

Bobcat *Alumni* Banner

Grand Blanc High School • 12500 South Holly Road • Grand Blanc, MI 48439

www.grandblancschools.org/alumni

The Alumni Newsletter of Grand Blanc High School



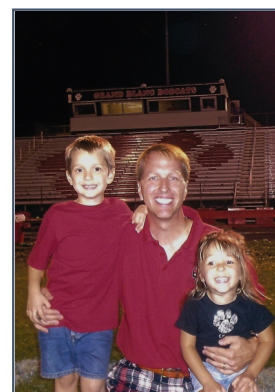
Remembering Our Friend Charlie Carmody



In March of this year, our community lost one of its greatest supporters, and we lost our founder. Charlie Carmody, President of the Grand Blanc High School Alumni Association for many years, passed away at the age of 54. Grand Blanc High School was a large part of Charlie's life, and he served his alma matter as a sportscaster, teacher, Alumni Association president, historian, and, above all, as its biggest cheerleader.

Charlie manned the press box at Frank Thomas Field for decades, while also teaching mathematics and computer science. His sportscasting grew to include basketball and track events. In the 1990s, he resurrected the long-dormant Grand Blanc High School Alumni Association, spreading his love for his alma matter to fellow alumni. His contributions to the community, both in and out of the classroom, are immense, and could fill an entire

newsletter. There is an irreplaceable void in our group. However, the Alumni Association will go on. In honor of his dedication to the alumni body of GBHS, the Alumni Association has renamed the Distinguished Alumni award, that he established, in his honor. We will miss his spirit, enthusiasm and love for this school and community.



Press Box Dedicated to the Voice of the Bobcats

By Max Harrison (Class of 2016)

Bobcat football is back. Thursday, August 31 saw the return of football to Frank Thomas Field, as the Bobcats opened their home season against Westland John Glenn. For the first time in decades, however, Charlie Carmody was not in the press box.

To honor the memory of Charlie, the press box where he spent so much of his time was renamed and dedicated to him as the "Charlie Carmody Voice of the Bobcats Press Box". Just prior to kickoff, the large sign that bears his name and spans the length of the box was unveiled.

In addition, the Carmody family has placed a large spirit rock on the lawn in front of the high school. The rock is intended to be a rallying point for demonstrations of Bobcat spirit, and students are invited to paint it before football games. It too was dedicated before the football game.

Although Charlie's spirit cannot be replaced, the spirit rock and press box will forever serve as monuments to his enduring legacy and as inspiration to future generations of Bobcats.



Image courtesy of the GBHS Echo Yearbook staff.

What's Next

By Max Harrison (Class of 2016)

The Alumni Association has gone through a number of changes in the last six months. Following the loss of our founder Charlie Carmody in March, we were left without a base of operations. Thanks to the kindness of the Grand Blanc School district, we have a new office in the high school. It is located in the hallway across from the library, and gives the Alumni Association a place to store its supplies and have meetings. Setting up the room was a multi-month project, and the Association is grateful to J.P. Adams, Gary Goetzinger and Jeff Cushman for their support.

The Alumni Association has been taken over by me, Max Harrison, and Jacquelyn Jones as Co-Presidents. We also have six dedicated members constituting our Alumni Association Board: Theresa Cooke, Mary Farrehi, John Mitchell, Bob Schlaud, Judy Webber and Debbie Hancock. I am grateful to all of them for their support over the past months.

Our annual Distinguished Alumni awards will continue. To honor the founder of the Alumni Association, it has been renamed the Charlie A. Carmody Distinguished Alumni award. Our thirteenth class will consist of Sarah Raiss, Cameron Henke, Bill Lamb and Mike Venos. We are honored to welcome them home at our 81st Homecoming, October 6th and 7th.

In upcoming years, we will working on new projects and resurrecting old ones. We will continue to publish the Alumni Banner. We hope to update Alumni Hall and complete our displays of class composite pictures. A new project we have started is the maintenance of a small archive of the history of the school district. This will be located in the Alumni Room at the high school.

