



## *Madison Central School Educational Foundation Newsletter*

"INVEST IN THE BEST"

### *Jeff and Trudi Nelson MHS Forensics Fund Endowment*



*Jeff and Trudi Nelson with Foundation Director, Beth Knuths. Photo by Jane Utecht, Madison Daily Leader.*

Earlier this year, the Foundation announced the endowment of the Jeff and Trudi Nelson Madison High School Forensics Fund. This fund will provide support to preserve and enhance the Madison High School Forensics programs which include Debate and Oral Interpretation. Jeff Nelson approached the Foundation with the idea of establishing a fund that would honor his wife, Trudi Nelson's service to the Madison Central School District. Trudi taught Language Arts for 15 years at the Madison Middle School (1988-2003) and several years at Madison High School, teaching Speech and English classes. For nine years during this period she was also the head coach of High School Debate and Oral Interpretation. Through her leadership, the Debate and Oral Interpretation programs were restored and reinvigorated. Jeff said Trudi was highly respected by coaches on the 'debate circuit' and was a relentless champion of student recruitment and performance. He said, "As an example of her quality guidance as a coach and mentor, several of her debate students excelled after leaving Madison. These included a future Rhodes Scholar and students who earned law degrees from Harvard and Duke Universities."

Trudi Nelson said, "It was a natural fit for us to want to enhance the Forensics programs at Madison High School. Hosting the Karl Mundt Debate Tournament was a key event in the South Dakota Forensics competition when I coached. Our Madison Forensics teams qualified several teams and

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individual competitors for National Forensics competition, as well as either winning or placing in the top tier of all South Dakota schools, including the state's largest schools."

Upon hearing the news of this new endowment, former MHS Activities Director, Mike Anderson commented: "Madison High School has a well-respected and successful Debate/ Oral Interp program. Trudi Nelson played a significant role in forming that reputation. During Trudi's tenure as the leader of those programs, MHS enjoyed tremendous success and respect state wide. The forming of this endowment is a fitting honor to her perseverance and dedication to MHS." Former Superintendent, Dr. John Sweet added: "During my 13 years at Madison, I very much appreciated the work of Trudi Nelson and the outstanding forensics program she led. This perspective comes not only from being the school superintendent, but as a parent of a student (Kim) that gained immensely from the program. I had first hand evidence of the importance and benefit of the debate and oral interpretation program. Debate students gathered frequently at our house. I was impressed with the depth of their conversations about policy issues and academics. Trudi inspired a level of conversation among students that I hadn't seen before or since. Those conversations continue today, almost twenty years later."

Glynnis Kunkel, Madison's debate coach, said, "I am so incredibly grateful for any opportunity that helps me coach my students. The students put so much time and effort into the program, as the Nelsons are so well-aware. With this

fund, we can purchase professional tools, such as brief cases and binders, and give the students a chance to compete further and in more events. I look forward to seeing how these changes will impact my growing team, and I am nothing but thankful to Jeff and Trudi Nelson, for their generous impact on the Forensic teams at Madison."

Matt Groce, Madison's Oral Interpretation coach added, "I am a former debate and Oral Interp student of Trudi's, who actively uses the skills I learned in those activities in my daily life. And in that, I am hardly alone. This gift will help us to expand the resources we offer to some of the best and brightest students in our community. I have a lot of conversations with students about what we can do to grow as actors and as public speakers. We have already begun looking at how we might be able to lower the cost of summer Oral Interp camps and expand our script catalog."

Foundation President, Jennifer Gross said, "We are very excited to accept this gift. The dividends from this gift will make a large impact on these important programs at Madison High School. Anyone wishing to contribute to this new fund should contact Beth Knuths at the Madison Central School Educational Foundation."



## *New Ag Scholarship Honors Jim Thompson '56*

The Foundation is pleased to announce a new ag scholarship, established in memory of Jim Thompson by Jeff and Tom Bloom, Lake County International and the family of Jim Thompson. The Blooms presented Foundation director, Beth Knuths, with a check for \$10,000 to endow the scholarship fund as a way to honor their friendship with Jim and the years he worked with them at Lake County International. Jeff Bloom said, "Jim was a great guy. He did so much for and in the Madison community over the years. He loved working with area farmers and this is a good way in which to remember him." Tom Bloom added, "This scholarship seemed like a fitting way to honor Jim's career and his affiliation with Madison High School as a member of the Class of 1956. Jim was a parent and grandparent of Madison alumni, and a mentor and friend to many."



