



Ames High School Alumni Newsletter

Volume 30, Issue 2

Ames, Iowa

August, 2019

2019 AHSAA Scholarship Winners



2019 Scholarship Winners (l-r): Noah Benjamin Sinclair, Sarah Jeanne Arbuckle, William Dolan Krapfl, Grace Alexandra Perrin and Lance Schmitt '90, representing his daughter, Ella Marie Schmitt.

Four Ames High School seniors each received a \$ 1,500.00 scholarship from the Ames High School Alumni Association, and additionally, one senior received the Ripp Family Scholarship of the same value, at a dinner in their honor on May 8, 2019. The scholarships were based on academic achievement, involvement in school and community activities, volunteerism and financial need. Grace Perrin, Ella Schmitt and Noah Sinclair are all second-generation Ames High graduates. Congratulations to these outstanding seniors as well as the entire 2019 graduating class. Since beginning the scholarship program in 1990, thanks to your memberships, contributions and memorials, the AHSAA has now awarded one-hundred-three (103) scholarships. You have made a difference in the lives of these Ames High graduates.

Sarah Jeanne Arbuckle is the daughter of Carl and Annie Arbuckle. Sarah's high school activities included: playing the flute in band and the violin in orchestra, varsity cheerleading and tennis, the Science Fair at the Regional, State and International levels, the Garden Club, Students Helping Eliminate Poverty and Hunger (SHEPH) and (SACRE). Sarah's work experience has been at The Café and the Furman Aquatic Center. Sarah plans to attend the University of Iowa as a pre-medicine student.

William "Will" Dolan Krapfl is the son of Michael and Anne Krapfl. Will has had a busy athletic career at Ames High School where he participated in four sports. He was captain of the football, basketball and track teams and also played baseball. Will was a member of the 2018 Youth Leadership Ames Class and also participated in the Uganda Service Learning Project. His early work experience was three years with the Briggs Detasseling Crew. Since 2015, Will has been employed by The Café. Will plans to attend Wartburg College in Waverly where he will major in Nursing and continue his sports career.

Grace Alexandra Perrin is the daughter of Chris Perrin, '75 and Jana Johnson. Grace is the second recipient of the Ripp Family Scholarship, and she plans to major in Nursing at the University of Iowa. Grace's busy and varied activity schedule in high School included: a three week Service Learning Trip to Uganda, Youth Leadership Ames, Homecoming Committee, a committee head for the Dance Marathon, Team Tailgate, Reggie's Sleepout, Students Helping Eliminate Poverty and Hunger (SHEPH) and four years of fall cheerleading and state competitive cheerleading. Grace's work experience has been at the Northcrest Retirement Community. Grace is not only a second-generation Ames High graduate, but also a third-generation (Chris, '75 and Mary Hosmer Shahan, '54) and is the fourteenth member of her family to graduate from Ames High.

Ella Marie Schmitt is the daughter of Lance, '90 and Dana Schmitt. Ella is also a third-generation graduate as her grandfather, Michael Blaess graduated from Ames High in 1965. Ella was a cheerleader, a long-distance runner on the track team and a dancer on the drill team. She was a mentor at Fellows Elementary School through YSS. She has also had many years of dance in a local dance program. Ella plans to become an Orthopedic Surgeon and will attend Drake University for her undergraduate work.

Noah Benjamin Sinclair is the son of Brent and Rachel Sinclair and the grandson of Douglas Sinclair, '66. Noah played the violin in the Ames High Orchestra all four years. He was a team captain of the very competitive 2019 AHS swimming team. He was a mentor at Ames High School as well as high school "Buddy" at Fellow Elementary School. He also participated in the Uganda Service Learning Project. Noah plans to attend the University of Iowa where he will study Biomedical Engineering.

“You Make a Difference”

by Jenny Risner, Ames Superintendent



As I reflect on my first year serving as Superintendent of the Ames Community School District, I continue to be amazed and inspired by our students, staff, parents, community, and alumni. Over the last year, I have found so much joy coming to work every day and am proud to call Ames my home.

As a community and alumni base, we have a lot to celebrate. Each day, our staff can be proud of the relationships that they have developed with students and knowing that they make a difference in their lives. One of the things that I love about Ames is the value that is placed on education. This community challenges us to be better and better each day, and our partnerships make our school district one of the best in the state. As we begin the expansion of several elementary buildings due to increasing enrollment, we also have a new high school on the horizon that will provide an incredible opportunity for our students, and one that will continue the strong Ames High tradition.

I am excited about what the next year has in store for us as we continue to deepen our work around Critical Consciousness and break down barriers that exist for many of our students. There will also be a new approach to behavior management and added supports at each building to ensure we provide the best educational environment possible for our students' staff.

Thank you all so much for your dedication to the Ames Community School District. I have already met with so many amazing people across Ames and will continue to take the time to listen to those who strive for change that is in the best interest of our students.

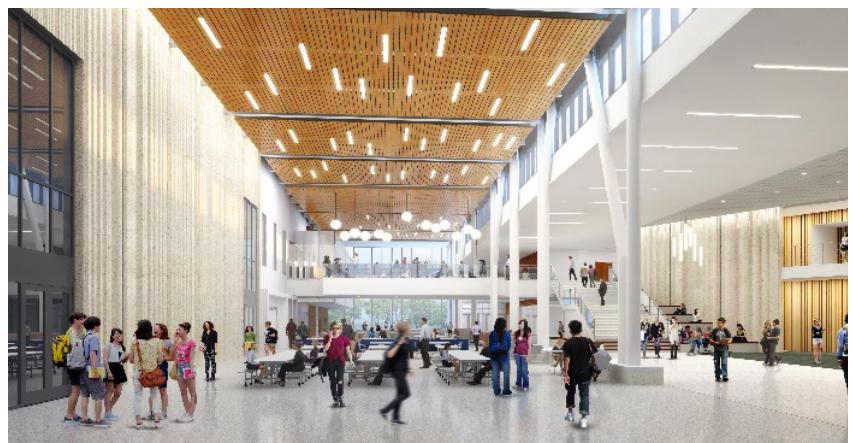
June 3, 2019 Groundbreaking for the New High School



L-R Dir. Luke Deardorff, Dir. Janet Colton, Dir. Gina Perez, Pres. Alisa Frandsen, Dir. Lewis Rosser, Dir. Monic Behnken, V.P. Allen Bierbaum, Supt. Jenny Risner



Architect's drawings for the new Gymnasium.



Architect's drawings for the new Commons area.

We Get Letters...

Enclosed is a memorial for my brother, Bruce L. Gore, AHS Class of 1947, who passed away January 24, 2019. He lived in Blue Earth, Minnesota. He always enjoyed receiving the Alumni Newsletter and keeping in touch with all the happenings going on at alumni activities. Thank you for keeping the newsletter going.

