

# TIGER TRACKS



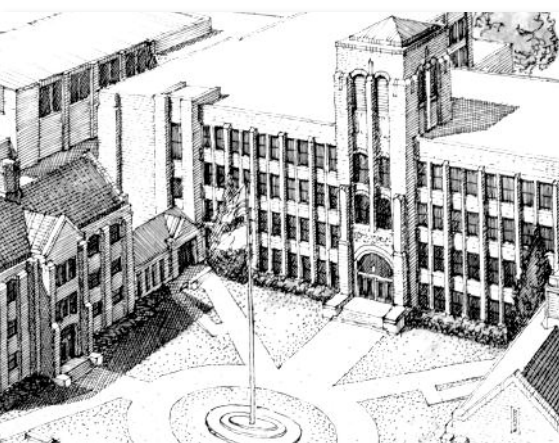
The annual newsletter of the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc.

2009 EDITION

CHERISHING THE PAST, ENHANCING THE FUTURE

**SAVE THE DATE: JULY 29–AUGUST 1, 2010**

## 80th Anniversary All-Class Reunion Weekend!



All Amherst alumni and their families are invited to celebrate Amherst Central's 80th Anniversary next year during a very special All-Class Reunion Weekend, set for Thursday, July 29 through Sunday, August 1. Special events and activities will be held throughout the weekend on campus and around Amherst, including a golf outing, school tours, choral reading, an art show, all-class cocktail party, and more.

Marilyn Rohl '70 and Dave Dengler '74, co-chairs of the All-Class Reunion Weekend, have planned many special

events to help everyone celebrate (see below). Times, costs and final details will be announced in future mailings and also on our web site. Based on many comments we have received from alumni, the committee has decided to keep the events casual in order to keep the costs affordable.

### 80TH ANNIVERSARY ALL-CLASS REUNION EVENTS SCHEDULE

#### **Thursday, July 29**

Golf Outing  
Glen Oak Golf Course  
10am registration  
12 noon shotgun start

#### **Friday, July 30 – DAYTIME**

- Tours of the High School
- Choral Reading in the Auditorium
- Art Show featuring Alumni artwork
- Antique Car Show
- Music and refreshments

#### **Friday, July 30 – EVENING, 7–10pm**

- Casual Cocktail Party at UB Center for the Arts
- Hearty appetizers and cash bar, catered by Sonoma Grille

#### **Saturday, July 31**

- Dimp Wagner Field:
  - Annual Women's Lacrosse Game, Noon
  - Annual Men's Lacrosse Game, 2pm
- Remainder of day open for individual class reunions

#### **Sunday, August 1**

- Open for individual class reunions

# Alumni Foundation feeling the economic pinch, too

## Your support is needed now more than ever

Unfortunately, Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc. is not immune to the current economic crisis. We, too, are feeling the pinch of the business climate right now. Those of us who serve on the Board of Directors are keenly aware of the hardships facing all of us. However, we do see some light at the end of the tunnel, and our Amherst alumni have always been most generous in their donations to help the current students of Amherst Schools. We sincerely hope that you can continue to do so this year.

We are committed to continuing our programs, but funds are desperately needed to run our everyday operations, including the printing and mailing of our annual newsletter, **Tiger Tracks**. This alone puts a big dent in our budget, with a cost of approximately \$8,000. Due to the generous donation of the late Dimp Wagner, we have some seed money to get us started but we will continue to need funds to help us provide the administrative services that keep our organization running smoothly.

We award \$5,000 in grants to teachers and students annually. This money is raised through various fund raisers and the generous donations of our alumni. The grant fund is an extremely important and rewarding facet of our organization.

We ask that you please think about Amherst High School and what it meant to you – maybe it's a favorite teacher who sent you on the right path or just listened to you when you were going through those difficult teenage years; or perhaps it's the coach who didn't give up on you even when you wanted to quit so badly. Think about the clubs and organizations, field trips, special events, dances, operettas, football and basketball games, gymnastics and track meets, to name a few. So much has changed since we went to school yet the spirit and determination of the students, athletes, artists and musicians remains the same. Many of these organizations cannot be adequately funded or have been eliminated entirely by the school district at this time, and the Alumni Foundation's grant requests have increased as a result.

We truly believe that the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc. is a one-of-a-kind organization among public schools. Let's keep the tradition going! Please consider giving generously – your donation is needed this year more than ever.

Sincere thanks,

Susan Hens Smith '74  
Ellen Marshall '69  
Co-Presidents

## JUST \$25 WILL KEEP US GOING

The Alumni Foundation needs your support now more than ever. A \$25 tax deductible donation to our annual "Keep Us Going" initiative will help us continue our grants program, the coordination of alumni events, maintenance of the alumni database, the Tiger Tracks newsletter in print and online, our web site, and more.

Please make your checks payable to the ACAF, Inc., and mail to:  
ACAF, Inc., 4301 Main Street, Amherst, NY 14226.

## 2008 EDUCATOR EMERITUS RECIPIENTS

# Four educators receive distinguished Amherst Alumni award

The Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc. honored its 2008 Distinguished Educator Emeritus Award winners at a reception October 23, 2008 at Samuel's Grande Manor. This year's recipients included:

**Janette Atkinson, former chairman of the English department at Amherst High School from 1972–1976.**

According to colleagues and former students, Atkinson, who is now deceased, was far more than an advisor; she was a chauffeur, counselor, cook, typist and friend. Although she encouraged independence, she was always ready to assist, serving as a mentor to fellow English teachers. Mrs. Atkinson was also a faculty advisor to the school's award winning newspaper, The Tatler.

**Thomas Davis, former principal of Harlem Road Elementary School from 1954–1976, and longtime member of the Amherst Lion's Club and Amherst Male Glee Club.**

Among Mr. Davis's proudest accomplishments were his outdoor educational curriculum, and elementary school program, which involved students switching classes for different subjects.