*Tom Bloom, Carol Barger, Joan Manthey, Bertie Thompson, David Thompson, Beth Knuths and Jeff Bloom met at Lake County International to establish the Jim Thompson Memorial Ag Endowed Scholarship through the Foundation.*

Bertie Thompson also presented a check for \$1,500. Her son David Thompson and daughter Carol Thompson Barger also added to the fund. Bertie said she was touched by the Bloom's idea of starting this scholarship to honor Jim's life and keep his memory alive. "Jim would love the idea of helping students pursue careers in agriculture," she added.

The Bloom brothers and the Thompson family are working with the Foundation to set the scholarship criteria to benefit Madison High School students planning to pursue a career in the field of agriculture. The first Jim Thompson Memorial Ag Scholarship will be awarded in May of 2017. Donations to this scholarship fund can be accepted at any time. To donate or for more information, please contact Beth Knuths at the MCSEF at 605-256-7710.



## *π Day*

Shari Eliason, 2nd Street Diner, donated apple pies for π Day, March 14, the day the Foundation recognizes Madison Central District staff who contribute to the Foundation through payroll deduction.





## Note from the Director – Beth Knuths

### Good News from the Director!

The Foundation awarded \$720 in need-based scholarships to students taking dual credit courses during the 2015-16 school year. Approximately 85 MHS juniors and seniors registered for a total of 260 dual credit courses during the school year. These courses count for both high school and college credit and they help students get through their college coursework not only faster, but at a special rate of \$40 per credit hour, or \$120 for a three-credit course. This low rate benefits all students. In addition, students with financial need can apply to the Foundation for a \$60 Dual-Credit Scholarship for each course they pass. Awarded students tell us they are grateful for the assistance provided by the Foundation.



*Foundation Director, Beth Knuths went to Hogwarts School in search of Harry Potter and a magic wand!*

### More Good News!

When former District educator, Doris Keiner, passed away May 8, 2015, her daughter, **Jill Keiner Biesma '76**, directed her mother's memorials to the Foundation. The Doris Keiner Memorial Fund sponsored the Foundation's Scholarship Reception on May 11, where representatives and donors of MCSEF scholarships meet the scholarship recipients. A tribute to Doris Keiner was made during the reception, commemorating the 27 years Keiner taught Home Economics at Madison High School. Jill said her mother loved entertaining and making events special and that her mother would be pleased to be a part of the Foundation's annual special event for scholarship recipients and donors.

When we can find a special way to honor someone by matching memorial funds with needs in the most fitting manner, we feel we have been successful. When we can show donors evidence their investment in education has made a difference, they feel good about their support. When we have great models of philanthropy, they can help us educate a new generation about giving back and paying forward. It has been important to me that our students see and know that people are willing to help students they may not even know. We are grateful to all of our donors for their support, not only for the enrichment programs, scholarships and educator grants they provide, but also for helping us model and teach philanthropy.

Thank you for your support!  
Beth Knuths, Executive Director



## Tom Hicks '78 Memorial Fund

Last spring, when members of the Madison High School Class of 1978 heard about the suicide of their friend and classmate, Tom Hicks, they started a memorial fund with the Madison Central School Educational Foundation as a way to do something meaningful to honor his life. Tom had been battling depression for a number of years and took his life on April 21, 2015. "Our friends hoped that something positive could come from this tragic event. We wanted to honor Tom's life and we knew that the Foundation would use the money in a positive way to impact Madison High School," said classmate Lori Mildenberg Waldner. Paul DeWaard, another classmate, suggested using the memorial fund to bring in a speaker on depression. He said, "If the program can inform students on how to recognize depression and how to get help, at least something good will have resulted from the tragic loss of our dear friend. I know Tom would want a program for students to learn about depression. He was a quiet and caring person who always wanted to help others," DeWaard added.

When Tom's family was notified about the memorial fund and of his friends' intention for its use, Tom's son, Justin replied, "I think this is a good use of this (memorial) fund. My dad's classmates can take some comfort knowing that this program will help students understand depression and suicide are real problems." Justin is vice president of the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program in Mankato, Minnesota. "As a member of Yellow Ribbon, one of our biggest goals is to teach the signs and also let students know it is ok to ask for help. I think this assembly will help the students of Madison High School recognize the signs in themselves, in a friend or family member, and know how to ask for help," he said.

