

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS



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2016 Heritage Days Events Coming Up!

July 8 and 9 - It's Heritage Days in Mount Vernon and that means a flurry of activities for alumni. Be sure to attend the ever-popular **All-Alumni-Community Breakfast** at the High School on Saturday morning (8-10:30 am, serving from 8-10 am). The event is a popular meeting place, and a unique opportunity to see alumni from the 1940s to 2016 (and even future alums!), as well as familiar faces from the community. Watch for golf cart transportation to and from the parking areas. There is additional handicapped parking at the front of the High School building. Then, visit the **Alumni-Community Reception area** up town - at a new location in the old Fire Department Station next to City Hall. Details are yet to be announced. Make the reception area *your meeting place* and come to view displays, have your picture taken, or grab some cold water. Who will you see there? See pages 4-5 for pictures from last year's activities and this year's Heritage Days schedule information.

EARLY BIRD RECEPTION You're invited to the 'Principal's office' at the First Street Community Building for an Early Bird Reception on Friday, July 8, from 1-3 pm. Enjoy some refreshments, a little 'Taste of Iowa', and a tour of what was either your old Middle School or High School. You will be **AMAZED** at the variety of shops and businesses now in the building.

Also in 2016

Friday, September 30 - Homecoming and Alumni Hall of Fame Award Ceremony

Saturday, October 1 - Mustang 5K - details to come.

And in 2017

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

Courtney '11 and Shelby '09 Kintzel

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ALL ALUMNI EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY & FRIENDS

Get your nomination in today for the 2017 Alumni Hall of Fame! Deadline is May 1



1964 Classmates Gary Kaplan, Christene Hudson Brown and Jane Maxson Penfield





Mustang ALUMNI

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2016

ALL-ALUMNI-COMMUNITY EVENTS

IN CONJUNCTION WITH HERITAGE DAYS

FRIDAY, JULY 8 AND SATURDAY, JULY 9

Reception Area

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

2016

- Antiques Extravaganza July 4
- Magical Night in Dec
- Heritage Days July 8-9

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

2016 REUNIONS

2011 - 5 YEARS - TBA

Sarah Ryan
Email: sarahryan320@gmail.com
Phone: 319-929-9322
Janette Knight
Email: knight.janelle@gmail.com

2006 - 10 YEARS - TBA

Jessica Corcoran
Email: jessicamcorcoran@gmail.com
Phone: 319-551-2171
Kim Smyth
Phone: 319-482-2541

2001 - 15 YEARS -in 2016

'Sweet 16' Reunion in 2016. Watch the Mount Vernon High School, Class of 2001 Facebook page

Sarah Kleinsmith Dannals
Email: sarah.dannals@gmail.com
Phone: 608-516-9272
Jessica Bigley Gallagher
Email: jessiegallagher@gmail.com
Phone: 469-544-7858

1996 - 20 YEARS - July 9

Maggie Lessmeier Willems
Email: maggieless@hotmail.com
Phone: 319-929-4542
Ben Pospisil
Email: bennyp1984@yahoo.com
Phone: 319-330-9493

1991 - 25 YEARS - TBA

contact tba

1986 - 30 YEARS - July 9

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

1981 - 35 YEARS - July 9

6:30 pm at Denise Henick Brannaman's home, 625 13th Ave,
Rhondi Ewing 805-499-1415
Email: rhondi@ewingdesign.com
Phone: 805-499-1415

1976 - 40 YEARS - TBA

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

1971 - 45 YEARS - July 9

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

1966 - 50 YEARS - July 8-10

Jeri Neal
Email: jmn773@gmail.com
Phone: 319-895-8171
Cindy Buresh Prewitt
Email: cynprew@comcast.net
Phone: 952-920-1447
Margaret Ellison Duffy
Email: margy.917@live.com
Phone: 319-930-0917

1961 - 55 YEARS - July 8-10

Dick Miner
Email: raldenm@aol.com
Phone: 775-833-2747
Barbara 'Bunny' Williams Copeland
Phone: 377-7644

1956 - 60 YEARS - July 8-10

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

1941 - 75 YEARS

1936 - 80 YEARS

1931 - 85 YEARS

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

Class of 1956

Friday, July 8

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Cocktails and reminiscing at Roger and Marilyn Schnittjer's

Saturday, July 8

8:00 - 10:00 am All Alumni-Community Breakfast, High School
5:30 pm Gwen's Restaurant in Lisbon
Social time (cash bar)
6:00 pm Buffet dinner

Sunday, July 9

10:00 am Brunch at Leona Smith's

Cost is \$20 each for you and your spouse/guest to cover the buffet at Gwen's. Please send your response and money by July 1st to:

Roger Schnittjer
205 4th Ave SW
Mt. Vernon, Iowa 52314

Class of 1996

20TH CLASS REUNION

Friday July 8th - evening informal gathering TBD - check Facebook Page for details

Saturday July 9th

- First Street Building (Old Middle School)
6:30-9:30pm

\$15 per person, \$25 per couple
Keg Beer, Lemonade, Tea, Snacks will be provided

Money collected which exceeds the cost of supplies and planning will be donated to the MVSCD Foundation to benefit students.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dennis Jordan '87
Alumni Association
President

No Better Time...

As we come upon the time of year for both graduation and class reunions, it's natural to look back and reflect on the past and both relish the memories and ask where the time has gone. And, don't we commonly hear ourselves and others talk about 'the good old days' with a desire to somehow relive the past, thinking it was better back when...? Reality is in many cases, there's no better time than the present and while we need to honor the past, our future does not lie there and neither should we.

Consider this a 'call to action' for all members of the Mount Vernon School Community to 'think forward' as both group and individually about what we/you can do to make a difference for the future generations that pass through the halls of Mount Vernon. What should we be doing to prepare them to compete in a world economy and how will we help them be not only great students but great citizens and great leaders? I would argue it requires a bold vision for an education environment, delivery and connectedness to the community and world. Other people and organizations are focusing on the first two, but 'we' the Alumni of Mount Vernon can help with the connectedness piece.

What's that look like? There's no better time to volunteer in the classroom, at a sporting event or fundraising activity for the various extra curricular activities and you don't even have to have a child in school. There's no better time, to think of ways we can provide real-life career experiences to young people so they better understand the world around them and how it applies to what they are learning in the classroom. Finally, there's no better time to make sure you we get the financial support at the community, state and federal level to provide a world-class education for all students in Mount Vernon, the State of Iowa and the United States. Our future Alumni will thank us.

Class of 1961

will hold their 55th class reunion

Friday, July 8, 5 PM until closing:
Welcome gathering at the Sutliff Tavern on the Cedar River next to the restored Sutliff Bridge. Classes on either side of us from 1958 to 1964 are welcome to join in the party.

Saturday, July 9, 8AM till 10:30AM
Breakfast at the new High School. This is an annual affair sponsored by the MV Alumni Association and is usually a packed house with several hundred old grads and spouses going all the way back to classes who graduated before WW II. Lots of fun!

Saturday, July 9, 5:30 PM:
Reunion Dinner – We kick off dinner with an open bar Happy Hour at the Long Branch Restaurant and Lounge in Cedar Rapids. A full buffet supper will follow at 6:30 PM. We hope to have a surprise special guest or two!

Sunday, July 10, Noon:
Picnic at Moose and Melani's farm, north side of US 30 just opposite the Upper Palisades.

Class of 1966

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

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 8
Sutliff Store and Tavern
Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres

SATURDAY, JULY 9
Alumni-Community Breakfast
Mount Vernon High School

Heritage Day Parade Class Float

Reunion: Casual class dinner gathering at the home of Jeri Neal

SUNDAY, JULY 10
Continental Breakfast
1114 Irish Lane

Class of 1971

45TH REUNION

Kernoustie Golf Club (formerly Hillcrest) 3pm- 6:00pm meet up with fellow classmates
Contact
Wendy Johnson 319-551-1428

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MEMORIES...HERITAGE DAYS 2015

Heritage Days 2015 brought alums and families together from all over the world. Approximately 300 were served at the All-Alumni Community Breakfast. An event you don't want to miss!



Mary Ann Saathoff Prenosil '60, Bill Saathoff '65 and Ed Saathoff '60



Jeff Kuehl '80, Cindy Bragg Steichen '80, and James Campbell '82



1957 Classmates Myrt Clark Bowers and Doug Tharp



Ilene 'Susie' Emerson Tuetken '59



1955 Classmates Nargi Rayman Steinbrech and Betty Smith Brunton



1970 Classmates Scott Akers, Ann Yeisley Becker, Bill Encke, Carmen Stolte Brannaman.



Dick Dvorak '44 and Helen Dvorak Stoner '46



Emma Pisarik '12, Katie Pisarik Pasker '97 and Annie Pisarik Messer '01



Ryan Winder '08 and Alumni Association Board Member Alex Brannaman '09



Front: Anthony Krumm '05, back, Karin Hylbak Capri '71, and Che Krumm '92



Barb Neal Hutchins'57, Janet Johnston McCannon'55, Carmen Neal Musser'63, Barb Thomsen Neal'68, Jeri Neal'61, Abigail Neal Bock'99



Andy Pitlik'99 and Roger Pitlik'67



Abby Albers Desautly'98 and family



Bill Macaulay'54 and Dave Van Metre'55



Linda Kirkdorffer'65 and Irene Kuntz Chervenky



George Brown'53 and wife Paula



Mary Ann Jilovec'62 and Bob Jilovec'64 volunteer at the breakfast

Enjoying company and exhibits at the All-Alumni-Community Reception tent



2016 Heritage Days Events

**THURSDAY, JULY 7 - FRIDAY, JULY 10 -
SATURDAY, JULY 11**

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

Thursday: Join Family Night and Fireworks at Kernoustie Golf Club

Friday: from 1-3 pm EARLY BIRD RECEPTION

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

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY HERITAGE DAYS EVENTS to be announced.

