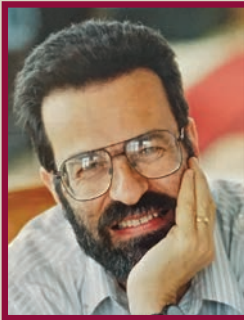




MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS

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



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2021 HERITAGE DAYS & ALUMNI EVENTS

watch for updates to come via email, Facebook, in the spring issue, or on our website at www.mvalumni.org



2020 Alumni Hall of Fame

The Mount Vernon Community School District Alumni Association is pleased to announce the following alums have been selected as 2020 Alumni Hall of Fame recipients (pictured left to right):

- Achievement - Peter Kollman 1962 (d)
- Service - Scot Christiansen 1978
- Fine Arts - Braden Pospisil Rood 1993
- Community Impact - Sonia Essex Redmond 1982
- Athletic - Steve Andrew 1968 (d)

Turn to page 6 for recipient bios and photos.

2021 Alumni-Friend Events

January 1-December 31 – Hey...a reminder that we have changed our calendar year for donations/support/dues to January 1 through Dec 31. So, now is a great time to think about supporting one of your favorite organizations – the MV Alumni Association! See back page.

May 1 – DON'T DELAY – Nominate an alum you think is deserving of a service, achievement, MV Community Impact, Fine Arts, or Athletic Hall of Fame award now! Who can nominate? ANYONE – you do not have to be an alum to nominate. Page 14.

July 9 and 10 – To be confirmed, Heritage Days in Mount Vernon with alumni events & reunions.

Fall 2021 tba – Homecoming and Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony. More information about events in the Spring 2021 Alumni News issue.





Mustang ALUMNI

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To advertise in the Alumni News - call 319-389-8602 or email alumni@mvcsd.org

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

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@mvcsd.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

2021

Antiques Extravaganza July 4
Heritage Days July 9-11 TBA
Oct - Chili Cookoff & Chocolate Stroll
December - Magical Night
other events: Lincoln Hwy Arts Festival and more

2020 REUNIONS UPDATE

2015 5 years - tba

Contact: Courtney Maddocks
Phone: 319-895-6316 319-826-4634
Contact: Abbey Teubel
Phone: 319-455-0147 319-651-4712

2010 10 years - tba

Thomas Mlynarczyk
Emily Stoner
Molly Giegerich

2005 15 years - tba

Contact: Chrystal Covington Wherry
Phone: 319-540-1879
Email: Crystaal2005@yahoo.com

2000 20 years - tba

Find us on Facebook
Contact Katey Forest Sanders
Phone: 319-551-4136
Email: ksanders133@gmail.com
Contact: Lauren Sauter
Email: lauren.r.sauter@gmail.com
Phone: 917-528-8891
Contact: Jenny Mick Ballard
Email: jmick1230@gmail.com
Phone: 510-654-7116 319-329-6666
Contact: Paul Easker
Phone: 515-203-9764
Email: paul@easker.com

1995 - 25 years - tba

Contact: Kim Stoner
Phone: 319-899-8542
Email: dyanstoner@aol.com
Contact: Sarah Woods
Email: sarah.woods@ge.com

1990 - 30 years - Heritage Days 2021

Class of 1990 is planning to organize an informal meeting place for classmates to gather during Heritage Days 2021. More details will be available closer to the date.

Please join our class Facebook page: Mt. Vernon High Class of 1990

Contact: Kim McGowan McAdams
Phone: 773-294-7301
Email: kmcadams@thehirecompany.com
Contact: Paul Morf
Phone: 319-841-3472
Email: pmorf@simmonsperine.com

1985 - 35 years - Watch for update to come

Contact: Dave Ryan
Phone: 319-899-4965
Email: ryanfamily210@msn.com

1980 - 40 years - tba

Contact: Chris Kinley Osborn'80

1975 - 45 years - Postponed until Heritage Days 2021

Contact: Lori Lehman Reihle
Phone: 319-310-2639
Email: lar917@msn.com

1970 - 50 years

The Class of 1970 has decided to cancel our 50th reunion scheduled for the weekend of Heritage Days. We may reschedule but nothing is planned at this time.

Contact: Gwen Stewart Drahos
Phone: 319-455-2873 319-455-2565
Contact: Marsha Siggins McWhinney
Phone: 319-895-8671
Email: marsha_siggins@juno.com
Contact: Nancy Vislisl Norlin
Phone: 319-462-4674
Email: glknorlin@msn.com
Contact: Judy Hess Greco
Phone: 319-624-2059
Email: jagquilts@yahoo.com

1965 - 55 years - tba

Contact: Susan Mounts Fisher
Phone: 319-389-3686
Email: SusanJFisher@netins.net

1960 - 60 years - Postponed watch for updates to come

Contact: Annamae Stoneking Baker
Phone: 319-895-8979
Email: abmrk@gmail.com
Contact: John Rife
Phone: 319-310-8105
Email: jtbr2@q.com

1955 - 65 years - Postponed until Heritage Days Breakfast 2021

Contact: Kay Jilovec Lind
Phone: 319-377-2079 319-538-6244
Email: kaylind38@gmail.com

1949-1950-1951 - 70 years - Postponed until Heritage Days Breakfast 2021

Contact: Dick McKeen'51
Phone: 319-248-0502
Email: rmckeen933@aol.com

1945 - 75 years - Postponed until Heritage Days Breakfast 2021

Contact: Betty Pospisil Wolfe
Phone: 319-895-8125
Contact: Marilyn Woods Overman
Phone: 319-362-0248

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

2021 REUNIONS

2016 - 5 YEARS - TBA

Contact: Jenna Brannaman
 Email: jenna.brannaman@gmail.com
 Phone: 319-558-6811
 Contact: David Taylor
 Phone: 319-855-2822

2011 - 10 YEARS - TBA

On Facebook at
 'Mount Vernon Class of 2011'
 Contact: Micah Wieditz
 Email: micahwieditz@gmail.com
 Phone: 319-654-6126

2006 - 15 YEARS - TBA

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

2001 - 20 YEARS - TBA

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

1996 - 25 YEARS - TBA

Contact: Maggie Lessmeier Willems
 Email: maggiewillems@gmail.com
 Phone: 319-929-4542
 Contact: Ben Pospisil
 Email: bennyp1984@yahoo.com
 Phone: 319-330-9493

1991 - 30 YEARS - TBA

contact tba

1986 - 35 YEARS - tentative Heritage Days

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

1981- 40 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP - Heritage Days Weekend 2021

FRI. (at Sutliff Bridge)
 and SAT. (at The Local & Uptown)
 Contact: Rhondi Ewing
 Email: rhondi@ewingdesign.com
 Phone: 805-499-1415

1976 - 45 YEARS - TBA

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

1971 - 50 YEARS - postponed

Contact Wendy if you would like to help plan your 50th reunion.
 Contact: Wendy Kaplan Johnson 1971
 Email: johnsonwendy725@gmail.com
 Phone: 319-551-1428

1966 - 55 YEARS - tentative for Heritage Days weekend, watch for information to come

Contact: Jeri Neal
 Email: jmn773@gmail.com
 Phone: 319-895-8171
 Contact: Cindy Buresh Prewitt
 Email: cynannprew@gmail.com
 Phone: 612-940-0287
 Contact: Margaret Ellison Duffy
 Email: Margaret917@me.com
 Phone: 319-930-0917

1961 - 60 YEARS - Postponed watch for updates to come

Contact: Dick Miner
 Email: raldenm@aol.com
 Phone: 775-833-2747
 Contact: Bunny Williams Copeland
 Phone: 319-377-7644

1956 - 65 YEARS - TBA, watch for update to come

Contact: Leona Reyhons Smith
 Email: leonaosmith@gmail.com
 Phone: 319-361-8097
 Contact: Roger Schnittjer
 Email: rmschnittjer@gmail.com
 Phone: 319-895-8817

1949-1950-19511 - 70 YEARS Heritage Days 2021

Contact: Dick McKeen '51
 Phone: 319-248-0502
 Email: rmckeen933@aol.com

1946 - 75 YEARS - Heritage Days Breakfast

1941 - 80 YEARS - Heritage Days Breakfast

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

2021 Heritage Days Weekend Alumni-Friend Events:

Updates regarding the future of Heritage Days to come, tentative plans for our events are:

- Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10, 2021

Reception Uptown MV on Main Street, location tba

- Saturday, July 10, 2021 All-Alumni-Community Breakfast (by donation), at the High School

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

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We specialize in orthopedic injuries, preventing and treating sports injuries and rehabilitation for workers compensation clients. We also work extensively with older patients and have helped many in our community regain skills and abilities.

On the staff are MV alums Jeremy Elliott '89 and Stephanie Legore Meier '00

Mount Vernon-Lisbon Clinic
 108 1st St. SE Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314 319-895-4085

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, click E-EDITION at the top of the page. You may also receive news alerts. Current and archived.
 Second, online at www.colelibrary.org, to find Mount Vernon news from 1860 to the Sun of 2013

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT OF THE MV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

TURN TO THE BACK PAGE TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP US CONTINUE THIS PUBLICATION AND OUR TRADITIONAL ALUMNI EVENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Andrew Morf '94
Alumni Association
President

Greetings fellow Mount Vernon alums,

My sincerest hope is this letter finds you healthy and enjoying the start of a new year. What a year 2020 has been! I think it safe to say it has been unlike any year most of us have ever lived through; and by quite some measure.

While hopefully each of us has found a silver lining during this challenging and stressful year, we pray that 2021 is a return to something more closely resembling normalcy; a year in which the daily news is not consumed by a spreading pandemic and daily death count, a year in which racial and political upheaval is not dividing us and adding toxicity into our society, democracy, and country, and finally a year in which hurricane force storms do not go ripping through our communities leaving large swaths of destruction and devastation. Let us hope for a new year in which we can all begin to recover and heal from the many wounds inflicted during this epic year.

By now, I am sure news of legendary coach and teacher Jim Bellamy's passing has reached all corners of the globe throughout the greater Mount Vernon Community. Like so many, I was fortunate to play football under his leadership and even experience a state championship. I think most would agree, it wasn't always easy to play for Coach Bellamy, but a lot of invaluable life lessons about hard work and perseverance in the quest for excellence and teamwork were forever engrained into those of us who had the good fortune to be coached by him. Read some more alumni memories later in this issue.

Whether you celebrated the holidays with family or without family this year, we should take comfort in the fact that even from a distance, our sense of community and togetherness has likely never been greater as we all lean on one another to get through these trying times.

Peace & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



JENNIFER CLARK GONZALEZ 1988

In December of 1997, with a new nursing license in hand, I began a career at the VA Medical Center in Iowa City. Ten years were spent as an Operating Room nurse. In 2007 I accepted a newly created position as the Health Promotion Disease Prevention Program Manager. Within a couple years, the role of Veteran Health Education Coordinator was added to the shingle outside of my door and I have been serving in the dual role since. I spent a long time pursuing higher education, and often thought if all the time and stress was worth it.

In December of 2020, I confidently confirm the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Masters of Public Health have provided the skills, knowledge and tools required to navigate the COVID pandemic determinedly. I am not one of the front line heroes like so many brave peers, but have been dug in, providing support behind the lines for the past nine months.

In March I worked with a small group in the Iowa City VA COVID Call Center, created for Veterans to be screened and determine if testing is necessary. The majority of calls involved easing anxiety, providing education and fielding questions with answers which could change within 24 hours.

In April, I was tasked with leading an effort to assemble and distribute COVID Home Monitoring Kits. The kits are provided to Veterans who are convalescing at home and being monitored via Telehealth RNs. The number of kits being provided has increased from 20 per month in summer months to 20 per day in November.

By July, Primary Care teams could take on the calls and I was given another detail as the Facility Visitor Liaison. I had the responsibility of determining if a caregiver was absolutely necessary, and helping the front door screening team enforce the zero visitor policy. Though the policy is intended to keep Veterans and essential workers safe, it evokes anger, anxiety, frustration, and helplessness. I was glad to be relieved of the duty in October and vow to be kind to anyone attempting to keep an environment safe.

It might be a long tunnel, but a glimmer of light is there. Be tenacious about prevention and thankful for your health. Be part of the solution and think beyond yourself.

