

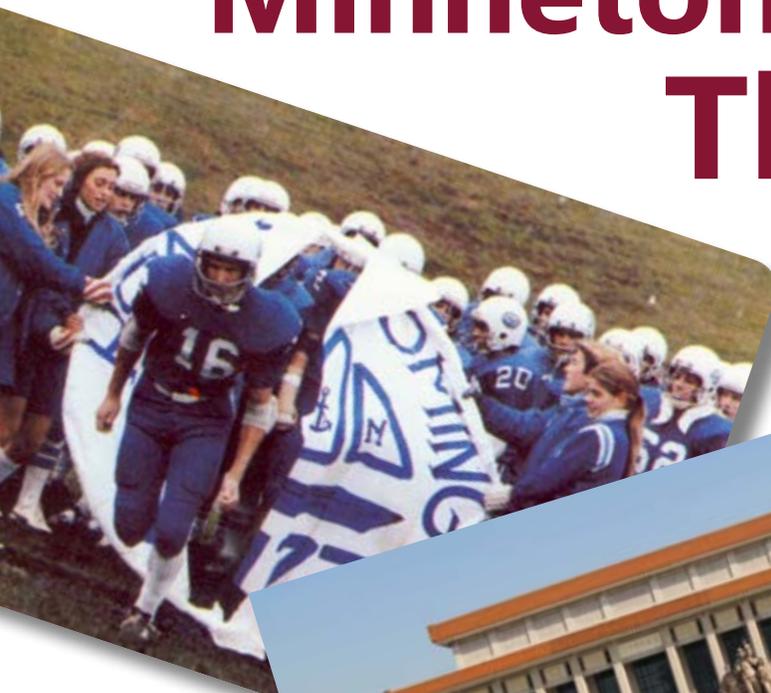
MINNETONKA

Alumni Magazine

2016



Minnetonka Schools Then & Now



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ON THE COVER:

(clockwise from top left) Excelsior School, Oscar the Octopus with 1958 cheerleaders, 1968 Homecoming Queen and her court (Sitting: Carolyn Huff, Gail Thacker and Katie Allen. Standing: Martha Thomson, Sally Ferguson, Peg Bannon, Queen Maureen Mullen, Karen Oaks and Becky White.), the Skipper mascot, Minnetonka immersion students on a 2015 trip to China and the 1978 homecoming game

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.



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MINNETONKA Alumni Awards

Congratulations to the 2015 Alumni Award Honorees!



Front (left to right): Anna Nelson, Jane Ann Goltz, Marnie Mosiman. Back (left to right): Lloyd Law, Ryan Klocksien, Steve Frazier, William Leer, Randy Nelson, Gary Sundem, Donald Mark, Brian Kuhnly

Distinguished Alumni

- Donald Mark '65
- Anna Nelson '91
- Gary Sundem '63

Skippers Hall of Fame

- Ryan Klocksien '98
- William Leer '03
- Marnie Mosiman '69

Distinguished Service

- Brian Kuhnly '78

Faculty Hall of Fame

- Steve Frazier, Counselor and Social Studies Teacher
- Jane Ann Goltz, Special Education Teacher
- Lloyd Law, Elementary Principal
- Randy Nelson, Work Experience Coordinator

Save the date

The 2016 Alumni Awards Brunch will be held
September 17, 2016

Meet the 2016 honorees on pages 4-6

Alumni Association Board of Directors

President
Past President
Secretary
Treasurer

Dan Heiland '74
Bonnie (Board) Niles '67
Joy (Davis) Fruen '71
John Frees '68

Directors

Gail (Wartman) Bollis '67, Jeff Davenport '81, Marietta Jacobsen '70, Lynn Krafve (retired teacher and coach) and Gail (Thacker) Ofstehage '68

FROM THE MAA PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

I have the honor of being the President of *your* Minnetonka Alumni Association (MAA) this year. I was interested in becoming a volunteer at the great school that I was a graduate of, Minnetonka High School. As it turned out, I was lucky enough to attend an MAA meeting in 2012 and this became a great way for me to contribute to the area where I grew up.

Speaking of that area, think of all of the changes that have happened in the forty plus years since my 1974 graduation. Wow, how things have changed! When I grew up, I thought that the town of Excelsior was a boring little town in the western suburbs with nothing going on, even with the Excelsior Amusement Park and Lake Minnetonka right there. Now the park is gone and the lake is as busy as ever. Folks who once left the area are wanting to be back to be with family and old friends. I always enjoy going into Excelsior now to be at one of the many establishments and running into old friends. You know we talk about the old days gone by. Perhaps we talk about up and coming things as well. It happened twice to me last week when dining at a restaurant in Excelsior. Enough about me.

The MAA is as busy as ever participating in many events in the area:

- We are out in force volunteering at MHS graduation, Art on the Lake, (where you could be a proud owner of some of our MAA products and support our program), Tour de Tonka and at the Minnetonka Cub store's brat stand, grilling and selling brats, hot dogs and pork chops.
- Minnetonka Homecoming coincides with our annual meeting. We host the MAA Awards Brunch where we recognize outstanding alumni and former faculty for their contributions, leadership and service to the Minnetonka Schools. It is fun to reconnect with classmates, too. Save the date of Saturday, September 17, 2016, for this year's event.
- We are proud to support the Fine Arts Endowment. Our fundraising efforts support this wonderful program by asking our Minnetonka teachers, "How can we help you bring the arts to your students?" These teacher grants are fun to read as our fabulous teachers bring new ideas to our Minnetonka students. In 2015, we funded more than \$7,000 in teacher grants. Maybe you were lucky enough to see the Wizard of Oz musical that the elementary schools put on? It was just great to see the 4th and 5th grade kids singing, dancing and "following the yellow brick road." Read more on page 7.

Yes, we are Tonka Proud! As President, I am lucky to have a passionate Board of Directors to represent your amazing Minnetonka Alumni Association. If you would like to be involved, please give us a call or go to our website: www.minnetonkaalumni.com

Go Skippers,

Dan Heiland '74

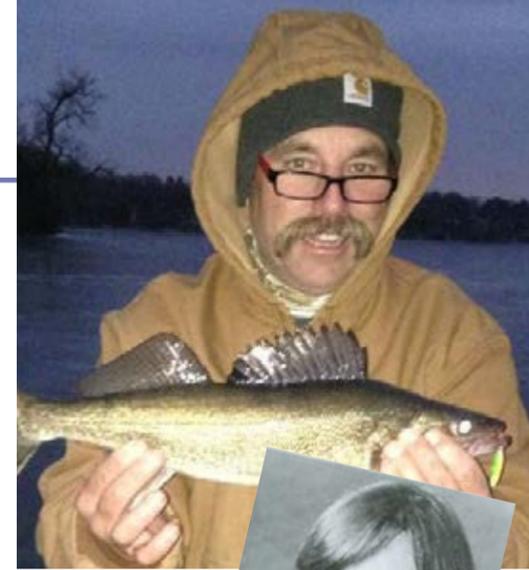


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Stay connected!





Jeffrey Erickson, Principal
Minnetonka High School
@TonkaPrincipal

MHS Alumni,

When I started at Minnetonka more than 20 years ago, I was very aware of the legacy of success our faculty inherited. Working with inspiring educators like Glenn and Mary Skoy, Polly Patrick, Dave Ringstad, Jane Ann Goltz and Bruno Marmesh inspired me to focus on relationships as a foundation for learning. Today, connecting with students and engaging them in their learning continues to be our top priority.

Paging through *Minnetonka Then and Now* is an historical stroll of leading edge innovation through the decades—long before innovation started trending. With each new program, we open more doors and more opportunities for teens. This fall, we look forward to opening Minnetonka Research—an authentic research lab and six new science rooms—that will lay the foundation for future discoveries to address some of our world's greatest problems. We are fortunate to have support from Cargill and St. Jude's for this groundbreaking work.

It was 1984 when we implemented our first Advanced Placement (AP) courses at MHS. Today, more than 78% of our seniors are enrolled in at least one AP or International Baccalaureate (IB) course. This year, we welcomed our first class of continuing Language Immersion students to MHS, and we are now preparing to award Bilingual IB Diplomas to members of the class of 2019. Our students continue to demonstrate there is no limit to how much they can learn. Your legacy of excellence is in good hands.

All the best,

Jeff Erickson
MHS Principal

Thank you teachers & staff!

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

- Sandy Booth, Controller (DSC)..... 13 years
- Maureen Carlson, Special Ed Para (CS)..... 28 years
- Roberta Carpenter, Para (CS)..... 11 years
- Paula Crist, Language Arts (MHS)..... 29 years
- Roger Downing, Custodian (MHS) 18 years
- Colleen Faber, Social Worker (SH) 38 years
- Kevin Florek, Maintenance (MME)..... 31 years
- Margaret Gaumond, Social Worker (MHS)..... 27 years
- Jill Hoese, Phy Ed Teacher (MHS)..... 28 years
- Sharol Hokanson, Office Assistant (MHS)..... 28 years
- Russell Holmes, Custodian (MME)..... 10 years
- Dianna Michels, Special Ed Teacher 15 years
- Nancy Nagle, Office Assistant (MCEC)..... 26 years
- Mary Jane Narog, Media Specialist (CS) 25 years
- Jeff Noyes, Business Ed Teacher (MHS) 21 years
- Sue Odt, Special Ed Teacher (Groveland)..... 30 years
- Mary Olson, Media Para (MME) 22 years
- Gary Olson, Custodian (Minnewashta) 26 years
- Lois Paul, Special Ed Para (Groveland) 26 years
- Barbara Peebles, Office Assistant (DSC) 27 years
- Sheri Richardson, Nutrition Services (MMW)..... 21 years

- Tom Robb, Grounds Specialist 11 years
- Margaret Rosen, Music Teacher (Deephaven) 27 years
- Teri Sapienza, ECSE Para (MCEC)..... 13 years
- Nancy Schuett, Health Teacher (MHS)..... 21 years
- Connie Schumann, Gr. 1 Teacher (Deephaven) 22 years
- Kim Seamans, Special Ed Teacher (MHS)..... 27 years
- Barbara Sherman, Phy Ed Teacher (Groveland) 18 years



Photos from the 2016 Retirement Reception at BayView Event Center. (Left: Jill Hoese, Jeff Noyes, Tom Robb, Dianna Michels and Kim Seamans. Right: Colleen Faber and Paula Crist)

A Family Tradition

These 2016 graduates join their parents, siblings and other family members as proud MHS Alumni.

