

The McCune Alumni Association, Inc. •Box 122 •McCune KS

July 2024

www.mccunealumni.org

The Black & Gold



McCune Eagles

Jeff Han, President
Morgan Blanchard-Zimmer, Vice President
Kathy McColm Stewart, Treasurer
Jolene Mosler Conway, Recording Secretary
Sharon Huff Leonard, Corresponding Secretary

The all-alumni dinner and meeting, will be held Saturday evening, September 28, 2024, at the Community Center. Dinner will be at 5:00 followed by the meeting at 6:00. There is no charge to attend the meeting at 6:00.

Everyone enjoyed the combined alumni banquet and meeting last year. There was time to visit and catch up with old friends and time to honor special guests and scholarship winners. All-Alumni and guests are invited to attend one or both events again this year. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:00. The all-alumni meeting will follow at 6:00. There are no scheduled speakers. It will be a time of visiting. The 50 year class will be honored at the 6:00 meeting and the scholarships will be presented then.

Price of the dinner: \$12.50 per person.

Chicken Annie's of Girard will be catering the dinner. Menu: fried chicken, brisket, bread and butter, an assortment of sides including, greenbeans, German slaw, potato salad, and for dessert, homemade cobbler and cheesecake.

**Make your reservations for the dinner by
September 23, 2024.**

Contact: Kathy Stewart: kstewie@hotmail.com or telephone (620) 632-4992. **Use the order form on page 7 to purchase dinner tickets along with your tickets for the drawings at the alumni meeting.**

Join us at the Park Saturday Afternoon after Lunch

After the parade, and after everyone has lunch the alumni committee will be hosting a visit in the park Saturday afternoon, September 28, starting at 2:00. Bring a lawn chair, if possible. The idea is to spend the afternoon visiting with old friends and enjoying being back in the old hometown.

Buy Your Tickets and Win \$100

The Alumni will once again be selling tickets for the drawing during their meeting on Saturday evening, Sept. 28 at 6:00. Drawing prizes are \$100, \$50, and \$25. Tickets sell for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00.

You do NOT need to be present to win this prize.

Buy Your Tickets and Win a Blackstone Grill

The Alumni will also be selling tickets on a Blackstone grill. Tickets sell for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The winning ticket will be drawn at the alumni meeting at 6:00 Saturday evening.

You MUST be present to win the grill.

Check the McCune Alumni Website

Please check the website for the latest information about meetings and the McCune Fall Festival

www.mccunealumni.org

Donations Given in 2022 - 2023

Memorial Donations:

\$100

Wendy Markley in memory of Bobby Markley

deceased 10 May 2012

1958 graduate of MHS

Science and Technology Scholarship:

\$1,000 or More:

Anonymous donor

General Scholarship Fund:

\$200 or more:

Carl Davidson

Alan and Linda Hobson

Harold Millard

Ramona Fox

\$100 or more

Kevin and Joyce Fox

Harriet Ginn

Galen Hiller

William Metcalf

Flo Ellen Ray

\$20,000

Herman and Ailene Parsons Scholarship

By Terry and Marian Parsons and

their son Dr. Mark Parsons

THANK YOU!

*The members of the McCune Alumni Association
extend their gratitude to all donors to the scholarship funds.*

Without you we could not do what we do!

2024 Scholarships Awarded

Twelve 2024 high school graduates in four different highschools, reside in the former McCune #57 school district. All were contacted and given information about the McCune Alumni scholarships. Seven of the students applied. We are pleased to announce the recipients:

\$1,000 Alumni Scholarships

Each will receive \$1000



Sarah Best

Braden Clifton

Kassidy Fox

Jaylen Marshall

Derric Mitchell

Chance Shipman

Abigail Warstler

\$500 Science and Technology Scholarship

Each will receive \$500

Braden Clifton

Kassidy Fox

Chance Shipman

Abigail Warstler

\$20,000 Herman and Ailene Parsons

Educational Scholarship

to be divided equally among:

Sarah Best

Braden Clifton

Kassidy Fox

Jaylen Marshall

Derric Mitchell

Chance Shipman

Abigail Warstler

*The last senior class at McCune
graduated in 1979.*

**Memories are timeless
treasures of the heart.**

From the Class of 1974

~by anonymous members of the class of '74

Our class, with 27 members, was one of the larger classes to graduate from MHS. In 1971, as freshmen, the girls, for the first time since before WWII, could participate in competitive basketball and volleyball due to Title IX. Under the expert coaching of Rosemary Pender and Linda Ford, our McCune girls did well even though they played teams from much larger schools in the area.

