

BEACON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ALUMNI OF ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL

Moving Forward, Yet Looking Back



VOLUME NINETEEN • NUMBER THREE

Fall 2007

Dara (Tasson) Flink

I am a 1993 graduate of IHS. Since high school, I have attended Northern Michigan University, and received my dental degree from the University Of Michigan School Of Dentistry in 2000. I completed a General Practice Residency at the Ann Arbor Veteran's Affairs Medical Center. We lived in Oklahoma for one year, while my husband, Gene Flink (fellow 1993 IHS graduate), completed an optometry residency. We have been in Green Bay for five years where I work part-time in a private practice with one other dentist. Currently I serve as president of the BDK Dental Society (Brown, Door, and Kewaunee counties), which has been exciting. We have a 23-month old son, Christian, and a 4-month old daughter, Giovanna. We enjoy doing activities as a family including going boating, taking neighborhood walks, visiting zoos, playing basketball, attending church functions, and, of course, watching Packer games.

I feel the education provided in the Ishpeming Public School system was very good. In my field where biology, chemistry, and anatomy were emphasized, I always felt prepared by the information I was given

the opportunity to learn at IHS. An example was Mr. Nyman's advanced chemistry class, which made the transition to college chemistry an easy one. Most of the teachers who were the most influential to me are now retired. I am thankful I had the opportunity to learn from them while they were still at IHS/Phelps. My pre-dental education at NMU was excellent, as well.

Memorable moments at Ishpeming schools include: watching my future husband slide the railing at Phelps and fall from the second to the first floor, landing on his face (last day of school in 1987), accidentally setting the chemistry lab on fire (calling for the evacuation of the high school), having our cat specimen used for dissection degrade over Christmas

break, participating in basketball games and practices, and "Do 30" by Mr. Croze.

My parents have truly been a living example of endurance through troubled times and huge motivators for me. Although suffering with progressive illness,

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Dara ('93), Givoanna, Christian, & Gene Flink ('93)

Athletic Facilities Complex Nears Completion

The reconstruction work on the Athletic Facilities Complex at the Ishpeming Playgrounds is nearing completion. The completely new first class eight-lane track has been completed. Construction of the track involved excavation of some 200,000 cubic yards of subsurface soil, filling the excavation with sand, a drain system, an asphalt base track, and a final polyurethane rubberized track surface. In addition to the track, there are newly constructed field event areas for long jump, high jump, pole vault, discus, and shot put.

The project also includes new football field goal posts, an underground irrigation system for the football field, several hundred yards of fencing, a new scoreboard, and an asphalt parking lot. New aluminum stadium seating planks have been installed, thanks to the Pioneer Kiwanis, to replace the deteriorated wood seating planks.

Yet to be completed are painting the locker room building, (the siding has been repaired,) installation of a new heating boiler in the locker room building, repairs to the press box, and work on the concession building.

The football field is currently being used and the track and field event areas will host meets in the spring of 2008.

The renovation and construction of the Athletic Facilities Complex is the result of an overwhelming positive response by the district voters in May of 2006.

Dara (Tasson) Flink (cont.)

they do not give up. I am thankful to Dr. Jim Frounfelter for the opportunity to observe first-hand such an excellent dental practitioner. Being a dental assistant made learning the hands-on skills of dentistry much easier. I felt I had a huge advantage clinically.

Most importantly, I thank God for being an ever-present source of guidance and comfort in my life. Even when things seemingly go the wrong way, the peace He offers makes it alright.

I am most proud to be a mother and to have the opportunity to raise children with Gene. The field of dentistry has allowed me the opportunity to work

part-time, providing a comfortable balance between family and career. I look forward to continuing to utilize my training as a dentist and helping others. A future goal includes helping to address the problem of appropriate access to dental care for low-income families.

Even though we live in Wisconsin, Gene and I still bleed maize and blue, and fly our Michigan flag high.

-Dara (Tasson) Flink '93

Scholarships Awarded

The mission of the Association is to cultivate a strong tradition of involvement and loyalty among alumni, students, friends and community, while advancing the interests of students at the Ishpeming High School.

