

The Foundation

Spring 2017

A Publication of the Harrisonville Public School Foundation

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The Mission of the Foundation is to support and enhance educational programs and activities of the Harrisonville School District.

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HarrisonvillePublicSchoolFoundation

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Two alumni inducted into Wall of Fame

Two Harrisonville High School graduates became the 13th class inducted into the HHS Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame during Courtwarming activities at HHS on Feb. 24.

Dr. John M. Yohe is a 1954 graduate of Harrisonville High School. In high school, Dr. Yohe was involved in football and the Future Farmers of America. Upon graduation, Dr. Yohe was elected to serve as the Missouri State FFA Vice President for 1954-55; he was the first person from Harrisonville to serve as a FFA state officer. He also earned his State FFA Degree.

Following high school, Dr. Yohe attended Graceland College to earn his associate's degree. Then, he the University of Missouri for his bachelor's degree in animal husbandry and his master's degree in poultry nutrition. He earned his Ph.D. in crop breeding from the University of Missouri as well and conducted some of his doctoral research in Orrissa, India.

Upon earning his doctorate, Dr. Yohe worked for the University of Wisconsin as a plant breeder - research specialist in northeast Brazil, which was where he began his overseas work. The work continued in South Korea as Project Director with a USAID Project.

In 1977, Dr. Yohe became a research agronomist for US Agency for



International Development (USAID) in Washington, D.C., followed by time as the Chief of the agricultural production division for the USAID Office of Agriculture in D.C. In 1982, he served as a member of the USAID presidential team on agriculture development in Egypt.

Dr. Yohe retired in 2013 from the University of Nebraska after nearly 30 years of work for the university. He is well-known throughout the world for his work in international agriculture and rural development. He has investigated farming, famine and food throughout
(Continued on Page 2)

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Yohe, Gardner selected for induction

(Continued from Page 1)
the world and helped develop new plant varieties for certain climates in the world.

He served as the director of the International Sorghum and Millet Collaborative Research Support Program (INTSORMIL) from 1984 to 2013 at the University of Nebraska. Under his leadership, INTSORMIL launched a new variety of sorghum in El Salvador that improves the quality of feed for cattle – increasing milk production and meat yield. This is just one example of his influence; his work has had a major effect on international agriculture by helping to improve food supplies in Africa and Central America.

He served as president of the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD) in 2003 and received the association's Distinguished Service honor in 2013.

Dr. Yohe has lived in India, Brazil and South Korea and has traveled to more than 40 countries on research and development assignments.

He has been married to his wife, Bonnie, for 57 years, and they have four children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Dr. Yohe lives in Lincoln, Neb.

Roger Gardner graduated from Harrisonville High School in 1979. As the el-

dest son of the local agriculture teacher, he was very active in the Future Farmers of America organization. After his high school graduation, he served as the state secretary and went on to earn his American FFA Degree. He was also a member of the newspaper staff and worked at the local radio station, KIEE.

Gardner earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural education from the University of Missouri in 1983. He started working at the Brownfield Network (now Learfield) as a farm broadcaster. Then, he moved on to help establish the Iowa State Cyclone Network.

Currently, Gardner is the chief culture and communications officer for Learfield, a leader in agriculture media and collegiate sports marketing. Among other things, the company owns the athletic multimedia rights to 125 major collegiate programs. He has served in multiple capacities with Learfield including vice president and general manager, executive vice president and COO, president, and executive vice president of business development.

According to the Learfield website, Gardner has been a key contributor in the company's expansion in the collegiate sports multimedia space. He has helped negotiate multi-million dollar agreements with

major universities and assisted in the purchase of complementary companies that have been incorporated into Learfield.

Gardner is also a civic leader. He serves on numerous boards and committees including the board of directors for Special Olympics Missouri.

He was awarded the 2015 Citation of Merit Award from the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri and participated in the college's Executive in Residence program last year.

Gardner and his wife have established a scholarship endowment at the University of Missouri for students in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources in honor of their fathers, both of whom are Mizzou graduates, and he, and his brother, John, sponsor a scholarship for a Cass Career Center FFA senior in the name of their parents – Stan and Marge Gardner.

