



MINNETONKA

AlumniMagazine

2013

IT'S TIME TO RECONNECT

Stephen Pouliot '63
Mary Story '69

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
AWARD HONOREES**



MINNETONKA TRACK & FIELD: A TRADITION OF SUCCESS

Hear from current and former coaches Bob Rogness, Lynn Krafve, Joe Lane, Jane Reimer-Morgan and Chris Cohen

MINNETONKA *Alumni Awards* ★

Congratulations 2012 Award Recipients & Hall of Fame Inductees!

SAVE THE DATE! The 2013 Alumni Awards Brunch & Meeting will be held Saturday, September 21



2012 Alumni Award Recipients - Front (L to R): Dr. Mark Kroll, Missy (Peterson) Fowler, Sharon (Haley) Hermel (representing her father, Ed Haley), Dr. Justin McHugh. Back (L to R): Bruce Johnson, Harold Melby, Steve Comer, Carl Zinn and Thomas Staggs

2012 Alumni Awards

Distinguished Alumni Awards: Dr. Mark Kroll '70 and Thomas Staggs '78

Distinguished Service Award: Carl Zinn '61

Faculty Hall of Fame: Harold Melby and Ed Haley (*honored posthumously*)

MHS Skippers Hall of Fame: Bruce Johnson '66, Steve Comer '72, Dr. Justin McHugh '91, Missy (Peterson) Fowler '95

The Minnetonka Alumni Magazine is an annual publication of the Minnetonka Alumni Association (MAA) 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 submission does not guarantee publication.

EDITOR, AMY DAWSON

ORIGINAL DESIGN:
KAREN LAFFERTY
KarenLaffertyDesign.com



P.O. Box 103
Excelsior, MN 55331

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

Alumni Association Board of Directors

President Susan (Ringstad) Krantz '79
Vice President Bonnie (Board) Niles '67 & Gail (Thacker) Ofstehage '68
Past President Brad Bohlmann '69
Secretary Kathy (Kramer) Richardson '69 & Heidi (Simonson) Peterson '79
Treasurer Open

Directors

Gail (Wartman) Bollis '67, Nancy (Palm) Countryman '59, Marietta Jacobsen '70, Joy (Davis) Fruen '71, Andrew Pike '98, Jens Midthun '05

Join the MAA Board!

The MAA is actively seeking Alumni interested in joining the Board of Directors. Please email alumni@minnetonka.k12.mn.us to learn about opportunities to get involved.

FROM THE MAA PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

There is a comment often heard among those who attended Minnetonka High School — “We might go away for a time, but we always come back!” Many of you have experienced this for yourselves, as you are grocery shopping at Cub, meeting neighbors, attending church, or just serving in your local community. You may think you recognize someone, and moments later you are exchanging maiden names and catching up. Or, quite often, one of your children will come home from school talking about one of their friends, and you realize that you went to high school with their mom or dad. The bond of Minnetonka Alumni doesn’t break easily. I find that no matter how far we are from our own graduation, there is a pride in our school that not only remains, but also grows stronger.

The Minnetonka Alumni Association (MAA) is an organization that exists to capitalize on this bond by not only serving those who graduated from Minnetonka Schools, but also by serving our community. Graduates of Minnetonka are a successful group of people who have the desire to connect. We give back to our school, and community. We unite to make this happen through several creative and effective ways.

The Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment is a major focus of the MAA that demonstrates giving back to our schools as we support the performing, visual and literary arts. This spring, the MAA awarded \$6,800 to fund grants at several Minnetonka Schools.

As we look ahead to summer, the MAA will increase our presence and support of many local events including Art on the Lake, Tour de Tonka, and Apple Day. The Minnetonka Alumni Awards Brunch and Annual Meeting will be held during homecoming weekend on Saturday, September 21, 2013. At this event, alumni and former faculty members

are honored for their accomplishments and contributions both during and after their time in Minnetonka Schools.

There is already anticipation regarding the return of the All School All Class Reunion, which will be held Saturday, July 26, 2014 in Excelsior. This is another great opportunity to build connections with alumni. Minnetonka High School had its official beginning in

1952, when Excelsior High School merged with Deephaven High School, so there are potential alumni from 18 to 80 years old attending the event! This is a fabulous evening and requires many volunteers to make it successful. Please consider volunteering as you watch for details on our website and Facebook page. The MAA will also be sponsoring the first Minnesota Twins Night on Wednesday, July 31, 2013. Information about this inaugural event is posted on the MAA website and Facebook page.

I have had the privilege of participating in a rare trifecta at Minnetonka Schools. While my brother and I attended Groveland Elementary, Minnetonka East Junior High, and Minnetonka High School, my father taught Social Studies and Economics at the high school from 1965-1999. My daughter also followed my path through the same schools. This history of being an active part of Minnetonka Schools has been a top-influencing factor in the lives of three generations of my family, and by being involved in the MAA, I, like many of you, never really have to leave.

Best Regards,

Susan Ringstad Krantz '79



TABLE OF CONTENTS

FROM THE MAA PRESIDENT	1
WHAT'S UP MR. ADNEY?	2
UPCOMING EVENTS	2
2013 GRADS WITH ALUMNI PARENTS	3
ALUMNI VETERANS	4-6
FINE ARTS ENDOWMENT FUND	7
MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION	7
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD	
STEPHEN POULIOT	8
MARY STORY	9
MHS TRACK & FIELD: A TRADITION OF SUCCESS	10-11
MHS 2013 TEN TO WATCH	12-15
MILLENNIALS MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT	16-17
ALUMNI NOTES	18-21



BECOME A FAN!

www.facebook.com/minnetonkaalumni

WHAT'S UP MR. ADNEY

In March, I accepted the position of Executive Director of the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals and will begin work with that organization in July. I want to thank all of you who took the time to teach me the important values of this school and community over the past 10 years. Your input and support have helped create an incredible high school that truly reflects the values of the community and challenges our students to do their very best on a daily basis.

It is my belief the best days at Minnetonka High School are yet to come. You have incredible staff developing projects such as VANTAGE, our global business program, and Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering program for future engineers. Our International Studies Program continues to expand, reaching eight countries with two new partnerships underway. These programs, along with the District's commitment to innovation, will meet the changing needs of our students and position MHS for continued success.

You will also have an outstanding new principal this fall. Jeff Erickson is no stranger to Minnetonka High, as it was one-year-ago when, as assistant principal, he left to be principal at Mounds View High School. He is one of the finest educators I know and brings an unparalleled level of professionalism, work ethic and dedication to students. He spent the first 20 years of his career at MHS and I know he is excited to work with students, staff and community to build on the traditions of student-centered excellence.

I am forever thankful for the patience, dedication and commitment you have shown me over the years and I will look back on this experience as a highlight of my professional career.

Sincerely,



Principal, Minnetonka High School



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15 **Deadline for Alumni Awards Nominations**

July 19-August 3 **9 to 5, Minnetonka Community Theatre**, Arts Center on 7 (MHS)

July 26 **Class of 1973 Reunion**, BayView Events Center

July 31 **MAA Night at the Minnesota Twins**, Target Field

August 3 **Tour de Tonka**, bike ride, MHS (www.tourdetonka.org)

August 10 **Class of 1983 Reunion**, Island View Golf Club

August 16-18 **Fine Arts Endowment Fundraiser**, Cub Brat Stand (101 & Hwy. 7)

August 31 **Class of 1968 Reunion**, Minnetonka Country Club

September 6-8 **Class of 1963 Reunion**, www.mhs1963.org

September 7 Visit the MAA booth at **Apple Day** in downtown Excelsior

September 21 **Minnetonka Alumni Awards Brunch & Annual Meeting**, MHS

February 8, 2014 **Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Dream Makers Dinner**

July 26, 2014 **All-Class Reunion**, Excelsior



Members of the class of 1968 celebrated their 40th reunion in 2008. The class will reunite this summer to celebrate their 45th reunion on Saturday, August 31 at Minnetonka Country Club. For more information visit <http://mtkaclassof68reunion.eventbrite.com>

A Family Tradition

Graduating from Minnetonka High School is a family tradition for these 2013 graduates who join their parents and grandparents as proud MHS Alumni this year.

Westin Agir and Dad Michael Agir '81
Alyssa Baumer and Dad Jeff Baumer '84
Maggie Bazany and Mom Patty (Wein) Bazany '79
Bowe Blatz and Mom Vicki (Hendrickson) Blatz-DeJongh '78
Kaiah Bleeker and Mom Lynn (Tabor) Bleeker '82
Taylor Bovee and Dad Chad Bovee '77
Stephanie Burton and Dad Matthew Burton '81
Charlie Burton and Parents Tom Burton '75 and Georgia (Leavenworth) Burton '77
Abigail Conzemius and Mom Jeanene (Seeger) Conzemius '83
Elizabeth Crist and Dad David Crist '75
Sydney DeJongh and Mom Vicki (Hendrickson) Blatz-DeJongh '78
Allison Dille and Dad Mike Dille '81
Anna Douglass and Mom Therese Gallagher Douglass '75
Michael Dummer and Dad Brian Dummer '75
Anna Erickson and Dad Steen Erickson '84
Adelaide Ferguson and Dad David Ferguson '72
Jonathon Frazier and Dad Trent Frazier '82
Dillon French and Dad Dennis French '70
Alex Garibaldi and Mom Heather (Branson) Garibaldi '86
Madison Gartner and Parents Dave Gartner '83 and Sue (Knigge) Gartner '83
Grant Ginther and Parents Jim Ginther '84 and Beth (Stevenson) Ginther '86
Evan Gosen and Dad David Gosen '78
Kevin Hardin and Dad Mac Hardin '69
Adam Hauge and Dad Dave Hauge '80
Parker Herman and Dad Randy Herman '77
Andrew Hillis and Dad John Hillis '87 and grandfather Jim Hillis '51
Jack Kelly and Dad Mark Kelly '74
Meredith Kelly and Parents Terry Kelly '79 and Sheri (Benz) Kelly '83
Rachel Kiener and Mom Greta (Moeller) Kiener '78
Ashlyn Kriegel and Mom Kim (Obermeyer) Kriegel '83
Max Langheinrich and Dad Kurt Langheinrich '84
Mackenzie Leach and Dad Bruce Leach '83, Grandfather Bernard Leach '47
Garrett Leatherman and Mom Mary (Marklund) Leatherman '82
Jack LeWin and Mom Martha (Fraasch) LeWin '82
Joe Liester and Dad Tim Liester '82
Deatrick Mangan and Dad Edward Buck Mangan '79
Matthew Maple and Dad Tom Maple '81
Julia Marshall and Dad Jeff Marshall '80



