Brandt McNicol'99

wrote in to say that she and husband Jonathon "are so blessed with our four kids, David, Benjamin, James and Anna! (see picture below). We continue to live in Tacoma, WA just south of Seattle where everything's great except the traffic (I miss the traffic jam being a tractor, not miles and miles of vehicles)! I love homeschooling the oldest two as we get to explore the great Northwest.



Stanley Grant'49 wrote in to say "My news in pretty general, but for me, interesting. I have children and grandchildren scattered around the nation and in foreign countries. My first, but not oldest, grandchild wedding was in Great Britain in August. Daughter Laura planned the wedding from her home in Virginia for her youngest son Garrett who is a serving Youth Minister with the Church of England. He married a Dutch girl...Having the first grand kid wedding does give me that aging feeling. Otherwise, me and my two big dogs are doing pretty well as we move into that 9th decade. Best wishes to all in the class of '49 and spouses. We do seem to be dwindling a little."

Dan Drahos'84 entered his "Dr. Dan's Cycloin" and his "Dr. Dan's Cybrats" in the Iowa Pork Producers and Iowa State's fourth annual pork tailgate challenge on October 1st. Dan finished third in the loin category with his brown sugar-spice rubbed whole loin stuffed





The "winning" combination from Dan's "test kitchen"

with tomato-chili sausage(red) and mustard-curry sausage(yellow), glazed with hot pepper jelly. He then finished first in the "other" category with his Caraway seed and Granny smith apple Bratwurst with a "touch" of cyclone as he slid a slice of red and yellow pepper inside the casing before stuffing each brat.

When they tallied everything and determined the grand champion, Dan was surprised and excited to hear his name announced. Dan ended up with over \$1000 in prizes and cash while his favorite prize was to see his picture up on the new giant scoreboard at Jack Trice Stadium and to sit high in the media skybox at half-time giving a live interview over the Cyclone radio network. Definitely a day he will remember forever. With Fareway Stores as a sponsor of the challenge, he hopes to have his brat recipe behind their meat counter in the near future.

This was Dan's third year of participation and finished with an honorable mention last year with his "Dr. Dan's PiDuck" - Pork loin stuffed with duck breast. Fellow Mount Vernon alum and classmate **Daryl Becicka '84** has been his partner and 'sous chef' all three years and shares in his victory. Daryl remembers the days when it was just the two of them with a hibachi grilling meat on a stick. Now they provide tailgate food for 30-50 cyclone fans every home game. They now have bragging rights to claim their tailgate food as "the best".

Adriana Hartelt Boettcher '91 (from Facebook) published a book (*Lights in a Black Forest*, with pen name Martena Warner, editor is **Christine Hartelt '82** and illustrated by **Rebecca Wirfs '91**) inspired by her dad's life, first in Germany and then here in Iowa. She says "It is a novel, not a memoir, but I think those who knew my dad and family might enjoy the story. I am sad I never knew what he went through until he was gone, or that two of my aunts were in concentration camps after the war. Here is the link for those interested:

http://www.amazon.com/Lights-Black-Forest-ebook/dp/B005MMB2XU/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1319204032&sr=1-1

Scott Peterson '71 was recently elected mayor of Mount Vernon and **Jamie Hampton '91** was recently elected to the Mount Vernon's City Council

Taylor Dicus '11 and **Kylea Weber '11** have had a fantastic freshman season with the Cornell Rams volleyball team. Dicus shattered the school record for total blocks (143) and block assists (112) in a single season. She was selected First-Team All Conference and Freshman of the Year for the IIAC conference. She led the conference in blocks per set (1.48) and was third in hitting percentage (.312.) Kylea has also been a great addition to the Rams team. Her consistent play in the back row has helped lead the Rams to the most wins in a single season under Coach Jeff Meeker. Weber was voted Libero/Defensive Player of the Week three times for the IIAC Conference and overall Female Athlete of the Week one time. She ranks third in the conference with 4.72