He and his wife, Cheri, have been married for 33 years, and they have two children. They live in Plano, Texas.

Inductees are selected based on their significant contribution to their community or field of work. Nominations are accepted continuously. The deadline for consideration each year on Oct. 31.

Major Saver sales benefit schools, Foundation

The Harrisonville Public School Foundation and Harrisonville School District recently received a check for the proceeds from the Major Saver fundraiser held earlier this year. Students sold the restaurant and entertainment discount cards, and the proceeds from the sales are split equally between the Foundation and the participating schools.

The overall proceeds totaled \$16,882.75. Harrisonville Early Childhood Center earned \$1,890; Harrisonville Elementary received \$4,350; and McEowen Elementary earned \$2,193.75.

This year's participating businesses were Sky Zone Trampoline Park, Paradise



Park, Price Chopper, Forged by Fire, Applebee's, Del's Dashboard Deli, McDonald's, Mazzio's, Donna's Diner, The Garage Burgers & Brew, Marco's, Little Pig BBQ, Sonic, 54th Street Grill & Bar, Garozzo's, Randazzo's Pizza & Pasta, Hardee's, Captain D's, Harrisonville Community Center and Pizza Hut.

The Foundation will use its portion to fund its programming, which includes the Excellence in Academics program, teacher grants and Advanced Degree Teacher Initiative.

Pictured above is ECC principal Becky Campbell with the Foundation trustees.

Foundation provides leadership opportunity

Three Harrisonville High School students will participate in a leadership conference in this summer thanks to funding from the Harrisonville Public School Foundation. Haley Holden, Peyton Zaring and Sam East will attend the Hugh O'Brian State Leadership Seminar. The students were selected by the HHS staff for this opportunity.

The leadership seminar is "designed to help high school sophomores recognize their leadership talents and apply them to become effective, ethical leaders in their home, school, workplace and community."

HOBY will be held June 16-18 at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.



General Endowment Donors *Founding Donor #Sustaining Donor

- HSMC Certified Public Accountants, P.C. - Gary & Valerie Hawkins*
- Judy Schoonover*
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- Mickey & Marie Roach, Alice & Danielle*#
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- In Memory of Fred Trent - Dick, Jodi & Jilli Hammett#
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- Justin Blake Mills - Class of 2002#
- Jarrett Keith Mills - Class of 1998#
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- Chris, Jordan & Sophia Grantham#
- Quinten & Ashleigh Harrison, Landreigh & Lynnox#
- Jason & LaRena Eggers, LaNae, Maddie & Chrishell#
- John A. Gillen II, M.D. #

Mark Your Calendar!

Homecoming 2017 - Friday, Sept. 15

Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament - Friday, Sept. 15, 8 a.m.

Homecoming Parade - Friday, Sept. 15, 2 p.m.

Homecoming Football Game - Friday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.

Catch the Spirit 5K Walk/Run - Saturday, Sept. 16, 8 a.m.

An easy way to support the Foundation

The Harrisonville Public School Foundation is now a part of the AmazonSmile program, and based on sales through the last few months of 2016, the Foundation has received \$28.13 in funds.

When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same prices, selection and shopping experience as amazon.com, but you'll have the added bonus of donating to the Foundation.

You can use your amazon.com account, and your shopping cart, wish lists and other account settings will remain the same.

During the first time you visit smile.amazon.com, you'll have to select the Harrisonville Public School Foundation as your charity of choice. From then on, the site will remember your selection and donate a portion of your purchase to the Foundation.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.



Foundation awards grants to teachers

Teachers and students in the Harrisonville School District recently received more than \$3,700 in grants from the Harrisonville Public School Foundation.

Throughout the 13 years of the teacher grant program, more than \$80,000 has been presented to teachers. The goal of the program is to enhance the education of Harrisonville students by encouraging and recognizing new educational approaches and concepts that are not currently funded by the district.

The grants were awarded in a surprise squad format with Foundation trustees surprising the teachers in their classrooms and presenting them with a check.

