



## HOW TO CONTACT US:

**AMHERST CENTRAL  
ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC.**  
4301 MAIN STREET  
AMHERST, NY 14226  
716-362-8259  
[www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org)  
[alumni@amherst.k12.ny.us](mailto:alumni@amherst.k12.ny.us)

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.

### TIGER TRACKS 2006 EDITION

Editors: Anne Harding Joyce '70      Sue Fretz '73      Ellen Marshall '69  
Sue Storfer Currie '84      Ginny Fretz Rusk '71

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

**AMHERST CENTRAL  
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4301 Main Street, Amherst, New York 14226  
[www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org)

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2006 EDITION

**CHERISHING THE PAST, ENHANCING THE FUTURE**



**S**  
**ni Foundation, Inc.**  
**ING THE FUTURE**

**ome to celebrate**  
**niversary!**

And the weather... what a beautiful weekend we had. Someone up there liked us!

The Special Celebratory Events began on Wednesday, July 27th, with a "Choral Reading" event put together by John Roberts '64. Dozens of Amherstonians from all across the years participated, sang together and had a terrific time in the auditorium of the Middle School – which, by the way, was celebrating its own 50th Birthday!

Thursday dawned clear and bright – the first time the Alumni Golf Tournament has had nice weather in four years! Over 100 golfers gathered at Glen Oak Golf course for lunch, golf, cocktails



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# 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, Louise Kling Tefft, Dorothy Eichorn Fox, Jane Todd Welch, Wesley Johnston, and Sheldon Stark, all of Class of '33** attended the 75th Reunion, representing the first graduating class at Amherst Central High School. **Betty Becker Cornelius '33** hosted the Class of 1933 at the Country Club of Buffalo during the 75th Reunion weekend. **Bob '36 and Jane Kreher Collins '36** are living in Florida and write that they were unable to attend the 75th Reunion. **Charlie McCarthy '36** wasn't feeling up to par, so he was unable to travel. They're hoping there's a Class of 1936 reunion so they can see their former classmates.

### The 40s

**Tom Schmidt '43** was looking for his classmates at the 75th Reunion. He's living in Ft. Worth, TX and came back to the area to meet his new great-granddaughter. **Dick '45 and Nancy Henderson Naylor '48** hosted a brunch for the Classes of 1945-1948 at the Brookfield Country Club during the 75th Reunion.

### The 50s

**The Reverend Doctor Everett R. Boyce '52** spent his life in Christian education and coaching (20 years in the Philippines at a school for missionaries' children). While at ACHS, he was on the cross-country team, and continued to run competitively for 48 years. Rev. Boyce paid tribute to **Don Munson**: "You were more than my coach, you were a special friend and counselor. When I decided at the beginning of my senior year to shift from a shop major to a college entrance major, you guided and encouraged me! As a result I went to college, graduated with

honors, went on to graduate school and eventually earned my Ed.D. from the University of Tennessee. Recently I was asked to name the people who influenced my life and you were the first person who came to my mind!" **Cliff '52 and Beverly Lutz Baum '54** celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2005. They're living in Central Florida. **Don Arnold '53** was given an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree in 2005 by Bethany College, Bethany WV, where he received his undergraduate degree. Don and his wife **Janet Price Arnold '53** celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2005, and are living in Nova Scotia. **Esther Winfield Lawicki '54** and her husband are retired and living in Martinsville, VA. **Bill Nicholson '54** and wife Cathy represented California in the Senior Olympics this past June in Pittsburgh. Bill entered in swimming and Cathy in softball, where her team won the gold medal for the third consecutive time. **Margaret Boldis Schaefer '54** could not attend the 75th Reunion due to having hip replacement surgery in June. She said to "keep up the good work". **Archie Dean '55** reports that he still lives (since 1994) south of the border in San Miguel de Allende, and continues to publish the best selling, The Insider's Guide to San Miguel. Classmates **John Schriver and Dave Fogg** have visited recently. **Karen Frey Chafer '56** is living in Valdez, AK. They live in an RV full-time. Since retiring from teaching in Warsaw, NY, she and her husband have worked at RV shows for the Alaska RV Park and the Alaska Marine Highway System. **Bette Greene Kositsky '58 and Mark Kositsky '56** have moved to Boynton Beach, Florida after 43 years in the Philadelphia area as owners of a fast food franchise. **George**

**Schaeffer '59** retired from a division of Unilever Corp. and now owns Buffalo Clayart Center, making and teaching Introduction to Pottery to adults. **Linda Eddy Rings '59** is living in Arlington, MA and is trying to get information on classmates **Heather Woodall and Mary Beth Lahr**.

### The 60s

**Bob Beckstrand '61** has retired from Aetna Insurance after 26 years in the claims department. **Marc Apperman '63** retired after 30 years as a General Motors Service Representative. He and his wife live in Charleston, SC. He now has time to shoot skeet and sporting clays 5 days a week. **Neil Shister '64** is Editorial Director, World Trade Magazine, Washington DC. **Becky Askin Stewart '65 (CA), Nancy Ungerer Duval '65 (WI), Barbie Nieman Bates '65 (CO) and Lindy Swenson '65 (IN)** met after a 40 year absence to reminisce about Mrs. Meese and Mr. Saltarelli. They agreed that Amherst very much deserved to have been in the top 10 high schools in the country in 1965! **Patrice Schluter Steiner '69** is living in Clarence and works at the Clarence Middle School. She has three children ages 23, 21 and 17.

