

NEWS

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June 2008

HHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

collage of candid shots cataloguing four years' worth of academic, athletic, and social activities. In about the time it took to heat up the church, the activities were over and the action then repaired to the high school gymnasium.

mortarboards to the rafters. The whole affair was a dignified class act, befitting a classy group of kids.

And the words of wisdom they received before departing? Salutatorian Erin Mischler reminded them that being runner-up is not so bad. After all, *Star Wars* was beat out by *Annie Hall* for the Oscar that year, and of course, our own Buckeyes two years in a row left the championship stadiums as bridesmaids. What counts, she reminded them, is always keeping

alive all the youthful hopes and dreams and pursuing life as an adventure. Co-Valedictorian Emily Conrad warned against comfortable mediocrity by daring them all to be remarkable. Not an easy task in a country these days that stresses security, discourages risk taking, and would rather that people *feel* good than *be* good.

A second Valedictorian, Geoff Barcus, strode to the podium, removed his mortarboard, and located a speech tucked up in there somewhere. He then catalogued the things that have always made Huron different from other communities and challenged his classmates to accept the responsibility of carrying on the Huron family tradition wherever they settle. "You never really leave Huron," he reminded them, then tacked on, "The Huron Boosters Club and the Alumni Association will be on you for the rest of your life!" Not quite, Geoff. As our president, Pat Sticks Gioffre, reminded them all in his words welcoming all into the Alumni Association, we won't hound you until your college years are up. Then look out!

"Dare to Be Remarkable!"

Graduation Day

On Memorial Day Weekend, the "official" opening of summer, May 25th saw the cool spring weather finally break into summer sunshine for 103 graduating seniors. A parade of speakers at both the Baccalaureate and Commencement exercises kept the anxious graduates waiting until the pomp and pageantry celebrating the passage from adolescence to adulthood had run themselves out. Slow and easy, but meaningful and memorable, the whole assemblage of music, speeches, and rituals made for a pleasant afternoon as these grads gathered together one last time ever as a group to celebrate their school experiences.

At the Commencement exercises, in keeping with the Memorial Day weekend, Huron's award winning band played *A Nation's Prayer*, fitting



Our first ever four generation picture of HHS Alumns: Duane Warren, '82 and his mom Sharon Warren, '65, stand with Cory Warren, this year's grad, and his great-s grandmother, Eva Mae Ritzenthaler White, '41.

The Baccalaureate service began at 2:00 PM at St. Peter's Church and followed what has become, for Huron at least, a standardized ceremony. Services opened with the hand bell choir and litanies, followed by the presentation of objects of memories and the senior address delivered by Ms. Satanta Von Thron. She advised the graduates to be passionate about whatever they do, work hard, never bail out, and always show gratitude toward others. Kurt Vonnegut's famous address to MIT was sandwiched in there along with choral renditions and the senior video, a

patriotic melodies, then ran out of verses of *Pomp and Circumstance* as the grads slowly processed in. They patiently sat through eight speeches before they began the grand parade to the platform to receive their coveted diplomas, shake their principal's hand one last time, and then swing their tassels before flinging their

Kalahari Announces Partnership and Gift to Huron Schools

WOW! That's what many students mouthed on Tuesday, March 18, when the Kalahari Waterpark Resorts president and owner, Todd Nelson, announced a gift in excess of \$500,000 to the Huron Athletic Boosters Club for renovations and upgrades of Huron's athletic facilities. In a gymnasium buzzing with excitement and band music and in full per assembly form, Mr. Nelson made to the assembled student body, staff, board members, and guests a formal announcement of his corporation's intention to partner with the Huron City Schools. The initial project will see the present football field surface replaced with synthetic turf prior to the opening game kickoff this coming August. The Huron Memorial Stadium itself will remain the same but with the field itself now being called Kalahari Field.

"We're thrilled to be able to give this



HURON HIGH SCHOOL
HURON, OHIO

gift to students in Huron and Huron Township, a community that has been immensely supportive of Kalahari Resorts," said Todd Nelson as he addressed the student body. He and his resort stepped forward in the spirit of a good neighbor as he has done for schools in his native Wisconsin Dells where he built his first Kalahari Resort.

Scott Gardner, president of the Huron Boosters, in his thank you speech,

outlined for the community the advantages to accrue to the district from just the field resurfacing project.

- The field will be usable for ten months per year instead of three.
- Field conditions will be superb even during inclement weather.
- The surface will enable Huron to bid on hosting various statewide band competitions and OHSA football tourna-



To make the award were Mr. Todd Nelson, owner and president of Kalahari, (second from right) and Mr. Gary Haas, a vice-president with Rudolph/Libbe (far right). On hand to receive the award on behalf of the Boosters' club were (l. to r.) Scott Gardner, president, and Tony Legando, varsity head football coach.

ment events.

- The school district can increase the number of outdoor physical education programs offered.
- The field can serve as a practice field for varsity baseball and softball.
- Maintenance and field preparation costs can be reduced by \$25,000 annually.

Varsity football coach Tony Legando also addressed the student body and reminded them that the gift was actually a compliment to their achievements both on and off the fields. "Somebody doesn't just come in and invest in you like this unless they believe in what you are doing." Tony had revealed earlier that in the initial stages of the plan's coming together, Mr. Nelson was interested in two things: the won-loss records of the combined athletic programs and, equally important, the GPA's of Huron's scholar athletes. "we're in!" he remarked, as Tony's statistics for the past couple decades showed Huron's winning programs and student achievement scores as extremely high, with GPA's ranging in some sports from 3.2 to 3.8 cumulative per team.

In addition to the turf part of the project, the Boosters Club had put together a far-ranging plan that would make Huron the premier district in terms of athletic facilities for decades to come. Some of the projects include the eventual redoing of the baseball fields, tennis courts, ticket booths, and band facilities improvements. The Kalahari initial gift of one half million dollars announced in March is the starting point of what will be a three-year fundraising project.

Mr. Nelson outlines what he hoped would be a challenge to the community and alumni everywhere to step up and assist in this fund drive:

- Kalahari will match up to

\$100,000 any individual or corporate cash donations to the project, several of which were announced at the assembly.

- For three years Kalahari will give Huron 5,000 free waterpark tickets to be sold for #20 apiece by the schools, all proceeds going to this fundraiser.
- Kalahari will partner with the Boosters on their annual golf outing and hopefully leverage many times the profits from that one event as the Boosters were capable of generating alone.
- Kalahari will donate the profits of some of its retail operations to the project.