Watch websites and the 'Sun' for more information.

Friday and Saturday - All-Alumni-Community Reception area in the old Fire Station Building next to City Hall. A great place to meet up with your friends and family!

Saturday: 8-10:30 am All-Alumni-Community Breakfast (serving from 8-10 am), and all-day Heritage Days events.

Over Heritage Days you'll enjoy special events, and of course the annual parade on at 11am. Alumni-Community Reception tent open after the parade.

SEE LIST OF 2016 ALUMNI REUNIONS ON PAGE 2

Early Bird Reception

You're invited to the 'Principal's office' at the First Street Community Building for an Early Bird Reception on Friday, July 8, from 1-3 pm.

Enjoy some refreshments, some good company, a little 'Taste of Iowa', and a tour of what was either your old Middle School or High School. You will be AMAZED at the variety of shops and businesses now in the building.

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



Bell Returned to Abbe Creek School



Abbe Creek students Jim Gunn'42, Mary Carol Plattenberger Lambertsen'42, and Robert Plattenberger'40 at the Ceremony.

The Linn County Conservation Board held a Grand Bell Ringing Ceremony at Abbe Creek School on June 5th, 2016 – celebrating the return of the original school bell. The bell had been owned privately by Jim'42 and Mary Gunn. This was also the first day of open houses for the summer which run from 1-5 every Sunday between Memorial Day and Labor Day each year at this one room school house, which was the first of its kind in Linn County.

Alumni March Madness 'Bracket Challenge'

The Alumni Association presented its first annual March Madness "Bracket Challenge" as part of the 2016 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.



The contest was open to both alumni and non-alumni. Twenty-three participants made their stake for bracket perfection! Amid the joy, heartbreak and pure chaos that is part of the big dance, **Tasha Whitman** (wife of alum Ryan Whitman'03) came out victorious. Tasha's winning bracket scored in the 98.6 percentile of all ESPN brackets. Tasha correctly picked the Villanova Wildcats as the national champion (which was done in only 2.6% of all ESPN brackets), and the championship game sure had an ending for the ages!

Micah Wieditz'11 claimed overall second place but first in terms of the participating alumni. With North Carolina as her national champion Micah made things interesting for Tasha up until the final buzzer. Congratulations to both Tasha and Micah for their brackets, and each will receive an Alumni Association t-shirt. We thank all of our participants, and the "Bracket Challenge" will return again in March 2017 for another year!

REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

CLASS OF 1945 - 70 years

The class of 1945 met for their 70th Class Reunion on July 11, 2015 at Gwen's Restaurant.



Front: Janice West Johnson, Betty Pospisil Wolfe, Bernadine Bartosh Reyhons, Monica Blood Svoboda, Opal Paul Gish
Back: Glenn Klinsky, Ray Zinkula, Robert Ruble

CLASS OF 1955 - 60 years



The MVHS class of 1955 held their 60th class reunion at Whitey's in Lisbon on July 10, 2015. Pictured from the class of 1955 are: Front from left to right Betty Smith Brunton, Kay Mullen Morrissey, Kay Jilovec Lind, Larry Ringer, Carol Hartenberger Walden, and David Van Metre. Back row Nargi Rayman Steinbrech and Janet Johnston McCannon. Not pictured: Phyllis Brecht White and Leona Ford Gaines.

They invited to 2 classes ahead of them and the two classes behind them. Attending from the class of 1953 were Marie Reyhons Beuter, George Brown, Carlyle Bys, Susan Abricht Kehrl, Jean Pavelka Litts, Barbara Beckhelm Moore, and Don Walden. 1954 class members present were Fae Sparks Edwards, Larry Edwards, Bob Henik's widow, Elaine, Keith Jilovec's widow, Arlene, Bill Macaulay, and Jean Henik Quinlan. Members from the class of 1956 were Betty Coon Ammeter, Gretchen Beckhelm, Ken Kaliban, Dick Kruse, Deanne Dean LeVan, Roger Schnittjer, Leona Reyhons Smith, Doug Wolrab, and Mike Wolrab. Attendees from the class of 1957 were Bonnie Humes Boodon, Bill Bowers, Myrtle Clark Bowers, Barbara Neal Hutchins, Janis Lowe Majors, Karen Jilovec Martin, Elaine Mulherin, and Doug Sharp. Other Alums attending were Bob Wolfe'48, Ailene Merritt Bys'52 and Marilyn Dean Schnittjer'58.

Read about the legend of ol' 31 on page 26





▲ CLASS OF 1965 - 50 years

The Class of 1965 held their 50th Class reunion, Friday, July 10, 2015 evening at Sutliff Store and Tavern, on Saturday at the Alumni Association's breakfast, followed by a Heritage Days Parade Class Float, an afternoon get-together at Susan Mounts Fisher's home, and a Reunion gathering at Sally's on Main in the evening. Classmates met for coffee on Sunday morning.

Pictured above, front row: Susan Mounts Fisher, Shirley Swanson Gugler, Linda Kirkpatrick Kirkdorffer, Florene Allard Akers, Donald Patchin, Karen Swiser Cowell, Dave Hartl. Second row: Scott Hickson, Gary Knutsen, Robert Caldwell, Dennis Steele, Steve Edwards, Bill Saathoff, Greg Harman, Dave Brown, Joe Woods. Also attending but not in picture are: Tom Benson, Irene Kuntz Cherveney, Dennis Lnenicka, Terese Pisarik, Jim Rife

▼ CLASS OF 1960 - 55 years



The Class of 1960 held their 55th reunion dinner on September 19, 2015 at the Sleep Inn, Cornell Room, in Mount Vernon. Sunday, September 20, John and Thelma Rife hosted the class at their home for brunch (photo at top left) the following morning.

Front: Frances Krejci Woodward. 1st Row: Robert Beckman, Frances Bensmiller Lanning, Linda Stastny Bragg, Paul Herboldsheimer, John Hunter. 2nd Row: Sheridan Gillam Edmund, Mary Ann Saathoff Prenosil, Annamae Stoneking Baker, Susan Dye Hodin, Lumir Nezerka, Judy Caldwell Penn. Back Row: Pat Lynott, Kathy Morrissey Layden, John Rife, Tom Wilkinson, Ed Saathoff, Keith Clark, Fred Niehaus



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Class of 1989



Class of 1996

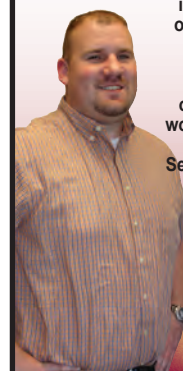
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FROM ANNA MAE BAKER '60

When I was in 4th grade, Miss Lahman was our teacher....we were in the old Ward School building. We had coat rooms, boys and girls, and each room had a bathroom in it with only a wall to separate them. Ted Pence '60 and I used to go in our respective rooms and sit on the toilet and pound on the walls just for fun. One day, Miss Lahman opened the door on Teddy and asked him what he was doing? He told her he was pounding on the wall, needless to say, he got drug out of the rest room and got in trouble. Then he said, "Well, Annamae was doing it too". Miss Lahman never did a thing to me..... saved again!!!

When we were in junior high, at what is now the Community Building and what was the old high school.....the boys rest room was upstairs. When you walked in there was a wash basin and then you walked through the next door to the toilets. Well.....my classmates Dennis Carney and Dave Neal picked me up on a study hall chair, clear at the other end of the hall and carried me on the chair to the rest room and put me in the first room where you washed your hands. And held the door shut on me! Guess who came out of the toilet? Mr. Gerst! And he says, "Annamae what are you doing here?" I said "Dave Neal and Dennis Carney put me in here." Mr. Gerst said, "ok, Annamae, let's go to the office"....for some reason, I spent a lot of time in Mr. Gerst's office. He and I got to be very good friends.

I have a lot of great memories of my school years. I think I had more fun than any kid in school.

Annamae lives in Mount Vernon and can be reached at abmrk@gmail.com

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

REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

▼ CLASSES OF 1978,1979 and 1980 - 35 years



The Classes of 1978, 1979 and 1980 met Saturday, July 11, 2015 at home of Bill Bowers. Pictured above are, front row, Jeff Steichen'81, Lance Campbell'80, Pat Wallace'78, Bill Bowers'80, Sheri Butterbaugh'80. Carolyn Hughs'80, Craig Stepanek'80. 2nd row, Laura Cullen'80, Susan Clancy'80, Jane Heath'79, Ann Koppenhaver'78, Jody Murphy'79, Denise Clark'79, Lori Melchert'80, Mary Wolfe'80, Missy Liddell'79. 3rd row, Troy Spencer'80, Dave Nichols'80, Cindy Bragg'80, Jeff Kuhl'80, Mark Pisarik'79, Ron Therouf'79. 4th row, Steve Pisarik'80, Steve Jilovec'79, Warren Havill'77, Steve Reyhons'79, Jim Woods'79, Mike Hufford'79, Dan Soloman'80, Dave Merwin'79, Rob Hanson'79, Karen Valentine'80, Mike Hines'79, Ray Dochterman'79.

