

# Bobcat *Alumni* Banner

Grand Blanc High School • 12500 South Holly Road • Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
810-591-6021 • [www.grandblancschools.org/alumni](http://www.grandblancschools.org/alumni)

The Alumni Newsletter of Grand Blanc High School



## Four Alums Receive the Distinguished Alumni Award

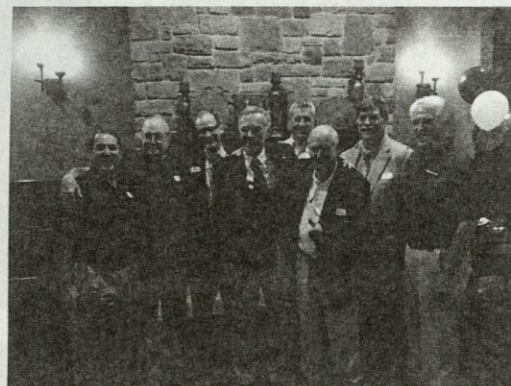


*Our Distinguished Alums take a ride with Bob Schlaud.*

During our Homecoming festivities in September, 2015, four former Bobcats received the Distinguished Alumni award. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year for the award and those honored included: Dave Devendorf, Jet Kilmer, Karen Newman, and Ava Butzu.

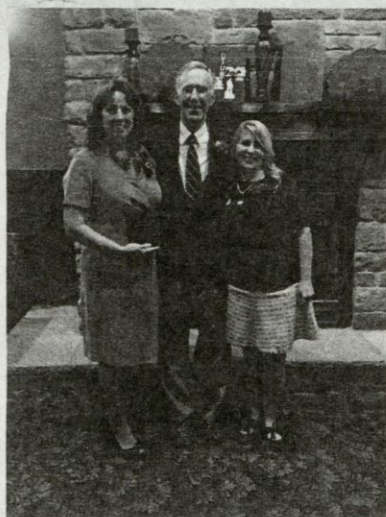
Dave Devendorf ('68) is a former high school athlete who attended the University of Michigan on an Evans Scholarship, and later studied law at Wayne State University. After serving in the Navy, Dave returned to Michigan to practice law. Currently,

Dave serves on the Executive Committee of the Golf Association of America, as well as working as a rules official for USGA, NCAA and other golfing events. In addition, he previously worked with the Blue Water YMCA to raise \$10 million to construct a new facility in Port Huron.



*Dave Devendorf and his classmates reunite for Dave's award at the Alumni Banquet.*

Jet Kilmer ('70) has been a member of the Grand Blanc Parks and Rec Board for 16 years and the Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce since 2004. She was on the Vision 20/20 committee as the chair of Culture and Recreation, and created the "Music on the March" program for middle school students who can't afford instruments. Jet is the creative mind behind the annual Family Fun Fest in GB and the Teddy Bear Patrol, which donates teddy bears to police officers who give them to children involved in traumatic events. She lives by the words "Make a Difference."



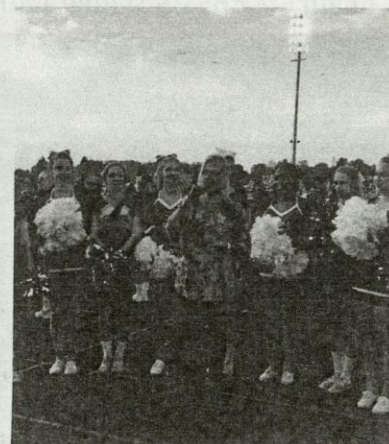
*Jet Kilmer, Dave Devendorf, Ava Butzu*

Karen Newman ('78) is the voice of the Detroit Red Wings, regularly performing the national anthem before the home games. She has released five CD's and has toured with both Bob Seger and Kid Rock. For the past five years, Karen has performed her annual Christmas concert at the Fox Theater as a tribute to the City of Detroit.

We got the thrill of hearing Karen sing in person at this year's Homecoming game as she sang the national anthem prior to kick off.

