



# MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# ALUMNI NEWS



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## 2019 Heritage Days Events Coming Up!

1975 classmates Luann Covington Smith & Association Board member Mary Thomsen

### 2 NEW online features...

When you visit [www.mvalumni.org](http://www.mvalumni.org)  
- **Automatic Recurring Payments** - In addition to making a 1-yr and 5-yr dues-support payment, you now have the ability to make your 1-year support an automatic recurring payment by selecting this option.

- **Use any credit card when gifting your support-dues or donation.** We have changed to a new system that allows you to use the credit card of your choice for payment.

**Snail Mail...** see the outside back cover for the 2019 form for support.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who continues to support our association with both your financial and your volunteer support!

**July 12 and 13** - Now in the Alumni Association's 15th year of celebrating at Heritage Days, it 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 2019 (and even future alums!), as well as familiar faces from the community and school district. 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 that people participating in the 5K will be meeting at Washington Elementary).

In addition, see the future of Mount Vernon while attending the Alumni Breakfast on Saturday morning. Construction of the new Lester Buresh Family Community Wellness Center (in front of the high school) and the new High School auditorium are underway!

Visit the **Alumni-Community Reception area** up town in the old Fire Department Station next to City Hall. Friday from 4 pm until approximately 10 pm, and then Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to approx. 5 p.m. Make the reception area *your meeting place* and come to view displays, enjoy yearbooks, have your picture taken, order up some ice cream, or grab some cold water. Who will you see there? See pages 10-11 for pictures from last year's activities.

**EARLY BIRD RECEPTION** on Friday, July 12, from 2-4 pm. Enjoy refreshments and a tour of what was your Middle School or High School.

You will be **AMAZED** at the variety of shops and businesses now in the building.

At right, Kelsey Steines '10, Tasha Redmond Tatara '10 and husband Dan, and Katie White '08 visit the Alumni-Community Reception in 2018 to enjoy the yearbooks



### INSIDE...

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## Also in 2019

Friday, Sept. 27

Homecoming and Alumni Hall of Fame Award Ceremony

### 15 years

TIME TO CELEBRATE - THIS IS THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE'S 15TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION!





# Mustang ALUMNI

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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

2019

Antiques Extravaganza July 4  
Heritage Days July 11-13  
Magical Night in Dec  
other events: Lincoln Hwy Arts Festival  
Chili Cookoff, and more

## 2019 REUNIONS

**ALL-ALUMNI-COMMUNITY EVENTS Heritage Days Weekend**  
-Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 13 Reception  
-Saturday, July 13 Breakfast

### 2014 - 5 years - Heritage Days weekend 2019

Reunion info tba.

Contact: Cory Brannaman  
Phone: 319-895-8291, 319-551-6189  
Email: brannaman.cory@gmail.com  
Contact: Hannah Wieditz  
Phone: 319-929-4544, 319-929-4544

### 2009 - 10 years - Heritage Days weekend 2019

Reunion at Jeremy Rundle's farm. BYOB and a side dish to share. Kids are welcome. Day and time tba.

Contact: Emily Ryan Stamp  
Phone: 319-310-6547  
Email: estamp@mvcasd.org  
Contact: Alex Brannaman  
Phone: 319-551-6188  
Email: alex.brannaman@gmail.com  
Contact: Kristin Kimm Dvorsky  
Phone: 319-551-6571  
Email: kristin.dvorsky@gmail.com

### 2004 - 15 years - Heritage Days weekend 2019

Reunion Saturday, July 13; 7-9pm, Glyn Mawr Winery-The Local (main street MV)

\*Please join our class Facebook page 'MVHS (IA) Class of 2004' to stay up to date on details.\*

Contact: Brittany Corkin Brannaman  
Phone: 319-361-8128  
Email: brittany.brannaman@gmail.com  
Amy Kleinsmith Benesh, Matt Kroul

### 2003 - Sweet 16 - Heritage Days weekend 2019

Visit Facebook event: 'Class of 2003 15 year reunion' (this page will have more information).  
July 13 Reunion 5-9:30 pm, Palisades Park, Shelter 1  
Contact: Nikki Port Morgan  
Phone: 319-721-0653  
Email: nikkip1212@yahoo.com

### 1999 - 20 years - Heritage Days weekend 2019

Saturday, July 13th, 7pm at home of Meredith Ash Crawford, 412 4th Avenue NW in Mount Vernon. People can contact me for more information or find us on our Facebook page - MVHS Class of '99  
Contact: Betsy McWilliams Brown  
Phone: 515-201-3823  
Email: mrs.betsybrown@gmail.com

### 1994 - 25 years - Heritage Days Weekend

Reunion Sat, July 13, 5 pm, Regal Crown Receptions  
Contact: Sara Reyhons Nost  
Phone: 319-560-5227  
Email: Mvclassof1994@gmail.com

### 1989 - 30 years - Heritage Days weekend 2019

Friday Eve: 7 pm at Yock's Landing  
Sat am: Class float in parade  
Saturday Eve Reunion - 5 pm Sutliff Bar & Grill  
Contact: Jenifer Carmer Back  
Phone: 319-310-6365  
Email: jencarmer@gmail.com

### 1984 - 35 years - Heritage Days Weekend

Saturday eve 6-9 pm First Street Community Center  
On facebook at: Mt Vernon Class of 1984  
Contact: Dan Drahos  
Phone: 563-299-6009  
Email: LAZERVET1@gmail.com

### 1979 - 40 years - Heritage Days Weekend

Sat eve July 13 - Mount Vernon Creates (on Main St)  
Contact: Jody Murphy Stewart  
Phone: 319-895-8282  
Email: stews3@aol.com

### 1974 - 45 years - Homecoming weekend Sept 27-28

Contact: Cindy Feaker Johnson  
Phone: 319-455-2821  
Email: cjohnson@hacap.org  
Contact: Vicki Hill Reynolds  
Phone: 319-551-1356  
Email: vjsgt@msn.com

### 1969 - 50 years - Heritage Days weekend 2019

Friday-Sat-Sun events - see next page  
Contact: Cathy Humphries Stoner  
Phone: 319-895-6346  
Email: stonerkmce@aol.com

### 1964 - 55 years - Heritage Days weekend 2019

Reunion event Sat eve at Kernoustie Golf Club  
Contact: Joann Kroul Clark  
Phone: 319-359-9192  
Email: jo.clark158@gmail.com  
Contact: Tex Clay  
Email: texclay@iowatelecom.net  
Phone: 319-573-4888

### 1959 - 60 years Heritage Days weekend 2019

Sat eve July 13 meeting room at Gwen's in Lisbon  
Contact: Richard Glatly  
Phone: 218-372-3973  
Email: rglatly@frontiernet.net

### 1954 - 65 years Heritage Days Breakfast

Contact: Norma Reyhons Abbott  
Phone: 319-338-5364  
Email: komatga@mchsi.com  
Contact: Fae and Larry Edwards  
Phone: 319-396-2302  
Email: edwards5025@gmail.com

### 1949 - 70 years Heritage Days Breakfast

Contact: Jack Stanton  
Phone: 928-759-0885  
Email: jstanton@cableone.net

### 1944 - 75 years Heritage Days Breakfast

Contact: John Wolfe  
Phone: 319-895-8125

**VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT HERITAGE DAYS  
ALUMNI BREAKFAST OR RECEPTION Call  
call or text 319-389-8602 or write  
alumni@mvcasd.org**

\*\*\*\*\*

Your class may not be having a reunion, but come on Heritage Days weekend, July 12-13, to 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 '94  
Alumni Association  
President

Greetings from Mount Vernon,

Summer is now upon us and with it another opportunity to connect with classmates, alums, friends and family at Heritage Days in July. I cannot believe *my* class will be celebrating its 25-year class reunion this year! We hope everyone will be able to join us Saturday, July 13th at the High School for breakfast, and I encourage you to stop by the old fire station uptown on Friday night and Saturday to enjoy soft serve ice cream while looking through MV yearbooks. It is amazing that we are now celebrating alumni during Heritage Days for fifteen years. I hope alumni continue to look forward to this time, as well as homecoming, as a special time to be in Mount Vernon.

A big thanks to our many alums who continue to generously support our association. We are grateful for your support and continue to receive positive feedback on the newsletter we publish and provide to almost 4,500 subscribers.

This year both the baseball team and the softball team are holding reunions for their coaches and alumni – the baseball team held a reception May 25 complete with food and hoopla, and softball will hold an alumni game July 13 at 1 pm – be sure to stop on over!

On Mount Vernon!

## Class of 1994 25th Reunion Saturday, July 13, 2019 5 pm at Regal Crown Reception Hall in Lisbon

More details will be sent to  
all '94 Alumni.  
RSVP to:  
MVClassof1994@gmail.com

## Class of 1979 Celebrating 40 years

Friday, July 12, 2019  
**Open House** for classmates at the  
home of Lynette Landis Nugent

Saturday, July 13, 2019  
**Reunion at Mount Vernon Creates  
(on Main St) 6-10 pm**  
Reunion gathering and dinner.  
Rick Schwiebert's band 'Full  
Moon Horizon' from 8 to 9

## Class of 1959

Saturday, July 13

5pm at Gwen's Restaurant

The class of 1959 will celebrate  
their 60th reunion during Heritage  
Days with a buffet dinner at Gwen's  
Restaurant in Lisbon.

Social hour will begin at 5  
with dinner at 6.

Please reply to Richard Glattly at  
rglattly@frontiernet.net  
or 612-655-3238

## Class of 2003

'Sweet 16' Reunion Saturday, July 13  
Palisades Park, Shelter 1, 5-9:30 pm

Please bring a side dish to share and BYOB.  
Lawn chairs and lawn games welcome.

Please donate to our GoFund Me site 'MVHS class  
of 2003' to make a 25 dollar donation.  
This will cover venue costs and a main dish.  
Any extras will go towards activities/  
accommodations for the reunion.

FIND UPDATES ON FACEBOOK:  
MVHS class of 2003

## Class of 1964

55th Reunion  
Saturday, July 13, 7:30 pm  
Kernoustie Golf Course

## Class of 1984

Saturday, July 13, 6-9 pm  
First St Community Center  
Food and beverage provided by  
2-Bohemians BBQ  
Free-will donation  
Grilling with an impromptu  
Jam Session on the front lawn  
while we cook.

## Class of 1989

Heritage Days Weekend Reunion

Friday Evening: 7 pm Meet at Yock's Landing.

Join classmate Duane Yock, and  
his wife Kelley, at Yock's Landing  
Basement. Light snacks provided and  
drinks are available for purchase.

All Mount Vernon classes are  
more than welcome to gather  
with us for a great time.

Saturday: 9 am All-Alumni-Community  
Breakfast

Saturday: 10:30 am meet at Cornell Athletic  
parking lot to ride on the Class of 1989  
Float! This is always a great time.

Please bring a bag of candy to  
throw. Heritage Day's float theme is  
Hawaiian. Families are welcome to  
sit in Yock's yard located at 615 5th  
Avenue NW to watch the parade.

Saturday Evening: 5 pm, reunion at Sutliff  
Bar & Grill for dinner and drinks

## Class of 1969 Celebrating 50 Years!

WEEKEND OF HERITAGE DAYS 2019

FRIDAY: July 12 5-9 pm  
informal reception at First Street  
Community Center (our high school)

SATURDAY: July 13 8-10:30am  
All-Alumni-Community Breakfast  
at the High School on Palisades Road

SATURDAY: July 13 10:30am  
Class of '69 Float in Heritage Parade  
11:00 (meet at 10:30) in front of  
the High School

SATURDAY: July 13 6-9 pm  
Class of '69 Reunion at Cornell Commons

SUNDAY: July 14 9:30-11:00 am  
Farewell Brunch, Cornell Brackett House



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



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# REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

The following classes held reunions in 2018. Thank you to the reunion organizers and classmates for sending in pictures and information.

## ▼ CLASS OF 2008 - 10 YEARS

The Class of 2008 held their 10-year reunion on Saturday evening, July 14 with a cookout at Maura Holland Arnold's house. On Sunday classmates met at Big Grove in Iowa City for a late lunch. Find us on the class Facebook page (MVHS Class of 2008).

Pictured from left to right, Steven Bragg, Katie White, Ryan Winder, Maura Holland Arnold, Brittney Wardlow Trumpold, Roxy Patton, and Megan Gutschmidt



## ▼ CLASS OF 1953 - 60 YEARS

The Class of 1953 held their 60th Class Reunion on Saturday evening July 14 with a dinner at the home of Babs Moore.