Sharon Gore Moya, '51

Dear Fellow "Little Cyclones": Hope I'm not too late to continue my membership uninterrupted and still in time for the first issue of 2019. So sorry to have missed sending my renewal sooner. I have every issue of the newsletter, and I congratulate you people for doing such a great job. None of my friends here in Minnesota have the luxury of such a continuing connection with their H. S. Alma Mater. Still optimistic for another 3 years 'til I'll be 96.

Lorna Wilhelm Livingston, '44

I really enjoyed the letter from Perry Kellogg. I've always kept in touch with him. I stayed in the Army after graduation from Iowa State College. Our 2 boys did not go to AHS. One graduated in Japan and the other in Germany. My younger brother and sister are AHS grads. Perry's father was one of my Profs at ISC. I really like your newsletter. Here is my check. I do not get to Ames anymore, but I think of Ames every day.

Rodney E. Dodge, '53

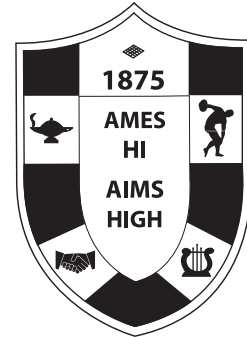
Keep it up!! (Editor's note: "Sometimes brevity says much!")

Robert Page Arnold, '49

Greetings AHSAA! Thank you for the excellent Ames High School Alumni Newsletter. You all are doing exceptional work. I am very fortunate to have graduated in 1973— an outstanding year! The latest

newsletter came at a good time. I am recovering from left hip replacement surgery on March 20th. I have time to read! All good! I am walking!!! Thank you for reminding me how fortunate I am to be an Ames High School Alum!

Steven Netcott, '73



Another GORP Gathering

GORP met at the Cabin Coffee Company in Ames at 11:15 on Wednesday, April 17, 2019. The AHS Class of 1962 formed this lunch group called GORP. No, not after the trail mix! GORP stands for Group of Reunited People. We have been meeting for about 25 years. We have a core group of Central Iowa classmates, however, we have had visitors from "Coast to Coast". Our sole purpose is to chat and eat. I send out an illustrated newsletter after each monthly gathering to a mailing list of about 70. It started out as a means of reminding the group of the time, date and place of our next meeting. Now we include highlights of our month, news from outside, Question of the Month, and mystery photos for us to try to identify. We welcome spouses, relatives, AHS students from other classes and brave former instructors (e.g. Bill Ripp).



Pictured below are the GORP April attendees: (l-r) Sarah Baughman Ollila, Vicki Fitzgerald Neal, Bill Rosebrook, Julie Packer McWilliams, Chuck Abbott, Mary Sue Arrasmith Brown, Judy Agard, Jennifer Darnell Groat and Ann Sande Reed. (Article and photo courtesy of Mary Sue A. Brown)

Our Beverly made big time TV, but chose love instead ...



When Beverly Ogg ('55) Stone died in February at age 81, news and social media focused primarily on just 13 weeks in her life. That's when, in 1964-65, she was a starlet (and heart throb) on the first episodes of "The Munsters" – a television show about a friendly family of ghoulish monsters trying to cope with life in the 1960s. Except for Beverly. She was the Munster family oddball – the only one who appeared normal to the outside world. Besides that, Marilyn (aka Beverly Ogg) was farm fresh and apple pie wholesome – to a gaggle of viewers. Which is what you would probably expect of someone born in Ottumwa and raised in Ames.

The New York Times, reviewing the first episode of the series, described Owen (Beverly's stage name) as "a highly videogenic niece who is at ease in both worlds." [The rest of the Munster family often referred to her as "the plain one."] One of the original Munsters, Butch Patrick, who played the young son, Eddie, on hearing of Beverly's death, wrote "Beautiful Beverl(e)y... has left us. What a sweet soul. I had the biggest crush on her. RIP Bev."

After the first 13 episodes, Beverly left the program for a love of her own, namely, Jon Stone who was then a writer for Captain Kangaroo and later a co-founder of Sesame Street. The Munsters lasted just 57 episodes over 1964-1966 before being cancelled by CBS. But the originals or a re-make are still making the re-run rounds. FYI: Beverly Owen as Marilyn wore a blonde wig, but she still looked uncannily like Beverly Ogg in

her Spirit photo. In fact, it was the junior class play in 1954 that cemented her desire to be an actor (or actress in those days). She starred as Emily in "Our Town."

Her father (an economist) apparently suggested that she also prepare to be a theatrical producer as a more financially secure option. She majored in theatre production at the University of Michigan where a professor connected her to another UM grad working in television in New York City. Immediately after graduation, she moved to the Big Apple hoping to land a job in production, but quickly discovered that, in 1959 (and for a pretty long time after), this was considered a "Men-Only" occupation.

Without work, she applied for secretarial jobs. And landed one with the Ed Sullivan variety show (one of the most popular programs in television.) But the gig was short lived. Beverly was working one Sunday (the evening the show aired) when Sullivan decided to change the introduction for one of the acts. She got the call, but wasn't up to speed as a typist and had no experience with dictation. Ogg was fired the next day.

Fortunately, she landed another secretarial job with the Captain Kangaroo television program. "Fortunately" because it was also here that she met her husband-to-be – Jon Stone. But, as luck would have it, she had by now become well enough known as an aspiring actress that she was invited to Los Angeles to try out for various films and programs. She struck gold when offered

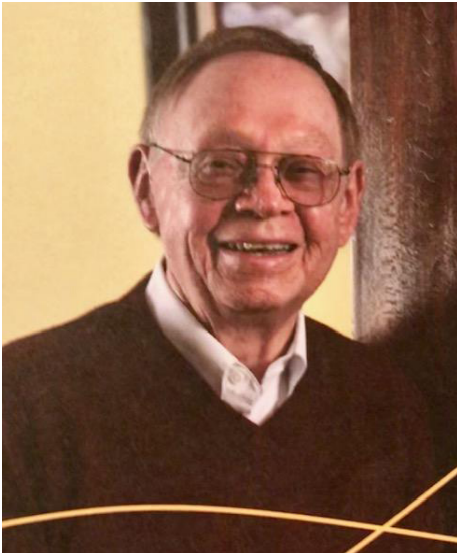
the role of Marilyn in the Munsters. But Beverly was also conflicted by her love for Jon and only agreed to do the first 13 programs. By the time they were in the can, she decided, age 27, to return to New York – and Jon. They were married in June 1966 (and divorced in 1974) after producing two daughters (Polly and Kate). As a mother and actress, jobs weren't that available, so she decided to get a master's degree in Early American History – which she received from NYU in 1989. She then evolved from being primarily an actress to a socially concerned volunteer advocate for children in foster care as they navigated the legal system.

Years later, after her girls were grown, Beverly -- now in her mid 70s -- returned to her first love – the theatre. She landed juicy roles in summer rep... playing Hamlet's mother (Gertrude), Eleanor of Aquitaine, along with other roles suited to her age. She felt she was once again in her element – just as she had been 65 years earlier with "Our Town" at Ames High.

