



MHS class of 1964 celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion during the Swamp Fox Festival in September 2014.



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See all sponsors, event highlights and a list of registered golfers at [www.marion-foundation.org](http://www.marion-foundation.org)

Registration includes 18 holes of golf, complimentary beer and snacks, cookout dinner, flag events, games and PRIZES!

**MHS 2015 Reunions**

(This year's Swamp Fox Festival celebration is scheduled for September 26.)

**Class of 1955 (60 yr) . . . . . September 11-12**  
 Bob & Sherry (Wilkinson) Murray (319) 377-1921  
 sherbob9011@aol.com

Frieda (Nesetril) Howe (319) 438-6537  
 ccfunsis@famtcs.com

Mary Lou Pazour (319) 377-1309  
 lulupazoo@hotmail.com

**Class of 1960 (55 yr) . . . . . September 11-12**  
 Roger Konzen (319) 350-1455  
 rkonzon@live.com

**Class of 1965 (50 yr) . . . . . September 11-12**  
 Julie Speral (319) 377-3708

**Class of 1970 (45 yr) . . . . . August 15**  
 Karen (Mulford) Oakley (319) 721-9722  
 kloak2000@yahoo.com

**Class of 1980 (35 yr) . . . . . September 11-12**  
 Lisa (Techau) Welsh (319) 363-1541  
 welsl.lisa@imonmail.com  
 Brenda Hildebrand (319) 350-0870  
 brenidahilda61@gmail.com

**Class of 1985 (30 yr) . . . . . July 31-August 1**  
 Chris Foster (319) 361-1840  
 candeshouse@gmail.com  
 Amy (McComas) Collins (319) 721-7022  
 amyincr@yahoo.com

**Class of 1990 (25 yr) . . . . . July 17-19**  
 Carrie Speer (701) 219-1688  
 carriespeer@parkcompany.com

**Class of 1995 (20 yr) . . . . . July 23-25**  
 Sarah Robertson robertsonsr77@gmail.com

**Class of 2005 (10 yr) . . . . . TBD**  
 Alisabeth (Caraway) Von Presley (319) 219-1957  
 alisabeth@VonPresleyStudios.com



**Pinion's Perspective**

Sarah Pinion, Superintendent

This will be the last issue of the Foundation Newsletter for which I will provide a Pinion's Perspective. It is with a bit of nostalgia that I think back over my over 36 years in education as I transition to retirement. Much has changed based on research regarding strategies, materials, and infusion of technology. What has not changed is the dedication of educators to make school and learning a positive experience for students. This happens when parents and the community partner with the schools in support of our young people. There are

many examples of these partnerships here in Marion. Volunteers come into the schools to help learners practice reading and math. Engineers help with science and our Robotics teams. Businesses partner with our schools and the Foundation on special initiatives like books, materials, scholarships and grants.

I look forward to retirement and all the opportunities it will provide for volunteering, spending time with family, and traveling. At the same time I have only best wishes for the district as it continues to fulfill its mission of preparing all students with the skills required to enter future adult roles and become effective citizens, productive workers, informed consumers, and responsible family members.

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**FOUNDATION**  
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Published semi-annually by  
**Marion Independent School  
Foundation & Alumni Association**  
777 South 15th Street  
Marion, Iowa 52302  
(319) 377-4691 x1110  
Fax: (319) 377-4692  
www.marion-foundation.org

Office Hours:  
Monday thru Thursday  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Please call for an appointment

The Mission of the Foundation is to maintain, develop, increase, and extend the facilities of the Marion Independent School District, and to provide broader educational service opportunities to its students, staff, faculty, and the residents of the geographical area which it serves.

## Relationships Matter to the Foundation



Greg Hapgood, President

Many people come and go throughout the course of school and work careers; and our entire lives. How often do we take time to actually put effort into building relationships? A large part of what makes the Marion Foundation and Alumni Association successful is our intentional focus on establishing, developing and maintaining authentic relationships with alum, teachers, administration, parents, students and the community.

In the 27 years since the Foundation has been around, there has been excellent leadership. Under direction of team Hapgood/Cassell/Thornton over the last ten years, thousands of dollars have been donated, hundreds of reunions have been planned, dozens of fundraisers have been held, and thousands of dollars have been disbursed in student scholarships and classroom grants. We must not forget the countless hours and resources the volunteer board of trustees and other community volunteers give to advance the Foundation's mission to provide enhanced educational opportunities for our students, staff and the community.