L to R - Tom Davis, Whitey Huber, Dave Ulrich

**Werner "Whitey" Huber, history teacher at the Amherst Middle School and community volunteer in Elma, NY.**

Mr. Huber taught at Amherst Middle School from 1965–1994 and is remembered for his passion for teaching and his strong opinions on issues. Mr. Huber, who has Parkinson's Disease, recently had a walking trail in Elma's Village Green Park named in his honor.

**David Ulrich who taught in Amherst High School's history department from 1969–2007.**

Mr. Ulrich taught AP level history for 23 years and chaired the history department from 1984–2007 before retiring. Mr. Ulrich also was the President of the Amherst Education Association, most recently from 1993–2007. Since retiring, Mr. Ulrich has been travelling, and is currently studying Chinese and Arabic and taking a course in Caribbean Literature. He is also training to be a docent at the art gallery.



L to R - Former Principal Don Munson, Former Principal Joe Podgorski, Current Principal Greg Pigeon

# *In Memoriam*

## **DONALD (DIMP) WAGNER '48**

The Alumni Foundation and the entire Amherst Central School District were deeply saddened to learn of Donald (Dimp) Wagner's passing on January 29, 2009.

Dimp's continuous generosity to the school district is legendary among the students, faculty, staff, administrators, parents and alumni.

Donald R. Wagner, class of 1948, was the largest contributor to ACAF's Alumni Field Capital Campaign. The field is named in his honor.



Dimp was president of the National Honor Society and voted Athlete-Scholar of the Class of 1948. He participated in the marching band, symphony and choir. He was captain and quarterback of the football team with two undefeated seasons. In addition, Don spent three years on the varsity basketball and track teams – both of which were Section VI champions his senior year. He was also a graduate of Dartmouth College with a BA and an MBA from the Tuck College School of Business.

After school, he served two years in the U.S. Army and tried his hand at several businesses before joining his brother's contractor's supply company, John Wagner Associates (Grabber).

At the time of the 75th reunion in 2005, Dimp wrote the following greeting:

*"Be grateful for your education, your teachers, your coaches, your mentors, your friends and the scholarly conditioning you enjoyed at Amherst. These were the ignition for growing into the future where truly you evolved as a productive citizen being a member of a family and community where ever you settled. You are lucky indeed! Our presence here today is a testimony to our good fortune. Where ever we go or have been we have left a trail. It's indisputable! May you honor Amherst Central High School with a high spirited reunion of reminiscence, conversation, sharing and good old fashioned joy."*

Dimp is survived by his wife, Loveday (Anne) of Annapolis, MD, brother, John Brad (Judy), and his sister Barbara (Bob) Spillane and many nieces and nephews.

*Visit our web site to read a short story written by Dimp Wagner.*

*The Amherst Alumni Foundation fondly remembers several special friends who passed away this past year.*

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## ELENORA V. HILDEBRAND

Elenora Hildebrand, age 95, retired home economics teacher in the High School, passed away on April 3, 2009. She was a long time honorary member of the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc. Elenora always volunteered to sell raffle tickets at the annual golf outing and she loved to tell stories of faculty and students that needed “emergency clothing repairs.”



Elenora taught in Blasdell and Medina prior to spending 27 years teaching at ACHS. She was class adviser to the classes of 1953 and 1965, and also made the costumes for all students involved in the school’s operettas for 13 years. She retired in 1973.

In addition to her involvement with the ACAF, Elenora was active in the NYS Home Economics Association, Amherst Retired Teachers, Delta Sigma Epsilon, Embroiders Guild and the St. Aloysius senior citizens organizations.

## JAMES WHITMORE ‘40

James Whitmore, the veteran Tony and Emmy Award winning actor who brought American icons Will Rogers, Harry Truman and Theodore Roosevelt to life in one-man shows, died on February 6, 2009. He attended School 18 and Amherst Central High School through 11th grade. While attending ACHS, James was a member of the Tatler staff and Boys Chorus; played Tom Williams in the junior play “Going on 17”, Lord Chancellor in the operetta “...iolanthe”, and was a star player on the football team. The 1938 yearbook wrote that he was “comedy personified, a real trouser and 3 star varsity man;” and in the 1939 yearbook, he was described as “hard playing backfield star; comic lead in ...iolanthe”.

Whitmore spent his senior year at the Choate School in Wallingford, CT on a football scholarship. He is survived by his wife, Noreen, and sons, Steve, James Jr. and Dan.



# Remembering Ted Masterson

## *Alum paints new portrait of beloved Board of Ed President*

Theodore "Ted" Masterson served on the Amherst Board of Education for 32 years, most of those years as its president. He was much loved and respected by teachers, administrators, staff and students alike. When he retired in 1975, his devotion to Amherst did not end. The sincerity of his dedication was manifested daily in visits to the halls and numerous activities at the school. His compassionate understanding of youth, his marvelous capacity for listening, and caring about his student friends enriched the quality of life at Amherst for many.

The Class of 1984 honored Masterson with a portrait and a plaque outside the high school auditorium, which was named in his honor "Ted Masterson Auditorium."

The plaque reads:

*Theodore L. Masterson*

*October 5, 1894 - March 5, 1984*

*Theodore Masterson loved Amherst and its students. "Young people," he said, "they're just as grand today as they ever were and it's a joy to be their friend."*

*He was truly our friend in word and in deed. He represents the spirit that is Amherst High. He will be with us always. In his memory we dedicate this auditorium.*

Sadly, the portrait of Mr. Masterson was damaged by sunlight and water when the auditorium roof leaked. In June, 2007, Cathy Brown, chair of the Art Department at the high school, sent an email to Ellen Marshall informing her of the condition of the picture. The high school decided to go ahead with any recommended restoration. Unfortunately, Cathy and her students were unable to restore the picture.



