

MINNETONKA

Alumni Magazine

2010

IT'S TIME TO RECONNECT

MINNETONKA'S
MIDDLE SCHOOL
INNOVATION



An Alumni Legacy
HOCKEY IN MINNETONKA

2ND ANNUAL
MINNETONKA
Alumni Awards
BRUNCH AND ANNUAL MEETING

Nominate a Classmate or Former Teacher!

Attend the Brunch!

Saturday, October 2
MHS Homecoming Weekend
10 a.m.-Noon
Minnetonka High School

- **Distinguished Alumni Award**
2010 Recipients: Dr. Prudence Lam '89 and Jan Malcolm '73
Learn more about them on pages 12 & 13
- **Distinguished Service Award**
- **Young Alum Achievement Award**
- **MHS Skippers Hall of Fame** (Arts, Activities, Athletics)
- **MHS Faculty Hall of Fame**

Nomination deadline: June 15

Purchase tickets or make a nomination at
www.minnetonkaalumni.com.

The Minnetonka Alumni Magazine is an annual publication of the Minnetonka Alumni Association and the Minnetonka School District. The MAA includes graduates of Minnetonka High School, Excelsior High School, Deephaven High School, non-graduates who attended those high schools for at least one year, and all present and former members of the faculty, administration and school board. Membership is free.

Story suggestions, news, events and comments are always welcome, but does not guarantee publication.

EDITOR, CARRIE HILGER
ORIGINAL DESIGN, KAREN LAFFERTY
KarenLaffertyDesign.com
COVER PHOTO BY GREG HELGESON

 *Minnetonka
Alumni
Association*

P.O. Box 103
Excelsior, MN 55331

alumni@minnetonka.k12.mn.us
www.facebook.com/minnetonkaalumni
www.minnetonkaalumni.com

FROM THE MAA PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

Hello! The Minnetonka Alumni Association in conjunction with the Minnetonka School District is pleased to share the second edition of this magazine to keep you informed of the happenings and exciting developments within our Alumni community.

Over the past year, the MAA has been busy as we work to reach out and provide more support to our alumni and our alma mater, Minnetonka High School.

The first Minnetonka Alumni Awards Luncheon and Annual Meeting last October was a wonderful success, bringing together alumni and former teachers to be honored for their contributions to MHS and our community. Our next awards ceremony will be Homecoming Weekend, October 2, and will now be a short brunch to honor alumni. I invite you to nominate an alum or former teacher for one of this year's awards, and then plan to attend this year's event.

The Minnetonka Alumni Fine Arts Endowment continues to be the MAA's focus to support the visual, performing and literary arts in Minnetonka Public Schools. The FAEF is highlighted on page 10 of this year's magazine. I hope you will keep it in mind when considering your charitable giving options.

The new Alumni Collection is housed in the MHS Media Center and continues growing each year as more of our alumni donate copies of their published works including books, music, and plays. If you have produced any of these and would like to contribute, please consider donating a copy (or two) to the Alumni Collection.

I recently had the opportunity to tour the newly remodeled high school. We are very excited that the third All Class Reunion Breakfast will be held there July 31. Saturday morning's breakfast will include tours led by current teachers and students. You will be amazed at what has changed – from the new main entrance to the remodeled Arts Center to the beautiful new student union.

Saturday night will find alums in downtown Excelsior for a street dance which will be a great way to reconnect with your former classmates. We are in need volunteers to help with festivities so please consider donating a couple hours of your time to help make the evening a success. Watch for details on our Web site, www.minnetonkaalumni.com.

Finally, I would like to say how proud I am to be an MHS graduate. I feel each of us received an outstanding education from Minnetonka. As you will read about in the following pages, this tradition is continuing today.

Go Skippers!

Regards,



Cornell Anderson
Class of 1966



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What's Up Mr. Adney?

Whether you graduated in 1959 or 2009, you will be impressed when you return to MHS on July 31 for the All Class Reunion Breakfast. This winter, we completed extensive renovations, enclosing two courtyards to open the new Student Union—home to new spaces for our Student Government, Booster Store, Activities Offices, College and Career Center, Writing Center and twelve new classrooms. The Union is also home to our new Alumni and Faculty Hall of Fame and a breathtaking Student Art Gallery.

Another change for MHS in the coming year will be our athletic conference. The Classic Lake Conference has dissolved and Minnetonka, Wayzata, Edina, and Hopkins will join Eden Prairie in the very competitive Lake Conference beginning next fall. Neighboring conferences to the north and south have committed to filling non-conference games to round out our schedules for the next five years.

As we wrap up this year, I have to say I am so proud of the Class of 2010, another a record-setting class with 18 National Merit Finalists and 32 National Merit Commended. The Class of 2009 posted an average ACT of 25.6, and the Class of 2010 is on track for the same. They are an amazing group of young people.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr. Adney".

Principal, Minnetonka High School

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 10 **MHS Graduation**

June 12-13 Visit the MAA booth at **Art on the Lake** in downtown Excelsior

June 15 **Deadline for Alumni Awards Nominations**

June 19 **Class of 2000 Reunion**

July 16-31 **The Drowsy Chaperone, Minnetonka Community Theatre, MHS**

July 30-31 **Class of 1960 Reunion, Bayview Event Center**

July 24 **Class of 1990 Reunion**

July 30 **Class of 1965 Reunion, Bayview Event Center**

July 30 **Class of 1970 Reunion**

July 30 **The Original Stars of American Bandstand Concert with Fabian and Bobby Vee, MHS**

July 31 **Minnetonka All Class Reunion** - Breakfast, MHS; Street Dance, Downtown Excelsior

August 7 **Tour de Tonka** bike ride sponsored by Minnetonka Community Education, MHS

August 13 **Class of 1985 Reunion, Bayside Grille**

September 11 Visit the MAA booth at **Apple Day** in downtown Excelsior

October 1 **Minnetonka Homecoming Football Game** versus Edina

October 2 **Alumni Awards Brunch and Annual Meeting, MHS**

February 5 **Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Dream Makers Dinner**



Kathy (Kramer) Richardson, Brad Bohlmann and Deborah (Fredrickson) Lazar last summer at the MHS Class of 1969 40- year reunion.

Keeping it in the Family



Graduating from Minnetonka High School is a family tradition for these 2010 graduates who join their parents and grandparents as proud MHS Alumni this year.

Matthew Bennis and parents, Wendy '79 and Howard Bennis '74

Olivia Bovee and dad, Chad Bovee '77

Adam Burger and mom, Janet Bunday Burger '75

Tori Burton and dad, Matthew Burton '81

Erin Hance and mom, Kelly (Ziegler) Hance '76

Spencer Haverstock and dad, Raymond Haverstock '77

Justin Holl and dad, Jerry Holl '72

Luke Irrgang and mom, Cindy Wilharm Irrgang '80

Raj Katti and mom, Jenifer (Strohm) Denly-Katti '79

Kimberly Kelly and dad, Daniel F. Kelly '77

James Kruger and dad, Mark Kruger '82

Katharine Liester and dad, Tim Liester '82

Nate Lundy and dad, Jeremy Lundy '84

Brett Maes and grandmother, Nancy (Palm) Countryman '59

Philip Maple and dad, Tom Maple '81

Christian Mayo and dad, Geoff Mayo '69

Samantha McDonald and her dad, A.J. McDonald '72

Krista McFarlin and parents, Laura (Weldon) '81 and Jeff McFarlin '80

Nicole McHale and parents, Gale (Anderson) '82 and Mark McHale '80

Ciara Meyer and mom, Krissa Meyer '86

John Numrich and mom, Lisa Lund '75

Zachary Pattridge and dad, James "Sam" Pattridge '73

Amanda Richter and parents, Carol (McMillen) '78 and Tom Richter '77

Andrew Roy and mom, Barb (Richie) Roy '78

Lucy Ryan and mom, Anne (Moser) Ryan '79

Emily Sternard and dad, Bill Sternard '80

Joe Swenson and mom, Deb (Foty) Swenson '72

Anne Traynor and mom, Carol (Minkler) Traynor '78

If you are an alum with a 2011 MHS grad in the family, e-mail us at alumni@minnetonka.k12.mn.us.



Brett Maes '10 with his grandmother Nancy (Palm) Countryman '59 and aunt Susan (Palm) Morris '62.



