



BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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September 2023

A Letter from the BASAA President:

So much has happened since our last newsletter! The tradition of the 50 year class receiving their Golden Diploma was interrupted for the 1970 and 1971 classes due to COVID-19. However, each person that requested one did receive their Golden Diploma at their class gathering. The class of 1972 and 1973 received their diplomas at the BHS stadium along with the current graduating class.

Many thanks to the classes of 1963,1965,1966, and 1971 and other individuals for their donations to the scholarship fund. We couldn't do it without you!

The All Alumni Dinner continues to thrive, and I look forward to seeing new faces at the next one at Mt. Brighton. **Save the Date!** Saturday, July 20, 2024. Dinner at 6 pm. Watch our website for more details. BrightonMiAlumni.com/Events.

Homecoming is October 13, preceded on October 12 with the inductions of Col. Kristin Flood MD ('88) and Bruce Ritter ('71) into the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame. They join last year's inaugural class of Dave LewAllen 1975, Kate Lawrence 1976, and Drew Henson 1998. You can see the display in the BHS hallway. A big thank you to Superintendent Dr. Matt Outlaw ('92) for this event. Please RSVP to the Superintendent's office ([810\) 299-4000](tel:8102994000) if you would like to attend.

We are always looking for any school memorabilia. Consider us before you throw it out! Varsity jackets, report cards, photos, yearbooks etc. are welcomed additions to the Alumni Room.

"We Want YOU!" to become a board member of the Brighton Area Schools Alumni Association (BASAA)! Please contact us if you're interested. We will soon be moving to digital newsletters only to save paper and resources, Stay connected with BHS. Share your email contact info: BASAlumniContact@gmail.com.

"Preserve the past, participate in the present, and promote the future". I believe these words say it all about the BASAA!

Bruce Ritter (1971), President

The Story of the "Buddy Bench"

The history of the Buddy Bench continues! Years ago, outside Lindbom Elementary School, the bench was placed for any student who needed a friend, someone to listen, someone to care. During the winter of 2021, the Alumni Association took possession of the bench from the new owner of the building which is slated to be demolished. *Jerry Damon*, Class of 1960, refurbished the bench and it will move from elementary school to elementary school throughout the district so other students can experience the bench and its reason for being placed at each school. 2021 was the first year the bench was placed at Hawkins Elementary. First, because it's the oldest elementary school. The bench was happily accepted and placed in the school's courtyard. In August 2022, the bench was moved to Hornung Elementary. It is currently on display at the COBACH center in downtown Brighton and will be moved to Spencer Elementary in October. The next stops will be Hilton Elementary and Miller School. The rotation will start over again once all schools have had their turn.

We thank you Jerry, for restoring the Buddy Bench to its beautiful condition for all kids to enjoy!



Mr. Chris McAuliffe, Hawkins Principal



Mr. Jack Yates, Hornung Principal

2023 BASAA–Scholarship Awardees

The Brighton Alumni Association awarded \$1000 scholarships to ten Brighton graduates on June 1, 2023. The funding of these scholarships comes from donations and projects spearheaded by the Association. In addition, classes that have had their 50th reunion celebration have taken on the task of raising money for scholarships. Have you ever considered funding or creating a named scholarship after your class or a special someone? These scholarships provide funds toward future Brighton Alumni! The review process looks at goals, challenges, what BAS has meant to them and their need, with focus on need. If you or your class is interested in being part of this great work, please contact Bruce Ritter for information.

Class of 1963:

Brady Matuszewski–Xavier University

Class of 1965:

Megan Burke– Michigan Tech. University

Morgan Rose– Bellarmine University

Easton Storey– Purdue University



Class of 1971:

Stella Farmer–Hope College

GoLiuCo Horal Family Foundation Scholarship:

Benjamin Anderson–Michigan State University

Emily Sebastian–Michigan Tech. University

Alumni Association:

Kailey Kovacs–Northern Michigan University

Jack Storey–Hope College

Dmitri Tsahelnik–University of Alabama Huntsville

Consider making a donation to the BASAA Scholarship Fund to help future Brighton Alumni. Continue the Legacy!

