

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# ALUMNI NEWS

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## 2017 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 13.

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

**July 7 and 8** - Heritage Days in Mount Vernon along with Alumni Events & Reunions

**September 22** - Homecoming and Alumni Award Ceremony.

More information about all these events to come in the Spring 2017 Alumni News.

## 2016 Alumni Hall of Fame

The Mount Vernon Community School District Alumni Association is pleased to announce the following alums have been selected as 2016 Alumni Hall of Fame winners:

Achievement - Reverend Monsignor Thomas 'Tom' Zinkula 1975

Fine Arts - Richard Nelson 1950 (d)

Athletics - Vic Wallace 1961

Service - Carol Croft Kent 1951

Community Impact - The Stompers: Bill Bauman 1966, Steve Edwards 1965, Brian Harman 1969, Greg Harman 1965, Randy Harman 1968

Turn to page 4.



525 Palisades Road SW  
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314  
alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us  
319-895-8845 or 319-389-8602  
www.MVAlumni.org





# Mustang ALUMNI

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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

2017  
Chocolate Strolle - June  
Antiques Extravaganza July 4  
Magical Night in Dec  
Heritage Days July 6-8

other events: Lincoln Hwy Arts Festival  
Chili Cookoff, and more

## 2017 REUNIONS

### ALL-ALUMNI-COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 7 AND SATURDAY, JULY 8

Reception, Uptown MV

SATURDAY, JULY 8

- Breakfast (by donation) at High School

### CLASS REUNIONS

#### 2012 - 5 YEARS - tba

Contact: Zehra Khan  
Phone: (319) 895-0401  
Contact: Jordan Roe  
Phone: (319) 895-6588

#### 2007 - 10 YEARS - tba

Contact: Kevin Wolter  
Phone: 319-895-6404  
Contact: Rachel Craig  
Phone: 319-533-5918, 319-365-6636

#### 2002 - 15 YEARS - tba

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

#### 2001 - 16 YEARS - July 7-8 weekend

'Sweet 16' Reunion in 2017  
Watch the MV '01 "Sweet Sixteen" Reunion  
Facebook group for more information.

Contact: Sarah Kleinsmith Dannals  
Email: sarah.dannals@gmail.com  
Phone: 608-516-9272

Contact: Jessica Bigley Gallagher  
Email: jessiehgallagher@gmail.com  
Phone: 469-544-7858

#### 1997 - 20 YEARS - tba

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

#### 1992 - 25 YEARS - July 7-8 tentative

www.facebook.com/MvhsClassOf1992

Contact: Amy Reyhons Glick  
Phone: 563-357-7482  
Email: amymglick@gmail.com  
Contact: Vince Ellison  
Phone: 319-329-4742  
Email: vellison74@gmail.com

#### 1987 - 30 YEARS - July 7-8

on Facebook Group: MVHS Class of 1987

Contact: Bob Blythe  
Phone: 319-895-0188  
Email: bob@pollyanns.com  
Contact: Sarah Miller Johnson  
Phone: 651-485-9560  
Email: smillerjohnson@hotmail.com

#### 1982 - 35 YEARS - tba

Find us on Facebook - Mount Vernon High  
School Iowa Class of 1982

Contact: Sonia Essex Redmond  
Phone: 319-895-8259  
Email: mvred3@aol.com

#### 1977 - 40 YEARS July 7-8 weekend

Find us on Facebook - MVHS Class of '77  
Meet at Ann Currie's home Friday evening to  
decorate float and socialize, participate in the  
parade Saturday morning. Saturday evening  
Reunion tba

Contact: Annie Lehman Currie  
Phone: 319-895-8518  
Email: mustangmama77@msn.com

#### 1972 - 45 YEARS - tba

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

#### 1967 - 50 YEARS - tba

Contact: Sharon Meyer Crain  
Phone: 310-641-7652 or 310-880-0148  
Email: sharoncrain@gmail.com  
Contact: Sandi Erenberger Hanna  
Phone: 319-482-7121 Cell:  
Email: lhanna7@netins.net  
Contact: Larry Pisarik  
Phone: 563-852-7229 or 563-542-3201  
Email: lkpisarik@netins.net

#### 1962 - 55 YEARS - July 7-8 weekend

Contact: Joel Clark  
Phone: 6847-337-9007  
Email: joel1934clark@gmail.com

#### 1957 - 60 YEARS July 7-8 weekend

Contact: Karen Jilovec Martin  
Phone: 319-895-8255  
Email: klmartin39@gmail.com

#### 1952 - 65 YEARS - tba

Contact: Bill Yeisley  
Phone: 319-362-2732 or 319-560-1079  
Email: hcyeisley@outlook.com

#### 1942 - 75 YEARS - tba

Contact: Mary Carol Plattenberger  
Lambertsen  
Phone: 319-247-9913  
Email: elambertse@gmail.com

Did you go to school at Mount Vernon in the  
30s or 40s -- feel free to join other folks at the  
Breakfast to visit!

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Andrew Morf  
Alumni Association  
President

It is a pleasure and honor to begin my service as president of the Mt. Vernon Alumni Association. Thank you to Dennis Jordan'87 for the outstanding job he has done as our President.

It has been nearly twenty-two years since I walked the halls of our schools as a student, but many good memories and life lessons from kindergarten through high school stay ever with me. As time accelerates, these youthful years become more meaningful and poignant upon my reflection of them.

Three years ago, my wife and I decided to move back to Mount Vernon to raise our three young daughters so that they might experience the privileges of growing up in a community that reflects the best of small town America. It has been fun to see how much has changed, yet stayed the same, since growing up here.

The Alumni Association has had a busy fall. I would like to congratulate our Alumni Award recipients that were honored over the homecoming weekend. Like many of our alums, these individuals have gone on from Mount Vernon High School to make great contributions in their work and communities. It is truly inspiring to watch these recipients interact and share their stories and insights with the students of today. This is education at its finest, and I am proud of the role the Alumni Association plays to make this forum possible.

Our Alumni Board was saddened to hear news of the death of Leo Beranek'31 who died at age 102 and Austin Armstrong'33 who died at age 101, who we believed to be our oldest living alumni. We were also saddened about the death of two Alumni Hall of Fame recipients, Leo, and Richard Bowman'58.

Please let us know what your Alumni Association can be doing for you. We would love to hear any ideas you have for us. Many thanks to all who have provided financial support or have volunteered at any of our events this year. We appreciate those of you who responded to our fall mailing to support this newsletter. Your support is critical to the continuance of our association.

As fall will soon give way to winter, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays from wherever you are reading this. Go Mustangs!

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## Class of 1957 SAVE THE DATE July 2017

The Mount Vernon High School Class of 1957 would like to invite classmates and friends to join us in celebrating our 60th Reunion, during Heritage Days 2017.

Jan and Bob Majors will be hosting a gathering at their home, Friday, July 7 at 5 pm and Myrt and Bill Bowers will be hosting a brunch at their home, Sunday, July 9 at 10:30 am.

Plans for Saturday night have not been completed, but we are thinking of going out to the Lighthouse Restaurant to eat in the evening.

See the Spring 'Alumni News' with a more complete plan for this celebration!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call!

Myrt Bowers 319-895-8515

Jan Majors 319-895-8151

Karen Martin 319-895-8255

## CLASS OF 2001

A "Class of 2001 'Sweet 16' Reunion" will be held the Saturday of Heritage Days 2017 and there will be two events:

a family-friendly gathering during the day and an adults-only gathering that evening. Details TBD.

Sarah Kleinsmith Dannals  
sarah.dannals@gmail.com  
608-516-9272

Jessica Bigley Gallagher  
jessiehgallagher@gmail.com  
469-544-7858

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# 2016 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME



Community, alums, family, and high school students attended the 2016 Alumni Association Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony in the High School gym on Friday, September 30.



