



A Note

Dear MHS Family,

I love Milton Hershey School—my school, my home, a place that has been with me every step of my journey. As I reflect on my retirement this past December, I want to share how much MHS has given me and how grateful I am to have come back to work here. I hope it inspires you to come back home, too.

Our bonds with MHS are unbreakable, woven into the very fabric of our lives.

No matter how far we go or how much time has passed, stepping back onto campus always feels like coming home. For me, being part of the first group of girls at MHS created some of my most cherished memories and friendships. One of those friendships is with my roommate and best friend, Lidia Oquendo '82—someone who has been with me through the laughter, the growth, and everything in between.

Whether you visit often or haven't been back in years, the MHS community will always welcome you with open arms. People here go out of their way to make you feel seen, valued, and cared for. It's one of the things that makes MHS so special.

Mentored by my former boss and friend Ralph Carfagno '73, I was honored to serve as the director of alumni relations. I had the incredible opportunity to work with both alumni and students in this place we call home. It's a true joy, and I hope you'll join us to keep building these connections for generations to come.

MHS is a place where traditions live on, creating a sense of continuity and belonging for everyone who steps onto campus. From Homecoming to Founders Day to dinners in the student homes, and Founders Day senior tree planting, these moments are deeply meaningful, bringing together generations of MHS alumni and students. For those of us who return to work here, these traditions resonate on a personal level—they're the moments that have shaped us. It's an honor to pass them on to future generations, adding to the rich heritage of MHS.

Each of us received powerful life lessons from MHS—my lessons were instilled by my houseparents, The Mladenoffs, Parks, Wiselkos, and Plyntons, my art teacher and mentor, Mr. Clyde Stacks, advisors, and coaches. They all guided me. Those of us who return to work here do so with a desire to pass on these lessons, hoping to be the kind of positive influence on current students that we experienced ourselves.

It's often only after we graduate that we start to realize just how much MHS has shaped us. I know that for me, MHS has been a guiding force in every part of my life. **This is why I felt called to return—to give back to the school that has given me so much. And I hope you'll consider doing the same.**

Why does this matter? How does it help today's students?

As alumni, we understand these students deeply. We know their experiences because they were ours too. Whether through shared stories of MHS, the arts, or athletics, we connect on a personal level and show students that we're here to help them succeed and feel supported every step of the way. **We want them to know they're part of something bigger than themselves—a family, a tradition, a legacy.**

With love and gratitude,

Lorraine (Hissick) Romberger '83

THY Traditions DEAR

The Mission of *Thy Traditions Dear* is to share the stories of the Milton Hershey School family with our alumni, students, staff, and retirees in honor and celebration of our founders, Milton and Catherine Hershey.

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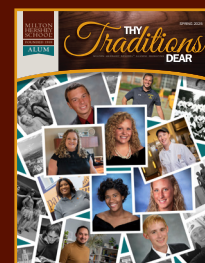
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ABOUT THE COVER

Alumni and staff members are two groups vital to student success at Milton Hershey School. In this edition, we feature some of the many people who intersect both groups. Learn about the journeys of Anna Pistory, Chris Spinogatti, Hanna Royer, Jacob Wadsworth, and Quad Abdul Aziz. If you are interested in learning more about returning to MHS as a staff member, visit mhskids.org/careers.

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WHY WORK AT MHS?

BY JULIA SELWYN, MHS OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Milton Hershey School offers a wide variety of career opportunities across all levels. About 95 alumni work at MHS, driven by a desire to give back to current students. Thy Traditions Dear interviewed five alumni in varying fields to capture the reasons that led them back to MHS.



“This is home.”

HANNA ROYER '14
COOK

Hanna always wanted to cook. As a Milton Hershey School student, she turned into a sponge at the instruction of Chefs Bradley Jennings and Samantha Katzaman, using their kitchen as a space where she absorbed everything she could about creating meals.

Eager to translate her culinary passions into a career post-graduation, she worked in several kitchens but couldn't let go of the feeling that something was missing. That's when she came back to MHS and began working in the kitchens she once was on the receiving end of as a student. Today, she can't imagine herself anywhere else. She plays an instrumental role in diversifying students' pallets, using dishes as a way of introducing them to cuisines and cultures they may not have experienced before.

The benefits of being an MHS employee are truly extensive, and Hanna is particularly grateful for the chance to also step into the role of Coach Hanna on the soccer field when she's not in the kitchen. MHS alumni have a unique opportunity to come back to campus and pursue careers that rarely feel like work because, as Hanna puts it, “This is home.”



Hanna as a student



“To give back what I’ve been given.”

ANNA PISTORY '14
SOCIAL WORKER

Anna’s career counselor and current Head of Senior Division, Nate Martin, saw great potential in Anna. When she was searching for a college home, he encouraged her to consider studying social work, knowing it would have a tremendous impact on her life.

Since then, Anna has felt called to return to MHS in this specific field. She is dedicated to investing in students’ lives as they enroll at MHS and supporting their families along the way. Social work can carry a challenging connotation, but the opportunities that Anna has to work with kids one-on-one in a supportive environment make every moment worth it.

Anna connects deeply with the students and families she interacts with because she empathizes with their stories. She was once a newly enrolled MHS student herself, longing for the life-changing community she found here. Armed with her own experience, she’s able to meet the mixed emotions and complex dynamics that walk through her doors with a sense of pure fulfillment, knowing that her work is a part of something so much greater than herself.

For Anna, being a MHS social worker is not just a job with a great paycheck and benefits. Her role is the vehicle she uses to give back what she has been given and encourage all the students who come after her to pursue excellence.



Anna as a student



“Because MHS was the best thing that ever happened to me.”

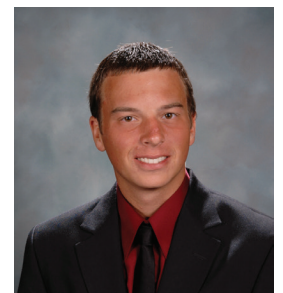
CHRISTOPHER SPINOGATTI '07
MIDDLE DIVISION DEAN OF STUDENTS AND ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

Sports have a unique way of teaching life lessons—lessons that extend far beyond the field or court. For Chris, sports were always a central part of his life as a MHS student. The lessons he absorbed, the opportunities he received, and the coaches who mentored him both on and off the field sparked an internal drive that one day he would return to MHS.

MHS gave him experiences he could never have imagined, and now, as a staff member, his goal is to make those experiences even better for the next generation of students. As Middle Division Dean of Students and Athletic Director, Chris can look upon a thriving athletics program that has grown significantly over the years—grateful for the chance to impact students’ lives every day. Alumni can attest that being away from home at MHS isn’t easy, and sports can act as a powerful outlet for students to grow in. However, without the coaches, mentors, and staff who support them, who then will be the difference-makers they need? These relationships are the agents that make athletics so meaningful for students, providing both a sense of community and a

foundation for personal success.

Alumni graduate from MHS for a reason. They each have a story to tell, a journey that shaped who they are. Chris is using his in the place he calls home and encourages other alumni to strongly consider doing the same.



Chris as a student

Why Work at MHS, continued



“I believe in this place.”

JACOB WADSWORTH '08
PSYCHOLOGIST

Enrolling at MHS meant the start of something new for Jacob. It was a gift that gave him the space to discover who he was while developing the voice he now uses to help others.

If not for the words of then Vice President Pete Gurt '85, current MHS president, encouraging him to return to MHS someday, his post-graduation story might not be what it currently is. As a psychologist, Jacob is proud of the work he is a part of at MHS, especially how the whole child approach is woven into everyday practice.

Integrated health care across campus

allows him to leverage resources and relationships on behalf of the students in a way not entirely common elsewhere. Everyone—whether nurses, social workers, nutritionists, or psychiatrists—are just a phone call away, working together to support every aspect of the child's needs.

As a former student himself, he can sit across from a current student and truly empathize with their experiences because he once walked in a very similar set of shoes. Being an alum in those moments builds a bridge of connection that makes students feel supported, understood, and heard. There was a time when Jacob wasn't entirely sure what direction his career would take, but witnessing the resilience of the students he works with each day has profoundly solidified his sense of purpose.



Jacob as a student

“To be the person you needed when you were younger.”

QUADRIYYAH ABDUL-AZIZ '15
TRANSITIONAL LIVING ASSISTANT

Quadriyyah held the belief that she didn't yet have a success story worthy of returning to MHS. However, her definition of success radically changed with every gentle nudge she received to become a Transitional Living Assistant (TLA). Her MHS community saw in her what she didn't see in herself and now she does the same for those in her care—mentoring and preparing seniors for life beyond MHS.

Whether it be providing college essay assistance or discussing how to live independently, Quadriyyah helps students spread their wings and navigate their next steps. When she's not in her office, Quadriyyah cheers her students on at their sporting events and extracurricular activities. Her presence serves as a reminder that support is always available, no matter where life leads them.

Being a TLA has allowed her to be the person she needed when she was younger. Her graduation is the success story she once thought she needed to create. Her work to facilitate healthy relationships with parents/sponsors is another way TLAs set their students up for success in every aspect of their life. Alumni who step into these roles share a unique bond with their students, and Quadriyyah is grateful she can help so many girls write the first page of their own success story because of it.

Are you ready to join these alumni and make a meaningful difference in students' lives? MHS offers alums a diverse range of career options. Explore current offerings at mhskids.org/careers. 🐾



Quadriyyah as a student

SCHOOL & STUDENT News

A Note from the MHS President

Dear Alumni Brothers and Sisters:

It's a Raise the Bar day in Hershey, Pa.! Each school year, we identify a school year theme that connects, inspires, and drives the Milton Hershey School community forward. This year, we defined Raise the Bar as elevating our expectations of ourselves and each other and demonstrating our MHS pride in all we do.

In August 2024, we continued our tradition of gathering at GIANT Center with students, staff, and community members to celebrate the start of a new year at our Opening of School Assembly. Vibrant experiences, energizing remarks, and inspiring videos uniquely brought Raise the Bar to life.

Following the Assembly, we have Raised the Bar through our continued focus on character development and Career-Focused Education through The Milton Hershey Way, elevated standards of excellence for staff and students, and opened our second Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning Center in Harrisburg. These programs and milestones are only possible with support from our alumni community. Thank you for your encouragement this school year.

In addition to choosing a theme each school year, we design a visual to embody our messaging. This year, outlining the logo was easy. There is no better representation of Raise the Bar than the MHS class ring emblem. Since 1934, this emblem has symbolized excellence, determination, grit, and a 'what's next?' mentality—all characteristics of what it means to Raise the Bar. It was Mr. and Mrs. Hershey's dream and vision that the graduates of their Home and School would demonstrate these values and uphold their legacy of doing well by doing good.

