

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS



Above: Bill Yeisley '52 and Jean Pavelka '53
Litts greet alums and guests at the 2016
Heritage Days Breakfast

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Your Mail Box -- Support Us Please

NEW!!!

The Alumni Association,
as well as all emails for the
Mount Vernon Community
School District has changed.

Our email was alumni@
mountvernon.k12.ia.us.

It is NOW alumni@mvcsd.org

All emails have changed to the
@mvcsd.org ending.

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

2017 Heritage Days Events Coming Up!

July 7 and 8 – 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). Come and check out the new items added to the menu! 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.

Note: Due to road construction at the intersection of 10th Avenue SW and Palisades Rd SW, please enter the high school parking lot via 7th Street SW from College Blvd/4th Street SW. Pass through the middle school parking lot, driving in front of the middle school building toward the high school.

Then, visit the **Alumni-Community Reception area** up town in the old Fire Department Station next to City Hall. Friday from 4 pm until approximately 11 pm, and then Saturday from 11:30 to approx. 5 p.m. Make the reception area *your meeting place* and come to view displays, enjoy yearbooks, 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 2-4 pm. Enjoy some refreshments 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 2017

Friday, September 22 –
Homecoming and Alumni Hall of
Fame Award Ceremony

And in 2018

May 1 – Deadline to submit
your nominations for the
Alumni Hall of Fame Awards.

Sisters Grace
Pisarik and
Emma Pisarik '12
enjoy browsing
through
yearbooks in the
Reception
Area





Mustang ALUMNI

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in the Alumni News -
call 319-389-8602 or email
alumni@mvcasd.org

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@mvcasd.org 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

Antiques Extravaganza July 4
Magical Night in Dec

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 - July 8

Saturday activities. See into on next page.

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

2001 - 16 YEARS - July 7-8 weekend

'Sweet 16' Reunion -- see information on next
page. 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 - July 8

Start at Alumni Breakfast at High School, then
board float at same location. Class Reunion from
12-3 at Davis Park Pavilion. Evening gathering
uptown Heritage Days.

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

See next page for Reunion information
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 - July 8

Saturday Class Reunion BBQ Gathering at
Bowers Farms, 5 pm. Bring dessert & drink.
Find us on Facebook - Mount Vernon High
School Iowa Class of 1982

Contact: Kristin Bowers 1982
Phone: 512-962-6543
Email: bowers.kristin@yahoo.com
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: screaminjean@aol.com
Contact: Diane Zinkula
Phone: 319-395-7152
Email: dzinkula@aol.com

1967 - 50 YEARS - tba

Contact: Larry Pisarik
Phone: 563-852-7229 or 563-542-3201
Email: lkpisarik@netins.net
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

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 (see info on next page)

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

1952 - 65 YEARS - July 8

Sat am at Alumni Breakfast and Sat 5pm
Class Reunion/meal at Gwen's Restaurant
Contact: Bill Yeisley
Phone: 319-362-2732 or 319-560-1079
Email: hcyeisley@outlook.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

'End of School'
School times are almost over.
School times are almost done.
We've had a lot of learning.
We've had a lot of fun.
We'll say goodbye to teachers.
We'll put our books away.
Our school year is over now.
It's summertime – let's play!
- anonymous

In the blink of an eye, another school year has come and gone. This means summer is now upon us and Heritage Days is just around the corner. We hope you will join us for the Alumni Association Breakfast this year as well as partake in the many festivities that are part of this homecoming weekend in Mt. Vernon.

We can't thank our alumni and friends enough for donations we received from our fall campaign – see page 20.

We wish you a summer full of adventure with friends and family, and as the End of School Summer poem instructs – Let's Play!

CLASS OF 1987

FRIDAY, JULY 7

- Heritage Days 3-Person Best Shot at Kernoustie Golf Club at noon
- Meet Up: Chameleons at 8 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 8

- Meet at the All-Alumni Community Breakfast, High School 8-10 am
- Evening Class Reunion at Drahos Family Farm, 6 pm. Plan to contribute \$20 pp. Please RSVP! AND... The band is getting back together. AS/WAS (formerly AS/IS) will be playing us some tunes.

Bob Blythe 319-895-0188
bob@pollyanns.com

Sarah Miller Johnson 651-485-9560
smillerjohnson@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 2002

SATURDAY, JULY 8

Morning... enjoy the All-Alumni-Community Breakfast at the High School 8-10 am ... then head over to the Elementary Playground after the breakfast for a 'Class of 2002' family play date - 10 am until approximately noon

Evening.. meet for food and drinks in the library on the second floor of our old middle school (now called the First Street Community Building) starting at 6 pm.

Please plan to contribute \$20 to cover our evening gathering and reunion expenses. Later, we can head up town for more Heritage Days fun.

Teresa Britt Patterson 319-558-6488
teresa.patterson@yahoo.com

Class of 1957

The Mount Vernon High School Class of 1957 would like to invite classmates & friends to join us in celebrating our **60th Reunion during Heritage Days 2017 July 7-8-9**

FRIDAY - Jan and Bob Majors will be hosting a gathering at their home at 5 pm

SATURDAY - Saturday night Class Reunion at Sally's Restaurant in Springville. Cocktails at 6 pm and dinner (from menu) at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to Myrt 319-895-8515 or myrtb203@mchsi.com

SUNDAY - Myrt and Bill Bowers will be hosting a brunch at their home, 10:30 am.

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 Saturday, July 8

MORNING... 9am-11am Family play date at Bryant Park. Light snacks provided. Event followed by the Heritage Days Parade at 11am.

EVENING.. 6pm-9pm Sweet-16 Reunion at Kernoustie Golf Club, Dinner provided. Please plan to contribute \$20 to cover our evening gathering and reunion expenses. Afterwards, we can head up town for more Heritage Days fun. Please RSVP through the "MV '01 'Sweet Sixteen' Reunion" Facebook page OR to:

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

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REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

▼ CLASS of 1966 - 50 YEARS



The Class of 1966 celebrated their 50th Reunion during Heritage Days 2017. On Friday, July 8, the Class toured their old high school at the Association's Early Bird Reception hosted by classmate John Pospisil. That evening we met out at Sutliff Store and Tavern. On Saturday, July 9 we met at the Alumni-Community Breakfast at Mount Vernon High School, then rode on our Class Float in the Heritage Days Parade. Saturday evening we held a Class Reunion Dinner at the home of Jeri Neal. On Sunday, July 10 we gathered for a Continental Breakfast at the home of Margaret Ellison Stoner. Pictured here at the Reunion are: Front row: Steve Allard, Steve Neal, Dana Snodgress, Loren Conley. Middle row: Lana Richardson Hartl, Rose Lynott Ubben, Karilyn Mead Eastvold, Jan Hunter Carmer, Penny Beranek Balmer, Christine Irwin Burkhart, Mary Brown Nistler, Cindy Buresh Prewitt, Mary Shackford Welch, Jeanette Andrew Anderson, Margaret Ellison Stoner, Susan Hanley, Susan Hansen Aragon, Linda Richardson Moore, Mary Kroul Anderson. Back row: Larry Reilly, Vance Rahn, Dan Lambertsen, Bill Lighthall, Jon Miller, John Schick, Jack Werling, Ted Croy, Bill Bauman, Jim Chadek, David Hudson, John Pospisil, Jeri Neal, Clifford Kaplan

▼ CLASS of 1961 - 55 YEARS



July 9, 2016: Left to Right: Willard Bratton, Marilyn Asplund Buchanan, Kathy Jennings Jamison, Don Jilovec, Sharon Becicka Brokel, Les Svatosh, Sheryl Hansel Harmon, Mike Troyer, Barb Bys Michael, Bunny Williams Mulligan, Darrel Jordan, Helen Blue Holder, Frank Peterson, Patty Bolton Erlenbaugh, Dave Studt, Mary Sue Reilly Freese, Jim Vislisel, Marcia Reyhons Lehr, Steve Becicka, Randy Hoidahl, Dick Miner, Bruce Rhoads. Not pictured, Ruth Ford Warren.

