



MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS

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Above, All-Alumni-Community Breakfast volunteers Julie Dye and Becky Thumm Whitman '77 peak out from behind the breakfast serving line.

INSIDE...

- 2 2015 Reunions
- 3 Meet Alex Brannaman'09
- 3 President's Message
- 4 2014 Alumni Hall of Fame
- 11 Homecoming 2014 Pictures
- 11 2014 Heritage Days Info
- 12 Mustangs...What Are They Doing Now?
- 15 Alumni News
- 16 Letters to the Editor
- 18 A Tribute to Ruth Michaud
- 20 Foundation: Introducing the Mustang Legacy Society
- 21 Foundation: Then and Now, 'Save Our Fields' update
- 22 Mustang Memories
- 23 Alumni Awards Nomination Form
- 24 2014-2015 Support Form



Future alums visit the Alumni Tent to see the Homecoming button collection

Get your nomination in today for the 2015 Alumni Hall of Fame!
 Deadline is July 1
 See page 23

2015 Alumni Events

July 1 – DON'T DELAY – NOMINATE AN ALUM YOU THINK IS DESERVING OF A SERVICE, ACHIEVEMENT, MV COMMUNITY IMPACT, FINE ARTS, OR ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AWARD NOW!

Who can nominate? ANYONE – you do not have to be an alum to nominate.

July 10 and 11 – Heritage Days in Mount Vernon along with Alumni Events & Reunions

Fall 2015 – Homecoming and Alumni Award Ceremony. Date to be announced.

More information about all these events to come in the Spring 2015 *Alumni News*

2014 Alumni Hall of Fame

The Mount Vernon Community School District Alumni Association is pleased to announce the following alums were inducted into the 2014 Alumni Hall of Fame:

Achievement: Lindsey Borg, Class of 1983

Fine Arts: Paula Holcomb, Class of 1972

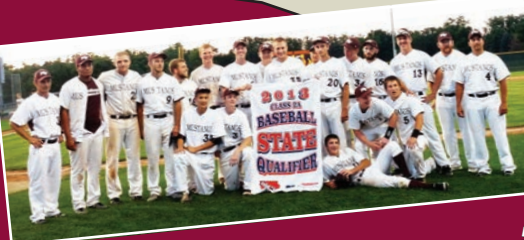
Service: Myrt Clark Bowers, Class of 1957

MVCSD Community Impact: Ann Koppenhaver, Class of 1978

Athletics: Greg Randall, Class of 1982

Award recipients participated in a full day of events on Friday, September 26. The Awards Ceremony took place at 9:10 am in the High School Gym, followed by a public reception in the library, high school classroom visits, the Homecoming Pep Rally, and the Friday evening Homecoming Game and presentation of Alumni Award Winners during halftime, along with the All-Alumni-Community Reception 'Tailgating Under The Tent'. Turn to page 4 for complete Hall of Fame Awards article.

From left to right: Paula Holcomb, Lindsey Borg, Myrt Clark Bowers, Greg Randall, Ann Koppenhaver





Mustang

ALUMNI

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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

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Dec 4, 2014	Magical Night
July 4, 2015	Antiques Extravaganza
July 11-12	Heritage Days
Sept tba	Lincoln Hwy Arts Festival
Oct tba	Chili Cookoff

2015 REUNIONS

ALL-ALUMNI-COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 10 AND SATURDAY, JULY 11 Reception Tent

SATURDAY, JULY 11 - Breakfast (by donation)

2010 5 years

2005 10 years - Homecoming 2015 tba

Contact: Chrystal Covington Wherry

Phone: 319-540-1879

Email: Crystal2005@yahoo.com

2000 15 years - tba

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Contact: Lauren Sauter

Email: lauren.r.sauter@gmail.com

Contact: Jenny Mick

Email: jmick1230@gmail.com

Contact: Paul Easker

Phone: 515-203-9764

Email: peasker@gmail.com

Contact: Katey Forest Sanders

Phone: 319-551-4136

Email: ksanders133@gmail.com

1999 - 15 years - July 11 weekend

Contact: Betsy McWilliams Brown

Phone: 515-201-3823

Email: mrs.betsybrown@gmail.com

1995 - 20 years - July 11 weekend

Contact: Kim Stoner

Phone: 319-899-8542

Email: dyanstoner@aol.com

Contact: Sarah Woods

Email: sarah.woods@ge.com

1990 - 25 years - July 11 weekend

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Contact: Brittany Kaalberg Booth

Phone: 319-895-6530

Email: boothjb@q.com

Contact: Paul Morf

Phone: 319-841-3472

Email: pmorf@simmonsperine.com

1985 - 30 years - July 11 weekend

Contact: Jennifer Spencer Toriggino

Phone: 303-792-3484

Email: jentoriggino@gmail.com

1979 and 1980 - 35 years

- July 11 weekend

Saturday, July 11 Reunion at home of Bill Bowers

Contact: Chris Kinley Osborn '80

Phone: 319-521-8150

Email: cosborn@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

Contact: Jody Stewart '79

Phone: 319-350-2941

Email: stews3@aol.com

1975 - 40 years - July 11 weekend

Contact: Carol Woods-Boren

Phone: 319-350-4662

Email: woodsboren@gmail.com

Contact: Lori Lehman Reihle

Phone: 319-310-2639

Email: lar917@msn.com

1970 - 45 years - July 11 weekend

Reunion Saturday, July 11 at Gwen's Restaurant, 5 pm

Contact: Gwen Stewart Drahos

Phone: 319-455-2873

Contact: Marsha Siggins McWhinney

Phone: 319-895-8671

Email: marsha_siggins@juno.com

Contact: Nancy Vislissel Norlin

Phone: 319-462-4674

Email: glnknorlin@msn.com

1965 - 50 years - July 11 weekend

Contact: Susan Mounts Fisher

Phone: 319-389-3686

Email: SusanJFisher@netins.net

1960 - 55 years - July 11 weekend

AND a Fall Date tba

Meet at the All-Alumni-Community Breakfast on Saturday, July 12, and a Fall Reunion date tba

Contact: Judy Caldwell Penn

Phone: 319-721-5448

Email: redlady793@q.com

Contact: Annamae Stoneking Baker

Phone: 319-895-8979

Email: abmrk@juno.com

Contact: John Rife

Phone: 319-895-6357

Email: jibr2@q.com

1955 - 60 years - July 11 weekend

Contact: Kay Jilovec Lind

Phone: 319-455-2079

Email: rklind@iowatelecom.net

1949-1950-1951 - 65 years tba

Contact: Dick McKeen '51

Phone: 319-248-0502

Email: rmckeen933@aol.com

1945 - 70 years - July 11 weekend

Contact: Betty Pospisil Wolfe

Phone: 319-895-8125

Email: betty@wolfe-works.com

Contact: Marilyn Woods Overman

Phone: 319-895-8507

Contact: Renee Travis Reilly

Phone: 319-396-0275

1940 - 75 years - July 11 Alumni Breakfast

1935 - 80 years - July 11 Alumni Breakfast

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

HERITAGE DAYS -- DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?

Wade Squiers '84, Heritage Days organizer, wants ideas about how to make Heritage Days more successful. After the 2014 celebration he says that "the numbers make it clear that either the celebration has to be pared back (like removing the rides), or there needs to be more funding."

Do you have any ideas? Write Wade at wsquiers@fusion-architects.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dennis Jordan '87
Alumni Association
President

As we approach our 10th Anniversary of the Mount Vernon Alumni Association this next year I can't help reflect on how far we have come as an organization, but more importantly how we have had an opportunity to better connect and recognize alumni of all ages. This would not be possible without both leadership from this organization but also the number of people who continue to support our mission. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for being part of something that fosters the continued spirit of tradition and loyalty among the alumni of Mount Vernon Community School District.

In the coming year we hope to build upon our success by looking for new and creative ways to better connect and support our alumni as well as be a resource to current students and we welcome your input. Soon after the first of the year be looking for a survey on our communications, events and reunion support. Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide us feedback that will allow us to serve you better.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank Kevin Rogers for his leadership of the Association over the last six years. Kevin is only the second President of the Alumni Association and has done an outstanding job leading the organization. Through his leadership we have grown our membership and ability to serve that membership. Thank you Kevin, you truly represent the spirit that lives in an Mount Vernon alum.



10
YEARS

CLASSES OF 1979 & 1980

Our joint reunion will be during Heritage Days in 2015. Save the date – weekend of July 11 We will be sending out letters, e-mails and reminders. It will be held at Bill Bowers' house. We enjoyed his park like setting at the edge of town. It is convenient and close to uptown festivities.

CLASSES OF 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957

Next year is our (1955's) 60th "anniversary" and we would like to invite the 1953, 1954, 1956 and 1957 classes to attend. Heritage Days Weekend of July 11th – SAVE THE DATE and watch for more information to come. Kay Lind, Class of 1955



MEET ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER ALEX BRANNAMAN'09

Welcome to Alex Brannaman'09 who is our Association's newest and youngest board member. His 3-year term started in August.

What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School? I attended Wartburg College and graduated with an accounting degree in May 2013. I participated in student government, residential life and community engagement. I returned to Mount Vernon following graduation, and I am happy to be back and involved with the local community!

What do you do now? I work as an accountant for the Provost Office at the University of Iowa. I have been in this position since June 2013. I provide accounting and budgetary support for both University College and the Art Museum.

Why do you want to serve on the Alumni Board, or what are you hoping to do while serving on the Alumni Board? I am looking forward to being involved with a board that looks to strengthen relationships with both current and future alumni! With alumni scattered across the state, country and beyond, technology presents a great way to keep people engaged and informed of what is happening with the school. I cherished my years as a Mustang in Mount Vernon, and I am happy to contribute to the school and town now as a board member. I hope to help the board continue to create opportunities for our diverse alumni to stay in touch with the school and support the goals and needs of the Alumni Association.

