

# Bobcat Alumni *Banner*

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

The Alumni Newsletter of Grand Blanc High School

## Former Grand Blanc Baseball Players Participate in "Vintage Baseball Game"

*By Bob Burek, Class of 1958*

Last spring, the Grand Blanc Heritage Association was contacted by their counterpart in Rochester with a challenge to play a vintage baseball game. The Rochester Grangers as they are called, compete in a Midwest league involving teams from Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Modeled after the league that was originally formed in the late 1860's by local Granger (farmer) groups, the teams compete with a special set of rules and fields on which to play.

Responding to a request from the Heritage Association representative, Ginny Knag (GB Class of 1970), a Grand Blanc team was formed under the leadership of two 1969 Grand Blanc grads Dave Dohrman and Dave Rose. The team was coached by former GBHS principal, Bob Burek (Class of 1958). The team named themselves, the "Thrashers," and was composed largely of former Bobcat baseball players from the 1980's to recent graduates. Local dignitaries such as township supervisor, Jeff Zittel (Class of 1981) and city manager, Mike Matheny, were also included. The wife of legendary Grand Blanc Coach, Joe Pitock (Donna), was the guest tally keeper.

The game was a huge success. Close to 300 were in attendance on a perfect August Sunday. Players were dressed in 1860's garb including long black pants, long sleeves, white shirts, black suspenders and a white hat trimmed in the school colors of red and black.

Oh yes! Our locals lost to the Grangers 7-5. There will be a two-game rematch this summer, one in Grand Blanc and the other by the Rochester Museum.

Regardless the score, a good time was had by all.



Grand Blanc Old Timers Baseball Team in standing in field of dreams

## *New Mascot Has Arrived*

After 50 years as the original mascot for Grand Blanc High School, our old cat has finally been retired. The years have taken its toll on the mascot as he was worn, toothless, and leaning to one side. The Grand Blanc Educational Foundation, the Class of 2005, the Grand Blanc High School Alumni Association, GBHS Alums Bob Haight '55, and Chris Millikan '84. A big thanks to Chris Millikan as he was able to locate the Bobcat for us, and helped set up the Taxidermy process. The other groups joined forces to acquire and pay for this brand new Bobcat mascot for Grand Blanc High School. We are proud to display our new Bobcat in the new Field House athletic complex for all to enjoy. Thanks to all that helped us with our mascot project.





## Distinguished Alumni For 2007

The Alumni Association is sponsoring its fifth 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.

Tell 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.

Nominations are due by June 1st, 2007. Your Alumni Board of Directors along with the Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Newton will help select our fifth class of Distinguished Alumni. We will keep all nominations submitted on file for future consideration.

The Distinguished Alumni will be introduced at this year's Homecoming Football game on Friday, October 12th, and honored at the Alumni Banquet on Saturday, October 13th. More information will be in our Fall Alumni Banner concerning the banquet, and how you can make your reservations to join us for a memorable evening. In addition, a picture of each inductee will be placed in the Distinguished Alumni Hall, located in the front entrance atrium at GBHS.

Please send your nominations to:

GBHS Alumni - Distinguished Alumni Award  
12500 Holly Road  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

## Homecoming 2007 – Alumni Banquet 2007 – Team Reunions 2007

The Grand Blanc High School Alumni Association is proud to announce that the 71st annual Homecoming weekend will be on October 12th and 13th. Here is a schedule of events:

**Thursday, October 11th** – Queen's Court Assembly – 8:00 am - GBHS Gymnasium  
Grand Marshall Luncheon – 12:00 pm - GBHS Library

**Friday, October 12th** – Interclass Games – 8:45 am - GBHS Gymnasium  
Parade – 5:15 pm - Saginaw Street  
Game vs. Kearsley – 7:00 pm - Frank Thomas Coliseum  
Half-time Festivities – 8:15 pm - Frank Thomas Coliseum

**Saturday, October 13th** – Alumni Banquet – 6:00 pm - Elks Club @Maple & Vassar Roads

The Alumni Association will hold its 5th annual Alumni Banquet for all Alumni on Saturday, October 13th at the Elks Club. We will honor this year's Distinguished Alumni Award winners, celebrate team reunions, and enjoy the renewing of old friendships. Tickets will be available in August by calling 810-591-6021. Please consider joining us for the weekend.

