

TRADITIONS

MONONA GROVE ALUMNI

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FALL 2014

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MGEF Gala Celebrates Grant Recipients & Coach Mike Stassi

Monona Grove supporters and alumni gathered on Saturday, November 15 at the High School for the Monona Grove Education Foundation's Gala and Silent Auction honoring Coach Mike Stassi. Guests enjoyed an appetizer buffet while participating in a silent auction as well as a dessert auction. They sampled their selected desserts while listening to presentations by four recent recipients of MGEF Grants.

Glacial Drumlin Principal **Renee Tennant** described the wide variety of instructional activities teachers at Glacial Drumlin have been able to implement using iPads and software purchased with a grant from the Foundation. The new technology is used with their existing SmartBoards.

MGHS Science Teacher **Juan Botella** used his grant to help mount an exhibit of student art at Madison's Overture Center related to his work with a research project in Antarctica.

MGHS Tech Ed Instructor **Jeff Otto** purchased robotic equipment necessary for MG students to participate in State and National SkillsUSA competitions.

MG Guidance Counselor

Sheila Hibner spoke about the successful student activities she and fellow grant recipient **Scott Groff** were able to initiate with their grant. The activities were designed to address academic, physical, social/emotional and career awareness barriers that prevent success for African American students.

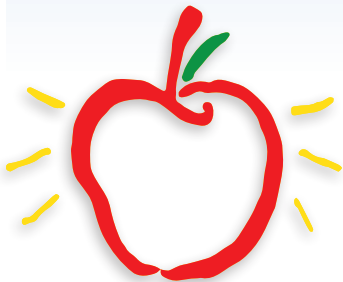
After the grant presentations, the group moved into the auditorium for a friendly roast and tribute to Football Coach **Mike Stassi**. Speakers Athletic Director **Jeff Schreiner**; **Tyler Blang**, Class of 2014; **Roger Hamilton**, Class of 1975 and **Brandon Beckwith**, Class of 1996 reminisced about Stassi's career as a student and coach at Monona Grove.

Stassi's 2013 MG team capped off a perfect (14-0) season by winning the WIAA Division 3 State Championship at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison on November 22, 2013. He was named the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association/Green Bay Packers Coach of the Year for 2013. A member of the MG Class of 1979, Stassi played an integral role on MG's 1977 State

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*Grant Recipients **Juan Botella**, **Renee Tennant**, **Jeff Otto** & **Sheila Hibner**
(Photo by Tristan McGough, Herald Independent)*



 We would love to have more alumni on the board. If you live in the Monona/Madison area and are interested in joining us, please email mgtraditions@yahoo.com

 To receive *Traditions* via email, select "Click here to receive on-line Traditions Newsletter" at www.mononagrove.org/faculty/mgef/traditionsnewsletter.cfm



*Coach **Mike Stassi** & wife **Cindy** await the roast*

(Photo by Tristan McGough, Herald Independent)

Gala continued from page 1

Championship team coached by Dick Rundle. He later went on to play running back for the UW Badgers under Coach Dave McClain. Stassi teaches physical education at the high school and has served as head football coach since 1999.

All funds raised at the event will be used for Monona Grove Education Foundation teacher grants and to establish a fund to improve the Monona Grove Klement Athletic Complex. The Education Foundation hopes to make the Gala and Silent Auction an annual event.



Guests enjoy appetizers & dessert
(Photo by Tristan McGough, Herald Independent)



Gary Zenger, Class of 1977 & MG Parent Paula Stadtmueller visit with Coach Mike Stassi. (Photo by Dave Beebe)

MG Mourns John Klement

John E. Klement, Monona Grove's first Athletic Director passed away on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at Agrace Hospice Care in Madison at the age of 87. Klement retired in 1988 after a 36 year career as an athletic director, coach and official in Wisconsin. In addition to teaching he served as the first Athletic Director at Monona Grove from 1955- 1988 and created the school's athletic program. He also coached track, football, basketball, volleyball and wrestling at various times. Klement created the Monona Grove Invitational in 1960, still one of the State's elite track and field events. Among other roles, he also served as Commissioner of the Badger conference for 39 years and Executive Director of the Wisconsin Track & Field Association for 45 years. He was inducted into the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Hall of Fame in 2010. The Monona Grove Athletic Complex is named in his honor. In retirement, he served on the Board of Directors of the Monona Grove Education Foundation for several years. The Foundation held a reception for him in 2011, to congratulate him on his NIAAA induction and to thank him for his more than 50 years of contributions to the school and community. Hundreds of mourners attended a celebration of life honoring Klement at Monona Grove High School on July 26, 2014.