Hall of Fame Recipients: Front row, not present at ceremony: Fine Arts Hall of Fame Recipient Richard Nelson'50 (d), Community Impact Recipient Brian Harman'69. Back row: Community Impact Hall of Fame recipients The Stompers members Randy Harman'68, Bill Bauman'66, and Steve Edwards'65, Athletic Hall of Fame recipient Vic Wallace'61, Service Hall of Fame recipient Carol Croft Kent'51, and Achievement Hall of Fame recipient Reverend Monsignor Thomas 'Tom' Zinkula'75.



Group picture of Alumni Hall of Fame recipients with nominators and special guests: Front row from left to right, Community Impact Hall of Fame recipients The Stompers members Randy Harman'68, Bill Bauman'66, and Steve Edwards'65, Athletic Hall of Fame recipient Vic Wallace'61, Service Hall of Fame recipient Carol Croft Kent'51, and Achievement Hall of Fame recipient Reverend Monsignor Thomas 'Tom' Zinkula'75. Back row from left to right, School Board member Nannette Gunn, Superintendent Dr. Gary O'Malley, Master of Ceremonies John Rife'61, High School Principal Steve Brand, Nominator Jo Ann Kroul Clark'64, Community Impact Hall of Fame recipient The Stompers member Greg Harman'65, Awards Chair and Alumni Association Board member Dennis Jordan'85, Nominator Dick McKeen'51, Jim Wallace'64 (representing nominator Randy Hoidahl'61), nominator (and representative for Fine Arts Hall of Fame Recipient Richard Nelson'50) David Wolfe'50, Foundation Director Ben Brannaman'05, nominator Elizabeth Pospisil Wolfe'45, nominator Darlene Hartl Allard'69, and Alumni Association President Andrew Morf'94. Not pictured: MV High School Student Council President Sam Young'17

All Hall of Fame Events took place on Friday, September 30. The public was invited to attend the Alumni Association Awards Ceremony at 9:00 am in the Mount Vernon High School Gym. Following the ceremony, a Reception was held in the High School Library. The public was also invited to attend the afternoon Homecoming Pep Rally.

Friday evening, September 30 was the Homecoming Game and presentation of Alumni Award Winners during halftime at the Football Field, and the All-Alumni-Community Reception 'Tailgating Under The Tent' at the top of the bleachers. The Mustangs won over Anamosa. The Alumni-Community Reception tent was open from approximately 6 pm until after the game.

After the game many came to listen and dance to 'The Stompers' in the First Street Community Center. The Stompers band are Iowa's Rock and Roll Music Hall of Fame recipients and the 2016 Alumni Association's Community Impact Hall of Fame winners.

In addition, student events included the Thursday evening Parade and Crowning of the Homecoming Queen and King and the Powderpuff Game, and their Saturday Homecoming Dance.



# achievement



**Achievement Hall of Fame recipient Reverend Monsignor Thomas 'Tom' Zinkula from the Class of 1975** was nominated for this award by both Darlene Hartl Allard '69 and Betty Pospisil Wolfe '45. Darlene writes, "Father Zinkula is one of our 'home-grown and raised' local Mount Vernon boys! He has achieved remarkable accomplishments during his priesthood, and yet cares about our hometown, returning home to serve our local St. John's Parish whenever possible."

Fr. Tom is currently Rector of St. Pius X Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa (2014-present) and was awarded the honorary title "Monsignor" in 2013. Fr. Bill Joensen, a longtime priest friend and professor at Loras College, states: "Fr. Thomas Zinkula comes from a large Catholic, farm family of Czech roots that instilled his habits of faith, hard work, and integrity of life. In his role as rector of the seminary he provides direction and a priestly model for men in formation. His competence as both a civil and canon lawyer familiar with Church law is often an asset but he wears his learning lightly. He conveys a sense of equanimity and has a self-effacing sense of humor that is disarming. Seniors, middle-aged folks, and children appreciate him, finding him to be approachable, tender-hearted, and humane. He exudes a spirit of wisdom and paternal solicitude. He is a capable administrator and good steward of human and material resources. Further, his modesty and simplicity of life amplify his witness to the Gospel. He has a genuine passion for the poor and a desire to bring Catholic social doctrine to bear in political society, which takes a measure of personal courage, candor, and consistency in relating to others who may or may not be receptive. He

is a 'man of the land' who draws great spiritual strength and renewal from his contact with nature."

Valedictorian at Mount Vernon High School, he was also a recipient of the Iowa State Bar Association American Citizenship Award and cited as a State of Iowa Scholar. Tom went on to earn a BA, summa cum laude, in mathematics and economics/business in 1979 from Cornell College. His college awards include Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board, and an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. After graduation Tom worked for a year as an actuary at Life Investors (now Transamerica) in Cedar Rapids and then went on to earn a J.D. at the University of Iowa College of Law in 1983. He was managing editor of the Iowa Law Review during the 1982-83 school year. Tom worked as an attorney at Simmons, Perrine, Albright & Ellwood in Cedar Rapids from 1983 to 1986.

In 1986 after a successful law career, Tom entered Theological College (seminary) in Washington, D.C., and earned an M.A. in Theology at the Catholic University of America. He was ordained a Roman Catholic Priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque in 1990 and thereafter served as associate pastor in a several parishes. In 1998 he earned a J.C.L. (licentiate in canon law) at St. Paul University in Ottawa, Canada. Afterwards, while also serving as a Judge in the Metropolitan Tribunal, he had assignments as pastor in several parishes. He was Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese from 2000 to 2010. In 2011 he was appointed Episcopal Vicar (archbishop's representative) for the Cedar Rapids Region, and he served in that capacity until his present assignment.

Fr. Tom has served on a variety of

boards, including the Clarke University Board of Trustees, the Archdiocese of Dubuque Priests' Council, the Priests Pension Plan Board of Trustees, the Personnel Advisory Board, and the Archbishop's Cabinet.

He could easily be our Athletic Hall of Fame winner. An outstanding football player at Mount Vernon High School, he was named 1st Team All-Conference and Honorable Mention All-State in 1974. At Cornell College he was a 3-time 1st Team All-Conference noseguard and a 3-time 1st Team Academic All-American, College Division, named Cornell Most Valuable Player in 1977, selected as a member of Cornell's All-Century Team in 2000, and inducted into the Cornell Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010.

In high school, Fr. Tom was also a 4-year member of chorus and a participant in various musicals.

Msgr. Zinkula can be reached at [DBQSPX@dbqarch.org](mailto:DBQSPX@dbqarch.org), or 1235 Mt. Loretta Ave., Dubuque, IA 52003.



# fine arts



Above, David Wolfe '50 represented Richard Nelson at the Award Ceremony

**Fine Arts Hall of Fame recipient Richard Nelson (d December 2012) from the class of 1950**, was nominated for this award by David Wolfe '50 for his accomplishments in interior decoration, who says "Unbeknownst to us in high school, we didn't realize how much talent Richard had. I have been amazed over the years about what an exceptional interior decorator he was."

After high school, Richard attended Cornell College in Mount Vernon, majoring in art and design. He went on to study at the School of American Ballet in New York, but his heart lay in interior decoration. As a result he first started working interior decoration for Sister Parish (Mrs. Henry Parish, II) from 1956-1963 in New York City, one of the leading decorators in the nation, doing work in the Red Room and Oval Room in the White House when President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy were in residence, also the Kennedy's family quarters. He also was a consultant to Christine Meadows on the curtain design and wall treatment for the Banquet Hall in Mount Vernon, Virginia.