The assembly was held at Madison High School on April 15th. Guidance Counselor, Stephanie Moore, invited Nolan Hunt from the 211 Helpline Center in Sioux Falls to speak. Lori Mildenberg Waldner told the students about Tom Hicks and the memorial fund's purpose before introducing the speaker. "This was a wonderful illustration of how friends in this high school stay connected through the years and how they take care of each other," said Foundation Director, Beth Knuths. Hunt presented some of the new resources available to students through the 211 Helpline Center, and the Text4Help service.

The Tom Hicks Memorial Fund will be used for the purpose of heightening student awareness of depression and suicide prevention.



*Class of 1978 friends at the All School Reunion, July, 2014: pictured left to right: Tom Hicks, LaRae Pearson Glynn, Lori Mildenberg-Waldner, Melanie Broderick-Meyer, Sandi Poppen-Schwader and Paul DeWaard.*





## 2016 Memorials (January 1 to June 1)

### Memorials

**Terry Latunski**  
Vince Schaefer

**Ernest Hines '50**  
Gregerson Family Trust

**Mark Hartman '91 Memorial  
MHS Art Fund**  
Roger C. Hartman

**Ben Bundy Memorial  
Scholarship**  
Joe & Megan Bundy  
Jay & Lois Niedert  
Anonymous

**Jim Cordts Memorial  
Endowed Scholarship**  
Mary Dodds Family  
Jean & Mike Glanzer  
Robert Cordts

**Julian Freitag Endowed  
Scholarship**  
Madison Area Arts Council

**George & Marcene Scully  
Scholarship**  
Linda Holdorf

**Jim Thompson '56 Memorial  
Ag Endowed Scholarship**  
Paula Kingery  
Gene & Marilyn Hexom  
Mike & Cathy Downs  
LaVerne & Linda Mennenga  
Tom Bloom and Jeff Bloom  
Bertie Thompson  
Susan & Dave Hageman  
Carol Barger  
David Thompson

**MHS STEM Scholarship**  
Ken & Casualene Meyer

**Glen Wilbur Memorial  
Endowed Scholarship**  
Class of 1970 Reunion  
Janet Hunter  
Ted Poncelet  
Craig & Vickie Wilbur  
Greg & Karen Schultz Charitable  
Trust  
Lori Wilbur  
Alan Tabor

**HAVE A SEAT! Auditorium  
Chair Sponsors**  
Yes for MHS  
MHS Class of 1975

**Norm Johnson Educator Grant  
Fund**  
Dr. Larry Green, D.D.S.  
Montgomery's Furniture, Eric  
Sinclair  
Bulldog Media Employee Group



## 2016 Alumni Basketball Tournament

Foundation Board members welcomed back alumni to the Alumni Basketball Tournament Easter Weekend. This year, we held a raffle to raise funds for a record number of educator grant requests the Foundation received this year. Ten prizes included Bulldog clothing donated by Power Promotions and Madison Athletic Department; two adult season passes to Prairie Village, donated by Prairie Village; and a "gently-used/like-new" portable basketball hoop, donated by friends of the Foundation. The winners were: Kris Wiebe – Basketball Hoop; Todd Balogh – Prairie Village Season Passes; Doug Merager – T-shirt; Kennedy Kern – T-Shirt; Nancy Kasuske – T-shirt; Treyton Brower – Youth Sweatshirt; Paxton Olson – Under Armour Wind Jacket; Andy Lauck- Under Armour Wind Jacket; Lance Tolley – Stocking Cap; Sienna Maxwell – Baseball Cap.

### 2016 Tournament Results

Men:	Women:
1st – 2007	1st - 2007/08
2nd – 2009	2nd - 2005

### 3-Point Contest Winners

Men:	Women:
1st - Trae Vanderberg	1st - Caitlinn Sullivan
2nd - Michael Sullivan	2nd - Michala Boer

"We are always impressed with how many alumni come back for this event and how many people come to watch," said Board member, Lisa Martin. Board member, Marli Gramstad Wiese, added, "We helped tournament organizers by selling T-shirts at our table, with proceeds going to the Foundation's Jim Cordts Memorial Scholarship. If you want a shirt, Mark Sullivan still has some left and the Jim Cordts Memorial Scholarship is a great cause!"