In keeping with the times, we students at McCune wore short sleeved shirts and t-shirts lost their status as underwear. Both girls and boys wore longer hair, and the tussle continued of how long the boys could wear their hair and how short the girls could wear their miniskirts. Girls also wore body shirts with low cut bell bottoms. For dressing up the guys sported leisure suits with wide white shirt collars and lapels.



At McCune, it was the year of the “no bake cookie” in home economics classes. For every occasion Mrs. Closs allowed us to whip up a batch to be shared by all. Other newly introduced snacks we enjoyed were Skittles and Nacho Cheese Doritos. Everyone went to see the movies *Blazing Saddles* and *The God Father II*. Favorite T.V. shows were *Happy Days* and *Little House on the Prairie*. Discussions of current events in government class included the rumble in the jungle when Ali defeated George Foreman and the aftermath of the 1973 oil crisis.

The senior prom was memorable. The theme was *The Age of Aquarius*. The School cooks served a delicious sit-down dinner in the cafeteria, followed by the dance in the old auditorium. To carry out the theme, we hung a huge parachute from balcony to balcony creating a dome mimicking an underwater scene. We danced to Lynyrd Skynyrd’s *Sweet Home Alabama* and the Rolling Stones’ *It’s Only Rock ‘n Roll*.

Later that year, in May, the class traveled to Kirkwood Lodge at the Lake of the Ozarks for senior trip. It was great fun even though some of us came home with very serious sunburns.

Fifty years have gone by in a wink. We hope to see everyone at the festival in September.

The songs of 1974

The Way We Were by Barbara Streisand
The Streak by Ray Stevens
Annie’s Song by John Denver
Seasons of the Sun by Terry Jacks
Sundown by Gordon Lightfoot

The Class of 1974 50 Years!



Susan Allen Rodin

Richard Baker (unknown)

Donna Bennett Mays

Ellen Billington Hoiser

Roman Bunn (unknown)

Norman Christmore

Bella Clavijo (unknown)

Keith Coonrod

Duane Davis

Tom Goff

Bonnie Grandle (unknown)

Dennis Han

Karen Hibbs Johnston

Larry Hibbs

Connie Hiller Cheney

Kim Jones Tollen

Steven McGown

Ellick Morey

Larry Murdock (unknown)

Ethel Norman (unknown)

Mark Pool

Floyd “Red” Ritchal (deceased 1990)

Terry Sanders (unknown)

Darrell Shouse

Matt Thomas

Paul Thomson (deceased 2001)

Lorraine Wells Basye

T. V. in 1974

All in the Family
Sanford and Son
The Jeffersons



Deceased Alumni



Class of 1947

Herbert Hickman
1 Aug 2023

Class of 1950

Tolly Harris Gore
6 Mar 2024
Dow Wort
8 Apr 2024

Class of 1951

Mary Lou Watkins Bratton
29 Sept 2023
Donald Dean McGown
9 Jan 2024

Class of 1954

Margaret McGown McColm
17 Oct 2023

Class of 1955

Karl McColm
21 Oct 2023

Class of 1958

Carl Olson
21 Oct 2023
Sally Overman Robison
27 Nov 2023

Class of 1960

Richard Ewan
31 Dec 2023
Della Ruth Spillman Frazier
2 Oct 2023



Class of 1961

Judy Han Yeager
8 Mar 2024
Carl (Wayne) Larcom
4 Aug 2023
Sharon Stewart Marlar
28 Nov 2023

Class of 1966

Susan Nunn Thomas
21 Feb 2024
LaVera Seibert DeSousa
30 Jun 2024

Class of 1970

Donna Brown Ammann
15 Apr 2024
Mark Smith
23 Mar 2024

Where Are the 2019 Scholarship Recipients Now?