Jennifer's parents are alums Keith Clark '60 and JoAnn Kroul Clark '64 (d)

CONNECT WITH THE SCHOOL

To stay current with Mount Vernon Mustang academics, athletics, fine arts, activities and more be sure to check out the awesome, online content from the 'Mustang Moon' via YouTube, website, Twitter and Facebook! If you're on Instagram look up "themustangmoon." Great work being done by our award-winning journalism department - sign up on their website to get automatic email updates!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MVHSroom208>

<http://themustangmoon.com/>

<https://twitter.com/TheMustangMoon...>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheMustangMoon/>

Enjoy **'MUSTANG VISION'** Mount Vernon's home of high school sports and fine arts broadcasts. Free, live, play-by-play of Mustang athletics and fine arts! Find it online at **GoMVStangs.org**. You will also find their broadcast schedule and archived events.

Thank you to these alumni who have helped us in some way during the COVID-19 pandemic



■ ALUMS AT GARY'S FOODS

Gary's Foods General Manager Peter Dietrich '06 and President Dennis Dietrich, wrote in to share "As essential workers, we have been requiring our employees to wear face masks since March. We have been diligently cleaning all of our most touched surfaces including carts, baskets, pin-pads, and door handles. We would like to thank all of our loyal customers for following all the health guidelines from our local, state and federal governments." Pictured from left: Nicole Franks '03, Forrest Wiedenmann '07, Peter Dietrich '06, Jared Clark '14, Al Pearson '83, Rich Jamison '87, Grant Goldberg '11, Colton Wiedenmann '11, and (not pictured) Louise McLaughlin Franks '70.



■ JENNA PISARIK 2011

"I'm a nurse at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics: Sports Medicine Clinic. Due to the recent announcement of UIHC enforcing phase one of their surge plan due to COVID-19, I have been reassigned to an inpatient unit in the main hospital to help with staffing for 6 weeks." Jenna is the daughter of alum Ron Pisarik 1975



■ THE BOREN BROTHERS

Volunteering on the Mount Vernon Fire Department is a family affair for the Boren brothers. Among them are the Boren brothers, from left, Sean Boren '07, Nick Boren '02, and Assistant Fire Chief Derek Boren '00. When not at the fire station, Derek is a senior consultant for Central Consulting Group, Nick is a Linn County secondary roads heavy equipment operator, and Sean is an electrician for Paulsen Electric. Their parents are Terry Boren '77 and Carol Woods-Boren '75.



■ THE MOUNT VERNON-LISBON FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Mount Vernon-Lisbon Fire Department has thirty members, eleven currently serving are Mount Vernon alums. Fellow alum Nathan Goodlove '99 is the Fire Chief. Pictured here from left to right are: Adam Dake '01, Jayden Casey '16, Jerod Lynch '00, Andy Pitlik '99, Bobby Studt '01, Nate Goodlove '99, and Derek Boren '00. Not Pictured: Sean Dietrich, Sean Boren '07, Nick Boren '02

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Are you an essential worker? Send us a picture and a description and we will put it in the next newsletter, alumni@mvcasd.org

HALL OF FAME

May 1, 2021 Deadline for Hall of Fame NOMINATIONS

– **DON'T DELAY** NOMINATE AN ALUM YOU THINK IS DESERVING OF A SERVICE, ACHIEVEMENT, FINE ARTS, COMMUNITY IMPACT OR ATHLETIC AWARD NOW!
form on page 14 or available at www.MVAlumni.org



2020 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME



The Hall of Fame display board at the High School is updated with this years recipients.

Below, biography boards for each recipient was on display at the high school on Homecoming Friday.



The Mount Vernon Community School District Alumni Association is pleased to announce the following alums have been selected as 2020 Alumni Hall of Fame recipients:

Achievement

Peter Kollman 1962 (d)

Fine Arts

Braden Pospisil Rood 1993

Athletic

Steve Andrew 1968 (d)

Service

Scot Christiansen 1978

Community Impact

Sonia Essex Redmond 1982

They have been recognized in publications and online during 2020, but they will wait to receive their awards during Homecoming weekend 2021. There were no virtual or in-person events during 2020 due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

Their gifts to our communities are priceless and we will enjoy honoring them in person in 2021.



MVHS seniors Keeann Kamerling and Lauren Ryan were named Mount Vernon's homecoming king and queen during coronation on Thursday, October 8. Lauren is the daughter of alum Dave Ryan '85.

Achievement Hall of Fame recipient Peter Kollman, class of 1962, was nominated by alums Richard 'Dick' Miner 1961 and 1962 classmate Michael 'Mike' Biderman.

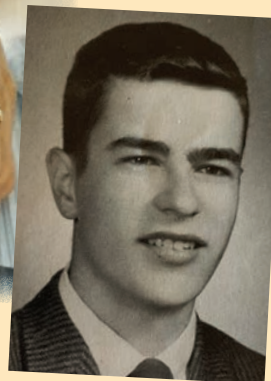
After graduation from MVHS, Peter graduated with high honors from Grinnell College. He earned both his Masters and Phd at Princeton University. He then spent a post-doctoral year at Cambridge University in England before beginning a career in research and teaching at the University of California, San Francisco, (UCSF).

Dick says "few of Peter's former schoolmates or family friends in Mount Vernon heard much of his many accomplishments because Peter was never one to 'toot his own horn.' Sadly, in May 2001 at the age of 56, Peter died of a fast-moving cancer. Ironically, much of Peter's biomedical research dealt with aspects of the very cancer that took his life. It was only at the memorial service at his home in San Francisco that I began to grasp the breadth and importance of the contributions he made. And even after the memorial service, it was not until I researched information about Peter that I began to fully understand his accomplishments."

To describe the character and accomplishments of Peter, Dick selected two eulogies written by highly respected professionals who knew Peter both professionally and personally. An excerpt from the eulogy by Dr. Fred E. Cohe, who at the time of Peter's death was his colleague at UCSF, is reprinted by permission from *Structure – Cell Press*, Volume 9, Issue 10, p 885-886, October 2001:

Although his career was foreshortened, his contributions to the application of quantum and molecular mechanics calculations to address important chemical and biological problems will live on in the students he trained and the AMBER suite of (computer) programs that he produced.

I came to know Peter Kollman during his first sabbatical. I had moved to Oxford for graduate school and Peter had come to immerse himself in structural biology. This was 1978, and the computer that we used was centralized and filled a very large room. Peter dashed off an early version of what would ultimately become AMBER. He went on to build an incredibly productive research and



training program. Through over 400 publications, Peter and his students and collaborators helped us to understand the behavior of water, alkanes, peptides, nucleic acids, proteins, and pharmaceuticals.

Perhaps he is best known for his scholarly contributions to the field of Free Energy Perturbation calculations. While several scientists understood that it would be easier to simulate the alchemical transformation of a hydrogen atom to a methyl group attached to a complex macromolecular system in two or more distinct conformations, Peter foresaw the power of this method to address important medicinal and biochemical problems. To paraphrase one of his colleagues, I knew that Free Energy Perturbation calculations were important and wrote two papers on this subject. Peter wrote fifty.

The second eulogy by Dr. Christopher I. Bayly, also a friend and colleague, appeared in the *Biophysical Journal*, Volume 81, October 2001. Excerpt reprinted by permission.

While his death leaves an empty space in the computational chemistry community, it also gives us the occasion to celebrate the now-completed opus of his life. From the standpoint of the fashionable "scientific statistics," his contribution was prodigious: over his 31-year career he was an author on more than 400 journal articles (more than one per month, on average), and more than 50 reviews and chapters,

and he was the 11th most-cited chemist between 1981 and 1997.

Over most of this time he was a Professor of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry at UCSF starting in 1971 and becoming full professor in 1980. His early work using quantum chemistry to examine hydrogen-bonding slowly evolved toward molecular mechanics methods, leading to the development in his laboratory of the AMBER suite of programs in 1981 and an associated general force field in 1984. He continued the development of the program, refusing to concede exclusive rights for its development commercially, so he could ensure its availability to the academic community.

He has since won the efforts of many collaborators, especially the major involvement of David Case at Scripps, in developing the program. It is today one of the most widely used academic packages for bio-molecular simulation, applied in over 1000 academic and industrial laboratories.

He was widely acknowledged by students, post-docs, and faculty alike as being universally encouraging to those with whom he was in any kind of supervising or mentoring capacity. With successes, Peter was always generous in his recognition and praise of those involved, both in public and private. A gregarious man, his booming voice and ready laughter attracted a crowd at any kind of professional or social meeting. His positive approach has had a lasting impact on those who passed through his laboratory, and serves for many as a model of scientific interaction.

Peter will be represented by his family, daughter Sarah Kollman Regnier, son Eli Kollman, and sisters Gerda Kollman Bennett 1959 and Miriam Kollman 1967. Gerda can be reached at 209 Blackwell Road, Pennington, NJ 08534, or gbennett225@gmail.com. Miriam can be reached at 209 Blackwell Road, Pennington, NJ 08534 or mayaimago@aol.com.



continued on next page



Fine Arts Hall of Fame recipient Braden Pospisil Rood, class of 1993, was nominated for this award by alum Kim Zangger Tucker 1994 and former MVHS teacher Donna Jacob.

Currently a resident of Mount Vernon, Braden is an alum that found herself in New York City exploring theatrical opportunities before settling back in Mount Vernon with her husband Jasper to raise her family which includes three sons, the oldest a 2021 graduate.

Not one to let the dust settle under her feet, she has become a popular mainstay on Mount Vernon stages and in the community with her drama and musical talents.

In high school Braden participated in speech four years, chorus four years, and theatre four years, including All-State speech and many other activities. Her most memorable production in high school was Fruma Sarah in Fiddler on the Roof or her All-State performance of Laughing Wild.

At the University of Northern Iowa, UNI, Braden was a member of 11 productions, including a main role as Lady Fancy in Sir Patient Fancy and Dora Strang in Equus and Mary Bland in Eating Raoul, and was a Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Semi-Finalist.

In New York City she was a member of many productions and founder of the theatre company, The Key Theatre. It was in New York during a production of A Real Kiss that she met her husband, Anton.

Since her return to Mount Vernon in 2002 she has been a board member of Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Theatre and has been involved in over 50 theatre productions for MVLCT, along with several at Theatre Cedar Rapids, Dreamwell and other companies within the Corridor.

The list of productions she has been a part of are pages long, but include roles from acting and dancing to set design, producer, and director.

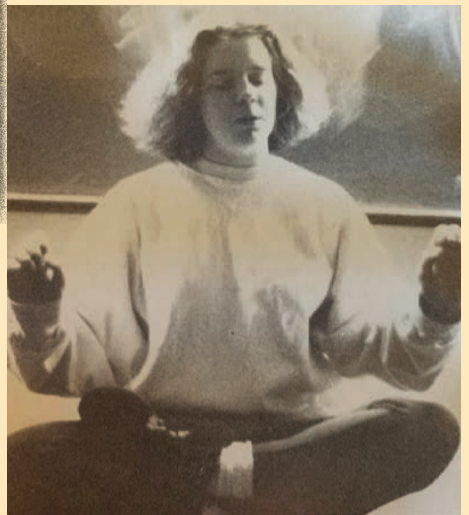
For the last five years Braden has been a member of the Balderdash Ditty band, along Kim Benesh (1985) and Dale Beeks. The group sings to children at local preschool and schools teaching music concepts and learning through music. She is also a member of Leah



Woosley and the Mother Chuckers and MV Uke Squad where she performs locally at events, small businesses and senior and community centers

A constant volunteer in the MV community, she is her class reunion coordinator, she has been a member of the MV Chili Cook-off committee, Chocolate Stroll Parade Coordinator, Chalk the Walk volunteer and artist, Hallmark volunteer, Main Street Iowa tour guide, worked with Sarah Sadie Busse 1990 (2019 Fine Arts Hall of Fame recipient) to bring her Quoya workshops to Iowa, works with Hands Up Communications to bring ASL (American Sign Language) to our MVLCT shows so the deaf community can enjoy live theatre, is digitizing MVLCT's photos from past productions and also works on the MVLCT's website.

Braden is a member of Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Theatre Board (President 9 years, Publicity 4 years) and a member of the A-Go-Gos. This group does fundraising for major fine arts projects and hosts an annual gala to honor those in the Mount Vernon-Lisbon area for their contribution to the arts. One of their events was the Frank Benesh (MV Alum '56) Memorial 24-hour Telethon which raised \$17,000 for air conditioning and renovations to the First Street Community Center Uptown Theatre. Another was the 'Save the Tapes' telethon which raised \$6,000



Above: In high school as a senior all-state qualifier, Braden rehearses her interpretation of psychotic woman in 'Laughing Wild'.

to restore over 30 years of video tapes recorded by Dean Traver.