Pictured from left to right are: Front: Bess Koutny Telecky, Babs Beckhelm Moore, Rosemary Brecht Erenberger, Marie Reyhons Beuter, Sue Albright Kehrli. Back: Don Waldon, Carlyle Bys, George Brown



## ▼ CLASS OF 1993 - 25 YEARS

The Class of 1993 met for their 25th class reunion at the home of Braden Pospisil Rood. Pictured below: Front: Tammy Berner Pitlik, Sarah Rife Patten, Kim Wilkin Korte, Braden Pospisil Rood. Back: Kerri Hansen, Erik Booth, Jason Locke, Scott Rose, Kim Stone Stine



# REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

## ▼ CLASS OF 1983 - 35 YEARS



The Class of 1983 held their 35th Reunion Saturday evening July 14th with a reunion potluck at the home of Lisa Lewis. Find us on face book at 'MVHS IA 1983' Pictured here left to right:  
 Row 1: Kevin Arnold, Amy Schmidt Schweer  
 Row 2: Roxanne Edler Inman, Betsy Lee Krall Shepherd, Loretta Kamberling Welsh  
 Row 3: Marlin Hofner, Christine Grant Pientok, Paige Peterson, Mitch Corcoran, Beth Walden Wood, Jo Sherman  
 Row 4: Lisa Lewis, Chris Frantz, Ben Walder, Elizabeth Krivo Scarfo Brussels, Lindsey Borg, Ken Houser, Alan Pearson  
 Row 5: Dennis Houser, Harry Wood, Brian Sargent

## ▼ CLASS OF 1978 - 40 YEARS



The Class of 1978 held their 40th Reunion Saturday evening July 14th, 2018 with a gathering at the home of Andy Wolfe. Pictured left to right:  
 Front: Pat Wallace  
 2nd Row: Jeff Spencer, Chiara Niederhauser Burke, Mary Melchert Jorth, Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier, Joan Tuberty, Ann Koppenhaver, Kim Ferguson, Sara Kendall, Ron Johnson, Kathy Petrick Crowley, Lynn Arnold McDowell.  
 3rd Row: (between Chiara and Mary) Alan Kuntz, Barb Rice Wistoff, Paul Konkowski, Russ Neal, Andy Wolfe, Deb Telecky Blythe, Lianne Arnold Peterson  
 Back Row: Steve Cody, Dennis Ties, Gregg Pospisil, Loren Williams, Ken Zinkula, Ron Berends, Evelyn Chittenden Brown, Tom Flowden

## HALL OF FAME

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# REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES




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Class of 1989



Class of 1996

## ▼ CLASS OF 1998 - 20 YEARS



The Class of 1998 met on Saturday night, July 14, 2018, for a gathering in front of Scorz to enjoy Heritage Days. Pictured from left to right:  
Front: Charlotte Campagna McDermott, Mike Elliott, Abby Aalbers Desaulty, Shelli Huff Ash, Anna Bigley Sabido, Sara Shepley Batinger, Tara Murphy Olsen  
Back: Chris Frasher, Joe Pospisil, Nick Nissen, Kasey Lange, Nick Bjork, Cory Osborn, Josh Roloff

## ▼ CLASS OF 1958 - 55 YEARS



The Class of 1958 held reunion activities during Heritage Days 2018. They started with a 'Meet & Greet' on Friday evening, breakfast at the school on Saturday morning, and a Reunion Dinner at the Kernoustie Country Club on Saturday night, followed by a brunch gathering on Sunday morning.  
Pictured left to right are:  
Front: Roger Brush, Chuck Coon, Gail Yeisley Rhodes, Janis Glattey Hoover, Marilyn Dean Schnittjer  
Back: Bob Lens, Dave Kroeger, Larry Kramer, Tom Neal, Dave Sparks, Bob Kruse, Bruce Mullen, Bob Bowman, Ben Jamison, Howard Clark



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SPENCER DRAHOS '14, Agent sdrahos@hotmail.com

## ▼ CLASSES OF 1940S



Classmates in the decade of the 40s met for a reunion at the First Street Community Center on Saturday, July 14. Pictured here from left to right are:  
Front: Dick Dvorak '44, Al Klouda '48, Don DeCamp '48, Allene Merritt Bys '52, Don Merritt '41, and Carlyle Bys '53.  
Back: Harold Klinsky '47 and Joy Litts Gaarde '48

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# REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

## CLASS OF 1988 - 30 YEARS



The Class of 1988 held their 30th reunion at Baxa's Sutliff Store & Tavern on Saturday evening, July 14. Pictured at right, the class also had a float in the Heritage Days parade.

At the reunion, pictured above left to right:  
 Front: Lisa Squiers White, Kim Wulf Schultz, Angela Harms Randall, Mindy Arp Ollendieck, Sandy Zehms Guenther, Kerry Ulch, Leslie Slife DeBrower, Dan Theureauf, Deede Bair Stastny, Jennifer Clark Gonzalez, Shirley Stults Davis  
 Back: Mark Wilkey, Emily Ault Scully, Stacy Gross, Todd Lehr, Dave Lynott, Erich Jacobsen, Dan Schellberg, Dewane Hughes, Carson Campbell, Aaron Werline, Pat Spellerberg



## CLASS OF 2003 - 15 YEARS



The Class of 2003 held their 15 year class reunion at the Neal Family farm on Saturday July 14th with kettle chicken and a bonfire. The class is also holding a 'Sweet 16' Reunion this year - see page 2 and 3 for more information.

Pictured at the 2018 reunion from left to right are:  
 Row 1: Emily Clute Matamoros, Angie Williams, Clarissa Craig Doscher, Abbie Reihle Hames, MacKenzie Neal Paulson, Katie Pitlik Eichhorn, Amy Guetzko, Jennifer Brace Provorse, Courtney Frye Speed  
 Row 1.5 on right of picture: Nikki Port Morgan, Katie Keas Parpart, Tiffany Clark Zarifkar.  
 Row 2: Erik Triggs, Ryan Wikstrom, Matt Ties, Tyler Leeper, Ryan Whitman, Heather Hills Janssen, Leona Koster Johnk, Rachel Young Overton, Bryan Hoke, Krystal Bragg, Shannon Kowalski.

## FIND THE SUN NEWSPAPER ONLINE

Find the Sun online in two places:  
 First, if you are a current subscriber go online to [www.mvlsun.com](http://www.mvlsun.com), click E-EDITION at the top of the page. You may also receive news alerts. Current and archived.  
 Second, online at [www.colelibrary.org](http://www.colelibrary.org), to find Mount Vernon news from 1860 to the Sun of 2013

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR...**  
**The 2019 Alumni Hall of Fame ceremony and Homecoming will be on Friday, Sept. 27 versus West Liberty**



# REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

## ▼ CLASS OF 1963 - 55 YEARS



The Class of 1963 held their 55th class reunion during Heritage Days 2018. On Friday eve they met at Sutliff, Saturday afternoon at Mechanicsville Park, and on Sunday morning at the Lisbon History Center. Pictured above from left to right are:

Front: Sandy Brush McNeal, Gloria Herboldsheimer Krob, Paula Thomson, Linda Peterson Nost, Karen Kaliban Fox, Marilyn Schott Kasak, Marcia Clark Kimm, Chris Stoltz, Rosalie Bowman Gallagher, Marilyn Schnittjer Hayes

Back: Harry Edelman, Robert Dvorak, Jerry Krejci, Bob Jilovec, Gary Neal, Harold Goodrich, Allan Miner, Richard Ross, Andrea Jennings Robinson, Francis Pisarik, Warren Stoner, Kathleen Wallace Jones

## ▼ CLASS OF 1968 - 50 YEARS



The Class of 1968 held their 50th class reunion during Homecoming 2018, Sept 27, 28, 29 and 30. On Thursday evening they participated in the Homecoming Parade with a float. On Friday morning they attended the Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony at the High School where classmate Mike Smith was honored as the Community Impact recipient. Some members participated in the All-School pep rally Friday afternoon, then everyone met up at the Homecoming Football game, followed by a reception in the First Street Building (their high school) library. On Saturday they held a golf outing and toured Mount Vernon. A Reunion Dinner was held Saturday night at Kernoustie Country Club. A final continental breakfast goodbye was held at the home of Ricki Franks Onstott.

Pictured above from left to right are:

Front: Bob Davis, Kay Kirkpatrick Osterkamp, Patty Glick Nichols, Sharon Broulik Kadlek, Sandy West, Carol Pospisil Lee, Karl Moses, Trudy Clay Pearson, Gayle Wallace, Gail Wolrab Logan, Barb Thomsen Neal

Middle: Don Ringgenberg (coach), Jane Strother Beck, Jan Henderson Lacy, Rita Suchomel Dudley, Jane Colehour Pospisil, Candy Miller Plotz, Joanne Mounts Roddewig, Ric Franks Onstott, Donna Clark Ulch, Donna Cole Schoneboom, Anne DuVal Rehfuss, Karen Edwards Packer, Marnie Giannini Kounkle, Susie Nailor Gladwin  
Back: Bob Landis (teacher), Ken Pospisil, Mike Smith, Al Williams, Dick Bensmiller, Rox Rahn, Doug Pospisil, Bob Kolek, John Goodlove, Dave Stoner, Laura Werkman, Tom Miles, Marcia Swaney Wagner, Craig Scheetz, Bob Stoll, Dan Thompson, Gary Gaines, Doug Wolfe, Richard Rogers, Vaughn Schweitzer, Randy Harman



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





▲ **CLASS OF 2019** Welcome Class of 2019! The class graduated 99 members on May 19, 2019. Classmates **Ryan Clark & Alina Merlak** were named Class Reunion Organizers, and received \$150 scholarships from the Alumni Association at their Senior Awards Night. They will keep open lines of communication with their respective classmates, coordinate reunion planning, and serve as a link between the Association, the school, and the alumni.

▼ **CLASS OF 2013 - 5 YEARS**



The Class of 2013 held their first class reunion during Heritage Days by meeting Saturday afternoon at the Alumni Reception held in the old Fire Station uptown. Pictured above from left to right are:

Front: Miranda Roudabush, Rachel Reimann, Katelyn Walters, Hannah Ganzel, Taylor Hauser Tuerler, Collin Smith  
 Middle: Marshall Tuerler, Ashley Krogmann, Sabrina Amundson, Mariah Schlueter, Cecelia Sullivan, Darrow Center Kostman  
 Back: Calvin Kragenbrink, Logan Walker, Jake Muller, Drake Kroeger, Lucas Hanson, Dennis Hampton, Cole Ehrman, Kyle Henik

▼ **CLASS OF 1973 - 45 YEARS**



The Class of 1973 held their 45th class reunion June 8-9 2018. They started their reunion with a Friday BBQ gathering at the home of Chris Hanson Starkweather. On Saturday they attended an evening dinner at the First Street Community Center followed a concert in the theatre by classmate Phil Heywood. Pictured here left to right are:

Front: Mike Mortensen, Chris Hansen Starkweather, Sheryl Koss Brindle, Erik Encke, Vicki Telecky Young  
 Middle: Kevin Sith, Pamela Gaines Sabin, Ty Larsen, Mary Kaliban Green (hidden), Susan Blazek Biggs, Kevin Woods, Doug Thumm, Linette Stewart Geissler, Ann Franks Clark, Dave Brokel, Ralph Krumm  
 Back: Jackie Moore, Larry Covington, Lori Dana, Marilyn Stalte Parker, Dan Reilly  
 Not pictured: Phil Heywood, Mark Kirkpatrick, Sheila Moffett, Tom Johnson, Jody Lowenberg Clark, Holly Tonne Sautter

# Memories from Heritage Days 2018..



Classmates meet at the All-Alumni-Community Breakfast. From left to right are: Miranda Roudabush '13, Hannah Ganzel '13, Spencer Schmidt '11, Sabrina Amundson '13, Darrow Center Kostman '13, Becca Lowe '10, and Cecelia Sullivan '13



Above, pictured from left to right are Paula Brown and 1953 classmates Babs Beckhelm Moore, Carlyle Bys, and George Brown.

Below, the Brant family enjoys breakfast together; Adrienne Brant '01, grandfather Dennis Brant with Ryan's daughter Lavender, Ryan Brant '97 and his wife Rebecca



Alumni Association president Andrew Morf '94 visits with Nathan Bunting '92

Below: Jim Telecky '49 enjoys the bank of high school composites

Bottom photo: Gary Kaplan '64 visits with Jim Gunn '46



Sisters Andi Jennings Robinson '63 and Kathy Jennings Jamison '61 volunteer to help at the breakfast



# ...so many volunteers to thank

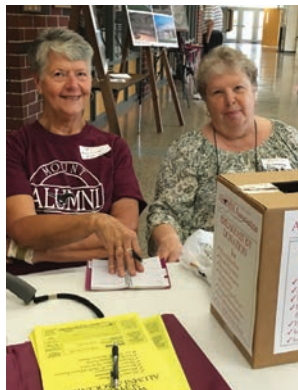


Above: Don Merritt from the class of 1941 and Nancy at the breakfast.  
Below: Ron Randall '60 and Carol Clark, wife of Joel Clark '62



Above: Jay Koehn '77 and Lindsey Borg '83

Above: Tex Clay '64 and his wife Diane enjoy the yearbooks at the Reception.  
Below: Jane and Jim Hess '75



We appreciate when alumni and friends, including district staff members, and our own Association Board members\* volunteer at our events. Among the volunteers at last year's Heritage Days events are: Matt Burke, Chiara Niederhauser Burke '78, Molly Burke '05, Dan Zimmerman, \*Dennis Jordan '87, Carol Woods '75, Becky Thumm Whitman '77, Leona Reyhons Smith '56, Jerry Niederhauser '75, \*Mary Thomsen '75, \*John Pospisil '66, Kathy Jennings Jamison '61, Andi Jennings Robinson '63, Laurie Keller, Susan Maurice, Myrt Clark Bowers '57, Karen Jilovec Martin '57, Jan Lowe Whitman Majors '57, Bill Yeisley '52, Barb Neal Hutchins '57, Kay Jilovec Lind '55, Annamae Stoneking Baker '60, Judy Caldwell Penn '60, \*Susan Mounts Fisher '65, \*Andrew Morf '94, Jo Ann Thomson Stoner '70, Dennis Walsh, Jane Costello Fink '59, Judy Stine, Don Stine, Kevin Woods '73, Julie Tonne Brannanman '70 and husband Mark, Anna Tone Broulik '74, Robert Broulik '74, Sara Kendall '78, Dave Koffron '81, Lynette Rodman Koffron '85, Marie Sippola '59, Shirley Swanson Gugler '65 and husband Wayne, Michael Ireland '99, \*Alex Brannaman '09, Dennis Wolrab '64. We apologize if you helped and your name is not listed. A special thanks to district staff members Marty Williams '82, Chris Noll, Greg Murphy and Levi Wade '17 for the work they do to help set up at events, to district Nutrition Director Marcia Purinton for leading the kitchen at breakfast, to District Secretary Amy Weber for her ongoing assistance, to Rick and Trude Elliott and Kelly May at the First Street Community Building, and to the city's police chief Doug Shannon and the city staff for all their assistance. So many of our volunteers come back year-after-year - thank you!!!

