

# CAT TRACKS

the official publication of the Muncie Central Alumni Association  
Volume 26 Number 2  
Summer/Fall 2024

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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.

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## Association continues support of school programs through scholarships, teacher grants, other assistance

The Alumni Association annually provides student scholarships, teacher grants and, by request, monetary assistance to students or the school for items that benefit the broader educational experience.

### Scholarships: Gabe Reynolds, Delaney Strange

Gabe Reynolds received the 2024 Alumni Association student scholarship. The honor was announced during the annual senior program in May.

Delaney Strange, selected as the Harris-Jones scholarship recipient for 2023-24, has been granted the scholarship for the remainder of her undergraduate studies at Purdue University.

Reynolds is attending IU East and plans to major in graphic arts and advertising.

At Central, Reynolds participated for four years in cross country and track, three years with the basketball program, and was a four-year member of the band. In National Honor Society, he also served as a mentor for incoming freshmen.

Reynolds is the son of Chuck and Rhonda Reynolds.

Strange continues studies at Purdue with a goal of obtaining a civil engineering degree. While at Central, she was in National Honor Society, participated in Hoosier Girls State, and served as a page with the Indiana General Assembly. In addition to academic honors, Strange was an accomplished athlete, lettering in cross country, swimming, and track and field. An All-Academic North Central Conference athlete, she was a cross country regional qualifier.

Both scholarships are awarded through an application process. The Alumni Association scholarship, for \$2,000, is presented annually to a graduating senior. Funding for the scholarship comes through membership fees and additional contributions from alumni and friends. Since its founding the Association has awarded \$39,000 to deserving students.

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.

### Assistance to enhance student experience

Upon request through the school, the Alumni Association provides monetary support to individual students or school programs that enhance the student learning experience. Most recently, the Association granted \$400 to the school toward the purchase of shelving for Central's existing food pantry. The pantry has become a regular offering for students and their families.

### Freshman orientation, class reunion groups include memorabilia room on schedules

The Alumni Association hosted numerous groups in the memorabilia room throughout the past year. In addition to being open during basketball games and, on occasion, other sporting events in the fieldhouse, the room was made available to incoming freshmen and to class reunion groups, by request.

For the second year, Muncie Central's freshman orientation program included the memorabilia room on its schedule. More than 100 students spent time in the room, browsing the extensive archival collection and getting a glimpse into the school's rich history. The cooperative effort with Central provides a gateway to not only educate and instill pride in students but also to increase the Association's visibility.

Several reunion groups also toured the room. Visitors reminisced as they explored displays, viewed artifacts and pictures, and leafed through yearbooks.

The memorabilia room was established by the Association in 2004 and has since increased its collection multifold. The room houses more than 2,500 items, including a full set of yearbooks, bound Munsonians, athletic and other extracurricular mementos, and personal items such as early diplomas and class rings.

Donations of relevant items, once accepted, become the property of the Association. Anyone with items to contribute should contact current memorabilia room committee chairman Steve Cartwright, [scartwright2@yahoo.com](mailto:scartwright2@yahoo.com) for details.

### 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](http://munciecentralalumniassociation.com)

**contact us**

**Reunion**

**Class of 1960:** The Class of 1960 will host its 65-year reunion Friday and Saturday, June 20-21, 2025. Friday's event will be casual and hosted at Pizza King on North Wheeling, Muncie. A dinner and dance is set for Saturday at the Knights of Columbus. For information: Joyce (Shaw) Benbow, samandizzy2003@yahoo.com 317.448.3886; or, Barbara (Bookout) Estes, barbaraestes6@yahoo.com 510.427.7216.

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

**Amanda Rammel**  
amandaerammel@gmail.com

**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**  
bpolkdlist4@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:

**Tom Foote**  
tomfoote@comcast.net

**Spirit of Muncie Band and Guard wins at State Fair**

The Spirit of Muncie Band and Guard captured first place at the Indiana State Fair Band Day contest in August. According to a news release, their show featured music from Alanis Morissette, Sam Smith, and original music by Muncie Southside graduate Sean Sumwalt.

The win was Muncie Central's fourth State Fair championship, having placed first in 1953, 2014, and 2021, in addition to this year. For the Muncie schools, the victory was the tenth overall championship, with Muncie Southside winning six times. The band and guard program is led by John Clark, Daniel Sager, and Rhonda Reynolds.

**In Memoriam: former superintendent Sam Abram**

Muncie Central alumnus and former Muncie Schools Superintendent Sam Abram passed away in March following a brief illness.

Abram was honored by the Association with its 2005 Distinguished Alumnus award. He graduated with his bachelor of science degree in 1960, obtained his master of arts degree in 1966 and an EdD degree in 1974, all from Ball State University. His college degrees led to a career in education, including serving as a teacher, principal, and ultimately superintendent of schools.

Beginning his professional career in 1960 as a teacher at Muncie's Longfellow Elementary School, he became that school's principal six years later. In 1970 he was named administrative assistant to the superintendent, advancing to the role of assistant superintendent in 1974.

Upon his appointment as Muncie Schools superintendent in 1989, an editorial in *The Muncie Star* stated that Abram's appointment had been based upon his "vision, sensitivity to the needs of students, teachers, parents, and community; knowledge of curriculum; ability to communicate; honesty [and] loyalty."

Abram retired from his Muncie position in 1994, but then served as superintendent of schools in Pontiac, Michigan for a time.

**You make a difference!**

Your Alumni Association exists to keep alumni of Muncie Central High School connected, to encourage their support, and to acquaint them with the progress and needs of their Alma Mater. To that end, we hope you will continue your support of Muncie Central and the Association by retaining your membership, knowing that you help to provide needed assistance through scholarships, grants, and additional funding that enhance the overall learning experience for current and future students. To that end, we say, Thank You!

**Alumni Association Board Members**

**Terms Concluding Dec. 2026**

Michael Dowd, '63  
Dan Gibson, '00  
Linda Hollis, '64  
Brad Polk, '83  
Kay Rankin, '64  
Ken Schuck, '62  
Charlotte Shepperd, '64  
Joanie Taylor, '81  
Sheryl Williams, '65

**Terms Concluding Dec. 2025**

Forrest Bowers, '57  
Steve Cartwright, '66  
Tom Foote, '65  
Ana Quirk Hunter, '83  
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

**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. 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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