



MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALUMNI NEWS

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



Above, 2017 classmates, Jack Cochrane #43 of the Kansas City Chiefs and Tristan Wirfs #78 of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers faced each other on the field October 2, 2022. More on page 18.

2022 Alumni Hall of Fame

The Mount Vernon Community School District Alumni Association is pleased to announce the following alumni were selected as 2022 Alumni Hall of Fame winners. Pictured above left to right:

- Achievement – Jerry Ringer '55 and Larry Ringer '55
- Fine Arts – Dan Bern '77
- Service – Jeri Neal '66 and Barbara Thomsen Neal '68
- MV Community Impact – Scott Peterson 1971
- Athletic – Steve Goodall '83

They received their awards during Homecoming weekend on Friday, September 23, 2022. Turn to page 6 for recipient bios and photos.

2023 Alumni-Friend Events

January 1-December 31 – A reminder that we have changed our calendar year for donations 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 or visit mvalumni.org to donate online. **UPDATE** – The Association Board is changing direction in regard to our dues/support structure. At this time we will be dropping the 1-year and 5-year support levels, and switching entirely to a yearly donation request.

Spring - date tba – Retirement reception for Kathy Staskal. Watch for info to come.

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 – Heritage Day in Mount Vernon with alumni events and reunions.

Fall 2023 tba – Homecoming and Alumni Hall of Fame events. More information about events in the Spring 2023 Alumni News issue. **NOTE:** Our events are open to the public and community.

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525 Palisades Road SW
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314
alumni@mvcsd.org
319-895-8845
or 319-389-8602
www.MVAlumni.org



Hey Mount Vernon Alumni... Support YOUR Association TODAY! See back page



Mustang ALUMNI



Kathy Staskal will retire in May of this year after twenty years with the Mount Vernon Community School District. She has been the Alumni Association Coordinator since its inception in 2005. Even though she is retiring, I'm sure we will see her at events and continue to lean on her for a little help. See page 25 for information about both her open position and Foundation Director position. Watch for information to come about an upcoming retirement reception for Kathy.

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To advertise in the Alumni News -
call 319-389-8602 or email
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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 Coordinator. For advertising rates write or call 319-895-8845.

MV Community Events
www.visitmvl.com

2023
July - Heritage Days
Oct - Chili Cookoff
December - Magical Night
and more

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

I am very happy to report we have a new president-elect – Cathy Hufford '83! Cathy will begin her term this coming August. Until then you are stuck with me! Cathy and her sisters all babysat my brothers and me back in the early 1980's, so I can personally vouch for her character. She earned every dollar looking after us Morf boys! In all seriousness, Cathy spent her career as a DA in the Chicago area and moved back to Mount Vernon a few years ago to be closer to family. We are so glad to have her back in our community.



Andrew Morf '94
Alumni Association
President

It is bittersweet to report that Kathy Staskal is moving on to a very well-deserved retirement after 20 years with the district. She has served as the Alumni Association Coordinator since its inception in 2005! Anyone who has read our newsletter over the years, been part of the Hall of Fame events during homecoming, or been to our Heritage Days alumni tent, knows that Kathy has been the consummate glue and provided the ongoing leadership that has made this alumni association so incredible. Kathy has made a profound and positive impact on our community over the past two decades and will be greatly missed as she spends most of her time now in North Carolina with family.

Next, I want to thank Dennis Jordan '87 for his steadfast leadership overseeing the Hall of Fame nomination process for most of the last decade. Every year I marvel at the talent and leadership that has come out of our community, and Dennis has shepherded this important selection process and helped to oversee the induction ceremony.

As we begin our 19th year as an association, I cannot thank enough the many, many alums that provided financial support during our Fall 'Reaching Out to You' Campaign. We raised nearly \$40,000! Literally hundreds of you participated to make this possible, and many of you were first time givers. With rising costs of printing and everything else we do, along with annual donations, these gifts shore up the ability to carry out our mission for the foreseeable future. THANK YOU!

Finally, we have a couple of open positions I would like to call your attention to. First, we have an open position on our board. Second, the school district will be looking to replace Kathy in her coordinator role for the Association. This is a tremendous opportunity for the right person. If you have an interest in either opportunity, please email Kathy Staskal at kstaskal@mvcasd.org.

Kathy, we can't thank you enough for your years of leadership as the MVAA Coordinator. All the best to you and your family in retirement.

UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE-UPDATE

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE MV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Alumni Association's Board has decided to move from a dues/support and donation system to simply a donation.

Please consider an annual donation of your choice to support the activities and publications of the Alumni Association. Either visit the

- back page of this publication
- or online at mvalumni.org

Online, just select 'Donate' located in the upper left hand corner.

NOTE: do not be alarmed that the page you are directed to is a Foundation page. For donation reporting purposes, the MV Alumni Association operates under the MVCSD Foundation, a tax-exempt organization. Select 'Alumni Association' for your donation and the total amount is directed to the Alumni Association.

2023 REUNIONS

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

2018 5 years - Heritage Day July 8

Home of Cameron Weaver, 1602 Palisades RD SW. More info to come.

Contact: Cameron Weaver
Phone: 319-440-7511
Email: cam25weaver@gmail.com
Contact: Katy Bellamy
Phone: 319-310-3604
Email: bellamykaty17@gmail.com
Contact: Josh Jordan
Phone: 319-450-5674
Email: joshuajordan0917@gmail.com

2013 10 years - tba

Contact: Hannah Ganzel
Phone: 319-540-2927
Email: chenaegrace@gmail.com
Contact: Hanna Giegerich
Phone: 319-389-9485
Contact: Sarah Yeoman
Phone: 319-895-3016

2008 15 years - tba

Facebook page 'MVHS Class of 2008'
Contact: Brittany Wardlow Trumpold
Phone: 319-551-2042
Contact: Emilie Lynch Morrison
Phone: 319-350-4737
Email: eamorrison4@gmail.com
Contact: Mark O'Connor
Phone: (319) 558-9410

2003 - 20 years - Heritage Day July 8

Check class facebook page for more info
Contact: Nikki Port Morgan
Phone: 319-721-0653
Email: nikip1212@yahoo.com

1998 - 25 years - tba

Contact: Charlotte Campagna
McDermott
Phone: 319-895-8234
Email: char.mcdermott7@gmail.com

1993 - 30 years - Heritage Day Weekend

Facebook page 'Mount Vernon High School Class of 1993'
Contact: Braden Pospisil Rood
Phone: 319-654-1016
Email: roodbrood5@gmail.com

1988 - 35 years - Heritage Day July 8

Saturday reunion at Sutliff, visit Facebook page 'Mount Vernon Iowa Class of 1988'
Contact: Jennifer Clark
Phone: 319-530-8809
Email: jengonzalez1969@gmail.com
Contact: Lisa Squiers White
Phone: 319-899-4671
Email: whitetdlc@msn.com

1983 - 40 years - Heritage Day July 8

Saturday reunion 4-7pm at the Lester Buresh Center. Saturday morning float in the parade. Facebook page 'MVHS IA 1983'

Contact: Cathy Hufford
Phone: 773-750-0318
Email: cathy.hufford@gmail.com

1978 - 45 years - July 7

Friday evening at the Local 4-8 pm, then Friday evening town events and fireworks, Saturday am breakfast at high school
Contact: Andy Wolfe
Phone: 319-899-4606
Email: centralappraisal@mchsi.com
Contact: Jeff Spencer
Phone: 972-730-3828
Email: jeff.spencer.dal@gmail.com
Contact: Cynthia Deskin Halbmaier
Phone: 641-799-7583
Email: halby@me.com
Contact: Ann Koppenhaver
Phone: 319-895-6001
Email: ann@koppenhavercpas.com

1973 - 50 years - Heritage Day Weekend

Saturday am at the breakfast followed by float in the parade. Saturday evening reunion.
Contact: Chris Hanson Starkweather
Phone: 319-895-8588, 319-538-8281
Email: clstarkweather@hotmail.com

1968 - 55 years - tba

2023 Reunion plans are in the works - watch for more info to come
Contact: Barb Thomsen Neal
Phone: 319-560-0197
Email: xword417@gmail.com
Contact: Mike Smith
Phone: 319-361-8193
Email: mikesmith124w@yahoo.com

1963 - 60 years - Heritage Day July 8

Saturday eve Reunion at Gwen's Restaurant
Contact: Bob Dvorak
Phone: 319-895-8206
Email: dvorakb47@gmail.com
Contact: Linda Peterson Nost
Phone: 319-455-2138
Email: lindanost@icloud.com

1958 - 65 years - Heritage Day July 8

Saturday eve Reunion at the Sleep Inn
Contact: Marilyn Dean Schnittjer
Phone: 319-895-8817
Email: mschnittjer@gmail.com
Contact: David Kroeger
Phone: 319-377-7782
Email: dpkroegs@aol.com

1953 - 70 years - tba

Contact: Barbara Beckhelm Moore
Phone: 319-895-8512
Email: mooremanor@mchsi.com

1948 and earlier years

Meet at Saturday morning Alumni-Community Breakfast

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Class of '78
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Welcome Association Board Member

Join us in welcoming new board member **Cathy Humphries Stoner '69.**



I graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1969. That meant that our class was the first kindergarten class to attend the newly built Washington Elementary. It was K-6 at that time. The first Arbor Day each grade planted a tree on long what is now the fence by the track. I attended Ward Junior High and was one of the last few classes to graduate from the old High School on Main Street. After high school, I graduated from Coe College and married my 'high school honey', Dan Stoner '70. Five kids, 11 grandkids, and almost 49 years later, I would say it has worked out quite well! Dan is still actively farming in the Mount Vernon area. I loved teaching 4th grade and Title I reading at Washington Elementary for 20+ years, but I am now retired. However I am not retired from being mom, Nana, support help on the farm, bible study teacher and volunteer. I look forward to serving on the Alumni Association Board. I first became involved with the board when my classmate and friend Darlene Hartl Allard and I worked with the Alumni Association board when planning our class reunions. We then helped organize a few of the first Hall of Fame Award ceremonies. Life has kept me pretty busy since then, but I look forward to be coming more active once again.