Erin Hance '10 and her mom, Kelly (Ziegler) Hance '76



Lucy Ryan '10 (front) and her family, Jim Moser '80, Anne (Moser) Ryan '79, Jane (Moser) Lundgren '76 and Dan Lundgren '75.

MINNETONKA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Cornell Anderson '66
Vice President	Bonnie (Board) Niles '67
Past President	Gail (Thacker) Ofstehage '68
Secretary	Kathy (Kramer) Richardson '69
Treasurer	Mary (McGinn) Morseth '71

Directors

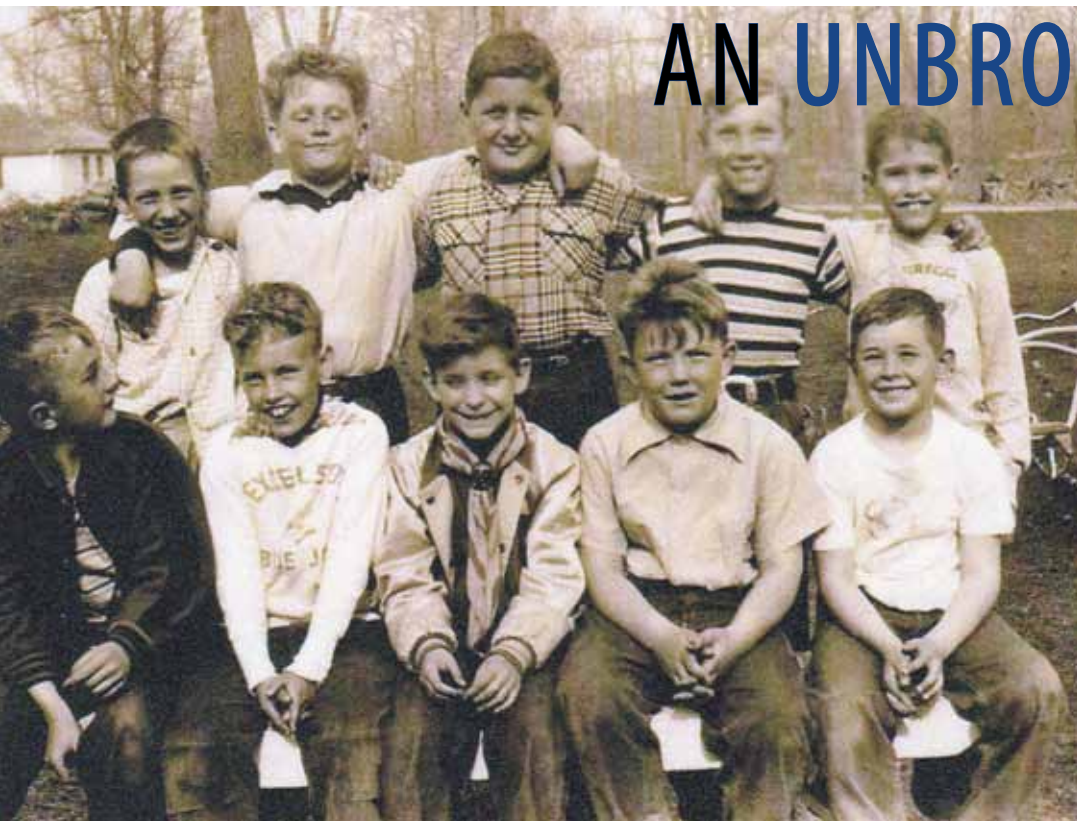
Elizabeth Wright '96, Marietta Jacobsen '70, Tad Shaw, Todd Frazier '80, Mary (Bohlmann) Trippler '66, Joy Fruen '71, Sani Glenn '81, Christine Krason '86, Brad Bohlmann '69, Andrew Pike '98, Elise Peterson '02, Bonnie Walz '83

The MAA is actively seeking Alumni interested in helping the organization achieve its goals. E-mail alumni@minnetonka.k12.mn.us to learn about opportunities to get involved!

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AN UNBROKEN BOND

The Naegeles

BY PAUL MOORE

Bob and Bill with their childhood friends in 1949. Front Row (left to right): George Johnston, Dave Elliott, Dave Johnston '59, Bill Naegele '60 and Al Tollefson '59. Back Row (left to right): Don Berlund, Bob Naegele '57, Doug Williams '56, Dave Wendt and Gregg Westigard '60.

If you want a good example of how things have changed over the past couple of generations, consider how Bob and Bill Naegele used to get to their summer jobs in Minneapolis when they were kids. They'd hitchhike. From Excelsior. Both ways.

Then again, the story of the Naegele brothers might not be all that different from others. Like so many families, the Naegeles grew up in the Minnetonka area and then returned to their hometown to raise children who also went on to Minnetonka High School.

But not every family has the history of the Naegeles. Health clubs, restaurants, Rollerblades, NHL hockey— and you can trace it all back to growing up in a small town: Excelsior.

"We did everything there," says Bill ('60) "It was a small, rural community where we knew everyone, and everyone knew us."

"It was a lark growing up in those days in that area," says Bob ('57). "Doctors made house calls. We learned to skate pushing a bench around Lake Minnetonka."

The boys' parents, Robert and Harriet Naegele, moved to the area in the early 1940s, (buying five acres on Lake Minnetonka for \$8,000) to raise a family that eventually included Bob, Bill and their sister Joan, who passed away in 1997. Robert Sr. ran Naegele Advertising, where both brothers worked part-time as kids and full-time as college graduates.

The kids went to Minnewashta Elementary, a three-story structure on the site where the current schools sits. There were just four classrooms of two grades each.

"Going to a small school like that, you get to know the kids in the grades ahead of you and the kids in the grades behind you," Bill says. "You form some real heroes in the school, those guys in seventh and eighth grade when you're in second or third."

The small-town setting continued into junior high, where

Bob found himself sitting near a pretty classmate named Ellis. "It was in Miss Beach's homeroom, in September of 1951 at Excelsior Junior High when I was in 7th grade," he says. They were married ten years later and will celebrate their golden anniversary next year. Did he know that day in 1951 that this was the girl he'd marry? "I didn't, but I think she knew about a year later," he chuckles. "Guys are the last to know."

High school found the Naegele brothers in just about every activity there was: tennis, football, hockey, theater, choir, student government.

"My brother was an incredible football player," says Bill. "MVP of the Lake Conference on a team that won only two games." Both brothers fondly recall a huge win against powerhouse Edina in 1956. Bill says Bob's two punt blocks keyed the comeback victory; Bob spreads the credit around, however. "Every guy stepped up in that second half to do his part," he says. Either way, it's become a favorite family story. "His grandkids get tired of hearing that one," Bill laughs.

Being so involved in high school led to bonds still unbroken today. "The relationships you forge in high school are lifelong," says Bill. "Even though you may not see one another all the time, when you do, you kind of pick up where you left off and the friendships are deeper."

For college, both Naegeles stepped outside the close-knit comfort of the Minnetonka community, Bob to Dartmouth

"The relationships you forge in high school are lifelong."

and Bill to the University of Minnesota. After college each worked for the family business, Naegele Advertising, in different cities across the country, then took their dad up on an offer to buy the Twin Cities arm of the company.

"Our dad was selling the company in pieces by city," says Bob. "So, in 1971, we became the proud owners of Naegele Outdoor in the Twin Cities. We paid off the debt in about five years. I can remember walking in with the last payment, giving Pop the check and saying, 'You don't have to sign for us anymore.'"

Which is how Bob and Bill Naegele ended up back in the community where they grew up. After each sold his portion of Naegele Outdoor in the '80s, Bill found himself drawn to the restaurant and health club businesses, where he helped develop such familiar establishments as Lord Fletcher's, the Amalgamated and Pracna on Main.

Bob recognized a good idea when he saw one and bought the first inline skate company from its founder. Rollerblade turned out to be a pretty good investment.

Another of Bob's investments played into his lifelong love of hockey. One summer his son arranged for him to meet with then St. Paul mayor Norm Coleman, who had some ideas about bringing the National Hockey League back to Minnesota, specifically, St. Paul.

"When I was at Naegele Outdoor, St. Paul had been my beat and I knew the heart of the people and the heart of the city. I knew the passion for hockey," Bob says. "And to me St. Paul was always a natural; it had just never been called to the party."