Tom Emmerson ('55)

Beverly's stage name could have been..... While working at Captain Kangaroo, Beverly asked the show's main writers – Jon Stone and Tom Whedon – to help her choose a stage name. After caucusing in the hallway, they announced, "We've got it! – 'Tuesday Ogg'." She decided instead to become Beverly Owen. [Source: Michael Davis]

Encouraging the Stars



Leverne Seversike, '54

When Leverage Seversike, '54 wanted to get a doctorate in aerospace engineering in the early '60s, Iowa State University didn't yet have a Ph.D. program in the field. Instead, Seversike earned his doctorate at Iowa State in electrical and computer engineering. The university added the aerospace doctorate program two years later in the midst of the country's race to space. "That was Iowa State growing up," said Seversike. As an Ames native, three-degree graduate of Iowa State, and later professor of aerospace engineering at the university, he witnessed continued advancement at the land-grant institution and in human flight.

Seversike received his bachelor's degree at Iowa State in aerospace engineering in 1958, just a few months before the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was established. He continued his studies in Ames, receiving a master's degree in aerospace engineering in 1961, the same year President John F. Kennedy announced an American would land on the moon before the end of the decade.

Seversike wasn't just sitting in the front row of the changes around him, he was a participant. With his doctorate in hand in 1964, Seversike had job

offers from Aerospace Corporation, Douglas Aircraft Company and General Dynamics. But he had his eye on another option—teaching at Iowa State. He got the chance when his department chair sent a letter asking him to teach Iowa State's orbital mechanics courses. "They were going to pay me more than I was going to get at Iowa State," said Seversike of the private corporations. "But I was very interested in teaching. I really enjoyed the interaction with students."

Set up in his new office in Building J, which was part of a group of structures north of Black Engineering initially constructed to house the influx of WWII veterans going to school after returning home from service, Seversike began a teaching career that lasted more than 30 years. He spent the school year advising students, expanding course curriculum, helping groups such as the Iowa State Space Society and teaching. During several summers, he worked on projects such as NASA's Apollo program in Houston, where he helped develop the heat shield for the astronauts' Apollo Command Module. The heat shield protected the module from burning up from the 4,000-degree heat generated while re-entering the Earth's atmosphere. He also worked for NASA in Huntsville, Alabama, on an unmanned mission to Jupiter. "It was an interesting time," Seversike noted.

He brought his industry-knowledge back to the classroom, where he taught and inspired students such as Clayton Anderson ('83, aerospace engineering)

who became an astronaut and spent time aboard the International Space Station. When Seversike reflects on his career, which included awards for teaching and advising, he says, "What I'm happiest about is not anything I did, but what my students have gone on to do."

Now retired, he continues to inspire and support students financially through Seversike family scholarships. For Seversike, whose career paralleled the progression of space flight and of Iowa State University, helping students reach for the stars is a natural fit. "People are able to do things themselves if they really want to, but sometimes they just need a little encouragement."

(Article courtesy of the Iowa State University Foundation.)



"People are able to do things themselves if they really want to, but sometimes they just need a little encouragement."

Class of 1979 40th Reunion Tour of AHS

The Class of 1979 enjoyed a final class tour of Ames High School during their 40-year reunion the weekend of June 14-16. Approximately 45 classmates and guests followed our much appreciated tour guides, Mr. Ripp and Mr. Schmaltz, through the building that will no longer be there at our next reunion. Memories of familiar spaces were shared, along with appreciation for the changes and improvements that have occurred over the years. We so enjoyed Mr. Ripp's willingness to update us on teachers from our past and inform us on building and school changes that are in the future. We are still proud of our old Ames High School and thankful that Ames High continues to Aim High. (Jeanene Powers Skarshaug)



Class of '79 Band Alumni – Dan Ewan, Linda MacVey, David Skarshaug, Jeanene Powers Skarshaug, Deborah Goering Sinclair, Linda Mendenhall Cotton, Janet Beall Ott and William Brearley.

Rubber Knife Gang June, 2019 Tour

by Steve Risdal, '65



Picture (l-r): Steve and Shirley Risdal, Dave and Pat Grauburger, Andy and Jacki Harris, Judy Huitink, Beth Frangedakis and Jim and Vicki Olson.

This was the 25th anniversary of the Rubber Knife Gang. We left the dealership at Greeley, Colorado and went south to Grand Junction the first night. The following day we went to Moab, Utah to see the Arches and proceeded from there to the National Bridges National Monument, Glen Canyon, Capital Reef National Park and on to Bryce Canyon for the second night. 580 miles made for a long day. From Bryce we went to Page, Arizona and were planning to rent a boat and see the beauty of Lake Powell, but because of the previous long day, we didn't. From Page we went to Durango, Colorado for two nights and day-tripped to Mesa Verde National Park and spent the day there. The beauty and history are incredible. The next day we planned to spend the night in Buena Vista, Colorado and then do Leadville and Peak to Peak Highway, but with the report of measurable snow at the high elevations, we opted to continue to Greeley and beat the storm. This was a great trip of 1,800 miles through some of the most stunning landscapes in America. We had six bikes with two women riders, but only I ('65) and Jim Olson, ('73) as Rubberknifers. Through the years we have had over 15 bikes on our trips. In the last 25 years we have covered over 100,000 accident free miles on our annual trips. We have done the Canadian Mountains three times and the West Coast five times and all states between and have ridden with Elvis in Memphis and been to Dollywood East. We also have done the major rallies such as Daytona, Laughlin and, of course, Sturgis. Ames High graduates that have been Rubber Knifers are Bill Burke, '73, Jim Olson, '73, Lyle, '69 and Pam Breckenridge Scandrett, '69, Gary Clem, '61, Curt, '61 and Carol Carmean Houge, '64, Dean Hunziker, '60, and Mark, '69 and Linda Schlapia Speck, '69. The aging of the group is showing, so I hope we can pass the baton on to some younger riders to keep the legacy going and to enjoy the beauty of our country on motorcycles. Thanks for letting me share our latest outing.

Olde Main, Corner Pocket and DJ's Tap House bite the dust along with 50-year-old Taco Time

Ames High alumni checking out Olde Main Brewery on line are now in for a surprise. That's because the OMB site is still active – in spite of the fact that one of Ames's most popular gathering spots closed on May 3, 2019. Failure to pay taxes and maintain liability insurance caused the Iowa Secretary of State to ban alcohol sales for at least six months (from 13 May to 13 Nov. 2019).

That prompted owner Scott Griffin ('88) to shut the place after 14 ½ years, along with his other two alcohol-serving properties on Main Street – the Corner Pocket and DG's Tap House. Besides leaving 80 employees empty-handed, Olde Main's closure has put an immediate spoke in the wheel of the 11 Ames High class reunion planners in 2019. Where else can the numbers of a big turnout be accommodated – especially for the "All Classes Christmas Reunion"?