# Calling All Softball Players



An Alumni Softball game will be held over Heritage Days 2019 to celebrate the graduates that have helped to build our wonderful tradition.

We want you back!

Saturday, July 13th at the MVHS Softball Field

1 pm start time after the parade.

Lunch, tshirts, and 8th inning will be included  
Alumni present may play, support, and enjoy each others company  
Families and Friends are welcome to come and watch

Contact: Coach Robin Brand [rbrand@mvcasd.org](mailto:rbrand@mvcasd.org)

Twitter: @MVSBSMadness

# Baseball Reunion Held May 31

A reunion for former Mustang baseball players and coaches was held at the May 31st baseball game vs. Lisbon at the Mount Vernon field. Coach Jeremy Elliott '89 and his team honored the attendees and hosted them with a cookout and gift bags. Some of the alumni present are pictured below. Coach Elliott says 'plan for another reunion in 2020.'



## 2019 Heritage Days Events

**THURSDAY, JULY 11 - FRIDAY, JULY 12 - SATURDAY, JULY 13**

See a complete list in the Heritage Days issue of the *Mount Vernon-Lisbon Sun*. Their Heritage Days theme is 'Hawaiian' and the kids RIDES ARE BACK!

**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 First Street Community Building for an Early Bird Reception. Enjoy refreshments and a tour of what was either your 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! Ice Cream!

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

**Saturday: 1 pm, Alumni Softball game** at softball field

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT WITH CURRENT AND RETIRED DISTRICT STAFF?

They have been invited to 'show up' at the Reception on Friday evening from 5-8 and to the Breakfast on Saturday morning.

**SEE LIST OF 2019 ALUMNI REUNIONS ON PAGE 2**

**VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT HERITAGE DAYS  
ALUMNI BREAKFAST OR RECEPTION**  
Call or text 319-389-8602 or write [alumni@mvcasd.org](mailto:alumni@mvcasd.org)

**2019  
Homecoming &  
Hall of Fame Events  
FRIDAY, SEPT. 27**

# Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ MICHAEL LANGER 1985



Michael, at right, was moderating a panel discussion for the Center for Public Justice on the Family Medical Leave Act

**What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School?** As much as I consider Mount Vernon my alma mater, some may remember that I left in January of my senior year. Unfortunately, this was due to several family and financial issues we were having at the time that had been building for many years.

After high school, I attended the University of Iowa, where I changed my major several times before finally settling on binge drinking. As it turned out, that was a poor decision and led to me flunking out in my second semester. Eventually, I was able to find some stability and direction in my life and returned to night school at Kirkwood and then the University of Iowa, this time majoring in History and Economics. During this time, my wife and I established a family while I developed a career in industrial sales and sales management in Eastern Iowa.

In 2004, we decided to take a page out of Monty Python's Flying Circus, "And now for something completely different," when we moved to St. Louis so I could attend seminary. After graduating with a Master of Divinity in 2007, we returned to plant a church in Iowa City called One Ancient Hope. That church started the summer of the 2008 floods and the height of the Great Recession, yet just bought their first building in downtown Iowa City directly across the street from Burge Hall.

We left Iowa City in 2015 and moved to Chicago, where we lead another church through a reorganization. During this

time, I also served as the Chicago City Director for the Kern Family Foundation's initiative to help pastors better care for their congregant's vocational lives. Additionally, I began regularly participating in the Acton Institute; a Catholic-affiliated think tank devoted to contemplating the intersection of faith, political philosophy, and economic theory.

**What do you do now?** In 2018, I was offered and accepted a position leading our denomination's ministry to those serving in Washington DC. We do not lobby for political causes, but rather seek to provide pastoral care to elected officials and their staffs. My days are spent in leading Bible studies and in one-on-one meetings with members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, Cabinet officials, and their staffs. In addition to handling the business of the country, they are real people struggling with work-life balance, family concerns, financial pressures, health issues, uncertainty about the future, and a frequent sense of futility. For all the media rhetoric, all of these officials are genuinely pursuing the flourishing of the people they represent. It is a pleasure to serve them.

I also spend time waiting for grandchildren!

**What accomplishment are you most proud of?** As a result of some of the events that occurred while we were in Mount Vernon, my mother eventually had a breakdown which resulted in her homelessness and later death. I believe

God used these experiences to develop my deep sense of perseverance and compassion. These traits became central to the church in Iowa City, where we coordinated over 1,000 volunteers from across the country to help with flood clean-up and repairs. We also worked to care for the local homeless community by distributing sleeping bags each winter, welcoming them as a regular part of our church, and collaborating to open an extreme-weather shelter.

**A favorite memory or two of your time at Mount Vernon Schools -- or of a favorite teacher perhaps?** Honestly, I don't think I would have made it through high school without four teachers. Mr. Halsey, Mr. Peters, and Mr. Silliman were aware of what was going on in our home and the struggles that I was having in holding it together. Each of them made it a point to say check-in and say encouraging words to me. Mrs. Michaud pushed me hard to dig deep, work harder, and never took my excuses for sub-par effort.

\*\*\*\*\*

Michael can be reached at michaeljlanger@gmail.com



**DID YOU MOVE? HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS? GET MARRIED?**  
**Don't forget to send your updated contact information, email addresses, and news items to the Alumni Association at alumni@mvcsd.org or call 319-389-8602**

# Mustangs...what are they doing now?

## ■ HOLLY GUNN 2004

Filmography	Show all	Show by...	Edit
<b>Visual effects (42 credits)</b> <span style="float:right">Hide ▲</span>			
Avengers: Endgame (depth lead: Stereo D)			2019
Captain Marvel (depth lead: Stereo D)			2019
Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (depth lead: Stereo D)			2018
Skyscraper (depth lead: Stereo D)			2018
Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (depth lead: Stereo D)			2018
Solo: A Star Wars Story (depth lead: Stereo D)			2018
Avengers: Infinity War (depth lead: Stereo D)			2018
Rampage (depth lead: Stereo D)			2018
Ready Player One (depth lead: Stereo D)			2018
Black Panther (depth lead: Stereo D)			2018
Star Wars: The Last Jedi (depth lead: Stereo D)			2017
Thor: Ragnarok (depth lead: Stereo D)			2017
Blade Runner 2049 (depth lead: Stereo D)			2017
War for the Planet of the Apes (depth lead: Stereo D)			2017
Spider-Man: Homecoming (depth lead: Stereo D)			2017
King Arthur: Legend of the Sword (depth lead: Stereo D)			2017
Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (depth lead: Stereo D)			2017
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (depth lead: Stereo D)			2016
Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (depth lead: Stereo D)			2016
Doctor Strange (depth lead: Stereo D)			2016
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (depth lead: Stereo D)			2016
Star Trek Beyond (depth lead: Stereo D)			2016
The BFG (depth lead: Stereo D)			2016
Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens (depth lead: Stereo D)			2015
Point Break (depth lead: Stereo D)			2015
Terminator Genisys (depth lead: Stereo D)			2015
Jurassic World (depth lead: Stereo D)			2015
San Andreas (depth lead: Stereo D)			2015
Mad Max: Fury Road (depth lead: Stereo D)			2015
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (depth artist: Stereo D)			2014
Guardians of the Galaxy (depth artist: Stereo D)			2014
X-Men: Days of Future Past (depth artist: Stereo D)			2014
Godzilla (depth artist: Stereo D)			2014
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (depth artist: Stereo D - uncredited)			2014
Thor: The Dark World (depth artist: Stereo D)			2013
The Wolverine (depth artist: Stereo D)			2013
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (depth artist: Stereo D)			2013
Rock of Ages (rotoscope lead)			2012
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (lead rotoscope artist: DDMG)			2011
The Smurfs (stereoscopic animation lead: DDMG - uncredited)			2011
Transformers: Dark of the Moon (stereoscopic animator: In-Three)			2011
G-Force (rotoscope artist: in-three - uncredited)			2009



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

After high school I went to study Fine Arts at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and graduated in 2008 with a BFA in Film, Video, and New Media. I met my wonderful husband, Kelly, in Chicago as well. After we graduated we moved to Los Angeles, and almost immediately started working in the film industry on stereoscopic 3D films. In the fall of 2008 I started working on a 3D film about guinea pigs called G-Force, and since then I've worked in many different cities on many different projects.

### What do you do now?

I live with my husband in Toronto, Ontario, and work as a Depth Lead at a company called Stereo D. I've been working for them since 2012 converting movies into stereoscopic 3D (stereo 3D is 3D that requires those nifty glasses in the theater to see!). As a Depth Lead I lead a team of artists in converting these films and also work on shots myself. We work on a lot of shots and I can't really specify one particular shot or thing that we work on, but chances are you've seen something we've worked on if you watch movies in 3D. The last project we worked on would be 'Avengers: Endgame!'

### An accomplishment you are proud of?

I am the most proud to be given the opportunity to mentor artists at my workplace and watch them grow and shine at what they do. It's really fulfilling to work on projects with them and grow artistically as a team. We work with so many talented artists.



### A favorite memory or two of your time at Mount Vernon Schools -- or of a favorite teacher?

I was so fortunate to have three teachers who profoundly influenced my high school career and my life. Señora Deibner, Mrs. Richardson, and Mrs. Zaiger all had an enormous impact on not only my school performance but my outlook on life. I am eternally grateful to all of them for inspiring me to do my best and making me feel so welcome in their classes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Holly can be reached at [holly.k.gunn@gmail.com](mailto:holly.k.gunn@gmail.com)



Annually, the Alumni Association sponsors the National Honor Society Induction reception by providing hosts and cake. Above from left to right are Ricki Franks Onstott '68, organizer and Board member Susan Mounts Fisher '65, and Ann Franks Clark '73

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



Guardians of t...  
Visual Effects  
(2014)



Star Trek Bev...  
Visual Effects  
(2016)



Mad Max: Fur...  
Visual Effects  
(2015)



Godzilla  
Visual Effects  
(2014)

## ■ MIKE SEILER 1967



Mike Seiler here... MVHS Class of 1967. I've lived in the semi-rural community of Bonita, CA for the last 30 or so years and have been "retired" for about eleven years now. I gave 40 years to the U.S. Navy (6 years active, 34 years U.S. Civil Service) and have been increasingly involved with volunteer community service in Bonita, San Diego County, and the City of La Mesa, CA. Here's a sampling: Board President of the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association (helping make our Bonita-Sweetwater Valley area one of the best places to live in San Diego County); Board President of Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Association (common area oversight for 667 residences); Planning Commissioner for San Diego County since 2014 (Chairman this year); active Past Master of La Mesa Masonic Lodge and member of the Scottish Rite and the AL Bahr Shrine organizations (all with noble philanthropic endeavors for children); Chaplain, Historian, and Judge Advocate for American Legion Post 282, in La Mesa; Board President for a non-profit watchdog corporation (keeping water rates low). Plus I try to meet with a group of 10-15 guys for breakfast just about every Wednesday.

I receive no salary or significant compensation for my volunteer services with the above groups. What motivates me to engage in these efforts are the Midwestern community core values instilled in me as I grew up in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. While honed by college and adult experiences, the basic skills and values were nevertheless engrained in me by my parents, grandfather, MVHS teachers, and even a dose of MVHS Principals (Mssrs. Addis and Ringold). I still take people at their word, "act on the square," and strive to live by San Diego County's motto: "The noblest motive is the public good." I expect that many other MVHS graduates do the same. I hope so, anyway. Go Mustangs! Proud to be one.

My favorite teacher was probably Mrs. Gladys Rife (English department chair, school play Director, Velvet Curtain sponsor, and many other tasks I'm sure). I'd heard about how tough she was before I took her first English class in my sophomore year. So on the first day I was pretty apprehensive. That all ceased as soon as she began our

first class. She began by reading some poetry or prose to us.

Until that moment in time, I had never heard anyone read anything with such grace and style. I was absolutely enraptured by her thoughtful, poised delivery. What voice control! What diction! What feeling! I frankly wasn't even listening to what she was reading because it didn't matter... I had met my first true Thespian! Hanging on almost her every word, I remember thinking, "This is how you should read something aloud."

My thoughts were still focused on her impressive delivery when she finished reading, paused to look around the classroom with a thoughtful stare, focused her gaze on me, and asked, "Mr. Seiler, what did that passage mean to you?"

Good grief! I don't recall what I said, but I undoubtedly stammered some sort of response that was undoubtedly the antithesis of what I had just been admiring so much in her. I recall that she took mercy on me after a few agonizing seconds and moved on to another student for his or her opinion. She must have recognized my "deer-in-the-headlights" look, but from that day on, I had immense respect for her ability to teach English, speech, diction, the "dramatic pause," and her firm but caring demeanor in whatever she was doing. She was not to be feared; she was someone to emulate! I remember her often whenever I have to give a speech or analyze an acting part in a play or ceremony.