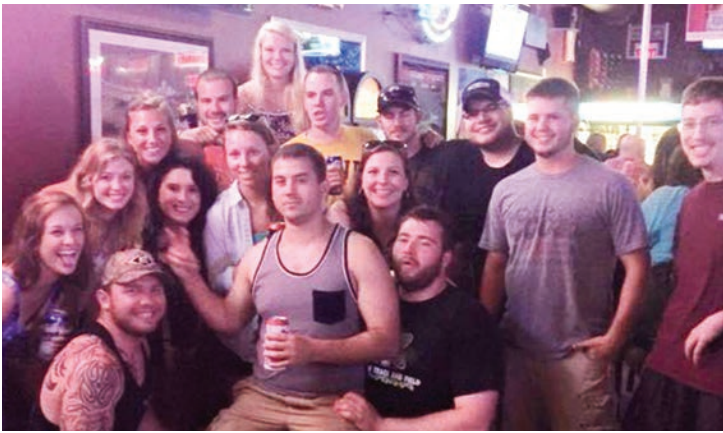
▼ CLASS of 1971 - 45 YEARS



July 9, 2016: Front Row: Peggy Travis Powell, Susan Gaston Sherwood, Donita Clark VanHamme, Wendy Kaplan Johnson, Julie Loomis Stephenson, Jean Pospisil Larsen. Second Row: John Pisarik, Jay Gunn, Jim Baker, KC Harrison, Dennis Kirkpatrick, Scott Peterson, Gregg Larsen, Steve Meyers, Rob Sautter

REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

▼ CLASS OF 2011- 5 YEARS



July 9, 2016:
 People in this photo include:
 Alexandra Demanett
 Jenna Pisarik
 Jessie Binsfield
 Casey Mote
 Kylea Weber Brautigam
 Ryan Hook
 Micah Wieditz
 Sarah Ryan
 Mike Mrstik
 Aaron Osborn
 Andy Bellamy
 Taylor Dicus
 Kyle Shaffer
 Griffin Kuntz
 Jake Scieszinski
 Grant Golberg

▼ CLASS OF 1986 - 30 YEARS



July 9, 2016: The Class of 1986 held their 30th Reunion over Heritage Days weekend. We golfed on Saturday morning and had a Reunion Supper grilled at Palisades Kepler State Park lodge. Pictured above are: Row 1: Bruce Koffron, Monti Krob, Darin Vig, Steve Buchmeyer
 Row 2: Monte Scheib, Ziem Nguyen Neubert, Ann Pffiffen Scheib, Adrienne Newman Gragg, Polly Neiderhouser Blythe, Ann Marie Roger, Abbie Schellberg
 Row 3: Donna Wood, Kimbly Kral Straka, Sharon Theurauf Grice, Mary Diers, Rhonda Essex Carmona, Shawn Voigt, Jane Hill
 Row 4: Rose Melchert, Sara Hansen Forsyth, Katey Kinley, Deb Winchip Douglass, Tracey Allen, Stephanie Parish West, Deb McMahon Essex, Donna Nederhiser Griebel



Steve Buchmeyer, Monte Schieb and Ann Pffiffen Schieb



Shawn Voigt, Tracey Allen and Rodney Sherman



Sara Hansen Forsyth, Darin Vig and Charlie Babcock



The grils masters-Monti Krob and Bruce Koffron



Donna Nederhiser Griebel, Mary Diers, Katey Kinley, Abbie Schellberg and Sharon Theurauf Grice



David Straka, Kimbly Kral Straka and Donna Wood

"Grill Your Own" Steakhouse
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JEREMY HOTZ, Agent, and 1999 alum
 jhotz@hotzagency.com

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.

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



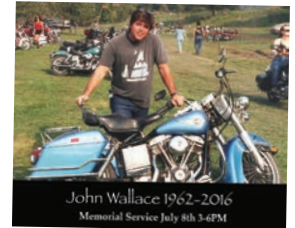
CLASS OF 1981 - 35 YEARS



July 9, 2016: The MVHS Class of '81 had 39 classmates and 14 spouses attend our reunion held outdoors at the home of Denise (Henik) and Dan Brannaman on July 9th. 15 came from out-of-state including 11 who flew in from TX, MD, CA, NV, WA, AZ, FL, and Mexico! Attendees enjoyed a fully catered hog roast by Ruzicka's, fresh cheese curds donated by Shullsburg Creamery executive Andy Luke, a craft beer keg from Stephanie Berry, fine wine shipped by Quynh (Nguyen) Piccioni, soft serve ice cream from Chris Lyon, and exotic chocolates from Robyn Dochterman owner of St. Croix Chocolates in MN. The program was emceed by "class queen" Ellen (Soukup) Townsen and included a memorial for classmates recently lost. Carol Dolezal, a chaplain, spoke and shared thoughts from friends, which was followed by candle-lighting and a balloon release. The Class of 1981 will never forget classmates Andy Blinks, Amy Bellamy, and John (Jay) Wallace. Awards and a slide show were enjoyed outdoors surrounded by twinkle lights, and a special video message was transmitted to Kevin Rogers who was unable to attend. Special thanks to the Brannamans for hosting, to Scott Johnson of Johnson Pest Control for building the projection screen and light fence, to Ron Corkin and Steve Franks for sound and music, Jude Smith for Creative Direction, Penny (Randall) Light for table rentals, Mandi Colehour for the memorial table, and Ellen and Carol for speaking duties. Also thanks to those classmates who donated funds to pay for this free event. You know who you are! A wonderful time was had by all who were able to attend!!

Pictured above: Front row kneeling L to R: Julie (Lee) Ruden, Rhondi (Staley) Ewing, Kim (Klinsky) Broulik, Ellen (Soukup) Townsen, Dave Koffron, Denise (Henik) Brannaman, and Donna (Becicka) Nichols. Middle row: Mandi Colehour, Annette Palmer, Molly Jo (Niederhauser) Wolfe, Penny (Randall) Light, Quynh (Nguyen) Piccioni, Debra Wright, Robyn Dochterman, Denise (Boggs) Cook, and Trysh Brown. Back row, staggered: Brett Wilde, Carol Dolezal, Larry Spellerberg, Steve Franks, Ron Corkin, David McKay, Kim (Mortenson) Konkowski, Chris Lyon, Kelly Hutchins, Brenda (Harms) Lynch, Marc Reyhons, Jude Smith, Tom Keith, Stephanie Berry, Steve Pisarik, Lance Campbell, Scott Johnson, Dave Tuel, Andy Luke, Todd Bontrager, Leanne Zinkula, and Tyler Bontrager.

Note from organizer Rhondi Ewing: I would like to express how 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. About a dozen of us attended a private memorial for John 'Jay' Wallace on Friday evening after his recent passing, and during the reunion the next night, we passed a hat and gathered over \$500 for John's daughter's college expenses.



CLASS OF 2017



The Class of 2017 graduated 107 members on May 21, 2017. Classmates Kelsey Shady and Ellie Mienke were named Class Reunion Organizers.

CLASS OF 1956 - 60 YEARS



July 9, 2016: Front row, left to right: Deanne Dean LeVan, Shirley Pospisil Heiserman, Carolyn Ludley Crawford, Betty Coon Ammeter, Betty Moore Stoneking, Janet Miner Sessions, Bonnie Clark Keith, Barbara Pence Conn. Back: Roger Schnittjer, Albert Lnenicka, Adolph Nezerka, Mike Wolrab, Barbara Becicka Larsen, Leona Reyhons Smith, Roger Reyhons, David Ennis, David Albright, Bert Sippola, Not pictured: Kenneth Kaliban (Janet) and Corinne Wilcox Drongesen.



