

MINNETONKA

AlumniMagazine

2017

Meet
Minnetonka
alumni
who are
serving the
greater
good



THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

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, however submission does not guarantee publication.

MHS Alumni,

Our District's focus on world-class, child-centered excellence has led to outstanding student achievement. Equally important is our vision to "inspire students to understand and serve the greater good." Minnetonka students, including our youngest learners, are engaging in service activities in record numbers. By the time they reach our high school, service is part of who they are.

Here are just a few highlights from the 2016-17 school year:

- 337 students earned President's Volunteer Service awards, reporting 48,487 hours of service locally and globally. Of those, six were nominated for Prudential Spirit of Community awards and one, sixth-grader Ariana Feygin, was named by Prudential as one of Minnesota's top two youth volunteers of 2017.
- Seniors led Heart Week charitable activities that raised more than \$41,000 for Minnetonka Family Friends, an organization that assists District families in need.
- The Class of 2017 chose to combat youth poverty for their four-year legacy service project, packing meals and organizing drives for backpacks, shoes, coats and more.

With pride, our students will continue the tradition of "Seniors Serve," devoting their final two days of high school to serving scores of organizations around the community.

"Giving back" ignites the brain in ways no other activity can. Studies show that acts of kindness and generosity contribute to an overall sense of well-being that benefits the giver as much as the recipient. I consider it an honor and responsibility to help students continue their legacy of service now and after they leave our hallways.



*Jeff Erickson, Principal
Minnetonka High School
@TonkaPrincipal*

Thank you,

Jeff Erickson, Principal
Minnetonka High School

Stay connected!



P.O. Box 103
Excelsior, MN 55331

alumni@minnetonkaschools.org
www.facebook.com/minnetonkaalumni
www.twitter.com/MinnetonkaAlum
www.linkedin.com/groups/1850865
www.minnetonkaalumni.com



FROM THE MAA BOARD



MAA Board Members (left to right): Lynn Krafve, Gail (Thacker) Ofstehage '68, Lily Loosbrock '17, Dan Heiland '74, Gail (Wartman) Bollis '67, Jeff Davenport '81, Marietta Jacobsen '70, Joy (Davis) Fruen '71, Steven Dahlin '88 and Bonnie (Board) Niles '67. Not pictured: John Frees '67 and Kathy Umland '74.

Greetings fellow alumni,

There has never been a better time to get involved with the Minnetonka Alumni Association (MAA). We are just finishing a comprehensive update of our bylaws, mission and vision. Our next step is to review and update our board goals—all this while preparing to undertake the planning of the 2018 All School All Class Reunion!

We want to extend a personal invitation to all of our fellow Skippers. Now is the time to support the MAA!

We are seeking committee members for the 2018 All School All Class Reunion, volunteers for upcoming events, Class Representatives (if your class does not already have one) and financial donations to support the Fine Arts Endowment (learn more on page 21).

Our meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at the District Service Center. They are open meetings and we welcome participation from all alumni and former faculty members. For the MAA to continue to be a vital and vibrant resource to our network of alums and to the District, active participation is key. *You* are key.

If you are interested in learning more or if you can commit to help out, please contact us at alumni@minnetonkaschools.org or reach out to one of us directly.

Sincerely,

The 2017 Minnetonka Alumni Association Board

MAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President

Dan Heiland '74

President Elect

Steven Dahlin '88

Past President

Bonnie (Board) Niles '67

Secretary

Joy (Davis) Fruen '71

Treasurer

John Frees '67

Board Members

- Gail (Wartman) Bollis '67
- Jeff Davenport '81
- Marietta Jacobsen '70
- Lynn Krafve
(retired teacher and coach)
- Lily Loosbrock, '17
(student representative)
- Gail (Thacker) Ofstehage '68
- Kathy Umland '74

CONTENTS

A FAMILY TRADITION.....	2
POINTS OF PRIDE.....	4
EIGHT TO WATCH.....	6
ALUMNI AWARDS.....	10
FEATURE: SERVING THE GREATER GOOD.....	14
FINE ARTS ENDOWMENT.....	21
ALUMNI NOTES.....	24

A Family Tradition

These 2017 graduates join their parents, siblings and other family members as proud MHS Alumni.

mother Melissa



Dalton Latterner and his

grandmother Maxine



Brandon Czock with his

mother Connie



Jacquelyn Dickson with her

father Tom



Allison Henderson with her

mother Sharon



Sarah Holovnia and her

- Rachel Adamek; father Carl Adamek '82; aunt Margaret Adamek '85, brother Anthony Adamek '15
- Jake Anderson; father Troy Anderson '88, mother Melissa Marks Anderson '89; uncles Brad Anderson '85, Dan Patterson '90; aunts Katie Andersen-Anderson '88, Angie Marks-Patterson '90; cousin Jacqueline Anderson '15
- Jayda Anderson; father Greg Anderson '80; mother Mary Nehring Anderson '82
- Erik Arnar; mother Randi Wing Arnar '88; grandmother Stephanie Freeman Wing '62, aunt Shannon Wing Belmont '85
- Anna and Martha Barnard; father Paul Barnard '80; mother Nancy Van Sloun '80
- Abbigale and Gabriella Bibeau; mother Lori Johnson '91; grandfather Jim Johnson '62; grandmother Camilla "Cammy" (Walstad) Johnson '63
- Dillon Brennan; mother Susan Brennan '81; aunts Sherry Minzel '79, Sandy Newberg '77
- Aaron and Matthew Brush; mother Nicole (Branson) Brush '89
- Skyler Bullington; mother Amber (Miller) Bullington '84; grandfather Donald Miller '45 (Excelsior HS)
- Brandon Czock; grandfather Michael Czock '63; grandmother Maxine Anderson Johnson '63
- Justin Daniel; grandfather John Daniel '62; great uncle Lowell A. Vetter '55
- Jacquelyn Dickson; mother Connie Johnson-Dickson '82
- William Graupmann; father Jeff Graupmann '84; uncle Keith Graupmann '79; aunt Susan Harris '82; sister Emily Graupmann '14
- Allison Harvey; father David Harvey '85
- Allison Henderson; father Tom Henderson '77
- Maddy Herron; mother Sharon Herron '87, brothers Jacob Herron '12, Maxwell Herron '15
- Sarah Holovnia; mother Susie Simon Holovnia '77; aunts Paula Plotz '74, Claudia Liljegren '72, Judy Souther '73
- Alec Huynh; step-mother Celeste Scott Huynh '82; uncles Troy Scott '80, Kyl Scott '86; sister Ashley Huynh '15
- Michael Thomas Johnson; father Erik M. Johnson '84; uncles Jeff Johnson '79, Bret Johnson '89; aunts Jennifer Johnson '75, Julie Johnson '77
- Meghan Keenan; mother Lynne Keenan '89; uncle Scott Craven '84; aunt Sue (Craven) VonRenzell '86
- Henry Kosvic; father Chris Kosvic '86; brother Ben Kosvic '15
- Asher Krantz; mother Jill (Arneson) Holter '85; uncle Jim Arneson '84; brother James Krantz '14
- Dalton Latterner; father Todd Latterner '91; mother Melissa Simmons '92; grandfather Charles Latterner '57; sister Lane Latterner '16
- Jens Lund; stepfather Kevin McGinty '88

We celebrate multiple generations of Skipper families! If you are an alum with a 2018 graduate in the family, send your family information to us at alumni@minnetonkaschools.org.