You will note the theme of leadership and volunteerism in this issue. From our savvy and highly motivated students to our passionate alum and parents; from our dedicated teachers and staff to our philanthropic community partners, we realize that relationships really do matter. As we consider our own personal impact, remember to stay connected to people; recognizing the importance of relationships in every aspect of our lives. People and relationships matter.



## Nancy Thornton "Retires" After 16 Years with the Foundation

When she started with the Marion Foundation, her young children, Kelsey and Spencer were students in the District and the part-time position was the perfect fit. Along with various essential duties, Nancy has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining the alumni database for the organization. Her knowledge and expertise will be hard to replace when she leaves this summer to return to her Michigan roots with her husband, DeKevin. Nancy has worked with four executive directors, dozens of trustees and well over 100 class reunions over the years. Nancy's contributions are immeasurable, and she will be tremendously missed. Best wishes, Nancy!



June 13-14, 2015

The Marion Rotary Shoes For Kids program benefits students in all area school districts.  
Visit [www.marathonforshoes.com](http://www.marathonforshoes.com)

## Bruno Rinas Memorial Science & Interdisciplinary Research Grant

Marion High School is the first recipient of the Bruno Rinas Grant. The fund was established in 2012 by the family of the late Mr. Rinas, a long-time and much beloved MHS science teacher. The intent of the fund is to support District initiatives involving students and/or teachers.

In keeping with this, the 2015 grant was used for a high quality 3-D printer.

This innovative piece of technology will not only inspire creativity, but will also place our students and teachers in a better competitive position. The new printer has already been fondly nicknamed "Bruno" in honor of its benefactor.



## Volunteering Lasts a Lifetime

Marion alum, Marian (Towers) Kelso '43 has been Mrs. Santa Claus in Alexandria, Virginia for 20 years. Mrs. Kelso now lives in Blacksburg, Virginia where she "lights the big tree" with the mayor. According to Kelso, "Virginia Tech is so much like Iowa State, but we have the Blue Ridge Mountains for Santa to fly over!"

# 2015 Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the Marion Foundation disburses thousands of dollars in college scholarships to graduating seniors on behalf of District families as memorials and tributes to loved ones. Details about each scholarship can be found online at [www.marion-foundation.org](http://www.marion-foundation.org). MISD School Board member, Shari Funck, presented the Foundation scholarships during Honor's Night on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Marion Foundation

#### Hall of Fame Scholarship

Derek Smith (Iowa State Univ.)  
Kylie McAllister (Univ. of Iowa)

#### Jay White Memorial Scholarship

Sydney Pitstick (Coe College)  
JJ Feller (Univ. of Iowa)

#### Kelly Grishaber Memorial Scholarship

Zoey McDonald (Kirkwood)

#### Lowell Morgan Service & Character Award

William Byers (Iowa State Univ.)

#### Michael McGrew Memorial Scholarship

Dalton Gardner (Univ. of Dubuque)

#### Justin Turner Memorial Scholarship

Emily Meeks (Univ. of Iowa)

#### Todd Little Memorial Scholarship

Dean Tjarks (Kirkwood)

#### Darrell & Dorothy Fisher Scholarship

Kali Gamerdinger (Kirkwood)

#### Michelle Fluckiger Niles Memorial Scholarship

Kallie Kriegel (Univ. of Northern Iowa)  
Brianna Dunkel (Kirkwood)

#### John Fowler Memorial Scholarship

Amanda Sahm (Gardner-Webb Univ., SC)  
Ariel Carter (Loras College)

#### Ratliff-Ames Memorial Scholarship

Justin Arebaugh (Univ. of Iowa)  
Gage Miskimen (Univ. of Iowa)  
Austin Lanteri (Central College)  
Emily Meeks (Univ. of Iowa)

#### Jeff Rehnstrom Memorial Scholarship

Jordan Bliss (Kirkwood)

#### Conklin Soccer Scholarship

Erica Kelly (undecided)  
Enoch Duval (undecided)



FROM THE QUILL ARCHIVE – A scene from the 1955 Quill Show Skit “Mr. Sandman.” (l to r) Stan Hackert, Mary Lou Pazour, Ray Franklin, Roberta (Lampham) Joler, Carole (Bunney) Borschel, Carl Adkins, Nancy (Siders) Johnston, Gary Robison, Bill Farmer, Sharon (Wilkinson) Murray, Maria (Landraf) Diener, Beverly (Stoeffler) Workman, Ted Burkart, Nancy (Paul) Haag, Dennis Jones, Frieda (Nesetrl) Howe, and Don Washburn

