



# MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ALUMNI NEWS



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

**Alumni Association Board members Dennis Jordan '87, President Andrew Morf '94, and Kim Zangger Tucker '94 greet guests at the 2019 Heritage Days alumni-community reception held in the old fire station**

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**NO 2020  
HERITAGE DAYS  
& ALUMNI  
EVENTS  
CANCELLED FOR YOUR  
SAFETY DUE TO COVID-19**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Andrew Morf '94  
Alumni Association  
President

2020 has been a year unlike any we have experienced. First, we have been living through a global pandemic. Pandemics, long relegated to history books, has today become a worldwide reality, even in first world countries – even in Mount Vernon, Iowa. We are fortunate at MVCS to have a strong school administration, headed by Dr. Batenhorst, walking the fine line between keeping our students safe, and planning for solid education in Mount Vernon during this pandemic. Second, our nation has been rocked by the horror of the killing of George Floyd, bringing us all to examine anew the role of deep-seated racism in the United States. If we recall our history lessons from high school (thank you, Bob Meeker, Dick Peters, and many others), we should remember that history has a way of repeating itself, sometimes at a time when we have forgotten that such things can occur.

This letter may seem dour, but I believe that in these troubled times, there are positive aspects. We are often at our best when we are experiencing the worst. Our sense of community may be more appreciated from afar while social distancing. I am thankful that we have teachers and staff at MVHS that have made social justice an important focus of the high school curriculum. Last year a group of students, teachers, and chaperones made a life changing trip to the deep South to explore Civil Rights sites and monuments, and to visit with veteran Civil Rights leaders. They then shared their reflections with the community in a forum at the High School. The celebration of Martin Luther King Day with an all-day conference, brought a group of inner-city students from Chicago to Mount Vernon where they stayed in students' homes, shared time and experiences with our local kids, and shared their own experiences in break-out sessions. Artists, musicians, and public officials and community leaders rounded out the event. While there is always room for greater self-awareness and improvement, our high school's emphasis on social justice is something of which we can all be proud.

I have nothing to report on the Alumni Association front because quite honestly...nothing is happening—not even Heritage Days this year. But that is OK. Take a few minutes to read through this magazine, recall happy memories of the past, and enjoy the sense of community that surrounds us, even from afar amid troubling times.

## 2020 Alumni Hall of Fame

**Fall 2020 - Friday, October 2**  
– Homecoming & Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony. Watch for information to come.

## 2021 Alumni Events

**January 1-Dec 31** – A reminder...we have changed our calendar year for donations/support/dues to January 1 through December 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.

**July 8-10** – Heritage Days in Mount Vernon along with alumni events & reunions





# Mustang ALUMNI

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Alumni Association Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher '65 looks through yearbooks with a visitor at the 2019 Alumni-Community Reception during Heritage Days

**ALUMNI NEWSLETTER** is published twice yearly for alumni and friends of the Association. Views are those of the authors. Articles and advertisements (preferably digital) may be submitted by email to alumni@mvcasd.org or by mail to 525 Palisades Road SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314. All materials submitted are subject to review by the Alumni Association Communications Committee. For advertising rates write or call 319-895-8845.

### MV Community Events www.visitmvl.com

2020

Antiques Extravaganza July 4 - CANCELLED  
Heritage Days July 9-11 - CANCELLED  
Oct 10 - 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: 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  
Contact: Katey Forest Sanders  
Phone: 319-551-4136  
Email: ksanders133@gmail.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 - Postponed until Heritage Days 2021

Plans are being made for next summer's Heritage Days, July 2021. More info to come!  
Please join our class Facebook page: Mt. Vernon High Class of 1990  
Contact: Brittany Kaalberg Booth  
Phone: 319-533-1358  
Email: boothjb@q.com  
Contact: Paul Morf  
Phone: 319-841-3472  
Email: pmorf@simmonsperine.com

### 1985 - 30 years - tba

Contact: Jennifer Spencer Toriggino  
Phone: 303-792-3484  
Email: sdtori@aol.com  
Jennifer would like to know if one or more of her classmates would like to step forward and plan this reunion and/or future reunions.

### 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 Vislisel 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 until Heritage Days 2021

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 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: maggieless@hotmail.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 - TBA**

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 - Heritage Days Weekend 2021**

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

**1966 - 55 YEARS - Heritage Days Weekend 2021**

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 - TBA**

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

**1956 - 65 YEARS - TBA**

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

**949-1950-19511 - 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, July 8-9-10, 2021 to enjoy seeing classmates, other alums, teachers, and your friends from the community.

**KOPPENHAVER & ASSOCIATES, PC**




*Certified Public Accountants*

204 Glenn Street SE, Suite 1  
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 (319) 895-6001

Visit us on the web at  
[www.koppenhaverpcpas.com](http://www.koppenhaverpcpas.com)



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



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 Second, online at [www.colelibrary.org](http://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**

**2021 Heritage Days Weekend Alumni-Friend Events:**  
 - 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





# REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

## ▼ CLASS OF 2009 - 10 YEARS



The Class of 2013 met during Heritage Days 2019 at Jeremy Rundle’s farm for their reunion gathering. Reunion organizers were Alex Brannaman and Emily Ryan Stamp.  
Back row, left to right: Paul Fugate, Dillon Mealman, Alex Moore, Alex Brannaman, Kyle Wolter, Shelby Kintzel, Michal Kray, Kara Henik Gosiak, Doug Rice, Ben Schutt, John Weirather, Ben Kraus. Front row, left to right, Eyasu Russell, Emily Ryan Stamp, Lacey Downey Wolter, Ashley Bunger, Mary Beth McWhinney, Ciera Cavanagh, Mackenzie Kraus, Megan Traxel, Rachel Gibbins, Chelsea Johnson

## ▼ CLASS OF 2014 - 5 YEARS



The Class of 2014 met during Heritage Days 2019 at the Alumni Reception area in the old fire station uptown during Heritage Days for their first reunion gathering. Reunion organizers were Hannah Wieditz and Cory Brannaman.  
Pictured left to right, front row: Brittany Ferguson, Amanda Grunder, Gabby Kolker, Miranda Chapman, Ashley Schultz  
Middle row: Jack Koehn, Beatrix Thornton, Drew Keller, Briana Jordan, Cory Brannaman, Eric Dunford  
Back row: Kayla Burkart, Alex White, Mackenzie Smith, Drew Goetschius, Nick Bowen, Jared Clark, Joseph Godfrey, Brevin Lewis, Jake Pisarik, Madison Ebel







### ◀ CLASS OF 2003 - 16 YEARS

The Class of 2003 met during Heritage Days 2019 for a 'Sweet 16' Saturday evening reunion at Palisades Park. Reunion organizer is Nikki Port Morgan. Pictured left to right: Ronnie Schenkel, Tyler Leeper, Ashley Smith Portwood, Kate Walden, Marcia Bentor Wilcox, Leona Koster Johnk, Bryan Hoke, Katie Pitlik Eichorn, Nikki Port Morgan and Lindsey Gillespie.

### ▼ CLASS OF 1999 - 20 YEARS



The Class of 1999 met during Heritage Days 2019 for a Saturday evening reunion at the home of Meredith Ash Crawford in Mount Vernon and had a lovely evening. Reunion organizer is Betsy McWilliams Brown.

Front row, left to right: Kira Johanson Barone, Ellis Burge, Erin Driscoll Whitehead, Emily Bennett, Betsy McWilliams Brown, Christina Nelson Muller, Meredith As) Crawford, Elisa Brandt McNicol, Jennifer Kleinsmith O'Donnell, Kristina Minor Dvorak  
Back row: Joe Corkin, Mike Ripke, Doug Wumkes, Casey DeVries, Shaun Swiser, Shayna Thomsen Brent, Heidi Washburn Thornton, Jeremy Hotz, Andy Pitlik, Christy Dendurant Bock  
Not pictured: Mike Wieseler

### ▼ CLASS OF 1994 - 25 YEARS



The Class of 1994 met during Heritage Days 2019 for a Saturday evening reunion at Regal Crown Receptions. Reunion organizers were Sara Reyhons Nost and Andrew Morf. Pictured above, left to right:

Front row: Kim Zanger Tucker, Melissa Conley, Sara Nost, Tammy Powell, Patrick Elliott, Erin Kennedy Elliott, Teresa McDermott  
Middle row: Nicoli Martin Simmons, Tiffani Douglas, Mindi Schultz, Danielle Onstott, Diana Peterson, Lavonne Meyer, Allison Dix, Crystal Kauder, Andrew Morf  
Back row: Matt Bunting, Matt Burgess, Ryan Reyhons, Jason Lange, William Studt, Brice Horton, Dan Studt, Dave Ballsteadt, Jared Pospisil

**Join Us At Heritage  
Days 2021**

**NO HERITAGE DAYS ACTIVITIES IN 2020. JOIN US IN 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.

**JULY 8, 9, 10**





# REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES



## ▲ CLASS OF 1974 - 45 YEARS

The Class of 1984 met during Homecoming weekend 2019 for a Saturday evening reunion at the First Street Community Center in Mount Vernon. Reunion organizers are Cindy Feaker Johnson and Vicki Hill Reynolds.

Pictured above left to right:  
Front row: L-R Mark Walden, Debbie Peshek Thorman, Vicki Hill Reynolds, Carol Tesar Brannaman, Karol Koppenhaver, Anna Tonne Broulik, Marcia Humphries Driscoll, Ann Dvorak Ash.

2nd row: Russ Phillips, Joel Wallace, Donna Rosendahl Zimmerman, Cindy Feaker Johnson, Carolyn Henderson Stephenson, Arlene Miner Weiland, Joanne Erenberger Sebetka, Theresa Cody Erwin, Diane Victor Raymond, Sandy Rice Schloss.

Back row: Rick Hanson, Jeff Pitlik, Miles Meyer, Roxanna Post Conley, Mark Sargent, Tim Pfiffner, Robert Broulik, Pat Moses, Craig Hoffman, Annette Stastny Wiencke, Dave Pitlik.  
Not pictured but in attendance, John Hickson.

## ▼ CLASS OF 2004 - 15 YEARS



The Class of 2004 met during Heritage Days 2019 at Glyn Mawr Winery-The Local on Saturday eve for their reunion. Reunion organizer was Brittany Corkin Brannaman.

Pictured at left, left to right:  
Front row: Jacob Craig, Michael Brandt  
2nd row: Amy Kleinsmith Benesh, Joe Siegle  
3rd row: Val Horton, Brittany Corkin Brannaman, Zach Martin  
4th row: Will Casey, Sean Armstrong  
5th row: Kadera Havill Scanlon, Matt Kroul  
Top row: Eric Shook, Julia Hanson Broulik

## THANK YOU...

To **LaVonne Meyer '94** for memorabilia.  
To **Alyssa Corcoran '14** for high school yearbooks.  
To **Rich Hoidahl '59** for memorabilia.  
To **Nargi Rayman Steinbrech '55** for book donation.

## LOOKING FOR...

Homecoming buttons for these years: any 40s, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1982, 2011, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019  
ALSO looking for graduation cap and/or gown for any year between 1940 and 1990





**CLASS OF 1959  
- 60 YEARS**

The Class of 1959 met Saturday night during Heritage Days 2019 at Gwen's Restaurant in Lisbon. Reunion organizer was Richard Glatly. Pictured left to right: Front row: Sharon Neal Urich, Connie Meyer Kahl, Jane Costello Fink, Marie Sippola, Nancy Pisarik Mulder, Linda Schick Drahos Back row: Richard Glatly, Ed Fordyce, Bill Jilovec, Jim Clark, Jerry Kroeger, Rich Hoidahl.

**CLASS OF 1984 - 35 YEARS**



The Class of 1984 met during Heritage Days 2019 for a Saturday evening reunion and BBQ at the First Street Community Center in Mount Vernon. Reunion organizer is Dan Drahos. Pictured here from left to right, front row: Dan Drahos, Bill Clark, Jill Woods, Beth Hufford, Toni Wilkey, Jeff Pepper. Back row: Duane Ties, Pat Melchert, Colleen Corcoran, Britt Hutchins, Mike Martin, Lorie Fordyce, Wade Squires, Sarah Booth, Doug Hanson, Jackie Jordan, Suzie Wolfe

**CLASS OF 1979 - 40 YEARS**



The Class of 1979 met during Heritage Days 2019 for a Saturday evening reunion Mount Vernon Creates in Mount Vernon. Reunion organizer is Jody Murphy Stewart. Pictured above, from left to right:  
 Front row: Pam Moses Tichey, Cheryl Randall Beuter, Bob Thuerauf, Lynette Landis Nugent  
 2nd row: Rick Sherman, Ray Dochterman, John Bellamy, Mike Hines, Mike Hufford, Ted Brokel, Mark Pisarik, Jim Woods  
 Front row going up the stairs: Jody Murphy Stewart, Jane Heath Morgan, Joan Buchmeyer  
 2nd row going up the stairs: Cindy Cottrell Johnson, Rick Schwiebert, Sallie Jenson Buelow, Denise Clark Havill  
 Inset picture: Linda Sargent Jorgan, Steve Jilovec Not pictured but in attendance: Margaret Ault, Kim Peterson, Randy Akerman





# REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

## ▼ CLASS OF 1989 - 30 YEARS



The Class of 1989 met during Heritage Days 2019 for a Friday evening catering at Yock's Landing, a float in the Saturday Heritage Days parade, and a Saturday evening reunion at Sutliff Bar & Grill. Reunion organizer is Jenifer Carmer Back. Pictured above, left to right:

Front row: Saffin Dunn Parrish-Sams, Tracy Bair Garvin, Jessica Land Robinson, Jeremy Elliott, Jenifer Carmer Back  
Middle row: Jill Nederhiser Hartl, Mary Spellerberg Montgomery, Shawn McGowan-Janssen, Diana Diers McLaughlin, Mike Russell, Todd Neal