The board of trustees of the association believes that the scholarship fund, which was created in 2004, is a perfect way to bring alumni and friends together while truly supporting and advancing the interests of our children.

On behalf of the board of trustees of the Alumni Association, I am proud to have presented four scholarships to this year's graduating seniors in recognition of their outstanding service and scholastic achievement.

The first scholarship, the Ishpeming High School Alumni Asso-

ciation scholarship, was developed as a non-specific scholarship to be awarded to a deserving graduate. The recipient of this scholarship was Rachel Luokkala. Rachel is attending Northern Michigan University to pursue a degree in criminal justice.

Our second scholarship was in memory of Charlotte Viant, an English teacher in the Ishpeming School system for many, many years, and was awarded to a graduating senior pursuing a career in teaching or English. This year's recipient was Andrea Selmsler. Andrea is attending Northern Michigan University to pursue a special education degree.

The next scholarship was in memory of Octavious Townsend, a former physics, science, and mathematics teacher at Ishpeming

High School, and is intended for a student pursuing a degree in the sciences. This year's recipient was Dustin Doren. Dustin is also attending Northern Michigan University to pursue a degree in physical therapy.

The fourth scholarship was the Carolyn Lalas Music Scholarship. This was established in 1998 to recognize a student pursuing the musical arts. Nicole Baer was this year's recipient. Nicole is attending Central Michigan University and has been accepted into the CMU choir.

- Teri (Thompson) Arseneau '73

Thank You!

The IHS Alumni Association would like to thank Sandra Smetana for all of her hard work coordinating the successful Open House in July. The Association would also like to thank the following for their help and donations for the Annual IHS Open House: Consumers Building Supply, the IHS Art Class, the IHS Shop class, IHS Key Club, Congress Pizza, Mama Mia's, Pizza Hut, Ralph's Italian Delicatessen, The Venice Supper Club, and Pepsi Bottling.

Archive Room

The IHS Archive Room has become a very popular place to visit. The 2007 Open House afforded many returning graduates the opportunity to tour and enjoy the displays.

One of the most interesting new displays was a copy of a 1901 yearbook. This was donated by Dave Gadowski ('65). It was the very first yearbook ever published at IHS

We are still missing three yearbooks that would make our collection complete. If any alumni have a copy of the 1903, 1905, or 1909 books they would like put on display in our Archive Room, please contact the Alumni Association office.

- Terry Thompson '52

Class Get-Togethers and Reunions

Please contact the Alumni Association Office if your class has a gathering that is not listed.

Class	Date	Location	Time	Contact & Other Information
1936	Second Tuesday of each month	Country Kitchen	Noon	Mary (Carlyon) Trebilcock (906) 486-4627
1939	Second Tuesday of each month	Country Kitchen	11:00 a.m.	Doreen (Amell) Brown at (906) 486-9473
1940	Second Thursday of each month	Country Kitchen	9:00 a.m.	
1941	Second Tuesday of each month	Varies	12:30 p.m.	Betty Bannon at (906) 486-6283
1947	First Friday of each month	Country Kitchen	9:30 a.m.	Barbara (Husby) Nuorala at (906) 486-9283
1948	Last Tuesday of each month	Country Kitchen	9:00 a.m.	Joanne (Belstrom) Gaboury at (906) 485-5261
1949	Second Wednesday of each month	Country Kitchen	9:00 a.m.	Jean (Stone) Johns at (906) 485-4322
1950	First Thursday of each month	Country Kitchen	8:30 a.m.	Jan (Lofaro) Boase at (906) 486-6966
1952	Third Monday of each month	Jasper Rjge	Noon	Barbara (Graham) Johnson at (906) 226-0898
1953	Second Thursday of each month	Country Kitchen	Noon	Barbara (Medlyn) Gauthier at (906) 486-6281
1954	Fourth Thursday of each month	Jasper Rjge	11:30 a.m.	Al Chapman at (906) 486-9241
1955	First Thursday of each month	Jasper Rjge	11:30 a.m.	John Ruusi at (906) 339-2315
1957	Second Wednesday of each month	Trinity Lutheran Church	11:30 a.m.	Spouses are welcome. Contact Clara (Valenti) Kutchie (906) 486-8246
1958	Third Thursday of each month	Jasper Rjge	12:30 p.m.	Lynn Ketchem at (906) 486-6107
1962	Last Friday of each month	Country Kitchen	9:30 a.m.	Sandra (Greenwood) Smetana (906) 485-4845
1964	Fourth Monday of each month	Jasper Rjge Brewery	6:30 p.m.	
1973	July 5, 2008	TBA	TBA	Teri (Thompson) Arseneau (906) 485-1146 or tarseneau@chartermi.net

