



## MHS Students Travel Far on Pathway to Excellence

As the golden days of summer are upon us, Munster High School reflects on another successful school year with multiple noteworthy accomplishments. It is with great pride that Munster High School was recently honored by U.S.

News and World Report. U.S. News recognized Munster High School as the 6th best high school in the state and the 400th best high school in the nation. Munster High School is proud of the partnership between our students, faculty, and parents. The fact that all three work toward the same common goal is why we are perennially in the top ten in the state.

team was named state champion for the 2nd year in a row. The Science Olympiad team also earned high honors as the state runner-up, coming in just 2 points shy of a state championship. Our Boys Swimming team and Girls tennis noteworthy seasons as well. The boys team finished fifth overall at the state completion and the girls team qualified for state. The MHS eSports team opened its eSports arena this year after placing 2nd in the nation in its inaugural season. Our art program was honored as one of the top 50 schools in the country in the Van's Custom Culture competition and was also honored by the Congressional Institute and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. They selected Stereotype Me, a work in watercolor and ink by MHS senior Viviana Luna as the grand prize winner. As the grand prize winner, Viviana will have



Munster High School excels academically and in extracurricular activities. MHS had two teams reach the pinnacle of success this year. Our speech team was crowned the overall state champion for the eighth time in the past decade and our winter percussion

**MHS Speech team crowned state champions for the 8th time.**

**MHS** will celebrate the 5th year of the Alumni and Faculty/Staff Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Aug. 23, 2019 at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts. We hope you can come and celebrate with former alum and faculty members as this

year's class is inducted. Munster High School is proud of the accomplishments and achievements of former graduates and we celebrate the commitment to excellence that retired staff members have exhibited during their careers. See Page 3 for this year's Alumni inductees.

**If you would like more information about attending the Alumni/Faculty Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, please call Munster High School 219-836-3200**

## MHSAA Presents Six Scholarships

*Hello fellow alumni and friends of Munster High School!*

I hope everyone is enjoying another great summer. It's hard to believe that the MHSAA is heading into its fourth year and celebrating its fifth Alumni and Faculty/Staff Hall of Fame Induction.

As a result of the organization's continued success and a gift from the Class of '79 and friends, I was honored this past May to present six MHSAA scholarships at the MHS Academic Awards Night to these graduating seniors: Mikayla Collins, Erin Gonzales, Nicholas Larson, James Sroge, Madison Steapleton, and Eleanor Wilson. Congratulations to these deserving graduates!

This coming Aug. 23, 2019, will be the 5th MHS Hall of Fame Banquet honoring outstanding alumni and retired faculty/staff members. I invite you to join me at the banquet to honor all of this year's inductees and to celebrate Munster High School. And after the banquet you can head over to the football field to watch our Mustangs take on Lake Central HS! All of the inductees are listed

## Students on Pathway

her artwork displayed in the United States Capitol for one year. Additionally, the Munster High School Chorale, was honored by the Distinguished Concerts International New York organization with an opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall under the baton of Grammy Winning Composer/Conductor Eric Whitacre. Munster High Schools STEM team partnered with several granting orga-

nizations and community members to advance project GREEN and plant an orchard in the center courtyard of the school and MHS seniors have gained real world experience while completing career internships at Community Hospital.

In our current newsletter you can read about MHS's ranking in US News and World Report; the achievements of some of MHS's teams and clubs; the Chorale's trip to New York City; and state championship crowns for our speech team and winter percussion team.

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

**Add to the Pathway of Excellence!**

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

[Learn More here](#)

I hope you have a great new year.

## Go 'Stangs!

**Hal Lusk**  
**President**  
**Munster High School**  
**Alumni Association**

nizations and community members to advance project GREEN and plant an orchard in the center courtyard of the school and MHS seniors have gained real world experience while completing career internships at Community Hospital.

Finally, MHS topped all region schools with seven National Merit Finalists and two winners. We are quite proud of our accomplishments this year and look forward to even greater things in years to come

## MHSAA Board of Directors

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Click here for alumni website  
<http://alumni.munster.us/>

MHSAA is Seeking  
Additional

Alumni Board Members

If you would like to serve, please contact us  
webmasterf@munster.us

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 at <http://mhs.munster.us/>



# ALUMNI & FACULTY HALL OF FAME

## 2019 MHS Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

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**Nina Bilimoria 2000** As a former Stanford undergraduate and Harvard Business graduate student in 2009, Nina has already made a name for herself. She currently resides in Toronto and works as Vice President of Product Marketing at a start-up company called Top Hat. Previously she worked at Pearson on the Product Strategy team, and before that at HP. During her career, she has continued to marry two of her interests: technology and international business. She has been an innovator wherever she has been and continues to follow her passion of improving learning outcomes.

