

MINNETONKA

Alumni Magazine

2014

Families impacting
our community

IT'S TIME TO RECONNECT

PORT OF EXCELSIOR



All-School All-Class Reunion

Saturday, July 26 ★ Excelsior Commons

Representing Minnetonka, Deephaven and Excelsior graduates and teachers (left to right): Geoff Bray '02, Jake Sturgis '98, Anne (Moser) Ryan '79, Laura (McGlasson) Hotvet '85, Marcy Adams '12, Bob Williams '39 Excelsior, Shirley (McClees) Livingston '50 Deephaven, Jim Hillis '51 Excelsior, Mary Skoy (Retired Teacher) and Bonnie (Board) Niles '67



Congratulations 2013 Award Recipients & Hall of Fame Inductees!

SAVE THE DATE! The 2014 Alumni Awards Brunch & Meeting will be held Saturday, September 27



2013 Alumni Award Recipients (L to R): Keith Nord '75, Bob Rogness (MHS Teacher & Coach), Diane D'Aquila '69, Stephen Pouliot '63, Dr. Mary Story '69 and Lynn Krafve (MHS Teacher & Coach). Not Pictured: Bob Williams '39

2013 Alumni Awards

Distinguished Alumni Award - Stephen Pouliot '63
Distinguished Alumni Award - Dr. Mary Story '69
Distinguished Service Award - Bob Williams '39 (Excelsior)
Skippers Hall of Fame - Diane D'Aquila '69

Skippers Hall of Fame - Keith Nord '75
Faculty Hall of Fame - Lynn Krafve (MHS Teacher & Coach)
Faculty Hall of Fame - Bob Rogness (MHS Teacher & Coach)

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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 and to get involved.

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 welcomed, but submission does not guarantee publication.

EDITOR, AMY DAWSON '04



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www.minnetonkaalumni.com

FROM THE MAA PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

The Minnetonka Alumni Association (MAA) Board invites each of you to attend our fourth All-School All-Class Reunion on Saturday, July 26 in the Excelsior Commons. We are working hard to make this a memorable event where graduates can reconnect with friends and witness firsthand the exciting developments taking place in our schools and our community. The enthusiasm is building as we put the pieces together for a weekend of fun, food and friends. Many individual classes are hosting reunions throughout the weekend, tours of Excelsior Elementary are scheduled for

The Minnetonka Alumni Association will host the fourth All-School All-Class Reunion Saturday, July 26 from 5-11 pm in the Excelsior Commons.

Friday evening and the All-Class Reunion breakfast and tours will take place at MHS from 9 am-noon. Golf tournaments are also planned for those wanting to add a little more swing to the weekend. The culminating event is the All-School All-Class Reunion commencing in the Excelsior Commons from 5-11 pm on Saturday evening. It is rumored that Mick Jagger's name will be mentioned often and his Rolling Stones music will be played to celebrate 50 years since this legendary group played in Excelsior. How many of you remember Mick performing at Big Reggie's Danceland in Excelsior, visiting Bacon Drug, and then writing the song "You Can't Always Get What You Want?" Our response today is "You Can Get What You Want By Attending This Reunion!" Detailed information about all the activities happening during the All-School All-Class Reunion weekend can be found on page 5 or by visiting www.minnetonkaalumni.com.

In addition to planning the Big Event, the MAA continues to work toward our goals to serve, connect, build relationships and to be a voice for the Minnetonka alumni and all Minnetonka Schools. Some of the annual events that connect us are:

- The Homecoming Alumni Awards Brunch where we celebrate and honor alumni, former teachers and graduating students for their contributions to MHS, our community and our world.
- Our presence and support at local events: Art-on-the-Lake, Apple Day, Tour de Tonka and the Cub Brat Stand.
- We are Minnetonka Proud to provide an additional source of income in the area of Fine Arts. Since 2005, we have funded more than \$30,000 in Fine Arts Grants submitted by staff that enhance, expand and enrich the arts for students in all grades, all areas of the arts and all Minnetonka Schools.

The MAA feels that our presence and funding help in a small way to support excellence in Minnetonka Schools.

As president this year, I have been very fortunate to have an exceptional team of players working with me and for you, so that you can experience and enjoy a gathering to be remembered. As graduates, let's show our Minnetonka Pride by attending as many of the events as possible this July.



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Bonnie Board Niles '67

Bonnie Board Niles '67

BEYOND 140 WITH PRINCIPAL ERICKSON

Minnetonka Alumni,

For those of you who knew me as Profe Erickson, a Spanish teacher, Hola! I'm excited to now serve as MHS Principal, carrying on your tradition of excellence in high school education.

We are continuing many strong Tonka traditions and starting a few new ones. For example, you can follow us on Twitter @TonkaPrincipal or @TonkaSchools to keep up with the latest news. We've also got a new *Beyond 140* monthly segment on our YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/minnetonkaschools).

High school has really changed! If there is one word that describes MHS this year, it is "opportunities" and our students are really taking advantage of all of them, including:

- **VANTAGE:** Minnetonka Advanced Professional Studies Program is expanding next year to Healthcare and Sports Science, Business Analytics/Big Data and Business in a Global Economy. The program provides students real-world business projects in a professional environment, while also completing AP and IB courses and exams to earn college credit. We welcome new business partners. Learn more at www.TonkaVANTAGE.org.
- **Digital Learning:** Our students (grades 7-12) now rely on iPads® as a primary productivity and learning tool, replacing paper and pencil quizzes, textbooks and packets of handouts. No more chalk or overhead transparencies. Students download slides, take digital notes, read texts and submit work online. With iPads, we've seen more organized students, more immediate feedback from teachers and an increase in A's and B's.
- **Our International Studies Program** has expanded to nine countries: China, Germany, India, Netherlands, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Spain and Peru. Students collaborate with partners at our sister schools to complete assignments for this half-credit course. We've also enjoyed exchange visits with most of our partner schools.

I am so impressed by the scholarship, character and leadership of our students. They have rallied around the theme "We Are One." We graduated 683 students this year (97% graduation rate); 91% will continue their education at colleges and universities; 68% of our seniors have completed Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses this year. From Quiz Bowl to DECA to athletics, MHS is earning national accolades this year, led by an impressive group of our newest alumni.

Please stop in for a visit and tour when you are in town for the All-Class Reunion. We'll be open on July 26, 9 am-noon. I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,



Jeff Erickson
Principal, Minnetonka High School



UPCOMING EVENTS

For more details about specific class reunions, please visit www.minnetonkaalumni.com.

July 4 **Firecracker Run (1 Mile, 5K & 10K)**, 8 am at Excelsior Elementary

July 5 **Class of 2004 Reunion**, 4 pm at Maynards Restaurant

July 19-August 2 **Mame!, Minnetonka Community Theatre**, Arts Center on 7 (MHS)

July 25 **Excelsior Elementary Tours**, 3-6 pm at Excelsior Elementary School

July 25 **Class of 1984 Reunion**, 5 pm at Oak Ridge Hotel & Conference Center

July 25 **Class of 1964 Reunion**, 5:30 pm at the Minnetonka Country Club

July 25 **Class of 1974 Reunion**, 6 pm at Bayview Park

July 25 **Class of 1962 70th Birthday Party**, 5:30 pm

July 26 **All-School All-Class Reunion Breakfast & Tours**, 9 am-noon at MHS

July 26 **All-School All-Class Reunion**, 5-11 pm in the Excelsior Commons

August 2 **Tour de Tonka**, bike ride, MHS (www.tourdetonka.org)

August 9 **Class of 1994 Reunion**, Minnetonka Yacht Club

August 15 **Deadline for Alumni Awards Nominations**

September 20 Visit the MAA booth at **Apple Day** in downtown Excelsior

September 27 **Minnetonka Alumni Awards Brunch & Annual Meeting**, MHS

October 9-11 **Fine Arts Endowment Fundraiser**, Cub Brat Stand (101 & Hwy. 7)

February 7, 2015 **Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Dream Makers Event**

A Family Tradition

Graduating from Minnetonka High School is a family tradition for these 2014 graduates who join their parents and grandparents as proud MHS Alumni this year.

John (Jack) Adams and Parent Andria Nicholson '83
 Bailey Anderson and Parent Tamara Anderson '89
 Nicole Bernhagen and Parent Debi (Glenn) Bernhagen '82 and Grandparents Dick Glenn '61 and Arline Moran '62
 Eric Bishop and Parent Jon Bishop '84
 Scott Bohn and Parent Jack Bohn '83
 Kristi Boldt and Parent Beth (Hornbaker) Boldt '75
 Clay Borrell and Parent Kathie (Hamerski) Hamerski-Borrell '82
 Kieran Brennan and Parent Susan (Comer) Brennan '81
 Brendan Broviak and Parent Tom Johnson '81
 Amy Buchstaber and Grandmother Mary (Peterson) Hokenson '59
 Annie Fagerlee and Parents Dawn (Cradit) '81 and David Fagerlee '82
 Amalie Hansen and Parent Gary Hansen '79
 April Jane Harrington and Parent Rob Harrington '78
 Serena Hazzard and Parent Mike Hazzard '78
 Jack Hotvet and Parents Laura (McGlasson) and Dean Hotvet '85
 Anthony Jordal and Parent Janie (Shadler) '75 and David Jordal '76
 Parks Kendall and Parent Lisa (Nash) Kendall '78
 Chase Korth and Parent Susan (Huntington) Korth '85
 James Krantz and Parent Jill (Arneson) Krantz '85
 Emma and A.J. Krueger and Parent Sally B. Krueger '85
 Frank Kuzma Jr. and Parent Frank Kuzma Sr. '79
 Maxwell Kvam and Parents Laurie (Wright) '80 and Kevin Kvam '79
 Alexa Langum and Parent Ladd Langum '80
 Stuart Maes and Grandma Nancy (Palm) Countryman '59
 Kevin James Magnuson and Parent James (Jim) Magnuson '70
 Kaylee Martin and Parent Andrea K. (Martin) Parker '83
 Holly Martinson and Parent Lisa (Anderson) Martinson '83
 Zach Mayer and Parent Jody (Mortenson) Mayer '81
 Bridget McCarthy and Parent Tippy McInerney '81
 Sarah McCormick and Parent Michael McCormick '82
 Eli Nalevanko and Parent Anne (Magnuson) Nalevanko '75
 Natalie Newberg and Parents Susan Chatfield-Newberg '81 and Mike Newberg '70
 John (Jack) Norton and Parent Liz (Holcomb) Norton '82
 Connor Oestreich and Parents Sally (Patterson) '79 and Richard Oestreich '82
 Libby Patterson and Parent Bob Patterson '77
 Charlie Plaziak and Parent Jill (Peterson) Plaziak '79
 Megan Prosser and Parent John Prosser '81
 Patrick Quarberg and Parent Janet (Jasin) Quarberg '82
 Daniel Read and Parent Mark Read '74
 Ian Richter and Parents Carol (McMillen) '78 and Tom Richter '77
 Olivia Ronningen and Parent Kristi (Forss) Ronningen '83
 Joseph Rosensteel and Parent Jennifer (Decker) Rosensteel '89
 Janie Ryan and Parent Anne (Moser) Ryan '79
 Julia Schmidt and Parent Tony Schmidt '85
 Haily and Heidi Schmitz and Parent Shari (Titus) Schmitz '82
 Jack Schultz and Parent Mark Schultz '87 and Grandma Mary (Lambert) Geyer '62



