



Marion Fund Allocates \$30,000!

The Marion Fund internal grant program through the Marion Foundation recently announced nearly \$30,000 in allocations. The Fund supports the educational experience and enhances opportunities for the students of the District. This unique opportunity is available to only a handful of districts across the country.

The 2016 selection committee included: Abby Bessler, Steve Willette, Cynthia Martin, Boyd Potter, Greg Van Gorp, Jeane Eagle, Mike Cira, Terri Schmidt and Phil Cochran.

Requests for funding must be aligned with the mission statement of the District and the Foundation and all recipients must submit a written evaluation of the funded project to complete the process.

2016-2017 Marion Fund grant projects are listed below with the name of the lead/teacher applicant and the school(s) impacted.

AP Chemistry

Madilyn Ramaekers – Marion High School

(left photo) Materials for the first AP Chemistry class at MHS. These new balances and burets will ensure that the required labs are at the college level.

Makerspace

Apra Loomis Mainardi – Vernon Middle School

(center photo) Materials to create a small Makerspace in the Vernon Library. The space will give students hands-on experience with a variety of technology tools including robots, stop animation kits, coding kits, snap circuits and invention kits.

Guided Reading Library Update

Nicole Harmer – Emerson Elementary School

(right photo) Guided reading book sets to update reading instruction materials. A guided reading group consists of 4-6 students who are at similar reading levels, reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction while working on decoding, accuracy, fluency and comprehension.

Accessible Real World Classroom

Tana Leaverton – Vernon Middle School

Chromebooks and accessories for special education students. This purchase increases the integration of technology in the small group setting, general education co-taught classroom and on an individual basis. These students will establish blended, self-directed, learning experiences.

Behavior of Light

Amy Tursi – Marion High School

Light boxes for use in General Science Earth and Space and Physics classes. The light boxes allow students to gather data about the reflection, refraction, diffraction and interference of light, reinforcing wave behavior.

Drumming for Understanding

Amanda Freese – Francis Marion Intermediate

Additional drums for the FMI music program. Drumming in the music curriculum develops musical independence, communication, responsibility, rhythmic composition creation and working as an ensemble.

Summer Explorers

Chad Zrudsky – Francis Marion Intermediate, Vernon Middle School and Marion High School

Support for the 2-week Summer Explorers camp which provides students an opportunity to engage in science and literacy in a fun and exciting way during the summer.

Vernon Virtual Learning Lab

Steve Vanderhei – Vernon Middle School

Purchase a set of ten iPads for the special education classroom. This iPad set will benefit all special education students in grades 5-8 and general education teachers with integrated student needs.

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Office hours vary, 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

AAH-its spring and with that the promise of even more good things for our foundation. We just came off our **Love of Marion** event, which was such fun and involved friends, parents, graduates, kids, teachers and others in the District. The class of 1954 turned out en masse in their letter sweaters, even though maybe the fit was not quite the same! The Emerson staff led the way in spirit and singing. What a wonderful group. We now head into our annual golf outing – one of our premier events and fund raisers. Get your foursome together, start practicing and be ready to go after the big prize.

Our foundation continues to grow financially with a very generous gift of \$195,000 from Trojan Lodge #548 AF & AM. What a legacy they leave us! Keep YOUR foundation in your thoughts for gifting, for help with your reunions or any other way we can be of service – that is what we do. God Bless all you fine people.

MHS 2016 Reunions

Reunion plans are under way for several classes. For additional details, visit www.Marion-Foundation.org or check for a class Facebook page. To schedule school tours, contact your reunion representative. The Foundation will assist with coordinating tours of the high school/middle school when possible. Also, don't forget the City's annual Swamp Fox Festival celebration is scheduled for Saturday, September 24. For additional details, visit www.cityofmarion.org.



Members from the MHS class of 1950 celebrate their 65th class reunion in September 2015.

Class of 1956 (60 yr) September 22-23
Dennis Peterson (319) 377-2782
Ron Prescott (319) 373-9618
ronandmonica@mchsi.com
Bob Bunting (319) 377-0556
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IOWA-MARION-HS-1956>

Class of 1961 (55 yr) September 24
Mary Lacock mlacmary@gmail.com

Class of 1971 (45 yr) September 23-24
Karen Hansen Clark (319) 447-2035
Clark-Hansen2@msn.com
Dawn Lowry Schuettelpelz (319) 350-1781
dandrdawn@gmail.com

Class of 1976 (40 yr) June 24-25
Lynn Benkusky lbenkusky@marion-isd.org
www.facebook.com/groups/mhsclassof76

Class of 1991 (25 yr) July 8
T.P. Yi (319) 310-0018
tpyi0825@gmail.com

Is your reunion not listed here?
Contact Lynn at lbenkusky@marion-isd.org.