'Alumni News' continued on next page

Thank you

to **Richard Hoidahl '59** for the 1916 Headlight Yearbook
to **Randy Hoidahl '61** for the *Hawkeye-Record* issue from July 1, 1954
to **Lisa Lewis '83** at Envisage for copies of all the team posters she has created for Mount Vernon students
to **Janet Griffith** for 1999, 2001 and 2000 yearbooks

In Memory of classmates we have lost

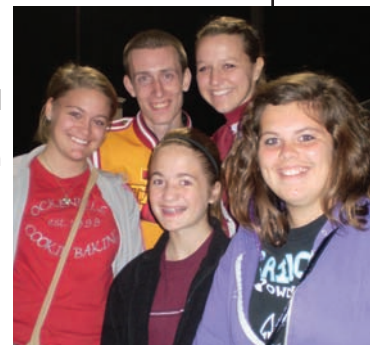
Jean Minish Stoner '37
Kathleen 'Sis' Woods Pitlik '47
Paula Prall White '50
Pamela Jean Ellison Owen '66
Ann Shutt Reynolds '75
James Barthel '79

Friends...

Mount Vernon School Employee (retired)
Marion Adele "Monie" Newman

(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.)

MVHS Band students Kindra Ockenfels-Houghtaling, Lauren Adams, and Corrine Lee attended the Marching Band Indoor Classic on Monday, October 10 held at Kingston Stadium. They are pictured here with Mount Vernon Alumni **Janelle Knight '11** and **Tom Mlynarczyk '10** both members of the Iowa State Marching Band. The ISU Marching Band was the featured band at the event.




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Alumni News, continued...

digs per set. She also boasts the team-best serving percentage at .940. Weber was voted Second Team All Conference for the 2011 season.

Dave Thomson '55 wrote in to tell us "we are having a great time in retirement! After 29 years in the Air Force, getting the chance to fly fighters for 26 of the 29 and getting to see a lot of the world, I retired in 1989, took a position with Boeing, in Seattle, where I had the opportunity to serve in Corporate Safety and as a Division Safety Manager for 5 years. I then took a position with the successor to the University of Southern California (USC) Institute for Safety and Systems Management, where I had the opportunity to teach aviation safety world-wide. We REALLY retired in 2004 and are enjoying travelling to visit our two children and 5 grandchildren. We winter in South Texas where we have the opportunity to see Kay and Bob Lind ('55) and , hopefully link up with Larry and Jean Ringer, while visiting our granddaughter, who is a junior at Texas A&M. We celebrated our 50th Anniversary this past summer, and are looking forward to getting back to Mt. Vernon one of these days."

Elizabeth Stoner Cameron '97 (and 2010 Alumni Hall of Fame Fine Arts recipient) was recently appointed Assistant Professor of Voice and Musical Theater at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, MI. She continues to tour nationally as soprano soloist with Spectrum Brass, and will make their Iowa debut of Gershwin Show in Oelwein, IA on September 23, 2012.

Jim Moore '78 wrote in to say "My oldest boy, Nicholas Moore graduated with his Masters in Mathematics ("Easy" Al Craig wouldn't believe this) from Virginia Tech and is working for Booz Allen Hamilton. My second son, Benjamin graduated from Marine Corp Officer Candidate School at Quantico this summer and is finishing his senior year at Virginia Tech in the cadet corp. When he gets his degree, he'll be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. My wife Jill and I celebrated our 27th anniversary on 8 September. Our address is 114, Rockvale Road, Sykesville Maryland, 21784, and our email is theiowahawk@hotmail.com If anyone is in the area and would like to visit, we're always home."

Simba Glenn '05 (from Facebook) "I have since relocated to Chicago playing with my band Simpleton & Cityfolk. (We played at Heritage Days this year on Friday before Rattlebox.) I was also back home playing a solo show at Scorz Bar & Grill in MV on Oct. 7th. Find me at www.facebook.com/simpletonandcityfolk"

Paige Davis Volk '92 wrote in the say "I don't usually post much info in the *Alumni Newsletter*, but as my baby is turning one this weekend, I thought that would be fun news! My husband, Ken, and I have a son, Graeme Alan Volk, who was born on 10-8-10, two days ahead of schedule! He is keeping us on our toes, already walking and "talking." His favorite words right now are "quack quack," "moo" and "Gup" (which signifies both pick me up and pretty much any other command he can think of)! What fun and what a blessing he is! I am still an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Iowa where I work in the Pediatric ICU. I am also busy running a research lab where we study neutrophil chemotaxis (or how white blood cells get to sites of infection). Hope our alumni friends are doing well! Take care and thanks for keeping us updated!"