Shortly after his death, Monona Grove's Gehrke family offered to match any memorials given in Klement's honor to the John Klement Scholarship Fund administered by MGEF, up to a total of \$5,000. So far, \$11,500 has been received including memorials from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, Mary Klement Crane, the Johnson Family, the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association and the Class of 1969.



Class of 1964 Celebrates 50 Years

The Class of '64 celebrated their 50th reunion with a party at the East Side Club on July 26th. Ninety two grads and many guests were on hand for the celebration. Former Class President Ken Hutchinson and Secretary Mary Ann (Slinger) Carey greeted the class. In addition, two former teachers, Gordy McChesney and Jerry Nelson were there to share old and new memories. Fun memorabilia consisting of hundreds of pictures, albums and collectibles were displayed.

Darlene (Smail) Woldt has ably chaired a reunion every 5 years since 1964 and the class extends a huge thanks to her for her hard work and organizational skills. The Class of '64 will continue its tradition of "anytime" casual gatherings when classmates notify us that they will be in the Madison area. Please contact Darlene for these emails and any updates: dwoldt@charter.net.

Submitted by: Sharon (Ahrensmeyer) Eley

MG Forward News

All of the district schools participating in the MG Forward Endowment campaign have now reached their initial campaign goals. Each was required to raise \$10,000 to establish an individual endowment at the Madison Community Foundation. The hope is that the income from those endowments will provide each school with some permanent funding each year for special needs and projects. Each school will continue to grow its endowment. If you would like to contribute to the MG Forward campaign, write a check made payable to the Monona Grove Education Foundation, indicating which endowment you'd like to support (e.g. Monona Grove High School) give it to the school principal or mail it to the MGEF, c/o John Weinberger, President, at MG Public Schools, 5301 Monona Drive, Monona, 53716. You may also make a pledge to be payable over three years by calling John Weinberger at (608) 221-1179. The MGEF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Donations are deductible to the fullest extent of state and federal law. MGEF will acknowledge all gifts and will provide necessary documentation for tax purposes.



Principals of MG Forward schools include l-r:
Connie Haessley - Taylor Prairie School,
Ann Schroeder - Winnequah School,
Deb Lyons - Cottage Grove School,
Renee Tennant - Glacial Drumlin School,
Paul Brost - Monona Grove High School

MGEF Teacher Grants Improve Learning

MGEF has awarded the following grants to schools and teachers for the 2014-15 school year.

Nicole Haefle and **Jeff Otto**, Monona Grove High School received \$980 to purchase the "Engineering is Elementary" curriculum. It will be used to help implement elementary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) programming for MG students in the summer months.

Robert Schlaefter, Glacial Drumlin School received \$1,000 to construct and maintain a native planting area, "Hawks Field," at Glacial Drumlin School.

John Hagen, **Sheryl Barak**, and **Nancy Casto**, Cottage Grove Elementary, received \$597 to pay the licensing fee for the Online Math Practice Website IXL.com

Rebecca Fox-Blair, **Ian Lowe** and **Adam McCormick** of MG21, were granted \$1,000 to be used for the development of student leadership.

Alumni News

- **Charlene (Luchterhand) Anderson**, Class of 1957, Sun Prairie, WI reports that she is still kicking and very active.
- **Mary (Entwistle) Shaw**, Class of 1957, Madison reports that "my brother, **David A. Entwistle**, class of 1959 died on July 7, 2014 after a 9 year battle with early onset Alzheimer's. He so loved his Monona Grove "family of friends" and is sorely missed by his family and loved ones. Dave was 73 years old."
- **Thomas Gilbertson**, Class of 1958, of Tampa, FL passed away on April 28, 2014.
- **Carla Bonnette**, Class of 1959, of Madison passed away on July 9, 2014 at Agrace HospiceCare.
- **Karen "Vickie" (Loftus) Jordan**, Class of 1959, passed away unexpectedly at her home in Madison on September 3, 2010.
- **Linda (Kalish, Schluter) Kelly**, Class of 1959, passed away unexpectedly at her home in Madison on May 27, 2014.
- **Zeno Charles "Chuck" Reithmeyer Jr.**, Class of 1959, Monona, WI passed away on October 22, 2014 at Agrace HospiceCare after a courageous battle with cancer. He was a police officer with the Monona Police Department for his entire career.
- **Harold "Andy" Anderson**, Class of 1960, Middleton, WI passed away on August 3, 2014.
- **Judy Carter Petersen**, Class of 1960, Deerfield, WI reports that **Rosalie Rindfliesch**, also Class of 1960, passed away on September 11, 2014 in Melrose, CO after a second bout with cancer. She will be missed!
- **Keith R. Krisher**, Class of 1961, passed away at his home in McFarland, surrounded by his family on June 26, 2014.
- **Judy (Hubanks) Powell**, reports that her husband **John Powell**, both Class of 1961, Cashton, WI, passed away suddenly on April 22, 2014 in LaCrosse, WI. He fought a valiant struggle with back pain for 20+ years.
- **James Lee Knapp**, Class of 1963, Madison, passed away on May 9, 2014 after 25 years of battling cancer.
- **Kristy (Brodersen) Galt**, Class of 1964, Tacoma, WA reports that she is delighted to read both Traditions and emails from **Darlene (Smail) Woldt**.
- **David M. Showers**, Class of 1964, Navarre, FL passed away in Gulf Breeze, Florida on July 18, 2014 due to illnesses resulting from hemochromatosis.
- **Danny Harbort** and **Tom Fisher**, childhood friends and fellow graduates of the Class of 1966 are both still alive and partying. They live a mile apart in Las Vegas, NV and love playing golf there.