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS - MHS CLASS OF '60

Bill and his 1960 classmates will celebrate their 50-year Class Reunion this summer. Pictured above: Class Officers Dotty Bacon Miller, Historian; Bill Naegele, President; Judy (Bondus) Boecher-Frey, Secretary; Phil Carr, Treasurer; and Mike Liemandt, Vice President.

So Bob used his contacts, his experience and the wisdom of a successful career in business to become majority owner of the Minnesota Wild.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," he says. "And it was intense." The tension increased when a work stoppage wiped out the 2004-05 NHL season. "A very harrowing experience. No income, yet you still had 85 percent of your expenses. I said we're gonna make it through this. I don't know how, but we're gonna make it through this."

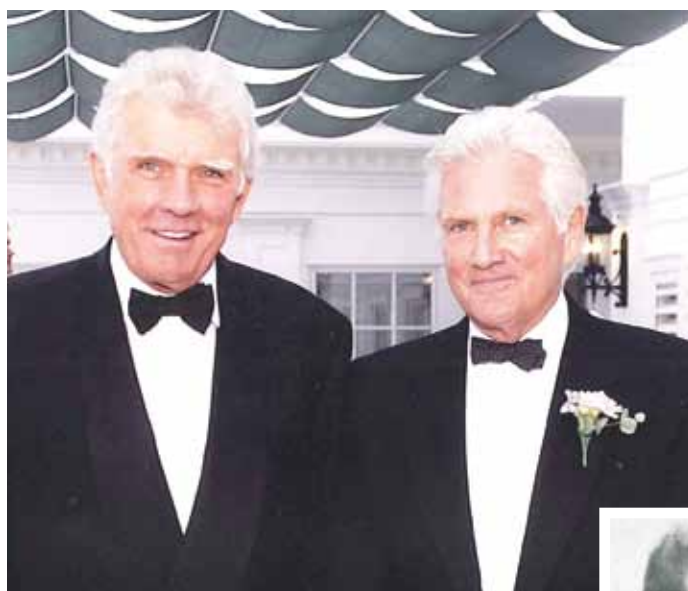
They did make it through, with the Wild thriving when play resumed. Bob eventually sold the team in April 2008.

Of course, it wasn't all business for the Naegeles. Bill and his wife Stephanie have two children, Bill, Jr. ('87) and Heather ('91). Bob and Ellis have four children, Jennifer, Jill ('81), Bob, Jr. ('84) and Tricia ('86).

"It's a delightful place to raise your children," says Bob. "Minnetonka is composed of so many social and economic strata. You could be going to school with a bus driver's kid or with the son or daughter of a Cargill executive. It was a great learning experience for the kids to know, have fun with, and play sports with folks from all different backgrounds."

"I think knowing that we'd grown up in Minnetonka was a comforting thing to our kids," says Bill. "It gave them a connection to the community."

For Bob and Bill Naegele, Minnetonka is a thread that runs through successful business ventures, loving marriages and wonderful memories of both being children and raising them. It's a 70-year connection that started simply enough when Robert and Harriet Naegele decided to buy that place on the lake just west of Excelsior.



Bill (left) and Bob (right) Naegele.



MINNETONKA MIDDLE SCHOOLS

A New and Innovative Approach

BY PAUL MOORE

When Alanna Anglum gets home from school, she takes a short break to check her e-mail and relaxes. Then she gets to work.

Alanna is a 6th grader at Minnetonka Middle School East (MME), where her classes include Honors Language Arts and Algebra. That's right—she is taking Algebra in 6th grade.

Those high-level classes are part of the restructured curriculum implemented this year at Minnetonka's middle schools, a new educational model designed to enhance learning for students of all academic abilities and ambitions.

"It addresses the needs of our struggling learners, our accelerated learners and everyone in between," says MME principal Pete Dymit. "It provides increased flexibility when it comes to options and electives and more support opportunities."

In 2009, the Minnetonka School Board approved a plan that added new honors and higher level math courses, created more world language options for seventh and eighth graders and offered more elective options in addition to music and physical education. The plan also provided increased remedial support and created a homework help center. The idea

was to increase rigor, choices, flexibility and support.

"Every student in the school could immediately feel the impact of the enhanced programs," says Middle School West (MMW) principal Bill Jacobson. "We have been able to expand options, enhance rigor, and focus on excellence in the arts and in service learning. As a result, we have designed and implemented programs that support students academically, socially and emotionally."

The program has been extremely well-received by parents. Jacobson recalls a parent approaching him, eager to share her thoughts on the new model.

"It addresses the needs of our struggling learners, our accelerated learners and every one in between."

"She said her son was finally completely engaged, engrossed, and challenged by his eighth grade honors and Pre-Advanced Placement courses, and his intellectual curiosity is stimulated," he says. "It is tremendous that we have finally moved past the old adage that the only way to make a course more rigorous is to add more work."

Dymit has heard similar raves. "Our parent surveys tell us it's everything we set out to accomplish in terms of goals and targets. We couldn't be more pleased."

Tasha Jacobson (no relation to Bill) has noticed that her daughter Micaela, a 6th grader at MME, is learning how to manage her time. "She's definitely been more challenged academically, but she's getting the hang of it, and she loves it. I think these classes will prepare her for anything at the high school level."

"The teachers make sure you get it," says Micaela. "I really like the Honors Language Arts seminars, because





“...we have designed and implemented programs that support students academically, socially and emotionally.”

we can express how we feel about the book we read and get other kids' perspectives.”

“The honors classes give you an opportunity to feel challenged and do something you can be proud of,” says Alanna Anglum. “They’re challenging, but it’s not like you’re drowning in them. And I love the teachers. They’re so great at making sure everyone is on the same page and not falling behind.”

The addition of more rigorous courses doesn’t mean the struggling students are forgotten. Dymit says he also hears from parents who are appreciative of the extra help now available for their child.

“These were not program changes exclusively for the upper end learners,” he says. “We were adamant that we also strengthen our support for struggling learners. So by adding math skills and reading skills courses, it’s a meaningful intervention. We’re already seeing results.

“The progress these kids have shown is not only encouraging to us, it’s encouraging to them. Because after having experienced frustration and failure for a long time, these kids are starting to see themselves as successful. It helps them redefine themselves as a kid who’s good at math, or a kid who’s good at reading. It really makes a difference.”

One of the most popular new course offerings is STEM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math and gives students a 21st century approach to technology and analytical thinking.

“The STEM teachers are really good,” says MMW 6th grader Carly Lietzke. “We do a lot of different stuff that we

wouldn’t regularly do in science or math. You get to learn more about engineering, which is pretty fun.”

“Parents are giving us a lot of positive feedback about how their child comes home and is talking about STEM at the dinner table,” says Dymit. “We’re also hearing a lot about how happy seventh graders are to be taking art again, and how nice it is to have increased the fine arts offerings, like drama, band, orchestra and choir lessons.”

Middle school administrators spent two years studying and planning the new model. The Board approved the plan for the 2009-10 school year. As a result, Minnetonka Schools have yet another reason to be seen as a leader in public education.

“I’ve received quite a few phone calls from other districts curious about what we’re doing and how we did it,” says Dymit. “I think the word is getting out that Minnetonka has an innovative approach to addressing a lot of traditional middle school needs that have not been addressed in a while.”

So while students like Alanna might have an overflowing plate with sports, dance and extra homework, she wouldn’t change a thing. “There’s times it can be stressful, like if you’re sick and miss a class,” she says. “But you just have to make sure you plan ahead so you can get everything done. And it’s worth it. The classes are awesome.”



A True Hockey Community

BY DAVID RITTER

The Minnetonka community has always had a love of hockey, and a tradition of producing talented hockey players—Skeeter Hawkinson, Justin McHugh, Tim Hanus, Brian Urick, Steve Aronson, Jim Walsh, and Jake Gardiner, just to name a few.

On this year's boys' high school team alone, there are four players with Division I college commitments: Troy Hesketh, Andrew Prochno, Justin Holl and Max Gardiner. The secret to success is the MYHA's unique community program where every kid is given an opportunity to play, the coaches and fans are most likely former players and the pride in Minnetonka Hockey runs deep.