Although it has been a trying year for us, the Alumni Association is not going anywhere. We will press on with the programs we have done for nearly two decades, while continuing to broaden our service to the alumni body of Grand Blanc High School. This, we feel, is the best way to continue to honor the memory of our founder, who gave so much to his school and community.



Looking for History

The Alumni Association is working to set up a small archive to maintain the history of the school district. As part of our new role, we are looking for old photos and artifacts that depict the history of the schools. If you have photographs, programs, yearbooks, Bobcat Banners, sports memorabilia, or anything else from the old days that you would like To give a proper home, please contact us!





Join us for Homecoming!

Grand Blanc High School will celebrate its 81st homecoming the weekend of October 6th and 7th. This year, we are pleased to honor four individuals in our 15th class of Distinguished Alumni. They will be the first recipients to receive the honor under its new name, the Charlie A. Carmody Distinguished Alumni Award. They will be presented to the community on Friday, October 6th, in the Homecoming parade, and then at half time of the football game. On Saturday, they will be formally presented with their awards at the Alumni Banquet at Brickstreet.

Our first Distinguished Alumni is Sarah Raiss (Class of 1975). For four straight years, Sarah was named as one of Canada's most powerful women. For a number of years, she had a consulting firm specializing in strategy, culture change and merger/acquisition integration. Following this, she served as Executive Vice-President of Corporate Services in the TransCanada Corporation. She retired from this role in 2011. She has served on the boards of ten publicly traded Canadian corporations, as well as 14 non-profit boards.

Cameron Henke (Class of 1967) served as a Michigan State Police officer, working at the Flat Rock and Flint Posts. He instructed police officers throughout the state in crimes against children, while also investigating and prosecuting these crimes in the Flint area. Along with being a member of many Grand Blanc area civic organizations, he is also the founder and head coach of the GBHS Skeet Shooting Team.

Our third honoree is Bill Lamb (Class of 1972). He is the President and General Manager of the WDRB and WMYO stations in Louisville. In his time at WDRB, the station has become the number one ranked in the Louisville television market and among the top Fox affiliates in the country. He is currently the Chairman of the Kentucky Red Cross, Chair of Entertainment and Sports for the Fox Network Board of Governors, and a member of many other Kentucky and Louisville area organizations.

Finally, Mike Venos (Class of 1982) has coached swim and dive for 32 years, and for the last 18 years has been the head coach of the Brother Rice Swim and Dive program. In his time there, he has coached the team to five state championships. He has coached 11 state champion swimmers, 13 relay-team state champions, and numerous All-State and All-American swimmers. He has been honored numerous times for his success as a coach, most notably in 2013 when he was named the Michigan High School Coaches Association Swimming Coach of the Year. In addition to coaching, he teaches Theology at Brother Rice.



Longtime Friend Will Be Missed!

Last month, the Alumni Association lost a great friend. Dorothy Schlaud, a longtime member of the Alumni Board, passed away on September 7. Born and raised in Grand Blanc, she graduated from Grand Blanc High School in 1956. Along with her husband John, she dedicated many years to serving the Grand Blanc community. Both were life members of the Grand Blanc Heritage Association, spending decades working to preserve the history of our community. They both served on the Alumni Board for years, helping to support and honor the alumni of GBHS.

Dorothy was a wonderful lady who never failed to put a smile on our faces. We will miss her passion for her community, her cheerfulness and her dedication to help others.

Distinguished Alumni Nominations

The Alumni Association is looking to honor Grand Blanc High School graduates that have excelled in their career or profession, made a significant contribution to their local community, or made an impact on the lives of others.

Tells us about it! We would like you to submit the names and accomplishments of those alumni that you think meet the qualifications above. It would be helpful if you have a current address and phone to contact the alumnus you are submitting.

Please send your nominations to:

GBHS Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Awards
12500 Holly Road
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

or

alumni@grandblancschools.org