Joseph (Joey) Adams and mother Andria Nicholson '83

Matthew Bartlett and father Scott Bartlett '84

Grace Brisley; father James Brisley '79; grandfather Newton Brisley '42; cousins Justin Brisley '95 and Nathan Brisley '95

Jackson Denly and mother Jenifer Strohm '79

Joe Einhorn; father John Einhorn '73; sister Jenine Einhorn '12

William Feldmeier; father Jeffrey Feldmeier '73; mother Cynthia (Fryer) Feldmeier '75; sister Meghan Feldmeier '09

Marissa Johnson; father Peter Johnson '86; mother Nicole (Cunningham) Johnson '86; brother Zachary Johnson '14; grandparents John Cunningham '56 and Sandra (Sathre) Cunningham '56; great-grandfather William Patrick Cunningham '27

Emily Kruger and father Mark Kruger '82

Nicolette (Nikki) Kvam; father Kevin Kvam '79; mother Laurie Wright '80; brother Max Kvam '14

Olivia Larson; mother Kathy (Sevey) Larson '81; grandfather Bob Sevey '49; aunt Jenn (Sevey) Thomas '83

Smetana Larson and mother Leontine (Remick) Larson '88

Josephine Kay Lowden; mother Shari Mueller Lowden '86; grandmother Ethlyn Peterson Mueller '63

Brent Maghan; father Brian Maghan '80; sister Lindsey Maghan '11; aunt Heidi Maghan '83

Madalyn (Maddy) Louise McFarlin; father David McFarlin '74; uncles Bobby McFarlin '78, Jeff McFarlin '80, Michael Weldon '83 and Billy Weldon '92; aunts Laura (Weldon) McFarlin '81, Lisa (McFarlin) Wandrei '81 and Terri Weldon '79; cousins Lyndsay McFarlin '06, Krista McFarlin '10 and Meagan McFarlin '15

Justin Norby; father Craig Norby '88; uncles Mark Norby '89 and Scott Norby '86

Tyler Olds; father Brian Olds '84; grandparents Robert Olds '63 and Nancy (McClure) Olds '63; great grandfather Harold McClure '35; brother William Olds '13

Maxwell Ronningen; mother Kristi (Fors) Ronningen '83; sister Olivia Ronningen '14

Nicolas Schaer; mother Susanne Heeb-Schaer '80; uncles Chris Heeb '77, Peter Heeb '79 (deceased) and Andreas Heeb '83

Lauren Slater and father Bradley Slater '86

Maddie Smith and mother Jenni (Hawley) Smith '87

Kaelyn Swartout and mother Leah Swartout Buss '94

Garrett Tiffany; mother Nancy Griswold Tiffany '77; aunts Kim Griswold Holmberg '73 and Elizabeth (Bebeth) Van Yahres '75

Jack Tully and father Gary Tully '80

Victoria (Tori) Williams; mother Vikki (Chambers) Williams '86, aunts Jackie (Chambers) Iberlin '81 and Susan Chambers '79

Courtney Yurich; mother Tracy Brettingen Yurich '80, sister Mackenzie Yurich '14



Robin Phillips '81

When Robin Phillips started at Northwestern University School of Law, she knew she wanted to serve the greater good. After a summer working with a legal aid organization at a time of extreme funding cuts and limited job possibilities, Robin realized it was not a practical choice for her first job. She decided to pursue private practice and volunteer for public interest organizations.

As a lawyer, Robin worked for the law firm of Briggs and Morgan. True to her passion, she volunteered her time and talents with organizations like Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, the Minnesota AIDS Project and The Advocates for Human Rights. It didn't take long for her to realize that this simply wasn't enough.

After seven years, Robin left the law firm and took on the position of Women's Human Rights Program Director with The Advocates for Human Rights. In this role, her skills and passion merged.

"I believe we all have a responsibility to make the world a better place than we found it," explained Robin. "With our women's human rights work, we improve laws and the way the legal system works to protect women against violence in countries around the world and here at home."



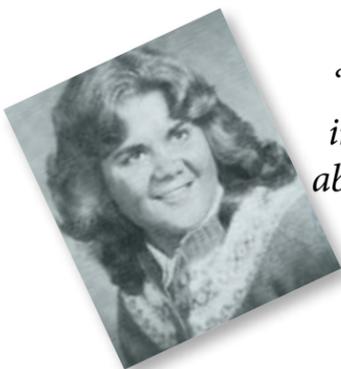
sisters helped convince her parents to send the girl to school. She is now attending university and has a world of possibilities ahead of her. When asked how her education has changed her family, the girl said, "now my sisters are all sending their daughters to school."

"I'm excited to provide opportunities for people to engage in human rights work. It improves the lives of those who are served, as well as those who volunteer." For example, in another program, The Advocates has more than 400 volunteer attorneys who take cases for indigent asylum seekers. Not only do they provide high quality, life-saving legal services, many say that the work is the most satisfying they have ever done.

When Robin reflects on her time at Minnetonka High School, there isn't any one experience that stands out. Rather, it was the overall culture of success that impacted her most.

"Teachers met students where they were and helped us reach our goals. I'm very grateful for feeling supported and valued by all the staff, not just the teachers. We were treated like success was the only option," reflected Robin.

As for new graduates, her advice is simple: "Follow your passion. Love what you do and do not be afraid to follow where life leads. Sometimes we end up in wonderful places we never dreamed were possible."



"Follow your passion. Be informed and disciplined about it — you never know where it will lead."

In 2002, Robin was promoted to Executive Director. In this role, she oversees all of The Advocates programming, including a school in Nepal for poor children who would otherwise be working as child laborers. One of the girls in the school's first class told Robin how she had desperately wanted to be the first in her family to attend school. Her parents and her five older sisters all worked in the fields. The girl begged, but her parents didn't want her to go. Eventually her

James (Jim) Rice '65

Jim Rice has spent his career helping people all over the world in the field of public health. His work has strengthened the performance of individuals and institutions in various health systems in almost 40 countries—from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe (literally).

After graduating from MHS, Jim attended the University of Minnesota with the intention of becoming a doctor. During his sophomore year, he discovered the field of healthcare management, which combined his passion for medicine with his interest in business. He went on to obtain both his master's and doctoral degrees in management and health policy from the University of Minnesota where he also received a National Institute of Health Doctoral Fellowship and the University of Minnesota School of Public Health Distinguished Alumnus award.

Early in his career, Jim focused on how hospitals and other health care facilities could deliver services most effectively. His roles during this time included President for Health Central International, Inc. and president of The International Health Summit where he traveled extensively throughout the world.

Later in his career, Jim explored how money moved through the healthcare sector. During this time, he lived for a while in Russia and recognized that the best way to ensure the sustainability of health system reforms would be to focus on strengthening health system leadership and governance structures.

Jim's current passion is improving how healthcare systems perform by building the effectiveness of the boards who govern them. This includes training and supporting the community members who serve on healthcare boards.

"These board members are a critical resource for healthcare institutions. They are the link between hospitals and clinics and the communities that they serve," explained Jim.

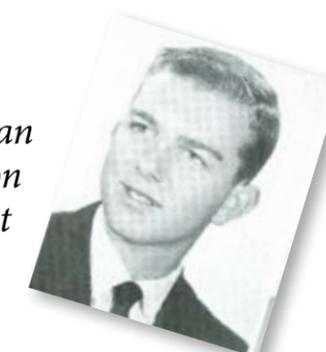
To help strengthen healthcare boards and ensure greater leadership within the health care industry, Jim collaborated with a friend from the University of Cambridge to develop an international health leadership program through the Centre for Health Leadership and Enterprise in the Judge School of Business at Cambridge.

He is also building "governance academies" at the



University of Minnesota and the Advance Healthcare Management Institute in Prague. The academies will not only help to build the capacity of healthcare boards, but also encourage more physicians to take on leadership and governance roles. Jim would especially like to see more women in these roles.

"Be active in your community. Try to have an impact that can be felt on the global stage, not just locally."



When looking back on his time at MHS, Jim remembers his science classes as having a strong influence on his decision to go into medicine. He also spent time playing football and tennis, as well as the trumpet and baritone in Mr. Geldert's band class.

His advice to new graduates heading to college: "The world is more global than ever. Explore career paths and learning opportunities that happen outside of Minnesota and outside of the U.S. In addition, be active in your community. Try to have an impact that can be felt on the global stage, not just locally."

Congratulations

to all of the 2016 Alumni Award Honorees!
Join us on Saturday, September 17, to honor their achievements.
www.minnetonkaalumni.com/AlumniAwards



**Distinguished Alum
Robin Phillips '81**
Robin is the Executive Director of The Advocate for Human Rights and has worked tirelessly for the needs of others both locally and globally. She has a law degree from Northwestern University.