BASAA– Updates

- Alumni Hall–Class photos from 1900 through 2023 are now displayed in D Hallway of the High School. Many thanks to Principal Gavin Johnson and his support of this project.
- Scholarships–over \$132,000 in scholarships have been awarded these past 35 years to 135 different graduates. What a great way to make an impact on an educational career!
- Our first Study Skills for Middle School Students workshop was presented by retired Scranton teacher *Michelle Madden*, local educator *Beth Walker* and assisted by retired Scranton teacher *Pam Lee-Campbell*. Forty students attended and future sessions are planned for the 2023-2024 academic year. Funds raised supported BASAA Scholarships. We are always looking for opportunities to assist Brighton students when we can!
- Online Yearbooks can be found at <http://www.BrightonMialumni.com/Yearbooks>. Have fun perusing yearbooks from 1930-1969! Keeping in touch with classmates is possible through our www.BrightonMialumni.com website.
- The 25th Annual Alumni Dinner was held on July 15, 2023 at Mt. Brighton. The Valedictorian of the Class of 1943, *Hazel Giberson Morgan*, attended this year! It was also the Class of 1963 's 60th, Class of 1968's 55th and Class of 1973's mini 50th reunion. *Norma Jean Pless*, 1950, and her 3 children and 1 grandson attended, Jim '73, Ted '76, Kathleen '83 and Alex '04. All of them are Brighton Graduates!



Hazel G. Morgan

Shared Legacies

Celebrating 36 years in existence, our Brighton Area Schools Alumni Association strives to provide connections to our graduates and alumni. When returning to Brighton, please make plans to visit The Alumni Room in the lower level of Brighton High School to view memorabilia commemorating our journeys through Brighton Schools. See how varsity jackets and letters have changed over the years, see classmates' photos and awards, and consider how you might support our efforts. Please contact Bruce Ritter or email BASAlumniContact@gmail.com to arrange a tour. Our all-volunteer board works hard to facilitate your connections to classmates, provide scholarships to graduating seniors, and enhance educational efforts of current students. Please help us continue the alumni networking and legacy for future Brighton students.

Beth Walker (1978)

Golden Graduation June 9, 2023

Twenty-two members of the Class of 1973 returned to walk the stage and receive recognition for their Golden Diploma celebration during the 8 pm ceremony for the BHS Class of 2023 on June 9 at the BHS Football Field. One member of the Class of 1973 had this to say following the events of the weekend:

"I have quite a few friends from other towns/schools, and I hear everybody saying their school never did anything like Brighton does for alumni. They may have a 50th reunion but not much more. Our class committee did a fantastic job of planning too. But the absolute highlight of my weekend was the Friday night "Under the Lights" ceremony. Being presented a Golden Diploma alongside all the Brighton graduates was wonderful! The parade onto the field with our sign and hearing everyone in the stands cheering was really fun! And having the sun go down and the football field lights come on while listening to meaningful speeches was very memorable! You have a great thing going with these Alumni activities. Please keep them up. I was born and raised in Brighton. My siblings all graduated from Brighton. Our two children graduated from Brighton. Even my Dad, Norman Green, graduated from Brighton back in 1935! So I have proud connections! I appreciate it all. Thank you again!

Lynnette Green Perrine (1973)

Per Olson, Class of 1972, flew approximately 3,927 miles to get to his 50th Class Reunion! Not once, but twice, as he also attended his 35th Class Reunion! Per came to Brighton as an exchange student from Sweden. His host family was Bill and Betty Larson who lived on Walnut Street with their son, Jessie. He enjoyed his time in Brighton and was amazed at the growth of the city and the school. After returning to Sweden he earned a Master in Science and has worked with the forestry department in Sweden and Ghana. In retirement he enjoys his six grandchildren along with running their farm and he and his wife, Anna travel when they can.