More than 115 years since our School's founding, thousands of graduates have done just that, including Rodney Drake '80, who retired from MHS in October 2024. He most recently served as the guest safety coordinator in Founders Hall, where he was the face of MHS for our community. Lorraine Romberger '83 has also gone above and beyond in serving her alma mater. As director of Alumni Relations, she led the creation of mhsalum.org, expanded volunteer opportunities to MHS graduates, and acted as a conduit between the MHS Alumni Association and the School. Both have certainly raised the bar, which is why it was fitting that they recently received the MHS Chairman's Award for Excellence Medallion from our Board of Managers.

Following Lorraine's retirement in December 2024, we have welcomed a new face—Trachanda (Brown) García '02—as MHS director of Alumni Relations. With nearly two decades of experience in higher education, I am confident that Trachanda will bring us to the next level. Please join me in welcoming Trachanda home!

I hope you will join us on campus often in 2025 and look forward to connecting with many of you as we collectively support the mission of MHS. 🙌

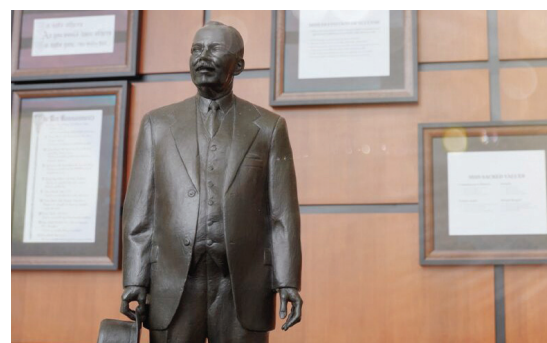
Wishing you continued success,

Sincerely,
Pete Gurt '85
MHS President

Learn More about Careers at MHS and CHS:



'This Is MHS' Video Series Defines Values and Beliefs



Thanks to founders Milton S. Hershey and his wife Catherine, Milton Hershey School has been driven by an inspiring purpose, impactful vision, and firm beliefs for more than 115 years. In the fall of 2024, MHS launched a cornerstone video series titled "This Is MHS," which brings to life and defines who we are and what we believe as a school community.

This identity and these beliefs come directly from our Deed of Trust and founders' intent. During World War II, Mr. Hershey asked that the Ten Commandments and Golden Rule be placed above the fireplace in every student home. More than 80 years since his original request, these foundational elements remain prominent across campus alongside our School Pledge, Sacred Values, and Definition of Success.

These displays are our commitment to remember where we started on the journey to where we're headed. But, for the MHS community, it's not about the displays or the video series but the principles found within each document that have guided generations of MHS leadership.

Above all else, the strong foundation within the Ten Commandments, Golden Rule, School Pledge, Sacred Values, and Definition of Success propels us to relentlessly pursue excellence, which stems directly from our founders' belief in doing well by doing good. At MHS, we believe that character speaks for itself. Each year, our students engage in a rigorous academic and Career-Focused Education curriculum while receiving character and leadership education through on-campus and external opportunities.

The Compass Project and lessons associated with The Milton Hershey Way ensure that our students clearly understand what good and strong character looks like. Additionally, our staff serve as models for the behaviors identified within our foundational documents. This provides our students examples of the type of people we expect them to be and aligns our community—staff and students alike—with the same standards.

Our founders knew that success inside and outside the classroom would require more than just knowledge. It requires a strong foundation rooted in strong moral values. 🙌



President Gurt '85 Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

At the 2024 Coalition of Residential Excellence (CORE) conference, Milton Hershey School President Pete Gurt '85 was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to individuals from CORE member schools whose work has changed the narrative for the families they serve. Past recipients include Mike Tyrell, president of St. Joseph's Indian School and Bill Fyre, president of Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch.

CORE members represent boarding schools, residential charter schools, children's homes, youth ranches, and other residential education-based programs. Since 1994, the organization has promoted and strengthened programs for children and equipped members with resources and training. At this year's conference, CORE celebrated its 30th anniversary.

President Gurt has served MHS for 30 years in a variety of roles, including vice president of administration, vice president of

education and student life, and senior vice president and chief operating officer. Since 2014, he has served as president. In 2009, President Gurt received CORE's Catherine Hershey Award for Administrator of the Year.

CORE's board of directors selected President Gurt to receive this award for his execution and vision in bringing Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning (CHS) to life.

"This award is a reflection of the incredible impact that Milton Hershey School and Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning have on the children and families we serve," said President Gurt. "This wouldn't be possible without the commitment of our teams at MHS and CHS, which is something I know our founders, Mr. and Mrs. Hershey, would be proud of."

In 2020, MHS announced the creation of CHS to expand the impact of Milton and Catherine Hershey's vision to serve more children from under-resourced and over-burdened backgrounds through education.

Through CHS, created in honor of Catherine Hershey, six early childhood education centers will open in central Pennsylvania, serving children from six weeks to age 5, with all costs covered for qualifying families. The first center, CHS Hershey, opened in 2023 and the second, CHS Harrisburg, opened in September 2024. Over the next several years, CHS will open four additional centers, including CHS Middletown and three locations in Lancaster County. President Gurt also serves as president of CHS.

James Turner, MHS Middle Division Home Life associate director and president of the Board of Directors for CORE presented President Gurt with the award during the conference.

"His adoration of and commitment to MHS and now CHS is evident through his words and actions," said Turner. "He works tirelessly every day to ensure that every child enrolled at our schools has the resources they need to succeed." 🏆

Milton Hershey School Teacher Named Educator of the Year

Since she was a young girl, Milton Hershey School Senior Division English Teacher Emily Gallo has been passionate about providing students from low-income families with life-changing opportunities. More than 20 years after beginning her MHS career, Gallo's peers recognized the difference she is making by awarding her the 2024 Coalition of Residential Excellence (CORE) Catherine Hershey Award for Educator of the Year.

Gallo's family is full of teachers, so she always knew education could be transformational.

"I was right, but what I didn't realize when I was young was that education is transformational for the teacher and student," she said. "Every year, my students and colleagues help me learn more about myself."

Gallo joined the MHS team in 2001 as a student-teacher. The lifelong Pennsylvania resident learned about the school through her education at Penn State University.

"As soon as I stepped on this campus, I knew this is where I wanted to be," she said. "I just fell in love with the students and the mission."

Gallo teaches English because she believes the humanities help people discover themselves. As a part of her classes, Gallo helps her students bring written words to life through dramatic performances. Walking into one of her classes and seeing students dancing through an essay or playing vocabulary games is not unusual.

"I firmly believe in active participation in learning," she said. "I try to make that happen physically, so it translates to the mental and emotional."

Gallo also enjoys staying connected with

her students after they graduate from MHS. She often receives questions about college assignments or life updates.

"MHS graduates do a great job of creating their success on their terms," Gallo said. "I want to be that person who is always there for them."

The 2024 CORE National Conference allowed Gallo and other attendees to network with and learn from their peers in residential education. She was honored to receive the Catherine Hershey Award for Educator of the Year. However, she is equally excited about watching her students benefit from the lessons she learned.

MHS Custodian Braden Maines '80 also was honored with the 2024 Catherine Hershey Award for Alumnus of the Year. 🏆



CHS Opens Second Location in Harrisburg

On Wednesday, Sept. 18, Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning (CHS), a subsidiary of Milton Hershey School, opened its second Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC).

With the opening of CHS Harrisburg, the legacy of Milton and Catherine Hershey extends beyond the MHS campus in Derry Township for the first time. Now, even more children in need of high-quality early childhood education will benefit from the Hersheys' vision.

CHS Harrisburg is part of a \$350 million initiative to develop six ECECs in Pennsylvania that will serve children ages six weeks to 5 from under-resourced and over-burdened backgrounds, with all costs covered for qualifying families.

"Our goal at CHS is to cultivate a culture of care, safety, and excellence in Early Childhood Education like no other, all thanks to the generosity of Mr. and

Mrs. Hershey, who created a legacy and a standard for education that is now our responsibility to uphold," said MHS and CHS President Pete Gurt '85.

The center in the City of Harrisburg will serve 150 local children and their families. CHS Family Success Centers provide families with access to resources to support the children in the classroom and at home.

CHS also provides on-site services for enrolled children including physical and mental health services, meals, transportation for some, and personal items, with all costs covered.

"Our leaders had a vision that exceeded traditional early childhood education through our whole-child and family success approaches, providing the quality care, educational experiences, and support needed for lifelong success for both our children and their families," said CHS Executive Director Senate Alexander '06.



The first CHS location in Hershey opened in the fall of 2023. Recently, two children who "moved on" from CHS Hershey enrolled at MHS to continue their educational journeys. Both CHS and MHS work hard to empower families and provide incredible opportunities to the children they serve.

Over the next several years, CHS will open four additional centers, including CHS Middletown, and three locations in Lancaster County. 🗣️



On a crisp fall morning, U.S. Navy Lt. Jordan Krick, a helicopter pilot, and his five crew members flew over Milton Hershey School and landed in front of Founders Hall. The crew's MH-60S helicopter flew from Naval Air Station Patuxent River, located in southern Maryland, to provide MHS students with a unique opportunity to learn about careers in the military.

Krick, who grew up near MHS, said the day was a special way to give back to the next generation.

"This is something people rarely get to hear or talk about," said Krick. "[We can] let people know that there are really cool opportunities out there and things you get to experience and do that you wouldn't

U.S. Navy Helicopter Pilot Visits MHS

anywhere else except for in the Navy."

Senior Division students met with the crew, including two pilots, an aircrewman, a mass communications specialist, and two aviation electricians. Students got an up-close look at the helicopter and learned more about careers in the Navy.

The helicopter visit resonated with senior Josh Gibb, who is in the Engineering and Design career pathway within the MHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. He plans to pursue a degree in aeronautical engineering to become a pilot.

"I want to go into aviation and flight because I want to be an astronaut and work for NASA," said Josh.

Creating these hands-on learning experiences for students is central to the school's commitment to Career Focused Education. These opportunities reveal to Josh a world of possibilities, with MHS staff there to support and guide him in pursuing his dreams.

MHS Career Services Specialist Jenifer Benson is one of those staff members.

She spent months planning this unique learning experience. Benson, a member of the CTE team, advises current students and young MHS graduates through the transition from high school to the workforce or the military.

"At MHS, we're very engaged with Career Focused Education, making sure our students are immersed in it, not just hearing about it," said Benson. "We want them to hear from professionals. We want them to interact with equipment, get a chance to be on a job site when we possibly can so that they really understand everything that goes into the kind of career field they're looking into."