**Distinguished Alum
James (Jim) Rice '65**
Jim has worked in more than 40 countries to strengthen their health sectors and is the Managing Director for Governance and Leadership at Gallagher Integrated in Minneapolis.



**Distinguished Service
Bonnie (Board) Niles '67**
In her 10 years with the MAA, Bonnie has helped with reunions, recruited board members, served as a liaison to the Foundation and supported the Fine Arts Endowment.



**Young Alumni Award
Sarah Larsson '08**
The Outreach and Development Director with the Somali Museum of Minn., Sarah has an M.A. from Yale in Anthropology. She is also a performing vocalist with the Nightingale Trio.



**Skipper Hall of Fame
1991 Boys Swim Team**
The 1991 boys swim team won the state meet (by a wide margin) and set five state records and one national public school record, which held for more than 20 years.



**Skipper Hall of Fame
Steve Hamrick '74**
Steve is the first and only artist to win the Minnesota trout and salmon stamp four times and the second artist in history to win all five Minnesota conservation stamp contests.



**Faculty Hall of Fame
Lynn Johnson Owens '62**
Lynn taught second grade at Deephaven Elementary for 46 years. She was also the recipient of the Brad Board Elementary Teacher of Excellence Award in 2011.



**Faculty Hall of Fame
Walt "Doc" West
(posthumous)**
During his 30 years at MHS, "Doc" was a PE teacher, coach, athletic director, department chair and mentor. He advocated for required PE classes for all grades.



FINE ARTS ENDOWMENT

Celebrating Teacher Grants by Liz (Holcomb) Norton, '82

Representatives from the MAA, the District and the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation celebrated the 2016-17 Teacher Grants on April 21. Since its inception, the Teacher Grant Program has awarded more than \$900,000 in grants, which provide Minnetonka teachers with additional resources for innovative concepts to engage students in new and meaningful ways.



Dave Parker (Groveland principal), Kelly Kautz (MHS teacher), Xue Han (Scenic Heights teacher), Gail (Wartman) Bollis '67 (MAA board), Marietta Jacobsen '70 (MAA board), Gail (Thacker) Ofstehage '68 (MAA board) and Bonnie (Board) Niles '67 (MAA board)

MAA Fine Arts Endowment for 2016-17

Funding for some of the fine arts teacher grants is provided by the Minnetonka Alumni Association's Fine Arts Endowment Fund. For the 2016-17 school year, the MAA's Fine Arts Endowment Fund will support:

- **Grandparents & Grandchildren Sing Together (\$1,350):** This collaborative concert, open to the public, features *Alive and Kickin'*, an auditioned vocal ensemble for people ages 65+, and *Music & Lyrics*, Groveland's curricular 5th grade choir. Requested by Seth Boyd, Groveland.
- **Jamstik Smart Guitar (\$500):** Jamstik is a tool that helps to bridge the gap between playing an instrument and utilizing technology simultaneously, to be used in the guitar unit for classroom music in 7th and 8th grades. Requested by Karen Gotz, MME.
- **Social Skills Through Improv (\$2,160):** Helps 45 high school students with Autism Spectrum Disorders increase their ability to navigate social situations through participation in six improvisation classes led by ComedySportz Twin Cities. Requested by Kelly Kautz, MHS.
- **Chinese Dragon/Lion Dance (\$639):** Elementary students will learn about the Chinese dragon/lion dance, make their own t-shirt costume, learn how to do the culturally significant dance, and collaboratively present their dance at Chinese New Year. Requested by Xue Han, Scenic Heights.



**MINNETONKA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
EST. **FOUNDATION** 1986

How the Foundation Impacts Minnetonka Schools

Design for Learning

At our annual Dream Makers event, the Fund-a-Dream appeal raised \$45,000 to support Minnetonka's innovative efforts to engage students through the re-imagining of classroom interiors in every school building. Design for Learning grants for each building were announced in May, for implementation in 2016-17.

Minnetonka Research

This fall, Minnetonka High School is opening a unique lab and collaborative workspace to support Minnetonka Research. In this program, students conduct authentic scientific research on-site with coaching from Ph.D.-level industry partners. The Foundation is raising funds for specialized scientific equipment to support the student research proposals. If you have any suggestions for potential industry partners to assist with funding, donating lab equipment, or volunteering as coaches, contact Melissa Streit, foundation director, at melissa.streit@minnetonka.k12.mn.us.

How You Can Help

Visit www.minnetonkafoundation.com to learn about all the foundation's efforts to invest in innovation for all Minnetonka schools.

MINNETONKA SCHOOLS THEN & NOW

With contributions from Dr. Don Draayer and Glenn Skoy

Since its inception, the Minnetonka School District has been preparing students to be thoughtful, contributing members of society. The District has earned a reputation for excellent teaching and exceptional student achievement. Here are just a few of the academic highlights and changes that have taken place over the years.

When Minnetonka High School opened in 1952, the curriculum included Home Economics, English, Physics, Arts, Business Education, Biology, Social Studies, Metal Shop and Languages (French, Latin and Spanish).

In 1963, a new science wing was added onto the school. The round shape was designed to maximize space. It included multiple physics, chemistry and biology classrooms, as well as teacher meeting space.

Minnetonka was at the forefront of the "alternative program" movement in the 1960s. This included School Within A School (SWAS) at MHS, which was largely an independent study program where students pursued specialized interests. Mini-School was established for students who were not successful in the traditional curriculum coursework. It included camping and travel activities for experiential learning.

By 1971, three elementary schools also adopted alternative programs: Clear Springs, Deephaven and Minnewashta. East Junior High started the Alternative Learning Program (ALP).

1973 brought Community Education to Minnetonka, offering programs for youth and adults outside of the traditional school day. The initial director for the program was James Jones, who held the position until he retired in 1996.

DECA, previously known as the Distributive Education Clubs of America, initially appeared at MHS in the early 1970s. While the club came and went over the years, in 2009, MHS officially relaunched the program and it is still going strong. This year, 118 MHS students competed at the state DECA competition and 44 students advanced to the international competition for marketing and management.

In 1976, a gifted program was established—which was among the first in the west suburban area.

In 1978, the College Career Center was established at MHS.

1983 brought the Extra Learning Experience (ELE). It was the first program in Minnesota to provide high school students the option of extending the learning day to take extra courses, on a tuition basis.

In 1984, the Advanced Placement (AP) program was implemented. MHS was one of very few public high schools statewide to provide AP courses. In 2002, MHS recognized its first National AP Scholar. Today there are 503 AP Scholars and 43 National AP Scholars.

In 1985, Minnetonka had the largest number of programs designated as Programs of Excellence of any high school in Minnesota.

Psychology and sociology courses began in 1986.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) started in 1986, allowing current high school students to enroll in college courses, receiving dual credit.

ACADEMICS

The mid-80s also saw the evolution of the architecture and engineering programs, which started working with 3M and competing in the Minnesota Tech Challenge. The program grew from the two initial teams to seven teams by the early 2000s. Project Lead the Way now provides college credit for engineering and architecture students.

In 1988, Chinese was added as a foreign language option at MHS. In the first year, 28 students enrolled in the course. The Chinese exchange teachers later spent 30 minutes in every elementary classroom talking about Chinese culture to help spark interest. By 2005, there were more than 200 students enrolled in Chinese language at MHS. In 2007, the District started the Chinese and Spanish Immersion Programs at all elementary schools.

MHS was selected as School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education in 1989.

Through a collaboration between the City of Minnetonka and the Minnetonka School District, the Arts Center on 7 opened in 2000. The Arts Center provides space for high school fine arts, community theatre, dance and music programs, special events and corporate meetings.

In 2004, the International Baccalaureate Program (IB) started at MHS. IB offers a world-class liberal arts program whose graduates are among top-tier college recruits. The first IB diploma graduates from MHS were in 2006. The initial enrollment in 2006 was 33 students, who took 48 IB tests. In 2015-16, 656 students took IB classes and 968 exams. Forty-one graduates earned an IB Diploma in 2015.

Also in 2004, MHS was named a Minnesota 5-Star High School, one of only 10 high schools statewide so honored.

The Writing Center at MHS was endowed by the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation in 2007.

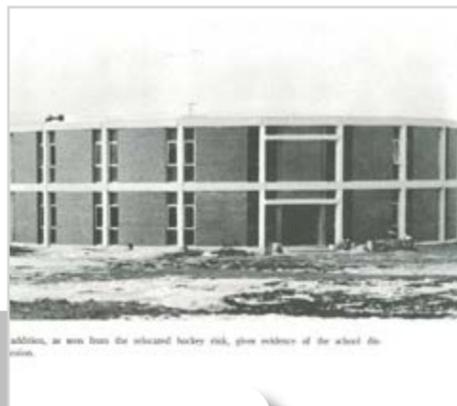
Continuing to diversify offerings, MHS developed VANTAGE, Minnetonka Advanced Professional Studies program, in 2013. There were approximately 40 students enrolled the first year. In the 2015-16 school year, 174 students participated in the program, focusing on digital journalism, business analytics, healthcare and sports science, global business or graphic and product design.

In the summer of 2014, Tonka Online launched with 42 students. More than 1,000 students are currently enrolled for the 2016-17 school year. Tonka Online recently gained approval from the NCAA and Minnesota Department of Education to expand, allowing non-Minnetonka students to take courses. (visit www.tonkaonline.org)

The Class of 2015 posted a record 26.9 average ACT score, the highest recorded in Minnetonka High School history on this national college entrance exam (36 points possible).