Roger Schnittjer, David Ennis and wife, Linda Ennis, Janet Minor Glassman, at Gwen's Restaurant for our Reunion celebration



Bonnie Clark Kieth, Barbara Becicka Larson, Carolyn Ludley Crawford, and Betty Coon Ammeter, looking at scrapbook of past class reunions of our class of 1956



Leona Reyhons Smith Fairo and Bert Sippola enjoying their class yearbook

CLASS of 1996 - 20 years



Front row L-R: Teresa Duppong Stewart, Vicki Ellison Havill, Sally Kamberling Koretum, Maggie (Lessmeier) Willems, Zach Wolfe, Melanie (Marlof) Ostmo, Ben Pospisil, Alex Connell, Alex Burge. Kneeling L-R: Kim Bjork, Leah Clark, Alyssa Rotschafer Mueller, Lindsey Burgess, Morgan Stine Standing L-R: Rory Wiebel, Brandi Viter-Pitlik, Matt Meyer, Brad Neal, Ryan Wieseler, Jacob Overman, Matt Stewart, Natalie Hartung Domaleski, Lindsay Reckling, Renee Meyer Vande Wege, Carmen Stoner Sealock, Ben Neal, Jarrod Carver, Kurt Wulf, Marcos Melendez

**ALL-ALUMNI-
COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST
JULY 8, 2017**

...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. NEW items on the menu! Watch for golf cart transportation to and from the parking areas. There is additional handicapped parking at the front of the High School building. See page 1 for driving instructions due to construction.

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

2017

Heritage Days Events

THURSDAY, JULY 7 - FRIDAY, JULY 8 -
SATURDAY, JULY 9

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 2-4 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 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 open after the parade.

SEE LIST OF 2017 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 2-4 pm.

Enjoy some refreshments, some good company, 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.

MEMORIES...HERITAGE DAYS 2016



Phyllis and Bruce Mullen '58



Ricki Franks Onstott '68 and Janine Rahn (wife of Vance Rahn '66)



Ryan Brandt '97 and Roger Pitlik '67



Marie and Robert Davis '68, Bob Kolek '68 and Jean Kolek



Paul Eastvold and Karilyn Mead Eastvold '66



Ellen Soukup '81, Carol Dolezal-Ng 1981, Diane Soukup '96 Yoder, Mandi Colehour '81



Keith Clark '60, Joe Lynott '62, Bill Horton '62



2009 classmates
Ciera Minor and
Tiffany Schulze
Daubert



Linda Peterson Nost'63 and Mary Thomsen'75 are two of many volunteers at the Alumni-Community breakfast.



Burke Family and friends will cook their 12th breakfast for us this coming Heritage Days - Can't thank them enough! From left to right, front: Kris Abodeely, Chiara Niederhauser Burke'78, Mollie Burke'05. Back row: Deanna Nelson'05, Carol Woods Boren'75, Matt Burke, and Dan Zimmerman. Not pictured: Marcia Purington



Annamae Baker Stoneking'60, Susan Gaston Sherwood'71, Jim Baker'71



Mike Ireland'99 serves ice cream at the Alumni-Community Reception



Volunteers Crystal Covington Wherry'05 and Kim Mortensen Konkowski'81



Chris Hanson Starkweather'73, Steve Cody'78

Mickey Hines'16, Nick Bevins, Tony Kraus'15, Bryce Cox'16



Alumni and friends are greeted at the Alumni-Community Breakfast by Barb Neal'57 Hutchins and Mary Ann Bohren'62 Jilovec



1985 Classmates and class representatives Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier and Ann Koppenhaver volunteer to serve ice cream at the Alumni-Community Reception



NEW!!!
The Alumni Association,
as well as all emails for the
Mount Vernon Community
School District has changed.
Our email was
alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.
It is NOW alumni@mvcsd.org



Left to right: Carmen Neal'63 Musser, Sharon Neal'59 Ulrich, Connie Meyer'59 Kahl, Jane Costello'59 Fink, Susie Emerson'59 Tuetken



Deanne Dean'56 LeVan, Randy Hoidahl'61, and Janet Minor'56 Glassman



1959 classmates Ann McCutcheon Niehaus and Sharon Neal Ulrich



Mickey Hines'16 and Trenton Baty'17



2016 Classmates Hannah Clark, Delaney Dicus and Jenna Brannaman



2009 classmates enjoy visiting. Left: Ciera Minor, Tiffany Daubert Schulze, Alex Brannaman. Right: Megan Grunder Traxel and husband Mike Traxel

2013 classmates Macy Rice and Allison Jaeger enjoy looking through yearbooks at the Alumni-Community Reception



School Fight Song: Then & Now



By Alyssa
Maddocks '17

Editors Note: Mount Vernon High School journalism student senior Alyssa Maddocks '17 wrote us earlier this year asking about the history our school song. When we posed this question to our alumni, she received history, but even more than she bargained for. The responses she received were full of sentiment and love for our school. This article for high school students is the result.

The powerful fight song is blasting in the background as the student-athletes prepare for battle on the field, the court, the track, the mat, or the course. The passion for athletics at Mount Vernon High School runs as deep now for our alumni as it always has—for they are proud of where they came from, and most importantly, where they belong. The fight song unites the athletes and the community, adequately portraying the importance and value of unity, teamwork, and unrelenting school spirit.

This appreciation and deep reverence for "On, Mount Vernon" is an accurate portrayal for the countless alumni of MVHS. But over the years, the hype surrounding the fight song has shifted slightly. The student section and various parents and fans remain seated, seemingly overlooking the fight song. Alumni in the crowd wonder why current students sit through the song. Alumni Association Director Kathy Staskal comments on the importance of the fight song to the numerous alumni. "When I see alums in the stands at any event, and the MV Fight Song comes on, their eyes light up, they stand up, and join in with everyone else," said Staskal. "I can see how this makes them feel a part of what is going on, no matter how many years it

has been since they graduated."

Mustang graduate Judy Whitley '82, thrived in high school as a member of the cheerleading squad for football, basketball, and wrestling. "I loved every minute of cheer, and I can still do my dance routine to the fight song," said Whitley. "The fight song was a song that we could sing proudly wherever we went. People (schools) knew us by our colors and by our team spirit. We were the Mustangs, the mighty, mighty Mustangs."

Barb Thomsen Neal '68 had a similar opinion on the treasured fight song. "This song always brings a feeling of pride in our team, our school, and our town," said Neal. "It's an identity thing."

Class of 1954 graduate Dick Steiner appreciates the lasting tradition of the fight song. "In my opinion, the song is a great pep song and now has a very long tradition at MVHS," he said. "It is now part of our DNA."

Our fight song, "On, Mount Vernon," stems from the collegiate fight song from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, "On, Wisconsin." The tune of the song was composed in 1909 by William T. Purdy. With about 2,500 other schools using the tune of "On, Wisconsin" for their fight song, it has become one of the most popular fight songs in the country. Our specific version of "On, Wisconsin," becoming "On, Mount Vernon," has been traced back to 1931, being mentioned in a newspaper article by the Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon-Herald. "Everyone joined in the singing of our new song 'On Mount Vernon.'" Because the song is referred to as the "new song," it is estimated that the creation of our specific song was around that time.

While the specific historical details of our fight song are widely unknown, the emotional connection between the fight song and the alumni is undeniable. Over the years, the meaning of the fight song has somewhat decreased. Now, numerous athletes and students respect the fight song, believing it empowers

them before games and shows school and community pride. But, a majority of the student section and some spectators remain seated during the fight song—disappointing many community members, alumni, and fellow students.

Senior cheerleader Rachel Bell believes that the fight song represents unity and spirit. "The fight song means unity as a school, showing one another that we genuinely support each other," said Bell.

Senior Kelsey Shady, also a cheerleader, agrees with Bell and adds that she doesn't think the current student section truly appreciates the song. "I don't think the fight song means as much to the student section as it should," said Shady.

High school cheerleading coach Trista Lynner also comments on the change in mentality regarding the fight song. "In the past, the second the fight song played everyone jumped up and clapped. Our cheerleaders are trained to drop everything and dance along to the fight song," said Lynner. "Today, spectators are relaxed at recognizing the fight song and standing." Looking to the future, Lynner would like to see a change at sporting events. "It would be nice to see people get excited to hear the song our band is playing and to clap along to our traditional song."

Although the hype surrounding the fight song has decreased slightly over the years, the excitement and empowerment of the fight song is still felt by many competing athletes. Perhaps the student section could tap into that empowerment—allowing themselves to feel the same amount of enthusiasm and anticipation when the fight song echos in the background. "Gathering people together for pep rallies and assemblies could really increase school spirit," said Bell. "If the student section recognized the true value of the fight song, maybe they would show a deep respect for it, too."