Other notable teachers back in that day were Mr. Ken Smykil (Band Director) for his ability to "heard cats" and "make silk purses out of sow's ears" with the kids in the MVHS marching and concert bands. He literally marched the band through the streets of Mt. Vernon's "North Side" for hours on some summer evenings prior to the annual Eastern Iowa Band contests. Having served in U.S. Marines, he wanted to ensure that we could handle the long parades of the contests.

Then there was Mrs. Helen Colon (home economics) who started the "Boys Cooking Class" (who would have thought it would be such a success?), and of course Mr. Chester (Chet) Wallace (History, Wood Shop, Athletic Coach) who also owned a farm, and whose cow sometimes showed up at homecoming pep rallies (one year even "on stage" in the old MVHS building).

Lastly, probably a seldom remembered teacher, Mrs. Fossler (I don't recall her first name), who taught typing and secretarial skills, among other things. I took a semester of typing from her one year, learned to

touch type, and have often thanked my lucky stars for taking her class. Who would have thought that most of us would need to type on a computer keyboard as part of our daily lives. "A S D F G H J K L ;" ... over and over, and over again. :-)

If you aren't already bored with this, I'll share one more anecdote on Mr. Chet Wallace with you: He taught his history classes so often and without major curriculum changes that I believe he literally lectured using only his autonomic nervous system ("spinal cord") memory. One day I was sitting in front of his somewhat tedious World History class with my good friend and classmate (now Doctor) Tim Thomson sitting in the desk next to me. We both took pretty good class notes and for about the first 15 minutes or so everything was pretty normal in the class (that is to say it was boring). Taking notes help us relieve the tedium.

Suddenly the basement classroom door opened and someone stuck their head inside to advise Mr. Wallace that he had a phone call or message in the front office. He left the room for about ten minutes and, when he returned, he continued with his lecture. But instead of starting where he had left off, he began repeating his lecture, almost verbatim, from the very start of class. I looked over at Tim, and we both had the same idea.

I raised my hand just before he was about to tell us about some (boringly) noteworthy fact about someone or some place, and said, "You know, Mr. Wallace, I'll bet that ...." and I repeated what he was about to tell us from my notes. He looked at me in surprise and said something like, "Why yes, Seiler, that is correct." Then he went on with his lecture. After a few sentences, Tim raised his hand and did the same thing that I'd done. Chet was again surprised and said something like, "Well, yes, Thomson, that is what happened."

I believe we each pulled that same trick on him one more time before he stopped lecturing and looked at us both. "OK, what are you two up to?"

When we explained his "reset/repeat" lecture, Chet was a bit embarrassed, but he smiled and chuckled before asking us what the last item in our notes was. He then pressed on with his lecture... and we took notes... to relieve the tedium. I hope he at least appreciated that we had been taking notes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mike can be reached at [m.seiler@cox.net](mailto:m.seiler@cox.net)





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

### ■ Amelia Carl Kibbie 2002

*Editor's Note:* the following article and photo are from the January 10, 2019 issue of the MVLisbon Sun, mvlsun.com

The work of Amelia Carl Kibbie, a 2020 MV alum and now a Lisbon teacher, is in the hands of some of the most talented actors, writers and producers in Hollywood. One of Kibbie's stories is in an anthology included in the gift bag that is part of the Golden Globes. Celebrities receiving the book include nominees and presenters such as Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper, Tina Fey, Benedict Cumberbatch, Glenn Close, Hugh Grant, Elisabeth Moss and Emma Stone.

Amelia said she's ecstatic that her work is included in the red carpet gift bags. "The idea of someone like Lady Gaga, Tina Fey or Benedict Cumberbatch reading my story just makes my head spin," she said. "Of course, every writer dreams of something they've written being turned into a movie. Perhaps a Hollywood insider might read my story, follow up with the upcoming novel, and decide to make a film based on my work. That would be my big dream."

Her story, "Idylls of the King," is included in the Running Wild Press Anthology of Stories Volume II. Her story is about two boys evacuated from London as part of Operation Pied Piper during WWII. She originally wrote it hoping to be part of an anthology with a writing prompt of a knight with a "heart of steel." "I knew a lot of people submitting would be writing medieval or fantasy fiction. I wanted to go a different direction, so I set my story during WWII and incorporated Arthurian myth," she said. "Yes, a suit of armor and a sword do make an appearance in the story."

Kibbie's work wasn't included in that particular anthology, but she loved it so much she continued submitting it, and "Idylls of the King" found a home with Running Wild Press. Running Wild Press is a California-based publishing house run exclusively by women with a mission to publish writing that doesn't fit neatly into a box. Working with Running Wild Press, Kibbie will continue the story of the characters introduced in "Idylls of the King" in a novel titled "Legendary," which will be published later this year.

Amelia can be reached at [akibbie@lisbon.k12.ia.us](mailto:akibbie@lisbon.k12.ia.us)



Every year we gather some alumni and friends to judge senior speeches hoping to earn a spot at the graduation ceremony. This year Brenda Langenberg, Paul Morf '90, Superintendent Greg Batenhorst, Annie Hawker, Babs Beckhelm Moore '53, Barb Thomsen Neal '68, Chair and Association Board member Mary Thomsen '75, Derek Boren '00, and Tommie Ouverson participated on the Selection Committee.

### ■ Lloyd Duffee 1951

Lloyd Duffee wrote in to update us: "I want to commend Alumni News and MVHS for the consideration, input, time and effort they give to past graduates of Mount Vernon High School.

For over 13 years I have been far removed from both Iowa and the United States by living in Colombia, South America. Being able to receive this news on the internet, helps fill one of the voids of living so far away from my origins.

As a member of the class of 1951 it is hard to realize that was a long 68 years ago. I remember coming to Mount Vernon as a freshman in 1947 and not knowing anyone, except the few students like myself who were coming from the Ely area that closed its high school in 1946. One thing that still sticks in my mind was the photos of prior graduating classes in the hallways, going back to earlier years. I recognized one student in the 1932 class picture and thought, what a long time ago! This makes me wonder what an incoming freshman would think looking at a graduation picture from 1951?

Both my wife and I have continued to have the most important thing, good health, as the years mount up. For nearly 12 years we resided at two different locations in a small and then medium sized town in the Eastern Andes mountain chain. Two years ago we visited the city of Medellin for the first time. It is known as the city of Eternal Spring and located in the Western or Pacific mountain Andes chain. Doing some touring of the area we also visited a small town (of 7 thousand plus population) situated 50 miles South of Medellin. This resulted in us purchasing over an acre plot of ground, walking distance from town, on a large lovely artificial lake surrounding the area. We have been more than busy for well over a year with our building programs here. It would take up a lot of space to come close to describing what this area looks like. It is unique in so many respects due to its excellent mountain climate and location near Medellin. Pictures of the town (shown on the internet), unusual water areas and the penol or giant rock, plus visitor comments tell the story of why we made this move late in life.

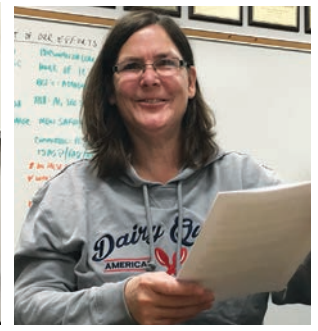
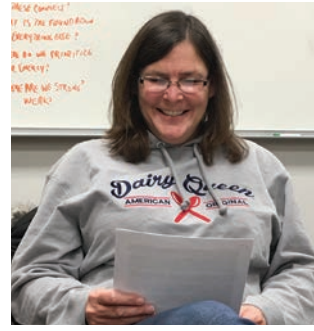
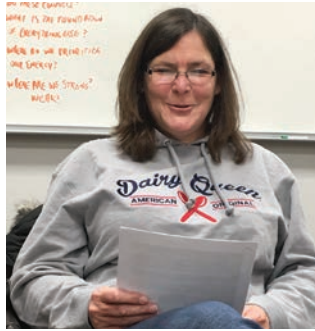
Many thanks to Mount Vernon Alumni News."

Lloyd can be reached at [villanidia2000@yahoo.com](mailto:villanidia2000@yahoo.com)

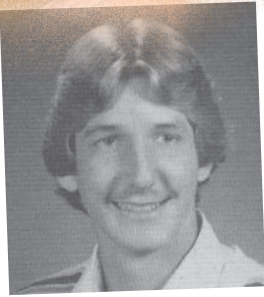




# A SMALL WORLD STORY



Editor's Note: Author Jim Jandik, who lives on the other side of the state, wanted to see the surprise on 1984 alum Colleen Corcoran Schutt's face when she first read this story. So, we kept it a surprise, asking Colleen to 'trust us, we have a good surprise for you, a story you will want to read.' Into our office she came, a little wary, but trusting. And indeed, she had a 'good surprise' as you can see by the photos above that we were able to share with Jim.



**By the time most of us reach middle age, we have heard of or are part of a small world story. Here is**

**my small world story that I would like to share with you.**

My name is Jim Jandik. I was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and I grew up in a modest house on the northwest side of the city. Both of my parents were of Czech descent. In fact, going back at least five generations, all of my ancestors can trace their roots to the Bohemia region of what was the Austria-Hungarian Empire (Czechoslovakia was not formed as a country until 1918 at the end of WWI). As I was growing up, my family did teach me and my younger brother some Czech traditions. I also learned two important things about Czechs as a youth: first, kolaches are perhaps the tastiest pastry on planet Earth, and second, Czechs like to drink beer.

On my mother's side of the family we would have huge get togethers. I don't mean just for Thanksgiving or Christmas day family time, I'm referring to weddings, anniversaries, reunions and such. My mother had 41 first cousins along with four sisters. If you count the husbands/wives of these cousins and my aunts and uncles, plus their sons and daughters, you can get into the triple digits for a head count in a very short period of time. We needed some type of gathering hall for these large events. As a high percentage of our relatives lived in the Bertram area, Bertram Township Hall was a convenient place to hold these large parties.

When my brother and I were just boys, mom and dad would drag us along to these sizeable Czech weddings, anniversaries and family reunions. While the adults were enjoying themselves, in part due to the enormous amounts of beer being consumed by them, the activities were not all that exciting for us kids. Sure, my aunts and uncles were present along with my much older cousins, but other than that I had to find something to do. I was a boy and like most boys, I enjoyed throwing rocks. Some of my fondest memories of these events are when they would go into the night time hours. There was a large propane tank outside of Bertram Township Hall and while there were outdoor lights on the hall itself, I don't remember the exterior area of the building being particularly well lit. I and some of the other young boys would back off of the propane tank to the point where you could barely make out its torpedo like silhouette. Then we would heave small rocks with all of our might and see if we could hit our mark. There was a distinct "ping" type sound that would come from that tank when a direct hit was made. It was a satisfying sound for young boy.

At some point in my life, the thrill of throwing rocks at objects diminished and was replaced with other interests. As a young teenager, the list of newly found interests included hunting, fishing, tennis, billiards and slalom (water) skiing, to name a few. Added to this growing list would be girls. During some time in the early summer of 1979 I was with my parents for yet another family event in the Bertram area. I don't recall if it was a wedding or an anniversary party. I do remember a tremendous number of people being there and that we were not at the usual town hall for

this party. Perhaps it was one of the lodges at Palisades-Kepler State Park. In any case, I took a break from watching the adults drink and dance. My Uncle George played the accordion and he was fun to watch, but I was never a fan of polka music and interestingly no one ever taught me how to polka dance. Maybe if I would have liked the music, things might have been different. Rock-n-roll was my thing and none of that music was to be found at this event. I went outside to a pavilion area and I was a little surprised that no one else was outdoors enjoying the nice weather. What happened next was shocking. A girl entered the same outdoor area that I was in and she looked to be around my age. She appeared to be as bored with things as I was. Then something amazing happened. Not only was she very nice looking, she started a conversation with me. Wow! In the beginning I thought this surely was a dream, but no, it was really happening. She introduced herself and she told me her first name was Colleen.

I quickly discovered I had a teenage friend for these adult get-togethers. Over the course of that summer, Colleen became my first girlfriend, at least as close as a boyfriend and girlfriend can get in their mid-teens and given the fact that they lived on opposite sides of a decent sized city. Colleen was the first girl I kissed and I definitely remember that moment with the same importance as when I shot my first rooster pheasant with a 1940's single shot .410 gauge shotgun. Our summer romance ended when we both had to return to school in the fall. I was going to Jefferson High School and she was a student at Mt. Vernon Middle School. Also detrimental

continued on next page



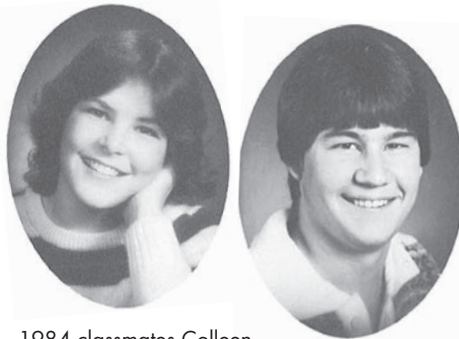
## A SMALL WORLD STORY, continued

to our relationship was the fact that several adults had told me that Colleen's mother and my mother were cousins, so that made Colleen and myself the dreaded "kissing cousins." My mother neither confirmed nor denied the allegation. Since my mother literally had dozens of cousins, I assumed the adults were telling me the truth. It would be thirty-four years later and the death of my mother until I would learn that I was the subject of an adult prank.

I graduated from Jefferson High School in the spring of 1982 and that fall I was enrolled at Iowa State University. In the fall of 1985 I met my wife to be. She was a freshman and she had just moved into the same campus dormitory as I was living in. I'm uncertain if today our Iowa universities still have coed dormitories, but they certainly did in the 1980's. We were married in August of 1988.