Steven Edwards '65 wrote in to say "I am a lawyer in New York. Every year I come back and play in a reunion of the Stompers, a pretty popular band in the mid-1960s. This year we are playing at Gwen's in Lisbon on November 19. Several years ago we recorded a song called "Mount Vernon." Randy Harman '68, who still lives in Mount Vernon, has copies." Steve can be reached at smedwards@hhlaw.com



What Your Foundation Donation Actually Does

By Bethany Campbell Tvedt, Exec Dir, Foundation

COMING SOON... ANNUAL FOUNDATION MAILING
As the year winds down, be on the lookout in your mail for the Foundation's annual contribution campaign. Our Foundation, which is guided by a capable and respected Board of Trustees, focuses on helping 'Fulfill the Promise' of educational excellence for each of our future alums. With funding to education dwindling, yet giving to education rising more than 5 percent nationally last year to comprise nearly 15 percent of total philanthropic donations, it is significant what can happen with each donation.

Making a philanthropic donation provides each of us the opportunity to consider what is made possible by giving – for all of us it is a means to support a mission intended to offer benefit and service to our students. Philanthropy, also quite importantly, focuses on the voluntary means of improving our community – no one is required to donate to an organization, we do so because it matters to us.

WHAT DOES YOUR DONATION DO?

Your \$10, or \$100, or \$1000 donation, whatever it may be, is used in two ways. First, it may go directly to the Foundation's General Fund. This fund creates opportunities for our district's students and teachers. Last year your donations help fund three \$500 scholarships for graduating students; making it either possible for a student to go on to higher education, or to simply help with a tuition that is often times over \$30,000. Last year your donations funded \$5,000 in teacher grants which supplied graphic calculators, iPod, a frame by frame animation system, voice recognition technology, web cameras, netbooks and more. Last year your donations assisted with projects such as the Alumni Newsletter, Teacher Recognition, and programs at the Alternative Education Center.

Secondly, your donation may be used to help grow our Endowment Fund. This fund has been building for years, and as it grows, the interest earned is transferred to our General Fund, which in turn supports the Foundation's efforts.

WHAT DO YOU WANT IT TO DO?

When you make a donation, you may specify how you want it used. For instance, you may wish that your money go directly for the Teacher Grants, or directly to fund scholarships for students. If you don't specify, the Foundation Board will invest it for use in supporting future efforts.

WAYS TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION

There are a number of ways to make a meaningful contribution – such as an honorarium, memorial or establishing a scholarship fund – and receive tax benefits before the year closes. There are many other ways to donate as well. For example, consider designating the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation in your will, or support it through a corporate matching gift program with your employer. Donations to the school district's "support" organizations such as Alumni, Boosters, Fine Arts, PRIDE (Middle School parent organization) and WETAP (Elementary parent organization) can also be made through the Foundation.

So please consider your own potential to be philanthropic as the year draws to a close. Any contribution, be it to the Foundation or Alumni Association, is appreciated and valued for what it offers to all.



MAIL BY JULY 1!

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 presented at Homecoming fall 2011, 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).

THE DEADLINE IS A JULY 1, 2012 POSTMARK – GET YOURS IN THE MAIL OR NOMINATE ONLINE NOW!

'The Spirit Lives On In You'

ALUMNI AWARDS

MVCSD 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.

MVCSD Alumni Service Award

Given to alumni for specific and meritorious service to the MVCSD 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.

MVCSD 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.

MVCSD 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.

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. Nominations are held and considered for three years.

2012 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 MVCSD 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. 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

Send this form post marked by July 1, 2012 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

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ALUMNI Association 2011-2012

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

New or Renew? FOR JULY 1 2011 TO JULY 1 2012

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 or memorial

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Thank you!

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