

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# ALUMNI NEWS



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

Above, Patty Lynch and Terese Pisarik '65 visit while labeling the spring Alumni News for mailing



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!

**INSIDE...**

- 2 President's Message
- 2 2016 Class Reunion List
- 3 2015 Alumni Hall of Fame Awards
- 11 1993 and 1994 State Football Championship teams Reunion
- 11 Keep This Newsletter Coming To Your Mail Box -- Support Us Please
- 12 'Save Our Fields' Nameplates Installed On Bleachers
- 12 Mural Is Preserved
- 12 Mustangs...What Are They Doing Now?
- 13 Class of '68 Creates Memorial
- 14 Alumni News
- 18 Your Class Representative
- 19 Alumni Awards Nomination Form

**ALL ALUMNI EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY & FRIENDS**

Get your nomination in today for the 2016 Alumni Hall of Fame! Deadline is May 1

## 2016 Alumni Events

**May 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! SEE PAGE 19.

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

**July 8 and 9** - Heritage Days in Mount Vernon along with Alumni Events & Reunions

**Fall 2016** - Homecoming and Alumni Award Ceremony. Date to be announced.

More information about all these events to come in the Spring 2016 Alumni News.

## 2015 Alumni Hall of Fame

The Mount Vernon Community School District Alumni Association is pleased to announce the following alums have been selected as 2015 Alumni Hall of Fame winners:

Achievement: Joan Suhomel, Class of 1974

Fine Arts: Alex Morf, Class of 1999

Service: Chris Lyon, Class of 1981

MVCSD Community Impact: Dan Gaines, Class of 1977

Athletics: Deb Winchip Douglass 1986

Award recipients participated in a full day of events on Friday, September 18. The Awards Ceremony took place at 9 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 despite pouring rain, along with the All-Alumni-Community Reception where cupcakes to celebrate the Association's 10th Anniversary were served. Turn to page 3 for complete Hall of Fame Awards article.

From left to right:  
Deb Winchip Douglass '86,  
Chris Lyon '81, Joan Suhomel '74, and Dan Gaines '77.  
Not pictured:  
Alex Morf '99



# Mt. Vernon Alumni



# Mustang ALUMNI

## THANK YOU ADVERTISERS!

Please support and thank the following publication advertisers:

Ability Physical Therapy.....	6
ACE Hardware.....	6
Barnyard Screen Printer.....	8
Envisage Photography.....	15
Gary's Foods .....	17
Hallmark Care Center and Cherry Ridge .....	8
Hills Bank & Trust Co.....	6
Investment Centers of America...	15
Koppenhaver & Associates .....	8
MIC Group Insurance Agencies...	5
Mount Vernon Bank & Trust .....	17
Mount Vernon Eye Clinic .....	15
Mount Vernon Family Dentistry ....	5
Silver Spider .....	5

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

### 2016

#### ALL-ALUMNI-COMMUNITY EVENTS

IN CONJUNCTION WITH HERITAGE DAYS  
FRIDAY, JULY 8 AND SATURDAY, JULY 9

Reception Tent

SATURDAY, JULY 9 Breakfast (by donation)

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

### MV Community Events

www.visitmvl.com

2015

Magical Night Dec 3

2016

Chocolate Walk May 7-8

Antiques Extravaganza July 4

Heritage Days July 7-8-9

other events: Lincoln Hwy Arts Festival

Chili Cookoff, and more

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dennis Jordan '87  
Alumni Association  
President

Congratulations to our outstanding Alumni Award recipients and we enjoyed opportunity to host them over Homecoming Weekend. This is clearly a special opportunity for all involved, but I would like to think that it leaves a lasting impression on the students. I hope this connection inspires them to make the most of their time while in school and consider what might be possible in their future.

Also, congratulations to the 1993 and 1994 football team members who were recognized for their outstanding seasons just 20 years ago. All the better, the Mustangs are seeking a repeat performance for the 2015 season!

Finally, as we enter into the Holiday Season, I would encourage you to take time to be with family and friends and give to those in need. I have found the most important gifts are the memories we create with the people we care about most, and the care and concern we show to those we may not know at all.

Happy Holidays!



## 2016 REUNIONS

### 2011 - 5 YEARS

Sarah Ryan  
Email: sarahryan320@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-929-9322  
Melissa Grunder  
Email:  
Phone:

### 2006 - 10 YEARS

Jessica Corcoran  
Email: jessicamcorcoran@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-551-2171  
Kim Smyth  
Email:  
Phone: 3194822541

### 2001 - 15 YEARS

Shauna Applebee-Dye  
Email: shauna\_d\_dye@hotmail.com  
Phone: 319-895-8074  
Jamie Wallace Smith  
Email: jamiewallace3@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-361-5875

### 1996 - 20 YEARS

Maggie Lessmeier Willems  
Email: maggieless@hotmail.com  
Phone: 319-929-4542  
Ben Pospisil  
Email: bennyp1984@yahoo.com  
Phone: 319-330-9493  
Brandi Viter-Pitlik  
Email: bviterpitlik@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

### 1991 - 25 YEARS

Jenny Moore Hampton  
Email: jennykayhampton@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-651-3439  
Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer  
Email: jennawischmeyer@hotmail.com  
Phone: 319-895-6008

### 1986 - 30 YEARS

Deb Winchip Douglass  
Email: debbilld@netins.net  
Phone: 641-755-3055

### 1981 - 35 YEARS

Rhondi Ewing 805-499-1415  
Email: rhondi@ewingdesign.com  
Phone: 805-499-1415

### 1976 - 40 YEARS

Glori Holtz Roman  
Email: glori17@msn.com  
Phone: 319-396-2991

### 1971 - 45 YEARS

Wendy Kaplan Johnson 1971  
Email: johnsonwendy725@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-551-1428

### 1966 - 50 YEARS - Heritage Days weekend

Margaret Ellison Duffy  
Email: margy.917@live.com  
Phone: 319-930-0917

Jeri Neal

Email: jmn773@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-895-8171

Cindy Buresh Prewitt  
Email: cynprew@comcast.net  
Phone: 952-920-1447

### 1961 - 55 YEARS

Richard Blew  
Email: rkblew@comcast.net  
Phone: 816-529-3750

Barbara 'Bunny' Williams Copeland  
Phone: 377-7644

### 1956 - 60 YEARS - Heritage Days weekend

Leona Reyhons Smith  
Email: leonasmith@yahoo.com  
Phone: 319-895-8097

Roger Schnittjer  
Email: rmschnittjer@gmail.com  
Phone: 319-895-8817

### 1951 - 65 YEARS (1949, 1950, 1951) held fall 2015

### 1946 - 70 YEARS

Margaret Clark Reilly  
Phone: 895-6090

### 1941 - 75 YEARS

### 1936 - 80 YEARS

### 1931 - 85 YEARS

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



# 2015 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME



Community, alums, family, and high school students attended the 2015 Alumni Association Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony in the High School gym on Friday, September 18. Group picture of Alumni Award winners with nominators and special guests: Front row from left to right, Bill Thomsen'72 accepting for Fine Arts Hall of Fame winner Alex Morf'99, Athletic Hall of Fame winner Deb Winchip Douglas'86, Community Impact Hall of Fame winner Dan Gaines'77, Service Hall of Fame winner Chris Lyon'81, Achievement Hall of Fame winner Joan Suchomel'74, Master of Ceremonies John Rife'60. Back row from left to right, Foundation Executive Director Ben Brannaman'05, High School Principal Steve Brand, Nominator Coach Bob Meeker, Nominator Jim Winchip, High School Student Council President David Taylor, Nancy Lane representing nominator Julie Atherton Lane'82, Alumni Association President and Awards Chair Dennis Jordan'81, Nominator Karla Steffens-Moran, Nominator Rita Suchomel Dudley'68, Superintendent Dr. Gary O'Malley, and School Board representative Denise Brannaman'81.



## Achievement Award Winner Joan Suchomel'74

Joan was nominated for this award by her sister, Rita Suchomel Dudley, from MVHS class of 1968. Rita says, "Joan graduated with top honors and a history of good works and accomplishments during her high school years. She was first chair clarinet in high school band and even designed a t-shirt for band members to wear while on tour. That t-shirt design portended her future as a designer, which has been her lifetime career." A straight-A student, Joan was named a National Merit Scholar and a State of Iowa Scholar.

Joan was one of the few women to major in architecture in the 70s at Iowa State University. In 1975 and 1976 she placed among the top 2% of students in ISU's college of engineering. She graduated in 1978 With Distinction, with a BA in architecture, one of only a handful of women in her class. Rita says "People had told her that architecture was a 'man's field' and that making a career in it would be a daunting challenge. She decided not to listen to those people, because she didn't see any reason why she shouldn't choose whatever career she wanted. Getting through architecture school took a lot of hard work, but Joan excelled at ISU like she did at MVHS, helped a lot by the great educational foundation that her Mount Vernon schooling provided."

After a few years of work learning to  
continued on next page



John Rife'60 was master of ceremonies for 8th year in a row.