Career-focused education programs in all divisions help students realize the many paths available after graduation. MHS combines tailor-made instruction, hands-on learning, and the ability to gain certifications and real-life experience through internships, co-ops, and pre-apprenticeships to prepare them for success. 🗣️

BROADWAY PERFORMER RETURNS TO MHS

‘A Community So Focused on Love’



Marcus Paul James

Marcus Paul James '99 learned many important lessons during his four years at Milton Hershey School, but he credits one as the driving factor in his success as a Broadway performer.

“Hard work will always yield something,” James said.

James is a singer, songwriter, and actor whose credits include “Rent,” “Water for Elephants,” and “Ain’t Too Proud.” He was first introduced to music through his church choir in Brooklyn. When he arrived at MHS in 1995, he was given the opportunity to fully explore his passions.

He sang in multiple choirs, took dance lessons, and performed in the school’s thespian club. The MHS Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) program gives students in pre-K through 12th grade access to classes, activities, and performing groups. Twenty-five years after earning his MHS diploma, James remains passionate about the performing arts.

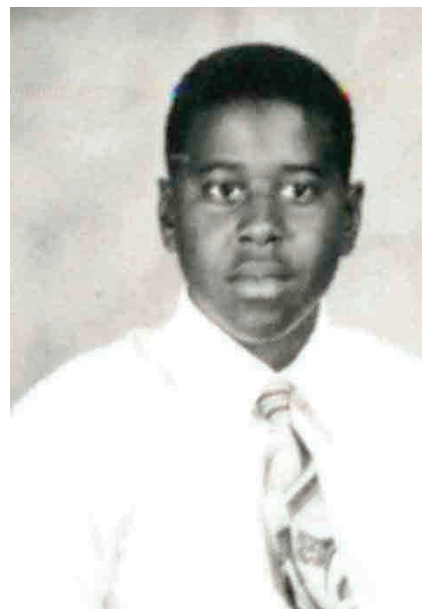


Marcus Paul James as a Drum Line Major, 1999

“I get to sing and dance to pay my light bill,” he said.

James recalls his teachers prioritizing his academic work. When he earned good grades, he was given more performance opportunities. MHS prepares its students for life and career success through mutual respect and a strong work ethic. The school’s four Sacred Values—commitment to mission, integrity, positive spirit, and mutual respect—remain part of James’ life.

“People always ask me why I am always so nice, and that question confuses me,” he said. “I ask in response, ‘Don’t you deserve to be treated nicely?’”



RETURN TO MHS AS A STAFF MEMBER

Despite his busy schedule, James finds time to care for others through Broadway Inspirational Voices, a non-profit organization that provides comfort through Gospel music to those suffering. He volunteers as a performer and as the organization's external communications director. In June 2023, James performed with Broadway Inspirational Voices during The White House's Juneteenth Celebration.

"Art has the power to uplift people who need it the most," he said.

In Aug. 2024, he returned to Hershey, emceeding and performing at the MHS Opening of School Assembly. After the assembly, he visited Senior Division VPA classes to share professional knowledge.

"Coming back to MHS reminded me that I am from this community that is so focused on love," he said. "Everyone is here to support the students and give them every opportunity to succeed in life."

The MHS 2024-25 school year theme Raise the Bar gave James the



opportunity to reflect on how the school helped him realize his potential. He encourages current students to work hard and enjoy the subsequent rewards.

"Don't expect anything," he said. "Understand the power of your own work ethic. Say the specific thing that you want in life and see where that leads you." 🙌

Have you considered returning to MHS as a staff member? Visit mhskids.org to view the range of job opportunities available at MHS, including houseparenting, health care, teaching, and many others. MHS hires for a variety of part-time roles, as well.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



William “Lebbie” Lebkicher: Milton Hershey’s Right-Hand Man



The Milton Hershey School archives recently digitized a handwritten diary kept by Lebbie Lebkicher, a great friend of Milton S. Hershey. In the diary, Lebkicher reflects on his life and offers a glimpse into a man who said very little, yet his hard work and generosity had a long-lasting impact.

Described by Milton Hershey as “the only man I couldn’t out work,” Lebbie Lebkicher defined his life through his work and service. Although his tombstone says 1846, Lebbie wrote in his own hand that he was born in 1845 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and came of age just as the Civil War began.

At 16 years old, and against the wishes of his parents, he enlisted as a private in the Union Army under Captain J. Miller Raub in 1862. In his graceful script, you can read his frustrations with the Union command, his humiliation at having to retreat, and his sadness as he took the time to record how many died, were wounded, or went missing in each battle he fought.

After being honorably discharged when his term ended in May

1863, Lebkicher returned home, and then reenlisted in January 1865 to work in the construction corps. In May 1865, he was again honorably discharged in New Bern, North Carolina, at the close of what he referred to as “The War of Rebellion.”

Little did he know though that fate would intervene and a job he took in 1880 would change the course of his life. In his recollection he states “...1880, went to Philadelphia under the employ of Milton S. Hershey as clerk for his confectionary establishment. Leaving him in December 1881.” After the business failed, they both went their separate ways until Milton returned to Lancaster City and Lebkicher offered him a place to stay when his family refused to assist him any further.

Mr. Hershey never forgot the generosity that Lebkicher showed him and, in return, Lebkicher was named his private secretary and buyer for the Lancaster Caramel Company in 1891, and he continued to work for him the rest of his life.

During his time working with Mr. Hershey, he took on many different roles including treasurer, general manager of operations, vice president of the Hershey Trust Company, and even traveled to South America for six months to research the cocoa bean industry. When Milton and Catherine decided to start the Hershey Industrial School, now Milton Hershey School, it was a natural fit for Lebbie to serve as one of the nine original board members overseeing operations. While we do not have many details of his involvement with the boys at the school, we do know that he worked closely with George Copenhaver and oversaw the management of the farms and dairies.

The diary itself concludes with an account of his trip around the world in 1910-1911, the details of his pension from his Civil War service, and the birthdays of the Hershey family.

Today, we can see Lebbie Lebkicher as an embodiment of the American Dream. A boy who started life on a rural farm in central Pennsylvania, fought in the Civil War, worked hard, and ended up living a life that few at that time could even imagine.

Although he held many job titles, the one we tend to remember is how he was most often introduced by Mr. Hershey as “my good right hand.” 🧤



Autobiography.

William Henry Lebkicher son of David M. & Mary A. Lebkicher. received his education in the Common Schools of Lancaster City Pa. during vacation served as an errand Boy for several years in a Grocery Store. later on as an apprentice at Daily Evening Express to learn the Art of Printing. The work being distasteful secured a position with my Uncle Jacob Rothammel to learn Brush Making. attend store and other odd jobs during this time the Civil war broke out. Being less than 17 years of age I enlisted Contrary

to the wish of my Parents on the Second day of August 1862. as a private in Company D. 122 Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers Captain J. Miller Raub. Recruited in Lancaster City & County under Colonel Emmer Franklin. The Regiment became part of the Army of the Potomac under General Pope. After the disastrous defeat of the Union Army at Bull Run (or Manassas)

The Confederate Army flushed with victory marched northward crossed the Potomac threatening Washington. our Division under Gen Whipple was held for defense. Subsequently joined the main body of the Union

Learn more about Lebbie Lebkicher through the MHS Archives:
mhskids.org/schoolhistory

1983: A Space Odyssey

By Zack Chauvin, MHS Archivist

One of my favorite artifacts in the Milton Hershey School Archives is a small, framed honeybee donated to us by Harry R. Reichart, '47. After graduating from MHS, Harry went on to become an accomplished beekeeper and found employment at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

This bee is one of only 14 that went to space in a NASA shuttle in April 1983, apparently upon the suggestion of a 4-H student. The goal of this experiment was to determine how the bees would behave in zero-gravity conditions, and Harry had a hand in preparing these bees for the mission. For MHS, the “space bee” holds profound significance, blending the school’s educational mission, the awe of space exploration and a tribute to a remarkable alumnus.



As an archivist, I am often lucky to work with pieces of history, but it’s not every day that you get to handle an artifact that has literally traveled beyond the Earth’s atmosphere. The fact that it came from one of our alumni makes it really special. I also like to think about the parallels between the practices of beekeeping and keeping archives, and how this particular bee becomes a symbol of the far-reaching impact of Milton Hershey’s legacy, from the dairy farms and classrooms of Hershey, Pennsylvania, to vast expanse of outer space. It’s a physical representation of just how far a MHS education can take us, both literally and figuratively. This small bee also represents the heart of what we do in the archives—preserving not just objects but the stories behind them.

Harry’s journey from MHS to NASA speaks to the diverse paths our graduates take, and his gift reminds us that the pursuit of knowledge and the drive to pioneer new frontiers are universal among our students, no matter what field they go into. It’s a humble, but powerful message that encourages us to look beyond the obvious and find the extraordinary every day. 🐝

THANK YOU to Our Donors

Thank you to those who donated or shared historical materials with the Milton Hershey School Department of School History as of March 2024. If we inadvertently missed listing your gift, please contact us so we can include recognition in the next issue of *Thy Traditions Dear*. 🐝

Dirk Dixon '70 | Wiley Steakley | Tom Davis | Mary Koser Goodman | David Allwein '74
the late James Hanawalt '65 | Victor Kuhns '62 and Gary Kuhns '65 | Arthur Kline
Donna Gordon | Connie Henry and Jim Henry

From the Archives: Center Point Game

By Zarah Light, MHS Archivist

I was born and raised in Hershey. In many ways, this little town in central Pennsylvania has wormed its way into my identity. It is a community with a rich history, a place created by a man who was exceptionally charitable and genuinely caring. To a kid growing up in the early 2000s, the idea of a businessman crafting a perfect place for his employees to live was entirely foreign, and I felt special that I got to live in Hershey.

However, there was always an aspect of Hershey that I didn't know much about, Milton Hershey School. At school, they were our rivals, but not much more. It wasn't until I started my job three years ago as an archivist at Kinderhaus that I discovered the rich history of MHS and how it's just as much of a community as a school.

One of my favorite parts of my job is working with materials that relate to individual students. Each object tells me a little about who that student/alumnus was as a person, as well as what their talents, aspirations, and achievements were!

This brings me to the board game Center Point, one of the archives' more playful artifacts. When I came across this object while cataloging, I was immediately taken by the brightly colored game face. The board is comprised of a hard plastic surface with little half-sphere grooves cut into the space tiles to hold the character pawns. The plastic face slides down to reveal a hidden compartment that holds the game pieces and dice. Center Point was created by Milton Hershey School alum Walter S. Grabowski '57 and is part of the Students and Alumni record group.