L to R – Principal Greg Pigeon holding damaged picture, Art Department Chair Cathy Brown, Artist Jared Reisweber '07 holding his new painting of Ted Masterson

However, one of Cathy's students, Jared Reisweber of the Class of 2007, decided he would do a replica of the picture as an original oil painting.

After Jared spent many, many hours on the portrait, it was unveiled at the Board of Education Meeting on December 17, 2008.

There was an audible gasp from the parents, students and community members in attendance when the damaged picture was shown and the new portrait was unveiled. Jared truly captured the spirit and personality of Mr. Masterson in this beautiful painting. A special thank you also goes to John Klepfer, also an Amherst grad, of Frame and Save in Snyder, for the beautiful frame that adorns the picture.

A check was presented to Jared on behalf of the Amherst Alumni Foundation for this very special gift and his unselfish dedication to making this project a reality.

# Grant monies support various programs, students in 2008-09

This year has been a busy year for the Grant Committee, which awarded \$5,000 in grants to support various programs, students and teachers. The committee consistently awards grants that benefit the most students in the Amherst Schools, as well as individual grants to deserving students. They include:

- A grant to Paul Biddle, Middle School Orchestra Director, to have his musical composition for a brass quintet published. The piece was dedicated to the students at Amherst Central School District and is available for performance by the students.



Windermere Boulevard Musical Theater Production

- Funds were also provided to the Smallwood and Windermere Elementary Schools for their musical theater productions.
- A grant was awarded to two high school students who overcame tremendous personal and educational obstacles over the past several years. The students participated in the

VisionQuest College Experience, which is a program that has college students reach back into their communities and mentor high school students from their hometown throughout their four years of high school. The two college students who were the mentors for this year's participants were involved in the 2007 CIA Leadership Workshop that was funded in part by a previous grant from the ACAF.

- Additional grant awards include money for books on strategies for classroom management for at-risk children, and funds for two middle school students to attend the Wegman's Culinary Teen Camp.

Each grant application is carefully reviewed by our Grant Committee and has to meet certain criteria in order to be awarded. These grants would not be possible without the generosity of you, our alumni. We encourage follow up from our recipients in the form of pictures or an article. At the March 12 Alumni Foundation Board meeting, Betsy Hughes, recipient of a Student Ambassador Grant from the ACAF, presented an informative slide show of her trip to Europe last summer where she met government leaders and learned about daily life in other countries.

*The 2008-2009 Grant Committee includes Ginna Coon '60, Chair; Carol York Weil '67, and Mark Ahrens '73. Please consider giving generously to support our Grant Program in the future.*

**Thank you for your donation in support of the Tiger Tracks Newsletter:**

THOMAS BROWN '66  
MARY JANE COOPER '63  
KIM GEARHART '75

REG GILBERT '73  
DR. ELAINE RAMESH '80

# LEAVING OUR TRACKS



*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.*

## 1930's

**The Ploss twins, Bill '39 and Bob '39,** are still alive and often still bickering with each other. Bill lives in Florida with wife Lois. He's busy in the computer and book publishing business. Bob is in the Seattle metro area, Issaquah, and is firmly settled in the northwest's leading division of God's Waiting Room, Timber Ridge at Talus. He edits and publishes a newsletter for residents and generally keeps busy with the Timber Ridge Sawdusters, their woodworking group. These two retired anesthesiologists spent much of their high school years actively engaged in various school activities. They were never jocks, but their school spirit lives on. Go Tigers. Big Bad Bob.

## 1940's

**H.D. Forbes '47** saw the article in the '08 Tiger Tracks about his 6th grade teacher, Ruth Westenfelder at Eggert Road School. He remembers a cardboard bird on top of the blackboard with a sign "The watch bird is watching you". Next to it was a grammar rule that was changed every few days. After lunch she would read to her class. Henry also remembers that Sue Strickland had a pet crow over the summer that would follow her to class and sit on the window sill and chatter away.

**John Skill '48's** family would like the alumni of '48 and '49 to know how much they appreciated the wonderful turnout at John's memorial service on October 10th. The alumni always

meant a lot to John and it would have pleased him so much that so many were able to attend, especially the ones who travelled so many miles to come.

## 1950's

**Barry (James B.) Cahill '50** sent the alumni office a photo from his sister **Carol Lee Cahill '52's** scrapbook of fellow classmates **Paul (Archie) Archambeau '50, Bob Woods '50, Bill Fisher '50** and **Barry Cahill '50**. Is **Bill Bush '52** walking up the sidewalk? Barry has only seen Bob Woods since the photo was

*continued on page 10*



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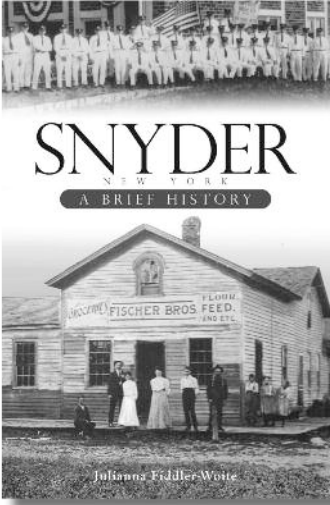
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*Lifelong resident and Snyder descendant Julianna Fiddler-Woite relates her family's colorful history and recounts the fascinating development of this unique hamlet. The history of Snyder's Fire Department, the Amherst Schools and early Snyder churches are discussed.*

*Readers will also enjoy accounts of Snyder disasters including the Blizzard of '77 and the October Storm of 2006.*

*Included in this 158 page volume are 75 images, including many never before seen photographs from the Snyder family collection.*

***Snyder, New York: A Brief History***  
***By Julianna Fiddler-Woite***  
***(Amherst Class of 1987)***

ISBN: 978-1-59629-639-8

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## JOIN US FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

**July 30, 2009 at Glen Oak Golf Course**

**The Golf Classic is our biggest fundraiser of the year and helps the ACAF support the Amherst Central School District with our grant program and other initiatives.**

**Not a golfer? Become an event sponsor or join us for dinner after the Classic.**

**For more information visit**  
**[amherstalumni.org/golf](http://amherstalumni.org/golf)**

## From the Alumni Office

### Connect With Us Online

The ACAF now has YouTube and Facebook accounts. You can find links for both through our website.