## A Message from the President

Charlie Carmody '80

President, Alumni Association

Hello Fellow Bobcats!

Some of you will be receiving this newsletter for the first time. The Alumni Banner is published semi-annually by the Alumni Association. Your Alumni Board of Directors hope 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 pictures for Alumni Hall. If you'd like to join us, we will meet again on Wed., April 25th at 7:00 p.m. in Room 234 at GBHS.

The Alumni Association is on the web at: [hswww.grand-blanc.k12.mi.us/alumni](http://hswww.grand-blanc.k12.mi.us/alumni). 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.

Our new daytime phone number is 810-591-6021. Mary Nerreter is our Alumni Secretary and can help you during the workday 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 Education Foundation. The GBEF supports the entire Grand Blanc School system by providing funding for special projects that aren't funded by the school district. Your contributions help us repay the Foundation for its seed money the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association is thankful for funding it receives from the Foundation and your contributions. We hope to start new alumni projects with your continued support. Thank you!





## 78th Class Reunion Held



Mary (Gainey) Turnbull, Class of 1928



Mary C. Gaines, Class of 1928

Late last year, the two surviving members of the GBHS Class of 1928 held a reunion commemorating 78 years since they had graduated from high school. Mary (Gainey) Turnbull and Irene (Perry) McAllister

met for a luncheon

at Little Joe's restaurant in downtown Grand Blanc. They decided to meet at this particular spot because it was in business when they were in high school.

"The original 'Little Joe', Turnbull said, "was a student at the same time we were in school. His name was Joe Dewey."

The two ladies, who have kept in touch by phone and letters, agreed to a reunion when they realized they were the only two left from their original class of 23 students. It was the first time the pair had gotten together since 1953, when their class held its 25th reunion.

"We had a wonderful visit," said Turnbull, who lives on her own in Bella Vista Manor Apartments.

"It was great," agreed McAllister, who lives by herself in Byron.

The pair who remember meeting in the sixth grade mentioned their first impressions of each other.

"She was a nice one," McAllister said of her friend.

"She was quiet, lovely, and a wonderful student," responded Turnbull of McAllister.

After high school, Mary (Gainey) worked at Buick Motor Division, where she was promoted to Secretary to Harlow H. Curtice, then president of Buick. When he became president of GM, Mary moved to Detroit to assist him for another eight years.

She quit when she married Robert Turnbull, who owned an advertising firm in Flint. The couple didn't have any children, but "my nieces and nephews were like children to me," said Mary.

Irene (Perry) cared for her parents after high school and eventually married Ford McAllister, a local farmer. They, too, were childless, but took in four foster children. Mary joined the Durand Express newspaper as a reporter in 1963, later hiring on at the Argus-Press in Owosso. She still works there as a correspondent.

"I have to have something to do," Mary laughed.

Mary recalled the first line of an address she wrote and delivered on graduation day, June 14, 1928: "Our little boat of 23 members stands at rest tonight at the bending of a stream."

There are only two left to continue floating down that stream. Will there be a 79th reunion?

"Oh, of course!" Irene declared.

## On A Sad Note

David Leslie Broucu, GBHS Class of 1947, passed away Tuesday, February 20, 2007, at the age of 77. He resided most of his life in Grand Blanc and one of his proudest accomplishments in life was attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. David loved coaching and spent many years coaching football, basketball and baseball at Holy Family Catholic School as well as summer baseball for the Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation. He enjoyed refereeing football (in Genesee Co.) for over 25 years and was an active participant in the Holy Family "55 and Over" Group. David married Agnes Christine Brakora on June 3, 1950, and was a Journeyman Electrician until he retired in 1980 from General Motors. He is survived by his wife, Agnes; their children, Donna (Bob) Turmell, Patricia Dobbs, Marjorie (Tom) Griggs, Barbara (Jack) Kohn, Mark (Katy), Lloyd (Katie), Roy, Richard (Mary), Thomas (Laura), and several grandchildren.

