

HOMECOMING 2018 September 14-15

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JIMMY DEE AND THE FABULOUS DESTINATIONS

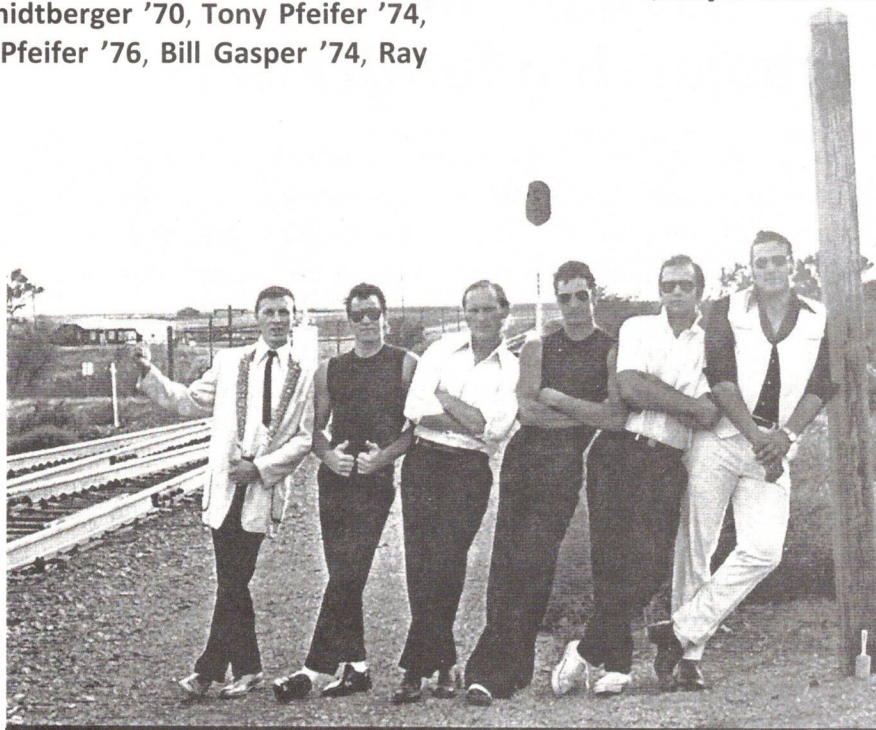
This year at the 2018 Victoria High Alumni Banquet, there will be only one recipient inducted into the VHS Hall of Fame. However, that recipient will be a band that all of Victoria is proud of — Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations.

The individuals who comprised the original band are **Jim Schmidtberger '70, Tony Pfeifer '74, Tim Pfeifer '76, Bill Gasper '74, Ray**

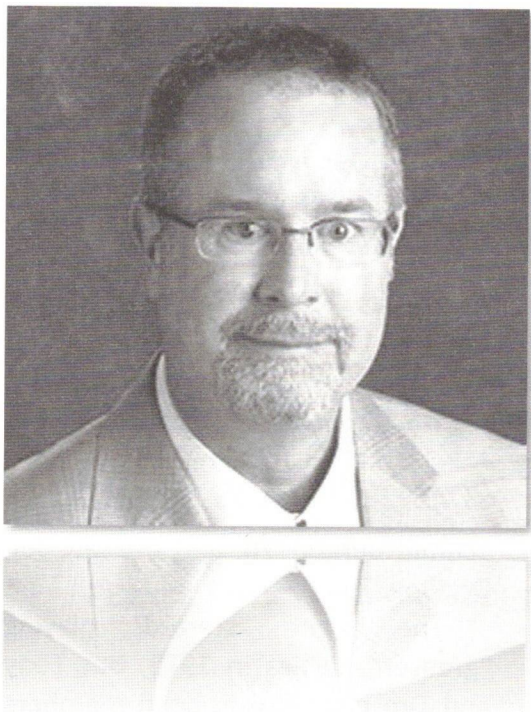
Schmidtberger '70, and the late Joe Dreiling '76.

The band started playing "greaser" parties in 1975, but Tony and Tim had already been members of their father's band, the Tony "Red" Pfeifer Polka Band, along with Bill and Joe. They would occasionally

Jimmy ... continued on Page 3



USD 432 Superintendent Ottley to retire this summer



Current USD 432 superintendent and long-time Victoria teacher, David Ottley, has announced his intention to retire at the end of June. Mr. Ottley will have the rare distinction of spending his entire career with the same school district. After graduating from Fort Hays State University, Mr. Ottley began his career in 1984 as a 5th grade teacher. Even as he was teaching the youth of Victoria, Mr. Ottley continued his own education at FHSU earning a master's degree in educational administration. In 1999, Mr. Ottley became a half-time teacher and half-time principal, sharing the principal duties with Linda Kenne, who spent the other half of her day as superintendent.

When Mrs. Kenne retired in 2015, Mr. Ottley was elevated to the dual role of superintendent and grade-school principal. Mr. Ottley has been described as one of a kind, and the Victoria school system is a better place because he chose to remain here for all those years. The Alumni Board wishes David all the best in his retirement and a big "THANK YOU" for a job well done!

Alumni support scholarship fundraisers

It is no secret that one of the primary purposes of the Alumni Association is to provide scholarships for graduating seniors. The two main sources of funding for these scholarships are the golf tournament and the annual raffle that is held at the alumni banquet. Once again the alumni were very supportive of both fundraisers, and the Alumni Association will be able to hand out four \$1000 scholarships to members of the class of 2018. The 2018 scholarship recipients will be announced in the fall newsletter.

2017 Raffle Winners

\$500 . . . Rita Rome Gross '47
 \$400 . . . Theresa Dreiling Ellis '57
 \$300 . . . Jeff '79 and Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82
 \$200 . . . Mark Windholz '84
 \$100 . . . Meleah Fehling, grand-daughter of Damian Schulte '59

2018 Upcoming Events

~ FIDELISFEST ~
 Sunday, April 22

~ HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS NIGHT ~
 Wednesday, May 9

~ ALUMNI-SPONSORED
 SENIOR BARBEQUE ~
 Friday, May 11

~ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION ~
 Sunday, May 13

~ HERZOGFEST ~
 Friday-Saturday, August 3-4

~ VHS HOMECOMING 2018 ~
 Friday-Saturday, September 14-15

JIMMY DEE . . .