Dan Gaines'77, this year's Community Impact Hall of Fame recipient, was supported by Fire Department members. From left to right: Sean Dietrich'07, Dan, Derek Boren'00, and Nate Goodlove'99.



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.

At far left Bob Meeker visits with High School librarian Suzette Kragenbrink. At left Marilyn Dean Schnittjer'58 serves alum Bob Penn'81.



This year's Athletic Hall of Fame recipient Deb Winchip Douglas'86 visits with classmate and 2012 Alumni Achievement Hall of Fame winner Graham Harman.







design hospitals at Hansen Lind Meyer in Iowa City, Joan went to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to earn her Master of Architecture. She continued in the Milwaukee area, working at St. Mary's Hospital and then Kahler Slater Architects. By this point in her career, when she could navigate a construction site as well as anyone, she knew that she could meet the challenge of being a woman in a man's world. In 1997 Joan moved to the Chicago area to take a position as a master planner/architect with a healthcare consulting firm. After a few years she missed the design environment and resumed working in architectural firms. She was promoted to Director at Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM) in 2013.

Her career in architecture, with over 30 years of experience in healthcare planning and architectural projects throughout the U.S., has earned Joan a reputation for exceeding client expectations in developing programs and space plans that result in "humane, operationally efficient healing environments, even with the most challenging technical and regulatory requirements." She leads teams of designers and heads projects that involve constant collaboration, communication, and research into the

latest needs of patients in designing health care facilities. She is also an author and speaker.

Joan serves on the board of the American Institute of Architects Academy of Architecture for Health, and will serve as President in 2016. She is a Founding Member of the American College of Healthcare Architects. Other volunteer activity includes extensive involvement at Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Oak Park, IL, particularly two stints as President of the board. She is passionate about international travel, and enjoys gardening and being Auntie to eleven nieces and nephews. Joan has also provided many years of support for the Suchomel Family Scholarship Fund for graduating MVHS seniors.

Joan would like to note in particular the encouragement she always received from her dad, Harry Suchomel, who passed away March 16. He would have been so proud to see her receive this award.

Joan can be reached at [jsuchomelbus@comcast.net](mailto:jsuchomelbus@comcast.net), or 736 S. Taylor Ave, Oak Park, IL 60304.



**Fine Arts winner Alex Morf '99**, was nominated by alum B.J. Leeper '97, who says "Alex is so well deserving of this award. Having had the pleasure of being in several musicals and All-State choirs together, the spotlight has always gravitated toward him. He's talented in so many ways, you could never put him in any one box. From an outstanding collegiate wrestler to a starring role on Broadway, he's always succeeded in everything that he does. His acting accolades are numerous. But, more importantly, he's always had the ability to connect to those around him not only on stage, but with his friendships off the stage. I've never seen someone handle the spotlight with more class and humility. Many, including myself, would say that they're so proud to know Alex. Because, as great of an actor as he is, he's an even better person and friend." A fine arts stand-out in high school, Alex now gets to live out his dream and make his living doing what he loves - acting.

During high school, Alex participated in plays and musicals, speech contest, choir, four sports, and was president of Student Council. Among his high school fine arts honors were 3 years of All-State choir, 1 year of All-State speech, and graduating as an honor Thespian.

Alex is a graduate of St. Olaf College where he double majored in English literature and Theater and graduated Summa Cum Laude. He was also the 2003 St. Olaf College Poet of the Year and a nationally ranked wrestler. He received his Master of Fine Arts from The American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, and was given the Carol Channing Award for excellence.

Alex is now based in New York City. He has performed on Broadway, playing Curley in 'Of Mice and Men', starring James Franco and Chris O'Dowd, and also starred in the first national tour of







Left, Alex and his family were unable attend the Award Ceremony as he was getting married the very next day in New York City. At right, accepting for him was teacher/coach Bill Thomsen '72. Top, Alex recorded an acceptance speech which was shown at the Reception and to students during the day.

the Tony Award winning play War Horse. He's performed in dozens of plays both Off-Broadway and at regional theaters across the country. He's been nominated for a Bay Area Critic's Circle Award, a Helen Hayes Award, and various regional BroadwayWorld.com Theater Awards. On television, he has had roles on shows like 'The Good Wife,' 'Tin Man,' 'Elementary,' 'Turn,' 'Daredevil,' and can be seen on the upcoming season of 'Madam Secretary' on CBS. He also has featured roles in the upcoming films In 'Dubious Battle' and 'The Long Home' (both directed by James Franco) as well as 'Maggie's Plan,' which recently premiered at the Toronto and New York film festivals.

Alex says the most meaningful work he gets to do is through an organization called Outside The Wire, which performs readings of classic and ancient texts for various communities as a way of opening up a dialogue about issues like PTSD, substance abuse, imprisonment, and palliative care. The project has allowed him to perform on military bases around the country, community centers, prisons, hospitals, and natural disaster sites, and to meet an "amazing array of heroic people from all different walks of life."

This fall, Alex will be performing in the Arthur Miller classic, Incident At Vichy, at the Signature Theater Off-Broadway, and Alex invites all mustangs to visit. Alex can be reached at alexmorf@hotmail.com. Watch his acceptance video online, find a link on our website or directly at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=VwVaRvN1p7M>



**Service winner Chris Lyon '81** was nominated for this award by Mount Vernon Fine Arts President (2014-2015) Karla Steffens Moran. In addition, nominations and recommendations were received from a multitude of supporters and Mount Vernon staff members. A software engineer by day, Chris is an avid volunteer and supporter of many organizations, primarily Mount Vernon science, Robotics and Fine Arts organizations.

Moran says Chris 'is a true friend to education in Mount Vernon. He has served on countless volunteer committees over the years, and he is, in a word: extraordinary. He serves above and beyond, writing grants, scheduling concessions, volunteering time with Robotics and Academic Decathlon, Fine Arts and Booster. He does all this on top of an incredibly demanding work schedule and he does so with a kind and gracious spirit.

"He has brought literally thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars into our music and arts programs and with a rare sense of humility. He does not bring attention to it, he simply sees need and addresses it... We have grown to depend hugely on the great effort he makes and the willingness to pitch in and the kindness and care he exudes and future inspires."

Nominator and Robotics Club sponsor Richard Scearce says 'for over six years as a robotics mentor, he arranged to leave his job as a software engineer early 2 days a week to provide the computer programming instruction and technical support that our Robotics Club need. He provided transportation for students and robotics gear to every tournament, and if any part or tool was

continued on next page



## Funky Fun Spot

Jewelry Toys Books  
Clothing Accessories  
Gifts for ALL

Main Street, Mount Vernon  
Old Capitol Town Center, Iowa City



## Mount Vernon Family Dentistry

**Ben Pospisil, D.D.S.**

107 First Street NE  
Mount Vernon, Iowa

319-895-6490

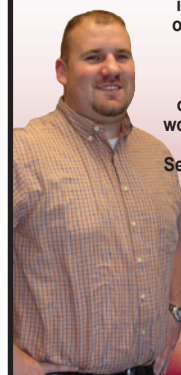


### RICHARDSON-HANSON, HOTZ INSURANCE AGENCIES

Our professional insurance team is dedicated to serving you with options, which allow you to meet your insurance needs. Agents, licensed in all lines of insurance, provide you the opportunity to have one agency working with you to create a sound insurance program. Serving alums across the midwest.

**319-895-8633**

306 Hwy 1 SE Mount Vernon



JEREMY HOTZ, Agent, and 1999 alum  
jhotz@midwestins.com



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Ability**  
**Physical Therapy**

• ORTHOPAEDIC & SPORT INJURIES  
• WORK INJURY • POST-SURGICAL REHAB

★ ★ ★ ★

**Michael Reiling** PT, MS, ATC, CSCS  
Licensed Physical Therapist  
Licensed Certified Athletic Trainer  
Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist

Same day appointments available 319-895-8655  
300 Virgil Avenue, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**SHOW**  
your school colors  
**ON YOUR**  
debit or credit card



**GET YOURS AT:**  
[HillsBankPicturePerfect.com](http://HillsBankPicturePerfect.com)

**Hills Bank** and Trust Company | IT'S THAT SIMPLE.<sup>SM</sup>  
1-800-HILLSBK • HillsBank.com • Member FDIC

**ACE**  
The helpful place.



**FULL SERVICE HARDWARE STORE**  
rental equipment tools plumbing  
electrical paint auto lawn and garden  
key making window repair hardware and more!  
Any day of the week you're likely to be helped  
by an alum or future alum in our store.

Open M-F 7:30-8, Sat 7:30-5, Sun 10-5  
222 1st Ave SE in Mount Vernon 319-895-8183



needed, he loaned it to the students or bought it for them. He played a major role in establishing Mount Vernon as one of the most successful FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams in the Midwest, including 4 appearances at the FTC World Championships. In addition, with Chris' sponsorship through Intermec Foundation, the Robotics teams were awarded thousands of dollars in grants. Because Robotics is not a school-funded program, we rely totally on our mentors and fundraising for support. Without Chris Lyon, our award-winning Robotics program would not exist."