## Brain Teaser Identified

The last issue of the Bobcat Alumni Banner had a picture that was correctly identified by three readers. The picture, taken in October 1982, was of Kristi Wilson, reigning Homecoming Queen, crowning the new queen, Kim Myers' whose escort, Rob Eby, is viewing the ceremony with principal Bob Burek.

Many thanks to our observant readers, Rod Shick and Laura (Clingsmith) Londergan, both from the class of '83 and Shelly (Barone) Osterbauer, Class of 1984, for taking time to play our little memory game.

We look forward to publishing more "unidentified" pictures in future editions that more subscribers can participate in.



## Alumni Applause

**New Principal at GBHS** – Dr. Jennifer Hammond was named Principal in October, 2005. She joins the staff from Troy High School where she was Assistant Principal. Dr. Hammond is a former high school mathematics teacher in Michigan and Texas.

**New Superintendent for the Grand Blanc Community Schools** – Dr. Michael Newton was named Superintendent of Schools in August, 2005. He had been Principal of GBHS for the past 20 years.

**Superintendent Retires** – Dr. Gary Lipe retired as Superintendent of Schools in June 2006, after more than 40 years in the Grand Blanc School system.

**GBHS Teacher Retirements** – Longtime history and economics teacher John Reik has announced his retirement effective June 2007.

**Armed Forces Update** – Army Private Brandon Smith graduated from Basic Combat Training at Ft. Jackson in Columbia, S. Carolina. He is a 2001 graduate of GBHS.

*Please submit any newsworthy information about GBHS graduates to [jerrywolfgang@gmail.com](mailto:jerrywolfgang@gmail.com) and we will publish it in this section. We are looking for articles such as promotions, awards, GB grads on the move, etc.*

### In The Spotlight

## Rob Paulsen Speaks Out

"They don't care what I look like, they only care what I sound like," laughs Rob Paulsen, GBHS Class of 1974. And that has meant steady employment in Hollywood for more than two decades. Rob has become one of the most sought-after voice actors in movies and television. He is frequently heard, but rarely seen.



Rob Paulsen, Class of 1974

Rob can be heard in two films released a week apart. In "Barnyard: The Original Party Animals" he was a rooster named Peck. In "The Ant Bully" Ron played a troublemaking beetle.

"I got to do a nice little turn in each movie," Rob said in a recent interview, "It was a happy accident that both movies come up when they did. I'm one of those fortunate actors who gets to work pretty much every day. I've had a run of good fortune and work with some terrific people who have hired me."

Besides the character Peck, a member of a pack of talking farm animals, Rob can be heard in "Barnyard" as a gopher who sells contraband merchandise to the

animals. A gag he's involved in concerning a bogus pizza delivery man was prominent in trailers for the movie.

Rob is particularly excited about "Barnyard" because it is an introduction to a series to debut this spring on Nickelodeon. Though Rob has hundreds of credits, mainly voice-overs in animated projects and commercials, he may be best known for his Emmy-winning (1999) role as Pinky in the WB cartoon series "Pinky and the Brain" the Yakko Warner in Warner Bros.' "Animaniacs" show, and the Jim Carrey character in the CBS cartoon version of "The Mask."

Rob Paulsen graduated from Grand Blanc High School in 1974 and attended the University of Michigan-Flint for nearly a year before quitting to follow his acting aspirations. There his on-screen credits are the feature films "Body Double," "Eyes of Fire," "The Perfect Match," and "Warlock." Rob has also appeared in the TV series "MacGyver" and "St. Elsewhere."

Paulsen, who is married and has a college-age son, lists his future projects as the TV series "The Land Before Time" and "Biker Mice From Mars" and made-for-DVD movies "The Fox and the Hound 2" and "The Little Mermaid III."



## Alumni Banquet 2006

The Grand Blanc High School Alumni Association held its fourth Alumni Banquet on October 7th, 2006 at the Perry Center. Nearly one-hundred Alumni and friends attended the event to honor Distinguished Alumnus Lori Iafret Buiteweg '82, Homecoming Grand Marshall Joan Batchelor Kifer '45, and the championship football teams from 1956 and 1971.

