



MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ALUMNI NEWS

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President Cathy Hufford '83 works along side new board members Kim Konkowski '81 and Greg West '82 at the November Board meeting.

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The Mount Vernon Community School District Alumni Association is pleased to announce the following alums were selected as 2024 Alumni Hall of Fame winners. Pictured above left to right:

Achievement – Bill Yeisley 1952

Fine Arts – Jude Smith 1981

Service – James Moore 1953

MV Community Impact – Tom Wilkinson 1986

Athletic – Wayne Horman 1985

They received their awards during Homecoming weekend on Friday, September 27, 2024. Turn to page **page 6** for recipient bios and photos.

2025 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 log in and donate online. The Association is funded entirely by a yearly donation request.

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 11-12, 2025 – Heritage Days in Mount Vernon with alumni events and reunions.

Fall 2025 tba – Homecoming and Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony.
More information about events in the Spring 2025 Alumni News issue.

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



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or 319-721-7953
www.MVAlumni.org



Mustang ALUMNI



The 2024 Mustang Volleyball Team took home the 3A State Championship this Fall. Read more about their coach and MV Alum on page 21

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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 Committee. For advertising rates write or call 319-895-8845.

MV Community Events

www.visitmvl.com
2025

May - Chalk the Walk
July - Antique Extravaganza
July - Heritage Days
September - Lincoln Highway Arts Festival
Oct - Chili Cookoff

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Happy 2025!



Cathy Hufford '83
Alumni Association
President

2024 did not disappoint for excitement and changes at MVHS. During Heritage Days we were treated to the centennial celebration of the Mount Vernon high school theatre program. Many alumni were on hand to perform and demonstrate the talent that has passed through the district over the years. Dr. Greg Badenhorst retired after serving as superintendent since 2017 and we welcomed our new superintendent Matt Leeman at the Alumni breakfast. Mr. Leeman met with the Alumni Association board and I'm confident that that he will continue to lead the district in the manner we are accustomed to and expect.

Some things never change though. The marching band won so many awards this fall that we may need to build a trophy room just for them. The volleyball team dominated this year and were the #3A state champions. With a new football coach in Brad Meester, the football team continued to wow the fans with their offensive firepower and tough defense. The team made it to the state semifinals, losing a close game to Humboldt. The new Hall of Fame inductees are excellent examples that the Mount Vernon school district really knows how to "churn out" highly successful and talented individuals who are outstanding role models for future generations.

The Alumni Association Board had some change this fall. I would like to thank Mary Thomsen, Alex Brannaman and Taylor Brock for their service and hard work. The Board welcomed Chris (Kinley) Osborn '80, Kim (Mortensen) Konkowski '81, and Greg West '82 as their replacements.

I wish all the happiness for you and your family in 2025. Let's make it a great year!

Cathy Hufford '83

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE MV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In 2022 The Alumni Association's Board decided to change 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'

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.

2025 REUNIONS

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

2020 5 years - tba

Contact: Summer Brand
Phone: 641-247-0117

2015 10 years - tba

Contact: Courtney Maddocks
Phone: 319-895-6316 319-826-4634
Contact: Nolan Teubel
Email: Nolanteubel@gmail.com

2010 15 years - tba

Emily Stoner Bell
Email: emilyb@broadstar.com
Phone: 318-551-6634

2005- 20 years - tba

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

2000 - 25 years - tba

Contact: Lauren Sauter
Phone: 917-528-8891
Email: lauren.r.sauter@gmail.com
Contact: Jenny Mick Ballard
Email: jmick1230@gmail.com
Phone: 510-654-7116 319-329-6666
Contact: Katey Forest Sanders
Phone: 319-551-4136
Email: ksanders133@gmail.com

1995 - 30 years - tba

Contact: Kim Stoner
Phone: 319-899-8542
Email: dyanstoner@aol.com
Contact: Sarah Woods
Email: sarahkwoods@yahoo.com
Contact: Carrie Rutledge
Email: carrierutledge@gmail.com
Phone: 323-632-4680

1990 - 35 years - No reunion scheduled but classmates encouraged to attend Heritage Days Activities.

Contact: Kim McGowan McAdams
Phone: 773-294-7301
Email: kmcadams@thehirecompany.com
Contact: Paul Morf
Phone: 319-841-3472
Email: pmorf@simmonsperine.com
Contact: Brittany Kaalberg Booth
Phone: 319-533-1358
Email: boothjb85@gmail.com

1985 - 40 years - tba

Contact: Dave Ryan
Phone: 319-899-4965
Email: dryan@mountvernonbank.com
Contact: Jennifer Spencer Toriggino
Phone: 303-792-3484
Email: jentoriggino@gmail.com

1980 - 45 years - tba

Contact: Chris Kinley Osborn '80
Email: mvosborn80@gmail.com
Phone: 319-241-4696

1975 - 50 years - tba

Contact: Lori Lehman Reihle
Phone: 319-310-2639
Email: lori.reihle@gmail.com
Contact: Carol Woods Boren
Phone: 319-350-4662
Email: woodsborn@gmail.com

1970 - 55 years - tba

Contact: Gwen Stewart Drahos
Phone: 319-455-2873 319-455-2565
Contact: Marsha Siggins McWhinney
Phone: 319-895-8671
Email: marshamcwhinney@gmail.com
Contact: Nancy Vislissel Norlin
Phone: 319-462-4674
Email: nnorlin52@gmail.com
Contact: Judy Hess Greco
Phone: 319-624-2059
Email: jagquilts@yahoo.com

1965 - 60 years - tba

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

1960 - 65 years - tba

Contact: Annamae Stoneking Baker
Phone: 319-895-8979
Email: abmrlk@gmail.com
Contact: John Rife
Phone: 319-310-8105
Email: jrife485@gmail.com

1945, 1950, 1955

Meet at Saturday morning
Alumni-Community Breakfast

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

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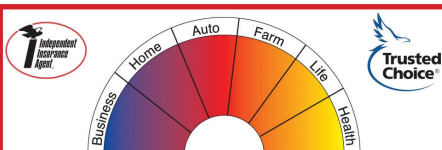
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Tom Kortemeyer

Thank you to our outgoing board members...

Thank you to outgoing board members Taylor Sedlacek Brocka '10, Alex Brannaman '09, Secretary, and Mary Thomsen '75. The value and time that these people have given to the Alumni Association is immeasurable. Taylor joined the board in 2018 and was our first Board member from the 2010s. Mary joined the board in 2012 and has volunteered for the Alumni Breakfast, the Alumni tent, and receptions for over a decade. Alex joined the board in 2014, going on to serve as secretary. He drove the golf cart at the Alumni Breakfast, helped coordinate community receptions, and delivered donuts for years. We are grateful to our outgoing board members and their years of hard work.



VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED YOU!

**VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT
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COMMUNITY BREAKFAST,
RECEPTIONS, or HALL OF FAME**

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WHO PAYS TO PUBLISH AND MAIL THIS PUBLICATION TO YOU?

Your Alumni Association publishes this newsletter two times per year – a spring and fall issue, to a mailing list of over 4,400. This is paid for by our advertisers, our Association Treasury (from alums and friends who support with donations and memorials, and from Association fund raising like the Heritage Days Breakfast, etc), and a yearly donation from the Foundation for postage of the spring newsletter. Your continued support of the Alumni Association, the Foundation, and our advertisers allow us to continue providing this publication.

....and welcome new board members

The alumni board welcomed three new board members in the Fall 2024.

Kim Mortensen Konkowski '81

Tell us about growing up in Mount Vernon?

My parents "Mort and Puts" Mortensen moved to Mt. Vernon in 1960. In 1961 they bought a house on 3rd Ave NW (Pres Hill), where I lived until my graduation in 1981. My brother (Mike "73"), sister (Theresa "76") and I all graduated from Mt. Vernon High School. In high school I participated in track, softball, basketball (half court), band, chorus and cheerleading. After graduation I lived in Texas for 4 years, Illinois for 2 years and Council Bluffs, IA for 17 years before returning to Mt. Vernon.



What did you do when you returned to Mount Vernon?

Most of my working years have been in management positions for various companies. The last being with the United States Postal Service. In 2022 after 23 years of service I retired. The last 12 of which I had the honor of being Postmaster in Mt. Vernon. In 2014 I married Paul Konkowski "78" and with our combined families we have 7 children (4 of which graduated from Mt. Vernon Mary Beth Konkowski, Ethan Konkowski, Jared Jackson and Jeana Konkowski) and 8 grandchildren (1 that graduated from Mt. Vernon Aliya Keaton), ranging in age from 7 months to 21 years old.

Now that you're retired, what are you doing?

In retirement I am spending more time with my grandchildren, traveling, volunteering and just enjoying a more laid back, less stressful life. No matter where I have lived or where I have traveled, Mt. Vernon has always been home - My familiar comfort zone.

Greg West '82

Tell us about growing up in Mount Vernon?

