

CAT TRACKS

the official publication of the Muncie Central Alumni Association
Volume 25 Number 2
Summer 2023

This special condensed edition of Cat Tracks has been produced to update the Muncie Central Alumni Association membership on items of importance since the last newsletter. We will resume production of a full newsletter with the next edition.

Scholarship recipients plan degrees in engineering, teaching

Two scholarships administered by the Alumni Association were awarded last spring. Delaney Strange was selected as the Harris-Jones scholarship recipient for 2023-24, while Ella Piche received the Alumni Association scholarship.

Strange has begun studies at Purdue University and plans to obtain a civil engineering degree with a concentration in transportation and a minor in Spanish.

Strange's ultimate professional goal includes working on projects in underserved communities, both in the United States and abroad.

While at Central, she was in National Honor Society, participated in Hoosier Girls State, and served as a page with the Indiana General Assembly. She was selected for an Outstanding in Chemistry Award and received other academic honors.

Strange was an accomplished athlete, lettering in cross country, swimming, and track and field. Team captain in both cross country and swimming, she was team MVP in both sports. An All-Academic North Central Conference athlete, she was a cross country regional qualifier.

The Harris-Jones Scholarship was established by 1962 Muncie Central graduate Sherry Harris Jones and her husband Ralph T. Jones. The endowed scholarship is intended to support students who enroll in public or private accredited colleges or universities for baccalaureate degree programs. It is a financial need-based scholarship granted on the basis of high school academic achievement and educational promise. Applicants must possess the qualities of leadership, industry, and integrity.

Piche is attending Ball State and plans to obtain a teaching degree, with a goal of teaching secondary math education.

In a reference letter for Piche, her teacher and class sponsor described her as a dedicated member of the student body, a born leader who "has gone above and beyond to make the high school experience great for students of Muncie Central."

Academically, she ranked sixth in her class while taking part in a variety of diverse extracurricular activities. She served on the prom committee, was involved with choir and theater, and was a member of National Honor Society, serving as vice president for two years. She was also active with student government.

An athlete, Piche was on the swim and track teams and participated in soccer. She lettered in all three sports.

In her application for the scholarship, Piche wrote that she would like to return as a teacher at Muncie Central after she obtains her degree and applauds Central for having a strong community. "I cannot wait to support the next generation

of learners," she said, adding that she wants to contribute to helping them be part of a strong community they can rely on.

The Alumni Association scholarship is a \$2,000 stipend presented annually to a graduating senior through an application process.

'Cats hosts home opener in new stadium

Dateline: August 25, 2023: On a nearly perfect, though warm weather night, the Bearcats took the field for their opening home football game. This night was special. It was the unveiling of Central's new stadium, which opened as scheduled. The stadium replaces the one that had served the school for nearly 75 years as it hosted not only football but also track and field events.

The \$5.8 million stadium, erected where the old had been, boasts an artificial turf field, as well as a new concession stand and restroom facilities for fans, and new team facilities. Funding was secured through bonds which, according to city schools officials, will be paid back over three years.

Delaware County rival Yorktown soundly defeated the Bearcats, who had just one opportunity to set off fireworks signaling a touchdown and extra point. But the night was nonetheless festive for the purple and white who never faltered in their enthusiasm, and school officials were pleased to see a near-capacity crowd in the stands, estimated to seat nearly 2,000.

Freshman orientation includes visit, tour of Alumni Association memorabilia room

This fall's orientation for incoming freshmen at Central included a stop in the memorabilia room. Brought into the room in small groups, students were given a brief introduction by Alumni Association vice president, Steve Cartwright, then had a short time to browse the room's collection. This was the first year the room has been on the schedule and is part of a cooperative effort with Central to increase the Association's visibility as well as educate students on the proud history of the school.

In touch with your Alumni Association

The Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) organization. Through memberships and other contributions, in addition to preserving history, we provide scholarships to seniors to further education, offer teacher grants for items and projects not funded by the school, and offer financial assistance to students with school needs.

Learn more on our website:
munciecentralalumniassociation.com

contact us

Is your class planning a reunion?

If your graduating class is planning a reunion, we will publish timely information in upcoming issues of *Cat Tracks* and also include your info on our Website. Send your info to:

Linda Hollis
ljhollis@comcast.net

Do you have a name to submit for the Alumni Association board?

We are always seeking names for the board of directors. As vacancies arise, we look to our pool of candidates first. All Muncie Central graduates are eligible.

If you would like to be considered for a board appointment, or know someone who might be interested, send info to:

Brad Polk
bpolkdist4@gmail.com

Do you know an outstanding graduate?

Distinguished alumni are honored during our annual dinner and program each fall. To be eligible, the alumnus should have made contributions to his or her community, state, nation, and/or the Muncie Central Alumni Association.