Alums John and Sandra Cunningham surrounded by their family. Front: Joshua Vassallo '14, Zachary Johnson '14; Middle: Christa (Cunningham) Vassallo '81, John Cunningham '56, Sandra (Sathre) Cunningham '56, Nicole (Cunningham) Johnson '86; Back: Christopher Vassallo '12, Kelly (Cunningham) Munson '79, Not Pictured: Peter Johnson '85



Stuart Maes with Grandmother Nancy (Palm) Countryman '59.

Madeline Scott and Parent Tim Scott '81
 Will & Emma Sharpe and Parent Trinkia (Schuele) Sharpe '80
 Ellie Sigel and Parent David Sigel '82
 David D. Simons and Parent Sim K. Simons '87
 Briana Smith and Parent Ben Smith '80
 Kevin Stark and Parent Michelle (Appelgren) Stark '82
 Rachel E. Thompson and Parents Rebecca (Burger) '76 and Christopher Thompson '75
 Alexandra Velner and Parent Pam (Oelke) Velner '86
 Mikayla Wandersee and Parent Carol (Kartak) Wandersee '87
 Isabel Wyer and Parent Skip Wyer '79
 Alex Youngstedt and Parent Steven Youngstedt '81
 Mackenzie Yurich and Parent Tracy (Brettingen) Yurich '80
 Erika Zbinden and Parent Jennifer Hattstrom Zbinden '85

If you are an alum with a 2015 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.

IT'S TIME TO RECONNECT!

All-School All-Class Reunion

Join us for the Minnetonka All-School All-Class Reunion Saturday, July 26 in the Excelsior Commons.

At the last Minnetonka All-School All-Class Reunion celebration in 2010, there were more than 30,000 hugs and/or handshakes (at least 10 per person), probably more than 15,000 stories shared about school days past and too many smiles and laughs to even count.

That last reunion was the third of its kind, as the Minnetonka Alumni Association has organized similar events every four years since 2002, when the District marked the 50th anniversary of the opening of Minnetonka High School. For the 3,000 or so people who attended any or each of the All-School reunions, it goes without saying that a great time was had by all.

"What's so wonderful about the All-School reunions is that they are so multi-generational. People connect with students from their own classes as well as younger or older brothers and sisters, or even the parents, of their friends and former classmates," says Board Director Dan Heiland '74.

"Catching up with your former teachers and others on the staff is a lot of fun, too," adds Board Director Marietta Jacobsen '70, noting that faculty members and administrators are encouraged to attend. "There is just so much laughter and great conversation, telling stories from everyone's days back in school. It's a great night."

So could it be possible that the upcoming, fourth Minnetonka All-School All-Class Reunion, which takes place from 5-11 pm on Saturday, July 26, could be even bigger and better than the other three?

Actually yes, according to the Minnetonka Alumni Association Board of Directors, the group planning the event.

That's because this year's event has been moved to a bigger venue, the Excelsior Commons on the shore of Lake Minnetonka, where perhaps twice as many people can attend. Where 3,000 were allowed in previous years, up to 6,000 tickets can be sold this year.



The Board spent plenty of time planning the logistics and garnering city approvals to move the reunion to the Commons.

"Everyone in the school district has a connection with Lake Minnetonka and the Excelsior Commons," says Bonnie (Board) Niles '67, president of the Alumni Association. "I think almost everyone who went to a Minnetonka played frisbee or touch football in the Commons, went swimming at the beach or just hung out there in the summer. We're very excited. The Commons is a great place for the All-School All-Class Reunion."

In addition to a variety of food and beverages, there will be plenty of music, too. To start the entertainment, a disc jockey will play songs from a variety of eras. Then, from 8-10 pm, a band called the Tumbling Dice will hit the stage. If the name has a ring of familiarity to it, it's because it's a Rolling Stones tribute band.

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the Rolling Stones' 1964 concert at Big Reggie's Danceland, which was located close to where Maynard's Restaurant and the BayView Event Center sit today. The Alumni Board and the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society wanted to pay tribute to what has become a legendary event in local history.

"We couldn't get the real Rolling Stones to show up, so we decided to partner with the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society and got the next best thing," says Alumni Board Director Gail (Wartman) Bollis '67. "It seems that almost everyone knows about the Rolling Stones' appearance at Danceland and their connection to Excelsior and Mr. Jimmy."

For those who don't know the story, legend has it that Excelsior's former man-about-town, (Mr.) Jimmy Hutmaker, who died in 2007, was the inspiration for the Stone's future hit song, *You Can't Always Get What You Want*. According to local lore, Stones' lead singer Mick Jagger met Hutmaker the



day after the concert at the (Excelsior, sounds a lot like Chelsea) drug store. Jimmy had ordered a cherry Coke that wasn't to his liking, so he allegedly shrugged and told Jagger, "I guess you can't always get what you want."

If truth be told, the number of people who doubt the tale outnumber the believers, but many local folks still believe the account of the chance meeting given years later by Hutmaker, who had a remarkable memory.

"The legend just adds to the fun of our reunion and the reason to having the Rolling Stones cover band perform," notes Jacobsen.

While the major goal of the Minnetonka All-School All-Class Reunion is to bring Skippers, and even Excelsior High School Blue Jays and Deephaven High School Wolves, together for a great big night of fun and history, alumni board members have another goal in mind for the event. They're proud of the fact that proceeds from the All-School reunions have supported

and will continue to support their Fine Arts Endowment Fund, which has contributed over \$30,000 to a variety of district arts programs since 2005. Additionally, two dollars from every ticket sold will go to our local ICA Food Shelf.

"It's really the aspect of the reunion that we're probably most proud of—the fact that what we raise goes back to the schools to help our students, as well as our community," says Gail (Thacker) Ofstehage '68, vice president of the Alumni Association.

The All-School All-Class Reunion caps off a weekend of informal get-togethers and reunions for other classes as well. In addition to Saturday night's event, everyone is invited to tour Excelsior Elementary School on Friday, July 25 from 3-6 pm and breakfast and tours of Minnetonka High School from 9 am to noon on Saturday, July 26.

Tickets for the All-School All-Class Reunion, which includes the breakfast and tour at MHS, and tours at Excelsior Elementary, are available for purchase at www.minnetonkaalumni.com.

Reunion Weekend Details

ALL-SCHOOL ALL-CLASS REUNION

The All-School All-Class Reunion is Saturday, July 26 from 5-11 pm in the Excelsior Commons. Reconnect with classmates and teachers, enjoy live music and dine on local food and beverages. Tickets can be purchased at www.minnetonkaalumni.com or by calling 952-401-5000. Cost is \$15.

MHS BREAKFAST & TOURS

Join us for a breakfast and tours of Minnetonka High School from 9 am – Noon on Saturday, July 26. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at www.minnetonkaalumni.com or by calling 952-401-5000. A ticket is not required if you wish to only participate in the tour.

EXCELSIOR ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE

Join us for appetizers and a tour of Excelsior Elementary School (formerly Excelsior High School) Friday, July 25 from 3-6 pm. Reminisce with friends while you experience the many incredible changes and enhancements that have been made to this historic building. Deephaven and Excelsior graduates are encouraged to attend. Please register at www.minnetonkaalumni.com or call 952-401-5000. This event is free.

PURCHASING TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased online at www.minnetonkaalumni.com or by calling 952-401-5000. Reunion tickets are \$15 and tickets for the breakfast at MHS are \$10. The Excelsior Elementary tours are free. Tickets can be purchased at the door for both events. Cash and credit cards will be accepted. An ATM will be available in the Excelsior Common. All events are open to the community.

CONNECTING WITH CLASSMATES AT THE REUNION

Worried about connecting with your classmates at the reunion? Never fear. Each class will have a designated meeting time and location during the reunion. Several tents, with tables and chairs, will be available for classes to gather.

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

Parking in downtown Excelsior will be limited due to road construction in the area. Please consider taking a shuttle from Minnetonka High School (18301 Highway 7, Minnetonka 55345), Excelsior Methodist Church (881 3rd Ave, Excelsior 55331) or Minnetonka Middle School West (6421 Hazeltine Boulevard, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331). Shuttles will run every 30 minutes between these locations and the Excelsior Commons. A detailed schedule will be published on www.minnetonkaalumni.com closer to the event.

ACCOMMODATIONS

A discounted rate is available for alumni at the Chanhassen Inn and Country Inn. Please call 1-800-242-6466 for reservations.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities are available for the breakfast at MHS and at registration and security during the reunion. Volunteers receive complimentary entrance into the reunion. Visit www.minnetonkaalumni.com to sign up for your time slot.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS EVENTS

Several classes are hosting events throughout the reunion weekend, including reunions for the classes of 1964, 1974 and 1984, as well as Deephaven and Excelsior graduates. For more information about individual events, visit www.minnetonkaalumni.com.

Ken Koehnen: Driven to honor local soldiers killed in action

Anyone who knew Kenneth Koehnen, the long-time owner of service stations in downtown Excelsior, certainly realized how kind and soft-spoken he was.