A favorite memory of your time at Mount Vernon Schools? I enjoyed my four years of running track in the maroon and white for the Mustangs. There are many memories that will last a lifetime, such as running in the cold, Iowa spring weather and walking out onto the 'Blue Oval' at Drake Stadium for state track. One of my favorite memories is when our 4x400-meter relay team won the conference title during my senior year.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who volunteers to help at Alumni Association events – they couldn't happen without you!!!

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2014 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME



The community, alums, and high school students attended the 2014 Alumni Association Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony in the high school gym on Friday, September 26. Group picture of Alumni Award winners with nominators: Front row from left to right, Achievement Hall of Fame winner Lindsey Borg'83, Fine Arts Hall of Fame winner Paula Holcomb'72, Athletic Hall of Fame winner Greg Randall'82, Service Hall of Fame winner Myrt Clark Bowers'57, and Community Impact Hall of Fame winner Ann Koppenhaver'78. Back row from left to right, nominators Dean Borg, Jean Kuntz Bowman'64, Leona Reyhons Smith'56, Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier'78, and Don Koppenhaver. Not pictured: Eric Siggins'82. High School Student Council President, senior Abbey Teubel, along with Foundation Executive Director Ben Brannaman'05 and School Board President Dr. Mark Weldon, were guests at the Award Ceremony to congratulate recipients.



Achievement Hall of Fame Award Winner Lindsey Borg'83

Lindsey Borg'83 was nominated for this award by his father, Dean Borg. Lindsey's career has combined journalism, governmental strategic communication, academic learning and teaching at the nation's most prestigious universities, as well as deployment to the most dangerous combat environments in the world.

Lindsey is a communications professional with a diverse background in public affairs and policy, corporate reputation and issues management. For more than 25 years he has served political, governmental, military and commercial clients with strategy development, crisis planning and response, Congressional, civic and media relations, and employee engagement.

Lindsey rose to the rank of colonel in the United States Air Force before retiring from active duty in 2011 to pursue professional interests. He is the director of integrated communications for Raytheon's Intelligence, Information and Services business.

Before joining Raytheon, he led corporate international communications for Lockheed Martin. He also led corporate communications and operations for Strategic Social, a provider of audience analysis and



Above at left: A reception for the Hall of Fame recipients was held after the ceremony in the High School library. JoAnn Kroul Clark'64 hosted the event. Thank you to the alums who contributed baked goods for the reception.



John Rife'60 was master of ceremonies. This was his 7th year.



Get your nomination in today for the 2015 Alumni Hall of Fame! Deadline is July 1 Postmark

For nomination info go to page 23 in this publication



communication strategy.

During his 21-year military career Lindsey gained extensive international experience as he led communication for organizations of various complexities. He directly advised the NATO commander during the alliance's operations in Kosovo and later helped to lead communication efforts from Pristina. He also served as NATO's spokesman to the international community concerning the contentious issue of depleted uranium munitions use. In addition, he earned the Bronze Star Medal during a one-year deployment to Baghdad where he led communication efforts to prepare for and conduct the country's pivotal 2010 elections and the withdrawal of U.S. forces. Lindsey also directed public affairs for the Air Force's global mobility organization and led a team of Congressional liaisons for the Secretary of the Air Force.

Prior to earning his commission as an officer, he gained communication experience in the White House Press Office during the Reagan Administration, at CNN's Washington Bureau, and in the Iowa governor's office. He also held newspaper reporter positions with three newspapers.

Lindsey is a former fellow at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs where he researched and published a paper on the Department of Defense's efforts to

build strategic communication processes. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and mass communication from Iowa State University, a Master of Arts degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma, and a Master of Military Art and Operational Science from Air University. In addition, he completed specialized communication and Congressional affairs seminars at The Wharton School and Georgetown University.

In high school, Lindsey was a four-year, three-sport athlete as a member of the football, wrestling and track teams. He served as class vice president and as the president of his local and county 4-H clubs. Although athletics were the focus of his extracurricular time, as a freshman he played the saxophone in the marching band and sang in the chorus. He also was on stage as part of his senior class' performance of 'Annie Get Your Gun.' Lindsey was an exchange student to Japan through the Iowa 4-H Clubs. A year later, his Japanese host was a guest in the Borg home

His wife, Deb, is a graduate of Cedar Falls High School and Iowa State University. They have two sons.

Lindsey can be reached at 3163 Ironhorse Drive, Lake Ridge, VA, 22192, phone 703-491-3046, by email at lindsey.borg@icloud.com or on Twitter @ljborg.

continued on next page



Alumni Award winners spent a portion of the day visiting classes at the High School, escorted by members from the Student Ambassadors team. In addition Greg Randall was able to meet with middle and high school wrestling team members, and Paula Holcomb, shown at left, was guest director for the High School band.




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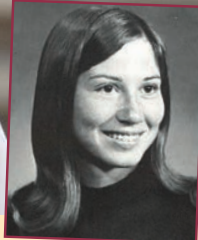
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Fine Arts Hall of Fame winner Dr. Paula Holcomb '72

was nominated for this award by Jean Kuntz Bowman '64, who says Paula "was very impressive in a broad range of fine arts endeavors during high school, and has used this as the foundation for a career full of stellar academic and professional accomplishments." During high school Paula's fine arts activities and awards included All-State Band (2 yrs), All-State Orchestra (1 yr), student director for a play, State Speech, member of many honor bands and recipient of superior contest ratings in horn, voice, chamber ensembles, speech etc.

Dr. Holcomb says "As I reflect, I realize it really did take a village to get me out the door! From the extraordinary Lois Kopacek coming to my home to work with me as an accompanist and teacher, Ken Smykil teaching my first lessons, Don Stine as my high school director, and Lois Nichols as an amazing choral director, I was fortunate to work with gifted musicians/educators. Beyond the music department, from Mrs. Davis and Norton to Mr. Ringgenberg and Craig, each molded me into the person I am today. Regardless, please know that Mount Vernon Schools are world class!"

She is currently Director of Bands at the State University of New York at Fredonia. Dr. Holcomb conducts the Wind Ensemble and musicals, and teaches graduate and undergraduate conducting. Additionally, she initiated the conducting program as part of the Master of Music in Performance. She has been at State University since 1999 after serving in a similar position for 20 years at Central College in Pella, Iowa. Under her direction at Central College, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the Symphonic Band toured internationally to Canada, Europe, and Mexico and

performed at Alice Tully Hall of New York City's Lincoln Center. At SUNY Fredonia, the extensive band program consists of four concert bands.

Highly sought after as an adjudicator and guest conductor, Dr. Holcomb has conducted bands and orchestras in 42 states, South America, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, Mexico, Europe, and Canada. She has presented Conducting Symposiums in Hong Kong, China, Europe, Canada, South America, Australia and the United States. Dr. Holcomb is former assistant horn of the Des Moines Symphony and past president of the Iowa Music Educators Association. She received the A. Frank Miller award from Kappa Kappa Psi, served on the Council and Artistic Planning Conference Committee for the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, served on the board of the Conductors Guild and was Northeastern Division President-elect of the College Band Directors National Association. Among her current research, Dr. Holcomb is currently gathering a collection of materials for future publication of a 'Guide to Successful Ensemble' and 'Verbal Rehearsal Techniques of Exemplary University Wind Conductors.'

Paula received her Doctor of Music in Instrumental Conducting from Northwestern University, and her undergrad and Masters from Drake.

In high school Paula was also senior class president and in the National Honor Society.

Paula can be reached at 5710 Park View Lane, Fredonia, NY 14063, phone 716-672-9153, or by email at holcombp@gmail.com.



Service Hall of Fame winner Myrt Clark Bowers '57

was nominated for this award by Leona Reyhons Smith '56. A long time Mount Vernon resident, Myrt has a solid and varied history of service to both the Mount Vernon community and Iowans. Myrt retired at age 75 following 53 years of career accomplishments as a professional nurse. For 40 of those years, Myrt made a difference in the healthcare of Eastern Iowa residents through outstanding nursing practice. She started a second career at age 62 and spent 13 years creating and implementing a holistic model of "Aging in Place" for senior citizens.

Myrt attended nine years at a rural one-room school and then four years at Mount Vernon High School. She says "My professional journey was successful due to the outstanding educational program lead by quality and caring teachers (at Mount Vernon Schools)... they provided me with the foundation to be a persistent learner. Among these I learned to understand the importance of hard work, collaboration, and community involvement." She graduated from St. Luke's School of Nursing in 1960 and received her Bachelors of Nursing in 1990 from Coe College.

Myrt's 36-year nursing career at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids included a variety of leadership roles, with her last eight years as Vice President of Patient Care Services. She has received the Voluntary Hospitals of America Board of Nursing leadership award and was a 2010 recipient of the '100 Great Nurses of Iowa' award.

In Myrt's second career she served as executive director at Witwer Senior Center. Under her leadership the organization achieved the Magnet



Certification as a Meals on Wheels provider (which was the first in Iowa to achieve this certification), and also secured a HUD Grant of \$295,000 for new Senior Center Kitchen and Dining Room. Myrt became certified as a trainer for three national evidence based health education classes for senior citizens, the 'Matter of Balance', 'Brunch for the Brain', and 'Living Successfully with Chronic Conditions'.

Myrt has always found time to volunteer. While at St. Lukes, she served as a board member on the Witwer Senior Center (which led to accepting the position of Executive Director for 13 years). Myrt has been recognized for her service to the Linn County Board of Public Health President for 6 years, by Cedar Rotary for Community Service Award following the City of Cedar Rapids Epic Flood 2008 flood, and her leadership in fundraising over \$480,000 to recover lost contents due to the flood, was awarded the Linn Nichols Leadership Award by The United Way of East Central Iowa, received a Certificate of Appreciation for work on Aging by the Older Iowans Legislature, served 6 years as a member of the Mount Vernon City Council, and co-lead an initiative with Lisbon and Mount Vernon citizens to organize a vote to merge both school districts which failed to pass.