Remembering John Schlotterback

John Schlotterback was a 1947 graduate of MHS. He participated in track, basketball, baseball and football at MHS, earning a varsity letter in football his senior year. After graduating from MHS, John worked in sales for several local dairies. In 1967, he began a 45-year career as a realtor in Marion. The John Schlotterback Memorial Business Scholarship was established by his children Lyn (MHS '76), Lori (MHS '77) and JD (MHS '86) in memory of their father.

John was born Sept. 7, 1929, to Walter and Esther (Lensch) Schlotterback in Benton County, Iowa. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War. John owned and operated Schlotterback Realtors. John was a member of Marion Christian Church in Marion and past commander of American Legion Post 298, Marion. He also was a member of Masonic Lodge 6 of Marion, El Kahir Shrine and Realtor Emeritus with CRAAR for 40+ years. John served 40 years for the City of Marion Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments.



Play A Little Golf “Fore” Marion Students!

Thursday, July 14

Hunters Ridge Golf Course • noon shotgun



**Registration
includes:**

**18 holes of golf with cart,
complimentary beer and
snacks, cookout dinner,
flag events and games,
and PRIZES!**

**Register
today by calling:
(319) 377-4691
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Don't Miss
The Fun!**

Please clearly print all information and remit check for appropriate amount made payable to the Marion Foundation. A portion may be tax deductible.

Team Name _____

Player #1 _____

Email: _____

☐ This player's golf fee is enclosed

Player #2 _____

Email: _____

☐ This player's golf fee is enclosed

Player #3 _____

Email: _____

☐ This player's golf fee is enclosed

Player #4 _____

Email: _____

☐ This player's golf fee is enclosed

Total Enclosed \$ _____

\$100 Individual Golfer

\$400 Foursome

\$30 10 Mulligans (per foursome)

\$300 Hole Sponsorship - Showcase you/your company with a sign on the greens

\$650 Hole Sponsorship & Foursome Combo Deal
Maximize your contribution and save \$50

\$5,000 Event Sponsor - Name on all hole signs

\$1,500 Meal Sponsor - Complimentary hole sign

\$150 Flag Sponsor - Or sponsor all 4 for \$500

☐ Unable to participate this year - but I've included a contribution for Marion students!

Sponsors and a list of registered golfers will be updated regularly on our website. Visit us at:
www.marion-foundation.org

Spear-It of Influence

2015-2016 Honor Roll

The Marion Foundation Board of Trustees wishes to thank the following donors for their generous support of the ***Spear-It of Influence*** during the campaign period of October 1, 2015 to April 1, 2016. We are pleased to present this year's Honor Roll of Donors.

The Spear-It of Influence (including Drive-4-Five) received more than \$16,000 in contributions from 89 donors, including alumni, corporations, faculty, staff, parents, and other friends. Alumni support constituted almost 61 percent of those gifts, and 50 percent of all donors gave \$40 or less. Making an annual unrestricted gift of any amount every year is one of the most important ways you can help the Marion Foundation. We thank you for your continued support in making a difference by providing opportunities for generations of students to come.

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Nancy McVay McCray '59

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Richard Snyder

Shari & Joseph Funck

Steven P. Sparenborg '67

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Scott Arebaugh

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Robert Lana

Lynn Benkusky '76

Bonnie Raasch

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Doug Nguyen '83

Gregory Hapgood, Sr.

John D. Van Gorp '84

Sheryl Cole Stallman '77

Anonymous

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Barbara Black Geinzer '81

Marilyn Bristol Wicke '48

Ann Churchill Gillaspie '87

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Phyllis McGowan Turner '53

Lee Ola Anders

William H. Huntoon '60

Margaret Wallace Turner '51

Rita Remington Urbanek '42

Merlene Knight Hruby '53

Darlene Schimper

Joyce Trpkosh Fehlhafer '53

Vince & Carol Woodson

In spite of our best efforts, errors and omissions may occur. Please contact the Foundation office regarding any inaccuracies.

Fundraising Night Draws Spirited Marion Crowd

The Marion Foundation's 10th Annual *For the Love of Marion* fundraiser for education was held on March 4 at Vernon Middle School. The evening was emceed by Emerson music teacher, Sarah Jones, and guests were entertained by a jazz combo of the MHS jazz band members; Clayton Kwater, Andrew Piper, Austin Piper, Caan Zangerle and Axel Zumwalt.