My wife Sheri is an Iowa girl. She grew up in the Quad Cities, on the north and west side of the big river. For grades two through eight her grandmother paid for her education at a private school, St. Katherines in Davenport. While attending school there, she had a best friend. Her name was Jo Myers. Unfortunately, both Sheri and Jo had to part ways at the conclusion of eight grade as they both entered the public school system. Sheri's family moved within the Quad Cities to a house located on Greenwood Ave. I mention this because Greenwood Ave. is one of those divisional streets. Residents on the west side of the avenue were Davenport citizens and if you lived on the east side of this same avenue, you belonged to the community of Bettendorf. Sheri became a Bettendorf Bulldog and Jo went to Davenport Central. As they met new friends in their respective high schools, they slowly lost touch with each other. A total loss of contact continued for over three decades.

2013 was a rough year for me. My mom passed away at the very beginning of January after a seven year battle with ovarian cancer. My father was still alive, but he had developed early onset Alzheimer's Disease and my mother, brother, and I placed him in an Alzheimer's care center in 2010. When my mom died, the house no longer had any living members of my family. As part of taking care of my mother's estate, I had to empty the house



1984 classmates Colleen Corcoran Schutt and Dan Drahos

in order to clean it up and make the property available for sale. In doing so, I discovered many handwritten accounts of her family history as well as hundreds of photographs that I had never seen before. Some of the photos were very old, dating back to the 1800's. In sifting through the family records, I came across a list of all of her cousins, their spouses and their children. I still remembered Colleen's last name, so I searched for Corcoran on the family genealogy records. That last name was not there. It seemed as though the old timers had played a practical joke on me. The Corcorans lived a mile east of Bertram, but they were not actually related to me. Because Colleen's mom & dad knew so many of my relatives, they would get invited to the big events. They were usually at the celebrations, drinking keg beer and partying along with my Czech family members.

With my mom passing away and with my discovery of all those records and photos she had kept, I had a great family history to construct. I became the keeper of our family records on both sides of the family. I started to do some genealogy work and I developed a fascination with my roots and the ancestors that came before me. One of my mother's first cousins that I remembered seeing on the old records was Irma Lnenicka. Her maiden name was the same as my mother's maiden name. Irma was one of her "double cousins", a term I didn't fully understand until I started doing genealogy research. Irma's mother and my mom's mother were sisters. Irma's father and my mother's father were brothers. This is where the double part comes into play: two sisters married two brothers. Their sons and daughters are therefore double cousins, since genetically the cousins have a double shot of genetics. Normally, you only have one aunt or uncle that is your blood relative in a particular marriage. In this situation, both your aunt and uncle are related to

you by blood. In 1948 Irma Lnenicka married a man named Stanley Drahos and her name became Irma Drahos. Going back to my youth, I remember Irma and Stanley and being at massive bonfires with them at Sandy Beach and Sugar Bottom on the shores of Coralville Reservoir.

Sometime around the passing of my mother, a happen chance occurrence took place in the Quad Cities. My wife's father Ken was at a funeral and recognized one of the other attendants. She happened to be an old friend of the family. That friend was Jo, the schoolmate and childhood best friend of my wife. Ken and Jo had a nice conversation and ultimately exchanged contact information. Part of that information included e-mail addresses and Ken forwarded Jo's address to my wife. After thirty some years, the two best friends were in contact with each other and catching up on what had happened in their lives during the last three decades. It turns out that Jo is living in Colorado, she is recently divorced from her husband Dan, she has a son and daughter that are both attending Iowa State University and that she comes to Iowa several times a year to visit with her adult children. On her very next visit to Iowa, Jo scheduled some time to come to our farm and go on a tour of our place. I meet her for the first time and the three of us get along great. Jo loves the outdoors and enjoys hiking the Rocky Mountains. Really, she doesn't just hike the mountains, she jogs and bikes the mountain trails at extreme elevations. Jo tells us about all of the "fourteeners" in her area of Colorado. Those are the mountains that have peaks over 14,000 feet and the summits can be hiked, sometimes in a single day if you can start the trail above tree line. This is great news to hear for Sheri and myself, as we annually go to the different western states and hike various sections of the Rocky Mountain range. Usually Sheri and I do hikes within one of our national parks. Jo invited us out to join her on a hike the next year, which we did in the area where she lives, near Poncha Springs, Colorado.

During one of our conversations with Jo, we were joking about my Bohemian ancestry and those huge family events I was part of in the little town of Bertram. To my amazement, Jo not only knew where Bertram was located in Iowa, she had been to numerous family weddings/reunions with her husband Dan at



Bertram Township Hall.

Of all the people in the United States of America, my wife's best friend Jo Myers marries an Iowa boy named Dan Drahos. Dan Drahos and Stanley Drahos are related to each other as Stanley and Dan's grandfather Albin were cousins. Both Drahos families lived in the Bertram area. Dan was most likely at some of the Czech events of our youth at Bertram Hall, but I don't distinctly remember him. Heck, we may have been hanging out together and throwing rocks at that propane tank.

In review, from my perspective I obviously know my wife Sheri, Colleen Corcoran and Jo Myers. I should remember Dan Drahos but I can't recall him. Sheri knows everyone with the exception of Colleen; she is even friends with Dan on Facebook and they do communicate with each other on a personal level (with Jo's blessing!). Jo may actually know everyone represented here if she attended one of Dan's class reunions and Colleen was present. The same would apply to Colleen, except she would not know my wife Sheri. Finally, Dan knows Jo and Colleen personally, and Sheri and I tangentially through Facebook and e-mail communications.

This is my small world story. It doesn't circle the globe or involve Hollywood celebrities or professional athletes. But it does contain five Iowans that are connected through friendships and marriages and who grew up in different towns and cities in our state. Perhaps the most interesting thing in my story is that two of the characters, Dan Drahos and Colleen Corcoran, not only know each other as they both went to Mt. Vernon High School, they are in the same class year and their senior photos are on back to back pages of the 1984 Mustang yearbook. Yet neither one of them completely knows the links to and between the other four people in this small world. Out of the five of us, I am the only one that has the knowledge to close the spoked wheel of personal connections.

To finish my story, I'm sure that you, being an observant reader, are probably wondering if Colleen and

I still stay in touch with each other. Amazingly, I haven't seen or spoke with my friend and fellow teenage rebel Colleen for almost forty years. Our paths never crossed again. I don't remember being at any family events in Bertram the following summer and by the time I became a junior at Jefferson High School I had a steady girlfriend from my same class year. Then I went on to ISU and met another universe of new people, both guys and gals. During college summers I worked for what was then the Iowa Conservation Commission (now the Iowa DNR) and I did not make it back home for those huge family parties in the town of Bertram. I never got to tell Colleen about the older folks claim that we were kissing cousins, or that many years later I would discover that the rumor was just a practical joke played on me. I guess what is important is that I still have all of the fun memories of our summer together in 1979. And of all the things that matter to me in life, this is one that still puts a smile on my face.

\*\*\*\*\*

**A Side Note from Jim:** "I thought you would find this interesting....."

Harold Suchomel was the Mt. Vernon School District Maintenance Supervisor until 1990. Harold was a first cousin to my mother. He passed away in 2015 and today he only has one living sibling, his brother Glenn Suchomel. Even though he is a generation older than me, Glenn and I get along great and we love to share old time stories with each other. I vaguely remember Harold at some of the family reunions when I was younger.

Albert Lnenicka is a 1956 graduate of Mt. Vernon High School. He is one of my mother's "double cousins". His sister was Irma Lnenicka Drahos from my short story. Albert and his wife Shirley are both relatives and friends of mine. I also know their daughter Lisa Lnenicka ('87) Steven. Lisa has a sister, Julie Lnenicka ('88) Farris.

George Petrick ('35) married Joanne Lnenicka. Joanne is also a double cousin to my mother, so she is one of Albert Lnenicka's sisters. George and Joanne have two sons and two daughters, Larry ('62), John ('64), Diana Petrick ('68) Price and Kathryn Petrick ('78) Crowley. They would be second cousins to me."



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 Lisa Lewis  
 221 6th St. NW • Mt. Vernon, IA 52314  
 319.895.8870 • [www.envisagephoto.com](http://www.envisagephoto.com)

## ALL-ALUMNI- COMMUNITY BREAKFAST JULY 13, 2019

Plan to join us next year (and every year!) at the High School on Saturday morning (8-10:30 am, serving from 8-10 am) for our annual breakfast.

The event is a popular meeting place, and a unique opportunity to see alumni from the 1940s to 2019 (and even future alums!), current and former teachers and staff, as well as familiar faces from the community.



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

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## Alumni News...

Send us your information...

alumni@mvcsd.org  
or call 319-389-8602 Kathy

### MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

**Sara Kruger '08** of Greer, SC is engaged to Jonathan Nuckolls. They plan a June 2020 wedding

**Corey Brannaman '14** of Mount Vernon to Caitlin Hanson on June 8, 2019

### ANNIVERSARIES

**Kay Jilovec Lind '55** and husband Bob of Marion, IA, celebrate their 60th anniversary on June 6, 2019

**Don Jilovec '61** and wife Carol of Mechanicsville, Iowa celebrated their 50th Anniversary Jan 11, 2019

### BIRTHS

**Karissa Whitman Walker '08** and husband Brad of North Liberty, IA, a son, Emmett James, on June 1, 2018. Grandparents are Becky Thumm Whitman '77 and Kevin Whitman '76

**Sean Boren '07** and wife Brooke of Mount Vernon, a daughter, Brynn Kathleen, on May 17 2019

**Graham Carl '07** and wife Katie of Cedar Rapids, a daughter Anya Joy, Nov 15, 2018.

**Haily Goetschius Thomson '07** and husband Nick of Cedar Bluff, IA, a son, Wyatt Francis on Dec. 27, 2018

**Kierstyn Borg Mickelson '06** and husband Kent of Ankeny, a daughter, Caroline Joy on April 8, 2018.

**Jason Williams '04** and wife Bridgid of Denver, Co, a son, Oliver Martin, on December 20, 2018 – grandfather is

Marty Williams '82

**Brandon Hannah '01** and wife Annie of Houston, Texas, a son, Luke Aaron, on April 17, 2019 – grandparents are Sandi Erenberger Hanna '67 and the late Lyle Hanna '64

**Abigail Albers Desaulty '98** and husband Louis of Mount Vernon, a daughter, Emery Esther, on Dec. 14, 2018

**Katie Schonhorst Farber '97** and husband Joe of Minneapolis, a son, Weston William, on Nov. 15, 2018

**Ryan Wieseler '96** and wife Emily of Cedar Rapids, a son, Atlas Krall, on April 2, 2019

### EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

**Joseph Klein '13** of Mount Vernon graduated from Monmouth College in Monmouth, IL., in December 2018 with a degree in exercise science.

**Nikki Ciha '08** earned a BA in science, sport and recreation management from the University of Iowa fall 2018

**Calvin Eldred '13** earned a BA in arts, environmental policy and planning degree from the University of Iowa fall 2018

**Kathleen Bevans '14** earned a BA in accounting from the UNI fall 2018

**Jordan Gunn '05** received his doctorate in pharmacognosy (the biology, chemistry and botany of traditionally used botanical drugs) from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy. He is the son of Jay Gunn '71 and the grandson of Jim Gunn '46. Jordan's dissertation detailed his work on the traditionally used semi-aquatic plant *Alisma orientale*, which he demonstrated in

vitro and in vivo had antidiabetic properties through a variety of mechanisms. Through the process of bioactivity-guided fractionation, he isolated numerous active compounds which help to justify the traditional use and provide compounds for the drug pipeline, as well as for the standardization of dietary supplements containing this plant. (Source: MVL Sun)

### AND MORE...

**Rebecca "Saffin" Dunn Parrish-Sams '89** is currently serving as President of the Iowa Association for Justice (Iowa Trial Lawyers Association), an organization of 700 attorneys dedicated to promoting the administration of justice for the public good, and protecting the constitutional right to trial by jury. Saffin is also the managing partner of her West Des Moines law firm, Soldat & Parrish-Sams, PLC, founded in 2006.

**Laura Werkman '68** is celebrating 50 years as a licensed cosmetologist in June including 39 years as owner of The Locksmith Salon.

**Mikaela Lengwin '15**, a student at Loras College, was named the women's swimming & diving performer of the week in January 2019 by the American Rivers Conference. For the fourth time in her career, Lengwin was named performer of the week following her performances in the dual against Luther. Lengwin posted scores of 192.1 and 217.9 in the 1m and 3m diving events, placing first in both. In addition, she anchored the 200 medley relay, with the team posting a time of 1:57.78. The team's efforts

**Early Bird Reception**  
**July 12 2-4 pm**

You're invited to the First Street Community Building for an Early Bird Reception on Friday, July 12, 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.