'On Mount Vernon'



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just wanted to say Thank you to Jim and Melanii Visisel for opening their home on Sunday for our class reunion picnic. Also, a thank you to Don and Carol Jilovec for the pulled pork and sweet corn that they furnished and prepared for our potluck picnic and to Melanii Vislisel for providing the wonderful kolaches.

I also want to give a big shout out to Dick Minor for growing out his hair so we could auction off his phony tail after we took turns cutting it off. It was auctioned off to classmates and all the money raised was given to our great alumni association.

Thank you to all the classmates that came back to attend a great three day reunion. I'm really glad that so many classmates were able to come back and attend.

Bunny Williams (61) Mulligan
Class of 1961 Representative

I will be returning to MV from Japan again this summer for the 12th year of the Kelso Heartland Homestay Program, bringing Japanese high school and middle school students together with local families for a two-week adventure that combines serious study of the English language and American culture with some Iowa good old Iowa fun. The program will run from July 26th-August 9th. If anyone is interested in becoming a host family, please contact Jane Kelso at 319-895-8142 or Nick Boots at 319-560-0836."

Devin Kelso'81

Does anyone have any information on: Eugene Achenbach, Doug Thomson, Mike Reid, Tim Anderson, Charlie Hubble, Charlotte Mounts - please contact Wendy or the Alumni Association.

Wendy Kaplan'71

The Mount Vernon School Band Department is looking for the owners of various instruments left behind by Mount Vernon Alumni. We have a variety of instruments sitting on our shelves with no one to claim them. We would like to return these instruments to the rightful owners, or get permission to put them to good use for our current bands. If you believe one of these instruments may belong to you or a family member and can provide reasonable assurance of ownership, please contact the band teachers as soon as possible.

Or, if you haven't been missing it, why not donate it to our bands? Our band programs use school funds to purchase and repair used instruments for our students but there are always more needs than funds available. Our programs will gladly accept donations of your used instruments. We also accept cash donations into our instruments repair and replacement fund to keep those instruments playing and buy new instruments. To donate online through the School Foundation go to <http://www.mountvernon.k12.ia.us/foundation.html>, selecting your method of donation, and in the comment space mention the donation is for the band student instrument repair/replacement fund. Checks for cash donations can also be made out to the Foundation and dropped off or mailed to the district office at 525 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314. Elise erodenberg@mvcsd.org

Middle School Band Director Elise Rodenberg on behalf of the Mount Vernon Band Department



FROM RICHARD MINER'61

In the fall 2006 issue we published the following questions that were part of a memory game played by the Class of 1961 at their class reunion. Here are the answers...

IF YOU WENT TO SCHOOL IN THE EARLY 60S... DO YOU KNOW...

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

ANSWERS

1. Jim Vislisel
2. Willy Bratton
3. Winston, Bruno, Don, Grace, Durwood, Chet, Geneva, Martha, Bob, Helen, Harold, Ken, Merle.
4. Don Jilovec
5. Chalk Mark



NEW!!!

The Alumni Association, as well as all emails for the Mount Vernon Community School District has changed.

Our email was alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us.

It is NOW alumni@mvcsd.org

All emails have changed to the @mvcsd.org ending.

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

IN THE FALL 2017 ISSUE...

2017 HOMECOMING
AND HALL OF FAME PICTURES
2018 REUNION INFO

2016-2017 FOUNDATION DONORS LIST
AND MORE

send in your news by October 1st

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@mvcsd.org

or Kathy at 319-389-8602

525 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ CRAIG SHUTT'72



What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School?

After graduating from MVHS in 1972 I attended Simpson College in Indianola, IA for three semesters and graduated from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois in 1976 with a BA in economics and an emphasis in computer programming.

I came back to Cedar Rapids to join Rockwell International, Switching Systems Division where I started as a telephone switch programmer and moved through several other technical positions. While in Cedar Rapids I married Dusty, my college sweetheart. In 1983 I moved with the division to the Chicago area.

I eventually left Rockwell and moved to Rockford, IL to work for several companies to develop voice and data telecommunications networks, data center design and data mining. In 2002 I joined Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs where I eventually became their network manager. In 2014 my season with Focus was over and I spent a year consulting a couple of projects along the Colorado front range before deciding that my love affair with computersimage1.JPG and technology was coming to an end.

What do you do now?

I began studying stone (lapidary) work and silversmithing about six years ago. Two years ago I decided to join my wife, Dusty, in her jewelry design and manufacturing business specializing in silver, gold, turquoise, lapis, pearl and other natural stone. Today we spend three months of the year in Scottsdale, Arizona at the Arizona Fine Arts Expo. You can find us the rest of the year selling our jewelry at art shows and

cowboy events from Phoenix to west Texas up the front range to Wyoming. You can also find us on the web at <https://www.dustyshuttsilerjewelry.com>.

An accomplishment you are proud of?

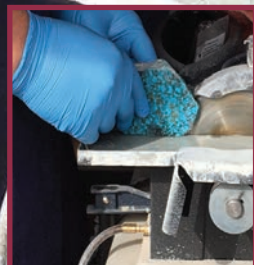
While living in Rockford, IL, Dusty and I became foster parents to troubled teen age boys. Over a five year period ten boys lived with us. Even though we moved away two of them stay in touch.

In Colorado Springs I spent seven years as the lead event photographer for the Colorado Springs Balloon Classic. I retired from that position after the 2015 season.

A favorite memory...

My fondest memories of my time at MVHS was with the band program under Don Stine. Pep band challenged us to memorize a lot of music at once while concert band introduced us to a broad range of interesting and technically challenging music while having so much fun. That training started me on a path of studies to appreciate the finer artistic offerings the world has to offer.

Craig can be reached at shuttca@gmail.com



Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ TOM WILKINSON '86



What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School?

I graduated from Loras College and studied German at the University of Vienna.

After teaching in Dubuque and Phoenix, I returned to Mount Vernon and taught German for several years. I have been active as a Speech Coach, teacher's union leader and taken students on trips to Germany and Guatemala. I have also coached a youth trap shooting team and coached as an intermediate level NRA shooting sports instructor.

Later on I completed a graduate degree in Speech and Theater from the University of Northern Iowa. Recently, I have learned Spanish and traveled to Mexico to further my language skills. I have also been awarded scholarships for German teaching to travel to programs in Minnesota and Germany to continue networking in German.

What do you do now?

Mount Vernon High School as a teacher of German and Spanish. I'm also head coach and founder of the Mount Vernon Archery Club.

An accomplishment you are proud of ?

I am very proud of collaborating with parents to grow the archery club and offer a unique opportunity to the students of Mount Vernon. I serve as a state representative of Iowa NASP and train other coaches and instructors around Iowa. I am also a member of USA Archery and coach Level 3, the highest level one can achieve before training under the National Coach of the US Olympic National Team.

I am most proud to be a grandpa in April. Emily Wilkinson '09 Vislisl, my daughter, was a student of



Above, a photo of Coach Wilkinson at Archery practice with students from Mount Vernon schools, and at right with kids from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Tom and his wife, Erin, make a trip to Mexico every summer, and help children with lessons and archery equipment.



Photos courtesy of Erin Wilkinson and Michelle Meyer '92 Grudzinski

German and a graduate of MVHS and now lives in Springville with her husband Jeff.

A favorite memory...

My favorite memories are of German classes with Mr. Silliman. Our dialogues in class and intriguing discussions about the world. Discovering theater with Mrs. Ellison taught me to always try new things and have fun.

Tom can be reached at twilkinson@mvcasd.org

Editor's Note: From July 18-August 8 Tom will be in Germany attending a German Teacher's Seminar at the Goethe Institut in Frankfurt. He was awarded a teacher's scholarship for this event. In addition Tom will visit 4 German schools - in Hamburg, Berlin, Karlsruhe and Deggendorf (Bavaria). His dream is to develop a strong International school and community partnership between Mount Vernon and a German community.



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

REFLECTIONS...

Editor's Note: from 'Jake Krob Musings', Nov 3 2016 www.mvlsun.com

We're pretty proud – as we should be – when people name us to those popular lists. You know, like Mount Vernon being named a 'Coolest Town' a few years ago. But natives are also putting us on the map. Consider Leo Beranek '31, a Mount Vernon native who died at the age of 102 on October 10th.