Ava Butzu ('88) is in her 16<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at GBHS, serving as an English teacher and the advisor of our Echo yearbook, which she has grown into one of the most recognized and award winning in the nation. This past year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year that the Echo has earned a Spartan Award, the highest rating in the state, which means the GBHS yearbook program will be inducted into the MIPAHall of Fame

in the spring of 2016. Ava also teaches yearbook workshops and curriculum nationally and is a trustee on the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association Board.



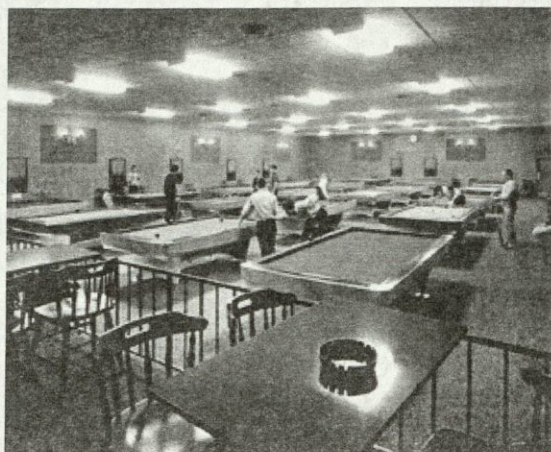
*Karen Newman thrills our Homecoming crowd with the National Anthem.*





## Do you remember....

Cecil Weishun, weekend movies at the Centre...pool at the Cue or Invaders in the 80's? Bowling pins set by hand, a little city of the Chicago's World's Fair or Church on Sunday? A Maple Turkey sub at Aremia's and a "Custom" hair cut? The plaza where all these memories were made and remembered will be closing very soon. So, if you remember we would like to hear from you



### MODEL CITY, U.S.A.

On Exhibit At  
THE COLONIAL CUE  
11240 So. Saginaw Rd.  
Grand Blanc, Mich. 48439

This World Famous "Model City, U.S.A." is truly a Mechanical Wonder of the age. It is 45 ft. long and 8 ft. wide, and took the Kempf Bros., of Capac, Michigan, from 1936 to 1942 to build. The City was shown coast to coast from 1923 to 1942, as "Kempf's Model City." During 1942, because of war restrictions, the City was put in storage. We are happy to be able to again present this World Famous "Model City, U.S.A." to the public.

Cecil and Kathryn Weishuhn

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE  
48265

Post Card

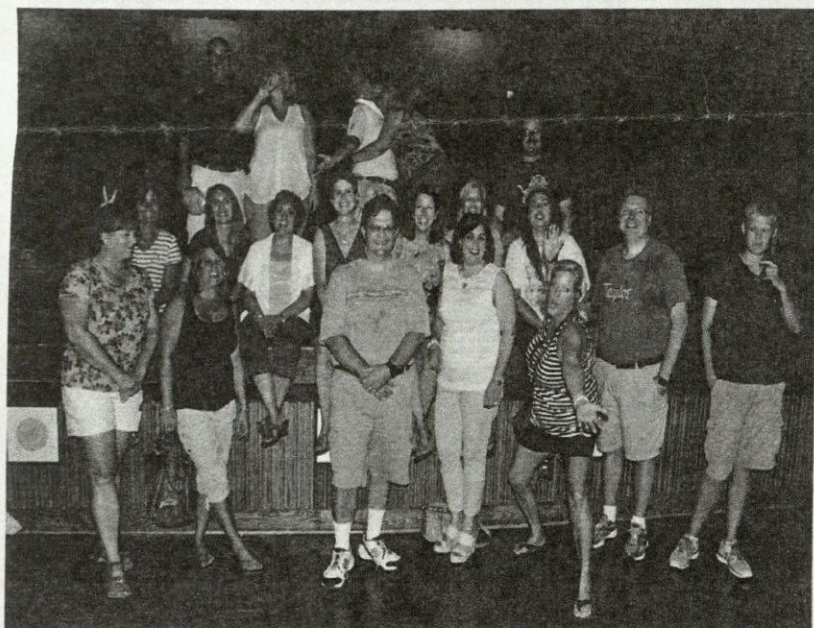




## The Class Of '85 Rekindles Old Friendships and

## Makes New Memories at 30th Reunion

By Bob Dubois ('85)