- Izabel Matchan; father Sean Matchan '85; mother Jayne Bauman '85; brother Kegan Matchan '12
- Nick McReavy; mother Kim (Eggers) McReavy '85
- Jonathon Miller; grandfather David Hughes '59; brothers Michael Miller '05, Steven Miller '06, Robert Miller '09, Anthony Miller '11
- Will Norton; mother Liz (Holcomb) Norton '82; brother Jack Norton '14
- Emily Olson; father Jeff Olson '81
- Madeline Palm; mother Noelle (Kane) Palm '86; grandfather James Kane '64; grandmother Carol (Guerre) Kane '64; brother TJ Palm '11
- Peter Rice; father Jim Rice '73; mother Jan Rice '77
- Collin Rutkowski; father Peter Rutkowski '75
- Mary Schultz; father Mark Schultz '87; grandmother Mary (Lambert) Geyer '62; brother Jack Schultz '14
- Ben Sigel; father David Sigel '82; sister Ellie Sigel '14
- Thomas (TJ) Sumners; father Greg Sumners '84; mother Mary (Lehner) Sumners '84; brother Matt Sumners '12; sister Emily (Sumners) Pyne '09
- Ari Tapper; father William "J.R." Tapper '83
- Adam Thompson; father Peter Thompson '88; uncles Mike Thompson '80, Chris Thompson '84, Stephen Thompson '89
- Dylan Velner; mother Pam (Oelke) Velner '86; uncle Jon Oelke '92; sister Alex Velner '14
- Dustin Wandrei; mother Lisa (McFarlin) Wandrei '81; uncles David McFarlin '74, Bobby McFarlin '78, Jeff McFarlin '80; aunt Laura (Weldon) McFarlin '81; cousins Lyndsay McFarlin '06, Krista McFarlin '10, Meagan McFarlin '15, Madalyn (Maddy) McFarlin '16

Ari Tapper and his father J.R.



father Erik

Michael Johnson and his



father John

Justin Daniel and his grand



mother Mary and brother Jack

Mary Schultz with her grand



Pam

Dylan Velner with his mother



with their mother Nicole



and parents



with their parents Paul and Nancy



Aaron and Matthew Brush

Anna and Martha Barnard

Alec Huynh with his sister

POINTS OF PRIDE



Niche.com ranks both Minnetonka High School and the Minnetonka School District #1 in Minnesota. Rankings are based on data from the U.S. Department of Education and reviews and survey responses from students and families.



The College Board named Minnetonka High School to the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll for increasing access to Advanced Placement courses, while maintaining or improving scores on Advanced Placement Exams (Minnetonka pass rate 86%, state pass rate 66%).



Newsweek ranked Minnetonka High School #4 in Minnesota and #123 nationally based on calculations of ACT, SAT, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate (IB), graduation rate, college admissions rate, guidance counselor ratios and more. More than 15,000 public high schools were analyzed, ranking MHS in the top 1% nationally.



The Washington Post lists Minnetonka High School as one of America's Most Challenging High Schools—ranked #4 in Minnesota and #278 nationally. Rankings are determined by the number of Advanced Placement and IB tests given, divided by the number of seniors who graduated that year. Only 12% of U.S. high schools made the list.



U.S. News & World Report ranked Minnetonka High School #7 in Minnesota and #477 nationally. It also gave MHS a Gold Medal STEM High School recognition. Rankings are based on math and reading tests, graduation rates and the degree to which students are prepared for college-level work. More than 22,000 public high schools were ranked, putting MHS in the top 2% nationally.



We are recognized as one of the best communities in the nation for music education by the NAMM Foundation. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education.



The Hennepin Theatre Trust recognized the MHS fall musical, *Bye Bye Birdie*, with 19 Spotlight Awards and the spring musical, *Titanic*, with 26 Spotlight Awards. The competition One Act play, Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart*, won the state's highest honor—a starred performance at the MSHSL 2017 One Act Festival.



This year, 65 MHS students were honored with Gold Key, Silver Key or Honorable Mention awards through the Scholastic Art and Writing Award program. Senior Anna Barnard earned a Gold Key Award and was named an American Voices nominee (best in state) for her short story.



2017 state champion teams: Boys Alpine Skiing, Adapted Bowling ASD, Tonka Cheer (state and national champions), Boys Swimming and Diving, Girls Track and Field (True Team Champions). The following teams qualified for state tournaments in 2017: Girls Alpine Skiing, Girls Basketball, Girls Cross Country, Adapted Floor Hockey, Football, Gymnastics, Girls Soccer, Girls Swimming and Diving, Wrestling.

Maren Beauchamp '17



Creative Writing Award

After their 40th reunion, the class of 1963 had a surplus of funds thanks to the generosity of a few classmates. They used the money to give back to MHS in the form of a new scholarship, the Creative Writing Award.

"We saw that there were many awards for graduating seniors but not one to recognize achievement in creative writing," explained Karen Schmeisser '63.

In recognition of the English teachers who inspired them, members of the class of 1963 established the scholarship in 2004. The first scholarship was \$250, but it has grown over the years thanks to the continuing financial support of classmates. The current scholarship is \$1,000 and includes a commemorative plaque. The criteria for the award and the selection of the recipient is determined by current MHS English department staff.

This year's recipient of the Creative Writing Award is Maren Beauchamp. Maren demonstrates her talents with creative writing through her honest, vivid and powerful poetry. This scholarship will encourage her to continue expressing herself in this way and will inspire her to pursue more public sharing of her work. Maren will be spending the 2017-18 academic year in Italy as a Rotary Youth Exchange student. When she returns from her gap year, she will enroll at Gonzaga University in Washington.

Sundem Family Scholarship

In 2016, Gary Sundem '63 and his sisters Gail Sundem Noller '66 and Gwen Sundem Jansen '70, established the Sundem Family Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a senior who has lettered in at least two varsity sports, plans to attend a liberal arts college for four years, and has an outstanding academic record. The \$2,500 scholarship disbursement began in 2016, and the amount of the scholarship disbursement will increase by \$100 each year.

"Participation in sports and a dedication to academic excellence create skills that are essential to good citizenship and career success," Gary explained. "And a liberal arts education is great preparation for the challenges of a rapidly changing world."

The 2017 recipient is Patrick Brady, who accepted the award from the Sundem family at Senior Awards Night. Patrick will be attending the University of Notre Dame this fall and plans to study Public Policy. His many high school accomplishments include being a National Merit Finalist, an AP Scholar with Distinction, captain of the cross country team and an Eagle Scout.

Patrick Brady '17



Patrick Brady with the Sundem Family





Lindsey Dobbins

Lindsey Dobbins epitomizes the four A's of high school success: Academics, Activities, Arts and Athletics.

A National AP Scholar, she plans to major in political science and potentially double major in math. Knowing that she was considering a future in politics, Lindsey volunteered as an intern for State Senator Terri Bonoff when she ran for Congress in 2016. Despite her candidate losing the election, Lindsey says she learned a lot. "Even if you put in a ton of work, sometimes it's not going to pay off, but several elections from now something might change."

As a program leader for Backpack Tutoring, Lindsey helped tutor Minneapolis elementary school students in reading and math. She says, "It was nice to be able to provide the one-on-one attention that these students didn't always get." She also mentored freshmen at MHS through the First Mates program.

As a member of the National Art Honor Society, Lindsey completed 40 hours of art-related service each year. In 2014, she started the Art at Excelsior program mentoring Excelsior Elementary students after school with her friends. Lindsey has won six Scholastic Art Awards and even accepted an award at Carnegie Hall for a pencil drawing she did sophomore year. This drawing now hangs in the U.S. Department of Education building.

Lindsey also competed on the Cross Country and the Track and Field teams. "I'm not super fast, so I didn't do it for the glory of winning, but it was fun to be a part of something." She will attend Emory University this fall.