~by Carolyn Michael Alumna Scholarship Committee Chairman

- Nathan Campbell – Graduate of College of the Ozarks in May 2024 with a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Science and a minor in Business Administration.
- Nicholas Campbell – Graduate of College of the Ozarks in 2023 with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. He is working in IT support for Community National Bank.
- Kalyn Flaharty Reid – Graduate of NEO with an associate degree in Agronomy Graduate of OSU with a bachelor's degree in Plant and Soil Science. She is the assistant manager at the McCune Co-op and recently was married.
- Trenton Hartman – Graduate of Pittsburg State University. He earned a bachelor's degree in Automotive Technology Diesel Engine and Heavy Equipment. He spent 3 summers with Case IH on their Proharvest crew. He now works for Viets Brothers. He is married and lives north of McCune.
- Kohlton Kirby – Graduated in May 2023 from K-State with a Chemical Engineer degree with an emphasis on biology. In June of 2023 he started working at Saola Energy in Wichita. They do engineering project management, tech and design for renewable diesels and biofuels.

60 Years-Class of 1964

Coralie Baldwin Bennett
Barbara Barnes Perry (unknown)
Kathy Barnes Vazquez (deceased 1997)
Terry Best
Ilene Froebe Myers
David Garard (deceased 2020)
Jim Gardenhire (deceased 2024)
Larry Gemmell
Eva Jo Getman Little (deceased 2006)
Mark Houseweart (deceased 1988)
Randy Johnson
Shirley Johnson Fiscus
Beverly Myers Shutt (unknown)
Carolyn Stewart Michael
Francis Thomas*
Harriett Tridle Ginn

70 Year Class of 1954

Ralph Baldwin
Larry Barnes (desc. 2017)
Ruth Ann Bratton Egbert
Dean Dixon (desc. 2007)
Kenneth Fox (desc. 1966)
Robert Gardenhire
Margaret Goodhall Johnson
Larry Henderson (desc. 1981)
Betty Huston Cares (desc. 2022)
Marvin Johnston (desc. 2023)
Verna Mae Kern Buzard (desc. 1999)
Lee Kernick (desc. 1988)
Morris Kernick (desc. 2019)
Leona Kious Long (desc. 2007)
Margaret Leonard Hartman (desc. 2016)
Kenneth Long (desc. 2015)
Marie Markley Satzler (desc. 2016)
Helen McColm Wagner (desc. 2012)
Margaret McGown McColm (desc. 2023)
Maxine McMillan Braman (desc. 2018)
Maxine Metcalf Lynam (desc. 2015)
Vera Mohler Ellwood
Barbara Morgan Johnston (desc. 1998)
Carl Morgan (desc. 2007)
Bill Nutt (desc. 2005)
Margaret Painter Wright (desc. 1990)
Fred Perkins (desc. 2015)
Bess Anna Riggs Bennett
Neva Shenefelt Lolling (desc. 1994)
Maxine Stewart Engler
Ron Tridle (desc. 2011)
Barbara Ulbrich Caughron
Archie Ulbrich (desc. 2016)
Elsie Wort Harris (desc. 2018)
Joan Wright McManus

From a Country School to a PhD

~by Dr. Frank M. Slapar- class of '46



I feel I have done pretty well since I have had an eyesight problem all my life. I am 94 years of age. I attended Freed District 90 Country School 2 miles north of W 126 HWY on 80th street. My brother was two years older than I and I could not figure out how I could only be one year behind my brother in school. After my mother passed I went through her papers and found my first Grade Card. We had Leslie Thomas for our instructor and when he completed my grade card he promoted me from 1st grade to 3rd grade. Now, there may have been some reasons for that. I may have been a smart first grader and he felt I should go to 3rd grade. However, he probably had some one in 2nd grade that was promoted to 3rd grade so he decided to have two 3rd graders to prepare for each day. At that school I sat wherever I could see and hear well.