Robert Olds ('63), Nancy McClure Olds ('63) holding a picture of her father Harold McClure (Excelsior '35), Brian Olds ('84) and William Olds ('13)

Anna Meiusi and Mom Rhondi (Larson) Meiusi '79
Olivia Middleton and Parents Tyler and Kimberly (Churchill) Middleton '78
Courtney & David Jr. Nash and Dad David Nash '83
Ian Nordbo and Mom Jacqueline (Stoltzman) Nordbo '84
William Olds and Dad Brian Olds '84, grandparents Robert Olds '63 and Nancy (McClure) Olds '63 and great-grandfather Harold McClure '35
Erica Pattridge and Dad Sam Pattridge '73
Megan Pavlisich and Mom Cindy (Johnson) Pavlisich '76
Marissa Ploen and Dad Mark Ploen '79
Michaela Ratliff and Dad Steve Ratliff '71
Teddy Rogney and Mom Melanie (McCandless) Rogney '83
Riley Schmidt and Dad Greg Schmidt '84
Adam Schwartz and Mom Lori (Noble) Schwartz '79
Jack Snyder and Parent Chet Snyder '80 and Danijela (Vicanovic) Snyder '86
Margaret Stein and Mom Christine (Reifenberger) Stein '75, Grandparents Tom Reifenberger '56 and Sharon (Anderson) Reifenberger '55
Melissa Ward and Mom Sue (Hultgren) Ward '80
Bradley Williams and Dad Don Williams '71, Grandparents Bob '39 and Patty (Lees) Williams '45, Great Grandmother Susie (Morse) Lees '12

If you are an alum with a 2014 MHS grad in the family, send us an email at alumni@minnetonka.k12.mn.us so we can include you in next year's magazine.

ALUMNI VETERANS

Thank You Veterans!

The Minnetonka Alumni Association is proud of our alumni who are Veterans and those currently serving in the Armed Forces. Thank you for your service! If you or someone you know is a Minnetonka graduate, a Veteran or active military member, and not on the list below, please contact us at alumni@minnetonka.k12.mn.us or 952-401-5000.

1931 ^E	Melvin Colby (Army)*	1956	Dennis Moore (Navy)	1963	Lloyd Hammerstrom (Air Force)
1938 ^E	Rufus C. Jefferson (Coast Guard)*	1957	John Blodgett (Air Force)	1963	John Michael Horton (Navy)
1939 ^E	Bob Williams (Marine Corps)	1957	Leroy Foote (Navy)	1963	Daniel Langva (Navy)
1941 ^D	Robert "Bob" Hullsiek (Air Force)*	1957	Ron Johnsen (Navy)	1963	Jim McKinney (Army)
1941 ^D	Benton Gerald "Tony" Johnson (Navy)*	1957	Joseph Moyle (Army)	1963	Chuck Scott (Army)
1942 ^D	Orin Crosby	1957	John "Al" Tilton (Army)	1963	Bernie Teske (Marine Corps)
1942 ^D	Thomas Gowen (Coast Guard)	1958	Jon Kleinheksel (Marine Corps)	1963	Keith Wassmund (Air Force)
1945 ^E	Hugh "Oz" Arey (Air Force, Army, Navy)	1958	Jon Seirup (Army)	1964	Chic Anding (Army)
1945 ^E	Jerry Gibson (Navy)	1959	Alicejean Leigh Dodson (Army)	1964	Jeremy "Jerry" Brown (Air Force)
1948 ^E	Lowell Jergens (Air Force)	1959	John Tendall (Air Force)	1964	Mike Foty (Navy)
1948 ^E	Herbert Schmidt (Army)*	1960	Bill Blood (Army)	1964	Bill Griffin (Navy)
1949 ^E	Phillip "Bud" Haley (Navy)	1960	Tom Tallakson (Army)	1964	John Hegranes (Marine Corps)
1949 ^E	James Moffet (Navy)	1961	John Boertjens (Army Reserve)	1964	Keith Johnson (Navy)
1950 ^D	Charles "Chuck" Lobb (Air Force)	1961	Darrell Dix (Army)	1964	Ronald Kohls (Army)
1951 ^E	Virgil Andrada (Army)	1962	Tom Griffin (Army)	1964	Crosby Reay (Marine Corps)
1951 ^E	Russ Holman (Army)	1962	Arthur Johnsen (Army)	1964	Ted Robb (Marine Corps)
1951 ^E	Tom LaHaye (Army)	1962	Jerry Martin (Marine Corps)	1964	Jim Sherman (Army)
1953	Arthur Fredrickson (Navy)	1963	Gary Richard Davis (Navy)	1965	William "Bill" Armstrong (Navy)
1953	William Parsonage (Army)	1963	Eric Eastman (Navy)	1965	Chris Bollis (Army)
1955	Anthony McKeown (Navy)	1963	Richard Engebretson (Navy)	1965	Steven Canfield (Air Force)*
1955	Lowell A. Vetter (Marine Corps)	1963	Paul Finsness (Army)	1965	Michael Edmonson (Marine Corps)*
1956	Richard Hanner (Navy)	1963	Richard "Dick" Gerberding (Navy)	1965	Charles "Chuck" Ham
1956	Robert Kleven (Air Force)	1963	Patrick Gorbin (Army)		(Marine Corps, Navy)
1956	Carl "Bud" Kollmeyer (Navy)*	1963	Grant Gustafson (Marine Corps)	1965	Harley Kester (Marine Corps)

* Deceased ** Currently Serving E - Excelsior graduate D - Deephaven graduate

BOB WILLIAMS '39

When Excelsior resident Bob Williams graduated from Excelsior High School in 1939, he entered the military like many did during that time — through the draft.

"I happened to be lucky," Williams said. "I was drafted into the Air Force during World War II, which was unusual because most were drafted into the Army. I was the first in the draft board and sixth in the state, which means I didn't have much of chance getting out of it."

During his three and a half years of service in the Air Force, Williams ranked as Second Lieutenant and traveled to 18 different air bases or stations.

Never going overseas, Williams started out in radio school, but was assigned to a B-26 bomber training school to go to North Africa. As fate would have it, Williams went on to become an instructor instead of attending the training.

"I was lucky enough to become an instructor for radio operations and

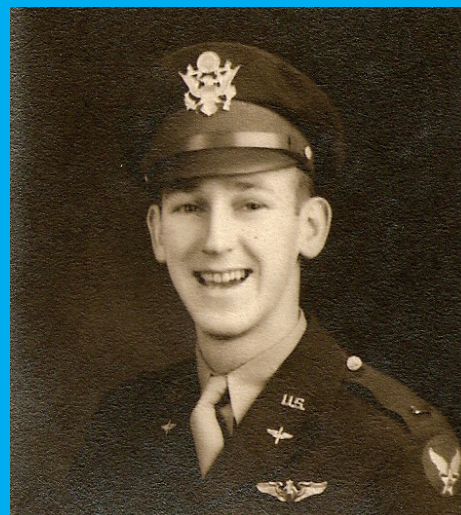
gunnery ship," Williams said. "The crew I was scheduled to be apart of was lost overseas."

Following his assignment as an instructor, Williams entered into the aviation cadet program, which took him to all kinds of places, and ended up earning him his Bombardiers Wings.

"I kept busy, I went wherever they sent me," he said. "No matter where I went I met some really neat people, many of which I kept contact with through the years."

Williams told himself that if he made it out of the war alive, he'd go to college. He ended up going to Journalism School at the University of Minnesota, which set the stage for his future career.

Working as a community journalist around the west metro, Williams said his service opened the door to write four books, compose music, give talks on his experience and truly appreciate life.



"It was just a good experience for me," he said. "I enjoyed what I was doing in service and felt I was doing the right thing and was pleased every day for what I was doing in my service."

1965	Roger Kittleson (Marine Corps)*	1967	Paul Laidig (Marine Corps)	1974	Shelley Kluz (Army)
1965	David Konerza (Air Force)	1967	Arnold C. Miller (Army)	1975	Todd Cherland (Coast Guard)
1965	Allen "Trey" Labatt (Army)	1967	Richard Segler (Marine Corps)	1975	Jonathan "Jon" Hoaglund (Army)
1965	Terry LeDell (Army)	1968	Steve Cobb (Air Force)	1975	Jennifer Johnson Knutson
1965	Dave Leitzman (Air Force)	1968	Geoffrey Gipson (Air Force)	1975	Paul Mara (Army)
1965	Don Lundman (Army)	1968	William M Jones (Army)	1975	Scott Hogenson (Navy)
1965	Jim Mackie (Air Force)	1968	Tommy Knopick (Army)	1976	Tim Griep (Navy)
1965	James "Jim" Mackie (Air Force)	1968	Donald Merhar (Air Force)	1976	Steven Shermock (Navy)
1965	Brian Mahin (Navy)	1968	Jerry Moore (Navy Reserve)	1976	Doug Thomas (Navy)
1965	Ronald "Ron" Mielke (Air Force)	1968	Randy Swerey (Army)	1977	Doug Hansen (Navy)
1965	Eugene J. Miller (Marine Corps)	1968	Kenneth Nelson (Navy)	1977	Bruce Benton David Johnson (Navy)*
1965	Mike Olund (Army)	1969	Jeff Colby (Army)	1978	Doug Haugen (Army Reserve)
1965	Win "Gilbert" Peirsol (Army)	1969	Dwight Johnson (Army)	1978	Rich Holcomb (Navy)
1965	Karl Petersen (Navy)	1969	Tom Kroupa (Army)	1978	Jeffrey S. Sears (Army)
1965	Tom Peterson (Air Force)	1969	Bob Lowe (Army)	1978	Terrance Smith (Navy)
1965	David Scott (Marine Corps)	1969	Drew Swanson (Army)	1978	David Wells (Navy)
1965	Thomas "Tom" Shelton (Army)	1969	Paul Thour (Air Force)	1979	Ricardo Brooks (Marine Corps)
1965	David Swan (Navy)	1970	Rufus C. Jefferson (Marine Corps)	1979	Brent Flaskerud (Navy)
1965	Ray Thuffebal (Army)	1971	Barbara Lush Henderson (Army)	1979	Kurt Shaddrick (Air Force)
1965	Judy Vander Ham (Navy)	1972	Raymond Johnson (Navy)	1979	Alan Winters (Army)
1965	Dave Walker (Army)	1972	Lindy "Paul" Leach (Army)	1979	Terry Kelly (Marine Corps)
1965	Sandra Strom-Gieseke (Air Force)	1972	Karla Peterson (Navy)	1979	Robert Clayborne (Marine Corps)
1965	Tom Selseth (Army)	1972	Richard Jacobson (Army)	1979	Brad Johnson (Marine Corps)
1966	Jeffrey Agrell (Army)	1973	Todd Caster (Army)	1980	Tamara Wells Azuras (Navy)
1966	Cullen Anderson (Army)	1973	Daniel Kinzer	1980	David Chinander (Air National Guard)
1966	Jacqueline Ellershaw Hodges (Navy)	1973	Terry Leonard (Army)	1980	James Kohnke (Navy)**
1966	David Hill (Army)	1973	James Conklin (Air Force)	1980	Anthony Woitalla (Air Force, Army)**
1966	Bruce Johnson (Army)	1973	Ann Stranik Lund (Army, Army Reserves)	1981	David Huntington (Army)
1966	Lowel Lund (Air Force)	1973	Michael Perrault (Navy)	1982	Michael Brinkhaus
1966	Crosby Reay (Army)	1973	Dana Sotherlund		(Air Force, Air National Guard)
1966	Steven Wheeler (Army)	1973	Tim Stodola (Navy)	1982	Jay R. Cherland (Navy)
1966	David Workman (Army)	1974	Carl Boertjens (Navy)	1982	Cathy Cornish (Air Force)
1967	John Hanley (Navy)	1974	Larry Johnson (Navy)	1982	Michael Glaccum (Air Force)**