Braden was a member of the 'Smithsonian Home Town Teams' Kick Off Fundraiser where she was on the Planning Committee, a choreographer and a performer, which raised \$3,000 for the exhibition in 2018 and until recently hosted 'Good Morning Mount Vernon-Lisbon', a weekly talk show about the AWESOMENESS of MV-L. Braden was named Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group Volunteer of the Year in 2017.

Braden can be reached at 101 Crestview Dr NE, Mount Vernon IA 52314 or roodbroad5@gmail.com



Service Hall of Fame recipient Dr. Scot Christiansen, class of 1978, was nominated for this award by former MVHS teacher Don Stine.

Currently a resident of Edgewood, Iowa, Scot is a family practice physician at the Edgewood Satellite Clinic. The clinic is part of the Regional Family Health in Manchester, Iowa. In addition, he is Medical Director for the Oelwein Healthcare Center, the Grandview Healthcare Center, the Regional Medical Center Inpatient care unit, and the RMC Wound clinic.



Above and beyond his daily job, Scot is a respected member of the Edgewood Community. Among his community service projects are past membership on the Edgewood Chamber of Commerce and the Ed-Co Community School Board. He has served as assistant director of the Ed-Co fall play for 13 years, sharing his talent and passion for quality dramatic productions. He currently serves as the medical director for the Edgewood Ambulance Service.

In addition, Scot has inherited a love of nature from his father, Dr. Paul Christiansen, a Biology professor emeritus from Cornell College. Scot has established over eight acres of native prairie on his farm, along with additional acres of native grasses and timber. He was recognized in 2013 as Clayton County Woodland Owner of the Year. His efforts to enhance their forest resource and improve wildlife habitat were recognized. Wood boards harvested from his timber have been donated to be used in the construction of both the Edgewood Medical Clinic and the Regional Family Health Clinic in Manchester.

Nominator Don Stine points out that Scot was named a Presidential Scholar in high school – the only one Mount Vernon has ever had. Academically Scot hit many milestones, including being selected as one of only 141 students nationwide for this award - one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. He was also a National Merit Finalist, representing the top one percent of seniors in the U.S. Scot was class valedictorian and earned the Iowa Bar



service

Citizenship Award.

In high school Scot was in band, chorus and swing choir – earning All-State honors his junior and senior year, and drama and speech – earning an Outstanding Rating for original oratory and Reader's Theatre. He was also a 3-sport athlete in football, basketball and track, placing 3rd at state in the mile medley his senior year.

After high school Scot graduated from the University of Iowa College of Medicine and the Wausau Family Practice Residency Program. During medical school Scot became a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Medical Society. He is currently a member of the American Academy of Family Practice, American Board of Family Practice, and frequent preceptor for University of Iowa medical students. He is a collaborating physician for the U of I IRENE Research Network. He has also served on the Clayton County Board of Health.

Most recently Scot has been faced with handling Covid-19 patients. Among them a rural Edgewood man who said "I can't say enough about what Dr. Christiansen did for me. He went the extra mile. He called to see how I was doing. That means a lot. I think he would do that for anyone." (source Manchester Press, May 6, 2020)

Scot can be reached at 34782 Littleport Road, Edgewood, IA 52042 or at scotjane@alpinecom.net



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Community Impact Hall of Fame recipient Sonia Essex Redmond, class of 1982, was nominated for this award by classmate Sheri Russell Kahl and former MVHS teacher Don Stine.

Currently a resident of Mount Vernon, Sonia says "I have had several role models when it comes to community involvement. Some of the biggest influencers were my grandparents and parents. I would also include several Mount Vernon School District teachers as role models – Dick Peters, Charles Halsey and Don Stine each have given of their time, talent, and treasure to our community, and their actions have inspired me in my volunteer endeavors."

After high school, Sonia attended Kirkwood Community College. She married Tom Redmond in 1984 and moved back to Mount Vernon in 1985. They have one daughter, Tasha Redmond Tatara '10.

Sonia has worked at Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Company for 33 years, where she is currently an Assistant Vice President. Sonia has organized or assisted with many bank-sponsored community events, such as the Kids' Safety Fair, Dick Peters History Lectures, Popcorn in the Park for the Mount Vernon Community Band Concerts, Magical Night, and the Community Shred Day. "The encouragement I receive from bank management and their willingness to adjust work schedules to accommodate volunteer efforts are just a few of the reasons I love working at Mount Vernon Bank & Trust," Sonia said.

In high school, Sonia participated in 4 years of choir, theatre, and band, along with many community concerts and performances. She was also selected to participate in the MVHS "Train Band," a show band that performed at several Iowa and Illinois locations during the summer.

The Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Theatre formed while Sonia was in High School, and she was cast in the chorus for the first 3 productions.

Sonia has been a member of St. John's Catholic Church for 35 years and has served, at various times, as a religious education teacher, Finance Committee member and chair, Parish Council and Parish Life committee member, choir member, and Parish Festival chair.



community impact

She was also a Girl Scout leader for seven years. "This was one of my favorite volunteer opportunities," Sonia said. "Watching the girls grow from kindergartners into amazing young adults has been incredible. I keep in touch with most of the young women and am excited at what they have achieved."

Sonia has been a member of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce/Mount Vernon Lisbon Community Development Group, CDG, for 33 years. During that time, she has been involved with a multitude of projects and events, including Heritage Days, Heritage Days Quilt Show which she initiated and chaired, and has volunteered for CDG festivals and events for over 20 years. In addition, Sonia has served on the following committees:

Treasurer and President of the Mount Vernon Lisbon CDG
 CDG Market Analysis Committee
 CDG's Open 4 Business Grant Coordinator for 6 years. This program has awarded 5 local businesses a total of \$71,000 for business improvements and growth.
 Main Street Grant Committee
 Hometown Holidays -Magical Night Committee: served several years as the Chair and several more as a member. She has coordinated and been involved with the free 'Pictures with Santa' for 29 years.
 CDG Business Improvement Committee for over ten years. Sonia chaired

the committee for 3 years and has assisted and coordinated community workshops and seminars to inform local business owners on current issues.

Sonia received Mount Vernon's 2016 Main Street Iowa's Leadership and Volunteer of the Year Award from Governor Kim Reynolds, and she has been recognized as the local CDG volunteer of the month twice.

In addition, she has been a member of the Mount Vernon Community Band for approximately 20 years where she plays alto saxophone and assists with public relations and roadie work. She also served 5 years on the Ushers Ferry Pioneer Village, located in Cedar Rapids, Railroad Day planning committee. She says "I was surprised at my first meeting to discover that my middle school math teacher, Daryl Ferreter, also served on the committee. It took me quite a while to be able to call him by his first name."

In Mount Vernon she has been on the Chapel View Manor Board of Directors for 6 years and is currently the board's president. She also served on the City of Mount Vernon Comprehensive Planning Committee for 2 years.

Sonia is a member of the National T.T.T Society, Chapter EW, was a booster of the Mount Vernon High School Band, and served on the Regional Grant Wood Area Advisory Board for the Family and Consumer Science Teachers in 2017.

Sonia can be reached at 200 4th St SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314 or at mvred3@aol.com

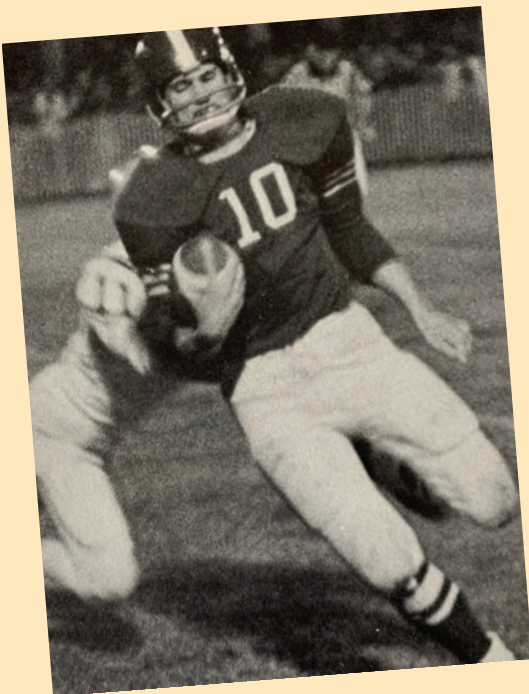


Athletic Hall of Fame recipient Steve Andrew, class of 1968, was nominated for this award by classmates Barb Thomsen Neal, Ken Pospisil, and Mike Smith.

A legend in many circles, Steve was not only known for his athletic achievements, but for his outstanding character. Nominator Barb Neal describes Steve as a 'four-sport athlete who received 15 varsity letters for his achievements (in high school). His softball career was exceptional, both as a player and later as a coach. He was the recipient of numerous accolades. He was simply an amazing, humble man, devoted to his faith and to his family. I can think of no athlete presently or in the past who is more deserving of this award.'

Following is Barb's nomination: "From a very early age, Steve showed signs of talent. He would gather his friends together for sandlot baseball games and then awe them with his ability to, not only hit a baseball, but to hit it over the fence. As summers ended and school started, pick up games of basketball or football soon began. The boys would gather after school and on weekends to play football in Steve's backyard or to shoot hoops in his neighbor's driveway.

Steve's football reputation began in junior high. He was instrumental in the undefeated success of his team, carrying the football often, but not scoring a touchdown until the final score of his junior high career. He broke the junior high record for



throwing the football. He set the record in 7th grade by throwing the ball 148'. He proceeded to break it the next year with a throw of 164'7".

Steve's ability to throw a football was a harbinger for his career as the quarterback for the Mount Vernon Mustangs. He was effectively leading the JV team to an undefeated season when the senior varsity quarterback suffered an injury. Steve was quickly added to the varsity roster as the quarterback for the last two games of the season. (From then on Steve ONLY played at the varsity level in all sports.) He received his numerals at the end of his freshman season. During high school Steve played quarterback and both offensive and defensive back. He earned All-Conference honors as a back his sophomore and junior seasons. As a senior he quarterbacked his team to an undefeated season for the first time in many years. He was awarded All-conference honors for both offensive and defensive back and All-State honorable mention as quarterback. Steve was a huge contributor to the Mustangs success. The team went from a 4-4 varsity record as freshmen to undefeated conference champions as seniors. He was a 3-year football letter winner.

Basketball season followed. Steve's ability to play guard was recognized by the coach immediately. As a freshman varsity player he ended the year with impressive statistics: highest free throw percentage at 68% and the most steals at 33. Coach Chet Wallace said "Steve was outstanding on defense" and expected him to be "a big man in Mount Vernon's future."

That prophecy proved to be true. He helped lead the team from a 5-9 losing conference record his freshman year to a 13-3 winning record as a senior. The Mustangs were conference champions in both 1967 and 1968. Steve received All-Conference honorable mention as a sophomore and junior. He was chosen for the All-Conference 2nd team as a senior. The team won the Eastern Iowa Hawkeye Conference title. It was the same year Mount Vernon High School won the conference Sportsmanship trophy. This honor was a reflection of the team, the student body, cheerleaders and audience. Coach Bob Landis said of Steve, "he (Andrew) is one of the best athletes Mount Vernon has had in a long time, being outstanding in football as well as basketball." Steve was a team leader and earned a varsity letter in basketball four years in a row.

Being an athlete meant Steve was going to participate in every sport possible. But Steve didn't just participate, he excelled. Track was his next accomplishment. At the end of Steve's junior year, Coach Gary White cited him as "the most improved runner of the '67 season". He had begun running the 880 race about half way through the season and managed to shave 10 seconds off his time. He set a new school record at districts in the 880 with a time of 2:02.9. This time qualified him for the State tournament where Steve placed 5th. The following year as a senior, Steve ran on the 440 and 880 relay teams. New school records were set in both. He qualified for the State tournament with the 440 relay team and individually in the 100-yard dash

continued on next page



2021 HALL OF FAME EVENT DATES

May 1 – DON'T DELAY

– Nominate an alum you think is deserving of a service, achievement, MV Community Impact, Fine Arts, or Athletic Hall of Fame award now!

Who can nominate?
ANYONE – you do not have to be an alum to nominate. Page 14.

Fall 2021 tba

Homecoming and Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony. We will be honoring both 2020 and 2021 recipients.

Watch for more information about events in the Spring 2021 Alumni News issue.

Steve Andrew, continued

with a time of 10.6 seconds. Steve gave 100% to his team, always willing to try new events. He was a very coachable athlete. Again he was a four-year varsity letter winner.