While a new venue may not have been selected by the time the August Newsletter reaches you, rest assured that the AHS Alumni Association has charged ace committee member Ed Hendrickson ('74) to find the best possible replacement site in or near Ames. Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, some (perhaps legions of) AHS alums have additional cause to commiserate the closure of Taco Time (late of 511 Lincoln Way) on 31 March 2019 – after a half-century in Ames. It appears to have succumbed to a major project to develop a 6.6-mile redevelopment that includes a "Lincoln Way Corridor" that stretches from Duff Avenue to Grand Avenue (and, eventually, beyond).

Like many places in Ames (including perhaps even the still existing Hobby Shop), stories abound around Taco Time. One, in our family, involved

the quest for Taco Time caps worn by employees. I got one by (practically) begging on behalf of Dan ('85) just before Christmas. Son Jonathan ('93) traded a Hard Rock (Denver) cap and other Hard Rock pins to win one.

But Hilary ('87) took the biscuit when she explained how her mother had, in fact, just broken both arms in a bicycle accident in California and wasn't able to eat tacos without her help. That earned a cap, but Linda is still waiting for her treasure to arrive via slow boat from New Zealand. (Tom Emmerson, '55)

Editor's note: Do you have a story to tell about an Ames business during your school days? If so, send them to Bill Ripp (wcrippsaw@aol.com) or Tom Emmerson (emmerson@iastate.edu)

How a Civil War cannonball led to AHS track success (twice)

Two of Ames High's greatest shot-putters owed at least some of their success to the Civil War. Not surprisingly, the connection was a 12 pound cannonball – the kind that caused mayhem on both sides of the line between 1861-1865.

Flash forward some 75 years to 1940 when AHS senior Richard K. (Dick) Bliss was having trouble finding a shot that felt right in his hand. One of his Little Cyclone teammates, Harold Knight ('40) -- an avid collector of Civil War paraphernalia -- produced a 12-pound iron ball that fit Bliss's hand, but which was a little under regulation weight. In the Knight's basement, Harold bored into the iron ball. Then

he and Bliss loaded it with lead and BBs until it weighed exactly 12 pounds. Bliss used his retrofitted weapon of war to set a state record and help AHS capture the team track title in 1940.

Nine years later, Ames had another outstanding shot putter named Jim Robertson ('49). At the district meet, officials informed Robertson that his favorite shot was slightly under weight.

That's when coach Hi Covey told Robertson about the Civil War ball that Bliss had donated to the school. Together they tracked it down and big Jim used that cannonball at the state meet in Ames to cop first in the shot – missing the record by just 7/8th of an

inch. Where's that Bliss-Robertson cannonball today? We hope it's still somewhere at AHS -- unless it has found its way back to a Civil War display. (From the Ames Tribune, 23 May 1949 and Harold Knight's brother, Rollie. '46).



The Bill Ripp Story: Part One

By Tom Emmerson, '55

Note: My biggest obstacle in writing this profile was Bill Ripp. He didn't think it was cricket to run a story about himself as long as he was editor of the Newsletter. That left me with three choices: (a) use torture; (b) seize editorship of the Newsletter; (c) write a tell-all with all kinds of exaggerations and splash it over social media. I think those are the reasons he finally agreed. Bear in mind that this was my idea. (I am at emmerson@iastate.edu.)



Bill Ripp

At age 83 Bill Ripp might still outlast the Energizer Bunny. He just keeps going and going, especially when it comes to Ames High and its Alumni Association. Ripp spent 36 years at AHS as a teacher (7 years), guidance counselor (4 years) and administrator (25 years) before he “graduated” into retirement in 1995 at age 59. Then, for the last 30 years he has been founder and director of the AHS Alumni Association and editor of its Newsletter. Not for pay, but for “fun” as he defines it. “If you are doing something” he says, “and can’t think of anything you would rather be doing, that’s not work. That’s fun.” It all adds up to a 60-year commitment to the Orange and Black – 36 years on the job and 24 more with the Alumni Association. During his salaried years -- 1959 and 1995 – a total of 12,756 students graduated. Another 8,077 have earned diplomas – so far – while Bill has directed the Alumni Association. That suggests that Mr.

Ripp has touched the lives of nearly 21,000 Little Cyclones. And that doesn’t count the handful he has taught or tutored Latin students (for free) during the retirement years and his weekly trips to Meeker to read to his daughter Camille’s first-grade class for the past 20 years. “You’ll get more hugs in a day there,” he says, “than in a career as an administrator.”

But this story isn’t just really about numbers. It’s about a Nebraska farm boy who wanted to be a Catholic priest, but whose health led him instead into teaching in a “far-away” place called Ames (pop. 27,000) some 366 miles from the farm house near Amherst (pop. 250) where he was born in 1936 -- on the backside of the great depression. It’s also about Ames High and its students, especially between 1959 and 1995, and beyond. We will also get to Roman feasts, greased pigs, Open Campus, April Fools and the Rippian sense of humor, which he says he inherited from his mother. Bill describes his parents as “great,” but not without some hardships. The family did not have electricity until 1948 (Bill was 12) and endured the “benefits” of outside “inconveniences” for several years. Bill went to a one-room rural school through 6th grade before switching to Amherst for junior high and then high school, where the total 4-year enrollment was 60. Ames High, by contrast, graduated 172 seniors in 1954, when Bill was salutatorian in a class of 16.

Seminary in Little Rock

He enrolled at St. John’s Seminary in Little Rock, Arkansas – where he first experienced the impact of racial segregation and the challenges of

de-segregation. Days after graduation with majors in Latin and philosophy in 1958, he learned from a heart specialist that his wasn’t functioning properly, but that the risk of surgery was too great a risk. This diagnosis raised concerns with the Bishop about future medical expenses if Bill entered the priesthood. So, he was given the equivalent of a medical 4-F and returned to Nebraska to earn sufficient credits at Kearney State in 1958-59 to qualify as a high school teacher. It was right around this time that Bill actually “noticed” Jane Rumbeck, in more than a cursory way. Jane grew up in Amherst, but was three grades behind Ripp. Besides that, he had casually dated one of her older sisters. It wasn’t until they were married (Dec. 27, 1961) that he also realized that she was a “fantastic cook.” [Prior to Jane, Bill says his favorite food had always been “whatever someone else prepares.”] Before we switch gears to Ripp’s Ames High experiences, it should be noted that Bill and Jane had six children between October 1962 and November 1973. “I wanted to be a Father,” he muses, “but I ended up being a father six times.”

How Ripp got to Ames High

No one would have used this term in 1959, but Bill Ripp was head-hunted by Ames School Superintendent Walter Hetzel, whose persistence eventually paid off. Ames needed a Latin teacher after long-time Latin teacher Rose Elliot retired in 1958 and Annette Green replaced her, but left after one school year. That’s when Hetzel swung into action. Having determined that Ripp was the best person for the job (with majors in Latin and Philosophy), he phoned Bill to invite him to Ames for an interview.