### The 70s

**Susan Reuther Davison '70** and her husband live aboard their sailboat and traveled in the Bahamas and Caribbean for five years. They recently bought a house 15 miles north of Clearwater, FL. She's working as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines, flying regional jets. **John Alexander '71** is a Flock Manager with Jaiendl. He lives in Macungie, PA. **Debbie Judge Tramundanas '71** is living in

cont'd. on page 4



## The Class of 1955 50th Reunion

*This is an excerpt from Judith L. Hegg's article chronicling the Class of '55's memorable reunion weekend. The complete article is available on our website at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org).*

As the group of 68-year-olds left the Lucky Lady brunch cruise on Sunday morning, it seemed difficult for them to break away and depart. It appears that the 50th Reunion of the Class of 1955 was so successful that most of the attendees hated to see it end, and many were on the dock making plans with their classmates for future get-togethers. The festive weekend was everything most of us had hoped for. The fact that this memorable event coincided with the School's Diamond Jubilee was an added attraction.



### CLASS OF 1955 DIRECTORY

The Class of 1955 2005 Class Directory contains names, addresses, telephone numbers and emails. An addendum contains additional classmates who left prior to graduation. To order a copy of the 12-page Class Directory for \$3 (which includes printing and postage) contact:

Archie Dean  
BC-2323  
413 Interamerica #1  
Laredo, TX 78045



### CLASS OF 1955 MEMORY BOOK

A Class of 1955 Memory Book is being compiled by Judy Pelson Speller and Marcia Lacke Ely with help from Bev Lown Born and Barbara Randall Hooley. The book will include a bio and high school memory for each classmate (83) who completed a questionnaire plus photos of the 50th reunion in July. Email questions to Marcia at [maely@adelphia.net](mailto:maely@adelphia.net). The Memory Book should be in the mail by year-end.

# Friday Night Lights Finally Come to Amherst



The Dimp Wagner Field & Athletic Complex has quickly become the place to be for athletic competition in Western New York. Removal of the existing natural grass field followed by the installation of the Premier-RS™ rubber and sand infill system, has resulted in a 79,800 sq. ft. surface designed for multi-sport purposes. Thanks to the initiative of the Amherst Tigers Booster Club and the support of Amherst taxpayers, the new synthetic turf field and four 70' light poles were completely installed in time for the 2005 fall sports season.

The all-weather surface is surrounded by an eight lane track, dedicated in June 2001, thanks to donations from over 700 Amherst alumni and especially to the generosity of Donald "Dimp" Wagner '48. We can all point with pride to the fact that not only

does Amherst now have Friday night home football games, but more significantly, all high school students have been able to utilize the new stadium field.

Summing up this accomplishment, Nancy Riccio, Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics noted, "We are just thrilled with our new field. It has been a great source of pride and enjoyment for our community, and we've had record

crowds out to see many of our games. Because we had the field lined for all outdoor sports it has allowed us great versatility on any given night. In the fall our Varsity, JV

and modified football, soccer, and field hockey teams played on the surface. The athletes absolutely love it. Having the new field has also allowed us to host post-season contests for our section."





## Exciting Alumni Website Updates at [amherstalumni.org](http://amherstalumni.org)

**The Alumni Directory Is Finally Going Live!** The long awaited release of the ACAF online directory is here. Alumni can now view details about classmates and friends with just a click of the mouse. It will also allow you to update your own information via the internet.

The ACAF has over 19,000 people in our database. Updating our records is going to take a little help from you. Alumni have been grouped alphabetically in three blocks. Beginning in April, we will ask each block to visit the alumni website and update their information. This way, we will not get inundated with requests. We ask that you stick to the schedule below:

April - Q through Z  
May - I through P  
June - A through H

Instructions on how to update your information will be available on the site.



**Now Donate Through PayPal.** Contributing to the ACAF has become easier. You can now use your credit card or debit card to donate online. Multiple payment options are available. Visit [amherstalumni.org](http://amherstalumni.org) for details.



**Send Us Your News and Photos.** The Internet is growing and the ACAF is using it to get news and information out. Have news you would like to share about you or alumni you know? Have a great photo for our website? Contact the ACAF office or at [amherstalumni.org](http://amherstalumni.org).

## ANNUAL GIVING

Annual giving is so important for many reasons. It allows us to stay connected with all of you through this Tiger Tracks newsletter and our website. It makes it possible for us to maintain our alumni office, answer your phone calls and emails, and assist you with your reunion plans. It also provides for various grants to students and faculty in the school district each year. On special occasions, like last summer's 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration, annual giving made it possible to present a very important gift to the school – new oak doors that will enhance the front of the high school. We couldn't have done this without your financial support and we are grateful to all of you for helping to make this happen.

We are now beginning Phase Two of the Diamond Jubilee project. With your help, we hope to raise the remaining funds

necessary to install two custom made stone tigers on either side of the front doors. These stone tigers will complement the new doors, making the entrance to our high school one that we can all be proud of for years to come.