Myrt has served on a number of community boards including: Abbe, Inc Board, Abbe Center for Community Care, St. Luke's Child Protection Center, Voluntary Hospital of America Board of Nursing, State of Iowa Nurse Executives (President), Iowa Senior Center Association-President, Cedar Rapids Ambulance Association, and United Way of East Central Iowa.

In high school Myrt was active in school

activities such as drama, state speech, and all school sport event planning. She was president of the junior class and responsible for planning junior-Senior prom for classes 1956 and 1957, achieved academic honor roll status throughout four years, was Homecoming queen 1956, and achieved academic achievement 5th of 48 class students

Myrt can be reached at 203 Old Lincoln Hwy, Mount Vernon, IA 52314, 319-895-8515, or by email at myrtb203@mchsi.com.

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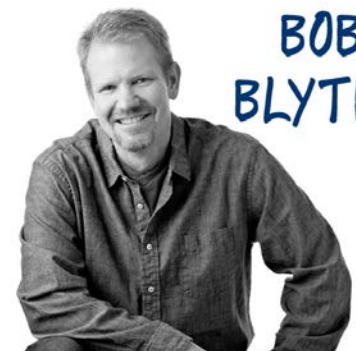
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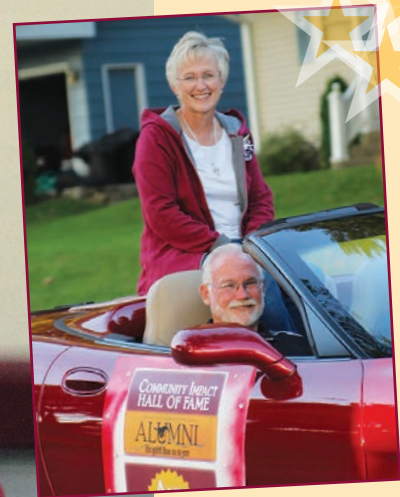
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MVCSD Community Impact Hall of Fame winner Ann Koppenhaver '78

was nominated for this award by both her father Don Koppenhaver, and her classmate Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier. Cynthia says "For those who like to be involved, it's one thing to be active while in school yourself, and when your children are students, but for Ann to remain so involved in The Foundation, The Booster Club, and facilities renovation beyond her children's graduation is admirable. Ann has done all these for Mount Vernon High School!"

Ann has lived in Mount Vernon all her life and attended Mount Vernon Schools K-12. After college she lived and worked in Des Moines for five years as a certified public accountant before joining her father and has practiced in Mount Vernon since 1987. She raised

two 'Mustang' children, Aarika and Beau, and is an active member of the community. Ann says "I have always supported the school district and feel it is important to the Mount Vernon Community. I do encourage others to devote time and talents to this worthy cause! My children attended K-12 at Mount Vernon and I am proud of the education they received."

Among Ann's service to Mount Vernon Schools are serving on the Foundation Board since 1996, of which she has been President of this Board since 1999. She is an actively involved Booster Club member, for which she sells advertising and designs and updates program for athletic events. She also sponsored athletic team photo posters for years. She has been a presenter for the Fine Arts annual fruit sales kick off - once as a bunch of grapes and another as a nut. Ann has worked alongside her partner,



Mike O'Brien, on several school facility improvement projects, including the complete reconstruction of the softball field. She is also currently donating her own time, funds and labor, as well as helping coordinate volunteer labor and funds, to the Save Our Fields campaign, which includes updating the football field and bleachers. You will find Ann in attendance at most school events.

Through her business, Koppenhaver and Associates, PC, Ann donates the preparation of tax returns for the School District Foundation. She was also instrumental in encouraging her family members to make a sizable, combined financial donation to the new high school, which resulted in the kitchen being designated the 'Koppenhaver Kitchen.' She purchases advertising to support athletic and fine arts programs, is a gold sponsor for the year book, an advertiser in the Alumni Newsletter, and supports the Community Action for Youth for Post Prom. In 2007 and 2008 as her new business building was being built, she attempted to use as many local contractors as possible and her interior is adorned with original artwork of local artists and clients.

In the community, Ann is a past president of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce and past chair of the Heritage Days Committee. She organized the Heritage Days 5k Run for many years. She is also involved with sponsoring many Community Development Group activities, including the Annual Christmas Silent Auction Baskets, Chocolate Stroll, Chili Cook-off, Heritage Days and Uptown Music. Ann also supports Cornell College on their athletic posters.

In High School Ann was involved 4 years in basketball, theater, choir and Mouseketeers, on the honor roll and was a football cheerleader. She was involved 5 years in softball, 2 years in track, was an All-State Thespian, was honorable mention All-State in softball and 1st team All-Conference in Softball.

Ann can be reached at 304 Wolfe Lane NE, Mount Vernon, IA 52314, phone 319-895-6001, or by email at ann@koppenhaverpcas.com.



Athletic Hall of Fame winner Greg Randall'82

was nominated for his award by fellow alums Paul Hufford'80 and Eric Siggins'82. Local sports historian David Ryan'85 states, "Randall's NCAA wrestling and NCAA coaching career have been stellar. Interestingly, he is known in wrestling circles as an early inventor of the 'take 'em down and let 'em up' wrestling style that is still prevalent today. People forget that not only was Randall one of the best wrestlers in SE Linn County... he was a blue chipper and considered one of the best in the nation coming out of high school. Randall went on to be a 4-year starter at The University of Iowa and a three time All-American, competing for a wrestling team that won 3 NCAA Titles during his time there. After college, he competed internationally and in the Olympic/World Trials. You can compare all you want, but very few MVHS athletes have ever competed at the level Greg Randall has. He was an incredible athlete....one of the finest in MVHS history!"

In high school football, Greg was named 1st Team All-EIHC Conference Linebacker in 1981. In wrestling, Randall was a four time EIHC conference champion and four time Class 2A state champion: 1979@98 lbs with record of 28-2-2, 1980@112 lbs with record of 32-1, 1981@126 lbs with record of 33-0, and 1982@132 lbs with record of 27-0.

Greg was the State of Iowa's 5th four-time state wrestling champion. His 96.0% high school winning percentage (120-3-2) is the best all-time in school history, a record that has been untouchable over the past 32 seasons. At the University of Iowa, Greg earned

three NCAA All-American awards – placing 2nd in 1984, 5th in 1985, and 2nd in 1986, all at 134 lbs for the Iowa Hawkeyes with career record of 109-26-3.

In 2008 Greg was inducted into the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame. In his bio for this induction Greg says:

"My (high school) coach, Tim Johnson, was good at scouting and when I met someone who was good on the mat he would tell me to do that," recalls Randall. "One of my most memorable matches I wrestled was in the semi-finals at state against the number one ranked kid in the nation. I was a freshman and I beat the tar out of him 25-5. My strength was wrestling from my feet so we took advantage of it."

Three more state titles followed for Randall who went 120-3-2 over his high school career. At the time the technique met with mixed reviews from fans but Randall stressed that he never wanted to embarrass his opponent. "I always respected my opponent, I wanted to dominate but I also realized that you had to go for the pin when it was there," he recalled.

Randall credits his parents for the success he enjoyed as he recalled starting wrestling in second grade at a Mount Vernon club tournament. "My dad taught me to give it 110% all the time. That was the way I was

continued on next page





brought up. He would take me to tournaments no matter where and he told my to have fun and give 110%... and Mom was the one who did the driving."

One of those earlier little kid matches also helped shape the character of Randall. "I was eight years old and had to wrestle a kid from Cedar Rapids who was a year older. I was nervous but I pinned him. He jumped up after the fall and gave me a hug and said 'great job.' He showed me sportsmanship is number one and to handle losing just like winning."

Randall recalls feeling the pressure of being the fifth wrestler in the state's history to win four state titles. "I used the pressure to my advantage. I thrived on pressure... the more pressure the harder I worked," he said.

Success followed Randall into college under coach Dan Gable at the University of Iowa. Randall was the NCAA runner-up at 134 pounds in 1984 and 1986 while placing fifth as a sophomore. Competing on the international level in 1989, Randall captured the gold medal at the Pan American games. he was also a runner-up at the U.S. Open Nationals, and placed second at the 1989 U.S. Olympic Festival. Randall also served as an assistant to Gable at the 2003 World Cup.

Greg is currently an 11-year coach for Boise State's wrestling program. There Randall has established himself as one of the top collegiate coaches in the country. He has led the Broncos to the top of the Pac-12 Conference four times, to go along with six top-25 finishes at the NCAA Championships. In his eleven seasons since being promoted to head coach, Randall's teams have finished in the top-three at the conference tournament nine times, while taking home 26 individual Pac-10 titles.

In 2007-08 Randall earned his first Pac-10 Coach of the Year award, which came in part to his team's dominating performance at the league championships. Boise State scored the third-highest Pac-10 tournament score in history with 152.5 total points. With the win the Broncos also sent nine wrestlers on to the national tournament, which was highlighted by Kirk Smith's eighth-place finish at 184 pounds. A year later, Randall would repeat as Pac-10 Coach of the Year, winning the conference championship and crowing six individual champions. In 2006 Randall guided his first NCAA individual champion as a head coach with Ben Cherrington capturing the national title in the 157-pound weight class.

Greg can be reached at 4540 S Carie Way, Boise, ID, 83709, 208-323-1999, or by email at grandall@boisestate.edu.



MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
HALL OF FAME

2008

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS
Dr. James Croft '47	Jean Minish Stoner '37	Gary Knutsen '65	Marcia Russell '89

2009

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS
Richard Bowman '58	Irena Moore Heiser '50	Paul Hufford '80	Kristin Stewart '99

2010

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS
Leo Beranek '31	David Van Metre '55	Joy Jordan '87	Elizabeth Stoner '97

2011

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS
John Rife '60	Millicent Hoggard Zenishek '47	Randy Hoidahl '61	Mark Benesh '83

2012

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS
Graham Harman '86	Dolores 'De De' Staskal Hicks '50	John Hearn '75	Margaret 'Maggie' Quinn Ellison '62

2013

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
Darla Stoltz Templeton '64	Richard McKeen '51	Dennis Wolrab '64	William Pringle '72	Karen Jilovec Martin '57

2014

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
Lindsey Borg '83	Myrt Clark Bowers '57	Greg Randall '82	Paula Holcomb '72	Ann Koppenhaver '78

HOMECOMING 2014...