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divert from the polka and waltz repertoire by playing a rock and roll number. After a few fun practice sessions with Jim, who at that time was in the band The British Hosters, the band now found their lead singer. Even though Ray wasn't the band's first bass guitar player, it wasn't too long before he assumed that position.

After Tony came up with the name Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations, the band was on its way. The band played its first major dance at the bar Skips, in Ellis, and members of the band were surprised when a large crowd attended. For future dances performed at the bar, the owner constructed a big building to hold the large crowds. It didn't take long for their destinations to increase across the state, and for the band to become extremely popular. They were now famous.

As time went on, the band didn't just play and sing 50's and 60's music. Added to their performance were colorful attire and energetic choreography, along with fun contests to get their fans more involved.

After years of success, the band decided to break up with most reasons being of a personal nature. Jim decided to start The Jimmy Dee Band, which took members to Europe and Honduras, while Tim and Tony started the band The Heat, which landed them a couple



of performances on the national TV show *Star Search*. The Pfeifer brothers also created another band which remains currently popular, Anthony and the Anamals. In 2000, however, the band decided they would reunite again as Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations.

During their original time together, the band cut a 45 record which featured on one side the single song "Eleanor," written by **Tom Billinger '68**, while the other side was the song "Gonna Have a Party Tonight," written by Tony Pfeifer. They also recorded an album simply titled *Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations*. For their second get-together, they recorded two albums: *Roundtrip* and *Summer Fun*. During both times the band has been together, it has had other musicians fill in at times, and various people helped with the sound, lighting, and staging, including VHS alumni, **Wayne**

Billinger '73, Don Hart '76, and Brad Wagner '76.

In 2014, Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations were granted the honor of being inducted into the Kansas Music Hall of Fame in Lawrence.

They will be playing the alumni Homecoming dance following the banquet free of charge in gratitude for what the Victoria community has done for them over the years; however, they will take donations, which, in turn, they will donate to the Victoria High School music program.

Much of the information in this article was taken from the Leon Frank Productions DVD, *Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations Biography*. Leon did a great job on this DVD, and it is an excellent watch.

(leonfrankstudio@yahoo.com)

Marvin Dreiling, Grand Marshal shares memories of school in 1940s

The 2017 homecoming parade was led by **1943** graduate, **Marvin Dreiling**, doing the distinguished honors and duties of grand marshal.

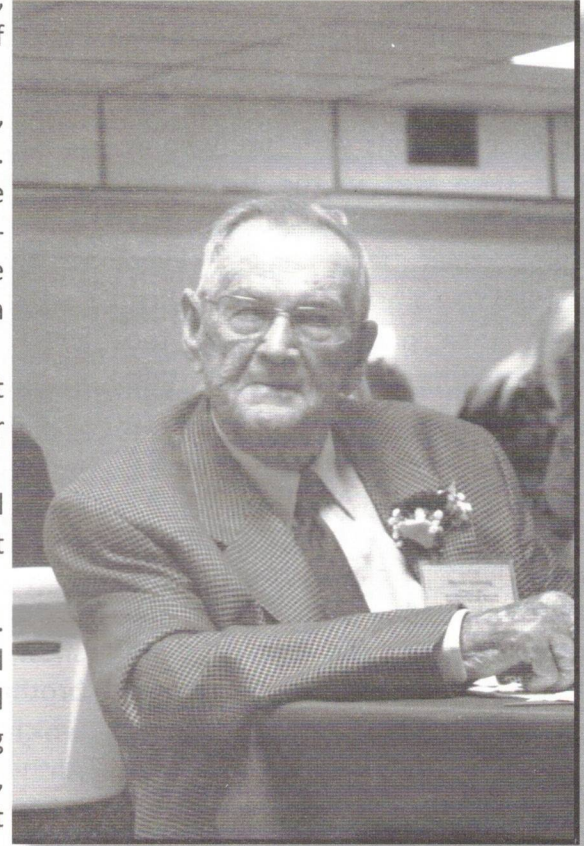
Marvin, along with his wife of 64 years, Dorothy, and daughters, Karen, Kay, and Kristie, and their spouses, all attended the banquet. They were married in 1954. From this marriage came their five children, six grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Marvin was the third child of Alphonse and Sophie Dreiling in a family of 12. All but one of his siblings graduated from Victoria High School.

High school times have changed immensely since the days that Marvin walked the halls. Banquet goers were treated to hear personal recollections of what school and life was like back in 1943.

Marvin was very proud of the fact that he lettered in baseball and basketball and had a beautiful letter sweater; unfortunately, it was lost in a fire of the Dreiling home back in the 40's.

Marvin was a student under County Superintendent Joseph T. Pfeifer. Hyacinth Roth was Marvin's principal as well as the manual training teacher and his coach for baseball and basketball. (Football was not yet offered at Victoria.) Marvin remembered competing against high schools in Schoenchen, Gorham, Dorrance, Bunker Hill, Luray, Wilson, and Waldo. Scholastically, Sr. Almeda Kuhn taught Advanced Algebra, his favorite class, and that is why Sr. Almeda was also his favorite teacher.

Band was taught by Charlie Bahl. Marvin played trombone and was very proud of his Franklin Trombone.