Three staff members were highlighted for going "above and beyond" their normal duties with the MISD Leader Award. Recognized were **Jen O'Brien**, a kindergarten teacher at Emerson Elementary School; **Madonna Putnam**, a special education teacher at Marion High School; and **Michele Weisinger**, art teacher at Francis Marion Intermediate and Emerson Elementary Schools.

The Foundation also recognized VMS students for their "Being Marion" essays. Recipients were **Chris Burwinkel**, **April Lawyer**, **Alyvia Eldridge** and **Keara McGuire**. All honorees received gift bags sponsored by Murdoch Funeral Home, The Chocolate Shop and Joyce Hutchins (MHS '54.)

Guests enjoyed a fantastic appetizer and desserts reception courtesy of LJ's Catering. They also played games and placed bids on fabulous items in the silent auction. Major sponsors for these activities were Hills Bank and Trust Company, Sheets Forrest Draper, Country Financial and the Wittstruck Family.

The "Building Spirit Award" sponsored by Ohnward Bank & Trust went to Emerson Elementary School, which had the largest percentage of staff in attendance.



The thousands of dollars raised during the event enables the Foundation to continue its 28-year mission to provide educational enhancement opportunities for District students.

The event would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors, OPN Architects, Miles Capital, CRBT, Bert Katz, Shive-Hattery Architecture and Engineering, Fosters Heating and Air Conditioning, Jim and Debby Roth, Rathje Construction and Farmers State Bank.

Visit the Foundation at www.Marion-Foundation.org for additional photos.

2016 Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the Marion Foundation disburses thousands of dollars in college scholarships that have been established as memorials and tributes to loved ones. Details about each scholarship can be found online at www.Marion-Foundation.org.

Marion Foundation Hall of Fame Scholarship

Taylor Harris (UNI)

Tyler VanWey (Ozark Christian College)

Darrell & Dorothy (Merritt) Fisher Scholarship

Heather Blazek (Kirkwood)

James & Teresa Conklin Soccer Scholarship

Madison Bach (Iowa Central Comm College)

Jason White Memorial Scholarship

Mahlia Brown (UNI)

Alex Gaffney (Univ of Iowa)

Jeff Rehnstrom Memorial Scholarship

Pauline Weah (Kirkwood)

John Scarborough Miller Memorial Scholarship

Noah Nissen (Iowa Wesleyan College)

John Schlotterback Memorial Business Scholarship

Mahlia Brown (UNI)

Alyssa Thomas (Univ Minnesota/Crookston)

Justin Turner Memorial Scholarship

Alex Gaffney (Univ of Iowa)

Kelly Grishaber Memorial Scholarship

Taylor Bruns (UNI)

Lowell Morgan Service & Character Award

Noah Hansen (Kirkwood)

Michael McGrew Memorial Scholarship

Kirsten Way (UNI)

Michelle Fluckiger Niles Memorial Scholarship

Tessa Jordan (Univ of Iowa)

Alyssa Thomas (Univ Minnesota/Crookston)

Ratliff-Ames Memorial Scholarship

Richelle Brunner (undecided)

SaCora Fisher (Coe College)

Sarah Long (UNI)

William Randall (UNI)

Sarah Pinion Scholarship

Sheala Rael (Kirkwood)

Isabelle Webber (Univ. of Iowa)

Todd Little Memorial Scholarship

Tessa Jordan (Univ. of Iowa)

Veda Pollock Moore Scholarship

Noah Walter (Kirkwood)

Wilma Hipple Memorial Scholarship

Shaela Rael (Kirkwood)

Buy a Brick Fill the Wall!



Dale Bebee (MHS '41) visited last summer to select a brick in memory of his wife Zella Mae Fenlon Bebee (MHS '41).

Red bricks on the Wall of Support can be engraved for just \$300 and gold bricks for just \$1,000. Call the Foundation office for more information or fill out the form on our website www.marion-foundation.org.

Ball Chairs for My Active Students Susan Faley – Vernon Middle School

Ball chairs improve posture, allow movement without distraction and increase focus on instruction for some students. There are numerous studies that link ball chairs with academic performance. Ball chairs will allow students to have an alternative to a traditional hard chair.

Mac-imizing the Classroom Dana Phillips – Vernon Middle School

Purchase of iPad Air tablets and accessories to facilitate Blended Learning in the math classroom. By bolstering traditional methods with computer-mediated activities delivered digitally, there is an enhanced involvement of student-driven learning.