Richard opened his own business in New York City in 1963 and moved to Newport in 1977, opening his

own business there, The Red Unicorn. Richard did consulting with Newport Preservation Society on the restoration work in connection with Bellevue Avenue mansions, including the Empire Bedroom and costume cases in "Rosecliff", the Gothic Room in the "Marble House" and Mr. Berwind's bedroom at "The Elms". He also worked on the gallery walls at the National Academy of Design in New York. His acumen earned him illustrious clients on both sides of the Atlantic.

He was awarded and was published in *House and Garden*, *Interiors*, *House Beautiful* and the *New York Sunday Magazine*. In 1996 a Newport project in which Richard was the designer was selected for the front cover and featured article in *Architectural Digest*. His own house was a subject for an article in *British House and Garden*.

Jennifer Boles, book author, designer, and blogger of 'The Peak of Chic', wrote this about Richard in 2012: (Blog at <http://thepeakofchic.blogspot.com/2013/01/a-tribute-to-richard-nelson.html>)

"A few weeks ago, I learned of the recent death of designer Richard Nelson. Based in Newport, Rhode

Island, Richard was a man of great style and immense charm. Having started his career with Sister Parish (even assisting her during the Kennedy White House redecoration,) Richard eventually moved to Newport where he set up his interior design business and became a much sought-after designer. He also became a fixture on the social scene there, making many friends who remained close to him until the very end.

Although I never met Richard in person (and that is something which I greatly regret,) we had an email friendship over the past few years, touching base from time to time and discussing design...I wrote about Richard a few years ago when I covered a late 1960s Christmas party that Richard had hosted, one which was featured in an issue of *House & Garden*. The details of the party impressed me as few people host such elaborate parties anymore. In fact, when speaking with Richard in anticipation of that post, he mentioned that while he lived in New York as a young man, he hosted guests at his home four to five nights a week! I can only imagine that this exuberant style of entertaining held him in good stead upon his move to Newport.

Over the years, Richard's work was featured in numerous publications including *Architectural Digest*. In 1998, the Colonial-era Newport house in which he lived with his partner was featured in *British House & Garden*. I am showing that article's photos below (below left) as I think Richard's house is a testament to the warmth and personality that traditional interiors do have when decorated well. I admire that Richard stayed true to the house's period and architectural style rather than attempt to turn it into something that it wasn't.

I know that a number of Richard's friends read my blog, and to them, I extend my deepest sympathy. Richard was a decorator of the old-school and a bon vivant to boot, and they just don't make them like Richard anymore."

Classmate De De Hicks remembered "He used to do ballet in our kitchen while Mom was cooking or when I was baking. Mother was so patient and never said a word about it even though she had to plan her moves around him. He loved doing ballet. Another



"In 1998, the Colonial-era Newport house in which he lived with his partner was featured in *British House & Garden*. I am showing that article's photos as I think Richard's house is a testament to the warmth and personality that traditional interiors do have when decorated well. I admire that Richard stayed true to the house's period and architectural style rather than attempt to turn it into something that it wasn't."

Jennifer Boles, book author, designer, and blogger of 'The Peak of Chic',



# service

time I thought my bedroom should be redecorated, so Mother bought beautiful fabrics that I had picked out. Richard (at that time we called him Rick) couldn't wait to help me start the redecorating process. His decorating skills were a big help for me on other occasions. One time *Farm Journal* magazine planned to do an article on the parties I gave for all the kids in high school. Rick was so excited as they were filming in July for the December issue and they wanted to have a December theme, so he and I decided to decorate the whole house for Christmas although it was July. Finding a live Christmas tree at that time of the year wasn't easy but we did get one. Anyway, he worked so hard, making sure that every decoration was just perfect and that every room was decorated to the hilt. We even put a Christmas wreath on the front door. On the day of filming it was 90 degrees but kids wore sweaters and winter clothes to completely make it authentic. He also decorated the gym (or oversaw it anyway) for big dances. Later, when I would come home from college he and I would so enjoy hosting parties for college friends and sometimes they were written up in the Cedar Rapids Gazette, and that was big time!"

Classmate Wiladene Willming remembers that 'He was involved in mixed choir, boy's choir, Velvet Curtain (the dramatic group), and the Chalk Mark (school paper). He had a stage that had been built in their house basement. He had lots of costumes that could be worn for plays or dress-up occasions. She says,

"I remember Richard having a dinner party at their house, I think when I was a senior, and he asked me to be his hostess. I have no further recollection or who the other guests were, but knowing Richard it was a dinner party worth remembering! Richard skipped his high school senior year and went directly to Cornell. Richard was a quiet individual, but charming. Even when he became successful in interior decoration, he never bragged about his success. Jennifer Boles' article about Richard 'kind of sums up his life, his talent and his brilliance.'"

Richard's partner Jim Michael can be reached at 3 Bridge Street., Newport, RI, 02840.



**Service Hall of Fame recipient Carol Croft Kent from the class of 1951** was nominated by David Wolfe '50 and classmate and 2013 Service Hall of Fame recipient Dick McKeen. David says "Carol is a person who 'walks the talk', showing passion for her profession of nursing, going the extra mile in all that she does, and just plain cares about people."

After high school Carol received an RN from Mt. Mercy School of Nursing. She married fellow Mount Vernon graduate Jim Kent from the Class of 1950, and after several moves throughout the U.S. and four children, they settled in Winchester, Massachusetts.

When her youngest daughter started school, Carol started her nursing career as a school nurse in Winchester Schools. In 1994 she was honored as the Massachusetts School Nurse of the Year. Principal of her school, Chuck McInnis, wrote that "Her input is valued by teachers and staff throughout the school because of the scope of her knowledge and the depth of her caring. Carol is a community resource outside of the school through her involvement on many town-wide committees focusing on helping those who need assistance of any kind." Carol helped develop the school nurse program in Winchester that lead to each school being covered at least part of every day by a registered nurse. Carol was cited for her 'great ability to network and gain services for people in need,' and for her programs involving food donations, clothing, a giving tree, along with implementing the mandated programs of hearing, vision, and health screenings.

This was only the beginning of Carol's many honors for her service to the community. She has been a long-standing member of EnKa, a women's

society group that raises money for charitable organizations, where she has been involved with book sales, an annual fair, and in their resale shop. Carol has also chaired the Winchester Scholarship Committee, and been a member of the Winchester Trails, the Red Cross, the Hospitality Committee at church, and was a Girl School Leader and a Den Mother for Cub Scouts. Carol, along with her husband Jim, were one of the first host families for the ABC Program, hosting minority students to provide them with the opportunity to attend Winchester High School. Over the years they also hosted twelve international and American students for periods of a month to four or more years.

'A Tribute to Carol Kent' event was given by the Winchester Community Music School to thank her for her many contributions over twenty-five years. A new school in 1981, Carol helped to identify students who would benefit from scholarships for music lessons. From 1998-2004 she was a Trustee of the Music School, transitioning it from an after-school to an all-day music school in a newly remodeled estate building, with classes six days a week. From 2000-2004 Carol was Chair of the Board, 'leading it with wisdom and humor.' Carol then continued on as an Advisory Committee member.

Carol is on the education committee, and currently chairman of the education program, 'The Jenks Learning Connection,' JLC, at the Jenks Senior Center. JLC offers continuing education opportunities to Winchester seniors.

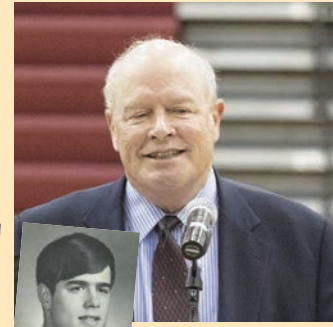
continued on next page



She received one of her most prestigious awards in 2008 when the Winchester Chamber of Commerce named Carol 'Outstanding Citizen of the Year.' Carol was praised for her life-long work in the schools and community, 'along with performing countless kind and helpful deeds in her quiet, unassuming way.'