My parents moved to an acreage north of Mt Vernon in the summer of 1975 right on highway 1. We had moved from Cedar Rapids and I was welcomed into Middle School, now 1st street

community center. My brother Doug is a 1987 MVHS grad.

I graduated in 1982, while I was in high school, I played 3 sports for 4 years, Football, Basketball, Track; and baseball for 3 years. I also sang in the choir for 4 years.



What did you do when you returned to Mount Vernon?

I moved back to Eastern Iowa, Cedar Rapids, in 2005. I originally moved to Carol Stream IL in 1988, I had recently graduated as an Orthopedic Physician's Assistant. I practiced in Carol Stream as a PA till 1996. I had finished a business degree in 1995, from Judson college. I went into medical device sales early in 1996. I have sold, managed and led sales forces for several orthopedic medical companies since then. I originally went to UNI in 1982 to teach, fast forward 30 plus years, I have also been a clinical trainer the past several years, teaching surgeons, sales reps and distributors. The last 2 years I have been Director of Clinical Training for Orthoxel, an orthopedic start-up out of Cork, Ireland.

In Cedar Rapids around 2007, I met my wife Stephanie Parish West 86' and we were married in the fall of 2009. We moved to Mount Vernon in 2010 and have been here since. Stephanie and I have a blended family with 8 children, ages from 18 to 37. We are grandparents of 6.

Why did you want to be on the Alumni Board?

I enjoy living in Mount Vernon, and being active in the community, so when I was asked to be on the board I said sure.

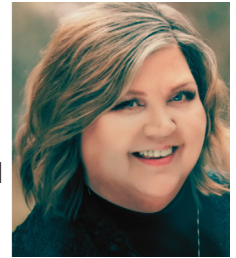
I enjoy giving back and volunteering in the community.

Chris Kinley Osborn '80

Tell us about growing up in Mount Vernon?

I graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1980. During my time at MVHS, I was active in Choir,

Band, Theatre as well as Volleyball, Basketball and Tennis. It was a time that students could experience a variety of activities if they chose to. I believe this is still true today.



What did you do when you returned to Mount Vernon?

I went on to attend the University of Iowa and never really thought I'd end up back in Mount Vernon, but I did. I married Randy Osborn (77) and together over the course of 36 years, raised 3 children; Bryan (05), Michelle (06), and Aaron (11'). Sadly, we lost Randy to Cancer in 2022. Randy's mom (Crystal Carmer Osborn 53') was also a Mount Vernon Alum (53') and now our 4 grandchildren are the fourth generation to attend school here.

I was employed with the Mount Vernon School District for 22 years and took with me many fond memories. With my summer's off, I began work with REM Iowa continuing my work with individuals with disabilities. Later, I worked for Systems Unlimited and currently am the Regional HR Manager in the Cedar Valley Region of Optima LifeServices.

Why did you want to be on the Alumni Board?

I've always believed in giving back through volunteer work. As many have done before me, I volunteered to organize Funeral Luncheons at my local parish from 2001-2017. I volunteered to coach my kids' youth sports, led a troop of Girls Scouts, assisted with Concessions for sporting events, led fundraising for my kids' league teams, Post Prom, etc. I don't consider anything I have done to be out of the ordinary and continue to serve on our Social Justice committee at St. John's Catholic Church, and now the Alumni Board. While many of my classmates and fellow alumni have gone on to do great things, I am one of many ordinary Alumni I hope has made an extraordinary impact on the lives I've touched along the way.





2024 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME



The Hall of Fame award ceremony took place Friday morning, September 27, in the High School Performing Arts Center (PAC) auditorium, followed by a public reception in the lobby. The audience, filled with high school students and staff, alumni, family and friends, cheered the five recipients as they received their awards.



ACHIEVEMENT - Bill Yeisley '52, FINE ARTS - Jude Smith '81
SERVICE - James Moore '53
COMMUNITY IMPACT - Tom Wilkinson '86, ATHLETIC - Wayne Hormann '85

Pictured below, Front row, left to right are recipients Jude Smith '81, Wayne Hormann '85, Robert Moore for James Moore '53, Tom Wilkinson '86, and Bill Yeisley '52.

Back row School Board President Rick Elliott, Student Council President Paige Schurbon, Rhondi Ewing '81, MVCSD Foundation President Dave Ryan '85, Jodi Hormann, Jeremy Hotz '99, Kathy Bearce '58, Emily Wilkinson Vislisl 2009, Gail Rhodes '58, Hall of Fame Chair Sarah Rife Patten '93, and Hall of Fame Master of Ceremonies John Rife '60.

Friday evening was the Homecoming Game and presentation of Alumni Hall of Fame recipients during halftime at the Martha Pearson Activities Complex. The Mustangs beat Mount Pleasant 59-0.

On Thursday evening recipients enjoyed riding in Corvettes during the Homecoming parade. On Friday after the Awards Ceremony, Hall of Fame recipients enjoyed building tours and lunch. In the afternoon they visited with seven classes in the PAC and attended the Homecoming pep rally.



2024



John Rife '60 was master of ceremony at the 2024 awards. Sarah Rife Patten '93 was the Hall of Fame Chair.

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

Sept 27 Hall of Fame ceremony video <https://youtu.be/7j7uwmkZ2w0>

Hall of Fame pictures, bios, info <https://mvalumni.org/HallofFame/>





Achievement Hall of Fame recipient Bill Yeisley '52 with his daughters, brother in law, and sister Gail Yeisley Rhodes '58

At the top of the Cedar Rapids Athletic Officials Association overview packet in bold letters says: "The game is for the kids - not the coach or the officials." Our **2024 Achievement Hall of Fame Recipient Bill Yeisley** spent his life training educators, referees, students and players to play a fair game "for the kids." Bill Yeisley 1952 was nominated by his sisters Rachel Yeisley Miller '54 and Gail Yeisley Rhodes '58.

Bill Yeisley's life has been marked by dedication to both education and athletics. Born and raised in Mount Vernon, Bill was not only a standout student but also an active participant in numerous extracurricular activities. He played football for two years, basketball for three, and excelled in track for four years. Beyond sports, Bill's interests extended to the arts and leadership. He served on the student council, was a member of the school newspaper staff, and participated in the Velvet Curtain Drama Club. He was involved in both mixed chorus and boys' chorus, along with playing in the band and drum ensemble. He lettered in football and track, performed in leading roles in school plays, and earned a State Superior Performance Rating for his senior-year operetta.

After graduating, Bill attended Cornell College, earning his Bachelor of Arts in 1957. He continued his education at the University of Iowa, where he received his Master of Arts in 1964. After college, Bill began his successful career as a classroom teacher and coach, serving in that role for 11 years before transitioning into school administration. For 27 years, he was an elementary school principal in Marion, Iowa, until his retirement in 1995. He married Harriet Yeisley in 1952. The couple have two daughters, two sons in law, and four grandchildren.

Most people know Bill through his work officiating sports. For 34 years, was a registered official with the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), officiating in football, basketball, and baseball. His expertise and dedication led him to officiate at the Iowa High School Football Playoffs for 23 years, including five state championship games. In 1992, Bill was selected to officiate the Iowa Shrine Senior Bowl Game. He was inducted into the Iowa High School Officials Hall of Fame in 2001.



Bill has also been an active member of the Cedar Rapids Area Officials Association, where he served in various leadership roles. He has been the training coordinator for new football officials and acted as the coordinator for football rules study presentations, ensuring that new and experienced officials alike had the tools to succeed. Yeisley's years of experience as an educator helped him train new officials. Under Yeisley's training, referees started in Middle School games before working their way to Varsity Games. He coached officials through the process and helped them understand the entirety of their roles. In 2015 a Cedar Rapids Gazette article Bill said, "A lot of people don't realize how good of shape referees need to be in," Yeisley said. "They are running up and down the field as much as the athletes."

Among his many accolades, Bill has been honored with the prestigious Distinguished National Contributor Award by the National Federation of High School Officials in 2003 and was named the Iowa Football Official of the Year in 2005 by the National Officials Association. He published a paper on mentoring in the National Federation of High School Officials Quarterly Magazine, for which he received a merit award in 2000.

For nearly three decades our fine arts award recipient has provided customized art solutions for high-end residential and corporate collections. **Our 2024 Fine Arts Award Recipient is Jude Smith '81.**



She was nominated by her classmate and fellow designer Rhondi Ewing '81.

In High School, Smith was involved in cheerleading and art classes. Said Smith about her time in Mount Vernon, "The direction and course I have taken in my life is due to one remarkable high school art teacher - Donna Swenson. Donna believed in us and as I reflect today I can't help to wonder how differently my life would have played out if she wasn't so adamant that I attend Mt. Mercy College and receive an art degree." In addition, Smith was a Mustang cheerleader for football and basketball. "The two go hand in hand with where I'm at in my life today."

Jude received a BA in Art from Mt. Mercy University and started her art career at the Corner House Gallery in Cedar Rapids before forming her own company in 1993. Today Jude is an art consultant and art advisor in her business The Art Makery.