In 2016, niche.com ranked Minnetonka as the number-one school district in Minnesota. MHS ranked number one in the state; both middle schools were in the top three; and all six elementary schools ranked in the top 12 in the state.

Minnetonka Research will open at MHS for the 2016-17 school year (see sidebar on page 7).



1963

New science wing added (funded by successful bonding bill)



1960s

Mini School staff from 1980 Vogageur (Randy Nelson, Doug Berg, Norm Garneau, Joanne Elliot-Storlie and Leslie Hughes-Seamans)



2000

The Arts Center on 7 opened in 2000



2006

Some of the first IB graduates in 2006 (Zach Henschel, Madeline Brown, Amanda Weissner, Evan Gragg and Anton Gerasimov)



2013

VANTAGE launched with 40 students and has grown to 174 this year.



2016

Minnetonka Research will open at MHS in the fall of 2016

MINNETONKA SCHOOLS THEN & NOW

With contributions from Dr. Don Draayer, Jeff Noyes and Glenn Skoy

Nothing changes as rapidly as technology. Once considered high-tech, mimeograph machines, electronic typewriters and film projectors made way for fax machines, computers and VCRs. Now schools are equipped with SmartBoards, iPads and 3D printers!

Here's a look at how technology in Minnetonka has evolved over the past 30 years and a glimpse at where we are heading.

In the 1970s, standard school technology included typewriters, slide and movie projectors, overhead projectors and opaque projectors. Adding machines could also be found in many of the business classes.

In the early 1980s, MHS got its first computer, an Apple II. (Quick fact from Wikipedia: The Apple II was first released in 1977 at a cost of \$1,298. Adjusted for inflation, that would be more than \$5,000 today!)

"This was also before the Internet. The most important piece of software with the Apple II was an early spreadsheet called Visicalc. The computer came with dual 5¼ floppy drives," explained Glenn Skoy, a retired MHS teacher. And yes, the disks were literally floppy.

MHS quickly identified the resources for a computer lab, which then grew to three computer labs. Teachers were able to apply for grants so that they could update their curriculum and explore the possibilities of this exciting new tool.

Despite Internet not yet being available, MHS was

able to offer virtual classes in the early 1990's through "interactive cable technology." During the 1990-91 school year, Chinese and Japanese language classes were offered using this new technology.

Around 1995, the Internet began to make its way into schools and homes around the world, but it did not make it into every individual school classroom until 1999. During the mid-90s, an overhead projector and a screen were the standard technologies in classrooms.

In 1996, Minnetonka voters approved one of the first technology referendums in the state. In 2002, voters increased the dedicated technology fund to support the Classroom of the Future, a 10-year plan to install interactive whiteboards in every classroom in the District. The whiteboards were the gateway to digitizing the curriculum. In 2007 and 2015, voters renewed their commitment to a dedicated technology fund through 2025.

It was the early 2000s when computer labs were at the peak of popularity. MHS was home to more than 1,200 personal computers.

At this point, Minnetonka's technology progressed rapidly, starting a shift from teacher-centric to student-centered learning.

The iPad initiative at MHS started in 2011 with one half of the freshman class receiving iPads. Their test performance and grades were measured against the other half of the freshman class throughout the first quarter. There was a significant difference between the

TECHNOLOGY

two groups, so the other half of the freshman class was added in January 2012. Each year, another class was added until MHS was a true 1:1 iPad school in 2014-15.

With personal devices in the hands of every student, teachers are changing how they teach. Students are required to apply and create knowledge.

In 2014, Tonka introduced all elementary students to the language of computer programming, and inspired expansion of computer coding offered at MHS. This was also the year that Tonka Online launched. MHS students are able to augment their schedules with online classes ranging from AP Physics to online PE (with wearable activity trackers).

With great power comes great responsibility. It wasn't enough to simply have these new technologies. Minnetonka wanted to ensure they were used effectively, with the goal of enhancing instruction. Significant resources were invested along the way in staff training and best practices. And remember all those clunky file cabinets? Thanks to "the cloud," files are stored electronically and most homework is paperless!

Responsible digital citizenship is also part of the curriculum. Students needed to shift their thinking from their familiar iPod, being an entertainment device, to the iPad as a learning and productivity tool that goes beyond consumption to creating and collaborating.

Because of the work that was done to ensure success, in 2008 the National School Boards Association named

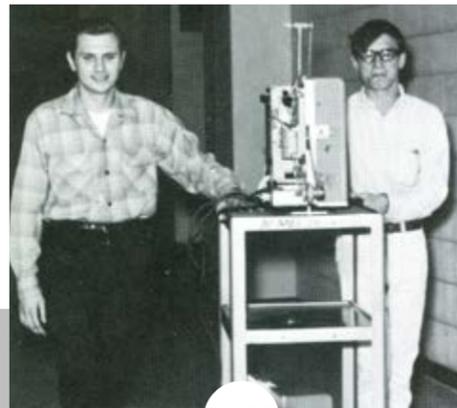
Minnetonka a 2008 Technology Salute District for use of technology as an accelerator of learning. That same year, Minnetonka was one of only three school districts to be honored at the National Technology and Learning Conference. District staff have won several national and international awards for integrating technology.

Minnetonka Public Schools was recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for the 1:1 iPad program from 2013-17.

2013 also saw the introduction of 3D printers in the schools. This year, Groveland classrooms explored the 3D printer for many unique lessons, including the construction of a prosthetic hand. The hand was part of a lesson on the skeletal system and will be donated to e-NABLE, a non-profit organization that provides instructions to build and donate prosthetic hands for people in need around the world.

Looking ahead, Minnetonka continues to be at the forefront of technology integration in the classroom. In the hands of a master teacher, the digital world deepens learning. When educators from across the country visit Minnetonka schools each May, they see engaged students — the technology is almost invisible. Technology has really allowed for anytime, anywhere learning.

So what's coming next? The IT Department tells us they are working on acquiring more 3D printers, installing wireless broadband, developing e-portfolios for students and protecting student data.



1968

Everyone was excited when this rolled into class! (Bob Samolyk and Ron Reidel)



1969

The overhead projector was a classroom staple for decades



1988

Heather Hushler works on an Apple II in the MHS Career Center



2003

Interactive whiteboards were introduced between 2002-06



2012

Elementary students work together on an iPad project



2016

A prosthetic hand made using the 3D printer at Groveland



Fashionista Kelsy Zimba '04 Takes over NY Runways

Kelsy Zimba is the Founder, CEO and Creative Director of Zimba Collections. Since launching the company in 2012, her designs have been seen at the Academy Awards, the Miss America pageant, the New York Opera and at New York Fashion Week.

Although only 28 years old, Kelsy has been honing her craft for more than 14 years, starting at Minnetonka High School. While at MHS, she designed athletic wear for the New England Patriots, Carolina Panthers, Miami Dolphins and Minnesota Timberwolves.

Kelsy credits Minnetonka's Mentor Connection program, which she participated in her senior year, as providing her with a life-changing mentorship with The Line Up in Edina. She also cites Kathy Krantz's sewing class for providing her with "a fantastic base."

After graduating in 2004, Kelsy attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York where she graduated Summa Cum Laude and was named "Fashion Design Student of the Year" and "Critic's Sportswear Award Winner."

Visit her website at www.zimbacollections.com



The Jacobsen sisters in 1970. (left to right) Merrilee '66, their mother LaVonne, Marlys '69 and Marietta '70.

There is no doubt about it, fashion defines an era. Minnetonka students have proudly donned the latest fashion trends year after year — as perusing old yearbooks quickly confirms. We turned up many fashion-forward students, who proudly dressed their best in everything from bell-bottoms to mini skirts. Here are some of the fashion themes we found in the Voyageur:

The 1950s brought us full skirts and longer hemlines for women. Poodle skirts for younger girls and full dresses with crinolines for formals. Men wore high-waisted trousers and opted for belts over suspenders. Popular looks included Marlon Brando (teenage boys) and "Grease." As the decade progressed, there was a shift to shirtwaist dresses and belts, short angora sweaters and cardigans, argyle socks or white socks and penny loafers or saddle shoes.

The 1960s made way for the "shift" dress or jumper, Nehru jackets, turtlenecks and, eventually, tie-dye. The decade brought us unisex clothing such as denim jeans and leather jackets, which were worn by both men and women. Mini skirts, hot pants and

psychedelic colors were introduced and these trends continued into the early '70s. Villager brand, mid-knee, straight skirts and Weejuns loafers were a popular look for some women. Bumper tennis shoes were very popular, as were black flats, skirt and blouse combinations, pants suits (women), bell-bottoms, Beatles haircuts, paisley prints, Twiggy, A-line dresses and geometric prints.

In 1970 we find bell-bottoms in full swing (pun intended), butterfly collars, polyester leisure suits, maxi skirts and ponchos. And don't forget the ascot! Anything "Saturday Night Fever," disco, synthetic fabrics, halter tops, coveralls, blue long-sleeve work shirts from Sears, painters pants, culottes, gaucho pants, peasant blouses and fringed jackets.