CHRIS BOLLIS '65

When Chris Bollis graduated from Minnetonka High School in 1965, it was the height of the Vietnam War. His service to his country wasn't one by choice, but regardless of how he ended up serving, it made him who he is today.

Bollis, owner of the General Store in Minnetonka, attended college for a few years after high school, but ran out of money in 1968 and had to put his education on hold.

"The draft was going pretty strong and if you weren't in college you got drafted," Bollis said.

He was drafted into the Army in 1968, and went to Fort Dix in New Jersey for basic training.

"I qualified to be an electronic repairman, however, at that time they didn't need a lot of electronic repairmen so almost 90 percent went into infantry or medical," he said.

He was assigned to an infantry, trained in mortars and then shipped off to Fort

Polk in Louisiana with the focus of being sent to Vietnam.

Leaving for Vietnam in the summer of 1968, he was assigned to a small unit, 196 light infantry brigade and was stationed in the northern part of the country. He served 12 months in the semi-mountainous region.

Bollis recalled one time when his unit was stranded in a tropical storm and went without food for three days because air support couldn't re-supply them. When they were re-supplied, he said he was drying out his rucksack and at the bottom was a compartment he didn't know of and out fell a can of peaches.

"So I got some ugly stares from some of the other people I could have shared those peaches with," Bollis said.

He left Vietnam fairly unscathed, and kept his faith close to heart.

"I only got a few scratches, no major wounds," he said. "Your faith in God helps you out in the long run."



Returning to the U.S., he was assigned at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri as a military policeman for the remainder of his two years. He was honorably discharged in 1970.

Through the use of technology, Bollis has been able to reconnect with some of the people he served with over 40 years ago and plans reunite with many this summer at a reunion in Washington D.C.

ALUMNI VETERANS

1982	Erik Simonson	1992	Matthew Wisegarver (Army)	1999	Kathleen Mattson Sharpe (Army Reserve)
1982	Daniel Svardal (Army)	1992	Ken Witschorik (Army Reserve)	1999	Gary Slater (Marine Corps)
1982	John Ziegler III (Air Force)**	1992	Kurt Witschorik (Army Reserve)	1999	Matt Thompson (Army)**
1983	Layne Beckman (Army)	1993	Scott Barnacle (Air Force)	2000	Sean Engel (Navy)
1983	Duncan Clyborne	1994	Justin Brisley (Navy)	2000	Matthew Lommel (Army)
1983	Tom Klouda (Army Reserve)	1994	Daniel Dvorak (Air Force)	2000	Kellen "Casey" McDonald (Army National Guard)
1983	Mark Oswald (Navy)*	1995	Jody Brandt Pederson (Marine Corps)	2000	Matthew Radde (Marine Corps)
1983	Alan Tollefson (Air Force)	1995	Scott Hedtke (Navy)	2000	Ross Stadskev (Army)
1984	Robert Gunderson (Air Force)	1995	Ben Osborn (Army)	2001	Bill Ayotte (Army)
1985	Deborah Huber Ford	1995	Mike Ringer (Air Force Reserve)	2003	Jeremy Hamilton
1985	Chuck Frizelle (Navy)	1995	Kristina Schobey (Army)	2003	Wade Radde (Marine Corps)
1985	Ryan Opel (Army)	1996	Sam Erwin (Marine Corps)	2003	Peter Shenk (Air Force)
1985	Eugene Stauber (Army)	1996	Scott Gerling (Army)	2004	Liz Ayotte Baxter (Army)**
1987	James Garrigan (Air Force)	1996	Jim Panacopolous (Air Force)	2004	Tyler Gustafson (Navy)**
1987	Joel Johnson (Navy)	1996	Ryan Richard (Navy)*	2004	Andrew McDonald (Army)**
1987	Perry Meyer (Navy)	1996	Geoffrey Zahn (Air Force)	2004	Robert Wold (Marine Corps)**
1990	Danielle Minor (Marine Corps)	1997	Ryan Ambrose (Air Force)	2004	Kelly Fischer
1990	Susan Sponagle Moffet (Navy)	1997	Andrew Flor (Navy)	2006	Cory Johnson (Navy)
1990	Keri Schreiber Singleton (Air Force)	1997	Jennifer Kreisler (Navy Reserve)	2007	Bobby Miller (Marine Corps)
1990	Dave Thul (Army National Guard)	1997	Chad Shenk (Air Force)	2008	Austin Lang (Air Force)
1991	Jeremy Bowers (Navy)	1998	Kyle Fransdal (Air Force)	2010	Alex Altricher-Lattner (Marine Corps)**
1991	Corby Koehler (Army National Guard)	1998	Adam Rislund (Marine Corps)	2010	Mike McCullum (Marine Corps)**
1992	Anthony Ardito (Navy)	1999	Mike Ayotte (Army)**	2012	Kaia Hanks (Marine Corps)**
1992	Jacques Baumer (Air Force)	1999	Elizabeth Baresch Hargrove (Air Force)		Larry Opfer
1992	Michael Hawley (Army Reserve)	1999	Jeff Mathiowitz (Army National Guard)		James West Sampson (Navy)
1992	Jamie Kruger (Army Reserve)	1999	Brian Mosley (Marine Corps)		Clifford Charles Sampson (Navy)
1992	John Morrison (Army National Guard)	1999	Edmund Nevin (Marine Corps)		

* Deceased ** Currently Serving E - Excelsior graduate D - Deephaven graduate

LIZ AYOTTE '04

Before Elizabeth Ayotte even graduated Minnetonka High School in 2004, she knew she wanted to serve her country.

Now a First Lieutenant in the Army, Ayotte carries on a long family tradition of military service that includes her dad, Bob, and brothers, Mike ('99) and Bill ('01).

"I was raised with the mindset to serve my country, but I also knew that future career opportunities would arise from it," Ayotte said.

Like many of her generation, she points to 9/11, followed by having family apart of the first invasion in Iraq, as the defining moments that solidified her decision to enlist.

Enlisting at 17-years-old, Ayotte spent each weekend during her senior year of high school participating in drills. The summer following graduation, she shipped off for basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina and then returned home to attend the University of Minnesota on a full ROTC scholarship.

In March 2012, Ayotte was deployed to Afghanistan with the 4th Infantry Division. "It was surreal waiting to get on the flight in the middle of the night," she said.

Upon arriving, there was a lot of rushing around to get settled. "You don't really have time to think about it," she said. "Everyone just works together and helps if you have questions. It was a quick adjustment."

However, preparing herself for the culture shock was something that only being there could help her understand.

"I don't think anything can prepare you to interact with the local nationals," Ayotte said. "It's like nothing you see on TV."

While in Afghanistan, Ayotte's position was to manage all soldiers and personnel in her unit. She says she also took on the job of processing casualties.



Ayotte's Commander awarding her with a Bronze Star.

"That was a big part of our deployment because we did sustain a couple casualties," Ayotte said. "It's something that's burned in my brain forever."

She says the most important part of her job was the accountability of everybody, which was 24/7 task. Yet, it was the long hours, limited sleep and diligence that earned Ayotte the Bronze Star.

Ayotte is back in South Carolina for a Captains career course. Married for a year, she says she looks forward to the day when she and her husband, who serves in 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, can live in the same place.

She says if there's one thing to be left with, it's that support is important for those serving. "It's a noticed difference and really helps people keep going," she said.

FINE ARTS ENDOWMENT

Alumni Association Continues Tradition of Giving through Fine Arts Endowment

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



2005-2010

- Display cases for the Arts Center on 7 at MHS
- MHS Jazz Ensemble travel expenses to perform at National School Boards Convention (*partial funding*)
- Performance royalties for Theatre productions (*partial funding*)
- Ethnic dance instruction at MHS
- Vocal specialist to work with MHS choirs
- A negative scanner for MHS photography classes
- Woodworking tools for Minnetonka Theatre at MHS
- Supplies for 4th graders to learn how to make paper
- Boomwhackers percussion tubes for middle school music
- *Cantus* chamber choir in-service at MHS (*partial funding*)
- Art DVDs for all District elementary schools
- Art posters for all District elementary schools

2011

- Art room library and resource center at Minnewashta Elementary
- Weaving loom at Excelsior Elementary
- Chinese music residency at Scenic Heights Elementary
- Guest musician clinics at Middle School East and West
- Drama rehearsal camera at MHS

2012

- Guest actor workshops at MHS
- Portable 'Smart' Light Board at MHS
- Musical instruments at Excelsior Elementary
- Virtual field trips at Middle School West (*partial funding*)

2013

- Minnetonka Elementary Musical Theatre Program (*partial funding*)
- Family Culture Fest at Excelsior
- Hand chimes (Suzuki "Tone Chimes") at Middle School West
- iPad photography apps at MHS
- Collaborative mural and installation series at MHS
- All the World's a Stage at MHS (*partial funding*)



Second Endowment Project Unveiled

BY ELIZABETH (HOLCOMB) NORTON '82
FOUNDATION TRUSTEE

The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation has exciting news to share! After launching our first endowment project — The Writing Center at MHS — six years ago, we are poised to introduce our second major endowment project.