Using both her art and people skills first honed at Mount Vernon, Jude has had to learn and utilize many skills including establishing a network of artists, establishing a network of customers, and creating a network of contractors. In addition she is a project manager for each installation where she has an eye for detail and impeccable planning skills.



Jude links artists and their work to new or redecorated commercial properties, primarily for hotels, nationwide. Her projects include Marriott Hotels in Phoenix Az, Tempe AZ, New York City, Irvine, CA, and Oklahoma City as well as corporate and private properties all over the country

Jude is an art curator specializing in creating captivating visual experiences. As an expert in art history, techniques, and market trends, Jude brings a deep understanding of the art world to her projects. She excels at building relationships with artists, interior designers, architects, and hotel management to create cohesive and appealing environments. Her ability to assess the value of artworks and anticipate trends ensures her clients receive pieces that not only enhance aesthetics but also add market value. Her skillful curation leaves a lasting impression, blending art with hospitality.

For most of her life, Jude lived in Scottsdale Arizona with her husband Greg Rupp, who is a professor of chemical engineering at Arizona State University. "My work has taken me all over the world, but I have never forgot-

ten my roots." One of her most recent projects brought her back to her roots. She recently completed restoration and redesign of a building here in Mount Vernon. The now beautiful building includes a storefront downstairs and upstairs living quarters for Jude's family.

Longtime Alumni Association Director Kathy Staskal said "Because of her reputation in this industry and the many talents she possesses to make The Art Makery successful, I believe Jude is well deserving of a spot in the Hall of Fame." Said nominator Rhodi Ewing, "When I think back to us taking art classes with Donna Swenson at MVHS, and I look at her today, I know that Donna would be SO PROUD of her, as am I."

Jude receives her award from nominator Rhondi Ewing '81



James Moore's family has a history of service as old as the United States. When he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1954, James continued a 235 year tradition of military service. It is that service that defined the life of Reverend, Doctor, Representative, and Colonel James Moore '53.

Our 2024 Service Hall of Fame Recipient James Moore was nominated by his sisters Kathy Bearce '58 and the late Treva Heiser '50. He will be represented at the ceremony by his son, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Moore.



Jim spent his youth in Solon and Mount Vernon, Iowa and graduated from high school in May 1953. Growing up on a farm taught Jim how to work hard, but he set his sights in a different direction the minute he hit the clouds. At just 16, he began flying lessons.

After a brief stint at the University of Iowa, Jim enlisted for 4 years in the US Air Force on February 15, 1955. The Air Force greatly added to his lifelong character - he loved uniforms, pomp & circumstance, orderliness & organization. Quite frankly, he loved his country and everything it stood for.

While on leave from Chanute AFB in Illinois, Jim's best friend introduced him to Elizabeth Marie Shaw who was attending Cornell College in Mount Vernon. Jim was so love struck, that at the end of his enlistment he began attending Cornell College with her in the Fall of 1958. They were married in June 1959 and moved to Denver to begin their family. They had 5 sons - Robert, James, John, Thomas, and Timothy. In Jim's own words from 2014, "I consider my wife of fifty-five years along with our five sons, their wives and children to be my greatest responsibility and blessing. My belief system has been tried, improved and tested over the years. There is no greater joy than to see righteous children take their place in contributing to a productive society. My family is my success."

Jim and Beth moved to Colorado where he continued his education at the University of Denver. Jim completed his bachelor's degree in 1971 from the University of Denver, a masters in 1977 from the University of Northern Colorado, and his doctorate in 1990 from Pacific Western University. He taught business and business law at the Community College from 1975 until his retirement in 1995.

Jim was on the merit badge committee, finance committee, and the Order of the Arrow, for Troop 57, Timberline District, Jefferson County Colorado. He was

service



Above is the last picture of Jim and his siblings before Jim died in 2014. It was taken at the Alumni Breakfast in 2014. Above is Hall of Fame recipient Treva Moore Heiser '50, Hall of Fame recipient James Moore '53, Betty Moore Stoneking, and Kathy Moore Bearce '58

City of Lakewood, State of Colorado and National badge counselor and a member of the BSA Court of Honor. He guided his five sons as well as many other Scouts to reach the honor of Eagle Scout.

Jim also volunteered to encourage the ROTC cadets at the University of Colorado to take pride in the military and to share the joy of flying as Jim took them flying in his private airplane. He continued flying, served in the Civil Air Patrol, and served in the Colorado legislature for four years

After a lifetime of service, Jim went on to serve in the US Air Force Reserves. He was commissioned to serve in the United States Air Force Auxiliary in June 1987 and received an ecclesiastical endorsement as a chaplain from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served in many capacities including squadron chaplain, group chaplain, wing chaplain and ultimately as Chief of Chaplains overseeing operations for 800 chaplains of all faiths. As squadron, group and wing chaplain duties were the moral and spiritual advisor for the commander plus personal training for the youth called cadets.

He served in numerous assignments within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, served with wife on a full time religious mission in Texas, and in the Denver LDS temple. Jim passed away in 2014 but his history of service to his family, his faith, and his country remains an enduring legacy.



Tom Wilkinson wears many hats in the Mount Vernon community – family man, alum, teacher, and coach. His many hats have changed the Mount Vernon Community. **Our 2024 Mount Vernon Community Impact Award goes to Tom Wilkinson '86.** He was nominated by his daughter Emily Wilkinson Vislisel 2009.

Tom grew up in Mount Vernon and graduated in 1986. Said Tom, “My senior year was probably most memorable. With encouragement from some of my friends, I joined the choir and got involved in drama. I never felt I was a strong singer, but I had a lot of fun. In theater I tried out and got some small parts in a couple of plays and a musical.”

Teachers understand teachers. No surprise, Tom had many favorite teachers at Mount Vernon. “I have many strong memories of my teachers at Mount Vernon. No one teacher was everything for me, but together they have made a significant impact on the course of my life.”

Tom moved to Phoenix, Arizona after graduating with his BA from Loras College. One year, he returned home for the holidays and ended up changing his path completely. Principal Tom Madson found him and explained that the High School needed a German teacher in the middle of the year. Tom accepted the position and has been in Mount Vernon ever since. Said Tom, “I’ve looked at other school districts at different times and had offers to move, but in the end I couldn’t find anything better for me and my family.”

Soon Tom wanted to make a difference with students beyond the classroom. Said Tom, “Research showed that students who had more engagement beyond academics, usually made greater progress and had more feeling of connectedness to their school. As I tried to think of ways to get students engaged I had already started reconnecting with family and hunting traditions. I got interested in involving students in the shooting sports of trap shooting and archery.” In 2006, Tom started a small archery club with a handful of participants. Soon the club grew into the Mount Vernon Archery Club, a significant program with over 140 students from grades 4 to 12 at its peak.

Tom went on to become a certified USA Archery Level 3 Coach. As a coach, Tom embraced the philosophy of the Positive Coaching Alliance,



Mount Vernon Community Impact Recipient Tom Wilkinson '86 with his family after the reception

which encourages “double-goal coaching”—striving to win while focusing on teaching life lessons through the sport. Under Tom’s leadership, MV Archery emphasized personal growth, teamwork, and character development. For Tom, success isn’t just measured in trophies or titles; it’s seen in the development of young individuals into confident, capable adults.

Tom retired as Mount Vernon Archery Coach in 2018. Today, he continues to coach individuals and instruct beginning and intermediate level coaches as well as compete in summer and winter leagues and state competitions. He has coached several individual archers to the podium in state and national NASP championships.

Tom’s jobs today also include a new hat – Grandpa. “Today, my grandsons Cody and Lucas are at the center of my world. They go to Washington Elementary and are in Kindergarten and 2nd grade. I see them almost every day before school and after school. I’m thankful to have my daughter Emily and her husband Jeff Vislisel, both graduates of MVHS, as a big part of my life and living so close. Erin and I are so thankful and love that they are so close. I also enjoy working in the same building as my wife and have been fortunate to do so for the past 26 years.”





Athletic of Fame recipient Wayne Hormann '85 along with Lindsey Hotz 2001, Jeremy Hotz '99, Jodi Hormann, and Dave Ryan '85

In 1984, Jeff Dahn, sport reporter of the Mount Vernon Sun said, "Wayne Hormann was a powerful force for the Mustangs all season" Our **2024 Athletics Hall of Fame Recipient Wayne Hormann** has been a powerful force in Mount Vernon his entire life. Hormann was nominated by his wife Jodi Hormann, Dave Ryan '85 and Jeremy Hotz '99.



Wayne Hormann's football career is one of dedication, versatility, and excellence, both on and off the field. Said nominator Dave Ryan "Hormann was old school tough....probably would have enjoyed playing football without a helmet. He was one of the best offensive blockers and defensive tacklers of his era. I recall he was equally tough on his teammates setting the tempo in the huddle with raw intensity and piercing stares that made everyone around him a better football player."

