

# Bobcat Alumni *Banner*

• Grand Blanc High School • 12500 South Holly Road • Grand Blanc, MI 48439 •  
810-591-7378 • [hswww.grand-blanc.k12.mi.us/alumni](http://hswww.grand-blanc.k12.mi.us/alumni)

The Alumni Newsletter of Grand Blanc High School

## 1983 Grad Goes Green

*Submitted by Peter Farrehi, Class '83*



Leeanne Tennant  
Class of 1983

Seems like everywhere one turns these days the focus is on "going green". Recently, one of our alumni has reached the national spotlight for her lifelong attention to the

environment. Leeanne Tennant graduated from Grand Blanc in 1983 and attended the University of Texas (UT) at Austin. She graduated in 1987 from UT with a bachelor of science in zoology and a new love of ants. Those close to her in college remember the ant farms she lived and traveled with all across the country. She then moved to Boston to study with renowned biologist Dr. Edward O. Wilson and in 1994 she graduated from Harvard University with a Master and a Ph.D degree in Biology. Her scientific field work has taken her all over the world. While studying ant ecology in Costa Rica, she met her husband, Alfonso Alonso, a fellow entomologist. Currently, they reside in Annandale, Virginia with their twin boys, Antonio and Miguel.



Leeanne (Tennant)  
Alonso today

This past year has seen dozens of media outlets focus on how changing our lifestyle can preserve the planet for future generations. So when *Working Mother* Magazine dedicated its November 2007 issue to "Going Green", it selected Leeanne (Tennant) Alonso for its cover article (see [www.workingmother.com](http://www.workingmother.com)). As Vice President for Rapid Assessment Program at Conservation International, a non profit group based in Washington DC, she helps countries preserve their forests and species that inhabit them. By collecting scientific data, the organization seeks to link the research community and the public policy officials the make conservation decisions regarding local land development. The efforts of their organization are viewed in a macro sense at preserving the environment. For more information go to their web site at [www.conservation.org](http://www.conservation.org).

Grand Blanc High School is proud of Leeanne and hopes to see her good work continue.

### Ways to Go Green

*Be fuel efficient  
Reduce pesticides*

*Go organic  
Minimize garbage*

## Quilts for Heroes

*Submitted with love by John Schlaud, Class of '52*



Dorothy (Weishuhn) Schlaud,  
Class of 56, with quilts

Dorothy (Weishuhn) Schlaud, Class of 1956, has created more than 300 quilts that have been donated to families of the victims of the 9/11 World Trade Center tragedy and also the families of soldiers killed in the Middle East. Most of the quilts have been sent to the Freedom Quilt Project in Fonda, Iowa to be distributed throughout the United States. Some of the quilts have been given to families locally by Dorothy personally. Some of the material and money has been given to her for the the project by local area people. Quilts are twin or larger and done in red, white and blue. Dorothy has had to slow down on the work because the price to have them machine quilted and postage paid has risen so much. Her heart is in the project for the long run. So far, she has 20 more quilt tops ready to be quilted. She can usually be found in her sewing room working on quilt tops about 5 hours a day.



## A note from the President Charlie Carmody '80

Hello Fellow Bobcats -

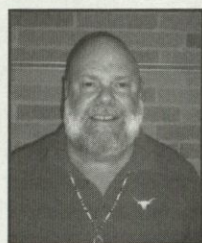


Some of you will receive this newsletter for the first time. The Alumni Banner is published semi-annually by the Alumni Association. Your Alumni Board of Directors hopes you enjoy hearing about your friends from GBHS. If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter, please consider donating to the Alumni Association and we will put you on our mailing list.

The Alumni Board of Directors meets on a monthly basis to help classes start their reunions, develop stories for the Alumni Banner, plan the Alumni Banquet, and work on special projects like the Distinguished Alumni Awards, or the class composite picture for Alumni Hall. If you'd like to join us, we will meet again in May. Please visit our website for our upcoming meeting dates. We now have a website. Check us out at: <http://grandblanc.alumni.schoolfusion.us>. We have many links and resources for you to enjoy. We have old yearbooks for sale, old athletic films to purchase, an alumni e-mail directory, and an alumni message board to name a few. Each class now has their own website page for upcoming reunions, messages, and class e-mail addresses. We are looking for site managers for each class, so if you are interested, contact Charlie Carmody at [ccarmody@grandblancschools.org](mailto:ccarmody@grandblancschools.org).

Our daytime phone number is 810-591-6021. Mary Nerreter, our Alumni Secretary, can help you during the work day with any Alumni questions. You can also reach us in the evening at 810-591-7378.

The Alumni Association is funded in part by your contributions and the help of the Grand Blanc Educational Foundation. The GBEF supports the entire Grand Blanc School system by providing funding for special projects that don't receive it. Your contributions help us repay the Foundation for its seed money. We are thankful for both avenues of funding. We hope to start new alumni projects with your continued support. Thank you!



