

# TIGER TRACKS

The annual newsletter of the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc.

2007 EDITION CHERISHING THE PAST, ENHANCING THE FUTURE



## New Doors for Amherst High School!



During Amherst High's 75th Anniversary, hundreds of graduates not only gathered to celebrate this once in a lifetime occasion, but also raised thousands of dollars to present a very special gift to our high school – a pair of beautiful oak doors for the main entrance. These custom-made doors are replicas of those built 75 years ago; returning the front of the building back to its original design.

Through the generous donations of many alumni and friends, installation of these new doors took place this past September. On November 2, 2006, during Amherst's Homecoming week, members of the ACAF, Inc., Amherst Central School District Administration and Board of Education President, William Blanford, gathered for a special dedication ceremony. Representing the Alumni Foundation, Virginia Fretz Rusk '71, President, formally presented the gift to Amherst High School Principal, Jo Ann Balazs. During a concert later that evening, Mrs. Balazs acknowledged and thanked members of the Alumni Foundation for their gift. A beautiful photograph of the new doors, taken by students Austin Borek and Sarah Hunt, was presented to the ACAF, Inc. as a token of appreciation for the alumni's generosity.

Thank you to the many alumni who contributed to this special project by supporting the 75th Anniversary. These beautiful oak doors will be enjoyed by students, parents, faculty and friends for generations to come. Visit our web site at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org) to view the complete slideshow of the installation from start to finish.



*Thank you Alumni!*

# Here and There.

## Where are they now?

You are reporters in the field. We invite your comments and news about you and other Amherst Alumni. We regret that we will not be able to include what we hear about spouses and children, or detail the myriad academic and extracurricular accomplishments of hundreds of alumni still in undergraduate colleges. We will report deaths, but not births or marriages. All information is gathered from what is believed to be reliable alumni sources. We apologize if erroneous information is included, but we cannot be held responsible. We will gladly print corrected information in the next TIGER TRACKS.

### The 30s

J. Paul Sheedy '33 wrote to Ellen Marshall that he and classmate **Sue (Myrtle) Winchell Haslach** are still "going strong". They talk on the phone 6-7 times a day. She's in rehab in Bradenton, FL, and he is no longer able to travel from his place in Tallahassee to visit her – the bus trip is just too long and tough for him. Sue turned 92 on Jan. 10th but Paul says he "will have to wait until May 29th to reach that milestone." The Class of 1933 has continued to reconnect and very much enjoys staying in touch. During the 2006 holidays, Paul heard from **Betty Becker Cornelius '33, Wesley Johnston '33, Louise Kling Tefft '33, Jane Todd Welch '33, and Sheldon Stark '33**. All are well and still talking about the great time they had at the 75th Reunion.

**Dorothy Kuehling Cannon '36** was sorry that she could not attend the 75th anniversary celebrations, and she's still "kicking at 88 years".

**Herbert Farmer '38** is Professor Emeritus at the University of Southern California School of Documentary Arts.

### The 40s

Janet Scannell Osborne '43 sent us a note from her home in Green Valley, AZ that when she first arrived at ACHS she thought it was the most beautiful school she had ever seen.

**Janette Diehl McLure '45** writes that Tiger Tracks is great – so much information and memories.

**Frank J. Mogavero '48** was inducted into the Computer Industry Hall of Fame in

Santa Clara, CA in 2005. He joins 79 others who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame over the past 10 years. The list includes Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and Michael Dell. Frank is founder and chairman of Data Systems Worldwide, Inc. ([www.dsw.net](http://www.dsw.net)).

### The 50s

**Ken Woods '50** is enjoying retirement in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

**Roger Wilhelm '55** retired as conductor of the Rochester Oratorio Society in 2006 after 20 years as music director. He will continue to conduct the choral ensemble Madrigalia and the Sanctuary Choir at Asbury First United Methodist Church.

**Ted Totman '56**, deputy staff director for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee and longtime aide to Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), recently retired after 30 years of public service. He also worked at the Department of Health and Human Services – then known as the Health, Education and Welfare Department – and spent two years in the Army in Germany between 1958-60. Aside from spending time with his family, he plans on traveling to California and to his wife Helene's native France, as well as getting back to his hobbies: running and learning languages.

**Sandra Skidmore Susten '58** writes that she and husband Allan are retired from the CDC in Atlanta. They spend summers on their farm in Indiana and winters in Rockledge, Florida.

### The 60s

**Catherine Charters Stahl '61** sent greet-

ings that she loves getting Tiger Tracks and to "keep up the good work!!"

**Lisa Marquart '65** is still operating her own business, In Home Massage Therapy for Women, as a massage therapist in Siesta Key, FL.

**Bill Joyce '68**, former principal and partner of Strategic Investments & Holdings, Inc. has been elected to the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute Board of Directors.