By the time the 1980s rolled into town, hair was a rainbow of colors and styles, Zubaz and parachute pants were the pinnacle of style (and comfort), fanny packs, leg warmers and acid-washed Guess jeans. Did we

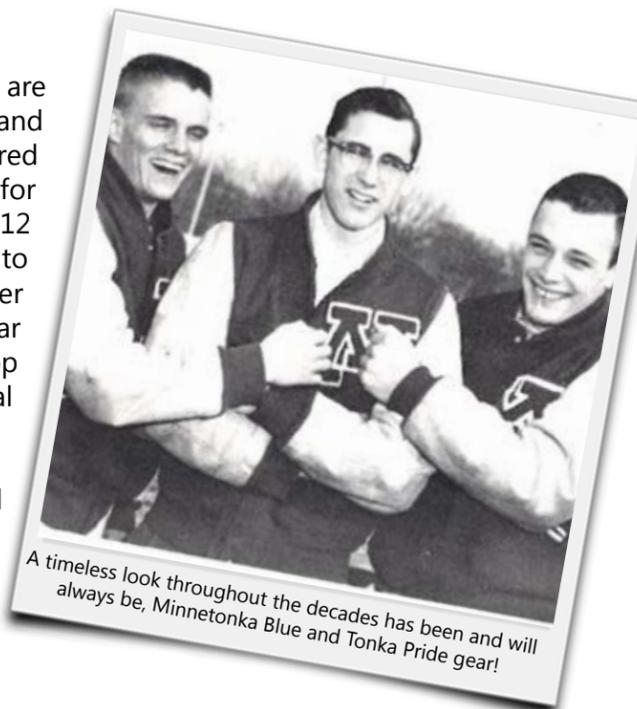
mention shoulder pads and blue eyeshadow?

Make way for the 1990s with neon colors and hypercolor clothing that changed colors with heat (never a good idea), overalls and silk shirts. The decade wrapped up with baggy jeans, skater wear, grunge and plaid. The "Rachel" haircut was popular among women thanks to *Friends*.

In the 2000s, we saw an influx of international looks, vintage styles and popular items from prior decades mashed together. Skinny jeans and leggings were back in style. There was a time where jeans were SUPER low-cut, shirts were really long, and layers were in. "Boyfriend" jeans were pretty popular throughout. Logowear (both athletic and "hollister-esque") were in, too.

So far, the 2010s are bringing us yoga pants and leggings (which garnered national attention for Principal Adney in 2012 when he asked girls to wear longer shirts over them) and athletic wear (outside of the gym), crop tops, joggers, festival wear and colored hair.

Of course the real question is, what will 2020 bring us? We're rooting for personal jet packs and invisibility cloaks...



A timeless look throughout the decades has been and will always be, Minnetonka Blue and Tonka Pride gear!



1954

Sandra MacMahon and Mickey Comer voted best dressed in 1954



1977

Even the faculty looked sharp in '77 (Dr. Smith, Mr Anderson and Mr. Nichols)



1987

Featured trends from the Voyageur We love the 80's hair!



1991

Voted best dressed in the 1991



2007

Prom fashion from the Voyageur Spring Supplement

Updating the Skipper

by Bonnie (Board) Niles '67

A few years ago, the Minnetonka Alumni Association (MAA) was approached by Peter Kluzak '14, who was the MHS mascot from 2012-14. Peter informed the MAA board that the Skipper costume was in desperate need of attention.

"The costume was more than 10 years old," explained Peter. "It was worn, buttons were missing and there were tears in the costume. It looked shabby and that is not the image we want in Minnetonka."

The Board agreed to purchase an updated costume from a local costume company, one they had successfully worked with for many years. A price was settled on, as well as a project timeline and a slightly updated look for the Skipper costume.

"There have been a lot of advancements in costume design, including lighter-weight fabrics that have better ventilation and are easier to maintain," said Peter.

Peter began working with the company on the new design, acting as a liaison between the costume company, the MHS student body and Ted Schultz, the Student Activities Director. As the mascot at the time, Peter also attended initial costume fittings.

When the completion date began to draw near, Peter tried to schedule a final fitting. To his surprise, there



Bonnie (Board) Niles '67 with the Skipper.

was no response from the company. It turns out that they filed for bankruptcy and the building had gone into foreclosure!

The MAA contacted attorney and '65 Minnetonka graduate, Donald Chance Mark Jr. and Associates. Knowing that the Skipper costume was underway, the goal was to gain legal access to the building and retrieve the partially completed costume, then find

another costume company to finish the project before Peter graduated.

After several months of legal work, the MAA was allowed to enter the warehouse of the defunct costume company. Much to their amazement, they found boxes of completed and partially completed costumes for schools and restaurants, sewing equipment, hundreds of rolls of costume fabric, molds for heads of costumes and all that goes into making expensive costumes.

The new owners of the warehouse had no interest in the contents and were going to put everything into a dumpster!

Thanks again to great legal counsel, the MAA was given legal permission to go through company files to help return other costumes to their rightful owners. They also wanted to find another costume company with more knowledge of what to do with the contents of the building.

In the summer of 2013, Peter attended a mascot training camp in Ohio (yes, there really is such a thing). While there, he visited Costume Specialists, a costume company in Columbus, and talked to them about the situation with the Skipper costume. Initially skeptical, they soon became interested in taking a closer look at the contents of the warehouse.

In the end, thanks to MAA members, Donald Chance Mark Jr., Peter Kluzak and the Kluzak family, the contents of the warehouse made it to the rightful owners, equipment was sold, and Costume Specialists completed the Skipper costume and paid the MAA for the salvageable warehouse contents. The money from the sale went to the MAA Fine Arts Endowment.

"What started out as a simple request, turned into a long adventure with twists and turns along the way," said one MAA member. "In the end, everything worked out and it was a win-win for the costume company, for the MAA and for future Skipper mascots."

Go Skippers!



Mascot Tidbits

- Oscar the Octopus was the original MHS mascot from 1952-53 through 1984-85. In the 1950s, cheerleaders collected nylons with runs in them and used them to keep Oscar the Octopus well stuffed. Eventually, Oscar evolved into a wearable costume.
- Skip the Duck was the mascot from 1985-86 through 1988-89. It won by popular vote of the student body. Other mascots on the ballot that year included Toot the Tugboat, Skipper the Sailor and Skippy the Sea Serpent. Tonkzilla was also suggested on the write-in portion of the ballot.
- The Skipper was introduced in the 1989-90 school year. The Skipper costume has eight different components to it and weighs 25-30 pounds. To stay cool (and hydrated), the mascot costume is equipped with an ice vest and a CamelBak hydration pack.
- Think it's hot on the bleachers? Inside the Skipper costume, temperatures can rise an extra 30-40 degrees depending on weather conditions.
- According to SimplyHired.com, professional mascots average \$39,000 a year. Top mascots can earn a six-figure salary. The highest paid, according to therichest.com, is Phillie Phanatic from the Philadelphia Phillies. Phillie charges \$600 per hour for appearances.



1958

Cheerleaders pose with Oscar



1978

Oscar cheering on the Skippers



1986

Skip the Duck at a JV volleyball game



1996

The original Skipper mascot



Today

The current Skipper mascot

Pagel II by Ryan Evans '09

Raising banners has become routine for Minnetonka Hockey over the past 12 years. The Pagel Center rafters are dotted with memories of conference, section and state titles. The boys and girls high school programs combine for six trips to the state tournament and five title game appearances, with the girls winning three-straight state championships in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

In that time, the Skippers have also produced 19 men's and 14 women's NCAA Div. I players, six NHL draft picks and two Ms. Hockey Award winners, including 2016 honoree Presley Norby.

That winning tradition doesn't start at the high school level, though. It is fostered in the Minnetonka Youth Hockey Association (MYHA). Since 2002, MYHA boys and girls youth teams have captured 11 state championships. Most recently, the boys Bantam AA team brought home back-to-back state titles in 2015 and 2016.

The success of Minnetonka Hockey over the last decade-plus is rooted in the dramatic growth the MYHA has experienced in that time. More kids are playing hockey in Minnetonka now than ever before. The MYHA has witnessed a 46 percent overall growth in participation over the past 12 years, including a 63 percent spike on the girls' side alone.

That growth, while good for the banner-raising industry, has come with setbacks for the association. The MYHA has been hard-pressed in recent years to find enough ice time for the resulting 200 extra players in the association. In 2015-16, the association iced 39 youth teams while working with just two dedicated ice sheets—the Pagel Activity Center and Minnetonka Ice Arena.

"[Lack of ice time] over time can have a major effect on our program and the growth and development of our players," Eric Johnson, head coach of the girls high school team, said.

By comparison, rival associations in Edina, Wayzata, Chaska/Chanhassen and Eden Prairie all have four dedicated ice sheets. With only two, Minnetonka is forced to try and rent ice from neighboring communities like Victoria, Mound and Eden Prairie, which isn't always a reliable option.

"We are scrambling to get ice on a year-to-year basis because we don't know what is going to be available," Johnson said. "We cannot count on the ice that we get from those other places and we certainly cannot build a program that is going to sustain or grow by relying on other ice sheets."