## Murdochs Brings Added Tradition to Serve Families Family Business Spans Generations of Marion Alum

Murdoch Funeral Homes, a five generation family-owned business, has a long legacy with Marion High School. George Murdoch graduated from MHS in 1950, followed by his son, John Murdoch (President) in 1976, daughter, Leigh Murdoch (Vice President) in 1978 and granddaughter, Jaime Murdoch Steward (Funeral Director, Manager) in 2003.

The Murdoch family operates six funeral homes in Linn and Delaware Counties – Marion, Cedar Rapids, Central City, Center Point, Manchester and Earlville – and the Linwood Cemetery in Cedar Rapids.



In 2013, The Legacy Center opened at Murdoch-Linwood, to address the needs of families served by Murdoch Funeral Homes. When dealing with grief and loss, it is the tradition of many families to host a meal and raise a glass in their loved one's memory. Murdoch Funeral Homes can now assist families in creating a personalized gathering – offering a warm and comfortable gathering space. The Legacy Center specializes in funeral gatherings, meals, and celebrations uniquely customized to the tastes of individual families with an attentive staff ready to serve. For additional information, call (319) 364-1549 or visit [www.murdochfuneralhome.com](http://www.murdochfuneralhome.com).



## Cassell Celebrates 10 years as the Marion Foundation Executive Director

LaNisha Cassell, a native of the Washington, DC metro area, has been with the Marion Foundation since January 2005. *What's been the best part of her job?* “The best of my job is the wonderful relationships I've built with alum that spans from the 1940s to the present. I truly love the conversations, working on reunion plans and sharing special personal moments. Many of the folks I've met have become like my extended family.”



### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Marion alum Col. William W. Thomas, passed away on November 22, 2014 at 94 years old. From 1953 to 1961, Col. Thomas was President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Air Force One pilot. When reflecting upon those years he would say, "The President was a wonderful man to work for." Thomas was a 1937 graduate of Marion High School, where according to the *Quill*, he participated in State Academic Meet (biology), Glee Club and Mixed Chorus, and Zeta Mu Epsilon (national math honor society).

## \$18,000 Allocated from Marion Fund

The Marion Fund is an internal grant program offered to staff through the Marion Foundation. The Fund supports the educational experience and enhances opportunities for the students of the District. The 2015 selection committee included: David Canaday, Charlie Potter, Steve Willette, Cynthia Martin, Boyd Potter, Greg Van Gorp, Jeane Eagle, Mike Cira and Peggy Murphy.

The 2015 Marion Fund grant projects are listed below with the name of the lead applicant and the school(s) impacted:

### Keyboards for Kids

**Kari Scherbring – Vernon**

A set of classroom keyboards for use by all 5<sup>th</sup> graders as part of their general music curriculum.

### Book Some Time with your Child

**Susanne Henson & Marcy Shie – Emerson**

Materials and 184 new books to supplement a book checkout system for reading at home; targeted at students who are below their grade level.

### First Lego League Reborn

**Chris Martin – Vernon & High School**

Bring back the First Lego League program to MHS/VMS by upgrading existing outdated materials and purchasing items needed to compete in the 2015-16 season.

### More Power

**Chris Martin – High School**

Upgrade/replace old motors used in the robotics program with more durable and less expensive replacements.

### iMusic - iPad for the Music Classroom

**Amanda Freese – All District Schools**

iPads for each of the music classrooms will allow instructors to record real-time assessments, performance, behavior, and special needs components.

### Author Visit

**Lee Ann Groene – Starry & Emerson**

A visit by Kansas City author Bridget Heos. Presentation to K-2 students will promote library engagement, student motivation, and understanding of the creative process.

### Inspiring Students – Author Visit

**Lee Ann Groene – Francis Marion**

A visit by Cedar Falls author Maribeth Boelts, an Iowa Children's Choice Award recipient. Presentations to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will focus on the author and writing process.

### Welding – Joining Today to Tomorrow

**Larry McLaughlin – High School**

Purchase of simulators to provide students hands-on experience and exposure to welding as a possible career alternative; considering the increasing local and national shortage of labor in this industry.