### The 70s

**Mark Ahrens '73**, President of Ahrens Graphics in Amherst, won national recognition for one of its multicolor promotional pieces. The 2005 Premier Printer Award for outstanding achievement is the graphic arts industry's largest and most prestigious award.

**Joyce Steeg DeLong '73** received the Award of Excellence from the Everywoman Opportunity Center at its 22nd annual awards dinner. Joyce is co-owner, with her husband **Dick DeLong '72**, of Insty Prints Business Printing Services. She is the first vice president of the Business and Professional Business Women of Buffalo/Amherst.

**Kim Gearhart '75** sent us a donation in memory of classmate, **Debbie Buergin '75**. Kim wrote, "I'll never forget that warm smile and gregarious energy. She is forever in my heart."

**Larry Cowan '77** and wife Margie have two daughters and are living in Boca Raton, FL. He is VP at Lynn University

cont'd. on page 9

# Golfers young and old attend Fifth Annual Alumni Golf Classic

Alumni, faculty members, students and Amherst friends gathered at the Glen Oak Golf Course in Amherst on July 13, 2006 for the Fifth Annual Alumni Golf Classic.

Golfers of all ages enjoyed playing 18 holes of golf before meeting afterwards on the patio for drinks, dinner and the awards presentation.

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

### CLASSIC SPONSOR (\$3,000)

Fludzinski Foundation,  
Marek Fludzinski '73

### EVENT SPONSORS (\$1,000)

Aesthetic Associates Centre  
Nonnie Siegfried Covert '47  
Delaware North Companies,  
Jeremy Jacobs '58  
Andrew Hunt '75  
William Tozier '54

### HOLE SPONSORS (\$300)

Thomas Brown, '66  
Judy Leonard '47 and  
Frank Harding '46  
Donald "Dimp" Wagner '48  
Ginny Fretz '71 and George Rusk  
Joseph Podgorski (ret. faculty)  
Marlene Weckerle Schuler '57  
Amherst Tigers Booster Club

### RANGE SPONSORS (\$100)

Steven Goldstein  
Donald (ret. faculty) and Ruth Munson  
Robert '55 and Gloria Laskie  
Elenora Hildebrand (ret. faculty)  
Fred Knerr '72



Seated: Mike Shatkin, Dan Oppenheimer '04. Standing, left to right: Sam Shatkin Jr. '75, Jake Oppenheimer '00, Ben Oppenheimer '96.



From left: Gary Runcel '54, Joe Podgorski, and Bob O'Connor - all retired High School faculty members.



From left: John Tschamler '74, Barbara Siegfried Tschamler '76, Nonnie Seymour Siegfried Covert '47, and Donald Covert.

## Final phase of our 75th Anniversary gift The Stone Tigers Project

Help us reach our goal! Funds are currently being raised to purchase a set of stone tigers that will be placed on either side of the new oak doors.

This final phase of our beautification project will further complement the school's main entrance, and will complete our 75th Anniversary gift to Amherst High School. Installation of these tigers is scheduled for September, 2007. The cost of the project is \$20,000, and with your financial help, we can reach our goal. Any size donation is greatly appreciated. For your convenience, we have PayPal giving options available on our web site at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org).

**Sponsorship Opportunity:**  
Leave your permanent paw print  
and adopt a tiger.

Friends who contribute \$1,000 or more to this special project will have their name(s) engraved on a permanent plaque that will be prominently placed in the main entrance of the school near the tigers.

For more information on adopting a tiger, please visit our web site at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org), or call the alumni office at 716-362-8259.

*The ACAF, Inc. is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible.*

# 2007 Annual Appeal is a Class Challenge

The goal: helping students realize their dreams.

It's that time again when we come to you asking for your financial help. It goes without saying that all of us on the Alumni Board of Directors share a love for Amherst. But more than that, we possess the desire to help all Amherst students realize their dreams.

Each year, through your generous donations, we are able to give back to the school by offering important grants to students and faculty for educational programs and materials that are not covered by the school district or through other sources. With the decrease in state and federal monies, we are asked to fund more and more school grants each year.

Please help us to continue providing these essential grants. Your donation will truly make a difference and will help so many of our students.

Proceeds from our annual appeal will also go to completing our stone tiger beautification project (see cover article).

## Are you up to a Challenge?

As part of our annual appeal this year, we're asking each of you to participate in our "Class Challenge". Both the class that raises the most money and the class that has the greatest response during this year's annual giving campaign will be featured on the front cover of our 2008 Tiger Tracks newsletter, and also on the alumni web site. These winning classes will be able to share photos and information about themselves that we will regularly post on the web site for an entire year! So call or email your classmates and encourage them to participate in the Class Challenge.

