

Bobcat Alumni Banner

• Grand Blanc High School • 12500 South Holly Road • Grand Blanc, MI 48439 •
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The Alumni Newsletter of Grand Blanc High School

Bobcat Bash A Huge Success

The Class of 1984 has set the standard for reunion weekends with their Friday night reunion and Saturday night first ever Bobcat Bash. The Class Reunion on Friday was attended by almost 200 in attendance. But, all the hard work that Tammi (VanGilder) James, Rick Williams, Kathy (McVey) Lueckeman, Mike Bleau, and their committee put in paid off in an unbelievable Saturday night event. More than 1600 GBHS Grads, spouses and friends came together to attend the first ever Bobcat Bash at Southmoor Golf Course. The majority were grads from the 1980's, but alums from the 1970's to the 2000's attended this multi-class reunion.

Without a doubt, this event should be considered an annual event - with a chance to see so many friends and former classmates that you would never see at your specific class reunion. So many former Bobcats had the same sentiments about the evening - we have to do this again so that we can see each other more often - it was more relaxed than a reunion - and all the work that was done to organize it was greatly appreciated. So stay tuned - July 2005 - Bobcat Bash 2?

Our 2004 Distinguished Alumni

The Grand Blanc High School Alumni Association is proud to honor six Distinguished Alumni at their Alumni Banquet on Saturday, October 16th at Atlas Valley Country Club. The Distinguished Alumni were selected based on their contribution to their community, their life's work, and their ability to help and influence others in a positive way.

They include: **Jerry Jennings '58** - currently Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, **Bob Stallcup '49** - former GBHS Teacher and Coach of the two-time State Champion Cross Country Team, **Craig Parks '82** - Professor and researcher of Psychology at Washington State University, **Jim DeCou '79** - highly respected Pediatric Surgeon in Grand Rapids, **Norman Doorenbos '46** - Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Auburn University, and **Pat McGrath '60** - Judge in the Ohio Court of Appeals.

We invite all Grand Blanc High School Alumni to join us for our Alumni Banquet on October 16th to honor these six individuals. For reservations please call 810-591-6014.

A Message From the President



Charlie Carmody
GBHS '80

Hello to all of
you former Bobcats.
We hope you enjoy
this Alumni Banner that
the Alumni Association

Board of Directors have produced for
you. Please try to join us for our 68th
Homecoming in October and attend the
Alumni Banquet.

Your Alumni Association meets
once a month to plan this twice annual
newsletter, plan the Alumni Banquet,
help classes start their reunion plans and
keep GBHS grads in touch with one another.
We would love to have you join
us and help with our activities - especially
if you live in the Grand Blanc area.
We are in desperate need of alumni to
join us from the 1960's, 1970's, 1980's
and 1990's. So please consider joining
us for a meeting this fall. We will meet
on September 15th from 7-8 p.m. in
GBHS Room 234.

We have developed a great website
for you at: hswww.grandblanc.k12.mi.us/alumni.
You can reach us by phone
at 810-591-7378.

Your contributions to the Alumni
Association help offset the costs of this
newsletter, fund our special projects like
matting and framing a composite picture
of every graduating class, and enable you
to receive future editions of the semi-
annual Alumni Banner.
Thanks for your support.

Charlie Carmody

Alumni Banquet

All Grand Blanc High School Alumni along with their families and friends are invited to join us for the Alumni Banquet on Saturday, October 16th at Atlas Valley Country Club at 6 p.m. This is a chance for you to round out our 68th Homecoming weekend by having a wonderful evening with your fellow classmates and celebrate our great Bobcat heritage.

Our banquet will feature a social hour, followed by a catered meal. The program for the evening will feature the introduction of the 2004 Distinguished Alumni and the induction of the 1979 Football and 1979 Cross Country teams into the Alumni Hall of Fame.

Last year's event was a mini-reunion for those who attended, so we hope you will join us for this Grand Blanc High School tradition. The cost is \$30 per person. For reservations, please contact 810-591-6014.

