

TRADITIONS

MONONA GROVE ALUMNI

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FALL 2015

In This Issue

- MG Mourns Dick Rundle
- Brost Named Wisconsin High School Principal of the Year
- Teacher Grants/Scholarships
- Greetings/Reunions
- Staff/Alumni News

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MGEF Gala Celebrates Grant Recipients and Lori Nahirniak



Honorees and guests enjoy the evening (Photo by Dave Beebe)

Monona Grove Supporters and alumni gathered at the high school on Saturday, November 14 for the Monona Grove Education Foundation's Annual Gala & Silent Auction. This year guests celebrated longtime MG Choir teacher **Lori Nahirniak**. Guests participated in a silent auction as well as a dessert auction and enjoyed an appetizer buffet. They sampled their selected desserts while listening to presentations by four recent recipients of MGEF Grants.

MGHS Science Teachers Nicole Haeffe and Jeff Otto's \$980 grant helped purchase the "Engineering is Elementary" curriculum. The curriculum was used to help implement elementary STEM (Science, Technology Engineering & Mathematics) programming for MG students in the summer months. *continued on page 2*



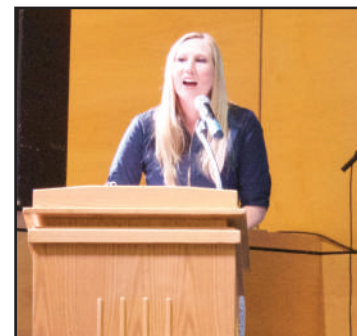
MG senior choir women serenade Lori Nabirniak (Photo by Dave Beebe)



MG Choir Director Lori Nabirniak (Photo by Nicole Poley)



MGHS Principal Paul Brost visits with grant winners Nicole Haeffe & Jeff Otto and MG Alum Jane (Meicher) Beebe, Class of 1982 (Photo by Dave Beebe)



Lauren Homburg, Class of 2007, honors Lori Nabirniak (Photo by Nicole Poley)



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



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continued from page 1

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

John Hagen, Sheryl Barak, and Nancy Casto, Cottage Grove Elementary, received \$600 to pay for access to pilot the Online Math Practice Website IXL.Com. The site enables students to practice their math skills at their own pace.

Rebecca Fox-Blair, Ian Lowe and Adam McCormick of MG21, were granted \$1,000 to implement a student leadership program at the school.

After the grant presentations, guests moved into the auditorium to honor **Lori Nahirniak**. In her years at MG, Lori's choirs, musicals and show choirs have developed a reputation for excellence. Speakers **Lauren Homburg** (Class of 2007), **Eric Guenther** (Class of 2011) and former choir parent Mary O'Connor reminisced about their experiences with Lori in the MG choir program. They were followed by a performance by this year's "Silver Connection", MG's award-winning show choir. The evening wrapped up with a special arrangement being sung to Lori by the Senior women. Funds raised at the event will be detailed in the Spring 2016 issue of Traditions and used for MGEF teacher grants and to purchase musical instruments for the MG Choir Department.

MG Mourns Dick Rundle

The Monona Grove community recently lost another legendary coach with the death of **Richard "Dick" Rundle** at age 80, on October 22, 2015. Rundle coached football at Monona Grove High School from 1956-1989; serving as head coach from 1962-89. He retired with an overall record of 165-50-3 which included 15 conference championships, two state championships and four undefeated seasons. In addition, he became one of a handful of Wisconsin coaches to win a state championship in more than one sport when his MG golf team won the state golf championship in 1987. Coach Rundle had one of the highest winning percentages in the United States, losing only 30 football games in 25 years. During that period of time his teams never finished below 1st or 2nd place.



Wisconsin State Journal Archives

The National High School Coaches Association named Rundle to its Hall of Fame in 2003. He also was a member of the Luther College Hall of Fame, served on the National High School Coaches Association Board of Directors, and for decades served as executive director of the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association. Services were held for Coach Rundle on October 27, 2015 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Monona. MGEF would like to thank those alumni and staff who have made memorial donations to the Education Foundation in Coach Rundle's name.

Brost Named Wisconsin High School Principal of the Year



Monona Grove High School Principal Paul Brost was recently named Wisconsin's High School Principal of the Year by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators. Brost was selected for his relationship building skills and initiatives both in and outside the classroom. In a news release, State Schools Superintendent Tony Evers cited him as "a model educational leader who is in the forefront for creating a welcoming and safe school environment, focusing on student academic achievement and using data to improve staff and student outcomes -- critical initiatives that improve our schools and make a difference for children." Brost has served as principal at MG since 2004. He earned a bachelor's degree from Mankato State University and master's and doctoral degrees from UW-Madison.

