



Front Row: Kelly Collins, Chloe Jancosek, Anu Arora. Back Row: Mitch Walsh, Robert Wentte, Elliott Fus

Six MHS Students to Sing in All-State Choir

Six Munster High School students were selected as participants in the 2017 Indiana All-State Choir. Freshman Mitch Walsh, sophomores Anu Arora and Kelly Collins, juniors Chloe Jancosek and Robert Wentte, and senior Elliott Fus were chosen from Area 1A (Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties) to represent our region! The Indiana All-State Choir is the top honor choir in the state of Indiana. Sponsored by the Indiana Choral Directors Association (ICDA), high school singers from all across Indiana are chosen based on their score from a live audition. They will learn and memorize eight challenging choral works which will be performed on Janu-

ary 2017 in Fort Wayne. This performance, in conjunction with the Indiana Music Education Association (IMEA) Professional Development Conference, is the culmination of months of rehearsals. Both required group rehearsals at area high schools and personal preparation is open to the general public.

In addition, sophomores Ben Peters and Lilly Therault were selected as All-State Choir alternates. Munster High School is incredibly proud of all singers who auditioned and pleased at the great results our students had at the September auditions. Congratulations, Mustangs!

More than 150 Guests Enjoyed Alumni/Staff Hall of Fame Event

**Hal Lusk
President MHS '82**

Hello fellow alumni and friends of Munster High School!

It's hard to believe another school year has begun and winter is upon us. On Aug. 26 we hosted our second annual Alumni Hall of Fame ceremonies as well as our inaugural Faculty and Staff Hall of Fame Ceremonies.

It was great meeting all of the inductees and their guests. I enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with old classmates and teachers as well as talking with classmates from different years.

The day was full of activities starting with a tour of the high school where many of the inductees were amazed at the numerous improvements that have been made to the facilities since they left. The tour included an inductee lunch and was followed by an all-school assembly where the students and faculty enjoyed hearing speeches from each of the inductees.

Later that evening a banquet and reception took place at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts with over 150 guests in attendance. The inductees were presented with engraved memorial pavers identical to

the pavers to be installed on the Pathway to Excellence in front of the high school.

After the banquet, I had the honor of introducing each inductee to the crowd during halftime at the MHS football game against the Chesterton Trojans.

All in all, it seems like everyone involved had a great time.

I encourage every MHS alumnus, former faculty & staff, and friends of MHS to attend next year's Hall of Fame Banquet. It makes for a really fun and rewarding evening.

I would like to especially thank a few individuals that were responsible for organizing the event. They are Principal Mike Wells, Athena Svolos, Dana Ziel, and Bill Melby. Thank you all for a great day! You can read more about each inductee in this newsletter (see P. 4).

I encourage you to visit the alumni web page to stay up-to-date on MHS and alumni association activities.

Please consider purchasing a personalized brick on the MHS Pathway to Excellence for yourself or to honor a friend or loved one.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the year and... Go 'Stangs!

Hal Lusk

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School Updates

Superintendent Hendrix keeps us informed about all the building updates with the Monthly *Mustang Express* and his *Superchat Podcast*. Both can be accessed online www.munster.us Please check out the "Pride in Excellence" video on the home page. It's AMAZING!!! You may also see some familiar faces...

Get Pinned

Show your Mustang Pride.
Pins are available in the high school office.



A Beautiful Project

Thank you to Nina Arzumanian for organizing the beautification event Sept. 24 at Munster High School and Wilbur Wright Middle School.

Ms. Arzumanian brought together 47 volunteers who worked from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to clean up the landscaping.

Group members brought their own supplies and spent the day pulling weeds, edging and removing and trimming small bushes to improve the grounds of Munster High School!

Thank you for your continued support of Munster High School and Middle School!

Reunions

Send us your reunion plans and we will help you get the word out to your classmates!

Where Are You Now?

We hope to reach out to graduates all over the U.S. and the world. If you would like share news of what's new in your life, please send a note to let us know where you are and what you've accomplished since graduating from MHS.

Send your updates
to nanwebster@gmail.com

MHSAA salutes 13 chosen as '17 national merit finalists

**By Mike Wells
Principal**

The 2017 National Merit Semifinalists have been announced and Munster High School is proud to have 13 students chosen as semifinalists. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million that will be offered next spring. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists

are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

The MHS students chosen for this honor are: Tessa A. Bales, Ajeyo De, Anna M. Gambetta, David M. Green, Madhuri Kesani, Matthew C. Kvasnica, Saveda Majety, Michael J. Marich, Nirav G. Patwari, Adam G. Richter, Anna B. Whitney, Patrick Wu, and Jacob L. Yalowitz.

