



# MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# ALUMNI NEWS



PLEASE SUPPORT THE ALUMNI ASSOC. WITH YOUR DONATION... SEE BACK PAGE



Connie Meyer Kahl'59, Keith Burge'67, and Vernon Burge'37, enjoyed the 2012 Heritage Days Events. Watch for more pictures in the Spring Alumni Newsletter

**MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND HERITAGE DAYS 2013 AND THE ALL-ALUMNI-COMMUNITY EVENTS JULY 12 & 13**

### INSIDE...

- 2 2013 Reunions
- 3 President's Message
- 4 Alumni Hall of Fame Recipients
- 9 Awards Nomination Form
- 11 Homecoming & Alumni Awards Pictures, Reunion and other pics
- 12 Our International Alums...What Are They Doing?
- 17 Alumni News
- 20 2012-2013 Support Form

Pictured from left to right, 2012 Hall of Fame Award Winners Vicki Ellison'96 and Vince Ellison'92 representing Maggie Quinn Ellison'62 (d), De De Staskal Hicks'50, Graham (Greg) Harman'86, and John Hearn'75

## 2013 Alumni Events

**July 1 - DON'T DELAY - NOMINATE AN ALUM YOU THINK IS DESERVING OF EITHER A SERVICE, ACHIEVEMENT, FINE ARTS, OR ATHLETIC AWARD NOW!**

Who can nominate? ANYONE - you do not have to be an alum to nominate. See page 9.

**July 12 and 13** - Heritage Days in Mount Vernon along with Alumni Events & Reunions

**Fall 2013** - Homecoming. Dates tba.

## 2012 Alumni Hall of Fame

The Mount Vernon Community School District Alumni Association is pleased to announce the following alums were inducted into the 2012 Alumni Hall of Fame:

Achievement: Graham (Greg) Harman, Class of 1986

Fine Arts: Margaret 'Maggie' Quinn Ellison(d), Class of 1962

Service: Dolores 'DeDe' Staskal Hicks, Class of 1950

Athletics: John Hearn, Class of 1975

Turn to page 2 for Kevin Roger's President's Message about the Alumni Awards Ceremony, and turn to page 4 for complete Hall of Fame Awards article.





# Mustang ALUMNI

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**HERITAGE DAYS  
JULY 12 AND 13  
PUT THIS ON YOUR  
CALENDAR NOW!**

**ALUMNI NEWSLETTER** is published twice yearly for alumni and friends of the Association. Views are those of the authors. Articles and advertisements (preferably digital) may be submitted by email to alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or by mail to 525 Palisades Road SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314. All materials submitted are subject to review by the Alumni Association Communications Committee. For advertising rates write or call 319-895-8845.

### MV Community Events www.visitmvl.com

#### 2012

Nov 29 Magical Night

#### 2013

March 20-24 Cabin Fever Comedy Festival

May 5-6 Chalk the Walk

May 19 High School Graduation

June 2 Chocolate Stroll

July 4 Antiques Extravaganza

July 12-13 Heritage Days

## 2013 REUNIONS

### ALL-ALUMNI-COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 12 AND SATURDAY, JULY 13 Reception Tent,  
SATURDAY, JULY 13 - Breakfast (by donation)

### 2008 - 5 year - July 13 weekend

Contact: Emilie Lynch Morrison  
Phone: 319-350-4737  
Email: eamorrison4@gmail.com  
Contact: Ryan Winder  
Email: eamorrison4@gmail.com

### 2003 - 10 year - July 13 weekend

Contact: Maggie Burke Slaymaker  
Email: maggie.slaymaker@gmail.com

### 1998 - 15 year - July 13 weekend

Contact: Char Campagna McDermott  
Phone: 319-895-8234  
Email: charlotte.mcdermott@hotmail.com

### 1993 - 20 years - July 13 weekend

Find us on face book  
Contact: Braden Pospisil Rood  
Phone: 319-654-1016  
Email: roodbrood5@gmail.com

### 1988 - 25 year - July 13 weekend

Sat eve Class Reunion at Sutliff Cider  
Find us on Facebook at 'Mount Vernon  
Iowa Class of 1988'  
Contact: Lisa Squiers White  
Phone: 319-895-0122  
Email: whitetdlc@msn.com

### 1983 - 30 years - July 13 weekend

Find us on Facebook at 'MVHS IA 1983'  
Contact: Lisa Lewis  
Phone: 319-361-0396 or 319-895-8870  
Email: lisa@envisagephoto.com

### 1978 - 35 year - July 13 weekend

Sat eve Class Reunion at Kernoustie  
Golf Club  
Contact Cynthia with current address/  
email/phone  
Find our class page at www.MVAlumni.org  
Contact: Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier  
Phone: 641-799-7583  
Email: halby@me.com  
Contact: Ann Koppenhaver  
Phone: 319-895-6001  
Email: ann@koppenhavercpas.com

### 1973 - 40 yr - July 13 weekend

Contact: Christine Hanson Starkweather  
Phone: 319-895-8588  
Email: clstarkweather@hotmail.com  
Contact: Anita Rahn Clark  
Phone: 319-895-8068  
Email: gocakc@msn.com

### 1968 - 45 years - July 13 weekend

Contact: Barb Thomsen Neal  
Phone: 319-560-0197  
Email: xword417@gmail.com  
Contact: Jane Colehour Pospisil  
& Ken Pospisil  
Phone: 319-895-6775  
Email: jane.pospisil@gmail.com  
Contact: Marcia Swaney Wagner  
Phone: 269-686-8383  
Email: marcia@grillhouse.net  
Contact: Mike Smith  
Phone: 319-895-8131  
Email: mikesmith124w@yahoo.com

### 1963 50 years - July 13 weekend

Contact: Bob Dvorak  
Phone: 319-895-8206  
Email: dvorakb47@q.com  
Other Committee Members: Warren  
Stoner, Chris Stoltz, Jim Hickey, Gloria  
Herbolsheimer Krob and Karen Kaliban  
Fox and Linda Peterson Nost

### 1958 - 55 years - July 13 weekend

Sat eve Class Reunion at Sleep Inn  
Contact: Marilyn Dean Schnittjer  
Phone: 319-895-8817  
Email: rmschnittjer@gmail.com

### 1953 - 60 years - July 13 weekend

Sat eve Reunion, Sun Brunch at Moore's  
Contact: Babs Beckhelm Moore  
Phone: 319-895-8512  
Email: mooremanor@mchsi.com

### 1948 - 65 years - July 13 Breakfast

Contact: Frances Pitlik  
Phone: 319-362-8172  
(new address: 626 Rockwell Dr, NE,  
Apt 231, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402)

### 1943 - 70 years - July 13 Breakfast

Contact: Elizabeth 'Liz' Wolfe Kroul  
Phone: 319-455-2400

### 1938 - 75 years - July 13 Breakfast

Contact: Mary Adalaide Mulherin

### 1933 - 80 years - July 13 Breakfast

Contact: Austin Armstrong  
1212 Brendel Hill Drive N.W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405  
319-362-5159 home

**If you attended Mount Vernon in the '30s or '40s  
-- feel free to join these other folks at the  
Breakfast -- they would love to have you there!**

\*\*\*\*\*

Even if your class is not having a  
reunion, come to the Breakfast  
to see classmates, other alums,  
teachers, and community friends

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



Kevin Rogers '81  
Alumni Association  
President

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Through the fall of 2010 our annual Alumni Awards was an independent functioning event occurring concurrently with Mount Vernon Community School District's homecoming weekend. It was held over a two-day period with events taking place at the Friday night football games, cumulating with an awards ceremony the following Saturday morning. In the fall of 2011 we began expanding this annual alumni event by integrating some events with the current student body at Mount Vernon High School. We invited and encouraged our alumni award winners, both past and present, to come back to Mount Vernon and spend time in the classrooms with high school students. The feedback we received from students, faculty, and staff alike, was very encouraging.