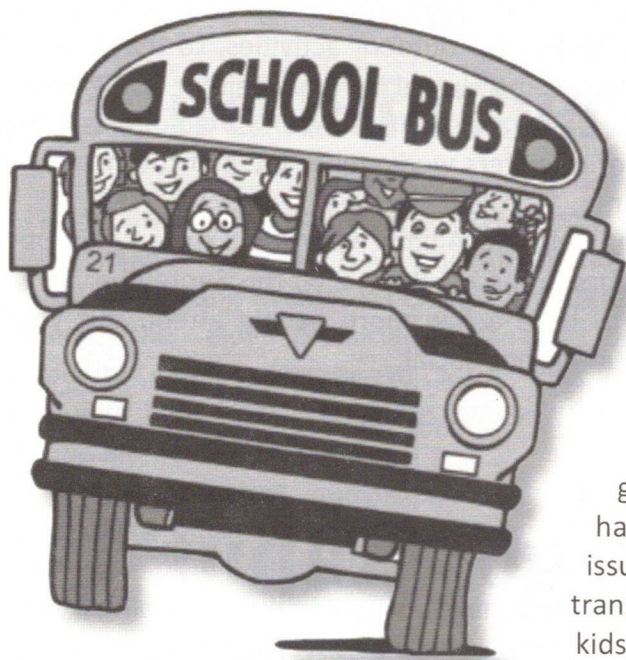
Members of Marvin Dreiling's family attended the banquet to help him celebrate his distinction as parade grand marshal.

After graduation Marvin was drafted into the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He spent his time after basic training in Frankfurt, Germany, as a chauffeur for ranking military personnel.

What an honor and privilege to have him and his family at the annual alumni banquet. At the ripe young age of 92, Marvin spoke strongly and clearly into the microphone with gratitude and appreciation, stating that regardless of where life took him, Victoria would always be his home.

Bus troubles plague VHS boys & girls BB teams

Hoisington comes to their rescue twice



Both of the Victoria High School boys and girls basketball teams had a poor start to the eight team 2018 Hoisington Winter Jam.

The boys lost to Ellsworth in their opener, and fell to LaCrosse to settle into the seventh place game. Likewise, the girls also fell to Ellsworth and then lost to Pratt to "advance" to the consolation game. Little did both teams know that their troubles were just beginning.

The teams left Victoria on a mild January morning for the consolation games a few hours prior to tip time. About 15 miles from Hoisington, their bus broke down. The driver was able to get to the side of the road safely, but now came the realization that help would be needed to get everyone the rest of the way to Hoisington.

Parents arriving at the scene of the broken down bus stopped and inquired if they could just take the Victoria athletes to the games, but that cannot happen due to liability issues with the transportation of school kids. Besides, the Hoisington district had already dispatched one of their buses towards the stranded Victoria bus, and it would take the teams to their games.

At about the same time, a different Victoria bus and one suburban headed towards Hoisington to bring the kids home after their games.

Once the Victoria kids were back on their way, thanks to the Hoisington bus, **Justin Scheck '96** took a look at the problem with the stricken vehicle. He thought that it was simply a blown radiator hose.

When VHS custodian **Wade**

Schmidtberger '00 arrived with the replacement bus, he and Justin were able to take off the broken hose. Now it was just a matter of finding a store that was open on Saturday.

Once again, the town of Hoisington had the answer as its auto parts store was able to find a matching hose for the broken down Victoria bus.

The best news of the day was that both Victoria teams were able to defeat Ellinwood and they headed back home victorious.

Scholarship Committee Changes

Stacy Schmidtberger '94 has decided that 22 years as a member of the scholarship committee was sufficient, and she has resigned her seat. Stacy was the "senior" member of the scholarship committee, with her service dating back to the 1996 scholarship selections.

To replace Stacy, the Alumni Board of Directors has decided to increase the number of members on the scholarship committee to six, with **DeAnn Leiker Meyers '84** and **Peggy VonFeldt Klaus '89** joining the team. Not to add any pressure to the new recruits, but to match Stacy's 22 years of service, DeAnn and Peggy would need to help make the scholarship selections from now until 2040.

Ain't hardly nobody showed up!

On the Friday of homecoming, the Alumni Association opens the doors of the Victoria V.F.W. as a place for people to gather prior to the homecoming parade. Crowds can vary from year to year, and the Alumni Board can never guess how many people to expect for the afternoon. It is pretty safe to say, that the 2017 crowd will likely be the smallest ever.

The turnout was a grand total of 4. If you include Alumni Board members, that bumps the grand total up to 8.

To prove how low the attendance was, here is a listing of all those who were present last year on Friday afternoon: **Harold Roth '67** and his wife Beverly, **Cora Braun Schulte '55**, and **Ken Braun '52**, along with

board members **Rose Dreiling Rifford '70**, **Diana Braun Schmidtberger '78**, **LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80**, and **John Schulte '96**.

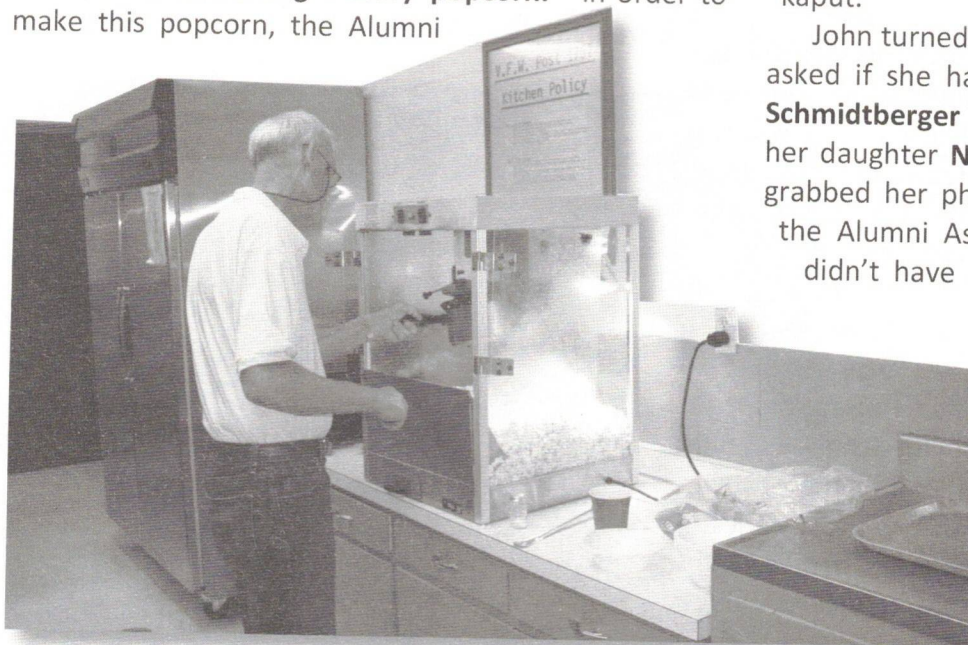
There were some uncontrollable factors that played into the small attendance. The weather was nearly perfect for outdoor activities, so that probably prompted some alumni to remain either at the park or at their classmate's houses. Another factor was a large number of golfers were still at the golf tournament at that time.

