

TRADITIONS

MONONA GROVE ALUMNI

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FALL 2016

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3rd Annual MGEF Gala Celebrates Grant Recipients and Dan Zweifel

Monona Grove alumni and supporters gathered at the East Side Club in Madison on Saturday, November 5 for the MGEF's 3rd Annual Gala. This year's honoree was longtime MG physical education teacher and boys basketball coach **Dan Zweifel** ('88). Guests enjoyed an appetizer buffet and participated in silent and dessert auctions, all to benefit the Foundation's teacher grant program. Recent teacher grant recipients offered short presentations about their projects: **Carl Davick** and **Maureen McCarty** described how they worked with Glacial Drumlin students and local composer **Kathy Punwar** to compose a piece which strings students then debuted at a spring concert. **Tanya Greene**, 7th grade resource teacher at Glacial Drumlin used her grant to provide a program for GDS students focusing on kindness and encouraging acceptance and understanding of others. **Charles Pyng**, MGHS art teacher purchased an air brush machine with his



*Dan ('88) & Claudette Zweifel
credit to The Herald-Independent*



*Shane Kieler ('06) and Dan Zweifel ('88)
credit to The Herald-Independent*

grant and with it, has been able to expand the high school's art curriculum. Taylor Prairie's **Sara Bradley** used her grant to experiment with alternative seating options such as wobble chairs and exercise balls for her first graders which allow them to move while they're working. **Jeremy Wallace**, MGHS Model UN Coordinator received funds which went towards taking a group of students to Washington, DC to participate in an international Model UN conference. And finally, Taylor Prairie's kindergarten teacher **Jessica Parkos** received a grant which allowed kindergarten teachers at both Taylor Prairie and Winnequah to take their students on a field trip to the Aldo Leopold Nature Center in Monona. *continued on page 2*

Gala Sponsors

MGEF would like to thank all of the sponsors of this year's Gala. Your support is greatly appreciated!

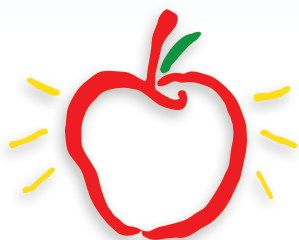


The Silver Eagle (Event) Sponsor (\$2,000) was **Monona State Bank**.


Platinum Sponsors (\$1,000) included **McKinstry**, **Door Creek Golf Course** and **Dave and Sandy Zweifel**.

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 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 please contact us at mgtraditions@yahoo.com



Linda Elsberry, Evan Tenebruso ('04) & Holly Elsberry ('02)
credit to The Herald-Independent

Support MGEF!

If you would like to continue to receive MG news via "Traditions", please consider making a year-end contribution to the Monona Grove Education Foundation. For details, 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!

Following the grant presentations and a video presentation about honoree **Dan Zweifel** ('88), a variety of speakers entertained the audience with stories about their experiences with Dan over the years. They included – former player **Shane Kieler** ('06), MGHS Principal **Paul Brost**, longtime friend and fellow coach **Mark Toijala** ('88), MGHS Athletic Director **Jeff Schreiner** and colleagues **Kevin Mikelbank** and **Ken Eeg**. Funds raised at the event will be used for MGEF teacher grants and to benefit the PE departments at Glacial Drumlin and MGHS. Next year's Gala has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 4. Check the Spring 2017 issue of Traditions for more information.



MGHS Model UN Coordinator **Jeremy Wallace** credit to The Herald-Independent

Taylor Prairie visits Aldo Leopold Nature Center

submitted by *Jessica Parkos*

Taylor Prairie and Winnequah Elementary Schools were given the opportunity to go on an environmental adventure in early May. Thanks to the MGEF, who approved a grant written and submitted by **Jessica Parkos** (Kindergarten teacher at Taylor Prairie) and **Tracy Marks** (Membership Manager at Aldo), all Kindergarten classes from both schools were able to attend this trip (on separate days). The Winnequah kindergarten trip was coordinated by teacher **Renee Gaudreau**.