Back row: Sara Warner Hasselroth, Jeff Meeker, Marcy Russell, Renee Carpenter Ault, Lisa Lynott, Kirk Bailey



Class members on the Saturday morning class float pictured above right are, from left to right: Shawn McGowan-Jansen, Jenifer Carmer Back, Jessica Lane Robinson, Jill Nerderhiser Hartl, Tracy Bair Garvin, Saffin Dunn Parrish-Sams, Sara Warner Hasselroth, Mary Spellerberg Montgomery

## ▼ CLASS OF 1969 - 50 YEARS



The Class of 1969 met during Heritage Days 2019 weekend for their 50th Reunion. They celebrated with a Friday night social at the First Street Community Center, breakfast with alumni and community at the High School on Saturday morning, a float in the Heritage Days parade, a Saturday evening reunion at Cornell Commons, and a Sunday morning farewell brunch at Cornell Brackett House. Reunion organizer is Cathy Humphries Stoner. Pictured above, left to right:

Front row: Scott Harrison, Maureen Haack Butteris, Kathy Rilett Pizarik, Sally Dye Trout, Angie Jennings Beitling, Kate Shackford, Stuart Seiler, Tom Travis, Doug Pitlik, Steve Maaske, Mark Winsor

2nd row: Mary Peterson Berry, Diane Kirkpatrick Jones, Becky Scheetz, Mindy Nailor Ehler, Paula Sautter Hedlund, Sandy Neal Williams, Cindy Reckling Montgomery, Doug Easker, Tom Truesdale, Louie Floden, Debbie Goudy Ward, Floyd Mounts, Jim Erenberger

Back row: Linda Wallace Wilfang, Wendy Ellison Stryker, Barb Wolfe



# REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES REUNION PICTURES

## ▼ CLASS OF 1964 - 55 YEARS



The Mount Vernon Class of 1964 held a 55-year reunion at Kernoustie Golf Course during Heritage Days weekend. Reunion organizers were Joann Kroul Clark and Tex Clay. Pictured above, left to right:  
 Front row: Ray Stoner, Jo Kroul Clark, Jane Maxson Penfield, Jeanne Peterson Cork  
 Middle row: Tex Clay, Mary Bauman Kolbe, Darla Stoltz Templeton, Susan West, Holly Brisbin Anhalt, Diana Kafer LaVoi, Russell Steiner  
 Back row: Lyman Stoneking, Jim Wallace, Denny Wolrab, Ron Longerbeam, Gary Kaplan, Chris Hudson Brown, Sam Studt

## ▼ CLASS OF 2020

photo by JoAnn Gage



Welcome Class of 2020! The class graduated 108 members on May 22, 2020 after a senior parade through the community of Mount Vernon (due to Covid 19 safety restrictions). Classmates **Summer Brand and Aydan Holub-Schultz** were named Class Reunion Organizers, and received \$150 scholarships from the Alumni Association at their Senior Awards Night. They will keep open lines of communication with their respective classmates, coordinate reunion planning, and serve as a link between the Association, the school, and the alumni.





# MEMORIES...HERITAGE DAYS 2019



Angie Ward Wilson, Linda Wallace Wilfgang '69, Deborah Goudy Ward '69, Wendy Ellison Stryker '69



Christine Hanson Starkweather '73, Jo Ann Thomson Stoner '70, David Stoner '68

Grace Pesarik '18 and her older brother, Seth Pesarik '12



2014 classmates meet at the Alumni-Community Reception for their first reunion. Left to right are: Beatrix Thornton, Mackenzie Smith, Alex White, Brevin Lewis and Kayla Burkart.



Gail Nederhiser, wife of Don from the class of 1955, and daughter Donna Nederhiser Griebel '86



John Hickson and Scott Hickson '65



Sisters Nancy Pesarik and Bonnie Pesarik '71



Lena Brandt Posthuma '05 enjoys the composites at the High School





1969 classmates enjoy a visit with former school superintendent Ade Ringgold. Pictured at the Alumni-Community Breakfast are Paula Sautter Hedlund , Linda Wallace Wiltfang, Ade, Scott Harrison, Doug Ohlfest, and Louie Floden



Brothers Jared Pospisil '94 and Scott Pospisil '95 enjoy the class composites at the High School



At left: So many families at the Alumni-Community Breakfast! Pictured here are Roger Pitlik '67 (standing) with his son Andy Pitlik '99 and wife Ashley and future Mustangs. Above: Doug Ohlfest '69, Doug Easker '69, and Tom Ohlfest '70



It's great to see old friends! Around the table at the Alumni-Community Breakfast are clockwise from left: Narji Rayman Steinbrech '55, Marie Reyhons Beuter '53, Carlyle Bys '53, Allene Merritt Bys '52, George Brown '53, Jim Telecky, Bessie Koutny Telecky '53, Rosemary Brecht Erenberger '53, and Phylis Brecht White '55



Derek Boren '00 with wife Lori and future Mustangs at the Breakfast

Terri Overman '79, left, enjoys a yearbook at the Alumni-Community with a friend



Catching up are alums Helen Peterson Meeks '46, Helen Stoner '46, and Roland Henik '51







## Memories of a special teacher

# MRS. GLA

By John Rife, Class of 1960

This is an article about a woman who taught in MVHS in the 50's, 60's and 70's. She was known as Mrs. Rife, Gladys, Dr. Rife and Babe's wife but to me and my siblings (all MVHS grads, Jeanne '59, me '60, Joyce '62, Jim '65 and Roger '67' she was just mom except when she was our teacher and then we were required to call her Mrs. Rife. We always found that a bit different but that was the rule.


Mom was a farmer's daughter and subsequently a farmer's wife for most of her adult life until our family moved to Mount Vernon in 1958. She accepted a teaching position at MVHS and Dad stayed on the farm to close things down that winter before joining us in Mount Vernon. We were tenant farmers so the house in Mount Vernon was the first one they owned in their married life, and the only one. She was extremely proud of her rural life and also very protective of those who grew up in the rural areas. She really did not tolerate comments that were negative about the farm kids.

After her graduation from Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI), she spent six years teaching in three different schools and then married our dad, Wayne 'Babe' Rife, in 1940. They farmed together in Nichols until the family moved to Mount Vernon in 1958. As kids we were pretty excited to be townies. This was a whole new world for us, so we really experienced two different lives. Mom taught in Nichols High School for four years when Roger reached school age.

During the time on the farm, she also began writing a weekly column for the 'Lone Tree Reporter' and the 'Iowa City Press Citizen' which she began in 1948 and continued until 1961. One of the neat things she gave to each of us children was seven bound books that contain all of her columns so we have an opportunity to look back on our lives. Her columns were a mixture of reflections of things in our daily lives plus observations and opinions about matters happening at the local, state, national and world scene. Sometimes a poem or a recipe would end up in there also.

In the fall of 1948 while pregnant with Roger, she was diagnosed with polio. The polio concentrated in her left leg, deteriorating one muscle and a "drop foot." Amazingly, she was in the hospital for only a week and then our dad took over the duties of hot pack treatments. She wore a brace for two years and then discarded that, but it left her with a distinctive gait for the rest of her life. She only missed one week of writing her weekly column during this stressful time.

It was at MVHS where she really built her reputation as a teacher. It is amazing to me how many of her former students have told me what a difference she made in their lives. Many of them were encouraged by her to do things that were really out of their comfort zone and beyond what they felt they were capable of doing. I watched her take students



Mrs. Rife,  
1966 yearbook.  
Photo by  
Conrad  
Leighton '67



# DYS RIFE

and turn them into real good performers, gaining confidence as they went along. She also got others involved in the speech or theater productions including lighting and stage construction etc.

Jane Colehour Pospisil '68 sent along some thoughts about mom which I think sums up a lot of what I have heard from so many:

- She had knowledge and a true desire to share it, and she did with her students.
- She had a voice, so modulated, so quiet, so scary. The whole room got still when she spoke. On the first day of school, she simply stood and said "Quiet." No nonsense, no nothing, just "Quiet," and we all were.
- She had a look. She would tilt her head slightly, purse her lips, raise and eyebrow, and level a stare at any perceived offender and that would stop any shenanigans that may have been happening. She had eyes in the back of her head.
- She had an unique gait. (resulted from her polio in 1948).
- She had a great sense of humor. She could make the most timid blossom with her honest and hearty laugh. She would throw her head back and clap at someone's new accomplishment or clever speech. Her joy in her job was a gift to her students.
- There was no free ride with her. You did the work and you got the grade. She however was patient and understanding and graded those who truly struggled with speech class with compassion and truth. She really helped them deal with their insecurities.
- She loved theater. This probably brought her the most satisfaction in her teaching years. She poured her energy and countless hours into the production of class plays, talent shows and speech contests. Everyone who worked with her on a class play or talent show was glad to have been a part of the production. She had athletes dancing and normally quiet voices singing on stage, oftentimes in unusual and attention-getting costumes. She loved it and so did the students.

A lot of these reflections of Jane are shared with many others that I have talked to over the years. Many of them didn't realize what an impact she had on their lives until they were older. Mom always looked forward to many of them coming back to visit her at her one and only Mount Vernon home on 2nd St. SW when they could be back for one reason or other. We would reminisce many times in conversations about many of the students she had over the years.

Mom had many teaching colleagues that she enjoyed working with and admired. I hesitate to mention anyone as I'm likely to forget someone. Suffice it to say, she was very proud of her profession and all that made it their life's work. Former Mount Vernon high school teacher Nyla McCall expressed what many of them felt. Not only were they colleagues but they served on several school and community committees together. Nyla commented that she was an amazing teacher who had a way of involving her students in learning areas they had never thought of as interesting. She remembers her in four words, AMAZING LADY-DYNAMIC TEACHER.

In 1965, mom and dad bought the railroad depot in Fayette, Iowa and moved it to some farmland that was part of the land where she grew up. They kept much of it as it was inside, including the bench seating etc. and turned it into their vacation home. They enjoyed going out there and just relaxing and enjoying. Dad had his

horses there as he loved to ride. Mom just enjoyed being there with the serene and beautiful countryside. After Dad died in 1974, mom turned it into a railroad museum, but it also remained a place for her to stay. They had to move it again after the land was condemned by the state, but they did it. She added an apartment in the basement and a special bedroom on the first floor.

Mom continued to teach after Dad died and retired in 1979. She continued her education as an intern at the University of Iowa's Museum of Natural History as an archivist and research assistant.

Then in 1988 at the age of 73 she received her PhD in American Studies with a minor in Women's Studies from the University of Iowa. At the same time she also continued to run her Depot Museum in Fayette, Iowa.

All of her papers dated from 1920-1995 are archived in the Women's Archives at the University of Iowa Libraries in Iowa City. In addition, a copy of her columns were given to the Cornell College Library.

She was proud of her children, their spouses and her grandchildren and enjoyed many happy times with her family. Her darkest and most difficult times were at the death of our dad in 1974 and our sister Jeanne's death in 1997.

Mom was very active for most of her life and lived in her home until the last month of her life. She passed away on February 11, 2002. She lives on through the many lives that she touched.

continued on next page





**MRS. GLADYS RIFE, continued**

**Thank you to the former educators and alumni who wrote in to give us the following memories of Mrs. Rife. See complete text at [www.mvalumni.org](http://www.mvalumni.org).**

One of her greatest strengths was her conviction that students that do not usually involve themselves in plays should do so. She would see them in the hall and draft them into a play. Of course, no one could say no to Mrs. Rife's directives. She drafted Ivan 'Ozzy' Simonds '73 and Dave Ohlfest '75 to act in 'Guys and Dolls.' They had never been in a play before and I am sure they had never considered being in a play. They had a great time and I am sure it was one of the highlights of their high school experience. In the same play she suggested to me that I should build a fireplace stage left. I did so, but the next night she wanted it stage right. She often changed the blocking and wanted the fireplace to fit her changes. The third night she wanted the change the location of the fireplace again. I did the only thing I knew that worked with Mrs. Rife which was to simply say 'NO.' She did not ask to have it changed again. It was a great play by the way thanks to Mrs. Rife and Lois Nichols, the choir director.

She was critical of her peers and a stickler for accuracy. Knowing this I had checked every word of a report I was to give to the teachers. She read it and her comments was, "Mr. Halsey, how quaint of you to use the old English spelling" of a word, (I do not remember the word). She knew I did not know how to spell the word. It was a beautiful put down and without a doubt put me in my place. She was not only unforgettable but also a brilliant teacher. None of her students will ever forget her, nor will any who were fortunate to have taught with her.

**Charles Halsey, Oshkosh, WI  
former MVHS teacher**

Several years ago I was working at Bauman's during Christmas. Gladys came in to do her shopping and we got to talking about high school plays. She remembered all the plays and talent shows Dave Neal and I had been in. As I was carrying her purchases down the street to her car, we just kept walking. I said 'Gladys, where are we going?' She said, 'I don't know, Steve. I forgot where I parked.'

**Steve Neal '66, Mount Vernon, IA**



**Jeanne Rife Torrens '59, John Rife '60, Joyce Rife '62, Jim Rife '75, Roger Rife '67**

Ahhhh, Mrs. Rife, what a wonderful teacher she was. She was one of the best teachers I had in school. I remember she was trying to get us to read current events in the newspaper and had quite a time convincing one of my classmates there was more to the paper than the funnies.

Mrs. Rife had a ingenious way of getting her point across to you, and if that didn't work, she would give you "THAT LOOK", if that didn't do it, you were a lost cause. But there weren't too many lost causes in her classes. She was a wonderful teacher and one of the most admired of all. She was a very impressive lady.