In 1983, Hormann was a unanimous first-team, two-way Eastern Iowa Hawkeye Conference selection, excelling as both an offensive guard and a defensive lineman. His relentless play earned him a spot on the Quad City Times Eastern Iowa All-Star First Team as offensive guard and a place on the Des Moines Register's Class 2A Second Team All-State. Wayne led the team with impressive 64 tackles in just nine games and was instrumental in guiding Mount Vernon to an 8-1 record. The following year, Wayne continued to excel on the football field. This time, his talents earned him a spot on the Iowa Newspapers Association

tion Second Team All-State (across all classes) for his defensive play and Des Moines Register's Class 2A First Team All-State honors on the defensive line. Leading the team again with 96 tackles in 11 games, he helped Mount Vernon to a 10-1 record.

In addition to football, Hormann was a standout in track and field, qualifying for state in both the shot put and discus. His throws of 51 feet 7 inches in shot put and 150 feet 8 inches in discus placed him among the top five in school history for at least 15 years. In 1985, Wayne participated in the Iowa Shrine Bowl, showcasing his talents alongside other top players from across the state.

After high school, Wayne signed a national letter of intent to play football at The University of Northern Iowa. However, after a knee injury, he transferred to Coe College, where he continued to play football for three years. His college career included strong performances on the defensive line, recording 44 tackles in 1987 and 37 tackles in 1988.

Even after his playing days ended, Wayne continued to contribute to the Mount Vernon football program. In 2007, he was selected as the second honorary player for the Mount Vernon High School football team. During his time, he also took on the role of weight room coach and assisted in coaching the 7th and 8th-grade football and shot put teams. He volunteered hours each summer helping with the speed and agility programs.

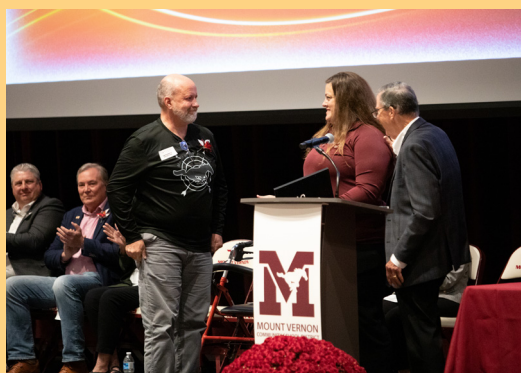
Said nominator Jeremy Hotz "Hormann has coached for the Mount Vernon Mustangs simply for the love of the game and program. During his time coaching, he has never once accepted or expected to be paid for any of his service, it has been entirely volunteer." Hormann's commitment to Mount Vernon athletics went beyond coaching. In 2014, he volunteered over 500 hours to help with the construction of the new bleachers at the First Street Field—a testament to his love for the sport and his community.

Through his playing and coaching career, Wayne Hormann's impact on Mount Vernon's football program and the wider community continues to be felt, proving that his legacy is much more than just numbers on a stat sheet. Said his wife Jodi, "Wayne is proud of his career at Mount Vernon, but if you asked him he would tell you that it was about being a team. It wasn't his statistic, it was the team statistic that is important to him. It's not the skills you have – it's how hard you work to improve the skills you have. It's about heart."





CEREMONY & RECEPTION



Left: Tom Wilkinson was given the Mount Vernon Community Impact Award by his daughter, nominator, and alum Emily Wilkinson Vislisl 2009



To the Right: James Moore's son, Robert Moore spoke on behalf of his father at the Hall of Fame Ceremony.



Previous Hall of Fame recipients Karen Martin '57 and Kathy Bearce '58 catch up at the reception.



Above: Ken and Jane Pospisil 1968 hosted the reception. Below Former Alumni Association Director Kathy Staskal drove from North Carolina to celebrate the 5 recipients.

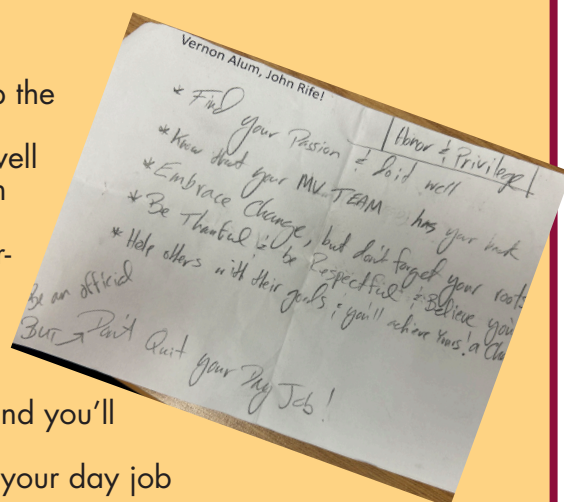


Previous Hall of Fame Recipients Carol Woods-Boren '75 and Becky Whitman '77 take a break after setting up the ceremony



Principal Steve Brand summed up the ceremony with his takeaways:

- * Find your passion and do it well
- * Know that your Mount Vernon TEAM has your back
- * Embrace change but don't forget your roots
- * Be thankful and be respectful and believe you're a champion
- * Help others with their goals and you'll achieve yours
- * Be an official – but don't quit your day job



THE PARADE, STUDENTS, and FOOTBALL FIELD



Hall of Fame recipients on a Corvette ride to the MAC. From left to right: Fine Arts Recipient Jude Smith '81, MV Community Impact Recipient Tom Wilkinson '86, Service Recipient Bob Moore representing Jim Moore '53, and Athletics Recipient Wayne Hormann '85



Homecoming King Seamus O'Connor '25 and Homecoming Queen Betsy Louwagie '25.



The class of 1974 held their reunion over the Homecoming weekend and participated in the Homecoming parade. Watch for more photos of all reunions in the 2025 Spring Newsletter



The inductees were introduced at half time at the Mustang Football game.



Bill Yesiley spoke in his acceptance speech about the need for more female game officials. He saw his wish in action at the Homecoming game. Above is an official that Bill helped train -- and his daughter. Both officiated the Mount Vernon JV game that evening.



Above and at right: Hall of Fame recipients toured the Mount Vernon facilities, visited the Stable (High School Store) and spoke to seven classes in total.



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, 2025
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 contributions in their professional life.

Criteria:

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.

2025 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 - 319-721-7953 Julia, or alumni@mvczd.org

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





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

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	 Treva Moore Heiser '50	 Paul Hufford '80	 Kristin Stewart '99





2010

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

2011

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS
 John Rife '60	 Millicent Hogard Zenishek '47	 Randy Hoidal '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 '57	 Greg Randall '82	 Paula Holcomb '72	 Ann Koppenhaver '78

2015

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

2023

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
 Jamil Farshchi '96	 Sara Kendall '78	 Jeff Meeker '77	 Holly Gunn '04	 Mike Woods '77

2016

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT


The Stompers: Bill Bauman '66, Steve Edwards '65, Brian Harman '69, Greg Harman '69, 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 and Kevin Whitman '78

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	 Sonia Essex Redmond '88

2021

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
 Phoebe Ball '91	 Crystal Cardon Eskelsen '95	 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

2024

ACHIEVEMENT	SERVICE	ATHLETIC	FINE ARTS	COMMUNITY IMPACT
 Bill Yeisley '52	 James Moore '53	 Wayne Hormann '85	 Jude Smith '81	 Tom Wilkinson '86



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306 Hwy 1 SE in Mount Vernon

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



Serving alums across the midwest



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community regain skills and abilities.

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Stephanie Legore Meier '00

Mount Vernon-Lisbon Clinic

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Greetings, Alumni!

We had a wonderful time
celebrating our alumni during
the Hall of Fame in September.
Do you know someone who
deserves to be recognized?
We encourage you to submit a
nomination form on page 16.

The Hall of Fame honors
alumni in five categories:
Achievement: Outstanding
accomplishments in their professional
life

Service: Exceptional contributions to
any non-profit organization

Community Impact: Dedication to serving the Mount Vernon
community

Fine Arts: Exceptional achievements in the fine arts

Athletics: Exceptional achievements in athletics.

Community members are also welcome to submit nominations.

We love celebrating the incredible accomplishments of our alumni
and look forward to receiving your nominations!

Sarah Rife Patten '93
Hall of Fame Chair



Foundation Director Amie Roberts and Hall of
Fame Chair Sarah Rife Patten '93 reserved
seats for the Hall of Fame Recipients at the
2024 Homecoming game.

UPDATE TO NEWSLETTER MAILING

**Due to rising postage costs, The Alumni Association Board
has decided to update our newsletter mailing procedures.**

1. For five years after graduating, classes will receive a
DIGITAL copy of the newsletter. At each 5-Year reunion,
alumni can choose to opt into a print copy.
2. For the fall/winter newsletter, District teachers will receive
the newsletter in their District mailbox instead of USPS.
3. Families with multiple alums will receive one copy of the
newsletter when requested by the family or alum.

If you want a hard copy of the newsletter, we will make sure
that you receive a hard copy. The Board wants to ensure
that we maintain a vital communication to our alumni while
practicing financial responsibility with donations.