Another immediate project scheduled for completion by August is the construction of two ticket booths and the and the remodeling of an existing one at the stadium. The work will be done through the Rudolph/Libbe contractor team, with offices near Detroit, Toledo, and Cleveland. They will oversee the donation of materials and labor by their own subcontractors to complete a phase of the project estimated to be worth #125,000. "We're proud to be able to bring this project full-circle with high quality buildings that will not only enhance the esthetics of the project but also the operation of the state-of-the-art facility," said Gary Haas, a vice-president with Rudolph/Libbe.

After the assembly and interviews with numerous reporters had been complete, Mr. Nelson requested a tour of the high school academic facilities and was extremely impressed with the modifications he saw made to the band room and then the science and home economics departments. He inspected carefully the new chemistry, physics, and biology labs and was awed by the degree of technology being used in the department and the

entire school, especially the Smart-Board technology. Impromptu demonstrations and explanations were given by teachers and students.

Kalahari Resort-Sandusky, located on Route 250 between the Ohio Turnpike and Sandusky, debuted in this area in May of 2005 and now boasts the largest indoor waterpark in the U.S. at 173,000 square feet, and that's not counting an additional 77,000 square feet in an outdoor waterpark. Kalahari also features 884 guest rooms and suites, the full-service Spa Kalahari, a fully equipped fitness center, a whole host of retail specialty shops, game arcades, an indoor miniature golf course, children's dry play adventure, eight dining options, and much more. Plenty of maps ensure no one can get lost, though some try! Several of our reunion classes have used their services and have been extremely pleased.

Those planning a return visit to the area can visit their website at www.KalahariResorts.com. You'll be amazed to see what has sprung up out of the cornfields of your youthful memories – a great economic engine helping to drive year-round local entertainment-related business in Erie County.

For more of what the entire plan looks like, visit our website at www.HuronHighAlumni.com to see pictures, renderings, and models of what the facilities will gradually look like as the next couple of years progress. Keep tabs there of the construction activity this summer and watch a field green up before your very eyes!

Visitors can also purchase the discounted tickets at many business establishments in town. Just look for the signs out front or ask around a bit. They would make great stocking stuffers at Christmas time, too! Just imagine a January swim - in Erie County no less, without an expensive trip to Florida or other points South!

2008 Reunion Season

What a heap of planning has thus far gone into providing some promising reunion experiences for this year! Some class committees have been meeting since the middle of last year to see that their class has the “best ever” reunion. They have been taking the suggestions from the past and improving wherever possible. They have combed the hills and dozens of internet sites looking for “lost” classmates. (They aren’t lost – they just don’t know where we are.) They have booked their sites months in advance to make sure their class has a riverfront view this year. They have found a caterer to satisfy their every palate, and entertainment to delight everyone’s dancing style. They have tried to include families wherever possible – usually the younger ones with offspring still in tow. Everything is just perfect this time! Or so they think.

For no matter how hard these committees work, they can’t seem to satisfy everyone, and someone always goes away badmouthing their efforts. That’s unfortunate, when one considers that the idea of a reunion is not to dine, imbibe, dance, and carouse all night. Those are all happy accidents on the way to the real reason for re-gathering – the rekindling of relationships that helped sustain and nurture people through those gangly, insecure, angst-filled teenage days of yesteryear, from the most awkward season of their lives until they have become today’s success stories, wherever they now live.

At one time everyone was like clay in the hands of innumerable molders and shapers. Didn’t it sometimes feel as if everyone was yanking and punching and scraping away at that featureless clod of mud you were? Or that others pulled and stretched you further than you thought you could go, or firmly squeezed, or delicately carved and finessed your features into a more loving, caring, humane person? Everyone wanted a piece of

you – parents, teachers, classmates, friends, enemies, significant others, and lost loves. But eventually, working together, they helped place you on a shelf to dry where others could admire the work of art you were becoming. Then after graduation, slowly you were led away from home, took a few more knocks, and eventually became your own success story. Today sometimes few can recognize that old lump of clay you were – that’s why nametags are a MUST for reunions. That’s why quiet whispers sometimes abound – “Who’s that?” - when a stranger wanders back into the hall after missing many reunions. Two words later – a first and last name – and it all flashes back, the stranger is no more, and others begin to recognize their own hand in the work he or she has become.

So the bottom line is you meet first to share your stories, to reassess your own dreams. You also affirm your buddies who used to share their dreams with you and then left you to wander and explore afar and become something neither of you ever dreamed of. You gather at your tables, share your photos, waxing eloquent whether speaking of kids or doting over grandkids. It’s fun, it’s reinvigorating, but above all it’s a necessary time in our lives to step back to see how far we have all come and maybe how far we have to go, maybe even allow for some mid-course corrections. Then everyone can eat, drink, make merry, go home and knock the band or DJ, cuss the bartender who never could get a margarita right, or a chef who hasn’t yet learned your palate’s preferences – all minor things compared to the real reason we gather.

So enjoy your reunion season. Come back and share what you have become thus far. For those who have done the planning, we thank you in advance for your dedication to keeping the gang together. For those plan-

ning on returning, come early and stay late at whatever your committee has cooked up for you. Bring your own story, and maybe some stories from the past to share. (Be careful not to stand too close to your buddy when

On the facing page we have printed a listing of all this season’s reunion information that we had at press time. As you consider whether to return or not, give your buddies a call and urge them to join you in making it home, too. Support one another! We have provided names of the organizers for your class who would have contact information in case you have lost your pals over the years. Or email us to help you find them all.

CALL FOR EMAILS

If you are presently clutching a paper copy of this Newsletter in your hands, and if you can send and receive email, why not read this on line? Many of the articles here have supplemental pages with additional pictures and information, much more than we can squeeze into a paper version. Besides, you can blow up this small print! If you send us your email address, we’ll include you on the list to be notified each time we publish. We do not sell our list nor spam our members.