In high school Carol was involved in band and chorus. Carol loves music and continues to take piano lessons.

Carol can be reached at jecsk@verizon.net or 171 Swanton Street, #63, Winchester, MA 01890.



**MVCS D Community Impact Hall of Fame recipient 'The Stompers' band, with members Bill Bauman'66, Steve Edwards'65, Brian Harman'69, Greg Harman'65, and Randy Harman'68,** was nominated for this award by both Jo Ann Kroul Clark'64 and band member Steve Edwards.

While The Stompers could easily be our Fine Arts recipient, they were selected for Community Impact. Jo Clark says "Before there was a Mount Vernon High School Alumni Association, there were the Stompers. This group of MVHS graduates is more than a senior citizen high school rock 'n' roll band. The Stompers have served as a bond between Mustangs since 1963. The Stompers returned to Mount Vernon every fall for over twenty years, bringing people from all over the United States for their performances. Classmates who hardly knew each other in high school often become friends at a Stompers Reunion Concert. The music is important, but not the most important thing in these gatherings. The spirit and camaraderie of the room trumps all. The Stompers will tell you they don't sound like they did in the 60s, but you never hear anyone complain. To many of us, it's almost like a fall evening at Manny's Corner on Main Street in 1963."

Featured in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* by Dave Rasdal in 1996 when The Stompers reunited for a performance in Lisbon, he wrote:

"Mothers, don't let your children grow up to be in a rock 'n' roll band. After all, they might turn out to become lawyers, stockbrokers, massage therapists and trainers at a nuclear energy facility. That's what happened to The Stompers.

While rock 'n' roll has been here to stay for decades, most regional groups of the 60s that ever reached the upper echelon, the level of, say, 'the Dave

Clark Five or the Rolling Stones... disbanded long ago.

From 1963 to 1965, the Stompers stomped. The boys from Mount Vernon toured Eastern Iowa ballrooms, Danceland in Cedar Rapids, DanceMor in Swisher, and more. It all started at Manny's Corner, an unpretentious little pizza parlor, just down Mount Vernon's Main Street from Cornell College. Friends grew to crowds, grew to lines on the sidewalk. The raw combination of blues, rhythm and blues, and good old rock 'n' roll packed them in that winter of 1963-64.

As the British invaded, The Stompers grew their hair long. They wore tight pants, ankle boots, and turtleneck sweaters. They sang and screamed and duck-walked across the stage like animals.

The Stompers are Steve Edwards and Bill Bauman on guitar with brothers Greg and Randy Harman on bass and drums. Steve now practices law from his office on Park Avenue in New York City. Bill is a commodities trader in Chicago. Greg is an instructor at the training center of the Duane Arnold Energy Center near Palo. Randy is an Cedar Rapids massage therapist.

Turn back the clock 33 years. Steve Edwards moves from Mississippi to Mount Vernon with his parents, who are trained in classical music. While mom and dad take positions at Cornell College, Steve walks into Mount Vernon High School. He'd left behind 'The Windsors,' a Southern blues and rock band...With Steve's influence and a name pilfered from the recently disbanded Eddie (Piccard) and The Stompers, Steve and some of his new classmates began to practice.



# community impact



Their performances at Manny's Corner put them on the Eastern Iowa map. Before long, The Stompers had gigs every weekend and on many week nights. They earned \$100 to \$150 per performance. Their original song 'I Know' made it to the local airwaves. Girls screamed at every venue. The Stompers had fronted the likes of The Animals, the Everly Brothers, and Chuck Berry."

In the fall of 1964, the Stompers recorded for the first time in Minneapolis producing "I Know" backed with "Hey Baby". "I Know" was an original song written by Greg and Randy Harman which gained a notoriety long outliving the band. "I Know" made it as high as #19 on a number of regional charts. In recent years, "I Know" has surfaced on garage-band-loving stations. "I Know" is considered by many a collector's item and has been featured on EBay and on-line garage-band forums such as GaragePunk.com.

The summer of 1965 brought the release of a second record "You're Gone" backed with "I Still Love Her" (two Greg Harman originals). "You're Gone" peaked at #24 on regional charts

The Edwards, Bauman, Harman, and Harman version of the Stompers ended in the fall of 1965 with the departures of Edwards and Bauman for college. Greg and Randy Harman reformed the band and continued with The Stompers until the fall of 1966, following an extended stay in New York City working as house band for a club in Greenwich Village. The time in New York included playing a show for a number of record company executives. On the bill along with the Stompers were Bryan Highland, Tiny Tim, The Cyrcl, and the Tokens.

In 1969, Steve, Greg and Randy


reunited, and with young brother Brian Harman joining the band, opened a show for The Paul Butterfield Blues Band at Vet's Coliseum in Cedar Rapids. Brian, who was too young to play with the Stompers when they were in high school, went on to become a top jazz guitarist in Kansas City. This turned out to be the precursor to a series of annual reunions that continue to this day. In September of 2004, Edwards, Harman, Harman, Bauman and Kansas City keyboardist Everett DeVan recorded a group of original songs by Steve Edwards for distribution among friends. The band has also written and recorded a song, fittingly called, 'Mt. Vernon.'

In 2006 The Stompers band was inducted in the Iowa Music Hall of Fame. Individually, some of the Stompers continue their varied musical interests.

On Friday evening September 30th, The Stompers played and many enjoyed dancing to their songs from the 60s at the First Street Building gym.

The Stompers can be reached at: Bill Bauman, wcbauman@hotmail.com; Steve Edward, stevenedwards@quinnemanuel.com; Brian Harman, c/o 1515 White Oak Ave., Independence MO 64050; Greg Harman, gsh@mchsi.com; and Randy Harman, rjharman899@aol.com.






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# athletics



## Athletic Hall of Fame recipient Vic Wallace '61

was nominated for this award by classmate and 2011 Athletic Hall of Fame recipient Randy Hoidahl. Randy says in high school Vic 'was a good athlete, an excellent teammate, and a fine representative of Mount Vernon schools.' A successful athlete in high school, Vic played 4 years of football, basketball, track and baseball, and 2 years of golf. In football he was a 3-year starter at Halfback and Defensive Back, earning both All-State and All-Conference team honors. In basketball, track and baseball he was a 4-year starter. Vic also was in the band 4 years and chorus 1 year.

Vic's love for athletics led him to Cornell College where he played football 4 years, track 3 years, basketball 2 years and baseball 1 year. His major college sport was football and his major position was Fullback. He often played two ways: Fullback on offense and Linebacker or Cornerback on defense. Vic was a member of Cornell's 1964 Mid-West Conference Football Championship team and in 2004 was inducted into the Cornell College Sports Hall of Fame. Vic graduated from Cornell in 1965 and earned his Masters Degree from Northern Iowa in 1971.

Vic went on to coach for 48 years, retiring in December of 2014. In his 48 seasons, he served: 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. As an assistant college coach, he coached 3 years at D-III, 2 at D-II and 1 year at D-I. His 31 seasons as a head college coach were at: William Jewell College in Liberty, MO, the University of St. Thomas

in St. Paul, MN, Lambuth University in Jackson, TN and Rockford University in Rockford, IL. In the 7 years Vic was an Assistant FB coach in college, he was also the Head Wrestling Coach for 5 years, 3 at D-III and 2 at D-II.

When Vic retired his head college football coaching record was 176-109-5, ranking him #4 in the number of wins of all active NAIA coaches, and #23 in number of wins of all active NCAA coaches.