**Annamae Baker '60, Mount Vernon, IA**

I was in high school 1966-1969. While I don't remember the exact year(s) that Mrs. Rife was my English teacher, I do remember her class and how much she taught me! At the young age of high school I didn't appreciate how critical it would be in life to know how to read and write clearly as well to read and think clearly about what was written.

Mrs. Rife was demanding of me, but by doing so I learned so much and have thought of her often as the person in my life who helped me express myself in a way that was understandable and concise.

I would like to express my thanks and admiration to Mrs. Rife and her dedication to teaching and doing so in a way that helped me my entire adult life.

**Doug Ohlfest '69, Polk City, IA**

I remember quite often having to recite: "Speak The Speech I Pray You, As I Pronounce It To You Trippingly On The Tongue" She was strict but had a gentle witty side as well.

**Kate Klinsky Mallie '77, Lisbon, IA**

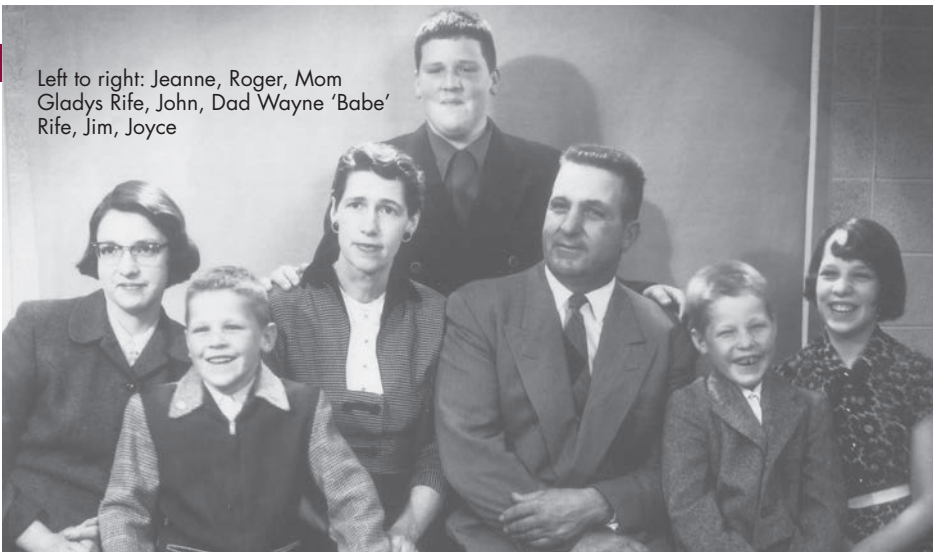
Although I worked for her for several years and even lived in her home for a time after high school, I don't think I ever called Mrs. Rife by her Christian name, Gladys. At least not to her face. I didn't have class with her until my junior or senior year, but she had me collared for Speech competitions and plays long before then. An inimitable force to be reckoned with if you didn't hold up your end of the deal, I did what she asked of me and learned so much in the process. We shared great adventures driving to Fayette to work on her historic depot as it developed into the Railroad Depot Museum. Other days we scouted the countryside seeking to photograph deserted Chicago Great Western train engines and rail cars. She could make an unparalleled cup of coffee with her special percolator and Maxwell House coffee, and often we sat at her kitchen table discussing nearly everything. We stayed in touch long after I left the area, and I reconnected with her upon my return to Iowa. I loved her. She loved everybody – her family, the thespians, wayward students, and other teachers who very temporarily invaded her creative space. What a remarkable woman. I think of her often and miss her still.

**Andrea Jilovec '75, Marion, IA**

It has been over six decades since Mrs. Rife taught English Literature to the seniors in the Class of 1959. I remember how enthusiastic she was in introducing the class to the distinctive rhythmic structure of "iambic pentameter" as used by Chaucer in his famous "Canterbury Tales". When she assigned each of us to construct a poem using iambic pentameter and then orally present it to the rest of the class, some of us more bashful boys were less than excited, to say the least! Mrs. Rife saved the day for us, however. Ron Hess had one of those new fangled reel-to-reel tape recorders, and Mrs. Rife agreed to let the four of us (Ron, Denny Koch, Jon Swanberg, and me) record our poems and play them for the class using Ron's tape recorder. We were all on the track team that semester and each of us wrote a poem to describe our favorite



Left to right: Jeanne, Roger, Mom Gladys Rife, John, Dad Wayne 'Babe' Rife, Jim, Joyce



event; e.g., "The Miler", "The Broad Jumper", "The Shot Putter", etc. Our presentation went well as I recall, thanks primarily to Mrs. Rife's willingness to allow an unusual alternative to the normal method of reading out loud to the rest of the class!

**Rich Hoidahl '59, Johnston, IA**

Oh, my. Stories from English classes with Mrs. Rife. Where to start ... I remember well the class period when the question was "How do you start a discussion?" I answered that anything could start a discussion. Mrs. Rife was uncertain that was the best answer, so she asked me to give it a try with the class. I remember trying various subjects - the door, this classroom, my sweater, etc. Dead silence from the others in the class UNTIL I formed a question - What do you suppose that door is made of? Lesson learned! Sophomore and junio year English with Mrs. Rife.

**Barb Clarke Oakland '67, Marion, IA**

In either my sophomore or senior year Mrs. Rife offered a Women's Studies class. I'm not sure what my motivation was for taking the class but never the less I did. It evidently didn't help me much, cause I'm still clueless. Anyway, during one lesson she was discussing inhibitions and how they keep us from being heard. My memory is a little fuzzy on this bit, but I think she asked the class to act like a cow and moo (It was either the whole class or one student, that's what I'm fuzzy on). What she got in reply was a very timid "moo". Immediately she said, "No, if you're going to be a cow you have to look and act like a cow". At which point she got down on all fours and started tossing her head around and "moo'ed" very loudly. While still on all fours she said, " and if you're a pig ...", and she started oinking and snorting like a pig. She continued with a couple of other animals, and by then we were all getting over being startled, and were quite amused. I always liked Mrs. Rife, but that day I gained a whole new respect for her.

**Jim Moore '78, Sykesville, MD**

Mrs Rife always taught us to use your tongue and A-R-T-I-C-U-L-A-T-E.

**Vance Rahn. '66, Anderson, SC**

Mrs. Rife is one of the teachers that I'll never forget. Never dreaming that I would be in a position to be a speaker and needing the training she gave us, life turned out differently. For 45 years, I have been a speaker for Stonecroft Ministries, and other events. Always, always, when writing the text, her words came back to me, "Tell them what you are going to say, say it, and then tell them what you said." Her advice to write the introductions and conclusions first, baffled me in high school but served very useful in life. Public speaking was the last thing on a list of things I'd ever want to do. Thanks to Mrs. Rife, preparation was made for that in spite of myself.

**Karilyn Mead Eastvold '66, Springfield, IL**

Gladys Rife was a wonderful woman and teacher, and in retrospect 50 years later would have been perfectly justified in killing many of us boys who were in her classes! I wish I could have met her after high school and apologized to her like I did to Mrs. Donna Jacobs, who was also a long suffering but very impactful teacher in my past. Both ladies are the sole reason that I managed over the latter part of my career in manufacturing to assemble a decent paragraph or coherent email.

I remember an assignment by Mrs. Rife to commit to memory and be prepared to recite to the class " The Masque of the Red Death" by Edgar Allen Poe. Much of the semester grade depended on successful presentation and I remember agonizing for weeks while working on my presentation. I just looked the "Masque" up on the internet, and reciting by memory is terrifying enough today, much less at 15! But, I managed, and did OK terrified as I was at public speaking, even with an audience who would soon have their turn at the podium and were as scared as I.

Thank you Mrs. Rife, you were a gem, a class act, and I wish I would have realized and said so back in the day.

**Kevin Woods '73, Mount Vernon, IA**

Mrs. Rife was everything an English teacher should be: knowledgeable, working with us kids in a refreshingly bookish way, an effective missionary for the English language. She was an old fashioned schoolmarm in an endearing way, influencing me to finish college as an English major.

**Conrad Leighton '67, White Bear, MN**

Mrs. Gladys Rife brought a level of sophistication and civility to MVHS students who paid attention to her poise and demeanor whenever they were around her. She was well read and chose her words and postures wisely and judiciously when interacting with students, peers, or friends. She was a lady to be admired and appreciated, and we were blessed to have her as one of our MVHS teachers.

**Mike Seiler '67, Bonita, CA,  
Mount Vernon Hall of Fame member**

Gladys Rife arrived at Mount Vernon High in the fall of 1959. My classmates and I were seniors that year pretty secure that we knew how the school year should proceed. However, we hadn't planned on this new, intimidating English/ literature teacher who meant to challenge us. One of my friends, a top student who was so intimidated by her first impression of Mrs. Rife, dropped English and added Home Ec. It was her loss as we came to know Mrs. Rife, her high expectations for us, and her ability to guide us in achieving them. She was a force of nature!

**Jane Fink, Class of '59, Anamosa, IA**

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## MRS. GLADYS RIFE, continued

I think it's great you're doing an article about the fabulous Gladys Rife. She retired the year before I started high school so I never had her as a teacher, however, she was a salon client of mine for several years before she passed. She would come into my salon weekly and tell so many incredible stories and I noticed that if others were in the salon and had her as a teacher, they always addressed her as Mrs. Rife or Dr. Rife regardless of their age. After a few years I finally asked her why she allowed me to call her by her first name and not by Mrs. or Dr. I remember her grabbing my hands, smiling and saying, "Oh Linda. You never had me as a teacher so you don't have to show me the kind of respect my former students do". I gave her a hug as we both laughed. I adored her so much!

**Linda Russell Brooks '83, Lisbon, IA**

Mrs. Gladys Rife had a huge impact on my life. I was a C student in high school as school was not a priority. I knew I had to finish high school. Mrs. Rife was my English teacher for a couple of years and I always admired her. Grammar and composition were important to her and so they became important to me. I got an A on one of my final term papers. Mrs. Rife took time to go through the paper line by line. She showed me specifics about why she liked the paper. I watched her carefully think about everything she said. Her opinion mattered to me. She taught me writing took time, effort, and thought. She showed me it was a skill worth developing. I graduated from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas with a 3.3 GPA. Along with many others I will always be grateful to Mrs. Rife for the influence she had on my life.

**Mary Livingston Moorman '70, Colorado Springs, CO**

I imagine some lengthy memories have been written about Mrs. Rife and to their authors I say DITTO!!! My most vivid remembrance was when she was introduced to our class. Her only comment to me was "Oh, you must be Richard Hoidahl's kid brother". I knew then the pressure to do my best.

**Randy Hoidahl '61, Aurora, CO, Mount Vernon Hall of Fame member**

Gladys was an inspiration to everyone she came in contact with. I was in speech and theater and took an independent English class from her. I cleaned her house after school and she always had interesting stories about the railroad museum and could educate you on anything, including life. She was the best!

**Jenifer Chadek Prowant '74, Robins, IA**

I believe it was in an English Literature class that we were to read a passage from a book and to write what our thoughts were on the passage and hand it in to her. To my great surprise the next day she picked my comments and read it to the class. It was probably the first time I received any recognition in any class and it has stuck with me all these years. It was a defining moment for me. A little bit of encouragement can go a long way and it was a lesson well learned.

**Steve Kroeger '63, Casey, IA**

I spent two years at Mount Vernon High. By any standard of a grown man who wishes now that I knew then the value of a true hearted young woman, I'm sure I fell in love at least twice. I miss the likes of Gladys Rife even though we never fell in love. I miss those roots and the eastern Iowa communities that formed the man I would later become. I had lunch at Gladys' house and was blessed to grow up in a small community where people knew my family even though I was ignorant to how valuable that was. Without that community it would be unlikely that I would be alive to pen this prose today.

I have heard my peers say how Gladys may have intimidated or frightened them, but to me she was inspirational. She rose to meet my level of confusion, anger, rebellion and defiance in a way that sought to steer it into a constructive outcome. Much like a cowhand steers a stray back into the herd, she rode to the left and then to the right until my words found form. Undoubtedly from the angst in my heart, and from my sense of isolation but undeniably from the things she asked me to read.

Her attention to the conflict within my adolescent soul, the need to find some resolution, and the potential for literature and writing to guide a youngster's

otherwise naïveté, guided me through a time when there seemed to be no right answers, only lessons. I carried this struggle all through my college years. If only I would have known then the value of those lessons as well as I understand them today.

Today I would say to Gladys, thank you for your devoted dedication to the youth of the Mount Vernon community, and to the rest of you: my classmates, my other teachers, to the parents whose children I may have distressed - I owe you all a debt that can never be repaid. In some ways it is the debt owed by all children to a community that knows deep in their hearts that we are all struggling youth at some time or another in our young lives.

**Dr. Roger S. Freeman '77, Phoenix, AZ**

Mrs. Rife was the best teacher I ever had! (including colleges) She taught me to learn, whether I liked it or not. She made me do things, such as speech contests, that I never would have done on my own. I have remembered her frequently over the years and am very grateful for all she taught me.

She was not afraid to use whatever tools she needed. I noticed one day, while the rest of the class was at work at their desks, she was working with an exchange student at her desk. She was helping him to read English using a resource that was not highly respected at the time. They were reading a comic book!

**Jane Rogers Gray '65, Dallas, GA**

It has taken me days to try to express in the written word what Mrs. Rife taught me. She would be so disappointed it took me so long but she taught me to be precise. Mrs. Rife taught me how to write and that gift gave me my livelihood as a Director of Bids and Contracts. She taught me how to "code" a paragraph with a subject and supportive verbiage in absolute perfect English. My what Bill Gates could have learned from her. Her gift was taught to my daughter who is a successful manager at a major bank in Charlotte, NC. Upon receiving an award from the CEO of Bank of America, he asked "how did she learn to write so well?" She said she learned it from me. That wasn't actually true. She learned it from Mrs. Rife. Thank you, Mrs. Rife.