2015-16 Teacher Grants

Last spring, the MGEF Board approved six teacher grants for the 2015-16 school year. Grant winners and their projects include -

- Glacial Drumlin School Restorative Justice Circles Keepers Gay/Straight Alliance (**Tanya Greene**) \$1,000
- Funding for a composer to work with the Glacial Drumlin 7-8 Orchestra (**Maureen McCarty & Carl Davick**) \$1,000
- A pilot project allowing for purchase of special furniture for 1st graders who learn differently (**Sara Bradley**) \$880
- An all district kindergarteners' cooperative venture with Aldo Leopold Nature Center for an outdoor science-related field trip (\$1350).
- MGHS art department - \$2,000 Ed Young grant for air brushing equipment to be used across multiple classes & grades and for extracurricular activities (**Charles Pyng**)
- Funding to be used towards a Model U.N. trip to Washington, D.C. (\$1,000) (**Jeremy Wallace**)

2015 Scholarships & Awards

The following scholarships and awards, administered by MGEF were awarded to graduating seniors at their May 27, 2015 Senior Awards Night.

They included -

Alexander M. Kimmell - McCulloch Family Technology Scholarship

Jadyn J. Harlan - Ellie and Frank Norton Scholarship

Cora L. Herman - Klement Track & Field Award

Terrance J. McMillan - Klement Track & Field Award

Nicholas G. Maier - Erik Berg Memorial Scholarship

Support MGEF!

If you would like to continue to receive MG news via "Traditions", please consider making a year - end donation to the Monona Grove Education Foundation. For further information, see the last page of this issue. All contributions are tax deductible and are used to fund teacher grants and the production and distribution of "Traditions". Thank you!

We've Recently Received *Greetings!* From:

Mary Bolen, Class of 1958
Pam (Kinney) Mather, Class of 1962, Oregon, WI
Rena (Anthon) Wilson, Class of 1962, Oregon
Chuck Terasa, Class of 1963, Middleton, WI
Kathy (Nelson) Templeton, Class of 1964, McFarland, WI
Darlene (Smail) Woldt, Class of 1964, Madison
Dawn (Mecum) Braman, Class of 1968, Holt, MI
Debby Schmelzer, Class of 1968, Madison, WI
Bunny Lewis-Disch, Class of 1973, Round Lake, IL
Kathleen (Rydberg) Maier, Class of 1976, Madison, WI
Susan Brill, Class of 1981, Eau Claire, WI
Viva (Teresa) Long, Class of 1990, Minneapolis, MN
Meghan M. Foelker, Class of 2001, Madison
Matthew Butcher, Class of 2000, Greenleaf, WI
Fred Andrew Schulze, Class of 2006, Verona, WI

Staff News

- **Juan Botella**, MGHS Science teacher, was recently named a finalist for one of the nation's top teaching awards – the Presidential Teaching Award for Excellence in the science and mathematics fields.
- **Jeanne DeBraul**, Cottage Grove, passed away on May 9, 2015. She was employed by the Monona Grove School District from 1957 until 1960 and later became a substitute teacher in the district.
- **Jane Hartman Dohler**, Monona, passed away on August 23, 2015. She taught for several years in the Special Education Department at Monona Grove High School and was one of the founders of the Monona Winnichols 4-H club where she shared her love of sewing, cooking, gardening, and service in the community.
- **Kenneth F. Hammond, Sr.**, Sun Prairie, former teacher at Cottage Grove Elementary School, passed away on Friday, January 23, 2015.
- **Ethel L. Stiemke**, Monona, passed away on July 29, 2015 at Heritage Senior Living in Monona. She was a former staff member at Winnequah School.
- **Gloria Anderson Waity**, Madison, passed away on July 29, 2015. A school librarian, she took great pride in being involved in the initial development of the Monona Grove High School Library.
- Staff members retiring from the Monona Grove School District at the end of the 2014-15 school year include:
Sandra Bahler, Paraprofessional at Winnequah Elementary
Barbara Behnke, Special Education teacher at Glacial Drumlin
Bill Herman, District Technology Coordinator
Kathryn Lyster, Special Education Paraprofessional at Glacial Drumlin
Marc Scullion, Class of 1977, District Facilities Coordinator
Mike Stassi, Class of 1979, Physical Education teacher at Monona Grove High School and long-time MG Football Coach
Julie Strasburg, Bookkeeper

Connect with us on the web!