In his 31 years as a head college coach, Vic's college teams won 9 conference championships and made the National Playoffs 10 times reaching the National Finals once, the Semifinals 4 other times and the Quarterfinals 2 other times. Wallace was conference coach of the year 7 times and National Region 4 coach of the year 3 times. In 1997 the Memphis Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame presented Vic with the "Contribution to Amateur Football Award" at the Liberty Bowl. In 2011 the William Jewell College team he coached in 1983, along with the coaches, were inducted into the William Jewell College Hall of Fame. In October of 2015 Vic was honored as a 'Person of Influence' in the History of Lambuth University where he coached for 15 seasons; and, was also the Athletic Director for 3 years and Special Assistant to the University President for 3 years. In April 2016 Vic was inducted into the Jackson-Madison County, TN Hall of Fame.

During the summer of 1983 and again in 1984 and 1985 Vic directly contributed to the growth of American Football abroad. Wallace took college teams to play football against teams in Finland, Germany, France and Switzerland. In the summer of 1984 he received a United States Government Grant to spend a month in Finland teaching American Football to Finnish coaches. In July of 1984, Vic was an assistant coach for the Finish National Team that won the "European Super Bowl" played in Milan, Italy. In 1985 he arranged for an alumni team to play 2 games in New Zealand.

During his career, Vic was also the Head Coach of four College All-Star Teams and two High School All-Star teams. The high school games were played in Hawaii.

Vic and his wife Dee have been married 48 years. Vic's brother Jim '64 and his sister Gayle Wallace '68 are graduates of Mount Vernon High School and still live in Mount Vernon. Vic's father, Chet, now deceased, was a long time head basketball coach and history teacher at Mount Vernon High School. Before her death, Vic's mother, Mary, worked for Mount Vernon schools as a secretary.

Vic can be reached by cell at: 731-394-3370, email at: coach.vicwallace@gmail.com or by mail at: 120 Oakslea Place, Jackson TN 38301

## 2017 Homecoming & Hall of Fame Events SEPTEMBER 30

# HOMECOMING 2016

**2008**

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS
Dr. James Croft '47	Jean Minish Stoner '57	Garry Knutsen '65	Marcia Russell '89

**2009**

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

**2010**

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

**2011**

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

**2012**

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

**2013**

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

**2014**

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
Lindsey Borg '85	Myrt Clark Bowers '57	Greg Randall '82	Paula Holcomb '72	Ann Koppenhaver '78

**2015**

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
Joan Suchomel '74	Chris Lyon '81	Deb Winchip Douglass '86	Alex Morf '99	Dan Games '77

**2016**

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS
Reverend Manager Thomas Zinkula '75	Carol Croft Kent '51	Vic Wallace '61	Richard Nelson '50

**MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY IMPACT**

The Stompers	Bill Bauman '66	Steve Edwards '65	Brian Harman '69	Greg Harman '65	Randy Harman '68



Award winners Carol Croft Kent '50 at left and Vic Wallace '61 at right ride in a Corvette in the Homecoming Parade.



At left, sisters Karen Packer and Rebecca Halpern traveled from the east coast to be with Alumni Hall of Fame winner Steve Edwards '65. At right, Alumni Hall of Fame winner Bill Bauman '66 enjoys visiting at the Alumni Reception Tent during the Homecoming Football game.



At left, Ken Pospisil '68 and Vic Wallace '61 visit. At right, David Wolfe '50, Jo Kroul Clark '64 and Alumni Association Board Member Jean Kuntz Bowman '64 enjoy the Homecoming Game.



Above, the cameras flashed during picture taking at the Hall of Fame Ceremony at the High School. At right top, Vic Wallace and his wife get a ride to the football field from alum and fireman Derek Boren '00. At right bottom, Margaret Ellison Stoner '66, Gary Knutsen '65, and Warren Stoner '63.



## Class of 1961 Has Fundraiser...With An Auction For Right to Cut Classmate's Ponytail

Submitted by Dick Miner '61

When Dick Miner, MVHS Class of 1961, decided to grow a pony tail to show his classmates at their upcoming 55th Reunion what he might have looked like in his college days back in the 60's, little did he realize he was setting the stage for a fundraising effort for the Alumni Association. Arriving in Mount Vernon during the most recent Heritage Days celebration, Miner soon attracted the attention of school mates with his six inch silver pony tail, and endured much good-natured ribbing at their hands over the next several days.

During the lead-up to the class reunion banquet, Dick decided that he was stiring a proverbial gift horse in the mouth, and as part of his master of ceremonies orations in the Lone Star banquet room, he announced to all assembled that at the class picnic the next afternoon, he was going to auction off the right to cut his now-infamous ponytail to the highest bidder, with all proceeds going to the MV Alumni Association and designated for the



At left, Bunny Mulligan tries out the bolt cutters for possible use in the "ponytail operation." At right, Don Jilovec and Bunny Mulligan administer the shears while guest Linda Stastny Bragg '60 enjoys the expression on Miner's face.

publication of the 'Alumni News' magazine. Melani Vislisel, wife of Jim Vislisel and hostess of the picnic, was appointed banker to take all pledges.

Sunday afternoon classmates, spouses and guests ensconced in the Vislisel farm machine shed eating burgers and sweet corn while a gentle rain fell outside. Last minute bids were encouraged by Miner's wife, Ronda, as well as other members of the class. Dick had already announced that the gift was going to be made on behalf of all the members of the Class of 1961, and that no bid was too small (or too large). As the 2 pm deadline arrived, Melani stepped forward to announce the winner.

Much to Mr. Miner's chagrin, several

of his classmates demonstrated their knowledge of high finance – no doubt honed by years in the farming business – and the winners were a consortium of Jim Vislisel, Don Jilovec and Bunny (Williams) Mulligan with a bid well in excess of \$200. With great ceremony, the winners took out all manner of snippers, bolt cutters and shears (see photos) and the deed was done. A relieved Mr. Miner retrieved what was left of his shorn locks, having had little to begin with as some wags suggested, and led a round of applause to all who helped in raising approximately \$750 for the Alumni Association. Three Cheers for the Class of 1961!



## Devin Kelso '81 and 'Heartland Homestay'

Editor's Note; Excerpted from the MVL Sun, see their website at [mvlsun.com](http://mvlsun.com)

Devin Kelso's Homestay Program returned to Mount Vernon-Lisbon for its 11th year, bringing 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 from July 20 to Aug. 3. Devin founded the program in 2004 with his wife, Hiroe, as a means of bringing their two countries closer together. A grand total of 134 students have now participated in the program. One long-time host family mother, Jenny Hampton 'X, described it as "a wonderful experience that really opens our children's eyes to people from other cultures." Kelso teaches at Kokugakuin University Tochigi High School, a private college-preparatory academy in Tochigi,



A total of 12 students stayed with nine families in the Mount Vernon, Lisbon and Cedar Rapids communities as part of the 11th annual Kelso Heartland Homestay Program.

Japan. Among the local families that participated were Jamie '91 and Jennie Hampton '91, and Ralph '72 and Cathy Jordan, all of Mount Vernon; Nick '97 and Sarah Boots of Lisbon.

On weekdays, the students assembled at Lisbon School in Nick Boots' classroom, where Devin and Hiroe taught intensive English and crosscultural understanding. Afternoons were spent sightseeing. Local highlights included a tour of Abbe Creek School, hiking at Palisades, swimming and boating at Lake Macbride, eating

out and shopping. Grocery stores were especially fascinating for the students, Kelso said. The program also took students to the Mississippi River Museum and world's steepest funicular railway in Dubuque, Tom Sawyer's house and a riverboat cruise in Hannibal, Mo., and the Gateway Arch, zoo, cathedral, and City Museum in St. Louis.



# 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 attributions 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.