Oh, well, the Alumni Board will once again open the doors to the V.F.W. at 2:00 this September 14 and hope to have a few more people attend this year's Friday afternoon social.

And then . . .

Popcorn machines go "kaput"!

Due to the low turnout of the Friday afternoon social (see above article), the Alumni Board began to set up the V.F.W. Hall in hopes of a bigger crowd after the homecoming game. One of the items that people really look forward to after the game is Rich Billinger's famous "**homecoming victory popcorn.**" In order to make this popcorn, the Alumni



Rich Billinger '68 makes popcorn at the Victoria V.F.W. Hall for those who came after the Homecoming football game to visit and catch up on classmates lives.

Association borrows the V.F.W.'s large popcorn popper. When the closet it has been housed in for years was found locked, **John Schulte '96** made a quick call to V.F.W. caretaker Harland Rupp. Harland informed John that the V.F.W.'s popcorn machine was "kaput."

John turned to **Diana Braun Schmidtberger '78** and asked if she had any ideas. She said her son **Wade Schmidtberger '00** had a popcorn machine as well as her daughter **Nikki Schmidtberger Stramel '98**. Diana grabbed her phone and asked Wade if he would let the Alumni Association borrow his machine. Wade didn't have a problem with that, but he thought that Nikki's popper was the better one to use.

Diana dialed her daughter to see where her machine was. Nikki's son, **Taylor Stramel '16**, was borrowing it, and he had it at his house south of Gorham. Taylor said he'd bring the popper by the V.F.W. at 6:30. Right on time, the machine showed up,



Band numbers climbing upward

Facing dwindling numbers for several years, the band class at VHS didn't have enough members to perform at sporting events. When this first became a problem, the elder musicians in the Victoria community came together to form the Victoria Community Band, but that group also saw declining numbers after a few years.

The annual spring concert for displaying the musical ability of the students is now a memory. There are a few soloists and small groups that still perform for the public at awards night. However, some of those performances are now utilizing smart phones for their accompaniment instead of a piano.

Luke Johnson was hired as music teacher for the Victoria schools in 2015, and he has spearheaded the rejuvenation of the Victoria music program. Numbers

have increased for the band and, thankfully, the pep band has reappeared at home basketball games and has been a welcome addition. Part of the reason for the increase of musicians is the fact that grades 7 through 12 are housed in the same building, and the formerly split Junior High band and High School band have been combined into one unit.

To assist the relaunch of the music program, Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations have agreed to play at this year's alumni dance at no cost. In return, they request that donations be made towards the school music program. The Alumni Board will also donate the money usually set aside for the Homecoming band to the music program. Additional details about how you can donate will follow in the fall newsletter.

Popcorn machines go "kaput"!

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and many of the Alumni Board members began getting the backup popper cleaned and ready. Once everything had been cleaned, it was time to start making popcorn, and Nikki's popper was plugged in.

An immediate large blue spark was seen by everyone watching, and a look went around the room of "did that really just happen?" The circuit breaker for that outlet had been tripped, so the popper was plugged into a different outlet, hoping for a better result. This time the machine turned on, ran for about ten seconds, and then shot out another blue spark.

It was time to go to the third option of the day, and

check again if Wade would allow his popcorn machine to be trusted with the Alumni Association.

Wade stopped by the V.F.W., looked his sister's machine over, and agreed that it wouldn't be making any popcorn on that day. He cautiously allowed his machine to be turned over to the alumni and gave instructions on the nuances of this particular popper.

Once again, many board members gave a quick cleaning, and the third popcorn machine of the day ran perfectly all night—with none of Friday night's guests aware of the chaos that occurred just prior to their arrival.

Class Notes



1940's

Class of 1948, we would like to congratulate you on your upcoming 70th class reunion from Victoria Rural High School. Homecoming is set for September 14th and 15th. Remember to take advantage of the raffle tickets which are so vital to our scholarship fund.

1950's

Edna Schmidtberger Ptacek '50 says she is, "Just enjoying their six children and spouses, 24 grandchildren and spouses and significant others, plus 40 great-grandchildren, plus seven step-grandchildren and 18 step-great-grandchildren. "Lots of good times together. We have been blessed."

Alice Sander Rohr '52 sends greetings from her home in Mission, Texas, where she lives with her husband Al. She sends her regrets that she and Al were unable to attend her 65th reunion as medical issues prevented them from attending. She expressed sincere thanks to the Alumni Board for the wonderful gatherings at homecoming and to the newsletter committee for updating everyone on former classmates. She looks forward to receiving her newsletter.

Class of 1953, hopefully, we will be seeing some of you at homecoming in the fall. We know many of you are still very active members of your communities and would enjoy getting together with your classmates for your 65th class reunion. Begin making plans for September 14th and 15th. Send us your family news and remember to purchase the raffle tickets for a chance to win the \$500 prize and support our scholarship fund.

Sister Janis Wagner '57 celebrated her 56th anniversary as a Sister of St. Joseph in Concordia, Kansas on August 15th.

Frank Mermis '57 and Mary, his wife of 58 years, enjoyed Homecoming 2017, along with his classmates

who celebrated their 60th reunion. This past June, Frank had the opportunity to visit six different countries with the Hays International Travel Agency, along with his daughter and granddaughter. His most cherished highlight of the entire trip was his visit to the Vatican.

Class of 1958, we want you to begin planning for your 60th class reunion. The homecoming dates have been set for September 14th and 15th. We are anxious to have you join us. Keep us updated and send in your news of happenings in your life. Remember to send in raffle tickets to support our scholarship fund.

