

# **WILDCATS REMEMBERED**

VOLUME XV, No. 1

February, 2010

## **PERSONALLY SPEAKING...**

It's great to be "settled in." We've adjusted to downsizing and living in a real neighborhood, and we've learned some routes that enable us to avoid some of the traffic congestion. It was especially nice to NOT have to travel to be with family over the holidays.

CeCe's energy level continues improving. She has really enjoyed participating each week in an exercise class at a senior center, continues knitting, and has resumed quilting.

I have "dusted off" the degree in biology and am a member of a volunteer crew at The Marine Mammal Center, a state of the art medical facility. The primary patients are sea lions and seals. The goal of the Center is to give each animal the strength and skills it needs to return to the ocean prepared to survive and flourish in the wild.

The veterinary staff diagnoses each animal. The care, dietary supplements, and medications are then administered by the volunteer staff. So far, I have avoided being bitten!

Working through St. Alban's, feeding the homeless and other "outreach activities" continue to be high priorities. Certainly, much energy will continue to be devoted to **WILDCATS REMEMBERED!** Your personal notes are sincerely appreciated. It's great to learn what YOU are doing!

**God Bless America!**

Don Goerlitz

## **TRADITION**

The Class of 2009 provided **WILDCATS REMEMBERED** a class gift of \$65. Nearly every class has contributed to this project - a gift that keeps on giving! Class contributions now total \$11,672.

**THANK YOU CLASS OF 2009!**

## **WHY ME?**

You are receiving the annual newsletter for one of three reasons: you have recently contributed to **WILDCATS REMEMBERED** as an alumnus or friend of MVHS; your class may have celebrated a recent reunion; or at the request of a class member.

**WILDCATS REMEMBERED** is nearing its SIXTEENTH YEAR! This annual newsletter is a great way to inform all alumni about this project so they may better understand what it means to MVHS. At the very least, MVHS graduates are updated every five years.

In that contributions to the Posey County Community Foundation are endowed, monies received are invested to generate income, and a portion of that income is directed to the office of the Principal of Mt. Vernon High School at the close of each fiscal year. This past summer, Mr. Steve Riordan, MVHS Principal, received a check for \$3,518. The account balance currently exceeds \$144,860.

**THANK YOU, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS!**

## **ACADEMIC HONORS DINNER**

*These are tough economic times. Thanks to your support of **WILDCATS REMEMBERED**, the SIXTH ANNUAL Academic Honors Dinner did take place this past year! The top ten academic students from each class were recognized and received a medal and a framed certificate.*

*The printed program noted "A Very Special Thanks To Our Sponsor - **WILDCATS REMEMBERED** Without Whose Financial Assistance This Dinner Would Not Be Possible."*

**THANK YOU!**

**TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

## **TRENT VANHAFTEN NAMED OUTSTANDING ALUM**

Trent VanHaften was selected by the National Honor Society as the recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award for the Year 2009. Trent is a member of the Class of '83.

In addition to excelling academically, Trent was president of his senior class, participated in Student Council for four years, and attended the Hugh O'Brien Leadership Seminar. He was a member of the National Honor Society, was active in Key Club, and participated in football, basketball, and baseball.

After graduation from high school, Trent enrolled at Lake Forest College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Politics and Business in 1987. He followed his passion for football and played for the Fighting Forresters.

Trent graduated with honors from the Drake University Law School in 1990 and returned to southern Indiana.

Trent served in the Posey County Prosecutor's Office as Chief Deputy from 1991 to 1993 and was elected Posey County Prosecuting Attorney in 1994 remaining in that position until being elected State Representative for District 76 in the Year 2004. He continues holding that position at this time and has been named Legislator of the Year by the Friends of Agriculture and the Indiana Coalition to Curb Underage Drinking.

Trent is a member of the Mt. Vernon M-Club Athletic Hall of Fame and is a past president of the Posey County Community Foundation. He resides in Mt. Vernon with his wife, Beverly, and is an attorney with Bamberger, Foreman, Oswald, and Hahn.

**CONGRATULATIONS, TRENT!**

## **BREITWIESER HONORED**

Dr. Dianne Breitwieser, a member of the Class of '67, was the 2009 Meramec Faculty Lecture Award Honoree. The award was presented by the St. Louis Community College at Meramec. The award is designed to honor a member of the faculty for outstanding community college teaching.