Called *WorldLink*, this program will provide all Minnetonka students with opportunities to engage in age-appropriate globally-focused activities, programs, classes and experiences throughout their years in the District. The goal is to offer students valuable and enriching learning experiences that broaden their perspectives as well as their understanding of cross-cultural issues, ultimately preparing them to succeed in our interconnected, diverse, and rapidly-changing world.

Central to this effort will be the *WorldLink* Coordinator, who will identify and enhance existing District programs, including World Culture Weeks at the elementary schools, as well as create new opportunities, such as local or globally-focused service learning events. The Coordinator will also provide Minnetonka teachers with critical resources, contacts and materials to facilitate "culturally-intelligent" teaching, enhancing our students' ability to adapt to cross-cultural interactions and function successfully in any environment.

Stay tuned to our progress by liking "The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation" on Facebook or by visiting www.minnetonkafoundation.com

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Stephen Pouliot '63

WRITER, PRODUCER & DIRECTOR

BY SARA SKALLE

Stephen Pouliot has had a remarkable career since graduating with the class of 1963. As a writer, producer and director he has received numerous awards and entertained millions.

You've probably enjoyed many of the shows he's written. Like the tip of an iceberg, here are just a few: 19 years of the *Screen Actors Guild Awards*, Miss America pageants, reunion shows of *Happy Days*, *Dallas*, and *Knots Landing*, three Ford's Theatre specials, three Elizabeth Taylor specials, and a long list of Perry Como specials.

After high school, Stephen earned a journalism degree at Marquette University in Wisconsin. Pursuing his interest in film criticism, he wrote theatre and film critiques for the Milwaukee Journal. His aspirations took him to the University of Southern California (USC), where he was awarded an Arthur Knight scholarship to pursue a masters degree. Stephen's future was looking bright. While taking criticism courses, though, he started dabbling in making short films and writing scripts. "So I got into a different boat," says Stephen, "and graduated with a master's degree in script writing."

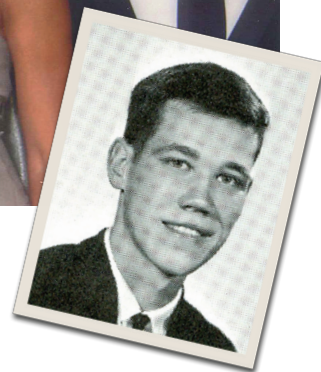
Developing motion pictures fascinated him during his years at USC. He interned on a film with Jim Bridges, director of such films as *Baby Maker*, *China Syndrome* and *Urban Cowboy*. After getting noticed for a *Los Angeles Times* article he wrote, Stephen was hired by Peter Guber, vice-president of Columbia Pictures. There he worked on the film *The Way We Were* and others, yet after a while became restless. Making movies took forever. And according to Stephen, "My personality likes to see a beginning, middle and end — in my lifetime." Instead he was seeing a significant number of scripts shelved for any number of reasons, which was troubling to the writer in him.

An opportunity arose to direct a documentary in Newport, RI, on the "new" Navy. "That assignment changed my life," says Stephen, and he shifted his energies to directing. As part of his master's program, he also started another documentary, *The Dream That Remains*, a film portrait of Harry Partch, a pioneering microtonal composer (1901-1974).

Bob Banner, a leading television and variety show producer, saw the film when it aired on PBS and hired Stephen. "That really solidified my path," said Stephen. Charged with developing shows, Stephen began producing and writing television specials. Through the years he established himself as one of the most distinguished and respected writers in television, theatre and film. While his accomplishments have touched us all, most viewers



Stephen Pouliot with President Barak Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at Ford's Theatre in 2011.



remain unaware, unless they watch the end credits.

The stars know who he is, and he has some fabulous stories to tell. Stephen recounts a favorite moment from early in his career working on a salute to American imagination in which Paul Newman interviews astronaut John Glenn, followed seamlessly by a ballet called *Lost in the Stars*. "I have to say, it was one of the great moments," says Stephen, who to this day remembers the awe of spending an afternoon with not only Paul Newman but also the first man to walk on the moon. He also loved working with Elizabeth Taylor and had the privilege of doing three specials with her. When visiting her home he was delighted as a gorgeous collie bounded down the hill to greet him, just like in *Lassie*, a film she starred in as a child.

"It has been quite a ride and I never could have imagined it," says Stephen of his career as he reflects on Minnetonka High School 50 years ago. "Looking back, there was really not a flaw. It was a terrific public education on all fronts." Stephen particularly appreciates how the arts are always respected at Minnetonka High School. He's grateful to Bob Schmidt, the drama teacher who encouraged him to explore his interest in theatre.

"The dedication of the teachers was amazing," says Stephen. Specifically he recalls a Latin teacher who, instead of rigorous memorization, had the students create a newspaper of an era. Also, how the theatre did *Night of January 16*, a play by Ayn Rand and the English department tied in her work, *The Fountainhead*, in class. According to Stephen, though, William Chisholm was the iconic teacher of his day. "He always addressed us as Mr. Pouliot and Miss so and so. He treated us on a very adult level and really got into poets and literature like crazy. He was a terrific influence."

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Dr. Mary Story '69

PROFESSOR & RESEARCHER

BY PAUL MOORE

Mary Story's mission in life can be summarized pretty succinctly: She wants to get kids to eat nutritious foods and live healthy lives. And she's been pretty successful at accomplishing that mission.

Story is a longtime professor in epidemiology and community health at the University of Minnesota and senior associate dean for academic and student affairs in the U's School of Public Health. Her research focuses on children and adolescents' eating behaviors and preventing obesity. That often involves working with schools and communities on nutrition programs. In addition to her work with the University, she leads a healthy eating research program on childhood obesity at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Despite being a star in academia, Story says she "wasn't a very good student" at Minnetonka High School. "I was really interested in what was going on at the time, but not necessarily from a school standpoint. I did a lot of reading on my own."

But she remembers at least two teachers who really inspired her, Tim Berg in English and John Elliot in Social Studies.

"Mr. Berg just had a real passion for teaching the literature," she says. "And Mr. Elliot really taught critical thinking, which was such an important skill. Expectations were high for students academically and the teachers really cared."

After working her way through college and earning a PhD in nutrition, Story set her sights on helping children, particularly those in lower income settings. For her dissertation, she worked with adolescents on a Cherokee Indian reservation in North Carolina, and has been helping young people make health and nutrition improvements ever since.

"I've always been interested in more community-based work — how a community can make changes so its people can eat healthier," she says, adding that she gets a lot of help from her colleagues.

"I work with people who really care about making the world a better place," she says. "They are really smart, dedicated, committed people who make it fun."

The feeling is mutual. One of those colleagues, Mary Smyth, says, "It would be difficult to find anyone with more expertise, dedication, and commitment than Dr. Story. And her students have always extolled her virtues. In fact, several Native American staff members in projects she and I implemented on reservations in South Dakota became interested in community health careers because of their work with her."



Mary Story is professor in epidemiology and community health at the University of Minnesota and senior associate dean for academic and student affairs in the U's School of Public Health.

It's during that work in low-income communities and on reservations that Story sometimes makes some shocking discoveries.

"We've worked with children who couldn't even tell you what a potato or a radish was," Story says. "Children who didn't know what salsa was or had never seen an apple on a tree or didn't know the name of a cucumber. You never really get used to that."

The programs Story helps develop give children more access to fruits and vegetables and help them learn to enjoy them. So the sadness at seeing a child's situation is often tempered by watching him learn to appreciate something he had not previously tasted, like fresh broccoli or a sweet blueberry. "You can just see the joy on their faces," she says. "And that's really gratifying."

Smyth recalls many instances of family nights on Indian reservations in which she and Story encouraged parents and grandparents to consider more healthful eating for the younger generation.

"We often heard later that Mary's enthusiasm and genuine concern directly motivated them to begin making healthier food and beverage choices for their families," Smyth says.

Growing up in Excelsior as one of eight children, Story never lacked for food, but she has come to appreciate the difficulty of those who do. And she has made it her life's work to educate people and help them improve their nutrition habits so they can enjoy their lives even more — which they always do, after they find out what they've been missing.

Stephen Pouliot and Mary Story will be recognized with a Minnetonka Distinguished Alumni Award on Saturday, September 21. Nominate a classmate for an award or purchase tickets at www.minnetonkaalumni.com.

A Tradition of Success

BY JOHN MUGFORD

As Bruce Johnson gasped for air and pumped his arms — knowing his legs would follow — the Minnetonka High School senior pushed his body with everything he had in the stretch run of the premier distance race at the state track & field meet.

With the rest of the pack chasing him, Johnson relied on the hard work he'd put himself through — practice after practice, meet after meet — to beat his personal best time and, hopefully, win the race. Upon breaking the finish line he'd done both.

That race, the state mile championship, took place nearly a half century ago, in 1966. Yet Johnson is quite certain that every Minnetonka track & field athlete who came before him, and has come since, can relate to what he strived to accomplish.

"All track athletes, no matter if they are running for a state championship or in a regular meet, or in practice, and no matter whether they are distance runners, sprinters, long jumpers, pole vaulters or shot putters, always know what their personal best is," Johnson says. "So when they're training or taking part in a meet, they work hard to achieve their best; and when they do it, they know right away."

As Joe Lane, a retired Minnetonka track & field coach with 20 conference titles, puts it: "In track, the clock, the tape measure ... do not lie."

"That's why track & field attracts a different kind of student-athlete. For the most part, these kids don't take part for the glory. Instead, they thrive on improving each and every day," Lane says.

The MHS track program has had thousands of athletes strive to be their best since the program was born in 1953, when MHS was a brand new edifice with a cinder track that often flooded. The 1954 Voyageur yearbook stated, "Along with the building of a new school, Mr. (Ed) Haley, track coach, has the job of building up a new track squad."

Would Haley ever be surprised by today's MHS boys and girls teams. His 1953 squad comprised 12 boys. These days — long after the girls finally started competing with the implementation of Title IX — the boys and girls teams combined often have about 250 participants annually, sometimes more.

Bob Rogness, head girls coach from 1977 to 1999 and Faculty Hall of Fame inductee, notes, "There has always been something about our track athletes and how receptive they are to listening to their coaches and being driven to improve, succeed and work extremely hard. It's one of the reasons — as well as the continuity of the coaching staff over the years — why Minnetonka's teams have been so competitive for so long."