The GBHS class of 1985 commemorated their 30<sup>th</sup> class anniversary by hosting a two-day celebration on August 14-15. The festivities started with a Friday Night "Mixer" at the Grand Blanc Bowling Alley in which Bobcat alumni admired the classic cars "driving down memory lane" on South Saginaw Street during the "Back to the Bricks" festival while in the comfort of a party tent. The only damper on the evening was the "monsoon" that destroyed the tent, but in true Bobcat spirit, everyone pitched in to help Kim (Garrison) Eaton buy a new one. This was followed by several hours of bowling in which 85'ers shared memories with old friends and made new ones by bringing their own children to the gathering.

The next day, the halls of GBHS were filled once again by the joyous laughter and camaraderie of the class of '85 as they toured the school and marveled at how much "East Campus" had both changed and stayed the same over the past three decades. We all sat together in the cafeteria and Pepper Auditorium for class pictures and remembered our teachers and their dedication to our education. We were very touched to see all of our senior pictures together and to be forever honored in the hallowed halls of GBHS.

Since too much is never enough, the class continued its festivities by hosting an 18 hole scramble at the Woodfield golf course later that day. Several class members showed the form that won the 1985 Michigan Class A State Girls' Golf Championship.

Lastly, the class gathered for the weekend's "Main" event at Woodfield and even more memories and goodwill was shared as class mates danced to hits of the 80's and enjoyed being forever young and silly in the photo booth. Seventeen members who had passed on were remembered with a reading of the poem, "The Empty Chair" by Jill Eisnagle and a moment of silence. This event was the culmination of months of hard work by tireless class members, including Kristi (Felt) Fent, Andrea (Frasier) Starling, Paul Bush, Kelly (Trahey) Lance, Kim (Garrison) Eaton, Randy Eaton, Anne (Pawlosky) Bubin, and Joe Williams. The class of 85 wishes to express their gratitude and appreciation for the committee's hard work and dedication in organizing this memorable event.



## GRANT FISHER - Grand Blanc High School Athlete of the Year in 2015

### Fisher breaks 4-minute mile

ST. LOUIS - Grant Fisher became the seventh high school runner in history to break the four-minute barrier in the mile, clocking 3:59.38 in the Professional Men's Mile at the Nike Festival of Miles last Thursday night in St. Louis. The recent Grand Blanc graduate becomes the third-fastest high school miler of all time, matching the 3:59.38 that Marjorie Maron ran a few weeks ago in the Oregon Twilight. It's the first time in history that two high school boys have broken the four-minute mile in the same year.

Fisher, who ran in his father's singlet, placed third in the professional field, behind Nike Oregon Track Club pro Jordan McNamara in 3:58.81 and Tyler Pennel in 3:58.09.

"It was fun to be in a competitive field and, you know, that's what pushed me to get under, I think," Fisher told FloTrack.org after the race. "It was all due to who I was around." - D.J.N.

Grant Fisher clocked 3:59.38 in the Nike Festival of Miles last week.

Photo by Mike Padden

Where to start with this young man! The greatest athlete in the history of GBHS, Grant attends Stanford University with a full ride in track and cross country. He is a two-time Gatorade National High School Cross Country Athlete of the Year (2014, 2015). Grant is the Detroit Free Press Person of the Year in Michigan. He received the Flint Kiwanis and Flint Rotary Club Athlete of the Year in 2015.

In track and field, highlights for Grant include:

- #1 in Michigan and #2 in the United States in the 1500 meter run.
- #1 in both Michigan and the U. S. in the 1600 meter run.

In the indoor season, he was #1 in Michigan and the U. S. in the 1600 and 1500 meter run(s). In the post season, Grant's mile time was the 3rd fastest in U. S. High School history, (3:59.38). He was the 7th high school runner in history to have broken that barrier. Both his mile and 1600 meter times in the post season were the fastest ever run by a Michigan High School athlete. His 2 mile time was the fastest ever run by a Michigan High School athlete.