We ran his lengthy obituary in the Oct. 20 edition. Fact is, his list of accomplishments could have filled the entire paper that week.

Evidence of his notoriety was dropped off at the Sun office last week by a long-time reader. She brought an Oct. 22 edition of the 'Wall Street Journal' that included three obituaries of famous people.

Leo Beranek was among them.

The 'Journal' story tells of something we didn't know: As a student at Cornell, Beranek "noticed a Cadillac with Massachusetts plates stranded with a flat tire." Beranek helped the owner, and the owner helped Beranek with admission to grad school at Harvard. Beranek earned a doctorate from Harvard and went on to become one of the world's top experts in acoustics. That work likely began in Mount Vernon, where his dad was part owner of the hardware store. Beranek worked there,

learning to service and re-pair radios.

If you didn't read his full obituary in the Sun, you missed this: Beranek's firm in 1971 invented e-mail with the "@" as we know it today. Next time you're traveling and telling folks about the greatness of Mount Vernon-Lisbon, it's worth remembering the impact a small-town boy named Leo Beranek had on the world.

Editor's Note: from 'Tourney Tidbits' February 23, 2016 www.mvlsun.com

When it comes to wrestling, Mount Vernon has a strong Iowa football connection. Tristan Wirfs'17, the 2A state champ at heavy-weight this year, will play on the line for the Hawkeyes next year. Matt Kroul'04 was a 2004 state champ for the Mustangs who played for the Hawkeyes. Paul'80 and Joe Hufford'75, both state wrestling placemen for the Mustangs, also played football for Iowa. Joe was a three-time placemen for the Mustangs. Paul was a two-time placemen, including a title in 1979.

Mount Vernon sophomore Paul Ryan's performance at state was the 10th appearance for the Ryan family. His father, Dave'85, was a 1983 qualifier. Brother Jacob'07 was a four-time qualifier and three-time placemen. Brother Trey'14 was also a four-time qualifier and three-time placemen, including a state title his senior year in 2014.

(Source, www.mvlsun.com, April 6, 2017 issue)

Three die-hard Mustangs were recently honored for a combined 84 years of experience working the chain gang for Mount Vernon football. The Iowa Football Coaches Association recognized Kevin Whitman'76, Carol Woods Boren'75 and her husband, Terry Boren'77, with its Distinguished Service Award.



From left to right: Kevin Whitman'76, Terry Boren'77, Coach Lance Pedersen, Carol Woods Boren'75

They were recognized at the University of Iowa in conjunction with the Hawkeye football clinic. Mount Vernon head coach Lance Pedersen (3rd from left in picture at right) nominated the three for the honor. All Mount Vernon High School alumni, the Borens' and Whitmans' children are also all Mount Vernon grads. The chain gang team retired two years ago from volunteering at football games. Carol and Terry worked the sidelines for 32 years; Whitman for 20 years. Carol said she and her husband got into the volunteer job when her uncle, Eddie Pitlik'46, decided to stop working the chain gang. "I love football, and it was a real family atmosphere," Carol said. When she first started, the press box was on the visitors' side, so the chain gang worked on the home sideline, hanging out with the Mustang team. Carol said it was fun to be a part of the action, particularly during the program's historic success. Carol and Terry have three sons who played football for Mount Vernon – Nick'02, Sean'07 and Derek'00. Whitman and his wife, Becky, also have a son who played – Ryan'03, who's now a teacher and coach in the district.

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

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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, 2018 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.

2018 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@mvcasd.org

Send this form post marked by May 1, 2018 to: Alumni Association, 525 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

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

Alumni News...

Send us your information...
 alumni@mvcasd.org
 or call 319-389-8602 Kathy

ANNIVERSARIES

Millicent Hoggard '47 Zenishek and husband Richard of Mechanicsville, Iowa celebrated 65 years.

Beverly Lang '60 Chunka and husband John of Bellevue, NE, 55 years on June 30, 2017.

Brian Dake '75 and wife **Cheryl Becicka '75 Dake** of Mount Vernon, IA celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on April 16th.

Judy Stolte '75 Faust and husband Craig of Coggon, IA celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They were married July 24, 1976.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Mary Brawner '44 Viter of Mount Vernon, IA celebrated her 90th birthday.

Bob Ruble '45 of Cedar Rapids, IA celebrated his 90th birthday.

MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

Kyla Rand '13 married Lucas Boas on Aug. 6, 2016. **Karly Cochrane '10** will marry Zack Brautigam on July 1, 2017. The couple resides in Cedar Rapids, IA

Adam Dake '01 married Cindy See on September 19, 2015 in Solon. The couple resides in Mount Vernon.

Mary Beth McWhinney '09 married Kyle Hershey on April 1, 2017 in St. Paul, MN.

Graham Robert Carl '07 married Katie Frank on May 6, 2017. The couple resides in the Cedar Rapids.

BIRTHS

Jeffrey '08 and Emily Wilkinson '09 Visisel of Springville, IA, a son Cody Paul, April 3, 2017. Grandparents parents Tom Wilkinson '86 and Erin Wilkson (High School staff). Great grandfather is Tom Wilkinson '60.

Tyler Leeper '03 and wife Jamie of Minneapolis, MN, a son, Daxon Camrel, on March 23, 2017.

Abbie Reihle-Hames '03 and husband Curtis of Marion, IA, a daughter Margaret Marion, on January 11, 2017.

Guthrie Burge '02 and Emily Huinker of Mount Vernon, a daughter Tenley Kristine, March 3, 2017. Her grandparents are Keith '67 and Linda Blinks '70 Burge. Her great-grandmother is Helen Peterson '46 Meeks.

Kristin Hotz '02 Robinson and husband Jason of Mount Vernon a son, Titus Lee, on March 9, 2017.

Shannon Carter '01 Currie and husband Weston of Los Angeles, Calif., a daughter, Violet Grace, on Feb. 7, 2017

Sarah Kleinsmith '01 Dannals and husband Christopher of Madison, WI, a son Benjamin Pratt on Feb. 20, 2017.

Betsy McWilliams '99 Brown and husband Chris of Mount Vernon, a daughter, Meredith Kay, on January 14, 2017

Abigail Albers '98 Desaulty and husband Louis of Mount Vernon, a son, Ethan Louis Desaulty, on June 28, 2016.

EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

Brandon Douglass '13, with honors, a BA in

music education from Simpson College
Caitlin Gearhart '12, cum laude, bachelor of science in biological systems engineering from Iowa State Fall 2016
Parker Guillaume '12, bachelor of science in aerospace engineering from Iowa State Fall 2016

Ashley Neal '12 a degree in graphic design from Grandview University in Des Moines in April 2017

Leeann Oelrich '12, a 2016 Coe College grad, was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship grant to teach in South Korea during the 2017-18 school year.

Seth Pisarik '12 of Mount Vernon graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in December 2016 with a degree in industrial technology management.

Richard Povel '12 of Mount Vernon earned a bachelor of arts degree in communication/public relations from UNI fall 2016

Adrienne Smith '11 (d), summa cum laude, bachelor of science in biochemistry from Iowa State Fall 2016

Haley Jeppson '08, master of science degree in statistics from Iowa State Fall 2016

Andrew Telecky '01 of Flemingsburg, KY, a BA in Law Enforcement from Ashford University, Fall 2016. He is currently a private investigator in Kentucky awaiting employment to either Department of Homeland Security or the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Dan Campagna '00 of Los Angeles, CA earned a masters from the University of Southern California in Communications spring 2017

continued on next page

Early Bird Reception July 8 2-4 pm

You're invited to the 'Principal's office' at the First Street Community Building for an Early Bird Reception on Friday, July 8, from 2-4 pm. Enjoy some refreshments, some good company, 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 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

Dorothy Rogers Narro 1946

Naperville, IL October 3, 2016

Robert Zinkula 1947

Mount Vernon, IA Nov 26, 2016

Warren Carney 1952

Cedar Rapids, Iowa May 12, 2017

Marlene Mallie Ford 1954

Fairfax, IA January 27, 2017

David Franta 1954

Gig Harbor, WA February 20, 2016

Don Nederhiser 1955

Ely, IA March 11, 2017

Robert Kalous 1956

Cedar Rapids, IA Jan 3 2017

Ruth Ford Warren 1961

Marion, Iowa February 8, 2017

David Burge 1962

Mount Vernon, Iowa April 15, 2017

Steve Drahos 1967

Mount Vernon, Iowa January 18, 2017

Steven Lnenicka 1967

Cedar Rapids, Iowa August 6, 2015

Marvin Driscoll 1973

Mount Vernon, Iowa March 19, 2017

Audrey Roberta Burcham 1986

Mesa, AZ June 11, 2016

Royce Majors 1988

Cedar Rapids, Iowa April 12, 2017

Adrienne Smith 2011

Mount Vernon, Iowa February 27, 2017

(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.)