Dianne earned a B.A. degree in English from Indiana State University. Her M.A. Degree in Speech Communication and her Ph.D. in Speech Communication and Theatre are from Southern Illinois University.

Dianne joined the Meramec faculty as a member of the Communications Department in 1975, and during the next fifteen years, directed more than thirty theatre productions. Over the years, she has served on and chaired numerous campus and college committees.

**CONGRATULATIONS, DIANNE!**

## **BUNDY ROCKS!**

My first knowledge about Keith Bundy came in a conversation with Miss Phyllis Barker, a MVHS Counselor for many years. She said, "We will have a blind student enrolling as a freshman. He is touring the building with a person from the Blind Association. Actually, he is being

taken through the building a second time just to slow him down. I would then like for you to meet Keith." It was my privilege to meet Keith and, if memory serves me correctly, HE WAS NEVER LATE FOR CLASS!

Keith excelled academically and, as a senior, accompanied Mr. Martin to the Bayh Conference where, while walking through a hallway, they had an opportunity to visit with Walter Cronkite.

Keith earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Evansville in 1978 and continued his education at Indiana State University where he received a Master's Degree in Student Development in 1980.

After working for four years as a vocational rehabilitation counselor, Keith entered pastoral ministry with the Church of the Nazarene and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and Religion at Indiana Wesleyan University in 1986.

Keith pastored the Olive Branch Church of the Nazarene in northeastern Indiana for four years and moved to Madison, South Dakota where he was pastor of the Madison Church of the Nazarene through May, 2006.

Today, Keith continues as Director of Student Development at Dakota State University, a position he has held since August, 2000. Keith and his wife, Peggy, have four sons ages 18-26. Peggy provides assistance as he broadcasts baseball games. Keith still preaches at various churches at least once a month and is a motivational speaker. He was named the MVHS Outstanding Alumnus in 1994.

## REFLECTIONS

**Awesome!** The Class of '54 publishes newsletters on a regular basis featuring reunion information and area events that class members enjoy together. Sam Blankenship, Charlie Aldrich, Margie Forthoffer Beste, and Janie Green White spearhead communications.

**Dr. Patrick Dunigan**, Class of '74, celebrated his twenty-fifth year in dentistry this year.

**Sara Sanders**, Class of '95, competed in the USA Triathlon Age Group Nationals in August finishing sixth in the 30-34 age group. Her time qualified her to compete in the International Triathlon Union.

**Ervin Renschler** was awarded Volunteer of the Year by the Posey County Red Cross. He was also given the Tony Award for his volunteerism.

**Judi Given; Housley**, Class of '57, along with her husband, enjoyed a trip to the Holy Land. They are active in their community, Starkville, Mississippi, serving on symphony and library boards.

**Marka Blackwell Barbour**, Class of '79, lives in Austin, Texas and is the Global Program Manager for DHL Global Customer Solutions.

**Susan Wheaton Radovich**, Class of '61, has retired from school administration but remains active with board and committee assignments. She chairs an eight county Community Service Board that oversees the state's Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program, Developmentally Disabled Program, and the Mental Health Program.

**Geoff Leffel**, Class of '73, has celebrated his 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary as a financial consultant with Merrill Lynch.

**Joan McCullough Robinson**, Class of '63, lives in Mt. Kisco, NY where she is enjoying retirement. She enjoys singing in choral groups, studying horticulture, yoga, tennis, golf, and trips with family and friends.

**Dan Schenk**, Class of '91, majored in philosophy at Wabash College. He earned an MBA at Indiana University in the Year 2000, and today, is a Senior Product Marketing Manager for Nike Golf. Dan, his wife, Amelia, and their three children reside in Beaverton, Oregon.

**Jody Weintraut Pfister**, Class of '72, is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of West Elementary School and is especially enjoying the completion of the renovation project. She enjoys the challenges of being the principal of West Elementary.

**Paul Gable**, Class of '66, has retired from the field of pharmacy and has traveled to Japan and Vietnam earlier this year.

**Rachel Wheaton**, Class of 2008, is a member of the swim team at DePauw University.

**Michelle Stephens; Wheaton**, Class of '79, has returned to teaching and currently teaches 4<sup>th</sup> grade remediation at Hedges Central Elementary School.