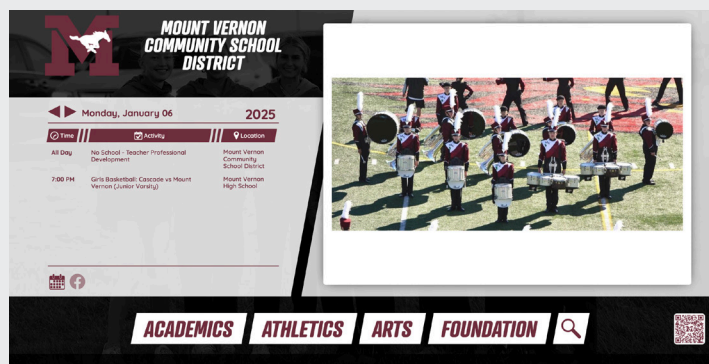
TouchPros Screen

The TouchPros interactive screen has been installed in the High School commons below the stone Mustang. The 75-inch interactive screen allows in-person users to search a digital archive by student/alumni name, activity, or achievement to view photos, videos, event calendars, and more. It will also allow sharing of event information and serve as the digital location to support current school district endeavors.

Stop by the high school to use the screen in-person OR check it out at home through the following web address URL: mvcsdfoundation.touchpros.com/

The content of the digital archive will continually grow, especially over the coming weeks, as we add content that celebrates the current student body, our amazing alumni community, and our generous donors. The physical donor appreciation archive will also be updated over the coming weeks.

The next step in the process is to digitize Mount Vernon High School Yearbooks. Our award-winning yearbooks will be digitized and available both on the TouchPros Screen and online. To donate to the TouchPros project, please complete the form below, or donate online at mvalumni.org.



The TouchPros screen's content is available online. The content will grow to include alumni successes, team and club records, and yearbooks -- all available in person and online.

YES! We want to donate to preserve our Alumni History!

Name and class year _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

ONLINE at www.MVAlumni.org Select 'DONATION'

Select 'Alumni Association' for your donation and the total amount does come directly to us. For donation reporting purposes the MV Alumni Association operates under the MVCSD Foundation, a tax-exempt organization.

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

Please be sure and add TOUCHPROS to your check memo or your online comment.



CONNECT WITH THE SCHOOL

WEBSITES

www.mvcsd.org
themustangmoon.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

'MUSTANG VISION'

<https://www.youtube.com/c/gomvstangs>



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MVAlumni52314



@mvalumni3988

Join Us At Heritage Days 2025

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 12**

The Uptown Theater Stage Receives a New Look

The Uptown Theater Stage at the First Street Community Center (The old Mount Vernon High School) received a face lift with the purchase of new stage curtains. The curtains were funded by the Mount Vernon Lisbon Community Theater and a generous grant from the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation: Linn County Fund and Nina E. and Victor D. Merveaux Endowed Fund for Historic Preservation.

Members of the Mount Vernon Lisbon Community Theatre Board applied for the grant in the summer 2024 to supply the auditorium with new curtains. The curtains, in addition to recent enhancements in the sound and lighting, will bring a more professional stage, sound, and visual experience to Mount Vernon audiences. In addition to being beautiful, stage curtains also improve sound quality on stage making it easier for audiences to hear actors clearly.

The Mount Vernon Lisbon Community Theatre Board is led by an eight-person board including Mount Vernon Alumni Trevor Baty '15 and Hall of Fame Member Braden Rood '93.

Braden Rood '93 noted, "Mount Vernon Lisbon Community Theatre continues the tradition of making theatre, music, and art in this space that we love. By making these improvements we will ensure entertainment and art in Mount Vernon for years to come."

The MVLCT begins its 45th season in February 2025. You can see the entire upcoming season and pictures from previous shows at <https://www.mvlct.com/>



Curtains were recently installed at the Uptown Theater at the First Street Community Center. (The Old High School) The process took several weeks but will result in better sound and a professional look in the Theater.



Second Annual Alumni Basketball Game

High School Basketball Coach Derek Roberts and Will Teubel '12 organized the Second Annual All-Alumni Basketball Game on December 21, 2024. Alumni competed in a match of recent alumni in white vs "seasoned" alumni in maroon. Fourteen alumni basketball players competed. Will Teubel #23 from the 2012 State Championship team was the oldest. Jensen Meeker '23 was the youngest.



Above: Collin Swantz '21 sets up to make a shot. Below: 14 players came to show their high school basketball skills. The game, now in its second year, continues to grow. Watch for announcements for next year's third annual game!



Alumni in the Schools

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was used as a quote from the Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun December 11, 2024 Article "Amy Friedl show features Mount Vernon Swingin' Stangs" <https://mvlsun.com/2024/12/11/amy-friedl-show-features-mount-vernon-swingin-stangs/>

Amy Friedl's biography is nationally impressive. She is an accomplished and versatile cabaret/jazz singer. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in May 2018 as a featured performer in "All the Way: The Music of Jimmy Van Heusen" produced by the Mabel Mercer Foundation. Her solo cabaret shows have sold out in venues around

living in the Mount Vernon community for the first time since high school, and am excited to watch my son Weston's musical journey as he starts band and choir this year at the Mount Vernon Middle School."

In 2022, Amy featured the Mount Vernon High School Concert Choir and Jazz Choir in her holiday show at the Paramount. She had an incredible time working with the kids ahead of time, and sharing with them her passion for storytelling through song and the importance, as an artist, of connecting emotionally to the music.



Amy Friedl at the Swingin Stangs Holiday Concert in Mount Vernon.

the US, including The Gaslight Theatre (St. Louis), Davenport's (Chicago), and Cabaret in the Courtyard (Cedar Rapids). Amy has also been warmly received in other notable venues such as the famous Birdland Jazz Club (NYC), Don't Tell Mama (NYC), Krantzburg Arts Center (St. Louis), and Noce (Des Moines). In March 2017, she debuted her show Dreamchaser to rave reviews at the famed Metropolitan Room (NYC).

Lately she added a familiar credit to her biography: Mount Vernon resident. "I am excited to be

Amy previously worked with the Mount Vernon Jazz Band in 2021 as a featured soloist for the Corridor Jazz Project. When asked about Director of Bands Scott Weber and the Mount Vernon Swingin' Stangs, Friedl said



Friedl listening to the Mount Vernon Jazz Band during rehearsals for the holiday show.

continued on next page

"Scott's energy and drive shines through the students in their playing." Friedl continued, "My music director Luke Viertel and I were so impressed with them at our first rehearsal – they could've performed it for an audience that day! The players are focused and respectful. I'm just so honored to work with them."

The Swinging Stangs were scheduled to work with Amy again this Winter as part of her 2024 holiday concert at the Paramount Theater. Tickets were on sale and the band rehearsed with Amy multiple times.

And then the ice came.

On December 14, 2024, an Iowa ice storm kept the Swinging Stangs from traveling to Paramount to join her holiday concert. All district activities were cancelled for the day including the band's travel to the paramount. Friedl said in a Facebook post "I'm so heartbroken not to have the kids on stage tonight but keeping them safe is the number one priority and we'll have them back next year!"

That could have been the end of the story. Students canceled; see you next year. Instead, after the roads cleared and ice melted, Friedl came to Mount Vernon to play at the jazz band's concert. Mount Vernon audiences were treated to a concert with local legend and the band was able to show off their hard work. It was a bit of holiday magic provided by one very dedicated alum.

Said Friedl, "It means so much to me to be able to give back to the community and school district that helped shape me as a person and an Artist."



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

Don't forget to send your updated contact information, email addresses, and news items to the Alumni Association at alumni@mvcsd.org or text/call 319-721-7953

Mustangs...what are they doing now?

■ JEN CORCORAN JUHL 2003

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following uses the Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun August 7, 2024 Article featuring Mount Vernon Lisbon's Business of the year. <https://mvlsun.com/2024/08/07/business-of-the-year-white-tree-bakery/>

This year's Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group business of the year, White Tree Bakery (owned by Jen Juhl), views the accomplishment as another success for the business over the past three years.

do so because of the visibility I have in Uptown."

Of course, operating a bakery comes with its own challenges – long hours and early mornings, all while balancing the other responsibilities of being a business owner and her personal life.

One of the things Juhl was recognized for was her support of the uptown businesses and festivals in Mount Vernon. For Juhl, that is just about being a great neighbor for so many other businesses.



Above Jen Juhl 2003 in her Mount Vernon Bakery

"It feels amazing to be named business of the year by Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group," Juhl said. "I didn't think I'd be able to see such growth at such a rapid pace. After three years and three locations, I feel so happy that the community has supported me throughout."

White Tree Bakery started in Juhl's own kitchen as a hobby she started in her spare time, but as the community's support has grown, so has her footprint. In early 2023, she started a shop with traditional hours at First Street Community Center in uptown Mount Vernon and then moved into a space with larger foot traffic, stepping into the former The Nourishing Root and Big Creek Emporium space in late October.