We depend on you, our alumni and friends, for our financial support! Please make your donation today – any size gift is greatly appreciated! And we are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization, so your contribution is tax deductible. Plus, if you make a gift of \$25 or more, your name will be published in the next issue of our newsletter.

For your convenience, use the enclosed donation envelope or visit our website at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org) for information on how to make your donation online.

## SECOND ANNUAL AMHERST CENTRAL LACROSSE ALUMNI GAME

**Saturday July 1, 2006 • Game Time 5:00 pm  
On the new turf field**

This year will feature a full four-quarter game and half-time skills sports contests, gift raffle and 50-50 raffle. Complimentary food and music after the game. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Players fee: \$20 (includes pinnies) If you want a specific number, first come, first served.

Sponsors contributing \$100 or more will be acknowledged in the game program and on the alumni game t-shirt. Make checks payable to Jim Durak or Bob Doerflein and mail to: Jim Durak, 38 Northfield Place, Amherst, NY 14226

For information, contact Jim or Kim Durak (716) 839-4262  
[jimdurak49@yahoo.com](mailto:jimdurak49@yahoo.com) or [kimdurak@yahoo.com](mailto:kimdurak@yahoo.com)

MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW IN JUNE



# 2006 President's Message

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I am delighted to report that the 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration was a huge success! On behalf of the entire ACAF Board of Directors, my sincere thanks to all of you who made this event happen. Our hard working committee, school administration and custodial staff, and each and every one of you who sponsored and attended this event, played an important role in its success. Most of all, I would like to extend a very special thank you to our outstanding co-chairs, Anne Harding Joyce '70 and Ginny Fretz Rusk '71 for taking on this enormous project. They oversaw each detail of the reunion weekend to ensure that all of us had a memorable time – and we did! These two certainly know how to throw a party!

You'll be happy to know that we successfully raised the funds to purchase the beautiful new oak doors for the front of the high school. They will be custom made, with installation planned for Spring 2006. The next stage of this project will be installing stone tigers on either side of the front doors.

The ACAF, Inc. would like to formally welcome Christopher Byrd as its new part-time Office Manager. Ellen Marshall '69, who previously held this position, and who many of you have gotten to know over the last four years, took a full time job with the school district this past fall. Our sincere thanks to Ellen for her dedication and commitment to the alumni board, and to the many alumni she has assisted over these past years. We wish Ellen much success in her new position. Please feel free to call Chris in the alumni office if you have any

questions regarding the website, alumni events, or reunion information.

We would not be able to open our doors each week without the support of our alumni and friends who have so graciously supported the ACAF, Inc. Thanks to all of you! We especially would like to acknowledge and thank Donald (Dimp) Wagner '48, E. Roger Hotte '43, Marek Fludzinski '73, and Donald W. Munson, retired principal, for their special generosity. We hope more of our alumni family will follow their example by supporting the ACAF, Inc. We are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization, so your donations are tax deductible.

With warmest wishes,

Susan R. Fretz '73  
President



**THANK YOU TO  
THE FOLLOWING  
ESTABLISHMENTS  
FOR MAKING OUR  
75TH CELEBRATION  
A MEMORABLE ONE!**

Glen Oak Golf Course

Daemen College

Samual's Grande Manor

Atrium Floral & Gifts

## Changes at the Alumni Office



### Dedicated Office Hours

As part of our commitment to help the ACAF, the Alumni office will now have dedicated hours. Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm; and Wednesday from 2 pm to 6 pm. We hope this will make it easier for you to connect with us. Stop in and see us or give us a call!

### Our New Office Manager

We want to welcome Chris Byrd to the ACAF. He takes over for Ellen Marshall who has moved on to a new position within the Amherst School District. Chris has a wealth of non-profit and computer experience, and will bring our Alumni database to the internet, as well as a number of other initiatives the ACAF is planning for the coming year.



# Here and There (continued from page 2)

Mesa, AZ. As a Navy wife, she moved around a lot, so she lost touch with her Amherst friends. She's an administrative assistant for the Directors of Operations, American General Financial Services/American International Group. **Ginny Fretz Rusk '71** is Legacy Gifts Coordinator for the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation in Buffalo. **Terry Steiner '72** is living in Clarence. He has three children. **Dave Fleck '73** writes that he's living and working in Flemington, NJ. He has an M.A.A.B.S. in Organizational Development and a B.A. in Sociology. He started Northeastern Consulting, Inc. in 1997 after spending nearly 20 years with AT&T and Johnson & Johnson. He's been married to Eileen Murphy Fleck for 28 years. They have four children. **Shawn Winters '73** keeps us up to date from his home in Naples, Italy. In 2005, Shawn was working in Malta, Hungary, Morocco and other locations in Europe as a consultant for Steven Spielberg's movie "Munich". His summer vacation on the Island of Capri was interrupted when one of his clients was attacked by pirates in the Northern PG. Since October, he has been working with NBC on coverage of the Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy. **Deborah Holmes Heim '74** has been a third grade teacher at Dodge Elementary for 14 years. She's been very involved in the development of the Mentoring Program, a member of the Curriculum Council in the Williamsville School District, and Election Chairperson for the Williamsville Teachers' Union. Reach her at [deborahheim@mac.com](mailto:deborahheim@mac.com). **Michael Anderson '74 and Michelle Cook '77** were married in 2005 in South Carolina. Michael works for the Town of Amherst. Michelle is a baker/cake decorator for Martin's and has a part-time photography business. They have five sons between them. **Alan Van Every '77** is spending a year in Korea after living in New York City.