Always looking for ways to improve our Alumni events, we felt we wanted to make the Awards Ceremony available to more people, especially our students. After weeks of discussions, evaluations, and speaking with school district administrators and various Alumni Association representatives, a decision was made to take a bold step and move towards fully integrating our alumni awards into the school district's Homecoming events and limiting events to one day. Flash forward to Friday, September 21, 2012.

Expectations were high. What we were about to embark on was going to take an immense amount of planning, coordination, and preparation. And at the end of the day when the final light was switched off at the high school and the last light was extinguished at the football field, many people sat back and said, "We did it!"

Expectations were met - in some cases exceeded. Success had been achieved in integrating Mount Vernon alumni visits and the annual Awards Ceremony, into a *day in the life* of a Mount Vernon Community School student. It was a remarkable and memorable day where Mount Vernon alumni shared their life-experiences with the current student body and Mount Vernon High School students got to show off their school. The highlight of the day was the All School-Community Homecoming Pep Assembly, when the High School gymnasium was packed with over twelve hundred people: students K-12, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members alike.

But as I have already indicated, to pull off an event such as this took immense amounts of planning, coordination, and preparation from dozens of people. So on behalf of the Mount Vernon Alumni Association, please join me in thanking:

2012 Alumni Award Recipients: Dolores 'De De' Staskal Hicks'50 and nominator, David Wolfe'50; Graham Harman'86 and nominator, Deb Winchip Douglass'86; John Hearn'75 and nominator, Raymond 'Bud' Hearn; and Vince Ellison'92 for nominating his mother, Margaret 'Maggie' Quinn Ellison'62 (d).

High School Student Ambassadors: Maggie Howell, Kaiser Arndt, James Wenzel, Hannah Bradbury, Miranda Chapman, Brandon Douglas, and Mindy Salzbrenner. Special thanks to students Logan Heeren, Trevor Weitnaue, Preston Hoepfner, and all student representatives.

High School Student Council President: Hanna Giegerich'13

School Board President: Darrin Gage

High School Teachers: Maggie Lessmeier Willems'96, Margo Massey, JoAnn Gage, Brandi Viter, Sarah Richardson, Erica Ledger, Kevin Murray, Mary Young, Tyler Calvert-Thompson, Laurie Zaiger, Joe Peters, Sue Diebner, Heather Allen, and Beth McCollum.

School District Administration & Staff: Dr. Pam Ewell (Superintendent), Steve Brand (High School Principal), Stephanie Timm and Vicky Wieseler (HS Building Secretaries), Bethany Campbell Tvedt (Foundation Director), Joe Wallace (Assistant High School Principal),

Bob Haugse (Middle School Principal), Mike Hansen (Washington Elementary Principal), and Kathy Staskal (Alumni Coordinator and District Communications). Special thanks to District Grounds & Maintenance staff: Roger Pitlik, Marty Williams, Jerry Purlmann, and Steve Miller; and Marcia Purington and the entire District nutrition staff.

Mount Vernon Alumni: Association Board Members: Dennis Jordan'87, Susan Mounts Fisher'65, Michael Langer'85, Michele Meyer Grudzinski'92, Jean Kuntz Bowman'64, Mary Thomsen'75, and Judy Whitley'82. Award Reception: JoAnn Kroul Clark'64 and Margaret Duffy Ellison'62. Master of Ceremonies: John Rife'60; Mark Benesh'83, and Dick McKeen'51.

Alumni Association Awards Selection Committee: Association Vice President and Committee Chair: Dennis Jordan'87; Association Board Member: Jean Bowman Kuntz'64; Deborah Douglass Winchip'86; Jennykaye Hampton Moore'91; Jenny Cihac; Janet Dietrich; Braden Pospisil Rood '93; Ryan Whitman'03; Robert Meeker; and Carol Woods-Boren'75

Community Members: Vern Staskal; Rick and Trudy Elliott and the entire staff at the First Street Building for their assistance with staging the Alumni Tent Tailgating Reception area; and Jake Krob and the Mount Vernon-



### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS



**Welcome to new Alumni Association Board Members Mary Thomsen'75 and Judy Whitley'82. Thank you to outgoing board members JennyKaye Moore Hampton'92 and Lynn Watson Brokel'78 for their service, with a HUGE thank you to one of our original Board Members, Shauna Applebee Dye'01, shown at right receiving a certificate of appreciation from Vice President Dennis Jordan'87 for the outstanding job she has done in seven years of service as Board secretary.**

# 2012 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME



At the Alumni Awards Ceremony: In front behind the Mustang are De De Staskal Hicks' daughter-in-law Arpi Hicks and Dolores 'De De' Staskal Hicks'50; Back row from left to right: Alumni President Kevin Rogers'81, School Superintendent Dr. Pam Ewell, Awards Master of Ceremonies John Rife'60, Fiance Necla Demir and Graham (Greg) Harman'86, School District Foundation Director Bethany Campbell Tvedt, School Board President Darrin Gage, Awards Chair and Association VP Dennis Jordan'87, Wife Ann Hearn and John Hearn'75, Association Board member Michael Langer'85, Vicki Ellison'96, Deb Winchip Douglass'86 and Vince Ellison'92



On Friday, September 21st, both 2012 Alumni Award Winners and past award winners started out the day visiting with students in High School classes. Shown here are Alumni Hall of Fame winners with their district or alumni hosts and student ambassador hosts. Front row: Dr. Pam Ewell, Student Ambassador James Wenzel, De De Staskal Hicks'50, Student Ambassador Hannah Bradbury, De De's daughter-in-law Arpi Hicks, Student Ambassador Miranda Chapman, Student Ambassador Maggie Howell, Student Ambassador Brandon Douglas, Student Ambassador Mindy Salzbrenner. Back row: Awards Chair and Association VP Dennis Jordan'87, 2011 Hall of Fame Achievement Recipient John Rife'60, Student Ambassador Kaiser Arndt, Alumni President Kevin Rogers'81, 2011 Hall of Fame Fine Arts recipient Mark Benesh'83, John Hearn'75 and wife Ann Hearn, Vince Ellison'92, Graham (Greg) Harman'86, Michael Langer'85, Graham's fiance Necla Demir, and School District Foundation Director Bethany Campbell Tvedt



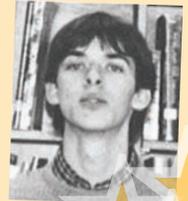
Thank you to JoAnn Kroul Clark'64 and Margaret Duffy Ellison'62 for hosting the Fall Alumni Awards Reception



At left: Student Ambassadors Maggie Howell and Kaiser Arndt with 2011 Hall of Fame Fine Arts Recipient Mark Benesh'83, At right: John Hearn'75 talking with high school students, his wife Ann sits at left



At left: Thank you to John Rife'60 for being our Awards Ceremony Master of Ceremony for 5 years, At right: Graham Harman'86 talking with high school students



## Achievement winner Graham

**Harman'86 (Greg)** traveled all the way from Egypt to accept his award. Graham is currently the Associate Provost for Research Administration and Professor of Philosophy at the American University in Cairo, Egypt.

Graham is a contemporary philosopher of metaphysics, who attempts to reverse the linguistic turn of Western philosophy. Harman is associated with Speculative Realism in philosophy. He works on metaphysics, the study of the ultimate nature of reality, which he pursues in the form of an object-oriented philosophy.

After graduating from Mount Vernon High School in 1986, Harman attended St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, receiving his B.A. in 1990. He then pursued graduate study under philosopher Alphonso Lingis at Penn State University, receiving his M.A. in 1991. He transferred to DePaul University in Chicago where he received his Ph.D. there in 1999. While in Chicago, he worked briefly as a sportswriter for sportsextra.com (now defunct). Since 2000, he has been a member of the Department of Philosophy at the American University in Cairo.

Nominator and fellow classmate Deb Winchip Douglass says of Graham, "He is a world-renowned philosopher and publisher. Do you know that they have conferences to discuss his work? Even in high school Graham was a high academic achiever and was on the Academic Decathlon Team." Searching our youngest Hall of Fame Achievement recipient's name on the internet, you will find that there are almost 70 solid pages of Graham Harman before other names appear.