### Marion High School Garden

**Kayla Pins – High School**

Infrastructure and supplies to create a school garden maintained by students. The partnership will include the MHS Family and Consumer Science department, One Day In May, Blue Zones, Linn County Master Gardeners and local food banks.

### Impact Citizen Awards

Thursday, June 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Low Park Arts and Environment Center

Recognizing community leaders Sarah Pinion, Vic Klopfenstein & Althea Cole.

Visit [www.MarionCares.org](http://www.MarionCares.org) for details.

MARION  
Cares



## Taylor's Journey

by Shawnee Krueger

One of the greatest gifts in my life was becoming a mother! In just 12 short years, my daughter, Taylor was able to inspire me, along with so many others in more ways than I ever imagined! Taylor fought cancer not once, not twice, but three times and she did so with a smile on her face! She lived her life to its fullest, never ever giving up! Almost one year has passed since Taylor earned her heavenly wings; and not a day passes that I don't think of her still! She lives on within us, forever in our hearts!

When Taylor was just 20 months old, we were given the most devastating news – Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Soon, our family welcomed another blessed addition, named Sydney. Our daughters shared an instant connection that continued to grow over the years.

Taylor's treatment included extensive chemotherapy AND radiation. At just 3 years old, Taylor received a lifesaving bone marrow transplant. Her life was filled with follow-up appointments, specialists monitoring late/ long-term side effects. It was heart wrenching to watch her go through this, but somehow she had a way of pulling through; making the most of things and living life to its fullest.

In December 2012, just days before Taylor's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, a routine MRI brought those devastating words again. This time it was a stage 4 brain tumor with a very poor prognosis. Once again, Taylor chose to live life as if she were going to win. Ultimately, there was no other way, but we don't look back on this time as the worst years of our lives. We look back and remember this time as the best years and we continue to live and make memories for Taylor – who would "Never Ever Give Up!"

Taylor Rae Krueger was a VMS student when she passed away on May 31, 2014

# Fun at the Annual Fundraising Night

An evening of fun and fundraising marked the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual *For the Love of Marion* event at Vernon Middle School. The Marion-themed affair, emceed by VMS literacy teacher, Kevin Hahn, also served to recognize District staff and students.



Dollars raised during the event enable the Foundation to continue its 27-year mission of providing educational enhancements for District students.

Three staff were highlighted for going “above and beyond” their normal duties with the MISD Leader Award. Honorees were **Tom Kettmann**, High School Guidance Counselor; **Sarah Jones**, Emerson Elementary Music Teacher; and **Ken Cook**, Director of School District Operations.

The Foundation also recognized Vernon Middle School students for their winning “Being Marion” essays. Recipients were Megan Minks, Ryan Hall, Teagan Miskimen and Rachel Wilkey. There were also four selected VMS students whose art

was selected for display. Student artists were Raina Messerschmitt, Alyssa Henrikson, Justic Chavez and Olivia Webber.

Emerson Elementary School received the “Building Spirit Award” and \$330 from Ohnward Bank & Trust for having the largest percentage of school staff in attendance.

Marion alum, Joyce (Kolda) Hutchins (MHS 1954) won the “Best Dressed” award AND helped us recognize our student honorees with handmade Marion hats.

Many thanks for the support of our “Spear-It of Influence” sponsors – OPN Architects, Miles Capital, Country Financial, CRBT, University of Iowa Community Credit Union, Potter Real Estate, Bert Katz and Shive-Hattery Architecture and Engineering. More photos and sponsors are listed at [www.Marion-Foundation.org](http://www.Marion-Foundation.org).

**Stay tuned for details about our 2016 For the Love of Marion event next March!**



**MARION ROBOTICS**

Team 5913 members in action at an event hosted by Marion Robotics in the gold gym at Marion High School this past winter. The event was part of the league qualifiers the teams participated in this year.

Special thank you to Loren Brown (MHS 1964) for his generous contribution to the Marion Robotics program. Mr. Brown learned about Robotics during a reunion tour of the high school with a Foundation board member in September. Team members and Coach Martin were at the school that Saturday afternoon to learn about the game (what they have to make the robot they build do) for the year’s competitions.

