

Bobcat *Alumni* Banner

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

810-591-6021 • www.grandblancschools.org/alumni

The Alumni Newsletter of Grand Blanc High School



GRAND BLANC ALUMNI NEWS



"Act now or this could be your last Alumni Banner!"

For the past twelve years the GBHS Alumni Association has produced and mailed the Bobcat Alumni Banner in the Spring and Fall of each year. It had been a labor of love for the Alumni Board to continue to keep you informed about the happenings of former classmates - and we will continue to do so with our future editions.

The Grand Blanc Educational Foundation has funded the Alumni Association through generous contributions from GBHS alumni and friends. The Foundation has also funded many additional educational programs for Grand Blanc students. Currently, contributions from our alumni are not meeting our expenses to print and mail the Bobcat Alumni Banner. Which means that the Foundation is spending more to cover those costs, and thus has less to spend on students.

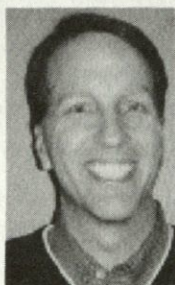
Due to these circumstances, the Alumni Association will be making a few changes to the Bobcat Alumni Banner.

First, the Spring and Fall publications will be continued and will be available to readers in two ways. If you would like to continue to receive the paper Bobcat Alumni Banner, through the mail, you will need to pay \$5.00 per year for your subscription. This will cover the costs of the newsletter being set-up, printed, and mailed. So, beginning in the Spring, 2012, we will only be mailing our newsletter to those Alumni who have donated at least \$5.00 (five dollars) prior to publication. **You must complete the envelope, inserted with this newsletter, include your donation, and be sure to mail it back immediately.**

Second, beginning with this issue, we will be producing the first **eBanner** that will be emailed. We only need your email address to send it to you. Please follow this link <http://grandblanc.alumni.schoolfusion.us/> to register and submit your email. You may also complete the envelope included with this newsletter and mail it back immediately. The **eBanner** will be a full color version of the mailed Banner, with additional pictures that, due to costs, are not included in the mailed version of the Bobcat Alumni Banner. There will be no charge for the **eBanner**, which will be sent in PDF file format - although, we hope you will love the additional material that will be included.

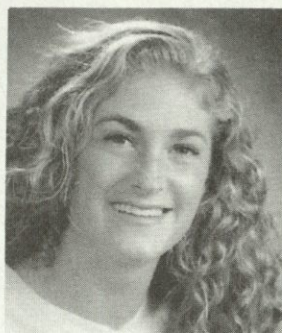
Of course, if you would like to donate to the Alumni Association to help fund our newsletter, Alumni Hall, or any of the other projects of the Grand Blanc Educational Foundation, it would be very much appreciated. Those who make, or have made, a donation of \$100 (one hundred dollars) or more, will continue to receive the printed Banner as our gift to you.

You may contact the Alumni Association at 810.591.6021 during the day, or you mail email the association at alumni@grandblancschools.org.





AN ITCH TO RUN



Sharon (Dickie) Thompson Class of 1998 has an "itch to run." After an illustrious running career that includes All-State, while in high school, All-America at the University of Tennessee, and a two-time qualifier for U.S.

Olympic Track & Field Trials, Sharon was preparing to hang up her running shoes. Now married and living in Franklin, TN, with two children, she told everybody she was no longer going to race. But, during the summer of 2010, six months after the birth of her youngest child, something happened.

"After I did the Olympic Trials in '08, I said I just wanted to stay with my family," Sharon says, "Then this summer I got the itch to start doing some road races."

Sharon set a course record, in April last year, during the Country Music Half Marathon in Nashville. In August, she returned to the Flint area to compete in the Crim 10-Mile Road Race where she placed fourth overall among women.

Last October, Sharon qualified for the U.S. Olympic women's marathon trials by posting a time of 2:41:28 in the Chicago Marathon. The trials will take place in Houston, TX, in January of 2012. Her time met the "B" standard for women. A time of 2:39, or better, would have qualified her for "A" standard. Runners qualifying for the "A" standard receive some financial support.

Though she is 31 years old, it is not unusual for women in their mid- to late-30's to compete for Olympic marathon berths.

Sharon's marathon training peaked at 70 to 80 miles a week and she doesn't plan to increase it much before the Olympic Trials. She balances her training and her family life by getting out before her children arise. Her husband, Kevin Thompson, a decathlete from the University of Tennessee, makes a weekly outing to the track by bringing their children to watch their mother run.