At left: Vince Ellison '92 visits with High School students in Mrs. Richardson's class about his mother's legacy. At right: Vince, who nominated his mother Maggie Ellison '62(d) for the Fine Arts Award, accepts the Award on her behalf

**Fine Arts winner Margaret 'Maggie' Quinn Ellison '62** was a familiar face around Mount Vernon until her death in 2011 at the age of 67. Maggie was nominated for this award by her son, Vince Ellison '92. As a student Maggie was involved in high school Fine Arts activities including the Velvet Curtain, Talent Show, Mixed Chorus, Girls' Glee, All-School Play, Declam (speech), Pep Band, Marching Band, Concert Band, and the Chalkmark. She was also involved in varsity cheerleading and was a member of the Homecoming Court.



Top left: Graham gives acceptance speech  
 Top right: Classmate Deb Winchip Douglass gives Graham his Award Certificate  
 Bottom left: Graham and fiance Necla are ready to ride in Homecoming Parade  
 Bottom right: Graham and Necla left Mount Vernon and headed to Las Vegas to get married

Graham is the author of 10 philosophy books and more than 80 articles, the co-editor of another philosophy book, and the translator of 3 books from German into English. He is a popular conference speaker and symposium paper author (with over 120 international lectures on five continents), and a 2009 winner of the AUC Excellence in Research and Creative Endeavors Award.

Graham can be reached at The American University in Cairo, Provost's Office, AUC Avenue, P.O. Box 74, 11835 New Cairo, Egypt, or by email at [cairoharman@gmail.com](mailto:cairoharman@gmail.com) You will find his Philosophy Blog at <http://doctorzamalek2.wordpress.com/>

Maggie's love for drama continued after high school. She received her degree in teaching from Drake University in 1966, then taught in California, Maine, and ten years as a professor at Cornell College before coming back to Mount Vernon High School. She taught English and drama, and directed all but one fall play and a spring musical each year for 25 years before retiring in 2008. After retiring she immediately became re-involved with the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Theatre as both a board member and participant in productions.

Maggie loved Mount Vernon as her home town. Her grandmother arrived here in a covered wagon, and her mother and children are also Mount Vernon alums. Donna Jacob, a retired MVHS English teacher, said Ellison likely became interested in teaching because of her own high school teacher, Gladys Rife. Her son Vince wrote that "Maggie was loved by her students, and she sincerely loved them back. For Maggie it was never about who got the accolades, but about getting in the game and participating. She encouraged involvement in the fine arts no matter how small the role or contribution." Alex Morf '99 wrote "Mrs. Ellison had a profound impact on me...and was one of the biggest supporters of my interest in the theatrical arts. I owe a great deal of my success and drive as an actor to the nurturing I received from her. As someone who lives and breathes the fine arts every day of his life, I know of no one more deserving (to receive this award)." Former MVHS principal Tom Madson said "Maggie was the key element in making the speech and drama programs excel year after year." A scholarship to honor Maggie was given for the first time in 2012 to a MVHS grad 'with a dedicated interest and passion in the humanities.'

Vince received the award on behalf of his mother. Vince can be reached at 1535 Poplar Lane, North Liberty, IA 52317, 319-887-4148 or by email at [vellison74@yahoo.com](mailto:vellison74@yahoo.com).

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**ARE YOU SUPPORTING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?**

**YES I'm a 50 percenter!**

Any chance we could get 50% of our alums to support the Alumni Association?  
**See back cover**

**July 1 - DON'T DELAY - NOMINATE AN ALUM YOU THINK IS DESERVING OF EITHER A SERVICE, ACHIEVEMENT, FINE ARTS, OR ATHLETIC AWARD NOW!**  
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 See page 9.



**Service winner Dolores 'DeDe' Staskal Hicks'50**

flew from California to receive her Hall of Fame Service Award. She was nominated by classmate David Wolfe. While most people from the Class of 1950 are enjoying a leisurely retirement, DeDe spends her days as President and CEO of The Volunteer Center for South Bay-Harbor-Long Beach. There she is responsible for total administration and operations of this non-profit organization which serves as the hub of volunteer activities for 600 nonprofit organizations in 43 cities. In addition DeDe has spearheaded many fund-raising activities, including a million dollar Capital Campaign, instituting improvements in existing programs and developing new programs through an active community outreach campaign. The Center has been recognized as the #1 Volunteer Center in the United States. The Hall of Fame Award for Service though does not recognize these amazing accomplishments, but rather is given to recognize her amazing volunteer background.

In her volunteer work De De has played a continuous leadership role in numerous charities and nonprofit organizations. This long list includes past president of the Community Association of the Peninsula (CAP), where she coordinated all activities. The largest volunteer group on the Peninsula, CAP has a mem-



At left: De De Staskal Hicks'50 gives her acceptance speech  
 At top right: De De visits with High School students in Mrs. Gage's class  
 At right: De De, who was Homecoming Queen of her 1950 class, is pictured with this year's Homecoming Queen Paulie Massey

bership of 1,400 families, assets of \$5.4 million and an annual operating budget of over \$500,000. CAP received President Reagan's Presidential Citation for its model youth program. In addition she has been a board member for the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center, a member of the Gamma Phi Beta Alumnae Association, Founder of the Information Center for the Peninsula Community, Founder of Legacy (promotes donor organ transplant education), and is a past president for a variety of associations, councils, and clubs including the Associates of Palos Verdes Community Arts Association and League of Women Voters of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. She is a past board member of the Norris Theater for the Performing Arts, and Charter member of Act II (support group for the Norris Theatre) and League of Women Voters.

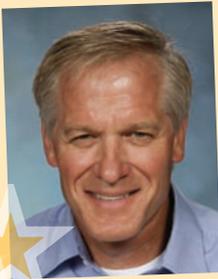
De De has also served as a member of the Marymount College Steering Committee and the Harbor/UCLA Medical Center Community Alliance. She has been involved in a multitude of other civic activities including the Private Industry Council, Community Advisory Council for Dow Chemical, local Chambers of Commerce, United Way, Peninsula Seniors, founder of Four Circles (assistance for orphanages), Stoneridge Homeowners Association and Care Clinics for Women.

Among her more than fifty honors are YWCA Woman of the Year, Everyday Hero, Magnificent Woman Award, Media Arts, Marquis 'Who's Who of American Women', 'Who's Who in Finance and Industry', 'Who's Who in the World', Katy Geisert Volunteerism Award, VanDine Americanism Award, Most Outstanding Volunteer Award by the Torrance Area Chamber, and most recently in 2009 the Citizen of the Year award by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Lions Club.

De De can be reached at 32859 Seagate Dr, No 108, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-5861, 310-377-4930, or by email at de.de@cox.net



The Alumni Awards Ceremony stage: from left to right, Vince Ellison'92, Deb Winchip Douglass'86, Graham (Greg) Harman'86, John Hearn'75, De De Staskal Hicks'50 giving her acceptance speech, Master of Ceremonies John Rife'60, Awards Chair and Association Vice President Dennis Jordan'87, Association President Kevin Rogers, School Board President Darrin Gage, Supt. Pam Ewell, Foundation Director Bethany Campbell Tvedt and Student Council President Hanna Giegerich



At left: John Hearn '75 and his wife Ann enjoy photos at the Alumni Reception 'Tailgating Under the Tent'. At right: John accepts his Athletic Hall of Fame Certificate from Master of Ceremonies John Rife '60

**Athletic winner John Hearn '75** was nominated for his award by his father, Raymond Hearn. John, an individual who loves athletics, excelled as a student and now as a Coach. During his high school track and field career John earned 35 individual meet championships, was Drake Relays qualifier, 7 individual district championships and collected 5 state place finishes. During his junior and senior year John was 'Most Valuable Track Athlete' and Team Captain. He set four track records: the 880 Yard Relay, the 440 Yard Dash, the One Mile Relay, and the Mile Medley Relay. He was the Eastern Iowa Hawkeye Conference (EIHC), and Indoor Champion of 60 yard High Hurdles, Medley Relay and Mile Relay. During high school John earned letters in football and track. He was a member of the State Runner -Up Football Team and the State Champion Football Team. In his senior year of football, he earned both EIHC 2nd Team All-Conference and Honorable Mention All-State recognitions.