Top, 'Whoops, someone forgot to put Chris's certificate in the frame!' says Master of Ceremonies John Rife '60. Middle, out comes a Robotics Club remote-controlled robot to the rescue with Chris's certificate. Bottom, Chris accepts the certificate from the robot.

Nominator and Washington Elementary teacher Nannette Gunn says "Chris has been a valuable resource both while his children were in elementary school and forever after. He was always willing to share his STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) background in many ways, donating his time and technology, and by donating materials."

Other stories include purchasing a weather station for the Middle School, teaching an after-school digital electronics class to 6th graders for several years, purchasing computers for the Middle School, working with post prom, Boosters, and Archery Club by donating his ice cream machine to earn several thousand dollars for the groups, making hot cocoa for Magical Night, demonstrating his wind turbine and electric bike, creating power points and giving presentations about needed auditorium repairs, spending 7 hours to relocate a projector and repair speakers, and master mind of many fund raisers. One nominator said Chris is a 'true friend and a great alum!'

Nominator and High School Choir director Thad Wilkins says "I simply cannot remember all the ways in which he has donated time, money, and expertise to help our kids... His initial help to me was centered on helping to launch our vocal jazz group... His dedication to the fine art program has been nothing but stellar. He consistently goes far above and beyond the traditional role of volunteer. The hours he has given to our kids are immeasurable."

After graduation, Chris earned a degree in computer science at Coe. He then took a job at Norand / Intermec corporation. He moved from Cedar Rapids to rural Mount Vernon in 1999 to raise his children in the school district. He is presently employed at Rockwell Collins. Among his honors are recipient of the Citizenship Award from the Iowa Bar Association.

Chris has written six grants for Fine Arts and Robotics for a total of \$15,000, has been a member of Mount Vernon Fine Arts Assoc. for six years, raised over \$60,000 for Mount Vernon fine arts with his company's matching gift program, and formed his own company, Iowa Ice Cream, to fund raise for Mount Vernon schools.

Chris can be reached at [lyoncf@gmail.com](mailto:lyoncf@gmail.com) or 1214 Holman's Road, Mount Vernon, IA 52314.





Julie Atherton Lane '82 was represented at the ceremony by her mother Nancy Lane who presented the award certificate to Dan.



### MVCS Community Impact winner Dan

**Gaines '77** was nominated for this award by both classmate Steve Thomas and alum Julie Atherton Lane '82. His passion and time spent with the Mount Vernon Fire Department are the hallmark of what made Dan the favorite for this year's Community Impact recipient. After 30 years as a volunteer with the Mount Vernon Fire Department – over 10 years as chief – lifelong Mount Vernon resident Dan Gaines retired from the department earlier this year. Steve notes that Dan is an exceptional role model and leader for youth in the Mount Vernon community.

Dan was featured in the January 2015 issue of the *Sun*. Following is information excerpted from that article:

Dan said his love of the fire department began as a young boy. "I grew up with Dad going to fire calls." His dad Jim served for 15 years and his uncle Paul was on for 38 years, his brother Doug '75 served for 20 years. Three years after high school, Gaines applied to join the department. There was room for 25 members, and he had to wait "Thirty years, one month and six days," he said. He finally got on in 1982. He attended his final fire department meeting Jan. 6, officially retiring as a volunteer. Gaines was a leader as chief for 10 1/2 years and assistant chief for four.

Nate Goodlove '99, who took the chief's reins from Gaines in 2012, praised Gaines' "innate ability to create great morale among our members." Goodlove, who also works as paid firefighter in Cedar Rapids, added, "I would not be where I am today as chief, or as a professional firefighter, if I had not been given the opportunities and advice (Gaines) afforded me over the years."

Although he considers himself an "old timer" now, Gaines has never wavered from finding ways to improve the department. When first on the department, Gaines and other volunteers used front-mount pumps and booster hose lines that sprayed just 30 gallons a minute. Today, the largest hoses have a 250-gallon-per-minute output. In the early years, there were just six air-packs for 25 volunteers. Today, there's a one-to-one ratio. Trucks have changed, too. The first truck purchased under Gaines' leadership was \$138,000 20 years ago. The most recent rig, bought in 2012, was \$330,000. Gaines was also chief during the years-long process to construct the new fire station, which opened in 2012.

Gaines is proud of all that's been accomplished over the years. But he's mostly passionate about service. "Dan has given countless hours to the Mount Vernon community, putting his chief and firefighter duties ahead of his family and job most days," Goodlove said. Gaines said he spent 30 years as a volunteer because of those he served with. "I love the people on the department," he said. "I love going out and helping people."

Even a dream job couldn't keep him away. In the earlier years, Gaines thought about leaving his drywall business to become a paid professional firefighter. He tested for several departments, and got a start date – April 12, 1990 – at one, for the City of Milwaukee. He said he quickly realized he couldn't leave his hometown. 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.

Dan was one of the organizing members of the Linn County Hazardous Materials response team. He served from 1986 to 1994.

In addition, Dan was cited by his nominators for his commitment to Scouts as a Boy Scout leader, something he's done for 18 years. Dan himself was a boy scout then got involved once again when his nephews Michael Conley '98 and Ben Walton '03 were scouts. Dan then went on to become a leader when his son Kurt, class of 2010, became a Tiger Cub. Currently he is the canoeing instructor and the Eagle Scout Mentor. Dan has helped with over 21 Eagle projects in the community. A few of the projects have included the gazebo in Sautter Park, and the pavilions at Davis Park, Bryant Park, Elliot Field, and the Nature Park. His construction background has been invaluable to the scouts allowing them to tackle big projects and learn a little about construction in the process. Dan has been to the Boundary Waters 4 times, organizing the trips the last 3 times. Dan also coached soccer, t-ball, and baseball for ten years when Kurt was growing up. He loved working with the kids and seeing them get better. He tried to instill sportsmanship into them.

Dan married alum Linda Conley Gaines '79 in 1981. Dan continues to operate his construction business which he started in 1982. Kurt became an Eagle Scout and graduated from the University of Iowa.

Dan can be reached at gainldk@msn.com or at 304 3rd St SE, Mount Vernon, IA 52314.

continued on next page

### Class of 1956

will hold their 60th class reunion along with Heritage Days in July 2016. Watch for information to arrive closer to Heritage Days.

### Class of 1966

will hold their 50th class reunion along with Heritage Days in July 2016.

Class of '66 is still missing classmate Pat Herring. If anyone has contact information for Pat, please contact Jeri Neal at 319-895-8171



## Change Your Address

...Not Your Lifestyle



Continue to enjoy your current lifestyle while residing in one of our five spacious apartment types. Live your day, your way!

- Full Kitchens
- Three Meals Per Day
- Garages Available
- Outdoor Living Space Options

**Schedule your personal visit and receive a free gift!**

### Cherry Ridge

INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING  
 217 Hwy 30 West • Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314  
 (319) 895-8249 • www.abcmcorp.com  
*Enhancing Relationships*



**Athletic Hall of Fame winner Deb Winchip Douglass'86** was nominated by her father, Jim Winchip. Local sports historian David Ryan'85 cites that "upon conclusion of her high school career in 1986, Deb Winchip Douglass was the most decorated girls track and field athlete in the history of Mount Vernon High School. Upon graduation, Deb was the school record holder in six separate individual or relay events. Fast forward 30 years, and Winchip-Douglass still owns three MVHS school records. Of particular school record interest, her 1985 season best long jump of 18'6" and 1985 season best 100M time of 12.12 both would have been winning respective length and times at this year's Drake Relays. Deb was offered a track scholarship to the University of Northern Iowa, but opted to walk-on at the University of Iowa Track Team where she competed briefly at the collegiate level before opting to concentrate on work and academics. Deb Winchip-Douglass, a key performer for the 1985 Mount Vernon Girls Track and Field State Champion team, remains one of the finest girls track & field athletes ever to don the maroon and white."

relays, at the State Track Meet in Des Moines. Coach Bob Meeker told the press that her 'quickness and speed as exhibited' are her strengths, but notes that her success is because of hard work as well. She had also been a member of the 1984 and 1985 Mustang state volleyball teams.

In her junior year, the MVHS Girls Track Team brought home the State Class 2A Championship track trophy. In addition, Deb finished 2nd place at the Drake Relays in the 100-meter dash and went on to compete at the AAU/USA Junior Olympics as a member of a 4x100 team prior to starting her senior year.

Throughout her four years at MVHS, as an individual, she broke four school records, two EHC conference records and 15 relay records. As a member of a strong sprinting group, another 11 school records, two EHC conference records and nine relay records, in some cases breaking their own records. Deb says "I am also very thankful for my teammates, who were all excellent sprinters in their own right. I attribute some of my personal and team success to training with this strong group of gals, as we all pushed each other to be our best." She left high school with six records on the school board. Today three of those still stand - in the long jump, the 100 meter dash and the 4x100 relay.