**Kathy Moore Shelton '67, Archdale, NC**



We had our 50th reunion this summer. The evening we met in the actual high school building, we spent time remembering and reminiscing about our days at MVHS. With the benefit of hindsight, we all agreed that we were incredibly lucky, and profoundly grateful to have lived in Mount Vernon during those chaotic days.

Mrs. Rife was one of those mentioned as being outstanding, having made a lasting difference in the lives of so many of her students. One of my favorite classes in all four years was Mrs. Rife's Honors English class. I have thought about the courage and dedication it took to gather that particular group of personalities, ages, and perspectives for several hours a week. We were diverse, opinionated, loud, and we had a collection of some of the funniest humorists I have ever known. There were days I'm sure she felt she wouldn't get a word in edgewise! We all looked forward to that class and the hours we spent together.

Even in college, I had only one instructor that challenged me the way she did. If Mrs. Rife saw potential, you were 'doomed' to be chosen for school dramas, speech contests, and more sophisticated, intensive reading materials. She was a small, but mighty force, and did not take "no" for an answer. Once she saw a small light she worked hard to fan that spark into a fire. I'm forever grateful for her ability to see potential where I thought there was none.

**Linda Wallace Wiltfang '69, North Liberty, IA**

Loved Mrs. Rife! You didn't mess around in her class!

**Linda Peterson Nost '63, Lisbon, IA**

I appreciated all that Mrs. Rife did during my high school years. Not only in the classroom but the extra activities. Working tirelessly to give us 100%.

**Jean Plank Stinehour '60, Littleton, NH**

Gladys Rife was a brilliant educator, a legend in her own time. Mrs. Rife cared deeply for her students, and strongly instilled the fundamental maxim: "Think before you speak".

Mrs. Rife was innovative and creative in her presentations. She was sensitive, impassioned creativity, and enjoyed a rare rapport with her students. She demanded that we "go the extra mile". She encouraged us to do our best.

To this day I am still mindful of some of Mrs. Rife's favorite grammatical quips: 'Books lay, people lie', and 'Lights are illuminated, people get lit'.

**Rosalie Bowman Gallagher '63, Des Moines, IA**

I can only say we were so exceptionally privileged to have experienced Mrs. Rife as our teacher at MVHS. One very clearly remembered experience I had was in her speech class. Even having attended school with the same group of classmates since 3rd grade, getting up in front of a class to give a speech was one of the hardest things I ever had to do up to that point. I got through the first one, beet red and sweating like an athlete, but I did it! Everything else in her classes was great!

**Susan Hansen Aragon '66, Loveland, CO**

Simply put, Mrs. Rife was the best teacher I had at any level. She taught me how to speak, how to write and how to think. She always challenged me to reach higher but always in a way that made me realize that I could do more. Her influence enabled me to succeed and I whispered thanks to her more times than I can count during my career. She was an amazing teacher!

**Tim Simmons '64, Bluffton, SC**

Gladys Rife was well-beyond our measure of extraordinary! She had a skill, a talent, a wisdom and a gentle touch for teaching. She was so refined and adroit at motivating her students - business executives could have learned so much from her.

You couldn't help yourself - you worked extra hard for her to please her. When she returned an assigned paper to each member of the class, she would offer a "lifting" comment:

"James, you have explored the topic with your consistent thoroughness in that way that you do and it was a pleasure to read."

Then she would give you the improvement that she wanted you to address in your next assignment:

"For your next paper, James, I want you to work on your paragraph structure. You need to learn how to break your thoughts into smaller pieces, with one thought per paragraph, instead of tossing them all into a long paragraph".

You always felt good about what you had done, yet knew there was more to do. She treated everyone the same.

As student body president at one point,

I was informed that I would have to address the fans and parents at the Homecoming game. Are you kidding me? But she took me aside, helped me to think through what I wanted to share with the audience, improved my word choice and phrasing, helped me to clarify my thoughts, and then she rehearsed and polished me - both in terms of how I spoke the words and how I presented the ideas.

After graduation from Mount Vernon High School I went on to complete a Ph. D. Degree at Duke University, for which I had to write a dissertation as the last major step). It had to pass muster before a faculty committee, who would decide whether the student could receive the Ph.D. or not. I dedicated that dissertation to Mrs. Gladys Rife (and my parents). I knew very well who had helped me to be a writer and to express myself at the necessary level..

Mrs. Rife introduced me to something called "speech contest", which I had never heard of before. It was another one of those "Michael, we need to get you ready for Speech Contest, so let's pick a piece for you to memorize and present and then we will set up a rehearsal schedule".

Again... "Yes, Mrs. Rife". I could never say no because underneath it all, somehow, as a high school student, you knew she had your best interests in mind. She always did.

I have been fortunate to teach in a University classroom (30 years), been a business consultant writing strategic plans (100+ over 30 years), and have made presentations, scripted acting vignettes, and presented business podcasts and webinars....all leaning heavily upon what Mrs. Rife taught me.

I would never have discovered and enjoyed the unique opportunities that have come my way, without the extraordinary guidance and teaching of Gladys Rife. Through all this time I have used her teaching model for teaching others, applied her attention to the details of effective communication, and I continue to enjoy the wonder of learning.

**Michael Troyer '61, Green Bay, WI**







# Mustangs...what are they doing now?

## ■ PAUL EASKER '00

EDITOR'S NOTE: reprinted with permission from 'Inside Iowa State', May 2020

### GUESS WHO'S ATTENDING TODAY

By Anne Krapfl, 'Inside Iowa State'



So, you pride yourself on the spirited or clever virtual backgrounds you've discovered during this pandemic. Your web conferences are the better for them, no doubt. Iowa State Systems support specialist Paul Easker takes it up a notch when he joins his colleagues in the Virtual Reality Applications Center (VRAC) for their weekly staff conferences. Among a group of technically capable professionals, that's no simple task. Easker shows up in a matching costume as well.

For example, back in late March, he decided he wanted to be part of the solution to a national shortage, so he placed himself on the manufacturing line in a toilet paper factory. The next week he pondered local needs and settled on making bread so people could eat. Paul the baker sat in on the next VRAC meeting.

The impetus, he said, really was the isolation he felt after a few days of working at home, with just one roommate to talk to for long stretches.

"It just seemed like it could be a good way to get people smiling and to spread some joy," he said.

Easker checks closets and dressers in his apartment for props and finds an appropriate image on the internet for his background.

He also showed up for meetings as a biker gang member, a beach lounge member and a heliskier about to depart on his descent - though he confessed the ski gear was too warm to survive the entire staff meeting.

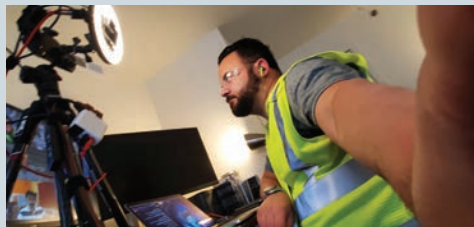
"It's been fun so far. A few staff have told me they look forward to the meetings to see what I am going to do next."

\*\*\*\*\*

Woods was my favorite class in highschool. Here's why: We watched a show called (???) can't remember the name of this show) and alongside that Mr. Scott White taught us some fundamental ideas about how we could build things and what it would take to make something that would last. Then we were told to go build whatever we wanted without restrictions except the two catches. We had to pay for the materials and it had to be made of wood. I remember wondering what in the world I would build that would be worth keeping around?

I thought about a CD holder, but I knew CDs weren't going to last. After all, I

Pictures on the left, what it looked like IN THE STUDIO



Pictures on the right, WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE ON THE SCREEN AT PAUL'S VIRTUAL TEAM MEETING



photos by Paul Easker

### Guess who's attending today

By Anne Krapfl  
May 14, 2020



Systems support specialist Paul Easker has an elaborate work station at home. Submitted images.

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"It's been fun so far. A few staff have told me they look forward to the meetings to see what I am going to do next," he said.

Did you know?



already had minidisks and mp3 files on zip drives. Then I thought music would last and however the formats might change, we will still need a way to play it, so I built some speakers. I made these speaker housings so large and strong that I would later use them for DJing our high school dances along with Jake Gondek '00 and Jeff Bellows '00. We had people dancing on those speakers. I took them to college and used them for house parties, and when I finally decided the day of the 15" subwoofer was over, I gave them to a church to sell to raise funds for someone's college mission trip.

That's a silly story, but it's something I was always proud of. I loved that I built something that was useful for so much entertainment over the years. And that's what I guess I'm doing here with these Zoom meetings. A lot of what we've been talking about in our meetings is how we are going to respond to COVID and how it's going to shape our work and how we are going to protect people. From day one we started writing up a document about how everyone could operate in a remote work environment and keep in touch across campus. I started working with people completely outside my department, even

advising professors in the music and horticulture department how they might handle tech with their students.

With these Zoom meeting backgrounds, I'm trying to keep people entertained in the middle of a dark time in our world. I'm hoping people take this idea and run with it and it brings a little bit of joy to a few more people. Maybe someone else is silly enough to do something similar and a few more people are smiling. That's the goal here.

Since highschool, I've gone to Kirkwood for a degree in Local Area Networking, to ISU for a degree in Management Information Systems and then I never left ISU. I'm a Systems Support Specialist at the Virtual Reality Applications Center which is a research center at Iowa State that also houses the graduate program for Human Computer Interaction.

I've been working in the edtech industry for about 14 years now and I spend much of my time helping students get the fundamental building blocks in the form of tech to build wild and cool things. To me it doesn't matter if I am working with an undergrad, grad student, staff member, faculty, or a business manager. All of what I'm doing at work is to help people have the tools they need to do amazing things as they push the tech industry to the next level. It's kinda interesting to reflect now on how full circle this is. I'm doing the same thing, but with a slightly different set of tools that I admired so much in my high school woods teacher.

Paul can be reached at paul@easker.com



### DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Mount Vernon Historical Preservation Commission has made three Mount Vernon city directories (1902, 1907 & 1925) available online.

In addition, there are also four early telephone directories (1932, 1940, 1952 and 1955).

To access the directories, go to mvhpc.org and click on the 'City Directories' link found on the sidebar. Each directory can be searched by entering information in the search window found at the top of each page. (source MVL Sun)

### ■ NARGI RAYMAN STEINBRECH '55



My husband Ed was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in March of 2011. As time progressed I became his primary caregiver. We transported Ed to Iowa City Adult day care successfully for two years. Ed was then admitted to Meadowview Memory Care in Cedar Rapids a year ago. They have Montesorri seven days a week to encourage a high level of scheduled activities.

This list of 'communication' suggestions was very helpful and I'd like to pass them on to other alumni.

- Never argue. Instead agree.
- Never reason. Instead divert.
- Never shame. Instead distract.
- Never lecture. Instead reassure.
- Never say "Remember?" Instead reminisce.
- Never say "I told you." Instead repeat and regroup.
- Never say "You can't." Instead "Do what you can."
- Never command/demand. Instead just encourage.
- Never force. Instead reinforce.

If you find you are a caretaker someday, you will need to stay calm when they repeat over and over or say "You never told me the dog died!" Get a new dog if necessary. Maintain a sense of humor.

Be sure to take breaks. Accept help and be kind to yourself. I have had great family support and I hope you will too.

\*\*\*\*\*

Following graduation in 1955, I became a registered nurse at Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, IA. I married Edward Steinbrech, we settled in Solon, and I interspersed my career with five lovely children. I spent fifteen years as a Health Education instructor at Kirkwood Community College before completing my Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Iowa (at the same time my youngest son graduated!). I switched careers to the VA Hospital in Iowa City, utilizing my education degree. I retired ten years later when my husband also retired so that we could travel.

A favorite memory from high school... Some of us recall being labeled 'country kids.' I found my calling at the end of the first six weeks as a freshman on the Honor Roll. Mr. Luke, our algebra teacher, walked into class and demanded to know what was wrong with the freshman class! Only two of the forty-two were select to the honor roll — Sara Cunningham and I, who much to his chagrin was a 'country kid.'



Ed and Nargi, residents of Solon, heading out to the annual Mount Vernon-Solon football game in 2011. Nargi says "we always sat on one side for the first half of the game, then on the other side for the 2nd half."



**THE MUSTANG MOON** To stay current with Mount Vernon Mustang academics, athletics, activities and more online content from the 'Mustang Moon' via YouTube, website, Twitter and Facebook! If you're on Instagram look up "themustangmoon."

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MVHsRoom208>

<http://themustangmoon.com/>

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

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

**THE MUSTANGCAST** Home of MV high school sports broadcasts  
Just go to [www.themustangcast.com](http://www.themustangcast.com) and click "Listen Live!"





## IT'S TAMPA BAY.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Excerpt from [mtvernonlisbonsun.com](http://mtvernonlisbonsun.com). Complete article in the April 30, 2020 issue by Margaret Stevens, photo from Telegraph Herald

Months of speculation ended April 23 when Mount Vernon High School graduate Tristan Wirks '17 was drafted in the first round by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

There's probably no more high-profile spot for an offensive lineman in the 2020 draft than to go to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who had another off-season acquisition in six-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady. Bucs' staff was excited about their first-round pick, a versatile, athletic tackle for the Iowa Hawkeyes. "He's a great athlete and just as importantly he's a great guy," Tampa Bay general manager Jason Licht said about Wirks in a video press conference.