When Taylor Prairie arrived at Aldo on May 10th, the weather was a bit rainy and gloomy, but that didn't stop the Naturalists from showing the children a hands-on experience. The classes had 1 Naturalist per 10 students, so they were given more personal attention.

The program Taylor Prairie chose was Animals 2X2. Some of the activities the students engaged in involved sorting animal puppets into animal groups, looking at/learning about real pond creatures, watching an animal puppet show, and searching for/catching bugs and other critters underneath rocks and logs. The students learned about animal habitats, behavior, groups, and more. So much fun was had by all.

In the future, both schools plan to incorporate kindergarten field trips to ALNC into their science curriculums each year.



We've Recently Received *Greetings!* From:

- Richard Wethal**, Class of 1960, Stoughton, WI
Ron Sundberg, Class of 1962, Elk Grove, CA
Mary Jane (Roberts) (Esser) Bean, Class of 1964, Reedsburg, WI
Steve Parks, Class of 1966, Middleton, WI
Sue (Garey) Chenier, Class of 1967, DeForest, WI
Mary Kneebone, Class of 1967, Monona, WI
Jon Pettey, Class of 1967, Commerce City, CO
Candace (Elder) Williams, Class of 1967, Sahuarita, AZ
Mary Jo (Rigney) Allen, Class of 1968, Whitewater, WI
Dawn M. Mecum-Braman, Class of 1968, Bradenton, FL
Kevin Meyers, Class of 1968, McFarland, WI
James Neupert, Class of 1971, Atherton, CA
Steve Schalow, Class of 1975, New Holland, PA
Laura (Wilke) Endres, Class of 1976, Waunakee, WI
Jon Schmalowski, Class of 1976, St. Petersburg Beach, FL
Brenda (Skaggs) Hemstead, Class of 1979, McFarland, WI
Susan (Dorow) Averkamp, Class of 1980, Goodyear, AZ
Sara (Stiemke) Kerwin, Class of 1981, Delafield, WI
Mark Rundle, Class of 1982, Monona, WI
Todd Wolf, Class of 1983, Waunakee, WI
Anne Niesen, Class of 1985, LaCrosse, WI
Stephanie Farwell, Class of 1992, Cottage Grove, WI
Jaime (Vitense) Gervais, Class of 1994, Greenville, WI

Class of Upcoming Reunions

Class of 1967 50th Reunion



Sue (Garey) Chenier, DeForest, WI, reports that the Class of 1967 50th reunion is scheduled for July 22, 2017 at 6 pm at Breakwater (the old yacht club) on the Yahara River

in Monona. Please contact Alice Seeliger at aliceajscreative@gmail.com with any questions.

Faculty/Staff News

- Monona Grove High School science teacher **Juan Botella**, received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in Washington, D.C., on September 7. The National Science Foundation selects one math and one science teacher from each state for the national award. In addition to a citation signed by the president, Botella received a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. Botella has taught science at Monona Grove for eleven years.
- Madison jazz legend **Doster "Doc" DeHaven** passed away on August 12, 2016 at the age of 85 after a courageous battle with cancer. A legendary trumpet player, **DeHaven** was a fixture on the Madison jazz scene for over 50 years, having played with several bands and combos. He was the band director at Monona Grove for 32 years, retiring in 1989 and continued to teach private lessons for many years after retirement.
- **Angie Fassl** has been named the new principal at Winnequah School, replacing longtime principal **Ann Schroeder**, who retired after the 2015-16 school year. Prior to being appointed Winnequah principal, Fassl taught fourth grade at Nichols School for eight years and first grade for three years. She spent the last two years as a Teacher on Special Assignment at Winnequah, serving as an instructional coach and support for teachers.
- **Sue Howe**, former Family & Consumer Education teacher at Monona Grove High School passed away on October 4, 2016. She had retired due to illness in 2013.
- **Walter Leffin**, who taught mathematics at Monona Grove High School in the 1950's and 60's, passed away on July 8, 2013 in Oshkosh. After leaving Monona Grove, he joined the faculty of secondary education, mathematics education and human resources at UW-Oshkosh, retiring in 1991.
- **Robert W. Storm**, Monona, passed away on September 13, 2013. He served as an officer and member of the Monona Grove School Board for 15 years. In addition, he coached and played for many Monona baseball, football and softball teams and was a co-founder of the Monona Silver Lions football team.
- **Catherine T. Zwiebel**, longtime business education instructor at Monona Grove High School, passed away on March 17, 2016 in Waterford, WI at the age of 90.