<http://www.mononagrove.org/welcome/education-foundation.cfm>



Class of Upcoming Reunions

Class of 1961

Judy (Schwan) Weum and Jackie (Parks) Stang report that the Class of 1961 will hold their 55th class reunion on Friday, September 9, 2016 at the 5100 Bar and Grill in McFarland, WI. Classmates will be notified by email. They can be contacted at - Judy Schwan Weum 608-221-2086 judyweum@gmail.com; or Jackie Parks Stang 608-838-7504. gjstang@charter.net

The deadline for inclusion of notices of upcoming reunions in the Spring, 2016 Traditions is April 1. They may be sent to mgtraditions@yahoo.com.

Alumni News

- **Jacquelyn Rae Bohnsack**, Class of 1957, Madison, passed away on September 15, 2015 at her home surrounded by her loved ones after a miraculous battle with cancer.
- **Morlynn (Parker) Frankey**, who passed away in April, 2015, was a member of the MG Class of 1958, not 1959 as stated in the spring, 2015 issue of Traditions. We regret the error.
- **Gail (Hansen) Henderson**, Class of 1958, Poynette, passed away on April 17, 2015, at Columbia Health Care Center in Wyoceca.
- **Sherry (Thousand) Huseboe**, Class of 1959, passed away at her home in Ripon, WI on September 21, 2014.
- **Sara "Sally" (Carter) Simley**, Class of 1959, Prescott, WI passed away peacefully on April 25, 2015.
- **Keith Sorenson**, Class of 1959, Monona, passed away on August 22, 2015 after fighting a courageous battle with cancer and Alzheimer's disease. Keith was a former long-time member of the board of the Monona Grove Education Foundation and a well-known Madison realtor.
- **Clay Russell**, Class of 1962, Denton, TX and **Wayne Fiedler**, Class of 1966, Madison, recently competed in the Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, Utah.
- **Karen (Anthon) Urzedowski**, Class of 1964, Madison, WI passed away due to COPD at Agrace Hospice Care on April 15, 2015. She was employed at the William S. Middleton V.A. Hospital in Madison for 20 years as a radiological technologist. Karen loved to travel to the Bahamas and is survived by four children and two grandchildren.
- **Myron "Dean" Sumwalt**, Class of 1964, Richland Center, WI passed away on June 7, 2015, at Meriter Hospital in Madison after a very long struggle with congestive heart failure.
- **Linda (Eustice) Berg**, Class of 1965, Boise, Idaho passed away peacefully on October 10, 2015 after a 3 year battle with cancer. She had been named Idaho Music Teacher of the Year in 2010.
- **Theodore Ames (Ted) Hartridge**, Class of 1967, Kalamazoo, MI, passed away on January 24, 2015.
- **Steven J. Coffey**, Class of 1968, Madison, passed away on May 9, 2015 at Meriter Hospital in Madison.
- **Wendy (MacMiller) Scalissi**, Class of 1968, DeForest, passed away peacefully at home on October 21, 2015.
- **Gregory Alan Hess**, Class of 1969, Monona, passed away unexpectedly in Gladwin, MI on September 7, 2015 of an apparent heart attack.
- **Jeffrey Hunter**, Class of 1969, Monona, passed away after a short illness on August 15, 2015.
- **Lorie (Madsen) Skeels**, Class of 1969, Stoughton, passed away at her home on February 26, 2015.
- **Gary Nils Levander**, Class of 1970, passed away unexpectedly on June 10, 2015 at his home in McFarland.
- **Debbie (Brewer) Behnke**, Class of 1972, Oregon, WI reports that "A group of ladies from the class of 72 got together recently for a luncheon hosted by **Debbie (Goldberg) Callies**. In attendance were **Jane (Clark) Schauer**, myself, **Amy Doll**, **Mary Rowley** and **Jill Sommers**. One week later I traveled to Missoula MT along with **Judy (Johnson) Wyskoarko** to meet up with **Diane Kerrihard** and **Diane (Derlein) Haeger** to visit **Mary (Baumgartner) Engstrom** and **Kippie King Anderson!!"**
- **Jeffrey Bronson**, Class of 1973, Monona, passed away on June 2015 at UW Hospital in Madison.
- **Theresa "Terry" Murray-Johnson**, Class of 1973, Sun Prairie, sends a hello and updates from several members of her family who are also MG grads. She and her husband Richard recently downsized their home and are looking for a condo/duplex in Sun Prairie to be near their daughters. She manages the shipping warehouse for Misti International, owned by her sister Lisa and husband Miguel. Her sister **Robin (Murray, Abbott) Gradel** (Queen of Apostles, '74), Poynette, works for PPD, Inc and owns a horse farm with her husband Scott. Sister **Beth Ann (Murray) Gradel**, Class of 1978, Cottage Grove, just retired from the Wisconsin DOT. She and her husband Lawrence travel and help their grandkids. Sister **Lisa (Murray) de Paz**, Class of 1982, Glen Ellyn, IL, soon to be Cottage Grove, and her husband Miguel, own three fair trade companies in Wisconsin and Peru that dye, knit and import baby Alpaca yarns. Their daughter is now a UW student. Finally, her sister **Jodi (Murray) Bedner**, Class of 1987, Cottage Grove, is a nurse at UW Health. She and her husband James love their camper in the woods now that all the kids have graduated. They're all helping to care for their father and mother, former Municipal Judge Darold and Bernice Murray in Cottage Grove who keep them busy fixing things!
- **Christine Lou (Fox) Bork**, Class of 1974, Midland, MI, passed away on October 22, 2015
- **Mark & Margo (Topper) Butcher**, Classes of 1974 & 1975, recently moved to Bellevue, NE after spending three years in Kennewick, WA and are enjoying being back in the Midwest. They are slowly making their way back home where they have 3 married children and 7 grandchildren.
- **Douglas James Droster**, Class of 1974, passed away on September 19, 2012, in Mansfield, IA. due to multiple health issues.
- **Mitchel O. "Mitch" Wold**, Class of 1974, Portage, passed away Dec. 7, 2011, at Divine Savior Healthcare in Portage after a short battle with cancer.
- **David "Mr. Dave" St. John**, Class of 1975, Monona, passed away unexpectedly on May 2, 2014.
- **Jeffrey Grebel**, Class of 1976, Belleville, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2015.
- **Patrick "Pat" Mackesey**, Class of 1976, Cottage Grove, passed away unexpectedly surrounded by family and friends on November 15, 2015. Pat was a longtime coach for the Monona PeeWee and Youth football programs and currently serving as Cottage Grove Village President.
- **Michael Fingerson**, Class of 1977, Madison, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, August 23, 2015 at UW Hospital.
- **Pete Waite**, Class of 1977, Madison, was recently named to the Madison Sports Hall of Fame. Waite was a college volleyball coach for over 25 years. He led the Northern Illinois program