## 2017 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     Athletics

**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, 2017 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.



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### FROM RENEE STERENBERG BRANSON '63

I have so many memories of growing up in Mount Vernon, as all of us do, but here are a few or maybe a lot. I moved to Mount Vernon when I was 9 and entered the 3rd grade with the wonderful Mrs. Schnittjer. I was so scared and she was so nice, soft spoken, and helped me to adapt. She was just what I needed coming to a new place. I have wonderful memories of all the teachers I had and the different schools we learned in: Some barracks I believe near the college, Ward, and I think it was called the Comstock house. There were a few (haha).

Oh, and we can't forget those bus trips to get vaccination shots. There was one girl, I won't say who, that always passed out enroute. Sure helped the rest of us not be scared. Then there were the Youth Center dances. Always looked forward to those every Friday night. Sometimes kids from Lisbon came by too. Always had a good time with everyone. Oldies but goodies...still our favorite songs to listen to.

Walking to school was always fun in the winter. Besides not being able to breathe and ducking behind cars and trees to catch a breath, the water tower would spring a leak and form ice lace all around it. Such beauty. A friend sent me pictures of it a few years ago who knew I loved that so much.

When I joined band a whole new world opened up. Memories after memories come flooding in. To name a few...Eastern Iowa Band Festivals, marching band, half time shows, Pep

Band, competitions, and I really loved marching in the Indy 500 parade. We all got busy and earned money to go by raking leaves etc. Our town really helped us out.

Two teachers special to me were Mr. Beckman and Mrs. Fossler. Dear Mr. Beckman. We ended up writing each other until he passed away. His last Christmas he sent us a beautiful Christian album and our kids \$5 each. He was just a lovely man who knew exactly how precious living in America was.

I have to give Mrs. Fossler credit. Without her I would never have known how to type. She was a great teacher. I never have used shorthand but typing I use daily. Kind of like math, I use math daily but Algebra, not so much (ha ha).

I remember our beautiful proms, but I remember graduation the most. This was the first time it hit me that more than likely I would never see everyone together again for one reason or another. And as it turned out, I never have.

I've been blessed to have gone to my 45th and 50th class reunion. Some members of our class had passed away and others were too ill or away on vacation to attend. But I have my graduation memory when we were all together.

Along the way in one of our moves, my year book went missing. A wonderful friend of mine gave me his. I look at it daily and recall those wonderful years. I was very blessed to have grown up in Mount Vernon. I have only wonderful memories of a small town welcoming our family into theirs.



### 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.

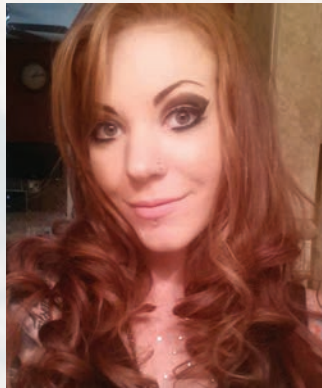
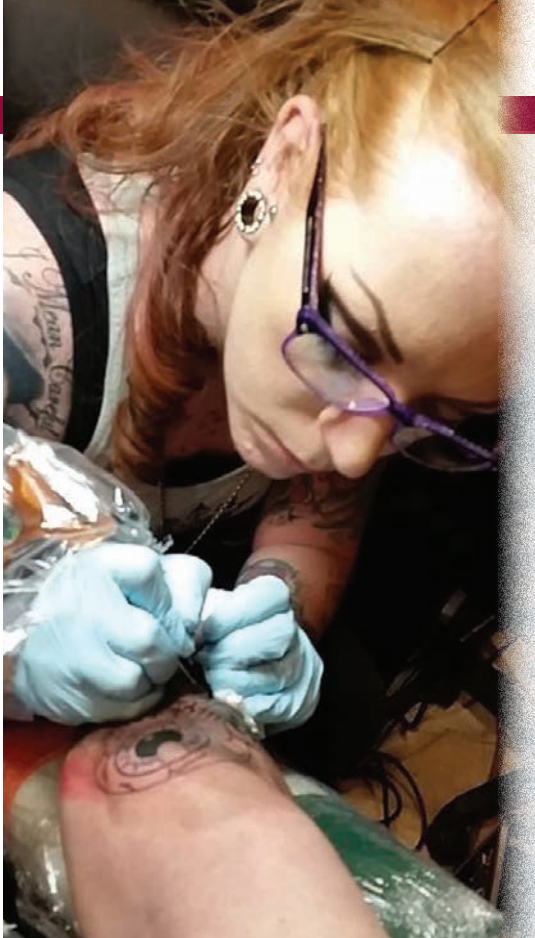
Alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us  
 or Kathy at 319-389-8602  
 525 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

### IF YOU WENT TO SCHOOL IN THE EARLY 60S... DO YOU KNOW... (ANSWERS NEXT ISSUE OR ON FACEBOOK)

- Who was chased around the football field by Frank Sovich wielding a long stick?
- Who was sent home by Leo Gerst to get a belt on a cold winter's day?
- First names of the following teachers: Addis, Beckman, Hipple, Rife, Jones, Wallace, Fossler, Lehman, Steven, Colon, Plank, Smykil, Head?
- Who was trapped in a ball bag on the football field?
- Name of the MVHS school newspaper?

# Mustangs...what are they doing now?

## ■ LORELEI STENSLAND BEVENS '07

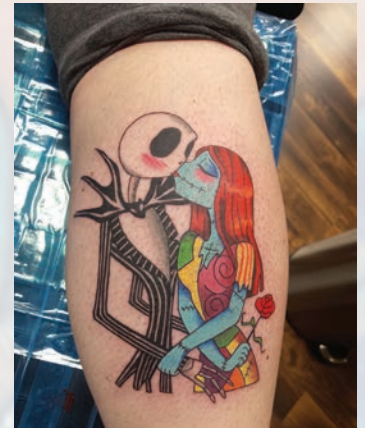


**An accomplishment you are proud of ?** Really, every day is an accomplishment when you enjoy what you are doing along with being surrounded by amazing people. I contribute to a lot of benefits for all kinds of reasons, when I can. I love being able to help or make a small difference in someone's life.

**A favorite memory or two...** With it being almost ten years since graduating, I can't really recall many memories. I still am in great contact with my best friends Ashley Benter, Renee Gagne and Mara Swenson. We always had a good time no matter what we were up to.

I had a lot of great teachers that did an amazing job inspiring and putting up with me. So, I'd like to give a special thanks to (but certainly not limited to) Laurie Zaiger, Tawnua Tenley, Richard Scarce, Mr. White and Mr. Stone. I learned so many lessons from these people that I continue to use in my daily life. I wish nothing but great things for all of them.

Lorelei can be reached at [bevinsart@gmail.com](mailto:bevinsart@gmail.com) and on Facebook



Above: Some samples of the tatoos Lorelei has done. Below and at left, some of her watercolors.

**What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School?** I have just been out enjoying life and going on adventures. I began my career in tattooing at the age of 19. I moved out of Cedar Rapids in 2011 and relocated to West Des Moines. I met my wonderful husband Jesse and had a beautiful wedding. I also have gone on a couple amazing vacations in the UP of Michigan and North Carolina. I still do a large amount of painting along with my tattooing. I still enjoying being outside hiking, fishing and collecting insects every chance I get.

**What do you do now?** I am still tattooing. My co-worker and I have opened our own studio in Urbandale, IA called Elysian Ink. I really enjoy being my own boss and doing good things for good people.