## In Memory of classmates we have lost

### John Lane 1940

Mount Vernon, IA December 26, 2018

### Mildred Fisher Knight 1943

Aiken, SC February 11, 2019

### Phyllis Connell Schump 1945

Iowa City, IA April 16, 2019

### Beverly Nation Behrens 1949

Mount Vernon, IA Dec. 26, 2018

### John Young 1952

Cedar Rapids, IA February 3, 2019

### Jacqueline Redman Yount 1952

Cedar Rapids, IA January 25, 2019

### Christy Kramer Rhoads 1955

Falmouth, MA January 12, 2019

### Corrine Wilcox Drongesen 1956

Mount Vernon, IA January 17, 2019

### Timothy Morrissey 1956

Mount Vernon, IA December 23, 2018

### Judy Aldrich Rundle 1956

Mount Vernon, IA March 11, 2019

### Thomas Bergmann 1960

Chicago, IL November 19, 2018

### Gary Sutliff 1961

Tampa FL Feb 16, 2019

### Warren Stoner 1963

Mount Vernon, IA April 23, 2019

### John Petrick 1964

Mount Vernon, IA April 2, 2019

### Gary Kolek 1965

Shellsburg, IA February 16, 2019

### Mary Kroul Anderson 1966

Rifle, CO April 20, 2019

### Elizabeth 'Liz' Krivo Scarfo Bruesse 1983

New Port Richey, FL, January 28 2019

### Ethan Mortensen 2005

Ely, IA April 14, 2019

(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.)

resulted in the program's first win over Luther in nearly 20 years by a 133-85 margin.

**Paul Morf '90** of Mount Vernon was elected president by the board of directors of the Iowa Academy of Trust and Estate Counsel (IATEC). Morf has served as IATEC's vice president since it was established in 2012. Membership to IATEC is by invitation only and is limited to 250 Iowa attorneys. Paul has been with Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman PLC since 1998

**Emma Cochrane '15** a senior at Cornell, became Cornell's first-ever participant in the NCAA 400-meter hurdles, contested Thursday, May 23, at the Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships at SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio. Cochrane finished seventh in the third and final prelims heat with a time of 1:05.67. A



Andrew Morf '94, Daryl Morf, Noreen Bush (former Mount Vernon Middle School principal), John Rife '60, Paul Morf '90 and Dennis Jordan '87 were among those with ties to Mount Vernon honored at the 2018 United Way concluding breakfast Friday, March 7. The Morfs were recognized as outgoing chairs of United Way, Bush as an incoming chair for the organization, Rife as a Community Philanthropist and Jordan a recipient of the John B. Northcott Award. Picture, MV-Lisbon Sun March 14, 2019

two-time Midwest Conference champion in the event, Cochrane wound up 20th overall in the final race of her outstanding collegiate career. The top nine prelims times advanced to Saturday's final. The finals cutoff was 1:02.47. Cochrane was seeded 19th in the 22-woman field. She qualified for nationals with a school-record time of 1:02.46. This was her second appearance at the NCAA Championships. In March, she took 20th in the 400-meter dash at NCAA indoors. She leaves the program as a 14-time all-MWC performer.



**Michelle Meyer Grudzinski '92** (Alumni Association Board Secretary) of M & K Dust Control in Mount Vernon is a member of the first Iowa-based class of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses. She is among 37 scholars from around the state who are members of the inaugural class. The class will last for three months, with scholars taking a blend of in-classroom and on-line learning. The classes cover everything from identifying growth opportunities, refining operations processes, marketing and selling, understanding and using financial statements and leadership training. Business owners who have taken the program sometimes call it a real-world MBA – where small business owners focus on growing their business, using their own business as a case study.

## CORRECTION

Beverly Lange Chunka's donation was listed incorrectly in the spring 2018 alumni newsletter. It should read: Beverly Lange Chunka 1960 in memory of deceased classmates Linda Heady Comes, Dave Neal, Patsy Tonne Storla, Roger Biderman, Dennis Carney, Jim Jamison, Doug Maculay, Sandra Martin Dennis, Ellen Onstott Melsha, Ronnie Reinhardt, Bill Tyler III, Chuck Woods, Tom Bergman

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

**DONATIONS MADE  
TO THE  
FOUNDATION  
SUPPORT MOUNT  
VERNON STUDENTS**

**WATCH FOR THE ALUMNI 2019  
DONATIONS TO APPEAR IN THE  
SPRING 2020 ISSUE**

## A NEW YEAR, AND WE HAVE CHANGED...

The Alumni Association has changed its financial year to **January 1-Dec 31**.

Your donations and dues/support now reflect this.

**Thank you** for continuing to support the Association's publications and activities.

# F O U N D A T I O N

## ANNUAL GIFT REPORT FOR 2018

Thank you to the alumni, businesses, parents and friends listed below who contributed to the Foundation during 2018.

2018

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.

2018

### 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

## GENERAL FUND DONORS

### BUSINESS DONATIONS

Thank you to the following area businesses who donate throughout the year and who also responded to our annual business campaign.

#### Mustang Donors

Hills Bank & Trust Company  
Hills Bank & Trust Company Classroom Cash program  
Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co.

#### Maroon & White Donors

Brother's Market Cabin Coffee program  
C-RDR Homes, Inc  
Chameleon's Pub & Grub  
Chestnut Mountain Resort  
Giving Assistant  
Helios Stitches N Stuff  
Hunter Companies  
Iowa Physical Therapy  
Kelly Concrete Co in honor of Lexi Kelly  
Lynch Ford Chevrolet of Mount Vernon  
Mercy Medical Center  
Mt. Vernon Ace Hardware  
Mt. Vernon Hair Co. & Friends  
Mount Vernon Development Group, LLC  
Mount Vernon Investment Center  
Neal's Water Conditioning Service, Inc.  
in memory of Carmen Neal Musser 1963  
Noonmark Foundation Inc  
One Mission Fundraising  
Photo Image Studio  
Right Frame of Mind  
Sargent & Fortmann  
Stewart Baxter Funeral & Memorial Services

### CORPORATE MATCHES

#### Mustang Donor

Alliant Energy Foundation on behalf of Vernon and Arlene Sand for auditorium seating project  
Coca-Cola Company Foundation on behalf of Beth Hufford 1984

#### Maroon & White Donors

Agilon Software on behalf of David and Sara Beck for Post Proom  
Alliant Energy Foundation on behalf of Mike & Lori Cranston for post prom and Extraordinary Woman Scholarship  
Alliant Energy on behalf of Rich and Tara Hall for HS Science Olympiad  
Benevity Community Impact Fund on behalf of Abby Keegan for WEWALK  
Raytheon on behalf of Lindsey Borg 1983 for auditorium seating  
US Bank Foundation on behalf of James Erickson for MVHS girls basketball & boys basketball programs  
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign and Wells Fargo Foundation Educational Matching Gifts on behalf of Holly Chappell  
Wells Fargo Foundation on behalf of Danielle Downs for ES Kindergarten

### INDIVIDUAL

## DONATIONS

#### Founding Donor

Ilyse Ryan Trust

#### Leading Donors

Mary Bowman Seidler 1957 and Stanley Seidler

#### Mustang Donors

Beth Hufford 1984  
Gary Knutsen 1965 and Gail Knutsen  
Rae Ellen Zahradnik

#### Maroon & White Donors

Anonymous  
Winston Addis  
Steve Becicka 1961  
Gail Halsey Bertram 1994 in memory of Gabe Deeley  
Michael Biderman 1962 and Susan Biderman  
Erik Booth 1993  
Jason Booth 1990 and Brittany Kaalberg Booth 1990  
Randy Borg 1976 and Barbara Borg  
William Bowers 1957 and Myrt Clark Bowers 1957  
Ben Brannaman 2005 and Brittany Corkin Brannaman 2004  
Tandi Brannaman  
Robert and Anna Broulik 1974 in memory of Patricia Tonne Storla 1960  
George Brown 1953 and Paula Brown  
Christine Rilett Bullis 1970 and Robert Bullis  
Holly Chappell  
James Clark 1962  
Jan DeCamp in memory of Howard DeCamp 1951  
Hal and Sharon Dendurent  
Dennis and Janet Dietrich in memory of Gary Dietrich  
Dennis and Janet Dietrich  
Justin Dix 1997 and Cara Dix  
B.J. Durgin 1997  
Jeremy Elliott 1989 and Carrie Elliott  
David Ellison in memory of Lloyd Ellison 1937 and Pamela Ellison  
Owen 1966  
David Ennis 1956  
Richard and Carol Enns  
Rhondi Staley Ewing 1981 and Dale Ewing in memory of Donna Swenson  
Ed Fordyce 1959  
Rosalie Bowman Gallagher 1963 in memory of Carmen Neal Musser 1963  
Penny Gerber  
Candius Gibbons  
Richard Glattly 1959  
Cot and Kay Graber in memory of Mark Graber 1978  
Cot and Kay Graber in memory of Tom Ipsam  
Myra Croft Greve 1958 in memory of Jim Croft 1947 & Diana Pringle Croft 1946  
Sandi Erenberger Hanna 1967 in memory of Lyle Hanna 1964 & Aaron Hanna 1999  
Nancy Tonne Hansen 1967  
Don and Donna Happel  
Lois and Wendell Harms in memory of Rita Pospisil McGinnis 1970  
Shirley Pospisil Heiserman 1956  
Jim Hickey 1963  
Ed and Sharon Hill in memory of Ruth Deskin  
Thomas & Marilyn Holmes  
Jase Jensen  
Marilyn Jones  
Susan Albright Kehrl 1953 and Clifford Kehrl in memory of Howard & Carmen Kamberling  
James Kent 1950 and Carol Croft Kent 1951 in memory of Jim Croft 1947 and Diana Pringle Croft 1946  
Richard Kohl  
Roger Kost 1964  
Elizabeth Wolfe Kroul 1943  
Joy Koehn Kuntz 1976 in memory of Ivan Kuntz 1976  
Dave and Jo Kutcher  
Christine Lawler  
William Lighthall 1966 and Sandy Lighthall  
Joyce Loomis in memory of Beverly Phillips  
Joyce Loomis in memory of Megan Klaus 2008  
Troy and Tracey Louwagie  
Patricia Lynch in memory of Margaret & James Lynch  
Janet Johnston McCannon 1955  
Denae McGrath  
Richard McKeen 1951 and Kathleen McKeen  
Marsha Siggins McWhinney 1970 in memory of Donald & Joan Rhoads Siggins 1945  
Bob Meeker and Marsha Accord  
Allan Miner 1963  
Clint and Gale Mote  
Nancy Pisarik Mulder 1959  
Ann McCutcheon Niehaus 1959

## Don't See Your Name Listed Here?

THIS LIST IS FOR 2018 DONATIONS. WATCH FOR 2019 DONATIONS TO APPEAR IN A 2020 SPRING ISSUE OF THE DISTRICT NEWS. If you have any questions, or need to report a change to me, please let me know.



With continued gratitude,  
Ben Brannaman '05, Foundation Director  
bbrannaman@mvcasd.org 319-693-9520

# F O U N D A T I O N

Marilyn Woods Overman 1945  
in memory of the deceased members  
of the Class of 1945  
Karen Edwards Packer 1968  
Karen Edwards Packer 1968  
in memory of Richard & Lillian  
Edwards  
Jon and Amy Paulus  
Ted Pence 1960  
in memory of John Pence 1954  
Joel and Kari Pendergrass  
George Pospisil 1959  
in memory of Beverly Pospisil  
Anne DuVal Rehfuß 1968 and Jerry  
Rehfuß  
Ryan and Nicole Rentschler  
John Rife 1960 and Thelma Rife  
Jerry Ringer 1955  
Larry Ringer 1955  
Dick and Kate Rose in honor of  
Myrt Clark Bowers 1957  
and Stephanie Timm  
Sandy Vislisel Ruhs 1980 and David  
Ruhs  
Barb Russell  
in memory of Kevin Rogers 1981  
Michael and Shirley Ryan  
Kacey Kuntz Schmit 2000  
and Andrew Schmit  
Fred and Becky Showalter  
in honor of Ellen Klinsky Jones 1951,  
and Allison, Abbie '30 & Emily '28  
Schnoor  
Terry and Sandra Sill  
Craig and Jean Smith  
Leona Reyhons Smith 1956  
in memory of Adrienne Smith 2011  
Don Soukup in memory of  
Donna Mae Staskal Johnson Soukup  
1955  
Nargi Rayman Steinbrech 1955  
in memory of Daniel Steinbrech  
Chris Stoltz 1963 in memory of  
classmates Carmen Neal Musser,  
Barbara Clark Ingersoll and Renee  
Sternbuerg Branson  
Helen Dvorak Stoner 1946  
Matt and Jessica Thede  
Kim Zangger Tucker 1994  
Brandi Viter-Pitlik 1996  
Rob Wagner 1982  
Vic Wallace 1961  
in memory of Chet & Mary Wallace  
Paul and Deborah Weber  
in honor of Ike, Leo & Elsa Appleton  
Dr. Mark Weldon  
Dorothy Wolfe Welsh 1960  
Kevin Whitman 1976 and Becky Thumm  
Whitman 1977 in memory of  
Dick Peters, Darlene Hartl Allard  
1969 and David Thumm 1979  
Kevin Woods 1973  
Bill Yeisley 1952 and Harriett Yeisley in  
memory of John & Hildred Yeisley  
Steve and Mary Young  
Kim Moser Zimmerman 1979  
and Robert Zimmerman