Enter the Pagel Activity Center doors and there is a good possibility you will find 1987 Minnetonka graduate Jay Witta cheering on one of his sons from the grandstands or giving instructions to his Pee Wee team from the coaching bench. Jay's four boys, Bennett, Brody and twins Brooks and Griffin—ranging from Mites to Pee Wee hockey—carry on what was started by their father. Witta, a two-year starter and assistant captain during his hockey career, can now look fondly back on his hockey career. "My time here was special. I now want to carry that pride for Minnetonka hockey on and see my sons enjoy their time playing hockey here," adds Witta.

Minnetonka Hockey standout Justin McHugh ('95) echoes that pride in Minnetonka's hockey legacy.

"There is something about coming back and seeing teammates I played with, seeing their parents, and familiar last names on the backs of Tonka jerseys. It is just great," he says.

McHugh lives in Victoria and works as a dentist, but still finds time make it to games at Pagel Arena.

"In order to have a successful youth program, it takes a commitment from the community. It's making an investment in our kids – offering them opportunities to get involved, be a part of a



Members of the Minnetonka Hockey community. Front (left to right): Bennett, Brody and Brooks Witta. Row Two (left to right): Griffin Witta, MHS Assistant Coach Steve Aronson ('96), MHS Head Coach Brian Urick ('95) and MHS Assistant Coach Joe Urick. Row Three (left to right): Tommy Lundquist ('10), Jake Rossman ('10), Max Gardiner ('10), Andrew Prochno ('10), Jake Thornberg ('10) and Jay Witta ('87).

team and feel like they are part of something greater," says Witta.

That is what's different about the Minnetonka program says Minnetonka's Youth Hockey Development Manager Jeff Teal. Every kid is able to develop his or her talent and participate at every level—Mites to Bantam. "Far too many communities focus on a select few at the younger level and don't let everyone develop," says Teal. "We put all kids in big game situations."

The results, a program that now regularly competes at high levels. The MHS Hockey Team has made two State Tournament appearances (with second and fifth place finishes) and captured two Classic Lake Confer-

ence Championships in the past five years and 2009-10 was a record setting season.

The Skippers posted a 27-2-2 record, claimed the Section Championship with a 7-2 victory over Eden Prairie and posted the Skippers best finish ever—second at State.



The 1952-53 MHS Boys Hockey Team.

The 2009-10 MHS Boys Hockey Team celebrates winning the Schwan Cup Gold Championship.

Photo courtesy of Helen Nelson of MNHockeyHub.



Not surprisingly, the team was led by two alums, Brian Urick ('95) and Steve Aronson ('96), and long-time Minnetonka youth coach Joe Urick, Brian's dad.

Head Coach Brian Urick understands that the success of his team comes from a community with pride and enthusiasm about hockey. "When I look at our program, it's nice to have people that bleed blue," says Urick.

He would know better than most. A 1995 Minnetonka graduate, Urick's name is printed throughout the record books. He is one of the all-time leading scorers for MHS and earned All-Metro and All-State honors. Urick earned a scholarship to the University of Notre Dame where he was a standout for the Irish as a four-year starter. After playing professionally for the Edmonton Oilers, Urick returned home to Minnetonka, and now coaches the Skippers Varsity Team.

In their third season, Head Coach Urick and Assistant Coach Aronson had hoped this was Minnetonka's magical season and they could bring home the school's first State Hockey Championship. After a strong season and claiming the Section Title, this year's team ran all the way to the State Championship game, but were ultimately derailed by those ever-present rivals to the east, Edina.

No doubt a disappointing ending, but it was after the championship game, that loss, where the pride and commitment behind Minnetonka's Hockey Program was the strongest.

Just steps from Pagel Arena, in the MHS gym—just an hour after their loss—there was a celebration. In the crowd, the players were greeted by the proud faces and cheers of their parents, coaches, fellow students and the alumni who share their Tonka pride—the hockey community that has been supporting them since they were young. Despite everything, everyone in that room knew the season was a success and there was a reason to celebrate. The 2009-10 team, like others before them, was leaving a legacy for the next generation of Minnetonka players and setting the new standard for Skippers hockey. The 2010-11 season can't start soon enough.

MHS Girls Hockey

www.tonkagirlshockey.com

The first Minnetonka High School Varsity Girls Hockey team took the ice in 1995. After just fifteen short years the team continues to grow and set program records.

During the 2009-10 season, the Varsity team compiled an overall record of 20-4-4, which represents the first season in program history with 20 or more wins. The team scored a record-breaking 111 goals, earned their first Conference championship and advanced to the Section championship for the second consecutive season. Go Skippers!



Relive the 2009-10 season, become a Friend of Minnetonka Hockey and find alumni stats and records at www.minnetonkahockey.org.

Pagel Activity Center

The Pagel Activity Center was built in 2001 through a partnership with the Minnetonka Youth Hockey Association and Minnetonka Public Schools. Several generous donors, including Oppidan Investment Company, the Jack Pagel family and Dan and Mary Frederick, contributed to the \$6 million project.

The multi-use facility is home to the MHS Boys and Girls Hockey Teams, several Minnetonka Youth Hockey and community teams and the Minnetonka Strength and Fitness Program.



RECONNECT TO MINNETONKA SCHOOLS

The Minnetonka Public Schools are fortunate to receive tremendous support from community organizations.

Minnetonka Skippers Booster Club

www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/schools/minnetonkahighschool/booster

Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation

www.minnetonkafoundation.com

Anchor Club

www.mtkaanchorclub.org

Buckets Club

www.tonkabuckets.org

Curtain Call Club

www.minnetonkatheatre.com

Diamond Club

www.minnetonkadiamondclub.org

Minnetonka Band Boosters

www.minnetonkabandboosters.org

Tonka Pride

www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/tonkapride

Touchdown Club

www.minnetonkafootball.org

All of these organizations welcome volunteers, and gifts are greatly appreciated. An envelope is included with this magazine for financial donations to these organizations. Make checks payable to the organization of your choice. Donations can also be made online at www.minnetonkaalumni.com.

THANK YOU!

The following Minnetonka teachers and staff members are retiring this school year. Please join the MAA in thanking them for their service and dedication to the children in Minnetonka Schools.

Jerry Bartow	41 years	Middle School East
Halyna Bye	23 years	Clear Springs
Sandra Christiansen	13 years	Scenic Heights
John Coverdale	9 years	Minnewashta
Dorothy Dupont	8 years	Service Center
Marleen Hauschulz	10 years	MHS
Lester Hughes-Seamans '71	31 years	MHS
Gerald Labate	3 years	MHS
Charlotte Milstead	24 years	Service Center
Susan Nickle	44 years	Excelsior
Carla Nolan	35 years	Middle School West
Colleen Puzak '67	24 years	Scenic Heights
Lauree Schmidt	20 years	Community Ed.
Mary Snyder	30 years	Service Center
Carol Spelman	19 years	MHS
Janice Yager	25 years	Deephaven

MINNETONKA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fine Arts Endowment Fund

The Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund is a permanent, income-producing legacy that will help ensure a vibrant future for fine arts education in the Minnetonka School District. The Fund makes extraordinary opportunities possible for Minnetonka teachers and students in the visual, performing and literary arts—opportunities beyond and separate from the schools' normal operating budget.

The MAA understands that students in the 21st century need skills that enable them to craft new realities out of fast-moving data—to decode sounds and images, articulate problems, envision possibilities and shape workable solutions using multiple diverse perspectives. They need curiosity, adaptability, empathy and creativity.

Fine arts programs play a leading role in meeting these and other educational goals. The ability to analyze complex visual and aural messages and make critical judgments lies at the heart of the information age.

An arts education:

- Builds a climate of high expectation, discipline and academic rigor
- Strengthens student problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Promotes a sense of craftsmanship, quality task performance and goal-setting
- Nurtures a positive work ethic and pride in a job well done
- Develops greater appreciation and understanding of the world
- Provides an opportunity for parental, community and business involvement with schools

School districts, like Minnetonka, that value the arts provide a full education in the deepest sense of the word – one that prepares students to appreciate the interconnectedness of humanity and thrive in an uncertain future.

Please support the Fine Arts in Minnetonka Schools with a donation to the MAA Fine Arts Endowment Fund.



Off the Page

Alums celebrate the power of writing

BY ROLLIE THAYER '09

On a Thursday night in March, the excitement was infectious inside Minnetonka High School's Black Box Theatre as a crowd gathered for the annual *Off the Page* event.