Storytellers Reflect on Why Mount Vernon Is Home

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is an excerpt of an article by Nathan Countryman in the July 14, 2022 issue of the MVL Sun. www.eastcentraliowanews.com/mvlsun/

More than 50 residents attended the "Mount Vernon, Lisbon and Me" storytelling event, sponsored by the Mount Vernon Area Arts Council, Wednesday, July 6, 2022. The event was the first of four scheduled days of activities for the Heritage Days celebration in Mount Vernon this year, and featured the stories of seven residents. Many stories talked about what has made Mount Vernon and Lisbon home to these residents. Here are two.

Grant Freeman '06 told how Mount Vernon has slowly become home to him over the years. Freeman noted in his later high school years, he viewed Mount Vernon not as a place someone goes to live, but as a place people go to die. He went to college as far away as he could in Tacoma, Washington, and made a promise never, ever to set foot in the town again. Freeman noted he made several trips back to the community to visit family and friends, and each of those trips seemed to last longer and longer.



Until 2015 when he returned to Mount Vernon. He's been one of the head

ADMINISTRATORS AND RETIREES LEND A HAND AT THE JULY 2022 ALUMNI-COMMUNITY BREAKFAST



We were pleased to welcome several administrators and retired staff from our school district at the Alumni Association's annual Alumni-Community Breakfast during Heritage Days on Saturday, July 9. Pictured at left, from left to right, bottom row, former school district Superintendent Adrian Ringold and former high school principal Dennis Walsh. Back row: former superintendent Jeff Schwiebert, former elementary principal Gary Nelson, and current superintendent Dr. Greg Batenhorst. Other former staff members volunteering were Carol Woods-Boren '75, Lori Zaiger, and Nannette Gunn. Nannette is currently president of the district's school board. We hope to see them back, along with others, this year! Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 8, and come for breakfast at the High School!

'Beauty and the Beast' THESPIAN REUNION! 2009 cast & crew invited for a REUNION!

speech coaches for the high school since 2015, but every year he submits his resignation, and every September he's accepted the job again. Over the course of the last eight years, Freeman has realized that this town has become his home. "Now, I have no plans of going anywhere," Freeman said. "I'm even considering buying a house and starting a family in this community." Freeman accepted a job this fall with Lisbon Schools as director of plays and musicals for the school, as well as continuing on as head large group speech coach for Mount Vernon.

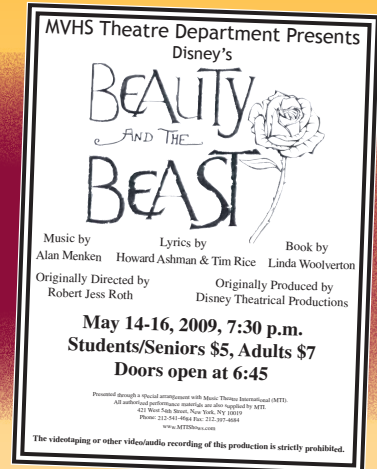
The last storyteller of the evening was **Tawnua Tenley**, instructional coach and individual head speech coach at Mount Vernon, who recounted her own journey. Her original career goals were to be a pediatrician and live in a big city loft apartment after high school.



Her family moved around a lot growing up, and she was never in the same town for more than a few years until she was in her mid-20s. When she was looking to go to college, she first did a few years of service with the military. She married, moved into Los Angeles with her husband and started college. A few years later, she didn't have enough money to continue college, had a failed marriage and a young son, and was struggling financially in Los Angeles. "I'd maxed out my credit cards on groceries and spent my last few dollars on asthma medication my son needed," Tenley said. "I remember a day I was trying to get my son into a daycare, and we had his nebulizer and as I was trying to get into the daycare, the medication for the nebulizer slipped out and hit the floor and shattered. I didn't have the money to replace that medication. That was my rock bottom."

Tenley asked a friend for assistance, which he provided, but asked her what her plans were. When Tenley said she planned to finish college, but couldn't in Los Angeles because it was too expensive, he asked why she couldn't go home with her parents instead? Her family now lived in Iowa City, and Tenley discovered it was a great place to stay and finish college. She applied to Mount Vernon a few years later as a teacher, sending her letters of recommendation to the district and applying to other places as well.

Tenley added she was the graduation speaker for the class of 2003 and the message she shared was that students would find the clarity she had found in her failures that eventually led her to Mount Vernon and the life she had here. "I've had a very rewarding career in Mount Vernon, despite living in a small town, one of the things I never wanted to do," Tenley said. "I truly found home here."



Fourteen years ago, Tom Stephens joined the Mount Vernon High School Fine Arts team and produced his first spring musical of 'Beauty and the Beast.' There were grand costumes, pyrotechnics, a two-story set, and lighted roses speckled in the audience.



This spring, Mount Vernon High School is again putting on this fantastical musical and the cast and crew of the 2009 production are invited to come for a reunion, to see the show, and perhaps a behind the scenes sneak peek at the new theatre facilities. We hope you can join us on April 15, 2023 to celebrate the revival of this magical musical.

Tentative Schedule for Reunion:
3:30 Tour of the Performing Arts Center
4:30 Meet the current cast
5:30 Reunion social time with refreshments
7:00 Enjoy the performance!

For more information, feel free to contact Spencer Schmidt '11 at 319-558-6030 or Khloe Rand Mlynarczyk '11 at 319-329-8642.

Orchestra	
Bass.....	Daniel Charles
Cello.....	Sarah Schäfer
Horn.....	Russ Lenth
Piano.....	Yun-Han Kuan
Synthesizer.....	Joseph McKinley
Percussion.....	Alan Kiser
Flute.....	Tara Ohrt
Oboe.....	Michael Wilson
Clarinet.....	Kyle Gunderson
Trumpet.....	Leslie Howell
Violin.....	Tabitha Rasmussen

Theatre Department Staff	
Director.....	Mr. Tom Stephens
Technical Director.....	Mr. Eric Butikofer
Vocal Director.....	Dr. Barbara Buddin
Costumer.....	Mrs. Barb Shepley
Principal.....	Mr. Dennis Walsh

Cast	
Belle.....	Emily Stoner
The Beast.....	Jared Knight
Maurice.....	Alex Moore
Gaston.....	Logan Scott
LeFou.....	Spencer Schmidt
Madame D'Arque.....	Molly Giegrich
Silly Girls.....	Andrea Hallier, Chelsea Johnson, Grace Moran, Sylvia Murray
Mrs. Potts.....	Janelle Knight
Chip.....	Cory Brannaman
Lumiere.....	James Taylor
Cogsworth.....	Austin Swantz
Babette.....	Delaney Olson
Madame de la Grand Bouche.....	Jenna Smith
Narrator.....	Mr. Ian Dye

Ensemble:
McKenna Bernard, Jen Gee, Kelsey Greif, Kenzie Jones, R1 Lafer, Alli Melchert, Zak Moran, Khloe Rand, EddieMarie Schettler, Forrest Scott, Taylor Sedlacek, Rachel Simons, Adrienne Smith, Hannah Tesar, Bonnie Thornton, Sarena Vizcarra, Matt White

Choreography:
Barbara Buddin, Katie Crouch, Kelsey Greif, Taylor Sedlacek

Student Director.....Brittany Schorg
Production Assistant.....Polly Carrico

Please be advised that this performance includes the use of a strobe light and smoke/fog effects.

Technicians	
Assistant Technical Director.....	Evan Freed
Stage Managers.....	Ross Eash, Kenzie Glenn
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Joe Dietrich, Jonah Greenstein
Lighting Design.....	Evan Freed, Tom Mlynarczyk
Lighting Board Operator.....	Tom Mlynarczyk
Follow Spot Operators.....	Megan Grunder, Brianna Pickel
Sound Board Operators.....	Joe Hines, Jessie Mhire
Scenic Designer.....	Gena Edington
Properties Master.....	Pryor Stroud
Properties Assistant.....	Polly Carrico
Special Effects Coordinator.....	Joe Dietrich
Logo Design.....	Tiffany Daubert, Becca Young
Program Design.....	Annabeth Lucas, Delaney Olson

Lighting Crew:
Joe Dietrich, Ross Eash, Evan Freed, Joe Hines, Tom Mlynarczyk, Jessie Mhire

Set Design:
Joe Dietrich, Ross Eash, Gena Edington, Kenzie Glenn, Evan Freed, Jessie Mhire

Set Construction/Paint Crew:
Megan Cannon, Gena Edington, Kenzie Glenn, Megan Grunder, Kenzie Jones, Kristin Kimm, Katie Merril, Jessie Mhire, Alec Miller, Emily Stoner, Matt White

Run Crew:
Logan Benson, Joe Dietrich, Ross Eash, Andy Gael, Kenzie Glenn, Jonah Greenstein, Lynaea Kiefer, Alec Miller, Nikki Penn, Dylan Walker, John Weirather

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Melissa Grunder, Jamie Harris, Kristin Kimm, Annabeth Lucas, Delaney Olson, Aaron Osborn, Jenna Pisarik, Sarah Ryan, Spencer Schmidt, Riley Schreder, Micah Wieditz

Front of House:
Abigail Chihak, Tyler Craig, Mackenzie Foxen, Trevor Gretten, Matt Hess, Melissa Grunder, Jamie Harris, Kristin Kimm, Aaron Osborn, Jenna Pisarik, Riley Schreder, Rachel Schroeder, Micah Wieditz



2022 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME



Hall of Fame events took place on Thursday and Friday, September 21 and 22. On Friday, high school students and staff and the public were invited to attend the Alumni Association Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony in the Mount Vernon High School Performing Arts Center, PAC. Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the PAC lobby. A President's Hall of Fame reception was also held on Friday for recipients.



ACHIEVEMENT - Jerry Ringer & Larry Ringer '55, FINE ARTS - Dan Bern '77, SERVICE - Jeri Neal '66 & Barb Thomsen Neal '68
COMMUNITY IMPACT - Scott Peterson '71, ATHLETIC - Steve Goodall '83

Friday evening was the Homecoming game and presentation of Alumni Hall of Fame recipients during halftime at the football field, and the All-Alumni-Community Reception 'Tailgating Under The Tent' at the top of the bleachers. The Mustangs beat Benton Community. The Alumni-Community Reception tent was open for all attending to enjoy.