Competitive indeed. Over the years, the Skippers girls teams have won six state team championships — including the 2013



The 1976 Boys State Championship Team: Back (L to R) - Jerry Hovland, Rick Porter, Joe Lane, Chris Scotty and Gary Schmitt. Middle (L to R) - Vinny Rodrique, Rick Elden, Dave Pedersen, Daryl Nerassen. Front - Eldwin Burdette

crown — while the boys also won a title in 1976 and the True Team state title in 2012. Both squads have won numerous conference and section titles as well.

When it comes to individuals, there have been too many champions to list.

As three of Minnetonka's legendary track & field coaches — Lane, Rogness, and Lynn Krafve — talked about the history of the program over coffee, they brought up name after name of great Skippers, many of whom went on to compete collegiately.

High-achieving boys' tracksters include the likes of Marty Benson, the 880-yard state champ in 1963; the aforementioned Bruce Johnson, state mile champion in 1966; John Lawton, state champ in the 400-meter run in 1982; and Jason Max, a two-time state champ in the 800-meter race in 1989 and 1990.

Perhaps the most legendary of them all, however, is Elwin Burdette. In 1976, Burdette almost single-handedly brought the team trophy to Minnetonka by winning the 100- and 200-yard dashes, taking second in the long jump and anchoring Minnetonka's 4x220-yard relay team.

On the girls side, Minnetonka was undoubtedly a dynasty from 1983 to 1992, winning five of its six titles in that span — all under Rogness. It's had a pretty good run over the last two decades as well, winning numerous conference and section titles as well the 2013 state championship with Rogness' former assistant, Jane Reimer-Morgan, as head coach.

Highly decorated female athletes include Danijela Vicanovic, winner of the state 800-meters in 1985 and 1986; Molly Lehman and Katie Hollimon, who were on three straight 4x800 state championship relay teams from 2003-05; Piper Jensen, the triple jump winner in 2011 and 2013; and Meghan Janssen, Lucille Hoelscher, Elizabeth Endy and Anne Haakenstad, members of the 2013 state 4x800 champs relay team.

Lehman, who ran for Duke University, calls being on the track team the highlight of her years at MHS. “Having a goal for the season and working towards it with your best friends — and in my case, my sister (Alice ’07) — was really a great way to spend four years.”

“I guess we were lucky [to win three years in a row],” Lehman says, “but we put in a lot of hard work and had awesome coaching.”

Ah, the coaching. As Rogness notes, the program’s success can, in large part, be tied to the continuity of the coaching staff. Since the early 1970s, MHS has had only a handful of head girls and boys coaches. The current coaches, Chris Cohen of the boys and Reimer-Morgan of the girls, were previously assistants.

“Ever since I’ve been involved — 13 years as an assistant to Joe Lane and 12



The 1986 Girls State Championship Team stands on the podium after winning the state title.

years as the head coach — we’ve had a tradition of strong teams,” says Cohen (’86), a former Skippers hurdler.

While that tradition includes plenty of winning, it also entails more than just that.

“A tell-tale moment for me came when the coach from another school asked me how we get our girls to work so hard and to be so on task,” Reimer-Morgan recalls. “Whenever they’re in a meet with us, he tells his team to watch our girls as an example of how they should prepare and push themselves for competition. I think that was one of the ultimate compliments our program could receive. And I see the same thing on the boys team as well.”

Cohen agrees, calling the track team a strong “community.”

“It’s the pride that so many people, from the athletes to the coaches to the parents of the athletes, take in this program. We’ve had success at Minnetonka because the kids who participate, whether they are of state-championship caliber or not, and their coaches, take pride in what we do.”

Reconnect with Former Track & Field Athletes

Visit the NEW alumni directory on the MHS Track & Field website, tonkatrack.org. To add your information, send an email to Jessica (Donovan) Matheson at jessicasdonovan@gmail.com.

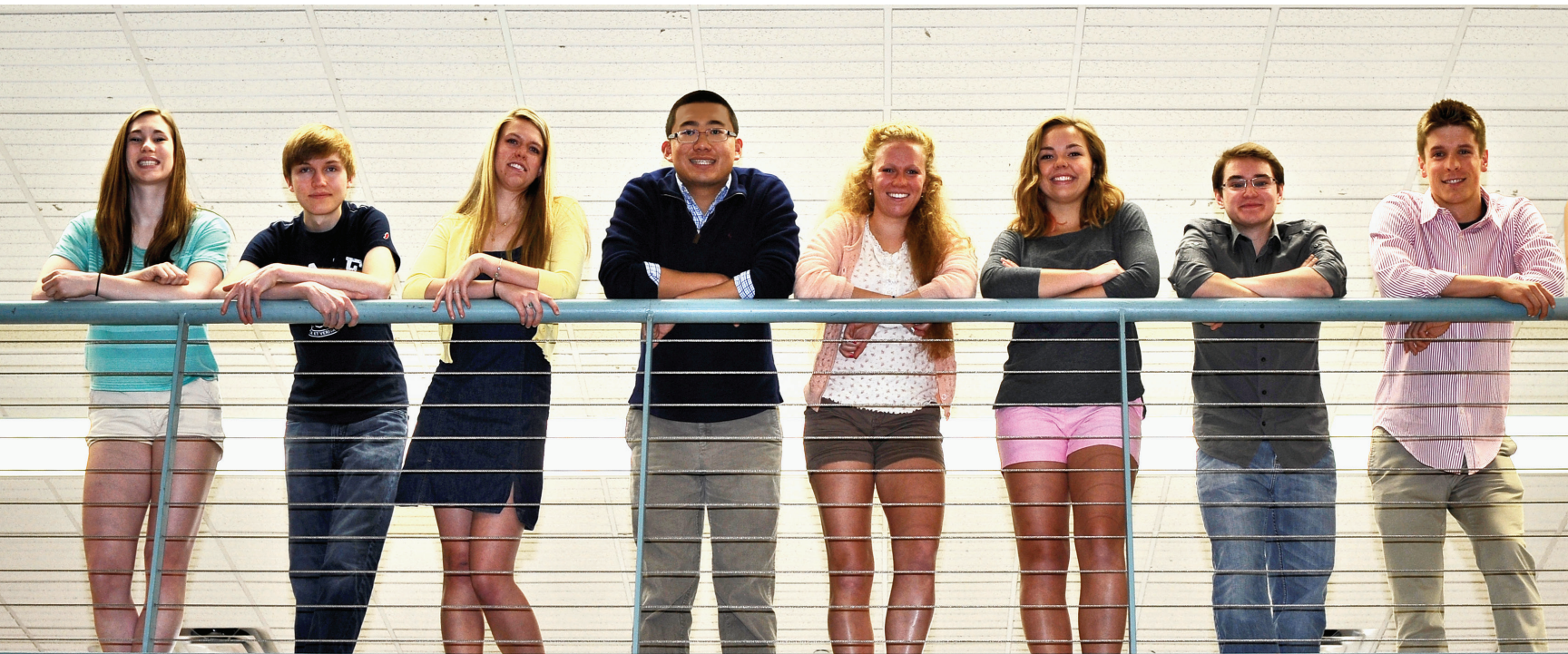
Girls Track Team Wins Sixth State Title

The MHS girls track & field team captured yet another state team championship, the sixth girls title in school history. The team finished with 94.5 points, defeating runner-up Lakeville South.

Leading the way for the Skippers was the 4x800 relay team, which took first place. Other state individual champs were junior Mia Barren in the long jump and junior Piper Jensen in the triple jump.



The 2013 team celebrates their state title. MHS girls track & field teams also won state titles in 1983, 1985, 1986, 1989 and 1992.



TEN TO WATCH

BY MAGGIE SHEA AND BARB VAN PILLSUM

Meet ten outstanding members of the MHS Class of 2013



MICHAEL GOLZ

Michael Golz is at home with the word and the wild. He spent the summer before his junior year in Montana with an older brother, backpacking and fishing. “I love it for the beautiful places you get to go, the cold water streams and rivers,” he says of fly-fishing, a beloved hobby. He pens a monthly column on Minnesota lakes for *Tonka Times* magazine, and as commentary writer for *Breezes*, the student newspaper, he has covered politics, immersion, and academic intervention this year. An International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma student, Golz also put his writing skills to use in the Writing Center for three years, where he tutored students at all levels with an authentic interest and desire to help.

His hard work in high school paid off: The Twin West Chamber of Commerce awarded him their \$5,000 Legacy Scholarship, and the Elks National Foundation recently announced that Michael will receive \$40,000 as a top-ranking Most Valuable Student Scholarship winner, an honor bestowed to outstanding scholars and leaders.

Though he is an accomplished scholar who has garnered national attention, he stands out for his humanity and a genuine love of ideas. “Mike has pursued knowledge and understanding of the world more than trophies and awards,” says his English

teacher, Sue Sinkler. In papers that his teachers say are some of the best they’ve seen, he has explored the Arthurian legends and examined the implications of North Dakota’s oil boom. Respected by teachers and peers for more than just his smarts, Golz’s wit was on display at the Homecoming Pepfest: as a member of Court, he danced his way into the auditorium to the Star Wars theme, brandishing a light saber.

Golz gives credit to his mother for developing his strong work ethic, and says his dad inspired his creative, musical interests. This fall, he will attend Brown University in Providence, RI, which seems like a perfect fit, with its emphasis on undergraduate research and multidisciplinary study. He plans to focus on economics or science, possibly even aiming for medical school, but says he’ll continue writing and exploring new lakes and rivers.



NOAH BUSCH



“It’s remarkable to see the world through someone else’s eyes,” says 2012 YoungArts National Merit Award winning singer, dancer, and actor Katherine Fried. This performer communicates the human condition in the most honest, compassionate terms. Choir teacher Paula Holmberg says Katherine’s “thirst for artistic integrity and engagement are extraordinary,” and theatre director Kent Knutson adds she is a “gracious, fearless” performer. Katherine has elegantly and bravely taken on many demanding roles, including Vivien Bearing, a woman dying of cancer, in the play *Wit*.

Katherine knew early on that she was destined to be a performer. As a kindergartener, she sang a love rhyme at her uncle’s wedding, and in sixth grade she was cast in *High School Musical*, where she found her love for the theatre. Katherine has been an integral part of Minnetonka’s productions ever since, playing roles like Elle in *Legally Blonde* and Carlotta in *Phantom of the Opera*. She helped lead the Minnetonka one-acts to the highest Star Rating at State competitions for three consecutive years. She has also received three Spotlight Awards for Outstanding Performances in a Supporting Role and Outstanding Performance in a Lead Role. She most recently played the title role in Minnetonka’s production of *Aida*.