"Having a business in uptown Mount Vernon has provided foot traffic that really accelerated my business this year," Juhl said. "People who wouldn't ordinarily stop at a bakery

"Being part of Uptown allows me to collaborate with my neighbor businesses, like desserts at Little Scratch, gluten-free and vegan cupcakes at Plantiful Pantry, and desserts for Palisades Café," Juhl said. "The exposure this provides is great, but it's basically about being a great friend and neighbor, and helping provide something for their business that they



White Tree Bakery provided the cupcakes for the Centennial Theatre Reunion in July.

may not have the ability or desire to do themselves."

One of the things Juhl loves about her business is working with seasonal ingredients and coming up with inspirations for her menus for each season.

"I also have customers and staff who tell me about something growing in their garden or a wonderful meal they had, and just let the creative thoughts roam," Juhl said. "We do a lot of recipe testing and development here, too, because I want to get it just right."



Juhl purchased the former Palisades Cafe this fall and is renovating the space to expand White Tree Bakery

And part of growing her business with foot traffic has also been increasing her staff at the bakery. What just used to be Juhl and her immediate family helping with orders, has now grown to two regularly scheduled employees and seasonal help from area young adults, especially during Mount Vernon's festivals.

"We have a lot of fun here, but we also work very hard," Juhl said. "I'm hiring for a part-time bakery assistant, too, and look forward to finding our next team member."

For Juhl, though, the true cherry on top of this success has been the support she has from the community over the past three years. The support has allowed her to take baking from a part-time gig to a fully functioning bakery each week.

"My bakery is nothing without my repeat customers, people who drop in when their children and grandchildren are back in town, or for the families who stop in for a treat together," Juhl said. "My thanks for their support over the last three years is endless."

White Tree Bakery provided the cupcakes for the Alumni Centennial Theatre Reunion in July. When asked about the donation, Juhl noted her committed to Mount Vernon, the arts, and the Alumni.

In 2025, the Bakery will move into its new location at 117 1st St W, Mt Vernon, IA 52314 (the former Palisades Cafe.) The move will allow Juhl to expand her seating and menu offerings with a complete commercial kitchen.

■ MAGGIE LESSMEIER WILLEMS '96

When wondering "Mustangs.. Where are they now?" you don't need to look far for Maggie Willems. After playing collegiate volleyball and coaching in Nebraska and in Williamsburg, IA, Willems returned home to coach for Mount Vernon. Her successes at Mount Vernon have recently led to national accolades.

Willems served as an assistant coach for 6 years under the legendary Shirley Ryan. There have only been 2 head coaches in the history of the program, which started in 1973. As head coach, Willems led the Mustang team to state tournaments 12 of her 14 years including two state championships in 2019 and again in 2024. Under her leadership, Mount Vernon has become a powerhouse producing twenty-two 3A All-State players, including three 3A All-State "Players of the Year." This year she coached the Mount Vernon team in the first outdoor volleyball match ever played in Iowa in an exciting reverse-sweep victory against Manchester.

Maggie, though quick to give all of the credit to her students, is herself a star in the Volleyball world. She is the four-time Iowa Girls Coach Association's 3A Coach of the Year, and this season reached 400 career wins. She was also named the Cedar Rapids Gazette

All-Area Coach of the Year.

Perhaps the ultimate recognition came when she was selected American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Region 6 Coach of the Year. Willems was one of 31 coaches honored in the country. AVCA's coaches are a diverse group, as they represent teams from 24 states and a wide range of schools—large and small, urban and rural, public and private. Willems was recognized at the 2024 AVCA Convention in Louisville during the High School/Club Celebration in December 2024.

Back at home, Willems has been the club director for Mount Vernon Volleyball Club since 2012, providing developmental volleyball programming for athletes in the Mount Vernon community, beginning in the 4th grade. Club Volleyball typically serves 60-80 Mount Vernon volleyball athletes



Maggie Willems '96 coaching the Mount Vernon team at the State Volleyball Championship.

per year and provides a critical piece to the continued success of the Mount Vernon Volleyball program.

Willems has taught in Mount Vernon for the past 20 years and, along with husband Nate Willems, has 3 future Alumni in Mount Vernon Schools. Maggie continues to excel nationally in the place

where it all started – home.



AVCA Coach of the Year Award.



In Memory of classmates we have lost

Treva Moore Heiser 1950
April 9, 2023 Loveland, CO
Wilma Levy Whittemore 1947
January 18, 2024 Centerville GA
Paul Jean McKeen 1949
February 16, 2024 Mesa, AZ
Rosalie Bowman Gallagher 1963
June 5, 2024 Des Moines, IA
Dennis Murphy 1976
June 7, 2024 Mount Vernon, IA
Harold Klinsky 1947
June 27, 2024 Marion, IA
Gordon Behrens 1950
June 30, 2024 Vinton, IA
Donald Blessing 1980
August 11, 2024 Maricope, AZ
Michael E. Moore 1965
August 28, 2024 Appleton, WI
Dylan Woods 2014
August 31, 2024 Mount Vernon, IA
Trenay Allen Hart 1987
September 13, 2024 Billings, MT

Mike Clark 1965
October 4, 2024 Cedar Rapids, IA
William Lenz 1952
October 7, 2024 Manning, SC
Brenda Raim Broulik 1976
December 22, 2024 Olin, IA
Randy Koffron 1980
January 3, 2025 Mobile, AL

~ FRIENDS ~

Joyce Loomis, MS secretary
September 3, 2024 Mount Vernon, IA
Dorothy Nost, MS Cafeteria Worker
September 12, 2024 Lisbon, IA
Alan Shepley
December 25, 2025 Mount Vernon, IA

(Please excuse us if your classmate or loved one is not listed here for their recent death, but let us know for inclusion in the next newsletter.)

celebrated their 50th Anniversary on August 3, 2024.

Alaina Risse Hicks '14 and Jordan Hicks '17 were married Nov 9 in Colorado Springs, CO. The two met in concert choir at MVHS and married three states and ten years later.

EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE



Alaina Risse Hicks and Jordan Hicks

Madison Cranston '21 received a Bachelor of Arts in managerial accounting and business administration from Coe College in May 2024

Tyler Elliott '19, received a Bachelor of Arts in kinesiology from Coe College in May 2024.

Nolan Brand '20 graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Elementary Education from Central College Spring 2024.

Cathleen Morgan '20 graduated summa cum laude with a degree in kinesiology from Central College Spring 2024.

Makayla Lee '20 received a BA in Speech and Hearing Sciences, University of Iowa, Spring 2024

Sadie Player '20 received a BA in Biology, University of Iowa, Spring 2024.

Madison Shultz '20 received a BA in

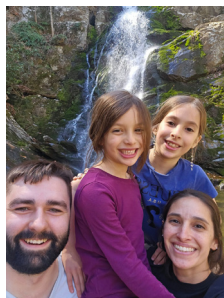
Alumni News...

Send us your information...

alumni@mvcsd.org
or call Julia at 319-721-7953

BIRTHS

Strider '03 and Brook Patton welcomed second child Hudson James Patton in May 2024.. Hudson joins sister Imogen.



Kaiser Arndt and family.

ANNIVERSARIES/SPECIAL DAYS

Kaiser Arndt '14 was married in October of this year. He and family moved to Michigan to begin my postdoctoral fellowship at University of Michigan.

Dan Stoner '70 and Cathy Humphries Stoner '69 celebrated their 50th Anniversary on July 15, 2024.

John '60 & Marilyn Hunter celebrated their 50th Anniversary on November 22, 2024.

Mark Hansen and Nancy Tonne Hansen 1967



Dan and Cathy Stoner

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

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sociology, University of Iowa, Spring 2024

Nolan Hinrichs '19 received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering, University of Iowa, Spring 2024

Kate Margheim '19 received a BA in Art and Art Education, University of Iowa, Spring 2024.

Tyler Fall '20 graduated Wartburg College cum laude with a Bachelor of Music Education in Music Education, Spring 2024.

AND MORE...

Andrew Telecky '01 published his fifth book, *Finding Home: A Child's Story of Survival* in November. Read more about the book and ordering information at <https://andrewteleckybooks.com/>

Jessie Thurn 2002 recently became the new Executive Director of the Mount Vernon Lisbon Community Development Group (CDG). The Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Development Group (MVL-CDG) is an umbrella organization that encompasses the roles of a traditional Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development and Marketing and Tourism activities and projects. In addition, the CDG is involved in the Mount Vernon Main Street Iowa program, developed by the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

Ellen Crock '21 is one of 10 students from the University of Iowa that has been granted a prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad. Crock is a fourth-year Spanish and ethics and public policy major. She studied abroad this fall in Argentina on the CIEE Buenos Aires liberal arts program.

HALL OF FAME RECIPIENT NEWS

Tristan Wirfs '17 was featured on the



Tristan Wirfs on the cover of Sports Illustrated Magazine

Sports Illustrated 'Total Athlete' Cover. The Edition highlights the stories of elite athletes who have mastered their own minds and bodies, including some who possess unorthodox skills.