## The 80s

**Angelo Coniglio '80** does computer art and would like to hear from his classmates. His email is [ARClarence@aol.com](mailto:ARClarence@aol.com). One of **Angela Coniglio's '84** former biology students was interviewed in the Finger Lakes Times about the person she most admired. "I had a biology teacher, Miss Angela Coniglio (of Amherst). She was taken from this earth way too soon. She got me through school and college just thinking of her. She touched a lot of people." **Andrew '86 and Michelle '88 Richter** still play the cello. Michelle is currently living in Italy. One of Andrew's Maine-based classical ensembles can be found on [www.cellduo.com](http://www.cellduo.com). **Claude Richter '87** is teaching and playing the violin/viola in the VT and NH area. They would love to hear from some of their friends at [cellduoman@yahoo.com](mailto:cellduoman@yahoo.com).

## The 90s

**Karen Krzesinski '91** married in 2002 to Dr. Mahesh Bommaraju and resides in East Amherst. She has two children. She is a college recruiter for ECC.

## In Memoriam Alumni.

Katherine Field Steck '33 died 1/30/2006  
Beatrice Bryan Daggett '33 died 9/10/2004  
Robert W.F. Halm '37 and Retired Faculty died 4/27/2005  
Dorothy Swift Kimmel '37 died 1/19/2005  
Philip H. Chevins '38 died 5/9/2005  
Janet Brenner Dreyfus '38 died 1/11/2003  
Walter W. Centner Jr. '44 died 5/23/2005  
Milton W. Mugler Jr. '44 died 4/23/2005  
C. Robert Allenbach '45 died 5/15/2005  
William E. Cave '45 died 6/5/2003  
Norman R. Neubauer '45 died 10/20/2003  
Kenneth Schmidt '45 died 3/6/2005  
Marilla Roberts McCarthy '46 died 2/19/2005  
James Hazen '47 died 6/14/2004  
William R. Gardner '51 died 11/16/2004

Roy Kenneth Allgaier '52 died 8/3/2005  
Dorothy F. Meese '52 died 8/9/2005  
Penny Brese Arnett '55 died 2/1/2005  
Warren E. Berner '55 died 1/8/2003  
Carol Schrowe Deptula '55 died 6/11/2005  
Stanley Ziembra '55 died 6/1/2003  
Edward E. Pettis '56 died 9/9/2005  
Suzanne Cutler Read '56 died 4/20/2005  
Karen Rhodes Field '57 died 10/22/2001  
Robert H. Greene '57 died 2/9/2005  
Patricia Lee Edgerton '59 died (date unknown)  
Frederick L. Patton '59 died 6/29/2004  
Richard (Dick) Roth '60 died 8/31/2005  
Robert (Bob) Priore '63 died 12/8/2005  
Albert Homberger III '64 died 7/8/2005  
Roberta Parrish Lotz '64 died 3/2/2002  
Sharon Ammon Nitterauer '65 died 5/21/2005  
Stephen W. Koontz PhD '66 died 5/20/2005  
Robert F. Pool '70 died 9/30/2004  
Kathleen A. Richards '70 died 11/29/2005  
Michael M. Mooney '71 died 1/2/2003  
Helena Cimino Paolini '73 died 5/20/2005  
Mary Beth Nichols '74 died 2/20/2006  
Michael J. Tata '90 died 7/6/2004

## Faculty.

Byron Burke Bair died 3/4/2006  
George Ernest Cullen died 4/22/2005  
Carol C. Highfield died 9/3/2005  
Betty Dorr Williams died May 2003

## Judith Coon Kobee

Our friend and fellow board member, Judith Coon Kobee '57, passed away suddenly on February 6, 2006. Judy was an active member of the ACAF, Inc. Board of Directors for many years, and was a primary organizer of the Annual Alumni Golf Classic. Judy is survived by her children, Wendy and John; and a sister, Virginia (Ginna) Coon '60.



## 75th (continued from front cover)

and dinner. They had a blast and several alums took home very nice prizes!

Friday was another spectacular day, which brought dozens of antique cars to the front lawn to be ogled by more than 600 Amherst Alums who had come back for a tour of the High School and begin their visit with old pals. Marilyn Obermeyer '64, who brought her own 1930 vintage auto, spent many hours, along with Roger Ware '50, organizing this first-time event – it was a major success and everyone raved.

The Diamond Jubilee Celebration Concert on Friday night, directed by former Amherst Music Director Rosemary “Posy” Dayton, was an amazing event. Fifteen performances given by alumni from across the country were heard by the more than 700 attending – each one receiving a standing ovation. Brothers and sisters, fathers and daughters, sisters, brothers performed together – some for the very first time. The music and talent were phenomenal. Posy and her team spent more than a year arranging this special evening; it was the highlight of the weekend. It was also an opportunity for the Alumni Foundation to honor two Educators Emeritus – Philip Schweickhard (posthumously) and Walter E. Reitz for their combined 60 years of service to Amherst. The Foundation also presented a portrait of retiring principal Joseph Podgorski that will hang in the library celebrating his 25 years as principal of Amherst High School. The coffee and dessert buffet at Daeman College following the concert, organized by Bob Laskie '58, Donna Roll '71 and Ginna Coon '60, was a perfect ending to this special evening!