Deb is married to alum Bill Douglass'85. They have three children and live in Panorama, IA. Deb teaches online college business classes out of Des Moines. She serves on her local school board, volunteers for a number of local causes and enjoys her time with family.

Deb can be reached at [debbilld@netins.net](mailto:debbilld@netins.net) or 4331 Panorama Drive, Panorama, IA 50216.

Deb's track performances have longevity and have stood the test of time at Mount Vernon High School, as well as statewide. While her name continues to grace the Mustang record board located on the trophy wall at the High School, she is still named in state records. She is currently one tenth of a second and one and a half inches shy of the top 25 all-time leaders in the 100-meter dash and long jump, respectively.

Deb led her Mustang teammates in points all four years in high school, and lettered each year. Over her track career at MVHS, she earned four first place and four second place medals, split evenly between individual events and

**KOPPENHAVER & ASSOCIATES, PC**

*Certified Public Accountants*

204 Glenn Street SE, Suite 1  
 Mount Vernon, IA 52314  
 (319) 895-6001

Visit us on the web at [www.koppenhaverpcpas.com](http://www.koppenhaverpcpas.com)

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

**BARNYARD**

**SCREENPRINTING**

**RON CHAPMAN - OWNER**  
 Open from 8:30-4:30 M-F  
 319-455-2725  
 106 S Jackson St., Lisbon, IA  
 -We will match or beat any price-





Get your nomination in today for the 2016 Alumni Hall of Fame! Deadline is May 1, 2016 See page 19.

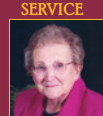


# MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

## 2008



Dr. James Croff '47



Jean Minish Stoner '57



Gary Knutsen '65



Marcia Russell '89

## 2009



Richard Bowman '58



Irena Moore Heiser '50



Paul Hufford '80



Kristin Stewart '99

## 2010



Leo Beranek '51



David Van Metre '55



Joy Jordan '87



Elizabeth Stoner '97

## 2011



John Rife '60



Millicent Hoggard Zenisack '47



Randy Hoidal '61



Mark Benesh '83

## 2012



Graham Harman '86



Dolores De Staskal Hicks '50



John Hearn '75



Margaret 'Maggie' Quinn Ellison '62

## 2013



Darla Stoltz Templeton '64



Richard McKeen '51



Dennis Wolrab '64



William Pringle '72

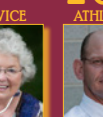


Karen Jilovec Martin '57

## 2014



Lindsey Borg '83



Myrt Clark Bowers '57



Greg Randall '82



Paula Holcomb '72



Ann Koppenhaver '78

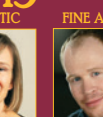
## 2015



Joan Suchomel '74



Chris Lyon '81



Deb Winchip Douglass '86



Alex Morf '99



Dan Gaines '77





## MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL 1993 AND 1994 STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS REUNION



Rory Wiebel '96, Josh Rife '96, Kip Sitzmore '95, Jason Lange '94, Scott Pospisil '95, Luke McDermott '95, Vance Ellison '95, Gabe Allard '95, Ryan Wieseler '96, Ben Pospisil '96, Coach Jim Bellamy, Matt Meyer '96, and home field announcer Al Craig.



Above, team members were honored on the football field during Homecoming 2015. Below, Coach Jim Bellamy talking to Jason Lange '94 at Saturday morning's reception held at the Middle School.

Squad members and their coaches from the football State Championship teams of 1993 and 1994 were honored at the Homecoming game on Friday, September 18, and the next morning with a Reception in the Middle School Commons.

### **SQUAD HISTORY** by David Ryan '85

**The 1993 squad** finished the season with a 12-1 record, winning the Class 2A State Championship in exciting fashion with a dramatic come from behind 22-21 victory over Britt West Hancock in the finals....a game which Britt West Hancock led 21-0 at one point.

Led by a ball control offense and a stingy defense, the season's highlights were many. Overcoming a midseason season 6-3 district loss to Solon, the Mustangs won all of their remaining district games to qualify for the state playoffs field. From there they peeled off three wins prior to the championship tilt, including a 27-0 opening round victory over Center Point-Urbana, a thrilling 14-13 quarterfinal victory over Sigourney Keota, and finally a 6-0 semifinal defensive battle over Iowa Falls. Of significant note the Mustangs quarterfinal opponent, highly regarded Sigourney-Keota, had knocked out previously undefeated Solon 15-14 a week prior to playing the Mustangs.



The Mustangs had several valuable performers on the season, including leading rusher and All-State senior defensive back Jared Pospisil, leading tackler and All-State offensive lineman Scott Pospisil, All-State lineman Gabe Allard, and All-State End Vance Ellison. Additional All-District performers included: Lineman Tom Rickels, Lineman Kip Sitzmore, Lineman David Ballstaedt, Quarterback Aaron Kaalberg, Defensive Back Luke McDermott, Fullback Danny Studt, Kicker Rick Arenas, and the second leading tackler on the team, Linebacker Matt Plotz.

**The 1994 squad** finished the year with a 12-1 record, winning the Class 2A State Championship 14-12 in a defensive battle over the Iowa Falls Cadets. The Mustangs were victorious in the final despite gaining only 2 first downs, however, defense ultimately won the day for the Mustangs as they limited Iowa Falls to just 85 yards rushing and 134 yards total offense.

The 1994 championship squad paved their way to the finals with a first round 34-6 win over Maquoketa Valley, a 14-7 quarterfinal victory over Wapsie Valley and a thrilling 13-12 semifinal nailbiter over #1 ranked Solon Spartans. The semifinal victory over Solon was especially sweet as the Mustangs had dropped a regular season district game to the Spartans earlier in the year by a score of 28-14.

There were several valuable Mustang contributors including Elite All-State Line-man and leading tackler Scott Pospisil, Quarterback and All-State Defensive Back Luke McDermott, All-State Defensive End Gabe Allard, Leading rusher and All-State Running Back Matt Meyer whose 27 touchdowns remains a school record, and All-State Lineman Tom Rickels. Additional All-District Performers included Offensive Guard Chris Pisarik, Offensive Guard and Linebacker Kip Sitzmore, and Kicker Rick Arenas.

Photos courtesy of Vicky Wieseler, Matt Thede, and Susan Fisher



# KEEP THIS NEWS LETTER COMING TO YOUR MAIL BOX



## SUPPORT THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

### HERE'S HOW...

**ONLINE** at [www.MVAlumni.org](http://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 to: MV Alumni Assoc., 525 Palisades Rd, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

#### SELECT ONE OF THESE FOR YOUR ANNUAL SUPPORT:

- 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!

#### 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

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**ALUMNI Association**

# 2015-2016

FOR JULY 1 2015 TO JULY 1 2016

## 'SAVE OUR FIELDS' NAMEPLATES FOR BLEACHERS ARE INSTALLED



Volunteers from the 'Save Our Fields' campaign installed over 230 plaques, individualized with donor names, on the bleacher seats at the uptown Mount Vernon School District football field. The 'Save Our Fields' project began in 2011 to make improvements to the historic football stadium. New bleachers, the biggest part of the project, were installed last year. In addition to the plaques, donors will be recognized on a board of names to be installed near the press box. Those working on the installation project included Carol Woods'75, Eric Roudabush, Joy Koehn Kuntz'76, Virginia Roudabush, Ann Kopenhagen'78 and Mike O'Brien.

## MURAL IS PRESERVED



Editor's Note: This article and photo is an excerpt from the September 3, 2015 issue of the *Sun* by Ann Gruber-Miller.

The Mickey Woods mural depicting life in Mount Vernon, which hung on the east side of Coldwell Banker Lee's Town and Country Realty building at Hwy. 1 and First Street for more than 20 years, has been preserved and will be installed on the east wall of city council chambers, in the lower level of City Hall. The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) made the recommendation at a recent city council meeting that the city council allow the mural to be installed. The mural was originally commissioned in 1988 by Realtor Lee Niederhauser, who passed away in 2007, to welcome travelers to Mount Vernon. After becoming weathered from hanging outside for more than two decades, it was taken down from the outside of Niederhauser's building a few years ago for conservation. At that time, artists in the community asked the city to hold the painting until a plan could be made for its future. The HPC was asked to propose a plan. Consulting conservationists encouraged preserving the mural and displaying it at some interior public location. They recommended the mural not be repainted, but be stabilized in order to save the original work and its historic interpretation of the town. The commission followed their recommendation. Created 12 years ago, they depict historic windows in Mount Vernon and five areas in town: the origins of Mount Vernon, The Military Road era and the Cornell College era, the railroad era, the commercial district, and the Lincoln Highway era and the Ash Park District. The now stabilized mural is being stored in the former uptown fire station until it can be installed. A grant from the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation to the Historic Preservation Commission and gifts from local residents and visitors helped with the professional fees.

## Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ STEVE CLARK'67



Editor's Note: This article and photo is an excerpt from the September 10, 2015 issue of the *Sun* by Ann Gruber-Miller.