But the man who grew up on a farm just south of Excelsior could also be stubborn and persistent—in a good way, according to his daughter Karen—especially when driven by a cause he believed in.

Today, a beautiful granite memorial that honors South Lake Minnetonka residents who died in battle sits amid a peaceful setting, a spectacular array of flora tended by a local garden club at the Five Corners area across from the Excelsior Post Office. Had the Excelsior Area Veterans Memorial never been erected—a likely prospect if not for the efforts of Koehnen—the names and sacrifices of the local soldiers might've been forever forgotten.

Koehnen, who served in the Navy during World War II, did not want that to happen. As his health was failing late in life, seeing the building of the memorial was the cause that drove him to persevere.

“My father came up with the idea for the memorial as he and my mother, Nancy, traveled the country in their retirement,” says Karen (Koehnen) Green '80. “They visited towns that had veterans’ memorials, and my dad felt badly that Excelsior had nothing to honor the local soldiers’ memories.”

So Kenny, as many called him, raised the \$15,000 needed, had a design drawn up by Little Falls Granite Co. and its owner, Ron Nagel and presented the idea to the city of Excelsior. He proposed placing the memorial in the city’s most-visited park, the lakeside Commons. Because he’d done all the work and had the memorial ready to be installed, Koehnen believed his proposal would win swift local approval.

But that just wasn’t the case, and he spent the next eight years—on and off—working out the details with local officials and other groups involved.

“While he could be persistent and, yes, stubborn about things like this, my dad did end up making compromises, both in the location and the design,” Karen notes. “I think he ended up agreeing with the city that Five Corners was a good location for the memorial. The city did not think the Commons was the best place. He realized that his goal was to see this through to the end because he was worried that if it didn’t happen before he died, it might not happen at all.”

After the compromises were agreed upon, a dedication for the memorial was held in August 2006. Koehnen and his family and friends, city officials and local veterans were on hand in what

is known as the Capt. Johnson Memorial Park at Five Corners. The memorial lists 25 soldiers who died in the first two World Wars and the Korean and Vietnam wars; there is room for others if the need arises.

“I can honestly say that my dad never wanted any recognition for getting the memorial built,” Karen notes. “All he really wanted was for the local soldiers who died for their country, some of whom he knew, to never be forgotten.”

Prior to the dedication, Ken told a local newspaper, “Yes, I am satisfied.”



After graduating from Excelsior High School in 1943, Koehnen enlisted in the United States Navy. Serving in World War II, Koehnen went around the world twice, on two different ships, transporting troops and prisoners of war.

A remarkable family

The story of Kenneth Koehnen, who died at age 83, has to include a reference to the remarkable family he grew up in. In the history of the Minnetonka School District, there may never have been another family quite like the one started by Leonard and Luvilla Koehnen, who farmed 35 acres just south of Excelsior near Lake Lucy and Apple roads.

As they would learn while raising their family, Leonard and Luvilla weren't supposed to be able to have children, as their blood types were thought to be incompatible. So they went ahead and had 18—nine boys and nine girls.

One of the children, Lavina, died at a young age, but the other 17 made their presence known in the local schools. From the 1920s through the '50s, Koehnens filled classrooms and hallways, starting in Excelsior and then, after the new Minnetonka District was formed in 1952, Minnetonka High School. Ken, the second oldest, graduated from Excelsior High School in 1943.

Before school buses were commonplace, the Koehnen children started their school days walking from the family farm to what is now Excelsior Elementary.

“By the time I was in school, the teachers and administrators certainly knew the Koehnen name,” says Joan (Koehnen) Felt '60, the second youngest in the family. “We walked to school every day, and I don’t ever remember there being a snow day.”

Out on the farm, the Koehnens grew fruits and vegetables and raised some livestock. “Our dad sold the produce at the market in

Minneapolis,” Felt recalls. “Dad did all the plowing with horses. We had cows, too. Mom canned and jarred vegetables and fruits that we would eat all year. The boys all had newspaper routes to make money. I remember that some of us went to Ken’s service station after school, and he’d sometimes give us a ride home. We really had a nice, busy life.”

Life on the small farm did not include many luxuries. The children pumped water from a well and carried it to the house in pails. Clothes were washed in a hand-operated ringer machine and hung to dry. Children slept three to a bed. Bath nights were Saturday, when Luvilla simply added more hot water to the tub for each child.

And yes, the Koehnens not only survived, but they thrived, both on and after leaving the farm. In all, the 17 surviving Koehn children had more than 60 children and numerous grandchildren of their own. Local newspapers, as well as the Minneapolis papers, wrote a number of stories about the large family.

Anyone with a history in the west metro area is sure to remember that once the Koehn boys finished their schooling—and four of them finished military service during World War II—eight of them, at one time or another, operated full-service Standard Oil gas stations. Ken, who started working at the Standard station in Excelsior before buying the business, helped several brothers start or buy their own stations.

Koehn-owned stations could be found in Victoria, Excelsior, Hopkins, Shakopee, Navarre and Minnetonka.

“I think one of the most amazing things about my father and his siblings was that even though there were 17 of them, they



Koehn stands next to the Excelsior Area Veterans Memorial, which was officially dedicated on Saturday, August 12, 2006. Koehn passed away on June 8, 2008, at the age of 83.

remained extremely close throughout their lives, always looking out for each other,” says Karen. “It’s why my father didn’t even think twice about giving his brothers whatever they needed to start or buy services stations. It must’ve had something to do with growing up together on the farm, where I think they had to work hard and share everything.”

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

The Minnetonka Alumni Association is excited to announce a partnership with Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, a program that creates awareness for connecting military service members and their families to community support opportunities. The program reaches all branches of the military and serves everyone touched by a service member’s deployment—before, during and long after their deployment.

“I am hoping to connect the Minnetonka alumni community, veterans and local families who can help us provide resources to military families,” says Bob Ayotte, retired United States Army Colonel, parent of four Minnetonka alums and long-time supporter of Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. “I also hope we can assist Minnetonka grads who are veterans or current service members with any needs they might have.”

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon projects have included providing cars to veterans, hosting information sessions to new recruits and their families and making improvements to injured soldiers’ houses to accommodate their needs when they return home.

If you are interested in volunteering, being a resource or know a family who may benefit from Beyond the Yellow Ribbon opportunities, please send us an email at alumni@minnetonka.k12.mn.us. For more information about Beyond the Yellow Ribbon please visit www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org.



Interested in being involved with Beyond the Yellow Ribbon?
Email us at alumni@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

Remembering Track Star Marty Benson '63

Back in 1963, Minnetonka didn't even have a track that was usable for competition—it was nothing more than an uneven and rugged dirt path around the football field. However that didn't stop senior Marty Benson '63 from winning the Skippers' first-ever individual track title and shattering state records in the process.

Benson got a late start in track, only taking up the sport in his junior year after finding himself too lean and lanky for football. He went out for cross-country that fall, and had modest success, but found track to be more to his liking in the spring. While he wasn't suited for the gridiron, Benson's leg speed and endurance made him a perfect fit on the track, specifically the 880-yard (half mile) dash.

"I don't think he realized the natural talent he had until he started on the track and cross country teams," says Lynn Krafve, Benson's coach.

After running a personal best 2:02.9 and just missing the state meet in his first year, Benson continued to improve. Still, it was only those that had a keen eye for talent and potential that would have considered him a favorite for the state title heading into his senior season.

That year, the consensus pick for the 880-yard title was St. Louis Park's Bob Wagner. Wagner and Benson would duel throughout the season trying to best one another. After running a 2:00.6 in the Lake Conference Championships—just 0.4 seconds behind Wagner—Benson, Minnetonka's co-captain, broke two minutes for the first time (1:56.8) at the District 18 meet, running 1.1 seconds faster than he ever had in the event. Unfortunately, Wagner ran 0.5 seconds faster than that.

Benson beat Wagner for the first time at the state qualifying Region 5 meet, equaling his 1:56.8 mark from the district meet and headed into the finals of the State Meet at Memorial Stadium as one of the favorites.

In the finals, Benson was forced to an outside lane after being boxed in early, but nevertheless moved up just off of the lead with 330 yards to go. He took the lead with 220 yards left and never looked back, pulling away from the field with a winning time of 1:55.7 to crush the previous state record of 1:57.9 by over two seconds.

"After he won the state title he sent me a telegram asking, 'Where do I go from here?' I said, 'Marty, you can go anywhere

you want!'" says Krafve, who was taking a sabbatical at the time of Benson's win.

Amazingly, that record still stands as the Minnesota high school boys 880-yard cinder track record and only two Tonka runners have ever run faster, though both of them did so on a faster, rubberized tartan surface.

Benson left behind an undeniable legacy with the Minnetonka track and field program. His success gave the Skippers the extra boost they needed to persuade the school board to put in a six-lane cinder track for the 1964 season. So, you could call the eight-lane rubberized track that MHS has today, "The Track that Marty Benson Built."

After graduating, Benson went to Mankato State College on a track scholarship, where he became one of the best middle distance runners in school history.

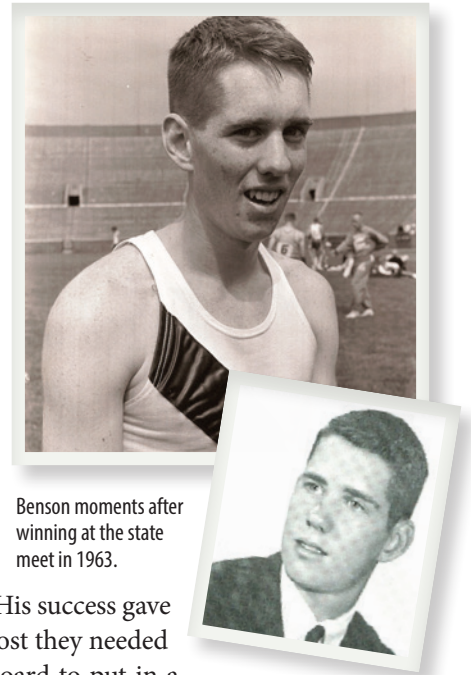
"I ran against Marty a couple times in college. It was a true honor to run in the same competition with him. I looked up to him and was inspired by how talented he was," says former MHS track star Bruce Johnson '66.