Saturday night’s birthday party at Samuel’s Grande Manor was a festive occasion. Every decade was represented by the more than 600 alumni who came

to eat fabulous “Buffalo” food and share a drink. It was “the place to be” and there are thousands of photos to prove it! The party could have gone all night.

Our beloved Amherst High has seen her 75th Birthday come and go and I know

we made her proud. It was a weekend of friendship and memories and of beautiful weather and fun events; truly a weekend to remember! Thank you all for coming home to celebrate. And to those of you who couldn’t make it this time – we’ll see you at the 100th!

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## PLANNED GIVING: Let us know we are in your will

Don’t miss the opportunity to tell us we are in your will! The ACAF, Inc. has recently developed a new planned giving initiative called the Elenora Hildebrand Society, named for its founding benefactor and retired home economics teacher, Elenora Hildebrand. Ms. Hildebrand has been a generous supporter of Amherst over the years and currently serves on the ACAF Board of Directors.

The Elenora Hildebrand Society recognizes and honors generous individuals who have decided to offer a legacy gift through provisions in a will, trust, or insurance policy. Legacy gifts assure the future of the Amherst Central Alumni

Foundation, and they enable benefactors to help others for generations to come. Members will be honored in our annual Tiger Tracks newsletter, and on a new Elenora Hildebrand Society Recognition Board that will be displayed in the high school.

Please consider including the ACAF, Inc. in your estate plans. For more information, or to advise us of your intentions, contact the alumni office at 716-362-8259 or [alumni@amherst.k12.ny.us](mailto:alumni@amherst.k12.ny.us). As always, we are so grateful for the generosity of all our donors; you are the cornerstone of our success.

### Alumni Foundation funds two new grants

Windermere Elementary is now producing WBS News, an internal newspaper. Students are responsible for all reporting, interviewing, photography and publishing. The paper relies on a supportive group of parents, faculty and a grant from the Alumni Foundation.

A grant from the Alumni Foundation has also made it possible for the high school biology department to obtain equipment for a DNA biology lab. The State-funded school budget could not be tapped for this equipment since the subject matter is not part of the New York State curriculum.



# Reunions

## 2006

### **Class of 1956 – 50th Reunion**

The 50th Reunion will be held this summer: 8/25 & 8/26/06. Those interested in joining the committee should contact Bill Farner: (716) 852-0202 or cell (716) 510-8471 or e-mail: wfarner@farnerandfarner.com

### **Class of 1961 – 45th Reunion**

If you're interested in working on the 45th, contact Fred Briggs: (716) 675-7648.

### **Class of '64 – Collective 60th birthday party**

Tigers who are almost 60, take note! The Class of '64 is having a collective 60th birthday party and bash over the weekend of August 4-6, 2006. Already in the works are parties at the Delaware Park Casino and a space at the Bisons Ball Park. So lose that 10 pounds, don your party duds and bling

bling, and plan to boogie on down! For information or to make a reservation, contact Bob Holloway at: Rholloway@mhdpc.com, or you can write Bob at 8 Essex Center Drive, Peabody, MA 01960.

### **Class of 1971 – 35th Reunion**

The 35th Reunion will be held July 14-16, 2006 with the main event scheduled for Sat., July 15th at Sonoma Grille. If you would like to participate with the planning, contact Craig Anthony: (716) 435-4717 or e-mail: kcant10@aol.com.

### **Class of 1981 – 25th Reunion**

Contact person is Sue Runfola Hill. Email hillmsusan@lycos.com or (716) 837-3193 Date: Fri. June 30, 2006; Dinner: Sat. July 1, 2006; Picnic: details to follow. All interested in being on a committee, please notify Sue as soon as possible. Send current email address and those of friends to receive further information.

### **Class of 1986 – 20th Reunion**

The weekend has been chosen: July 21-22, 2006. The main event to be held at Shanghai Red's on Friday evening. Picnic news and location for Saturday PM still being discussed. If you are interested in helping plan the 20th Reunion, contact Jennifer Woodward Florczak at (716) 833-6502 or jwflorczak@adelphia.net.

### **Class of 1996 – 10th Reunion**

If you would like to be involved with the planning for next year's class reunion, email: amherstclassof1996@yahoo.com

## 2007

It's never too early to start planning!

### **Class of 1957 – 50th Reunion**

Planning is beginning for the big event. If interested in joining the committee, call Midge Davis (716) 685-0526.

### **Class of 1963**

Based on the success of their reunion held in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary Celebration, a committee has started to plan a similar weekend for the summer of 2007. They welcome classmates from 1962 and 1964 to join in. Contact Jim Howells (716) 736-3159 to hear the early details.

**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.

## 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 calling the Alumni Office at 716-362-8259.

## 2007 ALUMNI DIRECTORY

Representatives of Harris Connect will be contacting you soon to update their contact information for our 2007 Alumni Directory. We thank you for your anticipated cooperation, as this information is necessary to keep our alumni database current. You are under no obligation, however, to purchase their directory.