Teacher grants were awarded to the following:

- Rebecca Reeser, speech/language teacher at McEowen Elementary School, for additional technology in the form of a TV to be hooked to a teacher laptop for use in meetings with staff, parents and students. The TV would cut down on the use of paper



and provide the ability to use live working documents.

- Brian Graber, counselor at Harrisonville Elementary School, for counseling curriculum for third grade. The materials complement the counseling curriculum for K-2 previously funded by the Foundation. This grant was funded through the Cade Filer Teacher Grant Endowment.
- Kim Spencer, fourth-grade teacher at McEowen Elementary School, for math manipulatives for hands-on learning to provide a physical understanding of what math concepts look like.
- Marla Brown (pictured),

fourth-grade teacher at McEowen Elementary School, for classroom sets of four books to provide opportunities for sharing and discussing literature in the classroom setting. All books have a focus on positive character traits and acceptance of others.

- Gail Howe, ELL teacher at Harrisonville Middle School, for Chromebooks for use with students who have limited language proficiency. The Chromebooks will provide unlimited resources to supplement basic knowledge, cultural factors, translation and comprehension.

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www.harrisonvilleschools.org/foundation



Foundation offers scholarships for seniors

The Harrisonville Public School Foundation manages six endowed scholarship funds and two annual scholarships for Harrisonville High School seniors. The application deadline for 2017 is April 13, and the scholarship application is online at www.harrisonvilleschools.org/foundation.

The scholarships are as follows:

Bob Hodge Achievement Award - \$4,000 (Year 1), \$2,000 (Year 2), \$2,000 (Year 3), \$2,000 (Year 4)
This scholarship is presented annually to a senior based on academic achievement, citizenship and financial need. The scholarship is renewable for three years based on the recipient maintaining a 3.0 GPA and submitting an essay annually. It is funded through an endowment established by an alumni in honor of long-time district teacher, coach and administrator Bob Hodge.

Steve Catron Memorial Scholarship - \$300

This scholarship is presented

annually to a senior based on music and athletic achievement, as well as community and school activities. It is funded through memorial gifts from family and friends of 1979 HHS graduate Steve Catron.

Stephen and Virginia Childress Athletic Award - \$1,500

This is the Foundation's longest running scholarship, and it is presented annually to a senior based on athletic and academic achievements, as well as community and school activities. It is funded through an endowment established by the Childress family.

William G. and Nettie Z. Deacon Family Scholarship - \$1,000

This scholarship is presented annually to seniors based on academic achievement, good citizenship and financial need. Preference is given to applicants who plan to pursue a career in the medical or nursing profession. It is funded through an endowment established by Will Ella

Deacon.

John and Wanda Foster Construction Trades Scholarship - \$500

This scholarship is presented annually to a Harrisonville senior planning to study building trades, architecture, civil engineering or a related field. It is funded through an endowment established by John and Wanda Foster.

Cara Roberts Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000

The Roberts scholarship is presented annually to an HHS senior attending the University of Central Missouri. It is funded through annual gifts to the Foundation from the Roberts and Keefer families.

Scott Morse Memorial Scholarship - \$1,250

This scholarship is presented annually to an HHS senior who has successfully overcome a trial or hardship. It is funded through an endowment created by the Morse family.

John and Wanda Foster Agriculture Program Scholarship - \$500

This scholarship will be presented for the first time in 2016 to a Harrisonville senior who has been active in the Cass Career Center agriculture program and/or FFA chapter. It is funded through an endowment established by John and Wanda Foster.

Allison W. Smith Memorial Scholarship - \$2000

This scholarship was presented for the first time in 2015. The intent of this scholarship award, which is presented memory of Allison Smith, is to encourage and support a senior female student athlete who strives for excellence in academics and sportsmanship and who demonstrates passion to engage in the world through leadership and/or innovative ideas to make the global and/or local community better for others. It is funded through an annual gift from the Smith family.

Eighth-grade students eligible for Foundation scholarships

The Foundation oversees two scholarships that are presented to eighth-grade students and dispersed upon their graduation from Harrisonville High School.

The Katie Rios Memorial Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship funded through annual gifts from middle

school staff and the Rios family. The scholarship is presented based on the student's character, attitude, academics and citizenship.

The first Rios scholarship was presented in 2011 and disbursed in 2015.