## European Excursion

Marion alumni, friends, and families are invited to sign up for a 10-day trip to Europe planned by the MHS Art Department for the summer of 2016. Travelers will visit the cities of Munich, Innsbruck, Venice and Lucerne. Highlights include Neuschwanstein castle, the Dachau memorial, Munich’s Hofbrauhaus, St. Mark’s Basilica, the Doge’s palace, the summit of Switzerland’s Mt. Pilatus and many other sites. If you are interested in more information on the trip, contact Barb Shultz at [bshultz@marion-isd.org](mailto:bshultz@marion-isd.org).

## MHS Basketball History

The Marion High School boys’ basketball history project is a comprehensive three-year effort authored by Steve Roth (MHS 1974). The project covers the 108 seasons and 2,088 games of MHS boys’ basketball from 1908 through 2015. The 3,600 pages of material can be found on the Marion High School website at [mhs.marion-isd.org](http://mhs.marion-isd.org) (click on Activities » Athletics » Basketball Records).

Included in the material is the MHS team and individual basketball record book; an all-time player encyclopedia with statistical records for all 844 boys who have played varsity basketball at MHS; 108 year-by-year booklets with season summaries, statistics, photographs, player award listings, box scores, and transcribed newspaper articles; and several miscellaneous essays. The author appreciates and enjoys hearing from anyone with additional information, corrections, or comments. Contact Steve at [rothcrew@cox.net](mailto:rothcrew@cox.net).



Marion High School 1912-13 varsity boys basketball team.

## Child Abuse Awareness

The MHS Occupational Child Care class went through Mandatory Child Abuse Training the last week in April as part of the course curriculum and are now certified. Marion alum, Kristen (Prosser)



Kasner provided the certification. As part of their discussions on child abuse, the class decided it would like to do more with promoting awareness. They created banners and posters for the school and presented a public service announcement. Participants included (photo, l to r): Taylor Wade, Hannah Fairlie, Erica Kelly, Taylor Bruns, Kallie Kriegel, and instructor Vivian Quinn.

## National History Day

Marion High School sent four students to the National History Day regional contest in Iowa City at the Old Capitol Museum on March 20. Ninth grade student, Shea Bohland, qualified for the state competition in Des Moines to be held May 4. The theme for this year's contest is "Leadership & Legacy." Bohland focused her paper on the impact of Grant



Wood on the spread of Realism throughout the state of Iowa.

(l to r) Mitchell Takes, Chloe Parenteau, Lillie Zobel, Shea Bohland



## Jay-Hawks Take Mock Trial State Champion

The Marion Home School "Jay-Hawks" Mock Trial team, led by head coach Dana Miller, won the Iowa High School Mock Trial State Tournament; beating out Robins. Team members include Noah Smith, Ben Carlile, Gabe Groothuis, Blake Stickley, Jessica Ertz, Nick Leonard, Eva Dolan, Colin Gorton, and Josie Riedell. Individual Awards went to Lauren Woltz and Gabe Groothuis for Outstanding Attorney; Dominic Smith and Noah Smith for Outstanding Witness. The team qualifies for the national tournament held in Raleigh, North Carolina on May 14-16.

## MISD Teacher Honored with Excellence in Teaching Award



The Alan B. Adams Special Merit Award was presented to Carolyn E. Munson, at the Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering

Fair Awards Ceremony on March 21. "Inspiring Excellence" presents this award to teachers who have demonstrated perseverance and determination in the pursuit of Excellence in Science Teaching. That determination is fueled by the desire to support students in the quest for their potential. Mrs. Munson, who teaches 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Biology at Vernon Middle School, was also awarded \$100 and encouraged to continue pursuit of her goals.



(l to r) Joey Hancox, Madigan Crowley, Lexi Woode, Bri Fentress, Carter Lantermans, Avery Manderscheid, Avery Nicholls, Madyson Pflughaupt, Karlee Walker, Kayba Laube, Delaney Rice.

## New Interact Club at Vernon

The Interact Club at Vernon is a school-based club sponsored by the Marion-East Cedar Rapids Rotary. It includes twelve 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are also involved in VMS student council and want to make their school, the community and the world a better place. The Vernon Interact Club has been busy volunteering their time in the community and even around the world! On April 10, students went to Waypoint Services in Cedar Rapids to help clean, sort, and organize donated materials. On April 17, the Interact Club and VMS student council members held a dance and raised \$100 for Tesoros de Dios, a school in Nicaragua for students with development needs. For more information or to find out how to be a part of Vernon's Interact Club, contact Elli Wieneke at ewieneke@marion-isd.org.