### The "Nines"

We're posting senior pages from *The Tower* on our website for classes graduating in a year that ends with an "9".

### E-Tracks

As costs for printing and mailing keep increasing, we ask that you consider receiving Tiger Tracks via email. Send an email to [alumni@amherstschools.org](mailto:alumni@amherstschools.org) to receive an electronic version only.

### Where We Are

The alumni office is located in Rm. 103 of the high school and is open 9am-1pm Tues. and Thurs., and 2-6pm Wed.

### Update Your Info

Have you updated your contact information lately? Change it online by clicking on the Alumni Records link on our website.

**[www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org)**  
**716.362.8259**

## LEAVING OUR TRACKS (continued from page 8)

taken in front of ACHS. The picture brings back fond memories of ACHS for him.

**Mary Lou Fiscus Meyncke '53** wrote that the Stone Tigers project is a wonderful art piece for Amherst and will be on their list of "things to see" on their next visit to the area.

**Ann Marie Postolese Berner '54** is the Director of Visitor Services for the St. Lucie County, Florida Chamber of Commerce. She and husband Tom Berner have resided in Florida for the past 30 years.

The **Class of 1955** held a mini-reunion at senior class president **Bill Powell's** in Santa Fe, NM in May 2008. Fifty alums and spouses came from all over the country to join their classmates in celebration. The highlight of the weekend was a memorial service honoring the 39 classmates who have died since the 1955 graduation. There was a reception at the Powell home prior to dinner at a local restaurant on

Saturday. Sunday will be remembered for the "Until Next Time Luncheon" (also known as Bill's Birthday Celebration, in honor of his 71st birthday). Bill was formally recognized for organizing and hosting this special mini-reunion by the presentation of a gift of \$1000 to the ACHS Alumni Foundation to the Stone Tiger Project. Bill's name will be included on the plaque. **Sylvia Dean Raban** noted that Bill had a 100% approval rating and was asked to hold his office in perpetuity. Class Communicators **Archie Dean** and **Elizabeth Denkinger** also received a gift acknowledging all the work they had undertaken to keep everyone in contact with each other.

**Eleanor (Ellie) Brychta Caccamise '59** and husband David have been happily retired since 1995. They have a winter home at Lexington CC (8th fairway) in South Ft. Myers near Sanibel Island. Their summer home is on the 11th tee on the golf course at Bristol Harbour on Canandaigua Lake. She plays ten-

nis and a little golf. Ellie remembers having Ruth Westenfelder as a teacher at School 13 (Eggert Road) and Elenora Hildebrand for Home Ec in high school. As she looks back, Amherst was a most extraordinary school system and a great preparation for college and adult life.

### 1960's

**Dave Peelle '60** writes from the Gulf Coast that he is retired from the Kentucky Department of Parks Golf Division and has relocated to Gulf Shores, AL. He is

*continued on page 12*

pillsbury

**Bruce A. Ericson**, Managing Partner, San Francisco Office

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# Class Directors help keep Alumni connected to the ACAF

ACAF Class Directors play a very important role in the all-class reunion events as well as the individual classes they represent. The primary job of a Class Director is to provide a link between ACAF, Inc. and the members of the class, and become the information source between those parties.

For the all-class reunion events, we ask our Class Directors to supplement the ACAF by supplying information to fellow classmates in advance of the reunion weekend. With today's instant information, emails, text messages, and phone calls to class members by Class Directors is efficient and cost-saving, therefore allowing the flow of information in a rapid and more frequent manner than traditional mail.

In addition, the Class Directors assist the organization of individual class reunions with their networking and database information. Class Directors have been of incredible clerical assistance to the Alumni office with regard to updating information for the ACAF web site database, which contains individual information of all classes and members.

The job of Class Director can be as involved as the individual wishes to make it. And each class is not limited to just one person; many classes have as many as two or three people who perform this service.

Also, one does not even have to reside in WNY to be a Class Director. As a Co-Class Director for the Class of 1968, I do not reside in WNY, but have been very active in all processes. And I am not alone—some of our most active Class Directors live in various places all across the country! There is an additional Class Director for our class

who participates in all processes, be it all-class events or our own class. Thanks to the wonders of today's technology, database updates and email blasts allow the flow of information to class members very easily in our rapidly moving society.

See below for information on how *you* can become a Class Director.

Sincerely,  
Clay Pasternack '68

## GET INVOLVED!

We have a number of classes who are without Class Directors and our goal is to have as many classes represented as possible, especially in 2009, prior to the 80th All-Class Reunion.

Open class years are: 1934, 1935, 1941, 1951, 1953, 1962, 1966, 1988, 1990, 1994, 1997, and 2001.

Please visit our website at [www.amherstschools.org](http://www.amherstschools.org) to view the list of existing Class Directors.

If you are interested in being a part of our Class Director program, contact me directly at: [claypinc@cs.com](mailto:claypinc@cs.com) or [cp1968achs@cs.com](mailto:cp1968achs@cs.com) or via phone at 440-333-2208.

Although there is some work involved in this process, the ability to network with your classmates and contribute to both the all-year reunions and your own class reunion can become a very personal, rewarding experience!

## LEAVING OUR TRACKS (continued from page 10)

working part time at Peninsula Golf and Tennis Resort. During his high school days he could not have imagined driving an SUV made in Korea with Alabama plates! He didn't think he'd have a Czech girlfriend either.

**Edwin Carney '62** is retired from Orion Bus Industries and General Motors. Wife Lydia retired from the North Syracuse school system after teaching for 40 years. They are living in their homes in Bluffton, SC and Cicero, NY.