One of the greatest benefits you'll receive is knowing you're helping to ensure that Amherst students will continue to be part of the best educational environment available.

So when you're done reading this article, while it's still fresh in your mind, take a moment to write your tax-deductible check and send it to the ACAF, Inc. Don't forget to write your class year on the check so your contribution can help your class reach their goal. Mail your donation in the envelope enclosed in this newsletter. We also offer PayPal giving options at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org).

Check the web site frequently for Class Challenge updates. Then, around July 1, 2007, find out if your class has won. Thank you for your participation – your donation will truly make a difference.



**Monday, April 30, 2007 5:30–7:30pm**

Loughran's Club & Restaurant – 4543 Main Street, Snyder, NY  
\$20 donation includes food, drinks and fun!

Tickets available by calling the alumni office at 716-362-8259, emailing [alumni@amherst.k12.ny.us](mailto:alumni@amherst.k12.ny.us), or by purchasing at the door. Or download a ticket request form at [amherstalumni.org](http://amherstalumni.org) and mail in with payment. Pre-sale tickets highly recommended.

Alumni, faculty, parents and friends...everyone welcome! Proceeds benefit the student grant program and beautification projects.

# 2006 REUNION WRAP-UP

## REPORTS FROM CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

### CLASS OF 1957 - 50TH REUNION

Class Director Bill Farner writes that the Class of 1956 held its 50th Reunion August 25-26, 2006.

On Friday evening, class members enjoyed an informal mixer at Fanny's Restaurant. During the day on Saturday, participants enjoyed returning to the area to see the changes during the years. On Saturday evening, we met at The Twentieth Century Club in downtown Buffalo for cocktails, dinner, conversation and dancing.

Our class boasts an abundance of educators, professionals, former military personnel and high level government employees, fathers, mothers and grandparents, all given a boost by their time at Amherst. Classmates arrived from 15 states in all four corners of the country – from Maine to Florida, and Washington to California – as well as Ontario, Canada. It's a testament to the appreciation those attendees hold for the school and the community.

We all wished we could spend more than two days together. Maybe for the 100th...

### CLASS OF 1964

Jan Berner Beurskens, Class of 1964, provides the following highlights from this past summer.

The impetus for the weekend was to celebrate a special event: the Class of '64 turning 60 years old during 2006 – a momentous event for many of us and a great reason to get together. The idea originated at Amherst High School's 75th Birthday celebration in July, 2005.

We had about 65-75 people attend. Several classmates who traveled the

farthest included Marc Goldsmith from Sweden and Nancy Stettenbenz Corp from Panama.

Events included Friday evening cocktails and buffet (complete with birthday cakes) at Delaware Park Casino. Fantastic music was provided by classmates Bob Holloway and Danny Nusbaum (former members of "The Continentals"), who reunited for one more encore.

Saturday, we had an open house and tour at ACHS followed by a chorale event at Amherst Community Church, led by the incomparable Walter Reitz. John Roberts and Marilyn Obermeyer pulled this incredible event together. A medley of favorite songs was dusted off and enthusiastically rendered by classmates under the direction of Mr. Reitz. Saturday evening, it was off to Dunn Tire Park for a Bisons baseball game. We reserved a party deck and enjoyed chicken wings, Italian sausage, beer, and laughs.

Sunday, the group gathered at the Darwin Martin House for a tour of Buffalo's architectural jewel. Classmates who hadn't been back in 30-40 years were truly impressed by what Buffalo has to offer; and those of us who have stayed were proud to show Buffalo off. But the real highlight of the weekend was the reconnecting between classmates; and the realization that we belong to a unique group, knitted together by the multitude of experiences we shared at ACHS, that 40-some years of being apart couldn't dim.

See page 6 for a special post-reunion letter written by classmate Sara Straw Winship (former Editor of the Tatler).

### CLASS OF 1976

Susan Lojacono relates that the Class of 1976 didn't really get into the reunion spirit until the summer of 2006.

Several classmates decided to test the waters with a "practice reunion" at Loughran's in Snyder. Held the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Dutch Treat Happy Hour drew double the expected attendees, along with quite a few brothers and sisters from surrounding classes.

With a strong turnout of 30-plus, the committee is looking to beef up its mailing list for an outdoor event in the summer of 2007. Lance Mauro (lmauro58@yahoo.com), who took the first initiative to get everyone together, found that even with a class of 500, the assistance of the Alumni Office, and websites like Classmates.com, it takes time to track classmates down. If you're interested in learning more about plans for this summer, check out the contact information in the "Reunion" section on page 7.

### CLASS OF 1981 - 25TH REUNION

Reunion Chair Susan Runfola Hill reports that the Class of 1981's 25th reunion celebration was a nostalgic two-day event.

