



MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS



PLEASE SUPPORT THE ALUMNI ASSOC. WITH YOUR DONATION... SEE PAGE 11

2015 Heritage Days Events Coming Up!

July 1 - Deadline to submit your nominations for the Alumni Awards.

July 10 and 11 - It's Heritage Days in Mount Vernon and that means a flurry of activities for alumni. Be sure to attend the ever-popular **All-Alumni-Community Breakfast** at the High School on Saturday morning (8-10:30 am, serving from 8-10 am). The event is a popular meeting place, and a unique opportunity to see alumni from the 1940s to 2015 (and even future alums!), as well as familiar faces from the community. Watch for golf cart transportation to and from the parking areas. There is additional handicapped parking at the front of the High School building. Then, visit the **Alumni-Community Reception area** up town near the Bingo Tent - on Friday from 4-9 pm and Saturday from 11:30 am-until dark. Make the tent *your meeting place* and come to view displays, have your picture taken, or grab some cold water. Who will you see there? See page 5 for pictures from last year's activities and this year's Heritage Days schedule information.

EARLY BIRD RECEPTION In town early? You're invited to the 'Principal's office' at the First Street Community Building for an Early Bird Reception on Friday, July 10, from 1-3 pm. Enjoy some refreshments, a little 'Taste of Iowa', and a tour of what was either your old Middle School or High School.

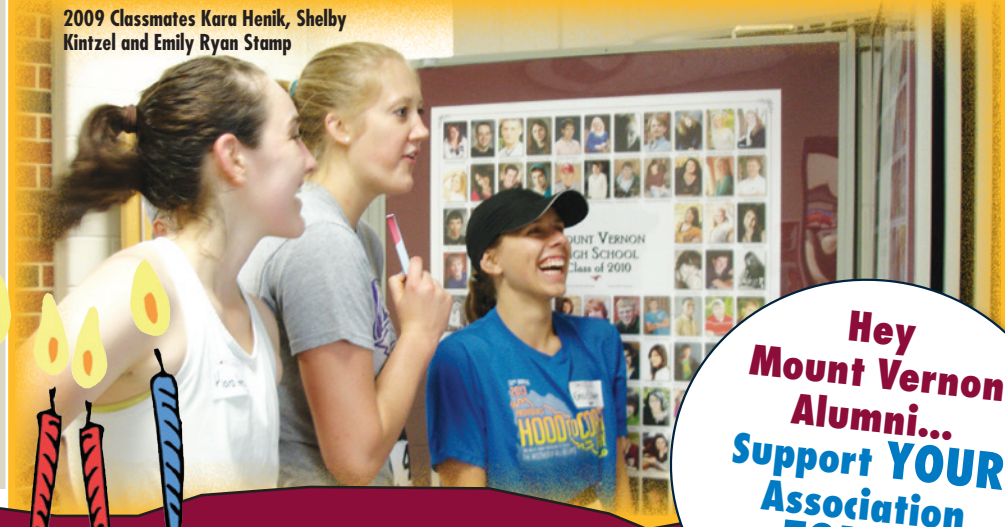
July 11 - Let's play some basketball! Join in for a pick-up game or just to shoot some baskets in the High School Gym. Open to all from 2-4 pm.

Also in 2015

Friday, September 18 - Homecoming and Alumni Hall of Fame Award Ceremony, also honoring the State Football Teams of 1993 and 1994, Enjoy some cake at the Homecoming Reception tent to celebrate the Association's 10 Year Anniversary.

Saturday, September 19 - NEW THIS YEAR - Mustang 5K.

2009 Classmates Kara Henik, Shelby Kintzel and Emily Ryan Stamp



Hey Mount Vernon Alumni... Support YOUR Association TODAY! See page 11

Above, Vernon Burge '37 and Austin Armstrong '33 enjoy a visit at the 2014 All-Alumni-Community Breakfast. Austin celebrated his 100th Birthday in March 2015. Leo Beranek '31 turned 100 in September 2014, making him our oldest living alum (see page 15)

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ALL ALUMNI EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY & FRIENDS

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



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!



Mustang ALUMNI

Association Celebrates Ten Years



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

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.

It was September of 2004 when the first calls went out to find representatives from every Mount Vernon graduating class. Then in April of 2005, these people met for the very first time. Thirty-eight class representatives discussed the future of the Alumni Association, posed for the historical 'first picture,' then headed off to the ground-breaking ceremony for the new high school.

In the fall of 2005, they met again at Homecoming for the first Association Annual Meeting, with the goal of naming the first officers and a committee to form a document that would guide the organization. Since that time the By-Laws were completed and a host of alumni activities introduced.

These ten years also mark the maturity the Association has been able to achieve with its data-base development, continuing ideas about how alums can have a presence in the school district, the twice yearly alumni newsletter, its developing website presence, new Homecoming traditions and the Alumni Awards.

Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher '65, one of our original board members, says "When we began, we weren't sure what our alums would want in terms of alumni activities, primarily social. We continually evaluate and continually try to improve. We are always open to suggestions. We have really appreciated both the volunteer and the financial support from our alumni, and

the support from the School District and Foundation. On our end we love the notes, the attendance, and the support that shows us we are going in the right direction. Sometimes we feel the way is a crooked road, but we just keep at it. If you have never attended an alumni breakfast, reception, or award event, I encourage you to soon. We have so much fun, and our alums are just the best! "

1981 MV Alum and former School District Board Member and Foundation Director, Bob Penn, who was an original proponent of forming the Alumni Association says

"I understood the deep value the Alumni Association would have from the beginning. As diverse as we all are we share a tremendous amount in common. Wherever our alumni live today we still like to connect with our roots and with each other.

We had no idea how truly grand the Association would become. The newsletters are spectacular. The Association boards and volunteers are amazing. The impact has reached further than anyone could have imagined. The School Foundation has benefitted. The greater community of Mount Vernon has benefitted.

The Association is more proof that exceeding expectations is a tradition with Mount Vernon students and alumni. I knew in my heart that other alumni felt the same way that I did

MV Community Events

www.visitmvl.com

June 6	Chocolate Walk
July 4	Antiques Extravaganza
July 9-11	Heritage Days
Sept 19	Lincoln Hwy Arts Festival
Oct 24	Chili Cookoff
Dec 3	Magical Night

4-16-2005
1st Alumni
Association
Meeting for class
representatives

5-2005
1st Alumni
Newsletter is
printed

7-9-2005
held 1st
Heritage Days
Breakfast
and Alumni
Reception Area

10-15-2005
First president
is Lisa Squiers
White '88

3-2007
Association
becomes
sponsor for the
High School
Honor Society



about our fellow graduates and our school. It's incredible to see what an organized energized bunch of folks have done with a simple idea. It's humbling to think that I get to be on the same team with them.

People from other school districts have asked me what we did as a school board to create such a great Alumni Association. The School Board can't take much credit. All we could do was share a vision and get out of the way. The reason we have such a quality Alumni Association is 100% correlated to the quality alumni who drive it. In 1988, school board member Dean Borg coined a phrase...while the phrase is only four words long to me it says it all. "We are Mount Vernon."

So, come to celebrate and have a piece of cake at Homecoming on September 18. White or chocolate?

We are thankful...

...to the alumni who have supported the Association with their volunteer help and attendance at alumni events, and financially with annual support (dues) and donations.
 ...to the alumni representatives and Alumni Board who keep steering in the right direction.
 ...to the Foundation Board, the School Board, and the School administrators for the support shown to the Alumni Association.
 ...to so many people and businesses who have helped in one way or another, it is truly impossible to name them all.