In cross country, Grant is the 2nd American athlete to win two consecutive National Championships. He is the first American to have won two consecutive Gatorade National Cross Country Athlete of the Year awards.

Outside the arena of sports, Grant conducted himself with equal distinction. He was the National Honor Society President for Grand Blanc High School, and organization recognizing exemplary academic achievement but one that stresses service as well. He volunteered as a motivational speaker for the Flint Community Schools, as a helper in the effort to renovate the athletic concession stand as a youth soccer coach and with the winter coat drive. His g.p.a and College Board scores are outstanding. Grant is the son of Dan and Sonia Fisher.

## Grand Blanc Country Schools

By Max Harrison ('16)



Grand Blanc School

If you went to school in Grand Blanc before 1922, you attended one of 14 one-room schoolhouses spread throughout the township and adjacent Atlas, Mundy and Burton. In 1922, with the opening of the current Ezra Perry Center, the one-room schools closed and consolidated into one building. The first school in Genesee County was a frame schoolhouse built by Edmund Perry on his land on Perry Road. As townships were organized, the state allowed local officials to create school districts as they were needed. Districts received a number designation; schools with boundaries in two townships received a "fractional district" designation. Early one-room buildings were built without following any standard or plan, which resulted in buildings with various sizes and styles. Most schools began as simple log buildings, which were later replaced by a frame or brick structure. It was not



## Grand Blanc Country Schools *continued..*

until the early 19th Century that the State of Michigan began to offer regulations and standards for rural schools.

There were 11 school districts located within Grand Blanc Township, with five of these sharing territory with other towns. Another three districts were located outside Grand Blanc but had territory extending into the township.



*Whigville School*

District No. 1 was located in the Village of Whigville, just north of the Baptist Church where Edward Street is now located. The school existed as early as 1835, when it is recorded that the Baptist Church met in the building. The school was alternately called the Whigville or Gibson School, the name coming from early settler and businessman Charles DeWitt Gibson. The school closed and was consolidated with the Grand Blanc Township Unit School in 1922. The property was purchased by the church and the schoolhouse was demolished.

The Grand Blanc Village School was District No. 2. Its first location was on the southwest corner of Saginaw Street and Holly Road. The district was organized in 1839 and a frame schoolhouse was built on Judge Jeremiah Smith's land. This building was called the Smith School. In 1867 land was purchased at the corner of Saginaw Street and Perry Road from Edward Sawyer for \$300. A two story brick schoolhouse was built, however due to structural issues it was demolished in 1890. Another two room brick school was built on the site, which burned in 1920. In 1903 and 1904 the district united with the Cook and Porter districts to become the first consolidated school in the State of Michigan. The third and final building to be built on the site was the current Ezra Perry Center.

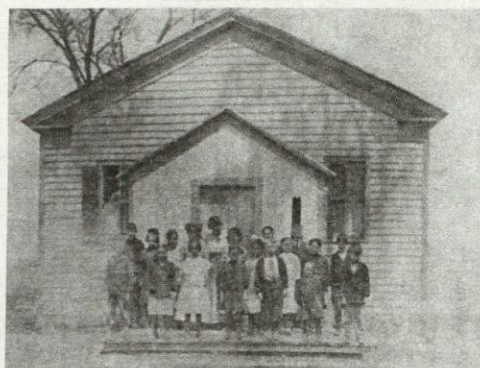
The Sherwood School, Fractional District No. 2, was located on the southeastern corner of Fenton and Hill Roads. Not much is known about the school, and there is no record of whom it was named for. However, it is likely that the district existed before 1840. The school shared territory with Mundy Township. In 1920 the school joined the Grand Blanc Township Unit School district, and the building closed in 1922. The school has since been demolished.