1960's

Class of 1963, it is your turn to be honored on the occasion of your 55th class reunion. Homecoming 2018 will take place on the weekend of September 14th and 15th. You have a very close-knit class, and let's see if this can be a repeat performance of your 50th reunion. Raffle tickets are available in this newsletter. This fund is crucial for our scholarship fund.

Judith Braun Evans '63 is enjoying her retirement and being a grandmother and great-grandmother. She spends her time visiting family in Phoenix, Chicago, South Dakota, Topeka, and Wamego.

Ken '65 and his wife, **Patty Dreiling Dreiling '66**, celebrated 50 years of marriage on November 18, 2017.

Mary Gemma Rome Keberlein '67 and her husband John are finding enjoyment riding their Harley Trike. This past summer they took part in the Run for the Wall from California to Washington D.C. and then went on to tour the New England states. Mary Gemma has been retired for six years and John is semi-retired. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Marion Miller '67 retired from Midwest Energy Inc. in January of 2016.

Class Notes

continued

Alfred Jacobs '67 graduated from the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1971. He was an officer in the Navy for 6 years. He married his wife, Jane, in 1974. They have two children and four grandchildren. Alfred is retired after 31 years in operations management at Altria and Clorox. They are living in Louisville, Kentucky.

Wayne Wellbrock '67 retired in 2016 after 47 years in the feed lot industry.

Class of 1968!! You are front and center as the **50-year honor class** for Homecoming 2018. Last year's honor class had a fantastic representation. Hopefully, you will be able to match their spirit and enthusiasm with a good number in attendance for all the homecoming events. Save the date for September 14th and 15th. You should all have a class picture of your graduating class which will be posted in the newspaper and on the VHS website. Yes, it is your class, the Class of 68, which had the foresight to get this Victoria High School Alumni Association started. We thank you.

Class of '69 – Get ready for number 50! Just one year away from this landmark.

1970's **Class of 1973**, it's time for a class reunion and it's number 45. Can you believe that? We would love to have you join in the fun on September 14th and 15th.

Mitch Weber '75 and his wife, **Julie Brungardt Weber '79**, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on April 17, 2017. They have three grandsons.

Kathy Dreiling Amrein '76 announces the wedding of her daughter, Hannah Dreiling, to Nick Schmidt on December 30, 2017. Hannah is the daughter of Kathy and the late **Frank H. Dreiling '68**. **Cora Braun Schulte '55** is Hannah's grandmother.

Class of 1978, hopefully you will want to be part of Homecoming 2018 to celebrate your 40th class reunion. Wow! Your class roster goes on and on. We are expecting to see you out in record numbers.

Rick Sander '79 and wife, Cheryl, are grandparents to four amazing grandchildren. Rick and Cheryl have been married 33 years and live in Spearman, Texas. Rick is the son of **Vernon '54** and **Celeste Windholz Sander '60**.

Jane Baier Schumacher '79 and her husband, Brian, are proud to announce the birth of a new granddaughter, Blair Maria, born to their son and his wife, Dustin and Becky Schumacher.

1980's **Kona Austin Errebo '81** and her husband, Greg, have moved from Hugoton, Kansas, to Mission, Kansas, where Kona accepted a job as a middle school librarian in the Kansas City, Kansas, school system. She and Greg will be celebrating 35 years of marriage in May of 2018.

Class of 1983, it is class reunion time; number 35 to be exact. VHS Homecoming weekend is always a great time. Get your calendars marked for September 14th and 15th. It's not too early to get your class excited for all the events.

Leann Rajewski Fortino '85 is excited to become a grandmother. Her oldest son, Jonathan, and his wife, Cassi, welcomed their first child, Isaiah Francis, in November.

Pam Schrant Irwin '87 and her husband, Darren, recently moved to Junction City. Pam has accepted a position with the Geary County Public Schools as executive director of teaching and learning. They recently returned from a trip to Europe to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.

Class of 1988, it is reunion time. Hope to see you back in the area to celebrate your 30th class reunion. September 14th and 15th are the dates scheduled for this year's event. Send in your news to keep us in touch and take advantage of the raffle tickets to help support the scholarship fund.

Class Notes

continued

Shanna Robben Dinkel '89 was named Business Woman of the Year for 2018 at the annual Hays Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet. Shanna is the Assistant Superintendent for Hays schools USD 489. She and her husband **Kurt Dinkel '86** have three children, **Brady '16**, Ally, a junior at Victoria High School, and Emma, a 4th grader at Victoria Elementary. Her parents are **Steve '67** and **Fran Miller Robben '67**.

1990's **Class of 1993**, we hope you realize that you will be honored as the **25-year honor class** for homecoming 2018. Your Alumni Board has been busy making plans for the weekend of September 14th and 15th and we hope you are doing the same. You will have a spot on the program to boast about your years at VHS. You will share in the anniversary of the Alumni Association. It will be the 25th anniversary of the alumni organization.

Class of 1998, it is time to be thinking about coming home for your 20th class reunion. We always have a great turnout for the 20-year class and your close-knit class should be no exception. Let us know if we can get you a class list. Be sure to check www.victoriaalumni.com for the names and addresses of many of your classmates.

James Seitz '98 and his wife, Elizabeth, announce the birth of a son, Samuel Warner, born in Lee's Summit, Missouri, September 27, 2017. Samuel has two brothers, Jack, 10, and Max, 8, and two sisters, Kate, 6, and Madelyn, 3. His grandparents are Steve and **Deb Braun Seitz '72**.

2000's **Jesse '02** and his wife, **Audrey Unrein Lewis '01**, announce the birth of a daughter, Addilyn Kim, born September 26, 2017. She has three older brothers, Braden, 11; Keaton, 8; and Jaxon, 3. Grandparents are Glen and **Michele Schumacher Unrein '81** and **Norman '78** and **Pam Braun Scheck '80**. Great-grandparents are Arlyn and **Clarita Dreiling Schumacher '58**, Francis and **Charlene Braun Unrein '63**, and **Alfred "Fritz" '56** and Anita Braun.

Alicia Denning Kelley '02 and her husband, **Michael '01**, sent an update of their family. A daughter, Ava, is now three years old and her brother, Owen Lee, was born September 2, 2016.