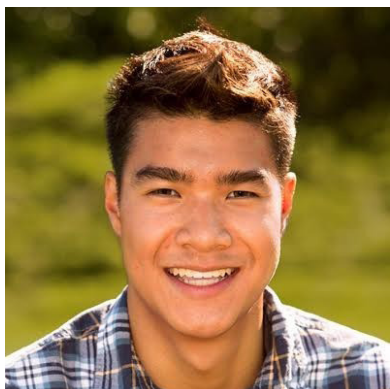
Nathan Shoemaker

Nathan Shoemaker has been playing baseball for as long as he can remember. He says, "My dad coached my T-ball teams when I was barely able to pick up a bat." Nathan was an outfielder and pitcher on the varsity baseball team at MHS and says what he loves most about this sport is the pressure.

"Everything starts with you. If you do well, you give the team a chance." Nathan has committed to attend and play baseball for Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

His dad, Dave Shoemaker, is Special Education Department Chair at MHS and one of the coaches on the varsity football team. He encouraged Nathan to play every sport he could growing up as a way to meet people and have fun. As a result, Nathan eventually played on the MHS varsity basketball team and as a receiver in the state football tournament last year.

A committed student with a 4.0+ weighted GPA, Nathan has found a way to integrate his love of sports with the classroom. He has taken two classes in sports marketing and management at MHS and will be pursuing a business degree at Creighton with a focus in sports management. He hopes to utilize this experience with a future finance career in professional baseball.



Corey Lau

Qualifying for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials wasn't a goal for Corey Lau. "I just stumbled upon it," he said. "It was on the path to getting better. There's always going to be another mark for me to hit and go after." The goal he has set his sights on now is the NCAA Championships, which are being held in Minneapolis next March. Corey will be swimming for Princeton.

His highlight of swimming for Minnetonka came this spring when his 200-yard medley relay team beat Eden Prairie to set the National High School Public Record. They had lost to EP the year before by 1/100 of a second after a competitive season between the two teams and were excited to top the podium this year at the Minnesota Boys AA state swimming championships.

An AP Scholar with Honor, Corey enjoyed taking a variety of AP and IB classes. He says, "I like a challenge and being productive. Classes like AP Psychology relate to all aspects of your life and allow you to express your opinions." Corey also played cello in the MHS Concert Orchestra, an instrument he has been playing since 5th grade.

Corey came to Minnetonka his sophomore year, which he says was hard at first because everyone else had made friends as freshmen. He joined the senior mentorship program, First Mates, this year to "help the freshmen feel included."



Brianna Bailey

Senior Brianna Bailey has a heart for service. As the founder of Minnetonka's Unified Special Olympics Club, she nurtured authentic connections between mainstream teens and students with intellectual disabilities. After extensive planning, the club took two teams to the Unified State Basketball Tournament at St. Thomas in March, an event that left an indelible impression on all involved. Each Monday morning, students with and without disabilities gathered for fun and sports. "We've become a more unified school," Brianna says.

Brianna and a friend also founded the American Red Cross Club, which hosted a 'letters to veterans' event, a blood drive and other fundraising efforts. Working with youth is another passion. A member of the varsity volleyball team, she has volunteered at youth camps, and she's tutored students at a YMCA afterschool program.

Creativity and academics rank high on Brianna's priorities. An AP Scholar and Vice President of the National Honor Society, Brianna has won six Scholastic Art Awards, and she and other artistic peers worked on art projects weekly with students at Excelsior Elementary.

As she heads to UW-Madison next year, Brianna will take a mature outlook formed from her deep engagement with others. "It is easy to get caught up in pursuing success, but also try to take a step back and notice what is truly important," she says.



Isaac Schrof

Isaac Schrof's love of writing and passion for science served him well in the new Minnetonka Research program, where he was one of the first 46 students enrolled. He completed an authentic research proposal on autonomously self-healing elastomers and presented his project to the Minnetonka School Board.

"The field of biomedicine intrigues me," Isaac said. "My research is a marriage between my interest in chemistry and an opportunity to help people through therapeutic treatment."

As a French horn player, music has always been a big part of Isaac's life. He was a member of the pep band and brass ensemble, played in the pit orchestra for *Bye Bye Birdie*, and was chosen to participate in all-state band and the University of Minnesota Honor Band.

As a tutor with the Backpack Tutoring program, Isaac saw the impact of peer tutoring firsthand. He would love to develop a similar program that brings private music lessons to children who don't have access.

"There is such a clear relationship between music, cognition and the way a person looks at problem solving," Isaac said. "If we can inspire a passion or motivation for music in students, we will see results in other core subjects."

Next year, Isaac will be attending the University of Pennsylvania and will pursue a dual degree from the School of Engineering and the Wharton School of Business as a student in the Jerome Fisher M&T Program.



Lauren Otolski

"Service became a habit early in my life. I like knowing that I'm doing something for a purpose," says Lauren Otolski, five-time recipient of the Presidential Service Award. Since third grade, she has volunteered with Kids in Dedicated Service, and she is also active with the nonprofit Many Hands, Many Meals.

Lauren is at home in the outdoors. Her family has visited over 80 National Parks, and for the past five years, she has taught hands-on farm camps to kids at Gale Woods Farm. "It is important for kids to experience a working farm and see where their food comes from," she says. She loved playing clarinet in the state champion marching band, which kicked off with long days in the August sun at band camp.

Lessons from the natural world merged with Lauren's academic savvy in team-based science competitions. This year, her Science Olympiad team placed at the state level for Ecology, and the Envirothon team that she was a part of competed at state, where topics included soils and farming practices.

Writing is a passion as well: Lauren has written for the *Chanhassen Villager*, and her short story won a Scholastic Gold Key award this year. A National Merit Finalist and AP Scholar with Distinction, this bright senior dreams of "making a discovery that would help with climate change or habitat loss or coming up with a new form of alternative energy."

Lauren will be attending the University of Minnesota this fall.



Christine Hwang

The biggest lesson Christine Hwang has learned from theater, she says, is “the ability to step into someone else’s shoes. Almost everyone I play I have no sort of connection to.” For Christine, this includes Scottish Highlander Meg in the MHS theater production of *Brigadoon* and Leading Player in *Pippin*, both roles for which she won Outstanding Performance awards from Spotlight Education, a part of the Hennepin Theatre Trust.

Spotlight also awarded Christine their Triple Threat Award her junior year. Her selection as a YoungArts finalist in November further validated her decision to pursue a career in theater. The National YoungArts Foundation’s judging panel selected Christine and 19 other finalists from roughly 9,000 submissions.

Outside of school, Christine works with a number of other theater companies and writes her own plays. She has a desire to combine her love of performance with activism. “I want to use my platform to serve the greater good,” she says.

Christine is co-directing a show this summer, *The Wild Party*, with independent student-run TASU Theater Company and will be attending Ithaca College this fall where she will pursue her BFA in Musical Theatre. After college, Christine has no set plan: “I just know I want to be in the arts.”



Jacob Hermann

An AP Scholar with Distinction and National Merit Semifinalist, Jacob Hermann enjoyed taking AP classes at MHS because they allowed him to learn faster and start earning college credits while still in high school. His favorite courses were U.S. History and Calculus; this year, he took Multivariable Calculus through Normandale Community College.

Jacob was nominated by U.S. Senator Al Franken and Congressman Erik Paulsen to the U.S. Air Force Academy, but ultimately chose not to attend in order to pursue a major in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Minnesota. He has two ambitious goals for his future career: Creating artificial organs and curing cancer. After watching several close family members fight breast cancer, he says, “I want to help people. That’s why I chose this major.”