Even with all of his successes in football, basketball and track, his greatest love was baseball. From sandlot ball to Little League to high school baseball to fast pitch softball, playing ball was his passion. Steve's father, a renowned softball player, was a big influence, bestowing upon him the privilege of bat boy for his fast pitch team and always encouraging him along the way. Although baseball was considered a minor high school sport at the time, Steve made a major impact on the team. He played shortstop and relief pitcher. By the end of his freshman year Steve was considered a team leader, scoring 12 runs and 15 walks during the season. At the end of his sophomore year, Coach White said, "Probably the hardest working boy was Steve Andrew. He did his job well and kept the team fired up." Then as a junior, "pitching standout Andrew, also the team's leading man at the plate at .450 batting average suffered a badly cut knee and will probably be out for the remainder of the season. He will be bitterly missed," said Coach White. He was a four-year varsity letter winner and his contribution to the team was undeniable.

On paper Steve didn't always have the highest statistics. He was a four sport, outstanding athlete and he received 15 varsity letters, but the most frequent comments about Steve were regarding his consistency as a player. He was considered the heart and soul of the Mount Vernon Mustangs. He was a respected and loved team leader who would sweat his guts out at every event. He was every coach's dream player.

Steve's greatest success as a ball player surpassed high school. He became a highly recruited and amazing softball player. According to the Cedar Rapids Gazette headline, "Cancer claims 'Mr. Softball' on July 27, 2013, by J R Ogden, Steve was known as "Rookie" from his playing days. "He helped win national titles with Welty Way in 1971 and Teleconnect in 1987 and was a member of the 1980 national runner-up Midwest Galleries team. Andrew

played in six national tournaments, six world tournaments and three Olympic Festivals. A two-time Major league batting champ, he was one of the best third basemen in the country, winning All-World selection twice and All-American honors once."

Steve was a contributor to Welty Way's 2nd place finish in the World Tournament held in Manila, Philippines. He played on the Teleconnect fast-pitch softball team that won the 1987 International World Championship. The tournament successes go on and on. Steve's personal accomplishments included International Softball Championship World Tournament RBI leader, American Softball Championship (ASC) All American selection, ISC All World selection twice, CR major open batting champion 2 times, CR Softball Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Iowa Softball Hall of Fame in 1993. Steve and his dad are the ONLY father-son inductees to the Iowa Softball Hall of Fame.

According to Ralph Palmer, a former softball great, Steve "was beyond Cedar Rapids good. Steve was a man of principles in the way he spoke and the actions of how he lived. He was just a wonderful person."

Steve Andrew was FAR more than just an athlete. Throughout high school he had perfect attendance. Steve was on the student council. He was a class officer and was chosen by his classmates to be a homecoming escort. He was an exemplary student, consistently making the honor roll. His highest academic honor, and the one for which he was most proud, was his induction into the National Honor Society. He wore his gold graduation honor cords with pride."

Steve will be represented by his wife, Josie Andrew. She can be reached at 2180 David Ct NE, Cedar Rapids IA 52402, or josiea555@gmail.com.



HALL OF FAME HISTORY

2008

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS
Dr. James Croft '47	Jean Minish Stoner '37	Gary Knutsen '65	Marcia Russell '89

2015

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

2009

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

2016

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

2010

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT

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The Stompers: Bill Bauman '66, Steve Edwards '65, Bryan Harman '69, Greg Harman '65, and Randy Harman '68

2011

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

2017

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
Mark Hylbak '73	Janet Johnston McCannon '55	Matt Kroul '04	John Gaston '82	Becky Thumm Whitman '77 Kevin Whitman '78

2012

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

2018

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
Michael Bowers '87	Matthew Borg '90	Carol Woods-Boren '75	Dewane Hughes '88	Mike Smith '68

2013

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

2019

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
Lloyd Duffe '51	Michael Seiler '67	Richard Bowman '58	Sadie Busse '90 (Sarah Martin)	Richard Moore '52

2014

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
Lindsey Borg '83	Myrt Clark Bowers '57	Greg Randall '82	Paula Holcomb '72	Ann Koppenhaver '78

2020

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
Peter Kollman '62	Scot Christensen '78	Steve Andrew '68	Braden Pospisil Rood '93	Sonia Essex Redmond '82

MAIL BY MAY 1

How will we ever choose just five people out of the many deserving alums of Mount Vernon Schools? We'll let the Awards Committee sweat about that -- just get in your nominations!

Award winners will be announced in July and presented during Homecoming weekend, but please don't wait! We encourage you to fill out this nomination form and mail it in.

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

DEADLINE IS A MAY 1, 2021 POSTMARK -- GET YOURS IN THE MAIL NOW!

'The Spirit Lives On In You

ALUMNI AWARDS

All nominees must be an alumna of Mount Vernon High School at least 28 years of age.

NOTE: If you have already submitted a nomination, you do not need to resubmit, and your nominee will be considered for an award this year.

MVCSD Alumni Achievement Award

Given to alumni who have earned recognition for their achievements and contributions in their professional life.

Criteria:

- Demonstrates a high level of achievement in his/her field and makes significant contributions to that field.
- Exhibits high moral character.

MVCSD Alumni Service Award

Given to alumni for specific and meritorious service to the MVCSD Alumni Association, or any other not-for-profit organization.

Criteria:

- Service must be for a not-for-profit organization in a non-compensated capacity.
- Exhibits high moral character.

MVCSD Community Impact Hall of Fame

Awarded to alumni who should be rewarded for their service impact on the Mount Vernon Community.

Criteria:

- Significant service contributions either while in school and/or post-high-school to the Mount Vernon Community.
- Service may be for any purpose.
- Service may be in a non-compensated or a compensated capacity.

Other considerations:

- Outstanding character and leadership.
- Exhibits high moral character.

MVCSD Fine Arts Hall of Fame

Awarded to alumni with exceptional accomplishment in the fine arts while attending Mount Vernon High School.

Criteria:

- Significant contributions in his/her fine arts area.
- Conference honors and/or all-state recognition, or equivalent.
- Superior ratings earned in competition.
- Major roles in theater productions, solos, etc.

Other considerations:

- Outstanding character and leadership.
- Successful participation in college and/or post-college.
- Major roles in theater productions, solos, etc. after high school.
- College scholarships in the fine arts disciplines.

MVCSD Athletic Hall of Fame

Awarded to alumni with exceptional accomplishment in athletics while attending Mount Vernon High School. Criteria:

- Statistical records and/or awards received.
- All-conference all-state and/or state championships earned.

Other considerations:

- Outstanding character and leadership.
- Successful participation in college and/or professional athletics.

2021 MOUNT VERNON ALUMNI AWARDS NOMINATION FORM



Name of person I would like considered for an award(s): _____

His/Her address (if known) _____

His/Her phone (if known) _____

Select Desired MVCSD Alumni Award(s):

- Achievement Service Mount Vernon Community Impact (service) Fine Arts Athletics

Description of Qualifications (Attach additional pages as necessary): (Note: a questionnaire will be sent to your nominee)

Name of Person Submitting the Nomination: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Telephone (_____) _____ Home Telephone (_____) _____

Email _____

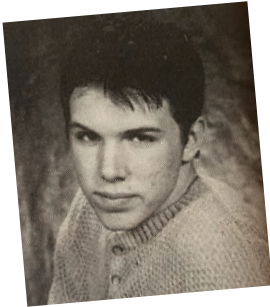
All awards will be granted based on nominations, which can be submitted by mail using this form, or online at www.mvalumni.org. Nominations will be reviewed and selected by the Awards Committee, and approved by the Alumni Association Board. Nominations are held. Questions - 319-389-8602 Kathy, or alumni@mvczd.org

Send this form postmarked by May 1 to: Alumni Association, 525 Palisades Rd SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314.

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

Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ JEREMY STOLL 1999



What have you been doing since you left Mount Vernon High School? I graduated from Dana College in 2006 and have been teaching and working in local theatre. I taught at a behavioral health center and middle school before working for the state teacher's union as a political organizer and earning my Master's in Educational Administration in 2010. I began teaching theatre at Westside High School in Omaha in 2012. My wife Erin and I married in 2007 and we have two daughters, Eliza (9) and Charlotte (7). Erin is the Director of Development at Special Olympics Nebraska, and runs a successful Instagram stylist/consultant business called StyleThief. We love to travel together, and were (until recently) teaching our daughters to be open-minded and curious travelers too.

After completing my thesis, an original play *Little Wars*, at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2019, I graduated with a Master's of Arts in Theatre with a Directing focus from the University of Nebraska Omaha in 2020. I've been presenting and running workshops on the benefits of using devised theatre for drama therapy and social-emotional development. I'm also teaching theatre and directing productions at Westside High School and the Omaha Jewish Community Center.

What do you do now? I still teach theatre, and I direct and act locally and serve as the resident director at the Jewish Community Center. I mountain bike, rock-climb, and try to stay active outdoors as much as possible. Last year, we were living in a suburb where we didn't know many people and the girls didn't have friends. In November, we moved into a small neighborhood in the city where our girls go to school. I cherish the memories of growing up in Mount Vernon; the close-knit community, familiar neighbors, and ability to walk to everything. When COVID-19 hit in March, we were among close friends and neighbors, and our girls spent the summer riding bikes through the streets and running around the neighborhood, just like I did in Mount Vernon as a kid.

An accomplishment you are proud of? In 2018, I went to London to study with UK-based theatre company Frantic Assembly. I took that training back to Omaha and used it to create an original company play entitled *Little Wars*, at the University of Nebraska Omaha. We traveled to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland to perform in August of 2019. In the U.S., *Little Wars* was performed at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and I was awarded Best Original Play and Outstanding Director of an Original Work. I now run workshops and present on how the process of creating original theatre can be used for drama-therapy and socio-emotional development.

A favorite memory or two of your time at Mount Vernon Schools -- or of a favorite teacher perhaps? I always appreciated the intellectual stimulation of World History class and conversations with Mr. Alnot. Mrs. Michaud made me the writer that I am today, and I learned from her that demanding excellence from your students is a form of appreciation. Mrs. Ellison was a passionate teacher and taught me that students need to see your human side if they're going to listen to you. Mr. Thompson taught me that

leading by example is really the only kind of leadership, doing every single workout with us in 8th grade football (and faster than any of us could do them). I'm grateful for my memories of growing up in Mount Vernon, and the stories I have from that part of my life. My daughters like to poke fun at how excited I get when we come back for a visit.

Jeremy can be reached at
stoll.jeremy@westside66.net.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As I have been reading all the great tributes to Mr. Bellamy, I have been thinking about some of the great teachers and people I have had in my life who are no longer here. The thought that keeps coming back to me is the dismay that we wait until those people are gone to share the impact they have had on our lives. Why don't we tell them while they are here? So, I encourage you to think about the people who have made a difference, large or small, in your life and write them a note telling them the difference they have made. Let them know now, while they are still here, instead of waiting until it's too late. If you don't know how to get ahold of them I am sure the alumni office (alumni@mvcisd.org) can help your note get into the right hands!

Gail Halsey Bertram '94
Oshkosh, WI

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

Enjoy 'MUSTANG VISION' Mount Vernon's home of high school sports and fine arts broadcasts. Free, live, play-by-play of Mustang athletics and fine arts!

Find it online at GoMVStangs.org.



Mustangs...what are they doing now?

THE KROUL FAMILY



photo by Lori Boren/Carol Woods-Boren '75

Adam Flockhart '96, Kaylene Kroul, John Kroul '77, Elizabeth 'Lizzy' Wolfe Kroul '43, Matt Kroul '04, Mitch Jilovec '13, Kyle Jilovec '13



Graduation pictures for Adam, John, Matt, Mitch, and Kyle

Editors note: following is an excerpt from an article by Billie Selby, Linn Newsletter, that appeared in the the 2020 MVL Sun 'Your Family' Summer Supplement issue, 'Family balances farming-past and farming-future.' Matt is a 2017 MV Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame recipient.

You know the field of pumpkins. Driving south of Mount Vernon towards Solon in September or October, a field of orange greets drivers as they roll down Hwy. 1, a sure sign that if fall isn't here yet, it soon will be. While fall may be the season most traditionally associated with Kroul Farms, the corn mazes and pumpkin patch are just a small portion of what this family-run farm produces over the course of a year. While maintaining the practices that have helped the farm grow, the Krouls have expanded into some unexpected areas to diversify in the face of an ever-changing agricultural landscape.