Benson graduated from college in 1967 before enlisting in the Marine Corps, where he became a Marine pilot and Second Lieutenant in 1968. He fought for his country in Vietnam and his leadership and success on the track carried over well to the military. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal for heroism on numerous occasions and was promoted to First Lieutenant. Tragically, on February 5, 1970, Benson was fatally wounded by ground fire while on a reconnaissance mission and attempting to land a helicopter.

Benson passed away three weeks later at just 24 years old.

"Marty did what he did, knowing the probable outcome, out a deep, lifelong patriotism. He knew what he was getting into and did it anyway," says classmate Bill Van Dyke '63

Benson's memory has not faded in Minnetonka, however, and is remembered to this day through the Marty Benson Memorial Award, which is awarded annually to the outstanding track athlete at MHS who best exemplifies Benson's competitive spirit and athletic achievement.



Benson moments after winning at the state meet in 1963.

The Minnetonka Alumni Association is proud of our alumni who are veterans and those currently serving in the Armed Forces. For the complete list of alumni veterans please visit www.minnetonkaalumni.com. If you, or someone you know, is not included on this list please email us at alumni@minnetonka.k12.mn.us.

FINE ARTS ENDOWMENT

Alumni Association tops \$30,000 in giving through Fine Arts Endowment

The Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund helps ensure a vibrant future for fine arts education in the Minnetonka School District. This permanent, income-producing legacy, administered by the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation, makes possible extraordinary opportunities for Minnetonka teachers and students in the visual, performing and literary arts—opportunities beyond and separate from the schools' normal operating budget. Since 2005, the Minnetonka Alumni Association has awarded more than \$30,000 in Fine Arts grants.

Why support the fine arts in secondary education?

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, the habit of lifelong learning and creativity to compose a future we can only imagine. Research has consistently shown that combining the desire to create with the perseverance needed to excel in the arts results in improved student performance in all academic subjects.

An arts education:

- Builds a climate of high expectations
- 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 at large
- Provides an opportunity for parental, community and business involvement with schools

School districts that value the arts provide a full education in the deepest sense of the word—one that prepares students to live and work together, to appreciate the interconnectedness of humanity and to thrive in an uncertain future. To learn more about the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund, visit www.minnetonkaalumni.com.



Minnetonka High School students presented their plan for a mural in the main entrance of the high school. The mural was funded by the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment in 2013 and will be unveiled to the public in June 2014. Photo: Joy (Davis) Fruen '71, Gail (Thacker) Ofstehage '68, Emily Brandt '14, Ellen Anderson '14, Bonnie (Board) Niles '67 and Marietta Jacobsen '70.



A FAST-PACED FOUNDATION

BY ELIZABETH (HOLCOMB) NORTON '82
FOUNDATION TRUSTEE

The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation continues to make strides in every corner of the District. Our newest endowment project, *Global Concourse*, aims to provide all Tonka students with opportunities to engage in globally-focused experiences, activities and programs throughout their years in Minnetonka, from preschool to senior year. The program's tag line—*Expanding Perspectives*—sums it up perfectly; our goal is to broaden students' understanding of the world and help them to develop intercultural and global competencies, enabling them to succeed in a diverse and rapidly-changing world.

Our annual Dream Makers fundraiser, held on February 11, 2014, is one big reason we are able to support major projects such as *Global Concourse*. More than 600 supporters of Minnetonka Public Schools gathered at the Legends Club at Target Field and raised more than \$150,000 in one night.

The Teacher Grant Program continues to provide classroom-level grants to teachers and staff in every building and every grade in the District. We're proud to report that we've provided more than \$700,000 in support since 1996. Our teachers' innovative ideas continue to impress us. For the complete list of 2014-15 grants, visit, www.minnetonkafoundation.com.

Finally, a new group of Foundation fans we call *True Blues* has given us new energy this year. These folks, all of whom have made significant financial, in-kind, or volunteer-hour donations to the Foundation, embrace our mission of "supporting and funding innovative programs that create broad, sustainable change in educating ALL Minnetonka students." Thanks, True Blues!

Interested in learning more about how you can support The Foundation? Visit our website or Like us on Facebook.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Deborah (Smith) Mayer

CLASS OF 1965

BY SARA SKALLE

The underlying success of Deborah (Smith) Mayer's career is the number of lives she has touched and, through the programs she's established, how that number continues to grow.

A self-admitted class clown, Mayer, or as her friends call her, Debby, was a good student but loved playing practical jokes. "I took life quite lightly and with a lot of humor," she says. Then Minnetonka High School teacher Pat Edblad, who appreciated Debby's sense of humor but not always in class, moved her into a more challenging sociology-psychology course. "Right then I realized that here's someone who's seeing past all my jokes," says Mayer. "It was a sociology-psychology class and it altered my life's path."

That path began as a juvenile probation officer in Florida and later Texas, where she spearheaded programs for at-risk girls and youth with mental or physical challenges. In the 1970s most juvenile programs focused on boys. Debby filled a need to help girls and their families with intervention and prevention programs, addressing social, educational and psychological issues. Later, discovering that there was a high percentage of repeat offenders among girls and boys with disabilities, Mayer received a research grant and published her findings in *Federal Probation* magazine, bringing light to the issue. In addition to the tough work that went with the job, Debby volunteered many hours to help families who were in dire straits.

Her next career phase was teaching, working with gifted programs, alternative education and special education. Combining her knowledge of criminology and education, Mayer developed programs to help disenfranchised youth and gang members. She also found time to coach both tennis and Special Olympics. After 15 years of teaching, including a Teacher of the Year honor, Mayer earned two master's degrees in Educational Administration and Counseling, and held vice-principal, principal and district administration roles. As Director of Student Welfare and Attendance, Debby created an attendance incentive, called Attendance Promotes Excellence (APEX), which has been adopted by states across the nation. She was also the liaison between school districts and law enforcement organizations.

In one of her last cases, Debby intervened on the attempted murder of a second grade girl. The mother of the girl was attempting to kill her because she was the only witness to her mother setting her sister on fire. Mayer, along with the police, district attorney's office and the highway patrol, was able to capture the mother, who was later convicted of attempted



Deborah (Smith) Mayer and her favorite teacher Pat (Edblad) Forrest keep in touch on a regular basis. Mayer credits Edblad for her unwavering support that has continued through her adult life.



murder and sent to prison. Ultimately, Mayer played a pivotal role in saving the little girl's life. "I was proud that during my tenure, I didn't lose any kids," says Mayer humbly.

Debby admits that sometimes it was a long walk from the dark side to the sunny side of the street. She continually aimed for balance, relying on her humor and lifelong love of sports. She's always been a member of a fitness club and enjoys tennis, golf, biking and swimming. And as if that wasn't enough, she adds adrenaline sports like skydiving, kayaking, caving, bungee jumping, scuba diving and race car driving. This girl doesn't hold back! "I try to wake up everyday with an attitude of gratitude and take it from there," says Mayer.

Since retiring in 2003, Debby has kept busy by volunteering for her retirement community's crisis response team and landscaping committee. She also serves as an excursion leader, provides counseling services and teaches a class for older residents called *Living Well, Accentuating the Positive*. "If I sign up for something that's all about me, I also make sure to sign up for something that's all about someone else," says Mayer.

Debby credits her wonderful life to her parents, brother Doug Smith '63, former minister Dr. Harold King and a group of dear friends since seventh grade who have remained close all these years, celebrating birthdays and pivotal events. Through it all, her teacher-mentor Pat (Edblad) Forrest has been a big part of her life, supporting Mayer in good times and bad, including the death of her best friend Julie (Newquist) Webster '65 in 2006. "I would not be getting this award if it weren't for several amazing and supportive people in my life," says Mayer in a self-effacing style. Yet there are hundreds of people who are thankful that their lives have been touched by Debby Mayer.

Dr. Steven H. Miles

CLASS OF 1968

BY SARA SKALLE

A leading voice on bioethical issues, distinguished professor and physician, Dr. Steven H. Miles tackles tough issues, pursues truth and effects change. While his accomplishments have affected tens of thousands of lives, from his perspective, he's just done what any educated, moral person would do.

Miles work has taken him far from Minnetonka High School, yet its roots trace back to core skills that were honed there. English teachers Pam Bergland, who told him to read, and William Chisholm, who told him to write, sparked the inception of future pursuits. Their permission, given to a young, thoughtful boy, unleashed a passion for knowledge and truth and a means to share it with the world.

Bioethics is bringing common values into conversation with medical science and practice. As a bioethicist, Miles may be credited with eliminating restraints in nursing homes, establishing the do not resuscitate order protecting end of life choices and exposing medical complicity in the torture of prisoners in Iraq, Afghanistan and at Guantanamo Bay. He indexed more than 60,000 pages of government documents into a database accessible at the Human Rights Library at the University of Minnesota (www1.umn.edu/humanrts).

Miles is drawn to issues that most avoid or problems others would rather not deal with. "When I started documenting torture, a lot of people said a) ick and b) you can never make any headway on this. And I made a fair amount of headway."

"Basically my job is to wade into that stuff and say, 'This is too important to ignore. I don't care if it makes you uncomfortable. These are people too and you've got to deal with it.' That's my career in a nutshell," he says.

Miles has worked to improve medical practices within refugee camps as medical director for the American Refugee Committee for 25 years. This includes service as chief medical officer for 45,000 refugees on the Thai-Cambodian border plus projects in Sudan, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia and the Thai-Burmese border.

At the University of Minnesota, Miles serves as professor of medicine and bioethics, Maas Family Endowed Chair in Bioethics and affiliate faculty for the law school's concentration in Health Law and Bioethics. He has served as president of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities and received its Distinguished Service Award. In addition to these academic roles, Miles has been a practicing internal medicine physician, seeing patients throughout his career until just a few months ago. Miles

has also been known to challenge public figures and politicians on claims made, exposing pseudoscience when he can, because he can.