Two high school teachers receive prestigious awards

The Munster High School Alumni Association offers congratulations to two high school teachers for their accomplishments.

Recently, Michael Gordon was selected to be a member of the Harvard Teaching Advisory Council.

This prestigious council focuses on teaching through case studies. This method has been proven to be an excellent way of teaching civic skills necessary for democracy.

Sarah-Ann Lanman was recently honored by the Roy H. Park School of Communications at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York with

the S'Park Media Mentor Award. After a nationwide search she received this award that recognizes high school teachers and leaders of organizations dedicated to igniting a passion for media and communications in all its form in high school students.

Ms. Lanman was recognized at an award ceremony at Ithaca College in October and given the opportunity to meet with other teachers who received the honor this year and in years past.

The Munster High School faculty is extremely proud of recipient, Sarah-Ann Lanman.

ALUMNI AND FACULTY HALL OF FAME



Christina Nzinga Blake Munster High School Alumna 1999

After graduating with highest honors from the UCLA School of Film, Television and Digital Media in 2003, Ms. Christine Nzinga Blake has served as a producer, writer, actor, and TV host with a true penchant for social activism and human rights. She has hosted TV shows, including Culture Click, shown recently on ABC, and Cartoon Network's Fridays, where she was one of the first live humans to be broadcast on the predominantly animated network. Further, she has been a correspondent on various television networks including BET, TV Guide, and Network 10, an Australian/ABC affiliate. Ms. Blake

co-starred on the TV pilot He Said, She Said and guest starred on Showtime's Barbershop and ABC's What About Brian. Ms. Blake was part of the 2007 Emmy-winning team as a writer, host, and producer for Current TV. Her most recent projects include producing and co-directing World AIDS Day public service announcements for the United Nations International Labor Organization and the writing and directing of "End Ebola Now," a PSA that has aired throughout West Africa in an effort to help educate and inform the public about the Ebola crisis. In conjunction with Doctors Without Borders and UNICEF, the End Ebola Now PSA has resulted in a #ShakeEbolaOff viral campaign that is helping to fund the only fully functioning hospital in Sierra Leone. Ms. Blake continues to promote youth empowerment in Africa and other developing nations through entertainment, media and the arts.



Todd Donoho Munster High School Alumnus 1973

Todd Donoho graduated from the University of Missouri in 1977 and then embarked on a storied career in sports journalism. Working as a sports anchor and reporter, Mr. Donoho was the play-by-play voice for NBC's radio coverage of college football, basketball, Minor League Baseball, Major League Baseball, and the National Football League. In the 1980s Mr. Donoho became nationally recognized for the critically acclaimed sports trivia show Time out for Trivia. Because of this show's television success, Mr. Donoho was featured in Sports Illustrated. Mr. Donoho later became the sports voice of the nationally syndicated Mark and Brian radio program

and LA's Monday Night Live, an NFL postgame show that was the highest-rated local program in LA. Mr. Donoho is a recipient of five television Emmys, three Golden Mikes, and three AP awards. Mr. Donoho also appeared as a sportscaster in the movie Blue Chips, which starred Shaquille O'Neal and Nick Nolte. In 2004 Mr. Donoho added author to his resume as he wrote and published three books affiliated with the University of Missouri. He penned a coffee table book (MizzouRah! Memorable Moments in Missouri Tiger Football History), a children's book (Hello Truman!) about University of Missouri Mascot Truman the Tiger, and its sequel (Hello, Truman: Show Me Missouri!) in which Truman the Tiger visits popular tourist attractions throughout Missouri. Currently, Mr. Donoho hosts a University of Missouri basketball postgame show on the statewide Tiger Radio Network while serving as the sports voice on both Los Angeles's Heidi and Frank Show and McIntyre in the Morning.