**Jim Davis '63** wrote from Vero Beach, Florida that he has been in the radio broadcasting business since he attended ACHS. Fellow classmates **Bob Christensen** and **Bill Desing** got him interested in radio. He moved to Snyder in 4th grade and attended Smallwood Drive Elementary School. They had a wonderful music teacher, Joseph Pandalino. In 1957, the Smallwood Drive PTA authorized the recording of two songs from the Smallwood Drive Chorus (of which he was a member). The music was

written by Mr. Pandalino with words by Phillip Brooks and Jen Levy (Smallwood teacher). The recording was made (and sold) to the students of Smallwood while Don Munson was the principal. Visit the alumni web site for mp3 versions of these Christmas songs recorded in 1957.

**Bob Fleck '65** has been honored with the title President of Honour of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers, an organization representing the rare book sellers of 20 countries. Bob served as President of this group from 2002-2006, only the second American to be asked to serve. He started his rare book and publishing business over 30 years ago after working as a Chemical Engineer for 5 years.

**Diane Russell Warren '66** earned a PhD specializing in multi-cultural education and is currently a professor at South Florida University, Tampa.

**Donna Russell Martin '68** and husband Rob are owners of Blue Ridge Trailers, Ruckersville, VA.



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### 1970's

**Ginny Fretz Rusk '71** was named senior living coordinator for the GreenField Manor & Court in Lancaster. She was previously legacy gifts coordinator for the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation and is the immediate past president of the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation.

**Fred Lenz '72**, is a tuba player with the Rockwell Brass Quintet that plays throughout the Western New York area including the Amherst Chamber

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# Stone Tigers finally take up residence in front of High School

After more than a year of planning and preparation, the long-awaited Stone Tigers project came to completion this past September with the support and hard work of many alumni and friends. Two beautiful stone tigers, designed by local artist and sculptor Larry Griffis III, were permanently installed during 2008 Homecoming weekend.



The pewter-color tiger mascots flank the front staircase at AHS and can be seen easily from Main Street. They are a 75th anniversary gift to the district from the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Delivery and installation of each 1,200-lb. tiger went smoothly thanks to the collective efforts of Griffis, alumni project manager Cindy Oppenheimer '72, Dave Dengler '74, and the AHS

custodial staff. Dengler arranged for the forklift that transferred each sculpture from Griffis' truck to its permanent location at the high school. The tigers' arms and tails were delivered separately, and Griffis and his crew spent the afternoon applying the finishing touches.

The sculptures were cemented to their respective platforms, and have been secured in place to withstand the elements and students. From the moment the tigers called Amherst High School their new home, these stately felines immediately earned the respect of visitors students. AHS Principal Gregory Pigeon made the occasion extra-special by circulating *The Legend of the Amherst Tigers* to the student body.

School officials, alumni, parents, and students were on hand for the formal dedication held September 26 as a prelude to Amherst's Homecoming football game that evening. The Sweet Sixteen and Varsity Singers choral groups, under the direction of music teacher Justin Pomietlarz, provided a perfect ending to the program by singing the Alma Mater. Ginny Fretz Rusk '71, past president of the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc. and co-chairman of the project, thanked Griffis and all the generous donors for their part in bringing these one-of-a-kind sculptures to Amherst's campus.

Alumni office manager, Chris Byrd, chronicled the project by taking videos of the installation and dedication that can be seen by visiting our web site at [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org).

**Sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the Stone Tigers project possible.**



## LEAVING OUR TRACKS (continued from page 12)

Ensembles concert and Buffalo State College.

**Mark Ahrens '73**, formerly of Ahrens Graphics, has been appointed Commercial Print & Imaging's sales manager. The printing company is located in Cheektowaga.

**Kim Gearhart '75** sends a message for anyone who remembers class of 1975 graduates Debbie Buerger, Linda King and Shannon Toole. There is now a memorial plaque for all three in the Alumni Office. Very special thanks to classmates and lifetime friends Paul LaRusch and Ken Murray for all the long distance support and good will.

**Jonathan Sherwin '76**, bassoon and contra bassoon player for the Cleveland Orchestra, performed the bassoon concerto "Dead Elvis" while dressed like Elvis in a sequined white suit, big matching shades and expansive sideburns. The performance

was held at the Miami Museum of Contemporary Art in January 2008 as part of the Cleveland Orchestra's residency activities in Miami.

**Bruce Syracuse '77**, owner of the Atrium Florist in Snyder started by his parents, celebrated their 45th year in the floristry business.

**Lynn Phillips Ramsey '79** of Snyder is CEO of Tri-Gen, manufacturer of paper tubes tiny enough to hold a tight spool of lottery tickets, to those thick as tree trunks. Her husband Greg is president and sales manager.

The American Institute of Architects' Tampa Bay Chapter announced the recipients of their 2008 design awards at their annual awards ceremony.

**Jonathan Parks '79** took top honors in the residential category for his design of the Mumford Pool House, a project in Sarasota. This is the second consecutive year Jonathan Parks Architects has received an AIA Honor award.

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### 1980's

**Sue Storfer Currie '84** has been named Creative Director for Independent Health, heading up the company's internal marketing efforts.

### 1990's

In 2002, **Scott Behrend '94** launched Road Less Traveled Productions in Buffalo. The mission of the production company is to develop and produce new plays by local writers throughout Western New York. The theater is located at the Market Arcade Film and Arts Center in Buffalo.

*continued on page 15*

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## LEAVING OUR TRACKS (continued from page 14)

### 2000's

**Emily Warren '06**, a member of the Mercyhurst College field hockey team, was selected to the All-Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Western Division Second Team. In addition, she was named All-American Second Team by 2008 Longstreth/NFHCA Division II and [womensfieldhockey.com](http://womensfieldhockey.com). She led her team in scoring with 15 goals and 6 assists.