Jennifer Kuntz (husband is Glen'74), Joy Koehn Kuntz'76, Fine Arts Hall of Fame Award Winner Paula Holcomb'72, Dick Strother and Glen Kuntz'74 at the Homecoming Game.



Above middle: Alums Emily Ryan Stamp'09, future alum Lauren Ryan'21 (daughters of Dave Ryan'85), and Alex Brannaman'09 walked beside the award winners riding in their Corvettes, and threw candy in the Homecoming Parade for the Alumni Association.



Right: Achievement Hall of Fame winner Lindsey Borg'83 is greeted by classmate Amy Schmidt Schweer.



The Award winners enjoyed the Homecoming Pep Rally, shown here are Lindsey Borg'83 and his son Nathan.



The Award winners judged a contest at the Pep Rally.



The Pep Rally in the High School gym was totally full of Mustang fans, teachers and students from Pre-K to grade 12.



Far left picture, Reception Hostess Jo Kroul Clark'64 hands punch over to Hall of Fame award winners and guests.
Middle, former teacher Lois (Kopacek) Harms came from Des Moines to congratulate Fine Arts Hall of Fame Winner Paula Holcomb'72.
Right, front left to right, 1982 Classmates Karen Randall Mehaffey, Marty Williams, and Sonja Essex Redmond congratulate Athletic Hall of Fame winner Greg Randall.



Several 1972 classmates held a reception for Paula Holcomb at Gwen's Restaurant in Lisbon. Members in attendance were, front left to right, Deb Holtz Studt, Paula Holcomb, Susan Deskin Glenn; Back left to right, Mike Studt, Dave Hoke, Gary Drahos. Not pictured: Ralph Jordan



Several 1957 classmates, family and friends held a Saturday morning coffee at Karen Jilovec Martin's home to honor Service Hall of Fame Award Winner Myrt Clark Bowers. Shown here are: front left to right, classmates Karen Clark Fiala, Myrt, Joyce Olmstead Lucas. Back: Jan Lowe Majors, Barb Neal Hutchins, and Karen.

Not pictured: Marsha Clark Kimm'63, Denise Clark Havill'79, Donna Clark Ulch'68, Jo Kroul Clark'64, Leona Reyhons Smith'56, Barb Clark Ingersoll'63.

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Mustangs...What Are They Doing Now?

KIERSTYN BORG MICKELSON '06 STARTS NEW SCHOLARSHIP



Editor's Note: Complete article in the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, September 4, 2014.

Thanks to a new scholarship, Mount Vernon High School senior Abbey Teubel '14 had the experience of a lifetime this past summer.

For a week, Teubel attended Girls State, put on by the American Legion Auxiliary at Iowa State University. Kierstyn (Borg) Mickelson, a 2006 Mount Vernon High School graduate, attended Girls State in 2005.

She said it was such a rewarding experience that she wanted to help provide other Mount Vernon High School students the opportunity to attend. She set up a scholarship to make that happen, and Teubel was the first recipient.

Girls State is a "learning by doing" program that takes attendees through the entire political process. It covers city government, with girls assigned to a floor, which is her city for the week. The girls elect their mayors and city councils, transact city business, pass city ordinances and work on a city project for judging later. They are also divided into political parties and campaign to get their candidates elected. By the end of the week, they have elected county and state officials.

Teubel said she was a bit apprehensive about taking part because "I'm not huge into politics." But she ended up really enjoying it. "It was an awesome experience," she said. She said she made friends who she still hangs out with today.

Kierstyn can be reached at Kjbmv@mac.com



■ VIC WALLACE '61



I graduated from Mount Vernon in 1961 and from Cornell in 1965. I am in my 51st year as a football coach - 1 year as a Jr. High assistant, 9 years as a head HS coach, 7 years as an assistant college/university coach and 34 years as a head college/university coach. I am currently coaching at Rockford University in Rockford, IL. My brother Jim Wallace and my sister Gayle Wallace still live in Mount Vernon. My father Chet Wallace, now passed, coached at Mount Vernon High School for many years. I have many fond memories of Mount Vernon and Mount Vernon High School. Below is what is printed on our Rockford University athletic web site:

"Vic Wallace became Rockford's fifth head coach in the program's 11 years in January 2011. Wallace is entering his fourth season leading the Regents football program. Entering the 2014 season, Coach Wallace currently sits tied for 7th among active coaches in NCAA Division III football with 180 wins.

Wallace is entering his 38th year of coaching at the NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III, and NAIA levels. His overall head coaching record of 180-136-3 has included nine conference championships and ten national playoff appearances, including one finals appearance and four trips to the semifinals. Wallace has also been named conference Coach of the Year seven times and NAIA Region IV National Coach of the Year twice. He was also given the Contribution to Amateur Football Award by the Memphis Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

Most recently, Wallace spent 15 years as head coach at NAIA Lambuth University in Jackson, Tennessee. During his time at Lambuth, the Eagles won five conference titles and finished second six times.

Wallace also had head coaching stints at NCAA Division III University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota and NAIA William Jewel College in Liberty, Missouri.

Prior to his first head coaching opportunity, Wallace was an assistant coach at NCAA Division I Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, NCAA Division II Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, and NCAA Division III Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

In addition to his coaching credentials, Wallace has made significant contributions to academic and administrative missions of his employers. Wallace has spent many years as a physical education instructor, teaching subjects including kinesiology, nutrition, and Sports Psychology. He has also served as Athletic Director, Special Assistant to the President, and Sports Information Director.

Wallace has his master's degree in Physical Education from the University of Northern Iowa and a bachelor's degree from Cornell College.

Vic and his wife of 45 years, Dee, have three children. Mike and Mark, graduates of the University of St. Thomas, are a teacher in metro Minneapolis and a doctor in the Boston area, respectively. Amy, an alumna of Lambuth University, is an environmental, health and safety engineer for Philips Company.

Vic can be reached at coach.vicwallace@gmail.com



Thank you

...to **Barb Neal Hutchins '57** and **Dave Van Metre** for a variety of photographs
 ...to **anonymous** for donation of a variety of class year composite pictures
 ...thank you to photographer **Lisa Lewis '83** for shooting the 'official' pictures at this year's Hall of Fame Award Ceremony
 ...to **Jan Lowe Majors '57** for donation of her sister Shirley Lowe DuRos'53 (d) scrap book and buttons
 ...to **Jan Lowe Majors '57** for the 1949-1950 Basketball schedule pencil
 ...to **Adrian and Berta Ringold** for donation of yearbooks
 ...to High School Journalism teacher **JoAnn Gage** and her class, and **The Sun** for pictures for this issue
 ...thank you to all who submitted photos for this publication

■ TRICIA MOSES JONES'95

Editor's Note: Complete article in the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, August 28, 2014, by Jake Krob.

Mount Vernon's hometown pharmacy is now being run by a Mount Vernon native.

Tricia Moses Jones, a 1995 Mount Vernon High School graduate, recently took the reins as manager of CarePro Pharmacy (formerly Shepley Pharmacy). Jones has worked there since November to prepare to take the leadership role when pharmacist Al Shepley retired this summer after more than three decades of service to the Mount Vernon-Lisbon area.

Jones moved to Mount Vernon from Minnesota as a fifth-grader and has lived here since then. She and her husband, Mike, a 1996 MVHS grad, have three daughters. Mike works as an associate for the school district, and is also a coach.

A 2001 graduate of the University of Iowa pharmacy program, Jones said, "I always wanted to work here." For about three years during her studies at the U of I, she served as an intern at Shepley Pharmacy. She said Al Shepley was a good mentor.

When Jones graduated from the U of I, there were no job openings in her hometown. So she worked for Hy-Vee Pharmacy in Cedar Rapids for a couple years, then began a 10-year career managing the Wal-Mart Pharmacy in Anamosa. When Shepley knew he'd be retiring, he called on Jones about the job.

She said the job appealed to her because "it's very rewarding to help people you know." She added that she was excited to work for a place that's "so different from the big-box." At a place like CarePro, Jones said, spending time with patients is valued.

Jones' duties include staffing the pharmacy, but also overseeing all other parts of the business. That ranges from managing employees to dealing with insurance billing.

Tricia can be reached at tricia_l_jones@hotmail.com



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■ JEAN PAVELKA LITTS '53

39 – that’s a big number when you are talking about the number of years Jean Pavelka Litts’53 has worked for the Mount Vernon Community School District.

Jean says “I married Chub Litts’50 right out of high school and we farmed one mile from where I grew up.” Chub and Jean settled on the original family farm and she has spent her life farming, raising a family, being a busy homemaker, and she has also worked as a bus driver since the fall of 1976.

Jean and Chub had two boys and a girl – their oldest Brian’76 is associate principal at McKinley Middle School in Cedar Rapids, the middle child Blair’78 farms with Jean and also works in Cedar Rapids at WinPump, and their daughter Barbara lives in a group home in Iowa City.

In 2009 their farm was recognized as a Heritage Farm for 155 years of family ownership. The farm has been passed from her great-great-grandparents Jacob and Barbara Zinkula who immigrated from Czechoslovakia, to John and Frances (Krob) Zinkula, to Joe and Anna (Zinkula) Pavelka, to Leonard and Ester Pavelka, and then to Jean (Pavelka) and Chubb Litts. In 2014 Jean celebrated 60 years she has resided on the farm.

Jean went to Pleasant Hill Country School that was located on Ivanhoe Road. She came to high school in Mount Vernon in the middle of her 8th grade year, where her home room teacher was Mr. Easker (father of Douglas Easker’69).