TIMELINE HIGHLIGHTS OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS...

- 1-2004 Discussions begin about alumni association
- 9-2004 Search to find class representatives begins. Meetings between individual class representatives and school staff take place to put data base into place. Representatives for approx 90% of classes since 1940 found.
Both an Alumni Web page on the District's website is created, and an online Alumni Data base is created -- an expansive and interactive database that includes alumni from 1930- to present day. Classes from 1879-1929 are listed separately on the Alumni Web site.
- 4-2005 1st Alumni Association Meeting for class representatives with 38 alums ranging from the class of 1940 to 2005.
- 5-2005 1st Alumni Newsletter is printed
- 7-2005 2nd Alumni representative meeting held to begin organization and discuss scope of Alumni Association. A By-Laws Committee is formed.
- 7-2005 Held 1st Heritage Days Breakfast and Reception
- 10-2005 Held our 1st Homecoming Reception
- 10-2005 1st Annual Meeting at Homecoming, approval of first By-Laws and our first board. Lisa Squiers White'88 is first Association President.
- 3-2007 The Alumni Association becomes sponsor for the High School Honor Society, providing volunteers & reception cake. Often an alum is the guest speaker.
- 12-2007 Inaugural Alumni Awards are announced.
- 6-2008 Judy Penn'60 volunteers and becomes overseer of the Alumni Data Base.
- 10-2008 Association announced first Alumni Hall of Fame inductees at the school's Homecoming game on October 3rd. John Rife'60 is our Master of Ceremonies. Kevin Rogers'81 is named Association President.
- 10-2008 Alumni Band made their inaugural appearance
- 7-2009 The Association's oldest alum, Myrtle Westcott Licht'29, was present at Heritage Days 2009.
- 5-2010 May 2010 marked the "unofficial" official kick off of our five year anniversary. President Kevin Rogers'81 and Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher'65 start tradition of presenting graduates with a Mount Vernon Alumni lapel pin
- 2-2013 An additional Alumni Award, the MVCS D Community Impact Award was added to the fall Hall of Fame awards.
- 8-2014 Dennis Jordan is named President of the Association.

Organization of the Association

The Association is made up of Alumni Representatives, the Alumni Board, and Alumni Coordinator, and alumni of Mount Vernon Schools. The Association is supported financially by alumni donations and yearly member support, along with the Mount Vernon School District Foundation, advertisers in the Alumni News, and School District staffing of an Alumni Communications Coordinator.

A reminder that ANY alum who is interested in being a class representative or who wants to volunteer for any of the activities is encouraged to do so. Class representatives are not limited to one.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Mount Vernon Community School District (MVCS D) Alumni Association is established to support Mount Vernon Schools alumni activities. This may be accomplished by, but is not limited to:

- Fostering the continuing spirit of tradition and loyalty among the alumni of Mount Vernon Community School District.
- Creating and maintaining a channel of communications to provide school and alumni information to Mount Vernon Schools alumni
- Providing support to class reunion committees
- Sponsoring alumni events and fostering social activities for alumni
- Be a resource to current students



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dennis Jordan '87
Alumni Association
President

As we celebrate the 10 year Anniversary of the Mount Vernon Alumni Association, it gives us an opportunity to look back not only at the accomplishments of the organization but that of the School District, the Alumni Foundation and the various groups that continue to support the proud tradition of 'Promoting Excellence in Academics, Arts and Athletics'. We should also recognize all of the graduates from the past ten years and what they have been able accomplish in their early lives and finally, recognize those who are no longer with us but remain in our hearts and memories.

Anniversaries are also an important time to look ahead to where we want to go and what we hope to accomplish over the next decade. It has become very clear through the growing support of the Mount Vernon Alumni members that we may be at a point to put together a lasting legacy for all to participate and enjoy, but we need your guidance and support. As indicated in the brief article below about memorabilia, we have continued to receive gifts of memorabilia from graduates and we are considering the idea of developing a permanent exhibit for those gifts where past and future generations can enjoy them. Just as important, such an exhibit would allow the Mount Vernon Alumni to share their stories before they are lost. However, before we embark on this endeavor, we want to hear from you as it relates to this idea so as to determine the level of support. Remember, this is your organization and we are here to serve the needs of current and future alumni. Thank you in advance for your valued input!

To provide feedback visit the survey on page 11 or online, or please email Kathy Staskal at kstaskal@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or write to Alumni Association, 525 Palisades Road SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314.



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Class of 1989



Class of 1996

MUSTANG MEMORABILIA?

Cleaning out your closets or have some neat memorabilia you would like to donate to the Alumni Association? Although we continue to add these items to our Alumni Library, the Alumni Board is considering construction of an alumni history and information display for viewing at the High School. Should this project move ahead, items donated by alumni will be a part of this display. Alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or Kathy at 319-389-8602.



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FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

5th ANNUAL

FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Get your friends together for a team!

Get the old team together!

Get your classmates together for a team!

Sponsors welcome!

**IT'S BACK! JOIN US during Heritage Days on
FRIDAY, JULY 10th, MV high school football field
6 pm team sign in 7 pm Games begin!**

\$20 per person

Minimum 5 people per team 18 years and older

Teams must be pre-registered to play. Brackets will be created prior to tournament.

Proceeds to benefit Mount Vernon high school and middle school athletes.

Register by June 30 to guarantee a team. Space is limited!

To register contact : Matt Meyer meyer27m@hotmail.com 319-721-6262
Organizers: Rory Wiebel, Kirk Wischmeyer, Josh Rife Sponsored by MV Booster Club



MEMORIES...HERITAGE DAYS 2014



Barb Neal Hutchins'57, Mary Thomsen'75 and Judy Caldwell Penn'60



Sue Bacher Hucke'87 enjoys looking at her class yearbooks with her children.



Bill Bys'68, Denny Wolrab'64 and Barb Thomsen Neal'68



Elizabeth Wolfe Kroul'43 and Helen Dvorak Stoner'46



Heritage Days 2014 brought alums and families together from all over the world. Approximately 400 were served at the All-Alumni Community Breakfast. An event you don't want to miss!



Families make the Breakfast a family event: Shown here are John Pospisil's family: his daughter-in-law Sarah, son Jared'94, John'66, grandson Marek, son Joe'98, granddaughter Addie, son Scott'95, and granddaughter Ellie.



For the 9th year, the Burke family and Carol Woods Boren'75 have organized and cooked the Breakfast. Thanks to Deanna Nelson'05, Marsha Purington (school district Nutrition Dir.) Matt Burke (business manager and school district Board Secretary-Treasurer), Dan Zimmerman, Mollie Burke'05, and Carol.



At left, school district staff, board members, and retirees enjoy the breakfast - School board member Virginia Roudabush volunteers for coffee duty and serves music teacher Kristi Keast and retired coach Roger Johanson. Above right, Sarah Dillard Miller'94 and Ben Brannaman'05

Cathy Hufford'83, Lynette Rodman Koffron'85, Kevin Rogers'81



2015 Heritage Days Events

THURSDAY, JULY 9 - FRIDAY, JULY 10 - SATURDAY, JULY 11

See a complete list in the Heritage Days issue of the *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun*.

Thursday: join Family Night and Fireworks at Kernoustie Golf Club

Friday: from 1-3 pm EARLY BIRD RECEPTION

In town early? You're invited to the 'Principal's office' at the First Street Community Building for an Early Bird Reception. Enjoy some refreshments, a little 'Taste of Iowa', and a tour of what was either your old Middle School or High School.