**Brian Monaco '06**, a junior offensive lineman for Hobart College, has been named to the 2008 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Football First Team. He is the first Hobart football player to earn first-team Academic All-America honors and just the third Statesman in any sport to be so recognized.

**Mark Rubin '04** ended his collegiate career at the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day as a starting strong safety with the Penn State football team. He received his undergraduate degree last summer with a double major in finance and public relations with a 3.8 GPA. He was accepted to Penn State's MBA program.

**Daisy Timlin '08** became the 12th recipient of the Angela Coniglio Memorial Scholarship at ACHS.

**Alexander Thomson '06** will leave Nags Head, NC on May 17th with a group of bicyclists to bike 3,500 miles across the U.S. to San Diego. The estimated time of travel is two months. Throughout their adventure, the bicyclists will stop to promote the need and importance of affordable housing and work on the building of homes for needy families. Alex is a civil engineering major at Syracuse University.

Opening the program at the Buffalo Philharmonic with Andre Watts and conductor JoAnn Falletta was "A Prayer for Spring" by Chris Rogerson '06, currently a student at the Curtis Institute. The concert review in the Buffalo News stated "Bravo to him for creating a piece people could enjoy on first hearing. This five-minute piece charmed."

### RETIRED FACULTY NEWS

The Amherst Retired Teachers Association is looking for email addresses for all retired faculty, administrators and staff. Please send your email addresses to **Peter Demmin** at [Demchem@aol.com](mailto:Demchem@aol.com). If you're not a member of the ARTA, please contact **Laura Loehr**, 13369 Henskee Rd, Alden, NY 14004 ([lawloehr@gmail.com](mailto:lawloehr@gmail.com)) to be added to the mailing list.

**Thelma Servie**, vocal music teacher at #13 and #18 from 1944-1949 turned 90

*continued on page 18*



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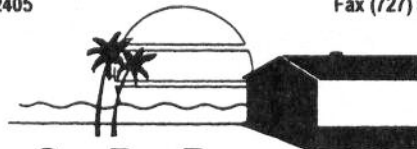
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## U P C O M I N G   R E U N I O N S

Please visit our web site, and click on the Reunion Year to view any updates that may have been submitted pertaining to a particular reunion.

### CLASS OF 1949

August 14-16, 2009. Contact Lois Carson at 716-681-6053. The class also welcomes graduates from other years if they wish to come!

### CLASS OF 1951

Yearly reunion on August 13, 2009 at 2 PM. Contact Elmer Manspeaker for more info at 716-863-1703.

### CLASS OF 1959

The 50th reunion is planned for September 11-12, 2009. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, contact Marty Goldstein at 716-688-7111 or by email at eggold@yahoo.com.

### CLASS OF 1969

40th Reunion to be held July 24-25, 2009. For information, or to help out, contact Ellen Marshall at emarshall@roadrunner.com, Tina Vispi Mallia at tinam3@roadrunner.com or Nancy Steeg Vastola at nsvjd@aol.com.

### CLASS OF 1989 / ALL-CLASS REUNION

July 24, 2009 at 6:30pm. The Class of 1989 invites ALL ACHS alumni to join us for a huge Amherst Reunion Happy Hour at the alumni-owned Cozumel Grill. We will have special alum drink prices and "guest appearances" by current and former ACHS faculty. Live music provided by ACHS alumni band Dr. FU from 8pm-11pm. (\$10 cover includes: one drink, appetizers, and happy hour pricing).

## FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS FOOTBALL GAME OCTOBER 9, 2009

SAVE THE DATE AND WATCH FOR INFO ON OUR WEBSITE.



## HOMECOMING WEEK OCTOBER 5–10, 2009

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Call the alumni office at 716-362-8259, or email us at alumni@amherst.k12.ny.us

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# UPCOMING REUNIONS

## CLASS OF 1989 REUNION DINNER

July 25, 2009, 7pm-11pm at Sonoma Grille. (\$55 ticket includes buffet dinner and three hours of open bar). Visit [www.achs89.myevent.com](http://www.achs89.myevent.com) for more info.

## 2010 REUNIONS

### CLASS OF 1990

20th Reunion, July 31, 2010 in conjunction with the ACHS 80th Birthday Party. Join us Saturday afternoon for a cookout with friends and families from 11am-4pm. Then later that evening at 7pm at the Lafayette Tap Room, featuring Bill Shaflucus as DJ plus live music. ACHS will also be holding activities on Thursday and Friday to celebrate the 80th Birthday. Contact Steven Sciandra at [Scubaa@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Scubaa@tampabay.rr.com).

## 2011 REUNIONS

### CLASS OF 1961

Yes, it's two years away, but a committee has been formed to begin planning. The members are: Barbara (Stewart) O'Connell, Barbara (Begin) Taefi, Ben and Karen (Berner) Little, Bonnie (Campbell) Wheaton, Nancy Tobin, and Art Fay. Contact Art at [afay3@comcast.net](mailto:afay3@comcast.net).

**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.



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## LEAVING OUR TRACKS (continued from page 15)

on July 2nd this year. If you'd like to get in touch with her, her number is 518-295-7550.

**Ruth Westenfelder**, who was at Eggert Road School 1937-1975, still is in contact with students as far back as 1939! Some of them include **Frank Harding, Russ Bockstedt, Arlene Spann Doerr, Irene Whiting, Betsy Bulger Burgess, Marge Metz Facklam, Cindy Diem, Joyce Siebert Chace, Michelle D'Addario Moser** and **Stuart Angert**. Ruth loves hearing from you all!!

2008 District Retirements: **Mary Biesinger** (District Office-Principal Clerk Typist), **Blase Caruana** (HS Math), **Joanne Morgan** (HS Social Studies), **Bradley Tichenor** (HS Business Education), **Nina Wright** (HS English), **Kathleen Elias** (MS Social Worker) and **Thomas Beilman** (Smallwood Drive Head Custodian).