**Valerie Bostick**, Class of '81, has been named Director of Early Childhood Education by the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

## LILLY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Two Lilly Endowment Scholarships are awarded each year in each county in Indiana. The two scholarships awarded in Posey County cover four years of undergraduate study at an accredited Indiana public or private college or university. This includes the cost of tuition and up to \$800 per year for fees, books, and equipment.

**Madison Weintraut**, the daughter of Mark and Mary Weintraut of Mt. Vernon, is a recipient of one of these prestigious scholarships and is studying pharmacy at Purdue University.

During her high school career, Madison was a member of the yearbook committee, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, Key Club, Latin Club, Math Club, and Advanced Biology Club.

She was a participant in Posey County Young Life and activities at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. She volunteered for an Appalachian Mission trip for two years and assisted with the theater production of "Diary of Anne Frank."

The endowment also awards \$1,500 scholarships to two alternates in each county, and one such recipient graduated from MVSHS. **Sarah McMahon**, daughter of Alphonse and Cheryl McMahon was awarded a scholarship and is attending Indiana University where she is majoring in science.

During her high school career, she was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, president of her sophomore class, participated on the School Improvement Team, and was a member of the soccer, swim, and tennis teams.

## A HUGE SURPRISE!

Following the reunion of the Class of '59, **WILDCATS REMEMBERED** received a gift of \$500 from the class. Thanks class members for contributing to "the gift that keeps on giving!" **TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

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## IN MEMORIAM

During the Year 2009, the Fund received memorial contributions from:

- ❖ Class of '54 for:
  - Patricia Douthitt Dowell
  - Darwin Esche
  - Mary Frances Hinderliter
  - Donna Lamb Johnson
- ❖ Class of '78 for:
  - Tammy Meeks Atkins
  - Ralph Boerner
  - Gregory Brooks
  - Mike Caputo
  - Brian Hahn
  - Mark Juncker
  - Kevin Lemp
  - Ronald Mackey
  - David Medcalf
  - Charles Pase
  - Bruce Schneider
  - Sue Keele Taylor
  - Skipper Thompson
  - James Walker
- ❖ CeCe and Don Goerlitz for :
  - Andrew Awe
  - Mark Buchanan '73
  - Doris Christmas
- ❖ David S. Jones '65 for Bonita Winiger Jones' 67
- ❖ Allen and Linda McGinnis for Virgie Mae Goldman
- ❖ Ann Thompson McGinnis for Virgie Mae Goldman
- ❖ William E. Medcalf '42 for Betty Medcalf
- ❖ John Mohr for George and Helen Ashworth
- ❖ Arlene Poland Naphy '54 for Patty Sue Cox '54
- ❖ Joyce Stevens '47 for Wanda Staples '47
- ❖ Philip Sutton for Kathleen Kleinschmidt Sutton '62

## SCORE CARD

**CONGRATULATIONS to the CLASS of '64!** Twelve members of your class made contributions during the Year 2009!

The Classes of '61 & '65 had 11 contributors each.

Other leaders include:

- 🐾 10 members each – Classes of '63 and '79
- 🐾 8 members - Class of '66
- 🐾 7 members each - Classes of '68, '72, & '74
- 🐾 6 members each - Classes of '47, '54, '58 and '67
- 🐾 5 members each - Classes of '44, '69, '70, '71, & '80

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**Marka Blackwell Barbour '79**  
**Nicole Kost Buschemeyer '92**  
**Nancy Givens Butler '63**  
**Paul Cross '58**  
**Arthur Hall '56**  
**Brenda S. Hall '56**  
**Joyce Jarred Illingsworth '63**  
**William Clay Jeffries '79**  
**David S. Jones '65**  
**Georgia Darr Michalski '62**  
**Deborah Dixon Morgan '76**  
**Donald A. Niemeier '48**  
**Jaina L. Paciorkowski '79**  
**Joan McCullough Robinson '63**  
**Dee Ann Niemeier Sheffer '79**  
**Ron Sheffer '79**  
**David N. Stevens '61**

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Your check to **WILDCATS REMEMBERED** is fully tax deductible. Basic membership is \$15.

Please mail your check **today** to:

**WILDCATS REMEMBERED**

1776 Tulare Avenue  
Richmond, CA 94805

***The students presently attending MVHS thank you for your support!***