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Reunion Schedule for 2008

Year	Plans so far	Contact Person(s)
1948	September 27 – 28 Sept. 27 HYC cocktails at 6, dinner at 7 Sept. 28 breakfast 11 AM	Teresa Johnson 433-3899 Fran Ringlein 433-4073 franner@gmail.com
1958	RiverFest Weekend July 11 - 13 July 11 at Cliff Long's home July 12 Sawmill Creek dinner July 13 picnic at Bob Morris's home	Bob Morris Bernice Hamler Cliff Long Marian Hancy Duane Warren Joanne Grant
1963	Homecoming Weekend October 9 – 12 Oct. 10 Homecoming Game/Mulligans Oct. 11 Dinner at Lyman's Boat Harbor	Sherry Mischler Sharon Jameson Marlene Boose Leslie Wilson Barb Kromer
1968	Homecoming Weekend October 9 – 12 Oct. 10 Homecoming game, then bon fire at Chuck & Denise Knight's S Oct. 11 Dinner at Sandusky YC Oct. 11 Possible golf classic for singles and couples during day	Cindy Hastings Defazio Belzio5@Bex.Net usan Fogerty Eisnor Eisnor @Landolls.com Pam Wentz Ebert Blinglady@AOL.com Dan Hunter dhunter13@cfl.rr.co John Caporini johnc@hurouncement.com
1973	Homecoming Weekend October 9 - 12	Carol Markin Scott scottce8@yahoo.com
1978	River Fest Weekend July 11 – 12 July 11 fish fry and dancing at Sawmill Creek July 12 dinner at Sawmill Creek	Joan Saunders joansaun322@AOL.com Kim Samstag Kim.Samstag@JBTC.com Kelly Catri Trautman DiverWifeKMT@AOL.com Mary Legando Taylor mtaylor@buckeye-express.com
983	River Fest Weekend July 11 – 12 Friday night buffet dinner at CVI Saturday AM – Golf T-Bird HillsGC Saturday PM cookout at Nickel Plate	Laura Dahnke aclassic_93@yahoo.com Paul Ward PWard_64@yahoo.com Joel Hagy Joel.Hagy@ge.com
1988	July 5-6 July 5, HYC Patio July 6 Family Picnic	Mari Miller Wood JeffMariW@AOL.com Mindy Lafler Goodin magoodin@roadrunner.com Kim Easton kim.easton@comcast.com
1993	Something brewing?????	
1998	RiverFest Weekend July 12 HYC 6 PM Golf Tourney at T-Bird Sat. AM	Julie Hughes julie6anne@yahoo.com Eric McGraw ericmcgraw4@gmail.com email Nate Faust at ntfaust@yahoo.com to reserve spot full details at HHS.Class_of_98@yahoo.com
2003	Hello! Anyone there???	Amy Ravindra amyrav@gmail.com

The Columbus OH Chapter of HHSAA will meet around the weekend of November 1, on the OSU bye-week. Save the weekend and look for details a little later this summer.

Mike Crifasi, '00, is looking for interest in the 2010 reunion. Contact him at MichaelCrifasi@AOL.com.

Welcome Back '30 Somethings

They came from Amherst, Lagrange, Berlin Heights, Collins, Sandusky, and Huron even, many alone, preferring to drive themselves rather than depend upon someone else. They all walked proudly through the doors, some a little faster than their peers, but walked indeed. They glanced about for a familiar face and, when spotting one or two, beamed a mile wide and rushed to grab a hand and pump heartily, most with a grip still firm. For after all, some of these survivors had not been to a school reunion of any sort for decades. But there they were, chatting away furiously, enjoying a delightful spring afternoon, those hardy members of the Classes of the '30's.

Most of you reading this had parents not yet thought of in the 1930's. Some few of you, lucky enough to be third or fourth generation Huronites, had grandparents who swam the river, farmed, played ball, and even attended school with these folks. All of you could wish to emulate the accomplishments of these octo- and nonagenarians. A more determined, contented, group of folks, so fully engaged with life, you will be hard pressed to find.

We had heard a lament from some of them over the past couple years that there were not enough class members remaining ever to hold a reunion again. More than one believed he or she was the final living member of a class that graduated so long ago from a school building no longer standing on the block where the Huron Public Library now sits. (One of the attendees, by the way, actually helped found that library while still in school, Marian Hammond Howland.) So why not put them all together for a change, and thus it came to be, the first annual reunion of the classes of the 1930's. Did we say annual? You bet! These folks had enough fun that the event will be staged as long as we can.

May 20th at high noon was the appointed time, the Huron Yacht Club the place. Some few of us made sure to be safely in attendance long before the invitees hit the road - to decorate, arrange the seating, and inspect the fare, of course. But all made it in safely, and then the fun began. Distance winners were probably a close tie, as Marge Henes Marshall,

'37, drove over from Amherst and Rose Marie Wechter Clark, '38, from her farm in Lagrange. Wayne Zimmerman, '39, took a day off work (driving the Amish around, in vans, not buggies!) and hugged the back roads up from his spread in Collins, while another carload trekked in from Parkview in Perkins Township. The oldest attendee, Ruth Gow Blough, '31, walked in, accompanied by her daughter Karen Colon, '59. A couple last minute health issues prevented several from making it this year, but we look forward to their recuperation and attendance at next season's gathering.

Luncheon actually began a tad late as this bunch was so excited to see friends whom some had not seen for decades, in some cases. Chuck had prepared nice chicken, meatloaf, and fish entrees, and all ate heartily. For dessert they enjoyed a sheet cake decorated with a picture of their former schoolhouse on top. Each guest also received a card made by Janet Hinde Fortune, '60, and her elementary art classes. Jan's father, Raymond Hinde, '32, was one of the attendees.

Also in attendance was Superintendent Fred Fox, '74, who grew up in the township close to where many of these folks had lived, knew them or their parents in some cases, and had much in common to share about old Huron, its values and scenes, over the years.

Instead of any postprandial speechifying that would have sent all off to early sleepy-bye, a pleasant sharing of memories of Old Huron ensued, with all contributing their recollections of growing up in a Depression-era, small American community. Was it rough back then? Sure, but one would never know how bad because these folks have endured, not by dwelling on the worst that happened but by accentuating the positives. Ray Hinde, '32, recalled how Huron had a football team way back before Pluto had pups, but that in a contest against Vermilion, a Sailor's player had been killed in the game. That ended football in Huron until "modern" six man teams were resurrected during the war. (Another lad, Ralph Ritter, had also been killed playing basketball, but that sport seemed not to be affected. And LeBron cries about hard fouls!)

Did Huron use to have a darker side? More than one guest mentioned Myrtle's Emporium of Carnal Delights as a Huron establishment, (If you have to ask, you're

too young to know!) Some still had vivid recollections of how each ethnic group in town used to protect its turf and woenfolk. Of course, there were religious rivalries in those pre-ecumenical days also. But through it all, a strong sense of community as family endured.