\*\*\*\*\*

For more news about Tristan's career and Draft Day, google Tristan Wirks for a multitude of articles and live news stories. Follow Tristan at [www.buccaneers.com](http://www.buccaneers.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

Tristan was a second-team All-America choice and first-team all-conference selection by the Associated Press last season. He started 43 games over his three seasons with the Hawkeyes, including 40 at right tackle and three at left tackle. His three left tackle starts came in 2019, though his final action was at right tackle in Iowa's Holiday Bowl win over USC. Tristan helped the Iowa offense compile 366.5 yards of offense per game, including 137.6 on the ground. He also helped Iowa quarterback Nathan Stanley record a passer rating of 131.2. Tristan also started all 12 games at right tackle in 2018 and earned honorable mention All-Big Ten honors. In 2017, he became just the second true freshman to start at either tackle position during Kirk Ferentz's 21 years as Iowa's head coach.

## Alumni News...

### Send us your information...

[alumni@mvcasd.org](mailto:alumni@mvcasd.org)  
or call 319-389-8602 Kathy

### MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

**Kaitlin Zieser '15** to Cameron Schlotfeldt on April 6, 2019. The couple live in Marion. Kaitlin's mother is Keely Hunter Zieser '93.

**Kate Lynott '15** and **Calvin Kragenbrink '13** were married December 21, 2019. The couple live in Iowa City.

**Luke Staskal '00** to Nicole Powell on August 9, 2019. The couple reside in Florence, Alabama.

### ANNIVERSARIES

**Nargi Reyman Steinbrech '55** and husband Ed of Solon, IA, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary June 30, 2019.

**Nancy Smykil Berns '67** and husband Ted of Sierra Vista, AZ, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, May 27. She wrote in to say: "We retired here in Arizona 20 years ago, and are now building a second new home on 5 acres just out side of our town. Apparently, after golfing, R.V.ing, and enjoying family time, we now want to farm. We have a small fruit orchard we planted almost a year ago, and just planted a small vineyard of 120 vines. It is helping to keep us busy during this tough time. Our new down sized farm house will be done by mid summer. Life is still good!"

### BIRTHS

**Kylea Weber Brautigam '11** and husband Nick of Butte, Montana, a boy, Kash Vincent Scott, February 20, 2020.

**Matt Hess '09** and **Amber Melchert Hess '09**, of Lisbon, IA, a girl, Grace Maria, Nov. 29, 2019

**Caitlin Wieseler Bienemann '04** and husband Jared of Mount Vernon, IA, a boy, Quinton Thomas, May 14, 2020.

**Strider Patton '03'** and wife Brooke of San Francisco, Ca. welcomed their first child, Imogen Jayne, Nov. 18, 2019.

**Megan Stine Way '99** and husband Isaac of Seattle, WA, a girl, Alice Eloise, December 13, 2019. Grandparents are former MV teachers Don and Judy Stine.

## In Memory of classmates we have lost

### Don Minnick 1941

Albany, OR November 15, 2018

### Carolyn Neal Palmer 1942

Mount Vernon, IA April 29, 2020

### James "Jim" Gunn 1946

Mount Vernon, IA May 4, 2020

### Larry Edwards 1954

Cedar Rapids, IA January 16, 2020

### Carl O'Connor 1957

Lisbon, IA March 5, 2020

### Patricia "Pat" Sievers Montgomery 1958

Lisbon, IA May 2, 2020

### Mary Ann Ellison Comings 1960

Elmhurst, IL May 19, 2020

### Robert Colon 1962

Holden, IN May 5, 2020

### John Thomson 1965

Springfield, Mo. March 7, 2020

### Steven Edwards 1965

New York, NY April 8, 2020

MV Alumni Service Hall of Fame recipient

### Keith Danny Conrad 1974

Cedar Rapids, IA May 5, 2020

### Raymond Dochterman 1979

Marion, IA May 16, 2020

### OTHER

#### Roger Teeling

Lisbon Elementary and Middle School Principal  
Lisbon, IA April 21, 2020

#### Dean Borg

former district school board member  
Mount Vernon, IA March 22, 2020

(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.)

## EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

**Mallory Roudabush '17** graduated from Kirkwood with an AA in Business Administration: Management in May 2020. She has already received a Certificate in Global Perspectives: Business.

**Joseph Timm '16** graduated from Central College in May 2020 with a degree in social science.

**Kaitlin Zieser Schlotfeldt '15** of Marion graduated summa cum laude with honors, earning a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Mount Mercy University in May 2019. Kaitlin will begin her Master of Arts in Teaching at Kansas State University in the Spring of 2020.

**Keely Hunter Zieser '93** of Lisbon graduated cum laude earning a Bachelor's degree in accounting from Mount Mercy University in February 2019.

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

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**Betsy McWilliams Brown '99** graduated from Morningside College with a masters degree in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in teacher leadership, May 2020. Betsy is currently a first-grade teacher at Lakeview Elementary in Solon.

**Christian Cripe '16**, graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in Informatics, May 16, 2016.

**Cassidy Sill Reinken '01** of Mount Vernon recently earned certification as a Brené Brown Certified Dare to Lead™ Facilitator. Cassidy works across diverse industries, providing workshops and coaching. As a facilitator she works on developing courage-building skills, and teaching individuals and teams how to move from armored leadership to daring leadership using the Dare to Lead Curriculum. Cassidy holds a Master's in Educational Leadership with principal licensure from Drake University, a Master's in Teaching from Morningside College and is a National Board Certified Teacher. Visit her website at <http://www.beckelren.com>



U.S. Air Force Airman

**Matthew Visisel '19** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland in San Antonio, Texas. Matthew completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.



Photo: MVL Sun

**Jacob Barrett '13** graduated from the University of Iowa in December 2019 earning a bachelor of arts in computer science

**Kate Lynott Kragenbrink '15** graduated from the University of Iowa in December 2019 earning a bachelor of arts in interdepartmental studies

**Jorge Pena '15** graduated from the University of Iowa in December 2019 earning a bachelor of science in nursing.

**Mallory Scieszinski '16** graduated from the University of Iowa in December 2019 earning a bachelor of business administration in business analytics and information systems

**Samantha Walters '15** graduated from the University of Iowa in December 2019 earning a bachelor of arts in enterprise leadership.

**Mildred Chihak '13** graduated from the University of Iowa in May 2020 earning a Master Social Work, with a certificate in Aging and Longevity Studies.

**AND MORE...**

**Tom Wilkinson '86** is celebrating 25 years of teaching at Mount Vernon High School.

**Mallory Roudabush '17** was recently promoted to Assistant Store Manager with Furniture Row and has moved to Daytona Beach, Florida.

**Rachel Reimann '13** has taken a position with University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics as an athletic trainer/clinical specialist in the orthopedic department.

**Amy Schmidt Schweer '83** has taken a position at UnityPoint Health-Cardiology Clinic, in Cedar Rapids. She is the Structural Heart and Valve Program Nurse Coordinator. Her clinic does non-surgical heart valve replacement and repair.

**Jeff Meeker '89** earned his 400th volleyball career coaching victory. He improved to 400-287 in his 22nd collegiate season as a head coach at

Cornell College, the first four spent at Iowa Wesleyan College. His Cornell program has averaged more than 22 wins per season over the last 10 years.

**Chris Chapman '16**, a Cornell College senior right-tackle, was named to the All-Midwest Conference South Division second team in football.



Photo: MVL Sun

**Jenni McNeal Woods '98** opened her own hair studio, 'Shear Image' in Mount Vernon in fall 2019. Jenni has been cutting and styling hair for more than 20 years.

**Jake Ryan '07** was named chief financial officer of ImOn Communications in Cedar Rapids, IA

**Briana Strong '10** has joined the Colorado Mesa University volleyball staff. Located in Grand Junction, Colo., the school is a member of the NCAA Div. II Rocky Mountain Conference. She was previously at Cornell College. Brianna intends to begin her master's degree in sports administration this fall. While in high school, Brianna helped lead the Mount Vernon Mustangs to state titles in both basketball and volleyball as a senior in 2019-10, and was a 3-year all-state volleyball selection.

**Mary Thomsen '75**, longtime vice president at Mount Vernon Bank & Trust in Mount Vernon, has announced she will retire in February 2021 after a 41-plus year career at the bank.

**Jim Telecky '49** and **Bessie Koutny T Telecky '53** were named 2020 Valentine's Day king and queen from Cherry Ridge Assisted Living in Mount Vernon.

**Pearl Whitlatch Martin '42** was named 2020 Valentine's Day queen at Hallmark Care Center in Mount Vernon.

continued on next page





## THANK YOU NEWSLETTER LABELING CREW!

When each alumni newsletter issue is printed, a group of alumni (whoever wants to come!) meet up at the new firestation in Mount Vernon to label newsletters. Pictured here are pictures taken when the last issue was mailed in late December. Unfortunately due to Covid19 restrictions we did not have a labeling party for this issue. Thank you to the Mount Vernon Fire Department for allowing us to use their conference room for these gatherings. Pictured left to right:

Top: Alumni and friends gather to label the newsletter. Jim Gunn '42 in lower right corner of photo. Also in this photo are Carol Woods-Boren '75, Joy Koehn Kuntz '76, Karen Jilovec Martin '57  
 2nd photo from top: Bunny Williams Mulligan '61, Alumni Association Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Tex Clay '65, Gary Kaplan '64  
 3rd photo from top: Julie Gunn Thomas '70, Florene Allard Akers '65, Terese Pisarik '65, Patti Lynch  
 4th photo from top: Jeri Neal '66, Barb Thomsen Neal '68, Jean Pavelka Litts '53, Dennis Wolrab '64  
 Bottom photo left: Stephanie Fisher '87, Keith Clark '60, Jane Maxson Penfield '64, Annamae Stoneking Baker '60  
 Bottom photo right: Jan Lowe Whitman Majors '57 and Barb Neal Hutchins '57



## ALUMNI NEWS, continued

**Christopher Kerr '09** joined Mount Vernon Bank & Trust in February, 2020, as credit administration officer.

**Mackenzie Maurice '15** was selected in March 2020 to perform with the grammy award winning Chieftains of Ireland. Mackenzie is currently a senior at the University of Iowa where she is majoring in K-12 music education and vocal performance. She also performs with the University Kantorei Choir. Kantorei is the premier choral ensemble of the University, consisting of about 30 graduate students.



**Jared Pospisil '94** was named head football coach at Union High School in LaPorte City beginning with the 2019 season. His father is John Pospisil '66. Jared is also a special needs teacher at Union High School. Retiring head coach Joe Hadacheck said of Jared, "Number one: he cares, and I think that's important for the players. You can't be a guy that's gonna be at practice and then just disappear. I truly think he believes like we all have that relationships are the key to your success, and we want that at Union. We want kids to have a great experience, and he'll provide that atmosphere. So, I describe him as a player's-type coach. He's going to do whatever it takes to put the guys in the best position and also I think he'll be a guy that wants to do the right thing and has standards of excellence you know, in terms of classroom and community and as well as playing football. He was a part of the state championship staff. So, he is well equipped to handle the job,"



**Helen Blue Holder '61** published her first children's book in June 2020 with Fox Pointe Publishing. The book, 'David's Pretzels,' is an alphabet book for 3 to 7-year old children, inspired by her son's habit of biting pretzels into letters. It will later be available on Amazon. Helen says "My childhood ambition was to be a teacher, an author and an artist. I spent 34 years in the first grade (33 of them as a teacher.) Since retiring from teaching, I write children's stories and record the doings of the Ladies Floral Club and Friends of the Creche as the secretary for each group. I also do a little illustrating. Other activities include origami, book making, crocheting, traveling to visit 11 grandchildren and collecting nativity scenes. During the Christmas season, more than 900 nativity scenes take over the house and we become a tourist destination." Helen lives in Austin, MN.





## HALL OF FAME NEWS


**Matt Kroul '04**, 2017 MV Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame recipient, of Mount Vernon, was featured in the University of Iowa's 'Iowa Magazine' in September 2019. The article featured Matt and Kroul Farms, his Hawkeye football career, and his upcoming honor as the 2019 ANF Wall of Honor Recipient. He was recognized on the Hawkeye field Oct. 12 in the annual America Needs Farmers Game presented by Iowa Farm Bureau. At the UI, Kroul majored in health promotion, a program offered by the Department of Health and Human Physiology that led to his advocacy of local foods and agricultural education.



**Bishop Thomas Zinkula '75** facilitated a fellow bishops' conversation with the Holy Father Jan. 16 while meeting with 15 bishops from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Their 2-1/2-hour audience with Pope Francis topped five highlights for Bishop Zinkula, making his first "ad limina" visit to the Vatican as Bishop of the Diocese of Davenport to report on the diocese's status. The other four highlights: celebrating Mass at the four major basilicas in Rome, praying at the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul, meeting with officials of governing offices (dicasteries) and the fraternity of his fellow bishops. (source: [www.catholicmessenger.net](http://www.catholicmessenger.net))



CNS/Vatican Media  
Pope Francis greets Bishop Thomas Zinkula of Davenport as he meets with U.S. bishops from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska during their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican Jan. 16.

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



Top row, left picture: Kevin Woods '73, Mary Thomsen '75, Carol Woods-Boren '75, Karen Jilovec Martin '57, Sandi Erenberger Hanna '67, Barb Neal Hutchins '57.  
Top row, right picture: Kay Jilovec Lind '55 and Annamae Stoneking Baker '60  
Middle row, left picture: Chris Lyon '81, Cindy Bragg Steichen '80  
Middle row, middle picture: sisters Teresa Mortensen '76 and Kim Mortensen Konkowski '81  
Middle row, right picture: Karen Jilovec Martin '57 and Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier '78  
Bottom row, left picture: Sara Kendall '78 and Je Rita Steichen Whitman '80.  
Bottom row, middle picture: Cindy Feaker Johnson '74 and classmate Vickie Hill Reynolds '74 with her husband Tim Reynolds '72  
Bottom row, right photo: Alumni Association board member Taylor Sedlacek '10 and Sandi Erenberger Hanna '67

## THANK YOU 2019 HERITAGE DAYS VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to school district employees Levi Wade '17, Mitchell Kragenbrink '17, Chris Noll, Marty Williams '82, Laurie Keller, Chiara Niederhauser Burke '78, Marcia Purington, Matt Burke, Amy Weber, Vicky Wieseler, Steve Brand, Stephanie Timm, Steve Miller, Annie Hawker and children, and Superintendent Greg Batenhorst, who continue to step up and help the Alumni Association with the Heritage Days events.