ATTENTION: This is partially copied from the envelope inserted into the newsletter. You must complete and return the envelope immediately if you wish to continue to receive the Bobcat Alumni Banner.



- ☐ **YES!** I have HIGH-SPEED Internet service and wish to receive the Bobcat Alumni Banner as a PDF file.
- ☐ **NO!** I do NOT have HIGH -SPEED Internet service and wish to continue receiving the Bobcat Alumni Banner in the mail! I am enclosing a check/money order to ensure delivery.
Please make \$5.00 (five dollar) check or money order payable and send to:

Grand Blanc Educational Foundation
11920 South Saginaw Street
Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439-1400



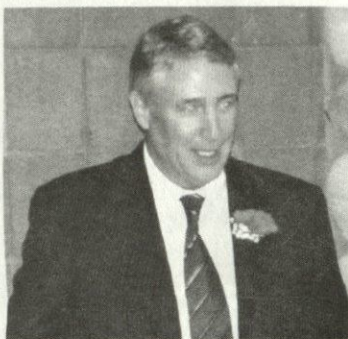
ALUMNI BANQUET 2010



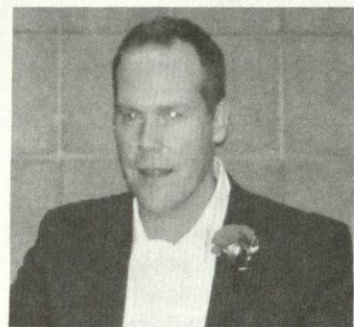
The GBHS Alumni Association held their 8th annual Alumni Banquet on October 1st last year, during Homecoming weekend. Two GBHS alumni were honored with the Distinguished alumni Award for their life's work and their contributions to their local communities.

Coincidentally, both gentlemen were former Bobcat players who went on to play college football.

Scott Mitchell, Class of 1979, was honored for his accomplishments in working for the Delphi Corporation, where he is currently a Vice-President in charge of their Global Operations. Scott's family and friends were in attendance, including his former coaches Bill Catton, Tom Weddock, and Bob Burek. Scott said that the life lessons he learned as a student and athlete have helped him succeed in his job today. His positive attitude has carried him through difficult time and helped him shine as a leader.



Brian Reemsten, Class of 1986, was honored for his dedication to saving young lives as the head of Pediatric Thoracic Surgery at UCLA's Children's Hospital. Brian's success was inspiring to all in attendance. Brian's wife and three daughters, along with his parents, Larry and Mary Pat, all came back to



Grand Blanc for this special occasion. They enjoyed a mini-family reunion while in Michigan. Larry Reemsten, Brian's father, said that Brian's senior year at GBHS, where he served as Co-Captain and First-Team All-State on the undefeated 1985 football team, was the springboard to his academic success at UCLA, and in medical school.

Sandy Mcallister, Class of 1981, who had been scheduled to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award, was unable to attend, but will be joining us for Homecoming and Alumni Banquet 2011!

Distinguished Alumni

The Alumni Association is sponsoring their 9th Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards. We are 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.

The following alums have been nominated to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award.



Jane (Ward) Brewer, Class of 1966, served on GB School Board for two decades, elected School Board President, Director of GBHS Drama Dept.



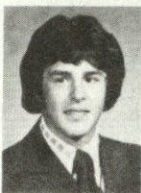
Peggy (Devendorf) Yates Gallinat, Class of 1969, long time GBHS teacher, Principal and Superintendent of Fenton Schools



David Winton, Class of 1972, currently presiding minister, former Advertising Manager Hush Puppy Shoes, performed off-Broadway in NYC, active in local community theater



Rob Paulsen, Class of 1974, voice actor for Disney Studios, having won several awards, currently working on "Tinker Bell" movies, most famous for portraying Raphael, one of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



Dr. Ron Coriasso, Class of 1976, a family physician practicing in the Flint area, a mentor to medical students and Team Doctor for GBHS Football Team for 12 years



Dr. Sandy McAllister, Class of 1981, world-renowned cancer researcher, the 'McAllister Lab' at the Harvard Medical School is named after her

The recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award will ride in the Homecoming Parade, be introduced at Half-Time during the Homecoming Football game on Friday, Sept. 23, and honored at the Alumni Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 24th. The banquet/award ceremony will held at the Brick Street Restaurant on Grand Blanc Road and the cost is \$25 per person. In addition, a picture of each inductee will be placed in the Distinguished Alumni Hall located in the front entrance atrium at GBHS.