## One Day in May 2015

On May 11 (rain date May 12), Marion High School students and staff will participate in the school's annual *One Day in May* service project. This year's day of service will include nearly 30 project locations. Activities include tasks such as yardwork, painting, cleaning, planting, making blankets, engaging seniors, and working with animals. The communities appreciate the efforts of the *One Day in May* volunteers; looking forward to their hard work each year. Likewise, students and staff are proud to achieve the common goal of caring for their community. Some of the organizations benefitting from this year's *One Day in May* include the Cedar Valley Humane Society, Marion Public Library, Marion Cares, NewBo, Indian Creek, Lake MacBride, Squaw Creek and nursing homes at The Villages, Bickford, and Winslow. For more information or to find out how you can help, contact MHS social studies teacher and project coordinator, Becky Herman at bherman@marion-isd.org.



Students at Starry, Emerson, and FMI will soon have access to hundreds of new library books thanks to a \$5,000 donation from Hills Bank and Trust Company of Marion. Marion branch, Vice President, Sharon Woodward, recently presented a check to Teacher Librarian Lee Ann Groene during a visit to Mrs. Porter's kindergarten class at Starry. Funds will be used to buy beginning reader books at Starry and Emerson, and non-fiction books at FMI. The library program is grateful to have a community partner that values the importance of books and reading.

## Principal Semler Recognized



Marion High School principal Greg Semler was presented with the KCRG TV-9 A+ for Education Award on March 9. Mr. Semler was nominated

by students and faculty members and was surprised with the award at a school-wide assembly. Mr. Semler's dedication to Marion High School and all of its students and staff through his compassion and caring approach make a lasting impression. Two nominating testimonials can be read at [www.kcrg.com](http://www.kcrg.com) (click on Show You Care » A+ for Education » Past Winners).

## Flag Essay Writers Recognized

American Legion Post 298 recognized ten area 5<sup>th</sup> graders who submitted essays on



“What The Flag Means To Me.” Honored from Marion were home school student Jennie Hilton (l) and Vernon Middle School student Jacob Wilkinson (r). About 270 students participated in the contest.

## WaMaC Art Competition MHS Award Winners

These talented students were recognized at the April 15 event:

- Trevor Short** - Book Arts
- Noah Claypool** - Ceramics
- Samuel Emery** - Digital Drawing
- Olivia Scaffidi** - Pencil Drawing
- Sydney Pitstick** - Colored Pencil and Mixed Media Drawing

## Fontenot Recognized by Iowa High School Music Association



Congratulations to Marion High School junior, Liz Fontenot, for being selected as an Outstanding Performer at this year's IHSMA Solo/Small Ensemble Festival. As a result of winning this prestigious honor, she has been invited to perform a recital at the Music Hall on the campus of Iowa State University on May 13.

## MHSAP Teachers & Students

### First Volunteer Fair

Home school teacher, Jill Elliott, helped to organize the school's first “Volunteer Fair,” which brought about 40 local non-profit organizations and attracted about 100 parents and students. The purpose was to alert families to opportunities of serving their community through volunteering.

### Iowa Composer's Forum

10th grader, Clayton Dryden's composition, “Percussion Perplexity,” (a percussion ensemble) was performed at the Iowa Composer's Forum Spring Festival of New Music at UNI.



## David Messerli Retires From MHS After 43 Years

The end of this school year marks my retirement after 43 years teaching in the Marion School District. I began my career as a Social Studies and English teacher at Vernon in 1972 and after three years transferred to Marion High School for the remainder of my career. In addition to teaching, I had the opportunity to coach football, basketball, wrestling, track and golf. The people I have come in contact with over the years have been tremendous and many have become lifelong friends. I would like to thank all the teachers, coaches, students, parents, administrators and support staff for their friendship and encouragement over the years. When I started teaching I was single, now at the end of my career, my wife and I celebrate 39 years of marriage. Our three boys graduated from Marion and I especially look forward to spending more time with our 2 grandchildren, with a third on the way. Just as my life has transitioned, so has the career of teaching, especially with the advent of technology, but I have found that the students have stayed much the same. One of the greatest privileges I have is seeing former Marion students living successful lives in the community. Even though I will be officially retired, I still plan to coach golf, help with girls' basketball and be an active substitute teacher. I look forward to playing more golf, spending time with family, and ticking off some travel destinations from my bucket list. I will miss being in the classroom. To all teachers in the Marion district, I would like to say that you have a great job and you do a great job. I thank my family for their support over the years. I wish the best to all those I have been associated with during my career. I know that the district will continue to move forward in a positive way. I want to thank the Marion Independent School District for letting me be part of a great educational tradition. Thanks for the memories! . – **Mr. Messerli**