Many of Steven Miles' accomplishments were fueled by unquenchable tenacity, meticulous research and skill with the written word. With four books, 20-plus chapters and more than 200 academic papers published, Miles knows the power of writing to bring about change. His first book, *The Hippocratic Oath and the Ethics of Medicine*, published by Oxford University Press in 2004, delves into the original meaning and context of the oath 2,400 years ago and illuminates its relevance in modern day medical practice and ethical contexts. His two subsequent books, *Oath Betrayed: Torture, Medical Complicity and the War on Terror* (2006) and *Oath Betrayed: America's Torture Doctors* (2009) examines the neglect, mistreatment and torture of prisoners and the role of healthcare workers within those facilities.

Of his many honors, one he is particularly proud of is the George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language, awarded to him by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). "I was flabbergasted by it first off," says Miles, but then he thought of the MHS English teachers who inspired him.

Being selected as a Minnetonka High School Distinguished Alumni is an honor Miles is not going to downplay. "It's really nice," he says. "Whether I had gotten an award or not," he adds, "I would've played the cards the same way because the cards were worth playing."

With another book in progress, scheduled to be published later this year, Miles continues to bring truth into the light. The world, in his perspective, is one where everyone should do their best, do what's right and go as far as one can go.



Dr. Steven H. Miles and Deborah Smith Mayer will be recognized with a Minnetonka Distinguished Alumni Award on Saturday, September 27. Nominate a classmate for an award or purchase tickets at www.minnetonkaalumni.com.

HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS

Classmates blossom into soul mates

BY SARA SKALLE

In every graduating class, there are sweethearts and the question if young love will last. A lucky few find their soul mates early and enjoy a lifetime of love. Meet five couples whose relationships sparked at Minnetonka High School. One couple recently celebrated their 70th class reunion and two couples are second-generation MHS sweethearts!



ELAINE (GREENWALD) & DICK FREES

Class of 1943 (Deephaven)

These two sweethearts celebrated their 70th high school reunion last year! Dick and Elaine met as freshmen at Deephaven High School. The way he pestered her, Elaine knew Dick kind of liked her. Dick was class president and on the football team, Elaine was homecoming queen. Their prom was a lovely, special evening of dinner and dancing at the Del Otaro Hotel in Spring Park. After graduation, Dick went to college and joined the ROTC. When WWII heated up, he was assigned overseas with the army in 1944, barely missing the dreadful first wave of D-Day landings due to the measles. During his furlough in the summer of 1945, Dick and Elaine became engaged. With Japan's surrender, wedding plans could proceed. Elaine wanted a June wedding, Dick didn't want to wait longer than necessary, so they married on June 1, 1946. "We've had a good, long life together. There's so much to be thankful for," says Elaine. The couple has three children (including John Frees featured below) and seven grandchildren.

JOYCE "SUNNY" (NIELSEN) & JOHN FREES

Class of 1968 & 1967

Neighbors and mutual friends brought these two sweethearts together. Joyce's house near Cottagewood was the popular place to hang out. John's neighbor (who married Joyce's sister) brought him along one day and a circle of friends formed. Despite going to prom with other people the first year, these two began dating in 1966 when John was a junior and Joyce was a sophomore, and they went to the next two proms together. After graduation, John went to St. Cloud State University and Joyce worked at Prudential Insurance. Married in 1972, the couple has three children and five grandchildren. "I had the good fortune of a Minnetonka education and meeting my wife (my lifelong best friend)," says John Frees.



Did you marry your high school sweetheart? Tell us your story. Send us a Facebook message or email us at alumni@minnetonka.k12.mn.us. We are interested in featuring your sweetheart story.

LAURIE (DANIELSON) & MARK LARSON

Class of 1988

During time between finals, Laurie and Mark went to Excelsior for a classic first date of lunch at Pizza Hut and frisbee in the park and were back in time for their next final. They met in seventh grade science class and, being placed a year ahead, a bit intimidated by the older students, they stuck together in math and science classes through high school. The summer romance that blossomed after graduation carried Mark and Laurie through their college years. They were married in 1993 and are now living in Greenwood with two daughters, who both attend MMW. "It's surprising how many people graduate from MHS and come back to raise their kids here!" says Laurie.



CATHY (BAKKEN) & BOB ALLEN

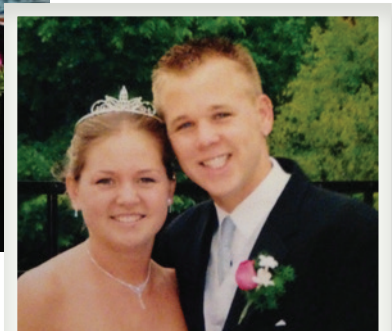
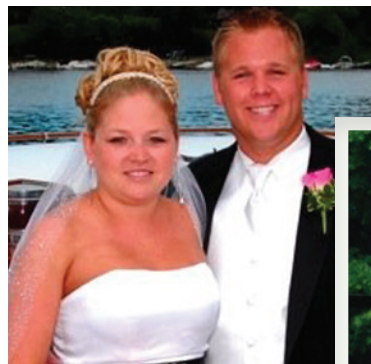
Class of 1971

Though they knew one another growing up, it wasn't until the summer before senior year that Cathy and Bob started spending time together. Bob was racing sailboats and Cathy worked at the Chinese restaurant at 7-Hi. When school started in the fall, they met everyday in the halls, ate lunch together and enjoyed football games or movies with a great group of friends. Their best memory was the senior prom at the Lafayette Club. Bob and Cathy married in 1975, had three children (including Molly who is featured below) and now both work at Minnetonka High School as special education paraprofessionals. "The whole lake community is something very special and unique. There's no other area like it," says Cathy.

MOLLY (ALLEN) & CHRIS HAGEN

Class of 2004

Chris and Molly met the summer before junior year. When school started, they talked everyday by their lockers. Chris asked Molly to be his girlfriend right before homecoming that year. He joined her family for a spring break trip to Cozumel, Mexico, and while scuba diving he pulled out a laminated paper that read Molly, will you go to prom with me? (She said yes!) They stayed together through college and were married in 2008 at the Minnetonka Yacht Club. Molly remembers looking through her parents' yearbooks, seeing what they wrote (and laughing). "I love that our children will be able to do the same when someday they look through our yearbooks," says Molly.





When the Minnetonka School District was organized March 15, 1949, six school districts merged: Clear Springs, Deephaven, Excelsior, Groveland, Minnewashta and Tonka Bay. The site for Minnetonka High School was purchased October 11, 1949 and the first students attended classes in the building September 1, 1952.

Hanus family legacy tied to MHS land

BY JOHN MUGFORD

Quite an interesting and perhaps little-known story lies behind how the Minnetonka School District, while in start-up mode in the late 1940s, acquired what would turn out to be the key property for the emerging system.

Prior to the Minnetonka High School's construction in the early 1950s, the land was owned by Rudy Kokesh and his family, who tended to the fields and sold their produce at a stand fronting Excelsior Boulevard along what now parallels Highway 7.

The story behind the District's purchase of the land, however, has its roots with a different, quite prominent Minnetonka farm family whose name would become one of the best known in the district: Hanus.

Today, long-time residents certainly remember the Hanus' name for the school bus company started and operated for 40 years by Fred "Fritz" Hanus and his brother, Jim, sons of the family farm's owners, Adolph and Gladys. The husband and wife team ran their highly successful farm in an area a couple of miles east of today's MHS, a 40-acre site just north of Highway 7 at Tonkawood Road, near and surrounding what is now Gladys Lane.

After getting seed money to start the transportation company from their mother in 1956, Fred and Jim acquired three school

buses from a local man with a small contract with the Minnetonka schools. By the time they sold their company to Ryder in 1997, they had 175 buses running out of three west-metro garages, including one on the original farm site. The company had contracts with the Minnetonka, Wayzata, Orono and Mound-Westonka Districts, among others.

And how did the Hanus family, who grew fruits and vegetables and milked cows on their farm, end up playing a crucial role in the MHS land acquisition? Well, it was the matriarch of the Hanus family, Gladys, who Minnetonka's first superintendent, William O. Nilsen, turned to for real estate advice twice soon after arriving from Iowa.

The first time Nilsen met Gladys he'd shown up to ask her about renting a house in the Minnetonka area.

"At that time, about 1946 or '47, it was hard to find houses because not many had been built during World War II," says Fred. "He'd heard that we had started to build some houses on our land—an idea started by my mother—and he showed up at our fields one day in a suit and tie while she was tending to the raspberries. Because my mother taught us to never stop working, even when people came to visit, he had to walk along with her as she worked in order to talk."

MHS Doors Open September 1, 1952

The 1952 yearbook reads, "This is the beginning of a new era. The students who pass through Tonka's halls during the following years will, we are sure, come to love and appreciate this school and will make their years at Minnetonka a high point in their lives."



In the late 1940s, Gladys Hanus, who was known in the community for her famous raspberries, helped Minnetonka's first superintendent, William Nilsen, decide which land to purchase for the new Minnetonka High School.

The new superintendent, who ended up living in a house on Hanus land for about 10 years, quickly found out how sharp and in-the-know Gladys was about the local area.

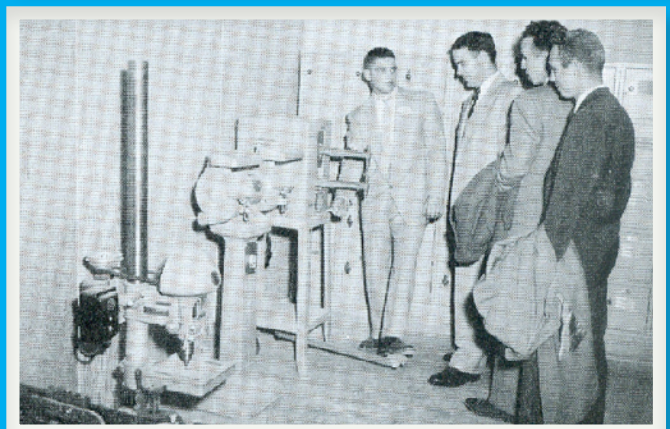
"My dad bought all of the equipment for the farm and sold the milk, but it was my mother who handled everything else, selling our produce and doing all of our finances and making many of the big decisions," Fred says. "She started selling produce at a stand on Minnetonka Boulevard in 1932 and learned about everything that was going on in the city and the schools, she knew all of the people who farmed and lived in the area."

Not too much later, after she had become a confidante of Nilsen, he asked her for more guidance: where to find a well-positioned, large tract for the District's future high school. Gladys, he'd learned, had a working inventory in her mind of all the properties and the owners who might be willing to sell.