The Hall of Fame award ceremony took place Friday morning, September 23, in the High School Performing Arts Center auditorium, followed by a public reception in the lobby. The audience, filled with high school students and staff, alumni, and family and friends, cheered the seven recipients as they received their awards. Pictured below, front row, left to right: Fine Arts recipient Dan Bern '77, Service recipients Ted Neal representing Barb Thomsen Neal '68 and Jeri Neal '66, Achievement recipients twin brothers Jerry Ringer '55 and Larry Ringer '55, Community Impact recipient Scott Peterson '71, and Athletic recipient Steve Goodall '83. Back row, left to right: MV Alumni Association President Andrew Morf '94, MV High School Student Council President Ava Dimmer, Hall of Fame Master of Ceremonies John Rife '60, MV Alumni Association Hall of Fame Chair Dennis Jordan '87, Nominators Ann Lehman Currie '77, Mike Smith '68 representing Martha Thomsen Ohlfest '77, Ted Croy '66, Roger Schnittjer '56 representing Dave Van Metre '55, Toba Peterson '00, Evan Peterson '99, and Michelle Goodall, along with Superintendent Dr. Greg Batenhorst, MV School Board President Nannette Gunn, and MV High School Principal Steve Brand. This photo and many others in this section by Lisa Lewis '83, Envisage Photography.

In addition, student events included the Thursday evening parade with Hall of Fame recipients riding in Corvettes, followed by crowning of the High School Homecoming queen and king and powderpuff football game, and a Saturday Homecoming dance.



2022



John Rife from the Class of 1960 was master of ceremony at the 2022 Hall of Fame Award event. This was John's 14th year as host.

Find pictures and video online at mvalumni.org or at these links:

Sept 23 Hall of Fame ceremony video <https://youtu.be/PPu4jSvaFgI>
 Hall of Fame pictures, bios, info <https://tinyurl.com/a6u22saf>



achievement

Achievement Hall of Fame recipients, brothers Jerry and Larry Ringer from the Class of 1955, were both nominated by classmate Dave Van Metre. (Pictured above Larry on the left and Jerry on the right.) Dave says "It is only fitting that this year's Achievement nominees are honored together – two twin brothers that graduated top of their class, and have gone on to admirable achievements throughout their lives." Dave was represented at the ceremony by Roger Schnittjer '56.

JERRY RINGER

Jerry, who was class valedictorian, participated in band, choir, sports, plays, and musicals all four years of high school. He went on to be a summa cum laude Cornell College graduate, received an M.D. from the University of Iowa College of Medicine, interned at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics, and then completed a residency at Iowa in the Department of Ophthalmology. Before doing his U of I residency, Jerry served in the U.S. Army as a general medical officer, stationed both in Korea and the U.S.



Jerry then worked professionally for 33 years as an ophthalmologist in Bloomington, IL. During his time at the Gailey Eye Clinic, they grew from one to five offices, building their own outpatient surgery center.

He is a member or past member of many professional organizations including the McLean County Medical Society (past president), Illinois Medical Society, American Medical Society, and the Illinois Society of Ophthalmology (past president).

While Jerry doesn't mind spending a Saturday flipping pancakes for the Kiwanis, as a highly respected community member he has been a member of many community organizations, including MARC Center Foundation for the Developmentally Disabled (past president), Illinois Shakespeare Festival Society Board, Senior Professional organization at ISU (past president) for mentoring honor students, Development Committee of the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, Eversight (Illinois Eye Bank), and member of mission trips to eye hospitals in Zambia, Haiti and Jamaica.

At Cornell College Jerry has been a Trustee for over forty years, and for whom Ringer Hall is named. He was awarded the Cornell College Leadership Award in 1990. Among his other honors are Philanthropist of the Year along with his wife, Carole, by the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, and History Maker of 2020 along with his wife, Carole, by the McLean County Museum of History.

continued on next page

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JEREMY HOTZ '99 Agent jhotz@hotzagency.com
JUSTIN ARNOLD '08 Agent jarnold@hotzagency.com

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Thank you



Thank you to out-going chair of the Hall of Fame committee and event, Dennis Jordan. Dennis has held this position since 2012, for a total of eleven years. At the 2022 Hall of Fame Ceremony he was presented with a certificate to honor his outstanding service.



Join Us At Heritage Day 2023 SATURDAY, JULY 8

...for our Saturday morning breakfast and Heritage Days events, including many activities planned by the community Wednesday thru Saturday of that week.

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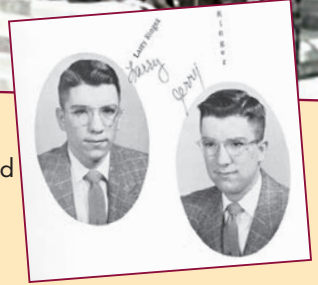
ACHIEVEMENT CONTINUED

Jerry says his teachers and classes at Mount Vernon High School prepared him well for college and medical school. And that because of the smaller size, he was able to participate in many activities, both in the area of sports and the arts. He says "It was these opportunities that gave me the confidence to do the extra-curricular activities in college and now in my life.... A big 'thank you' goes to the teachers of Mount Vernon schools that gave me the start for a great career and life.'



LARRY RINGER

Today, if you were to visit the public library in College Station, Texas, you would see identification on the building that says 'Larry J. Ringer Library'. From an Iowa high school student to a community leader in Texas, the public library was renamed in 2004 in honor of Larry, who as a former College Station mayor was very active in establishing the library in College Station.



Like his brother, Larry did it all in high school, enjoying both athletics and fine arts as a 4-year letterman. He was class salutatorian, going on to earn a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Iowa State, a masters in statistics at Iowa State, and then a doctorate of statistics at Texas A&M University.

He joined the Statistics Department faculty at Texas A&M University, going on to be both Assistant Head and Interim Head, and then Professor Emeritus, serving a total of fifty years at the university. His curriculum vitae is pages long of positions, professional awards, university committees he has served on, and publications he has authored.

Among his professional honors are a Distinguished Teaching Award, the H.O. Hartley Award for distinguished service to the discipline of Statistics, and the Paul D Minto Service Award for his contributions to the statistical profession. He has been a past member or president of many professional organizations including the Southeast Chapter of the American Statistical Association.

Like his brother, Larry doesn't mind spending a Saturday flipping pancakes, or serving as a track and field official, but he has been a distinguished member of many community organizations such as the Kiwanis Club, City of College Station council member, and then mayor from 1986-1996, the Texas Library System, Brazos Valley Affordable Housing Corp., a deacon at his church, and in many capacities for the College Station Library. He was named Kiwanis member of the year in 1977.

Today he continues to do consulting on various research projects involving experimental or survey design and data analysis.

Larry says 'I believe the teachers at Mount Vernon High School prepared me for continuing my education, gave me a role model for my career in education, and promoted the sense of serving others.'

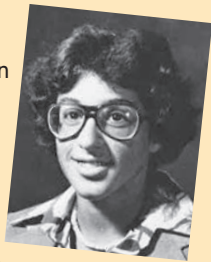
Jerry can be reached at 110 Hawthorne Lake Dr, Bloomington, IL 61704-8530 or by email at jerry.ringer3@gmail.com
Larry can be reached at 1851 Carroll Francher Way, Apt 645, College Station, TX 77845 or by email at larry@gceus.com



fine arts



Fine Arts Hall of Fame recipient Dan Bern, Class of 1977 was nominated by classmate Ann Lehman Currie. Also known as Bernstein, he learned to play cello at age six, and at age 14 picked up the guitar after hearing his first Bob Dylan songs.



Dan says that he took part in every chorus and theater opportunity there was, including in elementary school where "Mrs. Palmer opened us to a lot of different kinds of music, listening and playing. Lois Nichols, Gladys Rife, and Linda Bergman were great music and theater teachers/directors. He earned All-State Chorus twice.

After attending Lawrence University in Wisconsin, Dan began playing open mics every night in Chicago (and going to Wrigley Field during the day). He started landing gigs at Chicago folk clubs and eventually began playing all over North America and Europe, "any place they'd have me." In 1986 he moved from Chicago to Los Angeles, and a few years later began making records and writing songs for movies and TV.

In 2001, NPR interviewed Dan on 'All Things Considered'. NPR wrote 'With his acoustic guitar and a batch of witty and insightful songs, Dan Bern is rapidly becoming the voice of a new generation of folk music.'

Among his awards are 'Acoustic Artist of the Year' from the National Academy of Songwriters, the Ralph Gleason Award (founder of *Rolling Stone*), Best singer-songwriter album for 'Breathe' at the Independent Music Awards, the ASCAP Children's Music Award for 'You Can Do It' from the 'Stinky and Dirty Show,' and shortlisted for a Clio for 'Beauty of a Year,' written for Reddit in 2020. In September (of 2022) Dan was inducted into the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Dan has released over thirty albums of original songs, written a dozen books of stories and poems, and a novel, 'Quitting Science.' He has painted thousands of portraits, including a 2017 show of 'Portraits of Iowans' at CSPS in Cedar Rapids. He has had a major role in writing songs for a variety of movies and television and from 2016 to 2019 for 'The Stinky and Dirty Show' on Amazon Prime. He is a frequent song-contributor to the 'The Tony Kornheiser Show', including the recent 'Ballad of Tristan Wirfs.' He co-wrote a song, "Wings of Stone" (sung by Adam Levine) featured in the Judd Apatow film, "The Bubble," released in 2022 on Netflix.

In addition to his own touring Dan has been sharing stories and music in his 'Hunkered in the Bunker' live stream and has his own radio station, Radio Free Bernsteinn, that plays a mix of his music and others 24/7.

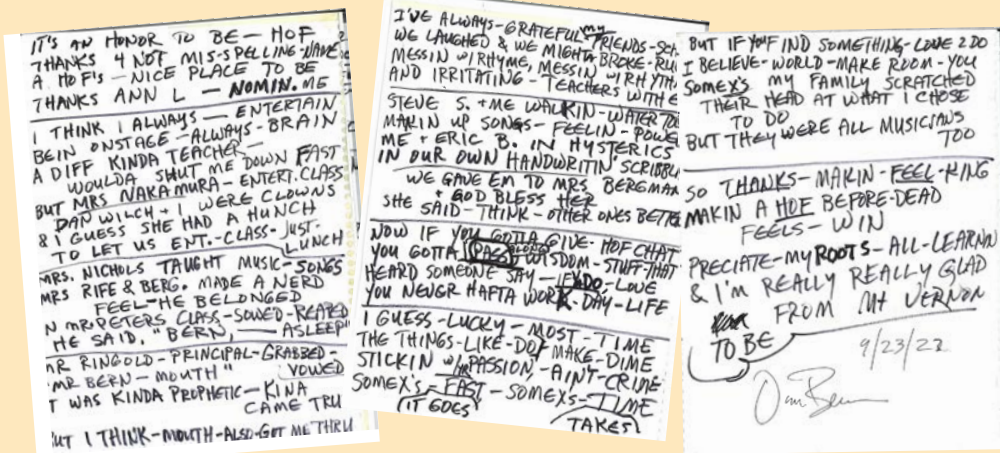


Beyond music, he is a lifelong baseball fan, and has won four awards from the New Mexico Newspaper Association for his sports column 'Outtakes from the Bleachers.'