for eleven years and then coached Badger volleyball for 14 years. While at Wisconsin, his teams qualified for nine straight NCAA tournaments making two sweet 16's, two elite 8's and finishing as the 2000 runner-up. He has the most total wins of any U.W. volleyball coach and is the only coach with more than 100 conference wins.

- **Dawn Lynette (St. John) Coplien**, Class of 1978, Madison, passed away February 28, 2015 at her home after a courageous year long battle with cancer.
- **Loraine (Collins) Heather**, Class of 1978, Madison, passed away on April 25, 2015.
- **Natalie (Bock) Erdman**, Class of 1981, Madison, was recently appointed Director of the City of Madison's Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development after serving as Executive Director of Madison's Community Development Authority since 2010.
- **Nancy Lee (Vitense) Bingham**, Class of 1982, Marshall, passed away unexpectedly on October 10, 2015.
- **Sheila O'Brien**, Class of 1984, Madison, is pleased and proud to announce the opening of her acupuncture clinic in Monona at 6320 Monona Dr. Ste 207. Healing Point Acupuncture offers a variety of therapies and treatments including acupuncture, herbal medicine, cupping, gua sha, nutrition support, and addiction therapies.

- **Thomas William Ray**, Class of 1986, passed away on June 5, 2015 at his home in Cottage Grove.
- **Patrick S. Bitter**, Class of 1987, Madison, died in a motorcycle accident on June 20, 2015.
- **Brandon Beckwith**, Class of 1996, was named MG's 7th head football coach, succeeding **Mike Stassi**, Class of 1979, who retired after the end of the 2014 season. Beckwith previously served as the Silver Eagles defensive coordinator.
- **Mike O'Connor**, Class of 2004, Monona, passed away unexpectedly on September 26, 2015 in Lake Mills.
- The Cottage Grove Town Board recently approved the renaming of American Heritage Park to Senior Airman Daniel Johnson Park after **Dan Johnson**, Class of 2005 who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2010.
- **Sean & Paige (Polzer) Knipfer**, Classes of 2007 & 2008, Brooklyn, WI, recently announced the birth of their daughter Aria on July 9, 2015. Aria was 19.5 inches long and weighted 7.1 lbs.
- **Nora Germain**, Class of 2009, Los Angeles, CA finished her last two years of high school at Idyllwild Arts Academy after getting a solid start at Monona Grove. She now works as a free-lance violinist in LA and Europe specializing in jazz violin. She recently released an album "Little Dipper" which is available on itunes, Spotify, Amazon mp3 and GooglePlay.

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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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Monona Grove Education Foundation

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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 Monona Grove Foundation 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 or donate online (see details below).



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