Katherine prepares for any performance by paying attention to the text. She feels that “everything is written the way it was written for a reason” and that the artist must “let it become what it was meant to be.” This professional approach and her keen sensitivity will serve her well as a student in the University of Minnesota’s Guthrie BFA Program next year.

Broadway bound, Katherine also plans to travel the world. One of the places she hopes to visit is Kenya, where she can fulfill her lifelong dream of caring for orphan elephants.



KATHERINE FRIED



ELLIE CROWELL

Two-time All State Skippers midfielder Ellie Crowell is ready for Division I soccer and top-tier academics: she will play for Cornell University next year, where she plans to enroll in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Crowell says she began playing soccer “as soon as I could walk.” She moved from New Hampshire to Minnetonka in sixth grade, and in addition to playing for the Minnesota Thunder Elite Club Team year-round, Ellie has played varsity midfielder since ninth grade. Skippers soccer coach Jeff Hopkins says Crowell’s vision and leadership make her a key player: “Ellie is the playmaker of our attack. She is able to slow the game down and see what is going to develop ahead of her peers, creating scoring opportunities.”

Ellie’s in-every-play midfielder mindset translates to her life off the field. A member of the National Honor Society, she has also been involved in student government since eighth grade, serving as an energetic vice president this year. For four years, she has played a key role on the Youth Development Council, an outreach program focused on community service, co-chairing her senior year.

Reflecting on the critical role of effective warm-ups before soccer games, Ellie says, “If you are not on key right away, you get behind and have to focus on catching up.” If high school is a warm-up for college, Crowell is well prepared.

“He holds himself to extraordinarily high standards, both in training and competition,” says Minnetonka Swim Club coach Ben Bartell of champion swimmer, Noah Busch. With a time of 49.14 seconds in the 100 backstroke at the state meet, Busch broke a Skippers record set by legendary swimmer Jeff Dragsten 20 years ago. He also set True Team records as part of the 400 free relay and in both the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke.

Success started young for Busch, with a trip to state for the 100 back in eighth grade; since then he has been named All Conference and All State for four years, and All American five times. Tony Mosser, Noah’s former coach and science teacher, says Noah is a “consummate teammate and natural leader” who encourages younger swimmers, works hard, and sets a positive tone.

Next year, Busch will swim for the Gophers, taking the same path as almost all of his coaches — and his parents. An AP Scholar, Busch was accepted to the Carlson School of Business, where he plans to major in accounting.

His stellar swimming career is the payoff for years of daily discipline: he works out 2.5 hours in the pool every weekday, swimming an average of 6,000 yards (3.4 miles) in each practice, year-round, in addition to strength and conditioning and weekend training. Busch says that swimming is not a solo venture: “It is definitely about the team. If your team has a good atmosphere and you believe that you can do great things, there is nothing that can stop you.”

TEN TO WATCH



CHARLES DU

By some standards, Charles Du is a typical high school senior: he enjoys hanging out with friends, playing sports video games, and fishing. He is on Twitter and the varsity tennis team. By other measures, though, he's extraordinary. He spent last summer in a lab at University of Minnesota's Lillehei Heart Institute, researching gene involvement in muscular dystrophy; his work at the U earned him national recognition as a semifinalist in the Siemens Math, Science, and Technology Competition. Equally versed in economics as science, he and his partner advanced to the finals in the DemandTec Retail Challenge, winning a scholarship and a trip to NASDAQ in New York.

"Charles is outstanding at assessing a broad range of information, cutting out the noise, focusing on the key elements, and adjusting the strategy accordingly, very quickly," says IB Econ teacher, Chris Pears. Du is interested in applications beyond finance, including developing economies. "Economics is understanding how the world works," he says.

Drawn to leadership positions, Du is captain of Quiz Bowl, Science Bowl, and Math Team, and he is the president of National Honor Society. A straight-A student, National AP Scholar, and National Merit Semifinalist, Du also makes time to coach in the Writing Center, and volunteer at the Ridgeview Medical Center and Chanhassen Library.

Next year, Charles will begin a joint engineering/economics degree in the prestigious Jerome Fisher School of Technology and Management at Penn's Wharton School of Business. He could see himself living in New York City someday, in a career that draws on his dual interests in economics and science.

Lizzy Crist thrives on rigorous academics and athletics. A straight-A student and AP Scholar with Honors, Crist is National Honor Society secretary, an ardent Quiz Bowl participant, and a big fan of calculus. Math teacher Dave Surver says, "She has a fantastic positive attitude, a willingness to help others, and she's eager to learn." As for her skills as a standout goalkeeper, Crist gives some credit to years of playing football with the boys in elementary school. Skippers soccer coach Jeff Hopkins says her passion for the game, along with her skill set of "shot stopping, great hands and tremendous athleticism" make her one of the best goalies in the state. Crist was named All Conference for three years, made Second Team All State her junior year, and as a senior, her fourth year as varsity goalie, she reached a pinnacle with ten shutouts and First Team All State designation.

Crist says her parents inspire her to aim high, yet stay grounded in what's important. "I truly love studying," she says, but also enjoys time with friends, volunteering at her church and playing piano. Thoreau and Twain rank high on her list of favorite authors. Next year, she will play soccer at Washington University in St. Louis, where she plans to major in math and psychology. "It looks like Disney World mixed with Hogwarts," she says of a campus she knows well: her older sister Katie ('10) is a sophomore on the swim team at Wash U.



LIZZY CRIST



KARL AMUNDSON

Karl Amundson, selected as Minnesota Best High School Musical Theatre Actor this year, used to play a lot of basketball. His parents had to coax him into trying out for a play in fifth grade, and, after being cast as an urchin in Northfield High's production of *Oliver*, an artist was born. Karl went on to be the only child cast in the Children's Theatre Company production of *Babe the Sheep Pig*. Here, Karl began to seriously develop his acting and physical performance skills.

Karl says he started singing right out of the womb, inspired by his St. Olaf orchestra director father and musical mother and sister. Although his home and family are in Northfield, Karl transferred to Minnetonka last year after reading about its theatre program. He lives with his aunt and uncle during the school week and commutes home most weekends. Karl has made a remarkable impression on this community in a short time. He has received Spotlight Awards for Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role as Dickon in *The Secret Garden* and for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role as Emmett in *Legally Blonde*. He was also instrumental in bringing the Minnetonka one-act plays to a Star Rating at State competitions the last two years.

"Acting isn't a selfish art," Karl says. Every time he performs, he asks the question, "What can the artists do together with the audience?" Voice coach and director John Lynn says Karl has "incredible instincts as an actor" and a "humble spirit." Karl will attend the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music this fall.



JACOB NEIS

Few high school seniors can name their life's calling with conviction, but Jacob Neis has found his. "I want to spend the rest of my life in academia," he says. "I never want to stop learning." He will begin this path next year at Yale University. Neis is passionate about science, math, and music — and his achievements in all three areas are Ivy League.

A National AP Scholar, IB Diploma Candidate and National Merit Semifinalist, Neis scored a perfect 36 on the ACT and maintains a straight-A GPA. He qualified for the national Physics and Chemistry Olympiads, and after a series of rigorous math exams, he earned a spot in the USA Math Olympiad, which he says is a

nine-hour test comprised of six "insanely complex" problems.

Neis spent last summer researching Parkinson's therapies at a University of Minnesota biomedical engineering lab. He can deftly move from discussions of neurons and brain mapping to the genius of Stravinsky. He is a top-notch pianist, and his clarinet skills earned him a spot in the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies and the All State Band.

He appreciates the warm welcome he felt from the community of teachers and students when he transferred to Minnetonka his junior year, drawn by the IB program. Teacher Cheryl Duncan, says, "His teachers sometimes wonder what we can teach him, but he engages whole-heartedly, without any of the arrogance that might be expected of someone with his abilities."

The world will benefit from Neis's many talents: he is committed to making an impact on others' lives and excited to contribute to evolving research. Reflecting on the promise of scientific innovation, he posits, "Mine will be the generation that sees the beginning of the end of cancer."

"When one part of life gets healthier, every other part follows. There is a ripple effect," says Maddie Peters, an IB diploma student who plans to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a physician. Her interest in medicine is reflected in her high school endeavors: she wrote an in-depth IB essay on the role of smallpox in the American Revolution, and examined vaccinations in a paper for her favorite class, Theory of Knowledge, taught by Cheryl Duncan. "Maddie is thoughtful, open-minded and not afraid to ask the tough questions," says Duncan.

Peters has maintained a weighted 4.4 GPA and earned the designation of AP Scholar with Honors, while also running cross country and serving as a coach in the Writing Center, business manager for the student paper, volunteer at the Ridgeway Emergency Room, and barista at Caribou. Dedicated to staying balanced, Maddie values cross country for both the physical challenge and the spillover boost to mental health.

This grounded young scholar appreciates her 13 years of Minnetonka education, and she is poised to give back to tomorrow's children. "I hope to work with kids as a doctor," she says. Next year, she will attend UW-Madison.



MADDIE PETERS



JOANNA HEDSTROM

"My dad calls me the poster child for Gophers basketball," says Skipper's star point guard Joanna Hedstrom, a former Gophers ball girl who has attended their camps for years. In the fall, she will join the women's basketball team on a full scholarship. When she got the head coach's offer, Hedstrom says, "I realized I have wanted to go there my whole life." Joanna's mother Mary, MHS English teacher, played for the Gophers; both of her parents have also coached basketball for many years, and she is quick to give them credit for her success.

Hedstrom's five-year varsity career has been stellar, but as a senior, she hit the heights: she set a new school scoring record with 1,445 career points and broke the career assists record with 403 career assists. Averaging 17 points per game and serving as captain for the second year, she was awarded All Conference, All State, and was a Top 10 finalist for Miss Basketball.

Head coach Leah Dasovich says Joanna is a rare player: "She is a highly intelligent leader, a student of the game who knows where to go and how the game is played." Driven by a strong work ethic and desire to succeed, Hedstrom gets right back at it after defeats. After a tough season-ending sectional loss to Hopkins this year, she turned her focus to college, hitting the weight room to build strength for Division I ball.

She brings her intensity and willingness to her academics as well, excelling in IB and AP classes, earning AP Scholar with Honors designation, and maintaining a 4.166 weighted GPA. At the U, she'll enter the Carlson School of Business Honors program—and relish the fulfillment of her dream as she moves from the Gophers stands, where she watched every home game this year, to center court.