AND MORE...

Will Teubel'12 was a member of the University of Iowa championship 4x800 relay team at the Drake Relays this spring.



photo by Sarah Fitzgerald



photo by Nathan Countryman

Strider Patton'03, (shown above with Mount Vernon elementary students and giving a presentation at MV City Hall), a San Francisco-based artist, recently spent time in Mount Vernon as a mural project art director who guided a large mural painting on the wall separating the upper and lower parking lots of the first block of First Street S.W (parking lot behind the Bijou Movie Theatre).

The 2,550-foot mural is made up of 6 panels painted on the retaining wall. He spent a great deal of time working with Mount Vernon art teachers, students and other community members to design the mural, which was painted this spring. The mural was sponsored by the Mount Vernon Area Arts Council (MVAAC) and endorsed by the Community Development Group and approved by the City of Mount Vernon. "It means the world to me that in Mount Vernon it has been nothing but green lights on this mural project from the city, the school and community," Patton said. This was one of the largest mural projects Patton has ever done.

Editor's Note: see complete article and photos in the Sun, www.mvlsun.com

Paige Davis'92 Volk, MD wrote in to update "My husband, Ken, and I moved to the Dallas Metroplex this year where I am now Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Medical Director for the UT Southwestern-affiliated Children's Health Medical Center in Plano, TX. 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

Sonia Essex Redmond'82 was recognized by the State of Iowa's Main Street Development program this spring with the Leadership Award, which recognizes inspirational leadership and volunteers who make significant contributions to the local Main Street programs' downtown revitalization mission. Redmond has been volunteering for Mount Vernon's Community Development Group since 2010. come!"

Randy Borg'76 recently joined the Air Force again, this time as a federal civilian employee. Randy retired from the Air Force as an active duty colonel in 2008, after serving for 26 years. He is now the Air Force Medical Service Coding Program Manager, responsible for management of the Air Force's worldwide medical coding program. He lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Celebrating 70 in style: Pisarik has special request for significant birthday

Request Blood: Terese Pisarik of Mount Vernon planned a special celebration to mark her 70th birthday. Pisarik, a regular blood donor, had a health issue in the fall and had to temporarily stop giving blood. At the same time, friends and family were reminding Pisarik that she had a significant birthday coming up. Pisarik told them: "I know what I want. I'll have you guys give blood for me." She set a goal to inspire/encourage a total of 70 blood donations. Last fall, Pisarik reached out to family and friends locally and in California, where she used to live. For those unable to give blood, Pisarik asked that they volunteer at Ronald McDonald house - another goal was to serve a meal there. Each donation is recorded on a chart by a paper cutout in the shape of a drop of blood marked with a name and a date.

Editor's Note: Complete article, www.mvlsun.com

photos by Margaret Stevens

Terese Pisarik'65 of Mount Vernon planned a special celebration

to mark her 70th birthday. Pisarik, a regular blood donor, had a health issue in the fall and had to temporarily stop giving blood. At the same time, friends and family were reminding Pisarik that she had a significant birthday coming up. Pisarik told them: "I know what I want. I'll have you guys give blood for me." She set a goal to inspire/encourage a total of 70 blood donations. Last fall, Pisarik reached out to family and friends locally and in California, where she used to live. For those unable to give blood, Pisarik asked that they volunteer at Ronald McDonald house - another goal was to serve a meal there. Each donation is recorded on a chart by a paper cutout in the shape of a drop of blood marked with a name and a date. Editor's Note: Complete article, www.mvlsun.com

Hall of Fame news

Alex Morf '99, our 2015 Fine Arts Hall of Fame recipient, will appear in the David Fincher drama, MINDHUNTER, appearing on Netflix on October 13th.



Monsignor Thomas Zinkula'75, our 2016 Mount Vernon Achievement Hall of Fame recipient, who is currently a priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, was named as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Davenport. Bishop-elect Zinkula will be ordained to the episcopacy on June 22, 2017.



ALUMNI IN OUR SCHOOLS



Alumni and friends of the school district met in early May to assist in the selection of the 2017 high school graduation student speakers. Attending were, from left to right: Darin Vig'86, Ann Stoner, Mary Thomsen'75 - Alumni Association Board Member and chair of this committee, Babs Beckhelm'53 Moore, Marlyn Dean'58 Schnittjer, Ann McCutcheon'59 Niehaus, Paul Morf'90.



photo by Jake Krob, The Sun

Brothers **Bob Wolfe'48** and **John Wolfe'44** were honored in January 2017 for their military service and for their community involvement with the presentation of a quilt of valor by the Quilts of Valor organization.



Each year the Alumni Association sponsors the reception for the High School Honor Society Induction Ceremony. Shown here are hosts Susan Mounts'65 Fisher - Alumni Association Treasurer and host coordinator, center, with Ken Pospisil'68 and Jane Colehour'68 Pospisil.



Photos by Emma Klinkhammer

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'65 Fisher and Association Board Secretary Michele Meyer'92 Grudzinski. In the top photo is graduate Sidney Hampton'17, and in the bottom photo is Journey Dawa'17.



Mount Vernon schools love to welcome back grads who are attending college - shown here are Mickey Hines'16 who is a Cornell student, along with other Cornell students, who visited the Middle School this spring to job shadow.

This summer is the 20th anniversary of the 1997 Mustang Baseball State Championship.

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

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Class of 1989

Class of 1996



REACHING OUT TO YOU...

In the fall of 2016 we did our first-ever campaign to raise additional funds for the Alumni Association... in particular to support future issues of the alumni newsletter.

Your response was warm and your donations very much appreciated.

We received donations that ranged from a few dollars to over \$500.

Now into the second decade of our organization, it continues to be a remarkable reflection of our alumni and friends, of your love for our school and memories you hold dear.

Thank you for your donations.

Mount Vernon Alumni Association Board

Andrew Morf 1994 - President
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in memory of Mike Havill'70
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Don 'Skip' Killen 1947
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Gordon Behrens 1950
James Kent 1950
in memory of Jim Croft'47
and Carol Pringle Croft'46
Wiladene Hoggard Willming 1950
in memory of deceased 1950 classmates
Ellen Klinsky Jones 1951
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Carol Croft Kent 1951
in memory of Jim Croft'47
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Bill Lenz 1952
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Thank You!



THANK YOU for your 2016-2017 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 2016-17 year. **See back page for the 2017-2018 Support Form.**

Does your name have an asterik* behind it? This means you have already contributed for the 2017-2018 year (as of May 20, 2017). Additional donations are always appreciated.

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

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Thank you to the following who have given either \$10 for a one-year support
or \$45 for a 5-year support of Association activities.