Jacob also helps people through a variety of volunteer work. During high school he was an active member of Tonka Leadership Challenge, First Mates and Backpack Tutoring.

Jacob has a passion for athletics, as well. He started running cross country as a junior and by the end of the year was voted captain of the team. He joined track that spring. He also played hockey with the Warriors in the Metro Hockey League, and his team won the state championship this year. He says, “It was the best way I could have imagined finishing off my hockey career.”

2016 ALUMNI AWARDS BRUNCH



The Alumni float at the Homecoming Parade



Honoring the award winners at the Homecoming Game



The 2016 Awards Brunch in the MHS Commons



Honoree Robin Phillips with Mr. Yosh Sudo



Reuniting with old friends



1991 swim team with their original Championship trophy

Congratulations to the 2016 Alumni Award Honorees!



*(Front row) Sarah Larsson, Mary Jo West, Robin Phillips, James Rice, Lynn Johnson Owens, Bonnie Board Niles, Steve Hamrick
(Back row) Bob Rivers, Brad Grabham, Thayer Thompson, Aaron Shapley, Nate Reader, Scott Gagner, Lyle Peterson, Max Zinn*

2017 MINNETONKA ALUMNI AWARDS

Meet the the 2017 Alumni Award Honorees!

Join us in honoring their achievements
Saturday, September 16, 2017
Minnetonka High School



Distinguished Alum **Richard Humleker '67**

Richard serves as the Vice President for Development at The Center for Discovery, a nonprofit that works with children and adults with severe disabilities. Read more on page 12.



Distinguished Alum **Lori Palmer '65**

Lori has held a variety of public service and nonprofit leadership roles from VISTA member to Executive Director and City Council Member. Read more on page 13.



Distinguished Service **Cornell Anderson '66**

An enthusiast of all things Tonka, Cornell served as president of the MAA, started our Fine Arts Endowment and helped organize the first All School All Class Reunion.



Skipper Hall of Fame **Marty Benson '63** (posthumous)

Marty was MHS's very first state champion, winning the 1963 state track and field championships - shattering the previous 21-year record.



Young Alumni Award **Kara Aanenson '03**

Currently the Director of Family Engagement with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, Kara has passed legislation to remove youth from adult jails, among other bills.



Young Alumni Award **Ryan McCartan '11**

Ryan is best known for Disney's *Liv and Maddie* and *R.L. Stine's The Cabinet of Souls*. He also had a leading role in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Let's Do the Time Warp Again*.



Faculty Hall of Fame **Bill Seibert '64**

Bill taught physical education for more than 30 years in the District at Scenic Heights Elementary and Minnetonka Intermediate (now Middle School West).



Faculty Hall of Fame **Howard Young**

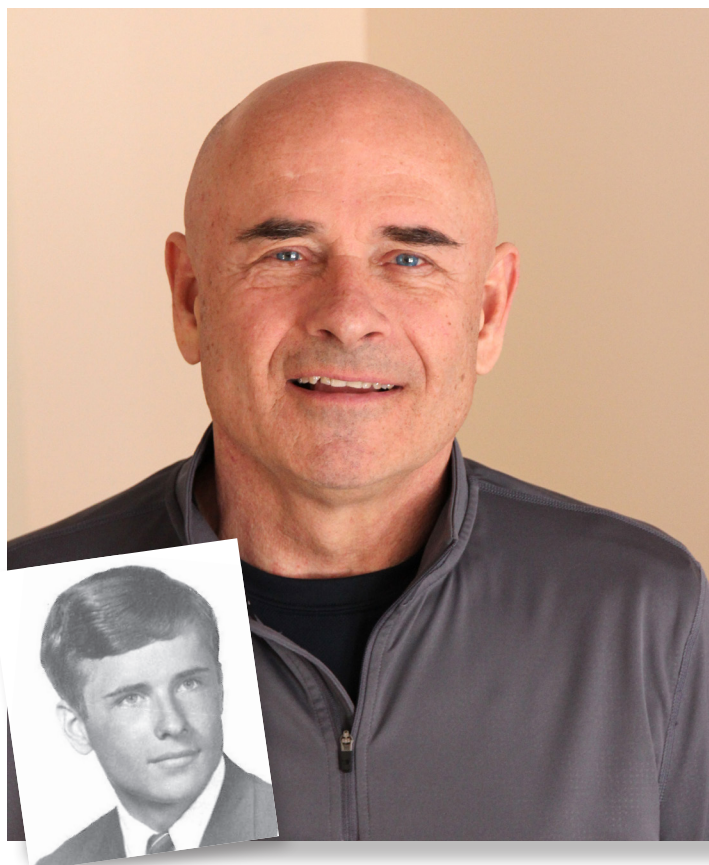
Passionate about cooperative education, Howard taught social studies at MHS, including world history and electives on China and India.

Richard Humleker '67

Richard Humleker has worked for The Center for Discovery based in Harris, NY, for 33 years. Discovery is a nonprofit organization that serves children and adults with severe disabilities, medical frailties and Autism Spectrum Disorder. Once a site with 20 employees and 14 disabled and special needs children, today Discovery employs 1,600 people, serves more than 250 children and 160 adults in its 50 residential homes, and reaches hundreds more children and adults on an outpatient basis in its schools and clinics.

"These are people with multiple disabilities and medical frailties," Richard says of those who live in the residential homes. Some are so frail, hospital stays are common. Others face Autism that triggers aggressive behaviors.

"Sad things happen, but the center is a place full of possibilities," Richard says. "We expect the kids and adults to learn and grow. We believe in the dignity of risk."



As recognition of the center's treatment method has grown, so has its funding. Some also credit this increase to Richard's work leading the development team.

"Within one or two years after he became the Vice President of Development, he was raising millions of dollars in donations," says Joe Mullen '64 who toured Discovery this past fall. "Today, the unrestricted revenue raised approaches \$10 million each and every year."

Richard prefers the limelight shine on those living at the center; the team of physicians, nurses, therapists, special educators and others who care for the clients 24/7; and the supportive families and donors. However, his colleagues and Discovery supporters would have it otherwise.

Janet Carrus, Discovery board member and major donor, describes Richard as "one of those extraordinary people whose intention is to ensure quality care for all Discovery residents. He works tirelessly to enhance every aspect of their lives."

Jim Cashen, Discovery's Director of Integrated Arts, has worked with Richard for two decades.

"He brought innovative thinking and a passion for adapting activities for those most-challenged kids," Jim says. "We still have parents who come back to our Summer Concert Series that Richard founded over 15 years ago. Their sons and daughters have since passed away, yet they want to be in his presence for comfort, story sharing, hugs, music and yes—love."

An athlete at Minnetonka High School, Richard was offered a number of football and hockey scholarships when he graduated from MHS. After much deliberation, he played for the University of Minnesota for a season before being sidelined by injuries. After college, he started out in Colorado and then moved to New York, where he eventually took a part-time job in the Catskills while waiting for an interview at a big cable company.

"I wasn't one of those kids who knew what I wanted," he says. "My advice: Try a variety of things and eventually you'll know what you are good at."

That job in the Catskills? Caring for severely disabled children and adults at The Center for Discovery.

Lori Palmer '65

Lori Palmer is all about finding solutions, which has led to a lifetime of public service and nonprofit leadership as a social change agent.

While she has a lengthy list of achievements, one that stands out for her is working with the LGBT community as the HIV/AIDS epidemic swept through Dallas in the 1980s. During a time when the disease inspired fear and gay men were often viewed with suspicion, she provided leadership in the development of a citywide strategy and program to address the needs of those suffering and often dying from the disease.