A constant theme emerged as to how Huron used to take care of its own. City council members, for example, regularly visited homes of those in need to learn how help could be delivered - without sacrificing family pride. Fred shared stories of how the practice still continues, just in a more organized fashion these days.

Comparisons with kids today and yesteryear also abounded. Surprisingly, few made any sort of value judgments about the way kids grow up today as compared to then, for most realize that it's a different world. The men remembered how boys way back instinctively knew where the ball game would take place and by dint of gravity arrived there fully equipped with one ball, a single taped bat, few mitts and never a mask. They knew one another's talents and chose up sides, making sure each team had enough of each, and then they just played ball for the fun of it. Really! The country boys, though, could never show their skills till weekends - little things like chores kept them in the barns or on different kinds of fields. Fred then shared how schools today are caught up in formally organized sports for players of every age, how they never learn how to spread the talent around, and so play just to win. Different times, different goals, same game.

Other types of pastimes they spoke of almost remind one of those realistic Dutch Renaissance paintings of life among the Hollanders in 16th century frozen Europe. These folks sketched somewhat the same views - a frozen river filled with skaters and winterized ore boats, with sympathetic boatkeepers shining lights down for night time skaters, then lowering ladders and hauling kids up to warm them up with hot cocoa. (Can you see the law suits today?) Only later did the kids learn that a local bootlegger had been supplying the ship's Captain with the crew's necessary victuals, and night lights were their form of payback time!

Or how about the police roping off blocks of Center Street in summertime so neighborhood kids could congregate for roller skating. Or the Rotary-sponsored Hal-



These attendees happily posed for their picture. Seated (l. to r.): Mary Mae Harris Matt, '35, Rose Marie Wechter Clark, '38, Marian Weigand Ryder, '33, Vivian Weigand Lee, '36, and Ruth Gow Blough, '31. Standing patiently were: Wilbur Ramsey, '38, Raymond Hinde, '32, Pat McQuillen, '35, Donna Klepper, '38, Wayne Zimmerman, '39, Marjorie Henes Marshall, '37, and Marian Hammond Howland, '37.

loween costume parade with winners receiving a king's ransom for back then, a shiny silver dollar - which practice, Fred assured them, still continues. Or lunch periods at school - how the cafeteria was right next to the boiler room and the home ec teacher prepared the fare for those buying a meal - for all of fifteen cents. (Today a swipe-card and \$2.50 will fill a kindergartener!) The rest hoofed it home - across a frozen river in the winter - or brown-bagged it so they could wolf down the contents and hit the playground faster for a noontime pickup game. Or can you visualize the Currier and Ives scene of an entire town gathered around the community Christmas tree in front of old City Hall, caroling its heart out while winter snows blew off the lake?

Somehow the lust for organization, super-concern for safety, increased traffic, a more spread out town, and global warming have all conspired to end these bucolic practices.

How about jobs back then? What jobs? It was Depression Time USA big time,

and nothing was to be had. Maybe for a dime a shopkeeper would have a lad deliver groceries to someone across town unable to get out that day. Paperboys threw and missed the porches for a dime or two a week. That was about it. Ray Hinde recalled how in '32 he was so desperate for work that when an ore carrier offered him a porter's job, he took it. Portering meant that at 10 PM he peeled spuds and was up at 5 AM to tend to the passengers. But the agony was short lived, as the captain informed him, upon reaching port in Detroit, that his services no longer were required and put him ashore. Huron was either a long swim or longer walk back, so he polished up his thumb and worked his way home. And for the girls then? There was always the kraut factory (Huron had outgrown Liberty Cabbage.) and a few cents an hour packaging rotting cabbage for a season. Someone could write a best seller based upon the reveries alone that passed that afternoon.

Then they, in turn, plied the superintendent with questions about the pres-

ent school system. They were happy to learn how our kids are faring on their test these days, how the facilities are gradually being modernized and reorganized to keep the old buildings going. Fred also filled them in on plans for the future, and nods of approval could be seen. For them, all is well in Hooterville USA.

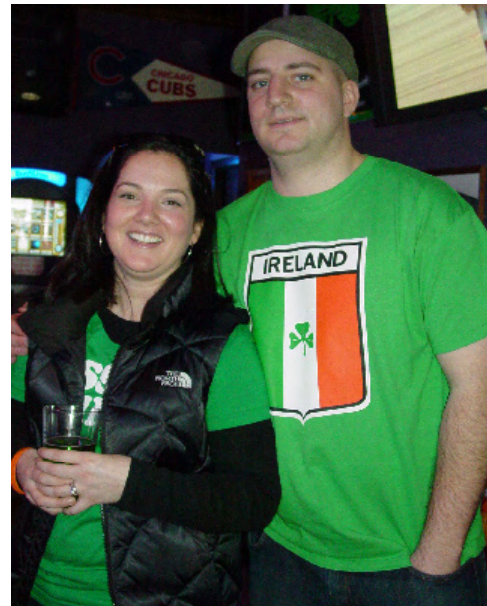
Sooner than expected, though, the cock crowed three and this happy gang of octo- and nonagenarians broke up their pleasantries. Long drives awaited some, and all had to rest their eyelids before suppertime. But wherever they slept that night, you can be sure that, along with visions of sugarplums, other scenes danced in their heads, of a life that this Greatest Generation had not only mastered and survived but pass on to us now to emulate. With four dollar gas here and five on the way, we may be forced to revert to this past life style sooner than we think!

Chicago Gathering an Irish Hit

What a place to be! On St. Paddy's Day, in the greenest city outside of Dublincity itself, nestled inside an Irish pub in Old Town Chicago on a .cool, windy, March afternoon, nursing a cold Guinness, properly drawn, no less, and surrounded by plenty of fellow Huronites – now is that home away from home or what?

That's exactly what a gaggle of grads thought on March 15 as they gathered at McGinny's Tap on the Near North Side for refreshment, eats, and hometown companionship, while outside fools froze to see a river turn green as wrapped up ward and precinct captains strutted their finest in a traditional St. Patrick's Day Parade down Lasalle and State Streets.

The gathering began slowly, with the two Kubach sisters, Kriss and Kathy (Saddemi) showing up precisely as advertised at noon. But how were they to know, these '60's something grads, that fashionably late these days means sometime after one, as that's when the 70's and 80's grads strode in. Not to be outdone, around "twoish" in piled the youngsters from the '90's and '00's. No matter, though, as most of them overlapped in attendance and enjoyed seeing and visiting with one another. They all walked in – and we trust all were able to walk out - on their own!