# Alumni News...



Audrey Lester'16 received the championship honor for the FFA equine showmanship class while representing the North Cedar FFA at the Iowa State Fair in August. She was one of 75 exhibitors competing in the showmanship class. The honor made her eligible for the Iowa's parade of champions.  
\*Source: The Sun, mvlsun.com

## Cedar River Floods Again!

For the second time in less than a decade, the Cedar River overflowed its banks. Less severe than the 2008 floods, it was still the second highest water level on record. Residents got word Thursday, Sept. 22, that the river could overflow its banks, as a slow-moving stormdumped up to 13 inches onto already saturated ground upstream. Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, volunteers and affected property owners mobilized to prepare. Mike Russell'89, who farms near the river south of Mount Vernon, said Tuesday was a bit scary as the floodwater rose quickly. It appeared to be just a few feet below 2008 levels. The river crested at 22 feet Tuesday, September 27. \*Source: The Sun, mvlsun.com



At left, Vance Ellison'95 and John Kroul'77 take a break from harvesting corn early at Kroul Farms to avoid flood damage (photo by Jake Krob, The Sun). At right The Cedar River flooded farmland south of Mount Vernon and Lisbon. Farmer Mike Russell'89 took this photo using a drone, looking at his rural Mount Vernon farm soon after the river crested in Cedar Rapids

**Rhondi Ewing'81** wrote in to say "About a dozen 1981 classmates attended a private memorial for John 'Jay' Wallace after his passing, and during the reunion the next night, we passed a hat and gathered over \$500 for John's daughter's college expenses. I would like to express how strongly you could feel the sense of friendship and inclusion which seems to grow stronger with our class each year, as we are more and more in touch than ever before."



## ...And Then There Were Seven



We were young, were were invincible, and we were high school friends in the 50s. We wore each others clothes, shared our secrets and talked about boyfriends and dating, swam in the Cedar River and were known to have stopped in the middle of the street to dance when our favorite music came on the car radio. Now we are in our 70s, are still invincible and still good friends. But our conversations center around children, grandchildren (and a few greats), medications and arthritis. This group of the 'magnificent seven' from the class of 1957 (as shown above) consists of Karen Jilovec Martin, Barb Neal Hutchins, Myrt Clark Bowers, Joyce Olmstead Lucas, Jan Lowe Majors, Susie Emerson Tuetken'59 (our little sister) and Karen Clark Fiala.

After graduation we went our separate ways, but kept in touch while raising our families and following our dreams. Four of us had a round robin letter that circulated for nearly 20 years. Eventually we all returned to the Mount Vernon area, and while attending a funeral of one of the spouses, decided we needed to get together more often rather than just a funerals. That was 16 years ago and now we meet about every other month, sometimes just for coffee, lunch in one of our homes, or a a new or special place, or perhaps a day trip to see soemting of interest in Iowa.

The group may consist of only three or four, depending on who is available, but the invitation goes out all. It could be a shopping expedition in a different town, a movie or the Bridges of Madison County. We visited the hanging bridge in Columbus Junction where four of us walked the bridge. One stomped across to make it sway and the other three hung on for dear life, two were on the side lines laughing and one stayed inside the safety of the car. A rented house in Galena was great for an overnight stay. The overnights are not to be confused with our many high school sumber parties because none of use can sleep on the floor, let alone get into or out of a sleeping bag.

These days we walk a little slower but still all talk at the same time and laugh at everything. It takes us longer to get into and out of cars, with a lot of gentle pushing and shoving, again laughing all the while which invariably leads to more frequent 'rest' stops in our travels. None the less we are always here for each other when needed and seem to have endless ideas of places to go and things to see together. We all know we are blessed to be able to do this and enjoy this friendship which all began as high school chums more than 60 years ago.



**Send us your information...**  
 alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us  
 or call 319-389-8602 Kathy

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**Harriet Moffitt Sander'42** and husband Floyd of Mount Vernon, IA celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary September 8.

**Albert Lnenicka'56** and wife Shirley celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary October 29

**Marsha Viter Heims'64** and husband John of Mount Vernon, IA celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary, July 9.

**Florene Allard Akers'65** and husband Tim of Lisbon, IA celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary Oct 5.

**Bob'76** and **Kelly Carpenter Lynott'76** of Robins, IA will celebrate their 35th Wedding Anniversary in December 2016

**Sandy Zehms Guenther'88** and husband Corey of Wyoming, IA celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary Sept 29, 2015

**MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS**

**Zachary Barrett'11** married Kiesha Frue on July 5, 2016 in Baxter, Ontario. The couple resides in Barrie, Ontario.

**Jared Knight'09** married Keely Burke on May 21, 2016 in Ames. The couple resides in Iowa City.

**Rachel Therauf '09** married Taylor Gibbins on June 4, 2016. The couple resides in Coralville, IA.

**Daniele Carter'03** married Monica Hooker September 16, 2016 in Muscatine. The couple resides in Alberon, IA.

**Shannon Carter'01** married Weston Currie in Palm Springs CA, Oct 24, 2015. The couple resides in Los Angeles, CA

**Warren Stoner'63** and **Margaret Ellison Duffy'66** were married September 17, 2016. The couple resides in Mount Vernon.

**BIRTHS**

**Kira Scott Moore'02** and husband Chris of Lisbon, a daughter, Fia Lazuli Moore on May 10, 2016.

**EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE**

**Drew Keller'14** graduated from Kirkwood Community College with an associate's degree in automation and instrumentation.

**Marissa Stark'13** earned a degree from Kirkwood Community College in May.

**Elijah Dahlstrom'12** graduated from the University of Iowa this spring with a BS in biomedical engineering with highest distinction.

**Molly Hale'12** graduated May 14 from Central College in Pella.

**Alexis Daubert'11** graduated from UNI with a BA in theatre arts.

**Jacob Holland'10** graduated from the University of Iowa this spring with a BA in cinema.

**Ross Eash'09** graduated from the University of Iowa this spring with a BA in environmental policy and planning.

**Jared Knight'09** graduated from the University of Iowa this spring with a juris doctor degree with distinction.

**Allie Thompson'09** graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and is a member of the Cedar County Sheriff's Department.

continued on next page

**Meet Alumni Association Board Member Kim Zangger Tucker'94**



Kim was elected to the Mount Vernon Alumni Association Board this fall and will serve a three-year term.

Kim moved back home from Minneapolis after her daughter was born nearly a decade ago.

She enjoyed the exciting world of television news before changing to a rewarding career in veterinary medicine. Passionate about her community, the move to Edward Jones in Mount Vernon was a natural fit. Working in town allows Kim the opportunity to be more involved in the schools.

Kim is proud of Mount Vernon and our school system. From the Kindergarten Circus (she was an elephant), to the Senior Commencement, Kim wants to share this same spirit of gratitude with other alumni.

She lives just outside of Mount Vernon with her husband, 5th grade daughter, 3rd grade son, dog, and three cats.

**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** 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 (student scholarships and teacher education grants, etc.)  
**DONATIONS TO BOTH ASSOCIATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

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

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## In Memory of classmates we have lost

**Leo Beranek'31** (age 102)  
Westwood, MA October 10, 2016

**Austin Armstrong'33** (age 101)  
Mount Vernon, IA October 23, 2016

**Donald Dill'44**  
Allentown, PA May 10, 2015

**Diana Jean Croft'46**  
Tallahassee, FL July 26, 2016

**Betty Longerbeam Edwards'47**  
Fulton, IL November 7, 2016

**Richard Bowman'58**  
Minneapolis, MN September 7, 2016

**C Bruce Steele'68**  
Loomis, CA October 26, 2016

**David Wyatt'70**  
Omaha, NE July 5, 2016

**Pamela Becker Moine'77**  
Mount Vernon, IA August 31, 2016

**John 'Jay' Wallace'81**  
North Liberty, IA June 19, 2016

**Jesse Ballstaedt'02**  
Cedar Rapids, IA October 4, 2016

**Jacqueline Kerr'07**  
Mount Vernon, IA June 22, 2016

(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.)

**MAY 1 – DON'T DELAY**  
– NOMINATE AN ALUM  
YOU THINK SHOULD BE  
IN THE MV ALUMNI HALL  
OF FAME FOR SERVICE,  
ACHIEVEMENT, FINE  
ARTS, COMMUNITY  
IMPACT, OR ATHLETICS  
NOW!