# Thank you!

An event the size and scope of the 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration takes dozens of people countless hours to organize and in the case of the Anniversary Celebration Committee, almost two years of planning. We would be remiss if we did not extend a heartfelt thank you to all of those who participated in this terrific tribute to Amherst's history.

The Committee was a constant source of energy, ideas, support and laughter and we would like to thank them all for their participation in many, many meetings.

Special thanks to Carol York Weil for acting as our Treasurer and keeping track of all the checks and cash and numbers! To John Roberts '64 for organizing every last detail of the Choral Reading! To Rosemary Dayton for all of her hard work putting together the spectacular musical and to Bob Laskie '58, Donna Roll '71 and Ginna Coon '60 for organizing the delicious coffee and dessert buffet at Daeman College. To Marilyn Obermeyer '64 and Roger Ware '50 who brought together the wonderful car show. To the "Back-to-School" committee members who hosted hundreds and hundreds of alumni throughout Friday (many of whom did not want to ever leave!): Joyce Steeg DeLong '73, Nancy Steeg Vastola '69, Sue Fretz '73, Art Pankow (Ret. Fac.), Kay Puma; and at the Middle School, Vickie Molfese Gladysz '78. To David Dengler '74 for arranging the Amherst Sports Hall of Fame reception. To Susan Storfer Currie '84 for designing the wonderful Tiger Tracks, mailers, etc. To Joyce and Dick DeLong for all of their patience in dealing with printing,

newsletters, banners, signs, tickets, badges, etc! To Cindy Shatkin Oppenheimer '72 for dutifully taking minutes for each meeting so we could keep on track. To Sam Shatkin and Sue Fretz for the many hours spent on the DVD's. To Marilyn Rohl '70, Bob Laskie '58 and our Honorary 75th Chair Joe Podgorski for all of their work making the Golf Tournament such a success. To Nancy Naylon for soliciting all the ads for the program. To Lindsay Wolfe '77 for her beautiful 75th Anniversary program cover design and for gathering all of the included pictures, articles and nostalgia. And to our hardworking and delightful representatives from the '30's: Myrella Smith Nagel '38, Elsa Jung Kreiner '38 and Betty Becker Cornelius '33 (honorary!). To Sue Hens Smith '74 for tracking down and signing up so many Class Directors and especially to Ellen Marshall '69 for not only assisting Sue with the Class Directors but for countless hours spent talking, contacting, locating, updating, coaxing and registering hundreds of alumni from across the country. She was an invaluable resource and we can never thank her enough for the time spent making this weekend so special for so many. Thank you, Ellen!

Also a special thank you goes to Mike Tomczak and the District grounds crew for hanging all those banners and



mowing all those lawns so that everything looked perfect. And to Terry Penrod and the High School maintenance crew for moving things out, moving things back, polishing, waxing, painting and generally making the 75 year old building look so great. And to James Gruszka – for understanding and making it all happen! Thank you all!

But most of all, a very special thank you to Co-Chair Ginny Fretz Rusk '71 – she was a part of every decision, every plan, every frustrating moment, every giggle, every day, every hour, every event. She made it happen with grace and style and without her, it never would have happened. Thank you, Ginny – you're the best!

Thank you all for your commitment to this very special time in Amherst's Memory Book – I look forward to working with you all again some day!

*Anne Harding Joyce '70  
Co-Chair*



## 2005 DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR EMERITUS AWARD

The recipients of the Distinguished Educator Emeritus Award for 2005 were announced at the Diamond Jubilee Concert. The 2005 recipients were the late Philip A. Schweickhard, the first principal at Amherst Central High School and Walter E. Reitz, producer of Amherst's operettas from 1950-1977.

The Class of 1938 had many fond memories of **Philip Schweickhard**. Dorothy Schmitt Lehman '38 wrote that "Mr. Schweickhard was a man with a plan; Amherst was a special place, and the class of 1938 had great respect for their teachers and principal. Mr. Schweickhard was a kind, intelligent, caring principal."



Philip Schweickhard

According to Myrella Smith Nagel '38, "Mr. Schweickhard was the Rock on which the structure of Amherst was built. He set the standards which have come down through the past seventy-five years to make Amherst the special and outstanding school it is today." Joe Radder '38 noted that some of the names of unusually gifted early Amherst teachers hired by Mr. Schweickhard include John Scheller, Alice Berger, Milton Bergman, Marjorie Brauch, Myrtle Christiansen, Mary D'Amico, Helen Fisk, Isabel Craik

Husband, Rufus LeFevre, Carl Minich, Edna Polster, Robert Rowley, Robert Schonewolf, Peter V.R. Steele, Beulah Thompson and Elsie Walker Waldow. He was also instrumental in hiring outstanding staff members like nurse Emma Coyer and the beloved custodian of Amherst's early years, George Thurnherr.

Elsa Jung Kreiner '38 wrote that "Philip Schweickhard was a no-nonsense man, who instilled loyalty and honesty in his students. He was a Principal with principles! A man respected by the faculty and student body, who led by example."