**Victoria Bussert 1975** Victoria was an undergraduate from Barat College and also received her graduate degree from Northwestern University. She currently is the Director of Musical Theater at Baldwin Wallace University. Victoria has been a director on the national/international stage. Some of the venues where she has directed include: New York City Opera, Majestic Theater, St. Petersburg, Russia, and Denmark. She has received numerous awards for her directing and theatrical performances.

**David Daniels 2001** Major Daniels was a graduate from West Point Military Academy, earning a degree in systems engineering. He successfully completed the Army Ranger School and received the Colonel Tex Turner Leadership award while doing so. He was an honor graduate of the United States Army Aviation Initial Entry Rotary Wing training. Major Daniels has served as a Platoon Leader during several tours. In July of 2016, MAJ Daniels was assigned as the Division Chief and Experimental test pilot for the AH-64E Version six Apache. He has flown over 21 different military and civilian rotary/fixed wing aircraft during his career.

**Danielle Dellorto 2000** Danielle was a graduate of Columbia College in 2004. She worked for CNN for 11 years and was the eventual senior producer of Sanjay Gupta. She has traveled around the world writing and producing investigations/documentaries for the network. Currently she is the Senior Producer of Nightly News with Lester Holt on NBC. During her career, she has received two news and Documentary EMMY awards, 3 National Peabody Awards and 5 New York Festival International Television & Film Awards.

**Paula Malinski 1974** Paula received her undergraduate degree from Valparaiso University and graduate degree from Purdue University. She was a teacher at Munster High School beginning in 1978 and has recently retired. Ms. Malinski was the head swim coach for MHS for 15 years and was a charter member of the Coaches Hall of Fame. Paula was the outstanding athlete for Munster High School in 1974. She has been a member of the State Swim Committee and coached her teams to six conference titles, four sectional championships, three top ten finishes in the state finals, one state champion, 6 All-Americans and 4 Academic All-Americans. In 1992, Paula was the Indiana Coach of the year.

**Robert Shinkan 1971** Bob was an undergraduate of Ball State and received his Masters from Purdue Calumet in 1985. He currently teaches mathematics at Munster High School and has been a mentor for countless student-athletes throughout his career. Bob won the IHSAA Class 4A baseball state championship in 2002. During that year, he was named Class 4A coach of the year. He also has coached four final four teams during his tenure. He was inducted into the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015.

**David Young 2001** David was a graduate from Syracuse University in 2005. After graduation, David worked for the Daily Show. Later, David landed on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon and was a writer for the TV star. While the show transitioned to The Tonight Show, David was nominated for an Emmy for best writing in a variety series. He has written sketches for Michelle Obama, Tom Hanks, Justin Timberlake and many others. Currently David is the head writer for Apple's Carpool Karaoke and has won an Emmy for "Best Short Form Variety Series."

# 2019 MHS Faculty Hall of Fame Inductees

## *Faculty & Staff*

**David Franklin** Mr. Franklin was a science teacher at Munster High School for 34 years. He began his career at Munster High School in 1979 and retired in 2013. During his tenure, Mr. Franklin went to numerous Project Biology trips and has since volunteered as a guest lecturer while residing in Florida. He was the Science Department Chairperson for many years and served on several committees while in service at Munster High School. In addition, Mr. Franklin was football, basketball and track coach while at Munster High School.

**John Friend** Mr. Friend is a legendary athletic administrator and has received numerous honors for his exemplary work in the field. Mr. Friend was in service at Munster High School from 1964-1980. He also served on the school board for many years. Mr. Friend was summoned to lead the Physical Education and Athletic program at Munster High School when Munster High School began in 1964. As the Athletic Director of the broad Munster program, he saw the development of one of the state's strongest prep powers, including nine state championships in the school's 18-sport varsity program. He was also the first football coach at Munster High School.

**Renee Kouris** Mrs. Kouris was a teacher at Munster High School for 25 years. During her tenure, she served as the Director of Drama, Student Council Sponsor, Girls' Timing Organization Sponsor, School Improvement Co-chair, and director of several musicals. She was a recipient of the Indiana State Teachers Association Crystal Apple award. She was also received the "Realizing the Dream" award in 2003 for inspiring students to expand their educational horizons.



Please cut here and mail this form and your check to MHSAA c/o Munster High School, 8808 Columbia Ave., Munster, IN 46321

## ***SUPPORT THE MHS EXPERIENCE***

The ***Munster High School Alumni Association*** sincerely appreciates every gift. Your optional donations are used to support MHS graduating seniors through our annual ***MHSAA Scholarship Program*** as well as other future MHSAA projects.

***Donors will be recognized at our annual Alumni & Faculty Hall of Fame Ceremony.***

Please accept my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to: Munster High School and can be mailed to:  
**MHSAA c/o Munster High School, 8808 Columbia Ave., Munster, IN 46321**

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