My curiosity is always piqued whenever I handle this object. How was this game played? What are the rules? The shape and colors of the board remind me of a more complicated version of Trouble. Did that game inspire Grabowski to create Center Point? How long did it take him to develop the concept and work out the design? And most intriguingly, who did he play it with? I like to imagine that Center Point will be played after a large family feast, when the last piece of pie was eaten, and lukewarm coffee was still being sipped.

Games and toys are always fun to find in an archive because so much meaning and information can be derived from them. In this instance, Center Point is a game created by one of our school's graduates. Through further analysis, we can learn more about Grabowski. The objective and message of the game could reflect the creator's personal and community principles.

Grabowski patented the game in 1985 and would play it regularly at fairs and libraries. According to tabletopia.com, the game's objective is for the "players to race to be the first to move their four pieces to the center of the board. Center Point combines strategy and chance with a unique game board to bring a fun experience for all ages." Center Point was donated by Shannon Coughlin to the archives and is a charming representation of the alumni achievements outside of the school. 🍪





Lorraine Romberger '83

Romberger, Drake Receive Chairman's Award for Excellence

Milton Hershey School Board of Managers Chairman Maria Kraus '89 recently honored two MHS alumni who carried out Milton S. Hershey's wish that alumni would return to serve the School. Rodney Drake '80 and Lorraine Romberger '83 received the Chairman's Award for Excellence Medallion upon retirement from full-time employment.

Over the last several decades, Romberger's support and service to her alma mater have exceeded expectations and positively impacted staff, students, and programs. In 2018, Romberger joined the MHS staff as Director of Alumni Relations, a position she held until her retirement in December 2024. As director, Romberger designed and promoted mhsalum.org, expanded how graduates can support MHS and its recruitment efforts, and served as president of the Dearden Foundation and the Family Gratitude Foundation.

"As an alumna, you have consistently gone out of your way to find innovative and thoughtful ways to support the School's mission," Kraus wrote in a letter to Romberger. "Thank you for your steadfast commitment to MHS."

When Drake joined the MHS Campus Safety department, he combined his extensive military experience with a deep passion for MHS. Drake's work to create the MHS Guest Services organizational segment from the ground up is a part of his legacy and will live on for years. His commitment to MHS shined brightly through his involvement in Co-Pilot, Career Mondays, New Student Academy, and more.

"Your enthusiasm and willingness to share your story helped guests learn more about the School and its mission," Kraus wrote in a letter to Drake.

This Chairman's Award for Excellence Medallion is given to members of the MHS family who demonstrate outstanding achievement with high levels of integrity and moral character in their service to our School and its mission. 🏆



Rodney Drake '80

MHS FFA Students Welcome National Officers

On February 20, 2025, the Milton Hershey School Future Farmers of America (FFA) leaders welcomed officers from the national FFA organization to campus as part of their annual conference. The group, alongside MHS Agriculture Science Instructor Nicholas Isenberg, guided the officers on a comprehensive tour of several key buildings integral to the Agricultural and Environmental Education (AEE) program at MHS, including Project Market, the Environmental Center, and the Animal Center. The tour culminated with a visit to Founders Hall, which highlighted the deep-rooted agriculture significance in MHS history.

Pennsylvania Rep. Tom Mehaffie, R-106 joined the students during the tour, learning about their individual passions for agriculture. He was pleased to witness their excitement for the field as it is not only Pennsylvania's primary industry, but the leadership and time management skills acquired through this area will have lifelong benefits for them.

During lunch, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding visited the students, talking to them about the importance of high school agriculture programs and encouraging them to become leaders in their own communities as they pursue careers in this field.

Agriculture encompasses much more than just traditional farming. Engineering, business, and marketing are just a few of the many skills needed to become the successful leaders Secretary Redding inspired the students to strive for. AEE is a part of the MHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, where students are prepared to do just that. CTE combines tailor-made instruction and hands-on learning with the ability to gain certifications and real-life experience through internships, co-ops, and pre-apprenticeships. This approach exposes students to all aspects of agriculture and other career areas, providing them with the knowledge and practical experience needed to make an impact post-graduation.

Agricultural instruction has been part of the MHS curriculum since Milton and Catherine Hershey signed the school's Deed of Trust in 1909. Their focus on agricultural literacy has built a legacy of skill development, equipping students for success in any field they choose to pursue. 🏡





Coming Full Circle

BY DELEILA ALLOUI '13

My six years at MHS were filled with academic challenges, personal growth, and lifelong friendships.

The community I found here gave me the resilience and confidence I needed to succeed after graduation. I gained values like integrity, perseverance, and service.

The relationships I built with my houseparents, Amy and Joe Cooper, had a lasting impact on me—they were mentors, caregivers, and role models.

Coming back to Milton Hershey School as a recruiter feels like a full-circle moment. This time, my mission is to find dedicated houseparents who will mentor and guide students by creating a stable environment where they can flourish.

This role allows me to give back to a place that did so much for me. Every day, I draw on my own experience as a student to explain to potential houseparents what a profound impact they can have on the lives of children at MHS. This is not just a job — it's a calling to shape the future of strong young leaders, nurturing their visions and dreams for tomorrow.

The decision to return to MHS wasn't just a career move—it was deeply personal. This school transformed my life. I feel a strong responsibility to give back in a way that has a meaningful impact. The opportunity to recruit houseparents gives me the chance to help build the support system that makes MHS so special. I understand how important it is to have compassionate, committed individuals in these roles, and I'm passionate about finding the right people. 🙌



Mentorship a Life-Changing Experience

BY RACHELLE BARRS, MHS HOUSEPARENT

I wholeheartedly believe every child deserves a dependable and uplifting trusted adult to turn to for guidance and support. After joining the Milton Hershey School family as a flex houseparent in 2021, I quickly realized I wanted to extend my influence farther than the small group of students in the student homes I rotated through.

Becoming a mentor has allowed me to give back to students in a way that is different from my role as a houseparent. As a Middle Division houseparent, I mentor and support approximately 8 to 12 middle school boys in my student home. Balancing my role as a houseparent and mentor might seem like a struggle, but I've found that providing constant support and creating shared experiences makes this work seamless. Often, I host my high school mentees for dinner or invite them to events. This time together helps strengthen connections with my mentees and gives the boys in my student home a chance to bond and learn from their older peers.

Through it all, my experience in mentoring and houseparenting has allowed me to truly live out my belief that every child deserves to have a trusted adult to turn to in times of need. It is a privilege to be that person for so many students and a responsibility I carry with pride and gratitude. Based on my experience, I recommend that everyone consider becoming a mentor. 🙌



Elementary Division Student Aims to Raise the Bar and Become a Better Person

BY EDEN STOVER,
MHS FOURTH GRADE STUDENT

This year at Milton Hershey School, our school year theme is Raise the Bar. To me, raising the bar means setting new goals when an old goal gets accomplished.

This year, I am going to Raise the Bar by sticking with something until it is finished. For example, I am going to finish all my books this year no matter what. I love being ahead of the game.

I can Raise the Bar at this school by doing what is expected without being asked to do it. This means working hard and doing the right thing when nobody's watching. One goal that I can achieve if I Raise the Bar at school is going above and beyond with school work to demonstrate one of the MHS Sacred Values, commitment to mission.

I am at MHS to help others just like Mr. Hershey was here to help us even though he was going through some tough times. Even though you can't see him, Mr. Hershey is here with us in our hearts forever.

I can Raise the Bar in this community by being a leader to others. I can do this by practicing the Sacred Values wherever I go. I can use great manners and be kind to others. I can be a good example to others, and this might help them become better people too. 🙌

10 Named to Spartan Hall of Fame

The Spartan Hall of Fame honors the accomplishments of our alumni and staff members and provides our students with additional inspiration and hope to motivate them in some way to excel in their participation in athletics or the visual and performing arts.

Alumni become eligible for consideration five years after graduation from Milton Hershey School and must have demonstrated good citizenship. Individual staff become eligible after at least 10 years of meaningful contributions to athletics or visual and performing arts.

The 2024 honorees are:

ZAINABU CONTEH '98

Zainabu Conteh was a varsity athlete who participated in field hockey, basketball, and track and field. From 1996 to 1998, she was named a Mid-Penn Conference All-Star in field hockey.

As a basketball player, Zainabu led the MHS Lady Spartans in scoring from 1996 to 1998 and was named a Mid-Penn Conference All Star in 1996, 1997, and 1998. In 1997, she broke the MHS basketball single game record for most points scored, which was 33.

In track and field, Zainabu excelled in long jump and triple jump, earned medals and placing in conference, district, and state competitions. As a junior, she was runner-up in long jump and triple jump in the Mid-Penn Conference and placed third in long jump and fifth in triple jump in the district championship. The same year, she placed second in the long jump and fifth in triple jump at the state championship meet. The following year, as a senior, Zainabu was the Mid Penn Conference Champion in the long jump and placed second in the triple jump. At the district championship, she placed second in the triple jump and third in the long jump. She placed eighth in the triple jump at the state championship meet.



MELISSA CARTER '04

Melissa Carter was inducted for her accomplishments in the visual and performing arts as students at MHS. Melissa demonstrated her talents in instrumental and vocal music and dance during high school.

Throughout high school, Melissa participated in the varsity band, marching band, varsity choir, and stage crew. As a sophomore, she participated in dance.

During her sophomore and senior years, Melissa was selected for the County Chorus. During her junior year, she was selected to perform with the Susquehanna Youth Chorale. In addition, she was selected as a member of the MHS New Horizons show choir during her junior and senior years of high school.

Much like other MHS students, Melissa also was involved in organizations beyond the visual and performing arts; she participated in Oxfam and served as a student home officer during her junior year.

MARK PERSHPALAJ '89

Mark Pershpalaj was a multi-sport athlete who excelled in football and wrestling.

As a wrestler, Mark's record was 26-6-0. He won first place at regionals and second place at district competition, and he qualified for the PIAA State Championship.

Mark also was named to the All-Time Spartan Wrestling Team and the PIAA All-Pennsylvania Wrestling Team.

As a football player, Mark was named to the All-Conference First Team for both offense and defense and was a Big 33 nominee. The local news media also recognized his skills. He was named a Lebanon Daily News All-Start and as a Daily New First Lineman of the Week.

At MHS, Mark was a three-year varsity letterman and won several school awards for his football skills. He was a Spartan Tackle Award winner one year, and a Spartan Pancake Award winner for two consecutive years, 1988 and 1989, and runner-up in 1987.