The Donna Pfautsch HATS Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is funded

through an endowment created by the Pfautsch family. It is presented to an eighth-grader who is part of the Harrisonville Academically Talented Students program and is based on a record of academic excellence; diverse personal, academic and community interests; a love of self-directed learn-

ing; and use of individual talent, imagination and teamwork to accomplish goals, address challenges or solve problems.

This will be the fifth year for the scholarship to be presented.

**Congratulations to our
2016-17 Advanced
Degree Teacher
Initiative Recipients**

Ann Hammonds, HES
Amber Secrist, HMS
Virginia De Venney, HHS
Sarah Enkey, HES
Amy Schloss, HMS
Amanda Teeter, HES
Natalie Johnson, McEowen
Samantha Powers, McEowen
Alyssa Holsten, McEowen
Stefanie Lanoue, HMS
Kim Spencer, McEowen
Debbie Brandenburgh, HHS
Jodi Fischer, ECC
Rachel Corr, CCC
Crystal Peebles, CCC

The program provides partial reimbursement to teachers seeking a master's degree or higher in a non-administrative field. Following each semester - summer, fall, and spring - teachers may apply to receive partial reimbursement for up to six hours of courses.

Bright Futures gears up for annual book drive

To help students who might not have access to books during the summer, Bright Futures Harrisonville will sponsor the sixth annual book drive March 12-19. Last year's drive enabled Bright Futures to send three books home with more than 200 students last summer.

Both new and gently used books will be collected for students in grades kindergarten through high school.

Blue barrels have been set up throughout the community to collect items throughout the year, and those barrels are the drop-off locations for books. Barrels can be found at Commerce Bank, United Methodist Church, Schroeder Chiropractic, Cornerstone Community Church, Cass County

Public Library, Nazarene Church, Community Bank of Harrisonville, Crossroads Assembly, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Heartland Baptist Church and all schools.

Those interested in purchasing books for the book drive can do so at elementary school book fairs on March 14-16 or through Amazon. Bright Futures has created a wish list - Bright Futures Harrisonville Book Drive Wish List. Additionally, if you use smile.amazon.com, then you can select the Harrisonville Public School Foundation as your charity of choice, and a portion of all purchases will support Bright Futures.

Bright Futures Harrisonville is a community-

wide initiative developed to ensure all students have the opportunity to be successful. The initiative brings together several areas of the community - business, parents, faith-based, social/human services and the schools - with the hope that our children's needs can be met with resources from within the community. Bright Futures focuses on not only physical needs but also emotional and social needs, and it seeks resources that include "time, talent and treasure."

For more information on Bright Futures, visit the Facebook page - www.facebook.com/BrightFuturesHarrisonville, or call (816) 380-2727, ext. 1224.

Foundation seeks donors for Excellence in Academics

For the past 30 years, the Harrisonville Public School Foundation has sponsored the annual Excellence in Academics program to honor Harrisonville High School students who complete the year in the top 15 percent of their class.

Seniors are honored on their final day of class at the

Senior Excellence in Academics Celebration, and recognition of underclassmen is at the Excellence in Academics Assembly in August. Both events are held during the school day in front of the entire student body.

The Senior Excellence in Academics Celebration includes the presentation of the

\$500 scholarships to four-year recipients. The Foundation started the Excellence in Academics Scholarships 13 years ago and has presented more than \$133,000.

The Excellence in Academics program would not be possible without the support of our community through three levels of sponsorship: \$100 Subscriber, \$500 Scholarship Subscriber and \$1,000 Corporate Subscriber.

To become a subscriber, complete the form, and return it to the Harrisonville Public School Foundation, 503 S. Lexington, Harrisonville, MO 64701 by May 1. If you have any questions, then please contact Foundation Executive Director Jill Filer at 380-2727, ext. 1224 or jill.filer@harrisonvilleschools.org

Excellence in Academics Program Subscriber Form

Subscriber Name (as you would like it to appear in recognition):

Contact Person:

Address:

Phone:

Email

Donation Amount: \$100 Subscriber
 \$500 Scholarship Subscriber
 \$1000 Corporate Subscriber

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