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

Margaret Clark Reilly 1946 in memory of Dorothy Rogers'46 Narrow	Gary Knutsen 1965 Cindy Buresh Prewitt 1966 Nancy Smykil Berns 1967 Nancy Smykil Berns 1967 in memory of Ken Smykil
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Don 'Skip' Killen 1947 in memory of Merritt Staley'47	FROM ALUMNI CLASSES
Dr. Stanley Grant 1949	Class of 1955
Keith Coates 1950 in memory of Audrey Coates'47 Burcham	Class of 1961 in memory of deceased classmates. See list for names of deceased and donors.
Dolores Staskal Hicks 1950	Class of 1966
Richard McKeen 1951	MATCHING FUNDS
Bill Lenz 1952	Alliant Energy Foundation
Ann Vislisel Pavik 1952	matching funds for Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer 1991
George Brown 1953	FRIENDS
Fae Sparks Edwards 1954	University of Iowa Credit Union in honor of Dean Borg
Larry and Fae Edwards 1954	Randy Krejci in honor of Superintendent Dr. Gary O'Malley
Kay Jilovec Lind 1955 in memory of Carol Van Metre	Kathy Staskal in memory of Class representatives Mary Mulherin'38 and Austin Armstrong'33, and Hall of Fame members Richard Bowman'58 and Leo Beranek'31
Larry Ringer 1955	
Jerry Ringer 1955	
Nargi Rayman Steinbrech 1955 in memory of Daniel Steinbrech	
Class of 1956	
Robert Kalous 1956	
Roger Schnittjer 1956	
Bert Sippola 1956	
Mary Bowman Seidler 1957	
Marilyn Dean Schnittjer 1958	
Richard Glatly 1959	
Nancy Pisarik Mulder 1959	
Craig Hipple 1961	
Bunny Mulligan 1961	
Vic Wallace 1961 in memory of Chet and Mary Wallace	
James Clark 1962	
Karen Kaliban Fox 1963	
Gloria Herboldsheimer Krob 1963	
Allan Miner 1963	
Joyce Miller Maxwell 1964	

DONATIONS MADE TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER, ALUMNI ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

DONATIONS MADE TO THE FOUNDATION SUPPORT MOUNT VERNON STUDENTS

look for list of 2016-2017 donors in the fall issue of Alumni News

YOUR FOUNDATION DONATIONS WORK THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE GRANTS

Every year, the Foundation provides funding opportunities to Mount Vernon teachers through Educational Excellence Grants.

Funding is awarded to projects that are innovative, and raise the bar of academic excellence.

This year, over \$7,500 was awarded to 20 projects.

This program continues to grow every year thanks to the generosity of our Foundation donors.

See list of donors in the fall 2017 issue of the Alumni Newsletter. Thank You!

Submitted by Foundation Director, Ben Brannaman'05

• 4th grade team: 25 Graphic novels for classrooms

Fourth grade students are extremely appreciative of the 25 graphic novels that are rotating between our classrooms thanks to the Mount Vernon Foundation grant. These comic-like novels are in high demand and students will come in from recess asking to read! The books hold students' attention, increase students' reading stamina, and help students with comprehension since pictures are abundant. Thank you for the opportunity to add this newer genre to our classrooms and in getting more books into student's hands!

• Kevin Murray – High School Business: Fixtures for the STABLE, Mount Vernon High School's student-run business

The supplies purchased will be used in the STABLE class - a new business curriculum for entrepreneurship students to work in conjunction with the Booster Club. They will be running all aspects of an apparel and novelty business, and supplying the Booster Club with their products and designs

• Kim Siggins – 3rd grade: Math games to be used during small group instruction and partner activities

My class was fortunate enough to be granted money to purchase math games. With these new games I was able to change my teaching from a whole group to a small group approach. Students were explicitly taught how to play each of the games and had the opportunity to try them out with my supervision. From there I introduced them one at a time into math rotations. The games focused on building number sense, computational fluency, and problem solving. Students shared that they got better with math facts, learned about teamwork and sportsmanship, and liked math better in general. Using these engaging games helped to create a climate that forced students to work out their own problems and double check their work. This allowed me the opportunity to work directly with small groups of students without being disrupted by classroom behaviors. It also gave students meaningful practice without having to complete worksheets. Overall, our class loves our new games and ask to play them everyday.

• Katie Poduska – 5th Grade Science: MudWatt classroom kit for STEM enrichment

Students are amazed at the shewanella oneidensis bacterium which is found in soil all over the earth. This bacterium can eat oil spills, toxic waste and other organic material, turning them into harmless compounds while creating electrons that can be harnessed as a simple battery.

• Katie Poduska & Susannah Maddock – 5th Grade Science, 5th Grade Science Club, Coding Club: Ozobot classroom kit to help students learn coding through an innovate robot

It's become a favorite activity with lots of excitement! The students have quickly adapted to the coding challenges of making these ozobots work, which is a simplified form of Javascript.

• JoAnn Gage – Journalism: Camera lens for low-light environments

Thank you for funding a camera lens for my J-Term class. This lens



Left: Kindergarten educational BINGO games. Right, clockwise from top: Music classroom white boards, 5th Grade Science MudWatt classroom kit, 4th Grade Graphic novels, 5th Grade Ozobot classroom kit

allows us to take photos without using a flash, and it's great for video, too. We will use it for years to come. Students have been experimenting with the new lens and slow shutter speeds. If you want to see some of the great videos created, they are posted on www.themustangmoon.com as well as on our YouTube account, The Mustang Moon, which has close to 300 videos.

- **3rd grade team: Novels for guided reading groups**
Our third grade team wanted to add a few new book titles to our novel sets that we use for guided reading. We were able to purchase book sets of various genres for a variety of reading levels. Students in our classrooms have really enjoyed the new books are excited for small group reading each day!
- **Mallory Beatty – Kindergarten: Dramatic play furniture and educational BINGO games**
Best practices in early childhood encourage learning through play! The generous foundation grant gift allowed me to buy multiple literacy games for my classroom. These games have allowed my students to build many different literacy skills through play with their peers. While playing these literacy games, my students are engaged, having fun, and learning from each other. They have not only built literacy skills but also important social skills such as taking turns, helping others, and being a good sport! Thanks to the foundation for helping to make literacy learning fun and meaningful!
- **Music team: Magnetic whiteboards for all music rooms in the district**
We have all found the magnetic white board to be very useful in our everyday classes. Thad Wilkins says "we use the white board in the HS choir room during class for note names, basic music theory, chord structure, and recognition between treble and bass clef. It will especially be used heavily during next year's music theory class. It is very clear for the students to see and saves a lot of instructional time in that I don't

have to draw out the staff lines all the time." Kristin Anderson agrees and says "the time saved by not having to draw the staff out all the time is significant. The middle school general music students like it too, because it makes it neater and easier to draw and read notes while they are up demonstrating what they know". "In band it makes it easier to get everyone on the same page," explains Elise Rodenberg. "The instruments all play different parts, and when I can write it on the board for everyone to see it becomes much clearer. It has streamlined a lot of work in the classroom." We really appreciate the Mount Vernon Foundation and the support they have given the music department this year.

AND MORE...

- **Cara Dix – 2nd Grade: Books for reading club**
- **Jo Nowak-Thompson, Erin Whitehead – Early Childhood / Preschool: Mathematics materials and books to enhance classroom programs**
- **Ben Kuker – High School Industrial Technology: Data collection equipment for a Project Lead the Way class**
- **Suzette Kragebrink – High School Library: Funds for author April Henry to visit Mount Vernon High School**
- **Jessica Bartlet & Laura Irvin – K-4 Special Education: Alternative seating, weighted lap pads & wiggle cushions**
- **Jan Moore – Begindeergarten (Alternative Kindergarten): Curriculum**
- **Nicole Elliott – Elementary Counseling: Supplies to help create sensory relief for students**
- **Rob Hanson – 8th Grade Science: Drones**
- **Heather Allen & Jan Henik – High School Science: Electro stimulation units for Anatomy, Biology, and J Term classes**
- **LeAnn Briesemeister – 2nd Grade: Books for classroom**
- **Jason Pershing – Alternative Education: Volleyball net & volleyball for physical education**



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 8, 2017

...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. NEW items on the menu! Watch for golf cart transportation to and from the parking areas. There is additional handicapped parking at the front of the High School building. See page 1 for driving instructions due to construction.