Jean says the person she gives the most credit to is Superintendent Sinkink. She says “when I look at what he was to the school district, well, it was everything. His wife was his secretary and school nurse, and they lived their lives around the school. He was very strict, and in those days, boys did not get by with drinking alcohol. Our class respected him and we always invited him to our class reunions afterward.”

Jean’s favorite activity in high school was working on the school paper and the yearbook. Jean says “A lot of time was spent working on these (including the illustrations on the cover and inside the yearbook). I made a lot of friends. Loved the sports – we enjoyed watching the boys sports. We didn’t have girls sports at that time, but I participated in all the GRA activities.” She says one of her best friends in high school was Betty Dostal, who also ended up marrying a cousin of Chubb’s so they were cousins-in-law, too!

Jean started driving the bus for Mount Vernon schools when her daughter was 14. At that time Jean drove the hand-capped bus, and she has continued to this day driving regular routes morning and nights. She currently drives a van to pick up special needs students.

Jean says “she loves helping people, and this way she helps the student, the parents, the teachers, and the man at the bus barn.” One slippery day her boss at the bus barn, Denny Gross, spread ice melt from where her school van was parked all the way to her car. He said “I didn’t want anything to happen to her!”

Jean says “One of the nicest things that ever happened to me was getting a memory book from my daughter-in-law Angie (wife of Brian’76) on the day our farm was honored for 155 years. It is full of pictures (several below).

Jean continues to drive bus and you often see her hanging out with Bob Wolfe’48 and his sister Lizzie Wolfe Kroul’43. Her hobby is helping to oversee events and upkeep at Sts. Peter and Paul Church. She has been either president or vice president of the church foundation since 1996. Her great-great grandfather Jacob helped build the original church which was then located across the road, so Jean has special ties to this church.

Jean can be reached at 720 Ivanhoe Rd, Mount Vernon, IA 52314.

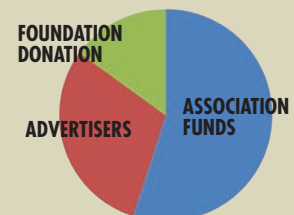


At left: At the 2009 Heritage Farm ceremony from left to right are Angie Litts (Brian’s wife), Brian Litts’76, Jean, and Blair Litts’78



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Your Alumni Association publishes this newsletter two times per year -- a spring and fall issue, to a mailing list of over 4,400. This is paid for by our advertisers, our Association Treasury (from alums and friends who support with memberships, donations and memorials, and from Association fund raising like the Heritage Days Breakfast, etc), and a yearly donation from the Foundation for postage of the spring newsletter. Your continued support of the Alumni Association, the Foundation, and our advertisers allow us to continue providing this publication.



Alumni News...

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MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

Khloe Rand'11 and **Thomas Mlynarczyk'10** married on July 12, 2014. The couple resides in Ames

Flannery Lucas '10 and **Dylan Schroeder '10** are engaged to marry August 9, 2015.

Steven Bragg'08 married Jennifer Kimler Oct 4, 2014. The couple resides in Waterloo.

Karissa Whitman'08 married Brad Walker on September 20, 2014. The couple resides in North Liberty.

Samantha Weber'08 married Kyle Formanek on June 28, 2014. The couple reside in Reinbeck.

Jessica Bigley'01 married John Gallagher October 4, 2014. The couple resides in Dallas, TX.

Kristin Stewart'99 married Michael Livingston June 28, 2014. The couple resides in New York City, NY

Paul Konkowski'78 and **Kim Mortensen'81** married on September 6, 2014. The couple reside in Mount Vernon.

ANNIVERSARIES

David Blythe'76 and **Deb Telecky Blythe'78** of Lisbon, 35th wedding anniversary celebration on Sept. 16th, 2014.

Carol Woods-Boren'75 and **Terry Boren'77** of Mount Vernon, 35th wedding anniversary – October 27, 1979.

Pat Kolek Mitchell '62 and her husband Keith of Warsaw, MO, 50th wedding anniversary celebration on March 7, 2014.

Bessie Koutny Telecky'53 and **Jim Telecky'49** of Mount Vernon, 60th wedding anniversary – August 21, 1954.

John Wolfe'44 and **Betty Pospisil Wolfe'45** of Mount Vernon, 65th wedding anniversary – August 23, 1949.

BABY NEWS

Miranda Roudabush Vierra'13 and husband Andrew of Port Hueneme, CA, a daughter, Abigail Grace, was delivered stillborn Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014.

Jeremy Martin'10 and wife Danielle of Mount Vernon, a son, Wyatt Norice, July 12, 2014

Megan Grunder Traxel '09 and husband Mike of Ames, a daughter, Lillian Kay on June 7, 2014.

Peter Dietrich'06 and wife Garrett of Cedar Rapids, a son, Amos John, May 30, 2014.

Jamie Wallace Smith'01 and Rik Smith of Mount Vernon, a daughter, Eleanor Michelle Smith, May 5th, 2014. Grandfather is alum Jim Wallace'64.

Kathryn Ohlfest Bortz'00 and husband Lee of Tipton, a son, Colton Dean, July 9, 2014. Grandparents are **Martha Thomsen Ohlfest'77** and the late **David Ohlfest'75**.

Jenny Blythe Mertes'00 and husband Brian of Johnston, IA, a son, Colton David on Sept. 9th, 2014.

Christ Schonhorst'00 and Tiffany Yeisley of Cedar Rapids, a daughter, Donna Lee, August 1, 2014

Sara Kreinbrink Lange'98 and **Jason Lange'94** of Humboldt, IA, a daughter, Stefani Rose, August 11, 2014.

Katie Schonhorst Farber'97 and husband Joe of Minneapolis, a son Lucas, March 26, 2014.

Teresa Duppong Stewart'96 and **Matthew Stewart'96** of Mount Vernon, a son Nathan John, June 20, 2014.

Bruce Johanson'93 and wife Krista of Cedar Rapids, a son Jack Michael, August 9, 2014.

EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

Ben Koffron'12 completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, IL.

Heidi Hoffman'11, graduated, interior design at Kirkwood Community College

Trid Kleiber'11 graduated, liberal arts at Kirkwood Community College

Casey Lamparek'11, graduated, pre-business at Kirkwood Community College

Kathryn Merritt'11, graduated, horse science technology at Kirkwood Community College

Casey Mote'11, graduated, construction management at Kirkwood Community College

Jake Barske'11, graduated, construction management at Kirkwood Community College

continued on the next page



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Rich Hoidahl'59 of Johnston, Iowa was inducted into the Iowa Senior Games Hall of Fame on June 13 at the organization's annual Hall of Fame Banquet at the West Des Moines Marriott. Rich, now 72

years old, has participated in the annual competition for persons aged 50 and over for 22 consecutive years. During that time, he has amassed 189 medals including 68 gold, 75 silver and 46 bronze. This year he competed in 24 events and won 19 medals (6 gold, 8 silver and 5 bronze). Rich has also successfully competed in track and field events at the Iowa Games for 23 years, winning over 90 medals. In addition he was a member of the 1997 Principal Financial Group corporate track team that captured a national corporate championship based on number of employees.

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TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations to the numerous alums and Mount Vernon residents who rallied behind the "Save Our Fields" movement. Your hard work and dedication paid off with the football field being revitalized and upgraded to serve the school district for many, many more years.

I am writing this letter on behalf of another initiative by the American Legion Post 480. The post, along with the Legion Auxiliary, have committed to building a new veterans memorial with an expected completion of Memorial Day 2016.

An ambitious project, the intent is to construct not only a memorial to replace the temporary list of heroes currently in place, but we have also incorporated an educational facet to help tell the Mount Vernon community story and how members of our town have been involved in national and international events. Legion member and former MVHS Social Studies teacher Bob Meeker is leading this aspect of the project.

We need your help. The Post and auxiliary have committed a minimum of \$12,000 to the project, but it is a long way from the \$100,000 needed. We hope that you would be willing to donate to this worthy cause and all donations are gratefully accepted.

Donations can be made at any bank in Mount Vernon or mailed directly to me at: 209 Oak Ridge Dr. SE, Mount Vernon, IA 52314. Make checks out to 'Veterans Memorial Fund 480'. Or go online to donate at gofundme.com, search for Mount Vernon Veterans Memorial 2016.

The Legion wants to include ALL deceased veterans who have a strong connection to the Mount Vernon community regardless of burial location. Previously the list contained only those interred in the Mount Vernon cemetery, but this excluded a significant portion of veterans with roots in the Mount Vernon area, therefore we ask that if you know of a deceased former Mount Vernon resident who was also veteran that you forward their name, branch of service, date of death (if known) and most importantly, the correct spelling of their name.

Thank you for considering this plea.
Michael Woods'77



Alumni News...

Spencer Schmidt'11, graduated, communications/media/PR at Kirkwood Community College

Brent Belding'10, graduated, LAN management at Kirkwood Community College

Anna Butz'10 was awarded a Fulbright grant under the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program to study and teach in Bogota, Columbia starting late July 2014. Anna is a student at DePauw University in Greencastle, IN.

Cody Janko'10, graduated, liberal arts at Kirkwood Community College

Leif Jeppson'10 earned a BA in graphic design; cum laude from Simpson College in May 2014.

Flannery Lucas'10 graduated magna cum laude from Iowa State University with a bachelor of science degree in culinary science.

Justin Niermeyer'10, graduated, automotive technology at Kirkwood Community College

Jenna Smith'10 earned a BA in music performance from Simpson College in May 2014.

Emily Stoner'10 BA of Science from Wheaton College, Illinois

Avidan Tabak'10 earned BA in Asian Studies from the College of Saint Benedict in May.