Ripp was equally determined to stay in central Nebraska, so he declined the invitation. But Hetzel persisted – phoning Ripp on three consecutive Mondays before Bill decided it might at least be worth a visit. The rest is history and Ripp says, to this day, that he can't thank Hetzel enough for his persistence. At Ames High Ripp taught Latin and English for seven years while earning his Master's in educational psychology and counseling at UN-Kearney. He also advised Senior Senate for almost 30 years.

From classroom to counseling girls

In 1966 he was named director of the school's guidance counseling program. This took him out of the classroom and away from one of the highlights of the Latin program, namely, the Roman Banquet (about which more anon). As a counselor, Ripp, by administrative fiat, became the first male to counsel girl students. Until then it had always been males for boys and females for girls.

Bill says he got along fine with his advisees. "In fact, they sometimes told me even more than I wanted to know." What caused him some discomfort was having to speak to a girl about being over-friendly with a boy in school. "Sometimes they told me it was none of my business," he says, but usually the chat had a positive result. One reason for this he attributes to his efforts to treat students the way he wanted to be treated. "I tried to talk to them as a friend, explain things and answer their questions." He also tried throughout his AHS years to be in the lobby to greet and chat with students when they arrived and left school. What really counts with students, he says, is not what you teach them, "but how you treat them. That's what they remember as alums, too."

Associate Principal during Troublesome Times

By the time Ripp became an Associate Principal in 1969, social and political

tensions were mounting nationally and locally. As the war in Vietnam escalated (Tet Offensive in 1968 and introduction of the draft in 1969) domestic opposition to the conflict intensified, especially after the Ohio National Guard shot and killed four young people during a peaceful demonstration at Kent State University in May 1970. In addition to Vietnam, the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King in April 1969 was followed that "long, hot summer" by a series of riots and violence in urban America fueled in part by the Black Panthers and other extremists. In Ames young men and women were also restive and even rebellious – even before May 21, 1970 when the City Hall was rocked by a bomb explosion that injured nine persons (two seriously) and blew out nearly 400 windows at the nearby Sheldon Munn Hotel. No one was arrested, but some months later the FBI's prime suspect blew himself up while carrying a homemade bomb in a Minneapolis suburb.

This was also a decade when women struck their own (peaceful) blows for gender equality on issues ranging from equal pay, reproductive rights and against harassment and violence. Beyond all that, the voting age was dropped from 21 to 18 (1971). A year later Iowa lowered the legal drinking age from 21 to 19 and in 1973 further reduced it to 18, where it stood until 1978 when it was raised again to 19, where it remained – until 1986 when it was ratcheted back to 21. In summary, there were plenty of problems that could and did (in some cases) affect high school students and administrators across Iowa and the nation (and this list doesn't even include the fallout from Watergate). At Ames High there were some protests, demonstrations and occasional walk-outs (with permission).

Thinking back, Ripp says the administration did a good job of not over-reacting and students did likewise. Ames High students are "pretty sophisticated" and weren't too keen to do anything that could delay or derail future plans (especially

those headed for college). Reactions were, in his view, "pretty much within reason." As for the 15-year period (1972-86) when the legal drinking age was 19 and then 18, Ripp said his job, as an administrator, was to enforce the law that banned alcohol in schools and on school grounds (e.g., football stadium, parking lots), as well as school-sanctioned events off campus – such as dances and proms. He and other staff members made a point of ensuring a visible presence. Ripp says this meant "a lot of sniffing breaths" as people arrived (and left). Drugs then were illegal regardless of age. Ripp acknowledges that they were freely available (especially in the Campustown area) but he never had to deal with a student overdosing at school.

Open Campus & Lunch set new tone

Looking back over those years, Ripp says one of his proudest achievements was getting Open Campus and Open Lunch policies implemented in 1972-73. Bill says two factors provided the motivation for these changes. First was the growing anxiety over the fact that some Ames High boys as young as 17, 18 and 19 were risking their lives in Vietnam, coupled with growing civil unrest on the home front. The second factor was feedback from recent graduates, who were telling Ripp that they felt AHS was not doing a very good job of preparing them for post-graduate responsibilities including, especially, time management. Together Ripp and Principal Ralph Farrar hatched the Open Campus proposal whereby seniors could leave school whenever they did not have class – so long as they returned for their next classes. Ripp and Farrar also got School Board approval for an Open Lunch policy, whereby juniors and seniors could leave campus for lunch if they chose.

The 1973 Spirit hailed these new policies, along with the "surprise" dropping of a period and the (final) abolition of Firesquad as "widespread innovations." The Open Campus

and Open Lunch policies were an immediate success, with AHS junior Kevin Bowen ('75) describing the new Open Campus plan as "one of the most advanced open campus policies in the state." (Ames Tribune 18 Oct. 1973). Open Lunch also proved popular, but Ripp says it had one unanticipated and unfortunate consequence because school menu planners added new cafeteria offerings that were more in line with the fattening fast foods that students were consuming off campus. Open Lunch has since experienced some ups and downs, but Open Campus this autumn will enter its 43rd consecutive year and the lunch policy has found its groove, too. [Another aspect of Open Campus that Ripp says has also not changed over the decades: Students still employ the "train blocked the crossings" (at 16th and 20th streets) as an excuse when they are late.]

Ripp was also instrumental – as associate principal in 1973-74 -- in developing student self-scheduling for Ames High where students would convene in the cafeteria with various departments around the outer part of the room. Separate times were established for seniors, juniors and sophomores. This proved popular, if only for, as Bill put it, "this was probably the only activity in my 36 years at Ames High that we had the full cooperation of all the professional staff. "

The late 1980s saw a relaxation of problems and provided Ripp with an opportunity to implement three other changes that he also counts as among his proudest: Academic Letters and Honor Graduate medals as well as the school Blood Donor drive.

Recognizing Academic Performance

Academic Letters were not Ripp's idea. That credit goes to the American Legion Post in Ames, whose commander, David Rehbein, told Bill the Legion wanted to recognize student academic performance in the same way that athletes and activities like band did. Bill jumped at the idea

because it was "a good and right thing to do." The Legion's offer to cover all costs for the letters and light treats at the awards ceremonies proved an added incentive. Ripp approached Farrar who agreed almost instantly, with the result that the first American Legion-funded letters were awarded in November 1987. Current post commander Doug MacCrea estimated that "at least 5,600" Ames letters have been awarded so far (32 years on) to juniors and seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above.

Ames High secretary Ashley Smith says students who maintain their GPA as seniors are presented with a pin to attach to their letters -- again courtesy of the local American Legion. She estimated that 30-40 percent of each class receives a letter or a pin each year. Ripp's other effort to reward classroom excellence came when he proposed to Principal Farrar that seniors with at least a 3.9 grade point over three years be recognized as Honor Graduates and awarded a medal. That idea flew through, too. Today, honor grads must maintain at least a 3.800 over four years. The graduating class of 2019 produced 72 honor graduates – 21.8 percent of the 331 total. Assuming that the percent holds true over the years since 1988 that means that around 1,875 seniors have received honor graduate medals – so far.