Coach Craig  
Oldham

On Saturday, September 27th, the Swimmers will attend the Alumni Banquet at the Genesys Athletic Club. Coach Oldham will be one of the guest speakers - and I'm sure he will have some great stories to tell about coaching the great swimmers and divers from GBHS.

The cost is \$30 per person, and reservations can be made starting in August by calling the Alumni Office at 810-591-6021. For more information, contact Swim Coach and former Bobcat, Matt Pearce at [mpearce@grandblancschools.org](mailto:mpearce@grandblancschools.org).

We hope you will join us for this once in a lifetime event!

## 2007 Alumni Honorees

By Charlie Carmody, Class of '80

At the 2007 Alumni Banquet, held Homecoming Saturday, October 13, five Grand Blanc High School Alums were honored for their outstanding work in their chosen field, their dedication and service to their community, and their help for others through their job or volunteering.

After dinner, the Alumni Association presented the distinguished Alumni Awards. The first awardee was Jim Tomblinson, Class of '45. Jim continues to work part time at the architectural firm he formed many years ago. His designs can be seen throughout the community, especially in local school buildings.

Next, Chris Odette '69 was honored. Chris is currently a District Judge in the southern part of Genesee County - including Grand Blanc.

Finally, Mark Dyball '75 received the Alumni Award. Mark is a prominent Orthopedic Surgeon in the Flint area. He has fixed many a former Bobcat with his skill and expertise.

Two other GBHS grads received special awards from the Alumni Association. Dale Vankuren '80 received the Community Service Award for his many years of sponsoring the Toys for Tots Campaign in Grand Blanc. He has helped raise more than \$100,000 worth of toys and cash during his tenure as the volunteer chairman of this worthy cause. Bob Schlaud '81 received the Achievement Award for his continued success at the Hill-Rom Company, and for his dedication to the Grand Blanc community by volunteering many hours each year to local school groups.

Our largest group to ever attend the Alumni Banquet packed the Flint Elks Club for this wonderful evening. The Alumni Awards are given each fall at this event. If you would like to nominate a GBHS graduate for this award please do so by June 1st, 2008.

See related pictures on pages 3 and 4.



## Swim Team Reunion

The Alumni Association and the Swim and Dive Teams would like to welcome all GBHS Swimmers and Divers to Homecoming weekend 2008. We would like you to join us for a fun weekend of seeing old friends and coaches, as well as attending the induction ceremony for Coach Craig Oldham into the Bobcat Sports Hall of Fame.

On Friday, September 26th, the Alumni Swimmers are invited to the Homecoming Parade, which begins from the GBHS West Campus at 5:30 pm. The parade will wind through town to end at the East Campus, where you can purchase tickets for the Homecoming Football game. At the game, we have a special section reserved for you to sit and see your fellow teammates. During halftime, we would like you to join Coach Oldham on the track in front of the home stand, for his induction.