## IN MEMORY OF DICK PETERS

**Mustang Donor**  
Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co.

## Maroon & White Donors

Memorial Contributions  
Winston Addis  
Randy Borg 1976 and Barbara Borg  
Janet Budack  
Adrienne Coffeen  
Barb Colehour  
Mitchell Corcoran 1983  
and Diana Corcoran  
Al Craig  
Robert and Glenda Davis-Driggs  
Bill and Ruth Deskin  
Ed Fordyce 1959  
Janet Griffith  
Sherry and Doug Grunder  
Charles Halsey  
Don and Donna Happel  
Ed and Sharon Hill  
Ron and Amy Jackson  
Jerry and Donna Kaalberg  
Ann Koppenhaver 1978  
Don and Margaret Koppenhaver  
Suzette and Mike Kragenbrink  
Tom and Judy Lass  
Joyce Loomis  
Gayle Luck and Barry Bartlett  
Chris Lyon 1981 and Bernadette Lyon  
Bob Meeker and Marsha Accord  
Frank and Jenny Menna  
Steve and Ruth Miller  
Darrel and Middie Morf  
Jackie Jordan Morrical 1984  
and Andrew Morrical  
Michael & Abbie Pariana, Hope Bahr,  
Michelle Berry  
Ken and Jane Pospisil 1968  
John Pospisil 1966 and Cindy Pospisil  
John Rife 1960 and Thelma Rife  
Adrian and Berta Ringold  
Rich and Helen Rockrohr  
Dave Ryan 1985 and Heidi Ryan  
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Nancy Schuman  
Terry and Sandra Sill  
Edward and Beverly Spencer  
Steve and Connie Spicher  
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Judy and Don Stine  
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David and Barbara Vig  
Jim Wallace 1964  
and Jackie Wallace  
Denise and Mark White  
Michael Woods 1977  
and Joleen Woods  
Terry Boren 1977 and  
Carol Woods-Boren 1975  
Richard and Marcia Young

## RESTRICTED DONATIONS

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Curtis and Debra Hicks  
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Troy and Tracey Louwagie  
Mark and Sue Owen-Anton  
Gena Voss  
Scott and Amy Weber

### HS SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Benton Campbell  
Donald and Priscilla Campbell  
Bethany Campbell Tvedt  
Rich and Tara Hall  
Lucette Johnson  
Preston and Beth Johnson  
Robert Locke 1967  
and Joyce Locke  
Mount Vernon Eye Clinic  
Whitney Olsen  
Palisades Family Dental  
Chris and Angi Quam  
Mario and Lisa Tijerina

### HS BOYS BASKETBALL

James Erickson

### HS GIRLS BASKETBALL

James Erickson

### KIDS IN NEED

**Mustang Donor**  
David Van Metre 1955

### Maroon & White Donors

Ben Brannaman 2005  
and Brittany Corkin Brannaman 2004  
Fred Burke  
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### 5TH GRADE

Charles Halsey  
in memory of Micah Stine

### ACADEMIC DECATHLON

Sarah Rife Patten 1993 and Randy  
Patten

### CHEERLEADING PROGRAM

**Mustang Donor**  
John Rife 1960 and Thelma Rife

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Anonymous

### ES KINDERGARTEN

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### HEALTH

Mercy Medical Center

### HS SOCIAL JUSTICE TRIP

James and Constance Birmingham

### INDUSTRIAL ARTS PROGRAM

**Mustang Donor**  
Jeff Wenzel, Bowker Mechanical  
Contractors

### HS & MS LIBRARIES

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### HS ROBOTICS

**Leading Donor**  
Jeff Wenzel, Bowker Mechanical  
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Helios Stitches N Stuff  
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William Stevenson

### MS SCIENCE PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

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Maurice Foundation

### MUSTANG STATUE

**Founding Donor**  
David Van Metre 1955

### MVHS

Dean and Sheila Borg

### HS PIANO COVER

**Mustang Donor**  
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### FOR ORCHESTRA HARP TUNER

Leigh Ann Bradbury

### PRIDE

Paul Morf 1990 and Jennifer Morf Fund

### WE KIDS CLUB

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### WE WALK

**Mustang Donor**  
Douglas & Diane Kopp

### Maroon & White Donors

Lezli Broomhall  
Abby Keegan  
Kelly Joseph  
Amy Paulus  
De Ann Pierce  
Ben Brannaman 2005  
and Brittany Corkin Brannaman 2004

continued on next page

# F O U N D A T I O N

## FINE ARTS

### Mustang Donors

Paul Morf 1990 and Jennifer Morf Fund

### Maroon & White Donors

Ben Brannaman 2005  
and Brittany Corkin Brannaman 2004  
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Judy Caldwell Penn 1960  
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### Maroon & White Donors

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Paul Morf 1990 and Jennifer Morf Fund  
John Rife 1960 and Thelma Rife

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Ben Brannaman 2005 and Brittany  
Corkin Brannaman 2004  
Richard Glattly 1959  
University of Iowa Community Credit  
Union in honor of Dean Borg

## CLASS OF 1968 MEMORIAL ACCOUNT

Barb Thomsen Neal 1968  
in memory of Carol Bell  
and Pat Pisarik 1968  
Donna Cole Schoneboom 1968

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who have donated to fund scholarships for our graduating seniors.

Adrienne Smith Scholarship Fund  
Anonymous for HS Alternative Education  
Scholarship  
Anonymous for Inspiration Award  
Kristine Butterbaugh Fund for  
Jeff Butterbaugh Memorial Scholarship  
Mary Evans 1967 for  
Evans Moffit Scholarship  
Margaret Garry Memorial Trust for  
Margaret Garry 1979 Memorial  
Scholarship  
Charles Halsey for Halsey Scholarship  
Anonymous matching donation for Mount  
Vernon Bank & Trust Scholarship  
Hills Bank & Trust Company  
Beth Hufford 1984  
Koppenhaver & Associates, PC  
Ann Koppenhaver 1978  
for Marsha Light Memorial  
Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co.  
Mount Vernon Heritage Days  
John Rife 1960 and Thelma Rife  
in memory of English/speech/drama  
teachers Mrs. Gladys Rife, Mrs. Ruth  
Michaud, and Mrs. Maggie Quinn  
Ellison 1962, and in honor of Mrs.  
Donna Jacob  
MV-L Community Charitable Development  
Group  
Shirley Thumm  
for David Thumm 1979 Scholarship

Craig and Jean Smith for Adrienne Smith  
2011 STEM Scholarship  
Joan Suchomel 1974 for  
Joan Suchomel Scholarship  
MV-L Community Development Group  
US Nameplate  
Kay Woods Scholarship  
Terry Boren 1977  
and Carol Woods-Boren 1975  
Sarah Woods '95 and Lucas Casper  
Kevin Woods 1973 and Mary Woods  
Mike Woods 1977 and Joleen Woods  
Sean Boren 2007 and Brooke Boren  
Derek Boren 2000 and Lori Boren  
Nick Boren 2002 and Teressia Boren  
Lynn Woods 1997 and Derek Mclusky  
Jim Woods 1979, Dylan Woods 2015,  
and Kyle Purcell Woods 2011  
Laurie Zaiger for Teaching Creativity  
Scholarship

## EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Susan Alexander  
Kathleen Aller  
Emily Appleton  
Lori Arnold  
Janet Ault  
Renee Ault in memory of Ruth Michaud  
Julie Baumler  
Kim Benesh  
Polly Ann Blyt in memory of Leota  
Ann Booth in memory of Mary Boudreau  
Bonnie Bootsmiller  
Sheila Borg  
Susan Brust  
Betty Budack  
Janet Budack  
Debora Carrico  
Jo Clark  
Ruth Clark in memory of  
Adrienne Smith & Jackie Kerr  
Paula Coder  
Thea Cole  
Diana Corcoran  
Lori Cranston

Karen Cripe  
Christine Davis in honor of  
Elizabeth VeDepo & Maggie  
Davis  
Sharon Dendurent  
Deb Dever  
Marie DeVries in memory of  
Nancy Gale  
Tonya Dicus  
Janet Dietrich in honor of  
Catherine Wittry  
Glenda Davis Driggs  
Marcia Driscoll  
Carrie Elliott  
Trude Elliott  
Carol Enns in memory of Annie  
Enns & Esther Zerbe  
Mary Evans  
Stephanie Frantz  
Nancy Emrich Freeman in honor  
of Joe Jennison  
Sara Gaarde  
JoAnn Gage  
Katrina Garner in honor of  
Vivian Heywood  
Deb George  
Chris Goodwin  
Kay Graber in memory of  
Gladys Rife  
Michele Grudzinski  
Ginger Hansen  
Donna Happel  
Susan Hargus  
Diane Harrington  
Debra Herrmann  
Vivian Heywood  
Debra Hicks  
Jen Hoffman  
Lisa Janssens-Rudin in memory  
of Barbara Janssens  
Kay Johansen  
Marilyn Jones  
Karen Klavido in in memory of  
Jeanne Giegerich  
Ann Koppenhaver in memory of  
Ginny Lyon & Mary Meeker  
Elizabeth Kroul  
Rachelle LaBarge in honor of  
Sarah Richardson  
Jennifer Lengwin  
Coralie Liberko  
Joyce Loomis  
Tracey Louwagie  
Julie Lynch  
Sue Margheim in memory of  
Adrienne Smith  
Nyla McCall  
Karmin McShane  
Mary Jane McWilliams in memory  
of Mary Jo Lessmeier  
Ruth Miller  
Babs Moore  
Middie Morf  
Pam Mott  
Denise Murphy in honor of  
Arvilla Henyan  
Ann Niehaus  
Marilyn Overman  
Lois Pavelka

## MUSTANG LEGACY SOCIETY

Recognizing individuals who have chosen to include the Mount Vernon  
Community School District Foundation in their estate plans.

Anonymous

## 2018 DISTRICT EMPLOYEE DONATIONS

Employee donations support the Foundation's Teacher Grants Program.

Kaimee Akers	Susan Deibner	Mary Leopold	Heidi Ryan	Whitney Turner '00
Lisa Alger	Cara Dix	Susannah Maddock	Stephen Scarrow	Shawn Voigt '86
Heather Allen	Julie Dye	Susan Maurice	Kacey Schmit '00	Jean Wade
Kristin Anderson	Leigh Ann Erickson	Jan Moore	Allison Schuur	Scott Weber
Alaina Appley	Sarah Fitzgerald	Lori Moss	Brandy Schurbon	Krista Whitham
Greg Batenhorst	JoAnn Gage	Patty Mote	Linda See	Vicky Wieseler
Mallory Beatty	Lisa Greif	Kevin Murray	Andy Shea	Thad Wilkins
Gina Becthold	Dennis Gross	Chris Noll	Raechel Shea	Erin Wilkinson
Mark Benesh '83	Robert Hanson	Jo Nowak-Thompson	Kim Siggins	Tom Wilkinson '86
Robin Brand	Bob Haugse	Abby Ohlaug	Emily Stamp '09	Maggie Willems '96
Steve Brand	Melissa Hauser	Stephanie Olney	Toni Stanbro Wiesenhofer	Deanna Winder
LeAnn Briesemeister	Annie Hawker	Joe Peters	Kate Stanton	Joelynn Winkler
Chiara Burke '78	Jan Henik	LeAnn Pisarik	Kathy Staskal	Mary Young
Matt Burke	Ericcka Johnson	Sheryl Pospisil	Kim Steele	
Jennifer Carstensen	Brett Karkosh	Marcia Purington	Sonya Sullivan '90	
Megan Casey	Kristi Keast	Danielle Ramsey	Ed Timm	
Jenny Ciha	Tim Larson	Jodi Russell	Stephanie Timm	



# 2018 Donors to the MV PERFORMING ARTS CENTER project

A philanthropic campaign to add auditorium seating in Mount Vernon's new performing arts center has resulted in \$201,900 in gifts and commitments. The new performing arts center will serve our school district and the Mount Vernon community for years to come. Thank you to the financial partners listed below for ensuring that everyone will have a seat!



Judy Penn  
 Pamela Perry  
 Sherene Player  
 Cindy Pospisil  
 Jane Pospisil in memory of  
 Jeanette Colehour  
 Catherine Quehl-Engel  
 Joan Rasmussen in memory of  
 Claudia J. Horick  
 Christine Rebhuhn in memory of  
 Jackie Kerr  
 Amanda Rhomberg  
 Sarah Richardson  
 Nancy Rife in honor of  
 Emilie Minnick  
 Berta Ringold  
 Kate Rose  
 Donna Rotschafer  
 Virginia Roudabush  
 Susan Salter  
 Marilyn Schnittjer  
 Nina Scott  
 Barb Shepley  
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 Kerri Speth  
 Mary Squiers  
 Jennifer Stanerson  
 Karen Stewart  
 Judy Stine  
 Cathy Stoner  
 JoAnn Stoner  
 Cindy Strong  
 Gretchen Sutherland  
 Marianne Taylor  
 Tawnua Tenley  
 Stephanie Timm in honor of  
 Stephanie Jensen Garza  
 Dave Van Metre in memory of  
 Carol Van Metre  
 Judy Vopava  
 Barbara Walsh  
 Linda Walton  
 Amy Weber in honor of  
 Samantha Formanek & Kylea  
 Brautigam  
 Bev Weitnauer in honor of  
 Jessie Weitnauer  
 Carolyn Wellso  
 Laura Werkman  
 Amy White  
 Denise White  
 Lisa White  
 Jo Wilch  
 Maggie Willems  
 Char Wood in honor of  
 Destiny Wood  
 Carol Wozniak-Rebhuhn in  
 memory of Adrienne Smith  
 Carmen Wycoff in memory of  
 Rogene Vetter  
 Mary Young  
 Laurie Zaiger  
 Michelle Zaruba

## Major Gift

Anonymous  
 Mount Vernon Fine Arts Association  
 Jerry Ringer 1955 and Carole Ringer  
 Mary Bowman Seidler 1957 and Stanley Seidler  
 David Van Metre 1955  
 Wilch Family

## Founding Donor

Darrel and Middie Morf

## Leading Donors

Downtown Dental, Dr. Dawn Gaffney  
 Barbara Beckhelm Moore 1953  
 in memory of Dick Moore 1952  
 Paul Morf 1990 and Jennifer Morf  
 Colin and Mary Squiers