On a given day one may find four generations of Krouls on the farm. Grandma Elizabeth "Lizzy" Kroul may be on site helping out in the shop or making lunch for the crew. Son John and his wife Kaylene might be found out in the gardens or helping with the cows— when Kaylene isn't busy working at the post office. Their sons Matt and Adam might be helping load Beck's Seed from the warehouse or planting those famous pumpkins. Their cousin Kyle may be on site readying a delivery of vegetables



photo by Billie Selby, Linn Newsletter

to one of the Krouls 130+ local home-delivery customers. Matt's wife Nicole might be working on the farm's new e-commerce website after working at her communications job in Iowa City and their kids Leighton, Brady, and Jacie are likely somewhere with dad or playing with the chickens and rabbits.

The farm has been in the Kroul family since 1946 when Lizzy and husband Howard began traditional crop and livestock farming. In the 1980s, John and Kaylene took over the farm operations and expanded from row and livestock farming into pumpkins, flowers, and produce at a time that found many of America's farmers struggling. This mindset of finding a niche and pursuing it to its natural end has served the farm well and allowed the farm to expand, both in size and in complexity. The Krouls still do traditional row crop farming and raise cattle but have begun to meet old-school farm issues head-on with more modern solutions.

In 2012, Matt Kroul had finished a stellar football career for the University of Iowa and had spent some time in the NFL playing for the New York Jets. He and wife Nicole took on a more active role in the family farm when his dream of a career in the pros came to an end. These days it isn't 300-pound linemen that keep Matt awake at night, but how to maintain and expand a working farm in a climate that is harder and harder for small operations.

"My dad and mom started with flowers and that turned into the pumpkins and tomatoes. That commitment to diversity has allowed the farm to survive and expand," said Matt.

Join Us At Heritage Days 2021

Best time all year to see many people you know at our traditional Alumni-Community breakfast or uptown at our Reception area and Heritage Days events. Events art still being planned, so watch for updates.

JULY 8, 9, 10

The farm has moved into wholesale sales of pumpkins and firewood bundles. They supply supermarkets in the Iowa City and Cedar Rapids areas and are expanding their reach each year. The farm also provides vegetables and firewood for several local restaurants.

A major focus has been expanding their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program which expanded to 135 accounts this year with the assistance of neighbor Lori Moss (teacher at MV Middle School) and family. The program involves customers making an initial investment at the beginning of the growing season and getting fresh produce delivered to their doors for 17 weeks for people living within a 20-mile range of the farm.

The Krouls have been pushing towards e-commerce for some time but that avenue was pushed to the forefront this year with coronavirus causing a disruption to how people are leading their lives. With more people cooking at home and some being hesitant to go out into crowds, being able to buy produce, flowers and even mulch via the Kroul's website has been a boon this year.

"Nicole has a communications background and she has been pushing us on the social media, on the website. If we hadn't gone all in, spring would have been a lot different," said Matt, noting that they are quick to utilize Facebook as well as an online blog to help make people aware of the products that they have available.

In the future, the hope is to expand into direct-marketing beef in addition to produce and flowers, offering an additional food source for their valued customers. Expanding their beef production, just like everything else that Kroul Farms does is likely to be outside of the box, if history is any indication. In the meantime, the past and future are of secondary importance to the present. There are flowers to be planted, firewood to be chopped, and cows to feed. This is, above all, a working farm, and that field of pumpkins won't plant itself.

Find Kroul Farms on Facebook and on the web at Kroulfarms.com. Matt can be reached at mdkroul@gmail.com.



■ GRANT FREEMAN 2006



Editors note: following is an excerpt from an article by Margaret Stevens from the July 9, 2020 issue of the MVL Sun, www.mvlsun.com.

Grant Freeman has been making a life in theater for years – working as a director and dramaturg on hundreds of productions over the past decade. He said he's found his purpose, although it wasn't exactly his plan when he graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 2006.

Freeman was going to be a famous actor when he headed to the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash. It started well; he got a role following his first tryout. And that was it; he was never cast again.

Grant explained that another student enrolled, similar physically, but was a more talented actor. He bears no ill will – that actor is one of Freeman's closest friends. And it was by being sidelined from the stage that Freeman found where he was supposed to be.

Directing, he said, is everything he wants. His creative expression is in rehearsals. Actors it is in performances.

He finished at Tacoma directing Neil LaBute's "The Shape of Things," which explores the question of what do you have to be a truly great artist. Freeman said directing the show was a dream.

After graduating from Puget Sound, Freeman worked in politics for awhile with Arizona representative Gabby Giffords. Then he went on to Virginia Commonwealth for an MFA, studying theater pedagogy and dramaturgy. Freeman returned to Mount Vernon

about five years ago, working steadily throughout. Before the coronavirus hit, he'd been in rehearsals without a break for about two years straight.

Most of that work has been here and in the Iowa City area. One project has been at a distance though, working with the Conciliation Project, which writes ritually based shows involving people of color.

Freeman started his own company, Open Arenas. He's worked with small start ups and established theaters. He's been a director, dramaturg, lighting designer. "If they say they need my help, I'll do it," Freeman said. "Work makes me happy."

He's been involved in more than 175 projects, including scores for local speech teams. He's most proud of his work with high school speech teams; he loves working with students, high school, middle school, college. "I've done a lot of shows, but nothing compares to being a speech coach. It is my greatest accomplishment professionally."

It's also where he is focusing his future endeavors. Freeman is headed to the University of Iowa in the fall aiming to become a school counselor, to work in education and in school theater and speech programs. Freeman feels fortunate that he's found his purpose. "Creating art is the most expressive part of my soul. It sounds corny, but that's who I am."

Grant can be reached at gfreeman@mvcsd.org





Photo: source Iowa Public Radio



■ CLINT HENIK 2008



Editors Note: Clint Henik '08 has been making quite a name for himself with his amazing wood carvings. Following are some pictures and news articles about his blossoming career. His website says "Clint Henik has always loved carvings and started making his own in 2015. He founded this business to share his passion with others and to provide one-of-a-kind artwork."

Listen to Clint in his September 2020 Iowa Public Radio 'Talk of Iowa' interview at: <https://www.iowapublicradio.org/show/talk-of-iowa/2020-09-30/sculpting-damaged-trees-into-art>



(The following article is an excerpt from DiscoverMuscatine.com, June 2020)

WILTON, Iowa—Six years ago on a snowmobiling trip up north, Clint Henik first became interested in chainsaw art. Seeing beautifully carved bears and log furniture he looked to purchase some for himself, but quickly found that each piece came with a hefty price tag. Still looking to spruce up his place he recalls, "I took a chain saw from around the farm, and the rest is history."

Through a lot of what Henik describes as, "trial and error," he learned the techniques for carving with a chainsaw and perfected his craft. By traveling to a number of chainsaw art competitions, Henik also had opportunities to get, "a hold of a couple of Iowa carvers and got them to teach me a thing or two."

For three years, Henik carved as a side job, creating many bears, eagles, and name logs for impressed customers along with a variety of other bespoke orders. Henik found great joy in his work. "The options are endless what you can make out of wood," he said. "It's all hand done—you can't go to the store and buy anything like this, especially the custom work people want done."

Encouraged by all the orders he received, Henik started carving full time in 2017. Since then, his business, Carverway in Mount Vernon, has

remained incredibly popular. Since first opening his shop, Henik has created many pieces for local Iowa residents, including those in Muscatine County.

Along with carving smaller pieces for people's houses and yards, Henik also does the occasional larger tree stump carving. A few weeks ago, he received a request from a family in Wilton to covert a dead tree on their property into a work of art. Henik elaborated that they requested a flower scene and, "they had some specific flowers in mind."

Using the guidance they gave him, Henik created a rough draft for approval, before transforming the large stump into a floral masterpiece.

Since its creation, Henik's flower scene stump has received a lot of positive attention. Many Wilton residents and those passing it on the highway have remarked on its high quality and expressed interest in learning about who did it. Henik himself feels, "really good," about it.

Clint says "Mr. Stone was an influence on me in high school. I enjoyed all the 'hands'on' work we did in his class." You can reach Clint at carverway@gmail.com or visit his website at carverway.com





MULTI-ACTIVITIES COMPLEX COMING TO MOUNT VERNON

In November, Superintendent Dr. Greg Batenhorst, Activities Director Matt Thede, Foundation Director Ben Brannaman and Hall & Hall Engineer Loren Hoffman presented information in a virtual meeting about an exciting project for MV Schools. We are thrilled to launch the fundraising efforts for a multi-activities complex on the district campus.

The proposed project will be located north of the high school and will include the following:

- 1 An eight-lane track and competition space for field events
- 2 A turf field for football, soccer, marching band, and physical education classes
- 3 Seating for approximately 1500 spectators, a concession/restroom building, and a possible team room building

The project is estimated to cost approximately \$4 million, and will be funded through a combination of district funding and private donations. Completion of the project is tentatively scheduled for August of 2023 - just in time for our current 6th graders, the Class of 2027, to begin their high school journey. Our goal with fundraising is to close the funding gap and do all that we can to offset the district's investment in the project, allowing those funds to be directed to other worthwhile school initiatives. Fundraising efforts will continue through completion of the facility, and multi-year commitments are allowed.

We are pleased to announce that we have secured roughly \$700,000 in gifts and commitments thus far. We are excited for this facility to serve our kids and community, and we look forward to working with our Mount Vernon community near and far to help make it a reality. More information about the initiative will be distributed in the new year. In the meantime, please get in touch with Foundation Director Ben Brannaman if you're interested in learning more about supporting this exciting project for MV Schools. Ben can be reached at mobile 319-693-9520 or by email at bbrannaman@mvcvsd.org.

If you would like to make a gift today, you can do so online at www.mvcvsd.org/give (select ACTIVITIES COMPLEX DONATIONS) or by mail with checks made payable to MVCSD Foundation and mailed to 525 Palisades Rd SW, Mt Vernon, IA 52314

*activities complex in the memo line.



Robyn Ireland | Staff photographer

Henik Iowa big

Local artists, including Mount Vernon's Clint Henik, began transforming a derecho debris into sculpture in a project called Splinters, organized by Iowa BIG students. Henik began his work with chainsaws in Marion Square Park this past weekend, carving Iowa BIG's logo as one of his sculptures. Henik started a full time carving business called Carve R Way in 2017. After the derecho plowed through Iowa on Aug. 10, Henik decided to make beauty out of destruction as much as he could.

Iowa Big is an experiential learning program for high school students in the Cedar Rapids area. Henrik not only carved a special surprise for the Iowa BIG team, but also painted it grass green and black, the organization's colors.

Source: mvlsun.com





Alumni News...

Send us your information...

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

MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

Jenna Brannaman '16 to Clint Kannegieter, September 19, 2020. The couple reside in Solon, IA

Jake Weiland '15 to Abigail Ehresman on July 10, 2020. The couple reside in Lexington, MA

Josh Cannon '14 to Allie Faivre, September 19, 2020. The couple reside in Dyersville, IA

Miranda Roudabush '13 to Brady Moore on November 13, 2020 in Port Hueneme California. BU2 Roudabush and CM2 Moore are both active duty Sailors in the United States Navy.

Elijah Dahlstrom '12 to Rachael Claire Meehan on June 13, 2020. The couple reside in Columbia, MO.

Sarah Ryan '11 to Gabriel Eyde on August 14, 2020. The couple reside in Media, PA.

Sara Kruger '08 to Jonathan Nuckolls, June 20, 2020. The couple reside in Greer, SC

Chelsea Dowdell '06 to Andrew May on May 9th, 2020. The couple reside in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Danielle O'Connor '05 to Jacob Kirkpatrick on Sept. 5, 2020. The couple reside in Mount Vernon.

Sandy Zehms '88 to Brian Tracy on October 10, 2020. The couple reside in Wyoming, IA

ANNIVERSARIES

Larry Ringer '55 and Jean of College Station, TX, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on November 26, 2020.

Shirley Andrews Sparks '59 and **David Sparks '58** of Ankeny, IA, celebrated their 60th anniversary on September 24, 2020.

Leo Gerst, former math teacher, principal and coach, and his wife Lois of Mesa, AZ, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Dec 24, 2020.

BIRTHS

Kristin Kimm Dvorsky '09 and Brian of Sun Prairie, WI, a daughter, Elizabeth Flavia on December 2nd

Kaiden Kuntz '08 and Allison of North Liberty, IA, a son, Greyson Lee, June 5, 2020. Grandparents are Joy Koehn Kuntz '76 and Ivan Kuntz '76 (d).

Jesse Rodman Lerch '06 and Zach of Cedar Rapids, IA, a daughter Quinn Chistine

Lerch on October 26, 2020. Her grandfather is alum Mark Rodman '82 and great grandmother is Annamae Stoneking Baker '60

Kyle Kuntz '02 and Taryan of Springville, a daughter, Winnie Bonet, September 22, 2019. Grandparents are Joy Koehn Kuntz '76 and Ivan Kuntz '76 (d).