Dan says that "at various times I have been banned from most of the major American folk music festivals, proving Mr. Ringolds' prophetic words, 'Mr. Bern, someday you're gonna get in big trouble for your mouth.'" Dan laughingly added that once he realized he was nominated for the Alumni Hall of Fame, he said he "intended to pursue it aggressively... jumping over tables, elbowing aside Terry Hormann, Pat Reilly, Steve Sargent, Martha Thompson, and Cindy Viter if need be, to grab the honor and get out of there before Mr. Ringold catches me with it."

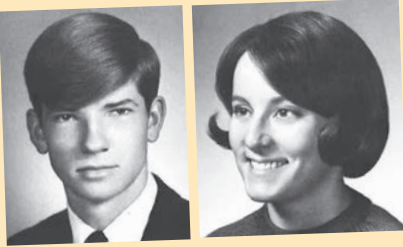
Dan can be reached at 2302 North Yucca St, Silver City, NM 88061 or by email at dbhq@danbern.com or dbernsteinn@gmail.com. Visit his website at danbern.com.

at left, lyrics to Dan's acceptance 'song', and at right with classmate and nominator Ann Lehman Currie





Service Hall of Fame recipients are Jeri Neal, class of 1966, and Barbara Thomsen Neal, class of 1968. Jeri was nominated by classmate Ted Croy, and his wife Barb was nominated by her sister, Martha Thomsen Ohlfest '77. Martha was represented at the ceremony by Mike Smith '68. Barb was unable to attend and was represented by her son Ted Neal '91.



Lifelong residents of Mount Vernon, Barb and Jeri were married in 1969 after Jeri

returned from Vietnam, and have been married for 53 years. Their four children were raised in Mount Vernon, Todd '89, Ted '91, Ben '96, and Abby '99. They have nine grandchildren, five who attend school in Mount Vernon. Their story is not only one of service but of devotion to their family and their community.

While raising their family, Barb and Jeri were actively involved with the schools and the community. Barb served on the Mount Vernon Parks and Rec. She worked on the committee to write the Comprehensive Plan for the city in the 1970s. Barb was very involved in the inclusion programs for the school, working closely with Grant Wood AEA to facilitate a strong learning environment for children with special needs. She also served as the chairman for the Advisory Committee to the School Board for six years. Jeri was a strong supporter of his children's athletic activities. He hauled a gigantic pumpkin for carving to his daughter's third grade class for Halloween. He gave several interviews for students wanting to learn about his experiences in Vietnam. Barb and Jeri opened their home for wrestling overnights almost every weekend during the wrestling season.

Jeri and Barb say they feel blessed to have grown up in Mount Vernon and to have graduated from Mount Vernon High School. They have great respect for their classmates and thoroughly enjoy organizing and, occasionally, hosting their class reunions. Both enjoy having friends drop by for a little porch sitting and great conversation. They value the people in their lives and make a point to contact their friends and family often.

Barb and Jeri describe themselves as honest, hardworking people who live their lives with integrity and devotion to others. Their greatest happiness comes from striving to make life a little better for other people.

Barb continues to spend many hours volunteering for a variety of organizations. She makes herself available to help, in any capacity, whenever called upon. One of her most rewarding accomplishments is becoming a SHIIP (Senior Health Insurance Iowa Program) counselor for Medicare and Medicaid. She assists on the Linn County Horticulture Line for the Master Gardeners, and finds time to help with various alumni activities. Barb loves the Mount Vernon community and is an active participant in many activities. Never having completed her college education, at the age of 70 years she set out to attain that lifelong goal." She received her degree in May 2022.

Jeri's nominator, Ted Croy says "I believe Jeri deserves the



Hall of Fame Service honor for both his service to our country and for his devotion to the Class of '66." Jeri had been drafted into the US Army 25th Infantry and spent a year in the jungles of Vietnam serving the United States honorably. He was awarded several medals, including three Purple Heart Medals for his injuries. Jeri was recognized for his service in Vietnam with a trip to Washington DC on the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight.

Ted also says "Jeri is a man of integrity. He is always willing to help others in any way he can." After the derecho, Jeri spent many hours helping friends and relatives clean up their damaged properties. He is often called upon by neighbors needing a little help and is always willing to do his part. He grows a massive garden and loves to share his produce. Thanks to Jeri, the Middle School cross-country team is often rewarded with a watermelon feast after a hot practice in the fall. He enjoys volunteering for the Alumni Association in any way he can.

Jeri and Barb can be reached at 773 Abbe Hills Road, Mount Vernon, IA 52314. Jeri's email is jmn773@gmail.com and Barb's email is xword417@gmail.com

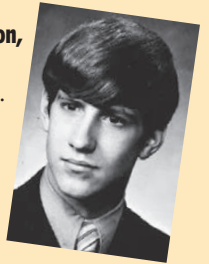


At left, Barb and Jeri's son Ted Neal '91 gives Barb's acceptance speech. Barb was unable to attend the ceremony. At right, Jeri accepting his award from nominator and classmate Ted Croy.



*community
impact*

Community Impact Hall of Fame recipient Scott Peterson, Class of 1971 was nominated by his sons and Mount Vernon alumni, Evan '99 and Tobyn '00. Evan says that "two words come to mind when many people think of Scott Peterson – service and Mount Vernon."



A life-long resident of Mount Vernon, his father Clifford '44, he, and his sons Evan '99 and Tobyn '00 all attended Mount Vernon schools. Scott is well known around the community for his active involvement in organizations while his children were growing up, but more importantly for his service to the community while both a mayor and councilman, in addition to his position as Mount Vernon's city attorney for over ten years.

Scott graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1975, later attending the University of Iowa for his law degree. After the Naval Academy, Scott went to naval flight school and was assigned to fly SH-2 Seasprite helicopters in the Pacific. When his Naval obligation was done, he continued in the Iowa National Guard as a UH-1 Huey helicopter pilot, later served as the executive officer of an infantry battalion, and completed his military career as a state command JAG officer, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1998 after 26 years of military service.

While in the guard, he was hired by the Linn County Attorney's office. After nine years there, he entered private practice, eventually bringing him to the position of Mount Vernon city attorney in which he served for ten years. He then resigned from that position to run for City Council In 2007. Scott served a term on the council and was then elected mayor in 2011.

In addition to his work at the federal, state, county, and city levels, Scott has a long history of volunteer activism and service in the Mount Vernon community, including at different times being a member of the Parks and Recreation Board, organizer and coach for youth basketball, founder and chair of the original community center committee, chair of the housing commission, member of fire station site committee, member of the Booster Club, and member of the American Legion Post.

An interesting note from Scott is that his great grandfather moved to Mount Vernon from Illinois to be the principal and superintendent of the school, leading to three generations of Petersons as Mustangs – father Clifford Peterson '44, Scott '71, and the third generation Scott's sons Evan and Tobyn.

Scot can be reached at 18617 Jasper Way, Lakeville, MN 55044 or by email at speterson.mvia@gmail.com

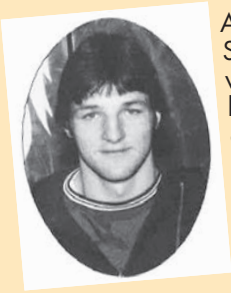


Scott with his nominators and sons, Tobyn Peterson '00 on the left, and Evan Peterson '99 on the right.





Athletic Hall of Fame recipient Steve Goodall, class of 1983 was nominated by his wife, Michelle Goodall.



An amazing addition to the Athletic Hall of Fame, Steve was a high school four-sport athlete in football, wrestling, track, and baseball. He earned 11 varsity letters, and was a member of seven conference championship teams – four wrestling, one football, and two track. Eight times he was named a First Team All-Conference athlete, was a state qualifier in wrestling during his senior year, earned honorable mention All-State Football twice, and was a junior national qualifier in wrestling.

High school teammate and MV High School teacher Shawn Voigt '86 says "Steve has been an indispensable friend, an accomplished athlete, and a successful educator as a teacher, coach, and principal. He was talented, but to succeed he needed to work, have discipline, and bounce back from adversity. To me, he embodied the term student-athlete and is a shining example of why athletics can be so valuable."

After high school Steve went on to attend Cornell College, majoring in history and secondary education. He attended the University of Northern Iowa to earn a Master of Administration in Secondary Education and is currently principal of the Compass Alternative High School for Linn Mar and Marion School Districts.

As a Cornell College Ram, Steve was a four-year member of the wrestling team, where he earned four individual conference championships, one of only eight wrestlers in Cornell's history to achieve this. Before graduating Steve ranked 15th at Cornell with 73.1 career win percentage, was named an NCAA Wrestling All-American, and was the recipient of the Paul K. Scott Senior Male Athlete of the Year. Steve was inducted into the Cornell College Hall of Fame in 2015. During his four years, Steve was a member of 4 Midwest Conference Championship Teams and helped his team to an impressive four consecutive NCAA Top 25 finishes. Formre Cornell coach Steve DeVries says:

"You are aware of Steve's accomplishments and honors as a Mount Vernon and Cornell College student and athlete. These are impressive and among the reasons he was honored as Cornell's Male Athlete of the Year in 1987 and was elected to the Cornell Hall of Fame in 2015. However, I believe what often does not appear evident in these honors are matters of character.

I taught and coached hundreds of young people in my 35 years at Cornell College. Steve stands among the very best as a talented and dedicated student and athlete. As a college wrestler he committed himself to becoming more than a competitor and winner. He was a team leader in work ethic, leadership, and loyalty to coaches and teammates. He knew how and when to support his teammates and carried through on that support. That capacity for loyalty and commitment has certainly served him well in his career as an education professional."

In high school Steve was also a participant in Mount Vernon's Fine Arts programs as well. He was a two-year member of the choir and also of the cast or crew of *Our Town*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Steve can be reached at 629 Nilsen Rd NE, Cedar Rapids IA 52402-2117 or by email at stvgoodall@gmail.com



Steve with his wife and nominator, Michelle.