"After the school board gave the okay to buy the land for the high school, he asked my mother for help. She said she knew just the place and that she knew the owner, Rudy Kokesh, who was a Bohemian like us, very well. He was probably willing to sell," Fred says. "I think the superintendent realized that it would be a good idea to have Gladys introduce him to the Kokeshes to make the sale go smoother. So she did that."

With Gladys' help, the sale indeed took place and the Minnetonka School District, which was formed by the mergers of Excelsior and Deeptown High Schools as well as several local elementary schools, had a centrally located, large property on which to build what remains its flagship facility to this day, MHS.

These days, Fred Hanus and his wife, Sue, have a house on land that was once part of the family farm. Like his mother, Fred has a long history of involvement in the community, serving on the Minnetonka City Council from 1970-96 and being a driving force behind the development of Bennett Family Park.



Meet 11 outstanding students from the MHS Class of 2014

BY MAGGIE SHEA



RILEY NELSON

When he was a kid, Riley Nelson loved searching for fossils. On family trips, natural wonders and relics from the past caught his eye. In his art, he mines both childhood experiences and current interests, fusing realism and surrealism to create stunning paintings. He will major in art at the University of Pennsylvania, where he hopes to illustrate for the campus paper and work on an urban mural initiative.

Nelson has earned 22 Scholastic art awards and two Scholastic writing awards. This year, his surreal portrayal of a McDonald's received an American Visions Award. "I wanted to use all the elements of composition," he says of the piece, noting that there was a moment where he considered abandoning the painting.

In ninth grade, Nelson's wildlife drawing won a National Congressional Art Award and a place on the Capitol walls for a year, and Nelson and his parents won a trip to Washington, D.C. Art teacher Melanie Mozingo, who taught Riley at Minnewashta and in IB Art his junior and senior years, says even in the early grades, Nelson demonstrated "incredible attention to detail" informed by a rich inner life. "He is one of the most exceptional students I have taught in 15 years," she says.

Though he has a distinctive personal style, Nelson admires Norman Rockwell and Leonardo daVinci, but also likes contemporary visual artist Kahinde Wiley. Like these artists, Nelson is making a mark on his community. He creates airbrush caricatures for charity at events and in summer, at the Excelsior Commons. In total, Nelson has donated over \$2,000 to Children's Surgery International, a non-profit agency that performs surgeries in third-world countries.

Nelson lives life on a broad canvas: he is captain of the Cross Country, Track and Nordic Ski teams, makes art in and outside of class, and maintains a 4.48 weighted GPA in the IB Diploma Programme. He's also savvy at wilderness tracking: he and four friends made the national news this summer when they found Tomah, a missing sheltie, in the Boundary Waters. He's heading out west with the same group of friends this summer; no doubt he'll return with new visions for his artwork and more stories to tell.

Look up at the big board by the MHS track and you'll find Carolina Bowe's name and her lightning-fast record time: 100 meters in 12.17 seconds, achieved her sophomore year at the state meet. Girls' track captain Bowe was named All Conference and Academic All State her sophomore and junior years and All State Track her junior year. Despite her stellar record, she cares more about internal goals. "My personal best is more important to me than the school or state record," she says.

Next year, she will attend Yale and run track for the Bulldogs, keeping a family tradition of collegiate athletics. Both of her parents, one brother and two sisters attended and competed at Stanford; her brother Henry played football for Georgetown.

"Success in sprinting stems from sustained intensity and explosive energy," says Bowe. "When it all comes together, there is not a conscious thought, I'm just going as fast as I can," she says. "And I'm reminded why I run."

Her coaches and teachers say Bowe is a positive influence in every setting. Kim Hoehne, AP Physics teacher and track coach, says Carolina is "committed to challenging herself" and willing to go outside her comfort zone to improve and reach her goals. "Her infectious smile brightens many days," she adds. Bowe's English teacher Sue Sinkler says, "Carolina is warm and sees deeper meanings in literature."

A National AP Scholar, Bowe has taken Minnetonka's most rigorous AP courses as well as summer programs in medicine at Georgetown, writing at Duke and Science and Engineering at St. Olaf. As part of the Rube Goldberg team her junior year, she had fun collaborating with teammates on an intricate invention for hammering a nail. She's played the trumpet since sixth grade, and in her senior year was named to All State concert band.

Outside of school, Bowe holds down two jobs and volunteers at her church's garden. Looking ahead, she is considering a major in science and engineering. "I love the architecture, the location, the campus feel," she says of Yale.



CAROLINA BOWE

In the fall, Cara Schrader will walk into her first college class at the U of M's Carlson School with an insider's knowledge of business. As a student in VANTAGE Global Business' inaugural year, she and her project team helped General Mills build brand loyalty among teens through social media. After conducting 500 surveys and studying competitors, they honed in on Fruit Gusher's Twitter feed, recommending that General Mills could attract followers by adding humor to Gusher's tweets.

Second semester, Schrader moved on to the corporate side of the nonprofit Habitat for Humanity, focusing on developing marketing plans for internal donations. This summer, she landed a coveted full-time internship with Lifetouch Photography, a rare opportunity for a high school student. VANTAGE director Chris Pears says Schrader's exceptional poise and presentation skills make her stand out.

Students in VANTAGE are juggling many balls: completing coursework for AP Econ, IB Business and English; working on team projects with real world audiences; connecting with mentors; and getting back to school each day for afternoon classes. Schrader says the best part of the innovative program is the work on practical skills, like collaborating on teams, writing resumes and cover letters and presenting to business professionals. She had help along the way with from a Medtronic mentor, who provided advice and guidance, and she is grateful to the VANTAGE teachers for their hard work in building networks and launching the program.



CARA SCHRADER



GRANT STEELE

For one who stands out in a crowd, Skipper basketball center Grant Steele's most exceptional qualities may be his composure and humility. His academic accomplishments are stellar: National Merit Finalist, a constant presence on the A Honor roll with a 4.36 weighted GPA, IB Diploma candidate. After a rousing Friday night win over Hopkins his junior year, he woke up early the next morning, took the ACT and scored a 35. On the court, he's the 6'8" man at the rim, battling for rebounds.

Varsity coach Tom Dasovich says Steele is a mature player whose "influence extends far beyond the court." His IB English teacher Sue Sinkler agrees: "Grant is insightful beyond his years, able to get right to the heart of things with clarity." Yet he remains calm during tense times on the court and in the classroom, and he's present to those around him, both in real time and on Twitter.

Steele credits his parents with developing his leadership talents and his taste for challenge. As he heads to Pomona College in California this fall, where he will play basketball for the Sagehens and study pre-med, he is following in their footsteps: both parents were college athletes and both became doctors (his dad is a dentist, his mom a physician).

A highlight of high school was a trip to Russia with the MHS International Studies program. "The sun never set," Steele says, so they enjoyed every minute of their visits to Moscow, St. Petersburg and their home stays in Petrozavotsk. In Minnesota, he enjoys spending time at his family's cabin up north.



JESSE THORSON

At a recent Acoustic Coffeehouse in MHS's Black Box Theatre, a lively event coordinated by students, drummer Jesse Thorson was multitasking: playing with multiple bands, managing the lineup, fine-tuning instruments.

Leadership and collaboration come naturally for Thorson: he's co-captain of the Quiz Bowl and Math Teams, president of National Honor Society and an award-winning drummer in the Jazz Ensemble and theatre's Pit Orchestra. "Jesse is one of the best percussion readers I have worked with," says band director Miles Mortenson. "He brings a very high level of musicianship to every rehearsal and performance."

The Swedish Revival, a band comprised of Thorson on drums, another MHS senior and three Minnetonka alums, has played venues most high school musicians can only dream of, including The Varsity Theatre for the Zach Sobiech benefit concert, The Whole Music Club at the U of M and the State Fair. A gig he'll never forget, though, was closer to home: last summer, he and some friends played Duke Ellington's *Take the A Train* and other songs for local nursing home residents. "I love how jazz brings joy to the residents, who often feel restricted by their living situations," Thorson says.

Jesse is a National AP Scholar and National Merit Finalist. "He's curious, entrepreneurial and very personable," says his math teacher, Nathan Van Dyke. Thorson volunteers in the Writing Center and works with grade school students as a member of Backpack Tutoring. At the Writing Center's Off the Page event in April, he facilitated an on-stage conversation with local legend Don Shelby.

In the fall, Jesse is heading to Columbia University in New York City to study engineering and enjoy world-class jazz. He is interested in learning more about renewable energy and creative approaches to climate-change issues. Packing all these talents into one career may require a bit of improvisation, but he's got that down.

2014 SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS



JACK ROTMAN

“Football develops the strength of character that helps you do great things in life,” says Skippers football co-captain Jack Rotman, who will play for DePauw next year. “He’s successful because of his heart, grit, determination—and he’s a great student of the game,” says Linebacker Coach and Defensive Coordinator Greg Clough, adding that he’s widely admired by younger players. As inside linebacker, Rotman was the defensive leader with 99 tackles. “He’s the total package, always all-in. His commitment to the program and his teammates is unparalleled,” Clough says.

“Going through the seasons together creates a bond that you can’t break,” Rotman says of friendships forged on the gridiron. Images from football seasons are seared in his memories: running onto the field to the roar of cheering fans, huddling up with the team under the bleachers at half-time, Coach Clough’s pregame pep talks. Reflecting on his senior year, Jack says the second Edina matchup stands out. “We played hard and won, then I walked out and my brother Justin was there,” Jack says, adding that Justin ’08, who played for the Skippers and Carleton College, is one of his heroes.

Rotman leads off the field as well, as senior class president and accomplished student, earning the designation of AP Scholar with Honor. He competes on the Quiz Bowl team and volunteers with Bennett Miracle Field Baseball and iCanHoop basketball. His peers voted him into both Homecoming Court and the Heart Week Man Pageant.

Jack bleeds blue for Minnetonka: he praises the teachers, traditions, community and passion for excellence. “The connections I’ve made here are permanent, deeply rooted,” he says.