When I enrolled in Miss Turkington's algebra class at MRHS she assigned me a seat on the back row where "S's" belong. She told my brother Bob, whom could see well and got along very well in class, that I needed glasses. (Side note. I never assigned seats in my classrooms. I asked that each member sit where they were comfortable and then I used a seating chart to decide who was not present.)

I had my vision tested and low and behold I badly needed glasses. If I remember correctly I had vision of 20/100. So, I could see at 20 feet what most persons with good eyesight could see at 100 feet. At age 12, I could now see like my classmates could see. I could now see the (Man on the Moon).

At about 27 years of age I developed Keratconis in my left eye. As a result I was prescribed a hard contact lens, which I wore for 30 years. At that point I had developed an ulcer on my left eye and had to have a Cornea transplant. That transplant lasted about 30 years and I had to have another one. Supposedly the life of a transplant is 15-20 years. I had another transplant 4 years ago but my body rejected it. I had another transplant one year ago and now am beginning to see out of it pretty well. If you have never had problems with your eyes you do not know how much that affects your depth

perception. Just try to place toothpaste on a toothbrush with one eye closed. I do not like to drive since my depth perception is not good. My wife Claudette drives most of the time.

As you are probably aware I lost my wife Anna (Anna McElwain class of '52) in May 2014 after we had been married for 60 years. She was a wonderful wife and mother. We had four children. Two obtained Doctorates and the other two completed their Bachelors' Degrees. I was lost, and by the grace of God I was able to locate a mate that grew up in Hot Springs, AR. We got married on April 16, 2015. She is a wonderful person and has 6 grown children and adopted another one that is grown. She obtained her LPN in Arkansas and worked in the Heart Treatment area in a Hot Springs Hospital so she can assist me since I have had two mild heart attacks.

My siblings and I were children of two immigrants that came to the good old USA from Germany at preschool age with their parents whom were recruited to mine coal in Crawford County underground mines. The mines were very shallow and the work was hard. Our parents had a 5th grade education, but they could count their money well. My mother insisted that my father quit the mines and become a farmer. They did well as farmers. My siblings and I helped as much as we could. I began driving a farm tractor at the age of 12. That was a mistake -I developed back problems and had to quit farming at age 27.

Perhaps I should have mentioned earlier in this information that I had not anticipated going to college. However, my brother Earl Robert had been drafted into the service and when he was to be discharged he wrote me a letter indicating that he was going to college on the G I Bill and that I should accompany him and we could commute. That is how I came to enroll in college. I majored in Metalwork with 3 minors in math, physical science and business. We were both farming for and with our parents. When my brother Earl Robert (Bob) graduated he lived on one of our parents' farms while his wife Darlene Hanks Slapar completed her degree in Home Economics.

When Anna and I got married we moved to the farm where Bob and Darlene were living and farming. Darlene had obtained a position in Home Economics at Eudora, KS and Bob obtain a position as Purchasing Agent for the Coop's Ammonia Nitrate fertilizer Plant in Lawrence, KS. Both Bob and Darlene spent 40 years at those two positions. Anna and I moved to that farm when we got married on June 13, 1953.

As I mention earlier, my back was bothering me from riding a tractor so we moved to Pittsburg where I obtained a machinist position at McNally Pittsburg. I was fortunate that I had a degree and Boeing was looking for college graduates. I was assigned a position in the Industrial Engineering Department. It was very boring work and I decided to seek a teaching position. I accepted a position at Burrton, KS, a suburb of Hutchinson, KS. in 1958 and taught Math courses and Physics at that site for four years. While at Burrton I taught Vocational Machine Shop courses at Hutchinson Junior College two nights a week for adults that wanted to enter the machinist trade. I taught those courses for Hutchinson Junior College for at least 25 semesters.