Ripp launches Blood Drives

If being an administrator required (to borrow from Winston Churchill) "sweat, toil and tears," the quote only needs "blood" to make it whole. And that brings us to the Ames High Blood Donor program. Ripp says the idea came to him while he was in his 40s – though, up to then, he had never donated before. But his parents had and that spurred him into becoming a donor – and proposing to the Senior Senate (which he advised for 30 years) that they start a school blood donor program. So, around the mid-1980s, in cooperation with Mary Greeley Hospital, the Senate set up tables, brought in trained

nurses and started drawing life-giving blood. The very first donor was Bill Ripp. He continued to lead-off every subsequent drive until his retirement in 1995. The AHS blood drive was discontinued at one time, but resumed in 1992 and carries on today. Senior Senate adviser Kelly Micalone, who has overseen 22 donor periods over the past 11 years, said it was plausible that AHS students and staff had combined to give as many as 4,500 units (pints) of blood since Ripp gave that first pint. After Bill retired he continued to give three or four times a year at Mary Greeley for another 20 years – until, at age 80, he was told that he needed his blood more than they did. By his reckoning, Ripp had by then given 8 gallons (64 pints) – enough, he was told, to save or sustain 192 persons.

Honorary member of 1995 class & a shock

Graduation in May 1995 was also the last one for Ripp as teacher, counselor and administrator, but was also a first. Not only did it mark the end of a 36-year career, but the seniors also made him an honorary member of the Class of '95 – the first AHS staff person to be so recognized.

Bill says it was a moment of real pleasure– until it was announced to his surprise, if not chagrin, that he would be further honored by being allowed to direct the band in playing the "Loyalty" (aka Fight) song. Ripp, who describes himself as a "person of no musical talent," and absolutely no experience as a director, was momentarily terrorized, when long-time band director Homer Gartz handed him the baton. But then he heard Gartz, in a loud whisper, tell his musicians to "pay no attention to Bill and just play the song." That's exactly what happened. It was, Ripp said afterwards, a "wonderful send off." It was also his second such award. Five years earlier (February 1990), he became the first staff member to be named an honorary alumnus for "unusual support of and loyalty" to Ames High.

Rewarding AHS's WWII veterans

One of Ripp's last actions before retiring is also one of his most thoughtful. This involved awarding diplomas that Ames High students did not receive because they had left school early to fight in World War II. They had been promised diplomas, Bill says, but they were never delivered. Detective Ripp decided to rectify this oversight and personally tracked down a total of 25 veterans from the classes of 1941 through 1945. He mailed diplomas to 16 of them (or their families) who could not make it to Ames. The other nine – members of the class of 1944 – were presented their diplomas at a special ceremony during the group's

50th year reunion on October 1, 1994. Along with School Board President Harold Shapiro, Ripp had the honor of presenting the diplomas. "They should have had them 50 years ago," he said then, adding in 2019 that the event still meant a great deal to him personally.

Ripp retires – and signs back on

Most retirees clear out their desks and hand in their keys. Not so with Bill Ripp. He simply moved over in his new role as organizer and director of the nascent Ames High School Alumni Association. This volunteer assignment has occupied his "spare" time since 1989 when Superintendent Ron Rice asked him to research, then devise what was considered by

experts as a crucial arm of any high school fund raising body – in this case the fledgling Ames Education Foundation. As the consultant for the Foundation put it, the AEF wasn't likely to have much success unless there was also an Alumni Association. Ripp took to the assignment like a horse takes to oats – primarily, he says, because of his desire to repay Ames and Ames High for all everything they had done for him and his family. And so it came to pass in Spring 1990, with Ripp as both founder and director – a position he has held for the past 30 years. Although the AA is a wing of the AEF, Ripp stresses that it has always been "completely independent, financially, program-wise and whatever."

"The rest of, or at least more of, the story" The Rippian Sense of Humor Exposed (Finally)

One thing that either sneaks up on you or else hits you broadside is Bill Ripp's sense of humor.

It evolved, at least in part, from his mother, Velma, who had a bumper sticker on her car that read: "This vehicle stops at all garage sales!" But she was just a starter. He grew up under the influence of Ogden Nash, Mark Twain, Erma Bombeck and Johnny Carson. "Peanuts," too, which he considers "the all-time greatest comic strip." His penchant for puns and groaners are his trademarks, along with word-play and even some creative fiction-- not to mention the 'off-the-cuff' limericks he enjoys writing.

"I think I was always a serious subject matter student," he says, "but I rarely passed up an opportunity to add a bit of levity to the class." Later, as a teacher he says he tried "to regularly add a bit of humor in my teaching." And to his writing. Here are some examples that surfaced while researching this story:

"I wanted to be a Father, but I ended up being a father six times."

"My favorite meal was anything someone else prepared."

"God never created a house plant that my mother couldn't kill if given enough time."

"Furloughed sounds better than terminated or fired, although the results are the same."

"We have six children, all boys except for five of them!"

*His e-mail address is:
wcrippsaw@aol.com*

Then there are Bill's recollections about his sex education:

"My parents never said anything about sex. My biology teacher said, "The birds and the bees are easy to tell apart. The birds are considerably bigger." Reflecting on her explanation, Ripp created his own distinction, namely, that "bees gather honey, which is good, and birds basically soil your car."

The Legend of Loof Lirpa

It goes without saying that Ripp doted on April Fool's day. Spell April Fool backwards and you will have identified

a fictitious foreign exchange student from Denmark whose first day at Ames High was always April 1st. Ripp would create a schedule for Loof that included classes with the four or five teachers who were new to Ames High. Then he distributed it to them, along with a note urging the targeted teachers to do whatever they could to make "Loof Lirpa" feel welcome. Bill says some teachers got the joke, but the majority did not and stopped by Ripp's office to express concern that Loof might have gotten lost or somehow waylaid. That's when he asked them to spell Loof's name backwards – or just hold it up to a mirror. Most groaned at their gullibility, but took their embarrassment in good spirits. And they did not squeal to the next year's new teachers – which allowed Ripp to perpetrate the joke for at least 15 years -- whenever April 1 occurred on a school day. When Ripp retired in 1995, Loof would have been 40 or 41. He never graduated, or so Bill thought until he received a post card from Lirpa that noted that he had, in fact, earned his AHS diploma by correspondence in 2012 and was anxious to join the Alumni Association.