Millennials tackle critical issues through innovative projects

BY MAGGIE SHEA

JENS MIDTHUN

Though he is based in Minneapolis as a consultant for Accenture and maintains close ties to Minnetonka, Jens Midthun ('05), has a global mindset — and a well-honed awareness of the power of alliances to effect change. He is the leader of the Minneapolis Global Shapers, a dynamic group of young leaders in their 20s working to improve their communities by collaborating on purposeful projects. Initiated by the World Economic Forum in 2009, Global Shapers has grown to a worldwide network of 220 groups, called Hubs. “Global Shapers has been an adventure and a challenge,” he says. “It is one of my top priorities, and I’m excited to see what direction it takes.”

Last August, Midthun convened with other Global Shapers leaders at a conference in Geneva, Switzerland. Commenting on the international nature of the gathering, he says, “The United States has good representation, but we are not the big players. There are more hubs in Africa, Europe, and Asia, and they all face very different issues.” Projects in progress around the world address issues ranging from true pricing initiatives in Amsterdam to women’s safety in Delhi and youth unemployment in Charlotte.

On his way back to the United States, Midthun stopped in Tanzania to learn more about a well maintenance initiative funded by Cheetah Development, a Twin-Cities based non-profit that invests in developing countries. “NGOs are digging wells all over the world, but they break down and there is not a lot of follow up,” Midthun says. He was impressed with Cheetah’s innovative solution, a self-sustaining model that restored clean water in many villages. Though this initiative is not connected to Global Shapers, it is the type of work they aim to support: people with fresh ideas using their alliances and talents to make the world a better place.

In its first year, The Minneapolis Global Shapers community brims with promise. The group’s 12 members represent diverse fields ranging from business, nonprofits, the environment, and the arts. The Global Shapers group meets monthly at members’ workplaces, and as they grow, they will move initial ideas into actionable projects. On Facebook and Twitter, the Minneapolis Hub already opens windows into innovative initiatives, from solar energy in Iowa to humane textile production in Bangladesh.

Midthun’s path away from Minnetonka and back again spanned the globe. At every step along the way, he has tapped into his ability to lead and make connections. Dave Adney,



Midthun attended the Global Shapers Conference in Geneva, Switzerland last August.

outgoing Minnetonka High School principal, says even in high school, Jens “looked at how people were similar, what could bring them together, rather than what was different.” After serving as student government president at MHS, Jens studied at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles, where he again served as senior class president. After graduating from USC in 2009 with an economics degree, he embarked on an eight-month solo trip through Asia, traveling mainly by bus through eight countries, ending with a two month stay in China. “It was a radical shift of context,” he says of the trip.

Back on home soil, Jens began working as a consultant for Accenture in fall of 2010. Though he still travels for work and through Global Shapers, he stays in touch with Minnetonka friends. Midthun skied on the Alpine team in high school, and he still hits the slopes with Tonka alum at Buck Hill. He also serves on the board of the Alumni Association and says he would love to see other young alumni get involved.

“Youth have such a firm grasp on social media and technology that they are able to influence the world very quickly,” Midthun says, and he sees this influence being put to constructive use. As part of Global Shapers and in his own circles, Jens has met young people driven by a service ethic. He says, “Many people are less measured by how much they make, and more by how much difference they can make.” With his global outlook, talent for bringing people together, and business savvy, Midthun is poised to make a difference as a leader in the Global Shapers community.

TROY MAGNEY

Farming and arctic shrubs are not often mentioned in the same breath as high tech lasers and satellites, but for Troy Magney ('06), they belong together. "My goal is to use technology to understand plant structure and function," he says. As a research scientist earning his PhD at the University of Idaho, Magney works on projects with NASA and the USDA, seeking to understand the environmental impact of climate change and agricultural practices.

"NASA uses satellite imagery to track how plants in the arctic are changing; we take measurements on the ground and try to interpret what we see in the images," says Magney. He travels to the north slope of the Brooks mountain range in Alaska for this work, and studies shrub encroachment — due to rising temperatures, shrubs are taking over small tundra plants. Their research involves determining what this vegetation change will mean for the global carbon balance.

On the ground in northern Idaho, the USDA team focuses on a more micro level, taking advantage of high tech lasers to map out what part of farmers' fields benefit most from fertilizer, thus helping farmers reduce their overall fertilizer use. Though he is a strong supporter of organic farming, Magney feels that he is making meaningful change by working within the system. "If we can figure out ways to reduce the environmental impact and put more money in farmers' pockets, that is a positive direction for agriculture," he says.

A childhood spent outdoors, skiing, hiking, biking and traveling inspired his interest in the environment. "I have an innate curiosity for how things work, why the landscape looks like this," he says. After graduating from the University of Denver with a degree in Physical Geography and International Studies, Magney spent a year teaching at Idaho's McCall Outdoor Science School. He believes that getting outside is key to developing an interest in science: "Kids need to feel, see, touch and understand what is going on in the landscape." In this spirit, Troy and MHS Biology teacher Gwynneth Wacker recently collaborated on an article for *Science Teacher*, focused on teaching students how to use digital cameras to closely observe foliage color changes.



Magney with a tractor mountable laser system that he is developing to aid in "on-the-go precision fertilizer application."

ELIZABETH LOW

A typical day for Elizabeth Low ('07), might include checking citations on a research study, entering data, or conducting literature searches—all in service of a larger goal. Reflecting on her work as a research assistant for the Deployment Health Clinical Center in Washington DC, Low says, "The Center's goal of improving behavioral and mental health and delivery is what gets me excited about this job." She also recruits study participants at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, connecting with veterans, retirees, service members on active duty, and their families.

Researchers are studying ways to enhance and streamline care for people in the military. "We hope to shorten the screening process for PTSD," Low says, noting that one research project's ultimate goal is to come up with a simple question primary care clinicians could ask to accurately predict a diagnosis of PTSD.

Elizabeth feels honored to be part of this work, and she says it has enriched her understanding of the military and of behavioral health. "I feel like I am working towards something that has real purpose," she says of her first year on the job.

Low felt a similar sense of purpose in her first job out of college, an Americorps project in Iowa, where she coordinated a mentoring program for adults recently released from prison. "We tried to introduce some stability and be a friendly presence in their lives," she says.

Studying psychology at Carleton has prepared her well for this important work, Low says. When she's not researching or enjoying life in DC, Low is still studying—for the GRE. She plans to eventually apply to PhD programs in clinical or forensic psychology.

High school teachers recall Low's depth of insight. English teacher Barb Van Pilsum says, "As a student, Liz was so creative, and very aware of and interested in the larger world." Top Tonka memories include playing the flute and traveling to Norway and Orlando with the Minnetonka Marching Band. She also says years of participating in the inventive problem-solving group, Destination Imagination, made a big impact on her.



Low work as a research assistant for the Deployment Health Clinical Center.

ALUMNI NOTES

1958

David Robinson's recent book, *The Poised Century: On Living Today as if Tomorrow Mattered*, was named best new non-fiction book for 2012 by the National Indie Excellence Book Awards program. Dave's book also garnered two first place awards at the 2012 Midwest Book Awards gala.

1959

Roger R. Johnson was inducted into the Fergus Falls High School Hall of Fame for his impressive career as a hockey and golf coach.

1962

Steve Henrikson retired after 45 years teaching.

1963

Dick Gerberding retired from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He worked as a professor of history at the school since 1984.

1966

Jeffrey Agrell published three books: *Improv Duets*, *Improvised Chamber Music* and *Creative Pedagogy for Piano Teachers*.

1967

Patti (Rudolph) Phillips retired from teaching in the Orono School District in June 2011.

1971

Todd Johnson published his debut novel, *The Deposit Slip*. The novel is a legal thriller based in the fictional town of Ashley, MN.

1973

Lori Cherland-McCune published a book, *Royal C. Moore: The Man Who Built the Streetcar Boats*.

1976

Gale (Norum) Pearson is a finalist for the Public Justice's 2013 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award for her work in winning a \$29 million dollar verdict in *United States and State of Illinois ex rel. Absher v. Momence Meadows Nursing Center, Inc.* Gale has owned her own law firm since 1994 and has also been recognized for her service with under-privileged children and lepers in India.

1988

Leslie (Krough) Rienstra and her husband Jonathon welcomed their first child, Riley Mae, on February 29, 2012.

1993 & 1995

Jason Landstrom ('93) and Chad Mayes ('95) founded a craft beer company called Tonka Beer. 100% of their profits go to Save-Our-Lakes™, a non-profit which funds initiatives to protect our lakes and rivers from zebra mussels, milfoil and other invasive species.



MHS grad doing his best for people on LA's 'Skid Row'

The fact that Connor Johnson ('05) is dedicating his career to helping people in need comes as no surprise to the person who probably knows him as well as anyone.

"Ever since he was young, and while he was getting his great education and getting involved in the Minnetonka Schools, Connor has felt compassion for others," says his mother, Katherine Johnson. "He's always been that, always believed in social justice. It doesn't surprise me at all what he's doing. This is where his heart is."

Connor's heart is, in fact, with the thousands upon thousands of people living in Los Angeles who have fallen on hard times. Many of them reside within a 50-square-block area of the city known as Skid Row and are, Johnson believes, perhaps a good break or two from getting back on their feet.

As a result, in the fall of 2012 he co-founded, with Katherine, a social services enterprise that has a goal of giving people a chance to work and earn credits for stop-gap funds that can be applied to a meaningful purchase, such as dental work, a bus ticket home, eyeglasses, or even an I.D. so they can apply for a job.

The organization is called Would-Works, and the model involves putting people to work sanding, staining and packaging high-quality cutting boards made out of maple or oak. A person who needs to earn \$200 for a pair of eyeglasses, for example, needs to work 20 hours. When he or she has enough credits, Would-Works pays for the eyeglasses directly. To learn more about Would-Works visit www.would-works.com.

1997

Adam Lukens and his wife Kati Lukens welcomed their first child, Victoria Grace, on March 29, 2013. The family currently resides in Las Vegas.

Hans Zinn married Amy Brennan on April 13, 2013.

1998

Ashley (Hageman) Shram and her husband Aaron are opening Schram Vineyards in Waconia in summer 2013.

1999

Kali Ofstehage will swim the 2.1 miles in Lake Superior from Bayfield, WI to Madeline Island August 10, 2013. This is her third Point2LaPointe Race and she is the highest female fundraiser for the Bayfield Area Rec. Center.

2000

Karla (Pesheck) Breitinger and her husband Erik welcomed their second child, Erikson, on June 17, 2012.