COLONEL PAUL R. DAVIS '94

Colonel Paul R. Davis was involved in instrumental and vocal music. He demonstrated his talents throughout his enrollment at MHS, beginning with his participation in Memorial Hall Choir in third and fourth grade.

Starting in fifth grade, Paul became a member of the Catherine Hall Jazz Band, the Catherine Hall Band, and the Catherine Hall Marching Band, and he continued performing with those groups through eighth grade.

Paul's interest in instrumental music continued throughout high school. He participated in Jazz Band, Varsity Band, and Marching Band, for which he served as president. In 11th and 12th grades, he was selected to perform with the MHS New Horizons, and he also sang in the Varsity Choir.

Paul's talent and commitment were rewarded when he was selected for the District Band. In addition, in 1993, he, Mark Farner, and Todd Cress won Best Drumline in the Battle of the Bands. In 1994, Paul was awarded the John Philip Sousa and the Louie B. Armstrong Awards, both for music excellence.

In addition to his involvement with Visual and Performing Arts programs, Paul participated in several athletic programs during high school.

TRINA POOLE '90

Trina Poole was inducted for her accomplishments in track and field, where she specialized in the 400-meter dash.

While Trina considered the 400-meter her specialty, she also won numerous conference titles in hurdles, the long jump, and relays. Her contributions helped propel the 1989 MHS girls' track team to their first team championship at the state level.

In 1989 at the state championship meet, Trina placed fifth in the 400-meter dash, first in the 4x400 relay, and eighth in the 4x800 relay.

ALLEN DUFF '54

Allen Duff was the staff art director of the MHS yearbook, Acropolis. His freshman year, he served on the photography club. He also was a member of the dance club grades 11th and 12th and decorating committee co-chair those same years.

ROGER SMITH '85

Roger Smith was inducted for his accomplishments and dedication as a coach.

Roger has been head coach for track and field for 15 years and served as assistant track coach for 10 years before that. He has been an assistant football coach for 15 years.

With Roger at the helm as head track coach, both the boys' and girls' teams and individual athletes have earned championships and medals at the conference, district, state, and national levels.

The boys' track and field teams have won eight Mid-Penn Conference Keystone Division championships, three Mid-Penn Conference Overall Boys' Team Championships, and two PIAA District 3 Boys' Team Championships.

Four individuals became PIAA Individual Event Boys State Champions, and 20 individual athletes became PIAA District 3 Individual Event Boys' Champions.

The girls' track and field teams won one MPC Keystone Division, one MPC Overall Girls' Championship, and one PIAA District 3 Girls Team Championship.

Six individual female athletes became PIAA District 3 Individual Event Girls' Champions.

In addition, one athlete became an American Associate of Track and Field Junior Olympics National Champion, and another was named a United States Association of Track and Field Champion. Twelve were selected as USATF/AAU All Americans. Finally, one athlete who went on to compete at the collegiate level was inducted into the Millersville University Athletics Hall of Fame.

RODNEY GINGERICH '84

Rodney Gingerich, like other inductees, excelled in various ways within the visual and performing arts.

In 8th grade, Rodney received the Purnell Payne Music Award for his achievements in music. Rodney also participated in vocal and instrumental music groups during high school and held leadership roles in several. In addition to performing with the Glee Club, he was vice president and manager of the organization. He also participated in the Varsity Band, for which he served as president, and in the Spartan Jazz Band. He also was selected to perform with the MHS New Horizons.

Beyond his involvement in the Visual and Performing Arts, Rodney also served in leadership positions for several organizations, including for the Senior Class and the Student Body. In addition, he won the Hershey Rotary Student of the Month award during his time at MHS.

JAMARR STAPLES '99

Jamarr Staples was inducted for his accomplishments in multiple sports: football, basketball, and track and field. In addition, Jamarr was a recipient of a National Student-Athlete Award in 1999, which is awarded to a student who excels in athletics and academics.

As a football player, Jamarr played on the varsity team grades 10 through 12. He was named to the Mid Penn All Star Team for two years. In 11th grade, he was named to the First Team for having been a 1,000-yard rushing quarterback with a 10-0 season. As a senior, he was named to the First Team as a defensive back. He was also named by Pennsylvania Sporting News as an All-State Defensive Back.

Also, as a senior, Jamarr received the Big 33 Football Classic Honorable Mention and was invited to participate in the Pennsylvania All Star Down Under Football Bowl. As a junior, he was named a Sports Facts Player of the Week.

At MHS, Jamarr was honored as outstanding offensive player of the 1997 Cocoa Bean game and outstanding offensive player of the 1998 Homecoming game.

During the winter athletics season, Jamarr played on the MHS varsity basketball team from ninth through 12th grades. In the 1998-1999 season, he became the fourth boys' basketball player to score 1,000 points, averaging 23 points per game.

As an MHS basketball player, he was named to the Mid-Penn All-Star Team as an honorable mention in 10th grade, to the Second Team in 11th grade, and the First Team in 12th grade. As a junior and senior, he earned Big 15 Honorable Mention. As a senior, Jamarr was named to the All-District Team and as a member of the Pennsylvania/Maryland All Star Team.

In 11th grade, he was named the MHS Team MVP and received an MHS Alumni Association Special Award honoring him

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as a 1998 Mid Penn Scholar Athlete. That same year, he was named to the Spartan New Year's Classic and the Palmyra Cougar Roundball Classic All-tournament teams, and as the Spartan New Year's Classic MVP the following year. In 1998,

Jamarr participated in several summer basketball camps where he received recognition, including most outstanding camper, camp all-star, and best point guard.

During the spring athletic season, Jamarr participated in varsity track and field from ninth through 12th grades. During ninth, 10th, and 11th grades, he was honored as an outstanding underclassman. He participated in the triple, long, and high jumps and the 110 high hurdles.

In ninth grade, he was a district qualifier in the long and triple jump and placed third in the triple. He was also a state qualifier for the triple jump. In 10th grade, he won a silver medal in the triple jump at the district level and qualified for the state competition. In 11th grade, he was the conference champion in the 110 high hurdles, triple jump, and long jump, qualifying for district competition

on all three in addition to the high jump. He became district champion in the triple jump and qualified for the triple and long jump for the state competition, where he placed fifth in the triple jump and seventh in the long jump.

Unfortunately, as a senior, Jamarr suffered an injury that prevented his participation in track and field. He was, however, the recipient of the 1999 C.S. "Pop" Kelchner Award. The Pop Kelchner Award is presented annually to a senior scholar athlete by the Central Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in honor the former head scout in the St. Louis Cardinals Baseball Organization. Kelchner, an alumnus of Albright College, took interest in high school athletics, taking note of the ability of the athletes and the character displayed while on the field of play.

ALEXANDRA (JOHNSON) ZIMBLEMAN '04

Alexandra (Johnson) Zimbleman, like other inductees, was involved in a variety of Visual and Performing Arts programs

throughout high school.

From ninth through 12th grades, Alexandra performed with the Varsity Band, Varsity Chorus, County Chorus, and Gospel Choir. During 10th and 11th grades, she also participated in the dance program.

Starting in 10th grade, Alexandra was selected to perform with the MHS New Horizons, and she continued as a member of that performing group through her senior year. She was also selected for the Honors Choir as a senior and as a member of the Susquehanna Youth Chorale during her junior and senior years at MHS.

In addition to her involvement with Visual and Performing Arts programs, Alexandra participated in Track and Field, Cheerleading, Oxfam, Future Farmers of America, HOSA for future health professionals, the PA Junior Academy for Science, and Student Government. 🏆

Homecoming 2024



A Note from the MHS Alumni Association President

An unexpected, but rewarding, journey

During the Homecoming of 2017, I won the \$10,000 Homecoming Raffle. I met then MHSAA President Lorraine Romberger '83 to pick up my check. She was about to hand it to me and then drew her hand back. She said, "Two things. One, we are not responsible for your taxes. Two, how are you going to pay it forward?" I did not realize it then, but Lorraine's question set me on my MHSAA journey and has brought me to one of my proudest moments, writing my final article as President of MHSAA.

I wasn't sure what there was to pay forward. Like many others, I thought that the purpose or function of the Alumni Association was to throw parties a few times a year. I wasn't a dues-paying member and so I decided to buy my lifetime membership. When my card arrived, I put it in my wallet and patted myself on the back for "paying it forward." I had no idea how much I had to offer or how to truly give back.

I had told myself that I wasn't famous, I didn't have an impressive job, and I didn't have a lot of money. I let myself believe that because I was never going to be selected as Alumnus of the Year, I had no real value. Then, I gave up the pity party, dug in and became the alumna that Milton and Catherine Hershey would be proud of.

I joined my local chapter, participated in regional events, volunteered at school activities, became a Director of the MHSAA Board of Directors and have become a mentor to many young alumni. I share the story of MHS with everyone I can. Not every person is a potential sponsor or employee, but the more people who know what MHS has to offer, the greater our reach. Just as Mr. Hershey hoped to help 100

boys, I hope I can share the opportunity with 100 families.

During my seven-year journey, I have learned that the most valuable things I have to offer current students is my time and experiences. In the spring, alumni have the opportunity to participate in Go RED. You join an elementary student home for one evening. You read stories, do arts and crafts and enjoy cocoa. The cost is your time and the memories are invaluable.

Springtime also brings Fellowship Weekend which includes 10th grade career day and Alumni-Senior brunch. These events provide opportunities to share what life outside the chocolate bubble is really like and for alumni to learn how much the best home and school has grown and changed. Most importantly, alumni are able to impress upon current students that they matter and are valued. Students recognize that the alumni are taking the day off of work or time from their families to spend time with them. It's a powerful statement.

I have also learned that the Association does throw parties for students and fundraisers at homecoming, but this is far from the core of what we do. MHSAA represents 8,000 plus living alumni, those that are not alumni, but affiliated with MHS, and our honorary members. We have a collective voice that allows us to be the defenders of the Deed of Trust, support MHS in its execution of the Deed of Trust and continue to support those we consider to be our brothers and sisters.