Remembering Marvin Hoppert



Former Grand Blanc High School teacher Marvin Hoppert has passed away at the age of 74. Marv taught Distributive Education, Algebra and Driver's Training at GBHS from 1956 through 1972. In addition, he was a class sponsor for many senior classes, worked basketball tournaments, and helped with homecoming parades. Marv was loved by all who knew him - he loved to tell a tall tale or joke for the enjoyment of all who were listening.

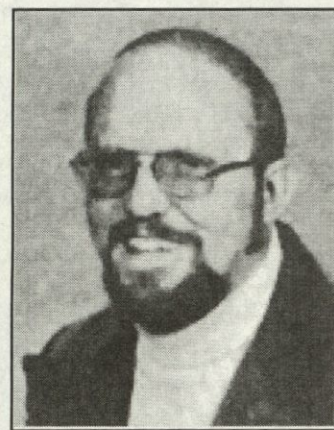
After moving to Texas in 1972, Marv worked many jobs including own-

ing Big Marv's Furniture Stripping and Refinishing for more than a decade. The call of teaching brought him back to the classroom for a second stint where he taught middle school mathematics until 1989. In his retirement, Marv enjoyed the company of his two daughters and their families including two granddaughters. A celebration of life for Marvin Hoppert was held during the last weekend of July in Grand Blanc, for his friends and family to share their stories of him.

Roger Griffith Inducted into the Bobcat Sports Hall of Fame

By: Bob Burek '58

Longtime Grand Blanc High School educator, Roger Griffith, enters the Bobcat Sports Hall of Fame on September 10, 2004 at a special ceremony to be held at halftime of the varsity football game.



Roger took in, in 1966, the reins of a wrestling program that was still in its infancy and made it one of the powerhouses in Genesee County and a respected program statewide in a career spanning twelve years.

Highlights of Roger's career as the head varsity wrestling coach include the following:

- A dual record of 121-38
- Second place in the Big Nine three times
- Broke Owosso's eighty win dual streak in 1967
- Won the Genesee County Invitational in 1975
- Won 2 district championships
- Numerous individual league, district

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1980 Grand Blanc Grad Wins Emmy Award

By Jerry Wolfgang '69 and Ryan Poquette

Todd Haight loves nothing more than to tell a good story. Through his work in print, television and other media, he has developed a passion for telling compelling tales. And last September, he received the ultimate storyteller's prize - the Emmy Award, presented by the National Television Academy.

Appropriately enough, Todd's journey to the Emmy is also a good story.

At 15, he walked into The Grand Blanc News and asked for a job as a reporter. He offered to write a story for free, with the catch that if the story was accepted, he would get a job. It was - and he was hired.

So began nine years of reporting for The Grand Blanc News, The Flint Journal and WTRX radio. He then entered the field of health care communications, developing expertise in advertising

and marketing. Along the way, he graduated with a bachelor's in Journalism from Oakland University and a master's in Advertising from Michigan State University.

In 1995, after nearly a dozen years in health care, Todd was director at an inner-city Detroit hospital when it closed. Out of work, he started Todd Haight Communications, a marketing firm that has developed programs for automotive, academia and other industry groups. His favorite projects have included media relations for the Charity Preview to the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, the largest auto show in North America, and

working with celebrities such as Colin Powell, T. Barry Brazelton and the U.S. Surgeon General.

"Opening the agency has provided great opportunities. You never know what kind of project you'll work on next," he says. New doors opened when he partnered with an ad agency run by a friend, Dan Cobb. "Dan's vision is to create family-friendly, Christian films

at film-making. A family of missionaries was mistaken for drug runners while flying over Peru. The Peruvian Air Force shot them down, killing Roni Bowers and her infant daughter. Husband Jim and son Cory survived, as did the pilot, in an incident that gained worldwide attention. In fact, Diane Sawyer interviewed Jim on prime-time television.

Todd and Dan were asked by Jim's

mission office to create a missionary recruitment video based on the life of Roni Bowers.

"Instead, we suggested a mini docudrama that recreates her life," he says. "Jim agreed this was the best way to show why she went to the mission field."

Todd and his film crew traveled to Peru twice right after the 9/11 tragedy. "Seeing their burned-out plane filled with 79 bullet holes - and realizing

three people survived the shooting, fire and crash - really makes you appreciate God's grace," he says.