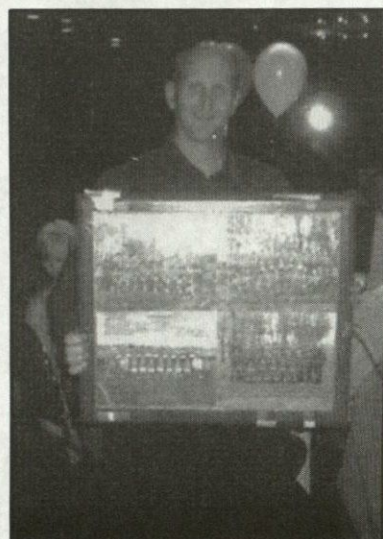
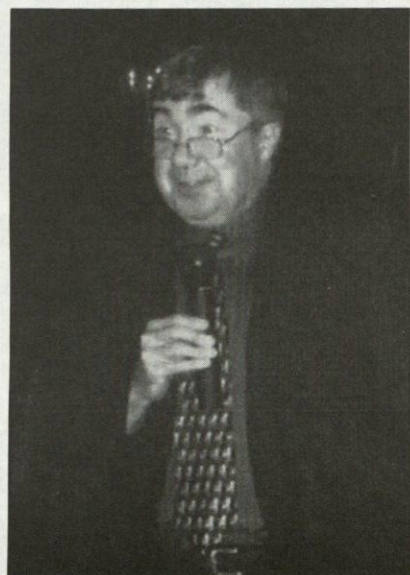
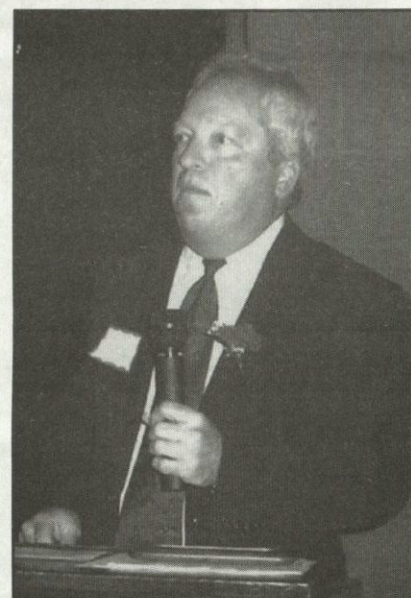
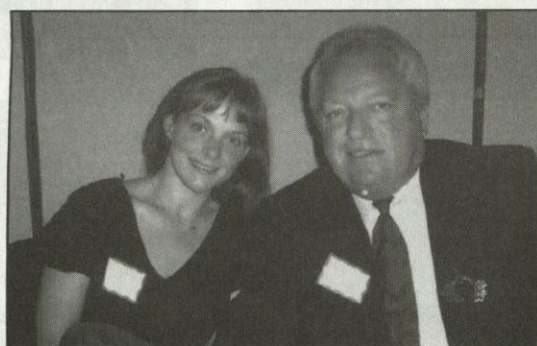
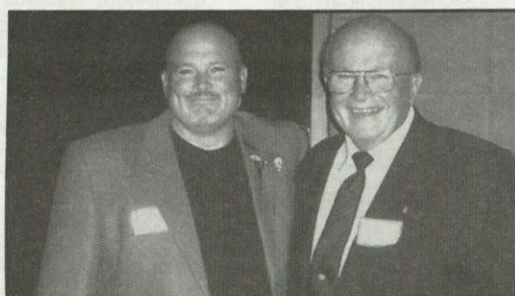
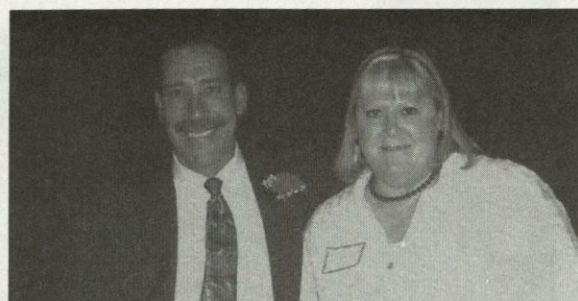
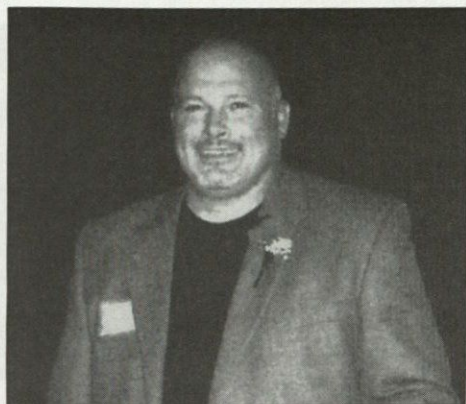
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## Alumni Banquet and Homecoming Parade Photos





## Alumni Banquet and Homecoming Parade Photos







Charlie Carmody,  
Freshman

Mr. Bobcat: Charlie Carmody.

Charlie, from the Class of 1980, moved to the Grand Blanc area at the age of six and grew up in Ottawa Hills, on the northwest side of Grand Blanc. He attended Reid Elementary and McGrath Junior High before reaching good ol' Grand Blanc High School. He thought of a career in computer technology, but after receiving his B.S. Degree in that field from University of Michigan-Flint, he decided to obtain a B.A. in Mathematics. He then came to work at Grand Blanc High School where he now teaches classes in geometry, trigonometry, calculus, and computer science.

During his senior year in high school, Charlie was challenged by then Principal Bob Burek to see who could raise the loudest cheering at a pep assembly. Charlie won that event and won the privilege to assume the duties of "Principal for a Day". It was at that time he also earned the nickname "Mr. Bobcat".

Charlie discovered he was hooked on the enthusiasm generated by the student body and, shortly after joining the teacher staff at GBHS, he once again became known as "Mr. Bobcat". Charlie Carmody currently announces for the football, basketball, and track sporting events. He also announces other activities for the high school, such as when President George H.W. Bush visited Grand Blanc in 1992. "That was a great honor", Charlie says of the President's visit, "but what I remember most about that day was almost tripping Barbara Bush, our First Lady. I was standing a few feet from her and all I could think was if she beaks her arm I'm gonna be on national news!"

Charlie receives high praise from Grand Blanc Superintendent Mike Newton, "I've always said that every school deserves a Charlie Carmody. He is truly one of a kind. He is a cheerleader, coach, teacher, and historian all in one! No one loves Grand Blanc more than Charlie...except maybe me." "You should see him at a pep rally", Superintendent Newton continues, "He is the show. If you can't get motivated after one of Charlie's pep assemblies, you can't get motivated!"