Homecoming 2011 and Distinguished Alumni Awards

Friday, September 23, 2011:

Parade begins at GBHS East Campus at 5:00pm.
Football game begins at 7:00pm (tickets available during Homecoming Week at GBHS)

Saturday, September 24, 2011:

Alumni Banquet at Brick Street, on Grand Blanc Rd., east of Fenton Rd.
Social at 6:pm Dinner at 7:00 pm Program at 8:00pm Cost \$25/per person
Reservations can be made from August 1, until September 10, by telephoning Mary Nerreter, 810-591-6021



GB Grad on set of "30 Rock"

Stephanie Zielinski, GBHS Class of 2007, currently a senior at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., walked into Silvercup Studios, watched filming for the next episode of *30 Rock*, and chatted with Alec Baldwin. Although her externship was a thrilling experience for Zielinski, it was just another day at the office for her host, Catherine Miervaldis an '07 alumnus of Lafayette College and an NBC Universal executive assistant.

This 10-hour externship gave Zielinski a valuable perspective into what goes on behind the scenes at the popular television show.

"Being around these celebrities was of course a new and exciting experience," Stephanie explains, "I'm a huge fan of *30 Rock* and of Tina Fey, and I was lucky enough to meet her. But for me, it was also very important that I got to meet the people behind the scenes."

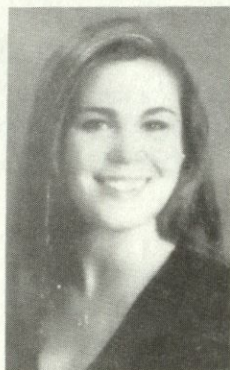
During her externship, Zielinski had the opportunity to meet with department heads for graphics, locations, set decorating, and post production. Stephanie says, "I learned about all the components and people necessary to produce a television show."

Having enrolled in Lafayette College thinking she would major in neuroscience but Stephanie will be leaving with a double major in English and international economics & commerce. She believes her experience is an example of why she chose Lafayette in the first place. As a freshman, she was told that Lafayette wanted her to grow during her four years and leave a different person than the one that arrived.

"That is exactly my experience," says Zielinski. She was first introduced to the College through her competitive swimming career. "I chose Lafayette because it offers the perfect mix for me as a student-athlete. As a member of the Patriot League, it has the prestige of the

large Division 1 schools with the student-centered approach of a small, academically challenging college. Plus it has a beautiful, historic, East Coast campus located in close proximity to New York and Philadelphia, an especially nice feature for someone coming from the Midwest," says Zielinski.

For Stephanie, the externship helped her focus on what she wants to do after she graduates. She hopes to work in either television entertainment or news. At this point, she is not sure as to whether she is interested in the production or business end of the industry. For this reason she says, "I'm pursuing graduate rotational programs which give you a variety of experiences. Like this externship program, it allows you to find out where you fit best within a company and gives you exposure in a variety of departments."

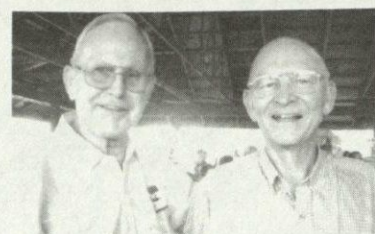


A Celebration of the 50's

submitted by
Bob Burek, Class of 1958



Beverly (Pritchett) Makela & Margaret
(Tune) Kish, both from Class of 1956



Ron Beebe and Jim Mayo,
both from Class of 1954

Under blue skies and temperatures in excess of 80 degrees, 375 GBHS graduates from the 1950's descended August 14 for an old-fashioned picnic at the Creasey Bicentennial Park in Grand Blanc Township. There was a mountain of food as everyone brought a dish to pass.

Beverages and hotdogs were paid for by a small fee charged to participants.

When the idea of a 50's reunion first surfaced in the Fall of '09, an optimistic estimate of crowd attendance was in the order of 75 - 100 people. Graduating classes in those days were in the neighborhood of 100 students. Obviously, we misread the interest in this get-together.

Grand Blanc, in the 1950's, was a far different community and school system than it is today. The farm community that was Grand Blanc in the latter half of the 19th century and the first four decades of the 20th century was rapidly being overtaken in terms of employment, after WW II, by the General Motors juggernaut. While graduating classes numbered 100 in the 50's, today they are in excess of 600. Hay rides, sock hops, "orientation" for 9th graders (brutal by any standard), senior trips to Chicago, New York City, or Washington, D.C., were part of the social scene at GBHS in the 50's. Respect, courtesy, and civility were hallmarks of behavior. Strict discipline in the school, and in the home, were very much in vogue. A paddling by Mr. Pepper, or Miss Dowd, (always justified) followed some major indiscretion. When either of them walked in to Room 307, the Study Hall, looking for a student half of the room would attempt to hide beneath their desk! In those days, a paddling at school was usually duplicated by one at home.