### IN MEMORIAM

J. Paul Sheedy '33 - 9/21/2008  
Dr. Howard Lehman '37 - 12/1/2008  
Esther Fritz Schenauer '38 - 6/19/2008  
Joseph H. Radder '38 - 2/12/2009  
Edward A. Smith Jr '40 - 11/24/2008

Michelle Delaney (Shelly Leffler '80)

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Lois Wingert Clement '41 - 3/10/2007  
James Whitmore '40 - 2/6/2009  
Daniel J. Kelley '42 - 1/17/2007  
Joseph F. Saiia Jr '42 - 5/12/2008

*continued on page 19*



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## Find us on facebook!

Connect with classmates and find the latest news about reunions, events and more! Join the "Amherst Central High School Grads" page on Facebook – now with more than 1,300 members! The officer of this page is Chris Byrd, Alumni Foundation Office Manager.

For information, e-mail [alumni@amherstschools.org](mailto:alumni@amherstschools.org).



## LEAVING OUR TRACKS (continued from page 18)

Jean Henderson MacMurray '42 - 5/24/2008  
 Gloria Moore Higgins '42 - 4/24/2009  
 Marian Metz Rosenberry '43 - 11/20/2008  
 George M. Kincaid '45 - 6/5/2005  
 Ruth Jackson Fox '45 - 12/19/2006  
 Dorothy Bernhard Cottrell '45 - 2/1/2008  
 Robert M. Wilson '45 - 7/3/2008  
 Robert D. Whitney '46 - 4/9/2008  
 Thomas J. Alesse '46 - 6/7/2008  
 Thomas W. Pitman '47 - 9/13/2008  
 David C. Brunner '47 - 2/7/2009  
 Joan Miller Male '48 - 5/21/2008  
 John P. Skill '48 - 8/23/2008  
 Donald R. Wagner '48 - 1/29/2009  
 Harry C. Hangen '53 - 1/23/2008  
 Robert F. Manske '53 - 4/18/2008  
 Harold W. O'Connell Jr '55 - 9/1/2006  
 Robert Sturgess '55 - 6/16/2006  
 Larry Hoffman '55 - 8/16/2006  
 Richard Radtke '55 - 7/1/2008  
 Sally Hart Webster '55 - 12/4/2008  
 Norman J. Wolf Jr. '55 - 12/25/2008  
 Robert Rausch '55 - 1/15/2009  
 Harry F. Scull Sr '56 - 8/4/2008  
 Doreen Wood Elliott '56 - 2/18/2009  
 Ronald G. Roetzer '57 - 11/16/2008  
 Diana Rogers McMahon '59 -  
 8/23/2008  
 Thomas H. Rein '60 - 12/31/2008  
 Christy Martin Torrillo '61 - 8/5/2008  
 Joseph DiVita '61 - 9/1/2008  
 Valentine Decot III '63 - 7/2/2008  
 Charlene A. Ritter-Lester '63 - 12/24/2008

Margaret Keeler Baley '65 - 1/18/2006  
 Pamela Scheffler Glueck '66 - 11/25/2007  
 Teresa Gleason '68 - 3/20/1997  
 Patricia Downing Johnston '68 -  
 10/7/2008  
 Peter E. Goretti '72 - 5/6/2008  
 Christine Brinkworth Hartwick '73 -  
 9/27/2008  
 Edward John Judge '73 - 2/15/2009  
 Larry Cowan '77 - 7/18/2008  
 Kim Maria Bartz LaRotonda '84 -  
 6/7/2008  
 Matthew Rudolph '02 - 10/31/2008  
 Samuel U. Henderson '05 - 8/10/2008

### Retired Faculty/Staff

Amelia Sherrets  
 Alan F. (Jake) Schaefer (HS) - 6/14/2008  
 William Bald (HS) - 8/25/2008  
 Gerald E. Fies (HS) - 9/30/2008  
 Eugene John Kaza (HS) - 7/1/2008  
 Robert Rowland (HS) - 10/9/2008  
 David H. Kinnin (MS) - 11/11/2008  
 Marjorie J. Suggs (Harlem Rd) -  
 12/22/2008  
 Michael Kelly (MS) - 12/27/2008  
 Lynette T. Smith (Harlem Rd) -  
 1/24/2009  
 Abraham Cutcher (HS) - 1/24/2009  
 Mildred McCray (MS) - 2/24/2009  
 Elenora V. Hildebrand (HS) - 4/3/2009  
 Charles Coniglio (MS) - 4/10/2009

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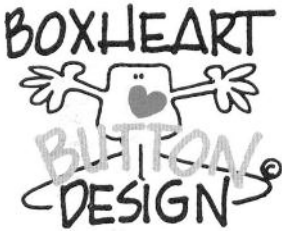
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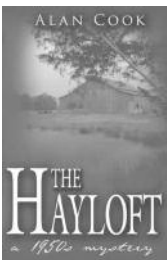
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Peter Blanford – Paul King Award



Mikaela Maddock – Dorothy Coleman Volgenau Award



**The Hayloft:  
A 1950s  
Mystery  
by Alan Cook**

Bobby sox, slowing dancing, bomb shelters, the communist conspiracy-and murder. Within two weeks after starting his senior year of high school in the 1950s, Gary Blanchard finds himself kicked out of one school and attending another-the school where his cousin, Ralph, mysteriously died six months before. Ralph's death was labeled an accident, but when Gary talks to people about it, he gets suspicious.



Lucas Harty – Distinction in Arts and Letters



Anthony Pierce – Mildred Meese Journalism



## High school courtyard undergoes a transformation

What was once a plain courtyard with a few springtime daffodils has blossomed into a beautiful, year-round garden at the high school thanks to the combined efforts of AHS students and faculty. On November 1, students and staff shoveled, raked, dug, and planted more than 15 trees and seasonal plants – a project that was borne from a long-time teacher's idea to plant one tree.