As we are an independent organization from MHS we charge dues to assist in the execution of our mission and programing. This causes many to ask, "What do I get for my \$30?" The truth is, I don't like the question. I prefer to



answer with what we do with your \$30 and other donations than we receive. Some of our programs include:

- Cancer Care Fund - \$2000 annual grant to alumni, spouse or minor child with cancer diagnosis and financial need.
- Helping Hands Fund - Grant available to members of the Association in financial need
- Non-owner auto policy for members of the senior class – Proof of prior auto coverage to assist in reducing rates when obtaining an auto policy
- Paid internships for young alumni.
- Scholarships for students and young alumni
- Fellowship weekend activities, including Fellowship Brunch
- Memorial Grove programming at Homecoming

Without the financial and volunteer support of our membership MHSAA would not exist today and could not exist in perpetuity. I do not want to imagine a day when our organization can't answer the call of a member who needs our support or a Homecoming where the bell does not ring for each alumni that has passed. For this reason, I am asking each of you to consider, how are you going to pay it forward? What does your MHSAA journey look like? No matter what path you choose, remember, chocolate is thicker than blood! 🍫

All the best,
Angela Shade '95
MHSAA President

Nominate a Graduate for an Alumni Achievement Award

MHS accepts nominations for Alumni Achievement Awards throughout the year. Nominations received by Oct. 1, 2025, will be added to the candidate review list for the 2026 awards. For nomination details, visit mhsalum.org/stay-connected/alumni-recognition/alumni-awards or scan the QR code.



CLASS Notes

1940s

Milton Hayman '45, of Aurora, Colo., lives with his son in a 55+ retirement community. He turned 97 on Nov. 2, 2024.

Harry Kelly '45, of Timonium, Md., just celebrated his 75th anniversary. However, his wife Eve passed away a month later. He has two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He submitted the picture on Page 12 of the latest Thy Traditions Dear. He is one of the boys in the photo of Fosterleigh, which he believes was taken in 1934.

1950s

Donald Allender '51, of Hummelstown, Pa., has been retired for 27 years. He turned 91 and celebrated his 68th wedding anniversary this year. He is married to Dorothy Sheaffer of Hershey. They have three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. His class is the last class of HIS.

George Marks '51, of Cumming, Ga., just celebrated his 92nd birthday with a nice party. He is keeping busy with boating, lawns, gardens, and of course "Honey Dos." He went to Scotland this summer and is driving around Columbia and Snake River in October.

William List '52, of North Huntington, Pa., his wife of 48 years passed. He has seven grandchildren and is expecting his second great-grandchild in January.

Ronald "Lefty" Dionisio '53, of Baden, Pa., retired and is enjoying life relaxing. His wife died in 2018 after 59 years of marriage. He is a retired college and high school football official. He retired after 20 years of being a USA softball umpire. He has three children: Julie Lyn, Gina Ann, and Thomas Anthony.

Ronald Achey '54, of Lititz, Pa., retired after 55 years in self-employed auto sales and service business. He is keeping busy selling his old car and toy collection.

George Sweeney '54, of Palm City, Fla., turned 88 on November 30, 2024. He is now living at Sandhill Cove, a retirement living community in Palm City, Fla. He would like to hear from the class of 1954 to catch up with them.

Robert Baque '55, of Reading, Pa., retired as a postal supervisor/manager.

James Hoeschele '55, of Plymouth, Mich., is still a faculty member at Eastern Michigan University, but will be working at Michigan State University soon. He is not teaching anymore, just doing anticancer research in the laboratory. His wife, Audrone Hoeschele, passed away on June 10, 2023, and he misses her very much. He is so impressed with all the activities and opportunities that MHS students have. He says MHS is doing a very impressive job and gives his congratulations.

Raymond Capozucca '57, of Pittston, Pa., is now 85 years old. He has been retired for 10 years now. He was self-employed for 52 years with his brother Al Capozucca '54. He learned his trade at MHS, PL heating and electric contracting. His wife Cathy passed away and he has four children, one of whom passed away, and seven grandchildren.

L. Kenneth Subers '58, of Fort Mill, S.C., is a retired electrical designer.

Leonard Walden '58, of Cherry Hill, N.J., his wife Marene went "home" on Aug. 28, 2024. They had 61 years together and their first great-grandchild was born on Aug. 25, 2024.

1960s

James Dayhoff '60, of Claremont, Calif., since he last wrote, he has welcomed two more great-grandchildren. With their births, coupled with the passing of close friends and classmates, he has realized how precious life and time are. He has also realized how thankful he is to experience firsthand the generosity, the vision, and the legacy of Milton and Catherine Hershey.

Raymond Winward '60, of Waldport, Ore., he and his wife have been retired on the Oregon Coast for the past 22 years. Back in the Philadelphia area, they have three daughters, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandkids. He had a varied career with USAF and many years with the design and manufacturing of the Apollo spacesuits as Systems Engineer.

Fernando Calvarese '61, of Swansea, Ill., has had several surgeries on his back and has been in the hospital several times. He is now cared for by his wife of 55 years, who he married on July 5, 1969. He wants to come back to Hershey and visit MHS but he can't right now. He sends all his love to members of his class. He attended Hejucu for three



MHS Mourns Death of former AOY Merrill Lynn '48

With great sadness, we share news of the death of former 1987 MHS Alumnus of the Year Merrill Lynn '48. MHS honored Merrill Lynn in 1997 for his work as a research scientist.

We extend our sincere condolences to his daughter, Katherine (Michael Broggy) Lynn of Morton, Pa.; son, Alexander Lynn of Dallas, Texas; and granddaughter, Juliette Hannah Lynn of Denver, Colo. 🕯️

semesters, then joined the USAF, which he retired from in 1993. He went into civil service and retired in 2013. He is a lifetime member of MHSA.

Ralph Eckert '60, of Martinsville, Ind., is just trying to enjoy retirement. He is a caregiver for a 13-year-old boy who has a single mother. He has been taking care of him since he was 6 weeks old. He is a wonderful boy who gets As with honors.

F. Loyal Findley '61, of Flint, Mich., his wife died in 2003 and his son died in 2009. He has a daughter who is a registered nurse and lives in the Villages in Fla. His son is an electronic technician and recently moved from Florida to Michigan. He will now have a regular golf partner. He is still driving part-time at Painters Supply delivering supplies to collision shops. He says it beats retirement. He is living with his brother Dennis.

David Glass '61, of Jessup, Md., is so thankful and grateful that Milton Hershey School “nourished” him physically, mentally, and spiritually. The “great class of 1961” lives on!

Dennis Hannold '61, of Cromwell, Conn., is retired. He worked at United Technologies Pipe Fitter and Machine Repair. He did four years in the Air Force. He is in the American Legion as Chaplain. He tries to play golf, which he says he's not very good at. He has been married for 46 years. They have three children, three grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Stephen Russell '61, of York, Pa., moved to senior living at SpiriTrust Lutheran in York, Pa. and sold his second home in Wilmington, N.C.

J. Smail '61, of Kittanning, Pa., retired December 1, 2003 after over 36 years. He is a Vietnam Veteran and spent 6 years in the Army from 1961 to 1967.

Anthony Denike '62, of Hawthorne, N.J., is finally retired. He celebrated his 80th birthday on December 31, 2024. He thanks Milton Hershey for changing his life. His daughter Amanda graduated from Embry-Riddle (summa cum laude) with a BS in aeronautics engineering. She is now a pilot in Alaska and flies a Learjet!

Edward Fowkes '62, of Wexford, Pa., enjoyed seeing his grandson receive his industrial engineering degree this year. Edward is in the process of recovering from quadruple heart surgery that was done this past April.

Lee Legutko '62, of Wimauma, Fla., is living life! He took a recent fantastic one-month trip to Asia, where he visited Japan, South Korea, and Singapore! He is enjoying two children, two stepchildren, and seven grandkids. He had a successful career and advanced education thanks to MHS. The values he learned molded his character

and made a positive difference. His fellow brothers in MHS have remained lifetime family and inspiration.

John Russell '62, of Palmer Lake, Colo., is active in veterans affairs in Colorado Springs and the 10th Mountain Division National Association. He is singing in the Tri Lakes Music Assoc., Colorado Springs German Chorus, and at an Episcopal church, inspired by his MHS Glee Club experience. He hangs out with Ralph Greer '46, who was also a Men-O boy. He presides over a chapter of the Scottish American Military Society.

Richard Subers '62, of The Villages, Fla., celebrated his 80th birthday on Oct. 18. He is traveling to SE Asia on a cruise in March 2025 and on November 20 he and his wife will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary. He plays golf with MHS grad Jim Maloney '73 in The Villages, Fla.

Daniel Bauer '63, of Palmerton, Pa., has been married for 56 years to his wife, Carol. He has two kids, four grandchildren, two great-granddaughters, and another grandbaby on the way. He had a stroke in March 2024 but is doing fine now.

Robert Brown '63, of Franklin, Tenn., is involved with youth ministry at his church.

Thomas Leonard '63, of Monroeville, Pa., has been retired since 2006 and has been married for 60 years.

John Martin '63, of Naples, Fla., has been retired since 2011 and is enjoying the warm weather in sunny Florida. He enjoys spending time with his daughter and grandkids.

Edward Rising '63, of Mount Bethel, Pa., after working some forty years in the medical field, first as an EMT supervisor of a hospital-based ambulance at Pocono Medical Center and then as an occupational therapist, he tries to spend as much time hiking, kayaking, and reading as he can. He thanks Helen Hoad and her Hardy Boys for getting

him hooked on reading.

Larry Seesholtz '63, of Orlando, Fla., just turned 81. He is in good health and looks forward to the next 20 years. After 60 years of being a commercial/airline pilot, he retired from flying.

Thomas Blizzard '64, of Conway, S.C., is working with his daughter at the college she teaches at as a volunteer in scene shop. He has three kids, six grandkids, and five great-grandkids so far.

Richard Climenhaga '64, of Manassas, Va., retired in November 2023. He worked for IBM from 1966 to 1973, for Xerox from 1973 to 2006, and for Fairfax County Public Schools from 2006 to 2023. He repaired a large-scale mainframe computer then moved to doing networking. He has all sorts of computer certifications. He is a licensed electrician and fire alarm technician. He is also retired from IBEW Local 26, where he worked a second job at night for 17 years.

David Datesman '64, of Columbia, Pa., is fighting bladder cancer. He is still active in Legion and UFW.

George Delany '64, of Rehoboth, Mass., he and his wife take satisfaction in supporting their two sons in their adult lives. They have recently become grandparents for the first time. He says they are very fortunate. You can see his art at georgedelanyart.com. He sends regards to his '64 classmates.

Donald Goodworth '64, of Mandeville, La., is a semi-retired renovator. His brother Bob (Robert) '65 lives in Gulf Shores, Fla.

Glenn Hartman '64, of Ocala, Fla., retired from Cone Distributing in Ocala after 17 years. He is currently working as a crossing guard for the city of Ocala.

Glen Weaver '64, of Lancaster, Pa., celebrated his 56th year of marriage on June 1, 2024.