Sputnik had been launched and our federal government was afraid that our young graduates from high school would not be prepared to match what Russia had done so the federal government launched a program to

support mathematics and science teachers and counselors for upgrading. Those government programs lasted a good while. I obtained one for the summer 1960 to attend KSU and was able to apply those credits to obtain a Master's Degree in 1962 from PSU.

After I received my MS I was interested in becoming a High School Coordinator with schools that accepted work experience toward a High School Diploma. I proceeded to return the keys for the Juco shop to the Vocational Director. He did not want me to leave- he wanted me to teach machine shop for high school seniors. He called the Hutchinson high school principal, in my presence, and told him to make room for me to teach machine shop for seniors at the High School. I taught that course along with others such as welding, sheet metal, foundry and shop math for three years. At the end of three years I was not happy with the situation so the vocational director assigned me to teach technical math and technical physics for their enrollees there. I taught those community college courses for 13 years.

I mentioned using a number of funded workshop courses at various universities to obtain my PhD. Colorado State used all of those credits for the degree. I first attended CSU in the summer of 1969. After that the State of Kansas had two funded positions for three years each to work on a doctorate. I applied and was awarded one of those. The other position was awarded to female instructor who chose to go to Ohio State. The problem was that I only needed one year to complete the degree. After checking with all concerned, the Department Chair for CSU's Vocational department suggested I decline the position and allow a young male instructor from Derby to take it. The department chair said CSU would take care of me. And, they did take care of me. My tuition was waived. I taught a class each semester either on campus or in Denver and was paid for teaching them. My doctoral fees were waived but I had to pay a person that was involved with processing dissertations. I had it all typed but needed to follow all the procedures. This person knew them and did a very nice job for me

To complete a Doctorate one needs to defend one's Dissertation in front of a Dissertation Committee. I had a good committee and got along well with the committee. I had no problem with the organization of the Dissertation or the material presented in it.

So, I received my BS in 1962, my MS in 1962 and my PhD in 1972. I went to work at my first teaching position at Burrton in Fall 1958, moved to Hutch High in 1962, and moved to Hutch Juco in 1965. I accepted the teaching position at PSU in fall 1978 and returned to my roots. However, I had taught Extension Classes for PSU in Hutchinson for some time and had large enrollments.

While working for PSU I taught on campus courses as well as extension classes at Wichita, Hutchinson, McPherson and Salina in Central Kansas. I taught classes in Topeka, Atchinson, Kansas City, KS, Leavenworth, and Lansing in Eastern Kansas. I traveled in excess of 250,000 miles to deliver those classes. I drove my own vehicle and was reimbursed for the mileage. There were four (4) teachers in the department. We rotated instructors so that the same ones did not teach at any of the locations.

I developed, with the assistance of my younger son, video taped individual instructions for some of my classes so that some instructors could take a course when they could not attend those extension classes. My son, Lloyd, whom assisted me with the videotapes, is now an Associate Producer at KTWU in Topeka, KS

In fall 1978 I was employed as the Director of the Kansas Vocational Curriculum Center located on PSU's Campus. I had a secretary and hired under graduate student help to print, collate, and distribute Vocational Material to teachers throughout the state. I also applied for grants to support the secretary and the stu-

dents who worked for me in the center. The grants also provided funds to employ graduate students that wished to attend PSU on an advanced degree whether it was for a Master's Degree or an Education Specialist Degree. I had some very good graduate students that conducted a lot of research for the State of Kansas.

I enjoyed that position until our Department head wanted me to do some things that I thought were illegal. I told him so. Therefore, I ceased to be the Director of the Curriculum Center and assumed the duties of as the Head of Graduate work in the Voc-Tech department. I would not conduct business that I thought was illegal.