Lirpa Signs on as Foreign Correspondent

Ripp was able to track Lirpa through Interpol and urged him to become a foreign correspondent for the Newsletter. His first report was published in April 2013, but he was mistakenly identified as an "Honorary Graduate." His first column created something of a stir with the news (1) that Ames High's athletic teams would henceforth be known as the "Ames Cyclones" and (2) the school board had made Daylight Savings Time mandatory year-round at Ames High. Ripp reported in August that Donald

Brendeland ('55) was not the only grad who was ready to take up the cudgels as a result of Lirpa's report. The following April (2014) Loof was given space for five news items – three of which dealt with Ames High – school lunches, Saturday classes and the new school motto (Ames High, Aims High) designed to avoid confusion). For whatever reason the Newsletter's next number reported 'LOOF FURLOUGHED' temporarily due to "a good deal of anxiety and consternation within our readership." (Aug. 2014) But editor Ripp has resisted efforts to "send Loof to Coventry" permanently

on the grounds that Lirpa provides "a breath of fresh air to life as we know it." At the same time, Ripp admits that his latest report (April 2019) "pretty much demonstrates that Loof has too much spare time."

*** **

BE WARNED: Bill also takes pleasure from puns and "groaners," which are defined as "bad puns, but in a good way." If you want an example, you can read Ripp's "all-time favorite" by googling "Hollandaise groaner." [If you do that, the Newsletter may be obliged to print your name.]

Maybe??::: Were Ripp's Roman feasts the genesis of Toga Parties?

"Toga! Toga! Toga!" That exclamation is still considered 82nd in the American Film Institute's list of top 100 movie quotations in American cinema. The film was "Animal House" and the year was 1978. It led to a riotous toga party that was later emulated on The Simpson's in 2000. But Bill Ripp's Latin class predated that film by 18 years. That's when, in May 1960, he organized the first of seven annual Roman Feasts (or Banquets) for his second-year classes.

Togas and stolas (aka bed sheets) and sandals were the dress of choice for the 50-60 students and six first-year "slaves."

And Ripp's banquet included six courses – three appetizers and two desserts, along with plenty of (unfermented) juice – and bunches of

grapes that the slaves often fed, one by one, to the guests who did their best to "recline" on the ground (or grass, depending on the venue).

And then there was the main course served on a silver platter -- roast pig complete with an apple in the porker's mouth. Bill and Jane Ripp did most of the planning and preparation. Bill bought the pig from Iowa State's meat lab and took it to Ferguson's Bakery, 223 Main St., to be roasted. He then took it to the high school – or sometimes the home of a student's parent (including The Knoll once). Ripp then showed the "slaves" how to carve and behead the pig – and, of course, present it (with the apple) to him in classic Roman fashion.

Meanwhile, Jane Ripp was enjoying her role as "slave driver" for the three boys

and three girls who had been hand-picked by Bill and who got to eat the 'scraps' in the kitchen. There was also entertainment, including some dancing maidens and music, but precious little Latin was spoken. The 1963 Spirit described the occasion as "traditional" and "sensational." In 1964 it declared that students came "attired in togas that defied description, but none of which could compare with Mr. Ripp's gold and purple creation."

To avoid school conflicts the feasts were held on Thursdays – which was also Late Opening Night in Campustown. So following the meal, many of his students went shopping in full regalia, much to the glee of the "Romans" and, presumably, other customers. Which is where Ripp still believes that college students first got the idea for "Toga! Toga! Toga!"



Magister Rippus



Roman Ladies



Latin One Slaves

Worth a Smile, Perhaps

Ripp's sense of humor also bleeds over to stunts that several seniors liked to play in May.

Some focused on graduation. For example, some seniors like to press something in the hand of the School Board president when they shook on stage. Some have chosen marshmallows, but one of the more creative efforts was made by some seniors in the class of 1989. For some days as school wound down, screws were loosened and pencil sharpener handles were removed – and then handed to the school board president at diploma time. (The Spirit reporter described this as “hilarious.”) Not bad, actually.

In his time as an associate principal, Bill said he advised seniors that anything requiring extra time or extra cost would not be considered a prank and may disqualify them from the

graduation ceremonies. That would probably have disqualified an attempt by some seniors in 1985 from camping on the roof of the high school, since police were dispatched to remove the adventurers. It certainly missed the “prank” category when some seniors managed to acquire a key to the high school and started moving furniture (possibly out of the building) before the police arrived. Apparently, the perps were allowed to graduate with their classmates.

In 1979 a purloined pig (from ISU) was greased and let loose in the high school. Chaos followed until Kris Farrar ('79) and first-year teacher Ruth Mahon corralled and removed the porker from the premises. If there is a “rest of the story” it appears to be that the pig was fed out and then barbecued at the Farrar residence. There is no actual proof, but there is also no evidence that the porker was returned

to its owner – and NO proof at all that it ended up as entrée at the Latin Club's Roman Feast.

Another prank that amused Ripp occurred sometime between 1973 and 1978 when the drinking age was lowered to 18. One May he arrived at Ames High to find seniors staffing a keg and offering free drinks to all comers. Bill stood in line and eventually was served – apple juice.

But the prank that tickled Ripp most occurred (in a year he cannot recall) when seniors gathered up as many FOR SALE signs as they could find in Ames and planted them in front of the high school. He still chuckles, but wonders how the realtors felt about having to retrieve – and re-plant their various signs – which may explain why queries to at least two local agencies in search of the date yielded no responses. Still.....

As Jane was to Tarzan...



It would be a huge mistake to leave the impression that Bill managed this all by himself. He is effusive in his praise of Jane as a mother, partner and patient friend – besides being the world's best cook. About her husband of 57 years, she says Bill would “rather be a half hour early than one second late,” adding that, “If church starts at 8:30,

he will be there by 7:50.” He also very much likes to have everything in its place – as evidenced by his rather large, well-kept woodworking shop that occupies more than one half of the Ripp's' double-door garage. Jane says that her husband is also (still) a pushover for banana cream pie.

Memorials

In memory of: **Bruce L. Gore, '47**
By: Sharon Gore Moya, '52

In memory of: **Dale (Staff) & Marge Hiedeman**
By: Jeffrey, '71
& Susan Tempel Hiedeman, '71

In memory of: **1953 AHS Deceased Classmates**
By: Nancy Fox Judd, '53

In memory of: **Brian Meindl (Son)**
By: Carol Black-Meindl, '60

In memory of: **1969 AHS Deceased Friends**
By: Patricia Moldenhauer
Bortnem, '69

In memory of: **Clifford "Craig" Mack, '64**
By: Charles B. Knapp, '64

In memory of: **AHS 1962 Deceased Classmates**
By: Lenore Hawk Lemon, '62

In memory of: **Judith Matterson McLeran, '58**
By: Caroline Matterson, '61

In memory of: **Ann McDowell Melton, '57**
By: Lynn Stempel Griffith, '57

In memory of: **Ronald D. Warren, '62**
By: J. Paul Clark, '61

In memory of: **Barbara Squires French, '63**
By: Gloria Hatasaki Bachmann, '63

In memory of: **Robert Bruce Bappe '61**
By: J. Paul Clark, '61

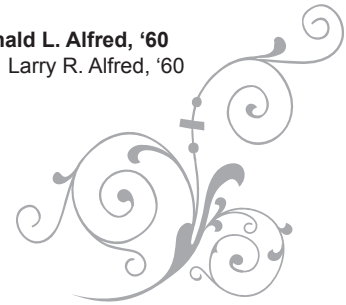
In memory of: **Delores Wright Mohr, '44**
By: Virginia Wright Lewis, '57