Jamil Farshchi '96 Farshchi is the recipient of the 2024 GeorgiaCISO ORBIE Leadership Award. The award recognizes excellence in technology leadership and was given to Jamil by his fellow Cyber-Security peers.

Mark Benesh '83 was a featured artist at the Lincoln Highway Arts Festival this September 2024. The Lincoln Highway Arts Festival has been a staple in Mount Vernon for over 15 years.

Alumni Merchandise Available at the Alumni CauseTeam Store



ALUMNI MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The Mount Vernon Alumni Association, in partnership with local business Causeteam, will continue to offer alumni merchandise for sale this The project will serve as a fundraiser for the alumni association while providing comfortable and quality T-shirts and sweatshirts to alumni and friends. T-Shirts can even be branded with your class year on the back! Great for reunions and graduation gifts.

Local friends: If you use the code "pickup" in the coupon field you will be given the free shipping option to pick up your order in person.

NOTE! Any purchase that you make from CauseTeam can support the Alumni Association. Hit "Support" on our page and any other purchases that you make from CauseTeam site will include a donation to the Alumni Association. There's lots of fun gift items in addition to the Alumni T-Shirts

Interested in purchasing yours? Check out our Causeteam page at:

<https://www.causeteam.com/causepages/detail/mount-vernon-alumni-association>

A special thank you to everyone that helped in the making of this newsletter. Photo contributors include Lisa Lewis, Amy Weber, Amie Roberts, Cathy Hufford, Rhondi Ewing, and Luke Burgess. Photos also provided by Renee Vig, Kade Kaiser, and Emily Giehl, members of the Mustang Moon Staff under the guidance of JoAnn Gage. Special thanks to Annamae Baker and Diane Zinkula for assisting with Alumni News. Thanks Steph Timm and Derek Roberts for assistance with names and graduating years.

DID YOU MOVE? HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS? GET MARRIED?
Don't forget to send your updated contact information, email addresses, and news items to the Alumni Association at alumni@mvcsd.org or call 319-721-7953



THANK YOU for your Support of the ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Following are names of alums who have supported us for the 2024 year with either 'Support' or donations. **Your financial support is greatly appreciated.**

At the Alumni Association's 2022 Fall Board meeting, it was decided to change from a dues/support and donation system to simply a donation.

The 2024 report will reflect only donations to the Association. See back page for the 2025 Donation form, or log in online at www.mvalumni.org and select "Donate."

Is your name missing? Call Julia at 319-721-7953 or email to alumni@mvcasd.org

2024 ANNUAL SUPPORT

Ben Aalbers 1992 Kyle, TX	Magille Kurtz Gevock 1988 and Patrick Gevock West Branch, IA	Benjamin Brannaman 2005 and Brittany Corkin 2004 Brannaman Mount Vernon, IA	Terry Meeks 1967 Madison, MO
Jenna Voss 2002 Jersey City, NJ	Robert and Kelly Lynott 1976 Robins, IA	Mitch Corcoran 1983 Mount Vernon, IA	Michael Seiler 1967 Iowa City, IA
Patrick Reilly 1977 Lisbon, IA	Craig and Doretta Hipple 1961 Roswell, NM	Vic Wallace 1961 Jackson, TN	Ken and Jane Colehour Pospisil 1968 Mount Vernon IA
Dorothy Wolfe Welsh 1960 Rockville, MD	Richard Blew 1961 Raymore, MO	Jim Wallace 1964 Mount Vernon, IA	Cathy Humphries Stoner 1969 and Dan Stoner 1970 Mount Vernon IA
Dick Miner '61 Incline Village, NV	Dennis and Sue Steele 1965 Peoria, IL	Ann Vislisl Pavik 1952 Granite Bay CA	Jon Stoner 2004 Punta Gorda, FL
Lisa Ipsan Van Der Heiden 1973 Willmar, MN	Marianne Hansen Garrigan 1967 Thompsons Stn, TN	Kay Jilovec Lind 1955 Cedar Rapids IA	John Pisarik 1971 and Jane Pisarik Mount Vernon IA
Ed Fordyce 1959 Mount Vernon, IA	Peggy Neal 1967 and Garvin Howard Longmont, CO	Janet Miner Sessions 1956 Kent OH	Kevin Woods 1973 Mount Vernon IA
Jerry & Anne DuVal '68 Rehffuss Roswell, GA	Trudy Clay Pearson 1968 Tipton, IA	Leona Reyhons Smith 1956 Mount Vernon IA	Mary Thomsen 1975 Lisbon IA
Judith Berends Workman 1965 Cedar Rapids, IA	Jennifer Spencer Toriggino 1985 Denver, CO	Janice Lowe Whitman Majors 1957 Mount Vernon IA	Carol Woods- Boren 1975 Mount Vernon IA
Darrell & Donna Jordan 1961 Mount Vernon, IA	Jennifer Bern Vogel 1975 Los Angeles, CA	Karen Martin 1957 Mount Vernon IA	Ann Lehman Currie 1977 Mount Vernon IA
Marie Sippola 1959 Cedar Rapids, IA	Ronald Rhoads 1956 Green Bay, WI	Janet Hess Smith 1957 Urbandale, IA	Becky Thumm Whitman 1977 and Kevin Whitman 1976 Mount Vernon IA
Kathy Klinsky Mallie 1977 and Dean Mallie Lisbon, IA	Karen Kaliban Fox 1963 Marion, IA	David Sparks 1958 and Shirley Andrews Sparks 1959 Ankeny IA	Sara Kendall 1978 Cedar Rapids IA
Jude Smith 1981 and Greg Raup Scotsdale, AZ	Keith Clark 1960 Mount Vernon, IA	Annamae Stoneking Baker 1960 Mount Vernon IA	Jeff Spencer 1978 Grand Prairie TX
Christina MacKay Moutray 1982 and Corey Moutray River Falls, WI	Christene Hudson Brown 1964 Springville, IA	Judy Caldwell Penn 1960 Cedar Rapids IA	Robert Durfey 1979 Marion IA
Linda Buresh Brouillette 1962 Rio Verde, AZ	Tom and Sandra Neal 1958 Cocoa, FL	John Rife 1960 Mount Vernon IA	Terri Overman 1979 Cedar Rapids IA
George and Paula Brown 1953 Kearney, NE	John Hunter 1960 Cedar Rapids, IA	Bunny Mulligan 1961 Marion, IA	Kim Konkowski 1981 Mount Vernon IA
Douglas Wolrab 1956 and Sue Wolrab Cedar Rapids, IA	Robert Wagner III 1982 Hampstead, NC	Gloria Herboldsheimer Krob 1963 Lisbon, IA	Cathy Hufford 1983 Mount Vernon IA
George and Helene Hill 1949 Baltimore, MD	Randy Borg 1976 San Antonio, TX	Mikal Brawner 1964 Boulder CO	Jackie Jordan Morrical 1985 Mount Vernon IA
Jeri Neal 1966 Mount Vernon, IA	Mary Reilly Freese 1961 Marion, IA	Jeanne Peterson Cork 1964 Kansas City, MO	Dave Ryan 1985 Mount Vernon IA
Jane Costello Fink 1959 Anamosa, IA	Robert Lenz 1958 Marion, IA	Susan Mounts Fisher 1965 Mount Vernon, IA	Sarah Rife Patten 1993 Mount Vernon IA
Lindsey Borg 1983 Lake Ridge, VA	Patrick Melchert 1984 & Denise Mount Vernon, IA	John Pospisil 1966 Mount Vernon IA	Kim Zangger Tucker 1994 Cedar Rapids IA
David Kroeger 1958 Marion, IA	Matthew Wilch 1972 Baltimore, MD	Nancy Tonne Hansen 1967 and Mark Hansen Stanwood, MI	Whitney Bennett Turner 2000 Mount Vernon IA
	Michael Bowers 1987 Albany, CA		Grant Freeman 2006 Mount Vernon IA

2024 ANNUAL SUPPORT *continued*

Alex Brannaman 2009
Lisbon IA
Taylor Sedlacek Brocka 2010
Luke Stephens 2024
Mount Vernon IA
Anna Stephens 2027
Mount Vernon, IA
Betsy Morf 2025
Mount Vernon, IA
Lindsey Hotz 2001
Mechanicsville, IA
Miranda Roudabush Moore '13
Port Hueneme, CA
Greg West
Mount Vernon, IA
Chris Osborn
Mount Vernon, IA
Mark '67 and Liz Smith '77
Burgess
Wausau, WI
Chris Lyon 1981
Mount Vernon, IA