John graduated from Coe College in 1979 where he was active in football and track and field. As a junior and senior at Coe, John earned the Clem Wilson Award as Most Valuable member of the track team and the Thelma Lab Award for most dedicated in Track and Field. The Midwest Conference Championship won in his senior year was the eighth consecutive Midwest title won by the track and field men for Coe College and John was voted Team Captain. He also finished 8th place at the Division III National Championships in the 4x400 relay. John earned three varsity letters in football and four in track. In track he ran the 400 meters and was 2 time Midwest Conference Champion and four-time Midwest Conference Champion in the 4x400 relay. He was a school record holder in both 400 meters and the 4x400 meter relays. In football he was defensive safety and was 1st Team All-Midwest Conference; Defensive Back his senior year. He was inducted into the Coe College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996.

In 1979, following his heralded high school and college career, Coach Hearn began his science teaching career at Dubuque Senior High School where he was also named head cross country coach. He served as wrestling coach from 1982 to 1985, football coach from 1980 to 2000 and 2009 to present, and track and field coach from 1980 to present. He was Mississippi Valley Coach of the Year in Track and Field in 1993, 1994 1995, 1996 and 1998. He was Iowa Association of Track Coaches Assistant Coach of the Year in 1987, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996. Coach Hearn was awarded the Iowa Football Coaches Association Service Award for 15 years of service and a 25 year Service Award from the Iowa Association of Track Coaches. He was also Runner-Up Teacher of the Year for Dubuque Community Schools in 2004.

John and his wife Ann have three grown children. John can be reached at 8705 Jessica Lane, Dubuque, IA 52003, 563-556-1855, jhearn@dbqschools.org



Plan to join us next year at Homecoming 2013 to celebrate Homecoming at the Pep Assembly, game, and 'Tailgating Under The Tent' and to attend the Alumni Hall of Fame Award Ceremony and Reception. Watch for the Homecoming date in the Spring edition of this newsletter.

## Funky Hot Spot

Jewelry    Toys    Books  
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## Celebrating Mount Vernon Alumni Memories

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Alan M. Shepley

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 2013, but please don't wait! We encourage you to fill out this nomination form and mail it in.

THE DEADLINE IS A JULY 1, 2013 POSTMARK - GET YOURS IN THE MAIL 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:

- Alum 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:

- Alum 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:

- Alum 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:

- Alum 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.

## 2013 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](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 July 1, 2013 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.

## TO LOG INTO THE ALUMNI DATABASE

Want to connect with other alums but need to find their contact info? Here's how...

### IF WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS:

- 1 Go to [www.MVAlumni.org](http://www.MVAlumni.org)
- 2 On the left hand side of the page you will see a log in box
- 3 Type in your email address
- 4 Click forgot password and then just follow instructions. You will receive a temporary password. You may change the password once logged in.

### IF WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS:

Write us at [alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us](mailto:alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us) to submit your email address

### IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS:

Call 319-895-8845 for assistance, ask for Kathy

## What's Happening In Mount Vernon



President Obama made a campaign stop in Mount Vernon. Attending at Cornell College were Marty Pitlik '63, Carol Woods '75, Roger Pitlik '67, Jo Kroul Clark '64, and Ken Neal '67



photo courtesy of the Sun

About 300 people walked over the restored Sutliff Bridge when it was re-opened on October 19, 2012. In 2008 when the flood ripped off a span of the bridge near Baxa's Sutliff Store and Tavern, FEMA funding couldn't be used to restore it unless Johnson County took it back from the privately held Sutliff Bridge Authority. Johnson County Supervisors approved that action about a year after the flood. Full story in the Sun at <http://www.mvl-sun.com/article.php?viewID=11020>. The Gazette also has an article in September 19th issue.



Darrin Gage, pictured above back row in center, was named new School Board President. Thank you to Tom Wieseler who finished his 10th year as School Board President and is starting his 27th year on the School Board. Wieseler is also a representative on several state of Iowa and national education committees.



## A community effort to update historic football field bleachers and athletic facilities.

The "Save a Seat" campaign is a community-driven effort to raise funding to replace the existing Mount Vernon football field cement and wooden bleachers with a modern, more easily accessible metal bleacher system. The proposed metal bleachers will almost double the seating capacity of the existing portable metal bleachers and fixed wooden bleachers combined!

### Purchase a seat to save a seat.

"Saved" seats are not "reserved" seats, but are a thank you and a tribute to those who donated. Any new monetary gift will be acknowledged with a permanent, metal plaque affixed to the new bleachers. Plaques will be inscribed with the donor's or honoree's name. Plaque color denotes the level of donation. Giving levels include a \$100 Bronze, \$250 Silver, \$500 Gold, and \$1000 Platinum. The plaques will include no more than 2 lines of copy. Plaques will be placed according to gift amount with bronze plaques affixed to the the bottom rows, silver above bronze, gold above silver and platinum the top rows.

Any level plaque can be purchased by any person, business or organization. For example, families can purchase one plaque for a family name or individual plaques for individual family member names. Alumni could purchase one as a class or an individual. Plaques can also be purchased as memorials or remembrances. Multiple plaques can be purchased. All gifts are tax deductible through the Mount Vernon School Foundation.

### Goals and the future

The "Save a Seat" campaign's initial goal is \$150,000. That amount would purchase materials, engineering, site planning, and labor. Any moneys raised above the original goal would go toward other athletic facility improvements. About \$80,000 has already been raised.

### How to sponsor a seat

1. **Fill out** the form below.
2. **Mail to:** Mount Vernon Community School Foundation - Save the Field Committee  
525 Palisades Road, Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check made payable to Mount Vernon School Foundation – Save the Field

Honorary or Memorial Gift: \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgement of this tribute to: \_\_\_\_\_ address, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the corresponding plaque to read: ( two line maximum)

\_\_\_\_\_

If you'd like to speak to a committee representative contact **Carol Woods**, 319-895-8845



# THANKS!

Volunteers met on Anna Mae Stoneking Baker's '60 back porch to label Fall postcards for the Alumni Association. Top photo from left to right Karen Jilovec Martin '56 and sister Kay Jilovec Lind '55, Kay Woods, Anna Mae, Betty Moore Stoneking '56 and Jo Ann Thomson Stoner '70. Bottom left are Leona Reyhons Smith '56 and sister Marie Reyhons Beuter '53. Bottom right, Betty Moore Stoneking '56 and her granddaughter, and Jo Ann Thomson Stoner '70



## Alumni Association sponsors First-Day-Of-School Staff Breakfast

Alumni Association President Kevin Rogers '81, Michele Meyer Grudzinski '92 and Dennis Jordan '87 visit with school district staff on the first day of school to talk about alumni involvement in the school.



# PICTURES FROM HOMECOMING & HALL OF

Homecoming, a School-Community Pep Assembly, the Alumni Awards Ceremony, Awards Reception, and Alumni 'Tailgating Under The Tent' took place on Friday, September 21st.