Her desire to improve the lives of others came in part from her time at MHS, where she gained an appreciation for different places, cultures and people from her geography teachers. Her value of other cultures solidified during her American Field Service (AFS) year in Brazil, and her sense of activism was stirred by political movements of that time.

"The civil rights movement and the Vietnam War protests showed me the importance of individual and collective action and how it can ensure that our core values and principals are not denied," Lori says.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota College of Education in 1970, one of her early efforts was as a VISTA member in Austin, Texas.

"I joined VISTA in order to learn more about diverse neighborhoods," she says. "I wanted to understand different points of view, so I could be a more effective leader."

She moved to Dallas in the early '70s and lived in a vintage neighborhood near downtown for 26 years with her husband Russ Jewert.

In Dallas, she started out as director of a Head Start Center in a predominately Hispanic community in West Dallas. She earned a master's in social work from the University of Texas at Arlington with an emphasis on community planning and nonprofit administration. She was the first Executive Director of the North Texas Food Bank, which provided food to pantries in the Dallas metropolitan area and eventually expanded to reach 19 counties. She served as an interim Executive Director



for several nonprofits undergoing leadership change, and, most recently, she led Girls Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas, an after school and summer program for low-income girls.

In the midst of all this, she founded and led a volunteer coalition of Dallas neighborhoods impacted by airport noise. She served on the Dallas City Council from 1985-1993, representing the city's most culturally diverse district. On the council, she chaired the Housing, Health and Human Services Committee and the Domestic Violence Task Force.

She and her husband also founded what is now the Big Bend Conservancy, raising more than \$3.2 million for park projects. In 2001, she founded an animal rescue and adoption program and currently cares for 50 rescued cats and dogs on their rural property named Earthwhispers.

She has received several awards over her career, including the University of Texas at Arlington Distinguished Alumni Award and the Maura Award from the Dallas Women's Center.

SERVING THE GREATER GOOD

In Minnetonka, service to others is something we take pride in. We know so many of our alumni are serving the greater good through volunteering, donating, and in some cases, through their daily work. In this edition of the *Minnetonka Alumni Magazine*, we wanted to celebrate just a few of the many alumni who are working to make their communities—and the world—a better place. We know this is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to inspirational Minnetonka graduates, which is why we encourage you to submit more stories of alumni who are serving the greater good through our website (www.minnetonkaalumni.com). Send your stories in throughout the year, and we will continue to share them on our website and through social media with the hashtag #TonkaAlumniSTGG (STGG = Serving the Greater Good)

Jennifer (Seipp) Swanson '81

Jennifer Seipp Swanson has taken on the daunting task of rescuing horses, including race horses. Through Pure Thoughts Horse Rescue, she and a team of volunteers have rescued 1,700 horses since 2002, with 52 currently at her farm in Loxahatchee, Fla.

According to Jennifer, in the racing world, once a horse no longer makes its owner money on the track or as a brood mare or stallion, it gets moved along. In the best of circumstances a new home is found and these athletes have a second career and are retrained for hunter competition (jumping gates), dressage, polo or trail riding. All options take a commitment of time and money and all too often horses are abandoned in pastures, left to starve or sold for slaughter. While selling horses for meat in the United States is not legal, they can be transported to Mexico or Canada for slaughter.

Then there are orphaned nursemare foals. Nursemares are horses that are bred so they can be surrogate mothers to another horse's high-priced foal. This allows the high-value mothers to get back to racing more quickly. The nursemare's foal is then euthanized. Jennifer rescues these babies, hand feeds them to get them stable and rehomes them as quickly as possible.

Her husband rehabilitates and retrains the race horses so they are safe for recreational riding, and he uses some as therapy horses for children with ADD and Autism. There is also an equine therapy program for people recovering from substance abuse.

Learn more about Pure Thoughts Horse Rescue:

- www.pthr.org
- www.facebook.com/PureThoughtsHorseRescue
- News story (YouTube):
http://bit.ly/MAA_HorseRescue



Photo credit: Liz Lamont Images (c)

Kara Priesmeyer Riedesel '01

Kara Priesmeyer Riedesel is familiar with the challenges adoptees face because she faced them herself. Today she uses that experience, combined with a master's degree in counseling and psychotherapy, to help others in their post-adoption journey.

Through her private practice, Life Insights MN (located in Excelsior), Kara helps children and families navigate the complicated loss adoptees often experience and the feelings that can come up. "Rejection, anger, grief, guilt and shame play huge roles in the journey as an adoptee and it is vital that kids and families find services that help them with techniques to overcome these challenges."

"Every time I can offer insight to a fellow adoptee or help a parent better understand what their child is going through, it gives purpose to the experiences that I went through as a child," Kara says. "It's a journey. It's accepting it and developing the skills to live a successful life."

Kara's journey started in South Korea, where she was born. She grew up in Deephaven, Minn. surrounded by blond, blue-eyed classmates. She often looks back at her experiences and remembers the questions asked to her early on in school.

"Questions such as 'Who is your real Mom?' and 'Why do you look funny?' can really shake you to the core of your identity," Kara says.

As a college graduation gift, her parents took her to South Korea. She and a group of other adoptees and their families met Korean foster families, toured orphanages, and some were lucky enough to meet their birth parents. The woman who was named as Kara's mother in her birth file said she was not Kara's mother but wanted to meet her anyway. She had a son in the same hospital and at the same time Kara was born. Kara suspects the woman was her birth mother, the son was her twin, and that the shame of giving Kara away may have kept the woman from acknowledging the truth. On the return flight, the adoptees and their families brought back five babies for adoption in the U.S. Kara says, the babies preferred being held by her and her fellow adoptees, as the children left the familiarity of their foster families, underscoring for Kara the loss adoptees experience regardless of age.

The intense emotions of her trip back to Korea eventually led Kara on her journey to graduate school. After graduation, Kara established her private practice. Helping other adoptees and their families was something that was both needed in the community and a way for Kara to use her experiences to help others.

"It's about education," Kara says of her work. "Adoption is a very ambiguous loss" she says. "The grief and loss of one's identity is not something that a lot of people want to focus on when thinking about adoption. It can be a lonely and frustrating place for an adoptee. But there are many positive ways for families to explore these emotions and help their children in their journey to peace and acceptance.

For those interested in learning more, Kara can be reached at kara@lifeinsightsmn.com or www.lifeinsightsmn.com.



Eric Bishop '14

Eric Bishop may be busy investing in his future at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, but that hasn't stopped him from investing in others through Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF). A junior majoring in computer engineering and Spanish, Eric leads the STLF chapter at Iowa State with four other students.

His journey with STLF began in Minnetonka, where he first participated in a STLF Pay It Forward service tour in 10th grade. The tours generally include 40 middle school or high school students led by college students who stop at cities along the route for service projects. The group will do a morning project, then make an afternoon college visit or tour local sites. He has also participated and led numerous summer camp opportunities. The college volunteer trips focus on helping communities across the nation.

"STLF has helped me grow as a person and a leader," Eric says. "I've had so many amazing experiences with the service projects."

Inspired by his high school experiences, Eric convinced three friends to join him in establishing an Iowa State chapter. They lead annual service trips and have 100 active members. His freshman year, one stop was helping a church with items to be donated to refugee families.

"They said it would have taken them three months to get done what we accomplished in three hours," Eric says.

The team is busy training new leaders to replace them before they graduate. Eric's legacy continues in his family as well. His eighth-grade sister now participates in STLF.

Eric (left) with friends Brittany, Angela, Hayly and Breanna at an Iowa State STLF service project.