Can't make it to an IHS sporting event? Now you can listen to all of the Hematite football, boys basketball, and girls basketball games online—no matter where you are! Just go online to www.espn970.com during the game to listen to the live broadcast.

Class of 1947 Donation



Anthony Bertucci, I.H.S.A.A. President Emeritus, (left) accepts a \$500 check from Mary (Scanlon) Skewis and Ray Leverton, members of the class of 1947. The class recently held their 60th reunion.

Alumni Association Board of Trustees Changes

The Alumni Association Board of Trustees has undergone some changes recently. The term of office for three members has expired. Retired Trustees include Anthony Bertucci (President Emeritus), Ted Swanson (Treasurer) and Teri Lee Arseneau (Secretary and Interim President). The new Board of Trustees include three new officers and is as follows:

Steven Kutchie '84 – President
 Natalie Bertucci '05 – Secretary
 Jan Levi '96 – Treasurer
 Riley Beaudry '07
 Dave Christian '66
 Barbara Gauthier '53
 Kristin LeSage '84
 Tom Lucas '68
 Mary Lou Simons '53



We Meet Again

You might hear this: "Of course I recognize you—I'd know that smile anywhere." Or, "Gosh, you haven't changed a bit," and, "You look better than ever!" And then, maybe the best, "You've lost weight, haven't you?"

All nice things to hear when you meet up with former classmates at the annual IHS Open House. This year the "old gym" was packed with alumni for both morning and afternoon sessions. The split session has turned out to be a popular arrangement, as many are now given the opportunity to stop in after work, and it is convenient for late arrivals from out of town.

It's been reported that the Archive Room was busy, too, with alumni and guests in good attendance for both sessions, and that items for the collection continue to be donated on a regular basis.

We'd like to extend our thanks for your generous monetary donations this year—always appreciated. It is obvious that a strong "school spirit" remains with us, as shown by your support and loyalty.

Meet you in the gym.

- Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56

Catherine Tobin

For those of you fellow IHS alumni who have known me, but haven't kept up with me—or have not known me, but are curious about another alumnist—for the last three years I've had the privilege to serve as both an Officer and a Special Agent in the U.S. Air Force. I was commissioned into the Air Force in 2004, following four years of military training in ROTC at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. I received dual undergraduate degrees from the U of M, including one in Chinese and one in Political Science. I was then selected as a direct accession into the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). When I completed training for AFOSI, I became a credentialed Federal Law Enforcement Agent. I currently serve as the Counterintelligence (CI) and Anti-Terrorism (AT) Program Manager at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. I'm responsible for providing CI and AT support to the sixth largest installation in the Air Force. I work closely with the FBI to execute joint operations and cases, as well as with the Intelligence community in general. In addition to my primary duties, I also investigate felony level crimes, such as homicides, assaults, and child crimes, among many others. In September 2006, I was hand-selected for a special overseas

assignment lasting six months, which was an amazing experience. Additionally, I recently learned that I'll be heading back overseas in January in order to serve in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

When I reflect on my days at IHS, I see the place where I was introduced to the subjects that would later become my passion—foreign language, literature, history, politics—and would lead me to the success I've experienced. I'm extremely grateful to the dedicated teachers at IHS that gave me an excellent foundation to build on and planted the seeds for my current pursuits. I also see the place where I was taught discipline by tough sports coaches, and I learned that it's the people who care about you the most that will push you the hardest. I can assure you that this awareness has served me well in the military!