Friday: at 4pm in uptown Mount Vernon, Heritage Days officially opens and you'll find a midway with rides including three "extreme" rides. The Zipline and Eurobungy will be returning, along with two new rides - a gyro spinner and mechanical bull, children's games, street vendors, bingo and more. 'Entertainment on Main' will happen both evenings on the Main Street Stage.

Friday: 7pm Friday Night Lights Flag Football (see ad on page 4)

Friday: from 4-9 pm the Alumni-Community Reception Tent Open (next to the Bingo Tent and near Bauman's) and on **Saturday** from after the parade until dark. A great place to meet up with your friends and family!

Saturday: 8-10:30 am All-Alumni-Community Breakfast (serving from 8-10 am), and **all-day Heritage Days events**. Over Heritage Days you'll enjoy special events, and of course the annual parade on at 11am. Alumni-Community Reception tent open after the parade.

Saturday: 2-4 pm Open Gym at High School -- Open to all

SEE LIST OF 2015 ALUMNI REUNIONS ON BACK PAGE



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REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

▼ CLASS OF 2009 - 5 YEARS



The Class of 2009 celebrated their first reunion with a bonfire during Heritage Days at the Ryan home. From left to right: Nate Myhre, Matt Hess, Josh Huffman, Kara Henik, Kyle Wolter, Shelby Kintzel, Emily Ryan Stamp, Tom Schroeder, Doug Rice, Alex Brannaman, Jon Weirather, Ben Schutt, Zach Demanett, Ben Kraus

▼ CLASS OF 2004 - 10 years



The Class of 2004 held their reunion at Kroul Farms over Heritage Days weekend in 2014. Pictured left to right: Caitlin Bienemann, Laura Damon-Moore, Jason Williams, Jacob Craig, Will Casey, Joe Siegle, Dustin Stewart, Jacob Broulik, Matt Kroul, Michael Brandt, Amy Benesh, Curtis Russell, Brittany Brannaman, Joe Weirather, Kadera Scanlon, Tim Campagna, Shannon Hartwig, Chris deLaubenfels, Jon Stoner (in front: Steven Kreinbrink, Brian Hess)

▼ CLASS OF 1974 - 40 YEARS



The Class of 1974 enjoyed a September Saturday night Reunion at Gwen's Restaurant. Front row, left to right, Anna (Tonne) Broulik, Shirley (Klinsky) Mott, Joel Wallace, Sandy (Rice) Schloss, Denise (Koss) Brunzman, Deb (Vargason) Bys, Diane (Victor) Raymond
Middle row: Tim Pflfner, Roxanna (Post) Conley, Robert Broulik, Deb (Biley) Thorman, Vickie (Hill) Reynolds, Cindy (Feaker) Johnson, Carol (Tesar) Brannaman, Ann (Dvorak) Ash, Mark Walden
Back row: Craig Hoffman, Tim Reilly, Guy Bys

2015 Homecoming Events ~ SEPT. 18 & 19

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 - HOMECOMING AND ALUMNI HALL OF FAME AWARDS CEREMONY, ALUMNI RECEPTION AND 10-YEAR CELEBRATION CAKE RECOGNITION OF STATE FOOTBALL TEAM MEMBERS FROM 1993 AND 1994
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 - MUSTANG 5K (A NEW EVENT!)



▲ CLASS OF 1964 - 50 YEARS

The Class of 1964 celebrated their 50th on Heritage Days Weekend with a Friday night celebration at Sutliff, then on Saturday went to the Breakfast, put a float in the parade, and held a Reunion cocktail party at the First Street Community Center, ending with a buffet breakfast at Davis Park on Sunday. Pictured left to right, front row: Virgil Clark, Pat Benischek Werre, Joyce Miller Maxell, Jean Kuntz Bowman, Darla Stoltz Templeton, Susan West, Jeanne Peterson Cork, Jane Maxson Penfield, Denny Wolrab, Gary Kaplan. Middle row: Steve Howard, Chuck Cochran, Ray Stoner, Jo Kroul Clark, Sam Studt, Bill Henley, John Petrik, Russell Steiner, Regan Armstrong, Diana Kafer LaVoi, Mary Bauman Kolbe, Chris Hudson Brown, Ron Armstrong, Joan Wallace Burge, Lyman Stoneking. Back row: Tex Clay, Mikl Brawner, Bob Jilovec, John Saathoff, Ron Longerebeam, Dennis Akers, Jim Wallace.

▼ CLASS OF 1984 - 30 YEARS



The Class of 1984 celebrated their 30th with a BBQ dinner at the Drahos Family Farm on July 11th. Kneeling: Ross Dutton, Jodi Hartz (Kaufron), Bill Clark, Jeff Pepper, Susie Wolfe, Jackie Jordan Morrill. Front: Daryl Becicka, Maureen Cullen, Tina Myers Skibbe, Cindy Houser, Toni Wilke. Second from back: Trina Allen (Russel), Sarah Booth, Jill Renea Woods, Colleen Corcoran, Mike Martin, Sharon Kuntz Glenn, Pat Melchert, Marie Konkowski Cullen, Lorie Fordyce, Mark Vislisl. Back row: Dan Drahos, Wade Squires, Doug Hanson, Phil Niehaus, Scott Reyhons, Craig Smith, Bill Mealmann, Kirk Bostwick, Beth Hufford

▼ CLASS OF 1989 - 25 YEARS



The Class of 1989 held a reunion party at the Regal Crown on July 11. Pictured left to right: Front row: Teresa Babcock Hines, Kathy Erie Bartmess, Mary Spellerberg Montgomery, Lisa Weddle Siebert, Kelli Curtis Chapman, Jen Carmer Back, Rachel Bly Hamilton, Diana Diers McLaughlin, Mike Russel. Back: Shawn McGowan Janssen, Tracy Bair Garvin, Duane Yock, Jessica Lane Robinson, Jeff Meeker, Sara Warner Hasselroth, Renee Carpenter Alt, Katy Schellberg Hess

▼ CLASS OF 2015



Congratulations to the Class of 2015. On Sunday, May 17th, 76 seniors walked the stage. Michele Meyer Grudzinski'92, Secretary, MVCSD Alumni Association, attended Senior Awards Night to introduce Courtney Maddocks and Abbey Teubel as the Alumni Class reps for the Class of 2015. Association Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher'65 and Michele attended the Graduation Ceremony to congratulate and present each senior with an alumni pin. (Picture courtesy of JoAnn Gage.)



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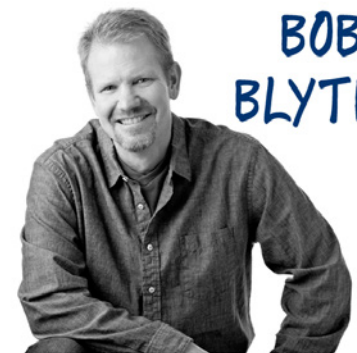
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THANK YOU for your 2014-2015 Support of the Alumni Association

One way YOU can help the Alumni Association is to be a 'Supporter'. We are asking each alumnus for a voluntary contribution of \$10 or more annually (July 1 to July 1) to help offset a variety of publishing, event, and Association expenses. Your financial support is greatly appreciated. Following are names of alums who have supported us for the 2014-15 year. **Please see page 11 for the 2015-2016 Support Form.**

Does your name have an asterisk* behind it? This means you have already contributed for the 2015-2016 year.

Is your name missing? Be sure to let us know
319-895-8845 or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.