2017 Homecoming Events FRIDAY, SEPT. 22 HOMECOMING AND ALUMNI HALL OF FAME AWARDS CEREMONY






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THE SCHOOL 2016-2017

SEPTEMBER

- \$15.9 million bond issue for new district facilities is voted down

OCTOBER

- Mount Vernon High School students were selected as the 'Volunteers of the Month' for October by Mount Vernon's Community Development Group, CDG.
- Five high school musicians were named to the Iowa High School Music Association's All-State Band, Chorus and Orchestra
- Fall play is the 'Rabbit Hole'
- MV-L Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams earn district titles and head to state, with boys taking state 3A title
- HS Football earns district title
- HS Volleyball team heads to state tourney with Coach Maggie Lessmeier'96 Willems

NOVEMBER

- High School yearbook staff won the Class A 'Yearbook of the Year' award in the IHSPA Fall Yearbook Contest – which goes to the school with the most individual awards. Sixteen MV students won individual awards, for a total of 31 awards. They also swept some categories. This is the sixth time since 2005 that Mount Vernon has won the Yearbook of the Year award; in the past it was called the "Sweepstakes" award for sweeping categories. Mount Vernon placed second in 2015, 2012 and 2009, and third in 2010, 2011 and 2014
- Marching Band performs in Chicago's Turkey Day Parade
- Mount Vernon football standout senior Tristan Wirfs, and a University of Iowa recruit, is one of the top 90 players in the nation chosen to compete in San Antonio in January in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl

DECEMBER

- Superintendent Gary O'Malley announces his retirement
- The Elementary Art Program again has outstanding art display during MV Magical Night

JANUARY

- High School speech team advanced 12 out of 18 events to state competition
- High School drama student-direct and perform the thriller "Wait Until Dark"
- High School spanish students spend J-Term in Peru

FEBRUARY

- Mount Vernon High School senior basketball player Kaitlyn Volesky scores 1,000 points in her varsity career
- High School large group speech team walked away with a total of 10 Division I and two Division II ratings at state large group speech tournament
- HS Wrestling team earned 2A sectional team title
- HS Swimmer Zach Kolker advances to state swim meet
- HS senior basketball player Austin Ash hit his 1,000th career point
- The City of Mount Vernon is interested in siting a proposed community recreation center on school district ground in front of the high school
- Mount Vernon senior Tristan Wirfs earned the Class 2A, 285- pound state wrestling title

MARCH

- Mount Vernon archers earned three team trophies and 13 individual awards at the state tournament. High school and elementary school teams placed second in the state, middle school team fifth
- High School Speech earned 24 Division I ratings – 16 of those straight ones at Individual State Speech competition
- Chief Petty Officer senior Ian Reid was named Naval Sea Cadet Corps Cadet of the Year in the Central Iowa Division
- HS Science Olympiad earns 1st place finish at state competition, and placed 46th at Nationals
- School District sets 2017-18 calendar to run from August 23 through May 30

APRIL

- Mount Vernon choral and band students earned two best of center awards, two perfect scores, 34 Division I ratings and 16 Division II ratings at the State Solo/Ensemble Competition
- HS Girls Basketball Coach Dennis Roloff retires
- Dr. Gregory Batenhorst is named next Superintendent of MV Schools
- Spring musical is 'The Drowsy Chaperone'
- Tristan Wirfs captures shot put and discus crowns and was named outstanding high school male athlete at the Drake Relays

MAY

- HS Boys Track team finishes state runner-up
- HS Programming team earned Division 2 championship at University of Iowa Hawkeye Challenge Programming Competition
- The High School newspaper, 'The Mustang Moon' won 28 honors at the Iowa High School Press Association Awards. It was also named a 2017 All-Iowa News team Finalist, and earned a Pacemaker finalist award for schools with fewer than 1,500 students from the National Scholastic Press Association.
- Girls track qualified for state in 7 relays and 5 other events, and boys track in 12 events
- Archers in grades 4-12 shoot at nationals, and High School student Lainey Kelly and elementary student Lainey Kelley qualified for the World Tournament
- 107 Seniors graduate



SCHOOL DISTRICT RETIREES

KEITH BURGE '67 - 21 YEARS

District Food Service
Transportation, Elementary,
High School, and Middle
School Custodian



First year favorite memory: I was hired by Mr. Ringold in tough farming times. And now I've spent 21 years at the school. I really liked the staff... people worked hard and we stuck together. Not only the first year, but always, I looked forward to the daily smiles, the hellos, the energy that everyone has. This is something that I will miss. Our teachers and staff are always ready to go – every day! And they seemed so appreciative of my work. Through the years, I continue to think we have the best students, the finest young men and women, in our district. A tribute to our staff and parents.

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career and what did they do that was helpful to you?

Arnie Soukup was the man that showed me the ropes. He worked at the high school. When I first started, we did everything by hand – nothing was automated. Arnie was the finest 'fixer' – he could weld desks back together, he could do or fix anything. Today we see that in Jerry Ortmann. A person I really appreciate is Candy Heeren, our Middle School Custodian. Her work ethic and experience made her a good partner... she made the time here run smoothly because she was a good team member.

One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share. Can be a story you like to tell about the school, a personal success, a student success, etc. Please tell at least one that is a personal success or highlight for you.

Over the years, some of the things I did that I took pride in have to do with just doing a good job – having the windows washed, the doors open, the entry ways

clean, the carpets clean, the locker rooms clean and lights on, the restrooms clean, the commons sparkling, the tables clean, the auditorium ready for all events, – I took great pride in making the 30-year old High School/Middle School building look its best at all times. I glued many a tile on the Commons floor.

I have such pride in our community and district. And I really enjoy watching alumni work in our district in some way – coaching, teaching, etc. Their enthusiasm, their love for our students, is something I really appreciate. For instance our alums Kim Bjork, Justin Dix, Dave Ryan, Bryce Chapman, Maggie Willems, Tom Wilkinson, Ryan Whitman, Bill Thomson, are just a few – there are so many. It is great to see them 'giving back.' But it's not just our alums – our teachers and coaches have such drive and enthusiasm. I also loved the elementary school teachers' lounge – they always had the best yummy desserts and snacks on the table. Denise Havill's cakes were unbelievably delicious.

What has changed in education?

I don't think our students have changed – they continue to be wonderful. Our students and staff excel – so many accomplishments in athletics and fine arts. Probably the thing that continues to amaze me is the computer age.

Retirement plans:

I haven't got it all figure out yet – but plan to attend the MV retiree breakfasts and alumni events. But the farm and grandchildren will get most of my attention. I have four grandchildren right now, and all my sons live here too, so I am very lucky.

KATHY KENNEY - 19 YEARS

District Food Service



MIKE STUDDT '72 - 4 YEARS

Alternative Education Associate Teacher at Mount Vernon
Career- Math and Physical Education teacher; High School Principal, Athletic Director



Year started at MV 2013

Total years at Mount Vernon 4

Total years teaching and coaching: 41

First year at Mount Vernon favorite memory:

The students were plotting how to get rid of me and the new lead teacher my first day here at MV at the Alternative Ed center. They didn't like the new rules! Four years later I'm still here!

Another teacher or staff member who was a mentor or helped you in your career and what did they do that was helpful to you?

Besides my family, My life and teaching/coaching career were greatly influenced by my teachers (and as coaches) and administrators here at Mount Vernon. (Bellamy, Landis, Ringold, Thatcher, Peters, Rife, Straw, Rockrohr, Swisher, Halsey, Craig, Ringgenberg, Stine, and others!)

Highlights while at MV- Watching those first Alt Ed kids that wanted to get rid of us graduate, being a part of the state runner-up football team, and coaching here at MV!

What has changed in education? Everything except dedicated teachers/coaches preparing their students to be successful in life!

Retirement plans: Travel the country with Deb and Bart (our dog) in our fifth wheel, visiting friends and supporting our kids and grandkids in their endeavors.



Missing A Yearbook?

EXTRA COPIES: The MV Alumni Association has one or more copies of the following yearbooks for sale: 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1981, 1990, 191, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011. Contact Kathy at alumni@mountvernon.k12.ia.us or 319-389-8602 if interested.

DO YOU HAVE? The Alumni Association is looking for donations of the following yearbooks: 1961, 1944, and any prior to 1940.

PICK UP: The following 2016 graduates have not picked up their yearbooks, and should come to the High School office to get them: Chase Burkart, Alison Carson, Jacob Feldman, Jacob Hansen, Amelia Logan, Isabella Logan

ALUMNI

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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

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MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI Association

2017-2018

FOR JULY 1 2017 TO JULY 1 2018

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