Thank you to Mount Vernon city employees and police department for their continued support. Thank you to Rick and Trude Elliott at the First Street Community Center for their on-going support.

Thank you to the Burke family (Matt Burke, Chiara Niederhauser Burke '78, Mollie Burke '05, and Dan Zimmerman) along with Marcia Purington and Carol Woods-Boren '75 who have faithfully made breakfast for 17 years. Thank you to Chris Lyon '81 who donates use of his ice cream machines so that the Alumni Association may have a fund raiser.

Thank you to alumni and friends who volunteered at alumni events, including John Pospisil '66, Marilyn Dean Schnittjer '58, Roger Schnittjer '56 Cindy Bragg Steichen '80, Je Rita Steichen Whitman '80, Sara Kendall '78, Anna Tonne Broulik '74, Robert Broulik '74, Marie Sippola '59, Andrew Morf '94, Dennis Jordan '87, Susan Mounts Fisher '65, Mary Thomsen '75, Vickie Hill Reynolds '74, Tim Reynolds '72, Cindy Feaker Johnson '74, Carol Woods-Boren '75, Terry Boren '77, Vern Staskal, Hannah Ganzel '14, Sandi Erenberger Hanna '67, Barb Neal Hutchins '57, Shannon Roberts '04, Taylor Sedlacek '10, Karen Jilovec Martin '57, Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier '78, Jan Lowe Whitman Majors '57, Bill Yeisley '52, Ann Kopenhagen '78, Kay Jilovec Lind '55, Annamae Stoneking Baker '60, Jo Ann Thomson Stoner '70, Dennis Walsh, Kim Mortensen Konkowski '81, Teresa Mortensen '76, Jane Costello Fink '59, Judy Stine, Don Stine, Kevin Woods '73, Kim Zangger Tucker '94 and children, Alex Brannaman '09, Dave Kroeger '58. Our apologies if we missed your name.



# F O U N D A T I O N

## ANNUAL GIFT REPORT FOR 2019

Thank you to the alumni, businesses, parents and friends listed below who contributed to the Foundation during 2019.

2019

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

2019

### GIFT RECOGNITION LEVELS

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

## GENERAL FUND DONORS

### BUSINESS DONATIONS

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

#### Mustang Donors

Hills Bank  
Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co.

#### Maroon & White Donors

Bauman & Company  
Bridge Community Bank  
Brother's Market  
Chameleon's Pub & Grub  
Downtown Dental Inc  
Gary's Foods  
Lynch Ford  
Mount Vernon Eye Clinic  
One Mission Fundraising  
Palisades Family Dental  
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 125  
The Right Frame of Mind

## CORPORATE MATCHES

#### Maroon & White Donors

Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer 1991  
Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Steven Reyhons 1979  
Coca-Cola Company, Benevity Community  
Impact Fund  
for Beth Hufford 1984  
PepsiCo Foundation  
for Dr. Mark Weldon  
Raytheon for Lindsey Borg  
Wells Fargo Foundation Educational  
Matching Gifts Program  
for Holly Chappell  
Wells Fargo Foundation Educational  
Matching Gifts Program  
for anonymous  
Wells Fargo Community Support  
Campaign for Holly Chappell  
U of I Community Credit Union Give  
and Grow for Dean Borg

### INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

#### Mustang Donors

Jared & Caitlin Wieseler Bienemann 2004  
Robert Bowman 1958  
Beth Hufford 1984  
Gary Knutsen 1965 & Gail Knutsen

#### Maroon & White Donors

Richard & Rachel Aalbers  
Marie Reyhons Beuter 1953  
Bonnie Humes Boodon 1957 in memory of  
Diane Goldsmith Harmon 1961, Thomas  
George Humes 1962, & Bess Humes  
Struchen 1964  
Dean & Sheila Borg  
Lindsey Borg 1983  
Myrt Clark Bowers 1957  
Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman  
Christine Rilett Bullis 1970  
Dan and Lisa Cannon  
Lisa Capaccioli 1987  
Holly Chappell  
Tandi Dausener  
Jan DeCamp  
in memory of Howard DeCamp 1951  
Hal and Sharon Dendurent  
Jeremy Elliott 1989 & Carrie Elliott  
in memory of Dave Spellerberg 1989  
David Ellison in memory of Lloyd W Ellison  
and Pamela Ellison Owen  
Glover Ferguson  
Jane Costello Fink 1959  
in memory of Gusti Kollman  
Rosalie Bowman Gallagher 1963  
in memory of Warren Stoner 1963  
Dick & Deb George  
Penny Gerber  
Deanna Parish Gray 1991  
Treva Moore Heiser 1950  
in memory of Thomas Moore  
George Hill 1949 & Helene Hill  
Beth Hufford 1984  
Kraig & Pam Hunter  
in honor of Joseph Hunter 2019  
Brett and Carrie Karkosh  
Martha Vislisel Kimm 1947  
Richard Kohl  
Ann Koppenhaver 1978  
in memory of Judy Rundle  
Dave and Jo Kutcher  
Christine Lawler  
William Lighthall 1966  
Vance Light

Troy & Tracey Louwagie

Melanie Lucero

in memory of John Wilch

Denae McGrath

Bob Meeker & Marsha Accord

Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Company

in memory of Gwyneth Davies

Coleman 1950

Lauren Penn Oliphant 2005

Amy Paulus

Brandon Pitliik 1991

& Tammy Berner Pitliik 1993

in memory of Kathleen 'Sis' Woods

Pitliik 1947 and Ed Pitliik 1946

John Pospisil 1966 & Cindy Pospisil

Jennifer Chadek Prowant 1974

& Mark Prowant

Chris Rebhuhn 2007

in memory of Jackie Kerr 2007

Steven Reyhons 1979

David and Stacy Roe

Dave Ryan 1985 & Heidi Ryan

Kacey Kuntz Schmit 2000

Roger Schnittjer 1956

& Marilyn Dean Schnittjer 1958

in memory of Agness Schnittjer

Matthew Slinker 1990

Craig & Jean Smith

Mike Smith 1968

Dan Stoner 1970

& Cathy Humphries Stoner 1969

Joseph Studt 1964

Ron & Gloria Telecky

Matt & Jessica Thede

Ed & Stephanie Timm

Kim Zangger Tucker 1994

Sharon Neal Urich 1959 in memory of

Carmen Neal Musser 1963

Martha Vislisel Kimm 1947

Brandi Viter-Pitliik 1996 & Lee Pitliik

Vic Wallace 1961 & Dee Wallace

in memory of Chet

and Mary Wallace

Paul & Deborah Weber

in honor of Ike, Leo and Elsa

Appleton

Dr. Mark Weldon

Rosalynne Weldon

Dorothy Wolfe Welsh 1960

Kevin Whitman 1976

& Becky Thumm Whitman 1977

in memory of David Thumm 1979

and Dan Kinley 1976

Kirk & Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer  
1991

Leanne Zinkula 1981

in memory of Mary Zinkula

## RESTRICTED DONATIONS

### BOOSTER CLUB

#### Leading Donor

Michael Martin  
Toyota4Good Matching Gifts Program  
for Michael Martin

#### Maroon & White Donors

Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer 1991  
Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Mike and Lori Cranston  
Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman  
Mike & Lori Cranston  
Adam McDermott 1997  
& Charlotte Campagna McDermott 1998  
Kirk & Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer 1991  
Nathan and Katie Shaul  
Dan Stoner 1970  
& Cathy Humphries Stoner 1969

#### IN MEMORY OF JON MCVAY

Geoffrey & Patricia Barrance  
Michael & Janice Beske  
Terry Boren 1977  
& Carol Woods-Boren 1975  
Pamela Cameron  
Harold & Carol Clark  
Eric & Michelle Dalton  
Jeremy Elliott 1989 & Carrie Elliott  
Don & Donna Happel  
Larry & Donna Holz  
Walter & Sharon Krambeck  
Gary and Ruth Krinhop  
Wendell Maakestad  
Dana McVay 1985 & Bonnie McVay  
Dawn McVay  
Darry & Joan Miller  
Stephen & Ruth Miller  
Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Company  
Don & Roberta Parish  
Al & Barb Shepley  
James Stickley

#### FINE ARTS

##### Mustang Donor

Ray Stoner 1964 & Ann Stoner

#### Maroon & White Donors

Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman  
Mike & Lori Cranston  
Adam McDermott 1997  
& Charlotte Campagna McDermott 1998  
Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer 1991

# F O U N D A T I O N

Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer 1991  
Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Mike & Lori Cranston  
Dean & Sheila Borg  
One Mission Fundraising  
Nathan & Katie Shaull  
Dan Stoner 1970  
& Cathy Humphries Stoner 1969  
U of I Community Credit Union Give and  
Grow for Dean Borg  
Kirk & Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer 1991

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman  
Dean & Sheila Borg  
Richard Glatly 1959  
Green State Credit Union  
in honor of Dean Borg  
Tom Neal 1958  
U of I Community Credit Union Give and  
Grow for Dean Borg

## CLASS OF 1968 MEMORIAL FUND

Karen Edwards Packer 1968

## HEALTH PROGRAMS

Mercy Medical Center

## BOYS BASEBALL & CONCESSION STAND

Mustang Donor  
Mount Vernon Baseball Club  
Douglas C. Van Metre Family Charitable  
Foundation

## HS BOYS BASEBALL

Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman  
Ray Stoner 1964 & Ann Stoner

## BOYS BASKETBALL

James Erickson  
US Bank Foundation for James Erickson

## BOYS TRACK

Jean Plank Stinehour 1960  
in memory of Jim Plank 1962

## SOFTBALL

John Rife 1960 & Thelma Rife

## WRESTLING PROGRAM LIGHTS

Mustang Donors  
MV Wrestling Club

## CHEERLEADING

John Rife 1960 & Thelma Rife

## KIDS IN NEED PROGRAM

Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman  
Dick & Deb George  
Dan Stoner 1970  
& Cathy Humphries Stoner 1969  
Mike & Lori Cranston  
Mount Vernon Lions Club

## BAND TRAILER

Matthew Alles  
Alan & Lori Arnold  
Nathan Baker  
Julie Baumler  
Brent Belding 2010 & Suzanne Belding  
Kim Benesh 1985  
Barb Bleile  
Chad & Amy Conrad  
David & Karen Cripe  
Lance & Sarah Dickson  
Todd Dimmer  
Michelle Eichhorn  
Tim & Kim Fall  
Gregory & Dawn Gaffney  
Sarah Gross  
Spencer Gross 1990  
Ryan Hanna 1994 & Teresa Hanna  
Mathew & Heather Hasley  
Alissa Hunt  
Preston II & Beth Johnson  
Duane Jordan 1993  
& Leigh Ann LaPointe Jordan 1994

Traci Kadlec  
Cindy Klawiter  
Andrea & Jason McVay  
Richard & Joey Meineke  
Christopher & Jennifer Merriman  
Stephen & Kristin Ossenkop  
Michael Owen  
Roch & Sherene Hansen Player  
Eric & Virginia Roudabush  
Mike Russell 1989 & Jodi Russell  
Doug & Crystal Shannon  
Ryan & Angie Steen  
Lisa Stevenson  
Don & Judy Stine  
David Stoner 1968 & Jo Ann Stoner 1970  
Darin & Angela Swartzendruber  
Christina Tansa  
Darin Vig 1986 & Charlene Vig  
Sheila Wallace  
Scott & Carly Weber  
Webster Family  
Andrew Wolfe 1978 & Anissa Wolfe  
Steven Wolfe 1968

## HS BAND

Roch & Sherene Player  
Maurice Foundation

## BAND PROGRAM

John Rife 1960 & Thelma Rife

## CHORAL PROGRAM

John Rife 1960 & Thelma Rife

## HS MATH

Jeff & Julie Wenzel

## HS SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Chris & Angi Quam  
Frank & Kay Quam McCoy  
Bethany Campbell Tvedt  
Daniel Tvedt  
Donald & Priscilla Campbell  
Preston & Beth Johnson

## HS SPANISH

Jenna Voss 2002

## HS SPEECH

Jenna Voss 2002

## HS WEIGHT ROOM

**Founding Donor**  
David Van Metre 1955

## INDUSTRIAL ARTS PROGRAM

**Mustang Donor**  
Bowker Mechanical Contractors

## HS ROBOTICS PROGRAM

**Leading Donor**  
Bowker Mechanical Contractors

## CAY POST PROM

Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer 1991  
Preston & Beth Johnson  
Jody & Sandra Kolker  
Eric & Ayrica Richardson  
Kirk & Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer 1991

## SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB

Bridge Community Bank  
MV-L Community Charitable  
Development Group  
Jim & Mary Evans 1967

## MS CONCERT BAND

Mustang Donor  
Maurice Foundation

## MS PTO

Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman

## MS 5K

Cindy Morrison  
Janna Nokes  
Chris Wood 2005

## MS MATH

Jeff & Julie Wenzel

## WETAP

Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman  
Chelsey Blum  
Rockwell Collins Matching Gift Program  
for Chelsey Blum

## WE WALK

Mustang Donors  
Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Douglas & Diane Kopp  
Douglas & Diane Kopp  
Maroon & White Donors  
Alliant Energy Foundation  
for Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer 1991  
Tamara Blum  
Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman  
Kathy Faust  
Kelly Haskell  
Jessica Johanningmeier  
Megan Johnson  
Austin Kopp  
Becky Madsen  
Gail Nonnecke  
Michael Ripke 1999 & Jill Ripke  
Libby Shetlar  
Kim Siggins  
TargetCW for Jill Ripke  
Amanda Triggs  
Rik & Jenny Tudor  
in honor of Korbin Vavricek 1933  
Erika Utte  
Kirk & Jenna Wiebel Wischmeyer  
1991  
TaLisha Zell

## ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND

Dave Ryan 1985 & Heidi Ryan

## IN MEMORY OF JOHN WOLFE 1944

Ruth Bensmiller-Reed  
Ann Koppenhaver 1978

## IN MEMORY OF ETHAN MORTENSEN 2005

Kimberley Brehm 2005  
Robert Cook  
Geoffrey Glenn 2005  
Amy Guetzko 2003  
Chelsey Havill 2005  
Conrad Lichty 2005  
Lauren Penn Oliphant 2005  
MacKenzie Neal Paulson 2003  
LeAnn Pisarik  
Andrea Pooley-Ebert 2005  
Aryn Ray  
Joan Shelledy  
Jered Vislisel 2005  
Nathan Wolfe 2005  
Laurie Zaiger

## IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH KRIVO BRUESSELL 1983

Dumbaugh & Budack Families  
Kot & Kay Graber  
Janet L. Budack  
Diane Krivo

## IN MEMORY OF IRENE SUSIE EMERSON TUETKEN 1959

Jane Costello Fink 1959  
Ed Fordyce 1959  
Richard Hoidahl 1959  
Nancy Pisarik Mulder 1959

## MUSTANG LEGACY SOCIETY

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

Anonymous

continued on next page



# F O U N D A T I O N

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who donated to fund scholarships for our 2019 graduating seniors.