Kacey Kuntz Schmit '00 and Andy of Mount Vernon, a son, Tatum Rayne, March 17, 2020. Grandparents are Joy Koehn Kuntz '76 and Ivan Kuntz '76 (d)

Alison Happel-Parkins '99 and Franz of Memphis, TN, a son, Kojo, May 11, 2020.

Nick Rose '98 and Michaelann of New York, a daughter Wilhelmina 'Minna' McAllister on May 6, 2020. She was born in Grand Rapids, MI.

EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

Karly Connolly '20 was named a National Merit University of Iowa Scholar for 2020. She is attending the University of Iowa this fall and plans to study dentistry.



Connolly is one of more than 3,300 announced winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities.

Caden Eskelsen '19 was one of 1,459 student-athletes named to the 2019-20 Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) 2019-20 All-Academic team. Eskelsen is a first-year student at Southern Virginia University and is a member of the cross country and track teams. He is the son of Crystal Cardon Eskelson '93.

Delaney Dicus '16 graduated from Clarke University in Dubuque during the spring 2020 semester with a bachelor of science degree with cum laude honors in biology and chemistry.

Jake Weiland '15 earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree from the University of Iowa Spring 2019. He received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Air Force and is currently in Acquisitions at Hanscom AFB, MA.

Joshua Cannon '14 earned a bachelor of science in industrial technology management from University of Wisconsin-Platteville during the spring 2020 semester.

Elijah Dahlstrom '12 earned his Doctor of Medicine from Carver College of Medicine in 2020. He is currently doing his residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Missouri Health Hospitals & Clinics – Columbia.

In Memory of classmates we have lost

John 'Hank' Davis 1945 (Martelle)

Sept 25, 2020 Sterling, IL

Betty Kleineck Johnson 1941 (Martelle)

Oct 7, 2020 Mount Vernon, IA

Georgia Stadler Schilling 1951

October 10, 2020 Cedar Rapids, IA

Richard Steiner 1954

June 26, 2020 Kingwood, TX

Helen Sproston Schneider 1958

Sept 15, 2020 Center Point, IA

Jean Plank Stinehour 1960

Nov 6, 2020 Littleton, NH

Bruce Rhoads 1961

Dec. 5, 2020 Cedar Rapids, IA

Dave Studt 1961

July 19, 2020 Mount Vernon, IA

Jo Ann Kroul Clark 1964

Oct 17 2020 Mount Vernon, IA

Jinda Colehour Ohman 1965

October 9, 2020 Mount Vernon, IA

William Lighthall 1966

Dec 4, 2020 Lisbon, IA

John "Darrel" Studer 1966

January 1, 2021 Iowa City, IA

Gary Clark 1972

Dec 17, 2020 Mount Vernon, IA

Randy Rundle 1974

Nov 23, 2020 Mount Vernon, IA

Kristina Gugler 1987

August 25, 2020 Mount Vernon, IA

- FRIENDS -

Ronald Frantz - former HS Teacher

Nov 29, 2020 Mount Vernon, IA

James Bellamy - former HS Teacher & Coach

Dec 14, 2020 Mount Vernon IA

Merritt Ewalt - former MS Teacher

September 22, 2020 Storm Lake, IA

Jim Lundquist - former MS Teacher & Coach

September 13, 2020 Eldridge, IA

Judy Stine - former MS Teacher

January 8, 2021 Mount Vernon, IA

(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.)

Sarah Ryan Eyde '11 earned a PhD in Biostatistics from the University of Colorado during the summer of 2020. She now works as an Instructor at the University of Pennsylvania in the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics.

Trenay Allen Hart '87 recently completed her 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training Certification through Yoga Motion Studio in Bozeman, MT. She is a registered yoga teacher with Yoga Alliance and offers private yoga sessions to clients and teaches her co-workers. Trenay also offers her new skill set to her long time neurospine patients at her office in Billings, MT.

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

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Supporting Mount Vernon Schools since 1884

AND MORE...

Bob Wolfe '48 of Mount Vernon celebrated his 90th birthday Nov 16, 2020

Maggie Lessmeier Willems '96, head coach of the Mount Vernon Mustang Volleyball team, took her team to a Class #A 2nd place state final win.

Katherine Pizarik Dix '72 retired from Mount Vernon Bank and Trust after 21 years as a teller.

Chris Chapman '16 is now teaching at Mount Vernon Middle School.

Karen Jilovec Martin '57 earned the 2020 title of Women's Club Champion at the July 26th tournament at Kernoustie Country Club in Mount Vernon. Martin goes down in the record books with the most championship wins at 24, surpassing long-time favorite **Betty Pospisil Wolfe '45**.

Gabe Haugland '00 of Clear Lake, IA, retired with the rank of Major from the United States Army in October 2020 after 16 plus years of service.



Maggie Dale '18 was named 2020 Cedar County Saddle Club Club Queen in June.



Tristan Wirfs '17 was ranked #3 Rookie at midseason of the NFL.

Kelly Rhone '04, a resident of Los Angeles, CA, wrote in to update us on several happenings in her life: "I recently started a new job as the social media manager for Perennial Press, a small collaborative publisher that's committed to highlighting & uplifting voices & perspectives that've traditionally been underrepresented in lit, specifically women and people of color. <https://www.perennial-press.com/> My band, Honeypot, is working on finishing 4 new tracks with

Grammy-winning producer/sound engineer Bill Mims. We released our debut EP, "Phrasing", in 2018 (also produced/engineered by Bill Mims) - it's available for purchase on our website, <https://www.honeypottheband.com/>, or you can stream it on Spotify! (I'm the lead singer + songwriter.) We also did a live performance from our living room in May as part of a virtual fundraiser called 'Stream What Ya Mama Gave Ya,' which raised money for Covid-19 Artist Relief: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDmoE1SBfIA>

I wrote a short play called "Die Hard Is A Christmas Movie" for Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Theatre's education director, Grant Freeman '06. Grant is directing it as part of a virtual theatre performance, starring Denver Crawford and Trey Tetreault. I previously wrote another short play earlier this year called "Fight With What You Got" to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of MVLCT - this was also directed by Grant and starred Denver and Trey: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pM0JKrUcGaE> ("Fight" starts at 28:46)

I directed my first film project in March (which I also had a small role in), a trailer for an upcoming series called "Savage." It's a coming of age story about Nico Savage, a young Black man who's forced to cultivate self-love and find his tribe after contracting HIV: <https://www.instagram.com/savage.theseries/>

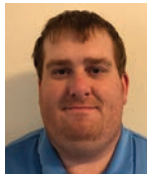
Trina Russell Allen '84 has been promoted to Vice President of Human Resources for Monument Health, western South Dakota's largest employer. Trina will



lead a division that meets the human resource needs of approximately 5,000 physicians and caregivers at five hospitals and more than 30 clinics and specialty centers across the region. The Human Resources team administers services such as compensation, benefits, employee health and wellbeing, recruitment, talent development, workforce diversity, spiritual care and the Children's Center. Trina has worked as a Human Resources professional in Rapid City for over 20 years. Over the past five years she has successfully grown in her responsibilities becoming a Manager, Director and now Vice President. She holds a Master of Science degree in Higher Education from Iowa State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations and Communications from the University of Northern Iowa. She is certified as a Senior Certified Professional by the Society for Human Resource Management and certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources by the Human Resource Certification Institute.

Paul Fugate '09, received the

Lions Club International Presidents Leadership award in October. This is the third highest award from Lions International. Shown above Paul is receiving the Presidential Leadership Medal. Paul started a facebook and podcast page for his Lion's club activities at <https://www.facebook.com/roarwithpaul/> In addition, Paul is a coach and teacher at Mount Vernon schools, and an organizer of the Mustangcast and the new Mustangvision.





Dale Merrill '92, who owns Liberty Ironworks in Mount Vernon, was commissioned by the League of Women Voters of Linn County in 2019 to create a sculptural art piece as a gift to the City of Cedar Rapids, and to commemorate the League's 100th birthday.



Shown above is the statue being presented by the League this fall. The 17-foot tall statue, titled Forge-Stands-Rises, meant to acknowledge the League's past, present and future. It is located near the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art in downtown Cedar Rapids.



This beautiful tree was gifted to the school district by the **Class of 1978** as their class gift, in honor of their classmate **Mark Graber**. As part of the renovation of the softball complex used by the District and Cornell College, the now 42-year old tree was removed in November for construction project. As a result, Superintendent Batenhorst is having the wood from the tree built into a bench in Mark's honor. The district is taking saplings from the original tree to replant them to produce new tree growth elsewhere on the school grounds. The original plaque will either be left in place near the new bench, or will be presented to the family. In addition, Dr. Batenhorst will present Mark's family with a framed picture of the tree taken above.

Jeremy Elliott '89, who has been a baseball coach for 25 years at Mount Vernon, 19 as head coach, announced his resignation in November. A BIG thank you and congratulations to Jeremy for his outstanding coaching career. Jeremy can be reached at mve Elliott@netzero.net. Following is a small portion of his thank you published in the MVL Sun:



"As Thanksgiving approached, I have been reflecting on my baseball coaching career at MVHS and the many people that I am truly thankful for in helping me create an extremely enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Thank you to all the school administrators, school board members, bus drivers and fellow coaches at MVHS... the many volunteers that made up the Booster Club...the officials...the parents...the assistant coaches, 23 of them...all the players that I have gotten to know. There's nothing like the bond you create with a group of people that you share emotions with. We laughed, cried, celebrated, cussed, and were grateful for getting to play the greatest game on the planet.

Special thanks to Jeff Schwiebert for hiring his ornery, immature, high school catcher as an assistant in 1995 and succeed him as the varsity coach in 2002. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

I appreciate each and every one of you and hope that I can show my gratitude as we see each other around town and hopefully tell a few stories of the days gone by on the diamond. Thanks again everyone."



Photos by Margaret Stevens and information mvlsun.com

Former Mount Vernon instructors Don and Judy Stine were honored by the Eastern Iowa Brass Band, EIBB, on September 3rd. The band performed an outdoor concert for their founders who sat on their porch and enjoyed the music. They heard the world premier of 'March - Oprichter Stine' composed by Marcus Venables, commissioned by the EIBB and dedicated to the Stines. Oprichter Stine is Dutch for founder Stine. (Source mvlsun.com)



Jim Moore '78 of Sykesville, MD, earned his club's Melvin Jones Fellow award in October, 2020. Given by the Freedom District Lions Club, the award is the highest level of recognition for community service awarded by the international service organization. Jim joined the FDLC in 2012 and has been a very active member. He introduced a new fund raiser to the club in 2013 - an annual golf tournament and has chaired the successful event every year. At the beginning of the pandemic, with the

help of a local business owned by another Lion, he organized the production and distribution of 1,283 face shields to local medical facilities, nursing homes, and care facilities. He also coordinated the club's pop-up food pantry that was open every Sunday from May 31 thru October 18. The free food distribution has helped between 45 and 60 families every week during the covid-19 pandemic. He also was the club's president during the past year. The Melvin Jones Fellow is named after the founder of Lions Clubs International. Pictured with daughter Molly and his wife Jill.



photo source Margaret Stevens

Editor's note: excerpt from the August 27 issue of the MVL Sun Mount Vernon, along with a wide swath that blew through the midwest, was hit on August 10 by a derecho storm with winds of more than 100 miles per hour. The city had clean-up to do in every quadrant of the town. The 100 mile per hour gusts and sustained winds leveled trees, downed tree branches and brought down power lines. Power went out and the town and surrounding community were without power, some for a few days, others for weeks. Linn County was named a national federal disaster zone.

In the picture above, home-owner Susan Maurice who is a Mount Vernon middle school science teacher, had a tree topple on their house. Their home was built by Reuben Ash — of Ash Park fame — and among the first homes in the community. The tree that hit their home was also historic at about 175 years old. The tree had to be removed by a 100-ft crane. As a result, Susan plans for her students to have a hands-on lesson in urban forestry. "We'll earn a little about trees, tree identification," she said. "Then do a survey of land, growth patterns, growth rates and try to do a comprehensive plan for the school district to do plantings. Specifically, trees that are native to Iowa." Maurice had known about derechos, but expects her classes will talk a lot about weather systems.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig said nearly 10 million acres of corn crops were flattened. Palisades Park is expected to be closed until the spring of 2021.



by Amy Weber, photos from Amy Weber and Amanda Rhomberg

August 10, 2020 made history when a devastating derecho slammed into Mount Vernon. As clean up began, one soon-to-be sixth grader, Tommy Rhomberg from the future Mustang class of 2027, decided to use some of the downed tree limbs from his yard to make a bat for his friend Walker, for his birthday. He hand whittled the bat from a super straight branch he found. As any proud parent would do, his mom Amanda posted it on Facebook for friends and family to see. A friend then asked her to make the post public. She did, and the post went viral on social media, and made local and national news, including NPR. The rest is feel-good history.