"We spent nearly three weeks on a houseboat on the Amazon River, and were present when Jim returned to the crash site for the first time. As he arrived, the entire village stood by the river singing hymns Roni had taught them. It was amazing."

The result was the half-hour docudrama, "Worth It All." The response has astounded Todd and his team. "We partnered with Moody Press in Chicago to distribute more than 20,000 videos,



Todd Haight (right) poses at the Emmy Award Ceremony with his Co-producer Doug Pettinga

and TV shows. He's opened an LA office and partnered with the producer of 'Lost In Space' and several studio heads, so he's making it happen."

Todd's dream has always been to write a book, which made his next project such a surprise. In 2001, he was asked to co-author a health and lifestyle book with Dr. Fred Stransky, a national health expert. The book, *The Good News: About Exercise, Nutrition and Weight Control*, has sold over 10,000 copies and given Dr. Stransky a voice in the national controversy over Dr. Robert Atkins' diet.

An international tragedy that same year gave Todd and Dan their first shot

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Come Join Us for Homecoming 2004

We invite all Bobcat Alums to join us for our 68th annual Homecoming, which will be held on the weekend of October 15th and 16th. The schedule of events include:

Thursday, October 14th: Queens Court Assembly 8:00 a.m. - GBHS gymnasium
Grand Marshall Luncheon 12:00 p.m. - GBHS Library

Friday, October 15th:	Interclass Games	8:45 a.m. - GBHS gymnasium
	Parade	5:30 p.m. - Saginaw Street
	Football vs. Swartz Creek	7:00 p.m. - Frank Thomas Coliseum
	Halftime Festivities	8:15 p.m. - Frank Thomas Coliseum
	Post Game Band Show	9:00 p.m. - Frank Thomas Coliseum

Saturday, October 16:	Alumni Awards Banquet	6:00 p.m. - Atlas Valley Country Club
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A reminder that the tickets for the football game are on sale in the Athletic Office during the week of Homecoming. Please get your tickets in advance and save waiting in long lines at the gate. The parade begins at the Middle School at 5:30 p.m. and works its way through downtown Grand Blanc to the lower parking lot of the high school. Our half time festivities will include the introduction of the Distinguished Alumni Award winners, the Crowning of the Homecoming Queen, the Bobcate Marching Band, the Pom Pom Squad, and the announcement of the winning class float. Reservations for the Alumni Awards Banquet are available by calling 810-591-6014.

Sad Passing

By: Wayne McDaniel, Ph.D. '58

Many people remember Ronald J. Brewer as a distinguished attorney. Some even think of him as a prime example of a "self-made man," who fought against the odds of economics to achieve his goals in life.

Folks in Clio, where he had his law office, remember him as a good man and a good neighbor. Some may even remember him as a young teacher at Atherton Junior High School before a small grant launched him on his career in law.

I didn't know Ron Brewer the man. I was traveling the world and had lost contact. I didn't hear his mother, Mrs. Frank J. Brewer of 2337 E. Hill Rd. when she proudly proclaimed that her son, "has been set on a law career since he was in high school."

I do remember a happy boy, run-



ning around the fields of our little farm on Van Slyke Road when he and his younger brother Bob, came over to play.

Ron was in my older brother Stan's

class. He would graduate with distinction in 1954, while Bobby and I followed in 1958. We were all playmates.

I remember one birthday party in particular. We had a "weenie-roast," the standard fare in those days with potatoes in the ashes, burnt hotdogs on buns and roasted marshmallows to follow. It was great fun although it must sound tame to today's youngsters.

My mother was a master cake maker and she outdid herself this time. The towering beauty with swirling frosting, candy flowers and candles made our eyes bug out.

I want to thank Kim Smith for her help on this small tribute to her dad, and Bobby, I know how much you must miss your big brother, as all of us who knew him do.

Roger Griffith Sports Hall of Fame

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and regional winners and championships

- Several wrestlers taking high honors at the state championship level including a second place winner, three third place winners and a fourth place winner
- Regional Coach of the Year in 1977.

In addition, Roger coached football for Grand Blanc for three years as the freshman coach and one year at the junior varsity level. Roger was inducted into the Michigan Special Olympics Hall of Fame in 1996.