Mrs. Wright originally wanted to plant a dogwood tree to mark her retirement after thirty years in the English Department. Then, with the support and enthusiasm of many, the concept expanded. Dean Gowen, the district landscape architect, drew up an elegant design, and with generous donations from teachers, administrators, parents, and the Class of 2008, \$7,000 was raised.

The Environmental Awareness Club publicized the effort, and will maintain the trees. Mr. Murphy and the football team transported 10,000 pounds of soil and mulch as well as the trees themselves from the parking lot, through the atrium and cafeteria, and into the courtyard. John Mallia, an ACHS

graduate and owner of J & L Premier Landscaping, volunteered his expertise, and staff and friends were there with shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, and strong backs.

Thanks to everyone who helped, we now have a glorious inner courtyard!

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# 2008 REUNION WRAP-UP

## REPORTS FROM CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

### Class of 1958 – 50th Reunion

*Reunion Co-Chair, Elaine Wright, provides detail on a memorable weekend:*

In conjunction with Homecoming 2009, the Class of 1958 celebrated its 50th reunion at the end of September. A committee consisting of Bob Laskie, along with Lois (Critoph) Williams and Elaine Wright, contacted as many of the class as could be found and people responded from all over the country. In fact, Edward (Ted) Jacobs, M.D., flew in the morning of the reunion from France.



Fred Seidl '58 tosses the coin at Homecoming

On Friday, September 26, some of the class gathered at ACHS for the dedication of the Stone Tigers; then attended a football game with the “real” Tigers. One of the co-captains of the 1957-58 football team, Fred Seidl, participated in the coin toss. Unfortunately, co-captain, Jeremy “Jerry” Jacobs, and his wife Margaret “Peggy” Davis (who was head cheerleader in those days) were unable to attend. After the game, we gathered at Sonoma, and we agreed we all “looked the same” (or better) than fifty years ago!

Saturday night, Jack Hanny welcomed us to his family’s restaurant, The Eagle House. Our “tigers” included faculty members Donald Munson and wife Ruth, and Morton and Norma (Enea) Klayman. Jack regaled the group with his Irish humor and *finally* revealed the identities of the culprits responsible for the June pranks that caused Dr. Scheller to cancel our class Moving-Up Day!

Classmates shared memories; and Elaine Wright recalled Student Union dances and being thrilled when the Everly Brothers were the entertainment. People spoke of walking home from winter water follies practice with icicles in their hair, and singing with Walter Reitz in Acappella Choir and operettas.

In addition to France, one classmate came in from Canada and others from Oregon, California, Florida, Montana, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Texas, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Nevada, Illinois, North Carolina, and all over New York.

The group plans a birthday celebration in two years when Amherst turns eighty and most of us turn seventy! Look for an announcement and save the date. In five years, our 55th will be a “destination” reunion, tentatively planned for Las Vegas.

Please spread the word to classmates who may be “lost” and be sure to update your contact information. Many thanks to Bob Laskie for organizing the reunion and to all who helped make it such a memorable weekend.

### Class of 1968 – 40th Reunion

*Clay Pasternack commuted from Cleveland for many reunion committee meetings and writes about a very successful reunion:*

The Class of 1968 40th reunion was held July 18-19, 2008. Both evenings were well attended with over 100 classmates, spouses and friends in attendance.

Friday night, the class met at long-time ACHS favorite, Brunner’s. Since the bar was packed with baseball teams, the Class of 1968 “took to the streets” and crowded around the front of the tavern, with the last of the merrymakers leaving around 2am. In addition to 1968 classmates, members of the classes of ‘67, ‘69 and ‘70 were in attendance connecting



with old friends. Faculty favorite (and ACHS alumni), Woody Friedrich was also in attendance.

Saturday night brought the class together at the Pearl Street Grille where a buffet dinner and live music set the stage. With the room decorated in orange and black, the attendees reconnected with old friends and acquaintances. Former Principal Donald Munson gave a speech; and a presentation and awards from the planning committee made for an entertaining time. Class of 1968 alumni Roeder Kinkel unveiled his painting of a tiger that he donated to the high school for display.

The after-dinner event was at Founding Father's, which is owned by Class of '68 alumni and star athlete, Mike Driscoll. The tavern was filled with class members and the reminiscing continued into the early hours of Sunday morning.

The reunion committee consisted of Don Houck, Grant Golden, Jeff Rausch,

Ilene Rosenblat Gelber, Laurie Steinmetz, Craig Speers, Tom Kenney, Rich Morin, Tad O'Rourke, and Clay Pasternack. Due to the enthusiasm shown by classmates throughout the weekend, this committee plans to have a 45th reunion in 2013.

### Class of 1998 – 10th Reunion

*Class Director, Allison Gammell, describes a successful event and invites others to help plan the next reunion:*

The Class of 1998 held our 10th reunion on July 26, 2008 at The Stillwater in downtown Buffalo. The event was a great success, with about 75 class members in attendance. There is hope for another reunion in five years with even more class participation. If you would like to help out with future Class of 1998 events, please contact Allison Gammell at [a\\_gammell@hotmail.com](mailto:a_gammell@hotmail.com).

## A LOOK AT THE 2008 ANNUAL ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC



Ladies Tackling the Course – C. Parkman, M. Ehmann, R. Dayton, N. Riccio



Overall Winners – G. Rusk, R. Victor, M. Schmidt, T. Grady



Student Winners – A. Dannenhoffer, N. Pantano, J. Streubing



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In an effort to limit the increasing costs of producing and mailing Tiger Tracks, please consider receiving our annual newsletter via email. Just email us! The ACAF hopes to deliver Tiger Tracks entirely online in the coming years. Saving money on our newsletter will make more funds available for awarding grants—and it's the green way to go.

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 2009 EDITION**

Editors: Ellen Marshall '69 Sue Fretz '73  
Susan Hens Smith '74 Sue Storfer Currie '84  
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