According to **Walter Reitz's** family, one of his fondest achievements was producing the annual operettas at Amherst High School from 1950-1977. One of his goals was to involve as many students as possible in the productions, some including more than 300 students. And students learned much more than music in his productions. They learned about quality, dedication, and commitment, things they could use even if they did not pursue a musical career. He put his body and soul into these productions, working every night and on weekends with the students. During the first Music Man production, he housed a horse in his garage on Kings Highway during the week of the program so that the Wells Fargo Wagon could be pulled by a real horse when it came on stage. The visual of this live horse pulling the Wells Fargo Wagon onto the stage at Amherst Central High School is one that many will never forget. (The neighbors who saw the horse walking the two blocks from Kings Highway to the high school will also never forget it!). In addition to producing the school operettas, Walter started both the Sweet Sixteen's and Varsity Singers, and directed the Shrine Chanters for over 30 years. Reitz retired from the Amherst Central School District in 1977.



Wayne Neu '73 and Walter E. Reitz

Reitz founded the Amherst Male Glee Club as an adult school activity for the Amherst Central School District in the fall of 1948. He has continued as its musical director for its entire 56-plus years. What began as an annual program attended only by families and close friends of members has grown over the years into a Broadway-style musical revue now known as the "Red Blazer Varieties". The Red Blazer Varieties has played to thousands and thousands of patrons over the years during its three-night run each spring at the Amherst Central Theatre Auditorium.

For the last 25 years, the Glee Club has been an independent not-for-profit corporation and currently boasts a membership of more than 50 singers. Walter Reitz has inspired all the men of the Amherst Male Glee Club and instilled in them a love of music in general and of male choral singing in particular. He has truly enriched the lives of the Glee Club members and has entertained thousands of Western New Yorkers throughout his career. The members of the Amherst Male Glee Club, past and present, congratulate Walter on the occasion of this most prestigious award.



# Meet the New High School Assistant Principal

At the June 21, 2005 meeting of the Amherst Central School District Board of Education, the appointment of Lydia Brenner to Assistant Principal at the High School was approved. **Lydia "Lee" Brenner** received her BS in Education from John Carroll University in 1980, her Masters in Education from SUNY Buffalo in 1995, and her SAS from Canisius College in 2005.

Lee began her teaching career at Christ the King School in 1981. She then moved to Cleveland, but in 1991, she and her family returned to Western New York. She taught math in the Cleveland Hill School District for 10 years, seven of those years at the high school level. She also served as the Math Department chairperson at Cleveland Hill High School. In 2001, she took a position with the Sweet Home Central School District, where she served as the K-12 Math Coordinator. In addition to her work with Cleveland Hill and Sweet Home, Lee also is a presenter with Erie 2 BOCES.

According to former Assistant Principal, JoAnn Balazs, who was promoted to Principal on July 1, 2005, "Lee brings a wealth of experience as she enters the administrative ranks. Her knowledge of curriculum and instruction, particularly in the area of mathematics, is very impressive. Lee's warm, caring personality, combined with her knowledge and expertise in education, make her an ideal fit for the High School."

Mrs. Brenner joined the District at a very significant time this summer as her first "official" week of employment coincided with the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Amherst High School. Lee jumped right into the festivities surrounding the



Diamond Jubilee with the same energy and passion she has shown in her new position at the start of the 2005-06 school year. When asked how she views her role as Assistant Principal, she answers, "My role is to support JoAnn Balazs in maintaining the fine academic tradition that Amherst has always been known for."

Outside of her new role at Amherst High School, Lee and her husband Timothy, a Senior Administrative Vice President in banking, are the proud parents of four boys: one lives in California, two are in college, and one is in High School in Buffalo. In her very limited free time, Lee says that she loves to play USTA Tennis and golf.

From a historical perspective, it is a very exciting time at Amherst High School with both a new Principal (only the fifth person to fill that role), JoAnn Balazs; and a new Assistant Principal, Lee Brenner, joining with Jack Koch, Assistant Principal, all at the helm. Welcome to the Amherst Central School District family, Lee!

# CLASS DIRECTORS

When the 75th Reunion Committee began their planning, the Class Directors served as liaisons to promote the 75th to members of their class through letters, flyers, e-mails, web sites, phone calls – whatever it took to get the word out.

Throughout 2005, CDs were invaluable in helping to publicize the Diamond Jubilee. Thank you to each and every Class Director who encouraged their friends to return home for the 75th. Special kudos to the team of John Farnar and Clinton "Bob" Friday from the Class of 1963 who clearly deserve the "Most Enthusiastic" award for their diligent efforts. Those from '63 are still talking about their mailing from Bob – a cleverly formatted, nostalgic postcard sent to each classmate promoting the 75th – that also included their yearbook photo.

Under the leadership of Susan Hens Smith '74 and Ellen Marshall '69, the Class Directors became such a successful communication tool that we have decided to continue to utilize them, and also put out a plea to recruit for those classes that are still without representatives: 34, 35, 41, 50, 51, 53, 62, 66, 72, 76, 88, 90, 94, 01.

Unlike many of the "jobs" connected with the Alumni Foundation, this is a role that can be assumed by someone living outside of WNY. CDs are a great source of information for plans for upcoming class activities and reunions or ACAF, Inc. news. Check out who has offered to serve as Class Director for your year on our website: [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org).