FRIENDS

Bauman & Company
Mount Vernon, IA
Clint and Gale Mote
Mount Vernon, IA
Kristin Anderson
Mount Vernon IA
Lauren Andrews
Mount Vernon IA
Adrian and Roberta Ringold
Dubuque, IA
Don and Lana Ringgenberg
Pella, IA
Glenn McConaughy
Jan DeCamp
Lonbard, IL
Randy Krejci
Cedar Rapids IA
Sandra Lighthall
Lisbon IA
James Schmidt
Cedar Rapids IA
Jennifer Stanerson
Mount Vernon IA
Kathy Staskal
Mars Hill NC
Lesley Panos
Mount Vernon, IA
Matt Leeman
Mount Vernon, IA
Valerie Binsfield
Mount Vernon, IA
Hanna and Roscoe Turner
Mount Vernon, IA
Peyton Russell
Mount Vernon, IA
Eva Bishop
Mount Vernon, IA
Audrey Vaughn
Mount Vernon, IA
Annie Hawker
Mount Vernon, IA
Kaye Cox
Kansas City, KS

IN HONOR OF DENNIS WOLRAB '64
Douglas Wolrab 1956

**IN MEMORY OF WENDY MCCLAIN '82
& DARCY HOLTZ WHITE '82**
Christina MacKay Moutray 1982

IN MEMORY OF DARCY HOLTZ WHITE '82
Lisa Addis Proehl 1982

**IN MEMORY OF GERALD L. & ESSIE
MAE HILL**
George J. Hill 1949

**IN MEMORY OF MARGHI MEUSEY '59
& JOHN MAXSON '59**
Jane Costello Fink 1959

IN MEMORY OF JOHN SCHICK 1966
Class of 1966

**IN MEMORY OF AL AND BERTHA
JOHNSON**
George and Helene Hill 1949

**IN MEMORY OF HOWARD DECAMP '51
AND RICHARD MCKEEN '51**
Jan DeCamp 1951

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL SMITH
Janet Hess Smith 1957

IN MEMORY OF BILL LIGHTHALL '66
Sandra Lighthall

IN MEMORY OF DON & IRIS HIPPLE
Craig Hipple 1961

IN MEMORY OF RONALD RHOADS '56
Phillis Rhoads

IN MEMORY OF ALLAN MINER 1963
Dick Miner '61
Janet Sessions '56
Anne Duval Reh fuss 1968

**IN MEMORY OF BARBARA THOMSEN
NEAL 1968**
Jeri Neal 1966
Jennifer Bern Vogel 1975
Tom Neal 1958
Class of 1966
Annamae Baker 1960

**IN MEMORY OF ROSALIE BOWMAN
'63**
Dick Miner '61

IN MEMORY OF RANDY HOIDAHL '61
Dick Miner '61

**IN MEMORY OF DOUG 'PIERCE 81 &
CYNDY**
Dave Pierce 1972

**IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL
MC CONAUGHY '78**
Glenn McConaughy

IN MEMORY OF MARY SMITH '47
Liz Smith Burgess 1977
Jude Smith 1981 and Greg Raupp

**IN MEMORY OF CLASS OF 1959
CLASSMATES WHO HAVE PASSED**
Marie Sippola 1959

**IN MEMORY OF GAYLE ANN '68, CHET, &
MARY WALLACE**

Vic '61 and Dee Wallace
IN MEMORY OF LAWRENCE HUNTER
John Hunter 1960

IN MEMORY OF LEE HANS KNUTSEN '57
Dr. Gary 1965 and Gail Knutsen

**IN MEMORY OF SUSAN SUKI HANSEN
ARAGON 1966**
Class of 1966

**IN MEMORY OF GAYLE ANN WALLACE &
RANDY HOIDAHL and IN HONOR OF CHET
& MARY WALLACE**
Vic Wallace '61 and Jim Wallace
'64

IN MEMORY OF SUSAN SCHMIDT '82
James Schmidt

IN HONOR OF AUSTIN ASH 2017
Randall Krejci

IN MEMORY OF BILL LANGE 1967
Mount Vernon Bank and Trust
Company

IN HONOR OF OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY
Nancy Tonne Hansen 1967 and
Mark Hansen

**DONATIONS MADE
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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**

Thank You!

**Don't See Your Name Listed
Here?**

**THIS LIST IS FOR 2024 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
DONATIONS.
WATCH FOR 2025 FOUNDATION DONATIONS TO
APPEAR IN THE 2025 SPRING ISSUE.
If you have any questions, or need to report a
change to me, please let me know.**

**With continued gratitude,
Julia Andrews, Alumni Association
alumni@mvcisd.org
319-721-7953**



MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY BETTERMENT FUND AWARDS FIRST GRANT

Last year, retiring Community Foundation President & CEO Les Garner and his wife Katrina established two funds to benefit Mount Vernon. Anyone can now contribute to the Mount Vernon Community Betterment Today and Tomorrow Funds, which made their first grant earlier this year.

To ensure community voice was central to the grantmaking process, the Garners worked closely with Mayor Tom Wieseler when establishing the funds. After considering Mount Vernon's needs, population, and challenges, Tom assembled a committee to make decisions on distributing funds.

Soon after being formed, the committee was excited to begin the grantmaking process. The group quickly came to a consensus that a grant to the Mount Vernon Community School District would have the greatest impact and help meet a significant community need. As more and more families face economic hardship, a district program called Kids in Need helps youth access food, clothing, hygiene items, school supplies, and even extracurricular experiences.



"Kids in Need was started by a school nurse to provide kids with shoes, clothes, glasses, or other needed items," said Jenna Wear, Washington Elementary Nurse. The program has continued to grow and now provides a wide range of services, including meals and gifts around the holidays. "This grant was used to stock our supply cabinets with snacks, breakfast items, personal hygiene products of all types, and school supplies."

The Community Betterment Funds provide a way for Mount Vernon residents to raise and distribute funds in a way that fits their specific community. With both a "Today" and a "Tomorrow" fund, the grant committee can make grants in response to immediate needs while also knowing there will be long-term support for emerging needs.

"We are fortunate to have such a community fund that has long-term and short-term award components," Tom said. "I'm sure we will find uses for this fund that we haven't even thought of yet. While we hope it won't happen, if we are ever hit with tragedies, having these funds in place makes it easy to accept contributions."

Originally printed in the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation's newsletter, December 10, 2024

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY LIBRARY RENOVATION

The Washington Elementary Library underwent renovations this summer thanks to donor support coupled with the receipt of a Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation grant. In addition to increased functionality, our elementary students now enjoy a magical library experience that inspires the love of learning. It is a joy to hear staff and students talk excitedly about the new beginnings for our library; we are grateful for your role in making this a possibility.



Pictures of the newly renovated library. Far right: students are hard at work using the library's computers.



Happy New Year!

I hope this message finds you all well and that you enjoyed your holiday with friends and family.

As your new Superintendent, I am excited to be able to join this wonderful school district and community. The new year is always a time of great excitement and anticipation. It's a chance to embrace new opportunities, set ambitious goals, and continue to build on the wonderful achievements of the past. I am eager to work alongside each of you—our dedicated staff, our supportive families, and our vibrant alumni community—to create an enriching and successful experience for all of our students.



**Mr Matt Leeman,
Superintendent**

I shared with our staff some fond memories I had of teachers and staff that were a part of my school experience growing up. I shared only 3 that came to mind, but was lucky enough to have several more that I could also have shared about. My purpose in sharing this with everyone was to remind them that as employees of a school we have the ability to be that one adult connection or mentor for a student. And the legacy that we are able to leave behind isn't necessarily about what we have taught, but rather the feelings and inspiration that we can give our students. Kids will always remember how you made them feel, and we should embrace that challenge and opportunity. What greater legacy to leave behind than to be talked about and remembered by former students fondly 30, 40, 50+ years after you taught them because of how you made them feel and the connections you had. Not many professions offer this same opportunity and so we shouldn't take the responsibility lightly!

In closing, thank you for your continued support and dedication. I have met many in the Alumni community and I look forward to meeting and hearing your thoughts and ideas. I will say that I am impressed daily by the amount of generosity towards our schools and programs that comes from our community! It really does make Mount Vernon a special place to be.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead filled with growth, achievement, and memorable experiences! Happy New Year! Mr. Leeman

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FALL 2024/WINTER 2025

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PARENTS, 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.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

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John Pospisil '66, Vice President
Kim Zangger Tucker '94, Secretary
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Suzette Kragenbrink, Member
Kristi Meyer, Member
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Michael Marshall, Board Secretary-Treasurer
Matthew Leeman, Superintendent

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

ONLINE

at www.MVAlumni.org

Select 'DONATION' located in the top left corner.

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

OR BY MAIL

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

SELECT FOR YOUR ANNUAL SUPPORT:

☐ donation for general fund

☐ memorial

in memory of/in honor of

Amount Enclosed \$

YOUR SUPPORT AND DONATIONS PAY FOR THESE ANNUAL EXPENSES:

Printing and mailing of twice yearly newsletter approximately \$10,000

Alumni Hall of Fame Events & Promotion approx \$2,000

Homecoming Reception approx \$300

Database Software \$2,800 and more

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

2025

Alumni or friend first & last name, including maiden name _____

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

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Country if outside USA _____

Email address _____

Phone Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

For tax purposes, the MV Alumni Association 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!