Caroll Cordts and her son, Bob Cordts, with Mark Sullivan



MCSEF President Jennifer Gross and Director Beth Knuths announced raffle winners at the end of the tournament. (Photo by Madison Chamber of Commerce.)



## MCSEF Awards Norm Johnson Educator Grants

The Foundation encourages and rewards innovation in the classroom and provides educational and enrichment opportunities for students and staff beyond what is provided for within the school budget. The 2016 Norm Johnson Educator Grant awards were announced in early May. Every year, more money is budgeted for these grants and every year, we work hard to find additional funds so we can fund more educator requests—our teachers keep us growing! Norm Johnson '58, was an educator in the Madison Central District for 31 years. Johnson's memorial fund was endowed in 2012. These mini-grants are funded by this endowment and from money raised at the Foundation's annual Philanthropy Dinner. This year, the Foundation held a raffle during the Alumni Basketball Tournament to raise additional funds for educator grants and asked several donors to be partner-funders for field trip grant requests. The Foundation's Norm Johnson Innovative Education Grant is for technology and classroom tools, books and subscriptions, or experiences that innovate and enhance an educator's classroom.



Grant awards for classroom tools and technology (photo credit: Jane Utecht, Madison Daily Leader)

The following educators received awards for technology and tools: **Joanne Kallhoff**, for supplies for Makerspace in the Library; **Betsy Schamber**, for a SWIVL tech tool for lesson delivery; **Katie Hahn, Lindsey Dietterle, Laurie Macziewski and Mike Ricke** for document cameras; **Amanda Klawonn**, for an Apple iPad mini 2, case and keyboard; **Teri Gerry**, for three T-stools.



Grant awards for professional development. (photo credit: Jane Utecht, Madison Daily Leader)



Grant awards for subscriptions (photo credit: Jane Utecht, Madison Daily Leader)

The following educators received awards for subscriptions: **Karen Rahn and Steve Gors**, for WeVideo for Schools for 7th grade students; **Casey Materese, Laurie Macziewski and Katie Hahn**, for DynaMath subscriptions for 4th grade students.

The Norm Johnson Educator Enhancement Grant is for professional development opportunities for educators. The following educators received awards to help them attend professional development opportunities: **Kristin Morse, Michelle Hojer, Jennifer Fleming and Tina Denne**, for "Words Their Way" Spelling Workshop with Linda McDaniel; **Shelly Balogh, Becky Fjerstad, Tammy Selgestad and Val Wilkins**, for the Daily 5 Workshop; **Anne Elisa Brown**, for the 2016 Educational Theatre Association National Conference; and **Dawn Wiebers**, for the Regional National Science Teachers Association Conference.



Grant awards for educational experiences (photo credit: Jane Utecht, Madison Daily Leader)

The following educators received awards for educational experiences: **Katie Abraham**, to bring the Old Courthouse Museum's Lakota Tipi and StarLab presentations to 5th grade students; **Kristin Morse, Michelle Hojer, Jennifer Fleming and Tina Denne**, for the 1st Grade Field Trip to SD Children's Museum, May, '17, with Partner-Funding from Bulldog Media's Employee Group; **Shelly Balogh, Becky Fjerstad, Tammy Selgestad and Val Wilkens**, for the 2nd Grade Field Trip to the Sertoma Butterfly House/ Outdoor Campus, Fall '16, with Partner-Funding from Eric Sinclair/ Montgomery's Furniture; and **Lindsey Dietterle, Deann Jensen, Kelli Olson, Sarah Judd**, for the 3rd Grade Field Trip to Pipestone, MN, Spring '17, with Partner-Funding from Dr. Larry Green.



## Foundation Scholarships Awarded May 11

Foundation Board of Directors and scholarship donors were present to award Foundation scholarships to MHS graduating seniors at the “Glad You Are a Bulldog!” and awards ceremony in the MHS Gym on May 11. The first *MHS STEM Endowed Scholarship* was presented to Hadassah Meyer by **Steve Stunes**, and **Ann Orman**, on behalf of scholarship founder and MHS alum, **Mike Stunes '07**, who resides in Washington State. The first *Glen Wilbur Memorial Scholarship* was presented to Courtney O'Connell by **Craig Wilbur**, son of Glen Wilbur, and Judy Payne, proud members of the Class of 1970, the group that founded this endowment as a way to give back for the great education they received at Madison High School.