As co-captain of Tonka Girls Hockey and Soccer teams, Diana Draayer is grateful for years of unforgettable memories. As a sophomore varsity hockey forward, she dove into the net in the Section Final against Benilde, driving in the puck off a rebound for the game-winning goal that sent the Skippers to state.

When she was a junior, Minnetonka beat Lakeville North 4-3 in a six overtime state semifinal hockey game that ran a record-breaking 113 minutes. “We condition for games like this all year,” says Draayer, admitting that she was exhausted when she got home around 3 a.m. Their 3-1 win over Hill-Murray the next night made for a three-peat state championship for Tonka.

Her senior year, as soccer forward, Draayer faced Lakeville North again in the girls soccer state tournament. The team began the season unranked, and after beating Lakeville 1-0, finished as state champions, a designation last earned in 2001.

Skipper girls hockey head coach Eric Johnson says Draayer’s crossover skills in soccer and hockey make her formidable on the ice and the field. “She’s very smart with the puck, a natural playmaker, and poised under pressure,” Johnson says, adding that teammates appreciate her balance of intensity and upbeat, fun energy.

Next year, Draayer will skate and study at Gustavus, joining her sister Caroline, also a Skippers hockey standout. “I admire her perseverance and achievements, and I’m excited to play on the same hockey team with her for the first time,” Diana says.



DIANA DRAAYER



SYDNEY BALDWIN

Skippers defensive star Sydney Baldwin committed to playing for the Gopher Women’s hockey in December of her junior year, but she got an official welcome this February at TCF Bank Stadium, where she scored the game-winning goal against Eden Prairie in the first-ever outdoor hockey game at the Bank.

In addition to playing on Tonka’s three state champion hockey teams, Baldwin was selected for the USA Women’s National U18 Team for the past two years, traveling to Finland in 2013 and Budapest this year for the championships. She earned All-Conference hockey designation for three years, AP All-State in 2013 and Star Tribune All Metro in 2013. This year, Sydney was named Ms. Hockey Minnesota.

“Syd is the best all-around skater we have ever seen at Minnetonka. She’s smooth, fast and strong; she looks effortless as she glides by opponents,” says Skippers coach Eric Johnson. Baldwin is also world-class off the ice, mentoring younger skaters, working hard in school and part-time jobs and captaining her team with strength and humility. She played varsity tennis in grades 8 through 11, making it to state each year. Baldwin and her older sister Paige, who plays hockey for St. Thomas, were doubles partners

in tennis and teammates Sydney’s freshman year of hockey.

She credits her success to hard work, supportive family and community, top-notch teammates and excellent coaching. Her playmaking prowess has been a gift to Minnetonka’s hockey program, and will continue to dazzle Minnesota fans in the years to come.

Keaton Lee's angle on sports drinks and prom pictures differs from that of most other seniors. As a student in the VANTAGE Global Business program, he's researched the exercise drink industry in-depth, presented flavor recommendations to the CEO of ASPIRE Beverages and worked on ASPIRE's "A-Team," setting up tasting events around town. Second semester, he got a new assignment: working with Lifetouch Photography on developing new prom photo strategies.

"I have a new respect for entrepreneurs now," he says, after coming up with his own product for a VANTAGE assignment (a heated ice cream scoop), writing a 30-page business plan and learning first-hand about the growth of ASPIRE Beverages, a successful healthy-alternative energy drink business conceived by an Edina hockey dad.

Lee appreciates the relevant guest speakers, access to teachers and mentors, and professional environment in this new program. VANTAGE teacher Brent Veninga says Lee is "collaborative, hard-working, curious and intelligent," qualities that will serve him well at Santa Clara University in California this fall.

Traveling has informed Lee's worldview: his family has traveled to Venezuela, Tonga and Mexico, to name a few. Lee got to know South Africa up close, though, on a two-week trip to Capetown with Minnetonka High School International Studies Program. "The sunset from the top of Table Mountain was one of the most beautiful sights I've ever seen," he says. "The economic reality was a bit of a shock," he adds, commenting on the disparity between wealthy pockets and townships.

Lee says his parents' emphasis on education has inspired him to work hard and take on challenges.



KEATON LEE

In a fateful twist, dancer Maddie Scott tried out for *Our Town* her freshman year, got a callback for the role of Stage Manager, but didn't get cast. She joined stage crew—and found her people. Since then, she's played roles on stage and off for over a dozen shows at Minnetonka Theatre, Old Log and Chanhassen Dinner Theatre shows.

Maddie understands how all the elements come into play in a performance: she danced for ten years, sings in elite choirs, has acted in many roles and served as lighting designer, stage manager and a host of other behind-the-scenes functions.

Scott says she loves how theatre "has the power to make the audience feel something." After working on independent studies with Minnetonka Theatre staff Matt Kudas and Erik Paulsen, Maddie's appreciation for lighting has deepened. "Lighting can evoke emotions on its own, can make scenes more visually real," she says. Her junior year, she designed lighting for four Creo Arts and Dance productions. "Maddie has a thirst to learn and understand everything about theatre and lighting; she's never afraid to ask why," Paulsen says.

Scott is full of praise for every show on her packed resume. Stage management highlights include the 2013 fall musical *Frankenstein*, which earned 17 SpotLight Musical Theatre Awards, including outstanding stage management, and the 2013 state championship one-act play *Wit*.

As her high school swan song, Maddie sang in the ensemble for *Evita*. She'll begin her path to her eventual goal—Broadway—this fall at Chicago's Loyola University, where she plans to major in theatre and minor in Spanish.



MADDIE SCOTT



GURSHAAN MADAN

For Gurshaan Madan, AP Physics merged two of his passions: math and cars. Ignited by physics principles, he examined forces acting on his car as he drove, and understood why icy roads are dangerous with new clarity. He aspires to work in car design as an engineer, and he's well on his way: as a senior in high school, he's taking a full course load at the U of M. Come fall, he will study mechanical engineering at UC-Berkeley.

Madan feels that Minnetonka schools prepared him well for rigorous college courses. He appreciates his excellent teachers, including Mrs. Soukup in first grade, Ms. Moret in fourth grade and Dr. Varverakis, his AP Physics teacher. "I am who I am largely because of what my teachers taught me," he says. A National AP Scholar and math team standout with a 4.30 weighted GPA, Gurshaan adds, "more important than these designations is the learning they represent."

Soccer has been part of Madan's life since the age of five; he says the sport has helped him develop patience and discipline, and that by senior year, his team felt like a "band of brothers." He enjoys traveling and cooking, and got to do a bit of both over winter break when he visited his grandparents in India.

Madan hopes to apply his love of cars to make the world a better place. He says affordable cars that run on renewable energy could bridge economic gaps by connecting people to resources. He is inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., but he holds an equal reverence for Swedish car designer Christian von Koenigsegg, the mind behind an elite hypercar that can run on either normal fuel or E85. "The car is cutting edge in both arenas: it is an intense sports car that is also earth-friendly," Madan says.

ALUMNI NOTES

1957

John and Betty (Joswick) Blodgett celebrated 53 years of marriage on June 3, 2014.

1959

Henry Todd and Kaye (Simons) Knutston celebrated 50 years of marriage on December 20, 2013.

1960

Jerry Albrecht started a coffee club for the class of 1960. The group meets the second Wednesday of every month.

1963

Kenneth Grabow retired after 40 years of working as an architect.

1964

Dorothy (Leach) Halligan retired in October 2014 after 20 years of working for the Fairfax County Government.

Steve Berkley sold his business, Safeway Hydraulics, in 2012 and is now retired.

1966

Cornell Anderson retired from Allina Health in July 2013.

Craig Rahn retired in 2013 and is currently splitting time between Southern California and the East Coast.

1967

Claudia (Strand) Sundberg will retire from the Minnetonka School District in June 2014.



Jim Gabbert '71 has installed his first major public art work in front of the Eden Prairie Community Center. You can see pictures of *Soaring Bird: Peace through Service* and all his other sculptures on Jim's website, jgsculpture.webs.com.

1967

This summer, **Dan Prosser** will launch his first book, *Thirteeners*, which examines why the bottom 87 percent of companies consistently fail to execute their strategy each year, and how the top performing 13 percent have become unstoppable.

1969

Julie (Stelzer) Jimenez retired from Macy's after a 34-year career.

1970

Dave Paulson started a consulting company, Prime Membrane Partners, which is helping companies get started or improve manufacturing processes for water treatment products.

Richard Church retired as captain from the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office on February 28, 2014.

1971

Kristen (Buckett) Miller married Sedrick Miller on January 12, 2014.

Michele (Brooks) Aagaard and her husband, Lindy, celebrated 40 years of marriage.

1972

Linda (Sorenson) Hedding is currently working as an Iowa Mortgage Help program manager, assisting Iowans in danger of foreclosure and losing their home.

1974

Janis (Norman) Capraro is an artist and owner of Mountain Wave Studio in Chino Hills, CA.

Andrew Kruger is planning to build a new garden center in St. Bonifacious, MN. He is currently the owner of Gray Gardens Landscaping and Home Store in Excelsior.

1975

Terry Kerber recently published his first book *Major Taylor: The Inspiring Story of a Black Cyclist and the Men Who Helped Him Achieve Worldwide Fame*. More information about the book can be found at www.majortaylonline.com.

1976

Melanie (Paul) Hale retired from U.S. Customs and Border Protection on April 3, 2014, after serving as a supervisor for 35 years.

1980

Lauri (Margeson) Miville was named chair of the board of directors for the Pacific Safety Center in San Diego after having served five years on the executive committee.

1981

David Mackkay is living in Los Angeles and working as a film director. He is preparing to produce and direct his tenth movie called *Totally Tabloid*.

Mary (Stevens) Darling produced a television comedy called *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, which can be viewed on HULU, HULUPlus and PivotTV.

1984

Antti Majanlaht is a professional actor and director in Finland. He is currently starring in a TV series called *Uusi Päiv*.

1985

Cindy (Trick) Gehl was recently promoted to senior account manager at BestMark, Inc., a market research company.

1989

The U.S. Senate confirmed **Peter Selfridge** as chief of protocol, a job that carries the rank of U.S. ambassador and assistant secretary of state. Selfridge will serve as the link between the White House, foreign ambassadors and visiting dignitaries.

1990

Eric Chiles was named 2013 Minnesota Professional Golf Association (PGA) Teacher of the Year.