Orders began to pour in. Knowing that he wouldn't be able to hand whittle that many bats Tommy found a used lathe and began making more bats. For his first batch he made 125 bats and gave \$20 from the sale of each bat to the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation Disaster Relief Fund. His first donation was \$2,500!

The Rhombergs then again opened up orders and cut them off at about 75 bats in order to have them done by Christmas. He shipped or delivered these bats by Friday, December 18. He has another check ready to give to the Foundation for \$1,510. A sweet lady from Georgia sent him \$10 to be put towards relief efforts, which is why the extra \$10. To date, Tommy has made just over 200 bats (he donated a couple to local silent auctions) and has well over 2,000 bats on the wait list. For now, he is not taking any more orders, but perhaps later this winter, or spring, he'll pick it back up. No promises!

Tommy was recently awarded the Optimist Club Young Leader Award. The Wall Street Journal also called and reporter Ally Bank named Tommy's story one of the top 10 inspirational stories of 2020. His story was featured in the Wall Street Journal in later December. As if this wasn't enough, Ally Bank in NYC and JustBats.com out of Kansas City have both offered to match his donations to the Foundation.

If you are interested in joining the waitlist for a bat, go to his website: www.thegreatderecho.com. To follow along on his journey, his Facebook page is: www.facebook.com/thegreatderecho.





JAMES WINFIELD BELLAMY, 83, of Mount Vernon, Iowa, passed away Monday, Dec. 14, 2020. Jim graduated from Des Moines Roosevelt High School in 1955. He was an All-State football player and a member of the mythical state football champs of 1954. Jim joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1955, attended Iowa State University for one year (1955-56), on athletic scholarship, before transferring to Cornell College in Mount Vernon. He was a football Little All-American at Cornell and named to the Cornell College All Century football team. After several teaching and coaching positions, Jim's final stop was Mount Vernon in 1970 where he taught physical education and science until he retired from teaching in 1999. His coaching career continued in Mount Vernon through 2006. He was voted into the Iowa High School Coaches Hall of Fall in 1985 and the head coach of the 1997 Shrine Bowl. Jim retired from coaching with 320 career wins, three state football championships (1974, 1993 and 1994), five state runner-up finishes (1973, 1978, 1989, 2002 and 2003), 20 state football playoff qualifiers, 16 conference/district titles, a state track championship in 2004 with his son, Jonathan, and two state track runner-up finishes (1974 and 1982). His children are Amy '81 (d), Jon '79 of Mount Vernon and Chris '84 of Cedar Rapids.

Remembering Jim

Jim Bellamy was both a teacher and a coach at Mount Vernon High School. He came to Mount Vernon in 1970 and taught physical education and science, and coached several high school sports. The following tributes are from www.mountvernonfootball.com, the alumni Facebook page, or were submitted via email:

James Bellamy (1937-2020, Mount Vernon High School (IA) Head Football Coach 1970-2006) "Just do your job, Son!" This regular Jim Bellamy quote epitomized Mount Vernon football for 37 years here. Since this time, "Just do your job, son!" has been a common local phrase used by countless players' parents and now countless players who have become parents. "Just do your job, Son!" brings back many other thoughts and memories, such as: clock management, discipline, fundamental excellence, toughness, accountability to self/team, and finally, protection. Although none of us players appreciated his protection at the time, Coach Bellamy was shouldering the game and doing the heavy lifting for all of us. You see, if we each did our jobs, he had the rest of the game plan covered, and we were well on our way to victory. The young men of Mount Vernon did just that for the better part of 37 seasons and forever put our community on the Iowa football map.

Bellamy's career here saw the formation & expansion of the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IAHSAA) playoffs, the rise & fall of the competitive Eastern Iowa Hawkeye Conference, and the conversion to statewide district football. All the while, his teams played its home football games at the historic First Street/uptown stadium located just steps off of Mount Vernon's main business district. The stadium, considered by most opposing coaches/fans to have always been tired, worn, and unfit for play, was uniquely Mount Vernon and seemed to provide a home field advantage second to none as hundreds (in some cases thousands) gathered on Friday nights on the half-bowl hillside.

I have had the unique position through the years of having closely followed Bells' coaching career, having played football for him 1981-1984 seasons, while also being fortunate to have one of my five sons, the eldest Jacob Ryan, play for him during the 2003-'06

seasons. Jacob moved back to Mount Vernon a couple years ago and has two sons of his own (Brody and Ricky). It seems "Just do your job, son!" will continue to be heard around Mount Vernon for yet another generation. Thanks, coach.

Dave Ryan '85, Mount Vernon, IA

Coach Bellamy was my saving grace during my senior year at Mount Vernon. I truly do not know where I would be without his inspiration. I was struggling with my life as a whole and found solace in football as a starting nose guard for the 1982 varsity football team. He projected a confidence in me like no other coach had done in all my years of school sports. As a 134 lb. nose guard, he saw potential in me that rocketed my football experience into lettering in football and securing All-Conference Nose Guard and Honorable Mention All-State Nose Guard. Thank you, Coach! We will all miss you!

James Campbell '82, Cedar Rapids, IA

I have the highest respect for Jim Bellamy; though I wasn't a graduate of Mount Vernon High School and didn't play for him, I did referee a lot of his games in football and basketball and he always operated with a great deal of class in his competitions. He was extremely knowledgeable and worked superbly with young people! He will be hugely missed by all who knew him!! May God bless his entire family and the Mount Vernon community!!!

*Randy Krejci, Commissioner
Mississippi Valley Conference*

Coach Bellamy always had a quote outside his door that read "Practice does not make perfect, a perfect practice makes perfect."

*Vance Ellison '95, Solon, IA
Assistant coach MVHS football staff*

Coach Jim Bellamy built a dynasty out of the Mount Vernon football program. The tone he set for his teams trickled down to us as elementary school students.

Bellamy

Growing up we wanted to play under those lights on Friday nights.

Coach Bellamy was difficult. He was easily frustrated. He was demanding. One would assume his desire to win produced those personality traits but in reality he only wanted his players to do their best.

He taught me several lessons that I have never forgotten. One was delivered after I missed a block in practice. Coach Bellamy yelled at me and asked why I had missed my assignment. I began to explain and he cut me off and yelled "you either do or you don't, son! Huddle up." The message has stuck with me ever since. Your excuse doesn't change the result.

He would give unexpected praise. A block on the away from the play or a pursuit angle, would get a rewind on film and he'd say "Everyone watch this..... nice work, that's what we want to see." That spirit of highlighting seemingly insignificant moments embodied one of his most notable sayings, "You're only as good as you are when no one's looking."

Coach Bellamy's record as a high school football coach speaks for itself but the moments no one saw helped shape many young men.

Ken Madson '96, Los Angeles, CA

Toughness and Discipline. That's what I think of when I think of Coach Jim Bellamy. The man had a profound impact on me as a person and I know that was the case for many of his players. It wasn't until I was done playing college football that I truly realized all of the things he taught me about the game of football and how those things carried over to life. Coach Bellamy is a huge reason I started coaching and teaching.

He helped instill some core values in me that have helped lead me to where I am now as an educator and as a coach. Coach Bellamy was one of the first people I looked to and said "I want to do that someday, I want to lead boys and help make them into great young men". I have some fond memories of him and laugh because I know as a teenager I wasn't



This is one of my favorites from the 1971 yearbook. Coach Bellamy with Doug Thomson '71.

Mark Hylbak '73, Marietta, GA

always so fond of him but I seriously credit him to a lot of my successes because he was so hard on me. He was a master at preparation and that's something I always think of in my own coaching career was just how prepared our teams were back then. I take that with me every season and never want a team to be more prepared than us.

A couple memorable moments to share
1. The handshake and nod after one of the final plays vs Camanche was better than any "Great job or atta boy". I think those of us that played for him know exactly what I'm talking about.

2. Shortly after I started coaching college ball I was home and ran into coach at the golf course. He was sitting at a table with Mr. Ringold when I walked in. I said hi, I asked how they were doing and Mr. Ringold asked what I was up to. I explained to him I was a graduate assistant coach at The University of Dubuque. Mr. Ringold said "good for you that's great!" Coach Bellamy nodded and smiled so I felt pretty good like I had made both of them proud.

Coach Bellamy taught toughness and discipline leading by example. No one would out work him or prepare more than him. His discipline rubbed off on his teams and that's how we practiced. Fundamentals and techniques were emphasized daily. He was the hardest coach I ever had and at times I questioned if he cared about us as people. However, as time went on and goes on it is evident that he absolutely cared. He just showed it and did it through a way of toughness and discipline.

Lucas Stanton '02, Lisbon, IA

Editor's Note: complete memory online at mountvernonfootball.com

MV Coaches Hall of Fame Recipient

JIM BELLAMY 1970-2006

Jim Bellamy was honored for four state championship wins - three in football and one in boys track. Bellamy's career as a Mount Vernon head football coach spans back to 1970, his first season as coach and science teacher at MVCHS. He led the Mustangs on the gridiron for the next 37 seasons with teams that won three State titles and made the playoffs 20 times. The Mustangs won over 74 percent of its football games. Bellamy compiled a 268-93-1 record at Mount Vernon and is currently in the top ten winningest coaches in the state of Iowa with a total record of 320-127-4.

In his fourth season, in 1973, the Mustangs earned their first of what was to be 16 league (conference, then district) titles. In his 37 seasons, the teams were league champs or runner-up 26 times. In 1973 the Mustangs also earned their first state accolade, a year after the Iowa High School Athletic Association's playoffs began. The team was Class 2A state runner-up that year.

The next season, in 1974, the Mustangs were Class 2A State Champions, their first of three titles during Bellamy's tenure. Mount Vernon also earned 1st place football state championship status in 1993 and 1994. In Bellamy's 37 seasons, his teams were State runners-up five times (in 1973, 1978, 1989, 2002 and 2003).

Bellamy has received numerous honors for his coaching, including induction into the Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1985.

In addition to football he also led the MVCHS boys' track and field team from 1971 to 2006, winning a team State Championship in 2005. His teams had many successful individual athletes, and was State Runner-up in 1974 and 1982. Bellamy was named Coach of the Year for Track in 1991. His teams were Conference Champs seven times in '74, '78, '79, '80, '81, '96, and '04.

For a 10-year stretch Bellamy coached the High School girls' basketball team, leading the Mustangs to the school's first state girls basketball appearance in 1984.

In addition Bellamy was also a Middle School wrestling coach. He taught high school here until retiring after the 1998-99 school year, and retired from coaching in 2006.



Football in the life of young Men in Mount Vernon, Iowa

When I left the Army in 1962, and moved to West Liberty, Iowa I met Jim Bellamy on a warm August afternoon. As it turned out, I was to spend 25 years with Jim on hot August afternoons. When led by a football enthusiast, dedicated to the lives of young men, there is no excitement like preseason football in Iowa. Jim left West Liberty and so did I, but I soon rediscovered him because of Mr. Adrian Ringold. I was walking down the hallway on a spring afternoon in 1970 when behold, there walked James Bellamy carrying an old brief case walking toward the auditorium to meet his new team – Mr. Ringold, our Principal, had crowned him the new Head Coach of the Mount Vernon Mustangs, and there he would remain for the next 37 years! He came to us from an all-state career at Des Moines Roosevelt High School, an All-American performance at Cornell College, and winning records from Schaller, Perry, and West Liberty.

Jim Bellamy exuded every quality a great coach could have possessed that day on the stage in front of assistant coaches and prospective football players. It was clear that he was committed to the game of football, he was genuinely affectionate toward high school age students, and solidly knowledgeable about the game of football. We liked him.

That fall, he began to teach us all what football means and how it's played. Mothers, fathers, and fans in general feared him as if he were Woody Hayes or Bear Bryant. Two mothers came to me after the season and said that he must stay another 10 years to coach all of their sons.

Now comes the truly exciting event – the implementation of the kickoff/punt return. In high school, the special returns team is usually a figment of imagination, but within 2-3 practices the return of kicks became a reality and a joy to behold due in equal part to the ability of Ivan "The Ghost" Kuntz. For one of the years' early games, my mother, Doris, drove the 207 miles to Wilton to see this phenom. Ivan ran the opening kick off back 87 yards to the house. There are people who know the exact number of returns we made in those years, but I remember 11 TD returns for sure. The punt/kickoff return is an exciting, carefully blocked, ballerinely wonderfully orchestrated football play. With Mr. Bellamy calling

the direction, this play came nearly every game.