Sousaphone Support Charles Oldenkamp – Marion High School and Vernon Middle School

(right photo) A contribution towards the purchase of a new Sousaphone. An increase in inventory is needed to equip the marching band for the 2016-2017 school year. Vernon Middle School will also benefit as older instruments are passed to them.

Mass Marching Communication System Charles Oldenkamp – Marion High School and Vernon Middle School

A contribution toward the purchase of a new amplification system for the marching band. The efficiency and effectiveness of all rehearsals will be greatly improved. In addition, the system can be used to communicate in large band and choir rehearsals at both the high school and middle school.

Wobble While You Work Becky Knudson and Cathy Miller – Francis Marion Intermediate

(left photo) Kore Wobble Chairs provide an alternative to hard chairs at small group tables. The Wobble Chairs allow and encourage movement for students who think better with mild activity.

KVMS – Vernon's News Show Daniel Lang – Vernon Middle School

Equipment to create an in-school news station run by students. The goal is to produce daily announcements and eventually have a weekly news show. Students will have a valuable experience in journalism and technology and the Marion community will benefit from the information shared in the shows produced.



A Good Problem to Have! Chris Martin – Vernon Middle School and Marion High School

Expand the robotics program due to overwhelming participation during the 2015-16 Lego League season. By purchasing additional materials, more teams with a more manageable number of students per team can compete in the 2016-17 season.

Carving Creations Chris Martin – Marion High School

Purchase of a table-top CNC machine capable of carving 3D models. Engineering students will be able to see and hold their creations and Robotics will be able to carve parts students have designed for their robots. Students will benefit through practical experience in the real world of manufacturing.

These are worthwhile enhancement opportunities for our students. Teacher applications are available each winter. For additional information about the Marion Fund grant process, visit the Foundation at www.Marion-Foundation.org.

Make a Gift to the Foundation and Receive Tax Benefits, Too!

The federal income charitable deduction is a well-known benefit of making a cash gift to the **Marion Foundation**. However, those wanting more bang for their charitable buck may want to consider a gift of appreciated securities such as stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. For a security held for more than one year, the donor may receive the double tax benefit of the charitable deduction of its fair market value (on the date of the gift) and the avoidance of paying capital gains tax on its sale!

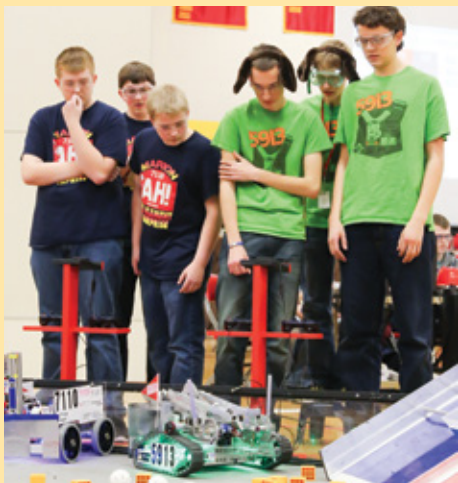
Speaking of tax-efficient ways to donate to charity, recently Congress permanently extended the IRA charitable rollover deduction. Now, each year, an IRA owner age 70½ and older can rollover as much as \$100,000 a year directly from their IRA to the **Marion Foundation** without treating the distribution as taxable income. Why is this a big deal? Unlike the traditional charitable deduction, this benefit is not reduced by the percentage of income limitation! A donor can satisfy their IRA's required minimum distribution, lower their taxable income, and benefit the **Marion Foundation** all at once.

Thanks to Mark Ahlers, Vice President, Trust and Wealth Management Officer with Hills Bank & Trust Company for providing these tips. Reach Mark at (319) 654-8020 or Mark_Ahlers@hillsbank.com.

Thank You!

A special note of thanks to our 2015-2016 *Spear-It of Influence Partner* – **Farmers State Bank**. The loyal support of FSB this year and over the past 25+ years has contributed greatly to the mission of the Foundation.

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Members of both Marion High School Robotics teams are shown in action at the League Championship competition hosted at Marion High School in January. More than 60 students participated in Marion Robotics this year with four Lego League teams of 5th-8th graders and two First Tech Challenge teams of high schoolers.