In 1996 Charlie, in conjunction with Grand Blanc Educational Foundation, founded the Alumni Association. Since its inception, Charlie has seen the group grow from a meager four members to nearly twenty. The Alumni Association, under Charlie's guidance, now prints and distributes a newsletter several times a year. The group also participates in the annual Homecoming Parade and hosts the Distinguished Awards Reception where Charlie serves as

## Meet The President

By Jerry Wolfgang, Class of '69

Master of Ceremonies.

Never far from his favorite city, Charlie and his wife, Christina, also a Grand Blanc alumnus, live just west of town with their two children, Jonathan, age six, and Olivia, age two.



Mr. Bobcat at work



Charlie, Class of '80

With his dedication to the successful achievement of his students and his support, participation and overwhelming enthusiasm in so many extracurricular activities, including the Alumni Association, it is easy to see why Charlie Carmody, President of the Alumni Association, truly is Mr. Bobcat.

## Swim Coach to be Honored

Craig Oldham, the longtime coach of the boys and girls swim teams will be inducted into the Bobcat Sports Hall of Fame on September 26th, 2008 during the halftime activities of the 2008 Homecoming Football Game. He is being honored for his many years of service, commitment, and loyalty to the Grand Blanc High School students athletics.

Craig has been a fixture in athletics in Grand Blanc High School since joining the staff in 1974. Although he started coaching as freshman football coach, he influenced many student athletes as a swim coach. Craig began as the assistant to Denny Armstrong with the boys swim team in 1976, and continued to do so until 1982. Craig was the boys head coach from 1982 until 1996. His boys teams won 17 Big Nine Championships, and he coached 16 All-State and 5 All-Americans. Craig was the girls swim coach in 1976 until 1982, and again from 1986 until 1995. His girls teams won 17 Big Nine Championships and he coached 15 All-State and 3 All-American swimmers.

Although he retired from coaching and teaching in 1996, Craig returned to GBHS in 1998 where he continues to teach 9th grade science classes. Craig also helps the boys swim team on occasions. A tireless worker, he propelled the swim teams to great heights with his sense of humor, his warm caring personality, and his commitment his GBHS swimmers.

We invite all swimmers from 1970s through the 1990s to join us homecoming weekend and celebrate this induction. We will have you on the track for induction ceremony and then we'd like to have you join us for the Swim Team Reunion weekend which includes the Alumni Banquet Saturday, September 27th. Coach Oldham will be speaking about you and the memories of GBHS swimming and diving from the past three decades. For more information on the swim reunion weekend, please contact Matt Pearce at [mpearce@grandblancschools.org](mailto:mpearce@grandblancschools.org)



## ATTENTION CLASS OF...

**1958**

*If you are from the  
GBHS Class of '58  
This notice is for you!  
They will be celebrating their  
**50th Reunion**  
this year during  
Homecoming weekend  
September 26-28, 2008  
Many events are planned for  
the returning alumni and they  
are asked to contact Bob  
Burek for further information  
or to acknowledge they will be  
attending. Bob can be reached  
at (810) 750-6978, or online  
at [Bobsallyburek@aol.com](mailto:Bobsallyburek@aol.com).  
If you know someone from the  
class of 58, please inform  
them of this event and ask  
them to contact Bob.*

**1978**

*The Class of '78 proudly an-  
nounces its 30 year reunion to  
be held Saturday, August 16,  
2008 at the Holiday Inn Gate-  
way Centre, 5353 Gateway Cen-  
tre Drive, Flint, MI 48507, (810)  
232-5300. 5PM to 6:30PM  
Mingle over drinks with your  
classmates, 6:30PM to 7:30 PM  
for Buffet Dinner with soft mu-  
sic, 8PM to 1AM for Socializing,  
Music, drinks, and dancing.  
\$50/person. Want to skip the  
dinner and only come for the  
dancing, music and socializing?  
You may join us from 8PM to  
1AM  
\$20/person in advance,  
\$25/person at the door.  
Please visit our website for  
details & reservations form.  
[http://www.freewebs.com/  
classof1978](http://www.freewebs.com/classof1978)*

**1994**

*Plans are currently being  
prepared for a  
**15th Reunion**  
Member of this class are  
urged to visit the website at  
[http://  
gbbsreunion.danlbos.com](http://gbbsreunion.danlbos.com)  
to update personal  
information and/or pass  
along news about other  
clasmates.  
If you have additional  
questions, you are asked to  
contact Megan (Keboe)  
Hogan at:  
[keboemeg@hotmail.com](mailto:keboemeg@hotmail.com)*

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