Jen Ineson Cowin and hubby Jeremiah smile at the nice crowd that showed up for the Huron Reunion at McGinny's Tap.

Official hosts for the affair were Jeremiah and Jen Ineson Cowin, '92. Jeremiah is the proprietor of McGinny's and Jen, an airline flight attendant, was able to wrangle a grounded weekend off to officiate at the gathering. We won't tell who was the oldest in attendance, but the youngest was one Payton Marshall, six year-old daughter of Newton Marshall, '82. (Some fathers love to baby sit these days and besides, the little lady helped make sure the atmosphere in the establishment remained on the up and up!) Distance prize was won by Shannon Folger, who just happened to be in town visiting her significant other, also in attendance, one Jonathan Dominy. The western suburbs were well represented, and one who lived practically on top of the establishment could have almost walked on over for the afternoon.

What had been advertised simply as a chance to gather together to celebrate anything Huron actually turned out very well for a first time event. Numbers were not important; fraternity was. There were no strangers, as everyone quickly made connections with someone or something in either Huron itself or in their adopted home of Chicago. In fact, by an odd twist of fate, one gal actually spied her former babysitter there, who, in turn, found her own previous babysitter – so does that qualify for "one big happy family" or what? Teachers talked with fellow teachers, attorneys with fellow attorneys. Most managed to spend some time perusing the panels of Huron High photos lined up along the walls from the 60's up through the '80's and shared memories of past memorable events. A few guys belted down tequila shots for old times sakes, while a bevy of gals chatted in ever higher pitched squeals about former hunks and present beaus.

All in all, as they say, a good time was had by all. As to next year, a quick poll taken showed all in favor of a repeat and at the same venue. A few spat in their palms, shook, and swore solemnly to try to drag along at least one more with them for next year, but we suspect when the word gets around of how much fun all had this year, no one will need dragging!. And if they continue to double each year, by 2010 Jeremiah will probably need to pitch a bigger tent in the lot next door. Blessed event that will be! For any who live close to Chicago or would just like to be included on the list to make the trip up to the Windy City to see how St Paddy's Day is really celebrated by the Irish and have a chance to meet Huronites doing the same, let us know and we'll put you into the data base for next year's invites! If we missed any on this year's invitations, we apologize for not being as current as we should, but shoot us your email and we'll make it up to you next time around. And as for those who noticed we had almost no pictures from the '90's and the '00's, you are on the decoration committee for next year. You know who you are!!!

In the meantime, stay healthy and prosperous, and may ye be a half hour in heaven before the devil knows you are



Sisters, Kriss and Kathy Kubach Saddemi, came down from Evanston IL to enjoy reminiscing about Huron High and catching up on what's new. Kriss attended HHS until after her sophomore year and then the family moved, but that's close enough to count her as a Huron alumna!

Here are the sitters and the sat. Imagine the surprises as these three discovered some long-past Huron connections as they talked. Mark McKelvey, '72, on the right, used to babysit Jen Ineson Cowin, '92, center, who in turn baby sat Shannon Folger, '02, on the left. It further turned out that the McKelvey family at one time owned the home where Shannon grew up. Shannon had come all the way to Chicago from Cleveland where she attends law school to celebrate with the Huron gathering - oh yes, and to see her significant other, too, Jonathan Dominy, '99, who just happened to attend also!



Las tres amigas delight in catching up on all things Huron and their careers since they left Huron High: Jen Ineson Cowin, '92, Merikim Hime, '96, and Marcy Schaub Barkema, '96.

More pictures on line.



Jonathan Dominy, '99, center, sports his green and his Guinness in one hand and his honey, Shannon Folger, '02, in the other. Joe Moody, '99, just had to stop on by and check out the action, too. He is a physical education teacher and athletic director up there in Chicago now. Jonathan sells products for Van Kampen Investments.

Scholarship Dance Huge Success

Can smaller be better? Sometimes. Just ask Sticks.

Your Association threw its annual Scholarship Dance two months later than usual at just half the size and in the process raised enough money for a pair of scholarships. Judging from the reaction of attendees, we should do this more often, as folks really enjoyed the night out, dancing, visiting after a long hard winter, and just letting their hair down for a pleasant evening and a good cause. It was on a frigid April evening, Saturday the 12th, that the Huron High Alumni did their zany thing – threw a beach party! The remarkable thing was so many people showed up at the Lake Erie Country Club to support an event that has funded scholarships for Huron seniors in its sixth year now. It may have been chilly outside, but indoors the place steamed as dancers thoroughly enjoyed this first party of the season.



Steve Brownell lazes back and entertains all night long with his music and humor.

The evening began with a pizza party with delicious samples supplied by six of the community’s houses: Cameo, Danny Boy’s, Domino’s, Huron Pizza House, Jim’s Pizza Box, and the Sand Bar. Partiers wolfed down dozens of pizzas and mountains of salads, all washed down by whatever suds they had brought along with them, legally of course.

Master of revels was Steve Brownell, the incomparable guitar-slinging singer who eased back into an oversized beach seat, kicked off his shoes, and played requests for almost four hours. His repertoire included any and all the favorites from the ‘50’s onward, most done in the style and voice of the original artists. Dancers filled the floor all evening long, but for a change, only a few party-goers left the hall deaf, those who sat up front.

On behalf of the students who will receive their scholarships, the Alumni Association wishes to thank, in addition to Steve, all who braved the elements to let loose for an evening in support of a worthy cause. Thank you also to Nancy Bickley who supplied a basket of LOREAL goodies for the grand door prize. Extra special thanks go out to the many members who volunteered their time to plan the event and sell the tickets, decorate the hall, keep the grub line stocked with pizza, and then hung around till near midnight to put the hall into shape for the Sue and Drew benefit dinner the next day. Almost like the old prom days, everyone enjoying working together, but without the pressures of fancy limos, tuxes and the nearly gownless evening straps! See you all next season for number seven!

More pictures on line.



Association officers huddle in the cold out front as they welcome dance-goers: president, Pat “Sticks” Gioffre, treasurer, Joan Everett Saunders, and president in charge of vice, Jim Bollenbacher.



It takes a heap of pizzas a hungry crowd to feed, says Jim Bollenbacher as he lays them out on the serving table under the hungry supervising eyes of Sticks Gioffre and Sue Everett Rader.