Connect with us on the web!

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



Alumni News

- **Nancy Hovland**, Class of 1958, McFarland, passed away on June 15, 2016 at Agrace HospiceCare after a short illness.
- **Patricia (Brandt) Martinelli**, Class of 1958, Verona, WI, passed away at home after a battle with cancer on August 9, 2016.
- **Judith Anne (Garey) Myers**, Class of 1958, Stoughton, WI, passed away on Saturday August 28, 2016 at her home in Stoughton surrounded by her family. She is preceded in death by her brother **Buz Garey** Class of 1960 and her husband, Roger Myers. Judy is survived by 5 children and two sisters, **Sue (Garey) Chenier**, Class of 1967 and **Linda (Garey) Rothberger**, Class of 1970.
- **Thelma (Duell) Clayton**, Class of 1959, Apache Junction, AZ reports that, "I turned 75 in January and am in great health. I'm still singing at various places and miss all my high school friends. You can see me sing on YouTube as April Walker with "Glenn Cass Country Music."
- **William (Bill) Breseman**, Class of 1963, Lakeland, FL, passed away on May 15, 2016. After a long career in international finance, he had retired from Microsoft as their Director of International Finance and MIS.
- **Darlene (Smail) Woldt** reports that "the Class of 1964 celebrated their 70th birthdays with a picnic held at **Vicki (Severson) Latsch's** beautiful home in Deerfield. Even though it was a very hot day, with rain showers, a tent that attempted to blow away and a BIG BOLT OF THUNDER – the 50 who attended had a great time, with great food, sharing stories and reminiscing with friends. A young Elvis even entertained! View the slideshow link (MG "64 70th Birthday Party) at the Monona Grove Class of 64 Facebook page. A special thank you to **Tom Jerisha** designated class photographer. Members of the Class of 1964 can be added to their email list by emailing dwoldt@charter.net"
- **Rodney Gordon Boelsing**, Class of 1965, Tomah, passed away on October 7, 2016.
- **Michael Stewart Smith**, Class of 1967, Cottage Grove, passed away on Sunday, May 15, 2016 after a courageous two-year battle with cancer.
- **Richard "Rick" Steinhauer**, Class of 1967, Madison, passed away peacefully on May 3, 2016.
- **Douglas J. Archer**, Class of 1968, Cottage Grove, died at Agrace HospiceCare, as the result of cancer, on October 15, 2016.
- **Eva Maria (Sutherland) Hinnendael**, Class of 1969, Middleton, passed away peacefully on June 14, 2016.
- **Mary (Erickson) Treadaway**, Class of 1972, reports that her sister, **Jean (Erickson) Murr**, Class of 1969, passed away on April 28th after a nine-year battle with ovarian cancer. Jean was married to Jerry Murr for 24 years and lived in Lakewood, Colorado. She was an artist, acclaimed in the area for her work in acrylics and watercolors.
- **James P. Pederson**, Class of 1972, Madison, passed away unexpectedly at his home on August 27, 2016.
- **Steven A. Redepenning**, Class of 1973, Cottage Grove, passed away on October 3, 2013.
- **Patricia "Patty" (Bork) Bollig**, Class of 1975, Sun Prairie, passed away at home on August 27, 2016 after an 11 month battle with cancer.
- **Robin (Anderson) Khalaf**, Class of 1976, Tulsa, OK, reports that "her brother, **Kevin M. Anderson**, Class of 1977, Nashville, TN, passed away unexpectedly due to cardiac arrest on May 16, 2016 in Nashville. He had been hospitalized due to a fall for a week prior to his death. Kevin will always be remembered for his passion for country music. He worked for WSM Radio in Nashville for many years." Kevin also worked as a part-time announcer for the Grand Ole Opry.
- **Garry Bernardo**, Class of 1977, West Palm Beach, FL, died when a plane he was piloting crashed in Plainfield, Illinois on July 21, 2016.
- **Stan St. John**, Class of 1968, reports that his sister, **Dawn (St. John) Coplien**, Class of 1978, Madison, passed away in February of 2015 after a yearlong battle with brain cancer.
- **Jeffrey J. Powers**, Class of 1980, Madison, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on June 28, 2016 following a brief battle with cancer.
- **Kathleen "Kathy" Voit**, Class of 1980, Cottage Grove/Madison, passed away peacefully on September 8, 2016.
- **Gail (Coppernoll) Birkholz**, Class of 1982, Lomira, reports that her brother, **Ralph (Pat) Coppernoll**, Class of 1981, Columbus, WI, passed away on August 22, 2016.
- **DeLynn Ann (Korfmacher) Simonis**, Class of 1988, McFarland, passed away at her home on June 3, 2016 after a battle with Scleroderma.
- **Kristen (Westmore) Brann**, Class of 1989, Kingsland, GA, passed unexpectedly on June 18, 2016 at her home.
- **Karl Schumacher**, Class of 2001, Evansville, passed away at home on November 1, 2016 with his beloved wife Samantha at his side.
- **Jesse Lee Sparks**, Class of 2001, Madison, passed away on July 25, 2016 at his home, after fighting a courageous battle with heroin addiction.
- **Jeffrey Poffinbarger**, Class of 2003, Madison, WI, passed away on February 7, 2016.
- **Chase Femrite**, Class of 2005, Cottage Grove/Los Angeles, CA, passed away on May 20, 2016.
- **Elizabeth Alar**, Class of 2007, graduated from UW Madison with a double major in Japanese and linguistics in 2013. She currently lives in Middleton and works at the Willy Street Co-op.
- **Hayley Ann Baker**, Class of 2012, Monona, passed away unexpectedly on November 12, 2016.