Off the Page is coordinated by the MHS Writing Center, a program endowed by the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation. The event brings guests and student interviewers together for a night dedicated to real world stories about writing, inspiration, and careers. The event aims to emphasize the value of writing skills in all professions and to broaden the perception of the role writing plays in the world beyond high school.

The theme, "Locally Grown," was a tribute to the lives and careers of Minnetonka graduates and community members. The line-up included MHS graduates Kate (Thorbeck) Rogers '99, Eric Dregni '86, Alex Messenger '06 and Ann Reed '73 rounded out by John Kitchener, a Minnetonka father.

Now in its third year, *Off the Page* has brought in many prominent guests, from radio personality Dan Barreiro and Minneapolis rapper Dessa Darling, to former Minnetonka Superintendent Don Draayer and local scientists. Writing Center director Maggie Shea explains, "Though the guests emphasize the relevance of writing in the real world, stories about finding your passion and doing what you love are at the heart of *Off the Page*."

This year's event opened with senior emcee Jeremiah Lockett welcoming John Kitchener to the stage. Kitchener is the President and Executive Producer of Magnetic Productions, a Minneapolis company that produces programs for HGTV, DIY, and the Travel Channel. Interviewed by junior Laura Studer, Kitchener explained how his writing developed as he moved from advertisements to television production. Kitchener commented, "Advertising is a great training tool [for writing] because you have to write things in as few words as possible...you really have to boil it down to the most important words, which is important in all forms of writing."

Next up were Hayden Rendos and Kate (Thorbeck) Rogers. This proved to be the funniest duo of the night, as the Minnetonka senior was determined to understand the steps necessary in reviewing restaurants. Rogers, a publicist and columnist for *Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine*, assured Rendos that she did not in fact wear disguises when attending restaurants she planned to review. As a Minnetonka

graduate, Rogers gave the students in the audience valuable writing advice: "You have to own [your writing]; I can't stress confidence enough."

Eric Dregni, the next guest, also shared writing

wisdom as an author of more than 22 non-fiction books. Interviewed by junior Joe Schiltz, Dregni elaborated on his travels to Italy and Norway—and the books borne out of his experiences there. A class of 1986 grad, Dregni credited high school English teacher Mary Skoy for inspiring his passion for writing.

After a brief intermission, the show continued with senior Natalie Nazarian and Alex Messenger. Graduating from Minnetonka in 2006, Messenger is finishing his senior year at Gustavus Adolphus College where he is pursuing a degree in



Eric Dregni '86 and Joe Schiltz '11

Studio Arts with a minor in English, all the while working as a photo-journalist for the school paper. Messenger told tales about aggressive bears and world travel, and explained that every experience shapes his writing and photography.

The final conversation of the night was between senior Sam Fettig and singer/songwriter Ann Reed. Having just released her 20th folk album, *Where the Earth is Round*, Reed revealed the toils and pleasures of song writing. She also credited Mary Skoy for inspiring her love of writing and reminisced about learning to play the guitar in the hallways of MHS in the 1970s. After her conversation, Reed treated the audience to a performance of "Where the Earth is Round."

After the show, the guests mingled with students, parents, and teachers, answering questions and catching up on life in Minnetonka since graduating. It was clear that each one truly enjoyed their participation in the event, as several were already making plans to return next year as spectators.

Rollie Thayer '09 is attending Pomona College in California.

Are You a Writer?

The MAA, working with Minnetonka High School, is assembling The Alumni Collection at MHS, a collection of works by alum authors, artists and musicians.

Learn more and contribute to the collection at www.minnetonkaalumni.com.



THE MINNETONKA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

www.MinnetonkaFoundation.com

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

DR. PRUDENCE LAM '89 HEMATOLOGIST- ONCOLOGIST

BY JOHN MUGFORD

The path Prudence Lam took to becoming a medical doctor was not a conventional one. Yet, as far as Lam is concerned it has been the right path for her.

"It took me a little longer because after college I went through a time when I didn't know whether I wanted to continue with medicine," says the 1989 MHS graduate.

She looked into careers in journalism and law, and worked for a while as a mental health counselor.

"If I could give some advice to a young person, it would be to follow your own path toward your career and family life. Don't worry about what your friends and peers are doing and what career schedules they're on. It took me a while to get to my present position, but all of my experiences contributed to who I am today."

Perhaps Lam learned to choose and follow her own path because of her experiences at Minnetonka High School, where, she admits, she endured her first "character building" experiences.

Lam transferred to MHS for her sophomore year from Elkhart, Indiana. The move included her mother, Jean, father, Charles, a chemist, and her two brothers, Paul ('91) and Rich ('92).

"High school is hard enough in itself," she says. "To transfer like that was probably tougher on me than I realized at the time. But looking back, everything worked out quite well. In fact, I believe it forced me to grow and learn more about myself and how to present myself to others."

While at MHS, Lam was an honor roll student, the editor of the student newspaper, *The Breezes*, and was involved in choir and orchestra. She also was chosen to be part of the homecoming court and was voted "most-respected" in her class by her peers.

When asked if any teachers had a great influence on her, she says: "There were many teachers that I respected. I really enjoyed my classes with the Skoys, Glenn and Mary, who taught English."

There was also Bill Chisholm, also an English teacher. "He was tough, but I think he pushed me and helped me rise above." She also cites calculus teacher, Leo Razidlo, as one of her favorites.

After graduating from MHS, Lam headed to Stanford University. When she finally decided medicine was indeed the profession for her,



she attended the University of Vermont - College of Medicine.

During her hematology-oncology fellowship training after medical school and internal medicine residency, she led a cancer research project at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

Her research included writing several articles for a variety of medical journals. One project showed that if a certain molecule, the "Pin1," could be blocked in patients with a certain type of breast cancer, doctors might be able to provide more effective treatment.

These days, Lam is an hematologist-oncologist at two Boston-area hospitals, Cambridge and Mount Auburn.

"I am now much more involved in the clinical part of the job, treating patients," she says. "Prevention and cancer genetics is also an important part of what I do and discuss with my patients, and that is currently what holds my interest."

So does her family, which includes her husband, Michael Goldstein, the CEO and founder of MATCH Public Charter School in Boston, and their two-year-old son, Nash. She's also expecting the couple's second child in July.

Lam still remains in touch with quite a few of her classmates and still has quite a soft spot in her heart for her days at MHS.

"I was really fortunate to find such a strong group of friends at MHS," she says. "Minnetonka High School gave me a strong foundation, both academically and socially, and I've carried that with me over the years."

Dr. Lam will be recognized with a Minnetonka Distinguished Alumni Award on Saturday, October 2 at MHS. Nominate a classmate for an award or purchase tickets at www.minnetonkaalumni.com.

JAN MALCOLM '73 HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC POLICY

BY JOHN MUGFORD

During an era when girls and women were not necessarily encouraged to pursue careers or studies in math and science, Jan Malcolm excelled in those classes while attending Minnetonka High School back in the early 1970s.

"To tell you the truth, I don't remember ever being discouraged, as a girl, from shooting high academically or in any other way by our teachers at Minnetonka," recalls Malcolm, a 1973 graduate. "A good example is the fact that I was president of our class and all four of the officers that year were girls. We felt we could do anything."

She has relied on that confidence throughout her career. Currently, Malcolm is the CEO of Courage Center, a not-for-profit center in Golden Valley that provides a wide array of therapy and rehabilitative services for people with disabilities.

"It is an honor for me to be in charge of this wonderful organization," says Malcolm, who oversees fundraising, strategic direction, and the operations for Courage Center. "I really find it rewarding and energizing to work at a place where people's lives are improved each and every day."

Prior to her present post, Malcolm had several high-profile positions. They included: Senior Program Officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in Princeton, New Jersey; Vice President of Public Affairs at Allina Health System; and Senior Vice President of Government Programs and Public Policy at HealthPartners.

But perhaps Malcolm's biggest job was serving as Minnesota's Commissioner of Health from 1999 to 2003. She was appointed to the post by Governor Jesse Ventura.

"I would have to say that position was the pinnacle of my career," says Malcolm of the job in which she led a staff of 1,200 people and oversaw a budget of \$400 million. "To be involved in setting public health policy at that level was quite a challenge, and a privilege."

While many aspects of her stint with the state were memorable, Malcolm says she's most proud of her work in helping develop a plan for allocating the state's tobacco lawsuit settlement.