Steve Clark has crafted toys over the years for his grandchildren. But the latest thing he made, he did with them – a scale model replica of the U.S.S. Iowa battleship.

Born and raised in Mount Vernon and a 1967 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, Clark now lives in Solon. Since 1979 he's been teaching industrial arts at Clear Creek-Amana High School.

Over the past two years, he and his four grandchildren, who live in Mount Vernon, have built the U.S.S. Iowa battleship model. "It was a labor of love for my grandkids," Clark said. "I enjoy making toys, and this is a big toy when you come down to it."

Steve is the relative of many Clarks in the area. He's one of 12 children of Jake and Marcella Clark of Mount Vernon, and the grandfather of four young Mount Vernon kids: third grader Gretta, second grade twins Adam and Erik, and first-grader Kevin Zehms. The children's father, John, is a 1994 MVHS graduate.

In 2013, the grandchildren saw some movies with battleships in them and went on a tour with their family of the U.S.S. Alabama in Mobile, Ala. After that, they and their grandfather decided to make a model of a battleship. They chose the U.S.S. Iowa, which was not only named after their home state but was also the lead ship in its class of "fast battleships."

It served in WorldWar II in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and also served in the Vietnam and Korean Wars. The ship was decommissioned in 1990, and in 2011 was rehabilitated for weekend tours in Port of Richmond, Calif. In 2012, it was donated to the Pacific



Battleship Center in Los Angeles and became the U.S.S. Iowa Museum. Residents of Iowa can get into it for free by showing a driver's license, Clark says.

Clark decided to replicate the 1942 version of the ship. He found a picture of it and measurements of it from the internet. Using a scale of five eighths inch equals 30 feet, he scaled the original, approximately 889-foot long, 160-foot tall ship down to 30 inches long, 12 inches tall and four inches wide. He and his grandchildren used flat sheets of balsa wood and did a lot of gluing and sanding. Clark made an inner frame, put wood around it and carved it.

The kids helped cut the wood and did a lot of the sanding and painting. "I painted this!" "I painted this!" "I painted this!" the kids said, pointing and jostling to show the parts they worked on. Clark made the parts for the ship out of materials that looked like the original and that he could work with. He made the super structure of the mast, which sticks above the model six to eight inches, out of a brass brazing rod, the hand rails by stripping out really thin electrical wire, the propellers by cutting out and forming flat pieces of brass, and the anchors by melting lead into a mold he carved out of rubber chess pieces turned upside down. He built two small catapults, which were used for launching airplanes off the back of the ship, and carved two small airplanes a couple of inches long out of wood to put on the catapults. He also made a wooden stand that says "U.S.S. Iowa," and painted a replica of the ship's crest on it. He painted a ribbon board of all the colors of ribbons the ship was awarded for the battles it fought. "My whole goal was attention to detail," he says. "If I'm going to do it, I'm going to do it right."

Clark even did it right by his family. He painted a list of the names of everyone who worked on it. "The grandkids want to do a submarine next," Clark said. "I said I'd like to do one of the ships I served on (in Vietnam)." He served on tank landing ships, which were as long as a football field and about 55 feet wide and could float in 14 feet of water.

The grandpa who's always liked doing things with his hands isn't likely to quit any time soon. And now he's given the bug to his grandkids, too.



## CLASS OF '68 CREATES MEMORIAL

A Wabash Valley picnic table has been placed at the Mount Vernon High School. The table, dedicated to the memory of deceased classmates, was donated by the Mount Vernon Class of 1968. The funds to purchase the table came from a Memorial Account that was established in 2013, after the untimely deaths of three classmates within three months.



Pictured from left to right, 1968 Classmates and Committee members Laura Werkman, Anne DuVall Rehfuss, Barb Thomsen Neal, Ricki Franks Onstott, and John Goodlove.

In 2013, while planning the 45th class reunion, classmate Leonard Ditch suffered a fatal heart attack. Two weeks after

the reunion, Steve Andrew, who was critically ill with cancer, also passed away. The class was greatly shaken when about three weeks later, prior to that summer, the class had already lost nine members: Carl Anderson, Ann Bunting Mock, Steve Horton, Mary Kingsbury Hanzlik, Barry Roberts, Charlie Driscoll, Dave Gaskill, Connie Kalous Koecke, and Steve Wolfe. Since creating the memorial account, two more classmates have died: Patty Forde Mussig and Bill Bys.

The Memorial Account was established as a subaccount of the Mount Vernon School Foundation, giving the advantage of tax deductible donations. The only stipulation associated with the account is that all donated money be used to benefit the school system in some way. This seemed very fitting since the "ties that bind" our class together are our common school experiences. Once the account was set up, a committee with members Barb Thomsen Neal, John Goodlove, Anne DuVal Rehfuss, Laura Werkman and Ricki Franks Onstott, was formed to oversee the money and determine how it should be used to memorialize the people with whom we had shared our youth and many life experiences.

The committee has taken the responsibility of sending a letter of condolence from the class to the family of each deceased class member. Because the account is relatively new and there were fourteen people to recognize, the committee, with input from the school, decided to make the picnic table its first donation. It has been placed at the high school for the benefit and use of students, faculty and visitors. The Class of 1968 is very happy to be able to make this contribution to the school district and hope it will provide many years of enjoyment. We encourage other Mount Vernon classes to establish similar accounts. Please feel free to contact Barb Neal (319-560-0197) or Foundation Director Ben Brannaman'05 (319-693-9520) for more information. Anyone wishing to contribute to this memorial account, please make checks payable to: MV School Foundation/Class of '68 Memorial Account and mail to: 525 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314. Online contributions may also be made at: [www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/foundation](http://www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/foundation). Please designate in the comment box that your donation is for the Class of '68 Memorial Account.

### 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**

### Thank you

...to **Lisa Lewis'83** for taking pictures at Alumni Awards events  
...to **Suzette Kragenbrink** and **Mary Hale** for video taping Alumni Awards events  
...to **Rich Hoidahl'59** for homecoming buttons  
...to **Greg Larsen** for Homecoming buttons  
...to **Mary Carol Plattenberger Lambertsen'42** for historical items



# Alumni News...

## Send us your information...

alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us  
or call 319-389-8602 Kathy

## MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

**Kylea Weber'11** is engaged to Nick Brautigam. They plan a July 9, 2016 wedding.

**Evan Freed'09** married Morgan Male on March 22, 2015 in Iowa City. The couple reside in Kansas City, MO.

**Madeline Jo Keleher'09** married **Chris Kerr'09** on October 3, 2015. The couple reside Saint Paul, MN. Chris is the son of Mark Kerr'73.

**Mark O'Connor'08** married Jenni Packer on August 15, 2015. The couple reside in West Des Moines.

**Sean Boren'07** is engaged to Brooke Staley. They plan a September 24, 2016 wedding.

**Alex Morf'99** married Charise Greene on September 19, 2015. The couple reside in New York City.

## BIRTHS

**Karissa Whitman Walker'08** and husband Brad of North Liberty, a son, Charlie Robert, on September 14, 2015. Grandparents are Kevin'76 and Becky Thumm'77 Whitman. Great Grandmother is Janice Lowe Majors'57.

**Jonathan'07** and **Lindsay Bock'07 Thuerauf** of Mount Vernon, a daughter, Kate Rose on February 2015. Grandparents are alums Robert'79 and Karen Valentine'80 Thuerauf.

**Karah Goetschius Hoffer'04** and husband Erik of New Lenox, IL., a daughter, Madison Kay, June 27, 2015.

**Kelly Pisarik Johnson'03** and husband Adam of Aurora, IL., a daughter, Lilly Olivia on April 24, 2015. Grandfather is Ron Pisarik'75.

**Ryan Nicol'03** and wife Becky of Aurora, IL., a son, Logan David on July 15, 2015.

**Lindsey Kerr Hotz'01** and husband **Jeremy Hotz'99** of Mechanicsville, IA, a daughter, Holly Jean on April 13, 2015.

**Dina Hoke Rashid'01** and Tom Rashid of Mount Vernon, a daughter, Alexis Grace on May 28, 2015.

**Derek Boren'00** and wife Lori of Mount Vernon, a daughter, Rylie Elizabeth on Oct. 6, 2015 Grandparents are Terry'77 and Carol Woods'75 Boren.

**Ellie Brandt McNicol'99** and husband, Jonathan of Tacoma, WA., a

daughter, Elisabeth Christine on July 10, 2015.

**Evan Peterson'99** and wife Jena White of Apple Valley, MN, a son, Patrick Evan, on April 18, 2015. Grandfather is Scott Peterson'71.

**Nick Nissen'98** and wife Allison of Mount Vernon, a daughter, Madelyn Kay, on Sept. 7, 2015

**Justin Dix'97** and wife Cara of Lisbon, twins Malcolm Minor and William Victor on April 9, 2015.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Mary Carol Plattenberger Lambertsen'42** and husband Ellis of Cedar Rapids, formerly of Martelle, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married July 15, 1945.