Gale (Norum) Pearson '76

Gale Pearson is continuing her mother's legacy. Harriet Ernst '56 stood up for those without a voice, eventually helping change Minnesota law to provide more protection for domestic violence victims. Gale also has taken on the pursuit of social justice, volunteering her legal expertise through the Public Justice Foundation and serving on its board.

"I heard about the great things this organization is doing on behalf of groups of people and the environment," Gale says.

One case that captured her attention was a suit against a coal mining company involved in mountain top removal in Appalachia. She learned the waste left from washing and processing the coal is highly toxic and can leach into the water, poisoning the drinking water for the surrounding communities.

"The residents did not have a strong voice in government and regulatory policy and were going without clean drinking water," Gale says.

She was impressed by "the courage of this group, the amount of energy it takes to challenge the tough oil, mining and energy companies, just because it's the right thing to do."

She considered it a privilege to join the attorneys volunteering their time to take on such high-impact cases for the greater good, and her turn came with a suit against a nursing home owner for failing to provide necessary services to residents. Medicare was paying \$8,000 to \$12,000 a month for each resident, she says, but the residents were being left in deplorable conditions that resulted in injuries and, in some cases, death.

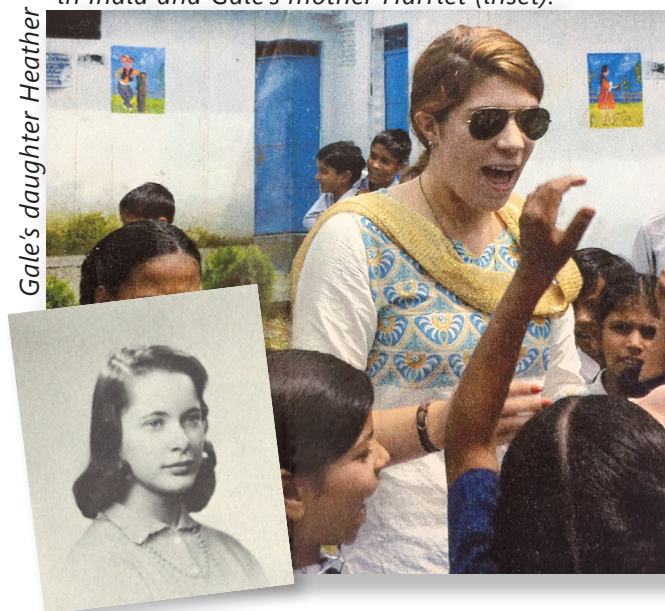
Her team won a \$28 million judgment against the owner, and she was nominated for the Public Justice's Trial Lawyer of the Year award as a result.

"The jury was furious at the owner for taking taxpayers' dollars and not providing services," Gale says. "I was so proud of the jury system at that point."

Gale isn't the only one ready to take on Harriet's legacy. Gale's daughter is pursuing a law degree and has already invested time working on behalf of leper colonies in India.



Gale's daughter Heather



Kevin Klass '14

Kevin Klass may be a recent MHS graduate, but it hasn't taken him long to make his mark. During his first year at Iowa State, he earned admission into Iowa's design school, considered to be one of the best in the country. Instead of pursuing a design career, however, Kevin was drawn to a bigger challenge, serving as a U.S. Marine. Kevin left Iowa State, joined the Marines and hasn't looked back.

So far in his brief career, Kevin has earned every award the Marines has to offer and is now based at the Marine's top command post, the historic Marine Barracks at 8th and I Street Southeast in Washington, D.C. There he is a guard for the Marine Commandant, the highest ranking Marine in the military, and he is in the process of receiving security clearance to join the Presidential Guard.

"Not only is Kevin representing the Marines and the United States but also Minnetonka—a District that gives every child a chance to fulfill their dream and passion," says Kevin's father, Chris Klass.



A special thank you to the 2017 graduates who will be serving our country:

- Grace Bakala, Army ROTC at Montana State
- Sienna Behuniak, U.S. Navy
- CJay Clarke, U.S. Naval Academy
- Will Coffey, The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina
- Nicolas Judge, U.S. Marines
- Nick Noble, Army ROTC at Creighton University
- Keilen Omara, Army ROTC at Texas A&M
- Madeleine Sangma, U.S. Naval Academy
- Cole Shipman, Navy ROTC at Virginia Tech
- Michael Werner, MN National Guard at Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Adam Whitmore, U.S. Marines
- Alexandra Widmark, Army National Guard

Patrick Wright '87

Patrick Wright values giving back to the community, something he shares with his fellow Elks, an organization that invests heavily in the community. Pat has been a member since he graduated from college, giving 26 years to the Elks Lodge in Hopkins. This year, he is the District President, and next year he will lead the organization as State President.

Among the many projects he has taken on, two programs stand out: Teaming up 4 Teens and Welcome Home Veterans.

Teaming up 4 Teens supports homeless youth with a supply of personal hygiene items like toothpaste, shampoo and laundry soap. Faced with parents who have drug or alcohol problems, or step parents they don't get along with, homeless teens don't necessarily live on the streets. They go from couch to couch at friends' homes.

Pat started the teen program with a few of his fellow Elks. They supply the packs and work with community organizations and school counselors to distribute them. The laundry soap is a favorite. "Being able to supply your own detergent when washing clothes at a friend's house helps the kids feel more self-reliant," Pat says.

"These kids want to graduate, go to college and be productive citizens," Pat says, despite their challenging home lives. The Elks provide 120 of these packs per month to schools in Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park. While Pat and his fellow Elks don't meet the kids face to face, they frequently get notes of appreciation.

Pat also supports Welcome Home Veterans, which provides household supplies to homeless veterans recently moved into permanent housing. Welcome Home Vets helps with basics like a bed, groceries, kitchen utensils and cleaning supplies.

"It's the most rewarding and humbling experience I've had in my life," Pat says.

One vet mentioned that he was looking forward to making his first pot roast in 20 years. Pat and his fellow Elks went out and returned with a slow cooker and the ingredients. The man cried. "Helping them is the greatest thing," Pat says. "It opens your eyes."

Learn more about these programs:

- www.hopkinselks.org/teaming-up-4-teens.html
- www.hopkinselks.org/welcome-home-vets.html



Read these and other stories of alumni
serving the greater good on our
website or Facebook with the hashtag
#TonkaAlumniSTGG

Kellie Murphy-Ringate '83



Kellie Murphy-Ringate is Fire Marshal for the Excelsior Fire District, a position she loves.

"To be a Fire Marshal for the town I live in, it's amazing," she says. "I help prevent fires in the stores and businesses that I go into outside of work. I feel so fortunate."

She handles fire code inspections, enforces code, teaches fire and life safety, reviews sprinkler plans, investigates fires and manages public relations for the fire district.

She enjoys going into the schools to teach fire prevention and safety to children and is rewarded when she hears back from parents how their elementary-age child now insists on not closing the bedroom door for fire safety.

The hardest part of the job, she says, is standing at the end of a driveway with a family while they watch the firefighters try to save a home consumed in smoke and flames. She lends emotional support and is also able to walk them through their next steps, like calling a restoration company and their insurance company.

These days, Kellie enjoys giving back to the community by talking to MHS students on career day. She also helped to organize the first two MHS All School All Class Reunions.

Kellie was awarded the 2009 Public Safety Education Award for Fire Service by the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association. She became Fire Inspector for Excelsior in 2005, after serving as a firefighter/EMT since 1993 and a CPR and first aid instructor since 1995.