"At the time, the governor decided that the settlement was an extraordinary opportunity to do something unique and strategic for



the state's health and healthcare system. So we set up a series of endowments for prevention initiatives, including programs to prevent tobacco usage by teens. We also set up some health programs designed to provide more access to healthcare for a variety of people, relative to their socioeconomic status."

Malcolm's original career plan was to be a doctor. But while attending Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, she became interested in healthcare administration and public policy. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and psychology.

Today Malcolm is nationally recognized as a leader in healthcare public policy, yet she remains in touch with several friends from her days at MHS. One of those is well-known folk singer and song writer, Ann Reed ('73).

"We had a good class and even though we went to school during the Vietnam era – I remember it as a pretty innocent time," she says. "All of my memories of Minnetonka High School are good ones. It was a school where, if you wanted to work hard, you could get a very good education and be well-prepared for the future."

Jan Malcolm will be recognized with a Minnetonka Distinguished Alumni Award on Saturday, October 2 at MHS. Nominate a classmate for an award or purchase tickets at www.minnetonkaalumni.com.

ALUMNINOTES



CATCHING UP WITH LORI GEHRKE TOLLBERG '92

In 1991 Lori Gehrke was a spirited and athletic high school junior. A member of the MHS Downhill Ski Team, she spent her extra time competing with the U.S. Ski Association (USSA) and was ranked in the top 20 nationally. With hopes of making it to the Junior Olympics, Gehrke attended a USSA Ski Camp on Mt. Hood in Oregon the August before her senior year.

While at the camp, toward the middle of a morning warm-up run, Gehrke lost control. At the time it was not common for skiers to wear helmets and when she crashed into the rocks she crushed the right side of her skull.

Fortunately the Ski Patrol reached her within minutes. A helicopter immediately airlifted her to the hospital where Gehrke underwent three surgeries to repair the damages. She remained in a coma for seven weeks. Doctors were not optimistic about her recovery.

Slowly Gehrke regained consciousness and was flown home in September. She underwent speech, occupational and physical therapy and had to re-learn how to walk and perform the simplest of tasks.

Gehrke's family and friends rallied around her. Classmates sent cards and set up a visit schedule. The senior class even voted her Homecoming Queen that fall, insisting it had nothing to do with sympathy. The ever-smiling Gehrke was the right pick for the crown.

When she set a goal to walk by Christmas, everyone knew the determined teen would reach it. She took her first steps on Christmas day, just over four months after her accident. By February, she was even out on a ski slope again, though she still had a long recovery ahead. Many used the word 'miracle' to describe her progress.

Lori Gehrke graduated with her class in 1992 and went on to Augsburg College where she earned a K-12 Physical Education teaching license. Over the years she has stayed in the Minnetonka area working with youth sports, the MHS Softball program (she is also a former player) and more, including adaptive floor hockey. For the past 10 years she has been a reserve teacher for Minnetonka Public Schools.

"It's ironic that part of Minnetonka's Mission statement is 'Inspiring in everyone a passion to excel,' because it's a great description of the staff, teachers and friends who encouraged and supported me throughout my recovery. Today, I carry that same commitment to the young people I teach," Lori says.

Today Lori Gehrke is Lori Tollberg. She and her husband, Todd, live in Chanhassen with their daughters, Betsy (2) and Karina (5 ½). Next year it will be 20 years since the accident that almost took her life, but Gehrke shrugs it off, as is her usual style. Gehrke has never let that time in her life define her or hinder her can-do attitude. She says it taught her, "You don't sweat the small stuff."

ARIZONA ALUMNI GATHERING

Each year on the third Wednesday in February a group of Minnetonka Alumni meet for an annual Excelsior Picnic at Pioneer Park in Mesa, Ariz. All are invited to attend, just bring a dish to share! Contact Kay (Hanson) Fritsche '61 at khf7807A25@yahoo.com or 602-743-2541 for more details.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS?

Send your update to alumni@minnetonka.k12.mn.us! Tell us about your promotion, move back to Minnetonka, the birth of a child or recent marriage.

2007

Troy Groenke and Taylor Acker are engaged and plan a July 2010 wedding. Troy is owner of the TJG Drum Academy in Minnetonka.

2006

Zac Henschel, a senior at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, will work as a missionary in China after graduating in May.

Peter Ladner, a senior at Carleton College in Northfield, MN, plans to participate in an intensive immersion program in China this summer.

Lydia Hurd, chaired her college's annual Relay for Life event in 2009. The event raised more than \$37,000 for the American Cancer Society.

2005

Anne Whitehouse received a Merrill Presidential Scholar Award upon graduation from Cornell University in 2009.

2002

Ashley (Simpson) and **Jack Segner** '03 welcomed a daughter, Emerson Rose, on February 1, 2010.

2001

Michelle (Boys) and **Captain Casey Campbell** welcomed a son, Flynn David, on December 3, 2009. The couple is stationed at Fort McCoy in Tomah, WI.

2000

Karla (Pesheck) Breitingner and husband, Erik, welcomed their first child, Ashlynn Mae, on February 21, 2010.

ALUMNINOTES

1998

Alison (Boudrie) Hoernemann and husband, Jeff, welcomed a son, Jace Thomas, on October 10, 2009. The family also recently moved back to Excelsior.

1996

Kirk M. Anderson and wife, Jayme, welcomed their son, Piers Malcolm, on November 4, 2009.

Michelle (Kneeland) Barbeau and husband, Justin, welcomed their second child, Brody Paul, on July 1, 2009

1995

Ben Krueger was named a finalist in the Doritos Crash the Super Bowl Commercial Contest. Although it was not the winner, a game-changing play by Peyton Manning attracted so many viewers, Krueger's commercial became the most watched Super Bowl commercial in history when it aired right after.

1994

Anna Leighton Stier is the Executive Director of Faith's Lodge. Anna and husband, Jeremy, live in Rosemount, MN with their daughter, Caroline.

1993

Krista Moll and Paul Brennan were married on April 25, 2009 in South Pasadena, CA.

1991

Jenny Karos is working as an Account Supervisor at Gage, a marketing firm in Plymouth, MN.

1989

Maren (Eliseuson) Koscielski recently moved back to Minnetonka.

Peter Selfridge was featured in a 2009 *Star Tribune* article about several Minnesotans working at the White House. Selfridge leads advance operations for Vice President Joe Biden.

1988

Kristi Brown and her partner, Edward, welcomed a child, Noah, on May 16, 2009.

1987

Beth Robbins recently moved back to Minnetonka after 6 years in Wisconsin.

1986

Anne (Royse) Ginther was named a 2009 Woman of Worth by L'Oreal Paris for her philanthropic leadership.

Eric Dregni published *Never Trust a Thin Cook and Other Lessons from Italy's Culinary Capital*, a food memoir in 2009.

1983

Kellie Murphy-Ringate was awarded the 2009 Public Fire Safety Education Award for Fire Service by the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association. Kellie has been a firefighter and public educator with the Excelsior Fire District since 1993 and a full time fire inspector since 2005.

1976

Julie Conklin married Tim Noonan in Aug. 2008. The couple resides in Seattle, WA.

1974

Dulce (McCosh) Risk is currently the Director of Nursing Services at Golden Living Center Lynnhurst in St Paul, MN.

1973

Lori (Cherland) McCune welcomed her first grandchild, McKenzie Elizabeth, on July 23, 2009. Lori and her husband live in Driggs, ID.

1971

Joan Marie Verba's novel, *Countdown to Action!*, was a 2009 Mom's Choice Awards® Silver Recipient.

1970

Jan (Sweet) Jenkins published *Footprints of Courage* to honor her son Chris, who was killed in 2002.

1963

Mary Steller Podlesny, a retired principal, is teaching education courses as a Senior Educator at Northland College. Mary and her husband, John, live in Iron River, WI.

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers these and all Minnetonka, Excelsior and Deephaven graduates who passed away over the past year (April 2009-April 2010).