On a more personal level, this October will mark the 7th year since the end of my father, Dr. James Tobin's, battle with cancer. In memory of my father, I am training to run a marathon with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. The mission of the LLS is to cure Leukemia, Lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease, and Myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. If you

would like more information about my marathon please visit my website at www.active.com/donate/tntnmep/catherinetobin.

- Catherine Tobin '00



Catherine Tobin ('00) with her badge the day she officially became a Federal Law Enforcement Agent.

Tree of Life

The Tree of Life has been installed! This August, Dan DeForge, the carpenter behind the project, mounted the Tree of Life. The Tree sits proudly by one of the entrances into the “new gym.” At the next Hematite sporting event be sure to come and check it out. You might just spot a familiar name, or even your own! There are lots of leaves left to fill, and as always, your donations are more than welcome. The donation levels are as follows:

- Bronze leaf for donations of \$100 to \$249
- Silver leaf for donations of \$250 to \$499
- Gold leaf for donations of \$500 to \$1,000
- Foundation Rock for donations of over \$1,000



Readers Respond

As always, it is great to get compliments, letters, cards, and comments from you, our readers. The Alumni Association Board of Trustees and *Beacon Light* committee are always grateful to hear news from alumni.

Joy (Champion) Matthews, class of '44, wrote a note to tell us that the Finn Fest USA, held this year in Ashtabula, Ohio, was dedicated to another Ishpeming graduate—Rev. Dr. Bernard Hillila, class of '36. Dr. Hillila had, among many other things, once been the president of Suomi College (now Finlandia University) and Theological Seminary in Hancock, MI.

J. Wesley Olds, of the class of '35, also wrote a

letter. He will be ninety years old this December, quite an accomplishment in itself. J. Wesley had numerous careers during his life, at one time working for Warren Holmes, the architect of Ishpeming High School! He also sent in a great poem he had written in 1972 about Ishpeming while visiting, staying of course, in the Mather Inn.

A letter of thanks and appreciation for her high school education was sent by Alicia (Quayle) Asmund. She fondly remembers all of her teachers and the time spent in IHS. Many other cards and notes were sent to us, putting smiles on our faces.

Keep the cards, letters, and donations coming!



Ishpeming High School Alumni Association Donation Form

Date _____

Name (please include maiden name if applicable) _____

Class of _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Alumni Association donation for operating expenses —suggested annual donation in the amount of \$25 or more (non-tax deductible) *Please make contribution payable to the I.H.S. Alumni Association* _____

Alumni Association donation for scholarship fund (non-tax deductible) *Please make contribution payable to the I.H.S. Alumni Association* _____

Greater Ishpeming Area Community Fund – Ishpeming Alumni Fund (tax deductible endowment fund) *Please make contribution payable to GIACF – Ishpeming Alumni Fund* _____

Mail To: Ishpeming High School Alumni Association, 319 East Division Street, Ishpeming, Michigan 49849

Only 100 years ago...

- The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years old.
- Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.
- Only 8 percent of homes had a telephone.
- There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents an hour.
- Sugar cost four cents a pound, eggs were fourteen cents a dozen, and coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- The population of Las Vegas, NV was only 30!
- Only six percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

What a difference 100 years makes!



BEACON LIGHT STAFF

- Teri (Thompson) Arseneau '73
- Natalie Bertucci '05
- Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56
- Al Goodney '54
- Clara (Valente) Kutchie '57
- Steven Kutchie '84
- Thomas Lucas '68
- Sheryl (Swanson) Schrandt '67
- Terry Thompson '50

Your Assistance is Appreciated!

Without your continued financial support, the future publication of this newsletter is in jeopardy. In order to maintain the quality format and information we have been able to provide you, we rely heavily on your donations.

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