At left, it was a family affair for Graham Harman '86. Gregory Harman '65 (Graham Harman's father) Joyce Lane (Graham's aunt, sister of his mother) and uncle Jim Lane, Michael Langer '85, Graham's fiance Necla Demir (now married), Seth Harman '87 (Graham's brother) and Seth's girlfriend Rachael Elchesyn. At right, retired teacher Donna Happel and High School Instructor Richard Searce



At left, President Kevin Rogers '81, Vicki Ellison '96, and Alexis Stine Chadwick '07 At right, Barb Thomsen Neal '68 and sister Mary Thomsen '75 (one of this year's new Alumni Association Board members), Michael Langer '85, Deb Winchip Douglass '86



1996 Classmates Morgan Stine and Ben Neal

# FAME AWARDS 2012



At left, Washington Elementary students file into the High School gym for the All-School Homecoming Pep Rally and Award Ceremony. The elementary students left before the Award Ceremony, but both High School and Middle School students attended the Alumni Award Ceremony. Center, Linda Royer Pitlik'75 and Ron Pisarik'75 come to greet their classmate Award Winner John Hearn. At right, new Alumni Association Board Member Judy Whitley'82 talks with Association Board Member Michael Langer'85



At left Becky Whitman'77 and Jan Lowe Majors'57; Center, Seth Harman'87, Graham Harman'86, and Vince Ellison'92. At right, Linda Russell Brooks'83, Barb Russell, and Susan Mounts Fisher'65



Jeremy Martin'10 and his (at the time) fiancée, Danielle Strabala. They were married October 20th, 2012.



Babs Beckhelm Moore'53, Jean Kuntz Bowman'64, Allan Viktor'69, and De De Staskal Hicks'50

## REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES



### ▲ Class of 1966 - 45 year Reunion

Thank you to Cindy Buresh Prewitt for this picture. (Our apologies to the Class of 1966 for not publishing it in the Spring 2012 Newsletter.)

- Back Row: John Pospisil, Jeri Neal, Dan Lambertsen, Mary Kroul, Steve Neal
- 3rd Row: Bill Bauman, Jon Miller, Cindy Buresh Prewitt, Margaret Ellison Duffy, Rose Lynott Ubben
- 2nd Row: Ted Croy, Linda Richardson Moore, Mary Brown Nistler, Lana Richardson Hartl
- Kneeling: Jeanette Andrew, Vance Rahn, Loren Conley, Steve Allard



# OUR INTERNATIONAL ALUMS

## -- WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

How do Mount Vernon alums end up living and working in another country? You'll enjoy these four stories from Tim Garry'77 who lives in Scotland, Lynn Berry'77 who lives in Russia, Dave MacKay'81 who lives in Mexico, and Dee Dee Kempfi Haines'76 who lives in Isle of Man. We know of 16 alums who currently live in another country. In addition, Alex Junk'98 just returned to Iowa after living in France, and we have many alums who serve with government forces and are living all over the world. Here is our list of alums and where they live...

**Kelly Wolfe Hayton 2001**, Blaxland, New South Wales, AUSTRALIA  
**Matthew Borg 1990**, Cambridge, England, UNITED KINGDOM  
**Sevan Boyd 1988**, sevan@ukonline.co.uk, Birkdale, Southport, Merseyside, UNITED KINGDOM  
**Seth Harman 1987**, seth@fark.com, CANADA  
**Graham Harman 1986**, cairoharman@gmail.com, Zamalek, Cairo, EGYPT  
**Mark Zinkula 1985**, mtzinkula@aol.com, East Horsley, Surrey, UNITED KINGDOM  
**Maureen Cullen 1984**, maureencullen@hotmail.com, Chanakyapuri New Delhi, INDIA  
**David MacKay 1981**, info@solipaso.com, Alamos, MEXICO  
**Peggy Carew Race 1981**, peggy.race@virgin.net, UNITED KINGDOM  
**Lynn Berry 1977**, lynnannberry@yahoo.com, Moscow, RUSSIA  
**Tim Garry 1977**, tsgarry@hotmail.com, Drumoak, Scotland, Banchory, UNITED KINGDOM  
**Gloria 'Dee Dee' Kempfi Haines 1976**, preciouscayman@yahoo.com, Isle of Man, UNITED KINGDOM  
**Mark Wilch 1972**, Nelkengasse 2/10 A-1060, Vienna, AUSTRIA  
**Linda Wallace Wiltfang 1969**, Marsh Harbour, Abaco, BAHAMAS  
**Ed Dye 1967**, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, CANADA  
**Joyce Rife 1962**, jrnewzealand@yahoo.com, Marton, NEW ZEALAND

### ■ TIM GARRY 1977



Our three children and their Scottish grandparents, Pat & Rob Minty, at daughter Bethany's HS graduation. Left to right: Rob, daughter Rhona, daughter Bethany, son Neil, and Pat

### What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School?

I graduated from MVHS in 1977, so a lot has happened since then. I graduated from Cornell College in 1981 with double major in mathematics and biology and enjoyed playing both basketball and football there.

After some travel, graduate school and teacher training, I taught mathematics and coached basketball at a suburban Chicago high school for three years. Although admittedly a bit idealistic in my youth, I went into teaching because I considered it a worthwhile and noble profession – and because it provided the opportunity to work just about anywhere. Wherever people live there are schools and, hence, teaching jobs.

I first explored the possibility of teaching overseas after my first three years of teaching when I took the 1987-88 school year off and spent some of the time traveling around Europe. I visited my brother Jim (1980 MVHS grad) who was living in West Berlin at the time and through the kindness of Lynn Berry (fellow 1977 MVHS grad) I was connected with friends of hers that were studying in Warsaw. Traveling through East Germany, Poland and several other communist Eastern Bloc countries was fascinating.

While in Poland, I met some teachers working at the American School of Warsaw – an international school with students from all over the world.



Are we missing your name? Send us your address and email to help us update our records – alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us



Walking in the Scottish hills near where we live. Left to right: Tim, son Neil, daughter Rhona & wife Val (and our black lab Theo)

On my way back to the USA, I traveled through Western Europe and took the opportunity to visit several other international schools. One of these visits turned out to be a significant turning point in my life. While in Britain I traveled up to Scotland and was immediately struck by the beauty of the countryside and the friendliness and humor of the people. I visited the International School of Aberdeen in the far northeast of Scotland and to my good fortune they offered me a teaching job. I taught at the school for four years during which I met and married Val (who is from Elgin, Scotland north of Aberdeen). We left Scotland in 1992 and embarked on a 10-year journey during which we moved five times, welcomed three children to the world, taught at schools in four different countries (Switzerland, Norway, USA and Denmark) and then unexpectedly ended up back in Aberdeen working at the school where we first met.

During my international teaching career, I've been able to challenge myself professionally having worked as the Head of Mathematics at three different international schools, published in mathematics education books and journals, and frequently speak at conferences and deliver teacher workshops for teachers at international schools. Now in my 28th year of teaching high school mathematics (21 of those outside the USA), I still thoroughly enjoy teaching and though I may not be as idealistic as I once was I still think it is a worthwhile and noble profession.

**How did you end up in the country you are in now?**

After we taught two years at Copenhagen International School (2000-02), my wife and I were offered jobs at our former school in Aberdeen, Scotland. A big reason for accepting the offer and returning to Scotland was the opportunity for us – and especially our three young children (ages 2, 6 & 8 at the time) – to be near my wife's parents.

**How long have you lived there, and how long do you think you will live there?**

I have now lived for a total of 15 years in Scotland and still enjoy the cultural, historical and physical landscapes of the country. If you don't mind the changeable weather, short winter days and low population density, life in northern Scotland is good. We live in a small village near Aberdeen about 10 miles from the North Sea (Atlantic Ocean) and the biggest mountain range in Britain is about 25 miles in the other direction. After graduating from high school last year, our oldest daughter is teaching English for a year in rural Dominican Republic and after that she will study Spanish and History at Glasgow University – so, though we've considered moving again, Scotland is a good place for us.

**What do you do now?**

I am the Head of Mathematics at the International School of Aberdeen. The school

continued on next page

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Tom Kortemeyer and Lynn Brokel'78

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the 2013 Alumni Hall of Fame!  
Deadline is July 1 Postmark  
See page 9

## Our International Alums, continued

has an elementary, middle and high school all on one campus with about 550 students from about 35 different countries. Most of the families that send students to our school are in Scotland to work in the offshore oil and gas business that has existed in the North Sea for about 40 years. During the last two years of high school most of our students complete the rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Along with other high school courses, I teach the advanced mathematics, and a required course called Theory of Knowledge, in the IB program. I also coach the senior boy's basketball team of which our 17 year old son is a member.