The Class of '67 sure turned out big for this dance. Ever since their fortieth last year, they have been meeting regularly to stay together. Making it this time were Karen David, Anne Bauman, Brenda and Thorton Brown, Sandi Rosenberg, Larry and Karen Hahn, Nancy and Denny Bickley, "Brother" Brad Beach, Dick and Susie Russell, and Larry and Chris Richardson.



Amanda Thoreson Steinwart and her friend, Kirsta Thoreson Legando, Jessie Legando Gimperling, and Ingrid Hammond Ritzler represent part of the Woodlands School contingent at the dance.

Everyone's a ham as this group smiles for the camera: Pat Gioffre, Mary Majoy, "Sticks" Gioffre, Joan and Craig Saunders, and Mary and Lisa Gioffre.



Lady '83 State Champs Return

This winter, Huron's 1983 Girls' State Basketball Championship Team returned home to where it had all begun to commemorate the 25th anniversary of their triumph. Many of the girls returned with their families to witness the boys' game against Vermilion on Saturday evening, February 2, after having gathered for lunch with their teammates earlier in the afternoon.

For openers, a mid-afternoon feast had been spread before them at Jim's Pizza Box. The ladies were joined by spouses, children, family, fellow classmates, their former coaches, and even by a few members of this year's girls' team, one of whom is the daugh-

ter of our championship gal, Karen Hahn Grendow. In the background, playing on the large screen TV was a tape that Don Hardy had rigged of the championship game itself in which the gals overcame perennial powerhouse, Chagrin Falls, 52-45. Pleasantries after the meal included each lady sharing her experiences of the game itself and a little of what has been happening in her life since graduation, college, and marriage. There was also the usual exchanging of gifts, gags and all, and then the action shifted to the high school gymnasium once again to the 2008 girls' game.

After a lackluster first half, excite-

ment increased at halftime as each lady was introduced to the crowd by none other than Mark Fogg, local WLEC radio personality, who had called the original championship game in '83. The championship trophy was hauled out, dusted off, and hoisted up once again by Coach Wennes for all to applaud. And then the second half. The ladies and their families didn't see much of that as most repaired to a local watering hole to reminisce, snap a few more pictures, and then depart with promises to return in another twenty-five. We suspect it will be sooner than that and look forward seeing them and maybe a few grandkids in tow the next time.



Coach Dick Wennes sits in front while a pair of his sons, Rhett and Richie, both waterboys and managers for the team in '83, bookend this team of '83 girls: Dee Cherry Latt, Lois Jenkins Graham, Michelle Morgan Wear, Jill Harris Zumak, and Karen Hahn Grendow.

More pictures on line.



The trophy first brought home in '83 seems to have grown heavier as Coach Wennes needs all the help he can get to lift it again. Latecomer Kathy Borwnell Conley (far right) helps balance the line.



Mark Fogg, long-time WLEC sports announcer and Morning Show personality, smiles as he dons the ear-phones and prepares to call the game once again. His calling of the original game in '83 can be viewed by visiting our website and clicking on the reunion story and then the video supplied there by Don Hardy, '83.



Kristin Watt, '81, Hall of Famer who had played with these girls during her senior year and taught them a few things about the game, returned for the reunion. She poses with the coach's wife, "Mom" Wennes and Karen's granddaughter.

Dead of Winter Class of '92 Reunion

Who ever heard of an African safari in the dead middle of winter? The class of '92, that's who. On a cold Thursday evening, the very last day of autumn and barely making the deadline for their fifteenth reunion before year's end (about the same way they used to wait to hand in their term papers!) this different bunch met at the Kahouna Lounge at the Kalahari resort to relive their favorite stories of yesteryear and catch up on the latest.. Everything about the gathering was different – the timing, the place, the season – but return they did from near and far. One pulled her kids out of their school's Christmas pageant to make the drive in from Wisconsin, a couple others trekked

in from Virginia, still another from Texas, and even two from foreign lands –one who popped in from Rome, home visiting her classmate sister and family - and another from Kentucky.

An informal gathering it was – no dinner, no dance, no formal duds, just good old fashioned companionship and shared memories – and lots of catching up. This bunch has now settled in, and they were eager to share their life stories to date. Musicians, editors, nurses, teachers, managers, artists, and hair stylists – it didn't matter what they were doing, each had a tale of success to share, and more than one business card traded

hands. We just wish that more locals had come out, maybe even bringing mom and dad to watch their kids swim and splash in the country's largest indoor water park as they themselves partied with classmates once again. (A couple did this, and good quality time was spent as family throughout the evening.)

We have no doubt that this group will party again on their twentieth. The trick will be to convince those who failed to attend this one of the marvelous lost opportunity to reconnect in the interim. See you again in five, guys, but you needn't wait that long.



Here they are, all cleaned up for the evening: Front (l. to r.): Katie Shontz Burnley, Andrea Larizza Arambula, Scott Jensen, Mike Morefield, Amanda Schafer Gister, and Dawn Beach Hohler. Rear (l. to r.): Andy Washburn, Regan Habik, Pam Blankenship Coles, Amy Armstrong Newdome, Mark Payne, Danny Martin, Mark Foxworth, Jim Perry, Eric Gilbert, Lynn Berkey ('93), and Scott Theide.

More pictures on line.

Scholarship Payoffs

Years of hard work paid off in a big way – literally – for dozens of current Huron High seniors on Tuesday evening, May 20th. At the annual scholarship awards convocation held at the Cedar Point Center at Firelands College, 55 students received approximately \$800,000 in scholarship aid for their upcoming college expenses. Around \$650,000 of that total was supplied by the respective colleges which students will be attending, the remainder by local groups, like your Association, who have a deep interest in assisting worthy students. Your Association participated by awarding five scholarships, three from our general scholarship fund, two from funds contributed to thYour Association Vice-president and pre Tom Shontz Memorial Scholarship fund.

This year's graduates – our newest members – face challenges not unlike those faced by many grads back during Depression days. Due to the general economic situation in our country, their parents' incomes may have been frozen, or actually declined, while costs of everything have risen, especially the number one commodity for teens, gasoline. Furthermore, summer job opportunities are scarce, college tuitions have soared to obscene levels, and some families are faced with losing their homes. Throw in the lousy finish to the Cavs' season and the slow Indians' start, and no wonder these kids are stressed!