Our first activity started with a tour of Amherst High School led by Ellen Marshall '69, on Friday, June 30. Our gracious host showed us around the updated halls and classrooms. Dinner at Banchetti by Rizzo's was a great success. Besides the great food and great company, we were honored that our science

cont'd. on page 7

# The Tatler

Special Alumni Edition

## Amherst Class of '64 gets A's again

The weekend's over, and in some ways this reporter feels like she just ran the Boston Marathon. There's not ever enough time to catch up on all that's transpired in over forty years. But we certainly gave it our best shot, didn't we?

What a great job Jan Berner Buerskens did in selecting perfect sites and activities as we gathered for our collective birthday party. Added to her efforts were those of Marilyn Obermeyer, who set off last summer's fevered email exchange and the excitement of reconnecting with each other, and who assisted Jan by finding others to make birthday cakes, locating musical instruments, and who knows what else to provide such varied events. They even convinced Mother Nature to give us sunshine and lower humidity!

Add to their hard work the boost of energy and enthusiasm that Bob Holloway injected by conceptualizing the idea of our 60th birthday bash in the first place, announcing the plans and arrangements during the past year, setting up the class escrow account, and otherwise enticing us to come together. Who else could have gotten us to turn out en masse? Who else plays boogey woogy while looking like Paul Schaffer? Rock on, Bob.

And the rest of us? We happily returned from near and far, wearing our hearts on our sleeves and grins on our faces, full of questions for each other.

So what were your impressions of us as we gathered at the onset of our sixties? Some people looked exactly the same. These were all women. Let's face it, we color our hair (and still have it), wear make-up, and smile more. The guys still carry themselves well, have achieved

success or had adventures, and can still make all of us laugh.

On Saturday, as I sat at the choral event, so well orchestrated by John Roberts and Marilyn Obermeyer, there stood before me Walter Reitz. Age 85 and still going strong. Such passion for his field, such wit and grace, such humility after years of inspiring others and giving of himself. Later, Marilyn Munson Crone graciously shared her dad, our former principal Donald Munson, who also devoted his career to Amherst, to us, and to so many others for many years. Still a leader to us all.

The high school that set us well on our way years ago was not just a beautiful building, it was a beautiful beginning. Now as we return to our homes and families, our jobs, and the present, we know we still have miles to go. Until we meet the next time, some years away....

~ Sara (Straw) Winship  
Class of 1964

*(This is an excerpt of a story Sara Winship wrote after the Class of 1964 Reunion last year. You can read it in its entirety on our website at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org).)*

## From the Alumni Office

Remember to visit our web site often – we're always adding new content.

Or stop in and say hi! Our office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm, and Wednesday from 2pm to 6pm, Year-round. We're located in Room 103 at the High School.

Our cleanup of old email addresses is an ongoing process. If you receive a notice from us asking to confirm your email, please send us a reply. The goal is to start sending periodic messages via email to keep you updated on things the ACAF is doing, and to notify you of events.

You can now donate online to the ACAF safely and securely via PayPal.

If you're looking to plan a reunion for 2007 or 2008, the Alumni Office would like to know. We can also provide some help in locating your classmates.

The ACAF is always looking for photos and articles about alumni. If you have something to share, contact us via email, phone or mail.

**[www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org)**



**6TH  
ANNUAL  
ALUMNI  
GOLF  
CLASSIC**  
JULY 12, 2007

**Glen Oak  
Golf Course  
Amherst, NY**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Information, sponsorship opportunities and registration form are available by visiting [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org), or by calling the Alumni Office at 716-362-8259.

**Everyone welcome!**

## Reunion Report (continued from page 5)

teacher and coach, Mr. Tom Tripp, was able to join us for dinner. We were all impressed with his quick wit and inspirational words. A trip down memory lane was made complete with a slide show compiled by members of our class.

On Saturday, despite the windy weather, we all enjoyed Bocce's pizza, Bob and John's wings, and antipasto at our family picnic at Sheridan Park. Our compliments go to ABC Rental for providing the kids with an inflatable slide, and to Harlem Road Dairy Queen for ice cream. It was a special treat visiting with Mr. Klayman and Mr. Atwell, who joined us at the picnic to reminisce about the past. The reunion events were a memorable time for all who attended.

Please check out our website at [www.amherstclassof1981.myevent.com](http://www.amherstclassof1981.myevent.com) to see some familiar, and maybe not so familiar, faces!

### CLASS OF 1986 – 20TH REUNION

20th Reunion organizer, Jennifer Woodward Florczak '86, says that after a year of planning, the weekend went off without any problems...except for the rain on Sunday.

Everyone gathered Friday, July 22, at Shanghai Red's in downtown Buffalo. A picture-perfect waterfront night was the scene from the veranda. Approximately 160 people were reunited after 20 years. The food was wonderful, the music was fixed in the 80s, and all around there were lots of smiles.