### An accomplishment you are proud of?

Three accomplishments of which I am proud: With a good friend who is a math teacher at an international school in Vienna, I have co-authored two mathematics textbooks for the IB program published by Pearson Publishing. Working on such a big project while also teaching full-time was a real challenge but now I get to teach my students using a textbook that I helped write.

I have organized and lead five different student group trips to Malawi and Zambia (countries in southern Africa) where we have been involved in projects supporting impoverished schools in Lilongwe the capital of Malawi. We also go to an amazing national park in Zambia where we go on safari drives. On the first trip in 2005, I was able to meet up with my brother Jim who was working at the American embassy in Lusaka, capital of Zambia.

I am delighted and astonished that I am still playing basketball at a fairly competitive level. I played in a very competitive league 20 years ago in Switzerland but since then I've stayed in shape mostly by cycling, hiking and the intermittent pick-up basketball game. Five years ago, I started playing seriously again with a team in the top division of the local men's basketball league. I enjoy keeping fit playing twice a week with guys much younger than me but perhaps enjoy the social side of the club even more with our visits to the local pub after games.

### A favorite memory or two of your time at Mount Vernon Schools – or of a favorite teacher perhaps?

Although I only attended Mount Vernon High School my last year, I made many good friends and have very fond memories of Mount Vernon having attended Cornell and seeing three of my six siblings graduate from MVHS (John in '77, Margaret in '78, and Jim in '79). Some of the memories from the 1976-77 school year include playing fullback on the football team for Jim Bellamy and basketball for Bob Landis – and coming within just one game from making it to the basketball state tournament. I have great memories of being taught by Dick Peters – and benefited greatly by being a student in a "research" course that he designed where we were challenged to read books that stretched our minds and to write papers on weighty issues. A few years ago, I re-discovered a very ambitious paper I wrote for that course entitled *Does Darwinism Threaten a True Belief in God?* Given my own attempts to get teenagers to think hard about big ideas in my IB Theory of Knowledge classes, I'm even more impressed with Dick Peters and his positive influence on me – and more convinced that teaching is a noble profession.

Tim can be reached at: tsgarry@hotmail.com or by mail at 3 School Lane, Drumoak, Scotland Banchory A



### CORRECTIONS:

**Correction:** The following people were unfortunately missed for publication in the Spring 2012 Alumni Supporter listing: Joyce Loomis, Julie Loomis'71, Joanie Loomis Tackenberg'74, Dave Hartl'65 and Lana Richardson Hartl'66

**Correction:** Robert Zinkula'47 and Mary of Mount Vernon, Ia, were married 60 years on May 15, 1952, not 50 years as was published in the last issue

**Correction:**The correct identification of the picture at right is: Some of the riders who shared a bus route in their school days enjoy seeing each again at Sutliff during Heritage Days 2011. Front: Barb Bys Michael'61, Albert Cejka. From From left are Roy Caldwell, Bunny Williams Mulligan'61, Diana Kafer LaVoi'64, Gary Kaplan'64, Annamae Stoneking Baker'60, Linda Stastny Bragg'60, Gary Knutsen'64 and Judy Caldwell Penn'60



■ LYNN BERRY '77



Above left, Lynn with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev (taken a few years ago)



Lynn with family Nick and Janet Berry, Stephanie Berry '81 -- taken on her father's 75th birthday in December 2011.

**What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School? What do you do now?**

After leaving Mount Vernon High School, I went to college in Wisconsin, graduate school in Indiana and then spent two years on a fellowship in Warsaw, Poland, where I decided to try to become a journalist. The Des Moines Register kindly published a couple of stories I wrote from Poland. I then returned to the United States and got a job on a little newspaper in Pennsylvania. Two years later I went to work for The Associated Press, first in Philadelphia and then New York.

The AP sent me to Moscow at the end of 1995 and I have been here ever since. I left the AP in 1998 and became an editor, eventually editor in chief, of The Moscow Times, an English-language daily. In 2006, I made my first serious attempt to return to the U.S., but ended up back at the AP Moscow bureau, this time as news editor. I oversee a team of reporters in Russia and in 10 other countries that used to be part of the Soviet Union. As for how long I'll stay, every year, especially as winter sets in, I say I'll give it another year, maximum, and I'm saying it again now.

**An accomplishment you are proud of?**

What am I proud of? Two things come to mind: The numerous young reporters, many but not all of them Russian, whom I have helped to become accomplished journalists. And my tennis game. Russia has great tennis coaches, and I live with one.

Lynn can be reached at [lynnannberry@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnannberry@yahoo.com) or AP Moscow, 450 West 33rd St, New York, NY 10001



■ DAVID MACKAY 1981



**What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School and what do you do now?**

As a child I spent many summers camping in the Chiricahuas of south eastern Arizona, where I grew in the midst of the ornithology world. Then after high school, I took an Outward Bound course that helped set the course of my life. With the travel bug itch, I hitchhiked all over the western USA and ended up at Prescott College studying Environmental Education. Following my college years, I spent some time managing a rock and roll band and being a bike messenger in San Francisco before becoming a tour leader at Backroads Bicycle Tours. After more time on the road and in the outdoors, I met and married Jennifer, and settled down as the Operations Manager for Backroads in Berkeley, California. Several years and two kids later, Jennifer and I decided to step out of the mainstream and move to Mexico in 1994. In Alamos, my love of birding was rekindled as I started working with small tour companies that came to town. I'm a self taught birder and now I thrive on running great trips, seeing a lot of birds, eating good food and having loads of fun. Sometimes I feel guilty about what an amazing life I lead. Since 1998 Jennifer and I have operated Solipaso, a destination for bird watching. In addition I give tours for Field Guides, High Lonesome Bird Tours and Borderland Tours. I am also a Mexico subcontractor for several US and UK bird tour companies. While I specialize in Mexico, I also migrate north every May and June to lead tours in Alaska.

**How did you end up in the country you are in now?**

As I mentioned, Jennifer and I wanted to step out of the mainstream. My step-father, Richard Howells, had bought an amazing old building in Alamos, Mexico. We went to visit, fell in love with the town, the cool old building we ended up calling home and the culture and the community. On our drive back to California, we decided to move there. So in 1994, we left our good life in California and moved to Alamos! We slowly figured out a way to make a living and found it a great place in which to live and work for many reasons, and our commitment to our adoptive country is profound. One major reason that we decided to stay here was the wonderful friendships and partnerships that we have developed.

**An accomplishment you are proud of?**

I'm especially proud of the business we have developed. Today Solipaso is the largest and longest operating Mexico-based bird watching tour company. We consistently offer more scheduled trips to more areas of Mexico than any other tour company – and I'm really proud of that. In addition, we (Jennifer and I) have always felt that our business had to provide opportunities for local community development in the direction of conservation. Without this critical element, a nature-based tour business is doomed to watch the habitat disappear around them. We are strong believers in nature-based tourism as a real economic force, and realize our responsibility to share the wealth to make that a reality. We are happy to have realized this goal in many ways! From our Bird Guide training programs to our rafting business in Sonora, we work to offer opportunities for motivated local people to work with us. Our long-term goal is to educate people on the need for and benefits of conservation and natural diversity.

David can be reached at [info@solipaso.com](mailto:info@solipaso.com) or [dave\\_and\\_jen@solipaso.com](mailto:dave_and_jen@solipaso.com) or by mail at PO Box 85580, Tucson, AZ 85754, 888-383-0062





Top: Dee Dee with grandson Faris in Isle of Man  
Center: Hospice fund raiser with member of my congregation Ann Craine  
Bottom: The extraordinary place known as the Isle of Man---Douglas Bay

## Our International Alums, continued

### ■ GLORIA 'DEE DEE' KEMPI HAINES 1976

A favorite memory or two of your time at Mount Vernon Schools – or of a favorite teacher perhaps?