▼ CLASS OF 1985 - 30 years

The Class of 1985 held their 30th reunion during Heritage Days 2015. Pictured at right, front: Robin Baker Mantz. Middle row: Nichole Nelson Flynn, Butch Myers, Kelly Erickson, Tom Dumbaugh, Dave Ryan, Jennifer Spencer Toriggino. Back: Wayne Hormann, Ken Woods, Bill Harris, Bill Douglass, Laura Schmidt Timm, Shawna Hutchins Rawson, Ron Timm



Left photo: Robin Baker Mantz, Amy Lifson, Shawna Hutchins Rawson, Kelly Erickson. Middle: Julie Livermore, Bill Spellerberg, Andrea Newman Sirls and Ken Woods. Right: Kevan Forest, Doug Stiffler, Todd Bothel, Peter Ault

2016 Homecoming Events - SEPT. 30

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
HOMECOMING AND ALUMNI HALL OF FAME AWARDS CEREMONY

REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

▼ CLASS OF 1990 - 25 YEARS



The Class of 1990 held their 25th Reunion at a Social Gathering at Kernoustie Golf Club, July 11, 2015.

Back row: Jason Booth, Dave Cosgrove, James Winchip, Aaron Telecky, Matt Slinker, Dave Jordan, Aaron Kirkpatrick, Russ Ryan, Chaddwick Plotz, Curt Novak.

Front row: Travis Allen, Kim McGowan McAdams, Andrea Mott Zastrow, Brittany Kaalberg Booth, Janee Koehn, Angie Vittetoe Reed, Dan Aalbers, Paul Morf.

▼ CLASS OF 1995 - 20 years




The Class of 1995 held their 20th Reunion on Saturday, July 11, 2015 at Whitey's Bar & Grill in Lisbon. Pictured above, front row, Leah Schulte Meyer, Sarah Woods, Melissa Wolrab, Kelly Nelson Amos, Kelly Boardman, Farrah Studt. Back row, Kip Sitzmore, Sean McNeal, Steve Meeker, Josh Yoder, Scott Pospisil, Brittany Pitlik, Amber Kuntz Collum, Luke McDermott, Scott Phillips, Tim Overman

▼ CLASS OF 2016

The Class of 2016 graduated May 22 with 94 graduates. Class alumni representatives are Jenna Brannaman and David Taylor






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THANK YOU for your 2015-2016 Support of the Alumni Association

One way YOU can help the Alumni Association is to be a 'Supporter'. We are asking each alumnus and friends for a voluntary contribution of \$10 or more annually (July 1 to July 1) to help offset a variety of publishing, event, and Association expenses. **Your financial support is greatly appreciated.** Following are names of alums who have supported us for the 2015-16 year. **See page 13 for the 2016-2017 Support Form.**

Does your name have an asterik* behind it? This means you have already contributed for the 2016-2017 year (as of May 25, 2016). Additional donations are always appreciated.

Is your name missing? 319-389-8602 or alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Leo Beranek * 1931
Boston MA | Janet Johnston McCannon' 1955
Burlington, IA | Helen Sproston Schneider * 1958
Center Point, IA | Dennis Pisarik * 1962
Mechanicsville, IA |
| Helen Peet'37*
Mechanicsville IA | Jane Johnston Perry * 1955
Mattoon, IL | Marilyn Dean Schnittjer'58
Mount Vernon, IA | Joan Hunter Brown 1963
Hutchinson, KS |
| Ward Hemenway * 1944
Monroe, CT | Jerry Ringer 1955
Bloomington, IL | David Sparks * 1958
Ankeny, IA | Charles Cochran* 1963
Cabin John, MD |
| Pauline Doubenmier Wagaman 1944
Lisbon, IA | Christobel Kramer Rhoads * 1955
Falmouth, MA | James Clark * 1959
Cedar Rapids, IA | Robert Dvorak * 1963
Mount Vernon, IA |
| Robert Lux * 1945
Scottsdale, AZ | David Van Metre* 1955
Omaha, NE | Jane Costello Fink 1959
Anamosa, IA | Karen Kaliban Fox 1963
Marion, IA |
| Jim Gunn 1946
Mount Vernon, IA | Betty Coon Ammeter * 1956
Cedar Rapids, IA | Ed Fordyce * 1959
Mount Vernon, IA | Sandra Schweitzer Haven * 1963
Watsonville, CA |
| Helen Dvorak Stoner * 1946
Amana, IA | J David Ennis * 1956
Jamesville, VA | Bill Jilovec * 1959
Mechanicsville, IA | Deborah Lenz Hicks * 1963
San Jose, CA |
| Harold Klinsky * 1947
Cedar Rapids, IA | Robert Kalous * 1956
Cedar Rapids, IA | Jerry Kroeger * 1959
Mount Vernon, IA | Barbara Clark Ingersoll * 1963
Ely, IA |
| Millicent Hoggard Zenishek * 1947
Mechanicsville, IA | Janet Minor Sessions * 1956
Kent, OH | Ann McCutcheon Niehaus * 1959
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Mount Vernon, IA | Ruth Bensmiller-Reed *
Marion, IA |
| Jack Stanton * 1949
Dewey, AZ | Barbara Neal Hutchins * 1957
Mount Vernon, IA | Keith Clark * 1960
Mount Vernon, IA | Jean Kuntz Bowman * 1964
DeWitt, IA |
| James Kent * 1950
Winchester, MA | Carolyn Bensmiller Kelly * 1957
Huntsville, AL | Willis Clark * 1960
Austin, TX | JoAnn Kroul Clark * 1964
Mount Vernon, IA |
| Dorothy Biderman Shestak * 1950
Pickerel, WI | Paul Kent * 1957
Vicksburg, MS | Susan Dye Hodin * 1960
Arvada, CO | Ray Stoner'64*
Mount Vernon, IA |
| Wiladene Hoggard Willming * 1950
San Antonio, TX | Rita Becicka Krall * 1957
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Davenport, IA | David Brown * 1965
Centennial, CO |
| Carol Croft Kent * 1951
Winchester, MA | Janet Hess Smith * 1957
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Martelle, IA | Irene Kuntz Cherveney * 1965
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| | | Alice Anderson Holtz * 1962
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Kathy Staskal in memory of Mary Mulherin'38

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



Alumni Association Board Secretary Michele Meyer Grudzinski'92 introduces David Taylor and Jenna Brannaman as the Class of 2016 alumni representatives at Senior Awards Night held in May.

ALUMNI IN OUR SCHOOLS



Alumni and friends of the school district met in early May to assist in the selection of the 2016 high school graduation student speakers. Attending were: Mitch Corcoran'83, Angela Harms Randall'88, Kim Zangger Tucker'94, Babs Beckhelm Moore'53, Judy Stine, Alumni Association Board member and Committee Chair Mary Thomsen'75, Barb Thomsen Neal'68, Pat Melcher'84, and Paul Morf'90.

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
jessiegallagher@gmail.com
469-544-7858

IN THE FALL 2016 ISSUE...

2016 HOMECOMING
AND HALL OF FAME PICTURES
2017 REUNION INFO
AND MORE

send in your news by October 1st



Each year the Alumni Association gives an alumni pin to each graduating senior after they have walked the stage. Shown here at left are Association Board Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher'65 and Association Board Secretary Michele Meyer Grudzinski'92 congratulating Adam Gage'16.



Each year the Alumni Association sponsors the reception for the High School Honor Society Induction Ceremony. Shown here are hosts Susan Mounts Fisher'65, Kim Zangger Tucker'94, and Barb Thomsen Neal'68



Jenna Brannaman'16 received her graduation diploma from school board member and mother Denise Henik Brannaman'81. Photo taken by Jessika Brokel'16.

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

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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.

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. 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
 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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Enhancing Relationships

Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ WADE SQUIERS '84



From the time I was little I always wanted to be an Architect so I attended Iowa State and received my Architecture degree in 1988. After graduation I worked for a firm in Des Moines for a few years to get some practical experience before heading back to graduate school.

At that time ISU only offered a 4 year degree so in order to sit for the licensing exam I needed to get my masters. In 1990 I decided to go to Clemson in South Carolina. It was a long way from home, they had a good football team (something I wasn't used to so it ranked high on my list) and it was really affordable compared to most other programs. During my time at Clemson I studied at the Charles E. Daniel Center for Urban Studies in Genoa, Italy for a semester. I'd say this experience was one of the most memorable I've ever had. All of the students were given a tremendous amount of freedom to travel all over Europe for "research". I was lucky enough to see the Pope in Rome, the Berlin Wall, Check Point Charlie, and visited Eastern European Cities like Prague and East Berlin just after the fall of the iron curtain. It was like stepping back in time. Both cities looked

like they had been in a time capsule for 40 years. A really nice hotel cost \$8.00 and a 4 course meal was \$12. It was a terrific way to see Europe.

After surviving graduate school I moved to Atlanta in '92 and worked for several Architectural firms over the next 12 years. Early on I worked for a two man shop (counting me) and I realized pretty quickly that I'd be limiting myself to small projects for the rest of my career if I didn't get more in depth experience. I eventually took a job with a 150 person firm in order to get exposure to larger more complex projects. I ultimately landed in the hospitality division designing hotel resorts throughout the world, the furthest being a Four Seasons resort in Doha, Qatar. It ended up being one of the better decisions I've made in my life. I met my wife Krista in '94, we were married three years later, and our daughter Isabella was born in 2002. We watched the Olympics roll through Atlanta and swell the population from 2 million to almost 5 million by the time we left in 2004.

In 2004 we moved to the northwest panhandle of Florida for a job opportunity in Rosemary Beach. Over time this eventually led to me opening my own firm mainly designing custom homes in a series of "New Urbanist" planned communities located along the coast. The most famous of these towns was "Seaside" where the movie The Truman Show was filmed with Jim Carey. It's actually a real town.

In 2011 we packed our bags one more time and moved back to Mount Vernon. My wife now owns Rolling Hills Yoga on main street and my daughter, Isabella, is in 7th grade.

I'm now Principal Architect for Fusion Architects in Cedar Rapids. We're a 7 person firm that is part of a larger family of companies which comprise the design build/development entity Ahmann

Companies. We specialize in all aspects of land development from design and construction to financing and property management.