Leo Beranek'31 Boston MA	David Wolfe'50 Los Angeles, CA	John Studt'54 Bentonville, AR	David Kroeger'58* Marion, IA	Patricia Bolton Erlenbaugh'61 Simpsonville, SC
Frances Keller Tragle'33 Mt. Juliet, TN	Howard DeCamp'51 Lombard, IL	Wayne Berry'55 Gilbert, AZ	Robert Lenz'58* Marion, IA	Mary Sue Reilly Freese'61* Cedar Rapids, IA
Ruth Conmeyer Lilley'31* Iowa City, IA	Don Jilovec'51 Mechanicsville, IA	Kay Jilovec Lind'55 Marion, IA	William Mullen'58* Browns Valley, CA	Randy Hoidahl'61* Aurora, CO
Lloyd Ellison'37 Springfield, MO	Lloyd Duffe'51* Fusagasvga, Columbia	Janet Johnston McCannon'55* Burlington, IA	Gail Yeisley Rhodes'58* Clive, IA	Helen Blue Holder'61* Austin, MN
Helen Peet'37* Mechanicsville IA	James Kent'51* Winchester, MA	Kay Mullen Morrissey'55 Monson, MA	Marilyn Dean Schnittjer'58 Mount Vernon, IA	Don Jilovec'61* Mechanicsville, IA
Dorothy Beach Fisher'38* Aiken SC	Carol Croft Kent'51* Winchester, MA	Jane Johnston Perry'55 Mattoon, IL	Helen Sproston Schneider'58* Center Point, IA	Barbara Williams Mulligan'61 Marion, IA
Merrill Pitlik'40* Cedar Rapids, IA	Allene Merritt Bys'52 Cedar Rapids, IA	Jerry Ringer'55* Bloomington, IL	David Sparks'58 Ankeny, IA	Linda Harman Armknecht'62 Independence, MO
Lorri Foster Henderson'42 Austin TX	Bill Lenz'52 Manning, SC	Nargi Rayman Steinbrech'55 Solon, IA	Jeannette Hammond Blessing'59 Mountain Home, AR	Michael Biderman'62* Chattanooga, TN
Mildred Fisher Knight'43 Aiken, SC	Richard Moore'52* Mount Vernon, IA	David Van Metre'55* Omaha, NE	James Clark'59* Cedar Rapids, IA	Linda Buresh Brouillette'62 El Cajon, CA
Elizabeth Wolfe Kroul'43 Mount Vernon, IA	Ann Vislisl Pavik'52 Granite Bay, CA	Phyllis Brecht White'55 Solon IA	Jane Costello Fink'59* Anamosa, IA	Jim Clark'62 Mesa, AZ
Norma Bartosh Kubichek'44 Lisbon, IA	Bill Yeisley'52 Cedar Rapids, IA	Betty Coon Ammeter'56* Cedar Rapids, IA	Ed Fordyce'59* Mout Vernon, IA	Bill Horton'62* Trophy Club, TX
Pauline Doubenmier Wagaman'44 Lisbon, IA	John Young, Jr.'52 Cedar Rapids, IA	Barbara Pence Conn'56 Laurel, MD	Richard Hoidahl'59* Johnston, IA	Sharon O'Hara'62 Oconomowoc WI
Glenn Klinsky'45 Marion, IA	Carlyle Bys'53 Cedar Rapids, IA	J. David Ennis'56* Jamesville, VA	Richard Glatly'59 Willow River, MN	Larry Patrick'62* Fairfax, IA
Marilyn Woods Overman'45 Cedar Rapids, IA	Marie Reyhons Beuter'53* Solon, IA	Kenneth Kaliban'56 Cedar Rapids, IA	Bill Jilovec'59* Mechanicsville, IA	Dennis Pisarik'62* Mechanicsville, IA
Jim Gunn'46* Mount Vernon, IA	George Brown'53* Kearney, NE	Roger Schnittjer'56 Mount Vernon, IA	Jerry Kroeger'59* Mount Vernon, IA	Joan Hunter Brown'63 Hutchinson, KS
Helen Dvorak Stoner'46* Amana, IA	Paul Drahos'53 Cedar Rapids, IA	Janet Miner Sessions'56* Kent, OH	John Maxson'59* Wheatland, WY	Tom Childs'63 Burlington, WA
Harold Klinsky'47* Cedar Rapids, IA	Rosemary Brecht Erenberger'53 Solon, IA	Leona Reyhons Smith'56* Mount Vernon, IA	Ann McCutcheon Niehaus'59* Martelle, IA	Charles Cochran'63* Cabin John, MD
Wilma Levy Whittemore'47 Callahan, FL	Susan Albright Kehrlit'53 Manchester, IA	Barbara Clements Stolpmann'56 Bakersville, NC	Marie Sippola'59* Cedar Rapids, IA	Robert Dvorak'63* Mount Vernon, IA
Millicent Hoggard Zenishek'47 Mechanicsville, IA	Jean Pavelka Litts'53* Mount Vernon, IA	Douglas Wolrab'56* Cedar Rapids, IA	Shirley Andrews Sparks'59 Ankeny, IA	Deborah Lenz Hicks'63* San Jose, CA
David Dean'48 Edmond OK	Barbara Beckhelm Moore'53* Mount Vernon, IA	Bonnie Humes Boodon'57 Navarre, FL	Sharon Neal Ulrich'59 Coralville, IA	Barbara Clark Ingersoll'63* Ely, IA
Alvin Klouda'48 Moline, IL	Crystal Carmer Osborn'53* Mount Vernon, IA	Myrt Clark Bowers'57 Mount Vernon, IA	Annamae Stoneking Baker'60 Mount Vernon, IA	Bob Jilovec'62* Mechanicsville, IA
Robert Wolfe'48* Mount Vernon, IA	Fae Sparks Edwards'54 Cedar Rapids, IA	William Bowers'57 Mount Vernon, IA	Keith Clark'60* Mount Vernon, IA	Deborah Lenz Hicks'63* San Jose, CA
Martha Osgood Bushnell'49 Misson Viejo, CA	Larry Edwards'54 Cedar Rapids, IA	Barb Neal Hutchins'57* Marion, IA	Susan Dye Hodin'60* Arvada, CO	Mary Ann Bohren Jilovec'63* Mechanicsville, IA
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George Hill'49* West Orange, NJ	Marie Russell Hruby'54 Oxford, IA	Joyce Olmstead Lucas'57* Central City, IA	John Hunter'60 Cedar Rapids, IA	Susan Ellison Kowalczyk'63* Downers Grove, IL
Jack Stanton'49* Dewey, AZ	Rachel Yeisley Miller'54 Fairfax Station, VA	Janice Lowe Whitman Majors'57 Mount Vernon, IA	Kathy Morrissey Layden'60* Cedar Rapids, IA	Karen Kaliban Fox'63 Marion, IA
De De Staskal Hicks'50 Rancho Palos Verdes, CA	John Pence '54* Fairfax City, VA	William Bowers'57 Mount Vernon, IA	David Neal'60* Davenport, IA	Sandra Schweitzer Haven'63* Watsonville, CA
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		Richard Bowman'58* Shorewood, MN	Dorothy Wolfe Welsh'60 Potomac, MD	Dennis Akers'64 Cedar Rapids, IA
		Robert Bowman'58 Glenview, IL	Frances Bensmiller Lanning'60* Nevada, IA	Jean Kuntz Bowman'64* DeWitt, IA
		Rodger Brush'58 Willow River, MN	Kathy Morrissey Layden'60* Cedar Rapids IA	Chris Hudson Brown'64* Springville, IA
		Richard Clark'58* Las Vegas, NV	Ted Pence'60* Tipton, IA	Jo Ann Kroul Clark'64* Mount Vernon, IA
		Larry Kramer'58 Marion, IA	Jean Plank Stinehour'60* Littleton, NH	Charles Cochran'64* Cabin John, MD
			Dorothy Wolfe Welsh'60 Potomac, MD	Diana Kafer LaVoi'64 Apple Valley, MN
			Steve Becicka'61* Bloomington, IL	

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- Ray Stoner'64*
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- Lyman Stoneking'64
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- Joseph 'Sam' Studt'64*
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Mount Vernon, IA
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- Morgan Stine'96
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- Elizabeth Stoner Cameron'97*
Holt, MI
- Amanda Dake'98
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- Megan Stine'99
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- Alice Stoner'07*
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- Courtney Sheets'08
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Ruth Bensmiller Reed*
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DONATIONS

Thank you to the following individuals who have given donations to the Association, either in addition to their support/dues, in memory of someone, or as a gift to help the Association.