Helen Engstrom Munster High School Faculty 1965-1995

After three years of teaching at Arlington High School in Indianapolis, Helen Engstrom began a storied career as an English teacher and forensics coach at Munster High School. For 30 years, Mrs. Engstrom taught English and guided Munster's Speech and Debate program to national acclaim. Mrs. Engstrom coached two National Speech Tournament champions and numerous state and national finalists. Under her leadership, Munster High School earned

ten state titles for speech and 1 for debate. Further, the Speech and Debate Team was twice named a Team of Excellence at the national finals. Mrs. Engstrom was honored twice as the National Speech Coach of the Year, and she was honored with the Diamond Award from the National Speech and Debate Association five times. Mrs. Engstrom was elected to both the State and National Speech and Debate Halls of Fame. Mrs. Engstrom was honored by the Alpha Chi Omega Society as an inductee into their inaugural class of Real. Strong. Women. of Distinction, and she was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash by the State of Indiana in 2016. Helen Engstrom remains a valued contributor to Munster High School's Speech and Debate program as mentor to its current director and as volunteer coach for its talented students.



Nancy Hastings Munster High School Faculty 1972-2010

For 38 years, Nancy Hastings developed Munster High School's journalism program as Publications Director for the Paragon yearbook and Crier newspaper. In addition to managing her teaching responsibilities, Mrs. Hastings served on the School Improvement Committee and the National Honor Society Selection Committee. She also sponsored Munster's Quill and Scroll Honorary Society. Under the leadership of Mrs. Hastings, the Munster High School journalism program was honored by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association with Gold and Silver Crowns, by the National Scholastic Press

Association with Pacemaker Awards, by Quill and Scroll with Gallup Awards, and by the Indiana High School Press Association as a Hoosier Star. In addition, she was also honored as the Ella Sengenberger Indiana Journalism Teacher of the Year in 1983 and as the Inland Steel Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1987. In 1997, Mrs. Hastings was honored as the National Yearbook Advisor of the Year by the Journalism Educator Association, and she was inducted into Ball State University's Journalism Hall of Fame in 2004. She was a recipient of Ball State University's Marilyn Weaver Excellence in Journalism Education Award in 2010 and also received the Journalism Education Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in that same year. Currently, Nancy Hastings continues to instruct students and teachers at summer journalism workshops and conferences across the country, and she also serves as the state director for Indiana's Journalism Education Association.



Phil Lengyel Munster High School Alumnus 1967

Phil Lengyel was part of the first graduating class of Munster High School. After earning a bachelor's degree in telecommunications at Ball State University, he became a leader in branding and marketing for companies such as Walt Disney, the Indianapolis Speedway, and Dick Cook Studios. While working with Walt Disney World, Mr. Lengyel rose from publicist to promotions manager to director of marketing, and he became the Vice President of Alliances in 1999. During his 23-year tenure with Disney, he led the Walt Disney World marketing organization do-

mestically as it created two new theme parks, 5,000 resort hotel rooms, three convention facilities, and dozens of new attractions. Internationally, he led the worldwide marketing strategies team to open global marketing offices in London, Toronto, Paris, Tokyo and Munich, which set the stage for Disney theme park expansion around the world. In 2005 Mr. Lengyel joined the Indianapolis Motor Speedway as its Executive Vice President of Marketing, where he provided brand leadership and strategic counsel for the Indy Racing League. This attracted new sponsors and a multiyear television agreement. Most recently, in 2014, Mr. Lengyel became the Executive Vice President of Marketing for Dick Cook Studios, a California-based international media content company that focuses on commercial, multi-generational family entertainment. There, he continues to increase brand awareness and market availability.



Pat Premetz Munster High School Faculty 1979 to 2015

After earning both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Purdue University, Patricia "Pat" Premetz devoted 43 years to her teaching career. After seven years of teaching at Morton High School, Mrs. Premetz served 36 years in Munster High School's math department, where she became the department chair in 1997. Throughout her career, Mrs. Premetz taught students of every ability level and devoted efforts to expanding pedagogical knowledge for her colleagues. Mrs.

Premetz mentored student teachers and served on a host of committees, including the Gifted and Talented Committee, Textbook Adoption Committee, and the Faculty Committee on Grades. Mrs. Premetz was a member of Munster's first School Improvement Team in 1990 and remained committed to its work throughout her tenure, chairing the committee from 2005-2008. Mrs. Premetz's commitment to curriculum design is evident in the sheer number of workshops that she attended. In addition to attending, Mrs. Premetz also shared the information she learned with district teachers. For 36 years at Munster High, Pat worked tirelessly to improve instruction, and her students are evidence of her success.

Class of 2006



The Class of 2006 enjoyed their recent reunion at Byway Brewing in Hammond.

Share your reunion photos with the
Munster High School Alumni Association!
email photos to: Nanwebster@gmail.com