A majority of our projects are mixed use residential projects in and around Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. Currently we have several projects under construction in the Newbo area as well as downtown Cedar Rapids.



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An accomplishment I am proud of...I'd have to say it's a toss-up between writing my thesis in grad school and passing the Architectural licensing exam. Both just about killed me.

A favorite school memory...Honestly there are too many to count. Most of them can't be printed here....my parents will be reading this.

I'd say the most memorable teacher had to be Dick Peters. Our goal most days would be to get him to tell a story for the entire class and not have to do any actual work. Pete was our JV football coach one year and for some reason he had to do push-ups during practice...he must have lost a bethe was counting while doing his pushups and his teeth fell out onto the ground. None of us knew he had false teeth so we just looked at each other thinking "did you see that!?" He didn't miss a beat and just tried to pick them back up with his mouth while finishing his pushups.

Wade can be reached at wsquiers@fusion-architects.com



■ JENNA SMITH'10

Editor's Note: Excerpted from article by Erica Kuhlmann, the Sun, mvlsun.com

Jenna Smith'10 returned to the local stage in February as a cast member for Opera Iowa's mainstage production of Rossini's "Cinderella".

The Opera Iowa Educational Touring Troupe is a program of the Des Moines Metro Opera, and troupe members are hand-picked from nationwide auditions of more than 800 singers. This is Jenna's second year with Opera Iowa.

In high school Smith was a three-time member of Iowa's All-State Choir. Jenna credits Mount Vernon High School with



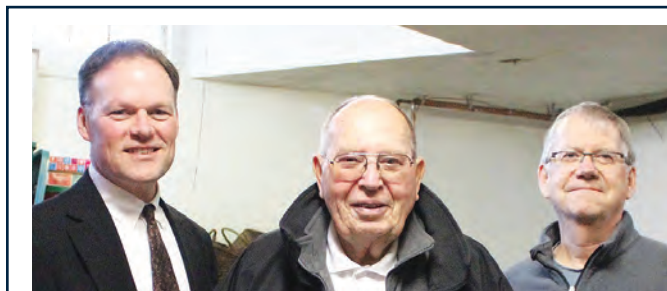
giving her the opportunity to excel in many activities, a feature of her education that she believes sets her apart from many of her fellow opera performers. She recalled that in high school, Joleen Woods, who was Mount Vernon's vocal music director at the time, selected some arias for her to sing for the solo/ensemble contest. That experience, however brief, was her very first introduction to opera music.

"That was when she told me that I was talented," said Smith. It was Woods who told her that she should look into attending Simpson College, which has an established opera program. After graduating, Jenna attended Simpson for a degree in vocal performance.

Jenna admitted that before her time as an undergraduate at Simpson, she had never really listened to a lot of opera, but once she immersed herself, "it was like nothing else....Being an opera singer, the path is a little more linear, and there was a way to work my way up to becoming a professional singer," Smith said.

Opera Iowa performances are all across Iowa, and Smith travels to the performance locations from her home in Mount Vernon to meet up with the troupe. "Opera Iowa fulfills my creative urge to perform," she said. Smith said that she wanted to show people in the Mount Vernon-Lisbon area – including her family and friends – how cool and fun opera can be.

Smith was most excited about returning to perform for the teachers at Mount Vernon. She mentioned she is especially grateful for her former instructors Joleen Woods and Sarah Richardson, who, she said, "pushed me to pursue creative endeavors. I'm so thankful for all the opportunities Mount Vernon gave me." As for her future, Smith said she has considered attending graduate school. For the time being, she said she loves to perform, and she is "letting the winds take me where they want to."



Craig Smith, Ade Ringold, Steve Neal '66

Editor's Note: Excerpted from www.mvlsun.com, by Jake Krob, April 14, 2016
Two weeks after he died there on March 24, 2016, former Mount Vernon School superintendent Ade Ringold sat in the basement of Bauman's, joking with his friends. It's where he was when his heart stopped for 10 minutes. It's where two of his coffee club compadres, Craig Smith and Steve Neal '66, kept him from the grave through CPR, and where others' efforts also made sure he could return to morning coffee once again.

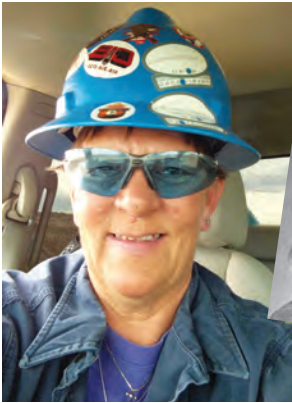
"If I had been anywhere else - golfing or home - I'd probably be dead." Ringold said. Mount Vernon Police Chief Doug Shannon agrees. "Everything went right," Shannon said. "He was in a public place with other people who took immediate action." Police chief Doug Shannon and officers rushed to Bauman's with an AED – an Automated External Defibrillator. The police have an AED for each squad car, as well as one at City Hall. Ten minutes after Ringold's heart stopped, it was shocked back to life with the machine. Ringold spent six days in the hospital, leaving with a pacemaker.

Police chief Doug Shannon has lauded the work of other officers and community members for their work to save the life of resident Ade Ringold at Bauman's. Chief Shannon was awarded a lifesaving award at a recent Mount Vernon City council meeting from Mayor Jamie Hampton '91.



Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ MARTHA 'MARTY' THOMSEN OHLFEST'77



After high school I attended Kirkwood Community College, pursuing a career as a medical secretary. I didn't "officially" graduate from the program because I was being "difficult" by refusing to complete all of the typing modules that were required. When my advisor asked me about it, I replied "Why do I need to learn about typing up legal documents? I am going to be a medical secretary, not a legal one." She asked what I would do if the doctor I worked for got involved in a lawsuit? My response "Well, I'll let his lawyer's secretary type up the documents!"

On April 1st, 1978, I married Dave Ohlfest'75. I worked as the inside sales person at Iowa Machinery & Supply in Cedar Rapids, until the arrival of our son, Dustin, in November 1979. I was able to be a stay-at-home mom. In May 1982, our daughter Katy arrived. I continued to be at home with the kids until a golden opportunity presented itself in 1984. Dr. Gordon Rahn right in Mount Vernon was looking for a medical secretary! It was only a part-time position, but it was literally 2 blocks from home! It didn't matter to him that I hadn't gotten an official medical secretary degree! The job eventually became full-time. I worked there until Doc Rahn retired in 1989. So I "retired" too.

During the time I was there, I was approached about becoming an EMT with the Lisbon-Mount Vernon Ambulance Service. Thus started my almost 8 years as a volunteer on LMVAS! My retirement was short lived, lasting only a few months. One of my great childhood friends and classmate, Cindy Viter, had taken over her mom's upholstery business and was looking for some help. And so I learned all about upholstery. That job was ideal



too....first, being able to work with a great friend. The hours were perfect. If the kids were sick, I stayed home with no fear of losing my job because I was missing work. I was still able to be a daytime responder for the ambulance service too. I had the best of all worlds!

In early 1993, I was told about a job at the Amoco terminal in North Liberty. So I applied and was hired as a terminal operator. This was a bulk storage facility where we also loaded semi-trucks with gasoline and/or diesel fuel. My boss eventually retired and I was selected to take over as the terminal manager. During my time at Amoco, I decided to go back to school. I graduated from Kirkwood in 2000 (the same year my daughter graduated from high school!) with an Associate of Applied Sciences Degree in Management.

In 2003, Dave and I divorced. I left the Amoco terminal, which by that time had become BP, in April 2004 and made a major life change. I moved to Florida!! I lived near Fort Myers, and started work with the new man in my life, doing the scheduling for our dirt grading business for custom homes. Eventually, both of my kids moved to Florida too. Dustin'98 came to work in our business and Katy'00 continued her medical career at the local hospital. This was our business until the collapse of the housing market in 2007. I went to work for the county fleet department as a service writer. In 2008 we left Florida and landed in Carrollton, Missouri. I became a pipeline inspector in July 2008 and that has been my career ever since.

Dick Peters was a favorite teacher. So knowledgeable and had a great way of keeping you interested.

Memories.....so many. Playing softball, basketball, being a cheerleader. And of course, having my mom Mary Thomsen in the High School office was both a blessing and a curse! HA

Marty can be reached at islandgirl62@live.com



■ BRIAN BARTHEL'77



Being a MVHS Alumni, 1977 version, I

thought I could share this ... though I've been in Utah for 18 years now. I'm an associate professor at Utah Valley University (UVU) in the Public and Community Health Dept, Orem, Utah.

On April 13, 2016 I was award an Outstanding Traffic Safety Program Award ... One of two presented in the state at the Zero Fatalities Summit. The Zero Fatalities Summit is held once every two years. The award was presented by Keith D. Squires, Commissioner of Utah Department of Public Safety.



For the past 5 years I have worked with the Zero Fatalities and Utah County Health Dept. with a program titled "Click-it-Club." I teach a UVU course titled 'Modifying Health Behavior (HLTH 3260).' I was looking for an engaged learning project for the class to associate with and Click-it-Club seemed like the right program. We teach elementary school children the importance of buckling up and encourage their parents to do so as well.

Each semester teams of students go into Utah County elementary schools to conduct Click-it-Club teaching activities... This could be to the entire school or on the classroom level. The teams coordinate activities with other organizations too, like the Utah highway patrol, and Zero Fatality representatives. Over the years we have presented this program to almost 15,000 students. Of course this has been a coordinated effort... so many wonderful people have provided valued assistance and guidance to my-



self and students in my UVU classes.

Side-note ... Back in 1984 I was the coordinator for a Utah County Health Dept. funded program titled 'Buckle Up Utah County' ... I dressed as a character named BUUC (Buck) the Belt Buckler... and I visited the local elementary schools with the message of buckling up. In a home-made costume ... see pictures above) 10,000 litter bags and 10,000 bumper stickers had my caricature on them! So this topic is very familiar to me. In 1984 there were no seat belt or child safety seat laws!