Include the individual's name, class year (if known), and contact information; your name and contact information, and a narrative description of why your nominee deserves this recognition.

Send nominations to:
Forrest Bowers
fbowers39@gmail.com

Four Bearcat alumni join county's athletic hall of fame

Four Muncie Central graduates are among 16 county high school alumni who were inducted into the Delaware County Athletic Hall of Fame in July. They are Andrew Edwards, Tonya Ward Lewis, Lydgia Greiner Palmer, and Daniel Proctor.

Edwards excelled in athletics throughout his high school years, earning nine varsity letters as a Bearcat: four in track and field, two each in basketball and cross country, and one in soccer. Among his achievements, Edwards heled three 1,600 relay track teams earn sectional championships and two NCC crowns, and place fourth in one state meet. In basketball, Edwards played on a varsity team that won the sectional and also participated with a freshman team that won the city championship.

Lewis excelled in track and field in high school. Beginning her sports participation at Muncie Northside, she moved to Central for her senior year when Northside closed. Named a captain in her final year in high school, Lewis led the Bearcats to a North Central Conference title. She qualified for the state meet and capped a career by finishing fourth in the 100 dash.

Palmer earned All-NCC honors in both cross country and track and was a semi-state qualifier all four of her high school years. Among her records, Palmer medaled five time in competition at state, and won the 800 in record time in 1999. She joins her grandfather, John Greiner, and father, James Greiner, in the hall of fame.

Proctor enjoyed a highly successful career in swimming. The all-time Muncie high school sectional champion as well as an NCC champion, Proctor had five top-16 finishes in the state meet. He was also an Academic Speedo All-American and selected for the NCC Academic Team all four years.

In Memoriam: Paul McDaniel, MCHS band director, teacher

Paul McDaniel, former band director and teacher at Muncie Central, died July 22. A graduate of Rushville High School, he obtained his bachelor's degree from Indiana State University and his master's from Ball State.

McDaniel began teaching music in the New Ross School system in Montgomery County Indiana and moved to Muncie in 1956 to be band director for Yorktown High School. In the early 1960s McDaniel was named band director and remained in that position until he retired in 1995.

In addition to teaching, McDaniel was an accomplished pianist and clarinetist and was involved in numerous area music endeavors. A keyboardist with the Countdowns Dance Combo, he also was a member of the Directors Dance Band. He was a solo pianist in in the Muncie and Indianapolis areas, played clarinet and bass clarinet in America's Hometown Band, the Marhoefer German Band, the Four Winds Clarinet Quartet, and the Clarinet Choir of Anderson University.

Active in Muncie Civic Theater, he also was an accompanist for Third Age Theater.

Alumni Association Board Members

Terms Concluding Dec. 2025

- Forrest Bowers, '57
- Steve Cartwright, '66
- Tom Foote, '65
- Ana Quirk Hunter, '83
- Mary Jones, '00
- Nora Niccum, '63
- Amanda Rammel, '89
- DeWayne Richmond, '82
- Lynn Thornburg, '64

Terms Concluding Dec. 2024

- Tom Abrell, '85
- Jason Burkhart, '92
- Larry Campbell, '54
- Lisa Dalton Doan, '95
- Shoka Griffin, '92
- Jan Marsh, '63
- Bruce Munson, '70
- Joan Scrivnor, '53
- Sally Wetzel, '63
- David Wilson, '66

Terms Concluding Dec. 2023

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- Dan Gibson, '00
- Linda Hollis, '64
- Brad Polk, '83
- Kay Rankin, '64
- Ken Schuck, '62
- Charlotte Shepperd, '64
- Sheryl Swingley, '70
- Joanie Taylor, '81
- Sheryl Williams, '65

Emeritus

- Shirley Pittenger, '53
- Tom Raisor, '53

Ex Officio

Chris Walker, MCHS principal

In Memoriam

The Alumni Association pays tribute to those board members who have died, but who served their Alma Mater well.

Muncie Central High School

**Alumni Association
Mission Statement**

We, the alumni of Muncie Central High School, recognize the need to build lasting relationships between the graduates and Muncie Central High School. We, therefore, set forth these ideals: to stimulate the loyalty of all alumni of the school; to encourage their support by uniting them in close bonds of fellowship and mutual assistance; and to acquaint them fully with the progress and needs of their alma mater.

Cat Tracks is published by the Muncie Central High School Alumni Association. It is mailed to the Association membership and prospective members. To submit items for the newsletter, contact Charlotte Shepperd, '64 at charshp@comcast.net; or mail to: MCHS Alumni Association, c/o Linda Hollis, '64, 6604 W. Talamore Ct., Yorktown, IN 47396.

Cat Tracks is mailed, using nonprofit standard rate, through the MCHS Alumni Association permit No. 801.











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