Molly Quint '02 and Levi Wilkens were married September 9, 2017, in Victoria at the Basilica of St. Fidelis. Molly received her bachelors in nursing from the University of Kansas and works at Hays Medical Center. Levi is a graduate of Rawlins County High School in Atwood. He is a realtor in Hays.

Class of 2003, be sure to mark the calendar for September 14th and 15th. It was 15 years ago that you graduated from VHS. Come and join in the fun-filled weekend and get caught up on families and careers.

Cory Unrein '03 and his wife, Tiffany, announce the birth of a son, Max Allan, born November 5, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. Grandparents are Glen and **Michele Schumacher Unrein '81**. Great-grandparents are Arlyn and **Clarita Dreiling Schumacher '58** and Francis and **Charlene Braun Unrein '63**.

Andrea Robben Felder '04 and her husband Nick, announce the birth of twins—a son, Rhett James, and a daughter, Remmi Marie—born August 27, 2017, in Topeka. Grandparents are **Jim '77** and Crystal Berens **Robben**.

Jessica Kuhn '05 and Britton Beims were married October 7, 2017, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis, Victoria. Jessica graduated from Fort Hays State University with a degree in accounting and finance. She is employed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. as a financial institution examiner of compliance in Salt Lake City. Britton is a 2008 graduate of Concordia High School and a 2011 graduate of Cloud County Community College with a degree in general studies and a 2015 graduate of Fort Hays State University with a degree in political science. He is an employment discrimination investigator for the state of Utah. Jessica is the daughter of **Marvin Kuhn '64**.

Class Notes

continued

David Tholen '05 and his wife, Samantha, announce the birth of their son, Lauren Jeffery, born November 15, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. He has a brother, Luke, 2 years old. Lauren's grandparents are **Tom '74** and **Janice Schmidtberger Tholen '77**.

Dacia Schiesser Haselhorst '07 and her husband, Dallas, announce the birth of a daughter, Ayla, born August 29, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. Ayla was welcomed home by three sisters, Gianna 7, Aria 5, and Ellia, 2 years old.

Class of 2008, begin making plans for your 10-year reunion from Victoria High School. You are our youngest honor class and the future of Victoria Alumni Association. You need to be thinking of a spokesperson to tell us about the mighty Class of 2008. You have bragging rights as the 10-year reunion class. We hope to see many of you for homecoming festivities on September 14th and 15th.

Cole Dreiling '08 and his wife, **Corinna Gagnon Dreiling '09**, announce the birth of a daughter, Lennox Ann, born November 10, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. Her grandparents are **Joe '84** and **Brenda Dreiling**. Great-grandparents are **Norman '55** and **JoAnn Dreiling**.

Brittany Goetz '09 and Jared Dakin were married September 30, 2017, at the Rumely Tractor Historic Event Space in Kansas City, Missouri. Brittany received a bachelor of nursing degree from Washburn University and is a registered nurse at Overland Park Regional Hospital. Her husband, Jared, graduated from Emporia High School and received a degree in Construction Science from Kansas State University. He is a construction Sales/Project Manager at McConnell and Associates. Brittany is the daughter of **Rod '82** and **Maria Dreiling Goetz '86**.

Jordan Robben '09 and Kaylee Pittenger announce the birth of their daughter, Sophie Kay, born October 17, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. Her grandparents are **Rick '76** and **Marla Brungardt Robben '78**.

2010's **Cara Braun '10** and Kevin Shivers were married November 18, 2017, in Manhattan, Kansas. Cara is a graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in clinical laboratory science. She and her husband are employed at North Kansas City Hospital as laboratory scientists. Kevin is a graduate of Clay Center High School and received a degree in clinical laboratory science from Kansas State University. Cara is the daughter of **John '84** and **Connie Braun** and the granddaughter of **John '49** and **Josie Braun**.

Steven Hotaling '11 and his wife, Alyssa, were married August 26, 2016. They are currently residing in Enterprise, Alabama. Steven is serving in the United States Army as an air traffic controller specialist. Steven is the son of **Joe '81** and **Gail Robben**.

Jordan Bleske '11 and his wife, Kylie, announce the birth of a son, Kelton Andrew, born August 17, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. Grandparents are Calvin and **Sharon Kuhn Bleske '83**.

Kaley Goetz '12 received her bachelor's degree of nursing from Washburn University. She is a registered nurse at the University of Kansas Medical Center in the hematology, oncology, and blood and marrow transplant units. Kaley is the daughter of **Rod '82** and **Maria Dreiling Goetz '86**.

Kameron Dinkel '11 and Natalie Hauber were married November 18, 2017, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis. Kameron is the son of **Dale '83** and **Kris Newton Dinkel '86**.

Class of 2013, you have made it to the first milestone as members of the Victoria Alumni Association, that being the 5-year reunion class. Your classmates would love to hear what you've been up to. It is time to think about returning for Homecoming 2018.

Another good turnout for golf

By Randy Leiker '70

The 21st annual VHS Alumni Golf Classic was another huge success on the Friday. It was a great start to a fantastic Homecoming weekend. The weather was great and the nice fall temperatures and light wind were a perfect set up to some really low scores. The winning team shot a 58, 13 under par. The team members were **Blake Klaus '09, Garrett Dreiling '10, Cole Robben '09,** and Ryan McCullik. Second place went to **Glen Dinkel '82, Ray Bombadier '84, Mark Robben '82,** and Even Eeaverling shooting a 60, 11 under par. The 3rd place team, shooting a 61, consisted of **James Rohleder '81, David Dreiling '81, Kelsey Robben Morrow '07,** and Lance Morrow.

We had a total of 18 teams in 2017 which is a really fantastic turnout and every one had a great time. Longest putt on hole number 1 went to **Alan Hoffman '67** with a putt of 34 feet 2 inches. I've golfed with Alan before and I don't think he can see that far; anyway, nice putt, Alan!!

Closest to the pin on number 18 was **Ron Kuhn '75** (43 inches). That man is a golfer! Longest putt on hole

15 went to **Marilyn Brungardt Braun '68** (11 feet 4 inches)—you go girl! And finally, the closest to the pin on hole 18 was **Robert Basgall '87** (6 feet), and he made the putt for a birdie 2.