Brian can e reached at barthebr@uvu.edu



Bruce Mullen'58 wrote in with 'some really big fun news. We had our old Chevy truck painted at Navarro's Body Shop in Los Algodones, Baja, California'



The four 2012 Mustang alumni pictured above graduated from Coe College at its commencement exercises on May 8, 2016. Left to right: Erin Pisarik, Jacob Timm, Leeann Oelrich and Jamie Wolfe.

LEONA REYHONS SMITH'56

Bill Faoro and Leona Reyhons Smith'56 hold pictures of their children in their home north of Mount Vernon-Lisbon. The couple connected 10 years ago when they lost their spouses one day apart. Bill's late wife, Alice, and Leona were good childhood friends.



Editor's Note: Photo and excerpt of article by Jake Krob, Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun, mvlsun.com

Their marriage announcement says it best: They came into each other's lives "for a reason, a season and a lifetime."

That's the story of Leona Smith and Bill Faoro, who found love again – with each other – following the deaths 10 years ago of their spouses, who passed away one day apart. You might say it was more of a reconnection that brought them together. After all, they witnessed each other's vows to their first spouses about five decades before in Mount Vernon-Lisbon. Then condolence cards, e-mails and phone calls – from about 1,000 miles apart – led to marriage.

Leona has deep roots in Mount Vernon-Lisbon. She grew up a Reyhons on the family's farm near Palisades-Kepler State Park. She married Dudley Smith, a farmer and beloved member of the community.

As a kid, Leona hung out with Alice Vislisel, a girl around her age who lived nearby. The two rode the same bus to school. They were in 4-H together. They had the same catechism classes at the Catholic church....Their friendship continued during High School – Leona graduated from MVHS in 1956 and Alice a year later.

That's where the story begins – and how Leona and Bill ended up married.

Leona's family, the Reyhons, were close with the Smiths, and Leona and Dudley Smith soon got to know each other.

Leona remembers going to a dance with

Dudley, and how Dudley continued to care for her after she graduated from high school and went to Iowa Teachers College (today the University of Northern Iowa). When she was lonely, he showed up one time, which warmed her heart.

After college, Leona started a two-year job teaching in Lisbon. Leona and Dudley married June 17, 1958, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church south of Lisbon-Mount Vernon. Her friend, Alice Vislisel, was one of her three attendants.

Bill, a Connecticut native, enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed in Omaha in the early 1960s. One of his fellow servicemen was set up on a blind date with a girl from Iowa, but didn't want to go. So Bill stepped in. The girl was Alice, who after studying at Iowa State University began teaching in Omaha.

Bill recalls he and Alice went on about four dates (he was busy with Air Force duties). The couple married Nov. 17, 1962, at St. John's Catholic Church, at the time located in Lisbon. Alice had three attendants. Leona was supposed to be one of them, but she was pregnant with her first child. But Leona and Dudley did attend the wedding.

After time in the service, Bill and Alice moved back to his home state of Connecticut. As the two grew their family, so did Leona and Dudley. Bill and Alice had five children – four boys and a girl. Leona and Dudley had five children – four girls and a boy. Just about every summer, Bill and Alice visited Mount Vernon-Lisbon, where her family still lived.

continued on next page



LEONA REYHONS SMITH '56 continued

Over the years since Alice left Iowa with Bill, she and Leona corresponded, and in later years emailed.

In January 2006, both couples' lives changed. On Jan. 27 that year, Alice died of a heart attack. One day later, Dudley passed away after a battle with cancer.

Leona learned of her old friend's death from a common friend. She sent Bill a sympathy card with Dudley's obituary, alerting him to the news of her own loss. Bill said he clearly recalls opening cards following his wife's passing and coming across the one from Leona. He saw that Leona's husband had died a day after his wife died. "I dropped what I was doing and sent you a card," Bill said.

Not long afterward, Bill was checking e-mail that his late wife had managed. In it was a chain e-mail – a poem that began "people come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime." Bill shared it with those in his address book. Leona responded. "She felt the same way I did," Bill said. "All of the sudden there was this connection."

Leona and Bill began writing regularly through e-mail. "I was anxious to come back to the computer every day – like a high school kid with his first girlfriend," Bill said. He then asked for Leona's phone number and "We started talking about every day," Bill said.

About six months after the two lost their spouses, Bill stopped at Leona's house while on a visit to see three of his children in Kansas City. Some time after that, Leona visited Bill in Connecticut. With such deep roots in Mount Vernon-Lisbon, there was no way Leona was going to leave here, Bill said. So he became an Iowan. The couple was married at St. John's Catholic Church in Mount Vernon on May 9, 2009.

With 10 kids between them, Leona and Bill point out that can get complicated. Once since they were married they were all together in Kansas City. Bill is 79; Leona 77. They'll have been married seven years this spring. They agree, they came into each others lives for a reason ... for a lifetime.

Leona can be reached at
leonasmith@yahoo.com



DAVID WOLFE '50



The Wolfe siblings: Tom Wolfe '45, John Wolfe '44, Bob Wolfe '48, David Wolfe '50, Liz Wolfe Kroul '45 and Mary Wolfe Smith '47

After graduating from Mount Vernon, I went to business college in Davenport, IA. Then on to work for Guaranty Bank in Cedar Rapids before being drafted into the Army in 1955 (I weighed only 106 lbs – everyone in Mount Vernon thought the Army was crazy to take me...ha, ha). The Army sent me to Munich, Germany for two years as a medic. After returning to Mount Vernon I went back to work at the bank in Cedar Rapids.

In 1959 my bags were packed for Los Angeles, California, deciding 'it was now or never'; lucky enough to have friends that were Cornell graduates to house me and make me feel welcome. There were several others from Iowa that lived in the area and we got together often – all of us grateful to have been raised in the midwest.

One of my Iowa friends arranged for me to get an interview at City National Bank in Beverly Hills. I landed the job and worked there for six years. It was called 'the bank to the stars' and as a junior loan officer, and later a manager, our bank's primary purpose was to lend money to those producing movies. I saw a lot of stars during that time. One of my friends was president of the Golden Globes and he took me to many events, introducing me to many famous people – Gregory Peck, Lauren Bacall, and others. For a boy from Iowa I felt very lucky. I would pinch myself every time I went to an event. For instance, this picture shows me at one of Leonardo DiCaprio's first film screenings.

Dody Goodman, who was on the Jack Parr Show, ended up a good friend of mine.



Then in 1966 I took a freighter through the Panama Canal, went on to spend 3 months in Europe, renting a flat in Switzerland, and taking trips all over. I went to all the Opera Houses in

Milan, Italy; Vienna, Austria; Paris, and London, seeing many famous singers including Leontyne Price. I also attended the opening of the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament and saw the Queen Mum!

I came back to Los Angeles, where I continue to live today, and worked in accounting for an accounting agency. During that time I was able to travel quite a bit, including a four-week camel safari in Africa and a trip to Uganda. On the first day of my arrival in Uganda, unbeknownst to me, General Idi Amin seized control of the country. Hotel staff woke me in the middle of the night to evacuate, ushered me to a darkened cab which sped off with bullets flying overhead, for the last plane to leave for Europe. After working for the agency for about 10 years I was able to retire at the age of 42.

Since that time I have done a great deal of volunteer work, primarily with the Senior Volunteer Club at the Plummer Park Center. I've been with this club now for at least 25 years (I'll be 84 this October 4th), doing things like taking people who are alone or low income to medical appointments and calling to check on them. I've also helped obtain various types of literature for seniors, arranged tickets to events, and so on, once serving as president of the Senior Volunteer Club for two years.

On a personal note I play tennis 5 days a week and enjoy attending performances at the Los Angeles Music Center and the Hollywood Bowl. I make trips back to Iowa every year and enjoy seeing my family and friends, especially treasuring a walk out to Palisades Park to enjoy the tranquility. Mount Vernon is my real home with my real friends. Iowa is always in my heart and the people are wonderful.

My favorite teacher when I was in high school was by far Mr. Patton. He laughed at my silly jokes and became a teacher I could relate to.



Alumni News...

Send us your information...

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

MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

Kyla Rand'13 is engaged to Logan Boas. They plan an August wedding at the Salem United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids.

Kylea Weber'11 is engaged to Nick Brautigam. They plan a July 9, 2016 wedding. The couple reside in Dekalb, IL.

Rebecca Young'11 married William "Trent" Minner on May 29 at the Cathedral of the Ozarks.

Flannery Lucas'10 and **Dylan Schroeder'10** were married Aug. 9, 2015, in Cornell College's King Chapel. The couple resides in Janesville, Wis.

Nicole 'Nikki' Penn'10 is engaged to Joseph Ihus and will marry July 9th in Beloit, WI. The couple will reside in Riverside, MO.

Jonathan Penn'10 is engaged to Anna-Marie Lawrence and will marry on June 4 in Eads, TN. The couple will reside in Memphis, TN.

Ashley Armstrong'09 married **Eric Gerth'01** July 2014. The couple reside in Cedar Rapids.

Tiffany Daubert'09 is engaged to Justin Schulze. The couple will make their home in North Liberty.

Rachel Craig'07 is engaged to Adam Laborde. They plan a fall wedding. The couple reside in Sheboygan, Wis.

Jaclyn Hoffman'07 married **Jacob Craig'04** on May 21, 2016 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Mount Vernon. The couple reside in ???

Aaron Cole'90 married Sahaya Josephine on April 24, 2014 in Trichy, India. The couple reside in Fremont, CA.

BIRTHS

Ashley Armstrong Gerth'09 and **Eric Gerth'01** of Cedar Rapids, a son, Lincoln Robert on April 18, 2016.