**Don'53** and **Carol Hartenberger'55 Walden** celebrated their 60th anniversary. They were married Sunday, July 17, 1955.

**Linda Pospisil McNeal'71** and husband Dan of Mount Vernon celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They were married June 21, 1975.

## EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

**Lucas Hansen'13** graduated from Kirkwood Community College spring 2015.

**Connor Younggreen'12** graduated from Kirkwood Community College spring 2015.

**Lynaea Kiefer'11** graduated from Simpson College in Indianola the spring of 2015 with a degree in criminal justice.

**Taylor Dicus'11** earned a BS from Cornell College spring of 2015 in kinesiology-exercise science.

**Kylea Weber'11** earned a BS from Cornell College spring of 2015 kinesiology-exercise science.

**Trevor Gretten'11**, cum laude, earned a BA from Cornell College spring of 2015 in religion and philosophy.

**Polly Carrico'11**, cum laude, earned a BA from University of San Diego spring of 2015 in marine science.

**Austin Swantz'11** earned a BA from University of Northern Iowa spring 2015 in communication.

**Zachary Barrett'11** graduated from Kirkwood Community College spring 2015.

**Caroline Hunter'09** graduated from Kirkwood Community College spring 2015.

**Andrew Brehm'08**, cum laude, University of Wisconsin Law School spring of

2015. Andrew is a 2012 graduate of the University of Iowa.

**Chelsea Dowdell'06** earned an MBA from the University of Phoenix in December 2014 and in 2015 started at Transamerica Retirement Solutions, LLC in Cedar Rapids as a Compliance Testing Associate.

**Jessica Hunter'04** graduated from Kirkwood Community College spring 2015.

## AND MORE...

**Holly Salzbrenner'11** and 2015 grad of the University of Northern Iowa, was named to the Capital One Academic All-America Division I Track & Field team by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Holly earned third-team honors after earning Academic All-District first-team in May. She is the first female track and field athlete at UNI to earn Academic All-America honors, also joining six Panther men who have earned this distinction. Holly graduated with her degree in biology this spring and has been accepted into Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Brianna Strong'10** returned to Mount Vernon to join the Cornell College volleyball program as an assistant coach in 2015.

**Jeff White'08** wrote in to update us about his acting career. "For the past two years I've been living in New York City and working as an actor in television; In the month of November I'll be appearing in three television shows: "Manhattan" on WGN, "How to Get Away with Murder" on ABC and "Elementary" on CBS. Anyone interested in more details can follow me on Facebook at Facebook.com/YoungJeffersonWhite or on Instagram and Twitter at \_JeffersonWhite."

**Ryan Whitman'03**, Mount Vernon High School Boys Track Coach, was named a 2015 at-large coach of the year for Class 2A by the Iowa Track and Field Coaches Association.

**Maggie Lessmeier Willems'96**, Mount Vernon High School Girls Track Coach, was named a 2015 at-large coach of the year for Class 2A by the Iowa Track and Field Coaches Association.

**Scott Rose'93** was elected to the Mount Vernon city council in the November 2015 election.

**Jamie Hampton'91**, a Mount Vernon City Council member, was elected mayor of Mount Vernon in the November 2015 election.



**Trisha Bothel Almond '88** now Chief Master Sgt. Trisha D. Almond, was promoted to senior enlisted adviser for the Washington National Guard. This represents the highest level of enlisted leadership and she is responsible for the welfare, readiness, morale, development and care for more than 7,500 enlisted personnel of the Washington National Guard. Almond is the first woman to hold this position in the State of Washington. She entered the Air Force in 1988. See complete article in the October 8, 2015 issue of the *Sun*.

**Darin Vig '86** won the Kernoustie Golf Club men's club championship in July. He shot a 101 on 27 holes.

**Kim Benesh '85** was named 2015 Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group's (CDG) Volunteer of the Year for a project at the Visitors Center and many other volunteer efforts. In her interview with the *Sun*, she said she volunteers "because that's what we're supposed to do. We each have something to offer." "I've always tried to be helpful," she says. "I was always raised to be helpful. It was instilled by my parents." Benesh's paternal great grandfather, Frank Benesh, had a shoe store on First Street where Maya is located now. Her paternal grandfather, Zeke Benesh, was a mail carrier in Mount Vernon, then the postmaster, and then the mayor. Her father, the late Frank Benesh, "was always active in the community," she says, and was part of the Masonic Lodge. Her mother, Lynda Benesh, was a teacher's aide at the elementary school for 14 years. "My dad was such a big part of the community. I feel proud that we can continue his legacy," Benesh says. See complete article in the August 21, 2015 issue of the *Sun*.

**Dan Drahos '84** along with brother **James Drahos '87** earned their latest BBQ award at the Muscatine County BBQ contest at the West Liberty Fairgrounds during the summer of 2015. Dan and James have been competition barbequing for 3 years since forming their team, 'Two Bohemians', and becoming members of the KCBS (Kansas City BBQ Society). They have been receiving top finishes the last 2 years in amateur events and are slowly climbing the ranks in the Pro division. The Two Bohemians catered the class of '84 class reunion picnic last year smoking/roasting a whole hog.

**Dan Colehour '83** performed in May 2015 at the the First Street Community Center in Mount Vernon. Dan is now award-winning singer/songwriter living in Nashville.

**Steve Goodall '83** was inducted into the Cornell College Athletics Hall of Fame for wrestling this fall 2015. A distinguished athlete at Mount Vernon High School, Steve carried his successes to the Cornell wrestling room from 1983 to 1987. A fourtime NCAA qualifier, Goodall cracked through with an All-American eighth-place finish at 177 pounds in 1986. Goodall won four consecutive Midwest Conference titles in the 177 lb weight class. Goodall finished undefeated in his career against conference foes in dual and tournament action. He was voted Cornell's 1987 Paul K. Scott Senior Male Athlete of the Year. The Rams were crowned MWC team champions all four years that Goodall competed. He also helped the team notched four straight NCAA top-25 finishes.

**Judy Whitley '82** is now campus director for Vatterott college in St. Joseph, Missouri.

**Devin Kelso '81** brought the The Kelso Heartland Homestay Program to Mount Vernon-Lisbon for its 10th year. Devin brings Japanese high school students together with local host families for a two-week adventure that combines serious study of the English language and American culture with some Iowa fun. The program ran July 22 to Aug. 5. Devin founded the program in 2004 with his wife, Hiroe, as a means of bringing their two countries closer together. "We wanted to build a bridge," Hiroe said. A grand total of 122 students have now participated in the program.


**Dan Bern '77**, now a Singer-songwriter, made his hometown debut at the First Street Community Center this fall.

**Dan Gaines '77**, now retired Mount Vernon fire chief, received a 30-year service award for his tenure at the Mount Vernon Fire Department during the annual appreciation dinner May 23.

**Steve Swaney '76** was promoted to Special Education Instructional Facilitator (SEIF) over 4 Behavior and Continuation schools in the Clark County School District (CCSD) in Las Vegas, Nevada. Steve has been a special ed. teacher the past 13 years before taking this new position.

**Jennifer Bern-Vogel '75** returned to Mount Vernon for a one night-only performance titled "To Life! Musical Reflec-

continued on next page




**Mount Vernon**  
Investment Center

Serving the Mount Vernon Community and Mount Vernon alumni world-wide

**SHELLY WOODLEY**  
Investment Advisor Representative of ICA

Located at Mount Vernon Bank & Trust  
206 First Street SW, PO Box 191  
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314  
319-895-6211 or 1-800-263-9890  
www.mvinvestmentcenter.com


Investment Centers of America, Inc. (ICA), member FINRA/SIPC, and a Registered Investment Advisor, is not affiliated with Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co. and Mount Vernon Investment Center. Securities, advisory services and insurance products offered through ICA and affiliated agencies and are \*not insured by the FDIC or any other Federal Government agency \*not a deposit or other obligation of, or guaranteed by any bank or its affiliates \*subject to risks including the possible loss of principal amount invested.



*From childhood to adulthood, we are committed to providing you and your family the highest quality eye health care, service and products.*

**MOUNT VERNON EYE CLINIC**

Dr. Richard Skotowski and Dr. Steven Sindt  
202 Glenn Street in Mount Vernon  
**319-895-8888**



**envisage**  
PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN  
Lisa Lewis  
221 6th St. NW • Mt. Vernon, IA 52314  
319.895.8870 • www.mystudios.com

# In Memory of classmates we have lost

**Ruth Conney Lilley '31**

Iowa City, IA June 5, 2014

**Mary Ellison Wolrab '33**

Mount Vernon, IA June 17, 2015

**Margaret Keys '35**

Iowa City, IA October 14, 2015

**Merrill Pitlik '40**

Cedar Rapids, IA May 17, 2015

**Norman Shestak '47**

Pickeral, WI Nov 7 2014

**Richard 'Dick' Moore '52**

Mount Vernon, IA June 30, 2015

**David Staskal '56**

Martelle, IA July 17, 2015

**Wayne Biderman '58**

Mount Vernon, IA June 14, 2015

**Patricia 'Patsy' Tonne Storla '60**

Mount Vernon, IA July 31, 2015

**Albert Cejka '61**

Cedar Rapids, IA July 16, 2015

**Dennis Akers '64**

Cedar Rapids IA June 14, 2015

**Kirk Shearer '64**

Elkader, Iowa August 22, 2015

**Tom Tyler '64**

Springfield, MO September 11, 2015

**John Krumm '65**

Cedar Rapids, IA September 24, 2015

**William "Bill" Bys '68**

Mount Vernon, IA May 22, 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.)