- Vernon Burge Estate in memory of
Vernon Burge'37
- Margaret Clark Reilly'46
in memory of Robert Thompson'46
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- James'51 and Carol Croft'51 Kent
- Bill Lenz'52
- Richard'52 and Barbara
Beckhlem'53 Moore
- Fae Sparks Edwards'54
- Larry Edwards'54
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- Phyllis Brecht White'55
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- Janice Lowe Whitman Majors'57
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- Marilyn Dean Schnittjer'58
- Richard Glatly'59
- Richard Glatly'59 in memory of
Dennis Drahos'59
- Richard'59 and Constance Glatly
in memory of Janis Glatley
- Annamae Stoneking Baker'60 in
memory of Linda Heady Comes'60
- John'60 and Thelma Rife
- Dorothy Wolfe Welsh'60
- Karen Kaliban Fox'63
- Robert '63 and Mary Bohren'62
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- Dennis Akers'64
- Sue Martin Votroubek'64
- Gary Knutsen'65
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- Barbara Thomsen Neal'68
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SMITH'47
- Wilma Levy Whitemore'47
- Millicent Hoggard Zenishek'47
- Kathy Staskal
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- Eldean and Sheila Borg
- Marlin Smith in memory of Karen
Kent Smith'65
- University of Iowa Community
Credit Union in honor of
UICCU board member Dean
Borg
- Alliant Energy Foundation for
Kirk and Jenna Wiebel'91
Wischmeyer

A reminder that your donations are tax deductible
and it benefits the Association



REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

▼ CLASS OF 1994 - 20 YEARS



The Class of 1994 held a Saturday evening Heritage Days reunion at the home of Andrew Morf. Pictured left to right are: Front row: Patrick Elliot, Erin (Kenedy) Elliot, Andrew Morf, Haley (Stewart) Beehn, Nicole (Martin) Simmons, Jill (Lass) Swierczewski, Ebe Boettcher, Kim (Zanger) Tucker, Kristy (Gibson) Armstrong. Row 2: LaVonne Meyer, Sara (Steward)Bruning, Shanna (Brewer) Davick, Theresa (Berner) McDermott, Allison Dix, Mathew Poduska, Tammy (Rickles) Powell, Justin Martin, Jason Lang, Matt Plotz, Mathew Burgess, Doug Merrill, Matt Bunting, Sara (Dillard) Miller, Jared Pospisil, Brice Horton. The reunion was hosted by Andrew and Reagan Morf. The planning committee consisted of Andrew Morf, Allison Dix, LaVonne Meyer, Matt Poduska, and Ebe Boettcher.

▼ CLASS OF 1959 - 55 YEARS



The Class of 1959 held a Saturday evening Heritage Days reunion at the Lighthouse Supper Club. From left to right: Richard Glattly, Connie Meyer Kahl, Marie Sippola, Jerry Kroeger, George Pospisil and Jim Clark



From left to right: Jane Costello Fink, Sharon Neal Urich, Ed Fordyce, Linda Schick Drahos, Linda Armstrong Janko

▼ CLASS OF 1969 - 45 YEARS



The Class of 1969 held their reunion during Heritage Days 2014 in Mount Vernon. Friday night, they met at Scorz in downtown Mount Vernon. Saturday morning, they met with members of other classes, for the Annual Alumni Breakfast at the newest High School. Saturday afternoon, there was a parade and other Heritage Days events. Saturday evening they met at "Gwen's" restaurant in Lisbon for conversation, a picnic style dinner, and more conversation afterwards. Pictured from left to right; front row: Tom Travis, Cathy Humphries Stoner, Becky Sheetz. Middle row: Kathy Rilett Pisarik, Darlene Hartl Allard, Doug Pitlik, Mary Peterson Berry, Cindy Recking Montgomery, Steve Maaske, Louis Floden. Back row : Steve Overman, Linda Wallace Wiltfang, Allan Viktor. Others at the dinner, but not in this photo: Larry Pisarik'67, Dennis Allard'67, Dan Stoner'70, Mike Montgomery and Charlene Maaske. Also at Scorz were classmates Stuart Seiler and Mindy Naylor Ehler, and members of other class years.

Hey Mount Vernon Alumni... Support YOUR Association TODAY!

KEEP THIS NEWS LETTER COMING TO YOUR MAIL BOX

SUPPORT THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

HERE'S HOW...

ONLINE at www.MVAlumni.org
 Select the grey 'LOG IN' box. Use your email to log in. If you have never logged in, select 'forgot my password'. Need help, call Kathy 319-389-8602

OR BY MAIL return form & your check in the attached envelope: MV Alumni Assoc., 525 Palisades Rd, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

SELECT ONE OF THESE FOR YOUR ANNUAL SUPPORT:

(see pages 8 and 9 to see if you have already contributed)

- One Year Supporting Contribution\$10 per alum
- or Five Year Supporting Contribution\$45 per alum

SELECT THIS TO SEND A DONATION:

- additional donation or memorial..... _____

Amount Enclosed \$..... _____

Thank you!

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 _____

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI Association

2015-2016

FOR JULY 1 2015 TO JULY 1 2016

YOUR SUPPORT AND DONATIONS PAY FOR THESE YEARLY EXPENSES:

Printing and mailing of twice yearly newsletter approximately \$10,000

Alumni Hall of Fame Events & Promotion approx \$2,000

Homecoming Reception approx \$300

Database Software \$2,400 and more

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

TEN YEARS -- HOW ARE WE DOING?

Do you value the Alumni Association? Because the Alumni Association is celebrating 10 years this year, your board thinks this is a good time to ask for YOUR feedback. While no one has time for this stuff – will you please just stop and take a few minutes to help? (Also online at www.MVAlumni.org) Here we go...

Alumni first & last name, including maiden name _____ Class Year _____

(please answer yes or no to the questions below and add your comments)

1. Do you value the newsletter?
2. Have you attended one of our events – Heritage Days Pancake Breakfast, Heritage Days Uptown Tent, Homecoming Award Ceremony, Homecoming Game Tent?
3. Are we providing contact information necessary to plan class reunions?
4. Have you been to our website, www.mvalumni.org? If so, what feedback can you provide.
5. Would you consider supporting the construction of an alumni history display with either memorabilia or financially?
6. What ideas do you have to make the alumni association better?



ALUMNI IN OUR SCHOOLS

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Ann Koppenhaver, CPA
Class of '78
Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation President



From left to right: Braden Pospisil Rood'98 was invited by Principal Steve Brand to greet this year's High School students on the first day of classes. Sonia Essex Redmond'82 represented Mount Vernon Bank & Trust at this fall's Middle School Career Day, and Corey Brannaman'14 makes a visit to help out the high school speech Improv teams. Corey, along with Grant Freeman'06, Connett Croghan'12, Stephen Gruber-Miller'11 and Zak Moran'13, all visited the High School Improv Team during their winter break to give advice and support to the team. This winter break alumni visit has been a tradition for the past several years, and instructor Tawnua Tenley says "it's part of what keeps the program so strong."