Per Olson

Anna was also an exchange student in Texas in 1972. The two met when they returned to their Sweden High School. Their three children also were part of the student exchange program and they hosted five students in their home. The main experience of the program is to live with another family and learn first hand the day to day life of being in the United States.

Marieanna Bair Memorial Tribute To honor Class of 1944 graduate and longtime founding BAS Alumni Board Member *Marieanna Bair (1926-2021)*, a plaque with the words and music of the BHS Fight Song has been mounted on the wall outside the Alumni Room. This was made possible with a generous donation from the Bair Family. Be sure to stop by the Alumni Room and see it!



We Remember Carl W. Klopshinske (Mr. K)




It was a sunny September morning in 1959, and our first hour class was band. Thirty-eight of us gathered, wondering who our new band director was. Suddenly a man entered and said, "My name is *Mr. Klopshinske*, I am your new band director and things beginning today are going to be different." Little did we know how different. He kept his promise, the band program at BHS was about to become the best! But Mr. Who? "Klopshinske" was a long name so I began calling him, "Mr. K", a name that would become known by not only his students, but the whole community of Brighton.

Mr.K was born June 20, 1934. A graduate of Wayne State University, Brighton School District would be his home for thirty-three years until his retirement in 1992. The band grew to 200+ members and became one of Michigan's most outstanding bands. Mr. K taught his students commitment, dedication, discipline, respect, overcoming adversity and being the very best you could be! Most of all he taught us the true meaning of love. Mr K loved all his students, and it didn't matter if you were his student in 1959 or 1992, he would remember your name, your family, what instrument you played and other facts about each of us. We were his first love, until his true love came along, Doreen (Higham) Klopshinske and became his wife in 1995.

Our beloved Mr. K remained in Brighton until he passed away at 85 years old December 9, 2019, not only surrounded by the love of his family but the love of his many students, the Brighton school district and the community of Brighton.

Suzanne Campbell-Conerway (1962)

THE ANNUAL ASSOCIATION DUES SCHEDULE

Alumni Membership	\$ 10.00	Name _____
Friends	\$ 10.00	Address _____
Patron Membership	\$ 25.00	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Gold Star Membership	\$ 50.00	Phone Number _____
Life Time Membership	\$250.00	Email _____
Donation to BASAA	\$ _____	 (PayPal) BrightonMiAlumni.com/Memberships

BASAA– Life Members 1949: Dr. E Malcom Field. 1950: Bonnie Corrigan, Norma Jean Pless. 1951: Mary Miller, Jane Tomlinson. 1955: Mary Thompson. 1956: Jere Michaels. 1957: Bob Schaffer. 1958: Betsy Herbst, Robert Herbst. 1960: Richard Chrysler, Jerry Damon. 1961: Paul Schultz, Carolyn Zampelia. 1962: Suzanne Conerway, Dennis Pearsall, Linda Wintermute. 1963: John Park. 1964: Rick Smith. 1965: Clifford Ritter, Dennis Bowdoin. 1966: Luanne Elkhoff, Carl Krueger, Greg Park, Tietze Smith. 1971: Bruce Ritter, Sandy Leith Bates, Randall Bair, Patti Pearsall Hamilton. 1975: Nancy Fredenburg, Kate Lowry, Steve Lowry. 1976: Kate Lawrence. 1978: Jane Horal, Elizabeth Walker. 1992: Dr. Matthew Outlaw. Carol Wigent. Danielle Langenbruch.

Alumni Association BOARD

President	Bruce Ritter (1971)	Board Member	Pat Arnold (1968)
Vice President	John Park (1963)	Board Member	Suzanne Conerway (1962)
Secretary	Sandy Leith Bates (1971)	Board Member	Michelle Madden (1984)
Treasurer	Nancy Fredenburg (1975)	Board Member	Elizabeth Walker (1978)

BHS Alumni now has a convenient way to forward contact information. Have a change of address, phone number or email? Please notify us by email at:
BASAlumniContact@gmail.com

Thank You for supporting the BASAA!

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