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

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

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

**DONATIONS TO BOTH ASSOCIATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

## Alumni News, continued

tions" on August 16, at the First Street Community Center Uptown Theatre. Jennifer said the program of songs she's presented was very eclectic and reflects different stages of her life – from Beatles and Broadway to swing-style and Schubert. Selections were in Hebrew, German and Yiddish. Previously trained in opera at the State Conservatory of Music and Theater in Hannover, Germany, Jennifer was ordained as Cantor from the Hebrew Union College-Debbie Friedman Sacred School of Music in 1995 in New York City. She performed off-Broadway with the Folksbine Yiddish Theater from 1995 to 1996 while still in New York. Bern-Vogel lives in Southern California with her husband, Ira, and son, Sam where she continues her chaplaincy work at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles in the ALS clinic and palliative care.

Jennifer said that the idea to perform in Mount Vernon made her realize that she graduated from Mount Vernon High School 40 years ago. "I feel grateful to have grown up in Mount Vernon. Even after having lived and worked in other parts of the world for so many years, I always love coming back ... our family has so many dear friends in Mount Vernon (and Cedar Rapids) who have been and still are a precious part of our lives. "And so I decided to put songs together that express gratitude for life through music – with all its highs and lows. I hope that those who come will find some aspect to relate to and that we can celebrate friendship and a few new moments of life together." See article in the Aug. 12, 2015 Sun.

**Wendy Ellison Stryker '69** wrote in to update: "After 42 years of full-time nursing, I retired in February 2015 and I am loving every minute! I wonder how I can be busier than when I was working but we joke that I've had to take vacations from retirement. Our youngest graduated from college in May so we are enjoying being truly 'empty-nesters'. Since retirement, I have been able to travel with my husband on his business trips and we have enjoyed seeing the country and family from coast to coast, north to south and places outside the country. We are loving living in western North Carolina and cannot imagine a more perfect place to call home."

**Linda Wallace Wiltfang '69** wrote in to update us... "We returned to Iowa in June, 2011, after living in the Ba-

hamas for 35 years. It has not been an easy transition, and I often feel I left a piece of my heart on a beach in Abaco. My husband, Dan, and I now live in Crawfordsville, Iowa. We have two sons. Our oldest, Daniel, is a Lt Commander in the Navy. He is a helicopter pilot and currently serving on the Ronald Reagan. He and his wife, Mary, just had a beautiful little girl in July, who joins her six year old brother. They will be stationed in Japan for the next 3 years. Our youngest, Jason, married his long time girlfriend in June and we love the fact that they live nearby in North Liberty. Jason is an attorney, and Pamela is a pharmacist. I am assistant manager at Four Seasons in Sycamore Mall in Iowa City. Once in a while, someone from Mount Vernon walks through our doors, and it is a joy to reconnect with old friends. I look forward to having the opportunity to get reacquainted with more of the people in Mount Vernon."

**Rita Suchomel Dudley '68** was given The Living Loehe Award by Wartburg Theological Seminary at their 2015 commencement service. The award shows that Rita exemplifies the Loehe tradition through her creative and wise service in home, church and community. She earned a B.A. in elementary education from the University of Iowa and had several teaching roles, including eight years as director of the Writing Center at Loras College, where she also instituted Protestant worship opportunities on campus. Rita was a charter board member of the St. Mark Community Center, now the St. Mark Youth Enrichment, in Dubuque.



**Vic Wallace '61** retired in December 2014 after 48 years of coaching football: 1 year as an Assistant Junior High Coach, 9 years as a Head High School Coach, 7 years as an Assistant College/ University Coach and the last 31 years as a Head College/University Coach. Vic and his wife Dee live in Jackson, TN.

**De De Staskal Hicks '50**, a 2012 Mount Vernon Alumni Service Hall of Fame recipient, was honored in June of 2015 by the Volunteer Center, South Bay-Harbor-Long Beach 'Legends in Our Time' event when they announced that going forward their building would be named the De De Hicks Volunteer Center. De De has been the center's president and CEO who was



responsible for securing the building the year after she was appointed the Center's executive director in 1987. Organizers also unveiled the De De Hicks Legacy Gift Fund, allowing anyone to buy a letter of building's name for \$25,000 to help support the center. In addition De De was honored at the 2015 Torrance Citizen of the Year luncheon and her organization was honored by the Palos Verdes Peninsula chamber of Commerce as the Outstanding Nonprofit of the year. De De is retiring at the end of 2015.

**SHIRLEY RYAN RECOGNIZED**

Former Mount Vernon High School teacher and volleyball coach Shirley Ryan was recognized with a Golden Plaque Award for distinguished coaching in the sport of volleyball. She is the fifth volleyball coach chosen to receive the award from the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union. Ryan was recognized in a ceremony during the state volleyball tournament on Friday, Nov. 13, just prior to the Class 3A championship team introductions at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids. Ryan retired as the head Mustang volleyball coach in 2010; she was there when the program began in 1973. Ryan's teams won three state championships – in 1984, 2009 and in Ryan's final year in 2010 (the team went 41-0 that year). The program had three state runner-up finishes during her tenure and won 13 conference championships. Ryan was inducted into the Iowa Girls Coaching Association hall of fame in 2012. In 2010, she was a coach of the year finalist for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. She was named coach of the year in Iowa three times (in 2007 and 2010 for Class 3A, and in 2009 for Class 2A).

**THANK YOU**

to all the people who provide support and volunteer for the Alumni Association

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**F O U N D A T I O N**

**Join Us and Make Your Gift Today!**

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.

Every year about this time, the Foundation reaches out to you: alumni, businesses, parents and friends of the Mount Vernon community. Your contribution of an amount of your choice will support the tradition of the Mount Vernon Schools experience. I kindly invite you to join us, and make your gift today.

On Mount Vernon!  
Ben Brannaman '05, Foundation Director

*Thank You for supporting the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation!*



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



GIFT CARD: PLEASE CLIP, COMPLETE, AND RETURN WITH YOUR DONATION. THANK YOU!

2015 GIFT CARD

Enclosed is my/our gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check payable to MVCS D Foundation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make this gift  in honor of or  in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

You can also make a gift online at [www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/foundation](http://www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/foundation)

I would like to speak to someone at the Foundation about a donation

525 Palisades Road SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314 319-693-9520 [bbrannaman@mountvernon.k12.ia.us](mailto:bbrannaman@mountvernon.k12.ia.us)

**IN THE SPRING 2016 ISSUE...**

2015 REUNION & HERITAGE DAYS PICTURES  
SUPPORTER & DONATION LISTS  
ALUMNI 2016 REUNION INFO  
SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR IN REVIEW  
send in your news by April 15

**May 1 Deadline- DON'T DELAY**

NOMINATE AN ALUM YOU THINK IS DESERVING OF A SERVICE, ACHIEVEMENT, FINE ARTS, COMMUNITY IMPACT OR ATHLETIC AWARD NOW!

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



# Your Class Representative...

Should your name be on here?

## GRAD YEAR      NEXT REUNION

2015	2020 - 5 years
Courtney Maddocks, Abbey Teubel	
2014	2019 - 5 years
Hannah Wieditz, Cory Brannaman	
2013	2018 - 5 years
Hanna Giegerich, Sarah Yeoman	
2012	2017 - 5 years
Zehra Khan, Jordan Roe	
2011	2016 - 5 years
Sarah Ryan, Melissa Grunder	
2010	2020 - 10 years
tba	
2009	2019 - 10 years
Emily Ryan Stamp, Kristin Kim, Alex Brannaman	
2008	2018 - 10 years
Emilie Lynch Morrison, Mark O'Connor, Ryan Winder	
2007	2017 - 10 years
Rachel Craig, Kevin Wolter	
2006	2016 - 10 years
Kim Smyth, Jesse Corcoran	
2005	2020 - 15 years
Crystal Covington, Beth Young, Anne Daly	
2004	2019 - 15 years
Laura Damon Moore	
2003	2018 - 15 years
Maggie Burke Slaymaker, Kelly Pisarik Johnson	
2002	2017 - 15 years
Teresa Britt Patterson	
2001	2016 - 15 years
Shauna Applebee-Dye, Jamie Wallace, Becky Wumkes O'Rourke	
2000	2020 - 20 years
Lauren Sauter, Jenny Mick Ballard, Paul Easker	
1999	2019 - 20 years
Betsy McWilliams Brown, Mike Ireland	
1998	2018 - 20 years
Charlotte Campagna McDermott	
1997	2017 - 20 years
Nick Boots	
1996	2016 - 20 years
Ben Pospisil, Maggie Lessmeier Willems	
1995	2020 - 25 years
Kim Stoner, Sarah Woods	
1994	2019 - 25 years
Andrew Morf, Ebe Boetcher	
1993	2018 - 25 years
Braden Pospisil Road	
1992	2017 - 25 years
Amy Reyhons Glick, Vince Ellison, Michele Meyer Grudzinski	
1991	2016 - 25 years
Jenny Moore Hampton, Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer	
1990	2020 - 30 years
Brittany Kaalberg Booth, Paul Morf	
1989	2019 - 30 years
Kelli Curtis Chapman, Jenifer Carmer Back	
1988	2018 - 30 years
Lisa Squiers White, Jennifer Clark Gonzalez Kris Lighthall O'Connell	
1987	2017 - 30 years
Bob Blythe, Sarah Miller Johnson	