So the dollars presented by the many local scholarship raising organizations really represent a lifeline this year to so many students. Huron, however, has always taken care of its own. As the graduates head off to college this fall, they will know that they have the complete support and now financial backing of hundreds, if not thousands, of people that these scholarships represent. A financial grant from an organization such as yours, for example, while given in the name of the Alumni Association,



Your Association vice-president, Jim Bollenbacher, '71, and president, Pat Gioffre, '70, presented scholarships to Mallory Saunders, daughter of Joan and Craig Saunders, '78, Tim Folger, son of Will and Mary Reese Folger, '74, and Jillian Zimmer, daughter of Rich, '77, and Chris Zimmer and granddaughter of Janet Henes Zimmer, '52.

really represents the labors of so many hundreds of our members who believe in the cause and support the scholarship fund. Think of how many hundred alone turned out for our annual scholarship dance. The cost of their admission ticket, once the expenses for entertainment, hall rental, and the pizza party were subtracted, really was a direct contribution to the scholarship fund. Throw in the miscellaneous contributions from dozens of others who annually contribute to the fund at the time they renew their memberships in your Association, and you have literally a whole host of nameless, faceless believers in Huron's kids, those who back up their wishes for success with these vital financial contributions - without which all the wishes in the world these days are worth a pitch or warm spit!

Now multiply by the thousands those who belong to the dozens of other local fundraising groups, and you see how many supporters of

Huron's kids there really are.

So we thank once again those who have supported all of these organizations, and especially your Alumni Association's efforts, this past year. We eagerly look forward to working with even more in the coming months to raise still more dollars to



Recipients of the Tom Shontz Memorial Scholarship, Elizabeth Olds and Geoff Barcus, receive their award from Susan Shontz DuBray.

Endowed Scholarship Program

Your Alumni Association is announcing a new scholarship program which hopefully will attract the attention of individuals and classes and will provide the solid financial basis for guaranteeing scholarships for many of our grads far into the future.

In the past five years we have raised scholarship funds from several sources mainly – an annual scholarship dance, individual contributions over the year sent in with members' dues, and special fundraising projects. We and the thirty-some students who have benefited from your generosity are most grateful and encourage your continued participation. We have generally disbursed all of the contributions within the fiscal year in which they were donated. The Board of Trustees has felt that this was a wise method, since, as a start-up association, members and potential members should see some immediate return for their donations and work on projects.

The problem is that this source of funding is always so unpredictable. If, for example, we stage a scholarship dance and cold weather keeps half the expected crowd away, expenses remain the same and the profit earned naturally decreases with the diminished crowd size. Some students will thus be disappointed. Or if we have a year in which we engage in no profitable project, then once again students lose out.

Now we believe that we are prepared to take the next step in funding scholarships by establishing an endowed scholarship fund. The way such a fund works is that contributions are aggregated from year to year with the monies received invested for earnings. The principle is never touched, but only the annual earnings are expended on scholarships. As the principle grows, and hopefully as the earnings are wisely invested and

yield even an average rate of return, we will have a steady, weather-proof, reliable annual source of scholarship income for way out into the future, one that can only grow and make even more students happy in May when awards time arrives.

How will this system operate? First, we will establish a Board of Trustees for this endowment, one totally separate from our regular Association Board of Trustees who direct our everyday operational policies. The new Trustees will be responsible for establishing the investment guidelines, directing the investment of deposited funds, and then naming the annual amount to be used for scholarships and the amount of each scholarship. A Scholarship Committee would continue, as at present, to make the actual selection of students from those applying for aid.

Second, there will be a more proactive solicitation of funds for such an endowment. This does not mean that we will be knocking on the doors of all our grads and arm wrestling them for dollars. What it does mean is that we will have more folks actively involved in planning activities and fundraising events specifically for the endowment fund rather than relying, as we do now, entirely for solicitation of funds upon the once-a-year membership dues sheet that goes out with the dues reminder.

Thirdly, there will be more opportunities for folks to assist Huron's present grads as a result of our putting ourselves a little more forward. For example, many people when nearing year's end, may wish to reduce their income tax obligation by making a contribution to such an endowment. Others involved in estate planning or making their final arrangements often look for such worthwhile endowments as a way to insure that some sort of legacy donation is made in their memory. Classes, too, when meeting for their five-year reunions, would have an opportunity to solicit from their members a gift to their



Winners of the Vanessa-Hart Campbell scholarships were Jillianne Zimmer and Sarah Orndorf.

alma mater through such an endowment. Many times, especially in the case of younger graduates, such a class fund is established as a memorial to beloved classmates who have passed. By establishing an endowment, we also open ourselves up to receiving funds from other charitable institutions that have as part of their charter the obligation to disburse to other charitable trusts.

The types of contributions can also be broadened by establishing such an endowment. For example, to date, we have received only cash donations for scholarships. Most people find this the easiest way to contribute – simply write out a check the same as for the electric bill or property tax bill. But consider the other types of contributions that people could make to an endowment rather than to just an association as such.

Many people have stocks that have appreciated in value, securities either given to them outright or purchased by them. Sometimes the value of stocks has appreciated to the point that the capital gains tax would result in a huge payment due to our mutual Uncle Sam. Instead of paying him, many people elect to donate part of the stock itself to a charitable organization and then receive a tax deduction worth more to them than what would have been realized after the sale and payment of capital gains

taxes due on the sale. Sometimes sale of ordinary property results in the same sort of dilemma – how to shelter income, or - failing that and watching Uncle Sam claim a large portion - how to see that something more worthwhile benefits than the nation's general treasury!

Another type of gift common to alumni associations is a challenge grant. An individual donor designates an amount to be contributed but only if that total amount is matched by other individual donors over a specified time period. In this way too, many times classes are moved to donate to the endowment.

Yet another way of multiplying the effect of your contribution is by employer matching funds. Many of you work for firms with programs which generously match your charitable contribution up to certain specified amounts. You thus double your contribution simply by filling out the paper work to effect this type of matching funds gift. In fact, we know of at least one situation where all class members made their contribution but to another classmate who worked for this type of firm, which then matched everyone's total! Sounds like double dipping somehow, but the tax attorneys declared it a legal practice. Just let your imaginations work!

In short, we believe that by establishing such an endowed scholarship fund, we present more people a greater variety of opportunities to make an impact upon Huron's graduates and to do so far out into the future. As a model, we look at what the Vanessa Hart-Campbell Scholarship Fund has been able to accomplish and marvel at what the results of one man and his efforts with a successful major league baseball club could do for lucky Huron seniors every year. At present, a single Campbell Scholarship is worth \$6,000 per year, renewable for three years. Savvy investment policies and staying on top of the market and investment opportunities have enabled the Campbell fund

to grant several such scholarships annually. Our community has been truly blessed to have a man of Jim's devotion to his home community and kids. The earliest recipients of Jim's largesse have long graduated and are now successful in their own right.