Nathan Thackery'10 earned a BA-computer science from the University of Iowa in the spring of 2014

Zachary Demanett'09 earned a BS-geoscience from the University of Iowa in the spring of 2014

Caroline Hunter'09, graduated, graphic communication technology at Kirkwood Community College

Madeline Keleher'09 earned a BA-interdepartmental studies and CERentrepreneurial management from the University of Iowa in the spring of 2014

Shelby Kintzel'09 received a Purple and Old Gold award during the University of Northern Iowa's commencement in May. This award for meritorious scholarship is the highest university honor awarded by academic departments to undergraduate students.

Graham Carl'07 earned a JDlaw from the University of Iowa in the spring of 2014

Charlie Nichols'07 earned a MS-urban and regional planning from the University of Iowa in the spring of 2014

Michael Berthot'05, graduated, computer software development at Kirkwood Community College

Strider Patton'03 earned a Masters degree in anthropology and social change at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco in May 2014. He works and teaches at 1Am Gallery in San Francisco.

Kerri Bright Hansen'93, graduated, liberal arts at Kirkwood Community College

AND MORE...

Cal Kragenbrink'13 earned an athletic letter for outstanding participation on the Coe College 2014 baseball team.

Erin Pisarik'12 earned an athletic letter for outstanding participation on the Coe College cross country team.

Jake Timm'12 earned an athletic letter for outstanding participation on the Coe College men's basketball team.

Taylor Dicus'11, Cornell College senior volleyball middle blocker, was named First Team All-MWC for the 4th straight season. Dicus blocked a league-high 112 balls. Dicus was also named to the 2014 NCAA Division III All-Midwest Region First Team by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. In addition she earned NCAA Division III Honorable Mention All-America.

Kylea Weber'11, Cornell College senior volleyball defensive specialist was a unanimous First Team All-Midwest Conference volleyball selection and was named the 2014 Midwest Conference Player of the Year. This is Weber's third appearance on the First Team All-MWC list. Weber tallied a league-leading 552 digs. Weber was also named to the 2014 NCAA Division III All-Midwest Region First Team by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. In addition she earned NCAA Division III Third Team All-America, placing her in the top 42 players nationwide for Division III Women's Volleyball.

Jeff White'08 earned a role on WGN America's TV show 'Manhattan' which aired this fall. Jeff graduated with a performing arts degree from ISU in 2012. Since moving to New York City he has appeared on the FX show "The Americans" during its recent second season and then a supporting role on the new WGN America show, "Manhattan." "Manhattan" takes place in Los Alamos, N.M., and focuses on the team behind the Manhattan Project as they try to create the first atomic bomb so help bring an end to World War II. White played Army soldier Cole "Iowa" Dunlavey, an Iowa farmboy who enlisted to fight overseas in World War II but is instead placed on

In Memory

of classmates we have lost



Band members and friends from the 'Don Stine Era' met for an Alumni Band Reunion during Heritage Days 2014 at the farm of Mike Russell. Pictured here are:

Front row: Barb Traver, Barb Colehour, Daryl Becicka '84, Katie Schellburg Hess '89, Sheri Russell Kahl '82, Julie Russell Lynch '86, Chuck Soukup '83, Amy Schmidt Schweer '83, Dan Colehour '83, Sonia Essex Redmond '82, Trina Russell Allen '84, Chris Schwiebert '82, Mike Russell '89
 Back row: Lynn Traver, Barb Russell, Sharon Kuntz Glenn '84, Dan Schellburg '88, Linda Russell Brooks '83, Andrea LeVan Wagner '80, Cathy LeVan Boggs '82, Judy Stine, Dave Lynott '77, Don Stine, Pat Arnold, Jeff Pepper '84, Chris Traver Kott '83, Kevin Rogers '81, Susie Bacher Hucke '87, Kirk Bostwick '84
 Other band alumni and family attending but not pictured: Linda Schick Drahos '59, Dan Drahos '84, Mike Drahos '93, Cathy Hufford '83, Ann Hufford, Maureen Cullen '84, Joe Cullen, Donna Becicka Nichols '84, Marcy Russell '89, Arnie Soukup, and Randy Timm '84 via Skype

the Manhattan Project. He has since returned to New York to work on smaller stage projects while he continues to audition for television roles. Find a complete article in the August 7 issue of the Sun. Find Jeff White on YouTube and find the tv series on wgnamerican.com

Jon Thuerauf '07 is both a personal trainer and manager at Elite Fitness in Mount Vernon.

Geoff Glenn '05 of Chicago brought his band, Simpleton and City Folk, to play at Heritage Days this past summer on the main stage.

The Mount Vernon Fire Department recognized the following alums with service awards: **Nick Boren '02-5 yrs**, **Adam Dake '01-10 yrs**, **Andy Pitlik '99-15 yrs**, **Nathan Goodlove '99-15 yrs**

Ian Dye '01 was the title character in the October 2014 original comedy 'Who Made Ian Die?', an annual Murder Mystery Dinner theater put on by the Lisbon History Center, the Lisbon Public Library and the Southeast Linn Community Center. Ian is currently principal at Lisbon High School.

Sara Kreinbrink Lange '98 and **Jason Lange '94** have taken new teaching positions in the Humboldt school district, Jason 7-12 Industrial Tech and Sara 5-8 STEM.

Michele Meyer Grudzinski '92, VP of M&K Dust Control, was honored as Mount Vernon's business of the year.

Naomi Miller Larson '90 is the new alternative kindergarten teacher at Lisbon schools.

Sonia Essex Redmond '82 will take on an expanded role assisting in bank marketing and sales at Mount Vernon Bank and Trust.

Devin Kelso '81 brought The Kelso Heartland Homestay Program back to Iowa for its 9th year, bringing Japanese high school students together with local host families for a two-week adventure that comes study of the English language and American culture with some Iowa fun. See complete article in the August 7, 2014 issue of the Sun.

Jim Wallace '64 was inducted into the Cornell College Athletics Hall of Fame in October 2014.

Leota Barrett Cihla '43 of Mechanicsville, now Mount Vernon, celebrated her 90th Birthday.

Clara Meroshek Pospisil '42 of Mount Vernon celebrated her 90th Birthday in May 2014.

From Jane Hardin '67:
 "Classmate Marianne Hansen Garrigan was with her family in Florida, so were able to meet and have lunch together." Jane lives in New Port Richey, FL, and Marianne is from Tennessee.



On Facebook look for Mount Vernon, IowaPlaces and Mt Vernon Alum

- Vernon Burge '37**
 Mount Vernon, IA August 28, 2014
Dorothy Beach Fisher '38
 Aiken, SC November 5, 2014
Louise Dvorak Clark '41
 Lisbon, IA October 3, 2014
Howard DeCamp '51
 Glen Ellyn, IL October 12, 2013
James Moore '53
 Lakewood, CO Nov 1, 2014
Barry Morrissey '53
 Marion, IA June 17, 2014
Ron Nezerka '58
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa October 30, 2014
Devan Morgan DeSandis '63
 Brigantine, NJ Sept 22, 2014
Dean Conley '76
 Mount Vernon, IA June 4, 2014
John Lane '84
 Paris, AR November 12, 2014
Mark Van Slyke '92
 Mount Vernon, Iowa July 14, 2014

FRIENDS

Phyllis Barker, Art Teacher

Elroy, WI July 2, 2014

Ruth Michaud, English Teacher

Mount Vernon, IA September 13, 2014

(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.)

CORRECTION: Gloria Herboldsheimer

Krob '63 was missed in the photo caption as a volunteer for newsletter labling



Steve Kroeger '63 finished restoration of a 1941 Lincoln Zephyr sedan (photo above) which he showed recently at the Des Moines Concours

D'elegance at the Pappajohn Sculpture Park in downtown Des Moines. A picture of it was the headline picture in an article in the *Des Moines Register* published September 8, 2014. Steve lives in Casey, IA.





A TRIBUTE TO RUTH MICHAUD

Contributed by the MV Retired Teachers Group, and written by Anne Halsey '92

Ruth Marie Michaud died on September 13, 2014, at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City. For thirty years, Michaud was a much-beloved English teacher at Mount Vernon High School. With her signature wit, high expectations, uncompromising standards, sophisticated style, exacting intellect, and her unfailing kindness and generosity, Michaud taught a generation MVHS students to be readers, writers, and engaged citizens of the world.

Inspired by her extraordinary capacity to understand and empathize with their minds and dreams, former students wrote to celebrate the myriad of ways Michaud touched their lives. Through her teaching of poetry, literature, and composition, as well as through her personal attention and devotion to them as individuals, she left an indelible mark on each of the students fortunate enough to be in her classroom.



"Mrs. Michaud's influence on our lives is difficult to put into words. She showed us ways of engaging with the world and each other that we would have not known otherwise. The world is a little less intelligent, kind, deliberate, and creative now that she is gone, but her influence continues through all of us that were fortunate to have her in our lives."

—Alison Happel '99 and
Meredith Ash Crawford '99

"I credit Ruth Michaud for teaching me how to write, and how to write in different styles and at different lengths. Consequently, because I write more than anything else, I credit Ruth with my ability to earn a living. She taught the value of an outline, how to say key points and then expand upon them if there is time or space, and how to summarize. As important as the intellectual skills that Ruth taught were the human skills that she helped many of us to enhance: observation, patience, curiosity, determination, and wit. She taught that people often have so much more going on beyond the surface of what is visible: more complex than the outer appearance, and deeper than the public persona. She taught about depth and honesty in writing, to let the truth ring. She was able to help many of us make a more dignified transition from the awkwardness of adolescence into a more confident adulthood by teaching us valuable skills and concepts. As importantly, Ruth Michaud made sure we knew she believed in each of us, giving young adults one more person in their corner of support."

—Angela Skretta Schindel '85

"She taught us to love writing and do it well. I remember wondering why I was doing so well in college, and then remembered. Mrs. Michaud."

—Alison Dix '94

"I remember that Mrs. Michaud received an award my senior year from one of the TV news stations and I was the student chosen to be interviewed with her. True to form, Mrs. Michaud was humble, self-effacing, almost embarrassed to receive that type of recognition. I admired her for that—it affirmed that her heart was really in the right place."