Emily Ryan Stamp'09 and Shea Stamp of Hiawatha, a son, Breck Ryan on April 28, 2016.

Megan Grunder Traxel'09 and husband Mike of Ames, IA, a son, Theodore Robert on March 30, 2016.

Samantha Weber Formanek'08 and husband Kyle of Reinbeck, IA, a son, Maverick Scott on March 16, 2016.

Stephanie Burbridge Scheer '05 and

husband Kyle (Lisbon '03) of Des Moines, a daughter, Lucille Elizabeth, on August 29, 2015.

Caitlin Wieseler Bienemann'04 and husband Jared of Cedar Rapids, a son, Niles Dean, February 5, 2016.

Andy Pitlik'99 and wife Ashley, a daughter, Harper Ann, on January 25, 2016. Grandparents are Roger Pitlik'67 and Gayla Deskin Pitlik'70 (d).

Aaron Cole '90 and wife Sahaya of San Leandro, CA, a son, Lucian Joseph, on June 11, 2015.

Crystal Raiber'01 and Matt Wilkey of Iowa City, a son, Harold Otis, on March 20, 2016.

Amelia Carl Kibbie'02 and husband Lee of Iowa City, a daughter, Alyssa Dean Kibbie, on June 20, 2015.

EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

Brandon Douglas'13 earned the Sven and Mildred Lekberg Music Award at Simpson College in Indianola. He is a junior at Simpson studying music education with a focus in vocal performance.

Andrea Hallier'11 earned a BSE-biomedical engineering degree from the University of Iowa fall 2015 semester.

Jenna Pisarik'11 graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in nursing in December from Allen College in Waterloo.

Rebecca Young'11 graduated from John Brown University with a bachelor's of science in biology and psychology in 2015. She will be a first-year medical student at UAMS College of Medicine in the fall.

Nicole Penn'10 graduated from ISU in December with a major in Education.

Mollie Burke'05, earned a PhD-psychological and quantitative foundations degree from the University of Iowa fall 2015 semester.

Shannon Carter'01 received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Pacific University in Portland OR on Aug 8, 2015. She is completing her residency at Norwich University in Vermont.

Andrew Telecky'01 will graduate with my bachelor of arts in law enforcement administration in November 2016, then will be working with the Federal Government. He currently works as a private investigator and does professional websites on the side.

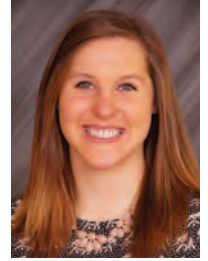
Dewane Hughes'88, Associate Professor of Sculpture at University of Texas at

Tyler, received the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor Award for 2015-16.

AND MORE...

Mackenzie Glenn'09

has returned to the Mount Vernon community as the new youth director at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church. She began the new position in January. She is also employed at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids as a child life specialist, where she helps children cope with cancer in their families. As youth director, Glenn is primarily responsible for the youth group and Wednesday night programming at the church.



Connett Croghan'12, is a member of the The University of Iowa's Paperback Rhinos, an improv group, are national College Improv Tournament champions. This was the first championship for PBR, which finished second last year and third the year before. In his fourth year with the group, Connor is a double major in communications and theater arts. Besides working with the improv group, he does stand-up, writing and some performing on video projects. He plans to return to the University of Iowa next year and perform again with PBR. (excerpt from The Sun, by Margaret Stevens)

Paige Davis Volk'92 and husband, Ken, moved to the Dallas Metroplex this year where she is now Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Medical Director for the UT Southwestern-affiliated Children's Health Medical Center in Plano, TX. Paige says 'Ken loves teaching anatomy and physiology at Collin College. Our kids, Graeme and Claire, ages 5 and 2, are doing great! We miss our family and friends in Iowa, but we absolutely love Texas! Y'all come!'

Mary Diers'86 was promoted to Senior Manager, Brand Strategy, for the Brand Experience department at ACT in Iowa City at the end of February. Mary manages a team that is in charge of strategy for all National conferences for the company, as well as project management for some of their biggest research reports for college and career readiness. In addition she is also very involved in STEM initiatives across the country. Mary says

continued on next page

In Memory

of classmates we have lost

Helen Peet'37

Mount Vernon, IA October 28, 2015

Mary Mulherin'38

Mount Vernon, IA March 16, 2016

Margaret Keys'35

Iowa City, IA 10-14-15

Arlene Fuess Galloway'50

Cedar Rapids, IA March 2, 2014

Lauren Johnson'50

Iowa City, IA November 22, 2014

Gene Erenberger'53

Solon, Iowa January 26, 2016

David Franta'54

Gig Harbor, WA February 20, 2016

Marlene Mallie Ford'54

Fairfax, IA – January 27, 2016

John Pence'54

Fairfax, VA – September 8, 2015

Ronald Hess'59

Independence, IA March 9, 2016

Susan Kinley'73

Iowa City, IA December 30, 2015

Julie Kruger'74

Davenport, IA March 20, 2016

Steven Brokel'76

Anamosa, IA February 10, 2016

Spencer Arnold'10

Mount Vernon, IA May 2, 2016

FRIENDS

Doug Ralston (bus driver)

Springville, IA March 17, 2016

Catherine "Kay" Woods (staff member)

Mount Vernon, IA November 27, 2015

Verla Scheetz Greene

(a long-time elementary teacher)

Mount Vernon, IA May 3, 2016 (at age 100!)

(Please excuse us if your classmate or loved one is not listed here for their recent death, but let us know for inclusion in the next newsletter.)

Thank you

...to publisher **Jake Krob** for sharing of pictures and information from the 'Sun', mvlsun.com

...to **Ted Pence** for yearbooks and photos and memorabilia

...to **Harold Clements'58** for football picture to go with 1957 Championship football

...to 2011 classmates **Sarah Ryan, Micah Wieditz** and **Kylea Weber** who hosted the open gym during heritage days 2015

...to everyone that shared pictures and information for the newsletter

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

Alumni News, continued

'I am honored and proud to make a difference in the lives of students every day.'

Pedro Salazar'01 was recently hired as Corporate Counsel by Wells Fargo Bank in Charlotte, North Carolina in December, 2015.

Mary Livingston Moorman'70 wrote in to say 'This was my daughter Elizabeth's wedding to David French from London, England at Denman Estate in San Antonio Texas. My husband Gary and I couldn't be happier. My son Alex and Matthew are also in the picture along with my grandsons Colton and Dylan.



Todd Bothel'85 is the new Deputy Director and Supervising Curator at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society as of March 1st, 2016

Kira Scott Moore'02 and her husband Chris purchased the Bijou Movie Theater in Mount Vernon. The Moores are caricature artists who travel the country for work at everything from state fairs to community festivals.

Lucy Conroy'15, a freshman at Coe College in Cedar Rapids led the Kohawks' women's cross country team this past season, including earning a trip to the NCAA Div. III National Championships. In October, she finished fourth at the Iowa Conference Championships in Dubuque for all-conference honors. It was the highest finish ever by a Coe freshman, the highest finish by any Kohawk since 2003, and the fourth-fastest conference meet time by a Coe woman in school history. She followed that in mid-November by placing 10th at the NCAA regional meet in Pella. She became the eighth female in Coe history to earn all-region honors. The result earned her an at-large bid to the NCAA National Championships. At the championships Lucy finished 100 out of 280 runners. Her time – 22:20.9 – was the fastest a freshman had ever recorded in women's cross country in Coe history, and the second fastest overall among Kohawk women in history.

Dan Colehour'83, Nashville singer/songwriter performed at First Street Community Center on May 7th of this year.

This concert benefitted the SE Linn Community Center. He released a new CD, 'My Brother's Keeper' in Nashville in February 2016.

Caitlin Wieseler Bienemann'04 will teach mathematics at Mount Vernon High School beginning in the fall of 2016.

Maggie Lessmeier Willems'96, Mount Vernon High School volleyball and track & field coach was named the 'Character Counts' 2016 Coach of the Year. In recognition of this honor, a \$1,000 cash award was made in the name of Coach Willems to the Mount Vernon athletic department to further enhance character development initiatives. Willems was honored with her award at the 2016 Girls State Basketball Tournament. Willems is a two-time district coach of the year in volleyball and the Iowa Track & Field Coaches Association At-Large Coach of the Year honoree twice.

Emma Garwood'12, Brandon Douglas'13 and **Katy McCollum'14** performed in the combined choruses of Simpson College (College Chamber Singers and the Simpson College Choir) in partnership with the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble and Orchestra Iowa. They performed Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis" at The Paramount Theatre in Cedar Rapids on May 6.

Kari Martin'11 will teach fourth grade at Mount Vernon's Washington Elementary school as a long-term sub.

Tim Johnson, former Mount Vernon High School wrestling coach, was inducted into the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame at the 2016 annual awards banquet and induction ceremony. Johnson, who coached Mount Vernon from 1977 to 182, including four-time state champ Greg Randall, is considered the "voice of wrestling." He has covered the sport for Iowa Public TV, ESPN, Real Pro Wrestling and the BIG 10 Network. He has worked behind the mic for the past 12 NCAADivision I championships.

Grant Freeman'06 and **Zak Moran'13** were invited to lead the inaugural three-day improvisational workshop for the newly formed Mount Vernon Middle School Junior Thespian Club. Freeman has his MFA in directing, and Moran is finishing his third year in a Theatre Conservancy BFA program in St. Louis.

Will Teubel'12, a University of Iowa senior, earned 2nd team All-America honors at the NCAA Div. I Indoor Track Championships in March. Teubel was 13th in the 800 meters with a time of 1:49.73.