*Be The change
you want to see
in the world*

FINE ARTS ENDOWMENT



(Left to right) Marietta Jacobsen '70, MAA Board; Emily Swagel, MMW teacher and grant recipient; Bonnie (Board) Niles '67, MAA Board

MAA Fine Arts Endowment for 2017-18

The Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment provides funding for fine arts teacher grants. For the 2017-18 school year, the fund will support a Gallery Display of Student Art at Minnetonka Middle School West, creating an organized system of frames and cases for students to exhibit their artistic pieces. Changeable display frames and cases will allow the exhibited art to remain fresh and current throughout the school year, showcasing a variety of student talent.

Grants funded in the last five years:

- Art Display Cases
- Grandparents and Grandchildren Sing Together
- Jamstik Smart Guitar
- Social Skills Through Improv
- Chinese Dragon/Lion Dance
- Robotic Engineers at Groveland
- Video Crane at MHS
- A Long Walk to Water at MMW
- African Drumming (partial funding)
- Art Reproductions
- Skype an Author
- Video Production Sound Bar and Receiver
- 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)



MAA members attended the Grandparents and Grandchildren Sing Together performance (funded through the Fine Arts Endowment). It featured Groveland Elementary students and singers from Alive and Kickin.

We can't do it without you!

Help support the fine arts in Minnetonka by donating online (www.minnetonkaalumni.com) or mail a check to:

P.O. Box 103
Excelsior, MN 55331

Thank you!

For a complete list of projects funded through the Fine Arts Endowment, please visit our website: www.minnetonkaalumni.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Searching for all Minnetonka Boys Basketball Alumni!

If you wore Tonka blue on the basketball court, please reach out to Ryan Freeberg with your name, year of graduation, address, email and any other information you wish to pass along.

Thanks so much for your help and Go Skippers!!

Ryan Freeberg
MHS Boys Basketball Coach
ryan.freeberg@minnetonkaschools.org
www.tonkabball.com

The All School All Class Reunion is Coming in 2018!

We're looking for volunteers to serve on one of several planning committees, as well as event sponsors and volunteers during the reunion.

If you're interested and available to help shape this amazing event, send us an email and let us know!

alumni@minnetonkaschools.org

Save the Date!
Saturday, July 28, 2018

Call for Class Reps!

Class Representatives serve as a point of contact between the MAA and their fellow classmates. They maintain an updated list of their classmates and share class activities, events, fundraising, etc. with the MAA for recognition in our annual magazine, awards ceremony, on our website and more.

See if your class has a rep and, if not, consider being one!

<http://bit.ly/MAA-ClassReps>

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers these and all Minnetonka, Excelsior and Deephaven graduates and faculty who passed away this year.

Curtis (C.J.) Anderson, former English teacher and Asst. Principal, passed away Jan. 23, 2017.



Michael Czock '63 passed away on July 9, 2016. Mike loved his family and his Minnetonka roots.

Tim Daly, former swim coach and mentor, passed away on Dec. 24, 2016. He coached numerous MHS teams to championships.

Carrie Dutcher '89 passed away April 17, 2017



Robert (Bob) Dickey '81 passed away on April 18, 2017.

Charles "Chuck" Dixon '59 died June 7, 2016. He was a writer for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and enjoyed music, reading, billiards, swimming, bowling and golf.

Jon Greenwood '61 passed away on June 28, 2016, from a motorcycle accident. Jon's passion in life was motorcycles and classic sports cars. Jon took frequent motorcycle trips and especially enjoyed visiting family.

Lynn E Lewis '60 passed away Feb. 2017.

Brian Nungesser '74 passed away on March 17, 2016, in Palm Beach County, Florida. He is missed by many. He is survived by his wife of 28 years and his three children, Charles David, Amy and Daniel.



Lowell A. Vetter '55, passed away July 19, 2016.

Joanne Virginia (Perrault) Moe '56 passed away on July 28, 2016.

SUPPORTING MINNETONKA

- The **Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation** provides resources that enrich the curriculum in Minnetonka Schools.
- Minnetonka **Skippers Booster Club** supports all co-curricular activities at MHS.
- **Tonka Pride** is a community-led initiative that celebrates students, staff and families.
- **Anchor Club** supports Minnetonka Aquatics programs including the high school swimming and diving teams and the Minnetonka Swim Club.
- **Band Boosters** are dedicated to promoting and supporting all Minnetonka High School bands.
- The **Curtain Call Club** supports the growth and quality of theatre in Minnetonka.
- The **Diamond Club** unifies all "diamond" sports in the community, including the MHS baseball and softball teams.
- **Minnetonka Youth Hockey Association** supports local hockey teams in Minnetonka.
- **Orchestra Boosters** supports students in the Minnetonka Orchestra program.
- **Striker Club** supports Minnetonka High School soccer programs.
- The **Touchdown Club** supports football and was a primary funding partner for both the Tonka Dome and Veterans Field.
- **Vocal Support** supports and promotes the choir programs of Minnetonka Public Schools.

There are many ways to support and stay connected to Minnetonka High School programs and activities!

Here is a list of just some of the many booster clubs that support current students.

Find a full list of booster clubs on the District website:
www.minnetonkaschools.org/boosters

Support Tonka Baseball and enjoy savings at local businesses with the new Skippers App!

The Skippers App is available on iTunes and Google Play. The app is free but requires a \$30 in-app purchase in the form of a membership. Your membership unlocks discounts at local restaurants, shops and attractions. If you travel or live out-of-state, your smartphone will pick up offers wherever you go. For more information visit the Tonka Baseball website:

www.minnetonkaschools.org/baseball



MINNETONKA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EST. **FOUNDATION** 1986

How the Foundation Impacts Minnetonka Schools

Nick Duff Multi-Cultural Fund

Nick was a social studies teacher at MHS from 1947-1988 and served as a trustee of the Minnetonka Foundation from 1990-1995. This fund was established in 1997 by the Duff family after Nick's death in recognition of his career and deep commitment to multi-cultural studies. The Nick Duff Multi-Cultural Fund funded several grants for 2017-18, including: Chinese Folklore and Folkgame for Library Resources (Excelsior and Scenic Heights), SACHIKO - Finding Peace: An Author Visit (Scenic Heights) and Next Steps for the Minnetonka/Ghana Connection (Clear Springs).

Youth Citizenship Fund

Originally established by retired superintendent Dr. Donald Draayer (1973-1995), the fund promotes civic leadership and community service among the Minnetonka student body. Today, with donor support, this fund continues to support youth service, citizenship and leadership development. For 2017-18, the Youth Citizenship Fund is funding a grant for Tonka Serves, a leadership, service and motivational training for student leaders at Minnetonka High School.

How You Can Help

Visit our website to learn about the Foundation's efforts to invest in innovation for all Minnetonka schools: www.minnetonkafoundation.com

ALUMNI NOTES

1962

Lynda (Thompson) Cranbrook has six grandkids attending elementary, middle and high school all in Minnetonka! They are the third generation to attend Minnetonka schools.

Eugene (Jay) Knutson was inducted into University of Colorado Alumni "C" Club during the Utah Game for his contributions to Colorado Athletics and the Athletic Department.

1964

Chuck Pillsbury is a Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1968-72. He was in Special Services as a Physical Education, swimming instructor, basketball and tennis coach in Alameda, Calif. After 40 years, he and his wife just moved to Capistrano Beach to be close to their seven grandchildren.

1967



Wayne Wyman retired this year from CBS Television after 20 plus years. He was the Director of Facilities at Television City (home of The Price Is Right). He and his wife lived in the Los Angeles area for over 45 years and moved to Prescott Valley, Arizona in July. He is grateful for an "absolutely amazing career," which included the Late Late Show with James Corden and celebrities like George Clooney, Julia Roberts and Gwen Stefani.