Who can nominate?  
ANYONE – you do not  
have to be an alum to  
nominate.  
See page 13.

## 2017 Events

**July 7 and 8** – Heritage Days in  
Mount Vernon along with Alumni  
Events & Reunions

**September 22** - Homecoming  
and Alumni Hall of Fame Award  
Ceremony



### CLASS OF 1966 VETERANS

Front: Jon Miller, Vance Rahn, Jeri Neal, John Schick, Steve Allard  
Back: Steve Neal, Dave Hudson, Cliff Kaplan, Dan Lambertsen, Jack Werling

### Alumni News, continued

### AND MORE...

**Jared Knight'09** joined the Cedar Rapids/  
Coralville firm Simmons Perrine  
Moyer Bergman PLC as an associate  
attorney.

**Mitchell Kragenbrink'16** and **Jenna  
Reimann'16** toured Europe as choral  
members of the Iowa Ambassadors of  
Music (IAM) July 3-18.

**Jeff Meeker'89** is the winningest volley-  
ball coach in program history at Cor-  
nell College in Mount Vernon. At their  
September 15th match, the Rams won  
for a total of 272 wins in 15 seasons.

**Doug Easker'69** retired from his Mount  
Vernon-Lisbon dental practice August  
1st. Doug attended Iowa State Uni-  
versity for four years before receiving  
his dental training at the University of  
Iowa College of Dentistry, graduat-  
ing in 1977. He returned to Mount  
Vernon to join the practice of Dr. Prall,  
whose office was in the location of  
the current Lincoln Winebar on Main  
Street in Mount Vernon.

**Shelby Kintzel'09** was  
inducted into the 2016  
IGHSAU Volleyball Hall  
of Fame. Shelby played  
at Mount Vernon from  
2005 to 2008 where  
she led the Mustangs to  
a pair of state tourna-  
ment appearances and was twice  
named elite all-state. As a senior,  
Shelby was the Class 3A Player of the  
Year, averaging 2.9 kills and leading  
her team to a runner-up finish in Class  
3A. In the championship game, she  
had 17 kills with three blocks, four



digs and five service aces, earning  
a spot on the all-tournament team.  
Shelby signed with Northern Iowa  
and made an impact for the Panthers  
immediately. She was named to the  
Missouri Valley Conference All-  
Freshman team and helped Northern  
Iowa reach three NCAA tournaments.  
As a senior, Shelby was named first  
team all-conference and first team all-  
Midwest Region, averaging 2.7 kills  
with 113 block.

**Steve Swaney'76** is now the Special Edu-  
cation Instructional Facilitator (SEIF) at  
West Preparatory Institute for Aca-  
demic Excellence at Charles I. West  
Hall in Las Vegas, a K-12 school with  
1860 students.

**Jeff White'08** appeared on NBC's  
Blindspot and CBS's Blue Bloods in  
October 2016. Find Jeff at Facebook.  
com/YoungJeffersonWhite or by  
searching for "Jefferson White" at  
imdb.com.

**Kelly Rhone'04** is a singer-  
songwriter for the band  
Honeypot, a bluesy rock  
band. See their website  
at [www.honeypotthe-  
band.com/](http://www.honeypottheband.com/)



STEPHANIE NELSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Kelly also announced the  
first episode of her new comedy web  
series, "Hit People" ([https://www.you-  
tube.com/watch?v=MM-Vse3cmso](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MM-Vse3cmso)) is  
now online. She is the creator-writer-  
star she is currently filming the rest of  
the first season. [http://hitpeopleweb-  
series.com/](http://hitpeopleweb-series.com/)

**Laura Werkman'68** and **Jay Gunn'71** were  
among several community members  
who were recognized at 'An Evening  
Gala Celebrating the Arts' on Sep-  
tember 17 in Mount Vernon. Others

recognized were Judy and Don Stine, Hugh Lifson, Dick Peters and his wife, Linda. The event honors those who have contributed to the arts in the community.



## Thank you

... thank you to **Jeri Neal'66** for yearbooks  
 ...thank you to **Mark Nichols'76** for 1975-76 state champion football team scrapbook  
 ...to **Marilyn Woods Overman'46** for class photos  
 ...to photographers **Lisa Lewis'83**, **Crystal Covington Wherry'05**, and **Annamae Stoneking Baker'60** for their photographs at Homecoming and the Hall of Fame Ceremony  
 ...to **Annamae Stoneking Baker'60** for her ongoing assistance with organizing volunteers for newsletter labeling and alumni events  
 ...to **Sonia Essex Redmond'82** and the **Helen Peet'37** estate for Class of 1937 memorabilia

## A NOTE TO THE CLASS OF 1971

### We are planning a 50TH REUNION in 2021

At this time we will plan on having a Reunion and meal at Kernoustie Golf Course....and we will be checking into a hayrack ride in the Heritage Days parade that all 50 year reunions ride in! Sounds like fun...More info to come over the next 5 years...it will be here before we know it.

If you know of any family members of our classmates or a classmate that passes on, please let me know and I can send a card to their family... I will also inform the "group" ... Thanks so much for supporting the 1971 class.

Wendy (The Wallflower)  
 Kaplan Johnson  
 johnsonwendy725@gmail.com  
 319-551-1428



## Funky Fun Spot

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Main Street, Mount Vernon  
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### Mount Vernon Family Dentistry

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## Help support the Mount Vernon Veterans Memorial. Purchase an engraved paver!

**4"x 8" Memorial Pavers \$85 X** \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
**Second duplicate brick \$50 X** \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
**1.5" x 3" mini-brick \$15 X** \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Same Inscription)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PH#1 \_\_\_\_\_ PH#2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ IMAGE: Y / N \_\_\_\_\_



	Inscription	12	Description	20
LINE 1:				
LINE 2:				
LINE 3:				



- Each line can contain up to 20 characters (characters are letters, numbers, punctuation marks or spaces).
- The number of characters per line must be reduced to 12 characters if you select one of the optional images.
- Military-themed images can be viewed at <http://www.brickmarkers.com/graphics.htm>
- Want more than one engraved brick? Indicate additional inscription(s) desired on a separate sheet of paper.
- No need to center your inscription, that will be done during the engraving process unless otherwise requested.
- Please list any special requests on a separate sheet of paper.

**Make checks payable to: Mount Vernon Veterans Memorial**

**If you would like to pay via Credit Card please include:**

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Hahn-Howard Post 480 - Attention: Memorial Fund  
 209 Oak Ridge Drive SE, Mount Vernon, IA 52314**

## WHO WILL WIN? Alumni March Madness 'Bracket Challenge'

Join the fun and submit your winning bracket to the Alumni Association's March Madness "Bracket Challenge" as part of the 2017 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

Watch for communications from Association Board Member Alex Brannaman'09 by email and FaceBook when it is time.

**Thank you to EVERYONE who volunteers to help at Alumni Association events -- we could't do it without YOU!**

# ALUMNI

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

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Andrew Morf'94, President  
John Pospisil'66, Vice President  
Michele Meyer Grudzinski'92, Secretary  
Susan Mounts Fisher'65, Treasurer  
Dennis Jordan'87, Past President  
Jean Kuntz Bowman'64, Director  
Alex Brannaman'09, Director  
Bob Penn'81  
Mary Thomsen'75, Director  
Kim Zangger Tucker'94  
Crystal Covington Wherry'05, Director  
Kathy Staskal, Communications

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David Ryan'85, Vice-President  
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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

KEEP THIS NEWS LETTER COMING TO YOUR MAIL BOX

## 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!

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

2016-2017

FOR JULY 1 2016 TO JULY 1 2017

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

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