Scott Peterson'71, is running for the Iowa

Senate District 48 seat. He says "I have spent most of my adult life in public service and believe I can make a positive contribution to the lives of families in Senate District 48." Scott is seeking the Democratic nomination.

Lane Stewart'07 completed his electrician's apprenticeship this spring 2016 from the IBEW Local 405 in Cedar Rapids.

Drew Russell'09 is headed for his third season as a professional athlete in the United Soccer League, the league right below the MLS. Drew recently signed to continue playing with the Pittsburgh Riverhounds. He played for the Riverhounds last season as a right back and forward. Prior to that, he played for a season with the Charlotte Eagles.

Sonia Essex Redmond'82 was promoted to assistant Vice President at Mount Vernon Bank Trust.



Holly Gunn'04 led a team of artists to create 3-D images for the block-buster movie 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens.' She and her husband, Kelly Wescott, work for Stereo D and are based in Toronto. Stereo D has been commissioned by Lucas film and the Walt Disney Studios to create the stereo-scopic editions for three upcoming releases in the iconic Star Wars franchise. The other two titles are 'Rogue One' and 'Star Wars: Episode VIII.' Holly attended The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and has worked on movies such as 'Guardians of the Galaxy', 'Godzilla', 'Terminator', 'San Andreas', 'The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo' and many others.

Devin Kelso'81, will again bring 'The Kelso Heartland Program' to Iowa July 20-Aug 3rd. Devin brings Japanese students to Iowa for the experience of spending time in the U.S. He is looking for host families in the Mount Vernon area. If you are interested, please contact: Jane Kelso & Dick Stoltz 895-8142 or Devin Kelso at devinkelso113@gmail.com



**DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?
DID YOU MOVE?**

Please send your email address (as well as any addresses, phone, name updates) to alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

Hall of Fame news

Students from Mount Vernon Middle School attending the NEIBA Jr. High Honor Band, had 2013 Mount Vernon Fine Arts Hall of Fame recipient **Bill Pringle'72** as their guest conductor. Students were Jackson Brus, Sean Pitlik, Cate Morgan, and Mandy Morrill. Bill is the director at Southeast Jr. High in Iowa City. The NEIBA Jr. High Honor Band represents students from all of Northeast Iowa in 8th grade who are the most outstanding musicians in their school.



Marcia Russell'89, 2008 Mount Vernon Fine Arts Hall of Fame recipient and current Platteville, Wisconsin, Middle School music teacher, was named the 2016 Outstanding Middle Level Choral Director by the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association.



Richard Bowman'58, our 2009 Mount Vernon Achievement Hall of Fame recipient, announced that his law firm, Bowman and Brooke, opened a new offices in Miami and Orlando, Florida. His firm defends product liability cases in all 50 states, on behalf of the auto industry, drug and medical device industry, motorcycle and ATV industries and many other manufacturers who get sued claiming that their product seriously injured or killed a user. The new offices join their existing band of defense offices in Minneapolis, Phoenix, San Jose California, Los Angeles, San Diego, Austin and Dallas Texas, Richmond Virginia, Detroit, and Columbia South Carolina. Richard says 'We now have over 200 lawyers and a total of almost 450 people. Our administration offices are in my home state of Minnesota. Five years ago, we were selected as the number one transportation product liability defense firm in the nation.'



Chris Lyon'81, our 2015 Mount Vernon Service Hall of Fame recipient, was selected as the 2016 Friend of Education award winner from the Iowa State Education Association. The ISEA Friend of Education Award honors all citizens who give their time and energy, but pays special tribute to one individual or group who has made a significant contribution to education.



School District Retirees



Retired district staff and teachers enjoy a monthly breakfast at Gwen's in Lisbon. Pictured at left, clockwise around the table are Joyce Loomis, Karen Carlson, Tom and Judy Lass, Ade and Berta Ringold, Darrell Ferreter, Dave Oliphant, Donna Happel, Barb McClain, Joe Cullen, Judy Penn, Bob Meeker, Janet Ault, Don and Judy Stine. Not pictured, Carol Woods.

F O U N D A T I O N

ANNUAL GIFT REPORT

Thank you to the alumni, businesses, parents and friends listed below who contributed to the Foundation from 4-21-2015 to 4-20-2016.

The Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation is a charitable non-profit organization that partners with alumni, businesses, parents, and friends of the Mount Vernon community to support a higher level of educational excellence and opportunities to prepare Mount Vernon School students for the challenges of global opportunities.

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

GIFT RECOGNITION LEVELS

Major Gifts \$15,000+ Founding Donors \$10,000+ Leading Donors \$5,000+ Mustang Donors \$1,000+ Maroon and White Donors up to \$1,000

Thank You!

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Trustees thank you for your generous investment in the Mount Vernon School District.

Your gift matters, and has made a difference in the lives of Mount Vernon students.

On Mount Vernon!
Ben Brannaman '05,
Foundation Director

BUSINESS DONORS

Thank you to the following area businesses who responded to our Business Endowment Campaign

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Hallmark Care Center/Cherry Ridge Assisted Living
Koppenhaver & Associates
Lynch Ford Chevrolet of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon Eye Clinic
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Stewart Baxter Funeral Home & Cremation
Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun Newspaper
Thackery's Photography
US Nameplate

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Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co.
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Randy Borg'76
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Joe Corkin'99
Jay and Ann '77 Currie
Jan DeCamp in memory of Howard DeCamp '51
Hal & Sharon Dendurent
Doug Easker 1969
David Ellison'71 in memory of Pamela Ellison Owen'66 and Lloyd Ellison'37
Greg Encke 1982 in memory of Dave Thumm'79
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Recognizing individuals who have chosen to include the Foundation in their estate plans.

Anonymous

Thank You

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



FOUNDATION DONATIONS, continued

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Scholarship donors listed are from April 21, 2015 to May 26, 2016

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 Mary Jo Lessmeier
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 Laurie Zaiger

YOUR DONATIONS WORK THROUGH FOUNDATION GRANTS

One of the ways your donations to the Foundation work is through 'Educational Excellence' Grants.

These awards are given to school district teachers to spearhead innovative projects aimed at helping them take education to an even higher level.

The Foundation awarded \$7,500 for eleven grants during the 2015-2016 academic year. Recipients of the funds are:

Susan Maurice and Kim Steele - \$650 After School Success Lab

Middle School Teachers Maurice and Steele will purchase healthy snacks for their Middle School After School Success Lab.

Kristin Anderson and Kristi Keast - \$1,164 Drumming

The music department was able to purchase six new Remo Tubano Drums to use in elementary and middle school general music classes, as well as the extracurricular World Music Drumming club they began in the fall. The additional drums have been very beneficial to the growing World Music Drumming program in both buildings.

Stephanie Olney - \$250 Kitchenette Supplies

High School Teacher Stephanie Olney purchased items needed to create a small kitchenette in her classroom. The students have enjoyed cooking and baking various meals and snacks, while learning how to read and follow a recipe, how to be safe in the kitchen as well as proper table manners.

Suzette Kragenbrink - \$975 E-Readers

Middle School and High School Teacher Librarian Suzette Kragenbrink purchased Kindles for students to use. The Kindles are used as e-readers for the e-books that the library has purchased.

Mary Priske - \$784 Library Seating

Elementary Librarian Mary Priske upgraded the furniture in the Elementary Library. Mary shared, "The students of Washington Elementary have benefited from a foundation grant that allowed the library to purchase a new loveseat in our read aloud area. Students are loving the new and comfortable spot to read, and teachers are also utilizing it to have an inviting space to read with students."

JoAnn Gage - \$1,000 iMac

High School Language Arts and Journalism Teacher JoAnn Gage purchased an Apple iMac for use in her classroom. The computer has been used to compile videos for



the Video Journalism J-Term course. These videos can be seen on our school newspaper website www.themustangmoon.com. The computers have been used in putting together the yearbook, as well as regularly in other English classes.

Jason Pershing and Mike Studt '72 - \$450 Alt Ed Boards

This grant has allowed students in the Alternative Education program to purchase materials for their business of building corn hole yard games from scratch. The students will learn financing, budgeting, cooperative working skills, blue print reading, planning, networking with our community, and marketing.

Rob Hanson - \$625 Genius Hour

Middle School Teacher Rob Hanson purchased supplies for Genius Hour. What is Genius Hour? It is scheduled once per week in 8th Grade Science and is similar to a makerspace, a time where the students can explore their interests and passions. This time is an opportunity to do new things, with hands on and online interactive projects.

Krista Whitham - \$350 Balance Balls

Elementary Teacher Krista Whitham purchased a balance balls and chairs for students in her Fourth Grade classroom.

Heather Allen and Jan Henik - \$874 Anatomical Models

High School Science Teachers purchased anatomical models for the J-Term course Exercise Science/The Science of Sport. The models will also be used in anatomy courses to help students understand joint structure and injuries.

Kindergarten Team - \$375 Reading Tools

The Kindergarten team is using a Foundation grant to purchase research based reading apps for use on the iPads they have in their kindergarten classrooms.

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

ALL-ALUMNI-COMMUNITY BREAKFAST JULY 9, 2016

...at the High School on Saturday morning (8-10:30 am, serving from 8-10 am). The event is a popular meeting place, and a unique opportunity to see alumni from the 1940s to 2016 (and even future alums!), current and former teachers and staff, as well as familiar faces from the community. Watch for golf cart transportation to and from the parking areas. There is additional handicapped parking at the front of the High School building.

2016 Homecoming Events FRIDAY, SEPT. 30

HOMECOMING AND ALUMNI HALL OF FAME AWARDS CEREMONY SAT., OCTOBER 1 - 5K RUN



FROM MATTHEW IPSAN'84

In the spring of 1984, my classmate Jill Woods had been burning up cinder and asphalt tracks across Eastern Iowa. In those days, the boys and girls track teams had to share warmup suits. Toward the end of the track season, thinking I might be able to have some of her speed mojo rub off on me, I asked Jill if I could use the track warm-up she preferred.