—Lisa SQUIERS White '88

"Ruth Michaud was my favorite teacher in high school. She encouraged my love for literature and helped me with writing more than any other teacher ever, including college. At my high school graduation party, she gave me an American Literature book that she wrote in. I still have it, of course, and will treasure it even more now."

—Lisa Addis Proehl '82

"Mrs. Michaud's uncompromising intelligence and enigmatic smile intimidated me. I was slightly terrified in her classroom and I signed up for every class I could. Although I'm not sure she would want the credit, she is the one who made me the poet I am today, thanks to Seamus Heaney's 'The Underground' and Robert Lowell's 'The Neo-Classical Urn.' If she had allowed it, I would have orbited around her for decades: small planet to her fierce sun."

—Sarah Martin Busse '90

"Ruth Michaud was one of the best teachers I had at MVHS. I didn't realize how amazing she was until I literally sat in her chair. I subbed for her and I was able to see the magic behind the curtain. I am a better person for having had her as a teacher."

—Kim Benesh '85

"Mrs. Michaud's legacy will live in the individual attention she gave to her students. Before individual writing conferences were the educational norm, Mrs. Michaud met with each student on a one-to-one basis to discuss their writing. During these conferences Mrs. Michaud would not only give her advice, but she would listen to your thoughts and ideas, and help you to articulate them in a thoughtful manner. Each time I meet with my own students in a writing conference, I try to emulate Mrs. Michaud's attention, not just to the piece of writing, but also to the development of the individual writer."

—Gail Halsey Bertram '94

"Ruth Michaud affected the trajectory of my life in a way that no other teacher came close to doing. She opened my eyes to the power and beauty of words, both written and spoken. And I can honestly say that her inspiration and tutelage were primary factors in my choosing writing as my profession—a decision I have yet to regret."

—Patrick White'87

"Mrs. Michaud was the first teacher that made me feel intelligent. With her complimentary encouragement, I believed I could do anything I desired to do—she was resolute, eloquent, and elegantly charming. Her classes were far and away my favorite. My first book will be dedicated to her."

—Alison Morrissey Egolf'87

"Mrs. Michaud was a great lady and wonderful teacher. She will be missed."

—Kelli Curtis-Chapman'89

"Ruth Michaud was a kind and intelligent soul."

—Mike Frantz'82

"Ruth Michaud was a teacher who elevated how I saw the world and my place in it. Not only did I learn how to write and think critically, but I was always inspired to do my best work for her. Earning an 'A' from Mrs. Michaud was the gold standard and I'm not sure I ever achieved it! She was an outstanding teacher in every way and dedicated to her craft. She not only provided beautiful insight into poetry and literature, but also in how to observe the world around us. I cherish the time I spent in her classroom."

—Sarah Miller Johnson'87

"Mrs. Michaud taught me to look for the words behind the words. Mrs. Michaud taught me to be critical; appropriately. Mrs. Michaud taught me that often things develop after page thirty, so don't give up easily. To be taught to apply any one of those things is incredible. To have been taught all of them is astounding. Thank you Mrs. Michaud."

—Sevan Boyd'88

"She was the hardest teacher I had but when she praised my work I knew I had deserved it."

—Stella Beltz Judkins'86

"With respect to Mrs. Michaud—I don't know what to say except that I'm struck. I hadn't talked to her in many years, but I still thought the world of her. When I was in high school I found a yearbook from the 1960s, when she was in her first year

of teaching, and I kid you not she was a dead ringer for a young Anne Parillaud. Each teacher had room beneath their photograph to convey some words of wisdom to the students. Hers was, simply and acerbically, 'Read.' Seeing that photograph was a learning experience in itself, especially when Mrs. Michaud walked through the library. I looked up at her, looked back down at this photograph, and I asked her, 'Is this you?' She walked over, took a look at the yearbook, and laughed. She had a lovely laugh. 'That was me, Rob, yes. Many years ago. The years... well, I'm not Helen Mirren.' We laughed for a little bit and she told me some of how the high school had changed in the last thirty years, and then she went off to her next course."

—Rob Hansen'93

"I loved the way Mrs. Michaud would sit there with us and go over what we had written, and discuss it with us. It made me feel like I was important."

—Stacie Guess'86

"I always credit her for my ability to write anything that's coherent."

—Lisa Lehr'85

"Ruth Michaud truly opened my eyes to literature and writing. What a wonderful person."

—Cathy Hufford'83

"Mrs. Michaud taught me to how to punctuate a sentence and construct an argument. She also taught me how to speak with empathy and curiosity. She pushed me to weigh what I witnessed, to think critically and from different perspectives, to develop a vocabulary of compassion and justice, to be precise, to edit, and then to trust my imagination and my own telling of the world. She was sharp and bright and brilliant, and I will be forever grateful for the model she set of a life lived generously, in service to truth and beauty. It's no exaggeration to say that she was, and is, my hero."

—Anne Halsey'92

(Excerpted from the Ruth Michaud tribute page at IowaCremation.com)

"Mrs. Michaud was an exceptional teacher and a wonderful person who truly cared in the success of her students. I still remember the heated debate we had in her class over the banning of books, with Johnny Got His Gun as the jumping off point. She challenged us to look at the world differently. As an editor, I still think about her sensible outlook on punctuation, which was, 'if it makes

sense without it leave it out.' She was a mentor to so many and will be missed."

—Amy Lifson'85

"Ms. Michaud never had to raise her voice to capture the attention of her students. Her grace and intelligence captured our attention as if we were honored by the presence of an award-winning legendary actress. The sweet smile and twinkle in her eyes moved us all deeper into the subject and encouraged intelligent discussions and questions. We'd do anything to please her, even try to do our best with the literature that wasn't all that interesting. An angel on earth, now flying about with her own kind—such an amazing woman to change the outlook of so many students!!"

—Robyn Baker Mantz'85

"I feel extremely fortunate to have had Ruth as a teacher—she was indeed one of the very best!"

—David Lynott'88

"What a loss. I had the privilege of being in one of Mrs. Michaud's early teaching classes and after all these years, I remember her vividly. Her passion, her high expectations, her smile, her ability to motivate us to excel in our own way, her fairness never waivered. No other teacher sparked me to excel as she did. I am thankful I had her as a teacher and as a role model."

—Wendy Ellison Stryker'69

"Mrs. Michaud was a teacher who inspired her students to become better writers and readers . . . I remember trying to earn that praising smile that she is famous for. You definitely knew that you were going in the right direction with whatever the assignment was when you got that smile! So however you spell her last name ('Me-Show,' as she would write on the blackboard to her new students), Ruth's influence and person will be greatly missed. She is a person who made a difference in the lives of her students and all around her."

—Chad Reckling'89

"I do not remember one grade she gave me, but have incorporated the eloquent critiques Mrs. Michaud provided on several essays from her challenging classes throughout my life. Through her incredible gift as a writer/teacher, she not only honed my skills in writing, but gave me a confidence in my abilities which was lacking at such a formative age. Much of what I have accomplished in my career has a direct correlation to her guidance. Thank you Mrs. Michaud."

—Brant Hoffmann'89



F O U N D A T I O N

“Fulfilling the Promise of Excellence in Academics, Arts, and Athletics”



INTRODUCING THE MUSTANG LEGACY SOCIETY

Is the tradition of the Mount Vernon Schools experience meaningful to you? Have you ever considered leaving a legacy that will benefit future generations of Mount Vernon students? The Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation is proud to introduce the Mustang Legacy Society.

The Mustang Legacy Society will serve to recognize individuals who elect to include the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation in their estate plans. There is no minimum amount required – any deferred gift that benefits the Mount Vernon Schools through the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation will qualify you for membership.

The Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation was established in 1987 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3). The foundation’s mission is to partner with alumni, businesses, parents, and friends of the Mount Vernon community to support a higher level of educational excellence and opportunities to prepare Mount Vernon School students for the challenges of global opportunities.

Contributions to the foundation support the Mount Vernon School District in a number of ways, from student scholarships and teacher grants, to facility enhancements and other specific initiatives. The foundation is committed to working alongside the school district to continue to uphold a top-notch student experience for today’s graduates as well as our youngest Mustangs.

If you have already included the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation in your estate plans, or would like additional information, contact Foundation Director Ben Brannaman at bbrannaman@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or 319-693-9520. We would be happy to welcome you into the Mustang Legacy Society!

Your gift matters... and makes a difference



While buildings and faces here in Mount Vernon may have changed over time, one thing has remained constant within the school district, and that is a tradition of excellence. Our teachers and staff value this tradition, and continue to provide our students with a truly top-notch experience.

They have not been alone in this effort, as the foundation has played an integral role in continuing to advance the school district’s mission of promoting excellence in academics, arts and athletics.

To play this integral role, the foundation relies on private support from individuals like you. As the calendar year comes to a close we kindly invite you to join us, and consider a contribution of an amount of your choice. In doing so you will be investing in the lives of Mount Vernon students.

You should have received either a letter or postcard in the mail from the Foundation recently. If not, and you are interested in giving a gift, please contact Ben Brannaman at 319-693-9520.

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

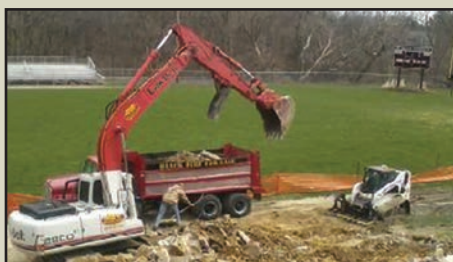
The **Alumni Association** was formed to coordinate all-alumni activities. Donations to the Alumni Association are used to support the alumni newsletter, data base, awards and Association activities.

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 ORGANIZATIONS
ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

F O U N D A T I O N

“Fulfilling the Promise of Excellence in Academics, Arts, and Athletics”



Michele Meyer Grudzinski '92 and her company, M&K Dust Control, Inc., donated people and equipment to demolish the old bleachers in the spring of 2014.