2002

Jessica Byrnes and Dusty Brabender were married in summer 2012 are expecting their first child in summer 2013.

2003

Will Leer won both the mile and 3000-meter events at the 2013 US Indoor Championships.

2005

Connor Johnson formed Would-Works, a social enterprise designed to give men and women who are living in poverty the opportunity to work toward a specific goal.

2006

Megan Stanga is currently enrolled in the St. Cloud State University MBA program and is employed as an accountant in Minneapolis.

2009

Max Henke was selected to the Yale Whiffenpoofs, the world's oldest and best-known collegiate a cappella group.

2010

JJ Schlangen graduated from the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Accountancy.

2012

John Mark Nelson released his second album *Waiting and Waiting* in August 2012. He released first full-length album, *Still Here*, in December 2011.



Thank you!

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

David Adney (MHS).....	10 years
Terry Balfanz (MHS).....	9 years
Sadek Bouaziz (MHS).....	12 years
Mike Condon (District Service Center)	36 years
Kaye Cusick (Scenic Heights).....	27 years
Shari Davis (MHS)	28 years
Dennis Gens (Buildings & Grounds).....	26 years
Myles Ginther (MHS)	28 years
Joan Goff (Minnewashta)	17 years
Julie Hoiseth (Groveland & Excelsior).....	18 years
Brenda Johnson (MMW)	18 years
Daniel Kittelson (MHS).....	15 years
Jeanne Kraker (MMW)	26 years
Donna LaRoche (MHS).....	26 years
Joan Lerdal (MME).....	11 years
Laura Ludvigson (MHS & District Service Center).....	18 years
Angela Nelson (Scenic Heights)	25 years
Timothy Polivany (MHS).....	11 years
Lynette Schaitberger (Excelsior)	24 years
Shirley Snyder (District Service Center).....	11 years
Ellen Sommer (MHS)	27 years
Kari Stringer (MMW)	26 years
Karla Thomson (District Service Center)	14 years
Judy Thorvilson (Community Ed)	8 years
Kathryn Tietze (MMW).....	34 years
Richard Vogt (Deephaven)	7 years
Carole Westby (MHS).....	22 years
Kathy Zenk (MHS).....	30 years

Girls Hockey: Three-Time State Champions

The Minnetonka Girls Hockey team won the State Championship with a 3-1 victory over Hill Murray in February 2013. They are the first girls hockey team to win three consecutive state championships. Darby Flatley, Amy Petersen and Laura Bowman scored the Skippers three goals.

The team took the ice for the championship game only 18 hours after their semifinal victory over Lakeville North on Friday night/Saturday morning which took six overtime periods and set the record for the longest girls hockey game in state history.

Five players made the Wells Fargo All Tournament team and Sydney Rossman was named the 2013 Senior Goalie of the Year by *Let's Play Hockey*.

The team is as smart and hard-working in the classroom as they are on the ice. The team average GPA: 3.70 unweighted; 3.79 weighted. Eight of the 18 athletes have above a 4.0 weighted GPA. All have a 3.0 or better.

Seven players from the team have signed or verbally committed to a Division I program for fall 2013.



The 2012-13 MHS Girls Hockey Team celebrates their victory at center ice on February 23, 2013.

Reunion Spotlight: Class of 1963 Stays Strong 50 Years Later

Though it's been 50 years since members of the class of 1963 attended high school together, each time they reunite it's as if no time has passed at all.

"These reunions have become a chance to reconnect with some very special people that we shared our lives with during our most formative years — people who are just about exactly our age, and who are tickled to see each other again," says Karen (Melby) Schmeisser, co-chair of the reunion planning committee.



Members of the class of 1963 gather at their 45th reunion.

The group has had such a good time together that they have planned reunions every five years since their 30-year reunion in 1993.

"It's most important to know these reunions are not about high school. Nobody remembers or cares about how you were in high school. A lot of the people who have been coming to our reunions for years had no fun in high school. But that was 50 years ago!" said Dick Engebretson, co-chair of the reunion planning committee.

This year, the class is planning a full weekend of festivities, including a golf outing and formal dinner at the Lafayette Club on Friday; an evening gathering at the home of a classmate on Saturday; and a few informal gatherings at various locations around Minnetonka on Sunday.

"We are senior citizens who are skinny, fat, tall, short, retired, still working, married, divorced, never married, often bald or gray or white haired, living in Long Lake or living in London. All the pressure is off — these reunions are just plain fun!" says Engebretson.

The class of 1963 isn't all about fun, they also care deeply about supporting the school that has given them so much. Each year, they award a \$500 creative writing scholarship to a student at MHS. It's a tradition they have been able to maintain since 2004 and one they hope will continue through generous donations from classmates.

This year's reunion will be held September 6-8. For more information visit www.mhs163.org.

Remembering Minnetonka Alum Jim Olds '57

BY JOHN MUGFORD

Minnetonka High School's alumni lost a good friend and a well-thought of member of its community, Jim Olds, in early 2013. A 1957 graduate of MHS, Olds was a popular student, one of its finest musicians, and, for much of his life, a well-known business owner and community leader in Excelsior. He died of complications from pancreatic cancer at age 73.

His exploits as a trumpet player were well known in the community and at MHS, where he was in the school orchestra. In fact, a trio of Olds and fellow MHS students Daniel Graham and Tom Williams won a "major state music award," according to his brother, Bob Olds ('63). "I remember they played 'Bugler's Holiday,' a very tough piece," Bob Olds recalls.

Jim Olds remained well-known in the local community, especially Excelsior, for the remainder of his life. He was part of a family that owned the best-known men's clothing store in the area, Olds Dry Goods. Located on Water Street, the store, for decades, attracted shoppers from all over the area, including the farming communities west of Excelsior.

The Olds name, for that matter, was quite prevalent among area boys, including MHS students, for many years.

"Jim was very good at knowing the latest fashions, but he also made sure to hire local high school and college boys to make sure that the store carried what boys that age wanted," Bob Olds says. "Back in the 1950s and '60s, stores in Excelsior were open on Friday nights, and people from all over the place came to town to shop — the town was always hopping on those nights."

After graduating from MHS and attending Dartmouth, Jim returned to the state to study architecture at the University of Minnesota. He gave up that career, however, when his parents asked for his help at the family business. He eventually became the owner.

"He'd been working at the store in the summers and during his school breaks for a long time," his brother recalls. "And I think he saw what being a business owner in Excelsior, the town that he loved, would be like. He knew he'd like it, so he made a decision and embraced it."

Did he ever. In addition to running the store, Olds joined the Excelsior Planning Commission, was elected to the City Council and the Mayor. He was a member of the Rotary for decades, and helped organize numerous civic events.

In an article in the Sun-Sailor newspaper, lifelong friend Bill Mason ('59) said that Olds "really devoted himself to the city of Excelsior for more than half a century." He added that in Olds "you didn't just have a friend, you had an incredible friend. He'd do anything for you."

Perhaps Olds' greatest civic passion was the fireworks display each Fourth of July in the Excelsior Commons. He worked tirelessly to ensure that the South-Lake Excelsior Area Chamber of Commerce had enough funding for the show each



summer. Jim's family has asked that memorials in his name be given towards a bench in Excelsior and the fireworks display.

"He was a great guy and was liked by so many people," says Bob Olds. "And that was evident by how many people, both longtime friends and old school pals and just about anyone who knew him, were always around his house down there by the Commons in Excelsior on the Fourth of July, and for that matter, all summer long. Jim's house was the place to be because of the great guy he was."

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers these and all Minnetonka, Excelsior and Deephaven graduates who passed away over the past year (June 2012-June 2013).

Kennedy Maddox '12
Sara E. Slavens '11
Mark Eriksson '86
Brent King '85
Nancy (Larson) Heuer '73
Margaret E. Carr '67
James H. Pederson '52
Benton "Tony" Gerald Johnson '41
Ron Ostrem (Groveland)

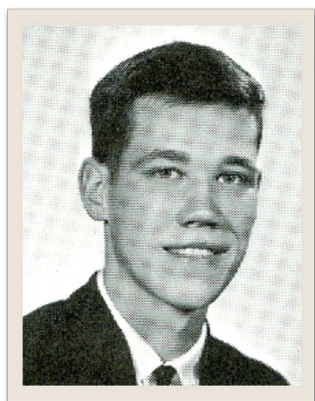


Minnetonka Public Schools
Dennis Peterson, Superintendent
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345
www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us

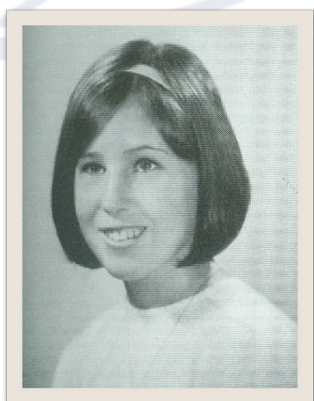
NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Minnetonka Schools
Permit 1287
Hopkins, MN

Nominate a classmate or former teacher! Attend the brunch!

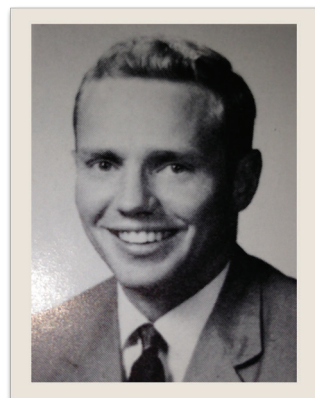
5TH ANNUAL
MINNETONKA
Alumni Awards ★
BRUNCH & ANNUAL MEETING



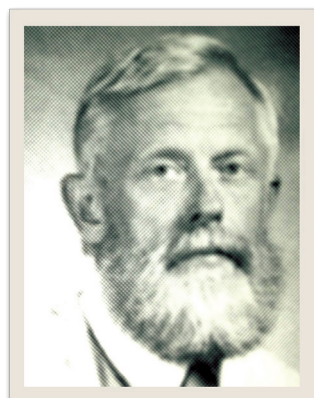
Stephen Pouliot '63



Mary Story '69



Lynn Krafve



Bob Rogness

Saturday, September 21, 2013

MHS Homecoming Weekend

10 am - 12:30 pm | Minnetonka High School

AWARD CATEGORIES:

- Distinguished Alumni Award
Stephen Pouliot '63 and Mary Story '69
- Distinguished Service Award
- Young Alum Achievement Award
- MHS Skippers Hall of Fame
(Arts, Activities, Athletics)
- Minnetonka Faculty Hall of Fame
Bob Rogness and Lynn Krafve

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

Nomination deadline July 15