EST. 1980



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The Alumni Association hosts the High School Honor Society Induction Ceremony each year. Above, Association President Dennis Jordan'87 is the Ceremony speaker, and at left, 1987 classmates Bob Blythe, Alison Morrissey Egolf, and Richard Wirfs join Association Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher'65 to host the event.



In early May alums and friends volunteered to help select the Class of 2015 student speakers. Shown from left to right, front row, Lisa Lnenicka Steven'87, Chair Mary Thomsen'75, Judy Stine, Leona Reyhons Smith'56. Back row: Pat Melcher'84, Allan Viktor'69, Carol Woods Boren'75, Joy Koehn Kuntz'76, Kim Zangger Tucker'94, and Marilyn Dean Schnittjer'58.



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2015 Homecoming Events - SEPT. 18 & 19

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 - HOMECOMING AND ALUMNI HALL OF FAME AWARDS CEREMONY, ALUMNI RECEPTION AND 10-YEAR CELEBRATION CAKE RECOGNITION OF STATE FOOTBALL TEAM MEMBERS FROM 1993 AND 1994
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 - MUSTANG 5K (A NEW EVENT!)

Alumni News...

Send us your information...
 alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us
 or call 319-895-8845

MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

Amber Melchert'09 is engaged to marry Matt Hess'09 on Dec 19, 2015 in Mount Vernon. Amber is the daughter of Pat Melchert'84.

Steven Bragg'08 married Lindsey Kimler on October 4, 2014 in Central City. The couple reside in Burlington. Steven's father is Daniel Bragg'82.

Clint Henik'08 is engaged to marry Kacie Norton on June 6, 2015 in Davenport.

Chelsea Lob'07 married Bobbi Imhoff on Sept. 19, 2014. The couple reside in El Paso, Texas.

Cathy George'04 and Chris Bostwick'05 are engaged to marry on July 11, 2015. The couple will reside in Madison, WI.

Jason Williams'04 is engaged to marry Brigid Collins on June 12, 2015. The couple will reside in Beverly Hills, CA.

Shannon Carter'01 is engaged to marry Wetson Currie on Oct. 24 in Palm Springs, CA.

Alison Happel'99 married Franz Parkins on Nov. 1, 2014 in Jamaica. The couple reside in Memphis, TN.

Jessica Rothmeyer'77 married Brant Scully on Aug. 1, 2014 in Denver, Colo. The couple resides in Aurora, CO.

BIRTHS

Elizabeth Davis VeDepo'04 and husband Lance of Mount Vernon a daughter, MacKayla Allison on Nov. 4, 2014.

Dustin Ohlfest'98 and Lisa Argotsinger Ohlfest'03 of Mechanicsville, IA, a son Waylon James, born on February 24, 2015. Grandparents are Martha Thomsen Ohlfest'77 and the late David Ohlfest'75.

Nick Boren'02 and wife Teressia of Mechanicsville wins Noah David and Ivy Grace on January 23, 2015. Grandparents are Terry Boren'77 and Carol Woods-Boren'75.

Micki Dietrich'02 and Jonathan Seagrass of Omaha, NE, a daughter Evelyn Adelaide Seagrass on October 11, 2014.

Sarah Kleinsmith Dannals'01 and husband Christopher of Madison, WI, a son, William Michael on December 29, 2014.

Luke Rasmussen'00 and wife Lesley of Mound, MN, a son Gabriel Paul on January 24th 2015.

Leo Beranek'31 celebrated his 100 year birthday on September 15, 2014. Leo is known for outstanding contributions in the acoustic industry, and received birthday wishes from around the world, including being featured by the Acoustics Society of America in their magazine 'Acoustics Today'. Leo is our oldest living MV alum.



Aubrey Scott Greg'00 and husband Curtis of Freeman, SD a daughter Lucille 'Lucy' Aurora on Nov. 10, 2014.

Andrea Miller Hobson'97 and husband Michael of Tucson, AZ two daughters, Isla Sloan born Feb. 9, 2013, and Reagan Sawyer born Sept. 9, 2014.

Ben Aalbers'92 and wife Heather of Kyle, Texas a son Nicholas Harmon on October 17, 2014

Josh Rife'76 and wife Megan Mount Vernon a daughter, Cecelia Marie on March 19, 2015. Grandfather is John Rife'60.

ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy Smykil Berns'67 and husband Ted of Sierra Vista, AZ celebrated 45 years in May 2014.

Ed Fordyce'59 and wife Karen of Mount Vernon, married Feb 6, 1965, celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary,

EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

Alexander Doser'12 was selected a 2015 winner in the annual soloist competition held by the Iowa State University symphony orchestra. Alexander is a junior mathematics major at ISU. He performed "Rachmaninoff - Piano Concerto No. 3 Mvt 1" as a guest soloist in the symphony orchestra's Feb. 27 concert.

Leeann Oelrich'12 spent her Coe College fall term in Spain as a participant in an off-campus study program.

Melissa Grunder'11 graduated summa cum laude from Iowa State University in the fall of 2014 with a bachelor of science in history, interdisciplinary studies.

Jordan Barr'09 was selected to receive a 2015 National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship program

continued on next page

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The following businesses are all owned by alums Beth Drongesen Mhire'86 and husband Dave, and Corinne Wilcox Drongesen'56

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In Memory of classmates we have lost

Betty Herring Martinez'44

Grand Junction, CO Aug. 10, 2014

Henry Carleton'42

Los Angeles, CA December 12, 2014

Mary Wolfe Smith'47

Mount. Vernon, IA Dec. 17, 2014

Florence Klinsky Kadlec'49

Center Point, IA. Jan. 14, 2015

James Neal'51

Des Moines, IA. Feb. 22, 2015

Linda Trpkosh Thomas'58

Mount Vernon, IL, Dec. 24, 2013

Linda Heady Comes'60

Mesa, AZ Jan. 7, 2015

David Stastny'67

Cedar Rapids, IA Jan. 21, 2015

Patricia Forde Mussing'68

Tipton, IA Nov. 7, 2014

Timothy Ely'73

Homestead, FL March 19, 2015

Robert Strauch'75

Hiawatha, IA Dec. 26, 2014

John Lane'84

Paris, Ark. Nov. 12, 2014

Betty Stoneking Caldwell Meyer

Mount Vernon, IA. Dec. 11, 2014

FRIENDS

M. Adria Kahler Ralston, Teacher

Mechanicsville, IA. Nov. 26, 2014

Virginia Larsen, Bookkeeper

Mount Vernon, IA March 30, 2015

Harold Suchomel, Maintenance Supervisor

Cedar Rapids, IA March 16, 2015

Jeff Merritt, Bus Driver

Mount Vernon, IA Jan 14, 2015

(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.)

Thank you

...to **Babs Beckhelm Moore'53** for donation of 1952 yearbook

...to Middle School librarian **Deanna Mlynarczyk** for 1994, 1995, 1997, and 1998 editions of 'Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans' with alumni poems in them.

... to **Jake Krob** at the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun for sharing photos and feature article information

...to **Rick and Trude Elliott** for use of the First Street Bldg for our upcoming Early Bird Reception

Corrections

Steven Bragg'08 marriage to Lindsey Kimler was incorrectly listed in the last issue. The correct listing is in this issue.

fellowship. She is a senior studying chemical engineering and mathematics with a minor in nuclear engineering at Iowa State. She plans to attend Penn State University to obtain a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering.