In memory of: **Janet Alma Hoff, '48**
By: Forrest A. Barnes, '48

In memory of: **Richard Allen Crane, '76**
By: Charles F. Crane, '67
John R. Crane, '75
Judy L. Crane, '77

In memory of: **George F. Clark, Jr., '65**
By: Paul M. Clark, Jr., '71

In memory of: **Ronald L. Alfred, '60**
By: Larry R. Alfred, '60



Some Have Left Us

Class	Name	Date of Death	City, State	Class	Name	Date of Death	City, State
1938	Stewart, Edalee (Gastrock)	d.4-7-2019	Northbrook IL	1965	Peterson, Delbert Ray	d.6-10-2019	Ames IA
1944	Mohr, Dolores Nadine (Wright)	d.6-30-2018	Dallas Pa	1966	Hiatt, Deirde (Peglar)	d.12-30-2018	San Francisco CA
1947	Rogers, Marjorie Ann (Clark)	d.5-21-2018	Greeley CO	1968	Tegro, Janet Eileen (Shearer)	d.1-16-2019	Greeley CO
1947	Lawlor, Conrad E.	d.4-12-2019	Polk County IA	1969	Myers, Dale Durand	d.5-7-2019	Ames IA
1948	Hoff, Janet Alma	d.6-5-2019	Ames IA	1969	Pille, David Franklin	d.3-13-2018	Des Moines IA
1955	Mumm, Jerry Lee	d.6-15-2019	Boone IA	1974	Stokke, Steven Lee	d.6-11-2019	Ames IA
1957	Ferguson, Karyl Lee (Sills)	d.6-6-2019	Ames IA	1976	Crane, Richard Allan	d.6-2-2019	Knoxville TN
1950	Olsson, Ernest E.	d.7-1-2019	Rochester MN	1979	Larson, Jayne Louise	d.6-17-2012	Ames IA
1953	Bappe, Donald Richard	d.4-17-2019	Ames IA	1985	Hartman, Jeffrey Scott	d.6-8-2019	Ames IA
1960	Alfred, Ronald Lewis	d.5-22-2019	Ames IA	1985	Wassmuth, Sarah Louise	d.5-2-2019	Indianapolis IN
1961	Bappe, Robert Bruce	d.4-3-2019	Lakewood CO	1988	White, Brian Joseph	d.5-7-2019	Roland IA
1961	Clayberg, Martha Jean (Stokke)	d.5-31-2019	Des Moines IA	2001	Jonas, Laura Louise	d.4-3-2019	New Hampton IA
1964	Caven, Mary Alice "Molly"	d.4-8-2019	Waukesha WI	Staff	Bennett, Carroll L.	d.6-11-2019	Des Moines IA
1964	Crain, James Clifton	d.12-9-2018	Boulder CO	Staff	Geise, Dale Leland	d.10-17-2018	Ames IA
1964	Sotirkos, Susan Kay (Stucky)	d.2-12-2019	Oakland CA	Staff	Jones, James E.	d.5-28-2019	Story City IA

**AHSAA
membership
cheaper than
1990 !!**

Belonging to the AHS Alumni Association is cheaper today than it was in 1990 – in terms of purchasing power. From 1990 to 1992, it cost \$5 a year to belong. That's equivalent in 2019 to \$9.38. Dues were bumped up to \$6 in 1993 and remained there for 9 years. In 2002 they were raised to \$8 (\$15 for two years and \$20 for three). That's where they are today – some 18 years later. Still a bargain and cheaper than it was 29 years ago.

Membership Blank Membership Blank Membership Blank Membership Blank

Mail to Ames High School Alumni Association, 1921 Ames High Drive, Ames, IA, 50010. Make checks payable to AHSAA.

Please circle membership dues enclosed: 1 year - \$8.00 2 years - \$15.00 3 years - \$20.00
Outside the USA: 1 year - \$16.00 2 years - \$30.00 3 years - \$40.00
Additional Donation enclosed: \$ _____ Memorial enclosed: \$ _____
In memory of: _____

Name: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Address: _____ Graduation Num: _____
(first set of numbers on name label)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Birth Date: _____ If married, is your spouse an AHS grad? _____ If so, what year? _____

First and last name of spouse (maiden name of wife): _____

Your father's first and last name: _____

Your mother's first and maiden name: _____

Names and addresses of brothers and sisters who graduated from AHS: _____

Names of other relatives who graduated from AHS: _____

Name and address of someone who will always know your address: _____

Suggestions / comments for the AHA (special events, newsletter ideas, anything): _____

Wanted: Outstanding Grads for us to Honor

Perhaps the Alumni Association's most significant non-financial duty today is selecting the recipient of its highest honor – the Distinguished Alumna or Alumnus of the year. Bill Ripp says the award, established by the first officers of the AHSAA, was patterned after Iowa State's "Cy's Favorite Alum" which recognized supporters of athletics. So, it began in 1990 as the AHS Alumni Association's "Favorite Alum" with the aim of the board choosing alums who supported athletics or donated time or money to the school. After four years, Ripp suggested that since Favorite Alums would most likely always be Ames residents, it was time to "branch out and make the award open to all graduates." This led to a re-naming of the award to "Distinguished Alum" (Alumnus or Alumna) and created a need to solicit nominations from all alumni, not just members of the AHSAA. Through 2018 the award (by whatever name) has been presented to 29 alums, of whom 19 were male and 10 were female. The earliest graduate recipient was Farwell T. Brown from the class of 1929 – the youngest winner so far—from the class of 1991—is Nupur Ghoshal, M.D. in 2018. If you know a still-living Ames High School alum who you think deserves the award, contact Bill Ripp and explain why. (*Tom Emerson, '55*)

AHSAA Calendar

2019 AHSAA Monthly Meetings:

August 20th	AHSAA Monthly Meeting
September 17th	AHSAA Monthly Meeting
October 15th	AHSAA Monthly Meeting
November 19th	AHSAA Monthly Meeting
No December Meeting	

2019 Class Reunions:

Aug. 9-11	Class of 1959 60th Reunion
Sept. 6-7	Class of 1964 55th Reunion
Sept. 6-8	Class of 1969 50th Reunion
Sept. 27-29	Class of 1974 45th Reunion

Other 2019 Events:

December 27th	All-Classes
	AHS Holiday Gathering

The Ames High School Alumni Newsletter (ISSN 1055-5196) is published three times a year by the Ames High School Alumni Association (AHSAA).

Membership in the AHSAA is \$8 for 1 year, \$15 for two years, \$20 for three years (see member form for foreign pricing). Membership is open to everyone, not just Ames High School alumni.

The AHSAA meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. Please email or call (515-232-0230) for the exact time and location of the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Ames High School Alumni Association can be contacted as follows:

By mail- see return address.

<http://www.ahsalum.org>

info@ahsalum.org



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