Alex Odt '03

Tanya Kay Ostwald '92

Keith G. Sexton '91

Eric D. Halverson '86

Peter A. Holthe '78

David E. Nelson '77

Lisa Pfeffer Roden '77

Andrew (Andy) H. Hollenback '75

Elizabeth Harris Holte '74

Margaret (Peggy) Atwood-Schuster '73

Richard (Rick) E. Brown '71

Sandra Anderson Honigs '64

Gary S. Schmid '56

Bruce L. Peterson '54

Dennis A. Abbott '53

William (Wimpy) J. Carlson '49 (Excelsior)

John R. Liberg '48 (Excelsior)

Kenneth D. Comers '45 (Deephaven)

Arlene Miller Pokorny '41 (Excelsior)

Glen R. Stanley '37 (Excelsior)

William E. Bauer '33 (Excelsior)



RYAN RICHARD '96
1976-2009

Ryan Thomas Richard '96 died suddenly on January 4, 2009. He is remembered

as a valuable member of the MHS wrestling and soccer teams and as the 1995 Homecoming King. Richard proudly served in the Persian Gulf aboard the USS Harry S. Truman and had most recently been living in California pursuing his dream of becoming a comedian, film producer and actor. Of his days at Minnetonka, his mom Judy wrote, "At MHS, he learned the value of friendship and love. He learned to seize the moment and follow his dreams." As a memorial to Richard, in April 2009, his 1996 classmates presented a check for \$500 to Minnetonka High School in his name.

MHS2010 SIX TO WATCH

BY MAGGIE SHEA

MHS Class of 2010 (from left to right):
Clarissa Hart (front); Nate Irvin, Beau
Allen and Rachael Hoerauf (row 2);
Erica Du and Raj Katti (row 3).



CLARISSA HART

"Art is the pinnacle," says Clarissa Hart. "It allows us to see what different ideals are throughout history." Clarissa knows a bit about art...and science, and math, and literature. A well-read artist with an interest in Biology, this senior is humble about her accomplishments, though she has every reason to boast.

Hart is a National AP Scholar, and she competes at a national level on Destination Imagination and Future Problems Solvers teams, both sort of collaborative mind games. This summer she looks forward to research work in the U of MN's neuroscience lab. Four Ivy League universities have offered her substantial academic scholarships, and she plans to attend Harvard in the fall.

Stanford also ranked high on her list: "It has the largest collection of Rodin sculptures outside of the Rodin museum in Paris," she says, eyes bright with the thought. Clarissa's own sculpture, *Agony of the Form*, won the Scholastic Art Competition's Gold Award last year; she's won two other Gold medals and three Silvers as well.

Her breadth of knowledge and lack of ego are assets to any classroom. "She is whip smart," says her AP Composition teacher Sonja Saunders, "and she is confident taking risks."

She enjoys reading (Ted Chiang's sci-fi stories and the classics are favorites) and being in nature.

NATE IRVIN

"For me, it's not about the end result. It's about that process of developing a character and understanding different people," the talented Nate Irvin says of performing. Irvin has wowed Minnetonka audiences in many roles, from the angry and misunderstood Chauvelin in *Scarlet Pimpernel* to his final leading role: Jesus, in the MHS Theatre's spring show *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Nate's acting resume is bookended by Guthrie Theatre performances: a 2001 role in *Merrily We Roll Along* to Billie Dean in this year's *Violet*. He has earned multiple SpotLight Musical Theater awards, and in 2009 was named a Minnesota Scholar of Distinction in Theater Arts. Nate is one of 52 students nationwide to win the \$10,000 AXA/U.S. News & World Report Achievement scholarships.

"That voice is extraordinary," says MHS choir director Paula Holmberg. "He has a unique timbre to the voice, vocal color, and a strange and wonderful sense of what to do with the instrument." His musical credits include opera solos, membership in multiple choirs, and even singing the National Anthem at a Twins Game.

Nate got his start in his own backyard: over a period of 10 years, he served as director and actor in summer productions, raising a total of \$50,000 for an arts scholarship. Next year, the world will be his stage.

Boston Conservatory accepted him on the spot, and he's waiting to hear from other schools. "To bring truth to any production, it helps to have knowledge of many things," Irvin says of the well-rounded education he would get if he decides to attend a large university.





RAJ KATTI

"I'm interested in learning more about what goes on in a very small scale," says senior Raj Katti (mom is Jenifer (Strohm) Denly-Katti '79) of physics, a sentiment that contrasts with his many large scale achievements. Raj scored a perfect 36 on his ACT and has earned a top score of 5 on most AP tests he's taken. The secret to his test-taking prowess: take a challenging curriculum and pay attention in class.

Applied science is Katti's big interest – medical devices, vaccines, neuroscience, and possibly even medical school—and he has already tested the waters, working as a lab assistant in Cal Tech's Power, Environment, and Energy Research Lab for two summers. "He has an ability to grasp abstract concepts and slow them down," says his Physics teacher Michael Varverakis. He has been accepted to Yale, Cal Tech, U of M and UW-Madison, but hasn't made his choice yet.

This well-rounded senior is a leader both in class and out, even earning one of 10 coveted spots in the Minnetonka Man Pageant, where he sang "Scarborough Fair," and performed a bit of stand-up comedy, one of his many pursuits. He loves The Onion, reads Poe and Dickens for fun, and listens to classic rock.

"I've really enjoyed this school," says Raj. "I like coming in early and staying late." For this thoughtful, intelligent young man, high school is only the beginning, a nano-version of a promising future.

ERICA DU

"We are just getting the foundations down, touching the surface," says senior Erica Du of her math studies thus far. This from one who has glimpsed the great beyond of math: she is currently enrolled in Calculus 3 at the University of Minnesota as a participant in the University of MN Talented Youth Math Program. "I like how everything is ordered," she says of math. "You can structure your understanding of it."

Erica's high school accomplishments and interests are curve-breaking: She has taken heavy loads of both AP and IB courses, participated in tennis and Lacrosse, and serves as captain of the Math team and co-president of the Baking and Biology Clubs. She is a National Merit Finalist, a National AP Scholar, and an IB Diploma Candidate. Du has traveled to China three times and considers last summer's trip to Peru with other MHS IB students a peak life experience.

"The best part of high school is the IB programme," Erica says. "The teachers are exceptional, and the classes force you to think at a higher level." Erica's IB Biology teacher, Dawn Norton, appreciates Erica's love of learning. "She's stellar," Norton says, "a real thinker with lots of drive and initiative to learn."

Erica will attend Dartmouth College to study economics and science. "It's all about the people," she says.



RACHAEL HOERAUF

"I stopped wearing my letter jacket," says senior track and cross-country star Rachael Hoerauf. "It started to look ridiculous." The jacket is crammed with the standard sports patches, but also symbols of Rachael's seven trips to State, her 1st in conference awards, and an AP Scholar badge.

"Track and cross country really help me stay on a schedule," Rachael says. "I am more focused in school during the season." She is captain of both the Track and Cross Country teams, and says that her coach, Jane Reimer-Morgan, has taught her many valuable life lessons: "She helps us all make good choices and stay focused on what is best for the team."

Hoerauf raced onto the track scene early, excelling in the 800 meter in 9th grade; 2:18 is her personal best in the event. Rachael is huge asset to her team, especially the girls on the 4 X 800 relay team. They placed first in state last year and second in 2008. Hoerauf also won this year's prestigious Minnetonka Athena Award for outstanding female athlete.

Next year she will head to Drake University, home of the renowned Drake Relays. She hopes to pursue a career in advertising, tapping into her love of art and photography, and could see herself living in Chicago in her 20s. "I would love to return to Minnetonka some day," she says.



BEAU ALLEN

"Can I tell you about my favorite workout?" says Beau Allen, describing a punishing series of squats, straight-legged dead lifts, and walking dumbbell lunges. His performance both in the gym and on the football field have paid off: he's heading to UW-Madison on a full scholarship, following the footsteps of many family members. Stanford, U of M, and Notre Dame also recruited him.

For Allen, college begins in mid-June with intense training. "I'd love to play in the NFL someday," he says.

"He is truly gifted in terms of athleticism and sheer physical strength," says coach Josh Stephan. His senior year, Allen led his team with 84 tackles and was named to the All-Conference, All-Metro, and All-State teams. "Other teams had to design a play specifically to handle Beau," says Stephan. Allen is a leader both on and off the field, taking challenging classes and maintaining a high GPA. He loves to read and hang out on Lake Minnetonka.

Allen will miss Einer Anderson field, but he is excited about D1 football. "I'll be going up against guys who are bigger and faster than anyone I've faced in high school," says the 305 lb., 6'3" standout.

In a Signing Day press conference, UW Football head Coach Brett Beilema mentioned Allen as a freshman he hopes to play early. If past is prelude – Beau was one of a few freshmen to start in every game at Minnetonka – Camp Randall fans will be cheering Beau on this fall.