Adrienne Smith 2011 Scholarship  
Craig and Jean Smith  
Alternative Education Scholarships  
Anonymous  
Ann Koppenhaver 1978 Business Award  
Koppenhaver & Associates, PC  
Charles H Halsey Gift  
Charles Halsey  
Donna Jacob, Gladys Rife, Ruth Michaud and Maggie Quinn Ellison 1962 Award  
Sarah Miller Johnson 1987 & Paul Johnson in memory of Maggie Quinn Ellison 1962  
John Rife 1960 and Thelma Rife in memory of English/speech/drama teachers Mrs. Gladys Rife, Mrs. Ruth Michaud, and Mrs. Maggie Quinn Ellison 1962, and in honor of Mrs. Donna Jacob  
Carol Van Metre Scholarship  
David Van Metre 1955  
Evans-Moffit Scholarship  
Jim & Mary Evans 1967  
Faculty Scholarships  
Anonymous  
Anonymous in memory of Paul Ehrig

Heritage Days Volunteerism Award  
Mount Vernon Heritage Days  
Hills Bank Scholarship  
Hills Bank  
Inspiration Award  
Anonymous  
Joan L. Suchomel 1974 Scholarship  
Joan Suchomel 1974  
Kay Woods Scholarship  
Terry Boren 1977  
and Carol Woods-Boren 1975  
Sarah Woods 1995  
Kevin Woods 1973  
Michael Woods 1997 & Joleen Woods  
Sean Boren 2007 and Brooke Boren  
Derek Boren 2000 and Lori Boren  
Lynn Woods 1997  
Kyle Purcell 2011  
Margaret Garry 1979  
Memorial Scholarship  
Margaret Garry Memorial Trust  
Melchert Book Scholarship  
Morgan Melchert 2015  
Amber Melchert Hess 2009  
Allison Melchert Vallad 2010  
Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Company  
Scholarship Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co.  
Mount Vernon Volunteer Firefighters  
Association  
MV-L Community Charitable Development Group  
Maurice Foundation

Teaching Creativity Scholarship  
Laurie Zaiger  
US Nameplate Scholarships  
US Nameplate  
Extraordinary Woman Scholarship  
Susan Alexander  
Emily Appleton  
Lori Arnold  
in honor of Leah Arnold 2016  
Suzette Astley  
Janet Ault  
Mary Lou Batenhorst  
Julie Baty  
Julie Baumler  
Kim Benesh 1985  
Polly Blythe 1986  
Ann Booth  
Bonnie Bootsmiller  
Sheila Borg  
Myrt Clark Bowers 1957  
Susan Brust  
Janet Budack  
Betty Budack  
Polly Carrico 2011  
Ruth Clark  
Jo Kroul Clark 1964  
Thea Cole  
Diane Corcoran  
Glenda Davis-Driggs  
Christine Davis  
Sue Deibner  
Sharon Dendurent  
Marie DeVries  
Deborah Dever in honor of  
Hannah Joy Wieditz 2014  
Janet Dietrich  
Carrie Elliott  
Nancy Emrich  
Mary Evans 1967  
Deborah George  
Christine Goodwin  
Kay Graber  
Michelle Grudzinski 1992  
Sherry Grunder  
Christine Hallier  
Ginger Hansen  
Donna Happel  
Diane Harrington  
Debra Herrmann  
Jennifer Hoffman  
Kay Johansen  
Marilyn Jones  
Karen Kladivo  
Ann Koppenhaver 1978  
in memory of Marsha Light  
Erin Krapfl  
Elizabeth Kroul 1943  
Joyce Loomis  
Tracey Louwagie  
Sue Margheim  
in memory of Adrienne Smith 2011  
Nyla McCall  
Ruth Miller  
Barbara Moore 1953  
Mildred Morf  
Mary Jane McWilliams  
Ann McCutcheon Niehaus 1959  
One Mission Fundraising

Kristin Ossenkop  
Mary Palmer 1974 in honor of  
Carolyn Neal Palmer 1943  
Judith Caldwell Penn 1960  
Pamela Perry  
Susan Pitlik  
Cindy Pospisil  
Catherine Quehl-Engel  
Joan Rasmussen  
Amanda Rhomberg  
Sarah Richardson  
Nancy Rife  
Kate Rose  
Donna Rotschafer  
Lisa Rud  
Heidi Ryan  
Susan Salter  
Marilyn Schnittjer 1958  
Barbara Shepley  
Valerie Smith  
Mary Squiers  
Karen Stewart  
Judy Stine  
Catherine Stoner 1969  
Marianne Taylor  
Stephanie Timm  
David Van Metre 1955  
Judy Vopava  
Amy Weber in honor of  
Samantha Weber Formanek 2008  
and Kylea Weber Brautigam 2011  
Carolyn Wellso  
Denise White  
Amy White  
Jo Wilch  
Arie Willems  
Jenna Wischmeyer 1991  
Laura Werkman 1968  
Carol Wozniak-Rebhuhn  
in memory of Adrienne Smith 2011  
Mary Young  
Laurie Zaiger  
Michelle Zaruba  
Exceptional Man Scholarship  
Richard & Rachel Aalbers  
Dan & Lisa Cannon  
Mike Clark from Abbe Creek Ag, Inc.  
Jeremy Elliott 1989  
Vance Ellison 1995  
Sherry & Doug Grunder  
John & Mary Hale  
Kraig & Pamela Hunter  
in honor of Joseph  
Hunter 2019  
Brett Karkosh  
Suzette & Mike Kragenbrink  
Vance Light  
Steve A. Miller  
Joe & Beth Peters  
David Roe  
Mike Smith 1968  
Dan Stoner 1970  
& Cathy Humphries Stoner 1969  
Ron Telecky  
Ed Timm  
Scott & Amy Weber  
Steve Young

## 2019 DISTRICT EMPLOYEE DONATIONS

Employee donations support the Foundation's Teacher Grants Program.

Kaimee Akers	Robert Hanson	Allison Schnoor
Lisa Alger	Bob Haugse	Brandy Schurbon
Heather Allen	Annie Hawker	Linda See
Kristin Anderson	Jan Henik	Andy Shea
Alaina Appley	Ericka Johnson	Raechel Shea
Greg Batenhorst	Brett Karkosh	Kim Siggins
Mallory Beatty	Kristi Keast	Emily Stamp 2009
Gina Becthold	Suzette Kragenbrink	Toni Stanbro Wiesenhofer
Mark Benesh 1983	Tim Larson	Kate Stanton
Robin Brand	Mary Leopold	Kathy Staskal
Steve Brand	Susannah Maddock	Kim Steele
LeAnn Briesemeister	Susan Maurice	Kelsey Strobe
Lesly Bruner	Jan Moore	Sonya Sullivan 1990
Chiara Burke 1978	Mollie Moses	Ed Timm
Matt Burke	Lori Moss	Stephanie Timm
Jennifer Carstensen	Patty Mote	Lauren Tittle
Megan Casey	Kevin Murray	Whitney Turner 2000
Miranda Chapman	Chris Noll	Shawn Voigt 1986
Jenny Ciha	Jo Nowak-Thompson	Scott Weber
Susan Deibner	Abby Ohlaug	Krista Whitham
Cara Dix	Stephanie Olney	Vicky Wieseler
Julie Dye	Joe Peters	Thad Wilkins
Leigh Ann Erickson	LeAnn Pisarik	Erin Wilkinson
Sarah Fitzgerald	Sheryl Pospisil	Tom Wilkinson 1986
JoAnn Gage	Marcia Purington	Maggie Willems 1996
Lisa Greif	Jodi Russell	Deanna Winder
Dennis Gross	Heidi Ryan	Joelynn Winkler
Megan Hach	Kacey Schmit 2000	Mary Young

# 2019 Donors to the MV PERFORMING ARTS CENTER project

Thank you to the following donors who contributed to the Performing Arts Center Campaign in 2019. The new performing arts center will serve our school district and the Mount Vernon community for years to come. Philanthropic support made it possible for the district to increase auditorium seating. Thank you!



### Major Gift \$15,000 +

Mary Bowman Seidler 1957 & Stanley Seidler  
David Van Metre 1955  
Jerry Ringer 1955

### Founding Donor \$10,000 +

Darrel & Middie Morf  
Paul Morf 1990 & Jennifer Morf  
Mount Vernon Fine Arts Association, MVFAA

### Mustang Donors \$1000 +

Craig Arians  
Jim and Julie Baty  
in honor of Trevor, Trenton and Tessa Baty  
Downtown Dental Inc  
Tim & Kim Fall  
Janet Griffith  
Sarah Miller Johnson 1987 & Paul Johnson  
Truman Jordan  
Andrew Morf 1994 & Reagan Morf  
Colin & Mary Squiers  
Clinton & Jennifer Stanerson  
Ryan & Angie Steen  
Tom & Katie Stephens  
Todd & Lisa Squiers White 1983  
Tom & Vicky Wieseler  
John Wilch 1970 in memory of Meredith Wilch 1983  
Mark Wilch 1972 in memory of Meredith Wilch 1983  
Matthew Wilch 1972 in memory of Meredith Wilch 1983

### Maroon & White Donors

Mark & Kristin Anderson  
Ben '05 & Brittany '04 Brannaman  
Mark & Amy Butz  
John & Ann Gruber-Miller  
in honor of Mount Vernon fine arts  
teachers and students  
Dennis Jordan 1987  
& Angela Jordan  
Chris Lyon 1981 & Bonnie Lyon  
Karen & Mike Stewart  
Kim Zangger Tucker 1994  
& Justen Tucker  
Jo Wilch  
Thad and Jill Wilkins

*Thank  
You*

## Don't See Your Name Listed Here?

THIS LIST IS FOR 2019 DONATIONS. WATCH FOR 2020 DONATIONS TO APPEAR IN A 2021 SPRING ISSUE OF THE DISTRICT NEWS. If you have any questions, or need to report a change to me, please let me know.

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

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

DONATIONS MADE TO THE FOUNDATION (listed here) SUPPORT MOUNT VERNON STUDENTS

### DID YOU MOVE? HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS? GET MARRIED?

Don't forget to send your updated contact information, email addresses, and news items to the Alumni Association at [alumni@mvcsd.org](mailto:alumni@mvcsd.org) or text/call 319-389-8602

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

WATCH FOR THE 2020 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DONATIONS AND DUES/ SUPPORT TO APPEAR IN THE FALL/WINTER 2020 ISSUE





# Mustangs...what are they doing now?

## ■ CHRISTINE REBHUHN '07



EDITOR'S NOTE: Excerpted from Mount mtnonlisbonsun.com. Complete article in the Feb 13, 2020 issue

Christine Rebhuhn is a sculptor based in New York City. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and studio art from Kalamazoo College in 2011.

Her work has been exhibited several times in the United States, with solo exhibitions titled 'Emotional Shorthand' (2018) at NARS Foundation in Brooklyn, N.Y., 'Rim's Edge' (2017) at Soo Visual Arts Center in Minneapolis, and 'Cold Sweat' (2016) at Makeshift in Kalamazoo, Mich. Her work has been included in group shows at Tiger Strikes Astroid, New York, the Boiler in Brooklyn, and at Stove Works in Chattanooga, Tenn. She previously exhibited work in the 2015 Gyeonggi International Ceramics Biennale in Incheon, Korea.

Over the last several years, she has been an artist-in-residence at the Vermont Studio Center, Elsewhere (North Carolina), NARS Foundation (New York), and Makeshift (Michigan). Her work has been published in 'Art-Maze' magazine and 'Maake' magazine. She is now a co-director and curator at Wick Gallery in Brooklyn.

"Laurie Zaiger was such a patient and generous educator for me. She honored my interest in virtuosity and craft when that's what held my attention most, but she was ready to meet me at larger questions as soon as they struck. From there I grew slowly into the idea that being an artist was even an option.