A slide show brought everyone back to Harlem Road, Windermere, Smallwood and Eggert Road schools – right through graduation from the high school. Speaking of nostalgia, the place was filled with items from the 80s – even leg warmers (still worn by some, I hear). Saturday night, we blitzed on to Loughran's for Pub Night, which was attended by many from the night before

and many more that came in for that event. Crammed into the bar area, more smiles, laughter, and "Hey, whatcha been doing for the past 20 years?"

Sunday was a fun-filled afternoon picnic at Island Park in Williamsville. It rained; but we wore boots and had fun anyway. To view a slideshow from that weekend, visit the Alumni web site. Class of '86 – you still rock!

### CLASS OF 1986 – 10TH REUNION

Co-Class Director Alyce Dolce notes the Class of 1996 gathered for their 10-year reunion on Saturday, July 29, 2006.

A pre-celebration occurred Friday night at local hot spot (and alumni tradition) Loughran's. Downtown Buffalo's Pearl Street Brewery was host for the successful reunion celebration Saturday night. The '96 Tigers reminisced about their years at ACHS and shared post high school adventures while dining on Buffalo food, enjoying an open bar, viewing a slideshow and dancing the night away!

The Class of 1996 is always looking for contact information and news from classmates. Please email [amherstclassof1996@yahoo.com](mailto:amherstclassof1996@yahoo.com) or Alyce at (716) 860-3375.

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### 2007

#### Class of 1957 – 50th Reunion, July 27-28, 2007

Friday: Get-together at Dandelion's  
 Saturday: Reception at Brookfield Country Club  
 Contact: Midge Davis 716-685-0526

#### Class of 1963, July 20-21, 2007

(1961, 1962, 1964, 1965 are welcome too!)  
 Friday: Dinner at the Eagle House  
 Cocktails (5-7pm), Buffet dinner (7pm)  
 Saturday: Get-together at Brunner's (12-8pm)  
 Contacts: Jim Howells 716-736-3159  
 Dick Sickler [rrsickler@hotmail.com](mailto:rrsickler@hotmail.com)  
 Carol Hadsell Munn [ckkbmunn@aol.com](mailto:ckkbmunn@aol.com)

#### Class of 1976, July 13-14, 2006

Friday: Tour of Amherst High School (11am-1pm);  
 gather at Brunner's later that night  
 Saturday: Picnic at North Forest Park/Pool (11am-6 pm)  
 Contacts: Lance Mauro 716-812-2743  
[lance.mauro@amherst76.com](mailto:lance.mauro@amherst76.com)  
 Susan Lojacono 716-603-2424  
[susanlojacono@yahoo.com](mailto:susanlojacono@yahoo.com)  
 Visit the Alumni website and watch for e-mails with details.

#### Class of 1977 – 30th Reunion, July 20, 2007

Friday: Tour of Amherst High School; picnic  
 at Banchetti by Rizzo's  
 Contact: David Goldberg [Amherst1977@aol.com](mailto:Amherst1977@aol.com)

#### Class of 1987 – 20th Reunion, July 21, 2007

Contact: Jill Morrison 716-839-4974  
[dm0330@yahoo.com](mailto:dm0330@yahoo.com)

### Class of 1997 – 10th Reunion

Anyone interested in putting together a 10-year reunion for the Class of 1997, please contact Laura Santilli at [santillilaura@yahoo.com](mailto:santillilaura@yahoo.com).

### 2008

#### Class of 1958 – 50th Reunion

Bob Laskie would like to hear from all classmates that will assist him with planning their 50th Reunion. Please contact him: 716-908-6469 or [lask@adelphia.net](mailto:lask@adelphia.net).

### Class of 1968 – 40th Reunion

Clay Pasternack is in the process of updating the class database with assistance from the Alumni Office, and he plans to contact various members of the class this spring to put together a working committee to start planning the 40th reunion for 2008. Clay can be reached at 440-333-2208 or via email at [claypinc@cs.com](mailto:claypinc@cs.com).

**IMPORTANT:** The Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc. is not responsible for organizing any individual class reunions or for supplying any funds or tax ID#s to facilitate the organization of any class reunions. We strongly recommend that you form a committee of local classmates to oversee the process. We will provide you with one list of addresses for mailing purposes and advertise your reunion in Tiger Tracks and on our website; that is the extent of our involvement. You're on your own after that.

## Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc.