CEREMONY & RECEPTION



From left to right: Fine Arts recipient Dan Bern '77, Service recipients Ted Neal representing Barb Thomsen Neal '68 (shown at left) and Jeri Neal '66, Achievement recipients twin brothers Jerry Ringer '55 and Larry Ringer '55, Community Impact recipient Scott Peterson '71, and Athletic recipient Steve Goodall '83.



Dennis Allard '67 visits with Service recipient Jeri Neal '66 and Ted Croy '66.



Chris Kinley Osborn '80, Fine Arts recipient Dan Bern '77, and Association Board member Mary Thomsen '75.



Reception hosts Jane Colehour Pospisil '68 and Alumni Association Board Member Cathy Hufford '83.



Above left, Todd Fackler visiting with his cousin and Community Impact recipient Scott Peterson '71. At right, former 25-yr School Board member and current Mount Vernon mayor Tom Wiesler and 2018 Hall of Fame recipient Carol Woods-Boren '75 visit.



Above left, MV High School teacher and alum Shawn Voigt '86 visits with Service recipient Jeri Neal '66. Reception hosts Jane Colehour Pospisil '68 and Member Cathy Hufford '83 serve Jean and Larry Ringer '55.



Above left, Lisa Squiers White '88 and Brenda Goodall '86. At right, Mike Smith '68 and retired Washington Elementary teacher and current School Board President Nannette Gunn get punch.



THE PARADE, STUDENTS, & PEP ASSEMBLY and AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD



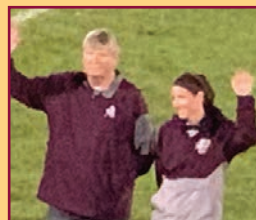
In the parade riding in their Corvettes, at left Achievement recipient Jerry Ringer '55 along with his wife Carole, at right Athletic recipient Steve Goodall '83.



Homecoming King Gus Andrews '23 and Homecoming Queen Ava Dimmer '23.



Association Board member Sarah Rife Patten '93 with Hall of Fame master of ceremonies and father John Rife '60 at the pep assembly.



Jeri Neal '66 and daughter and Mount Vernon teacher Abby Neal Bock '99 being introduced at the game. Abby represented her mom Barb Thomsen Neal '68.

Bottom right, Achievement recipients Jerry and Larry Ringer '55 along with Service recipient Jeri Neal '66 and Alumni Association Vice President John Pospisil '66 enjoy the game from the Alumni tent.



1977 classmates Barb Harms Tepper, Ann Lehman Currie, Dan Bern and Pat Reilly.



Above left, Association Treasurer Susan Mounts Fisher '65 and Athletic recipient Steve Goodall '83. Above right Carole Ringer, wife of Jerry, and Roger Schnittjer '56. Roger represented nominator Dave Van Metre '55 during the Hall of Fame events.



MAIL BY MAY 1

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

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

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

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

'The Spirit Lives On In You

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

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

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

MVCSD Alumni Achievement Hall of Fame

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

Criteria:

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

MVCSD Alumni Service Hall of Fame

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

Criteria:

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

MVCSD Community Impact Hall of Fame

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

Criteria:

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

Other considerations:

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

MVCSD Fine Arts Hall of Fame

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

Criteria:

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

Other considerations:

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

MVCSD Athletic Hall of Fame

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

- Statistical records and/or awards received.
- All-Conference All-State and/or state championships earned.

Other considerations:

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

2023 MOUNT VERNON ALUMNI HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM



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

His/Her address (if known) _____

His/Her phone (if known) _____

Select Desired MVCSD Alumni Hall of Fame Award(s):

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

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

Name of Person Submitting the Nomination: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

Email _____

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

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

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

HALL OF FAME HISTORY

2008

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

2009

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

2010

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


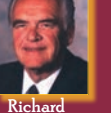
2011

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

2012

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

2013

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

2014

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
 Lindsey Borg '85	 Myrt Clark Bowers '37	 Greg Randall '82	 Paula Holcomb '72	 Ann Koppenhaver '78






2015

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

2016

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT

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

2017

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

2018

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

2019

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






2020

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

2021

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
 Phoebe Ball '91	 Crystal Cardon Eskelsen '93	 Shelby Kintzel '09	 Jefferson White '08	 Gwen Stewart Drahos '70

2022

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
 Larry Ringer '55	 Jerry Ringer '55	 Jeri Neal '66	 Barb Thomsen Neal '68	 Steve Goodall '83



50th Celebration

1973 State Championship Boys Basketball Team Celebrates 50 years!



Top: left to right Mark Walden '74, Aaron Van Dyke '75, Brian Dake '75, Jeff Werling '73, Phil Rilett '74, Mark Sargent '74, Clint Landis '80, Kenny Pospisil '68
Bottom picture left to right: Mark Whitley '75, Mike Hufford '79 representing Hal Hufford '73, Dirk Larsen '73, Ann Dvorak Ash '74, Linette Stewart Geissler '73 , Reid Goodrich '73, Ken Landis '75, Paul Brown '73, Mark Kerr '73, David Brokel '73

THANK YOU – So many people had a hand in the 1973 State Basketball Team celebration – Coach Landis, Mark Kerr, Lynette Landis Nugent '79, MV High School Basketball Coach Derek Roberts and his high school team, MV Activities Director Matt Thede and Activities Secretary Valerie Binsfield, High School Principal Steve Brand, Superintendent Greg Batenhorst, Instructor JoAnn Gage and the 'Mustang Moon' staff, Custodian Steve Miller, Christine Hanson Starkweather '73 and classmates, Kevin Smith '73 for the mini-basketballs, cookie donors, 'MVL Sun' staff writer Trent Bowman, and many more! Thank you to MV Alumni Association Board member and 1975 alum Mary Thomsen for hosting the reception held after the varsity basketball game.

Editor's Note: Excerpt of article by Trent Bowman from the December 1, 2022 issue of the *MVL Sun* www.eastcentraliowanews.com
Thank you to JoAnn Gage and the High School Journalism Department, alum Jeff Werling, and Activities Secretary Val Binsfield for these photos.

To hear the people involved tell the story, it doesn't seem possible 50 years have passed since the Mount Vernon Mustangs basketball team made history and won the state championship, but the facts are the facts. It was mid-March of 1973, months shy of a half a century ago, when head coach Bob Landis led the first team from Mount Vernon to win the state championship in its history. It became clear early on in the '73 season this was no ordinary team, led by no ordinary coach.

Success soon found the coach and the team, and the pieces of the 1973 championship team began falling into place the season before.

THE BIG YEAR

Christine Hanson Starkweather '73 remembers the year fondly. The team was slowly — and decisively — winning each game they played, rated tops in Class A, and excitement started to build. "It was kind of a big deal, all the way through the whole season. For them, and for Mr. Landis, I'm sure," Starkweather said. "The whole school was just really excited. And really backing the team, and supporting them. There were big turnouts at the games," she recalled.

"The places were always packed," said Kerr '73. "As we went along and won games, and with quite a bit of ease, there was always in the back of your mind that would end. That you could get upset," Kerr said. Still, they were beating teams by a large margin every game, and Coach Landis was undeterred. The closest a team had come to beating them all year was Wyoming, the coach said, who lost to the Mustangs by seven points. "Other than that, nobody was even close."

**CONNECT
WITH THE
SCHOOL**

www.youtube.com/user/MVHSroom208
themustangmoon.com
[twitter.com/TheMustangMoon...](https://twitter.com/TheMustangMoon)
www.facebook.com/TheMustangMoon/
District and individual schools website is at www.mvcsd.org
'MUSTANG VISION' GoMVStangs.org

In early March, the team learned they were truly going to represent their school at the state tournament at Des Moines' Veterans Memorial Auditorium. "It was almost 'Hoosier'-like," Kerr said of the town's mood during the tournament. "Because everybody would close downtown. There wasn't much else going on." "When state happened, I think they called off school, and let us go down to Des Moines to watch the games. It was a really big, big deal," Starkweather recalled. "The whole town was pretty much excited about it at that point." Kerr remembers the view from the bus on the ride to Des Moines. "I remember coming up the incline south of town where you can actually turn around and see all the way down Highway 1. I turned around, and it was solid cars and that's when I thought, 'Wow, that's a caravan!'"

Coach Landis, at 90, seemed to have the clearest recollection of the experience in Des Moines of all. "We went there the first of the week," he said. "The first game was on Tuesday, and we stayed there the whole week and left Sunday morning. "It was a great experience for the kids, as well, because they got to eat out at restaurants and go downtown," said Landis. This isn't to say the week was perfect. Star player Phil Rilett '74, a junior, came down with a bad stomach bug, and was unable to participate much in the tournament. Walking into Vets Auditorium for the first time, said Landis, "was an experience, to say the least." The team defeated Belmond in the first round 73-66. A Friday night matchup with Solon ended with the Mustangs winning 75-56, and advancing to the championship the following night. They found themselves toe-to-toe with the number three-ranked H.L.V. Saturday evening, the only other undefeated team. A team with a perfect season had never won the state championship before. Whoever won would change all of that. Mount Vernon and H.L.V. played a tight game all night that went into overtime. The Mustangs were largely without the ill Rilett, and Jeff Werling, '73 another stalwart for the team, was called for four fouls in the first half. "It was the poorest game we played all year," Coach Landis said. Nevertheless, the Mustangs scraped by 67-64, and changed Iowa basketball history. The team was welcomed back to the school as heroes the following day, with a 2 p.m. rally in the school gymnasium at which the mayor spoke.

Hal Hufford and Jeff Werling were selected for the all-tournament team. Following the tournament, Kerr remembered his coach and teacher, whom he described as "sharp as a tack" and "emotional", was clearly proud of their accomplishment. Eventually, the team graduated, and began to spread out around the country, with players like Rilett and Werling going on to play at the collegiate level.

Sadly, the team was without two of its key players in Randy Rundle '74 and Hal Hufford '73 at the 50th celebration. Rundle passed away two years ago, while Hufford passed in the last year. Hufford was represented by younger brother Mike Hufford '79.

Fellow 1973 classmate Kevin Smith purchased mini "Mount Vernon Mustangs" basketballs the team threw out to the December 3rd crowd.