## Mustang Donors

Anonymous  
 Mark and Kristin Anderson in honor of  
 Gavin and Greta Anderson  
 Craig Arians  
 Lindsey Borg 1983  
 Rick and Trude Elliott  
 Kim Fall 1974 and Tim Fall  
 Ed Fordyce 1959  
 Janet Griffith  
 John and Ann Gruber-Miller in honor of Mount Vernon  
 fine arts teachers and students  
 Loren and Jennifer Hoffman  
 Sarah Miller Johnson 1987  
 in memory of Maggie Quinn Ellison 1962  
 Darrell Jordan 1961 & Donna Jordan  
 Truman Jordan  
 in honor of Jackie Morrival and family  
 Andy and Erin Moeller  
 Andrew Morf 1994 and Reagan Morf  
 Jackie Jordan Morrival 1984  
 and Andrew Morrival  
 Vernon & Arlene Sand  
 in memory of Phillip Sand 1989  
 Al & Barb Shepley  
 Colin and Mary Squiers  
 Clinton and Jennifer Stanerson  
 Ryan and Angie Steen  
 Tom and Katie Stephens

Matthew Stewart 1996 and Teresa Duppong Stewart 1996  
 Mike and Karen Stewart  
 Lisa Squiers White 1988 and Todd White  
 in memory of Maggie Quinn Ellison 1962  
 Thad & Jill Wilkins  
 Steve & Mary Young

## Maroon & White Donors

Members of the Class of 1963  
 in memory of Carmen Neal Musser 1963  
 Michael Biderman 1962 and Susan  
 Biderman in memory of Gladys Rife  
 Dean and Sheila Borg  
 Randy Borg 1976  
 Ben Brannaman 2005  
 and Brittany Corkin Brannaman 2004  
 Tandi Brannaman  
 Amy Butz  
 Dennis and Pat Casner in honor of  
 McKenzie '22 & Tate '24 Rentschler  
 Mike and Ruth Clark  
 Darrin and JoAnn Gage  
 Don and Donna Happel  
 David Hoagland  
 in memory of Kathleen Hughes-Hoagland  
 Dennis Jordan 1987  
 Chris Lyon 1981 and Bernadette Lyon  
 Steve and Ruth Miller  
 in memory of Maggie Quinn Ellison 1962  
 Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Theatre  
 Jon and Amy Paulus  
 Jon and Joan Rasmussen  
 in memory of Pat Pisarik 1968,  
 Dick Peters and Ken Schoff  
 Ryan and Nicole Rentschler  
 Mike and Shirley Ryan  
 Wade Squiers 1984 and Krista Squiers  
 Don and Judy Stine  
 Kim Zangger Tucker 1994 and Justen Tucker  
 Jennifer Bern Vogel 1975 and Ira Vogel  
 in memory of Anne Shutt '75 and Gladys Rife  
 Rob Wagner 1982 and Susanne Wagner  
 in memory of Dick Peters  
 Jo Wilch  
 Wiladene Hoggard Willming 1950  
 in memory of Vernelle Hoggard Willming 1945

*Thank  
You*



# YOUR FOUNDATION DONATIONS WORK THROUGH THE TEACHER GRANTS PROGRAM

Every year the Foundation provides grants for district faculty and staff to fund projects that are innovative and promote a higher level of educational excellence for Mount Vernon students.

Your unrestricted support of the Foundation helps to make these projects a reality. Thank you for continuing to support our Mount Vernon students!

## \$9,000 awarded to 14 projects

- Bonnie Ahrens, High School Visual Arts  
\$325 for digital drawing tablets
- Caitlin Bienemann, Beth McCollum & Mary Young, High School Math  
\$1500 for graphing calculators
- Trista Lynner, High School Family and Consumer Science  
\$390 for breakout boxes
- Jason Pershing & Matthew Turner, Alternative Education  
\$125 for kitchen supplies
- JoAnn Gage, Mariah Reeves & Alissa Sabers, High School English  
\$1000 for books for freshman literature circles
- Suzette Kragenbrink, Middle School Library  
\$650 for Screenagers documentary
- Jessica Bartelt, Elementary School Special Education  
\$237 for hands on phonics materials
- Emily Dolezal & Jo Nowak-Thompson, Preschool  
\$567 for incubator and supplies for chicks
- Sue Deibner, Erica Nichols & Tom Wilkinson, High School German and Spanish  
\$1000 for books for classroom reading programs
- Megan Dielschneider & Jessica Murphy, Seventh Grade Reading and Language Arts  
\$1000 for books for classroom libraries
- Kim Siggins, Third Grade  
\$1329 for classroom iPads
- Stephanie Olney, High School Special Education  
\$40 for stability ball stands
- Rob Hanson, Eight Grade Science  
\$235 for genius hour supplies
- Tom Stephens, High School English  
\$1100 for alternative classroom seating

# 2018-2019

## SCHOOL DISTRICT RETIREE

**JAN HENIK**  
High School Teacher

Year started at MV: 2012  
Years in MV: 7  
Total years teaching: 30



### First year favorite memory:

On my first day of teaching at MVHS, a freshman student came to my door, introduced himself, shook my hand and let me know what class he was in. I will always remember this young man. He reinforced why I was teaching in Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon is truly a special place to be a student and a teacher. It has been a joy to complete my teaching career here. I saved the best for last.

### 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?

I worked with Gary and Ava Stamp my first two years of teaching at Olin, IA. Gary was the AD and faculty member down the hall from me. Gary not only was in my car pool, but was a great mentor to me these first years. I often wonder if I would have taught for 30 years if were not for Gary. How was I to know that Gary later in life would be my daughter's softball coach at MVHS? Gary not only had a profound outcome on my life, but also made a lasting impact on my daughter.

**Favorite memories:** When I applied for the job at Mount Vernon it turned into a family affair. I had not written a new resume for 16 years. They look a bit different these days. My son sat beside me and helped me rework and reformat. The online application was a bit daunting. My daughter helped me navigate this not once, but twice following an email from Mr. Brand that they had changed to the Grant Wood AEA format and could I please do this again. It shouldn't take long the email stated. 4 ½ hours later (both times) I was set to go. Moral of the story for both myself and for my children: It is never too late to change your life, even if you are a teacher and over 50.

The best compliment I received from a student in all 30 years of teaching was from a young lady my first year at MVHS. I overheard her tell another student during a lab activity, "Mrs. Henik always looks like she loves what she does". I think that sums it up. I have

loved this journey.

**What has changed in education?**

Technology has changed the way that both students and teachers access information. It has also changed the way we communicate, in both positive and negative ways. Communication is fast and easy, but not as personal. I sort of miss the personal. I think that I why most of us become teachers. We like building relationships.

**Family Info:** Spouse - John Henik 1976 MVHS Graduate  
 Son - Joshua Henik 2006 MVHS Graduate, married to Katlyn Henik, daughter Natalie (3 Years on May 19) is a future MVHS Graduate, new daughter to arrive end of May- Future MVHS graduate  
 Daughter - Kara Henik Gosiak 2009 MVHS Graduate, married to Joshua Gosiak  
 (Yes, I am the only family member that is not a Mount Vernon Graduate.)



Above: Middle School art teacher Mark Benesh '83 and his students next to a mural they painted that hangs on the Sing-A-Long Bar & Grill building uptown  
 Below: Washington Elementary hosts a successful 'Pop-Up Pantry' for the community



Architectural drawing of what the new entrance to the Middle School will look like

**OUR SCHOOLS 2018-2019**

HS = High School MS = Middle School ES = Elementary School

**AUGUST**

- 1,438 students in grades K-12 start the school year, an increase of 18 students from the prior year
- Architects and engineers meet with administrative team to plan for upcoming construction projects
- New district mission and vision statements were developed

**SEPTEMBER**

- A 'Joy Bench' was built for the elementary playground in memory of therapy dog Joy

**OCTOBER**

- Volleyball Coach Maggie Lessmeier Willems '96 earns her 200th career win
- Fall Play is the 'The Fox on the Fairway'
- The Iowa High School Press Association names Journalism teacher JoAnn Gage 'Teacher of the Year,' and Principal Steve Brand was named 'Administrator of the Year'

**NOVEMBER**

- MS art teacher (MV Alumni Fine Arts Hall of Fame) Mark Benesh '83 and his students paint a mural that hangs on the Sing-A-Long Bar & Grill building uptown
- HS band marches in the 2018 Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade
- HS theatre students perform a studio cutting of 'Once on this Island' at the Iowa Thespian Festival and score a near perfect 59/60 to become the Iowa Thespian Festival Chapter Select Show. The cast will go to Lincoln June 2019 to perform
- HS Cross Country boys and girls teams and Volleyball earn spots in state tournament play
- 28 HS students are inducted in the National Honor Society

**DECEMBER**

- Alum Mary Bowman Seidler '57 donates a baby grand piano for the new Performing Arts Center

**JANUARY**

- HS Speech advances 26 events to state contest
- HS J-term social justice class toured significant sites in the Civil Rights movement
- Washington Elementary students of all ages got to see, smell and sometimes touch art of Africa, thanks to the Art Share program from the University of Iowa Stanley Art museum
- Senior Ryan Clark recorded his 100th career wrestling win
- PreSchool teacher Jo Nowak-Thompson was awarded the Robert E. Yager Active Learning Award presented by The Iowa Children's Museum.
- Washington Elementary hosts a successful 'Pop-Up Pantry' for the community

**FEBRUARY**

- HS Speech earned 2nd place in the WaMaC, earning a total of 38 Division I ratings out of 57 total events they competed in at District Individual Speech contest
- Paul Ryan captured the Class 2A 170-pound state wrestling title
- HS earned five nominations for All-State Large Group Speech
- HS was named one of 887 Gold Standard schools by Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) for their personal finance courses.
- 8th grader Lydia Benesh earned a Silver Key in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for her collection of poems titled 'A Poetic Point of View'

**MARCH**

- HS Individual State Speech contestants earned a total of 26 Division I ratings
- HS Large Group Speech Contest, 19 of 26 groups earned 1s at State Speech, 5 of those groups were nominated for All-State with four of them performing - Head coach is Grant Freeman '06
- Teacher Leigh Ann Erickson was recognized as an Iowa Teacher of the Year finalist

**APRIL**

- Taking first place in the HS Quill and Scroll Writing, Photo, and Multimedia Contest in the video sports package was a video about Shirley Ryan, created by Kendra Streicher, Reagan Light, Caroline Voss, Caitlin Babcock, Mattie Hansen, Lauren Hauser and Catherine Yeoman - A video about middle school art teacher Mark Benesh '83 won 3rd place - Maddie Naeve won second place in the Yearbook Excellence Contest for Photo Illustration for her design of the senior superlative backgrounds in the 2018 yearbook
- HS Jazz Choirs competed at the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships with Uptown Jazz placing 7th and Lincoln Highway placing 3rd in Class 3A - Morgan Houghtaling was named outstanding female vocalist
- At the 2019 HS State Solo and Ensemble Contest, band ended the day with 13 Division I ratings and 11 Division II ratings; choral earned 29 Division I ratings and 16 Division II ratings, and orchestra earned 2 Division I ratings, five Division II ratings, and two Division III ratings
- School district voters overwhelmingly approved renewing the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL). The 10-year renewal passed with more than 82 percent of the vote
- HS and MS Science Olympiad teams both placed 2nd at state
- HS girls tennis plays meet for first time on new tennis courts

**MAY**

- MV Drama Department spring musical 'Oklahoma' honored by the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards Showcase
- HS girls soccer team goes undefeated in conference play and heads into postseason play
- 40 journalism students won awards in the Iowa High School Press Association spring journalism contest - MV was also named a Class A All-Iowa News Team of the Year finalist
- HS throwers swept the Class 3A state discus championships with junior Lily Meester winning the girls title and senior Matt Vislisel winning the boys
- At the boys track and field WaMaC super meet Mount Vernon placed second. A conference title was set in the 4x400m relay, with Noah Erickson, Trenton Pitlik, Tyler Elliott and Paul Ryan running a time of 3:31.04
- MV graduated 99 seniors at the May 19 ceremony, Madeyn Steen is valedictorian



# ALUMNI

SPRING 2019

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

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Mount Vernon, Iowa  
Permit No. 3

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### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Andrew Morf'94, President  
John Pospisil'66, Vice President  
Michele Meyer Grudzinski'92, Secretary  
Susan Mounts'65 Fisher, Treasurer  
Jean Kuntz Bowman'64, Director  
Alex Brannaman'09, Director  
Dennis Jordan'87, Director, Past President  
Taylor Sedlacek'10, Director  
Mary Thomsen'75, Director  
Kim Zangger Tucker'94  
Kathy Staskal, Communications

### FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

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

### MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

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

## HERE'S HOW to support the Alumni Association...

### ONLINE at [www.MVAlumni.org](http://www.MVAlumni.org)

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

**OR BY MAIL** return form & your check to:  
MV Alumni Assoc., 525 Palisades Rd, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

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

- One-Year Support/Dues.....\$15 per alum
- or Five-Year Support/Dues .....\$60 per alum

### SELECT THIS TO SEND A DONATION:

- additional donation or memorial.....
- in memory of/in honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- Amount Enclosed \$.....

### 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 \$2,800 and more

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

# 2019

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

For tax purposes, the MV Alumni Association has been determined by the IRS to be a public charitable organization under Code 501(c)3

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**ALUMNI Association**

## Thank you!