4301 Main Street, Amherst, New York 14226 | (716) 362-8259 | [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org)

February 2007

Alumni of Amherst Central School  
Retired Teachers and Administration  
Teachers and Administrators

Dear Friends of Amherst:

The Amherst Central Alumni Foundation and the Amherst Central School District have embarked on an initiative to recognize retired educators. This recognition/award is titled "Distinguished Educator Emeritus." The honor will be bestowed upon an educator (teacher/administrator/counselor/etc.) who is held in the highest regard for his or her contributions to students while in service at Amherst. It is designed to embrace all staff, grades K-12, whether it is at the High School, Middle School, Harlem Road School, Eggert Road School, Smallwood Drive School or Windermere Boulevard School.

The award winners to date have been as follows: 2004 – Donald Munson; 2005 – Philip A. Schweickhard and Walter Reitz; and 2006 – Dr. Peter Demmin.

All alumni and current and retired faculty members may submit a nomination. The format encourages a statement that outlines the attributes of the nominee to be considered for this recognition. It may focus on a single encounter of guidance or inspiration that affected a "student" or a series of efforts over the course of a year or years that exemplifies dedication to education at an Amherst Central school. We greatly value the contributions of these educators at each grade level.

The selection committee includes:

Donald W. Munson, Retired Principal

*Committee Co-Chair*

Paul T. Wietig, Ed. D.

*Acting Superintendent/Committee Co-Chair*

Robert Laskie, Class of 1958

*Committee Member*

Virginia Fretz Rusk, Class of 1971

*Committee Member*

David Dengler, Class of 1974

*Committee Member*

Please submit all nominations to Mr. Donald W. Munson, Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc., 4301 Main Street, Amherst, NY 14226 or by email to [alumni@amherst.k12.ny.us](mailto:alumni@amherst.k12.ny.us). We welcome your nomination.

Sincerely,



Donald W. Munson

*Retired Principal/Committee Co-Chair*



Paul T. Wietig, Ed. D.

*Acting Superintendent/Committee Co-Chair*

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Nomination forms are available by calling the alumni office at (716) 362-8259, or by visiting our web site at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org). You may also submit a nomination on your personal stationery.

# Here and There (continued from page 2)

after spending 16 years coaching college basketball ('81-'97). They would love hearing from Amherst classmates.

**Bill Morgan Sr '47** writes that his daughter, **Beverly Morgan '76**, and son, **Bill Morgan Jr '78**, are both doing well in Southern California. Beverly graduated from Arizona State University in Communications and Advertising, and Bill from UB in Engineering.

## The 80s

**Jody Swanson Starck '83** was inducted into the Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame in 2006. Jody was twice named the Rolex Yachtswoman of the Year, the most prestigious sailing award worldwide for on-the-water achievement.

**Gabrielle Burton '87** writes in a recent letter that MANNA FROM HEAVEN continues to be available on their website ([www.fivesisters.com](http://www.fivesisters.com)), in Blockbuster, and through Netflix. In addition, Buffalo is launching an International Film Festival and the Five Sisters have been asked to serve on the Board. (You can read Gabrielle's complete letter with more Burton family news on the alumni website).

## The 2000s

**Alissa Cloen '02** is a fine arts teacher at the Charles Finney School in Penfield, NY. One of her paintings was chosen to be the 2006 GardenScape poster for the 15th annual flower and garden show in Rochester. Her website ([www.alissa-heather.com](http://www.alissa-heather.com)) includes examples of her watercolor work and sketches.

**Mary Arlington '02** graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in May 2006. She is the first female from ACHS to graduate from any of the nation's military academies.

**Kristen Ortman '02** was named to the Academic All-Mid-American Conference women's team in 2006. Kristen, a member of UB's women's tennis team, was also named a UB Scholar-Athlete along with several other awards while attending UB.

**Joe Pera '06**, Ithaca College freshman, survived a weekend locked in a room with seven fellow students and Rick Shaw, producer of "The Nanny" to create a sitcom online. Joe was selected from 100 entrants who submitted essays aimed at demonstrating his ability to generate laughs.

## Retired Faculty

**Henrietta Wilson** writes "Miss you all".

## Recent District Retirees

The following teachers retired effective June 30, 2006: **Carol Blair, John Duffy, Connie (Scheffler) Hitchcock '69, Sarah Korn-Rothschild '69, Claudia Lewis, Robert O'Connor, and Mercedes Richelt.**

The following clerical, technical, teacher aides, custodial and payroll/personnel employees also retired in 2006: **Linda Grandits, Sandra Hudson, Ruth Sommer, Phyllis Wahler, Ronald Kuehmeier, Barbara Gardiner, Mildred McCray, Carol Sullivan and Paul Tripi.**

## In Memoriam

Alumni.