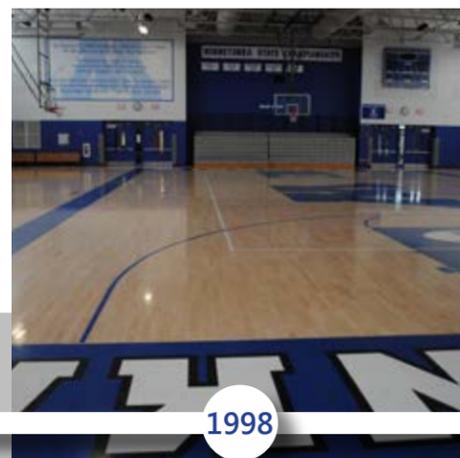
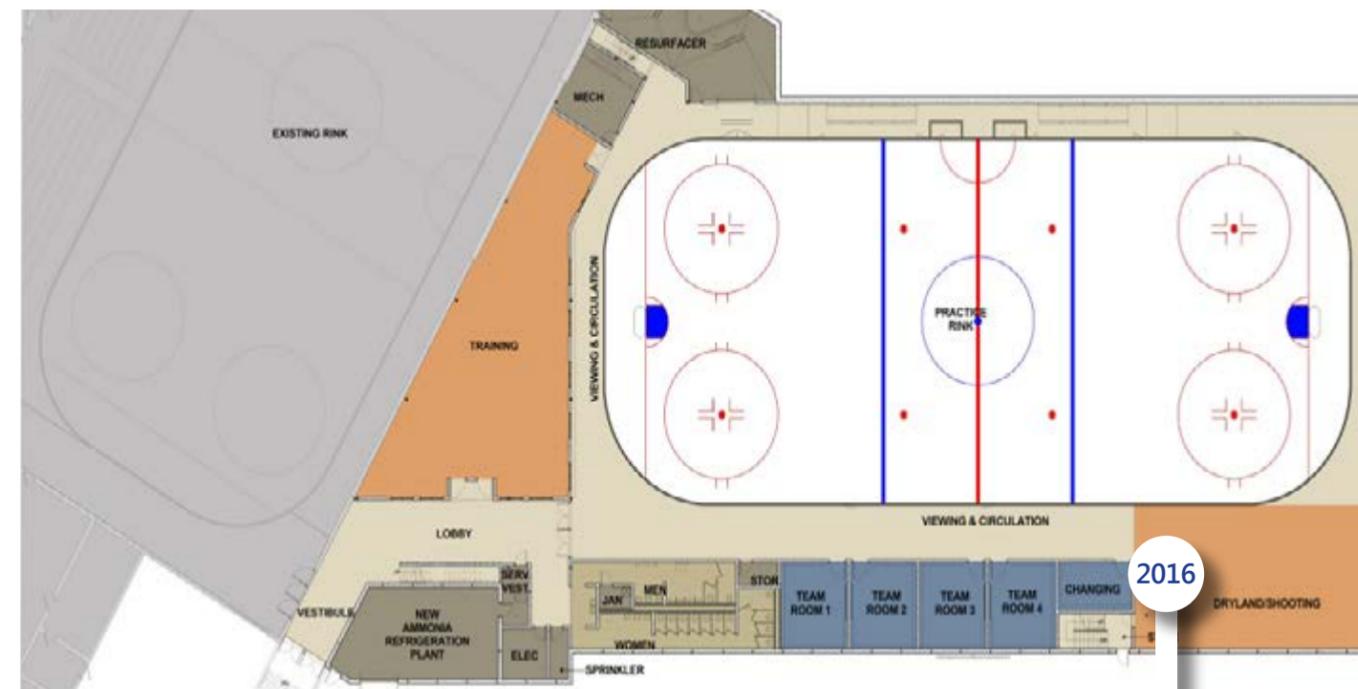
Enter Pagel II—the exciting new expansion project that will see a second rink built onto the Pagel Center. The project was given the green light earlier this year and current estimates project completion by early 2017. Pagel II is the result of tireless

campaigning and fundraising by the MYHA. The entire cost of the new rink will be privately funded through MYHA membership, fundraising and corporate and individual giving.

"Our [ice shortage] problem would have continued without a second rink," Johnson said.

The new rink will be a standard NHL practice size sheet, 85' x 200', and will include a large, open training space for off-ice shooting and dry land work, four locker rooms, a mezzanine area and meeting space. The MYHA will pay for all operating expenses at the new facility.

With the facility planned, approved, funded and set to break ground, more than 1,000 kids are nearly ready to call the new rink home. As soon as its doors open, Pagel II will play a large role in the continued development of Minnetonka hockey players, the growth of the MYHA and all of the banners to come.



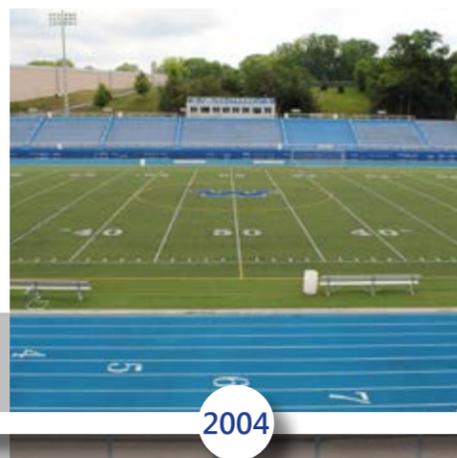
1998

West Gym Addition



2001

Pagel Activity Center



2004

Einer Anderson Stadium



2007

Veterans Field



2008

Legacy Fields



2009

Aquatics Center



Suad Suljic

Soccer phenom Suad Suljic has been called dangerous on the field, a joy to watch, and supremely talented by local fans and coaches. His soccer prowess has drawn national and even international attention: Suljic was the only Minnesotan to be named All American by the National Soccer Coaches Association, an honor awarded to the top 40 players in the country.

His success, passion for the game and tireless work ethic have garnered repeated top-tier honors: he was awarded Gatorade Player of the Year and Star Tribune Metro Player of the Year both junior and senior years. To top it off, he was named Mr. Soccer Minnesota this year.

For Suljic, the joy of the game is in community. "Soccer brings people together all over the world," he says. "I love the passion, the people, the fans." He's loved every minute of his Tonka

Soccer career and his club team, Minneapolis United, and he has big dreams for his future: "I hope to play for Barclay's Premier League one day," he says. Next year, he'll play soccer for Bradley University in Illinois, where he plans on majoring in business.



Presley Norby

When Presley Norby was six years old, her parents encouraged her to try skating on the pond in their backyard. Before long, she was obsessed. An only child, Norby would spend her free time on the synthetic ice in her garage, practicing by herself.

Her practice paid off. Norby participated on the Team USA U18 hockey team her junior and senior year, and the team won gold both years. Last fall, she was invited to practice with the USA National Women's Hockey Team. Presley helped them to victory and is the first Minnesota high school student to ever play on the team.

In February, Norby won Ms. Hockey, the award presented to the top senior girls' high school hockey player in Minnesota. Norby says, "It's an honor I've always wanted. I work really hard, and it feels good to get recognized, but it wouldn't be possible without my team."

Norby has committed to the University of Wisconsin and will begin practicing with their team in June.



Leo Plante

Ten years ago, Leo Plante, whose stage name is Leo James, went to see his cousins in "The Wizard of Oz" at MHS. It was the first musical he had ever seen live, and he was hooked. Within the next year, Plante was cast in his first Minnetonka Theatre production: "Annie Get Your Gun," directed by Trent Boyum.

Plante's first major role was in 6th grade as Chip in "Beauty and the Beast" at the Ordway, and he has performed professionally with the Children's Theatre, Stages and the Bloomington Civic Theatre. In the fall of 2015, Leo spent almost three months in Washington, D.C., at Arena Stage in the world premiere of "Akeelah and the Bee," directed by Charles Randolph-Wright, whose show, "Motown," is returning to Broadway this summer.

For his final MHS performance, Plante played one of the lead roles in the MHS spring production of "Pippin." Plante says, "Performing gives you the opportunity to leave your baggage and the stress of life at the door. You can escape from the real world for a little bit."

Plante will move out east this fall to attend New York University's Tisch School for the Arts in New York, NY.



Smetana Larson

Smetana Larson started in VANTAGE as a junior with their Business Analytics class and loved the real-world connections. This year, Larson is taking VANTAGE: Business in a Global Economy, which she believes is helpful for students planning to go into any career.

She proved her business prowess when she won her class' Shark Tank competition. In preparation, she wrote a 30-page business plan and presented to local businessmen and women, some of whom contacted

her as possible investors in her proposed assembly line-style cupcake shop, Cupcake Creations. This idea also won her \$5,000 at an entrepreneurship competition held at St. Thomas in February.

This spring, Larson earned a spot at the DECA International Conference in three separate events. About this remarkable feat she says, "I didn't make it in any event last year, but I worked a lot harder this year. I had so many resources with VANTAGE and the Writing Center. It was cool to see how those skills came together and helped me be successful." Smetana placed in the top ten for her entrepreneurship promotion plan.

Larson will be majoring in Marketing and Management Information Systems at University of Arizona next year.



Sam Peters

When Sam Peters joined student government as a freshman, he "felt welcomed in right away." Now president of Student Government, he takes his role seriously. Spearheading an especially successful Heart Week this year, Peters and his fellow classmates raised \$40,500 for charity.

As a freshman, Peters also joined DECA and qualified for the state competition. After getting 1st place in his category, Peters was extra enthusiastic about

competing. He took a business class sophomore year and used his skills to create an advertising campaign for Licks Unlimited, an ice cream store in Excelsior, which sent him to the International Conference. He has competed at Internationals every year since. This year he placed in the top ten in the Marketing Cluster Exam and the Marketing Management Individual Role Play.

Peters decided to try theater his junior year. He says, "I remember seeing how talented everyone was out there, and I wanted to see if it's something I could do, too." He was cast that spring in "Brigadoon," performed in "The Importance of Being Ernest," and took the stage again this spring in "Pippin."

A National AP Scholar, Peters enjoys the classroom, as well. While unsure about what career he sees himself pursuing, he says, "Whatever I do, I want to be working with people." Peters will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison's College of Engineering this fall.



Scottie Schwefel

An AP Scholar, Scottie Schwefel earned a 35 (out of 36) on her ACT and currently holds a 4.17 GPA. She loves rigorous academics, but finds even more fulfillment on the stage.