Number 31.

While I wish I could say I was significantly more muscular than her, I'd be lying — but when I noticed the suit was baggy on her, I thought it'd fit. She told me how she liked her warmup big enough to wear other clothes underneath but on top of her track uniform to stay warm, but thought it funny I wanted to share. She knew I was trying to sneak a couple of bites from Popeye's can of spinach in hopes my track success would resemble hers.

The girls' state tournament was the weekend before the boys, and with Saturday being the boys finals as well as the night of our graduation commencement, I had the suit all to myself. Jill had starred at State the week earlier, and while I had nowhere near her performance, the team its heart out and we did our best.

After finals concluded, I had to get a ride back with my dad, as I was to join Lorrie Fordyce in addressing our commencement that night and had to be there from the beginning. While on the trip back, given how late it was, I had to change clothes in the car. I jammed the track stuff in my duffel bag and threw it in the back seat. The rest of team came back on the school bus later and changed in the locker room, where they would turn in their uniforms and warmup suits.

Graduation came and went and about a dozen years later, while living in Connecticut working at ESPN, my dad called to say he was moving and I needed to come home and clean out my old room. In the bottom of the closet sat the duffel bag, undisturbed from the Saturday in May of 1984.

I kept the uniform and the warmup suit with me ever since, but unfortunately, only the top of the warmup suit has survived. If the Alumni Association had been around back in 1996, I would have gladly sent the entire uniform back then. When I saw the Alumni Association might be collecting Mount Vernon School artifacts now, after 31 years, I knew it was time.

Goodby 31.

Thanks for the memories. And thanks, Jill!

THE SCHOOL 2015-2016

OCTOBER

High School Boys Cross Country Team is 3A State Champions!

NOVEMBER

The football team has a breakout season, making it to the Class 2A state championship game.

A new School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) committee recommends the school district begin facility discussions again

Volleyball team made it to the final four of the state tournament.

Former volleyball coach Shirley Ryan was recognized with a Golden Plaque Award for distinguished coaching in the sport of volleyball.

Head Volleyball Coach Maggie Willems'96 is recognized by the Iowa Girls High Schol Athletic Union as the Character Counts Coach of the Year.

DECEMBER

Mustangs hosted the 50th annual Mount Vernon Wrestling Invitational.

Ed Timm is new head boys basketball coach. Timm also led the Mustangs from 2006-2013.

JANUARY

High School teachers and students return to school after winter break to begin the school's inaugural J-Term session.

Twelve High School speech team groups head to state.

Middle School students in grades 6-8 now have the opportunity to join the official school Mount Vernon Junior Thespian Troupe.

FEBRUARY

High School jazz ensemble performed at the state jazz competition earning a strong Division II rating.

Wrestling head coach Vance Light was named to the hall of fame at the state tournament. He's the winningest coach in Mount Vernon wrestling history, and has led 88 state qualifiers, 32 medalists and four state champs.

Wrestling qualifies 7 wrestlers for the State Wrestling Tournament.

Mount Vernon fifth grade musical is "On the Radio."

Superintendent Gary O'Malley presents a list of possible projects the district could consider undertaking within its available \$13.7million in bonding authority.

High School Robotics Club sends teams to state...and has sent a team to state every year since state began in 2010.

Speech teams excelled at the large group state – 15 top Division I ratings, 6 groups earned All-State accolades. Two speech groups performed at the All-State Festival.

MARCH

3A Lincoln Highway Jazz group were runner-up in Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships.

64 juniors and seniors were inducted into National Honor Society.

6 Speech team members earned all-state designation at individual state speech.

High School adds a boys tennis team.

Archery Club at the Iowa State NASP Tournament with 4 teams and dominated with 4 team trophies, 15 individual awards and 5 club records. Elementary and middle school teams were state champions. High school team placed 3rd. All 3 teams earned a trip to the May National NASP Championship Tournament.

Girls' basketball was state qualifiers in Class 3A.

APRIL

School Board increases property tax 16 cents, going from \$18.31 to \$18.47.

High School choral sends 39 entries to State Solo and Ensemble Contest and earn 34 Division I ratings and five Division II ratings.

High School band earned 13 top Division I ratings at solo and ensemble contest. MV Theatre Troupe presents a fantastic performance of 'Les Miserables.'

MAY

Community group gathers to work on list of district facility needs.

Girls tennis team wins school's 1st WaMaC Conference championship

MVHS 'Mustang Moon' staff named Class A News Team of the Year

The Mount Vernon girls shuttle hurdle relay team set a new school record.

96 seniors graduate

High School Boys Golf qualifies for the State Golf Meet

Middle school art teacher Mark Benesh'83 and several middle school students create a mural that will be hung at the MV Fire Department.

Archery goes to National NASP Championship Tournament and 8th grader Logan Kelly is National NASP Bullseye Champion for Mount Vernon Middle School.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RETIREES

ROGER PITLIK '67 - 20 YRS
 Building and Grounds Mgr.
 Year started at MV-1996



First year favorite memory:

During the first year it was a little overwhelming to get the football field ready for the first time was a challenge. Also, when I was hired by Supt. Ade Ringold, he told me I had two bosses – him and the school board. But, that I would feel like I had a hundred bosses. And I did feel that way, but it was all good. I've enjoyed working with so many people over the years. Over my time I've worked for 4 superintendents.

Also in my first year, my niece Mackenzie Glenn '09 was in kindergarten. One day I was in the elementary hallway, and her class was walking down the hall, and of course were supposed to be quiet. So I stepped aside not to disturb them. As she went by me, she saw me and ran up and hugged my leg tight, then went on. But every kid after that did the same thing, and I was surprised and pleased.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? Jeff Schwiebert – when overseeing construction of high school. That's what got me started on the construction 'kick' that I really enjoyed. We both learned together about building a school building when we built the new high school. Although we had built other additions, I wasn't nearly involved in those projects as the new high school. The thing that amazed me was the whole scope of the project – the different and amount of trades involved, the technology, etc. – it was a big project. Even the planning portion was a big project.

What has changed over the years? The big change is how we went from old steam boilers that filled an entire room to computer programs that control our HVAC systems that are almost the size of a home unit.

Retirement plans: Getting my boat out and fishing. Traveling – this winter I spent some time down south. Hope to head to Colorado and Yellowstone later this year. And working around the farm.

JULIE VISLISEL - 30 YRS
 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades,
 teaching for a total of 35
 years



First year favorite memory:

During my first week of teaching at Washington Elementary School, I remember giving an assignment to my new third grade students. They quickly began working independently without much commotion. I thought to myself, "So this is teaching!" Although, I enjoyed my prior preschool teaching position, commotion was the norm!

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? I was so very fortunate to have taught at the Mount Vernon Community Preschool for five years under the mentorship of teachers Ginny Lyon, Mary Meeker, and Jackie Martin. They were exceptional teachers and beautiful people. When I began teaching third grade, Karen Stoll was my first mentor. She had a wealth of material to share and always a minute to spare. I am forever grateful. Because I switched grade levels, there were new mentors throughout my years, too many to mention. But I always felt like part of a team and that made all the difference.

One or two memories: As you can imagine, there are many memories. I loved teaching first graders how to read. When they realized they could do it, they would read everything they could – "Boys" and "Girls" on the restroom doors and the Exit sign. However, when I moved to second grade I did not miss the spilled milk of snack time. In second grade, they loved the dinosaur unit! A parent donated a large wooden 3-D skeletal puzzle of Tyrannosaurus. They apologized because they had lost the instructions. It turned out to be the best thing! The students were truly paleontologists piecing together the bones. Not surprisingly, every class put that complicated puzzle together. I've learned never to underestimate what children can do!

Retirement plans: I am looking forward to the changes retirement will bring to my own life. I will spend more time with my family. I am anxious to garden in the spring and fall. I am planning to purchase a kayak, and like the loons, the pontoon is calling.

RICHARD SCEARCE - 32 YRS
 Mathematics; Earth &
 space science; Principles
 of Engineering; computer
 programming; robotics.
 Year started at MV 1984
 Total years teaching 33



First year favorite memory:

In 1984, I came to Mount Vernon one day to interview and, within an hour, I had signed a contract and had an Apple 2e computer to take home.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career? I have been fortunate to have so many mentors including, but not limited to: Dick Peters who modeled the importance of impressing students that you are on their side. Bob Meeker, who modeled what a professional does to prepare instruction; Ruth Michaud, who modeled a genuine care for students and their future; Darrell Ferreter, who modeled a love of mathematics; and Jeff Schwiebert, who modeled a strong work ethic and moral compass.

One or two memories: I remember taking 4 Mount Vernon teams to the FTC robotics World Championships. I remember taking two student trips in a school bus with Dick Peters, one to Rocky Mountain National Park and one to Yellowstone Park. I remember taking a group of students to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. I remember chaperoning a group of MVHS students on a tour of Germany. I remember taking many students on their first airplane ride. I remember serving as an assistant football coach for 2 MVHS state championships. I remember the many years I coached basketball, track, baseball, disc golf, and chess. I remember showing 4th grade students a portable planetarium every year.

Do you remember the first student you taught that you had also taught their parent(s)? No, because I've had so many. Also, there are at least 21 district staff members who are former students. Also, I think it is interesting that my former students include my family doctor, Jason Booth '90, my dentist, Ben Pospisil '96, and my banker, David Ryan '85.

Retirement plans: I plan to seek employment somewhere, to teach at College for Kids, and to continue to volunteer at MVHS with robotics and disc golf.

ALUMNI

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ALUMNI Association

2016-2017

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