*Kennedy School*

District No. 3, called the Butler School after landowner Charles Butler, was located on Saginaw Street just south of Baldwin Road. Not much is known about the district's early history. However, it is likely the school was organized in the 1830s. The school consolidated with the Grand Blanc Village School in 1920 and was closed in 1922 when the new township school building opened. The Butler School was converted into a house and still stands.

The Cook School, District No. 4, was located on the northwest corner of the Cook and Embury Road intersection. The school was named for Gurdon Cook, who owned land adjacent to the school property. In 1903 the district joined with the Grand Blanc School and the Porter School to become the first consolidated school in the State of Michigan. The building was moved from Cook Road to a lot on the northeastern corner of Davis and High Streets. Multiple additions have been made to the building, which is currently a house.



*Halsey School*

The first building in District No. 5 was built in 1833 by pioneer settler Alvah Brainerd. The school was located in the vicinity of his property at the intersection of Center and Hill Roads, however the exact location is not known. Another school was built in 1836; yet another between 1836 and 1873. The final school was built between 1873 and 1889 on the north side of Hill Road just to the west of Belsay Road. This school is still standing; it is currently used as a house. The school closed and consolidated with the Grand Blanc Consolidated School in 1919.

Fractional District No. 6, the Mason School, was located on the



## Grand Blanc Country Schools *continued..*



*Crapser School*

Halsey's property on the southwest corner of Halsey and Baldwin Roads. In 1848 a frame schoolhouse was built across the street on Reuban Gould's property. It was around this time that the district began to be shared with Holly Township, the designation changing to Fractional District No. 7. The school consolidated with the Grand Blanc Township Unit School in 1920 and closed in 1922. The building was subsequently sold and demolished. Today Grand Blanc Fire Station No. 3 stands on the site. After closing, alumni and teachers began holding annual reunions and in 1935 placed a marker at the site of the school.

The Porter School, District No. 7, was organized in 1849. A schoolhouse was erected around 1860 on Philander Williams' land on Porter Road, halfway between the eastern and western stretches of Reid Road at a cost of nearly \$270. The school was likely named for landowner George Porter. The district was discontinued in 1904 when it consolidated with the Cook and Grand Blanc districts to form the Grand Blanc Consolidated School. Although the building has gradually been hidden by houses that were built in front of it, the school is still standing and is in use as a shed.

The Fractional District No. 8 in Grand Blanc consisted of two different schools in two different locations. The first was likely located on Pearson Farrar's land on Perry Road, and an 1842 school inspector's report gives the name of the school as the Farrar School. By the 1870s the school had been relocated to the intersection of Vassar and Burpee Roads. Here it sat on land owned by the Hoffman family and was called the Hoffman School. The district was dissolved in 1919 and consolidated with the Grand Blanc Consolidated School.

Fractional District No. 11 was shared with Burton Township. Little is known about the district, however it was known to be called the Lunn School. There are no known references to the school before an 1873 settlement map. In that year the school was located on T. B. Lunn's property on the northwest corner of Maple and Belsay Roads in Burton Township. Within the next twenty years the school was moved to the south side of Maple Road in Grand Blanc. The school closed in 1916 for unknown reasons, and it is likely the territory was split between the Grand Blanc and Atherton school districts.



*Harvey School*

eastern side of Fenton Road south of Grand Blanc Road. The school was likely established in the 1830s on land owned by members of the Mason family, from whom the school draws its name. Both Ezra Perry and Mayme Anderson, well-known educators in the Grand Blanc School district, began their teaching careers in the Mason School. The school was consolidated with the Grand Blanc Township Unit School district in 1920, before closing in 1922. The building has been converted into a house.

The Halsey School district was first formed as District No. 7 around 1835. Construction on the school began in 1837; work was not completed until 1839. The first school building was built of log and located on Silas



*Porter School*

There were three fractional districts located in neighboring townships that had boundaries extending into Grand Blanc.