Schwefel started theater at age six after her 1st grade teacher suggested she audition for the Minnetonka Theatre production of "Fiddler on the Roof." After stepping on stage the first time, she says, "I knew that is what I'd be doing for the rest of my life."

For her role as Mary Lennox in "The Secret Garden," she won the Spotlight Theatre Award for Outstanding Leading Actress in a Production, the first freshman ever to receive the honor. Schwefel has done shows all over the Twin Cities, including Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, Children's Theatre Company and Stages, but says her highlights are being on stage at MHS. This spring, she played Fastrada in the musical "Pippin," her last high school production.

In addition to her acting career, Scottie excels at singing. She was featured as one of five finalists in MPR's Varsity Showcase at the Fitzgerald Theater and has earned six superior ratings at the Minnesota State Solo/Ensemble Contest. Schwefel says that choir is her favorite class of the day: "It's an opportunity to create really beautiful music with a bunch of your favorite people."

Schwefel was accepted to NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and is excited to live in her new home: New York City.

"Broadway is the goal," she says.

For full bios, visit www.facebook.com/minnetonkaschools #TonkaWise



Arjun Viswanathan

The past two summers, Arjun Viswanathan worked as a research assistant at the University of Southern California, a rare opportunity for a high school student. The first summer, he helped a Ph.D. student with MRI scans and wrote Excel code to support the research. Last year he learned a new coding language to convert MRI images to video.

When he returns to USC this fall, it will be as a freshman, studying electrical engineering and neuroscience.

Viswanathan has been a dedicated member of Science Bowl since 8th grade, when his team made it to Nationals. Senior year, the group retained most of the middle school members, each specializing in different branches of science. "Our practices are basically study sessions," he says, noting that his strengths are math and physics. He's also involved in Math Team and Quiz Bowl.

Viswanathan earned a perfect score of 36 on his ACT, he is a National Merit Finalist and National AP Scholar, and was a finalist for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

Aside from scholarly pursuits, he has played soccer for many years, and he plays bassoon in the Wind Ensemble.



Conor Abraham

Conor Abraham is social media savvy. As part of his VANTAGE courses, Abraham prepared a social media campaign and designed a mobile application for Lifetouch, a local company, to increase customer engagement around school picture day. He also served as Project Manager of the Happy Smile Good project, a local clothing brand.

An International Qualifier for DECA the last two years, Abraham competed in Nashville this past April. Despite only joining last year, Abraham is a Chapter Officer of this club that had 121 members competing at the state level last March. He and fellow DECA members, Ryan Soderberg and Selena Zingsheim, have now started their own company, Aria Social, that has already taken on the social media marketing for Olive's Pizza in Excelsior. His teacher and DECA advisor Erik Sill says,

"The incredible work ethic and leadership qualities Conor has demonstrated through his participation in DECA and VANTAGE have left lasting impacts on both organizations."

A varsity lacrosse player since sophomore year, Abraham enjoys the opportunity to mentor younger players. He also spends time volunteering with the ICA Food Shelf, Second Harvest Heartland and Mary's Place in Minneapolis. Abraham will be attending St. Thomas this fall and is currently debating between a career in political science or business.

Sabrina Rivas

At the age of nine, Sabrina Rivas moved to Minnetonka from Mexico with her family. Though she knew some English, Sabrina had to become fluent quickly. In 7th grade, she decided to add another language: Chinese. Now Rivas is an AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Finalist, and National Hispanic Scholar, maintaining a 4.2 GPA.

"The Writing Center is where I live," says Sabrina. "It is a great space to be creative and I like being part of the mini-community there."

Sophomore year, Rivas and some friends started the Playwriting Club. Junior year, they wrote, cast, and produced the play "Typecast," which explored academic and gender stereotypes. This year's play, "Spill the Beans," is set in a coffee shop during a snow storm. Sabrina says a key message of the play is that "you don't always know what the other people around you are going through. Give other people a chance."

Rivas will be attending the University of Southern California, where she was awarded a National Merit Presidential Scholarship. She plans on majoring in advertising, tapping into her creativity and love of writing.



Riley Donlin

Riley Donlin joined DECA, an international business competition club, her sophomore year. After a year, she earned an officer position. Now, she's club president. "A lot of people going into DECA are shy, and I can help explain things. I like seeing the process of others growing and learning," says Donlin.

Donlin competes in the Hospitality & Tourism Professional Selling — a specialty that requires skill at presenting to a panel and communicating information clearly. She won first place at the state competition and third place at the International Conference this year.

Donlin is also a top-tier athlete. One of the captains of the varsity swim team, Donlin competes in the Sprint, 50, 100 and 200 freestyle. MHS won the True Team State competition this year against an undefeated Wayzata team, winning their last relay by only one one-hundredth of a second.

By the time Donlin graduates, she will have taken nine AP courses, which she prefers for their fast pace and depth. "The more I know about something," she says, "the more I'm interested in it."

Having committed to Georgetown University, Donlin will be competing on their D1 swim team, but her focus isn't only on athletics. She is currently listed as pre-med and says, "I see myself taking a lot of different paths right now."



Destiny Weaver

As one of the student leaders of First Mates, Riveters Club and Women of Color, Destiny Weaver takes pride in her status as a role model at MHS. When she first started at the school, she didn't see a lot of students of color taking leadership roles in the community. Now, says Weaver, she intentionally takes leadership positions so that younger students can have someone to look up to.

Because her clubs often discuss difficult or personal topics, Destiny says that she likes to "provide an environment where students can feel comfortable saying what they want to say." She expresses her own ideas as one of the commentary writers for *Breezes*, discussing issues related to student life.

Weaver loves the challenging education she gets at MHS and is an AP Scholar with Distinction. Her former AP English teacher Judy Thomas says, "Destiny doesn't just 'play school.' She will ask sincere questions or offer up comments during class discussion that are real, focused and show a sharp mind at work." Her effort has paid off, as she has earned more than a 4.0 GPA this year and last.

Weaver will be attending the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences next year.



James Agan

This spring, James Agan had a tough choice to make: Navy or Air Force. Agan applied to both the Air Force and Naval Academies. This February, he got a call from Congressman Erik Paulsen congratulating him on his appointment to the Naval Academy. The next week, he found out he was also admitted to the Air Force Academy.

It is likely the years of discipline from wrestling and rigorous academics helped shape James into an ideal candidate for a military academy. He has wrestled at the varsity level since 7th grade, and he's excelled in the classroom, earning the designation of AP Scholar with Distinction. Math is his favorite subject; in addition to a full schedule at MHS, he's taking a class at the University of Minnesota.

Wrestling coach Josh Frie says James is always one of the first to arrive at practice, and he always gives 100%. "He leads by example," says Frie. "He welcomes challenge, he is willing to ask questions, and he has the confidence to step up and teach the people around him."

As for that tough choice: On June 30, Agan will be inducted into the US Naval Academy Class of 2020.



Sundem Family Scholarship by Paige Kieffer, Sun-Sailor Newspapers

Minnetonka High School alum, Gary Sundem from the Class of 1963, has recently established a Sundem Family Scholarship Fund to assist graduating high-school students who are transitioning to college.

Sundem announced the scholarship on Sept. 19 at the Minnetonka Alumni Brunch when he received a Distinguished Alumni Award.

“The scholarship was something I was playing around with for years,” Sundem said. “When I got the Distinguished Alumni Award, I decided to do it and give back to Minnetonka High School.”

Sundem said that he decided to start the fund with his sisters Gail Sundem-Noller '66 and Gwen Sundem-Jansen '70. Gary Sundem said that he is the main financial backer for the fund.

The Sundem siblings were raised in the Minnetonka School District. They all graduated from Minnetonka High School between 1963-1970.

“My sisters have been very supportive of the scholarship fund, and they think it is a great thing to do as a family,” Sundem said.

The Sundem Family Scholarship will be awarded each spring to a Minnetonka High School senior who has lettered in at least two varsity sports, plans to attend a liberal arts college for four years the following school year and has a minimum grade point average of 3.50.

Exceptions can be made for students enrolled in multiple AP or IB classes with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

During his time at Minnetonka High School, Sundem played basketball, baseball and football and felt athletics were important to add to the scholarship.

Sundem and his sisters all attended liberal arts colleges. He was a math major at Carlton College and he earned his MBA and Ph.D. from Stanford.



Gary Sundem

After graduating, Sundem spent four decades teaching accounting at the University of Washington in Seattle and has co-authored two best-selling accounting books.

“I think that liberal arts colleges are wonderful because they provide a great education background,” Sundem said. “Going to a liberal arts college allows students to explore their passions and choose a specific major that they want to go into.”

The scholarship is decided by one Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation Trustee and an alumni, at least one Minnetonka High School faculty member, Minnetonka Activities Director Ted Schultz and Gwen Sundem-Jansen who will represent the Sundem family.

The \$2,500 scholarship disbursement began spring 2016. The amount of the scholarship disbursement will increase by \$100 each year.

Sundem said, “I’m very happy to start this scholarship fund, and I hope it has a great impact on students’ lives.”

Mario Bertogliat '16

Meet the recipient of the inaugural Sundem Family Scholarship

A well-rounded student is someone who does well academically, is involved in school activities and demonstrates leadership. If you were looking for a student who embodies this, look no further than Mario Bertogliat, the inaugural recipient of the Sundem Family Scholarship.

Mario does not shrink away from academic challenges. He has completed ten AP/IB courses during his time at MHS and has achieved an outstanding 4.2 GPA. He was actively involved in Biology Club — participating in labs, attending lectures by guest speakers and helping in the club’s garden. In his free time, Mario writes poetry, prose and short stories.