*Glen Wilbur Memorial Scholarship: Judy Payne '70 and Craig Wilbur '70 with recipient Courtney O'Connell*

recognition of their school and community involvement and their concern for the well-being of other people. **Tim and Monica Campbell** presented the *Timothy and Monica Campbell Family Scholarship* to Jay Knutson who will be a music education major. **Bob Cordts and his mother Caroll**, presented the *Jim Cordts Memorial Scholarship* to Laurel Appelwick, Edwin Iraheta and Hunter Streff, in recognition for their participation in cross country, and demonstrating good character, leadership, community service and generosity—all traits that Jim Cordts embodied.

**Ginny Freitag and Dale Droge** presented the *Julian Freitag Scholarship* to Megan Wollmann and Tavyn Hallan, recognizing their participation in school and community activities, and exemplifying the spirit in which their son, Julian, lived—loving life, family, and friends; appreciating his hometown, and bringing a smile and a helping hand to those who need it. **Barbara Hegg** presented *The*

*Dennis Hegg Memorial Scholarship* to Hailey DeJong and Nicholas Petersen, for their commitment to Band at MHS and their intention to participate in band at the collegiate level. Knuths presented the *Mary Johnson Memorial Scholarship* on behalf of **Charlie Johnson**, to Martha Aguirre, who plans to teach ESL.



*MHS STEM Scholarship: Steve Stunes, Ann Orman and recipient Hadassah Meyer*

A joint scholarship between the Madison Education Association and the MCSEF requires evidence of leadership experience and community service. **Dawn Wiebers, Nancy Falor and Beth Knuths** presented *MEA/MCSEF Scholarships* to three students, Mallory Gum, Amanda Ricke and Emily Weatherill.

**Pat Gross and Jack Walters** presented the *Rotary/Don E. Gross Memorial Scholarship* to Kaiden Dorris, in recognition for his work ethic and academic achievement. Foundation Director, Beth Knuths presented *The George & Marcene Scully Scholarship* on behalf of the Scully Family to Sherif El-Gayar, in recognition of his academic achievement and involvement in student leadership.

Sophomores, Kevin Shan and Anna Theophilus received Foundation scholarships to attend the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Camp (HOBY) in June at DSU. Junior, Olivia Boldt was awarded the *The Ray & Marcia Wenk Family Scholarship* to attend a marching band camp in Lincoln, Nebraska in July.

Executive Director, Beth Knuths said “Scholarship donors value education and the impact education makes on the individual, the community and the world. Donors give scholarships through the Madison Educational Foundation because they are proud of their affiliation with Madison High School and they want to give back. Some have chosen to invest in a student’s future as a meaningful way to honor their loved one, through a scholarship.” Knuths said the Foundation hopes that students can learn about the people who give scholarships and can be inspired to give back too someday.

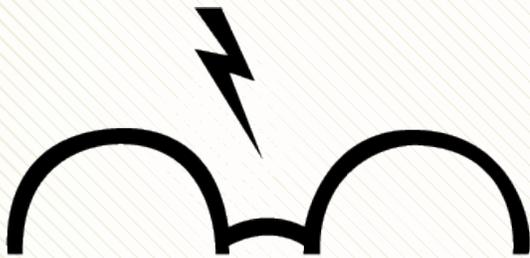


## Save the Date

The 7th Annual Philanthropy Dinner is Friday, October 28 at the Dakota Prairie Playhouse. Tickets will go on sale mid-September. Please visit the Foundation's website for more information about the event and tickets.

### The Foundation Board of Directors:

- Jennifer Gross, President
- Rod Goeman, Vice President
- Susan Hageman, Secretary
- Deb Bloom
- Ed Fiegen
- Lisa Martin
- Charlie Moore
- Lori Norby
- Lee Threadgold
- Marli Wiese



## Our Mission



### Our Mission:

To facilitate private and corporate support for Madison Central School District.

### Purpose:

The Madison Central School Educational Foundation, Inc. is organized to promote, enhance and enable educational opportunities and school improvement activities in the Madison Central School District.

### Contributions:

The 501(c) (3) status allows individual donations to the Foundation to qualify as charitable giving and tax deductions. It also allows the school district to receive grants and other funds from foundations and organizations.

### Invest in the Best!



"INVEST IN THE BEST"

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