Matt Ward, an MG Success Story



Matt Ward, Class of 1997, was diagnosed with autism when he was 18 months old. In 1995, as a member of the MG Math Team, Matt earned the 7th highest score in the state on the American High School Mathematics Exam. As a result, he was invited to be on the Wisconsin All State Mathematics Team from 1996-98. He went on to earn a college transfer degree from Madison Area Technical College and then

transferred to UW Madison where he earned a BS in Mathematics in 2005. Matt is the first person UW staff are aware of to graduate from UW-Madison with a full-blown autism diagnosis. He is a good example of the importance of an inclusive educational environment for those on the autism spectrum.

Like the famous Temple Grandin, Matt thinks in pictures. Incoming communication has to be translated internally into a visual form and outgoing responses have to be converted from his internal pictures to language. This is complex and is part of the source of his communication struggles. For Matt, calculus and other math concepts are visual. He might have gone on to graduate school, but higher mathematical proofs became so abstract that he could no longer think of them in a visual way.

Ironically, even though Matt struggles to communicate, since 1998 he has been doing a lot of public speaking at conventions, conferences,

university classes, workshops and many other venues for the cause of autism awareness. He is able to do this because he can read a pre-written speech.

Today, Matt lives independently in a downtown Madison apartment and travels around the community by bus. He works part time at the downtown Madison library and has a small business selling math related artwork, working out of the "Artworking Studios" which support a number of disabled artists. Matt's communication struggles have made it difficult to find a job that uses his high math skills. He is an expert in chaos theory and fractal graphics which he uses in his artwork. He does calculus problems and builds many kinds of geometric figures for fun. He is a self-taught origami expert, making the most difficult, beautiful paper constructions. He is still "gloriously autistic".



Matt and one of his origami creations, a twenty-point spherical star containing 30 pieces of paper which took about 10 hours of work to construct. It is about 12 inches across.

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