THEN...



Nick Boren '02 and Mike O'Brien (general contractor) begin the process of digging new footings.

On Friday, August 29 we recognized the success of the Save Our Fields campaign with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Mustang's first home football game. This campaign has resulted in the transformation of Mount Vernon's historic uptown football field. Projects completed include a new roof on the concession stand, additional lights, a new scoreboard, a renovated press box, brand new home bleachers, and new sod and landscaping.

The success of this project would not have been possible without the hard work and generosity of countless Mustang supporters. In total 150 volunteers committed more than 4,500 hours of hard work to this facility. And 300 individuals, families and organizations generously contributed more than \$180,000. As these numbers suggest, this truly was an all hands on deck effort.



Mike O'Brien, Kevin Whitman '76, Wayne Hormann '85 and Aaron Hormann '86 wait for Nick Boren '02 to set one of 21 rebar columns to be assembled with the rebar grid in the footing.

A big thanks to the following Save Our Fields committee members for their passion and dedication to this important effort:

Ann Koppenhaver '78, Shannon Amundson, Jenny Moore Hampton '91, Jodi Hormann, Lindsey Kerr Hotz '01, Joy Koehn Kuntz '76, Mike O'Brien, Eric Roudabush, Virginia Roudabush, Becky Thumm Whitman '77, Tasha Whitman, Tom Wieseler and Carol Woods-Boren '75



Your hard work and leadership of this endeavor is recognized and appreciated.



Left, Chad Kelly of Kelly Concrete and his daughter Lainey (future class of 2024) put finishing touches on the cement footings. Kelly Concrete donated expertise, equipment, and labor in the construction of the footings.

At right, Aaron Truitt and Eric Roudabush begin construction of the 2nd floor addition to the press box.

When Save Our Fields took shape back in 2011, it originated as an effort to modernize all of Mount Vernon's athletic facilities. The school district also contributed to this project, and is now working along with Cornell College on the renovation of the Ash Park Baseball Field.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Save Our Fields campaign. Projects like these show the power of how alumni contributions make a difference. Go Mustangs!

Ben Brannaman '05, Foundation Director



Future alums and community members lay sod and carry bricks for a retaining wall under the bleachers on one of the volunteer days.



Recognizing the importance of cultural institutions being located in the business district, the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group gave a special recognition honor this year to the Save Our Fields group.



FROM MARK BENESH'83

I was in Mrs. Silliman's 2nd grade class. It was the tail end of a winter that had brought us a lot of snow and things were starting to melt. That meant lots of ice to break at recess. Me and my friends John Svec, Paul Debbins and Mark Hartelt had pretty much demolished any sign of ice on the blacktop and we were looking for new frontiers to smash when we spotted the large drainage culvert by the crosswalk. At this time there was no softball field and the water was free to melt and flow freely through the field north of the elementary playground.

On occasion, the recess ladies had warned us to stay away from the drainage pipe on the side of the hill, but we ventured forth to new discoveries. It was a jackpot. The ice was everywhere and crystals of all kinds. We stomped and crashed and wrecked with glee. Someone got the idea to jump on the ice over the deepest part of the frozen pool below the large storm drain. We all started to jump. The ice began to crack. It cracked and cracked until it broke and we all fell into the freezing water over our knees.

The recess bell rang and we headed inside back to the warmth of the classroom. The moment we stepped into the door, Mrs. Silliman gave us her ominous disappointed stare. We knew we were in for it. She looked at our pants and said, "go to the principals office." My heart sank. My stomach tightened up and my mind began to wander with thought of the different types of punishment we would receive for our crime.

I had never been to see Mr. Cullen. He seemed like a nice guy, but I had heard tales of a large paddle hanging in his office. We made our way down the hall where Mrs. Penn sat in the large fish tank of an office. She asked us "what is it boys?" We told her that we had been sent down from Mrs. Silliman to see Mr. Cullen.

Mrs. Penn looked at us and our wet pants and said, "Mr. Cullen is gone today, you'll have to come back tomorrow."

Our execution had been delayed! We went back to class and resumed the day, although I couldn't do a thing for my mind was totally overtaken by wondering what would happen tomorrow. My stomach tightened into one giant knot. I suffered through the day until I got home. I confessed my transgression to my mother and was mildly scolded. The next day, everything was forgotten and to my relief, we no longer had to go to see Mr. Cullen, but I

never went back to the culvert again.

Mark lives and teaches in Mount Vernon, IA. He can be reached at mбенеш@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

FROM JACK STANTON'49

Background: My family moved to M.V. in the Fall of 1943 - during WW-II, from Cedar Rapids (CR). They bought "the old Pringle Place" the late 19th Century brick house on the east-end of Main Street near the Cemetery, on old US Highway 30. I started 7th Grade that year (Jr. High) in/at the old MVHS High School Building (now the Community Center).

My first day in class was different from my earlier neighborhood grade-school days in CR, where in that city there were many grade-schools, with four major Jr-highs and high schools. In Mt. Vernon, there was only one grade school (Ward School), and one combined Jr. high and high School on Main Street. I was used to my classmates being city-kids from a common neighborhood; but in Mt. Vernon, there were a mixed group of city, country/farm kids, and I was particularly interested in the new names and faces! There was: a Nutt; a Nation; a Wooff; a Wright; a Blinks; 2 Baldwins; a Current; a Dean; an Ink; (and later found out there was "a Penn" in another class); and a few more common names. We eventually became the MVHS-Graduating Class of 1949 - the "49ers", some 5+ plus years later.

We were an entrepreneurial group, organizing and conducting several late war-time newspaper and scrap-metal recycling 'Drives' for which we received quite a few scrap-dollars for our efforts. And accumulated a sizable balance in our treasury for these efforts (discussed later).

In those days it was a tradition that each graduating class would give a class-gift memorial to the High School. Further, each student's family had to rent their kid's cap & gown from the school for the graduation ceremony. Since we had a sizable sum in our treasury, we decided to pay the rental for all class students, plus a quite expensive, then new-technology "Wire Recorder" for the music department using the fruits of our re-cycling efforts. Which the Superintendent and School Board promptly and

emphatically indicated we couldn't do! (Because it had never been done that way!) But we finally prevailed, so we all agreed - while saving some of the larger families the cash outlay for our maroon caps & gowns, including the cleaning and pressing as required as we returned them to the school after the ceremony. All so everyone could graduate in our own cap and gown. As a side note: I think our graduation record/archive also shows that we "49ers" had a bit un-orthodox streak, choosing our class-colors as: 'Rose and Chartreuse', quite unheard of at that time!

Jack lives in Dewey, AZ, and is a retired structural engineer (P.E., CDP). Jack can be reached at jestanton@cablone.net

FROM SAM WEBER FORMANEK'08

Softball used to consume my summers. Everything about summer revolved around softball, but that was the best part of it. We weren't just a softball team, we were a family. My senior year our softball team had our own book club. We all read a lot of books that summer. Our bus rides and waits at tournaments were always filled with reading books. We passed around good books and had book discussions. We were known as the nerds from Mt. Vernon that read at softball tournaments, but we didn't care. The Twilight books were really popular at this time, so these were the books that were passed around the most. When it came to the end of the season our senior player gifts were gift cards to pre-order the fourth book in the series. It was the best senior gift they could've given. We were all so excited.

My junior year of high school we got a new coach, Coach Stamp. The first thing that Coach Stamp made us do was memorize the poem, "It's All In A State Of Mind." My first thought was why in the world do we have to memorize a poem before we can play softball? Poems have nothing to do with softball. Without questioning it everyone practiced and memorized this poem throughout the whole season. To this day the poem, "It's All In A State Of Mind," is the most meaningful piece of literature I have ever read. 6 years later, I can still recite most of the poem. I think about that poem all the time throughout everyday thoughts and decisions. Thanks, Coach Stamp, for proving me wrong.

Sam live in Reinbeck and teaches in Gladbrook-Reinbeck. She can be reached at sjweber84@gmail.com



MAIL BY JULY 1

ALUMNI AWARDS

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

Award winners will be announced in August and presented at Homecoming 2015, but please don't wait! We encourage you to fill out this nomination form and mail it in.

THE DEADLINE IS A JULY 1, 2015 POSTMARK -- GET YOURS IN THE MAIL NOW!
'The Spirit Lives On In You'

All nominees must be an alumnus of Mount Vernon High School at least 28 years of age.

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

MVCSD Alumni Achievement Award

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

Criteria:

- 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:

- Service must be for a not-for-profit organization in a non-compensated capacity.
- Exhibits high moral character.

MVCSD Community Impact Hall of Fame

Awarded to alumni who should be rewarded for their service impact on the Mount Vernon Community.

Criteria:

- Significant service contributions either while in school and/or post-high-school to the Mount Vernon Community.
- Service may be for any purpose.
- Service may be in a non-compensated or a compensated capacity.

Other considerations:

- Outstanding character and leadership.
- 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:

- 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:

- 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.

2015 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):

- Achievement Service Mount Vernon Community Impact (service) Fine Arts Sports

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, 2015 to: Alumni Association, 525 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

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

ALUMNI

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

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Mount Vernon, Iowa
Permit No. 3

IS THIS THE RIGHT ADDRESS FOR THE PERSON ON THE ADDRESS LABEL? If not, please let us know by calling 319-895-8845 or emailing alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

Hello Alumni!



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John Pospisil '66, Vice President
Michele Meyer Grudzinski '92, Secretary
Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Treasurer
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THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI Association 2014-2015

Your tax deductible support is very much appreciated and funds alumni organization publications and activities

FOR JULY 1 2014 TO JULY 1 2015

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

Alumni first & last name, including maiden name _____

Class Year _____ Spouse name (and class year if also an alumnus) _____

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.MVAlumni.org or cut and return with your check to: MV Alumni Association, 525 Palisades Road, Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314