Jack Lob'05 graduated from the University of Minnesota with a second degree in Music Therapy. He obtained his first degree from Luther in social work.

Kristina Pitlik'05 earned a bachelor of science, cum laude, from Mount Mercy University in December 2014.

AND MORE...

Connett Croghan'12 is making his mark as a member of Iowa City's longest running improv group. Connett and nine other members of Paperback Rhino competed in March at the college Improvement Tournament nationals, thanks to a top finish in the Upper Midwest Regional event in December. He is studying theater at the U of Iowa and he hopes to perform and become a comedic writer for television.

Haleigh Ehmsen'12 was named the Saint Mary's editor for 'The Observer,' a student-run, daily print and online newspaper serving the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College in Indiana.

Taylor Dicus'11, a Cornell senior basketball center was named to the 2014-15 D3hoops.com All-Central Region Third Team.

Kylea Weber'11, a senior outfielder for Cornell College, broke the program's season record with an MWC-best 44 runs scored. She was named to the 2015 All-Midwest Conference First Team.

Howard Fruehling'89 was honored by the City of Cedar Rapids for helping to save a Cedar Rapids man after he went into cardiac arrest in August of 2014. Public safety officials say the immediate CPR performed on Raymond Taylor helped save his life.

Jennifer Clark Gonzalez'88 was recongized as a 100 Great Nurses of Iowa 2015. She is the daughter of Keith'60 and JoAnn Kroul Clark'64 and the granddaughter of Elizabeth Wolfe Kroul'43. Jennifer is an RN with the Iowa City VA Health Care System.

Michael Bowers'87 is Senior Director of Strategic Response & Global Emergencies where he leads a Mercy Corps' team of global first responders. He is currently bolstering the Nepal earthquake response team to quickly ramp



up relief efforts. With over a decade of experience directing programs in war-torn regions including the Balkans, Afghanistan and Pakistan, he's most recently focused on immediate response work after disasters in Haiti and the Philippines, as well as helping millions of Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

Dan Colehour'83 a singer-songwrite living in Nashville, performed at the First Street Community Center on May 30th. Dan was one of six winners at the Kerrville New Folk Festival.



John Pospisil'66 was named 2015 Hallmark Care Center and Cherry Ridge Assisted Living volunteer of the Year.

Anne Halsey'92 was elected in a May 2015 election to serve on the San Marcos CISD board of trustees.

Steve Meeker'95, a teacher at Linn-Mar High School in Marion received an A+ for Education! by tv station KCRG.



Dan Gaines'77 retired as the Mount Vernon volunteer Fire Department Chief as of January 6th after serving over 31 years. Dan served as chief for 10 1/2 years and assistant chief for four. His father, Jim'55 (d), joined the department in 1958, the same year Dan was born. Jim served for 15 years. Three years after high school, Dan applied to join the department. There was room for 25 members, and he had to wait his turn as the roster was full. He has loads of memories, particularly some of the biggest events in the community's recent history – the 1996 Pizza Palace fire, the 2006 J&D Locker fire, the 2008 Scorz fire, the ice storm of 2008, and the floods of 1993 and last summer. Gaines is proud of the job done during all of them, noting that "at least we didn't end up with holes in the ground" up-town due to the 1996 and 2008 fires.

See complete article by Jake Krob in the January 15, 2015 issue of the MV-L Sun



Nate Freeman'00 who has a bachelor's degree in physics-astronomy from Whitman College and a law degree from Yale, spent the first four months of 2015 biking through Africa. The 'Out in Africa Ride.' was a fundraising effort for a project striving to identify, connect and support nonprofit groups throughout Africa that are working for LGBT rights in Africa. Along with a group of 31 other riders, Grant left Cairo, Egypt and biked south through 10 countries. He wrote about what he learned in a blog (found at outinafricaride.org).

In his first Out in Africa Ride post he shared an explanation about what motivated him to go on the trip through Africa: "I got the idea for this insanity when I was working at the Constitutional Court of South Africa. I wanted to do something that would be as much of a physical challenge as it was a mental challenge, as well as something that would teach me new skills in areas that I find useful but intimidating, such as fundraising, website design, and social media. Most importantly, I wanted to stand up for something I believe in: namely, that LGBT rights are human rights and that a fundamental component of human dignity is for individuals to be free to express their sexuality and gender identity in a way that is personally fulfilling."

See complete article by Ann Gruber-Miller in the March 26, 2015 issue of the MVL Sun



Amy Friedl Stoner'01 works as a stylist at the Neil Boudreaux Salon in Cedar Rapids, which provides her with the flexibility she needs to balance work, family life, and her love for vocal performance Cabaret singer. Over the holidays, Amy took part in a variety show at the Metropolitan Room in New York City. The show was 60 hours of continuous entertainment in an effort to break a Guinness World Record that formerly stood at 12 hours. Over the years Amy has participated in various musical productions throughout eastern Iowa. Last spring Amy put together her own cabaret show "Amy at the Opus: The Story Goes On," which sold out its two dates at the Opus Concert Cafe in Cedar Rapids even before it opened.

See complete article by Jim Bonewald in the January 22, 2015 issue of the MVL Sun



Bill Strauss'82 wrote in to show and tell that he remembers when he earned his Eagle Scout in 1981 at Troop 40 in Mount Vernon. Pictured here are Bill, his son who just earned his Eagle at Troop 7 in Dubuque, and Bill's mother Sheridan Gillam Edmund'60. Bill's sister is Debbie Strauss'80 and his Grandfather was Eddie Petrick'3(d).



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Thank you to the alumni, businesses, parents and friends listed below who contributed to the Foundation from 4-21-2014 to 4-20-2015.

The Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation is a charitable non-profit organization that partners 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.

The Foundation receives tax-deductible contributions to support the programs of the Mount Vernon Community School District.

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With continued gratitude,
Ben Brannaman '05,
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One of the ways your donations to the Foundation work is through 'Educational Excellence' Grants. These awards are given to school district teachers to spearhead innovative projects aimed at helping them take education to an even higher level. The Foundation provided approximately \$6,000 for nine grants during the 2014-2015 academic year. Recipients of the funds are:

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Suzette Kragebrink and Mary Priske
Elementary Librarian Mary Priske and Middle School and High School Teacher Librarian Suzette Kragebrink will be using a foundation grant to welcome author Tim Green to Mount Vernon for a visit this fall. Tim is a former NFL player who after his NFL career has become a best-selling author.

\$1,000 Soft Foam Plyo Boxes
Greg Murphy
A foundation grant allowed Middle School Physical Education Teacher Greg Murphy to purchase soft foam plyo boxes for the middle school weight room.

\$1,000 Apple iMac
JoAnn Gage
High School Language Arts and Journalism Teacher JoAnn Gage now has an Apple iMac for use in her classroom. The computer is being used to create the yearbook DVD, to edit video podcasts, and to edit video for the MVHS newspaper website www.themustangmoon.com.

\$700 3D Printer
Mark Benesh'83
A foundation grant has allowed Middle School Art Teacher Mark Benesh'83 to purchase a 3D printer for his classroom. The printer gives the students the ability to explore sculpture in a different way, and allows them to create an actual replica of what they build on the computer.

\$694 World History Curriculum
Margo Massey and Maggie Lessmeier Willems'96
High School Social Studies teachers Margo Masy and Maggie Lessmeier Willems'96 will use a foundation grant to purchase supplementary materials for a new World History curriculum.