Outside of class, you could find Mario involved in several leadership programs, including It’s Your Choice, a Tonka Leadership Challenge program where participants teach classes about bullying and acceptance to students in middle school. He was also in First Mates, a mentorship program for freshmen at MHS. He met with his cohort of students several times a month to check up on how they were doing in school and to offer advice.

Mario’s leadership skills were honed in athletics, where he was the captain of the hockey team his senior year. He played on the team since his sophomore year and played lacrosse since his freshman year. He was voted Scholar Athlete by his teammates and received the Hobey Baker Award for demonstrating integrity, positive attitude, coachability, outstanding sportsmanship and community spirit. Outside of school, Mario has coached hockey and lacrosse.

Mario believes that it is important for current high school students to be well-rounded, and that this will help them in the future. His advice to underclassmen/women is to “plan your academic and activities schedule well. You do not want to stretch yourself too



Mario Bertogliat

thin, so that you are not able to be successful in the things you have committed to.”

This fall Mario will head to the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisc. for his liberal arts degree.

“A liberal arts education will give me a foundation for most subjects,” says Mario. “I hope to then narrow my studies to the science field where I will study genetics and biotechnology. I eventually want to go to medical school.”

Throughout it all, he plans to continue his writing. “I plan to write whenever I have time, publish books whenever possible and keep that passion alive.”

On being the first recipient of the Sundem Family Scholarship, Mario is very grateful.

“It is such an honor that they chose me for this scholarship. I plan to use it wisely and I know it will benefit me at college. Thank you.”

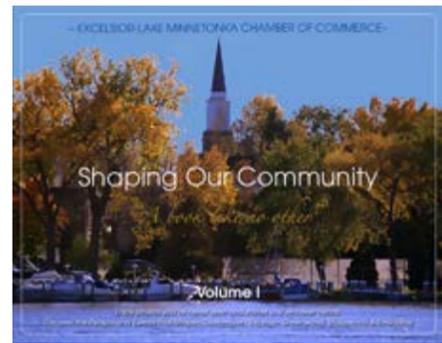
ALUMNI NOTES

1956

Barbara (Schwartz) Riverwoman is working as an environmental activist in Santa Cruz, Calif. Her partner of 32 years, Judith Hurley Bloomgardener, passed away in 2011. Her son Anders works as a consultant on international business investments in New York City. Her two grandchildren, Katerina and Robert, also live in New York City. Her sisters, Margaret Mullins '58 lives in Baltimore, Md. and her sister Betsy Walsh '62 lives in Bloomington, Ind.

1959

Al Tollefson, along with his wife, Martha Mase '62, and more than 200 members of the community, are finishing up a 2+ year project called *The Living Legacy, Shaping Our Community*, a history book about Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Shorewood and Tonka Bay. Much of the proceeds from the sale of the book are going to the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Chamber of Commerce. The book contains stories about hundreds of past and present members of the community, written by their children and grandchildren, as well as research Al has done. This one-of-a-kind book was created collaboratively by the community, for the community.



1960

Scott Anderson worked as the General Manager of European Operations for Minuteman International since 1998 and retired January 1, 2009. He currently resides in Heemstede, Netherlands, with his wife Heddy Kalshoven, who he married in January 2006.

1961

Tom Hennek has been married to his wife, Susan Erickson Hennek, for 50 years. In 1998, he retired from Colle + McVoy Advertising Agency and moved to their summer home on Lake Mille Lacs in 2001. They have three children and eight grandchildren, all in the western suburban area. Tom and his wife own and operate www.bookbins.net — library shelving with sales throughout the U.S. and the world.

Carl Zinn, along with Hans Zinn '97 and Max Zinn '94 were named the top-selling realtors in the Minnetonka School District for the 20th straight year.

1967

Dan Prosser launched his first business book in March 2015: *THIRTEENERS - Why Only 13 Percent of Companies Successfully Execute Their Strategy — and How Yours Can be One of Them*. It was an Amazon bestseller twice and in October was named one of the Five Best English Language Business Books in the world for 2015 at the prestigious Frankfurt Book Fair.

1972

Nancy Lee Anderson Edwards has been married for 36 years. She and her husband have two children and two grandchildren. Nancy is a realtor in Wisconsin, where she has lived for 32 years. She is also the president of the Wisconsin Horse Council and has a half-dozen horses in her back yard!



Tim M. Kucij and his wife Paulina live in Claremont, Calif. Tim is an engineer, a minister and a musician. His two CDs are currently available on Amazon and iTunes.

Jill Brennan Schultz is the happy grandma of five awesome grandchildren — ages 8 months to 8 years old.

1975



Ken Palmer has been married for 37 years. He and his wife live in Lino Lakes. Their son and his family live just down the street

and he's hoping his daughter buys her first house nearby as well. Ken has been a Human Resources Manager for the past 22 years. His hobbies remain horses, Corvettes and enjoying the outdoors as much as possible. He also volunteers with a variety of organizations, including the St. Croix Trail Blazers Equestrian Team, which helps youth and adults who have special needs to learn to ride and train horses.

1977



Scott Rogers splits his time between Hawaii and Las Vegas. His two step-sons graduated from college in 2015 and one will be diving on the USA Olympic team.

1981

Kathy (Sevey) Larson has been a teacher at Minnewashta Elementary School since 1995.

1985

Sheridan (Owens) Soileau is wife to a musician and mother to a high school junior. She was recently promoted to the position of Public Utilities Analyst for Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. She is also a Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful board member, Clarke County H.S. PTO treasurer, small business owner and personal stylist.

1986



Vikki (Chambers) Williams received her B.S. from ASU in 1990 and married Gregg D. Williams from Hopkins in 1994.

1988

April L. Anderson graduated with a Ph.D. in Education from Iowa State University on Thursday, May 5, 2016. April is also an Alpha Founding member of the Omicron Chapter of Gamma Rho Lambda National Sorority at Iowa State University.

Craig Norby is married to Janie Norby and they have three wonderful children; Justin (18), Max (16) and Gabi (13).

1991

Corby Koehler completed his 25th year in the Minnesota Army National Guard in March 2016. In May 2015, he completed his third deployment since 2004. On the latest deployment, he served as the Executive Officer for the 2-147 Assault Helicopter Battalion, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom (Kuwait) and Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq). Currently he is working full time for the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade at Holman Airfield in St. Paul.

Heather Norton-Bower is working, cross-country ski training and raising three kids.

Gina Goick Mangum is a resident of Boulder, Colo. She is a full-time residential real estate broker for Kidder+ Real Estate. She also gives back to the community as a Kundalini Yoga teacher, teaching within the prison and rehab system. She introduces a technology of self-awareness which allows and empowers individuals to find internal freedom while either externally incarcerated or in the process of rebuilding their Selves within their daily life of navigating the free world.

1993

Jason Bartholomay served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1995-1997.

1995



Sean Leighton has been appointed Vice President of Quality, Food Safety & Environmental Sustainability for Coca-Cola North America.

1997

Charlie Steingas moved back to Minnetonka this summer. He and his wife Jenni had their fourth child in October, a baby girl named Natalie who joins brothers Zach (10), Will (8) and Ben (6).

Hans Zinn and his wife Amy have a new Skipper, Axel Hans Zinn. He was born January 31, 2016.

1999



Erik Howg attended the University of Minnesota where he participated in the ROTC program with the U.S. Air Force. He served 10.5 years active duty and is now a Major in the Air National Guard. Erik is married with three kids, ages 10, 8 and 6.

Kali Ofstehage has raised more than \$15,000 for the Bayfield Area Recreation Center by swimming the 2.2-mile open water swim from Bayfield to Madeline Island for the last five years.

2004

Robert L. Wold will be graduating from George Washington University on May 15, 2016, with a Masters of Professional Studies in Security and Safety Leadership. His daughter celebrated her third birthday on August 15.

2011

Erik Weidner graduated from St. Olaf college with a political science degree and is currently working at Cargill.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Curtis J. Leach '71
David R. Quam '78



David Murray '95 (pictured with wife Allyson Loisel Murray '95) passed away unexpectedly in December after a sudden series of strokes. As an organ donor, he gave the gift of new life and hope to many people.

Allyson was his true love and soul mate. Their deep love for each other, and active concern for the health and well-being of others, led to many adventures, including a 2013 cross-country run to promote awareness of Carotid Artery Dissection, Traumatic Brain Injury, Stroke and Stent Health. He and Ally were preparing for an east to west coast run this Spring.

David had just completed a master's degree in acupuncture at the Northwestern Health Sciences University, where he was a gifted practitioner and inspiration to his fellow students. He leaves behind a lasting legacy of love and healing.



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

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 information up-to-date:
www.minnetonkaalumni.com

2016 Minnetonka Reunions • reconnect • relive • reunite

Additional reunion details: www.minnetonkaalumni.com/classreunions

**Class of '11
 5th Reunion
 Saturday
 July 16
 2016**



**Class of '06
 10th Reunion
 Friday
 June 10
 2016**



**Class of '96
 20th Reunion
 Saturday
 July 30
 2016**



**Class of '86
 30th Reunion
 Friday
 August 12
 2016**



**Class of '76
 40th Reunion
 Friday
 August 12
 2016**



**Class of '66
 50th Reunion
 Saturday
 June 25
 2016**



**Class of '61
 55th Reunion
 August
 12 & 13
 2016**



**Class of '56
 60th Reunion
 September
 16-18
 2016**