We can never underestimate the impact we have on the people who share in community with us. Over all of these many years and across thousands of miles, through the experience of differing cultures and the gift of living in many places in the world, I am still well aware of the spirit of excellence that was a definitive part of my education at Mt. Vernon High School. This was a place where I was shaped to be a citizen of the world.



An early feminist, I can remember that I was the first female student to take wood working and auto-mechanics in a time when these classes were only for the boys! Mr. Stone did his best to accommodate this new student and I learned to change the oil in my car—something that has come in very handy over the years. Having once owned and operated a recreation centre with automatic pin setters for bowling, those mechanic skills served me well.

Perhaps more than anything, it was the diversity of activities at MVHS that helped me to understand how important it is to be a part of a team, large or small. Concert and marching band, speech contest and choir, musicals, cheer leading, baton twirling, and student government were all elements of an education that seemed intent on making students understand that diversity was something to be embraced and celebrated.

I remember devoted teachers like Mr. Stine who came to school early and went home late just to help the students to be the best that they could be. Now that I have had the experience of being a parent, I wonder how educators like Mr. Meeker came to school so well prepared, and wide awake, when raising families of their own! I am grateful for their willingness to put such dedication into their professional lives. It was a great example for students who were going out to pursue careers of their own.

**What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School? What do you do now?**

My years following high school kept me in the midwest for about twenty years. I was a self employed business woman before choosing a second career with the church. So here I am now, living in the Isle of Man with my husband, John. I am serving with the Methodist church and exploring Celtic spirituality in a place where Celtic identity is a part of the DNA. We arrived here via Guernsey, the Channel Islands, and the Cayman Islands, as well. My ministry has allowed me to work in many places where I carry with me a bit of the community from Mt. Vernon, Iowa. I cannot help this; it is apart of who I am.

**An accomplishment you are proud of?**

When asked about accomplishments, I am always pleased to say that I have both a daughter Angela, and a son, Adam, who have grown into good people who care enough about others to give of themselves. If I have been a part in their shaping, I am glad for the opportunity.

Having lived out of the U.S. for more than a dozen years, I am not certain how long it will be before returning. My husband is English so living abroad is always a possibility. Still, when I am quiet and thinking about the good things of life, I hear the echo of a place set in the rolling hills of Iowa with a voice that says, "There's no place like home."

Dee Dee can be reached at [preciouscayman@yahoo.com](mailto:preciouscayman@yahoo.com) or by mail at 1 Pine Hill, Hightonwood Hill, Tromode, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 5NJ United Kingdom. *Editor's Note:* At one time the Kemp Haines Family owned the Jack & Jill on Main Street.



# 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

## MARRIAGES

**Jeremy Martin'10** to Danielle Strabala, October 20, 2012  
**Jill Brokel'07** to Brian Hines, Sept 8, 2012  
**Tom Ash'01** to **Shelli Huff'98**, August 4, 2012  
**Dustin Ohlfest'98** to **Lisa Argotsinger'03**, July 13, 2012  
**Graham (Greg) Harman'86** to Necla Demir, September 24, 2012

## BABY NEWS

**Meredith Ash Crawford'99** and Chadwick Crawford, a son, Campbell Lewis, May 21, 2012  
**Josh Rife'96** and Megan Rife, a son, Holden Charles, August 15, 2012  
**Erin Logan'00** and Ali Yildirim, a son Roman Arda Yildirim, June 29, 2012  
**Heather Hills Janssen'03** and Matt Hanssen, a son, Morgan Janssen, July 1, 2012  
**Anna Bigley Sabido'98** and Joel Sabido, a daughter, Celestine Michelle-Sanya Sabido, August 7, 2012  
**Jesse Vislifel'03** and **Jenna Nicol Vislifel'04**, a son, Javen Jesse Vislifel, August 26, 2012  
**Stephanie Legore Meier'00** and Greg Meier, a daughter, Leah Audrey Meier, August 31, 2012  
**Duane Yock'89** and Kelley Yock, a son, Maximus (Max) Yock, September 6, 2012  
**Jenny Kleinsmith O'Donnell'99** and husband Brian, a son, Luke Edward, June 21, 2012  
**Matthew Poduska'94** and wife Catherine, a son, Zachary Hugh, Sept 7, 2012  
**Jared Pospisil'94** and wife Sarah, a son, Marek John on Sept 18, 2012  
**Matt Stoner'03** and **Amy Friedl Stoner'01**, a son, Weston Bernard on July 9th, 2012. Grandparents are alums Dan Stoner'70 and Cathy Humphries Stoner'69.  
**Nathan Bunting'92** and wife Valerie, a son Andrew Willard on April 27, 2012

## ANNIVERSARIES

**John Wolfe'44** and **Betty Pospisil Wolfe'45** of Mount Vernon, Iowa, 63 years on August 23, 2012

**Gordon Behrens'50** and **Beverly National Behrens'49** of Mount Vernon, IA, 60 years on August 16, 2012  
**Wiladene Hoggard Willming'50** and Ed of San Antonio, TX, 60 years on August 31, 2012.  
**Misty Hartung Henle'86** and Rick, 15 years on November 8, 2012

## EDUCATION

**Jeff White'08** earned a BA in performing arts from Iowa State University  
**Karissa Whitman'08** earned a bachelor of science in nursing from Allen College in Waterloo.  
**Sean Boren'07**, earned a bachelor's degree in Tech Management from University of Northern Iowa  
**Seann Hunter'07** earned a bachelor's degree in biology from University of Northern Iowa  
**Charlotte Campagna McDermott'98** earned a master in science education from University of Northern Iowa  
**Kyle Williams'97** earned a bachelor's degree in health promotion from University of Northern Iowa  
**Victoria Brawner'00** was awarded the EduCare Excellence in Catholic Education award. Each year one Catholic teacher from across the Cedar Rapids metro is selected for this award that comes with both a \$1000 gift and plaque.  
**Alice Stoner'07** is currently living in Phoenix, Arizona and is a first year student at Midwestern University getting her Master's in occupational therapy.

## AND MORE...

**Bev Phillips** who taught 29 years in Mount Vernon Middle School from 1961 to 1990, wrote in to say "My son **Russ Phillips'74** and wife **Carol Hearn Phillips'73** became grandfather and grandmother for the third time.... Noah Wesley Brock. His mom is Jessica Phillips Brock, their daughter. Hey!! That makes ME a GREAT grandmother for the third time!!!!!! Yay!"  
**The Stompers** played November 3rd at Gwen's in Lisbon **Alex Doser'12** won 5th place for his piano solo in the 2012 Bill Riley Talent Search Competition at the Iowa State Fair  
**Seth Pisarik'12** won first place for his entry in the Best Tasting Tomato completion in August at the Iowa State Fair  
**Kylea Weber'11** earned her 1,000th dig

continued on next page



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## Thank you

to **Jan Majors'57** for donation of a 1950s scrapbook and a 1909 Commencement Program that originally belonged to her grandmother, **Elizabeth Ciha Wolrab**

to **Jean Kuntz Bowman'64** for the 1934-1935 Yearbook that belonged to her mother, **Marie Zinkula Kuntz'35**

Historical alumni items are stored in the Superintendent's office.

## Alumni News...

as a sophomore playing volleyball at Cornell College in Mount Vernon. She is the 7th Ram in school history to go over 1,000 in a career.

**Kyle Hupp'10**, Army National Guard Pvt., graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC

**Taylor Sedlacek'10** auditioned for American Idol during their August Small Town Audition Bus Tour in Iowa city. She was selected to go on to the 2nd round after singing 'Baby I Love You'. Taylor is currently a Junior at Cornell College, teaches Pom and Drill at Dance Arts Iowa in Mount Vernon, and is Dance Team Coach for Lisbon High School.

**Alex Brannaman'09** was a member of the 2012 Wartburg College Homecoming Court

**Whitney Randall'03** was recently promoted from commercial deposits representative to commercial deposits officer in the Coralville office of Hills Bank and Trust Company.