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to serve as a CD, contact Sue at [soozeeq@adelphia.net](mailto:soozeeq@adelphia.net) or 716-636-1749, or Ellen at [emarshall@adelphia.net](mailto:emarshall@adelphia.net) or 716-838-1466.





# Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc.

4301 Main Street

Amherst, New York 14226

(716) 362-8259

<http://www.amherstalumni.org>

January 2006

Alumni of Amherst Central School District  
Retired Teachers and Administrators  
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 Amherst Central 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 pre-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 W. Munson; 2005–Philip A. Schweickhard and Walter E. Reitz.

Graduates of Amherst Central and current and retired faculty members may submit a nomination. The format requires 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 Amherst Central. We greatly value the contributions of these educators at each grade level.

The selection committee includes:

Donald W. Munson, Retired Principal

*Committee Co-Chair*

Mr. Paul T. Wietig, Ed. D., Deputy Superintendent

*Committee Co-Chair*

Mr. Andrew Hunt, Class of 1975

*Committee Member*

Richard Mugel, Class of 1978

*Committee Member*

Mr. Fred Knerr, Class of 1972

*Committee Member*

Peter Demmin, Ed. D.

*President – Amherst Retired Teachers Association*

Mr. David Ulrich, Class of 1963

*President – Amherst Educators Association*

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.

Donald W. Munson

*Retired Principal, Committee Co-Chair*

Paul T. Wietig, Ed. D.

*Deputy Superintendent, Committee Co-Chair*

**Nomination form is available at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org)**



# Fourth Annual Golf Classic Attracted 100 Golfers!

From alumni to students and staff, almost 100 enthusiastic golfers came ready to play 18 holes of golf at Glen Oak Golf Course on July 28, 2005. The ideal summer weather provided a perfect setting for the start of the 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration weekend. Many, showing their school spirit, were decked out in orange and black golf attire as they played their best, hoping to win the Buick on hole #15 (thank you to sponsor Paul Batt Buick).



Sam Shatkin, Jr. MD '75, Todd Shatkin DDS '83, and John Fronczak '82



Marilyn Rohl '70, Barb Jackson Hein '55, and Bob Laskie '58



Friends of all ages joined together at the Classic.



Congratulations go out to our first place overall winners: Jack Kuritzky '01, Ben Kuritzky '03, Sam Kuritzky '05, and Steve Witter '01. First place junior winners were high school varsity golfers Alex Pontikos, Trey Jackson and Doug Malaney. Second place went to the foursome of Sam Shatkin, Jr. '75, Todd Shatkin '83, John Fronczak '82 and Kevin Gentry. Third place was awarded to Bob Neff (Gail Osborn Neff's '58 husband), Paul Gazzola, Stan Greene and Jeff Newman.


Thank you to Hole Sponsors Dimp Wagner '48, Bob and Barbara Thomas Geyer '55, Amherst Tigers Booster Club and Delaware North Companies. We truly appreciate your generosity and support!

## Second Annual Nicholas Dusenberry '98 Memorial Golf Tournament

The Annual Nicholas Dusenberry '98 Golf Tournament will be held on **August 11, 2006** at the Links at Ivy Ridge on Main Street in Akron, NY.

Nick was a member of the class of 1998 and was a natural athlete. He played JV basketball, varsity golf for four years, and set a school record in track. This year, the tournament is teaming up with Roswell Park Cancer Institute to raise money for melanoma research.

For a registration form and details, visit [www.nicholasdusenberry.com](http://www.nicholasdusenberry.com) or contact Ninette Dusenberry at (716) 839-9698.



**5TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC**  
JULY 13, 2006

**12 Noon  
Shotgun Start  
Glen Oak Golf Course  
Amherst, NY  
\$125 Adult golfer**

Dust off those clubs and start practicing for this summer's alumni golf tournament. Everyone is invited to attend, and you don't have to be Tiger Woods! It's a terrific excuse to get out of the house or office and play a fun and relaxing 18 holes of golf with family and friends.

Register today! Call 716-362-8259 for more information on sponsorship opportunities, or visit our website at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org).



# *Happy Birthday Amherst!* *Diamond Jubilee* *75 years*



Ellen Marshall '69, Marilyn Rohl '70, and Tina Vispi Mallia '69



Concert marquee by  
Julia Lasch '04



Tom Braun '69, Ginny Fretz Rusk '71 and  
Wayne "Smitty" Smith '72



Dimp Wagner '48



Anne Harding Joyce '70, Bill Harding '44 and  
Midge Hasselbeck Flanagan '46



Marilyn Obermeyer '64 and J. Paul Sheedy '33

*The celebration of a lifetime...*  
*July 28-30, 2005*



# ree Celebration

Friends share a laugh at Samuel's Grande Manor



The Burton sisters



Alumni celebrate Amherst's birthday



Peg, Megan and Joe Podgorski

*The Alumni Foundation would like to give special thanks to the following 75th Anniversary Diamond Sponsors:*

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SARAH C. JOYCE '97

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THE SHATKIN & OPPENHEIMER  
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CLASS OF 1947  
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CLASS OF 1952  
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CLASS OF 1964  
CLASSES OF 1968, 1969 & 1970  
CLASS OF 1972

AMHERST RETIRED TEACHERS  
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JOSEPH A. PODGORSKI