The Sports Hall of Fame which includes greats Judy Clegg, Frank Thomas, Don Batchelor, Bob Stallcup and Joe Pitock, welcomes Roger Griffith into its ranks.

1979 Athletic Champions Reunion

The Grand Blanc High School Alumni Association is sponsoring a reunion weekend for the 1979 Varsity Football Team and the 1979 Boys Cross Country team. We invite all members of these great teams to make plans to join us on October 15-16, 2004 for the 25th anniversary of their great accomplishments.

The 1979 Cross Country team will celebrate their Class 'A' State Championship. The 1979 Varsity Football Team will celebrate their undefeated Big '9' Championship season, and the school's first ever appearance in the state playoffs.

We are planning a great weekend for you. On Friday, October 15th we will attend the Homecoming Parade and game. We will recognize the members of those teams at the start of halftime by introducing you on the field with your teammates and coaches. On Saturday, October 16th the teams will attend the Alumni Awards Banquet, where both teams will again be honored. We invite all former players, grads, friends, and spouses to participate in our Homecoming weekend festivities. Tickets for our Saturday night banquet will be on sale in September. We are still looking for many of the members of these two teams. If you know how to contact any of these former Bobcats - or if you are one of those team members, please contact Charlie Carmody at: ccarmody@central-office.grand-blanc.k12.mi.us.

1980 Grand Blanc Grad Wins Emmy Award

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and we're getting reports of hundreds of people committing to the mission field. That's what it's all about."

In September 2003, these experiences culminated in a 2002 Emmy Award for Todd's work as executive producer and co-writer of *Penn Vital Signs*, a half-hour TV series created by his partner, Dan. The dramatic show follows patients through their medical care, from diagnosis to treatment, and has garnered the highest ratings on Philadelphia's top-rated ABC station, where the show airs.

It's a regional Emmy Award, so we don't get to go to the festivities in California, but it's the same Emmy you see on TV, awarded at a black-tie event in Philadelphia," he says. "We're just glad to get recognition for an educational show. We were there when one woman

found out her breast cancer had spread, and when a man was saved by a new heart. It's compelling television."

Shows have also been created in Detroit and Chicago, with others planned for Baltimore, Washington and New York. The team has partnered with Lion's Gate Films to develop a national distribution deal, and is creating shows about other industries.

Currently, Todd serves as principal of SmartThinkers, a creative consortium of industry power players and a division of Todd Haight Communications. With its cast of award-winning marketing and events professionals, the agency is poised to become the next successful chapter in Todd's life story.

And later this month, he and his production team will learn whether the show has been nominated for the 2003 Emmy Award.

"We also have the rights to the story of one of the most ethical - and unfortunately, forgotten - men in America. He created one of the world's largest corporations, and got his start in Flint. We're looking for investors and I hope it happens. It's an uplifting story that needs to be told."

He gives a lot of credit to Cathy Snyder, his first news editor. "Without her, it's hard to say what would have happened," he says. "For a small town, Grand Blanc offered a lot of opportunity."

Todd lives in Waterford, Michigan and has two beautiful daughters, ages 7 and 12. You can view excerpts of "Worth It All" and *Penn Vital Signs* on Todd's website, www.smartthinkers.biz. To learn how to get a copy of the book or video - or just to say hello - email him at todd@smartthinkers.biz.

...Uncoming Reunions...

Classes of 1957, 1958, 1959 - September 10th, 2004 as part of the 1959 Reunion weekend - Contact Mary at 810-629-8260.

Class of 1959 - September 11, 2004 - Contact Mary (Hunter) McClelland at 810-629-8260.

Class of 1964 - October 16, 2004 - Contact Lynette (Mraz) Pruett at 810-694-3885.

Class of 1965 - September 17, 2005 - Contact Jim Jewett at 517-321-3614 or njtravel@aol.com

Class of 1980 - July 16, 2005 - Contact Charlie Carmody at 810-591-7378 or ccarmody@grand-blanc.k12.mi.us

Class of 1985 - August 13, 2005 - Contact Lora (Hood) Kalkman at grandblanc85@comcast.net

Class of 1995 - Homecoming 2004 - Contact Mindy at cmransdell@netzero.com

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