There is also beauty and excitement in the off tackle plunge. This play was mastered by everyone of Jim's teams, but seldom resulted in just one or two yards gained. He loved this play and so did his teams. Often the line to gain was missed by 30-45 yards as the need for two yards turned into a field stretching touch down. I clearly remember this play being run 9 straight times against Solon.

Cold, rain, snow, and mud were never mentioned. He left the elements of weather to his field captains; he expected success because the opponents were facing the same obstacles as the Mustangs. In three cases, success followed blocked kicks – brothers Joe and Paul Hufford did the work on those days.

Perhaps the greatest quality of Mr. Bellamy was his impeccable fairness. There is no way to explain the feelings in the heart of parents when it comes to being fair. Parents were always guaranteed that their sons would be treated fairly in every way and they were. Every starting player could be assured that his place on the team was safe until a teammate could out play the starter. Every coach in America should be this good.

The men who helped Jim start the Jim Bellamy era are still with us – Bob Landis in Cedar Rapids, Larry Straw in New Hampton, and Dick Peters and Jim both live in Mount Vernon.

*Dick Peters (d), Mount Vernon, IA
teacher and assistant coach*

I had the honor of coaching girls basketball with Coach Bellamy (1981-88), having him coach my three sons in football (1995-2006) and most important, being his friend. His expectation for his assistant coaches was as high as his expectations for his players. He taught you to not be satisfied unless it was your best effort. Sometimes players couldn't understand why he didn't shower them with praise, he always wanted them to go to the next level. This expectation was the same for the Division I athlete or the last kid into the game. He treated players all the same, do your job and do your best. Team effort was much more important to him than individual all-stars. If every player did their job correctly success would follow. He taught you to play or

coach with discipline, not emotional ups and downs, but steady and relentless rather than showy and flashy. He did enjoy the victories but he was a student of the game and quickly moved on to be better the next time. There was always just a high expectation and it made me want to do my best to meet that expectation too.

I truly enjoyed coaching and working with Coach Bellamy and was grateful to have him coach my sons in football. They would say, "You always take his side," whenever they thought he was being too hard on them. From coaching with him, I knew he was trying to bring out their best. They thought his practices were good preparation for college football. He would often sit in my office and discuss football even after we both stopped coaching basketball. I didn't always know what the heck play or formation he was talking about but it was just talking sports and I loved it.

Coach Bellamy often opened his home and hosted different dinners for players and also his coaching staff, including everyone working at the games, and it was always a feast thanks to Joyce's hard work. It allowed kids, co-workers and coaches to see a different side of him. He coached many sports football, basketball, track, and wrestling, coaching was his job and his hobby. He told me he would know what to do if he didn't coach. Rest easy coach, you influenced many and inspired some to coach. They will carry on your values and coaching legacy.

*Carol Woods-Boren '75
Mount Vernon, IA*

Editor's Note: complete memory online at Facebook on the alumni page.

R.E. Peters and Adrian Ringold are the reasons I pursued a career in education. Mr. Peters was perhaps the best teacher in high school, college or graduate school that I ever had. Coach Bellamy came to MVHS a year after I graduated. My younger brother, Aaron, was blessed to have Coach Bellamy as a coach... and his class lost only one game from 7th grade thru senior year (the state championship game in 1973(?) vs Britt played at Kinnick Stadium). In my coaching days, prior to my long career in secondary administration, I coached one time against "Bells" and I can say that it was the most difficult game of my coaching career because of all of the very small but effective adjustments he was making throughout the game! It was a fun but challenging chess match. Over

the years, coach Bellamy and I shared game films (late night trips between Mount Vernon and Tipton), scouting reports and even had a laugh or two. I loved our track coaching days when we'd sit in the stands during track meets, talk track and always....football. We shared our love of MVHS and also our alma mater Cornell College. Sad to hear that he has passed. I will always have the utmost respect and admiration for Coach Jim Bellamy. He was a gem and a MVHS treasure.

Jerry Van Dyke '70, Marion, IA

With the passing of Coach Bellamy, I have reflected on the days that I played basketball for him. I remember as young kid growing up and watching my brothers play football for him. I didn't know him but it was as if his iconic status as "Coach Bellamy" was ingrained in all of us - a man who was revered and feared.

I had the opportunity to play on Mr. Bellamy's first basketball team, which was my sophomore year. The girls basketball program got an immediate shot in the arm when he signed on to coach. He barely had a break between the end of football season and the start of the basketball season, and we girls were excited, but unsure what the future held for us. Many of us had brothers who played football for Mr. Bellamy so we had an idea what he could be like. I also think that he realized that he could be tough on us because we had brothers who played for him. The Zinkula girls, the Loomis twins, Rhonda Osborn, Mary Pisarik, my sisters and I - we were all used to mixing it up with the older brothers so we could handle pretty anything he threw at us. I also don't think any other teams used football blocking pads in lay-up drills to get the forwards accustomed to contact.

My first season with Mr. Bellamy was a taste of what winning was about. We lost some games but we were far better than all prior years. We were well-coached and conditioned, and we were hungry for a winning basketball program. The volleyball team and track teams were successful and it was time for the basketball program to step it up.

During my junior year we set team goals that in hindsight were pretty lofty. Hold our opponents to under 50 points. Win by at least 20 points. And there were several others. In our mind, with our coaching, talent, and conditioning, we expected to achieve these goals

each and every game, and we were pretty successful in doing so. I will never forget the excitement when Mr. Bellamy informed the team that we were ranked in state. It wasn't very high but we were ranked. We realized that we were good and only going to get better. When the team would have an "off" game the following practice would consist of the basic drills that we did on Day 1, and lots of conditioning. Lots of conditioning. During my 3 years we came close to qualifying to the state tournament but never quite made it. In 1984, the girls team qualified for state and won their first game.

What I remember the most was that Mr. Bellamy was able to take a lot of young people, most who were not superstars or blue chip prospects, and create successful teams. The discipline instilled during basketball season carried over to other sports and academics. While we had lofty goals of crushing every opponent, at all times we played the game the way it should be played and showed true sportsmanship in victory and defeat. In recent years I would visit with Mr. Bellamy and we reminisced about the program. He said that he always wondered how much better we would have been had we played 5-on-5, rather than 6-on-6 half-court. We both agreed that we would have been tough to beat. The lessons I learned in playing three seasons for Mr. Bellamy carried over into my adult life and career, always striving to be the best and to "suck it up and get after it."

Cathy Hufford '83, Palos Heights, IL



Everyone is talking about the handshake and the head nod of approval from coach Bells and I was lucky enough to receive both. I got to sign my college letter of intent at his home. With my mom working and coaching at the school, I grew up around the Mount Vernon community and coach Bellamy was always there in one way or another. Also worth noting I was the football team manager/waterboy for Bellamy for over 5 years along with Joe Alger. I also played football all 4 years in high school. Coach and I didn't always see eye to eye and I had my fair share of days where I cursed his name in anger. But looking back now I remember how he used to say "its when I stop yelling and become silent is when you will know I have given up on you." Both of my brothers also played for coach Bells. I know that each of us appreciate everything that he did for us over the years. Even if he never got our last name right!

Some other things Bellamy used to say were

"Look like Tarzan and play like Jane"
 "There is a method to my madness"
 "We fear no one but we respect everyone"

Thank you coach for everything and for helping me, my brothers on and off the field, and countless others become the men we are today.

Sean Boren '07, Mount Vernon, IA

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James 1950 and Carol Croft Kent 1951
in memory of James Croft '47 and in
honor of Carol Croft Kent '51
Bill Lenz 1952
in memory of Shirley Lenz Brown '53
Phylis Brecht White 1955
Leona Reyhons Smith 1956
in memory of Jo Ann Kroul Clark '64
Roger Schnittjer 1956 and Marilyn Dean
Schnittjer 1958 in memory
of Mary Hartenberger Wolk '58
Bill and Myrt Clark Bowers 1957
in memory of Jo Ann Kroul Clark '64
Mary Bowman Seidler 1957
Bruce Mullen 1958
Robert Bowman 1958
Sharon Neal Ulrich 1959
in memory of Carmen Neal Musser '63
Richard Glattly 1959
Keith Clark 1960 and Jo Clark Memorial
in memory of Jo Ann Kroul Clark '64
Susan Dye Hodin 1960
in memory of Jo Ann Kroul Clark '64
John Rife 1960
in memory of Jo Ann Kroul Clark '64
Annamae Stoneking Baker 1960
in memory of Jim Gunn '46, Carolyn
Neal Palmer '42, Pat Sievers
Montgomery '58
Beverly Lange Chunka 1960
in memory of deceased classmates
Mary Reilly Freese 1961
in memory of Dave Studt '61
Patti Bolton Erlenbaugh 1961
in memory of Dave Studt '61
Bunny Mulligan 1961
in memory of Dave Studt '61
Vic Wallace 1961
Craig Hipple 1961
in memory of Don & Iris Hipple
Linda Peterson Nost 1963
in memory of Jackie Jennings Oxley '67
Gary Knutsen 1965
Susan Mounts Fisher 1965
in memory of Pat Sievers
Montgomery '58
Susan Hansen Aragon 1966
in memory of Mary Kroul Anderson '66
Margaret Ellison Stoner 1966
Terry Meeks 1967
Marcia Swaney Wagner 1968
Marsha Siggins McWhinney 1970
in memory of Donald & Joan Siggins
Rhoads '45
Kaj Jensen 1974
in memory of Jim Gunn '46
Ann Lehman Currie 1977
in memory of Dean Borg
Thomas Floden 1978
Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier 1978
Jody Murphy Stewart 1979
in memory of Dean Borg
Lori Melchert Boyer 1980
David Graber 1980
Trysh Brown 1981
Mary Jo Merta Washburn 1982
Jennifer Clark Gonzalez 1988
Matthew Borg 1990
Heather Oakley Robertson 1994
Sean Kneeland 1997
Whitney Schreder 2004
Ben Brannaman 2005
Brittany Corkin Brannaman 2004
Joyce Loomis
in memory of Jo Ann Kroul Clark '64
Sheila Borg, Dean Borg Memorial
in memory of Dean Borg
Hills Bank & Trust Company
in memory of Jim Gunn '46
Barb Colehour family
in memory of Dean Borg
Kathy Staskal in memory of Dean
Borg, Jim Gunn '46, and class
representatives Jo Ann Kroul Clark '64
and Carolyn Neal Palmer '42
Don and Judy Stine
Randy Krejci
in honor of Maggie Lessmeier Willems
'96, 2019 State Volleyball Coach of
the Year
Joyce Loomis

**Does your name have an asterik* behind it?
This means you have already contributed
for the 2021 year (as of December 31, 2020).
Additional donations are always appreciated.**

Thank You!



DONATIONS (listed here) MADE TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER, ALUMNI ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

...turn the page if you would like to support the Alumni Association for 2021

DONATIONS MADE TO THE FOUNDATION SUPPORT MOUNT VERNON STUDENTS

ALL-ALUMNI-COMMUNITY BREAKFAST JULY 10, 2021

Plan to join us this 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 2020 (and even future alums!), current and former teachers and staff, as well as familiar faces from the community.

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WATCH FOR THE FOUNDATION 2020 DONATIONS TO APPEAR IN THE SPRING 2021 ISSUE

May 1 - DON'T DELAY - NOMINATE AN ALUM YOU THINK IS DESERVING OF A SERVICE, ACHIEVEMENT, MV COMMUNITY IMPACT, FINE ARTS, OR ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AWARD NOW! SEE PAGE 14.



Stop by the MV High School to see the class composites for the Classes of 2019 and 2020 that were recently added.

WORKING ON... a new alumni display in the new Fine Arts wing to celebrate your history

ALUMNI

FALL/WINTER 2020-21

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

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IS THIS THE RIGHT ADDRESS FOR THE PERSON ON THE ADDRESS LABEL? If not, please let us know by calling Kathy at 319-389-8602 or emailing alumni@mvcasd.org

MOMs and DADs, please help us update our contact information for your graduate(s). If you would also like to receive this publication, we can add your name to the list too.



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

ONLINE at 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:

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- 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

2021

Alumni first & last name, including maiden name _____

Class Year/Friend _____ Spouse name (and class year if also an alumnus) _____

Address _____

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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!