

# CAT TRACKS

the official publication of the Muncie Central Alumni Association

Volume 28 Number 2

Summer/Fall 2026

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

## Students receive MCHSAA Inspiration Awards



Amaya Stoudmire, '26, with MCHSAA President Steve Cartwright at Muncie Central's Senior Awards Night

The Muncie Central Alumni Association, for the second year in a row, presented awards to Muncie Central underclassmen and seniors who have demonstrated exceptional qualities deserving of recognition. The awards available for nomination include Community Advocate, Outstanding Fine Arts Student, Bearcat Spirit Award, Literacy (Creative Writing) and Math.

Students are nominated by faculty and staff to receive these awards, which were established to recognize students who might not otherwise be recognized for their contributions to the school community. Presented to the winners at the Underclassmen and Senior Awards Nights, all received a plaque and a \$100 gift card, presented to them on behalf of the Alumni Association and our membership by Steve Cartwright. Congratulations to this year's winners!

| Category                             | Underclassmen Winner | Senior Winner   |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Community Advocate</b>            | Dreamah Patterson    | Amaya Stoudmire |
| <b>Outstanding Fine Arts Student</b> | Grace Wright         | Victoria Young  |
| <b>Bearcat Spirit Award</b>          | Savannah Doughty     | Brodyn Zick     |
| <b>Math</b>                          |                      | Koenne Rivers   |

## Investing in our teachers

Since its inception in 1998, the MCHSAA Teacher Grant has awarded over \$38,000 to more than 89 teachers helping across a multitude of departments. This year's recipients included Daniel Sager, Band; Kayla Howard, Theatre; Lucy Benefiel, Special Education; and Sarah Hofman, Math/Physics.

The grants given in the 2025-2026 school year were used to provide private music instruction and purchase tools to aid in building sets for the Drama Club, items used to establish a sensory room in the Special Education Department, and flying pigs for a project that taught students how to measure centripetal force. Daniel Sager, Band Director, stated that the private music instruction "was a huge part of our achievement of Gold Ratings at State Assessments." The National Association of Music Merchants recently recognized Muncie Community Schools as one of the country's Best Communities for Music Education, making them one of just 16 communities in Indiana to receive this distinction.

Teachers may apply for this grant annually and recipients are announced at the Association's annual meeting hosted in November. Grants may be used for a myriad of reasons, and in the past have been utilized for things like classroom equipment, sports uniforms, and school fieldtrips. The Association has also supported the school's laundry by replenishing its supplies so that students have access to clean clothes.

Lucy Benefiel, Special Education instructor, stated, "The Alumni Association Teacher Grant truly made a difference in my classroom this year, and I saw its impact on my students every single day. This grant didn't just provide materials, it helped me better support my students and create a classroom environment where they feel comfortable, cared for, and ready to grow."

In addition to the Teacher Grants, the Alumni Association also participates in "Teacher Appreciation Week" annually. This year, the Association put daily gifts of gratitude in teachers' mailboxes and hosted a coffee and doughnut breakfast.



John Clark directs the Muncie Central Bands at the Muncie Community Sing



Members of Muncie Central's Drama Club entertaining audiences with their performance of "Clue: High School Edition"

## Contact us

### Upcoming Reunions

If your graduation class is planning a reunion, please send info to:

**Amanda Rammel**

amandaerammel@gmail.com Include the date of your reunion, the venue, and contact information, to include organizer's email address and/or phone number.

### Association Board

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

**Brad Polk**

bpolkdist4@gmail.com

### Distinguished Alumni

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:

**Jan Marsh**

ricepaddy45@comcast.net

## President highlights year of alumni impact

The Muncie Central Alumni Association anticipated and planned to have an energetic year in 2026. And that, indeed, has been the case.

The Alumni Association's Memorabilia Room was open during all home varsity basketball games. This year the fieldhouse was one of the chosen sites for the IHSAA semi-state tournament and the room was also open with its quality much appreciated during both sessions.

In addition to our Teacher Grant program, our Student Assistance Fund provides funds for needed and essential student items, as well as required equipment or expenses for school programs outside school grounds.

In May, we awarded our annual \$2,000 Student Scholarship during the Senior Honors Program, where we also announced the seven recipients of our annual Inspiration Awards. The strong applause during this program made us feel proud of our choices. The Student Scholarship will be increased to \$2,500 for the 2026-2027 school year.

In addition, the Association served again as conduit for The Harris-Jones Scholarship. Named for benefactors Sherry Harris-Jones and her husband, Ralph, a \$5,000 yearly renewable scholarship for up to four years is awarded to a highly acclaimed student. The good news for the 2026-2027 school year is that the already generous scholarship will be increased to \$10,000 annually, for which we are even more thankful to the benefactors.

The Association was honored to be named a recipient of the 2026 Muncie Rotary Club Viva Award (Very Important Volunteer Award). The award is for "those who generously give their time, talent and resources to uplift others and enrich the community".

Plans are underway for the Association's Annual Meeting scheduled for November. The meeting will contain an important program along with the presentation of our Distinguished Alumni Awards, the naming of new board officers along with a good meal and treasured memories. A reservation form is provided with this mailing.

Thank you for your continued support of the Muncie Central Alumni Association. If you know of prospective members, we will appreciate your efforts to encourage them to join.

Go Bearcats!

Steve Cartwright, '66

MCHS Alumni Association President

Your contributions help us to fund scholarships, teacher grants, and other Association projects. Thank you for your support.

## Memorabilia Room temporarily closed during renovations

The Alumni Association's Memorabilia Room is currently closed as the Fieldhouse is undergoing installation of a new heating and air conditioning system. Because the main electrical and water sources are housed in the room, all displays are currently in storage. Anticipated reopening of the room is no sooner than late-fall of this year. Until then, the Association is not accepting new donations or requests to visit.



Nora Niccum, '63, in the almost emptied MCHSAA Memorabilia Room

## Alumni Association Board Members

### Terms Concluding Dec. 2028

Steve Cartwright, '66  
Tom Foote, '65  
James Garrett, '11  
Teresa Jeter, '75  
Nora Niccum, '63  
Amanda Rammel, '89  
DeWayne Richmond, '82

### Terms Concluding Dec. 2027

Tom Abrell, '85  
Jason Burkhart, '92  
Lisa Dalton Doan, '95  
Shoka Griffin, '92  
Jan Marsh, '63  
Bruce Munson, '70  
Conner Polk, '15  
Joan Scrivnor, '53  
Sally Wetzel, '63  
David Wilson, '66

### Terms Concluding Dec. 2026

Dan Gibson, '00  
Brad Polk, '83  
Kay Rankin, '64  
Ken Schuck, '62  
Charlotte Shepperd, '64  
Angie Stone, '88  
Joanie Taylor, '81  
Sheryl Williams, '65

### Emeritus

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 by its Newsletter Committee. It is mailed to the Association membership and prospective members.

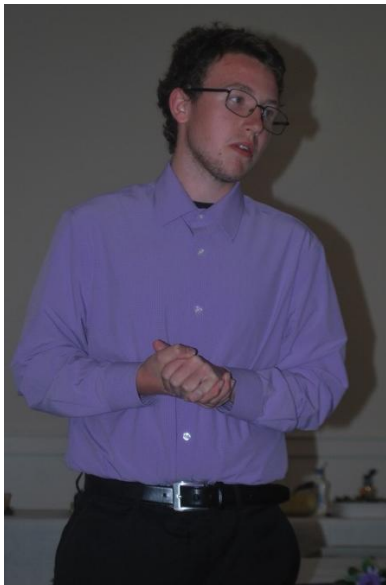


## YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HARD AT WORK!



Since inception, and with **YOUR** generous contributions,  
the Association has:

- Engaged more than **120 alumni** in service on the Board of Directors
- Presented **eight** Honorary Alumni Awards, as of November 2025
- Awarded more than **\$45,000** in **Alumni Association scholarships** to **29** graduating seniors
- Awarded more than **\$40,000** to two students through the **Harris-Jones Endowed Scholarship**, established by 1962 Muncie Central graduate Sherry Harris Jones and her husband, Ralph T. Jones.
- Provided Muncie Central teachers with almost **\$40,000** in grants for needed classroom resources
- Assisted students through the Student Assistance Fund, originally established through a contribution from the Class of 1963
- Provided partial **funding for numerous projects**, including laundromat equipment and supplies for the school, restoration of the Abraham Lincoln statue, and new state championship banners for the Fieldhouse
- Recognized Muncie Central students across all grade levels through the **MCHSAA Inspiration Award**
- **Maintained a positive, collaborative relationship** with Muncie Central High School



**William Washburn, '26** was named the 2026 Muncie Central High School Alumni Association Scholarship recipient, an honor presented during the Senior Honors Program in May 2026. A high-achieving and service-minded student, William distinguished himself through leadership in National Honor Society, Student Advisory Board, Boy Scouts—where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout—and a wide range of school and community activities, including choir, soccer, swimming, theater, tutoring, 4-H, and youth group.

Known for his character, work ethic, and commitment to bringing people together, William plans to study at Trine University, majoring in Chemical Engineering and minoring in History, while continuing his involvement in service and Scouting. His academic accomplishments, civic engagement, and dedication to helping others reflect the values celebrated by the scholarship.

Please plan to attend this year's

## Annual Meeting and Dinner

Friday, November 13, 2026 | Registration 5:30-6:00pm | Dinner @ 6:00pm  
Ivy Tech Fisher Building | 345 S. High Street, Muncie, Indiana

Visit our website: [www.munciecentralalumniassociation.com](http://www.munciecentralalumniassociation.com)

Follow us on Facebook: [Muncie Central High School Alumni Association](#)

**Thank YOU—for your continued support of the Association and its positive and cooperative presence with Muncie Central High School!**