As head of Graduate Work in the Voc-Tech Department I had over 100 graduate students enrolled in some graduate classes when I could retire. I retired with the idea that I would teach for the department for 4 or 5 years until all my advisee's graduated. I was considered an adjunct professor and could obtain a lesser salary so I did not have to return some of it back to the IRS. During that time I had one class per week in the evening and on Saturday's so graduate students could come on campus to enroll in Methods of Research. I also taught for a Virtual College in California. I had students from around the world in their Masters' Degrees Programs. I also taught a number of service men that needed a MS degree for advancement. I had one Hospital Administrator from Indiana. He was a very brilliant man. Most of those students were very good students. I taught for that Virtual College for about 10 years. During the last few years I only taught a course in Methods of Research.

I was blessed in the field of Education. Before it was over, I attended Pittsburg State, Kansas State, Kansas University, Wichita State, Emporia State, The University of Illinois, The University of Arkansas, and obtained credits from Colorado State University and from Old Dominion University for work I was involved with at NASA in Virginia.



New Pavilion Is Complete

A short dedication was held at the last fall festival at the new pavilion in the McCune cemetery. If you recall this was a project of the community and the alumni sponsored through the non-profit status of the McCune Alumni.

Thank you to all the volunteers, donors and the city of McCune for making this facility possible.



Order Blank

Remember: We are now a tax-exempt organization and all checks must be made to the McCune Alumni Association INC.

Please clip and mail with your check to: Kathy Stewart • Box 122 • McCune, KS 66753 by September 23, 2024.

Please help Kathy by sending one of your return address labels (if you have some) for EACH ticket you purchase.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/email: _____

Tickets For \$100:

Six for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each _____ = \$ _____
(You do **NOT** need to be present to win \$100)

Tickets for the BlackStone grill:

Six for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each _____ = \$ _____
(You **MUST** be present to win the grill)

Reservations for the Alumni Dinner :

Cost per person = \$12.50 X _____ dinners = \$ _____

Alumni Donation (\$10.00) tax free = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

All Alumni are Invited to Join the Steering Committee

See You
at the
Alumni Dinner
on Saturday evening,
September 28.

Ask Kathy Stewart to
reserve a table
for your class at the dinner.
We have a lot of fun, and each year
there's something different.

Published by

The McCune Alumni Association, Inc.

Box 122

McCune KS 66753



stamp

ADDRESS LABEL

Return Service Requested

Log on the McCune Alumni Website at:
mccunealumni.org
We'll keep you posted on coming events.
July, 2024, Newsletter

Please Note:

If we are to continue our custom of awarding scholarships to McCune kids, we need your donations- \$10.00 per alum is suggested. Send your donations to Kathy Stewart.

Why not consider a memorial donation in honor of a loved one, or as a class legacy? Contact Kathy.

Address Changed? Addition to a class list? Something for the 2024 newsletter? Update for the web page?

Contact Sharon Leonard:

295 W 570 Avenue • Girard KS 66743

620.724.8531

email: aleonard@ckt.net

We need articles for the newsletter. Why not write about your years at McCune High, or about the town.

Tell about your prom, your favorite teacher, your sporting seasons and events. Or, tell us what you've been doing since graduation, or, write good things about a McCune friend or classmate.

Send your items to Sharon Leonard.

McCune Fall Festival September 27-29, 2024

•September 27, Friday evening after 5:00. Bean Feed.

The beans will be cooked by Lions Club members and available at the derby grounds just north of McCune on highway 126. All Alumni are encouraged to meet there and join the fun. Bring your lawn chair, dish and spoon. It's always a great time.

•September 28, Saturday morning: 10:30

Grand parade. Main street

(Bicycle and pet parade held before.)

•September 28, Saturday afternoon 2:00 to 4:00

All-Alumni and guests

McCune City Park.

Bring lawn chair

The Alumni Association will host

•September 28, Saturday evening: 4:30, eat at 5:00

All-alumni & guests dinner- \$12.50 per person

McCune Community Center

•September 28, Saturday evening: 6:00 at the

Community Center. Free to all alumni and guests:

All-alumni meeting. Honoring the 50 year class, 1974, awarding of scholarships and updates.

•September 29, Sunday morning: 11:00

Community Church Service