- Photos from the December 3 reunion at right:
- At top Jeff Werling '73 and Phil Rilett '74 pose with their state trophy underneath the artistic rendering of their 1973 state basketball win that hangs in the entryway of Mount Vernon High School. The artwork was created by Mark Benesh '83 when the school opened in 2006.
 - Bottom left is Coach Landis being introduced by MV Activities Director Matt Thede
 - Bottom right Alumni Association hosted the reception after the game, and board member Mary Thomsen '75 is hostess.

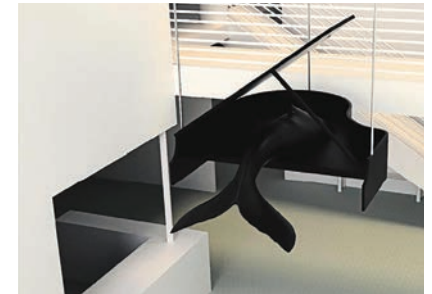


Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ CHRISTINE REBHUHN '07

EDITOR'S NOTE: Photos and excerpt from article by Nathan Countryman in the December 1, 2022 issue of the *MV Sun*. www.eastcentraliowanews.com

Christine Rebhuhn, now a New York artist, has been commissioned to create artwork to hang in the entryway at the new Buresh Wellness Center in Mount Vernon. This picture shows her proposal of the finished piece.



Rebhuhn said that she estimated the final piece could be in the neighborhood of 500 pounds in weight. The piece will use an 1890 Steinway grand piano, provided by classmate Zach Bostwick '05. Rebhuhn did a previous piece with a piano that Bostwick provided after they met in April 2020. That piece led to Rebhuhn opening her first solo exhibit in New York City in 2021. "That piece marked a significant turning point in my career," Rebhuhn said, in background on the piece. "That chance encounter, which seemingly happens a lot in Mount Vernon, changed the course of my work, and I am forever imprinted by that series of events."

At the Monday, Nov. 21, city council meeting, council member Craig Engel said he was excited about this piece. "The council has always wanted to promote local artists, patrons and merchants," Engel said. "Even when we're looking for large pieces of art, we want people who have connections and roots to the area." Council member Paul Tuerler appreciated Rebhuhn documenting the creation of the piece as well, to help people years later remember and connect to the piece and why it was installed.





Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ JACK COCHRANE '17



From Preschool picnics to Sunday night football, just unreal! Love ya bud!! @jacko_cochrane



Two of 110 Mount Vernon High School Class of 2017 classmates, Jack Cochrane #43 of the Kansas City Chiefs and Tristan Wirfs #78 of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers faced each other on October 2, 2022. Photos above, at left from the Iowa City Press-Citizen, and at right from Twitter by Tristan Wirfs (jersey picture taken by Tori Richman @toririchman_photography).

EDITOR'S NOTE: See complete article by Raven Moore, *Iowa City Press-Citizen* October 28, 2022, online at press-citizen.com

From being underrecruited out of high school to going undrafted in the 2022 NFL Draft, it would have been easy for Jack Cochrane to give up on his football dreams. But quitting has never been in the 23-year-old linebacker's DNA. His perseverance paid off as he now plays for the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs.

Growing up in Mount Vernon, Cochrane's love of sports came naturally as he participated in multiple different activities for much of his life. Thriving on competition, he got his fill playing with and/or against future college and NFL stars like offensive lineman Tristan Wirfs, offensive lineman Tyler Linderbaum, quarterback Cam Miller and linebacker Adam Bock. Surrounded by so much talent in a 10-mile radius, Cochrane said it all comes from how people in the area are raised. "There is just a unique environment of people around Solon and Mount Vernon," Cochrane said. "There are a lot of really good families and kids raised with the expectation that they are going to do the right things and try their best. As a result, you see an unusual amount of success come out of that area." Unfortunately, it can be difficult to catch the eyes of big colleges when you're from a small town.

This was the case for Cochrane, who found that as his high school career with the Mustangs was coming to an end, college offers were few and far between. "I was pretty unrecruited coming out of high school," Cochrane said. "I was playing safety, running back and wide receiver, which were not positions a lot of colleges thought I was going to play. I got an offer from South Dakota, and I ended up taking it."

Playing at the college level presented a challenge of its own. The Coyotes' coaching staff wanted him to transition to linebacker. "Obviously, it was different because I had to learn how to read the line of scrimmage and react quicker because there was less space, but I would say that I adapted decently well." That experience playing both positions paid off for Cochrane as he went on to have a remarkable career at South Dakota. In addition to being voted a team captain three times, he racked up 327 tackles (sixth most in program history), 23 tackles for loss, five sacks, four interceptions and 10 pass deflections.

As a senior, he was named MVFC (Missouri Valley Football Conference) Scholar Athlete of the Year, was selected to the first-team MVFC All-Academic Team, and was a first-team All-MVFC selection.

Cochrane did not hear his name called during the 2022 NFL Draft. Familiar with the feeling of being overlooked, Cochrane said that rather than let it get him down he had to adapt. After hearing offers from several NFL teams who hoped to sign him after the draft, Cochrane decided that the Kansas City Chiefs were the best fit for him. "Going through the pre-draft process, I got to speak with different coaches and other staff members around the organization," Cochrane said. "The values that people here have really spoke to me. Obviously, the level of success that they have had over the past decade spoke for itself. So this was something that I wanted to be a part of and I have loved it since I have been here."

Cochrane did not make the team's initial 53-man roster but was signed to Kansas City's practice squad. He was activated Sept. 13, a moment that brought him short-lived excitement. "It was cool, but I knew that I had to get back to work," Cochrane said. "Obviously, it was something that I have dreamed about since I was a kid, but it was a short moment. It was great to know that I was going to play in an NFL game, but I knew that I had to prepare and be ready to go. The old adage is that the NFL stands for 'Not For Long' so if you do not go out there and prove you belong every week, you are missing out on an opportunity." Cochrane registered his first career tackle during the Chiefs' Week 4 Sunday night game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The most memorable moment of the night may have come after the game when Cochrane caught up with his lifelong friend Tristan Wirfs, a Tampa Bay offensive lineman.

Cochrane said it felt like a culmination of both players' hard work. "It was a pretty surreal moment," Cochrane said. "I have played every sport with Tristan since we were four or five years old. So I cannot really explain how that

Join Us At Heritage
Day 2023

Best time all year to see many people you know at our traditional Alumni-Community breakfast from 8-10 am at the High School or uptown at Heritage Days. Watch for more information to come about alumni-community events during Heritage Days

SATURDAY, JULY 8

moment felt, but it was an incredible feeling knowing what we have both been through. Yes, we had different journeys, but to end up in the same place for the first time since high school was pretty special. It is a moment I am going to hold in my heart for a long time."

Well aware that his days in the NFL could end at any time, Cochrane said he is doing his best to make the most out of every day. "I am a pretty short-term goals kind of guy," Cochrane said. "I focus more on coming in each day and making the most out of them. I believe that if you can make the most out of the process, the results will take care of themselves. Of course, I want to be in this league for a long time and be a big contributor on not only special teams but on this defense too. But I think if you get too wrapped up in that stuff it will drive you crazy. So I just try to work my butt off and make the most out of each day."



■ SOPHIA ANDREWS '21

Editor's Note: See complete article in the August 4, 2022 issue of the MVL Sun, by Nathan Countryman, www.eastcentraliowanews.com

Sophia Andrews '21 from Mount Vernon, recently returned from 10 months of service with Americorps. Andrews' service took her to Habitat for Humanity in Kauai, Hawaii, Sierra Resource Conservation Center in Fresno, Calif., and World Relief and International Aid in Sacramento, Calif.



Andrews said she had been involved in social justice issues, including the Black Live Matter movement at the start of the pandemic, and was interested in more activism after high school when she stumbled on the Americorps organization. "I wanted to do more to help community issues and be part of the change I wanted to see in the world," Andrews said. Sophia was part of a 6-to-10 member team that worked at the three locations, spending roughly seven to 12 weeks at each location, working on projects.



MUSTANG ACTIVITIES COMPLEX UPDATE...

The latest sign of progress in the Mount Vernon Community School District is hard to miss, as construction of the new Mustang Activities Complex is underway! This project would not have been possible without the great generosity of many of you, and we offer a big thank you to all who have made donations in support of the project. The project is being financed through a combination of a facilities loan, district facility funds, and over \$2 million in private support. You can still be a part of this great project by donating to it, and this can be done in several ways.

- **Donor recognition opportunities** from \$10,000 to \$500,000. This allows you to put your name or the name of your business on a certain part of the complex
- **Donor recognition wall** in any of the following categories:
 - Major Donors: gifts of \$15,000 or more
 - Founding Donors: gifts of \$10,000 - \$14,999
 - Leading Donors: gifts of \$5,000 - \$9,999
 - Mustang Donors: gifts of \$1,000 - \$4,999
 - Maroon & White Donors: gifts up to \$999
- **Recognition through the "Save Me a Seat" program.** Personalize a plaque that will be applied to a bleacher seat in the home stands.

If you have any questions about the Mustang Activities Complex or any aspect of the Mount Vernon Community School District, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Greg Batenhorst, Superintendent, at gbatenhorst@mvcsd.org.



Save Me a Seat Fundraising Campaign

The Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation invites you to show your Mustang Pride and make a lasting impact on the new Mustangs Activities Complex by participating in the "Save Me a Seat" campaign. With a donation of \$500, donors can personalize a plaque that will be applied to a bleacher seat in the home stands. Funds generated from the "Save Me a Seat" campaign will be applied to overall project costs.

Celebrate a loved one, honor your favorite Mustang, or give a gift to the person who has everything! Contributions to the "Save Me a Seat" campaign are tax deductible.



Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

Total Commitment: _____

Pledge Schedule:
 By 12/31/22: _____
 I have included my 2022 contribution with this form
 By 12/31/23: _____

Donor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Checks should be made payable to the MVCS Foundation. Please write "MAC" in the memo line. Donations can also be made online at mvcsd.org/district/foundation. For information on gifts of securities, please contact the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation at mvfoundation@mvcsd.org.

Pledge forms can be emailed to mvfoundation@mvcsd.org or sent to:
MVCS Foundation
 525 Palisades Rd SW
 Mount Vernon, IA, 52314

Details

Pricing: \$500/seat
Pledges: Donors can make a pledge for the \$500 (or more), which can be paid until December 2023
Give Online: <https://mvcsd.org/district/foundation>
Mail checks*: MVCS Foundation
 525 Palisades Rd SW
 Mount Vernon, IA 52314
 *Please include attached form mvfoundation@mvcsd.org
Questions: _____
More Details: Seat location is determined by MVCS Foundation. Seat donors must still purchase tickets to any event at the MAC, as determined by the MVCS Activities Office, and are not guaranteed seating in the location bearing their names. If you have already made a donation of \$500+ and would like to "Save Me A Seat", please contact the Foundation.