Student Art on Display at HE&R Offices

Hershey Entertainment & Resorts invited students and President Pete Gurt '85 to a red carpet artist reception. The event celebrated students for their talents and showcased their artwork which will hang in HE&R's executive offices. Each student had the opportunity to share more about their piece with attendees. 🎨

CLASS Notes

Trachanda Garcia '02 Named Alumni Relations Director

Trachanda Garcia '02 spent her career in higher education and has a heart for creating a welcoming space for alumni. Now, she brings her skills, passions, and experience as a Milt back home to oversee Alumni Relations. 📸



Niles Garlin '65, of Manheim, Pa., has been married for 53 years. He has two daughters, a son-in-law, one granddaughter, and one grandson. He worked for 32 years at Yellow Freight Trucking before retiring.

Andrew Morgan '65, of Belleville, Ill., has been married for 52 years. He and his wife have three children (one boy and two girls) and five grandkids (two girls and three boys). He is enjoying retirement.

Roy Samras '65, of Savannah, Ga., retired in Savannah, Ga. from a career as a mechanical engineer. He stays busy as a volunteer mentor for elementary school students and advocating for child literacy. He also volunteers at the Georgia state railroad museum. He enjoys visiting with his 12 grandchildren.

Joseph Samuelson '65, of Kirkwood, Pa., just celebrated 55 years of married life with his wife Joyce. He has nine grandchildren. He enjoys driving his antique cars and working on them.

Peter Stark '65, of Thompsett, Pa., is on a spiritual journey of meditation, prayer and devotion, living in an old barn, with his wife of 42 years.

Terry Bitteringer '66, of Westminster, Md., at 77 years old he feels like he is 40. In February he had radiation therapy for cancer. He played hockey the whole time. He is 98% cancer free. He and his wife are doing well and his three kids are doing great. His three

grandchildren are wonderful. Life is good, and his dog is great too.

Stephen Devries '66, of Burke, Va., recently retired from Cornerstone Office.

Samuel Douthett '66, of Butler, Pa., for over 20 years he has been working to help our needy veterans (men and women) get food, clothing, medical help, and shelter.

John Laskey '66, of Apex, N.C., plays a lot of golf and has been married to his wife Barbara for 54 years. He is just enjoying retirement!

Harry Goodman '67, of Midland, Mich., has been married to his wife Pamela for 44 years. He volunteers with his Senior Services association.

J. Thomas Schoolik '67, of Jefferson, N.C., has been married to his wife Jean for 4 years and is living the life in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

Fred Swerdlin '67, of Houston, Texas, retired from the US Navy on June 1, 1993 and is a retired NASA field engineer.

Robert Radaker '68, of Walnutport, Pa., is a retired engineering manager. He enjoys golf, collecting, and spending time with his wife Louise.

James Rupp '68, of Gastonia, N.C., recently moved from Ft. Myers, Fla. to Gastonia, N.C.

Gary Hilton '69, of North Brookfield, N.Y., is enjoying his retirement and his three grandsons. Also, for the second year he completed more than 500 miles on the Erie Canal Bike Trail with his bicycle group.

Denton Loy '69, of Wasilla, Ala., will probably be selling his business the first of the year. He will work part-time for the owner. He plans to hunt and fish more, along with seeing more of the state.

David Veschi '69, of Cheswick, Pa., is enjoying retirement in Pittsburgh, Pa. and is traveling to Seattle to be with family.

1970s

William Patts '70, of Taylor, Mich., has been married for 50 years and has two daughters, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He is a part-time usher for the Detroit Tigers at Comerica Park in Detroit, Mich.

Bruce Hummel '71, of Palmyra, Pa., is starting his tenth year volunteering at the Hershey Gardens and Butterfly Atrium.

Sean Ryan '71, of Perkasi, Pa., is happily married to his wife and partner, Twyla. He is retired from full-time employment but still works part-time for the Bucks Co. court. He spends his free time volunteering at a local food bank.

Royal Spellmeyer, Jr. '71, of Morrisville, N.C., moved to North Carolina from Carrollton, Texas in April 2024.

Robert Walsh '71, of Audubon, N.J., retired from the printing industry in 2015. He is currently a subcontractor for Touchwood Design and Construction in Harleysville, Pa.

Charles Belt '72, of Bel Air, Md., is retired and traveling with his wife Gail. They recently celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. He is spending a lot of time with his grandkids and as a volunteer assistant soccer and baseball coach.

Thomas Connelly '72, of O'Fallon, Mo., is blessed to be 70 and healthy. He is still working as Technical Development Manager at WS Hampshire, Hampshire, Ill. He is a part of Chorus Ambassadors of Harmony, which won their 5th international gold. He is a singer at three churches.

Oliver Ewing '72, of Colonial Beach, Va., is finally retiring after 43 years as a licensed mortician. He is also retired after 20 years in the U.S.A.F. (1972-1992). They say that your golden years are to relax and travel, which he says is a lie. He was diagnosed with AFIB which he didn't know he had, but due to medicine and being shocked by a defibrillator, he is back in normal sinus rhythm. He was diagnosed with double pneumonia on June 23 and is still on oxygen.

Charles Mintzer '72, of Englewood, Fla., retired from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Kenneth Mross '72, of Bartonsville, Pa., is sticking to the plan. He is continuing to enjoy life with Maryellen and their kids and grandchildren. Travels continue and will do so as long as possible. He says it is sometimes hard to grasp all that has happened over the course of the now 70 trips around the sun. He is staying positive. He always likes hearing from, talking to, and seeing classmates and friends.



MHSAA Homestead Chapter Hosts Christmas Party

The Milton Hershey School Alumni Association Homestead Chapter hosted its annual Christmas party for our Elementary Division students. This beloved event allows local alumni to have fun with our students and get everyone into the holiday spirit. 🎅

Richard Wobensmith '72, of Willow Grove, Pa., has been married for 47 years and has one daughter. He worked as an auto technician, shop foreman, service manager, and sales associate for Keystone Motors Volvo in Doylestown, Pa. for 42 years. He managed an auto repair facility for three years, then retired. He owns a home in Willow Grove, Pa. He celebrated his 70th birthday in October.

Julien Alexandre '73, of Harrisburg, Pa., has been married for 46 years. He has been blessed with two grown children and six grandchildren. Although he is retired from the insurance industry, he works part-time as a substitute teacher, even occasionally at Catherine Hall or Senior Hall.

Donald Knaub '73, of York, Pa., both he and his wife retired two years ago and are enjoying their two grandchildren. He plans to travel more. After his 50th class reunion he rekindled friendships with Ken Bohr, Jeff Willits, and Clayton Wilson. They now get together every three months for breakfast.

Michael Kudrick '73, of Vineland, N.J., retired 5 years ago from National Constitution Center. He is married to Brenda. Between the both of them they have five girls and one boy. They have nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Mark Leasure '72, of Copley, Ohio, is a "paps" twice now, both boys. The oldest is playing football his first year in middle school in Richmond, Kentucky. The youngest is 11 months old.

David Mogel '73, of Reading, Pa., retired two years ago from Clover Farms Dairy in Reading, Pa. after 32 years of employment as a delivery expert and working in the plant. He drove a delivery truck for 14 years for several other companies and worked for five years as an auto mechanic in Pa. He has his state inspection license.

Jack Swofford '73, of Lancaster, Pa., just finished his 19th year as a member of the MHSAA Board of Directors. He is still active as a TL mentor, Spartan Ambassador, and

continues to run the Polar Express Christmas program for the MHS elementary students.

Ralph Tomassi '73, of Ashland, Ohio, retired from Hospice at North Central Ohio in June 2024. He previously spent 37 years in administration at Ashland University in Ohio. He was appointed to the Taylor Family Foundation board of directors in 2023. He celebrated 43 years of marriage to Betty Jo on July 18th. He says "Go Spartans!"

Ken Anderson '74, of Grand Ledge, Mich., has been retired for 18 years and travels with his wife Terri who he has been married to for 34 years. They have two children. He is healthy, happy, and realizing every day is a gift and blessing.

Rodney Crawford '74, of Annville, Pa., is retired. He has four grandsons and one granddaughter.

Kevin Vogl '74, of Boynton Bch, Fla., retired in Jan. 2024.

John Muller '76, of Bowling Green, Ky., plans to retire on Jan. 2, 2025.

Ronald Rutkowski '76, of Kutztown, Pa., enjoys time with his three granddaughters.

Ronald Gilbert '78, of Drexel Hill, Pa., has been married for 26 years. He has three daughters and four grandchildren, two boys ages 12 and 9 and two girls ages 17 and 3 weeks.

David Mootsey '78, of Nags Head, N.C., is a one year cancer survivor and is enjoying life.

Jim Anglin '78, of Norfolk, Va., is married to a beautiful lady, Lori Ann Anglin. They will be celebrating 10 years in October. He has a son, Lucas James Anglin, who is 26 years old.

Jim Gribble '79, of Vail, Ariz., retired on October 31, 2022 after 41 years of military and federal government service. He moved to Vail, Ariz. and built a house and pool on five acres in Coyote Creek Estates. His son TJ is a junior at the University of Arizona in

Tucson. He and his wife Christine, who is also retired, enjoy life in the southwest and traveling.

Stanley Mowrer '79, of Marietta, Pa., retired on Dec. 1, 2023 after 36 years with the Heim company in Harrisburg, Pa. He was affiliated with the IBEW for 43 years. He is celebrating 42 years of marriage with his wife Terri and is looking forward to spending time with their 56 nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

1980s

Michael Lukowsky '80, of Palm City, Fla., has two daughters, ages 28 and 32, and three grandkids, two-year-old twins and a one-year-old.

Braden Maines '80, of Pine Grove, Pa., says Milton Hershey School is a unique place! He continues to work for MHS, continuing a 37 ½ year-long career. He has been blessed every day. He is thankful for his coworkers and being able to work and communicate with students daily. He is a proud graduate!

John Long '83, of Glenolden, Pa., has five children and five grandchildren. He retired from US Airways and is now working for Wawa Dairies as a logistics coordinator. He volunteers at the Glenolden American Legion and the Upland Marine Corps League.

Mario Brewton '84, of Land O Lakes, Fla., is the owner of a personal training business, FitSpartan.

Julee Hixon '84, of Chesapeake, Va., came out of retirement and returned to work as a caregiver.

Barbara Polk '84, of D.C., is the chief operating officer at Jobs for the Future. She is responsible for setting the vision for the strategic use of JFF's resources and leading the change management efforts necessary to position the organization to continue to scale and evolve.

Ross Vickery '85, of Union, S.C., is loving life!