Christine can be reached at [christinerebhuhn@gmail.com](mailto:christinerebhuhn@gmail.com)



## ALUMNI BASKETBALL PLAYERS EVENT

Coach Ed Timm (shown at far right with Ben Havill '02 ) and his high school basketball team honored 48 alumni boys basketball players during halftime of a Friday evening home game. All former players and coaches in attendance were introduced at halftime (photo top) and a reception was held after the game. Traveling the greatest distance was former Superintendent Jeff Schweibert from central Minnesota. On Saturday morning alumni were invited to compete in a free throw contest with current players. Ben Brannaman '05 was the winner of the freethrow contest. Coach Timm said " It was great to see so many alumni players in the gym again!"

## ■ COREY OSBORN '98



EDITOR'S NOTE: Excerpted from Mount mtnonlisbonsun.com. Complete article in the Jan 16, 2020 issue by Nathan Countryman

Eastern Iowa Hypnosis is now open in Mount Vernon area, able to help people with clinical hypnosis. Lisbon resident and Mount Vernon alum Cory Osborn has been working as a hypnotist for a number of years, primarily as a comedic/entertainer hypnotist. "I've been trained in both comedy and clinical hypnosis, but have never had the space to do clinical hypnosis," Osborn said. "I've done a lot of clinical hypnosis by ways of referral. My original plan was to do full-time clinical hypnosis work, but entertainment hypnosis was very lucrative."

Osborn said from March through June this past year, he was working every weekend at one venue or another across the Midwest. In late 2019 space came open behind Skillet Café and next to Anbriette's Pet Salon that allowed Osborn to open an office for clinical hypnosis. Osborn said his practice focuses on three key areas for hypnosis – weight loss, smoking cessation and reduction of anxiety and stress.

"Each client I've found requires a little different approach," Osborn said. Osborn said his goal with any hypnotic treatment is to address the issue in as few sessions as possible. "My hope is when a client leaves my door, I don't have to see them again for the same treatment," Osborn said. "If I've done my job correctly, it should not take return sessions on an annual basis to cure the one item in your life."

Osborn has been working as a hypnotist for the past 11 years, the past six full time.

Corey can be reached at [cory@easterniowahypnosis.com](mailto:cory@easterniowahypnosis.com)



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



# OUR SCHOOLS 2019-2020

## AUGUST

- 1,415 students in grades pre-K-12 start the school year.
- Students are introduced to a new evidence-based reporting (EBR) grading system.
- Classes are being held in the four new classrooms in the elementary school and the middle school.

## SEPTEMBER

- MVHS senior Karlyn Connolly was officially named a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist.
- Sara De La Rosa was crowned homecoming queen and Colter LaFollette was crowned king.

## OCTOBER

- The Marching Mustangs wrapped up one of their most successful seasons in years. The band earned Div. I rankings across the board at the State Marching Band Festival North. It was the band's fifth straight year with Div. I ratings. The performance capped off a year with multiple wins including first place Class 3A, best hornline and best color guard at Fort Madison; and first place Class 3A, best drumline and best drum majors at Linn-Mar.
- Fall play is 'Eurydice', and it was selected to be performed at the Iowa Thespian Festival
- Middle School students Anna Vavricek, Dashiell Yamanishi and Joziphene Broomhall were among the 700 students from Iowa and the nation who were invited to be honored at The University of Iowa Belin-Blank Center's Recognition Ceremony. They were asked to honor a teacher they credited for having an influence on their lives and selected teacher DeAnn Searce. Mount Vernon Community School District was given special recognition as a School of Distinction.
- The Class 3A, No. 9 Mount Vernon volleyball team won the WaMaC conference tournament.
- MVHS installed vape detectors in an effort to reduce the number of discipline situations

## NOVEMBER

- Voters in the Mount Vernon School District elected school board incumbents Denise Henik Brannaman '81, Nanette Gunn, and newcomers Lance Schoff '83 and Jeremy Kunz.
- The Class 3A, No. 7 Mount Vernon volleyball team earned a spot in the state tournament and then went on to win the state title. It was the Mustangs' fourth state title and first since 2010.
- 31 MVHS students are inducted in the National Honor Society
- A record 27 grade 6-9 students were selected to participate in Opus Honor Choir Festival.
- Nine MVHS students were selected as members of the Iowa All-State Band and Chorus.

## DECEMBER

- Twelve Mustangs are honored on all-district football teams Unanimous first team honors on offense included Noah Erickson at wide receiver and Kean Kamerling on the offensive line. Wyatt Stanbro was also unanimously voted to the defensive linemen crew on first team. Nolan Brand was named first team for his work at linebacker, Sam Adams as a defensive back and Garrett Hormann as a utility player. Cael Crawford was a unanimous choice as kicker for the first team all-district.
- Volleyball coach Maggie Lessmeier Willems '96 was named both the Class 3A Northeast District coach of the year and state coach of the year in Class 3A.

## JANUARY

- Trips to Orlando, Fla. and Europe were part of the MVHS J-Term plan, as well as classes to in musical theater, creation of podcasts and video documentaries, internships and other classes.
- Wrestling coach Vance Light earned his 400th career win.

## FEBRUARY

- MVHS Concert choir make 2nd appearance at the Paramount Theater this school year when they performed with the Texas Tenors.
- First-year girls wrestling got off to a strong start, earning its first ever medal at the state tournament.
- MVHS Speech team earned 20 Division I ratings and 10 Division II ratings at district large group speech contest. Those groups earning Division I ratings advanced to state contest.
- MVHS marching band was invited to perform at the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl and parade in Atlanta, Ga. in December 2021.
- MVHS boys basketball earned the WaMaC East divisional title and the WaMaC team title.

continued on next page



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Mount Vernon, Iowa

**319-895-6490**



Class of 1989



Class of 1996



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JEREMY HOTZ '99, Agent jhotz@hotzagency.com  
SPENCER DRAHOS '14, Agent sdrahos@hotzagency.com

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**OUR SCHOOLS, continued**

- Two high school wrestlers earned a trip to state: Arnie Galvan-106 lbs, Kean Kamerling-220 lbs.
- HS Robotics earned visit to state competiiton
- MVHS earned a total of 15 division I ratings at State Large Group contest. According to co-coach Grant Freeman '06, this was the most successful speech season in school history.

**MARCH**

- Chess Club returns to Washington Elementary school
- MVHS boys' basketball reached the state tournament for the first time since 2012. Ed Timm is head coach.
- District hires engineering firm to look at future activities complex to be completed by 2022.
- State-of-the-art High School Performing Arts Center is completed and an Open House is held.
- Governor Kim Reynolds shut down all Iowa schools for 4-weeks to minimize spreading the coronavirus. District staff immediately put together education virtual alternatives and school was later closed for the remainder of the year. Spring extra-curricular sports and events were cancelled.

**APRIL**

- School District property tax rate goes down to \$17.89 per thousand value from \$18.41.
- Journalism students earn 5 first-place awards in the Iowa High School Press Association's Spring Journalism Awards in addition to 11 other awards.

**MAY**

- MV graduated 108 seniors after a May 24 community parade. Prom and an official graduation is cancelled due to Covid19. Karlyn Connolly and Caroline Voss are valedictorians.
- School Board cuts \$150,000 from budget due to operating deficit.

**JUNE**

- HS Baseball and softball get the nod to proceed for the summer with Covid 19 safety precautions.
- Construction is underway for a new new, accessible elementary school playground.



**A REMINDER,  
WE HAVE CHANGED...**

The Alumni Association has changed its financial year to **January 1-Dec 31**.  
Your donations and dues/support now reflect this.

# 2020 SCHOOL DISTRICT RETIREES

## KATIE PODUSKA

**Total years at Mount Vernon: 32**  
5th Grade Science Teacher

## VICKY WIESELER

**Year started at MV: 1995**  
**Total years at Mount Vernon: 25**



**First year favorite**

**memory:** Suzette Kragenbrink and I started in the high school library at the same time. She was so patient and kind. I was completely computer illiterate - Suzette taught me what a mouse was and how to use it. Not joking.

My sons were a senior and a freshman the year I started. That was pretty special to me. Because of them, I was used to high school boys and wasn't intimidated by them. They helped me to not be "weird" with their friends.

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

Tom Madson hired me and I am so appreciative. He set a high bar for leadership - he was a tough principal but fair. Ade Ringold, superintendent at the time, challenged me frequently with world questions that sent me scurrying to find answers. Joleen Nelson Woods invited me into her music world and taught me so much. Don Swenson introduced me to the duties that eventually became the registrar's job. More recently, Stephanie Timm is my hero. She's kind and thoughtful and so organized and helpful - she's not only my co-worker, she's my friend. Steve Brand is always willing to listen, even if we don't always agree. As you can imagine, it has been wonderful to have my daughter teaching in "my" school.

**One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.** When I started at MVHS, I worked in the library. We had two teacher computers, tucked in a corner and rarely used. We had a card catalog for searching for library materials. When Suzette purchased software to computerize our catalog, I attached bar codes to every book in the library. It was a huge job - but

I learned the collection! I started helping with schedules when a colleague who usually helped Principal Tom Madson with scheduling had a medical procedure done and Tom asked me to step in. I've been working with schedules ever since. I don't actually remember when working with state reports started. I am sure I was asked to check something over and just never stopped. Transitioning to an online student information system was a huge task. We started with the Center Point system and then moved to PowerSchool. Everyone, including me, involved in switching to PowerSchool vowed to quit if changing to a new student information system ever happened again!

Moving into the "new" high school in 2006 and watching the renovation of what would become the middle school and having all of the schools on one campus was a major accomplishment for the MV school district. The newest additions to the buildings are a testament to the Mount Vernon community and their support of education, which I think is second to none.

#### What has changed in education?

Technology has advanced by leaps and bounds. The world is much smaller because of it. Students haven't changed, though. They have always been a blessing and a challenge, sometimes in the same day. Teachers have had to become more than educators - they are social workers and mentors and cheerleaders and motivation experts. Administrators don't just manage a building, they are active participants in students' lives.

**Parting words?** I have the highest respect for teachers and what they've been called to do, especially during the pandemic. The year ahead is such a question mark with COVID-19. It's kind of exciting to anticipate the "new normal" for education at MVHS. My advice is to have patience, be flexible, and work together. Thank you.

## DEANN SCEARCE

**Year started at MV:**

2000

**Total years at Mount**

**Vernon: 20**

**Total years teaching: 30**



#### First year favorite

**memory:** My first year I remember preparing for my first formal evaluation. I had taken all of the student projects home. I spent the night before correcting them so they would be ready to hand back, and I had prepared materials for the perfect lesson. At that time my daughter was a baby, and after dropping her off at the

sitter I discovered I had brought the diaper bag to school instead of my school bag. So much for best laid plans!

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

A teacher who mentored me when I first started my educational career (at North Cedar) was Margaret Sadeghpour-Kramer. She helped me to get out of my comfort zone. With her help and encouragement I applied for, attended, and eventually led several teacher workshops. These allowed me to gain information and projects that I was able to bring back to the students. Margaret also guided me on how to apply for grants to gain supplemental resources for students. A teacher who mentored me when I first started at Mount Vernon was Gloria Telecky. She had wonderful ideas and was supportive of projects I wanted to implement.

#### One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.

A lot has changed over my 20 years at Mount Vernon. In the Extended Learning Program the emphasis has gone more from providing high level enrichment activities, towards providing acceleration. I began at Mount Vernon working with students in grades 4-8. I look back fondly at some of the hands-on enrichment projects we used to do such as: Stream studies, robotics, mock trial, night of the notables, solar car races, brain night, and Monarch tagging. These past five years I have been working with students in grades 7-12 continuing some enrichment, but adding more accelerative options. I am very happy to have been able to provide Middle School students the opportunity to take online High School classes, and to provide High School students online Advanced Placement (AP) classes through Belin-Blank Center at the University of Iowa. Our participation was a key factor in receiving the District of Distinction award this past fall from the center. In addition, the success of those classes has led to the establishment of five live AP classes at our high school.

#### What has changed in education?

Technology and Covid19. I'm thankful that the technology we have now allowed us to offer learning opportunities during this time. I'm hopeful that school can get back to some semblance of normal in the fall.

**Parting words?** Thanks to all of the colleagues over the years. Mount Vernon CSD is a great place to work.

I especially want to thank my principals, Bob Haugse and Steve Brand, as well as superintendent Greg Batenhorst for supporting my recent projects.

## JOE PETERS

**Year started at MV:**

2001

**Total years at Mount**

**Vernon: 19**

**Total years teaching: 33**



#### First year favorite memory:

It wasn't my favorite memory, but just after my hiring in September of 2001, only one month on the job, 9/11 happened. I still remember where I was and what I was doing when the planes struck the towers in New York city. I along with everyone else was in disbelief and were very saddened by what had happened.

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

When I first started at Mount Vernon, two teachers that helped me were Scott White and Kurt Ronnefeldt. They were very friendly, helpful, and someone I could talk to when I needed advice or help.

#### One or two memories of events that happened during your career at Mount Vernon that you would share.

A couple of memories or events that happened during my career was finishing runner up in the state football championships in 2002 and 2003 and getting to coach in the dome at UNI. Getting to coach both my of my sons in football and track were very good memories for me. Coaching track with Ryan Whitman these past few years and being state track runner up in 2017 have been good memories for me also. Lastly, I've been fortunate throughout my 19 years at Mount Vernon to work with many great teachers and students, I have definitely been blessed.

**What has changed in education?** The progress of technology. When I started teaching back in the 1980's, computers were just getting started in the schools. Also, when I started teaching, we didn't have copiers, we had mimeograph machines to run off copies.

**Parting words?** I have enjoyed my time at Mount Vernon teaching and coaching, I have been able to work with many great teachers and students and I want to wish everyone the best. I also would like to thank Ade Ringold for hiring me 19 years ago. It has been a pleasure being a part of the Mount Vernon community school district. I want to encourage everyone, appreciate the time you have and enjoy the journey. God bless.





# ALUMNI

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

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