To everyone that played, on behalf of the Alumni Board, thank you for supporting the VHS Alumni Scholarship Fund. A very big thank you goes out to **Rose Dreiling Rifford '70, Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76, Jane Baier Schumacher '79,** and **Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82.** These amazing ladies raised over \$4,000 for the Scholarship Fund. The Alumni Board works very hard every year to make the golf classic a truly special and memorable event and they hit it out of the park this year.

Thank you to my classmate **Jeanette Wagner Pfannenstiel '70** for starting the day off with her great cinnamon rolls, and Rich Guffy for providing the meal after the tournament. Also, thanks to **Dr. Rick Rajewski '69** for taking time from his busy day to help out with whatever needs to be done the morning of the tournament. Cousin Rick, you have no idea how much help you are in getting things off to a smooth start. And Sandy Goetz, you have been great seeing to

it that everyone gets registered and making sure the score cards are made out and teams organized. Thanks to Marge, Det, Rich, and all the Alumni Board members that take time out of their Friday to come out to the golf course to help, drive the infamous beverage cart, and make sure that everyone has a great time.

Okay that was last year, now is the time to prepare for another great VHS Alumni Golf Classic. This year the date will be September 14th. Put this date on your calendar—use red marker and circle it several times. Put the date in your phone and set reminders to go off every month so you don't forget to get your team together. And for those of you that still have to go to work every morning, be sure to ask the boss for Friday, September 14th off. Some of you may want to take more days off that week to practice up a little bit. You know who you are...

More details to come in the next newsletter. I hope to see you all there!!



Marilyn Brungardt Braun '68 (pictured third from left) had the longest putt on hole 15—11 feet 4 inches.

In Loving Memory

Phyllis Strecker died July 20, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. She is survived by two daughters, **Susan Strecker Nebel '77** and **Barbara Strecker-Guadreau '78**; two brothers; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Leroy "Gomer" Billinger '61 died July 30, 2017, at Trego Manor Nursing Home, WaKeeney. He is survived by a brother, **Donald '68**; his sisters, **Joyce Billinger Dinkel '71**, **Jeanette Billinger Schmidt '71**, and **Linda Billinger Stochl '75**; and several nieces and nephews.

Terry Suppes '69 died August 1, 2017, in Loveland, Colorado. He is survived by his wife, Pamela; three daughters; two brothers, **Ivan '72** and Galen; two sisters, **Carol Suppes Myers '65** and **Sheila Suppes Brackett '71**; and six grandchildren.

Harold Straub died August 12, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. Survivors include his wife, Eileen; four sons, **Ricky '78**, **DeLos '83**, Clint, and **Evan '90**; two brothers; one sister; ten grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Doris Rajewski Wellbrock '43 died August 16, 2017, at her home in New Iberia, Louisiana. She is survived by five sons; three daughters; 18 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Lialda Leiker (Mader) Walker '49 died August 17, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. She is survived by five sons; one daughter; two brothers, **Verlin Leiker '52** and **Joe Leiker '54**; one sister, **Lydia Leiker Wallace '48**; 15 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Joe Lang '44 died August 30, 2017, at the Brookdale Senior Living Solutions, Hays. Survivors include two sons, **Donald '75** and **Robert '80**; a daughter, **Marilyn Lang Nuss '82**; a sister, **Theresa Lang Dreiling '48**; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Verna Befort died August 31, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Vern; 3 sons; a brother, **Leroy Hoffman '53**; a sister, Henrietta Windholz; and eight grandchildren.

Leland Dinkel '58 died September 16, 2017, at Via Christi Village Care Center, Hays. Survivors include a son, **Dale '83**; three daughters, **Karla Dinkel Rohleder '81**, **Colleen Dinkel Kuhn '84**, and **Tammy Dinkel Dome '85**; two brothers, **Robert Dinkel '50** and **Leroy Dinkel '52**; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



Marie Bollig Schmidtberger '47 died September 20, 2017, at Via Christi/St. Francis Health Center, Wichita. Survivors include her husband, Robert L. Schmidtberger; six sons, **Jerry (associate member) '72**, **Leroy '74**, **Wayne '76**, **Ron '80**, and **Pat '82**; one daughter, **Judy Schmidtberger Rupp '69**; a brother, **Francis Bollig '59**; 15 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mildred Brungardt died October 11, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, **Paul '49**; one son, **Leon '72**; four daughters, **Carol Brungardt Cowger '71**, **Lois Brungardt Yunker '72**, **Wanda Brungardt '74**, and **Paula Brungardt Zwenger '78**; one sister; 11 grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and 8 step-great-grandchildren.

Clinton Kuhn '50 died October 13, 2017, in Great Bend, Kansas. He is survived by his wife, Leona, and four sons.

Bob Gerstner '63 died October 17, 2017, at his home in Hays. He is survived by his wife, **Twyla Stang Gerstner '63**; one son, **John '92**; one daughter, **Jackie Gerstner Leiker '86**; two granddaughters; and one brother, **Richard Gerstner Jr. '67**.

In Loving Memory

continued from page 13

LuVerna Stroemel Schmeidler '48 died October 23, 2017. She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Denis Hertel died October 31, 2017, at his home in Great Bend. He is survived by his wife, **Claudia Schulte Hertel '63**; two sons; two brothers; three sisters; and one granddaughter.

Robert Brown died November 15, 2017, at his home in Victoria. He is survived by his wife, **Lucy Dinkel Brown '65**; one son, **Michael '97**; three daughters, **La Donna Brown Braun '87**, Kimberly Brown, and **Bobbie Brown Phlieger '95**.