1991

Anna Nelson returned to the United States after living in Europe for 22 years. She is currently working in Washington, D.C. as the spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

1992

Diana (Lowry) Dolan married Matt Dolan on June 29, 2013.

1992

Nicole (Fawthorp) Rothgarn received her Master's Degree in Nursing and is now teaching maternal child nursing at a local technical college.

1994

Jaime (Allen) Helgeson married partner Kimberly Helgeson in 2014.

1996

Sarah (Tuckwell) Demory and her husband had their first child, a girl, in May 2014.

1998

Jenny (Taucher) Swartout is the head basketball coach at Holy Family Catholic High School in Victoria, MN.



Brandi Powell '99 joined 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS in January 2014. Before returning home to the Twin Cities, Brandi worked as a reporter/multi-media journalist at NBC 7 San Diego (KNSD) from 2011-2013. While at KNSD, she also served as an on-air contributor for *Politically Speaking*, the station's weekly public affairs show.

2000

Kristen (Powell) Nelson married Jesse Nelson in October 2014 and has a baby boy, Deacon.



Zac Barnett '05 (pictured third from the left) is the lead singer of the band *American Authors*. Their song, *Best Day of My Life*, has reached #11 on the U.S. *Billboard Hot 100* and been featured in commercials for *Lowes* and *Hyundai*, the opening sequence for the 2013 *ESPN World Series of Poker* and the movie trailer for the film *Delivery Man*.

2001

Alena (Markham) Severson married Luke Severson on June 15, 2013, had their first child in May 2014.

2003

Emily Ray is engaged to Ben Anderson. They are planning to wed in May 2015.

Will Leer holds the fastest mile time in the world: 3 minutes, 52.47 seconds. Leer also recently competed 4 x 1,500-meter relay at the 2014 World Relays.

2004

Amanda (Love) Holland had her first child, Lucy Love, in August 2013.

2005

Danielle (Reich) Nystrom and her husband had their first child, Eagen, in 2012.

2007

Madelyn Hochstein is the cosmetics department manager at Macy's Ridgedale.

Donald Constable played in the 2014 U.S. Open June 12-15. Constable made his PGA Tour debut in 2013.

2008

Kersten (Scherer) Bishop married Hunter Bishop on August 7, 2013 in Ohio.

2010

Beau Allen was selected by the Philadelphia Eagles in the seventh round of the 2014 NFL draft.

2013

Tommy Vannelli was selected by the St. Louis Blues in the second round of the 2013 NHL draft. He is currently playing for the Medicine Hat Tigers.

Reunion Spotlight: Deephaven Class of 1943 keeps a tradition alive 70 years later

BY JOEY LEMAY, published with permission of the Lakeshore Weekly News

Richard Frees scrambled around a private dining room at Hazellewood Grill and Tap Room in Tonka Bay, ensuring proper introductions were being made and everyone was wearing a smile.

As president of his high school class, this class reunion had to be just as special as the ones to precede it, all the way back to the reunion that occurred shortly after World War II. Frees has had time to perfect his leadership role, however.

After all, this was the 70-year reunion of Deephaven High School's class of 1943.

On Wednesday, August 14, 2013, Frees and eight of his former classmates continued their tradition of meeting every five years, keeping the memories of their small class alive.

The classmates chatted about the curriculum they went through in comparison with today's students and reminisced over past classes and teachers.

Frees talked about school sporting events, and even directed attention to a photo of Deephaven High School's 1942 football team.

The private dining room was adorned with old photos of the class as students, as well as new photos of their families decades later.

There were solemn moments during the get-together when the classmates remembered those who had passed away and could not be there to celebrate.

Frees, to his credit, remained positive and focused on those who were able to attend.

"We have half of the class still alive," he said. "After 70 years, that's remarkable."

Of those in attendance was the class valedictorian, Margaret Johnstone. Also, there was Elaine Frees, the wife of Richard. The two began dating in high school and still draw the admiration of their classmates, who give them grief for living the fairy tale high school sweetheart story.

There were 20 students in Deephaven High School's class of 1943. Ten are still alive today, with nine in attendance at the reunion.

Bonnie (Board) Niles '67, a president of the Minnetonka Alumni Association, said the class is going strong and takes their reunions seriously.

"It's amazing. One of our goals is to help the different classes gather together," Niles said. "They were able to do it on their own. We're excited that 50 percent of their classmates are here today."

A historical snapshot

In 1952, both Deephaven and Excelsior high schools were closed and consolidated into the newly-opened Minnetonka High School.

Deephaven School was conceptualized in the spring of 1892 during a meeting to lay out plans for Deephaven School District 128. Records after that time are unclear, but it is recognized that the first eighth-grade graduating class occurred in 1905, the highest grade taught in the district at the time.

During that year, teaching salaries ranged from \$40 to \$55 per month.

After continued growth within the district, Deephaven graduated its first high school class in 1920, which consisted of three students.

Within the Deephaven School District, 486 seniors received diplomas and 86 eighth-graders graduated. (Before senior high classes had been developed.)

In the summer of 2014, the Minnetonka Alumni Association have planned an all-school, all-class reunion to recognize the students who have come through the Minnetonka District, but also the ones whose schools are no longer being used.

"We're going to encourage them to come celebrate all the classes and all of the schools: Deephaven, Excelsior and Minnetonka," Niles said.



Members and special guests from the Deephaven Class of 1943 gathered at Hazellewood Grill and Tap Room last summer to celebrate their 70th high school reunion. Photo (left to right): Jeanette Emblad Cummings, Mary Jane Peterson McInerney, Margaret Johnstone, Richard Comer, Duane Wahl (seated), Don Hullsiek, Carl Palm, Elaine Frees and Dick Frees



Thank you teachers & staff!

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.

Mark Becker (DSC)	19 years
Ed Bedore (MHS)	7 years
Pam Berg (MHS)	20 years
Jan Bootsma (DSC)	16 years
Peg Buyert (MHS)	20 years
Virginia Coverdale (Excelsior)	12 years
Sandy Curry (Clear Springs)	27 years
Peggy Dressel (MHS)	24 years
Lee Drolet (Excelsior)	15 years
Mary Gonyer (MME)	26 years
Lana Golembeski (MHS)	35 years
Lindy Hanson (MCEC)	23 years
Sandra Harris (MHS)	16 years
Leila Hoel (DSC)	22 years
Cindy Idelkope (Minnewashta)	24 years
Michelle Infanger (MHS)	8 years
Annette Kotzian (MHS)	18 years
Catherine Larson (MME)	23 years
Denise Malarkey (Scenic Heights)	41 years
David Nelson (MHS)	11 years
Gail O'Rourke	21 years
Anita Otten (Excelsior)	41 years
Becky Patterson (MMW)	29 years
Teresa Plowman (Groveland)	21 years
Judy Sandler (MCEC)	28 years
Curt Seter (Deephaven)	35 years
David Stearns (MHS)	19 years
Claudia Sundberg (Clear Springs)	17 years
Mary Victor (MMW)	28 years



Remembering Dakota "Kody" Henslee '11

Our Minnetonka family mourned the loss of an MHS alum Dakota "Kody" Henslee '11 earlier this spring.

Rugby Head Coach Rob Clarno shared, "Kody was always very supportive of the rugby program. He was highly involved for five years, ever since his first involvement as a ninth grader. He was fully committed to the club. He was very well liked, and he will be dearly missed."

MHS teacher Rebecca Johnson remembers, "Dakota (Kody) was a kind, sincere kid. He was always polite, considerate, and genuine." Kody died suddenly, following rugby practice, of an undetected heart ailment. He was 21.

Kody also attended Minnewashta Elementary and MMW. He was serving as a volunteer coach for the Minnetonka High School rugby team.

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers these and all Minnetonka, Excelsior and Deephaven graduates who passed away over the past year (June 2013-May 2014).

Dakota "Kody" Henslee '11
Brianna (Richmond) Cowles '04
Scot Ploetz '80
Stephen LaCroix '67
Margaret Carr '67
Jerry Engwall (teacher)

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, September 27

MINNETONKA *Alumni Awards* ★

Saturday, September 27, 2014

MHS Homecoming Weekend ★ 10 am - 12:30 pm ★ Minnetonka High School



SKIPPER HALL OF FAME

1965 State Championship Boys Basketball Team

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Dan Austin (captain)
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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

MANAGER

Robert Berkey (manager)

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

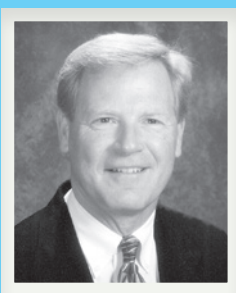


Deborah (Smith) Mayer
1965



Dr. Steven Miles
1968

FACULTY HALL OF FAME

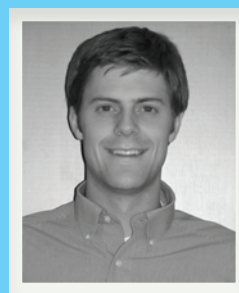


Brad Board
Deephaven &
Minnewashta Principal
MHS Athletic Director
MHS 1966



William Chisholm
MHS English

YOUNG ALUM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Jens Midthun
2005

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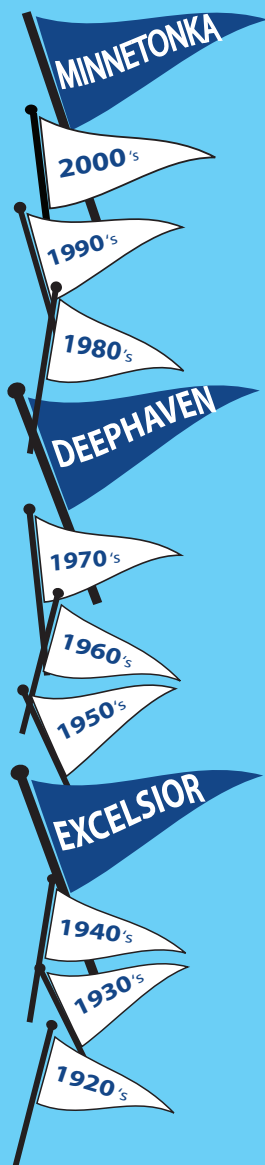
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