The Harvey School, Atlas Township Fractional District No. 3, was located on the northeastern corner of Baldwin and Vassar Roads. The school was organized sometime before 1859 on land owned by Edwin Harvey, whom the school was named for. The district elected not to join either the Grand Blanc Township Unit School or Goodrich Rural Agricultural School when they were organized. As a result, the school was the smallest in Genesee County in 1938, with only five students being taught by Mary Pickett. The school finally closed in 1943, when the remaining children were relocated to the Goodrich



## Grand Blanc Country Schools *continued..*



*Walker School*

school until 1962, when the building closed. It was used as a catering business for a number of years, and while there have been a number of plans for reuse of the building, it currently sits vacant and has fallen into serious disrepair.

The Kennedy School in Mundy Township was organized in 1858 out of necessity for the daughter of settler Horace Kennedy. It was on Kennedy's land that the school was built for his daughter, as the nearest schools (the O'Dell School to the west and the Hasey School to the east) were too far away to walk to. The school was built on the south side of Baldwin Road just to the east of Fenton Road. The district lasted until 1953, when it was dissolved and annexed into the Lake Fenton Rural Agricultural School.

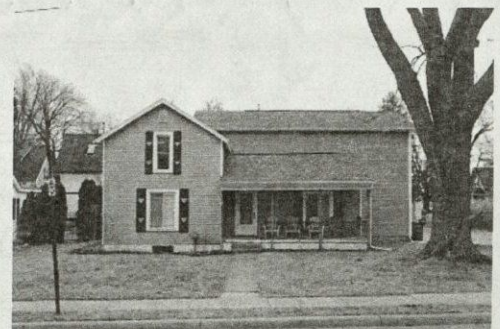
In 1903 and 1904 the Cook and Porter districts, respectively, voted to take advantage of a recently-passed state law and merged with the Grand Blanc Village School to become the first consolidated school in the state. Two horse-drawn buses were used to transport the students that lived farther away to the school. In 1919 the Walker and Hoffman districts voted to consolidate with the school, creating the Grand Blanc Rural Agricultural School. In 1920 the entire township was united as a single school district, the Grand Blanc Township Unit School district.

A ten-grade high school was started in 1919, and anyone wishing to continue their education had to attend Flint High School. Many in the township desired a dedicated

high school building, however many were opposed to the idea. The debate was resolved on December 20, 1920, when a stove in the basement of the school exploded and started a fire that completely destroyed the building. Construction on a modern red-brick school building began the following March, and the new Grand Blanc Township Unit School building was ready for occupancy January 9, 1922. This building served all twelve grades until 1960, and as the home of Grand Blanc High School until 1963. After the current high school building was opened, the building was renamed Perry Junior High School. It served in this capacity until 1983, when declining enrollment and budget issues forced the closure of many district buildings. The school was renamed the Perry Center and has seen use as a multi-purpose building since then.

School. The building still stands and is today used as a house.

Familiar to anyone who passes the intersection of Center Road and Maple Road is the Crapser School. It is believed that the district, Burton Township Fractional District No. 8, was organized around 1834 on Amos Crapser's land. A frame schoolhouse was built around the year 1850. In 1939, with increasing enrollment in many rural districts in the county, the frame school was sold and a new building was built. On August 21, 1951 the territory north of Maple Road joined the Atherton District, while the land located south of Maple Road went to the Grand Blanc Township Unit School district. The Crapser School building was used by the Atherton District as an elementary



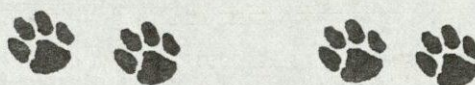
*Cook School*



*Butler School*



*Mason School*





*On of our all-time athletic greats Bob Suci '58  
passed on December 21, 2015.  
More o the life of Bob in our next Alumni Banner.*

Homecoming 2016 is Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>

Our Alumni Banquet will be held on  
Saturday, October 8, 2016 at Brickstreet

Want to nominate a GBHS Grad for the Distinguished Alumni Award?

Send your letter of nomination to GBHS Alumni

12500 Holly Road

Grand Blanc, MI 48439

or

email [ccarmody@grandblancschool.org](mailto:ccarmody@grandblancschool.org).