Plaque Listing

Max of 3 lines, 25 characters per line
 Line 1: _____
 Line 2: _____
 Line 3: _____



In Memory of classmates we have lost

Marian Fisher Tillett 1941

June 10, 2022 Laramie, WY

Harriett Moffitt Sander 1942

May 29, 2022 Mount Vernon, Iowa

Marilyn Woods Overman 1945

January 8, 2023 Mount Vernon, Iowa

Bernadine Bartosh Reyhons 1945

August 10, 2022 Ely, Iowa

Margaret Clark Reilly 1946

December 25, 2022 Mount Vernon, Iowa

Donald DeCamp 1948

October 26, 2022 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Ric Sanderson 1948

June 13, 2020 Mililani, Hawaii

Ernest Wright 1953

January 9, 2023 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Lloyd Hughes 1955

September 7, 2022 Lisbon, Iowa

Betty Moore Stoneking 1956

May 30, 2022 Lisbon, Iowa

Richard Clark 1958

March 2022 Las Vegas, Nevada

William Jilovec 1959

November 27, 2022 Mechanicsville, Iowa

Carol Mirich Sokoloff 1961

January 14, 2022 Iowa City, Iowa

Marsha Viter Heims 1964

December 29, 2022 Mount Vernon, Iowa

Dennis 'Denny' Wolrab 1964

December 29, 2022 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

John 'Joe' Woods 1965

November 13, 2022 Lisbon, Iowa

Gayle Wallace 1968

December 5, 2022 Mount Vernon, Iowa

Janette Wolrab Blinks 1973

June 4, 2022 Mount Vernon, Iowa

Harold 'Hal' Hufford 1973

May 28, 2022 Mission Viejo, California

Randy Osborn 1977

June 18, 2022 Mount Vernon, Iowa

John Havill 1977

June 7, 2022 Mechanicsville, Iowa

Linda Klinsky Jensen 1978

July 6, 2022 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Jessie Ware Jocas 1978

August 19, 2022 Minneapolis, Minnesota

Tyler Bontrager 1981

July 11, 2021 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Wendy McClain 1982

May 8, 2022 Mount Vernon, Iowa

Charles Edward Velky 1983

November 5, 2022 Solon, Iowa

John Miller 1987

July 11, 2022 Springville, Iowa

Amanda Kula Meeker 1997

September 8, 2022 Marion, Iowa

Patrick Clouse 2001

July 22, 2022 Omaha, Nebraska

James Minor 2005

September 10, 2022 Olin, Iowa

Nathanial 'Nat' Klein 2014

June 9, 2022 Los Angeles, California

- FRIENDS -

Don Stine

former High School Band Instructor

January 8, 2023 Mount Vernon, Iowa

Tom Lass

former Middle School Principal

August 23, 2022 Lisbon, Iowa

June Silliman

former Washigton Elementary teacher

October 14, 2022 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Noreen Bush

former Middle School Principal

October 23, 2022 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

(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.)

Alumni News...

Send us your information...

alumni@mvcasd.org, Kathy 319-389-8602

BIRTHS

Drew Virlee '02 and wife Renee of Mount Vernon, a son, Hans Alfred, July 6, 2022.

Mallory Roudabush '17 and Dave Jones of Kalamazoo, MI, a daughter, Josephine Pauline, was born Oct 18, 2022

Jamie Wallace Smith '01 and husband Rik of Mount Vernon, a daughter Abigail Elizabeth Smith, December 7, 2021. Grandfather is Jim Wallace '64.

ANNIVERSARIES/SPECIAL DAYS

Mallory Roudabush '17 engaged to marry David K. Jones. Wedding is planned for February 3, 2023.

Nile Roudabush '11 married Megan Beuthien October 29, 2022. The couple reside in Cedar Rapids.

Shelby Kintzel '09 to Logan Hansen, December 31, 2022. The couple reside in Cedar Rapids.

Elaine Hoke Blythe '70 and Craig Blythe '70 of Springville, Iowa, celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary in 2022, married on August 19, 1972.

EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE

Miranda Roudabush Moore '13 of Port Hueneme, California, re-enlisted in the US Navy for four years. She is currently a BU2 SeaBee.

Riley Clark '16, a student in the University of Iowa's College of Pharmacy, was one of 46 future pharmacists who completed the Healthcare Business Leadership (HBL) program.

Keaton Fleck '18 earned at BA from Coe College in psychology in spring 2022.

Grace Pisarik '18 earned a BA from Coe College in nursing in spring 2022.

Jaden Weber '18 earned a BA in Business Administration from Coe College spring 2022.

Join the fundraising effort for **Summer Brand '20** who is undergoing treatments for Hodgkin's Lymphoma at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Read more about Summer and how you can help at this Cause Team page:

<https://www.causesteam.com/causepages/detail/summer-love-causesteam>

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

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Hannah Ganzel '13 earned a master of science in education with a degree in student affairs administration in higher education from the University of Wisconsin LaCrosse in spring 2022.

Kristen Elliott '18 graduated cum laude with a BA degree in allied health sciences from Luther College spring 2022.

Preston Shultz '18 earned a BA in elementary education from Luther College spring 2022.

Katherine Bellamy '18 earned a BA in nursing from Luther College spring 2022.

Elizabeth Ryan '17 earned a BA in psychology from Drake University spring 2022.

Emily Friedman '18 earned a BA with honors in elementary and middle level education from UNI spring 2022.

Grace Pelley '17 earned a master of social work with trauma informed practice specialization from UNI spring 2022.

Jack Streicher '18 earned a BA in supply chain management from UNI spring 2022.

Shae Banwart '17 graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science in accounting from Iowa State University spring 2022.

Clayton Loyd '18 graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in agricultural engineering from Iowa State University spring 2022

Justin Manternach '17 earned a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University spring 2022.

Adam S. Ketelsen '16 earned undergraduate certificates for human resource management and visionary leadership from Wichita State University in spring 2022.

Cody Connolly '18 earned a BA in enterprise leadership from the University of Iowa spring 2022.

Olive Fitzgerald '18 earned a BA in business administration marketing from the University of Iowa spring 2022

Garrett Welch '18 earned a certificate in leadership studies from the University of Iowa spring 2022.

Trevor Wright '17 earned a BA in enterprise leadership from the University of Iowa spring 2022.

AND MORE...

Maggie Lessmeier Willems '96, head volleyball coach at Mount Vernon High School, took her team to the state championship. Her team clinched the WaMaC Conference title for the 4th year in a row, and Maggie was named District Coach of the Year.

Brandon Douglas '13 of Greeley, Colorado won first place in the 2022 Iowa

Director's Association Composition competition. The composition was debuted at the Iowa Choral Director's Association Summer Meeting in July.

Kim Mortensen Konkowski '81 retired from the US Post Office and her position as Mount Vernon postmaster in October 2022. She worked for the postal service for 26 years.

Ellie Meineke '17 has taken a 4th grade teacher position at Lisbon Schools.

Paige Zaruba '19 of Mount Vernon was awarded a \$3,500 scholarship from the Iowa Hospital Education and Research Foundation (IHERF), which is supported by the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA). Zaruba is pursuing her BSN at Luther College in Decorah and works as a patient care technician for Mercy's clinical decision unit.

Jeff Meeker '89 was named Cornell College's Director of Athletics in January 2023.

Chance Shelton '13, who moved out of the state in 2007, returned and is Mount Vernon High School's assistant girls wrestling coach - a first year program.

Justin Dix '97, Mount Vernon Bank & Trust's commercial and agricultural lender, was named to the bank's board of directors.

Aaron Schwiebert '02 has taken position of high school science teacher at Mount Vernon High School.

Paul Morf '90, a lawyer at Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman PLC attorneys in Cedar Rapids, was recognized by Best Lawyers as 2023 'Lawyer of the Year' specializing in Trusts and Estates, and was selected for inclusion in the 2023 edition of 'The Best Lawyers in America®'.

Summer Brand '20, sophomore in the spring of 2022 at Central college earned her first varsity letter and was named newcomer of the year as a member of the triathlon team.



Source of Konkowski, Meineke, Zaruba, Dix Morf, and Brand photos MVL Sun

■ AUSTIN ASH '17

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you to Randy Krejci, WMT sports reporter, WMT Letter Perfect High School Athlete of the Week, and former Mississippi Valley Conference Commissioner for sending us this information. Randy says "I thought I would share this if you want to use it in your next publication. I know Austin was a great boys basketball player at Mount Vernon High School in his time there!"



In July, 2022, Randy wrote "Austin Ash, a former Mustang, great in the sport of basketball, has now completed his basketball career at the University of Iowa under Coach Fran McCaffrey, received a full-ride scholarship to play his final collegiate year of eligibility at the Citadel, and is likely to be a point guard for their team in the 2022-23 basketball season. He was a preferred walk-on at Iowa to begin his basketball venture for the Hawkeyes and did receive a full-ride scholarship this past year as he concluded his career for the Hawkeyes.

Austin is currently headed to Charleston, South Carolina to play ball at the Citadel. His offensive prowess and shooting abilities made him a clear cut choice for this Division 1 university to have him compete in this final year of collegiate competition. The Bulldogs of Citadel, one of the oldest universities in the country, opened its prestigious existence in 1899 and they are members of the Southern Conference, SoCon. Head Coach Ed Conroy wants Austin to be a key member of the squad and is well known for his coaching -- most recently at Vanderbilt and Minnesota where he was a premiere assistant coach at both institutions.

So Austin Ash goes from a Mustang to a Hawkeye and now a Bulldog as he competes this season at a Division 1 program here in the USA. Best wishes, Austin Ash!"

Editor's Note: At Mount Vernon Austin was First Team All-Conference, All-District and Second Team All-State his senior year under coach Ed Timm... averaged 23 points, 6.4 rebounds, 3.5 assists, 2.5 steals, and one block as team captain his senior season... holds the school record for most 3-pointers made in a career (140).