Everyone knew everyone in the 50's and so, for four glorious hours on August 14th, we reconnected. Memories of people and times past created laughter and tears.

Conversation about lost classmates was part of that interaction. In most cases, other than one's own classmates, the last contact with members of other classes was more than 50 years ago.

A final note on the "reunion". The \$500 that was left, after all expenses were paid, was donated to a local food bank for needy children. What a fitting exclamation point and testimonial to the spirit of giving and sharing that helped define this era.

Meet the Schlaud's



Dorothy K. Weishuhn, Class of 1956, wed John L. Schlaud, Class of 1952, on May 11, 1957, in the Holy Family Church in Grand Blanc. They were married by Rev. Fr. John Bush and have spent their entire married life in Grand Blanc Township where they raised seven children: John M. (Class of 1976), Richard (Class of 1978), Ann (Class of 1979), Robert (Class of 1981), twins Mary Jo and Mary Jane (Class of 1985), and Diane (Class of 1988). They have 15 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and six step-grandchildren.



John retired from GM's Grand Blanc Plant as a Die Maker - Leader after 36 years service while Dorothy worked as a "Home Engineer". Dorothy's favorite hobby is sewing and she is presently creating quilts for the Freedom Quilt Project (www.freedomquilts.org). She has created over 400 quilts for the project since Sept. 11, 2001. She also created a quilt for the 50th reunion of her class which included all of the class members' names, some of whom signed it themselves.

John, a member of the Flint Banjo Club since 1970, also works in genealogy and has written two family history books, class reunion Memory books, and Flint Banjo Club history book. He also publishes the Banjo Plucker's Press newsletter for the club.

Both Dorothy and John are volunteers at the Grand Blanc Heritage Association Museum. Dorothy as a past curator and John as genealogist and image archivist (photo copier). They are also both board members of the Grand Blanc Alumni Association.

They still enjoy traveling, especially to the Oklahoma City area to visit Ann, Mary Jane, and Diane, three of their four daughters. This past August they journeyed with their youngest grandchild, 10-year old Jacob Wiltse, to Paris Island, South Carolina, where they observed the graduation ceremony of over 700 Marines. The following day they witnessed the full-military wedding of their second grandson, Staff Sergeant John W. Schlaud, who was Chief Drill Instructor for one of the graduating groups. It was quite an experience to see both of these events and since then the son of Ann, their daughter, has signed up to enter the Marines after his high school graduation this year.

Dorothy and John's other children are John, who is retired and lives in Gaines, MI; Richard, a Program Director for an FM radio station in Columbus, IN; Robert, a Massage Therapist, lives in Grand Rapids, MI; and Mary Jo lives nearby in Mundy Township.



MESSAGE BOARD

Class of 1970: A party for classes from '65 - '75 is planned for Sept. 23, 2011, at Woodfield Golf and Country Club in Grand Blanc. Cost is \$25 per person. Contact Judy (Mathews) Paczkowski, 3019 Creek Manor Dr., Kingwood, TX, 77339

Class of 1976: A reunion is scheduled for the weekend of July 29, 2011. A golf outing will be held on July 29th. The 35th Class Reunion will be held on July 30th at Genesys Banquet & Conference Center - Grand Blanc, Michigan. On Sunday, July 31st we have planned to have a breakfast (not exactly sure of location yet). We do have a website: www.gbhsreunion76.com. E-mail: gbhsreunion76@yahoo.com
Formal invitations will be mailed in May

Bobcat Bash 3 (The Original Is Back!) presented by the Class of 1984: July 23, 2011 at the Jewel of Grand Blanc on Perry Road (formerly known as GB Golf and Country Club). **All GB alum are invited.** No advance ticket sales, pay at door, casual dress. Last 'Bash' had over 1,000 people, don't miss this one! Contact: John Lance at jlance42000@yahoo.com

Class of 1986: Put the date July 22, 2011 on your calendar and the place will be Genesys Banquet & Conference Center - Grand Blanc, Michigan. Class members can be kept up-to-date on the Facebook website www.facebook.com or at Classmates.com. Please notify classmates that may not be "in the loop" and have them send photos to Julie Grant at jgrant3768@yahoo.com



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