Our Distinguished Alumnus Lori Buiteweg was honored for her never ending volunteer work in her local community of Ann Arbor. Lori is the chair of the Representative Council for the State Bar of Michigan. She helped start a free legal clinic in Ann Arbor to help families that receive legal help and counseling in family related matters. In addition, she is a member of her local church council.

The 2006 Homecoming Grand Marshall Joan Kifer was honored to be selected as such. She and her husband Paul traveled from Oregon to enjoy the weekend activities. Joan was selected for her devotion and contribution to Grand Blanc High School for so many years. Recently, the school purchased new bleachers for the Marching Band with money she donated. The Marching Band serenaded her at halftime as a thank you for her wonderful gift. Joan also told some wonderful stories at the Alumni Banquet - especially funny was her tale of borrowing the Batchelor family's new living room furniture for the school play set - without her father's knowledge - and then his reaction to seeing the furniture on the stage for play rehearsal.

A special treat at the Alumni Banquet was having the 1956 and 1971 Varsity Football teams come together for their team reunions. They celebrated their championships from years ago and even saw a short highlight film from old game films. The highlight of the football reunion was having former coach Jack Pratt join the group for the evening. Many hadn't seen him since their playing days and enjoyed renewing their friendship with him.

## Team Reunions Planned

The 1957 Football team and the 1970's Cross Country teams have reunions scheduled during Homecoming weekend, October 12th and 13th, later this year.

Bob Burek is organizing the reunion for the 1957 Football team. Besides enjoying their 50th reunion, they will be celebrating their undefeated season and the County 'B' Championship.

Brad Armstrong will be organizing the reunion of the Cross Country teams celebrating their decade of dominance with State Titles in 1977 and 1979. The 1977 team was the first to win a state title in school history and was the Number One ranked team in the nation in Cross Country. It is believed that this time period also saw three state runner-ups.

Members of the above mentioned sporting teams will be introduced during halftime of the Homecoming game. They will also be honored at the Alumni Banquet on Saturday night. For more information, contact the Alumni Association at 810-591-7378.



Joan (Batchelor) Kifer, Class of 1945, introduced by Charlie Carmody



Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Lori (Iafret) Buiteweg, Class of 1982



1956 Varsity Football Team (Coach Jack Pratt on right)



1971 Varsity Football Team (Coach Jack Pratt on right)



## ...Reunions and Messages...

**Class of 1962** - The 45th reunion for the class of 1962 will be October 12 and 13. A buffet dinner will be on Saturday, Oct. 13, 6:00 PM, at The Coyote Preserve Golf Club, Fenton, MI. For more information contact Marjorie (Lengyel) Burke at (810) 695-5537 or email at [lengyel@netzero.net](mailto:lengyel@netzero.net)

**Class of 1966** - There is a website available for 1966 alumni at [gbhs66.tripod.com/gbhs66webpage.html](http://gbhs66.tripod.com/gbhs66webpage.html). A link can also be found at <http://hswww.grand-blanc.k12.mi.us/alumni/classwebsites.html>.

**Class of 1977** - Plans for the 30th reunion are currently in the works. Please send your information (complete mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address) to Shirley Beardslee, Lynda Shaw, and Sandy Skaff at [gbclass77@yahoo.com](mailto:gbclass77@yahoo.com), or telephone Sandy at (810) 953-4853. You may also visit the website [www.freewebs.com/gbhs1977](http://www.freewebs.com/gbhs1977) to find out which classmates personal data is still needed. Looking forward to seeing you in the summer of '07! In fact the date of the reunion will be 07/07/07!

**Class of 1987** - A 20 year reunion is being organized. E-mail Wendy Burek LoCascio at [wlocasio@comcast.net](mailto:wlocasio@comcast.net), or telephone her at (810) 823-8299 to help or submit your address update.

**Class of 1998** - The planning for a ten-year reunion has begun! Please contact Missy Patterson by telephone at (810) 931-1161 or by email at [jpmpp@power-net.net](mailto:jpmpp@power-net.net) if you would like to help out or submit/update your contact information. The reunion will be held in the summer of 2008. We hope to hear from you soon!

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