At the Citadel it is now mid-season and Austin has become the team's most versatile player -- leading with both minutes played and scoring. Austin averages 15 points per game, shoots 38% from the floor, 37% on 3 pt shots, and 90% from the free throw line. The team is 7-11 on the season with thirteen games left on the 2023 schedule. In December, 2022, The Citadel got a career-high nine three-pointers from Austin as the Bulldogs nearly erased an 11-point second-half deficit before falling, 75-70, to opponent Longwood. Austin scored a career-high 27 points on 9-of-17 shooting from beyond the arc. He knocked down six of his three-pointers in the second half.



THANK YOU for your Support of the ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Until December 31, 2022, one way you could help the Alumni Association was to be a 'Dues Supporter'. We have been asking each alumnus and friend for a voluntary contribution of 1-yr or 5-yr support or donation (JANUARY 1 THRU DEC 31) to help offset a variety of publishing, event, and Association expenses.

Following are names of alums who have supported us for the 2022 year with either 'Support' or donations. **Your financial support is greatly appreciated.**

At the Alumni Association's fall Board meeting, it was decided to change from a dues/support and donation system to simply a donation. The 2023 report will reflect only donations to the Association.

See back page for the 2023 Donation Form, or log in online at www.mvalumni.org and select donate at the top left corner.

Is your name missing? Call Kathy at 319-389-8602 or email to alumni@mvcsd.org

2022 ANNUAL SUPPORT/DUES DONORS

Thank you to the following who have given either \$15 for a one-year support or \$60 for a 5-year support of Association activities.

Harold Klinsky 1947 Marion IA	Jerry Ringer 1955 Bloomington IL	Robert Bowman 1958 Glenview IL	Beverly Lange Chunka 1960 LaVista NE
Millicent Hoggard Zenishek 1947 Mechanicsville IA	Larry Ringer 1955 College Station TX	Rodger Brush 1958 Willow River MN	Keith Clark 1960 Mount Vernon IA
Dr. Stanley Grant 1949 Deer Park WA	Nargi Rayman Steinbrech 1955 Solon IA	Ben Jamison 1958 Lisbon, IA	Susan Dye Hodin 1960 Cedar Rapids IA
George Hill, M.D., 1949 Baltimore MD	Dave Thomson 1955 Benton LA	Larry Kramer 1958 Marion IA	Fran Lanning 1960 Nevada IA
James Kent 1950 Winchester MA	David Van Metre 1955 Kenilworth IL	David Kroeger 1958 Marion IA	Patrick Lynott 1960 Marshalltown IA
Wiladene Hoggard Willming 1950 San Antonio TX	Phylis Brecht White 1955 Solon IA	Bob Lenz 1958 Marion IA	Lumir Nezerka 1960 Savage MN
David Wolfe 1950 Los Angeles CA	Betty Coon Ammeter 1956 Cedar Rapids IA	Tom Neal 1958 Cocoa FL	Ann McCutcheon Niehaus 1959 Martelle IA
Lloyd Duffe 1951 Brooklyn NY	David Ennis 1956 Virginia Beach VA	Gail Yeisley Rhodes 1958 Clive IA	Fred Niehaus 1960 Martelle IA
Ellen Klinsky Jones 1951 Ely IA	Ken Kaliban 1956 Cedar Rapids IA	Marilyn Dean Schnittjer 1958 Mount Vernon IA	Ted Pence 1960 Tipton IA
Carol Croft Kent 1951 Winchester MA	Roger Reyhons 1956 Lisbon IA	David Sparks 1958 Ankeny IA	Judy Caldwell Penn 1960 Cedar Rapids IA
Bill Lenz 1952 Manning SC	Bert Sippola 1956 Inman SC	Jim Clark 1959 Cedar Rapids IA	John Rife 1960 Mount Vernon IA
Ann Vislisel Pavik 1952 Granite Bay CA	Leona Reyhons Smith 1956 Mount Vernon IA	Jane Costello Fink 1959 Anamosa IA	Jean Plank Stinehour 1960 Littleton NH
Bill Yeisley 1952 Cedar Rapids IA	Barbara Clements Stolpmann 1956 Bakersville NC	Ed Fordyce 1959 Mount Vernon IA	Richard Blew 1961 Oak Grove MO
George Brown 1953 Kearney NE	Douglas Wolrab 1956 Cedar Rapids IA	Richard Glattly 1959 Willow River MN	Patti Bolton Erlenbaugh 1961 Simpsonville SC
Rosemary Brecht Erenberger 1953 Solon IA	Audrey Barrett Yarbrough 1956 Ely IA	Richard Hoidahl 1959 Johnston IA	Mary Reilly Freese 1961 Marion IA
Jean Pavelka Litts 1953 Mount Vernon IA	Myrt Clark Bowers 1957 Mount Vernon IA	Jerry Kroeger 1959 Grand Rapids MN	Helen Blue Holder 1961 Austin MN
Barbara Beckhelm Moore 1953 Mount Vernon IA	William Bowers 1957 Mount Vernon IA	John Maxson 1959 Wheatland WY	Kathy Jennings Jamison 1961 Lisbon, IA
Fae Sparks Edwards 1954 Cedar Rapids IA	Barb Neal Hutchins 1957 Marion IA	Nancy Pisarik Mulder 1959 Grand Rapids MI	Don Jilovec 1961 Mechanicsville IA
John Studt 1954 Bentonville AR	Paul Kent 1957 Vicksburg MS	Ann McCutcheon Niehaus 1959 Martelle IA	Dick Miner 1961 Incline Village NV
Barbara Sutliff Hansel 1955 Cedar Rapids IA	Joyce Olmstead Lucas 1957 Central City IA	George Pospisil 1959 Lisbon IA	Bunny Mulligan 1961 Marion IA
Kay Jilovec Lind 1955 Cedar Rapids IA	Karen Jilovec Martin 1957 Mount Vernon IA	Marie Sippola 1959 Cedar Rapids IA	Linda Buresh Brouillette 1962 Rio Verde AZ
Janet Johnston McCannon 1955 Highlands Ranch CO	Mary Bowman Seidler 1957 Scottsdale AZ	Shirley Andrews Sparks 1959 Ankeny IA	Christine Hodge Gochenover 1962 Cedar Rapids IA
Kay Mullen Morrissey 1955 Lawley FL	Janet Hess Smith 1957 Urbandale IA	Sharon Neal Urich 1959 Iowa City IA	Bill Horton 1962 Roanoke TX
			Mary Ann Bohren Jilovec 1962 Mechanicsville IA
			Joseph Lynott 1962 Mount Vernon IA

2022 ANNUAL SUPPORT/DUES DONORS *continued*

Larry Petrick 1962
Fairfax IA

Bob Dvorak 1963
Mount Vernon IA

Harry Edelman 1963
Miami Beach FL

Sandra Schweitzer Haven 1963
Watsonville CA

Susan Ellison Kowalczyk 1963
Bonita Springs FL

Gloria Herboldsheimer Krob 1963
Lisbon IA

Linda Peterson Nost 1963
Lisbon IA

Chris Stoltz 1963
Mount Vernon IA

Roy Wolfe 1963
Rockledge FL

Jean Kuntz Bowman 1964
DeWitt IA

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continued on next page

Don't See Your Name Listed Here?

THIS LIST IS FOR 2022 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DONATIONS. WATCH FOR 2022 FOUNDATION DONATIONS TO APPEAR IN THE 2023 SPRING ISSUE.

If you have any questions, or need to report a change to me, please let me know.

**With continued gratitude,
Kathy Staskal, Alumni Association
alumni@mvcasd.org
319-389-8602**

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

DONATIONS MADE TO THE FOUNDATION (listed in the NEXT issue) 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@mvcasd.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!

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Blessing, Susie Emerson Tuetken, Jeanne Rife
Torrens, Dennis Koch
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 in memory of Anne Krivo Klein 1982
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 Bunny Mulligan 1961
 Myrt Clark Bowers 1957
 Bill Bowers 1957

Exciting Opportunities Available to Join the Mount Vernon Community!

How would you like to become a member of the Mount Vernon Community School District team? The District will have two positions available this spring for someone who is looking for part-time work, and who would like to serve the school community.

Both positions may be a combination of in-person and remote work, with a flexible work schedule. **The two positions available are the Alumni Director/Communications Specialist position, and the Foundation Director position.** Job descriptions for both positions are available. Please forward a resume and direct any inquiries to Dr. Greg Batenhorst, Superintendent, at gbatenhorst@mvcasd.org. Come be an important part of Mustang Nation!

Alumni Dir./Communications Specialist

- Coordinates all activities with the District's alumni community, including developing and disseminating all communications and planning events for alumni groups.
- Assists the District in developing and reviewing a variety of communication tools utilized by the District
- Assist the District in developing a coherent plan for the strategic use of social media, and assist with the completion of various District correspondences, including the District's monthly newsletter.

Foundation Director

Is responsible for the public and District facing work of the Foundation as well as policies and processes

The public-facing work of this position includes

- relationship building and management with the volunteer-lead organizations that report activity under the Foundation. This will maximize fundraising and ensure compliance with IRS requirements for reporting and donation acknowledgement

The District-facing responsibilities include

- Coordination with the District leadership team
- Execution of the Foundation teacher grants
- Management of scholarship program

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Thank You!

REACHING OUT TO YOU...

TO THANK YOU!



This fall of 2022 our Alumni Board reached out to ask for your financial support of alumni programs and events, and to keep the alumni newsletter coming to your mailbox.

While we receive annual support and donations each year, these contributions do not cover our annual expenses. As a result we rely on this additional fall fund raiser to build our treasury -- *with our last fund raiser held in 2016.*

So many of you responded -- thank you!

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in memory of Marcella Clark

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in memory of deceased 1961
classmates

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in memory of deceased classmates

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Don't see your name listed here? This list is for donations received in response to our 'Reaching Out to You' fall campaign, until the date of December 31, 2022. Donations received January 1 and after will be acknowledged in the next Fall-Winter newsletter. Report your missing name to Kathy at alumni@mvcsd.org or 319-389-8602.

ALUMNI

FALL 2022/WINTER 2023

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION UNDER THE MOUNT VERNON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION
525 PALISADES RD SW MOUNT VERNON, IA 52314

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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



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Select 'DONATION' located in the top left corner.
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2023

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For tax purposes, the MV Alumni Association operates under the Mount Vernon Community School District Foundation, which has been determined by the IRS to be a public charitable organization under code 501(c)3.

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALUMNI Association

Thank you!