**Matt Stoner'03** received a promotion in May 2012 to Controller/Accounting Group Leader at Shive Hattery of Cedar Rapids, an Engineering & Architecture firm.

**Jamie Wallace Smith'01** returned home in September to Mount Vernon to start her medical career at Mount Vernon Family Medicine, part of Iowa Health Physicians.

**Carlyle LaPoint'00** is an Intelligence Office in the Air Force and just completed her first deployment to Afghanistan.

**Jeremy Stoll'99** (pictured at right with his family) wrote in to say "I've recently taken the position as theater teacher-director at Westside High School in Omaha, Nebraska. Also, my wife and I are expecting our second child, due March 17th."



**Shaun Swiser'99** (SSG) resigned from the Iowa Army National Guard on October 18th after 14 years of service.

**Elizabeth Stoner Cameron'97** who lives in Michigan was happy to be home in September when she performed in Oelwein, IA with Spectrum Brass with an all-Gershwin Revue: *Who Could Ask for Anything More*. This summer the group filmed a video demo promote their show *Music for Sacred Spaces*, and premiered their Spectrum Halloween Show in Bay

City, MI on October 27. Our Alumni Association Fine Arts Hall of Fame recipient in 2010, Elizabeth says "In addition to touring with Spectrum, I am in my second year as Assistant Professor of Voice at Central Michigan University where I teach applied voice, vocal literature courses, and music directs the University Musical Productions (currently in rehearsals for *The Scarlet Pimpernel*)." She will perform with the University Choirs as the soprano soloist in Haydn's *Creation* on November 17th. In the summers Elizabeth lives in Petoskey, MI where she serves as the music director for Bay View Festival Musical Productions.

**Loren Hartelt'97** joined the City of Mount Vernon during October to serve as the city's first public works director.

**Nathan Bunting'92** writes in to say "I have been teaching at Faith Academy in Manila, Philippines for the past 10 years. This year my job has changed, my wife and I are now boarding home parents at the school. We have 15 high school boys living with us: 1 freshman, 4 sophomores, 4 juniors, and 6 seniors; the boys come from seven different countries. We are busy trying to spend time with each of the boys, while they're not in school. Our only free time is during the school day, but that time is often filled with emailing parents, taking care of finances for the boarding home, boarding home parents meeting, grocery shopping, taking our guys to the doctor, dentist, or even the Philippine Immigration Office."

**Mary Diers'86** began work in May at ACT, Inc. in Iowa City. She is now a Senior Consultant and says "I work in our Educational Services division in K-12, working mainly with High Schools and School Districts. I love being able to make a difference and impact the lives of kids across the United States. Oct. 7 marked 6 months."

**Mark Benesh'83** joined the staff at Mount Vernon's Middle School as art teacher starting for the 2012 school year.

**Dr. Barton Borg'78** addressed the World Nutrition Forum in Singapore as one of 40 food industry leaders invited to present their research and new techniques for providing the world's future food supply. Barton is responsible for nutrition and oversees research activities of production for a subsidiary of Smithfield Foods, a U.S. food producer and processor in Ames.



**Melissa Pray Muldoon '78** will lead three Italian cultural-language immersion tours Italy in 2013. Her first tour will be to Venice in April of 2013 to explore the city, its art & architecture with experienced teachers & guides. She says "We will be staying in a renovated monastery on Guidecca, island a ferry boat transport away from the heart of Venezia." Then in September of 2013 she will visit Southern Italy to two separate locations. Melissa says if any alums are interested, find her blog at <http://www.studentessamatta.com/>



**Mark Sargent '74** earned the local 2012 Kernousti Golf Club Men's Championship tournament, and also earned medalist honors at the Eastern Iowa Golf Association men's tournament.

**Jane Baker Hardin '67** of New Port Richey, FL and **Marianne Hanson Garrigan '67** of Thompson Station, TN traveled in September to Richmond VA and then Petersburg, VA to visit with classmate, **Karen Edwards Packer '68** in her home. While there Jane's youngest brother, **Russell Baker '75** and his wife, Rosemary, drove to the Packer home to visit with the ladies. Jane says "It had been several years we ladies had visited each other. And it was the very first time we did not play a game of hearts together!!!"



Karen, Jane, Marianne

**Larry Pisarik '67** and wife **Kathy Rilet Pisarik '69** wrote in to say "we became first time grandparents to Gram Miceal Pisarik, son of Luke and Emily Pisarik, only a week after celebrating Larry's 45th class reunion where many of his classmates were sharing how their grandchildren were graduating from high school and even college. Great gifts from God are worth waiting patiently for."

**Dr. George Hill '49** was honored with the Good Scout Award, given at the 20th Annual Health Care Awards Dinner in May 2012. George, who is Professor of Surgery Emeritus, New Jersey Medical School-UMDNJ, Newark, NJ, received the evening's top honor. The Health Care Awards Dinner is conducted annually by the Northern New Jersey Council, Boy Scouts of America, and is co-sponsored by medical societies, hospitals, and other health-related organizations in the four counties of northeastern New Jersey. George wrote in to say "I shared the stage with four physicians, one from each county in our four-county council area. The dinner raised about \$175,000 and it was a nice event. I am now an emeritus member of the board, and this was, I guess, something of a going away present." He also said at this dinner event I "will say good-bye to active membership in the Boy Scouts, after over 68 years in uniform. For me, it all started in Mount Vernon, when I was in eighth grade. I think it was in the fall of 1944, and I vaguely recall that the Scoutmaster was the operator of a gas station, D-X (?), across the street to the west of the school building. It was a long time ago, but I have good memories of hiking and camping around MV."



**Leo Beranek '36** has just published his 15th book, titled ACOUSTICS: Sound fields and Transducers. (ELSEVIER, 2012). A 704 page book, it is co-authored by Tim Mellow a British acoustical engineer. Beranek is one of the world's best known acoustical engineers, recently named the First Honorary Member of the Acoustical Society of China. In the past he has received gold medal awards from three other scientific societies and the U.S. National Medal of Science—also five honorary doctorates, including one from Cornell. Leo was the MV Alumni Association Achievement Hall of Fame recipient in 2010.

## In Memory of classmates we have lost

**Mary Katharine MacGregor '41**

Mount Vernon, Ia., May 16, 2012

**Virginia 'Dena' Young Gregg 1945**

Lebanon, Oregon, April 2, 2012

**Dorothy Longerbeam Steinocher '45**

Rogers, Ark, September 12, 2012

**Thomas "Tom" Wolfe '45**

Solon, Ia, Sept 12, 2012

**Dr. James Edwin Croft '46**

Tallahassee, FL, September 6, 2012

**Ruth Uthoff Kocher '46**

Bettendorf, Ia., May 6, 2012.

**Alice Marilyn Althoff '48**

Hot Springs Village, Ark., May 28, 2012

**Mary 'Pat' Young Schloss '51**

Cedar Rapids, Ia., June 27, 2012

**Richard Tonne '65**

Waterbury, VT, June 2012

**Dale "Bill" William Travis '72**

Shellsburg, Ia, Aug. 14, 2012

**Gary Arnold '74**

Cedar Rapids, Ia., June 12, 2012

**Charles 'Andy' Blinks '81**

Lisbon, Ia., July 3, 2012

(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.)

### NOTICE TO CLASS OF 1963

**Our 50th Reunion is coming up -- July 12-13-14, 2013**

We will email information as we continue to make plans, so please update your email address with us so we can keep in contact with you.

Mailing to come.

Bob Dvorak 319-895-8206 [dvorakb47@q.com](mailto:dvorakb47@q.com)  
and committee members Warren Stoner, Chris Stoltz,  
Jim Hickey, Gloria Herbolsheimer Krob,  
Karen Kaliban Fox and Linda Peterson Nost

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## ARE YOU SUPPORTING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?

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Your donation assures that we can continue the publications and events we have all grown to love!

**YES I'm a 50 percenter!**

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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