Norman R. Brown '34 died 3/14/2006  
Kenneth H. Kubil '34 died 5/22/2006  
Katherine (Kay) Seitz '34 died 8/21/2006  
Dr. Robert J. Collins '36 died 3/8/2006  
Dale J. Manchester '37 died 9/22/2006  
Harry A. Root '37 died 6/26/2006  
Eugene Schmidt '38 died 12/18/2006  
Dorothy Miller Waible '38 died 4/5/2006  
Edward E. Widener '40

David L. Cook '41 died 1/30/2006  
William J. Ferrick '42 died 5/28/2006  
Gladys Mossell Reinhardt '45 died 3/17/2006  
Donald A. Heath Jr '46 died 1/20/2007  
Paul G. Miller '46 died 2/21/2006  
Norman W. Scull '46 died 10/17/2006  
Robert J. Burt Jr '47- 8/16/2006  
Donald Tolsma '47 died 9/1/2006  
Richard Bealer '48 died 3/21/2006  
William M. Kennedy '48 died 6/2/2006  
June Pellein Patterson '48 died 2/23/2006  
William G. Sill Sr '48 died 6/9/2006  
Rev. Ronn W. Eiss '49 died 4/14/2006  
George L. Mugler '49 died 4/14/2006  
Marianne Schrowe Holmes died 7/21/2006  
Dr. Donald R. Arnold '53 died 5/17/2006  
Joseph F. Coveney '53 died 5/6/2006  
Lola Skidmore Barron '55 died 11/15/2006  
Elizabeth Ann Burns '56 died 8/15/2006  
Dianne Klenert Cook '59 died 9/19/2005  
Robert Christensen '60 died 2/16/2007  
Betty Jane Nelson Wehle '61 died 12/26/2006  
Francis (Frank) Pritchard '63 died 3/16/2007  
Carol Zinn Walker '63 died 1/4/2007  
Karen M. Brendel '67 died 11/7/2006  
Bruce S. Geiger '67 died 1/19/2007  
Leah Burrell Nemenoff '68 died 6/14/2005  
Ruth Diane Mindell '69 died 7/30/2006  
James Z. Pugash '69 died 9/20/2006  
Wendy Brinkworth Pritchard '70  
died 5/17/2006  
Richard Merritt '72 died 6/18/2006  
Michael J. Reynard '72 died 9/26/2006  
Tom Santa Maria '72 died 8/12/2005  
H. David Hawthorne Jr '73 died 4/16/2006  
Deidre Ellen Shaw '82 died 9/23/2006  
Barbara Donohue Flynn '84 died 10/27/2006  
Peter M. O'Connor '84 died 6/14/2006  
Roger A. Mazikowski '91 died 3/10/2006  
Marissa Schineller '97 died 9/16/2006  
Nicole C. Mariconda '99 died 7/23/2006

Retired Faculty.

Robert G. Hettler died 7/2/2006  
Lillian H. Merrill died 11/5/2006  
Rhona Repp died 1/27/2007  
Carole Telesco died 2/14/2007  
Arthur C. York died 5/12/2006

# RETIRED TEACHER RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED AWARD

**Dr. Peter E. Demmin received the ACAF, Inc. 2006 Distinguished Educator Emeritus Award at a dinner buffet and reception on September 27, 2006.**

Peter Demmin was a chemistry teacher at Amherst Central High School for his entire teaching career, from 1959 to 1995, and served as chairman of the school's science department from 1968-1994.

Dr. Demmin authored a nationally-used high school textbook and published several other books in the chemistry field, as well as writing for various science and chemistry publications – something he still does. He also served many years as Stage Crew Advisor, Honor Society Bookstore Advisor, and



**Dr. Peter Demmin and his wife, Ruth.**

Student Activities Controller. In addition, Dr. Demmin was Treasurer of the Amherst Federal Credit Union from 1994-2005, during which time he oversaw a great expansion in membership and business. He continues to serve as a

consultant for the New York State Education Department and the New England Regional Office of the College Board. He is also a writer and reviewer for several national testing programs for the assessment of student achievement in science.

Beyond his work with Amherst High School, Dr. Demmin served terms as President of the UB Alumni Association, the Amherst Retired Teachers Association, and the Niagara Frontier Science Supervisors Association, as well as Vice President of the Amherst Education Association. He still serves as Treasurer of the Amherst Lion's Club.

Peter has been married to his wife, Ruth, for 47 years, and the couple has two sons and five grandchildren.

## ACSD Welcomes New Superintendent: Laura Chabe



At the March 6th meeting of the Amherst Central School Board of Education, President William Blanford announced the selection of Laura K. Chabe to serve as the Superintendent of the Amherst Central School District upon the retirement of Superintendent Dennis Ford in June, 2007.