\$500 Transition Center Kitchen Supplies - Brandi Viter-Pitlik'96
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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



Thanks, Mr. Nelson, for sparing me that day. I'm happy to report that the rumors flying around on that fun, old wooden playground about the "half-Nelson" weren't true. Looking back on all these wonderful memories, I now realize that it's the people in the Mount Vernon Schools that make it such a great place to learn and grow.

Maggie lives in Mount Vernon. She can be reached at maggie.slaymaker@gmail.com

FROM RICHARD GLATTLEY'59

A lot of good memories from the carefree high school days, some of which, along with the wisdom gained since that time, cause me to wonder how I was ever fortunate enough to survive those years unharmed. Like the moonlit night one spring when a few of us went out to the Pal and decided it would be fun to cross the river on the ice and explore Howard Hall's place atop the cliff on the far shore. Despite the creaking ice and lack of any kind of safety or rescue equipment nobody seemed to want to admit to being too chicken (or as I realize now – sensible) to make the trip so we spread out and started the crossing. I suspect that if anyone would have been smart enough at that time to refuse to make the trip we would have all breathed a huge sigh of relief and amused ourselves giving that person a hard time about their manhood. We completed the crossing, climbed the stairs along the cliff face, found some kindling and wood for a fire in the outdoor fireplace high above the river to warm us up while we enjoyed our time of exploration around the vacant property before we had to face up to the unspoken terror of the trip back across the ice. The ice somehow managed to hold up to the second crossing so as they say all's well that ends well and since I had yet to gain any significant wisdom I didn't even have to change my shorts when I got home.

Getting thrown out of junior high Home EC class after my experiment to see what happens when you leave an iron sit in one spot on the apron I was making. Setting the front legs of the study hall monitor's desk halfway over the edge of the platform so we could watch the victim scramble to catch the glass top as the desk slid off the platform. Escalating levels of mischief in Latin class each semester where I finally won the contest with another classmate to see if Mrs. Bigger could actually flunk someone. Somehow despite all of these fun times I did manage to pick up a decent education at MVHS which proves that osmosis really does work.

Possibly the most valuable lesson I learned occurred during the homecoming game our senior year. That was the year after 11 of the 13 letterman from an undefeated team had graduated and those of us that took over starting positions had displayed our ineptness so we had serious doubts about our chances against West Branch. On the first play of the game we gained 8 yards with an off tackle play which we had come to consider successful if we made it back to the line of scrimmage. Everyone came back to the huddle saying "we can beat these guys" and we went on to win our first game of the season. It taught me the importance of a positive attitude and what can be accomplished when you believe you can do it.

Richard lives in Willow River, MN. He can be reached at rglattly@frontiernet.net



ABOVE: 3rd grade students utilize a supplemental literacy activity to help them with their reading skills.

AT LEFT: Students in Mr. Murphy's Middle school physical education class use the soft foam plyo boxes during their weight room work-out.

BELOW: Students in Mr. Benesh's Middle School art classroom show their results from using the 3D printer.



Pitlik'96 is putting a foundation grant to use in Mount Vernon's Transition Center. The grant is being used to purchase supplies to outfit a completely functioning kitchenette.

\$250 Alternative High School Book Jason Pershing and Mike Studt

A Foundation grant will allow Alternative High School Director Jason Pershing and Associate Mike Studt to publish a book written by Mount Vernon students. The Alternative Education students are writing, organizing, and creating artwork for the book.

\$150 Literary Bundles Third grade team

Thanks to a foundation grant, third graders at Washington Elementary were able to benefit from some supplemental literacy activities.

\$100 Animals Visiting Classroom Second grade team

The second grade team will use a foundation grant to bring four interesting animals from the Blank Park Zoo to Washington Elementary.

FROM MAGGIE BURKE SLAYMAKER'03

I have many great memories from my early years at Washington Elementary School. Thank goodness for Mrs. Hess, who always punched my lunch ticket so I could eat, even if it had gone through the washer at least three times. With Mrs. Newmeister in PE, "dirty backyard" and juggling (I made it all the way to rings, but couldn't pass into clubs) were some of my favorite activities. I have a copy of a painting that Mr. Benson showed to our class during art appreciation hanging in my living room today. And I can't forget all of my amazing teachers: Mrs. Petersen, Mrs. Melendez (now Mrs. Loeb sack), Mrs. Koehn, Mrs. Wilch, and Mr. Akre. They all helped shape who I am today. But, as I think back to elementary school, I will always remember Mr. Nelson.

After my first grade year, Mr. Cullen retired and Mr. Nelson became our new principal. One day on the playground, a group of older boys told my friends and me that we should never talk to Mr. Nelson or he would "put you in a half-Nelson". I had no idea what a half-Nelson was, but I knew I didn't want to wind-up in Mr. Nelson's office.

One highlight of celebrating your birthday at Washington Elementary was getting to go to the principal's office to pick out a birthday book which would be added to the library collection in your name. As I headed down to Mr. Nelson's office to pick out my birthday book that November day, I was terrified. All I could think about was getting the "half-Nelson". I can still remember what the office looked like when I walked into his corner office space. He was sitting behind his desk and greeted me with a smile as I stood there sweating and anxious. He handed me a birthday pencil and asked me if I wanted to pick out my birthday book. We then skimmed through my book and he even asked me what kind of cake I was planning to have with my family later that night. I was probably in his office about five minutes, but it felt like at least an hour at the time. Walking back to class I was relieved and excited about my book. I was never worried about chatting with him again.

ALUMNI

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

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2015 REUNIONS

2010 5 years
tba

2005 10 years - August 2015 tba
Contact: Chrystal Covington Wherry
Phone: 319-540-1879
Email: Crystaal2005@yahoo.com

2000 15 years - tba

Find us on Facebook
Contact: Lauren Sauter
Email: lauren.r.sauter@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

Saturday, July 11 Reunion at Whitey's Bar & Grill in Lisbon
6-9 pm \$15/person. Invitations will be mailed to addresses
we have on file. Please email 1995MVHS@gmail.com to
update your information.

Contact: Sarah Woods
Email: 1995MVHS@gmail.com

1990 - 25 years - July 11 weekend

Find us on Facebook. Saturday evening Reunion at
Kernoustie Golf Course

Contact: Brittany Kaalberg Booth
Phone: 319-895-6530
Email: boothjb@q.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

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: stewjs3@aol.com

1975 - 40 years - tba

Contact: Lori Lehman Reihle
Phone: 319-310-2639
Email: lar917@msn.com

1970 - 45 years - July 11

Saturday, July 11 Reunion at Gwen's Restaurant, 6 pm

Contact: Gwen Stewart Drahos
Phone: 319-455-2873

1965 - 50 years - July 11 weekend

Friday eve at Sutliff, Saturday am at Breakfast and float in
parade, Saturday eve Reunion at Sally's in Springville

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

1955 - 60 years - July 10

With the classes of 1953, 1954, 1956, 1957

Friday, July 10, Whitey's in Lisbon, 6 pm

Contact: Kay Jilovec Lind
Phone: 319-377-2079 or 319-538-6244
Email: kaylind38@gmail.com

1949-1950-1951- 65 years tba

Contact: Dick McKeen '51
Phone: 319-530-7978
Email: rmckeen933@aol.com

1945 - 70 years - July 11

Saturday, July 11 Reunion at Gwen's Restaurant, 11 am

Contact: Betty Pospisil Wolfe
Phone: 319-895-8125

...Even if your class isn't planning a reunion, join us at
any of our events. Open to all.

ALL-ALUMNI-COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 10 EARLY BIRD RECEPTION 1-3 PM

FRIDAY, JULY 10 AND SATURDAY, JULY 11 Reception Tent

SATURDAY, JULY 11 - BREAKFAST (by donation)