Tim Quade '86, of Lancaster, Pa., his business Heaven on Earth Lawn Care LLC is starting its ninth year. He loves his four cats Snowy, Bootsy, Daisey, and Lilah. He also loves his beautiful cat Kitsy Kat who died on Oct. 9, 2024.

Marissa Guarino '89, of Clearwater Beach, Fla., she and her husband recently sold their company, Practice Management of America, which they diligently built over the past decade. She says it's been a true blessing to create something that has positively impacted numerous doctors and their patients in New York. Currently, they

CLASS Notes

are enthusiastically working on their new venture, Meta Care, Inc. Additionally, they've initiated a homeless ministry during their leisure time to assist those facing hardships.

Michelle Moran '89, of Cape May, N.J., retired after owning her own salon for 20 years. She is enjoying her granddaughter and traveling with her husband.

Kyle Stromberg '89, of Middletown, Del., recently accepted a new position as a Federal Account Manager with Connection Public Sector Solutions.

1990s

Christina Sage '92, of Nashua, N.H., was recently promoted to Principal Engineer in Product Engineering, and soon to be in Test Engineering. Her daughter is finishing her sophomore year at UMass Lowell studying Physics with a minor in Math and Theater Arts. This summer she will be doing research in astrophysics at Harvard Center for Astrophysics.

2000s

Krista Hunt '04, of York, Pa., got married in Sept. 2024. She finished studying to be a medical assistant at HACC in June 2024 and became a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA).

Jennelle Martin '04, of Mechanicsville, Va., moved to a new home in September 2023 with her son, who is 4.5 years old. In August 2022, she changed careers after 9 years of teaching English to grades 6-12 to work in tech. She is currently a platform engineer for a company that works on commercial and DoD contracts.

Amber Masinos '05, of Mount Carmel, Pa., has two daughters, Mackenzie (15), and Eliana (3 ½).

Christopher Paradine '05, of Colorado Springs, Colo., married in 2019 to a non-Milt. He won the American Legion Spirit of Service Award for the entire Space Force in 2024. Each military branch has an award winner every year. He was the vice president of a Little League in Colorado Springs. He is the first person from MHS to have been in the Space Force. He got a Special Duty Assignment overseas and will be "PCSing" soon.

Christina Bozarth '09, of Zelenople, Pa., completed her clinical training and passed her International Board certification to fulfill a long-time goal of becoming a lactation consultant.

Aaron Falcone '09, of Hilton Head Island, S.C., owns and operates a commercial and residential construction company. He works with fellow Milts who have moved to Hilton Head Island, S.C., to help build a company providing honest and quality work. He lives in S.C. with his wife and three dogs.

2010s

Diamond Escamilla '10, of Charlottesville, Va., had her second child.

Maame Forson '10, of Bondurant, Iowa, completed her MHS field practicum placement and Master of Social Work degree in May 2024.

Tracy Jones '10, of Shamokin, Pa., graduated with a Human Services Assistant associate degree from McCann School of Business and Technology. She is currently enrolled at SNHU working on a Human Services Assistant bachelor's degree.

Ashlynn Jimenez '12, of Lancaster, Pa., will be welcoming her second son in mid-September!

Kaitlyn McNichol '12, of Enola, Pa., she and her fiancé are getting married on October 27, 2024.

Amber Styer '12, of Kingston, Pa., is currently engaged to James P. Kelly IV who she's dated for going on 12 years. They met at Wilkes University. They have two cats, a black one named Onyx and an orange/tan one named Simba. They are currently in the process of planning their wedding.

Tylette Daw '14, of Williamsport, Pa., got married on March 9, 2024.

Kassandra Ramos '14, of Lancaster, Pa., since graduation, she has become a full-time home hospice CNA. She is the mother of a 3-year-old girl named Ziya. She had hit a low point in her life and has made a bounce back. She truly feels like her time at MHS contributed to her comeback. She, her daughter, and her dog Tank have been so happy.

Haley Dennis '15, of Castle Rock, Colo., recently moved to Colorado and is loving every second of the endless adventures out there.

Shakira Morales '15, of Lancaster, Pa., is currently in a clinical counseling master's program at Lancaster Bible College, which she started in Fall 2024. She is expected to graduate in May 2026. She is also newly married as of June 2024 and recently gave birth to her first child on September 1, 2024, a baby girl named Karter.

Chris Divens '16, of Murrells Inlet, S.C., is one year into his PhD program at Coastal Carolina University studying education sciences. He is currently seeking peer-reviewed publication for research into queer and trans studies in education. He is continuing to teach high school special education while also learning Spanish. He has been enjoying traveling to the Pacific Northwest, Midwest, etc. with his spouse Kayla. He has also been enjoying time at home with his three cats.

Samson Arnold '17, of Mount Joy, Pa., has been married for two years this past May. His wife now works for YRE too!

Mary Fletcher '17, of Martinsburg, W. Va., she and her husband, Dakota Fletcher, bought their first home in September 2023. They are expecting their first child in November 2024.

Sky Munson '18, of Mill Hall, Pa., recently got engaged and purchased a home in Mill Hall, Pa.

2020s

Taylor Yohe '22, of Newville, Pa., has been working as a farm manager for Eleven Oaks Farm for the past two years since graduating and won't be leaving anytime soon.

Savannah Miller '23, of Martinsburg, W.V., joined the National Guard.

Thomas Tarplah '24, of Gaithersburg, Md., is staying in college. He just started at University of Maryland Baltimore City and is in his second semester.

Deaths

Laurence Fredrick '45, of Charlottesville, Va., May 19, 2024

Robert Stonesifer '45, of Palm Bay, Fla., June 15, 2024

Robert Dodson '46, of Dover, Del., Sept. 17, 2024

Merrill Lynn '48, of Morton, Pa., Nov. 3, 2024

Robert Bettleyon '50, of Hershey, Pa., June 20, 2024

Girard Gaughan '50, of Palmyra, Pa., July 25, 2024

Dr. Charles Newcomer '50, of Fort Worth, Texas, May 16, 2024

J. Fredrick Evans '51, of Lithia, Fla., Jan. 31, 2023

Russel Sharp '51, of Foley, Ala., Dec. 20, 2023

Thomas Eberly '52, of Maitland, Fla., Jan. 14, 2023

K. Thomas Davies '53, of Pittsburgh, Pa., June 2, 2024

Walter Hall '55, of Media, Pa., Aug. 22, 2024

Franklin Leathery '55, of Orlando, Fla., Sept. 2, 2023

Michael Beltz '57, of Highland, Md., June 5, 2024

James Firestone '58, of Hilton Head Island, S.C., May 23, 2024

Jerome Blair '59, of Fallston, Md., Aug. 13, 2024

Phillip Hammond '59, of Lewisberry, Pa., Sept. 25, 2024

William Yost '59, of York, Pa., Feb. 17, 2023

Phillip Minella '60, of Nantucket, Mass., Aug. 27, 2023

Charles Rohrbaugh '60, of York, Pa., February 12, 2024

George Mann '61, of Elizabethtown, Pa., April 6, 2024

Dale Yost '61, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., Jul. 20, 2024

Rolf Devries '62, of Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 30, 2023

James Parker '62, of Delmont, Pa., April 22, 2024

George Kelly '63, of Sewell, N.J., Feb. 3, 2024

Robert Mercer '63, of Wilmington, Del., April 14, 2024

Dalton Williams '63, of Dover, Del., Oct. 13, 2024

Gary Goldsmith '64, of Mays Landing, N.J., July 14, 2024

Ronald Herrmann '64, of Starrucca, Pa., April 22, 2023

Thomas Bryson '65, of Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 14, 2024

Raymond Bullman '65, of West Chester, Pa., July 5, 2024

James Hanawalt '65, of Harrisburg, Pa., June 26, 2024

Matthew Dawson '67, of Navarre, Fla., May 13, 2024

Barry Levine '67, of Atlanta, Ga., June 10, 2024

John Schneider '67, of Schuylkill Haven, Pa., Oct. 9, 2024

Jackie Kradel '68, of Butler, Pa., Feb. 4, 2024

Michael McCarthy '68, of Longmont, Colo., Aug. 13, 2024

Jerry Clever '69, of Chambersburg, Pa., Oct. 10, 2024

Michael Murphey '69, of Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 3, 2009

Bruce Uhlmann '69, of Rockville, Md., Nov. 18, 2023

Michael Resig '70, of Duncansville, Pa., Oct. 14, 2024

George Campbell '72, of Defuniak Springs, Fla., June 17, 2021

James Fordyce '72, of Waynesburg, Pa., Jul. 15, 2024

Vincent Stephano '72, of Wilmington, Del., March 22, 2022

Clifford Fritchman '73, of Forks Twp., Pa., Feb. 17, 2024

Richard Hooks '73, of Houston, Texas, Dec. 31, 2023

Thomas Hogg '77, of New Kensington, Pa., March 1, 2021

Gary Fenstermaker '78, of Las Vegas, Nev., April 15, 2024

Daniel Hollinger '78, of Hopewell, Pa., Dec. 1, 2020

Myron McCurdy '82, of Annville, Pa., July 26, 2024

Norman Oates '83, of Union, S.C., June 30, 2024

Richard Esposito '99, of Philadelphia, Pa., April 8, 2024

**MHS Lifer*

Staff and Retiree Deaths

Donald Rothermel died on June 5, 2024. He was employed by MHS from 1977 to 2007 as an Associate Athletic Director.

James Collins died on July 4, 2024. He was employed by MHS from 2002 to 2011 as an electrician.

Joan Snyder died on July 26, 2024. She was employed by MHS from 1986 to 2011 as a computer system specialist.

Nelson Gaisor died on September 20, 2024. He was employed by MHS from 1986 to 2006 as a houseparent. 🏡



Alums Featured in MHS 30-Minute Special

Several alumni, including Ododo Walsh '98, are featured in the recently launched 30-minute special "A Life Changing Education." Ododo discusses her job as senior director of Home Life services, overseeing the school's Home Life training program, social and emotional learning curriculum in student homes, and the Family Relations and Religious Programs teams. The special is airing on local television stations and can be viewed on-demand through the MHS YouTube Channel. 📺


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ALUMNI

Calendar



August

25 Opening of School
22 Cocoa Bean Game

September

13 Mr. Hershey's Birthday

October

1 Nomination deadline for 2026
Alumni Achievement and
Alumnus/na of the Year Awards
23-26 Homecoming Weekend

November

9-14 Founders Week

December

31 2025 Spartan Hall of Fame
Nominations Close

All dates are tentative. Please refer to
mhsalum.org and Spartan Minute for
updates.

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