Ms. Chabe, who currently serves as the Superintendent of Westfield Academy and Central School District, is a 1982 graduate of the State University of New York at Fredonia. Ms. Chabe comes to Amherst with a distinguished career in education that spans over 20 years. Prior

to serving as Superintendent, Ms. Chabe served four years as an elementary principal for Westfield; four years in administration and eight years as a special education teacher in the Fredonia Central School District; and three years as a special education teacher in the Liberty Central School District. Ms. Chabe earned her certificate in administration from SUNY Fredonia and her masters in special education from SUNY Albany. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy from the State University of Buffalo.

The appointment of Ms. Chabe follows a five month search by the Amherst Board of Education. Mr. Blanford indicated that the district received input through a series of focus groups comprised of individuals from both inside and outside the district,

and the Board of Education is grateful for the participation of the stakeholders. The selection process was conducted on a confidential basis to ensure participation from numerous qualified candidates. The search was conducted by Dr. Vincent Coppola of the Western New York Educational Service Council at the State University of Buffalo.

Dennis Ford's retirement will mark the completion of a successful career in education that spans over 33 years, with the last 11 years serving as Superintendent of Amherst. Speaking for the Board of Education, Mr. Blanford took this opportunity to recognize and express their "deep appreciation for the strength, leadership and vision that Dennis Ford has contributed to our children and our entire district."

# Annual Grant Committee Report

The past year has been a very successful one for the ACAF Grant Committee; we awarded four grants totaling just over \$4,000 for the 2005-06 school year. Specifically, the Grant Committee was able to assist with the funding for a Windermere fifth grade field trip to the Rochester Museum of Science; a



Young members of the PIPs team.

remedial summer school tutoring program for two high school students; uniforms for a brand new high school drill team and the training program for the WNY Players in Progress (PIPs) – a basketball drill team of 35 kindergarten through fifth grade students from Windermere who perform during half time at Amherst High School games, and also at several local college basketball games. The PIP program promotes self-discipline, respect, dedication and hard work for students who otherwise may not participate in sports.

All of these grants would not have been possible without the generous support of so many of our alumni. Each grant request is carefully reviewed by the Grant Committee and must meet certain criteria before it is recommended to the ACAF Board of Directors for final approval. The Grant Committee strives to award grants that benefit the greatest



The high school drill team shows off their moves and their new uniforms.

number of students throughout the Amherst Central School District.

For the 2006-2007 school year, the Grant Committee consists of ACAF Board Members Susan Hens Smith '74, Carol York Weil '67 and Richard Mugel '78.

We encourage all alumni to make a donation so that we may continue to provide unique opportunities that otherwise would not be funded through the regular school budget process. Please continue to be generous in your support.

*Susan Hens Smith '74  
Chairman, Grant Committee*

## The Elenora Hildebrand Society

### Making a gift to Amherst through your will

After providing for your loved ones, a provision in your will to leave a gift to Amherst High School will give you the satisfaction of knowing that your future gift will help Amherst students for generations to come.

Established in 2006, the Elenora Hildebrand Society honors those who have made Amherst part of their legacy by including the Foundation in their estate plans. Through their foresight and generosity, members of the Hildebrand Society help Amherst High School provide outstanding educational opportunities to its students. Elenora Hildebrand served as a Home Economics teacher from 1945 to 1973, and the society serves to commemorate Ms. Hildebrand's dedication to Amherst and its students.

To become eligible for membership, an individual simply informs the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation that Amherst has been included in his or her estate plans. If you have arranged, or would like to arrange, to make a gift to the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, contact the Alumni Office at (716) 362-8259.

## THIRD ANNUAL AMHERST CENTRAL LACROSSE ALUMNI GAME

**Saturday June 30, 2007 • Game Time 5:00 pm  
On the Dimp Wagner Alumni turf field**

**FEATURING A FULL FOUR-QUARTER GAME**

**Half-time fastest shot contest | 50-50 raffle | and more!  
After the game, complimentary buffet and entertainment.**

**Contact Jim Durak at [jimdurak49@yahoo.com](mailto:jimdurak49@yahoo.com) for information.**



## HOW TO CONTACT US:

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The Amherst Central Alumni Foundation is totally dependent on your contributions to support our grant programs, publications and day to day operations. No monies are received from the Amherst School District. We are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization.

# Receive Tiger Tracks online!

Our annual newsletter is now available on our website at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org).

Please help us conserve costs by getting your issue online. Let us know you'd like to receive your Tiger Tracks online by emailing us at [alumni@amherst.k12.ny.us](mailto:alumni@amherst.k12.ny.us) or by calling the Alumni Office at 716-362-8259.

## [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org)

### TIGER TRACKS 2007 EDITION

Editors: Sue Storfer Currie '84   Ellen Marshall '69   Ginny Fretz Rusk '71   Sue Fretz '73

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#### Attention Parents

*If your son or daughter no longer lives at this address, please forward this to them and provide us with their correct non-college address.*

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