On March 24, the Marion High School Physics II class competed in the regional Physics Competition – a series of competitive physics events which stress creativity and ingenuity, as well as an understanding of physics related principles. The events included a catapult, mousetrap car, bridge building, soda straw arm, and a challenge problem. Competitors included: Maria Lawyer, Salem Snoop, Andrew Peterson, Jonathan Olson, Trent Garbers, Taylor Harris, Tessa Jordan, Olivia Frazier, Tyler Thompson, Haley Dullea, and Jacob Deeter. MHS Physics teacher, Ms. Ramaekers is their fearless leader. State qualifiers (placed first in their events) were Andrew Peterson and Jonathan Olson in the challenge problem, and Jacob Deeter and Haley Dullea in the mousetrap car.



The Marion High School physical education staff along with school health services personnel sponsored a Health Fair on April 15. The annual event promotes healthy choices for Marion students, staff and members of the Marion community. More than 45 exhibitors provided information and interactive displays related to injuries, nutrition, exercise, disease prevention, personal fitness/equipment and careers.



Superintendent's Report

From Chris Dyer

We have had a terrific year and anticipate a summer that will be filled with activity and additional learning.

This summer MISD will implement our Teacher Leadership Compensation Grant. This grant provides \$780,000 in resources to hire six new teachers and to align twenty-five percent of Marion's seasoned teachers into leadership roles.

In June, our entire teaching staff and classroom associates will participate in a three-day MISD Professional Learning Community Development Conference focusing on curriculum, assessment, and instruction. Our teacher leaders will be guiding our review of student curriculum within grade level and content teams to enhance student learning and achievement.

Also over the summer, our maintenance and custodial staff will focus on refreshing our schools and managing facility upgrades; including exterior roof and interior modifications and improvements.

Of special note, construction will begin at the new Longfellow Elementary School in May and upgrade work will also begin at Francis Marion Intermediate School in June.

Watch for updated district and school websites to roll out this summer. Each school will expand and update portions of their site to provide better communication with parents and community members.

Reflecting on the 2015-2016 school year, our school district saw activity and athletic team participation rates where 88% of the students joined with their peers to display great character, skill sets, and sportsmanship. This participation attained championship results in show choir and band performances and state qualification teams in cross country, basketball, bowling, and volleyball. Indeed, there is more to come as the year isn't over yet.

Join us at our baseball and softball games this summer, or visit with us anytime on campus to watch our progress. Best wishes for a safe summer with family time filled with fun, relaxation, reading, and anticipation for school to begin August 23, 2016!



Marion Grad Receives Prestigious Fellowship

Emily Roberts (MHS 2012) has received a prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Roberts is one of only 2,000 students chosen from more than 17,000 national applicants to receive the fellowship this year, which essentially helps to provide a full-ride scholarship path for her to complete a doctorate.

Roberts is a graduating mathematics and psychology major at Coe College. This fall, she will be enrolling in a Ph.D. biostatistics program at the University of Michigan's Rackham Graduate School.

As an eventual career goal, Roberts would like to make a difference in the lives of others who suffer from disease, particularly children.

In March, the Marion Home School Assistance Program (MHSAP) advanced three high school mock trial teams to the state tournament, where they finished 1st, 5th and 13th. The teams were coached by Dana Miller and two alumni mock trial students, Ryan Carlile and Abby Leonard. The case involved a rogue police detective who allegedly murdered a drug dealer.



Team 1 (top photo) advances to the national competition in Boise, Idaho on May 13-14. The team of four attorneys and three witnesses received their national case on April 1. This year's civil case involves a dispute between sheep and cattle ranchers, set in the state of Idaho. The students examine the facts, related affidavits and pertinent laws in the case to develop and refine a theme and theory with arguments, all within a six week time frame. Their preparation will also involve research into ranching practices.

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City/State/Zip _____

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Enclosed is my donation to the Marion Foundation:

- ☐ **Red brick** on the Wall of Support for engraving (\$300)
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- ☐ Marion Athletic Facility Enhancement Fund
- ☐ Marion Performing Arts Facilities Fund
- ☐ Endowed scholarship/fund (add to existing or create new)
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Marion Foundation, 777 S. 15th Street, Marion, IA 52302
For questions, call 319-377-4691, x1111



**Many thanks to Trojan Lodge #548
AF & AM for their very generous
contribution to the Foundation.**

On hand during the check presentation were (l to r) Lodge treasurer, Randy Lowenberg; Lodge Worshipful Grand Master, Bob Bunting (MHS 1956); and Foundation board president, Gregory O. Hapgood. The donation was made in memory of Hans Ebsen, Donald Devault and Marion alum, John Nelson (MHS 1935.)