- **Steve and Luana (Levander) Lochner**, both Class of 1966, Fountain Hills, AZ, wonder if there will be a Class of 1966 reunion. If anyone's planning it, they would like to help.
- **Rex Alan Fritz**, Class of 1967 passed away unexpectedly at his home in Cross Plains, WI on June 3, 2014.
- **Ann C. Haack**, Class of 1968, Madison, passed away on June 8, 2014. She was diagnosed with Frontal Temporal Dementia over 10 years earlier.
- **Ronald Holton**, Class of 1968, Leesburg, Florida passed away on July 20, 2014 from complications of lung cancer. He was a retired Coast Guard Officer.
- **Mary (McConley) McLimans**, Class of 1968, Stoughton, passed away on July 25, 2014.
- **Kevin Meyers**, Class of 1968 and his wife Connie are happy to be returning to the Madison area after living in Tucson, AZ, Milwaukee and Marshfield WI, for a combined 42 years. They departed Monona for Tucson in September, 1972 two months after being married and recently purchased a house in McFarland. Their son Andrew lives in Madison along with assorted friends and relatives. They report that it's great to be back!
- **Thomas E. DiPiazza**, Class of 1969, Bellevue, MO passed away peacefully at home on September 12, 2014.
- **E. Michael "Mike" Lemon**, Class of 1969 and his father Eugene Lemon, were recognized by their family and friends recently with the placement of a legacy stone in their honor at the Highground Veterans Memorial Park near Neillsville, WI. Eugene Lemon was a 20 year veteran of the Coast Guard. **Mike Lemon** served in the Army in Vietnam from 1971-72. He passed away unexpectedly due to a heart attack on March 28, 2011.
- **Robert "Bob" Klingelhoets**, Class of 1971, Madison, passed away on June 22, 2014.
- **Thomas Rendahl**, Class of 1971, of Monona and San Diego, CA passed away peacefully on November 9, 2014.
- **Debbie (Brewer) Behnke**, Class of 1972, recently moved to Oregon, WI. She would like to remind members of the Class of 1972 to notify her of any address or email updates at Brew1007@gmail.com.
- **Gordon Gillespie**, Class of 1974, passed away on June 29, 2014 at his home in Madison where he had been fighting a year-long battle with laryngeal cancer.
- **Mary Jeanne (Shaw) Adams**, Class of 1976, Madison, passed away suddenly on May 31, 2014.
- **Randall G. "Randy" Falkner**, Class of 1978, Rockford, IL, passed away on June 26, 2014.
- **Todd Dugan**, Class of 1980, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, November 14, 2014 at his home in Ishpeming MI.
- **Greg Schalow**, Class of 1980, retired in January, 2015 from Blue Ridge Unified School District in Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ after a fulfilling 27 year career there as a high school English teacher, junior high school principal and superintendent. Greg and his wife Jo look forward to traveling and spending time with their family including two grandsons and a recently-arrived granddaughter.
- **Richard Lee Christoph**, Class of 1983, passed away on June 7, 2014 at his home in Madison.
- **Erin Colleen Lawless**, Class of 1994, Monona, passed away on June 20, 2014 of complications related to a genetic condition, MELAS.
- **Carl Germain**, Class of 2004, Seattle, WA teaches guitar at the School of Rock, plays in several groups and practices Guitar Craft Method developed by Robert Fripp.
- **Rebecca (Lauer) George**, Class of 2007, reports that she and **Spencer George**, also Class of 2007 were married in Madison in August 2013 and are currently living in Sun Prairie. Spencer is serving his 7th year in the Army National Guard, and works full time in the IT industry. He's also a full time student at UW-Milwaukee and will finish his degree in December. Rebecca recently began a new job at UW-Madison in the Economics Department as the Undergraduate Coordinator. Becca reports that **Katherine Blair**, Class of 2007, graduated from Aurora University, in May 2014, with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Business & Commerce. She is now pursuing a Master's in Accountancy there.