1986	2016 - 30 years
Deb Winchip Douglass	
1985	2020 - 35 years
Marcia Peters, Dave Ryan, Jennifer Spencer Toriggino, Mark Zinkula	
1984	2019 - 35 years
Dan Drahos, Wendy Ballstaedt Wright, Pat Melchert, Mike Martin	
1983	2018 - 35 years
Lisa Lewis	
1982	2017 - 35 years
Sonia Essex Redmond, Cheryl Covington MacDowell	
1981	2016 - 35 years
Rhondi Staley Ewing, Kim Klinsky Broulik, Kim Mortensen Raim, Kevin Rogers	
1980	2020 - 40 years
Chris Kinley Osborn	
1979	2019 - 40 years
Jody Murphy Stewart	
1978	2018 - 40 years
Ann Koppenhaver, Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier	
1977	2017 - 40 years
Annie Lehman Currie	
1976	2016 - 40 years
Glori Haltz Roman	
1975	2020 - 45 years
Carol Woods-Boren, Lori Lehman Reihle	
1974	2019 - 45 years
Cindy Feaker Johnson	
1973	2018 - 45 years
Christine Hanson Starkweather, Anita Rahn Clark, Ann Clark	
1972	2017 - 45 years
Diane Zinkula, Kathy Akers Hartgrave, Joan Karr Berends, David Hoke, Jean Lehman, Glenn Wolfe	
1971	2016 - 45 years
Wendy Kaplan Johnson	
1970	2020 - 50 years
Nancy Vislisel Norlin, Gwen Stewart Drahos, Judy Hess Greco, Chris Swiser	
1969	2019 - 50 years
Cathy Humphries Stoner, Darlene Hartl Allard, Allan Viktor	
1968	2018 - 50 years
Rita Suchomel Dudley, Barb Thomsen Neal, Jane Colehour Pospisil, Ken Pospisil, Pat Pisarik, Marcia Swaney Wagner, Mike Smith	
1967	2017 - 50 years
Sandi Erenberger Hanna, Sharon Meyer Crain, Larry Pisarik, Roger Pitlik	
1966	2016 - 50 years
Margaret Ellison Duffy, Jeri Neal	
1965	2020 - 55 years
Susan Mounts Fisher	
1964	2019 - 55 years
Joann Kroul Clark, Mary Bauman Kolbe, Jean Kuntz Bowman, Tex Clay	
1963	2018 - 55 years
Bob Dvorak, Linda Peterson Nost, Karen Kaliban Fox, Chris Stoltz	
1962	2017 - 55 years
Bill Ellison, Dennis Pisarik, Larry Petrick	
1961	2016 - 55 years
Richard Blew, Barbara 'Bunny' Williams Copeland	

1960	2020 - 60 years
Judy Caldwell Penn, Annamae Stoneking Baker	
1959	2019 - 60 years
Richard Glatly, Ed Fordyce	
1958	2018 - 60 years
Marilyn Dean Schnittjer	
1957	2017 - 60 years
Myrt Clark Bowers, Karen Jilovec Martin, Karen Clark Fiala	
1956	2016 - 60 years
Leona Reyhons Smith, Roger Schnittjer, Deanne Dean LeVan	
1955	2020 - 65 years
Kay Jilovec Lind, Nargi Jo Rayman Steinbrech, Carol Hartenberger Walden	
1954	2019 - 65 years
Fae Sparks Edwards & Larry Edwards alternate with Norma Reyhons Abbott	
1953	2018 - 65 years
Babs Beckhelm Moore	
1952	2017 - 65 years
Bill Yeisley	
1951	(joint reunion with '50 and '49) 2016 - 65 years
Dick McKeen	
1950	2020 - 70 years
Is this you?	
1949	2019 - 70 years
Jack Stanton, Beverly Nation Behrens, Robert Gaston, Stanley Grant	
1948	2018 - 70 years
Ruth Reyhons Hinz	
1947	2017 - 70 years
is this you?	
1946	2016 - 70 years
Margaret Clark Reilly	
1945	2020 - 75 years
Betty Pospisil Wolfe, Marilyn Woods Overman	
1944	2019 - 75 years
John Wolfe, Mary Brawner Viter, Paul Brace	
1943	2018 - 75 years
Elizabeth 'Liz' Wolfe Kroul	
1942	2017 - 75 years
Mary Carol Plattenberger Lambertson, Carolyn Neal Palmer	
1938	2018 - 80 years
Mary Mulherin	
1933	2020 - 85 years
Austin Armstrong	

Many of the 1930 classes do not have a representative listed. But we hope all classmates from the 30s and 40s join us every year at the All-Alumni Community Breakfast to celebrate.

MV Retired Staff Representative ..... Joyce Loomis

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Dennis Jordan '87, President  
 John Pospisil '66, Vice President  
 Michele Meyer Grudzinski '92, Secretary  
 Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Treasurer  
 Jean Kuntz Bowman '64, Director  
 Alex Brannaman '09, Director  
 Andrew Morf '94, Director  
 Mary Thomsen '75, Director  
 Crystal Covington Wherry '05, Director



# MAIL BY MAY 1

How will we ever choose just five 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 July and presented during Homecoming weekend, but please don't wait! We encourage you to fill out this nomination form and mail it in.

If you don't know all the qualifications for the person you are nominating, fill in as best as you can or work with your nominee. We will also mail a questionnaire to each nominee.

**DEADLINE IS A MAY 1 POSTMARK -- GET YOURS IN THE MAIL NOW!**

'The Spirit Lives On In You'

# ALUMNI AWARDS

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 Athletic 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.

## 2016 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.mvalumni.org](http://www.mvalumni.org). Nominations will be reviewed and selected by the Awards Committee, and approved by the Alumni Association Board. Nominations are held. Questions - 319-389-8602 Kathy, or [alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us](mailto:alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us)  
Send this form post marked by May 1, 2016 to: Alumni Association, 525 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314  
\*\*Elected or appointed members of the Alumni Association Board are not eligible during their term of service.

# ALUMNI

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

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



## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!

**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](mailto:alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Dennis Jordan '87, President  
John Pospisil '66, Vice President  
Michele Meyer Grudzinski '92, Secretary  
Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Treasurer  
Jean Kuntz Bowman '64, Director  
Alex Brannaman '09, Director  
Andrew Morf '94, Director  
Mary Thomsen '75, Director  
Crystal Covington Wherry '05, Director  
Kathy Staskal, Communications

### FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Ann Koppenhaver '78 President  
David Ryan '85, Vice-President  
Matt Burke, Treasurer  
Denise Brannaman '81, School Board Rep.  
Virginia Roudabush  
Thomas Wieseler  
Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer '91  
Carol Woods-Boren '75  
Mary Young  
Ben Brannaman '05-Executive Director

### MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

Lori Merlak, President  
Sherry Grunder, Vice-President  
Denise Brannaman '81, Member  
Rick Elliott, Member  
Nannette Gunn, Member  
John Rhomberg, Member  
Dr. Mark Weldon, Member  
Matt Burke, Board Secretary-Treasurer  
Dr. Gary O'Malley, Superintendent

### Thanks for labeling the Spring 2015 Alumni Newsletter...

Annamae Stoneking Baker '60  
Carol Woods-Boren '75  
Jane Costello Fink '59  
Leona Reyhons Smith '56  
Marilyn Dean Schnittjer '58  
Terese Pisarik '65  
Patti Lynch  
Bunny Williams Copeland '61  
Jean Pavelka Litts '53  
Bob Dvorak '63  
Florene Allard Akers '65  
Keith Clark '60  
Jo Kroul Clark '64  
Barb Thomsen Neal '68  
Jeri Neal '66  
Nargi Rayman Steinbrech '55  
Barb Neal Hutchins '57  
Joyce Loomis

### Thanks for donating treats for the Hall of Fame Awards Reception...

Judy Caldwell Penn '60  
Lizzy Wolfe Kroul '43  
Leona Reyhons Smith '56  
Marilyn Dean Schnittjer '58  
Myrt Clark Bowers '57  
Jo Kroul Clark '64



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS