

# CAT TRACKS

the official publication of the Muncie Central Alumni Association

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Winter/Spring 2026

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.

## Three Distinguished Alumni honored at annual meeting, 30th anniversary celebration of MCHS Alumni Association

Three Muncie Central alumni were honored during the Alumni Association's annual meeting last November. Robert Coatie, '63; Mary Jane Croft, '33; and Lathay Pegues, '93, were presented with Distinguished Alumni awards. Honorary Alumni awards were presented to Chuck Reynolds and Rhonda Reynolds.

Coatie was an educator, church elder, and advocate for civil rights his entire life. Born in Illinois, his family moved to Muncie when he was a few weeks old, and Coatie always considered himself a true Munsonian.

Coatie obtained a bachelor's degree and master of arts in counseling and psychology from Ball State. His 40-year professional career in education included senior roles in student affairs, among them at the University of Louisville and Ball State. At Ball State he had served as Assistant Director of Special Programs and played a major role in the development of the Office of Special Programs, now known as the Multicultural Center.

Any fan of *I Love Lucy* may well remember Mary Jane Croft. She had a prolific career in radio and television and has often been fondly recalled as one of the most beloved and consistent character actors of the 1950s, '60s, and '70s.

Portraying three different characters in the *I Love Lucy* series, Croft was probably best known for her role as Betty Ramsey, Lucy's neighbor when the Ricardos' moved to Connecticut. Another memorable role was that of the airline passenger sitting next to Lucy, who holds a chunk of cheese disguised as a baby on a flight home from Europe.

Croft began her acting career just out of high school on the stage of Muncie Civic Theater. She moved to Cincinnati, Ohio and blossomed in radio, playing a wide variety of roles. Transitioning to television, Croft had roles on *Our Miss Brooks*, *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*, and two subsequent shows with Lucille Ball, *The Lucy Show* and *Here's Lucy*.

Pegues has made his mark locally. While in high school he was co-captain of the Bearcat basketball team. A graduate of Indiana University with a degree in broadcast journalism, he is a successful business entrepreneur and active community leader.

His professional career includes accolades as a former newspaper reporter, lead TV news anchor, and Emmy Award-winning journalist. Today Pegues owns a successful business he founded, John Tom's Barbecue Sauce, promoting a product inspired by his grandfather's secret sauce recipe.

A former Alumni Association board member, his involvement in the Muncie community includes serving as a commissioner



**Robert Coatie**



**Mary Jane Croft**



**Lathay Pegues**

with the Delaware County Housing Authority, on the grants committee of the Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, and as a board member of Next Muncie. He was a founding member of the Muncie-Delaware County Black Chamber of Commerce.

Chuck and Rhonda Reynolds were acknowledged with the Association's Honorary Alumni Award. Both have made significant contributions to Muncie Central and the city's school system.

Chuck Reynolds, a graduate of Ball State, is Director of Public Education/CEO of Muncie Community Schools. Other roles within the school system have included serving as band director for an award-winning program at Muncie Southside and in various administrative roles, including at Central.

Rhonda Reynolds has worked in the Muncie school system as an instructional aide and secretary, and is currently the front office administrative assistant at Central.

The evening's program was a presentation about the Alumni Association's 30-year history. A separate 2-page summary accompanies this newsletter.

During the annual business meeting, board members were appointed for the upcoming year. Reappointed to three-year terms were Steve Cartwright, '66; Tom Foote, '65; James Garrett, '11; Teresa Jeter, '75; Nora Niccum, '63; Amanda Rammel, '89; and DeWayne Richmond, '82.

### Keep in touch

#### Visit our web site:

[www.munciecentralalumniassociation.com](http://www.munciecentralalumniassociation.com)

#### Follow us on Facebook:

Muncie Central High School Alumni Association

**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 past year's activities, programs**

The Muncie Central Alumni Association enjoyed a very good year in 2025. We presented grants to four teachers totaling \$1,936.04. The annual grants provide resources for class projects that are not otherwise funded. The Association awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to a graduating senior, along with the \$5,000 renewable Harris-Jones Endowed Scholarship.

In addition, we presented Inspiration Awards, new in 2025, and selected by teachers and staff for both seniors and underclass students who have excelled at a number of disciplines or projects that do not often receive adequate honor. Inspiration Award recipients received a plaque and \$100 gift card.

During Teacher Appreciation Week last spring, the Association thanked Central's teachers and staff by providing morning donuts and coffee and daily small gifts.

As we have begun a new calendar year, our Memorabilia Room with hundreds of Bearcat items on display, continues to be open for all home basketball games as well as by appointment for reunion classes and other groups. We anticipate hosting freshman orientation groups again in August. And, we are evaluating and making plans for further improving our museum this year.

The Association board meets monthly to conduct business, except July and December. In June we meet for a social gathering when we invite scholarship recipients to speak. During the annual meeting in November we present our Distinguished Alumni and Honorary Alumni awards, and announce Teacher Grant recipients. We also provide a recap of the year's successes and elect board members and officers. The Association's 30th anniversary was celebrated at the 2025 annual meeting.

A late-summer mailing will include news and details about the next annual meeting in addition to your invitation to renew your Alumni Association membership. You can also keep updated and follow the Association on our web site and Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support of the Muncie Central Alumni Association. Your contributions provide the valuable resources that allow the Association to continue its work to enhance the lives of our future alumni. If you know of prospective members, we will appreciate your efforts to encourage them to join.

We all feel blessed by memories, by the friendships, the education, the livelihood, and the values that deep brushstrokes of purple and white have added to the fullness of our lives. 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.

**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. It is mailed to the Association membership and prospective members.