THE MAA REMEMBERS... 45 YEARS

The 1965 MHS State Basketball Championship

"HANG TOUGH TONKA!"

1965 VARSITY BASKETBALL

Bob Abel (captain)
Dan Austin (captain)
Robert Berkey (manager)
Bob Carruth
Jon Hoffart
Arthur "Buckey" Ives
Paul Knight
Ray Koupal
Trey Labatt
Brian Mahin
Jerry Marquardt (captain)
D. Menke
Jim Meyers
Steven Meyers
Tom Simon
Glen Thiessen

Coaches

Earl Christ
Einer Anderson

THE TEAM

With the addition of Paul Knight from California, Tonka boasted one of the tallest teams in the Lake Conference in 1965.

"Four of the five starters on the team grew up with us and were life-long classmates: Abel, Austin, Marquardt and Ives; Knight had come from out of state, but his 6'6" presence was a welcome addition." - Donald Chance Mark, Jr. '65, Class President

THE LAKE CONFERENCE

Although it was one of the best seasons in school history, in 1965 Minnetonka finished third in the Lake Conference with a 14-4 record. Richfield and Edina tied for the Lake Conference title.

"The regular season was a success by any measurement, but losses to Richfield, Hopkins and Edina (twice!) hardly made it perfect."

- Donald Chance Mark, Jr. '65, Class President

"Tall Tough Tonka finished third in the Lake Conference, so not much was expected in the post season." - Carol Fischer Parker '65

DISTRICT 18 AND REGION 5 TOURNAMENTS

In the 60's, high school teams worked their way to the State Tournament through district and then regional tournaments. In 1965, the Minnetonka Boys Basketball team swept the District 18 Tournament by defeating Robbinsdale 61-38, rival Edina 63-53 and Richfield 75-59. In the Region 5 Tournament, Tonka easily beat St. Cloud Tech 82-60 and, though it was hard-fought, the Skippers beat Willmar 65-58, ending their 22-game winning streak. Minnetonka was on their way to the State Basketball Tournament for the first time in history.

"I remember having to beat both conference co-champions to win the District. Richfield and Edina had tied for the Lake Conference title that year and I remember Donny Mark yelling at the pep rally [before the Richfield game], 'We beat one Lake Conference Champion last night, now let's go out tonight and beat the other one!'"

- Tom Peterson '65

"Edina was our nemesis and we knew if we could beat them in the playoffs, we could win the title." - Sharon Haley Hermel '65





The 1965 State Basketball Champions with their trophy.

THE STATE TOURNAMENT

Following the Region 5 victory, basketball fever swept Minnetonka. The Excelsior Council proclaimed a "Minnetonka High School Day" and Minnetonka State Bank and the MHS Booster Club donated 500 sailor hats to fans. Enthusiasm was high and after a Thursday morning pep fest, school let out at noon and students headed to Williams Arena where the Skippers beat Franklin 76-54.

On Friday all other school activities came to a standstill as Minnetonka played Bemidji in the televised semi-final game. The Skippers beat the Lumberjacks 67-57 in front of a sold-out crowd.

In the final game on Saturday, Minnetonka faced one of its toughest opponents, Fairbault, but sailed to a 71-60 victory to become the 1965 State Basketball Champions. On Sunday, a welcome-home parade brought the team home from Glen Lake to Excelsior and back to MHS for a pep fest.

"That bus ride home Saturday night was one raucous time indeed ...everybody we passed knew who was on that bus!" - Tom Peterson '65

"As a senior, it was the single most exciting thing I can remember about that year. We were all soooo proud of our team and school!" - Cheri Pederson Ptacek '65

"Despite all of the things that have happened since, college, marriages, children, careers, divorces, grandchildren...that shining moment in March 1965 remains."

- Donald Chance Mark, Jr. '65



Everyone, including the Minnetonka Cheerleaders (left), braved the cold and snow to participate in a victory parade that stretched from Hopkins to the High School.

GO TONKA! STATE CHAMPIONS

The MAA would also like to remember the following athletic teams that are also celebrating an anniversary of their State Championship seasons this year.

2000 Girls Softball

2000 Boys Apline Skiing

1990 Boys Swim and Dive

1985 Girls Track and Field

1975 Girls Swim and Dive

1975 Girls Tennis



Members of the Pep Band wearing the sailor hats donated by Minnetonka State Bank.

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Congratulations 2009 Award Winners and Hall of Fame Inductees!



2009 Award Recipients (left to right):
Tad Shaw, Matt Slaughter, Martin Thames,
Nancy Countryman, Steve Frazier, Bob
Miller, Elwin Burditte and Ryan Keating.
Not pictured: D. Bruce Johnstone, Chris
Fenwick and Dan Geldert.



The family of Ray Minkler accepted his Faculty
Hall of Fame award. Granddaughter Ellen Traynor
'07 and daughter Carol (Minkler) Traynor '78 with
classmate Vicki (Hendrickson) Blatz '78.

Distinguished Alumni Award

D. Bruce Johnstone '59
Matthew Slaughter '86

Distinguished Service Award

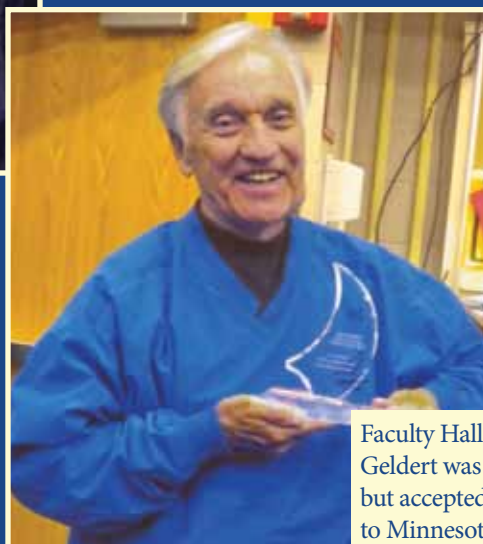
Tad Shaw, Bob Miller '54 and Steve Frazier
Nancy (Palm) Countryman '59

MHS Skippers Hall of Fame (arts, activities and athletics)

Ryan Keating '98
Chris Fenwick '97
Elwin Burditte '76

MHS Faculty Hall of Fame

Martin Thames
Dan Geldert
Raymond Minkler (inducted posthumously)



Faculty Hall of Fame Inductee Dan
Geldert was unable to attend the event,
but accepted his award when he returned
to Minnesota to direct the Minnetonka
Community Concert Band.

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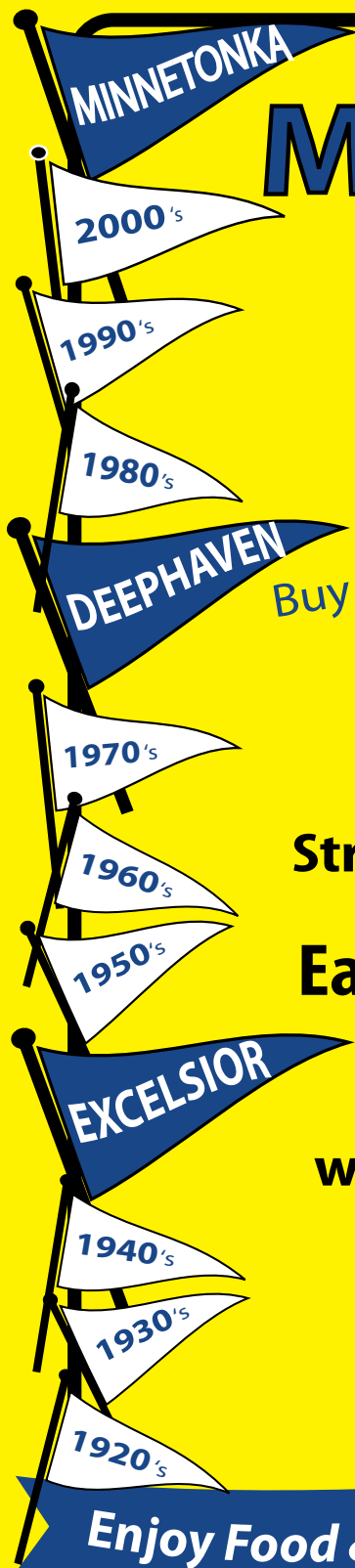


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