We understand that such a combination of circumstances occurs very infrequently in the life of a community. But we also understand that, with thousands of graduates around the world, it is not unreasonable to expect that an endowment matching what the Campbell fund has been able to do can be achieved, that it is not some unrealistic, pie-in-the-sky dream. We like the old African adage about getting rid of a dead elephant – one man's family cannot eat an elephant, but many persons, taking many small bites, can – or words to that effect. You get the idea! It's all about shared efforts and shared sense of pride and accomplishment.

The actual operation of such an endowment fund can take many forms. For example, all dollars realized can be placed in one trust to earn income, with all or a portion of the income annually disbursed. Another plan calls for folks to establish separate accounts within an endowment, funded by either a single, large gift or by annual gifts. These accounts are then all aggregated for investment purposes, but the donors can have more say in how their proportional part of the aggregated earnings are expended. They can, for example, set up their own selection criteria for scholarship recipients and determine the actual amounts to be presented.

We are pleased to announce that the first steps toward this latter type of arrangement have already been taken. As faithful readers, you are aware that three years ago we established a separate scholarship account in memory of a beloved former HHS science teacher, Tom Shontz. We have always annually expended all of your donations to award scholarships to worthy students who are seeking

some science related college education. We continued this practice this year by selecting two more science recipients.

Now, due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we are making the Shontz Memorial Scholarship Fund an endowed scholarship. The donors is especially motivated toward a science-oriented scholarship because of his own successes in science related fields. He now invites others to continue to help him fund this Shontz Memorial. The awards will continue to be selected as now by Tom's widow, Susan DuBray, who remains highly interested in promoting Tom's legacy of advancing science training for deserving students.

You will note on the membership enrollment form inside the back cover that we have changed the format slightly for contributing to the scholarship fund. You now have the option of checking whether your contribution will be put into the endowment or simply expended in that fiscal year on scholarships. We realize that some folks like to see an immediate impact of their generosity, and we will respect that. Others, though, are content to leave their gift to grow and are willing to wait for a future, larger payoff for their gift.

We invite all of you to consider seriously any of these new opportunities for multiplying your dollars. Some of you may also know of or be participating in still other ways of contributing to endowments, and we invite you to write us and share the ideas with us. If they will fit our model – and we can stretch it to fit just about anything – we will be happy to pass these ideas along to our membership.

On behalf of all the students who have received Association scholarships in the past and who will benefit in the future, we sincerely thank those who have contributed, especially the many who are regular annual donors.

State of the Arts in Huron High

Feast of Carols

On December 19 the combined Huron High School choirs presented their annual program of sacred and secular Christmas holiday music at McCormick Auditorium. Under the direction of music teacher Jeff Skaggs, seventy-two choir members performed flawlessly to create an atmosphere which enhanced the

season and the newly fallen snow, temporarily removing minds from the last minute shopping rush. The repertoire contained Latin hymns, French and English carols, and even an African folk piece. Various interludes were also beautifully rendered by the madrigal choir. In short, the glorious Christmas music tradition of

Huron was continued for yet another year, and patrons returned home humming a different tune, one quite apart from the commercialized shopping mall fare they had been served up since Thanksgiving - or was it Halloween? Well done, students, and Mr. Skaggs!

Huron Band a First

How good is the present Huron High School Concert Band? Hard to tell because many of the benchmarks used to measure quality did not exist in the past. So comparisons with a Huffy band or Hank Lehrer's era will come up empty. Let's just say that in early May, the judges at the competition sponsored by the Ohio Music Education Association in Findlay declared this crop of musicians worth of a Superior (I) rating at the state level for their inspired performance that day. Never in the history of Huron High has a band won that coveted rating! Competition is by invitation only. Three times in the past six years and no cigar! The fourth time was a charm.

The band went to the competition with three very well rehearsed pieces and performed them flawlessly. They

played *Free World March* by Karl King, *Sea of Tranquility* by David Schaeffer, and *Sparks* by Brian Balmages. Then the supreme test – they were all given an unseen selection and three minutes in which to view their parts. They studied, they performed, they conquered it and the panel of judges was impressed with their skills. Hence the number I rating!

Band director Ryan Smith remarked how ecstatic the students were upon receiving the rating. “The students have worked extremely hard since marching season ended, and have been improving their playing ability and sight reading skill,” he said.

Ryan continued, “Words cannot express how happy I am for the sixty-six members of the concert band and the overall Band Program at Huron

High School. To watch our students improve and strive for the success at the highest level is very gratifying as a teacher. For a school the size of Huron to be selected for State is an honor, and now, to obtain a Superior Rating is just outstanding.”

Kudos to the kids. Now that the benchmark has been set, next year's group will have to work even harder to maintain the status won this year. We have no doubt that when they change hats from marching band to concert band at the conclusion of next season's football run, they will move effortlessly into their chairs and duplicate the award. That would be like back-to-back Super Bowl rings.

Can a special Christmas Album now be far behind?

Spring Arts Festival

On Monday, May 19, the Fine Arts Department at Huron High presented to the community its annual display of culminating activities for which students had labored so hard all year.

For the visual arts, Mrs. Van Barg's classes had plastered the lower hall-

ways with their works. Nature scenes seemed to predominate, though portraits ran a close second. Students had worked in a variety of media – oils, watercolors, India inks, scratch boards, colored crayons, even a few collages of photographs. (In fact, enough students are interested in digital photography that two classes

in that medium will be added for next year.) Future van Gogh's and Picassos abounded together with a few Dali sympathizers, and Warhol imitators – seems they liked Marilyn the best! Georgia O'Keefe and her oversized flower close-ups seemed to have made an impression on the students, as walls were awash in pastel morning glories and lilies, and with a few

Look carefully and you might spy a mother, sister, brother singing the finale together at the *Feast of Carols*, a long standing tradition in Huron as former choir members are invited on stage to pipe yet another time together. Little traditions like this make Huron family.



This is the Huron High School band which won the highest honors ever taken by a Huron band in state level competition. All of Huron and Erie County are proud of these musicians and look forward to a long tradition of excellence from them. We know that their director, Mr. Ryan Smith, will see to that or train his baton upon their heads!