Staff News

- **Clemens Florian "Clem" Baime**, of Madison, passed away on October 7, 2014 at the age of 99. He served as a teacher and principal at Nichols School in Monona in the 1950's & 60's, introducing many innovative teaching methods while he was there. He ended his career at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as the supervisor of Wisconsin's migrant education program.
- **Edna Peterson**, formerly of McFarland, passed away in Eagan MN on August 4, 2014 at the age of 90. She served as the head secretary at Monona Grove High School for more than 20 years.
- **Barbara (Schuck) Ebel**, passed away in Nathrop, CO on September 22, 2014 following a massive stroke. She worked as a Guidance Counselor at Monona Grove High School in the early 1960's.
- **David Peterson** died peacefully on October 8, 2014 at his home in Madison at the age of 78. He served as the first choir director at Monona Grove High School, while working on his Master's Degree in Theatre and Music at UW-Madison. While at MG, he produced and directed a number of Broadway musicals. From there, he went to the Wisconsin Idea Theatre at the University of Wisconsin where he wrote and produced many musical shows based on Wisconsin themes that were performed at county fairs, state parks, schools, and other venues. In 1970 he created the Heritage Ensemble in Door County where he produced original shows in Peninsula State Park and on tour around the state.

Class of 1970

Upcoming Reunions

Barb Zamzow Franzen, reports that “the Class of 1970 will be hosting its 45th class reunion next summer during the weekend of August 7-9, 2015. We hope that our classmates will mark their calendars so that they can attend. More details will follow. If we don’t have your current email address, please send it to me at mononagrove-1970@hotmail.com.”

The deadline for inclusion of notices of upcoming reunions in the Spring 2015 Traditions is April 1. They may be sent to mgtraditions@yahoo.com.

2014 Monona Grove High School Senior Scholarships

Several 2014 MG graduates were awarded scholarships administered by MGEF at the Senior Awards Night in May.

- Klement Track & Field Award (\$300)
– **Margaret R. Lawton**
- Klement Track & Field Award (\$300)
– **Mitchell D. Bernarde**
- Ellie and Frank Norton Scholarship (\$500) – **Andrew M. Sackett**
- McCulloch Family Industrial Technology Scholarship (\$500) – **Amy R. True**
- Eric Berg Memorial Scholarship (\$700) – **Jalen I. Thomas**

We’ve Recently Received Greetings From:

Lynnette (Jones) Schluter, Class of 1963, Tomahawak, WI/Franklin, OH

Dennis & Cheryl (Squire) Berg, both Class of 1964, St. George, UT

Guy Jeffry Hovland, Class of 1966, Rice Lake, WI

Linda (Kessler) Dollak, Class of 1972, Portland, TN

Tim Homburg, Class of 1976, Arena, WI

Kevin Neperud, Class of 1987, Tuscon, AZ

Jennifer (Jarlsberg) Rhoades, Class of 1999, Milton, WI

Heidi (Siferd) Compuesto, Class of 2002, Verona, WI

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Take a minute to complete this form or email us! We’d love to hear what you are doing now, and we will share that information in our next newsletter. Please include class year and city/state with correspondence.



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Traditions, MGEF
5301 Monona Drive
Monona, WI 53716

Reporters’ Name (first, maiden, last) _____

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Information is about (name: first, maiden, last) _____

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Monona Grove Education Foundation

Monona Grove Public Schools
5301 Monona Dr., Monona, WI 53716

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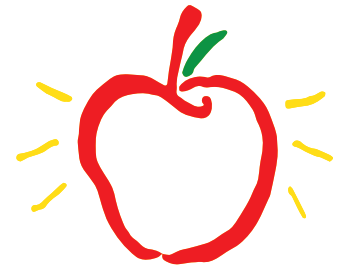
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Planning a move? Don't forget to let us know.
Your class doesn't want to lose you!

Join Us

The Monona Grove Education Foundation publishes this alumni newsletter as a service to all residents of the Monona Grove School District, past and present. Your donation to the Silver Eagle Fund will support grants for innovations in education and will guarantee the future of MG Alumni Traditions.

Consider a gift to the Monona Grove Education Foundation in your year-end tax planning. Just fill out this form and send it in with your contribution in one of the suggested categories.



Choose a category

"Professor" – \$500 + "Fellow" – \$250 to \$499 "Scholar" – \$100 to 249 "Other" - under \$100

Class Year _____ E-mail _____

Name (first, maiden, last) _____

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Make checks payable to: **Monona Grove Education Foundation** or provide credit card information as indicated.

Mail to: Monona Grove Education Foundation, 5301 Monona Drive Monona, WI 53716

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