1975

William Lee Kauffman, Jr. completed his 31st consecutive Boston Marathon on April 17. He is currently a Cross Country and Track coach at Padua Academy in Wilmington, Delaware.

1978

Pam Hensel and her husband recently moved to Cannon Falls, to allow her 88 and 91-year-old in-laws to stay in their home on 60 beautiful acres. They developed a leadership retreat camp there, replete with a 24' Sioux tipi, several miles of hiking trails, a 7-circuit prairie grass labyrinth and a safari tent guest lodge. It's called the P2 Rendezvous, and they would love to rendezvous with Minnetonka alumni! www.patandpam.com

1981

Lynn (Tabor) Bleeker is in her 31st year teaching in Minnetonka! She taught at Scenic Heights for 21 years and at Clear Springs for 10 years. Her third (and final) child is graduating from Minnetonka this year.

1982

Kathy (Fraley) Shear married Jon Shear (also MHS class of 1982) in 1992 and they have lived in the San Francisco Bay area since 2002.

Send your updates to:
alumni@minnetonkaschools.org
or submit them online at
www.minnetonkaalumni.com

1983

Julie Albrecht recently moved back to Excelsior. Her daughter is a junior at St. Cloud and her son is attending MHS. He is involved in both hockey and baseball.

1987

Mark Herzog lives in Richmond, Va. with his wife Deborah and daughters Katherine (10) and Caroline (8). He has more than 15 years of experience in the biopharmaceutical industry and currently serves as chairman of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development and a member of the Board of Visitors of George Washington's Mount Vernon. In April 2017, he received the award for Outstanding Contributions to Bioscience in Virginia from the Virginia Biotechnology Association.

1988

April Anderson is a proud Mini-School graduate who just completed her Ph.D. in Education, specializing in Higher Education. She was honored as one of the recipients of the 2016 Dissertation of the Year award.

Steven Dahlin started volunteering at age 46 by investing his time with the Minnetonka Alumni Association. He feels very strongly about harnessing the human network of brilliant MHS graduates—which is now over 30,000 strong! He is the President-Elect for the MAA and you can expect to hear a lot more from him this coming year.

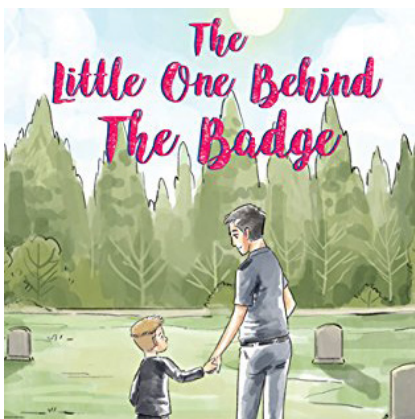
1989

Meredith (Richards) Reimer donated a kidney to a friend in need in April 2016.



Sherri Anding Walsh (above) became the VP of Clinical Operations at Prime Therapeutics in Eagan, Minn. in the summer of 2016. Sherri is an RN with a Master's in Business Administration from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wis. She and her husband reside in Carver, Minn.

1998



Jenny (Tauscher) Swartout wrote her first children's book, *The Little One Behind the Badge*. It is a story about how a little boy realizes his dad is a hero.

2004



Shoshana Anderson (above) served this year as the South Lake Minnetonka Ambassador. She was selected based on her volunteer work and will be taking on the role of Co-Director for the program as her ambassadorship comes to an end.

2005

Melissa (Sass) Latorre and her husband welcomed their first child, Marcella Ann, on Jan. 25, 2017.

2009



Samantha Blankenship (above) is going into her fourth year coaching the MHS Varsity Winter Competition Dance Team. It is a team she was on when she was at MHS!

The MAA would like to officially welcome the Class of 2017 to the Alumni Association!

2017



Lily Loosbrock (above) served this year as the first ever student representative to the MAA. Next fall she will be attending Barnard College of Columbia University in New York, N.Y. where she plans to study political science and human rights.



Jonah Stillman (above) and his father David Stillman, recently released the book *Gen Z @ Work: How the Next Generation Is Transforming the Workplace*, a look at how to recruit, retain, motivate, and manage Gen Zers.



Minnetonka Public Schools
Dennis Peterson, Superintendent
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345

www.minnetonkaschools.org

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

Upcoming Events

2017

June 10-11 - Visit the MAA Booth at Art on the Lake
July 4 - Firecracker Run, Minnetonka Community Ed
July 22 - Class of 1997, 20-Year Reunion
July 28 - Class of 2012, 5-Year Reunion
July 29 - Class of 1987, 30-Year Reunion
Aug. 5 - Class of 1977, 40-Year Reunion
Aug. 5 - Class of 1962, 55-Year Reunion
Aug. 5 - Tour de Tonka, Minnetonka Community Ed
Aug. 19 - Class of 1957, 60-Year Reunion

Aug. 25-27 - CUB Foods Brat Stand, an MAA Fundraiser
Sept. 8 & 9 - Class of 1967, 50-Year Reunion
Sept. 15 - Homecoming Parade and Game
Sept. 16 - Alumni Awards Brunch
Nov. 17 - Tour of Tables, A Minnetonka Foundation Event

2018

Jan. 31 - Nomination deadline for the 2018 Alumni Awards
Feb. 10 - Dream Makers, A Minnetonka Foundation Event
July 28 - All School All Class Reunion



Thank you teachers and staff!

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

Beth Allen, Paraprofessional (DH).....	25	Joyce Motsick, Paraprofessional (MME).....	28
Linda Bonine, Grade 1 Teacher (GR)	34	Sani O'Brien, Art Teacher (EX).....	13
Steven Broz, Custodian (MHS)	26	Pam Orr, Grade 1 Teacher (EX).....	24
Mary Beth Carlson, Paraprofessional (MME).....	19	Catherine Ost, High Potential Teacher (DH)	28
Lisa Calhoun, Paraprofessional (MHS)	23	Maggie Pistner, Language Arts Teacher (MHS).....	24
Patricia Garvin, Paraprofessional (MCEC).....	18	Paul Pistner, Community School Supervisor (MHS)	17
Karen Hughes-Hoffner, ECFE Teacher (MCEC).....	25	Dana Pritchett, Nutrition Services (MHS).....	12
Carol Isham, Office Assistant (MMW)	23	Vicky Reed, Special Ed Teacher (MHS).....	15
Connie Keefe, Social Worker (MME/MMW)	29	Mary Beth Rissmann, Grade 1 Teacher (SH)	23
Gretchen Kellogg, Paraprofessional (MME).....	18	Greg Sikorski, Custodian (DSC).....	27
RoxAnn Kelly, Grade 1 Spanish Imm Teacher (GR).....	10	Deb Sorteberg, Program Manager (MCEC)	25
Connie Kusche, Media Specialist (EX)	19	Mary Tingblad, ELL Teacher (MMW).....	31
Linda Kuzma, Paraprofessional (EX).....	11	Mary Warhol, Nutrition Services (MME).....	9
Susie Lees, Office Assistant (EX)	17	Cindy Weimer, Explorers Club (EX).....	31
Vivian Lezcano-Lytle, Spanish Reading Teacher (GR)....	7	Charlie Wermerskirchen, Head Office Assistant (GR)....	25
Angela McMullen, Paraprofessional (MCEC).....	15	Mary Wicks, Nutrition Services (MHS)	14
Betty Moe, Nutrition Services (DH).....	11	Mike Wyman, Custodian (MME)	12
Robert Montague, Paraprofessional (MHS).....	27	Sam You, Paraprofessional (MHS)	34