## Vernon STEM/ Science Club

The Vernon Middle School Science/STEM Club participated in the KidWind Online Challenge sponsored by the state of Iowa STEM grant program. Students formed teams in January and worked on wind-powered projects through March. Once completed, they performed several math calculations on their final projects, tested the amount of power their blades produced when attached to a wind turbine, then entered their results on the international KidWind website. Student participants included Erik Anderson, Justic Chavez, Tristen Christiansen, Jacob Neher, Jacob Kuhn, David Reisner, Tiernan Crowley, Issy Loftin, Trinity Zika, Talie Parenteau, Lilly Wasek, Alissa Shanstrom, Sara Griest, Brianna Young and Delanie Hooker. The kids had a blast and learned about team work, alternative energy sources, and project management. For additional information, contact Deb Menken at [dmenken@marion-isd.org](mailto:dmenken@marion-isd.org).

## A Grand Night for Singing

The Marion High School Theater and Music Departments presented the musical *A Grand Night for Singing* in April. More than 36 students were involved in the show and many had featured solos.



110 students are involved in the show choir program at Marion High School between the two choirs, show bands and crews.

## Marion Masquerade

The Marion Music Boosters hosted the second annual Marion Masquerade Invitational in February. More than 4,000 students, parents and spectators came to Marion High School for the two-day show choir competition. The event was an incredible success thanks to the many parents, students and staff who graciously volunteered their time. A special thank you to event coordinators, Christie VanWey, Denise Allison, Ellen Webber and Gretchen Arcand. *SAVE THE DATE* for next year's competition on February 26-27, 2016.

# Old Uniforms for Sale!

The Marion High School music department is selling old uniforms worn from 2001-2013.

- \$50 - Marching Band Uniform (jacket, bibbers, hat, plume)
- \$25 - Concert Tux
- \$10 - Concert Dress



All proceeds go towards the purchase of future MHS uniforms and other music department needs. *Thank you!*



**Pick up YOUR uniform  
Saturday, May 23  
9 a.m. - Noon**

**Marion High School Band Room**

(After May 23 all remaining uniforms will be sold through an online service. **SO DON'T MISS OUT!**)

Questions? [mmbchair@gmail.com](mailto:mmbchair@gmail.com)

**Great keepsake and Halloween costume!**  
Look online for ideas to convert into a cool pillow or bag.

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## Thanks for Your Support!

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### Enclosed is my donation to the Marion Foundation:

- Golf Classic** (\$100/person)
- Golf Classic** Flag Event (\$150) or Hole Sponsor (\$300)
- Red brick** on the Wall of Support for engraving (\$300)
- Gold brick** on the Wall of Support for engraving (\$1,000)
- Bruno Rinas Research Grant Fund
- Marion Athletic Facility Enhancement Fund
- Marion Performing Arts Facilities Fund
- Endowed scholarship/fund (add to existing or create new)
- Designated Gift (no minimum / 2% admin fee)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- My donation will be matched by my company

Total contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Thank You!**

Marion Foundation, 777 S. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Marion, IA 52302  
For questions, call 319-377-4691, x1110

## Two Added to Performing Arts Hall of Fame



David Law and Lynn Baumert were inducted into the Marion High School Performing Arts Hall of Fame at the music department's spring concert on April 27. Mr. Law is a former Vernon Middle School and Marion High School band director and is currently president of the MISD school board. Ms. Baumert has been a strong contributor and supporter of the Marion performing arts programs, especially while her daughters were students at Marion.

## Construction Apprenticeship Career Fair

by Nanci Young, Workplace Learning Connection

In April, 30 Marion High School students and two Marion Home School Assistance Program students attended the Construction Apprenticeship Career Fair coordinated by Workplace Learning Connection and representatives



from the Skilled Trades. Students learned about careers in several programs and how demand for skilled trades is increasing in the Corridor. In addition to the Career Fair, 12 Marion students participated in an internship in the business community and the district had 158 student job shadow participants.