Frances Urban died November 17, 2017, at Cherry Village Nursing Home, Great Bend. She is survived by two sons, **Darrel '69** and David; two daughters, **Darletha Urban Zimmerman '66** and **Diane Urban Parker '73**; 11 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Mary Ann Adams died November 28, 2017, in Overland Park. Survivors include four daughters; one sister, **Ethel Stegman Younger '59**; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Frank Stremel '50 died November 28, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. Survivors include his wife, Helga; three sons; two sisters; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Edna Schulte Dreiling '42 died December 3, 2017, at Good Samaritan Society, Hays. Survivors include three sons, Rene, **Joel '72**, and **John '79**; two daughters, **Rose Dreiling Rifford '70**, and **Mary Dreiling Jones '81**; one sister; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Kenneth Riedel died December 3, 2017, at St. Anthony Hospital, Lakewood Colorado. Survivors include his wife, **Gerri Dreiling Riedel '67**; two daughters; three brothers; one sister; and two grandchildren.

Wilmer Rome died December 14, 2017, at Good Samaritan Nursing Facility, Hays. He is survived by one son; **Randy '88**; four daughters, **Diana Rome Waldschmidt '63**, **Dorothy Rome Taylor '73**, **Donna Rome Lovelady '73**, and **Betty Rome Hansen '76**; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Kathy Braun Edsall '69 died December 16, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, **Ivan Edsall '64**; one son, Jason Spiess; two daughters, **Kelly Spiess Wellbrock '00** and **Melanie Spiess '02**; one brother, **Dennis Braun '74**; four sisters, **Marilyn Braun Stoffel '72**, **Deb Braun Seitz '72**, **Rosie Braun Hammerschmidt '76**, and **Paula Braun Younker '78**; five grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren.

Stanley Stramel Jr. '89 died December 20, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by his parents, **Stan '69** and Patricia **Stramel**; one brother, **Stephen '95**; two sisters, **Stephanie Stramel Budig '92** and **Sarah Stramel '00**.

Elizabeth Kuhn Marcotte '63 died December 23, 2017, at her daughter's home in Silver Spring, Maryland. She is survived by one son; one daughter; a brother, **Richard Kuhn '67**; two sisters, **Margaret Kuhn Mader '71** and **Barbara Kuhn '75**; and two granddaughters.

Robert L. Schmidtberger died January 7, 2018, at his home. He is survived by six sons, **Jerry (associate member), Gary '72**, **Leroy '74**, **Wayne '76**, **Ron '80**, and **Pat '82**; one daughter, **Judy Schmidtberger Rupp '69**; 15 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

W. Pat Dreiling '49 died January 7, 2018, at Via Christi Village Care Center, Hays. He is survived by his wife, **Theresa Lang Dreiling '48**; three sons, **Paul '72**, **Keith '78**, and **Craig '81**; one daughter, **Carolyn Dreiling Berens '71**; a sister, **Mary Ellen Dreiling Williamson '57**; 13 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.



In Loving Memory

Mary Alice Knight '52 died January 10, 2018. She is survived by one son; three daughters; a brother, **Robert Brungardt '51**; two sisters, **Teresa Brungardt McDade '55** and **Venita Brungardt O'Conner '59**; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Neil Kuhn died January 10, 2018 at his home in Victoria. He attended Victoria High School with the Class of 58. He is survived by a brother Jim Kuhn; two sisters, **Helene Kuhn Staton '74** and **Carol Kuhn Weber '77**; and eight nieces and nephews.

Rubina Dinkel died January 11, 2018, at the Logan County Manor, Oakley. Survivors include four sons; a sister, **Lena Scheck Meder '56**; two brothers, Edwin Scheck and Linus Scheck; five grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; 8 step-great-grandchildren; and five step-great-great-grandchildren.

Eleanor Schippers '44 died January 15, 2018, at Via Christi Village Care Center, Hays. She is survived by a sister-in-law, **Rosalyn Pfeifer Schippers '45**, and many nieces and nephews.

Robert Nicholas, former teacher, died January 24, 2018, at the Parkview Care Center, Osborne, Kansas. Mr. Nicholas was the librarian at Victoria Elementary and Victoria High School and the faithful statistician for the Victoria High School athletics programs. He was a member of USD #432 faculty from 1984 until his retirement in 1994. He is survived by three daughters, Patty Nicholas, Cindy Nicholas Grieve, and **Kathy Nicholas '91**, and three grandchildren.

LeRoy Berens '56 died January 26, 2018. He is survived by five daughters; his brother, **Ronald Berens '61**; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Marietta Quint died January 28, 2018, at Hays Medical Center. Mrs. Quint taught English and journalism at Victoria High School from 1961 to 1963 and again from 1968 to 1976. She published the school year book and newspaper, was faculty advisor to the pep club and cheerleaders, and directed the annual school play. Mrs. Quint is survived by two sons, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

Jo Sanders died February 17, 2018, at her daughter's home in Bixby, Oklahoma. She is survived by a son, **Dan Prockish '70**; three daughters, **Brenda Sanders Reynolds '78**, **Gwen Sanders Hoffman '81**, and **Diane Sanders Kuhn '83**; nine grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Alfred L. Kuhn died February 22, 2018, at Good Samaritan Society, Hays. Survivors include his wife, Lucille; two sons, **Leon '74** and **Norbert '78**; two daughters, **Donna Kuhn '78** and **Diane Kuhn Unrein '83**; one brother; one sister; and four grandchildren.

Betty Dreiling Schmidt '54 died March 2, 2018, at Hays Medical Center. Survivors include one son; three daughters; a brother, Vince Dreiling; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Nominations suspended this year

The annual tradition of sending in hall of fame nominations is taking a one year break. Normally, the spring newsletter includes a form for nominating individuals to the Alumni Hall of Fame. However,

since Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations are being inducted, they will be the only hall of famers for 2018. Do not worry, if you desperately know of someone you'd like to see in the Hall of

Fame, you can still submit your nomination, as the alumni board reconsiders past nominations every year.

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**Alumni
Association**

25th

Anniversary

This fall will mark the 25th anniversary of the Victoria Alumni Association. It doesn't seem like all that long ago that the association was created, but it was the fall of 1993 when **Rich Billinger '68** and **Frank Dreiling '68** brainstormed the concept that became the outstanding organization that exists today. No firm plans are in place yet, but something special will occur during Homecoming 2018 to celebrate the VAA turning 25.